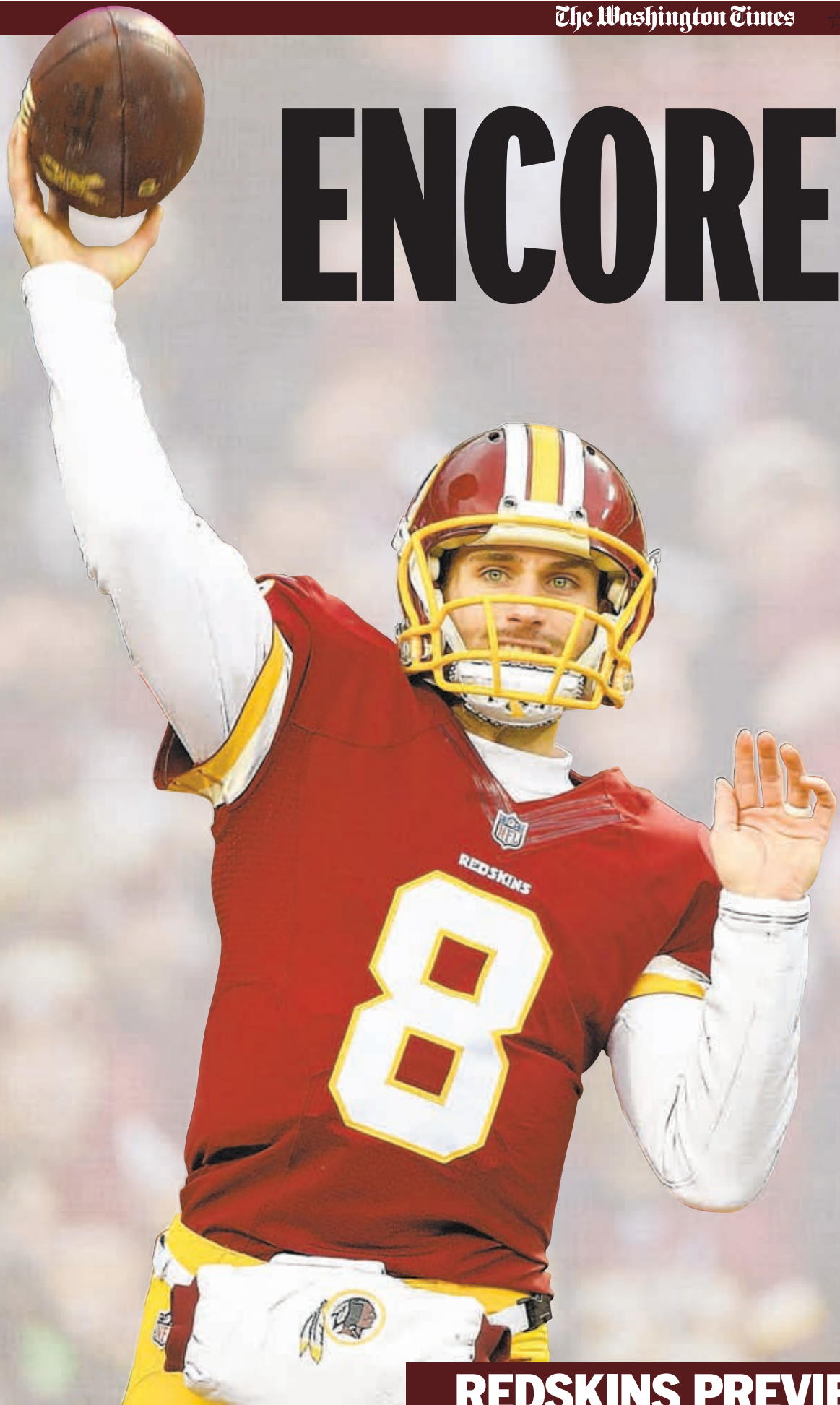


ENCORE

Redskins' hopes of replicating last season depend on whether quarterback Kirk Cousins, tight end Jordan Reed and new cornerback Josh Norman can deliver at 2015 levels



REDSKINS PREVIEW

■ Cousins familiar playing under team's 'prove-it' scenario / 8

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■ Reed's goal: To become premier tight end in league / 16

Also: Redskins depth chart, Loverro, conference outlooks and more



REDSKINS




**Mon., Sept 12
vs. Steelers
7:10 p.m., ESPN**

The Redskins open the season on Monday Night Football, which means there will be plenty of attention on the defending NFC East champions. They'll catch a break against the Steelers, who will be without suspended running back Le'Veon Bell and wide receiver Martavis Bryant, but it is still expected to be a challenging start to the season.



**Sun., Oct. 9
at Ravens
1:00 p.m., FOX**

This road game is barely a trip for the Redskins, who make the short drive to Baltimore to face the Ravens for just the sixth time since the franchise was established in 1996. The last time the two teams met in December 2012, former Redskins kicker Kai Forbath's 34-yard field goal gave the Redskins a 31-28 overtime victory.



**Sun., Nov. 13
vs. Vikings
1:00 p.m., FOX**

Washington returns from the bye week in Week 10 to face the Vikings, who won the NFC North last season with an 11-5 record. It will be a homecoming for Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs, a standout at Maryland and Good Counsel High School. Diggs led the Vikings with 52 receptions as a rookie last season.



**Sun., Dec. 11
at Eagles
1:00 p.m., FOX**

A three-game road trip ends in Philadelphia when the Redskins visit the Eagles at Lincoln Financial Field. It'll be a grueling stretch and should be an important division game this late in the season. By this point, will Eagles rookie Carson Wentz still be the starting quarterback?



**Sun., Sept 18
vs. Cowboys
1:00 p.m., FOX**

The last time Washington played Dallas was Week 17 in 2015 and the Redskins pulled their starters as they rested for the playoffs. The Cowboys started Kellen Moore at quarterback and Dez Bryant was out with a foot injury. This matchup will actually feel like a division battle, with the Redskins presumably getting their first look at rookies Dak Prescott (filling in for the injured Tony Romo) and Ezekiel Elliott.



**Sun., Oct. 16
vs. Eagles
1:00 p.m., FOX**

The Redskins swept the Eagles last season and won the NFC East with a 38-24 victory in Week 16 in Philadelphia, which effectively ended Chip Kelly's tenure as head coach. The Eagles fired Kelly before Week 17 and hired Doug Pederson in January. Kirk Cousins was 31-for-46 with 365 yards passing and four touchdowns in that game.



**Sun., Nov. 20
vs. Packers
8:30 p.m., NBC**

The Redskins host the Packers on Sunday Night Football in a rematch of last year's 35-18 loss in the wild-card round of the playoffs at FedEx Field. Washington hopes to have a better answer against Green Bay, which outscored the Redskins 35-7 after trailing, 11-0, in the second quarter.



**Mon., Dec. 19
vs. Panthers
8:30 p.m., ESPN**

The Redskins will have a chance to avenge their worst regular-season loss from the 2015 season on Monday Night Football. The Panthers thumped the Redskins, 44-16, to improve to 10-0. Washington rushed for just 14 yards in that game, while Carolina rushed for 142.



**Sun., Sept 25
at Giants
1:00 p.m., FOX**

Redskins fans shudder at the thought of the Meadowlands. Since 2001, Washington is 2-12 against the Giants on the road. The Redskins have to win here eventually, right? This year's visit has fans eagerly awaiting the matchup between cornerback Josh Norman and Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr.



**Sun., Oct. 23
at Lions
1:00 p.m., FOX**

The Lions are another unfamiliar opponent for the Redskins, who haven't played them since 2013 or won a game against them since 2008. The Redskins should be happy not to see retired wide receiver Calvin Johnson, who torched Washington for 115 yards and a touchdown in their last matchup.



**Thur., Nov. 24
at Cowboys
4:30 p.m., FOX**

It's a short turnaround for the Redskins, who play the Cowboys on Thanksgiving in Dallas just four days after playing on Sunday Night Football. The last time the Redskins faced the Cowboys on Thanksgiving, Griffin threw four touchdowns and Alfred Morris, who signed with Dallas in the offseason, rushed for 113 yards and a touchdown.



**Sat., Dec. 24
at Bears
1:00 p.m., FOX**

Another short turnaround for the Redskins and another familiar matchup from last season. Washington visited Chicago in Week 14 and escaped with a 24-21 victory. It should be a tough matchup for the Redskins, who will be playing their fourth road game in five weeks on Christmas Eve.



**Sun., Oct. 2
vs. Browns
1:00 p.m., CBS**

Will Robert Griffin III still be the Browns' starting quarterback in Week 4? The Redskins' 2012 second-overall pick makes his return to FedEx Field, where he most certainly will throw for 300 yards and four touchdowns as he leads the Browns to a victory over the Redskins.



**Sun., Oct. 30
at Bengals
9:30 a.m., FOX
(in London)**

Jay Gruden, who served as the Bengals' offensive coordinator from 2011-13, will coach against his former club for the first time as the Redskins head to London. The game marks the first time both Washington and Cincinnati will participate in the NFL's International Series.



**Sun., Dec. 4
at Cardinals
4:25 p.m., FOX**

The Cardinals enter the season with the sixth-best odds to make the Super Bowl. By the time the Redskins travel to Arizona in Week 13, will the Cardinals still be the real deal? It should be a challenging matchup for the Redskins, who have won 10 of their last 12 games against the Cardinals.



**Sun., Jan. 1
vs. Giants
1:00 p.m., FOX**

Will the Redskins be playing for the NFC East title in Week 17? It could certainly be possible in the tightly-contested division, which always seems to come down to the final games of the season. Meanwhile, the Eagles will be hosting the Cowboys.



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Quarterback Kirk Cousins wants his Washington Redskins franchise to act like the NBA's San Antonio Spurs: Just win, all the time, without frills, excess or hysteria.



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Coach Jay Gruden says the Washington Redskins are "very businesslike in our approach."

'A SIMPLE RECIPE'

Redskins hope quiet, boring offseason results in first back-to-back NFC East title since 1983-1984

By **TODD DYBAS**

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

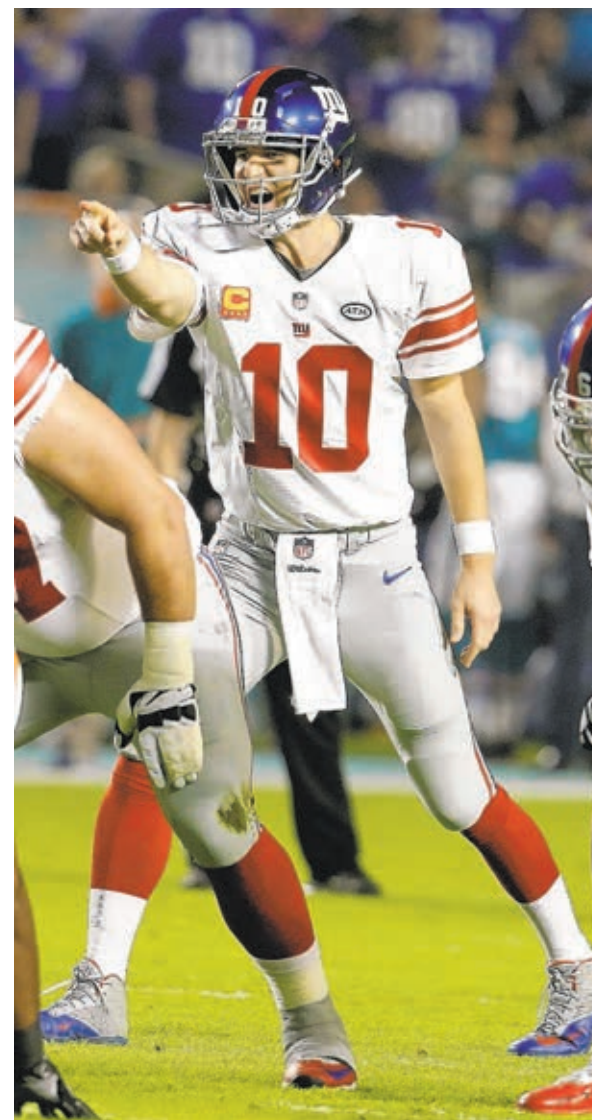
Training camp may as well have been held in Shangri-La this season. There was no quarterback controversy. Few starting positions were open. No other team was in town to join in a massive fight. The Redskins practiced, played and talked about football, bolstering their chances to do something that the franchise has not pulled off since the 1982-83 seasons: Win back-to-back division championships.

