

My "5" Post Bye-Week Expectations for the Miami Dolphins

Contributed by Dave Blake
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1. Mike Sherman Will Adjust His Offense To Our Talents

I'm not taking away from the superb job that Sherman has done with the development of Ryan Tannehill, but, yep, this is my #1 expectation following the bye week. It seems that every single offensive coordinator that we've had really believes in their own system. Maybe it's because it worked somewhere else, and it's supposed to work here. Who knows why. All we know is that if our best blocking assignments are between LG Richie Incognito and C Mike Pouncey, Sherman will call running plays to the right side. If it's short and 1, rather than use the athletic Tannehill for a QB sneak, Sherman will call a running play on the outside where our tackles John Jerry and Tyson Clabo have been poor at run blocking. I just don't get it.

Last year, we were frustrated with the lack of involvement in getting Reggie Bush the ball in the open field and it took more than half the season for Sherman to make that adjustment. It's just that he is stubborn to his own system ... which is an old system that he last used while Brett Favre was quarterback for the Packers. If you want to win you need to have a more balanced offense. 10 running plays and 47 passing plays just will not get you a win unless you have the talent that Denver, Green Bay, or New Orleans has. Those teams are loaded with offensive talent where we are not yet.

Right now, Sherman needs to adjust his offense around WR Mike Wallace. There is no excuse to not get him the ball a half dozen times a game. If the corner gives him a lot of cushion, do what he did last game and that is throw some shorter stuff to him. Wallace is a prima donna receiver ... keep his head in the game by throwing him the ball. He opens so much for the entire offense.

And, Sherman, if a play doesn't work, don't try it 3 or 4 times. Scrap it.

2. Coach Philbin will step up and make corrections during games.

Coach Philbin is in year two as head coach. I understand that he didn't call the plays in Green Bay even though he was the offensive coordinator, but as head coach he should know when to get into his offensive or defensive coordinator's attention to make faster changes in the game.

Do you want an example? How about Coach Nick Saban forcing OC Scott Linehan to sit on the sideline to get a feel for the offense. The offense started to really click then. Last week, Philbin should have told Sherman that the game is close and that one running play to Lamar Miller in the entire second half will do nothing but get your quarterback hammered. When you abandon the run, and the opposing defense knows it, they only have the passing game to think about. They'll put their ears back and bull rush the quarterback. Why do you think Tannehill was sacked so often in the second half last week? I put the loss last week on Philbin for allowing Sherman to abandon the run. Tannehill was sacked at the end of the game and out of field goal position.

The buck stops with you, buddy.

3. The offensive line will play better.

They'll play better because of points 1 and 2. Our offensive line is what it is as it is too late to improve them to average. Aside from Incognito and Pouncey, we have no one left that can be counted on. Clabo is no longer the RT that he was. He's gotten old and the wear and tear in the trenches has taken its toll on him. Martin has not performed at the expectations that he was drafted at. Most analysts thought he'd be ready to start right away for us. Even after a year of bulking up he is still allowing a sack a game. I don't even want to talk about John Jerry. How many years do we have to have an open mind that he will show everyone what he has that impressed Sparano so much to convince Ireland to draft him. Nothing personal to any of those guys, but you've earned criticism. I'd love to say great things about our offensive line.

I hate to say it but we should have kept Jake Long. He's wearing down, too, but he's still a tough and nasty offensive lineman. Sometimes you just have to overpay for a good player that is going to keep your quarterback from getting a concussion. And mark my words, Tannehill cannot continue to get murdered back there.

4. Rookie OLB/DE Dion Jordan will play more snaps in a game.

So far, Jordan has played:

- Game 1: 18 of 81 defensive plays.
- Game 2: 8 of 73 defensive plays.
- Game 3: 31 of 73 defensive plays.
- Game 4: 23 of 71 defensive plays.

- Game 5: 21 of 73 defensive plays.

Dion Jordan makes things happen. He looks to be the next Jason Taylor in the NFL. That would be big shoes to fill. Last week he came around the LT and got a hand on Joe Flacco's throwing hand and forced a lob that was intercepted and brought back for a touchdown. Get him on the field more, please. He is starting material.

5. I expect to see DT Paul Soliai sign an extension.

Ireland, pay the beast in the middle. He gave us the hometown discount the first time around. Now it's time to reward the big guy.

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