Yes, it has been that long. The last batch of Redskins

to win the division in consecutive seasons was led by Joe Theismann, John Riggins and Art Monk. The organization has won a Super Bowl more recently than it has taken the division from the Dallas Cowboys, New York Giants and Philadelphia Eagles twice in a row.

Maybe being boring — at least off the field — is the way to arrive there. Quarterback Kirk Cousins was happy to point out the positive legacy of the dull when he mentioned the San Antonio Spurs. That's who Cousins wants the franchise to act like. Just win, all the time, without frills, excess or hysteria.

"I've told my teammates that I'd like to be the San Antonio Spurs of the NFL, be super boring and maybe people at the



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Tony Romo's back injury has thrust a rookie into quarterback duty in Dallas while Eli Manning and the New York Giants have a new coach in an open NFC East.

end of the season just go, 'Wow, they really had a good year and no one really talked about it,' Cousins said during training camp. "I don't need to promote myself. I don't need to promote what we're doing. We have plenty of people here who are very good at doing that if we play well enough. I just want to play football. I don't want to worry about anything else, and I found from playing at Michigan State and playing even before that, if you win football games, everything else takes care of itself. It's pretty simple. It's a pretty simple recipe."

When Cousins first brought up the idea of the Spurs, he was speaking from the podium midway through August. He hid his mild irritation with the question then. Back in Ashburn, he elaborated to *The Times*.

"I don't like the fact that the question is being asked in the sense that it's uncommon," Cousins said. "I want it to be the norm. I want it to be expected. I don't like that it's not expected, so I'd like to get to a point where that question doesn't need

DIVISION TITLE TAKE TWO

The Redskins won the division title last season for the first time since 2012. On their minds this season: Winning the division again. Here's a look at what has happened in the seasons after the Redskins won a division title, dating back to 1980:

Won division (record)	Following year (record)	Division finish	Playoffs?
1982 (8-1)	1983 (14-2)	1st	Lost SB
1983 (14-2)	1984 (11-5)	1st	Lost Div
1984 (11-5)	1985 (10-6)	3rd	-
1987 (11-4)	1988 (7-9)	3rd	-
1991 (14-2)	1992 (9-7)	3rd	Lost Div
1999 (10-6)	2000 (8-8)	3rd	-
2012 (10-6)	2013 (3-13)	4th	-

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

to be asked. It's something we're building toward, and the key is I'll be the first to say we're not there yet in terms of what they've accomplished. But it's great to have something to shoot for and to have a vision for what it could look like someday and they're a great example to look to. It's going to flush itself out over a long period

of time, not one season or one game. It will be years before we can see where that direction has gone."

Invoking San Antonio's success led to two things: First, it earned Cousins a custom Spurs jersey that the Texas team was happy to send. Second, it showed just how challenging that pursuit would be. Since

the Redskins last won the Super Bowl in 1991, San Antonio has won 15 division titles, five NBA titles and made the playoffs 25 out of 26 seasons. The Redskins have six playoff appearances, three division championships and zero titles in that span. Crossing leagues for measurement is not an apples-to-apples comparison, but, hey, Cousins brought it up.

Much of the Redskins' chance to repeat rests with Cousins. Though he mentioned "we" and "years," this could be his last season in Washington. He's playing under the franchise tag following the best passing season in organization history. That same lore shows how difficult it can be to repeat such success. Eight other Redskins quarterbacks have thrown for 3,500 yards or more in a season. Only Theismann has come close to replicating the feat. He passed for 3,714 yards in 1983. He followed that with 3,391 yards in 1984.

Washington entered the 2013 season as the defending division champions. Though Robert Griffin III was hurt in the preceding season's playoff game, the Redskins, and

REDSKINS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington Redskins tackle Trent Williams is one of just 13 players from a team that entered the 2013 season as the defending NFC East champions. "I think about that a lot," he said.

many others, expected his second season in the league to be the continuation of his historic rookie work. Instead, they won three games and finished last in the division. Only 13 players from that roster remain, including left tackle Trent Williams.

"I think about that a lot," Williams said. "We had that same optimism coming into the 2013 camp and that season wasn't what we wanted it to be. You know, it's definitely tricky man. I guarantee you at least half of the teams right now feel like they can go out and win a Super Bowl. That happens when you deal with professionals, guys who take a lot of pride in their craft you're going to feel that way. But to continuously come out here and compete and practice and make each other better, that's when you get over this hump."

The NFC East may be the most open division in football. Tony Romo's injury has pushed a rookie into quarterback duty for Dallas. Eli Manning played fantastic football last season, but the Giants are starting without coach Tom Coughlin for the first time since 2004. In Philadelphia, the Eagles are trying to undo the damage wrought by allowing former coach Chip Kelly to make roster decisions. Even Las Vegas is unsure how to project the division. New York is the slight betting favorite. The Cowboys and Redskins have equal odds behind the Giants. Only the Eagles lag. Washington's chance to take the division again is not just optimism-laced internal talk.

Which, in part, explains the jovial mood in the locker room. The area has been redone, resplendent with a Redskins logo

in the center guarded by velvet ropes and a white sign that instructs the symbol is not to be tread upon. Lockers have been rearranged to merge position groups. To the left of the logo is a ping pong table that Williams frequents, though his success there is fleeting. To the right is an elevated shuffleboard table. As soon as practice ends, each is rapidly put to use. You don't want to face punter Tress Way in ping pong. Stay away from wide receiver DeSean Jackson in shuffleboard.

Before the midway point of the season, the Redskins will have a good sense of their season's direction. They play the Cowboys and Giants in Weeks 2 and 3, respectively. Then the hoopla touches down when the Browns and Griffin arrive in Week 4. By Week 6, half of their division games will

be done.

"All the off-the-field stuff and the entertainment value that people are looking for, hopefully they don't find it here," Gruden said. "We're very businesslike in our approach and we're trying to rebound from last year's loss to the [Green Bay] Packers and repeat as NFC East champions and go a little bit further."

The history of the division, and of the Redskins, suggests that will be difficult. Philadelphia was the last team to win the NFC East in back-to-back seasons. That was more than a decade ago, in 2004. The Redskins at least have a reasonable chance, which wouldn't be an option if the team had not righted itself in the first place.

● Anthony Gulizia contributed to this story.

DEPTH CHART

Wide receiver

DeSean Jackson, Pierre Garcon, Jamison Crowder, Ryan Grant, Josh Doctson, Rashad Ross

The Redskins return five of their six wide receivers from last season, plus hope to get production from Doctson, their 22nd overall pick, once he's healthy.

Left tackle

Trent Williams, Ty Nsekhe

Williams played sparingly in the preseason, but a four-time Pro Bowl player gets that luxury. He's always there when it counts.

Left guard

Shawn Lauvao, Spencer Long, Arie Kouandjio

After having five offseason surgeries on his feet and legs, Lauvao returns to the offensive line after playing three games in 2015.

Center

Kory Lichtensteiger, Long, Austin Reiter

The Redskins continue their search for quality depth behind Lichtensteiger. Long learned the position in the offseason and Reiter made the team in his second season.

Right guard

Brandon Scherff, Kouandjio

Scherff was reliable in his rookie year, starting all 16 games. He missed just one snap, and looks to build on strong first season.

Right tackle

Morgan Moses, Nsekhe

Together, Moses and Scherff emerged to be a formidable young combination on the right side. Moses is entering his third season and second as a starter.

Tight end

Jordan Reed, Vernon Davis, Niles Paul



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The Washington Redskins' DeAngelo Hall makes the full-time transition to safety after 12 seasons as a cornerback. Hall hopes to make more plays for the Redskins defense in his new role.

Reed and the tight ends group get a boost with the addition of the veteran Davis. Paul returns after missing last season with a broken foot.

Quarterback

Kirk Cousins, Colt McCoy, Nate Sudfeld

Cousins is the unquestioned starter and McCoy is entrenched as the backup, but the Redskins decided to keep all three quarterbacks.

Running back

Matt Jones, Chris Thompson, Robert Kelley

Jones is the lead back after the team decided not to re-

sign Alfred Morris. The biggest question is whether he can stay healthy.

Defensive ends

Chris Baker, Ziggy Hood, Kendall Reyes, Ricky Jean Francois, Anthony Lanier

With an endless desire to bolster the pass rush, the Redskins overhauled this group with three new faces: Hood, Reyes and Lanier, who made the team as an undrafted free agent. Will it work?

Nose tackle

Kedric Golston

Golston is the only true nose

tackle on the roster, but Hood's versatility helps here. Expect a heavy rotation on the entire defensive line.

Outside linebacker

Ryan Kerrigan, Preston Smith, Trent Murphy, Houston Bates

Another year, another season-ending Achilles tendon injury for Junior Galette. Opposite Kerrigan, Smith is poised to make a big impact in his second season.

Inside linebacker

Will Compton, Mason Foster, Martrell Spaight, Su'a Cravens, Terence Garvin

Compton and Foster stabilized the position for the Redskins last season and return as starters. Cravens could be the Redskins' most impactful rookie this season.

Cornerback

Josh Norman, Bashaud Breeland, Dashaun Phillips, Greg Toler, Quinton Dunbar, Kendall Fuller

Ravaged by injuries last season, this has the makings to be the Redskins' most improved group, led by the addition of Norman.

Strong Safety

David Bruton, Duke Ihenacho, Deshazor Everett

Stability was absent at this position last season after Ihenacho's season-ending injury. Bruton brings veteran experience from seven seasons with the Broncos.

Free Safety

DeAngelo Hall, Will Blackmon

After 12 seasons as a cornerback, Hall makes the full-time transition to safety and hopes to make more plays for the Redskins defense.

Kicker

Dustin Hopkins

The strong-legged Hopkins replaced Kai Forbath after Week 1 and returned with no competition in training camp. He made 89.3 percent of his field goals in 2015.

Punter

Tress Way

If you blink, you might miss Way booming a 74-yard punt, like he did in the preseason against the New York Jets.

Long snapper

Nick Sundberg

The elder statesman of the special teams unit, Sundberg has been rock solid for the Redskins the last six seasons.

GREAT MOTIVATIONS



Cousins familiar playing under franchise tag's 'prove-it' scenario

By ANTHONY GULIZIA
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

During a ball security drill under the beaming Richmond sun at training camp, Kirk Cousins channels coach Herman Boone from “Remember the Titans.” “You fumble the football, run a mile,” he bellows, his teammates struggling to keep a straight face while rolling on the ground. Nobody fumbled.

Cousins can motivate those around him in the most lighthearted ways and whether he’ll do it as the Washington Redskins’ quarterback for one more season or the next five is the question that trails him in yet another show-us-again year of his life.

The Redskins are paying Cousins \$19.95 million this season under the franchise tag. There was no long-term agreement, just another handshake for a single season of work after he led the team on a scorching stretch in the final four games of the season to win the NFC East title. If Cousins can drive the offense the way he did when he passed for a franchise-record 4,166 yards, it gives the Redskins a strong chance of winning consecutive division titles — something they haven’t done in 32 years.

Likewise, Cousins will have presumably done enough to earn himself a long-term contract at his desired value, something Redskins officials weren’t going to give him without seeing him perform well twice. Cousins, meanwhile, has no qualms about accepting that sort of high-stakes self-wager.

“I think the nature of pro sports is that maybe people on the outside, they assume we have everything mapped out,” Cousins says. “We don’t. I know a guy like [wide receiver] Pierre Garçon, signed a five-year deal here in 2012. I can tell you, he was playing year to year. Felt he had to prove himself. That’s the way pro sports is. It’s more of a privilege to be here than a right. We have to go out there every single day, every single week, every single season and earn that right and take advantage of that opportunity to be back the following year.”

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The Washington Redskins are paying quarterback Kirk Cousins \$19.95 million this season under the franchise tag. There was no long-term agreement, just another handshake for a single season of work after he led the team to the NFC East title in 2015.



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Quarterback Kirk Cousins will look to lead the Washington Redskins to consecutive NFC East division titles this season, something they haven't done in 32 years.

The question, then, is a simple one: Will he do it again?

"Well, I think we're going to find out," Cousins said. "Time will tell. There's great players. Great coaches. It's a good system. There's good depth. Ultimately, all you can do is prepare your best, play your best and let the chips fall where they may. I don't know that I feel super confident or that I have big doubts. I just think one way or the other, you've got to go out and prove it."

Navigating the prove-it moments

On a Saturday afternoon in June inside the Mellon Auditorium on Constitution Avenue, the man the Redskins are counting on to lead their offense and one of the country's most influential business executives are sharing a stage.

Their fields of work could not be more distant. Cousins is a quarterback. Jack Welch is the former chairman and CEO of General Electric who oversaw the company's meteoric rise under his tenure. Yet

these two are tethered by a commonality. The successes they've achieved in their careers are grounded on the principles of leadership and perseverance, which is why Cousins was there to receive an honorary MBA degree at the Jack Welch Management Institute's inaugural graduation ceremony this summer.

The 80-year-old Welch probed Cousins about these foundational qualities and posed the question the students of his institute are asked to confront regularly: What is your lowest low? Cousins rewinds to his sophomore season at Michigan State and his first road game as the starting quarterback against Notre Dame. The Spartans were at the 4-yard line and trailed by three points. Play for the victory, his coaches told him, but be smart with the ball so that if the team didn't score, it could kick a field goal and go safely to overtime. Cousins threw an interception.

"Everyone is watching and I'm the biggest failure," Cousins tells the crowd. "I'm

walking to a sideline filled with teammates that don't really want to talk to me in that moment. You realize, boy, if football is my entire life, my life just crumbled. Thankfully, my life isn't all about football. There is more to my life than that. At the end of the day, I said thank you God that my life is built on you because you're the foundation of my life. I can throw picks, play well, I can ride that roller coaster. Football is what I do, it's not who I am."

Cousins' words offered a revealing window into his faith and how he has navigated the perpetual prove-it moments in his career. They started way back in elementary school.

"He has lived with gotta-prove-it since sixth grade when he played on the B team because the A team coach didn't want him," Cousins' father, Don, says.

More questions followed him to Michigan State, where Cousins didn't receive a scholarship coming out of Holland Christian High in Michigan until six

BIG SEASON ... AND THEN WHAT?

Kirk Cousins set the single-season passing yardage record last season for the Redskins. Here's a look at how other Redskin quarterbacks performed after their breakout seasons:

Player	Year	Record yardage	Next season
Jay Schroeder	1986	4,109	1,878
Brad Johnson	1999	4,005	2,505
Mark Rypien	1989	3,768	2,070
Sonny Jurgensen	1967	3,747	1,980
Joe Theismann	1983	3,714	3,391
Jason Campbell	2009	3,618	2,387*
Joe Theismann	1981	3,568	2,033
Mark Rypien	1991	3,564	3,282
Gus Frerotte	1996	3,453	2,682

*With Oakland

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

other players in front of him chose to go elsewhere. Cousins went on to lead the Spartans to a 22-5 record in his final two seasons.

His careening ride with the Redskins began next. Cousins was selected in the fourth round in 2012, the same draft in which Washington invested heavily to pick Robert Griffin III second overall. Once he was named the starter last season, Cousins was able to finally only look ahead.

“He’s in a different spot because he is the guy,” Redskins coach Jay Gruden says. “He’s accepted that and cherishes that and works hard to earn that every day which is important. He knows it is not given to him. Knows he still got to work. Also knows he doesn’t have to worry about looking over his shoulder every bad play, doesn’t have to worry about the fans yelling for someone else to come in if he struggles and throws a pick. That’s huge for a quarterback’s confidence.”

Taking the next step

Back at Redskins Park, Cousins sifted through the carousel of plays in his head, searching for the best one to illustrate the strides the offense made last season.

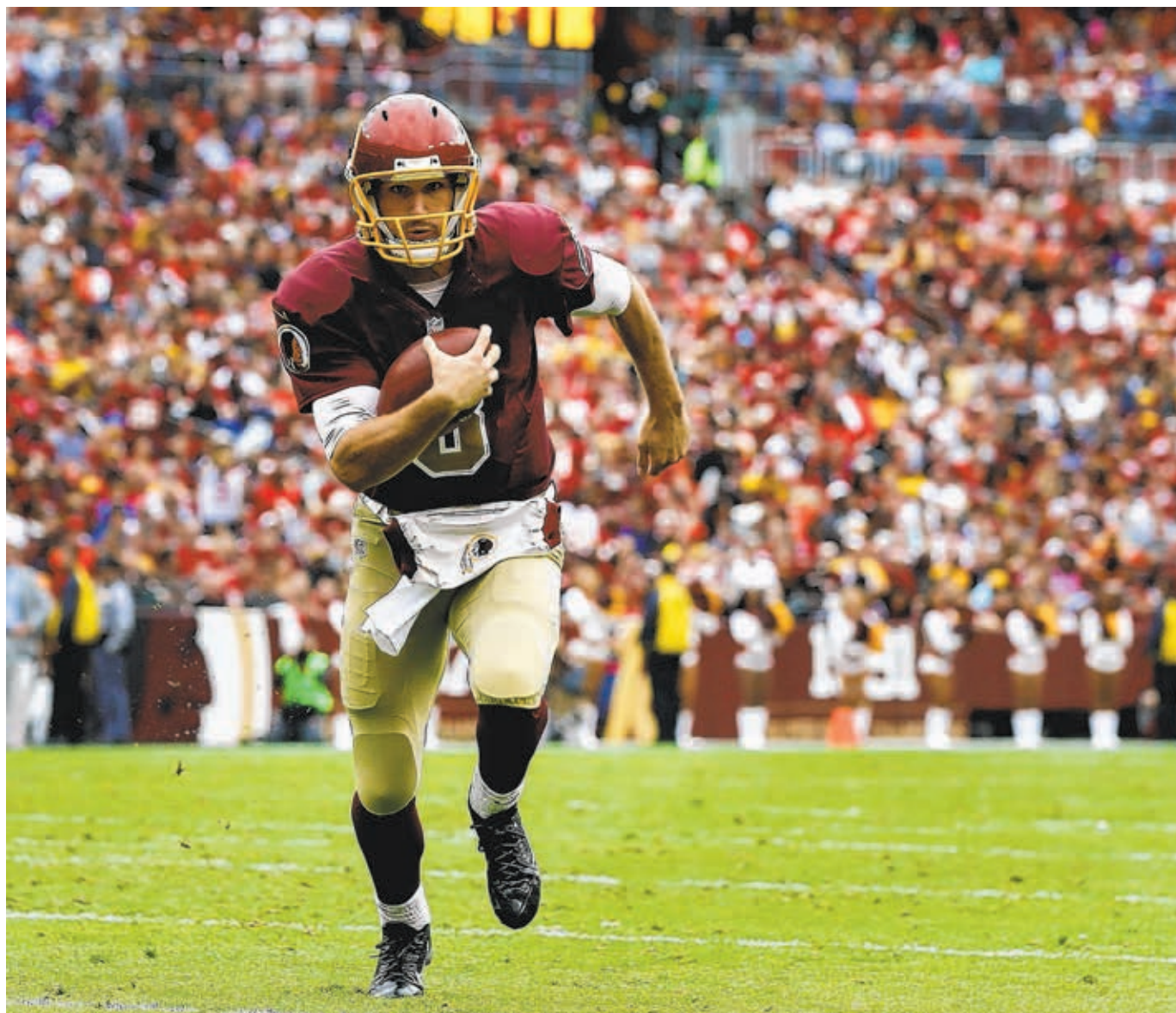
One is from the Redskins’ season-opener against the Miami Dolphins and Cousins’ first game since he was named the team’s starter last August. On fourth-and-7 from the Dolphins’ 20-yard line and the Redskins trailing by a touchdown, Cousins is pressured by an all-out blitz. Anticipating that tight end Jordan Reed is going to cross toward the middle of the field, Cousins threw the ball.

Reed instead tried to win his matchup over the top of the field and the pass fell incomplete. Nine weeks later, against the New Orleans Saints, Cousins recognized a similar defensive front. This time, Reed cut to the middle and they connected for the touchdown pass.

“Jordan runs the route and where I expect him to go, he went,” Cousins said. “Week 1 we didn’t do that. Week 10 we did it. You say those are the things you have to be on the same page, growing together, recognizing the same things. Jordan was as talented in Week 1. I think I could make all the same throws in Week 1.”

As much as his close to the season solidified Cousins’ year, the rally he led against Tampa Bay in Week 7 may have defined it. The Redskins trailed a mediocre Buccaneers team 24-0 before putting together the largest comeback in team history behind Cousins. He threw three second-half touchdowns.

“A lot of controversy brewing before that game, down 24-0, the ability to come back,” Gruden says. “There is always controversy in the media, ‘Should we play him?’ I’m sure he felt the pressure to come out and bring us back to verify the reasons



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Washington Redskins trailed 24-0 in a Week 7 victory last season over a mediocre Tampa Bay Buccaneers team before putting together the largest comeback in team history behind Kirk Cousins, who threw three second-half touchdowns.

we put him there in the first place. [It] was a great tool for him to take the next step. That’s when he knew it was his team and took the next step. It’s your team now.”

From the comeback win against Tampa Bay to Week 17, a span of 11 weeks and 10 games played, Cousins threw for 2,746 yards, 23 touchdowns and just three interceptions. He completed 72.38 percent of his pass attempts, which was the third-highest percentage in such a stretch since 1960, according to Pro Football Reference. The only two better were Drew Brees in 2011 and Steve Young in 1994. A total of 0.65 percentage points separates the trio.

Cousins was playing with a heightened sense of confidence and it reverberated throughout the coaching staff. It was evident in the play-calling that they trusted him, too, most notably against the Philadelphia Eagles in Week 16. On the road, with a chance to clinch the division and running back Matt Jones out with a hip injury, the

Redskins put the task solely on Cousins’ shoulders. Of the first 40 plays, 32 of them were passes. Cousins finished the game 31 for 46 with 365 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions.

“People don’t go on runs like that,” said Jeff Christensen, Cousins’ independent quarterback coach. “That builds tremendous confidence in not only you, but your teammates. No matter what people want to think, football is an emotional, humanistic game that comes to effort and he is going to get more efforts out of his teammates.”

Cousins knows this year will be more difficult than the last since there’s a full season on tape for opposing defenses to dissect. So, he worked in the offseason on rhythm, pocket presence, the challenge for a right-handed quarterback of setting up and looking left, before coming back to throw an out pattern to the right.

He plans on changing hand signals and

making better coverage reads. Cousins’ understanding of what a defensive front showed him last season may have led to a moderate gain. This year, he wants to deliver full punishment in the form of a deep touchdown pass, to “make them pay for that defense they’re playing.” Cousins believes a variety of subtle improvements exist for him, the kind that only come from playing in a system for multiple seasons. His coach seems to agree.

“We’re not even close to tapping out the Kirk Cousins we can tap out and we understand that, he understands that,” Gruden said.

If Gruden is right, that a franchise record for yardage and league-leading precision is just the start, Cousins won’t have to worry about the doubts that chased him in the past. His year-by-year battles will be over, when either Washington or another organization offers him a lucrative long-term deal. No question about it.

'SO LATE SO SOON?'

Redskins enter another season having to answer same questions

Who speaks for the Washington Redskins fan? How about Dr. Seuss? "How did it get so late so soon?" the great doctor said of the concept of time. "It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"

How did it get so late so soon? How did it get that this franchise is now entering yet another season with the same question as always, the question that always gets asked.

Are they any good? The fans of their opponent in the Monday night opener, the Pittsburgh Steelers, don't ask this question every year. If you



THOM LOVERRO

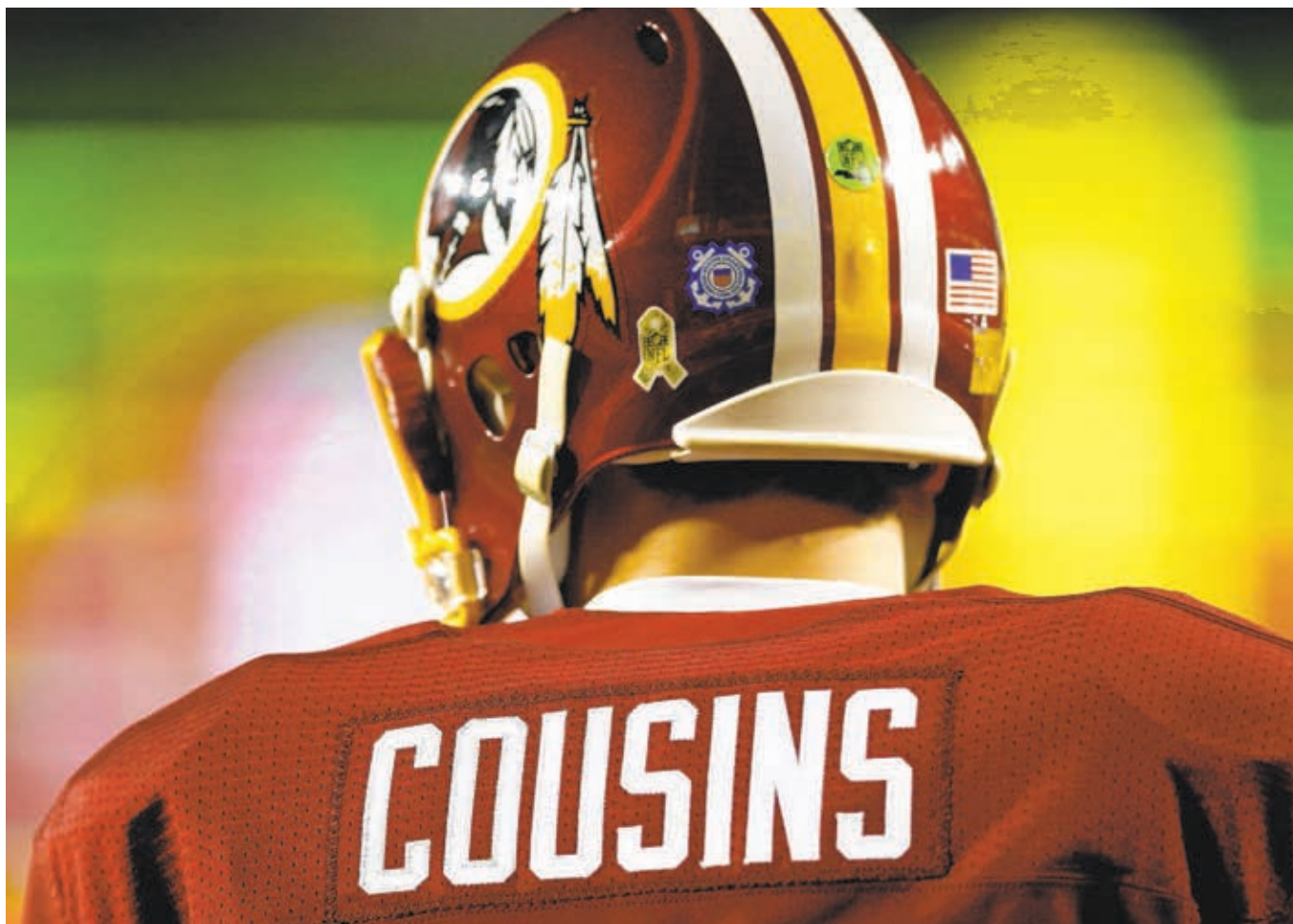
don't believe me, you can ask one of them at the Sept. 12 opener at FedEx Field. They'll likely be the one sitting next to you, in front of you or behind you.

New England Patriots fans, we know, haven't asked this question for 15 years, and it's not a question under consideration this year, even with Tom Brady suspended four games.

But here in Washington, coming off a division title, the question remains unanswered. Are the 2016 Redskins any good? It's hard to find anyone outside of the DMV that believes they answered that question with last season's 9-7 record.

It's a question that has been up for debate ever since seemingly time stopped for the Redskins the day Joe Gibbs retired following the 1992 season. Even when Gibbs came back for his second act in 2004, he started with a 6-10 record and the question remained, season after season.

This history lesson is hardly news for Redskins fans who have lived with these



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Washington Redskins quarterback Kirk Cousins is entering his fifth season with the team — and that makes him the third longest tenured quarterback on the Redskins roster since the days of Joe Theismann and the 1982 Super Bowl championship season.

questions, year after year. But when you live it daily, you sometimes don't realize how much time has passed. You live with losing for so long, you don't realize how desperate the hope for winning is.

Maybe you don't realize that quarterback Kirk Cousins is entering his fifth season with the Redskins — and that makes him the third longest tenured quarterback on the Redskins roster since the days of Joe Theismann and the 1982 Super Bowl championship season.

Yes, Cousins has been here longer than Jason Campbell, or Patrick Ramsey, or Doug Williams. His fifth season in Redskins uniform ties him with Gus Frerotte for third place on quarterback service time for this football team since the Gibbs era when the preseason question of performance for Redskins fans was how good would they be — not if they would be any good.

If Cousins returns for a sixth season, he would have been on the roster as

long as Super Bowl winning quarterback Mark Rypien.

Four years as a Washington Redskin — entering his fifth season — and what is there to show for it?

For Cousins, there is the \$20 million payday this year, playing under the franchise tag. But for Redskins fans, what is there to show for a Kirk Cousins jersey available for purchase every year at the Redskins store for five years now?

Is there faith? Belief? Confidence?

How can there be when the team, faced with that very question this off season about making a longer commitment to Cousins — a Theismann-like tenure commitment — instead made a contract offer that was more Frerotte-like in terms of cash and confidence?

If after five years, questions remain inside Redskins Park about Cousins, what does that mean for the future commitment of time for Redskins fans — and the desperation of hope?

After all, if Cousins doesn't surpass Rypien in years in a Redskins uniform, that will have meant that the clock will have been reset one more time. More time will have passed before Redskins fans can enter a season wondering if the team they have invested time, money and emotion in for nearly 25 years, with little to show for it, will have the cloud of competitive uncertainty over it yet again.

Lots of NFL teams have those same questions every year, but only a few have to ask them year after year for a generation.

Those years add up and can numb a fan base to the passing of time.

Maybe Cousins is still in the early stages of a long Redskins career. Maybe the division champion, with the arrival of the greatest cornerback in the world, Josh Norman, means that time is finally moving in the right direction for this team.

Maybe finally it's not so late so soon.



POWER PLAY

Now the richest cornerback in NFL history, Norman takes in his rise to fame and what comes next

By **Todd Dybas**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Platform and power can be diabolical things. Josh Norman has hunted each from high school to Carolina. Now, his complication is achievement. He wonders what's next in football? What's next outside of football? The new Redskins cornerback had spent time chipping away in order to rise, though it feels like his fame came more by way of cannon shot, launched by his all-pro season in 2015. Before that, he was a rookie starter who was eventually benched, a backup inactive almost as often as he played, then third string on the first Carolina depth chart of 2014. His play came together in the second half of his third season. The uptick put him in this place where his words have enough scatter shot stickiness that they are parsed across the country when he speaks.

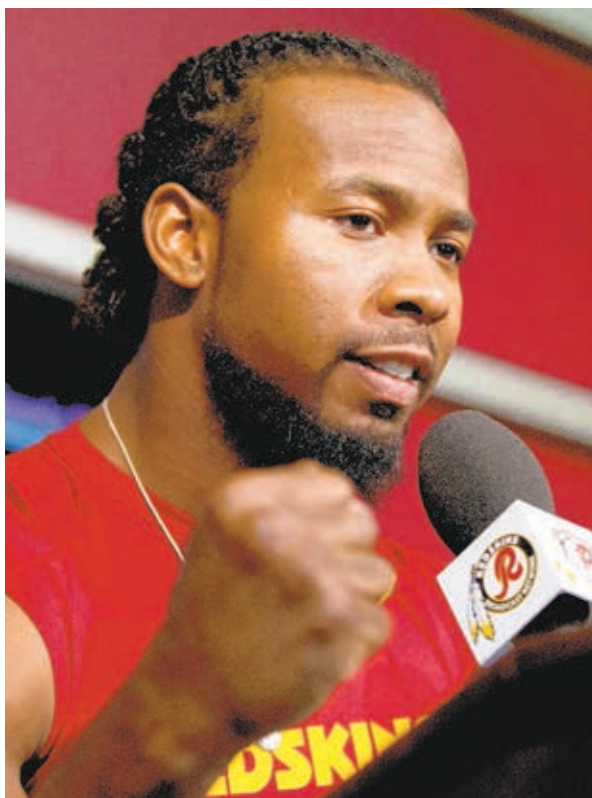
"I'm not so much the underdog anymore," Norman says. "Everybody is ... I'm something else. I'm something different. I am now THE dog. I'm the standard to where everybody wants to take a shot. Take a hit. Because they feel like it's newsworthy or something. For me, just maintain what I've always been doing. I still have that same fire, desire in me. I just keep that feeling under wraps because I haven't stepped on that field yet and let it all hang out. But, I'm crying inside to get it out. You have no idea."

Norman is about as dialed down as he can be, half laying on a couch with one leg up and wondering what there is to eat in the players' cafeteria at Redskins Park. About an hour earlier, he was doing extra post-practice work, per usual, in the unrelenting Ashburn sun. A day earlier, he was answering for what he said three months prior. There's power in his language and presence now in a way there never was before. But, he insists, there will be no change in workload even as complacency chases him in the way it always tracks the well off.

In Norman's second NFL world, the one with a Redskins franchise that stunned the league, him and his new teammates by making him the richest cornerback in football history, Norman is the lightning bolt in an otherwise surprisingly staid Redskins preseason. Usually, there's plenty of rumbling, finger-pointing, rumor and grousing during this time, a lustful open period well before the season has begun. Not this season. At least not yet. Norman's presence and words are providing the only low level of external wave-making.

Things had been quiet. Norman was left to his extensive

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Washington Redskins cornerback Josh Norman feels his rise is grounded in swift corrections and extra work, pulling in fresh information year by year. “I see it and I correct it,” he said.

post-practice work, which consists in part of drills he made up. In Richmond, he signed autographs for the sun-fatigued crowd that incrementally moved forward into the yellow restraining rope until it bowed and the man in charge of keeping the masses at bay asked all to step back. Norman wrote his name over and over, a quick indecipherable scribble on footballs, body parts and jerseys. Then, he had to go. “Josh! Come back!”

The engine behind the bravado

Circling as if their heads are conjoined, Norman and Jeremy Harris wait for the word. The crowns of their helmets are touching while they take synchronized steps clockwise. In a moment, a Redskins staffer will throw the football into the air and simply shout, “Ball!” Harris and Norman will look up, then jump, reaching for the ball while jabbing each other. It’s best of three.

Norman says he made up the drill during his third season in Carolina. It defines a situation he is always harping on: At some point in a game, a play will dissolve to the defender, the receiver and the ball. What happens next is a singular fight you have to win. The extra drills anchor his core, the engine behind the bravado and media push provided by Norman’s personal marketing team. The 28-year-old stays after practice every day for more work. Doing so has caught the attention of everyone in the organization. It made Harris, who was cut not long after, realize Norman embraced teammates, even ones on the fringe of

TO BE THE BEST ...

New Redskins cornerback Josh Norman often proclaims he is the best cornerback in the NFL. As does Arizona’s Patrick Peterson. As does the New York Jets’ Darrelle Revis. And, the Seattle Seahawks’ Richard Sherman. Here’s a look at how they stacked up last season, with the understanding these numbers are not a fully fair comparison since schemes, teammates and the times thrown at vary:

Player, team	Tackles	INTs	PD	FF	TDs	Stuffs
Josh Norman, Redskins	56	4	18	3	2	3
Darrelle Revis, Jets	39	5	9	0	0	0
Richard Sherman, Seahawks	50	2	14	0	0	1
Patrick Peterson, Cardinals	35	2	8	1	0	1

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

the roster. It did not take left tackle Trent Williams by surprise.

“You don’t get to be that good by just doing what’s asked of you,” Williams says.

Norman feels his ascension is grounded in swift corrections and the extra work. During the time he was not “the standard” as he likes to refer to himself, Norman pulled in fresh information year by year to the point his adaptation is almost automatic now.

“I see it and I correct it,” Norman says. “That’s the biggest thing I’ve grown from. Even if I make a play or somebody get a play on me, I come back that second time and it’s [snaps his fingers] corrected. Because I’ve seen it before and I know, actually know, what steps I took to not be in a good position. That second time, I just do the same thing, but maybe I change something up here or tweak something there and that’s a different outcome for

me. To see that, I think I’ve grown in that aspect soooooo far, so advanced. Route combinations and different things on the field I see so much quicker now. The game has slowwwwwwwed way down.”

These elements of football wildly intrigue Norman. That’s why at training camp, his answer about defending new teammate DeSean Jackson in practice was filled with anguish and depth instead of flippant. He explained considerations for hand placement, how to work his feet, the difference between Jackson’s darting routes and the more burly receivers he was accustomed to in the NFC South. Though, that doesn’t mean he can help himself when talking about these things. He starts to smile during explanations, an acknowledgement that he enjoys playing the philosophical football maniac.

“For me, it’s knowing who my opponent is and dissecting them like a Secret

Service member or something,” Norman says. “Like a spyyy. Trying to dissect a play, dissect this player and go out and complete this mission or task that I set for myself. First it starts with respect. Got to respect the opponents you’re facing. You don’t, that opponent will beat you no matter who or what it is.

“Then I start to look at the other components of my opponent. When I see that, OK, what he’s good at, what he’s not so good at, what can cause him problems, what can cause big problems if I do this. Last is when it all starts to build that case on this receiver. Like, I’ve got this book here and I’m watching the film and I’m seeing the quarterbacks and his mechanics as well; I’m not just keying on the wide receiver. I’m putting the quarterback as well into that. For me, it’s 2-on-1. It’s always a 2-on-1 game. So if I can get in the receiver’s list of what he’s going to do and the things which I see ... I’m far, light years away from where I used to be with that.”

A kinship in swagger

Suddenly, Norman didn’t want to talk about it. He was hemmed in by reporters at his locker the day after an ESPN the Magazine cover story about him popped onto the internet. He said some things. A lot of things. They included jabbing the NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell, the head of the NFL players’ union, DeMaurice Smith, and others.

His comments roared around the internet. They were plucked in various markets to produce a flood of “Norman



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

“I haven’t got the baby I can just cradle in my arms and call it a night,” Redskins cornerback Josh Norman said of a Super Bowl trophy. “Haven’t got that. For me, I’m empty.”

said” headlines. This is what happens to men on the come up. The media cycle can kick into a whirling gear that cannot be stopped. Norman seemed to have lost control of his words, ones he expressed to the ESPN writer three months prior when the sting from his Carolina departure still felt like fresh sweat in his eye.

“You know, I’ve been very good at that,” Norman said a day later. “I really have been good at it, using as a platform for when I want to reach out and send messages in the light I want it to be and not what a reporter wants it to be for them. Sometimes when you go off places and, you know, you experience a time in which you’re not there anymore and you break up something that you’ve always been your whole entire life, it’s kind of like, man. Start to think about some things.

“Maybe those things was something of that time then, to where now when you look back at on it, you kind of laugh at it. Because, well, sheesh, I was thinking about that then. I was really in that space and time then. And now I’m coming to this new, fresh team and new light and energy. And you’re in a different space, man. You’re in a different time zone and everything you do it’s like on a different level where you want to help, man. You don’t want to bring nobody down. You want to do things where you help others and benefit them. And win! That’s it, man. You want to see a different light.

“I think when you’re on a platform where I am now, some would say the standard in a way, how would you want to shed your light? Do you want to be

known as a philosopher, a warrior, a tyrant? Who do you want to be known as? It’s setting that legacy. I feel like that legacy for me is something greater than getting out on people and coming after them because I once was that. And I’ve grown past that.”

Four lockers down from Norman is DeAngelo Hall, who is now a safety semi-retired from rabble-rousing. Hall has grappled with passion before. Well before Norman and Odell Beckham Jr. clashed, Hall was a Pro Bowl cornerback in Atlanta exchanging words and actions with then-Carolina wide receiver Steve Smith. Hall says he didn’t know much about Norman before his arrival in Washington, but the two have found a sort of kinship in swagger. The legacy of cornerbacks is not constructed on meek personalities. It was former Raiders cornerback Lester Hayes who called himself the “only true Jedi.” Deion Sanders was nicknamed “Primetime.” Like the men they are trying to stop, they live on an egoists’ island.

Hall is already seeing the repercussions of Norman’s words and contract. In the Redskins’ second preseason game, the Buffalo Bills were prodding Norman from the start. They blocked him extra after plays. Stormed at him with high hands. Talked to him. Following the lunacy of Norman’s rumble with Beckham last season, a 60-minute fantastical embarrassment, there was something familiar going on here. Not at the same level. Not with the same people. And not with similar stakes. But, still, something seemed off to

Hall. He went out to end it with a mental surge from the past, drawing a first-quarter personal foul when he zoomed in to clobber a receiver engaged with Norman after the whistle.

“I told [coach] Jay [Gruden] kind of what happened to make me even want to tee off on the guy,” Hall says. “They were tussling with Josh, felt like they were going to get under his skin and I was just there to let them know it ain’t going to happen today.”

Taking it all in

If anything fascinates Norman more than the intricacies of stopping another man from catching a football, it could well be the concepts of platform and legacy. He often gestures to the painted wall outside the Redskins’ locker room when explaining he has not accomplished what he wants to. The timeline on the wall shows the Redskins’ heyday, all Gibbs, Hogs, Fun Bunch and Lombardi Trophies.

“Haven’t got the ultimate,” Norman says as he points at the wall. “I haven’t got the baby I can just cradle in my arms and call it a night. Haven’t got that. For me, I’m empty. I feel like I’m empty.”

He was close last season. Carolina made it to the Super Bowl, expanding his exposure, giving him a chance to become entrenched there. Instead, they lost and he left. Then Redskins general manager Scot McCloughan made Norman his largest gamble yet when Washington guaranteed him \$50 million based off a year-and-a-half of excellence.

This all excites Norman, who punctuates what he believes is stone-cold fact with a puff of air through his mouth after he speaks. It is part scoff, part satisfactory exhale, usually followed by a slight pull back of his head and a chuckle. When it comes, his eyelids widen a bit, appearing to be pulled apart by the incredulous thoughts running through his bones. Ask him if he’s changed to hear it.

“I’m still going to be that guy you saw in Carolina,” Norman says. “Nothing’s going to change and I’ll probably amplify that a little bit more now. Nothing is going to drop off from that aspect for me personally.”

He believes “breaking that ice” during his rise was more difficult than staying on top will be. Considering he left high school with no scholarship offers, had to first walk-on at Coastal Carolina, that he was just a fifth-round pick, and someone benched by the Panthers, he may be right. There’s also another danger that comes with moving to the top: The distance to fall is much greater.

“For me, it’s just an awesome experience to really see because you sit back and you look and you hear and it’s like, all this, but in a sense you still found peace because you know this storm came because of you,” Norman says. “You look at it like wow, once before, none of this happened. And now, the 180, the 360, however you want to call it to this? Yikes! Now you know you’re stepping in some big territory.”

He exhales, then laughs at the wonder of it all.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington Redskins tight end Jordan Reed signed a five-year, \$46.75 million contract extension in the offseason, making him the third-highest paid tight end in the NFL.

LIVING UP TO EXPECTATIONS

Armed with new contract, Reed is in best shape of his life with the goal of becoming the premier NFL tight end

By ANTHONY GULIZIA
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The numbers indicate just how extraordinary Jordan Reed's performance in 2015 was. He caught 87 passes for 952 yards, both the most in a single season by a Washington Redskins tight end. He led the team with 11 touchdowns, which made him the first tight end in team history to lead the Redskins in all three categories since Jean Fugett in 1977.

The Redskins' offense funneled through Reed last season. From Week 7 when quarterback Kirk Cousins led the team back from a 24-0 deficit against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, to the end of the regular season, Reed hauled in 52 of his 63 targets — the highest catch percentage of any tight end. The 10 touchdowns he caught in that stretch were among the best for tight ends and wide receivers. New York Jets wide receiver Brandon Marshall had 10. Only

the 12 from Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin exceeded Reed's total.

Yet on a warm August day during the team's portion of training camp in Richmond, after 20 minutes of extra work on the JUGS machine to keep his hands crisp, Reed hesitates when he's reminded that he accomplished one of the most dominant seasons in team history despite missing two games because of injuries.

"My main goal is to play all 16 games," Reed said. "I still haven't done that yet. I still need to do that."

Reed was rewarded in the offseason with a five-year, \$46.75 million contract extension, making him the third-highest paid tight end in the NFL. His sharp route-running ability, size and speed make him a matchup nightmare for opposing defensive coordinators.

The Redskins paid him to be a cornerstone of the franchise, not just an elite pass catcher, and the 26-year-old is ready to live up to those expectations.

"When you look at the numbers and

look at the plays he made, you'd say there is no way he could get better," left tackle Trent Williams said. "But there are always little nuances people can work on. For him, being a more complete tight end, some tag him as just the best route-running tight end, he wants to become the best overall tight end and you can see him working toward that."

Staying on the field

First came the hit from Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Brandon Graham, which sent Reed twisting to the ground in the third quarter of the Redskins' 23-20 victory in Week 4. Reed fumbled, sprained his right MCL and ankle, but returned to the game. Then in the fourth quarter, three plays before Cousins' go-ahead touchdown pass to Pierre Garcon with 31 seconds left, linebacker Jordan Hicks collided with Reed. The tight end sustained a concussion and missed the next two games.

He returned to catch 11 passes for 72 yards and two touchdowns against the Buccaneers in the season-shifting comeback. That part, the triumphant return, was something that hadn't always happened in the past.

Reed only played in 20 of 32 games his first two NFL seasons after the Redskins selected him in the third round of the 2013 draft. His rookie season, he bruised his right quad in September, sustained a hip pointer in October and a concussion in November. He was sidelined for the remainder of the season after the concussion.

The 2014 season felt worse for Reed, even though he played more games. He knew there wasn't much he could do about a concussion. These injuries — a strained left hamstring in Week 1 and a strained right hamstring in Week 11 — limited him to 11 games, 50 catches, 465 yards and no touchdowns, but what hurt more was the doubt that settled into his mind.

"It was tough," Reed said. "You start to question yourself, wonder if you'd ever be able to be healthy the majority of the season."

His 2015 offseason was transformative. The birth of his daughter, Jaeda, in December 2014 inspired him to take better care of his body so he can remain on the field and it continues to motivate him now, more so than his new contract. "It's awesome man," Reed said. "It gets better and better each month, each day. She used to be a real momma's girl. She's a daddy's girl now."

He spent the summer with Williams in Houston, participating in grueling workouts that had Reed returning to the Redskins in what he considered the best shape of his life. This summer Reed was so eager to do it again, he asked Williams if he could join when he held his 'Hogs 2.0' workouts with the rest of the Redskins' offensive linemen.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jordan Reed caught 87 passes for 952 yards last season, both the most in a single season by a Washington Redskins tight end. He led the team with 11 touchdowns, which made him the first tight end to lead the Redskins in all three categories since 1977.

"To me what sticks out is it's the one and only vacation we have in this busy year," Williams said. "If a guy takes his time to come out there to that Texas heat and do those workouts, to me that shows dedication right there. The fact that he did that two years in a row, despite the fact he received that big contract and had one of his better years, it speaks volumes to the man he became and the man he's becoming."

'He's been a joy to watch grow'

During another training camp practice, inside linebacker Mason Foster followed Reed toward the right sideline. As Cousins released the pass, Foster appeared to have the route covered, but Reed used his 6-foot-2, 246-pound frame to outmuscle the linebacker and make the catch. Foster pounded the turf with his fists in frustration.

A few days later, in a red-zone situation,

Reed planted hard with his left foot and faked a move to the outside, only to cut back in on Duke Ihenacho. The safety wasn't fooled entirely and remained in tight coverage, but Cousins' sharp throw found Reed who easily secured the catch.

It's an accurate simulation of what opposing defenses struggled with all last season. Reed's combination of speed and power commands a double-team presence from a linebacker and safety. Most have a difficult time stopping him one-on-one.

Aside from his route-running and catching ability, he's more comfortable in the Redskins' offense. As he enters his third season under coach Jay Gruden and offensive coordinator Sean McVay, there is continuity, something he didn't have at Florida before he was drafted. There, Reed also played quarterback as a freshman and split practice reps at each position. In four seasons, Reed had three different offensive

coordinators.

"Jordan has probably grown as much as anybody in the league can grow from a rookie, coming out of college in Florida where he wasn't a very physical player, not very strong," Gruden said. "Now he's always in the weight room, he studies. He wasn't very knowledgeable about the passing game. He learned the system so he can line up anywhere on the field and win. He's made himself a premier tight end ... and he's proud of his accomplishments. He's been a joy to watch grow."

Reed only played one preseason game this summer. He sprained one of his thumbs in training camp and the Redskins held him out as a precaution. There was no need to risk his health then, not when the games did not have significant meaning on the outcome of the season. When the games do there is no doubt he will be out there, hopefully this time for all 16.

PIECE OF THE PIE

Snyder's plans to be latest team to build new stadium put region on notice

The upcoming NFL season at FedEx Field won't be the last. But the clock is ticking and it's likely to run out before Washington's lease expires in 11 years.

Team owner Dan Snyder, recently appointed to the league's Stadium Committee, has been counting the days and talking about a new venue since January. That's when he hired an architect to design a new palace, replete

with a moat, beach and slightly transparent wave-lake structure suitable for rappelling — as seen in artist renditions that appeared on “60 Minutes” and went viral in March.

It seems odd to raise the subject of relocation when moving day is scheduled for 2027.

There's no pressing need for designs now, as if change-of-address forms are imminent. The Los Angeles Rams' new facility is expected to be ready in 2019 and the team just announced its construction company in July.

But Snyder knows there's no such thing as being premature in prepping jurisdictions and politicians for another round of “Who wants to pay for my stadium?!” He's fully aware that fellow NFL owners have done smashingly well over the last 10 years and he's anxious for his turn at the trough.

The game works best when owners can threaten to take their team elsewhere unless locals agree to foot a large portion of the new stadium. Los Angeles was used for blackmail so often, the city should've charged for its services.

Zygi Wilf's Minnesota Vikings begin play this season in U.S. Bank Stadium, a \$1.1 billion jewel that cost taxpayers \$498 million. That's nothing compared to the handiwork of Arthur Blank and the Atlanta Falcons; they secured the \$1.5 billion Mercedes-Benz Stadium, set to



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prince George's County, home to FedEx Field, collects more than \$1 million for every Washington Redskins home game.

open next season, with \$594 million in public funds.

Exceptions to the rule are rarer than NFL players who think Roger Goodell is underpaid. Rams owner Stan Kroenke is privately funding his stadium, estimated to be the world's most expensive playpen at \$2.6 billion. Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross dug into his own pocket for a \$350 million renovation job at Sun Life Stadium.

I imagine Kroenke and Ross received a stern talking-to about showing up their fellow billionaires — if the pair hasn't been ostracized altogether.

Snyder doesn't have to look far to create a potential bidding war for his team's next stadium. It reminds me of a point when I lived in Maryland, worked in Virginia and attended church in Washington. I felt at home in all three domains as they merged into the homogeneous “metro area.”

I just wish governors, mayors and/or county executives would offer me millions of dollars, like they're willing to offer Snyder, to build a place in their jurisdiction.

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe has shown no shame in publicly wooing the team. He wants his state to hit the trifecta, playing host to the team's headquarters, training camp facility and

stadium.

“I view this as a Virginia team,” McAuliffe said on ESPN 980 last month (August). “I know they're in Maryland right now. But a majority of the season ticket holders are Virginians, all the players live in Virginia, we have all of your facilities ... We would love to have (the Redskins)!”

He has no problem with the team's controversial name. The same can't be said for D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser or some officials at the National Park Service — which owns the site of the old venue, RFK Stadium. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has said the team moniker makes prospects for a new lease unlikely. Bowser, who wants the team back in D.C., has said the name is offensive and should be changed.

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan supports the name and vows to fight to keep the team in Maryland. Prince George's County, home to FedEx Field, collects more than \$1 million dollars for every game and maintaining that revenue stream is a high priority. County Executive Rushern Baker could draw encouragement from the Bjarke Ingels Group's renderings. They appear to place the new stadium in Oxon Hill, near the site where MGM is erecting a \$1.3 billion casino.

The bad news could be they appear

to be on land also controlled by the National Park Service.

Wherever it lands, Snyder's new gem will continue the trend of 10-figure grandiosities that started with the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium. “Jerry World” cost a then-unheard-of \$1.3 billion when it opened in 2009. Every facility since has cost at least \$1 billion, including the Rams' upcoming \$2.6 billion “Stan's Universe.” The San Diego Chargers are asking voters to approve a taxpayer-funded \$1.8 billion stadium/convention center and the Oakland Raiders are eyeing a possible \$1.4 billion stadium in Las Vegas.

FedEx cost \$250 million in 1997, but that's chump change these days.

The next stadium for Washington is going to be breathtaking, with every amenity you can imagine and some you can't. And assuming Snyder is devoid of an inner Kroenke or Ross to channel, the facility will take a bite out of public resources in either Maryland, Virginia or D.C.

Maybe politicians should start putting money aside now.

Maybe that's why Snyder brought it up.

He might not dig deep into his own pocket, but at least he's giving notice before digging into ours.

INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

TODD DYBAS

Redskins' record: 9-7

Offensive MVP: Pierre Garcon

Defensive MVP: Will Compton

Impact rookie: Su'a Cravens

Biggest surprise: Minimal contributions from this year's draft picks

Biggest disappointment: Redskins' mediocre play at safety continues

Six NFC playoff teams: Seahawks, Panthers, Cardinals, Packers, Redskins, Giants

Six AFC playoff teams: Raiders, Broncos, Bengals, Patriots, Jets, Colts

NFC, AFC champions: Seahawks, Bengals

Super Bowl winner: Seahawks

NFL MVP: Russell Wilson, Seahawks

Offensive rookie of the year: Jared Goff, Rams

Defensive rookie of the year: Leonard Floyd, Bears

ANTHONY GULIZIA

Redskins' record: 9-7

Offensive MVP: Jordan Reed

Defensive MVP: Preston Smith

Impact rookie: Su'a Cravens

Biggest surprise: The Redskins have a top 10 defense

Biggest disappointment: Josh Doctson finishes the season with less than 30 catches

Six NFC playoff teams: Cardinals, Cowboys, Packers, Panthers, Redskins, Vikings

Six AFC playoff teams: Bengals, Broncos, Chiefs, Colts, Patriots, Steelers

NFC, AFC champions: Cardinals, Steelers

Super Bowl winner: Cardinals

NFL MVP: Antonio Brown, Steelers

Offensive rookie of the year: Ezekiel Elliott, Cowboys

Defensive rookie of the year: Robert Nkemdiche, Cardinals

KEVIN LEITZELL

Redskins' record: 10-6

Offensive MVP: Jordan Reed

Defensive MVP: Josh Norman

Impact rookie: Su'a Cravens

Biggest surprise: Robert Kelley, Keith Thompson give Matt Jones competition for No. 1 running back spot.

Biggest disappointment: Kirk Cousins' poor year results in leaving as free agent

Six NFC playoff teams: Redskins, Vikings, Packers, Seahawks, Panthers, Cardinals

Six AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Bengals, Steelers, Colts, Broncos, Raiders

NFC, AFC champions: Cardinals, Patriots

Super Bowl winner: Patriots

NFL MVP: Aaron Rodgers, Packers

Offensive rookie of the year: Ezekiel Elliott, Cowboys

Defensive rookie of the year: Jalen Ramsey, Jaguars

DERON SNYDER

Redskins' record: 10-6

Offensive MVP: Kirk Cousins

Defensive MVP: Josh Norman

Impact rookie: Su'a Cravens

Biggest surprise: Jordan Reed doesn't miss a game.

Biggest disappointment: Running game still sub-par.

Six NFC playoff teams: Redskins, Packers, Cardinals, Panthers, Vikings, Seahawks

Six AFC playoff teams: Steelers, Patriots, Broncos, Bengals, Chiefs, Colts

NFC, AFC champions: Cardinals, Steelers

Super Bowl winner: Cardinals

NFL MVP: Carson Palmer, Cardinals

Offensive rookie of the year: Ezekiel Elliott, Cowboys

Defensive rookie of the year: Darron Lee, Jets

THOM LOVERRO

Redskins' record: 9-7

Offensive MVP: Kirk Cousins

Defensive MVP: Will Compton

Impact rookie: Matt Ioannidis

Biggest surprise: David Bruton

Biggest disappointment: Matt Jones

Six NFC playoff teams: Redskins, Packers, Panthers, Seahawks, Buccaneers, Cardinals

Six AFC playoff teams: Patriots, Colts, Ravens, Bengals, Broncos, Chiefs

NFC, AFC champions: Packers, Colts

Super Bowl winner: Packers

NFL MVP: Andrew Luck, Colts

Offensive rookie of the year: Derrick Henry, Titans

Defensive rookie of the year: Vernon Hargreaves, Buccaneers



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Linebacker Preston Smith has a chance to be the Washington Redskins' defensive MVP should a prediction that the team produces a top 10 defense bear fruit.



WIPING THE SLATE CLEAN

Ravens face uncertainty coming off 5-11 season

By **DAVID GINSBURG**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OWINGS MILLS, MD. | Coming off his worst season as an NFL head coach, John Harbaugh really doesn't know what to expect from the Baltimore Ravens this year.

"Either we're going to be good or we're not," he said. "I have reasons for optimism, and I have reasons for pessimism."

The Ravens staggered to a 5-11 finish in 2015 after losing quarterback Joe Flacco, running back Justin Forsett, wide receiver Steve Smith and linebacker Terrell Suggs to injury. Harbaugh is still waiting to see what first-round draft pick Breshad Perriman can add to an offense that was without a vertical threat after he tore a knee ligament during his first NFL practice.

If Baltimore is to again become relevant in the AFC North, it must cleanse itself of the misery that defined last season.

"We have to get rid of last year's team, last year's feel and everything that went terrible with last year and leave it back there," Suggs said. "We have to be the Ravens that we know we are supposed to be, that we are accustomed to being. That is definitely the No. 1 thing on our list as a motivator."

Back in the days when Ray Lewis roamed the middle of the field and Ed Reed deftly monitored passes deep into the secondary, the Ravens were a defensive force. To become a contender again, Baltimore must improve a unit that last year surrendered 401 points, including 103 in the fourth quarter. Thus, the Ravens lost nine games by eight points or fewer.

The addition of free agent safety Eric Weddle should help, as should the return of Suggs.

"I really feel good about this defense. I did last year, too. We just had a rash of injuries," defensive coordinator Dean Pees said. "I feel like we're maybe a little faster than we were a year ago. We're going to need to be. I'm very optimistic."

Here are some things that need to go right for the Ravens in 2016:

FLACCO'S HEALTH: The Ravens' success depends heavily on Flacco, the



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The Baltimore Ravens' success depends heavily on quarterback Joe Flacco, the franchise leader in completions, passing yardage, touchdown passes and 300-yard games. Before tearing the ACL and MCL in his left knee on Nov. 22, Flacco started 137 straight games.

franchise leader in completions, passing yardage, touchdown passes and 300-yard games. Before tearing the ACL and MCL in his left knee on Nov. 22, Flacco started in 137 straight games (including playoffs).

Flacco acknowledged that he's not back to 100 percent, but his arm is sound.

"He's still elite," tight end Crockett Gillmore said.

The Ravens provided Flacco with two additional targets during the offseason, signing free agent wide receiver Mike Wallace and tight end Benjamin Watson. But Watson was lost for the year when he tore his Achilles tendon in the third preseason game.

RUNNING BACK SHUFFLE: The most surprising final cut last week was Forsett, who was a Pro Bowl alternate two years ago after rushing for 1,266 yards. But he was re-signed Monday and joins a mix that begins with Terrance West and includes Javorius Allen and rookie Kenneth Dixon, who injured his knee in the preseason.

West has started only six games over

two seasons and is still 96 yards short of reaching 1,000 for his career.

ROOKIE LINEMEN: The Ravens thought they had a fixture at left tackle when they signed Eugene Monroe to a long-term contract. Unfortunately, the oft-injured Monroe turned out to be a bust and was released.

Top draft pick Ronnie Stanley has stepped into a starting role, and now it's up to him to protect Flacco's blind side.

"That is an important spot, obviously," offensive coordinator Marc Trestman said. "There is nothing that tells you he can't do this, and the game is not going to be too big for him."

Baltimore will also employ rookie guard Alex Lewis, sometimes in tandem with Stanley on the left side of the line.

(DEFENSIVE) BACKFIELD IN MOTION: Weddle was the most important free agent pickup of the offseason. A three-time Pro Bowl selection with San Diego, he had 104 tackles in 2014 and 75 a year ago before going on injured reserve in December.

Former cornerback Lardarius Webb moves to free safety, which caters to his speed. Jimmy Smith is solid at one of the corners, but Shareece Wright must improve on the other side for the Ravens to be an effective pass defense.

The key is chemistry.

"It's just a guy getting used to working with other guys, how they verbalize, how they think, how they communicate and how they talk," Pees said.

KICKING IT: The Ravens signed kicker Justin Tucker to a whopping \$16.8 million, four-year contract in July.

Tucker is the second-most accurate kicker in NFL history, making 87.8 percent of his field goal attempts. He's never missed a conversion and last year scored 128 of the team's 328 points.

"Justin has become a cornerstone of our team," general manager Ozzie Newsome said.

The Ravens also have 2015 Pro Bowl punter Sam Koch and long-snapper Morgan Cox back.



A LOOK AT THE NFC

How to get to the top of the conference

In the past five years, those NFC teams that have dominated in net turnover points have, predictably, gone on to great success. Last season, the Super Bowl-bound Carolina Panthers were a stunning 58 points ahead of the second-place Seattle Seahawks in net turnover points. The Redskins were 30th in the league at -54, yet still made the playoffs.

- 2015 Carolina, 11-6 — Lost Super Bowl
- 2014 Green Bay Packers, 67 — Lost NFC title game
- 2013 San Francisco, 84 — Lost NFC title game
- 2012 Washington Redskins, 58 — Lost Wild Card playoff game
- 2011 San Francisco 49ers, 83 — Lost NFC title game

The NFC MVP contenders*

- Aaron Rodgers, QB, Green Bay 4-1
- Cam Newton, QB, Carolina 15-2
- Russell Wilson, QB Seattle, 8-1
- Carson Palmer, QB, Arizona, 12-1
- Eli Manning, QB, NYG 25-1

* ODDS FROM BOVADA

Four big games

Sept. 11

New York Giants at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.

Right from the start, the two NFC East teams that bungled their way through last season try to establish a better path this season. Surely the outcome won't spur any overreaction in either market to a Week 1 loss.

Nov. 17

New Orleans at Carolina, 8:25 p.m.

The south division rivals play on Thursday night, wrapping their season series before Week 11 is even complete. Clearly, the division will go through Carolina again. In New Orleans, 37-year-old Drew Brees will be playing in his 16th NFL season.

Nov. 20

Green Bay at Washington, 8:30 p.m.

The Sunday night game comes in the middle of a challenging stretch for the Redskins. They play the competent Cincinnati Bengals in London before a bye week, then host the Minnesota Vikings before the Packers in Week 11. Three road games follow: at Dallas, at Arizona and at Philadelphia.

Dec. 24

Arizona at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.

At this point, in Week 16, the winner of this game could have a large influence on who wins the NFC West and who may be a Wild Card or even going home. The Cardinals have worked to unseat the Seahawks as the bruisers of the division. Seattle is trying to take that title back this season.



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Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers is the favorite to win NFC MVP.

Numbers to know

2 The number of regular-season games Carolina quarterback Cam Newton has missed in his first five seasons in the league, despite rushing for at least 539 yards each season.

8 NFC quarterbacks who threw for more than 4,000 yards last season, an all-time high for the conference.

17 Adrian Peterson's all-time rank in rushing yards as he enters his ninth season. If the 30-year-old duplicates last season (1,485 rushing yards), he'll be eighth all-time.

25 Number of seasons since the league's leading rusher had fewer yards than Peterson's league leading total of 1,485 rushing yards in 2015. Barry Sanders was tops with 1,304 in 1990.

A LOOK AT THE AFC

How to get to the top of the conference

Beat the New England Patriots, which is infinitely more difficult than writing that sentence. That effort starts within the division. It has not worked for the last seven seasons. Since

Tom Brady became the team's leading passer in 2001, the Patriots have not had a losing season. They have won at least 10 games for 13 consecutive seasons. So on and so forth.

But, the Patriots have lost three of the last four AFC championship games. That they made it to four consecutive conference title games is of course stunning and notable. Though, considering their success, you have to start somewhere when grappling to find the negative.

In those three losses, the inability to pressure and cause a turnover from the opposing quarterback has done the Patriots in. They faced Peyton Manning twice and Joe Flacco once. Combined, those two threw seven touchdowns, no interceptions and were sacked seven times. When a team is sacked as often as it throws a touchdown, its odds of winning are good. Even against the Patriots.

Recent Patriots AFC title game losses

Year	Quarterback	PC-PA	TD	INT	Sacks
2016	Peyton Manning, Den.	17-32	2	0	3
2014	Peyton Manning, Den.	32-43	2	0	2
2013	Joe Flacco, Bal.	21-36	3	0	2

The AFC MVP contenders*

- Tom Brady, QB, New England 9-1
- Andrew Luck, QB, Indianapolis 12-1
- Carson Palmer, QB, Arizona, 12-1
- J.J. Watt, DE, Houston, 25-1
- Derek Carr, QB, Oak 50-1

* ODDS FROM BOVADA

Four big games

Sept. 18

Indianapolis at Denver, 4:25 p.m.

The Colts and their extremely rich quarterback, Andrew Luck, face the Super Bowl champions in an early matchup of AFC contenders. That is if Denver can find a quarterback.

Oct. 2

Kansas City at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.

The Chiefs head into the Steel City for that week's Sunday night game. Kansas City closed the 2015 regular season by winning 10 consecutive games. The Steelers are 12-4 at home the last two seasons.

Oct. 16

Cincinnati at New England, 1 p.m.

Tom Brady's first home game, and second game following his suspension, is against the potent Bengals. Cincinnati matched New England at 12-4 last season. Surely, Gillette Stadium will be rocking.

Nov. 20

Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.

This game is unlikely to influence the playoff race, but it will be interesting to see where the Browns and new quarterback Robert Griffin III are in the penultimate week of the regular season.



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New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick has lost 3 of the last 4 NFC title games.

Numbers to know

1 Season with double-digit wins by a Rex Ryan-coached team. Ryan has been in charge of teams for seven seasons, advancing to the playoffs twice.

4 Wins added by the Oakland Raiders last season over the previous season. The seven total wins equaled their number of wins in the previous two seasons combined.

17 Average number of sacks for Texans terror J.J. Watt the last four seasons.

4,052 Passing yards in the playoffs for Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. He's seventh all-time and looking to catch Dan Marino (4,510) next.

N WEEK BY WEEK

Arizona Cardinals

Sept. 11 New England, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 18 Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 2 Los Angeles, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 6 at San Fran., 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 17 N.Y. Jets, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 23 Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 30 at Carolina, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 6 BYE
 Nov. 13 San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 20 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 4 Washington, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at Miami, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 18 New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 24 at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 1 at Los Angeles, 4:25 p.m.

Atlanta Falcons

Sept. 11 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 18 at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
 Sept. 26 at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 2 Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 9 at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 16 at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 23 San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 30 Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 3 at Tampa Bay, 8:25 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 BYE
 Nov. 27 Arizona, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 4 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at Los Angeles, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 18 San Fran., 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 24 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 1 New Orleans, 1 p.m.

Carolina Panthers

Sept. 8 at Denver, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 18 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 25 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 2 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 10 Tampa Bay, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 16 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 BYE
 Oct. 30 Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 6 at Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 13 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 17 New Orleans, 8:25 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 11 San Diego, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 19 at Washington, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 24 Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 1 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Chicago Bears

Sept. 11 at Houston, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 19 Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 2 Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 9 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 16 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 20 at Green Bay, 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 31 Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 6 BYE
 Nov. 13 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 27 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 4 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 18 Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 24 Washington, 1 p.m.

Jan. 1 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Dallas Cowboys

Sept. 11 N.Y. Giants, 4:25 p.m.
 Sept. 18 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 25 Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 2 at San Fran., 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 9 Cincinnati, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 16 at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 23 BYE

Sept. 25 Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 2 BYE
 Oct. 9 N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 16 Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 20 Chicago, 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 30 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 6 Indianapolis, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 at Washington, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 28 at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 23 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 31 at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 6 Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 Arizona, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 24 at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.
 Dec. 1 Dallas, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 18 Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 24 at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Chicago, 1 p.m.

New Orleans Saints

Sept. 11 Oakland, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 18 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 26 Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 2 at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 9 BYE
 Oct. 16 Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 30 Seattle, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 6 at San Fran., 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 13 Denver, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 17 at Carolina, 8:25 p.m.
 Nov. 27 Los Angeles, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 4 Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 18 at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 24 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 1 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.

N.Y. Giants

Sept. 11 at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
 Sept. 18 New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 25 Washington, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 3 at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 9 at Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 16 Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 vs. Los Angeles at London, 9:30 a.m.
 Oct. 30 BYE
 Nov. 6 Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 14 Cincinnati, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 20 Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 11 Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 18 Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 22 at Philadelphia, 8:25 p.m.
 Jan. 1 at Washington, 1 p.m.

Philadelphia Eagles

Sept. 11 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 19 at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 25 Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 2 BYE
 Oct. 9 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 16 at Washington, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 30 at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 6 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 13 Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 28 Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 Washington, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 18 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 22 N.Y. Giants, 8:25 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Dallas, 1 p.m.

San Francisco 49ers

Sept. 12 Los Angeles, 10:20 p.m.
 Sept. 18 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.

Oct. 2 Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 6 Arizona, 8:25 p.m.
 Oct. 16 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 30 BYE
 Nov. 6 New Orleans, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 20 New England, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Miami, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 N.Y. Jets, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 18 at Atlanta, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 24 at Los Angeles, 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Seattle, 4:25 p.m.

Seattle Seahawks

Sept. 11 Miami, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 18 at Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 25 San Fran., 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 2 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 9 BYE
 Oct. 16 Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 23 at Arizona, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 30 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 7 Buffalo, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at New England, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 20 Philadelphia, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 4 Carolina, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 15 Los Angeles, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 24 Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 1 at San Fran., 4:25 p.m.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Sept. 11 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 18 at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 25 Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 2 Denver, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 10 at Carolina, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 16 BYE
 Oct. 23 at San Fran., 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 30 Oakland, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 3 Atlanta, 8:25 p.m.
 Nov. 13 Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 27 Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 11 New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 18 at Dallas, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 24 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Carolina, 1 p.m.

Washington Redskins

Sept. 12 Pittsburgh, 7:10 p.m.
 Sept. 18 Dallas, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 2 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 9 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 16 Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 30 vs. Cincinnati at London, 9:30 a.m.
 Nov. 6 BYE
 Nov. 13 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 24 at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 19 Carolina, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 24 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 1 N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.



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Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers open Thursday against the Denver Broncos.

Oct. 30 Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.
 Nov. 6 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
 Nov. 20 Baltimore, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 24 Washington, 4:30 p.m.
 Dec. 1 at Minnesota, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 11 at N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.
 Dec. 18 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 26 Detroit, 8:30 p.m.
 Jan. 1 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.

Detroit Lions

Sept. 11 at Indianapolis, 4:25 p.m.
 Sept. 18 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 2 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 9 Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 16 Los Angeles, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 Washington, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 30 at Houston, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 6 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 13 BYE
 Nov. 20 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 24 Minnesota, 12:30 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 18 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 26 at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Green Bay, 1 p.m.

Green Bay Packers

Sept. 11 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 18 at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 4 Houston, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 18 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 24 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
 Jan. 1 at Detroit, 1 p.m.

Los Angeles Rams

Sept. 12 at San Fran., 10:20 p.m.
 Sept. 18 Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
 Oct. 2 at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 9 Buffalo, 4:25 p.m.
 Oct. 16 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 23 vs. N.Y. Giants at London, 9:30 a.m.
 Oct. 30 BYE
 Nov. 6 Carolina, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 13 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
 Nov. 20 Miami, 4:05 p.m.
 Nov. 27 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 4 at New England, 1 p.m.
 Dec. 11 Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.
 Dec. 15 at Seattle, 8:25 p.m.
 Dec. 24 San Fran., 4:25 p.m.
 Jan. 1 Arizona, 4:25 p.m.

Minnesota Vikings

Sept. 11 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
 Sept. 18 Green Bay, 8:30 p.m.
 Sept. 25 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 3 N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.
 Oct. 9 Houston, 1 p.m.
 Oct. 16 BYE

A WEEK BY WEEK

Baltimore Ravens

Sept. 11 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 Oakland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 Washington, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 BYE
Nov. 6 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Nov. 10 Cleveland, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 20 at Dallas, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 Miami, 1 p.m.
Dec. 12 at New England, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Dec. 25 at Pittsburgh, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 1 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Buffalo Bills

Sept. 11 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Sept. 15 N.Y. Jets, 8:25 p.m.
Sept. 25 Arizona, 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 at New England, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 at Los Angeles, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 16 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 at Miami, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 New England, 1 p.m.
Nov. 7 at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 13 BYE
Nov. 20 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 11 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Dec. 24 Miami, 1 p.m.
Jan. 1 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.

Cincinnati Bengals

Sept. 11 at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Sept. 25 Denver, 1 p.m.
Sept. 29 Miami 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 9 at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 16 at New England, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 vs. Washington at London, 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 6 BYE
Nov. 14 at N.Y. Giants, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 20 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Dec. 11 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 24 at Houston, 8:25 p.m.
Jan. 1 Baltimore, 1 p.m.

Cleveland Browns

Sept. 11 at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Miami, 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 at Washington, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 New England, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Nov. 6 Dallas, 1 p.m.
Nov. 10 at Baltimore, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 20 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 BYE
Dec. 11 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Dec. 24 San Diego, 1 p.m.
Jan. 1 at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

Denver Broncos

Sept. 8 Carolina, 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 18 Indianapolis, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 9 Atlanta, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 13 at San Diego, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 24 Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 30 San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 6 at Oakland, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 13 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Nov. 20 BYE
Nov. 27 Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 4 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Dec. 11 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 New England, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 25 at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 1 Oakland, 4:25 p.m.

Houston Texans

Sept. 11 Chicago, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Sept. 22 at New England, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 2 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 24 at Denver, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 30 Detroit, 1 p.m.
Nov. 6 BYE
Nov. 13 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Nov. 21 at Oakland, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 San Diego, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Dec. 11 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Dec. 24 Cincinnati, 8:25 p.m.
Jan. 1 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis Colts

Sept. 11 Detroit, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 18 at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 25 San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 2 vs. Jacksonville at London, 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 9 Chicago, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 23 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Nov. 6 at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 13 BYE
Nov. 20 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Nov. 24 Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 5 at N.Y. Jets, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 11 Houston, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Dec. 24 at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Jan. 1 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.

Jacksonville Jaguars

Sept. 11 Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 25 Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 vs. Indianapolis at London, 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 9 BYE
Oct. 16 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 Oakland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 27 at Tennessee, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 6 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Nov. 13 Houston, 1 p.m.
Nov. 20 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Dec. 4 Denver, 1 p.m.
Dec. 11 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 at Houston, 1 p.m.
Dec. 24 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Jan. 1 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.

Kansas City Chiefs

Sept. 11 San Diego, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 at Houston, 1 p.m.
Sept. 25 N.Y. Jets, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 2 at Pittsburgh, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 9 BYE
Oct. 16 at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 23 New Orleans, 1 p.m.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Washington Redskins open against the Pittsburgh Steelers and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger on Monday.

Oct. 30 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Nov. 6 Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Nov. 13 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Nov. 20 Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 4 at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Dec. 8 Oakland, 8:25 p.m.
Dec. 18 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Dec. 25 Denver, 8:30 p.m.
Jan. 1 at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.

Miami Dolphins

Sept. 11 at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Sept. 18 at New England, 1 p.m.
Sept. 25 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Sept. 29 at Cincinnati 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 9 Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 BYE
Nov. 6 N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Nov. 13 at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 20 at Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 27 San Francisco, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Dec. 11 Arizona, 1 p.m.
Dec. 17 at N.Y. Jets, 8:25 p.m.
Dec. 24 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.

Jan. 1 New England, 1 p.m.

New England Patriots

Sept. 11 at Arizona, 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 18 Miami, 1 p.m.
Sept. 22 Houston, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 2 Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 at Pittsburgh, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 30 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Nov. 6 BYE
Nov. 13 Seattle, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 20 at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.

Sept. 18 Atlanta, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 16 Kansas City, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 23 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Oct. 30 at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Nov. 6 Denver, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 13 BYE
Nov. 21 Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Nov. 27 Carolina, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 4 Buffalo, 4:05 p.m.
Dec. 8 at Kansas City, 8:25 p.m.
Dec. 18 at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 24 Indianapolis, 4:05 p.m.
Jan. 1 at Denver, 4:25 p.m.

Pittsburgh Steelers

Sept. 12 at Washington, 7:10 p.m.
Sept. 18 Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Philadelphia, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 2 Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 9 N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 at Miami, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 New England, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 30 BYE
Nov. 6 at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Nov. 13 Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 20 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Nov. 24 at Indianapolis, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 4 N.Y. Giants, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 11 at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 at Cincinnati, 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 25 Baltimore, 4:30 p.m.
Jan. 1 Cleveland, 1 p.m.

San Diego Chargers

Sept. 11 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 Jacksonville, 4:25 p.m.
Sept. 25 at Indianapolis, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 2 New Orleans, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 9 at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Oct. 13 Denver, 8:25 p.m.
Oct. 23 at Atlanta, 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 30 at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 6 Tennessee, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 13 Miami, 4:05 p.m.
Nov. 20 BYE
Nov. 27 at Houston, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 Tampa Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 11 at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Dec. 24 at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Jan. 1 Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.

Tennessee Titans

Sept. 11 Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Sept. 18 at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Sept. 25 Oakland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 2 at Houston, 1 p.m.
Oct. 9 at Miami, 1 p.m.
Oct. 16 Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Oct. 23 Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Oct. 27 Jacksonville, 8:25 p.m.
Nov. 6 at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Nov. 13 Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Nov. 20 at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Nov. 27 at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Dec. 4 BYE
Dec. 11 Denver, 1 p.m.
Dec. 18 at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Dec. 24 at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Jan. 1 Houston, 1 p.m.

Oakland Raiders

Sept. 11 at New Orleans, 1 p.m.

xGame time is subject to change