

## Are Beck's Problems Teachable?

Contributed by Dave Blake  
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When asked why the Dolphins kept QB John Beck over Josh McCown, Miami Dolphins GM Jeff Ireland responded by saying

We felt like John was still a young player. He's done a great job the last week and a half. That's the player we felt like had more upside and more future to him and more developmental possibilities.

You could see it in Beck's play this preseason as the kid has worked as hard as nearly anyone on the Dolphins roster trying to improve. When afforded the time, Beck's passes looked good. That is teachable and those things can be learned and improved upon. Last year the Dolphins did not draft Brady Quinn because proven offensive guru Cam Cameron said that accuracy was unteachable. What I am wondering about is whether is whether composure in the pocket no matter the circumstances are would be listed in the unteachable or the teachable areas of quarterback development.

I have seen quarterbacks learn to lose composure in the pocket. In fact, you have probably heard that certain coaches have ruined quarterbacks by putting them into the game too soon behind a porous offensive line. So, losing composure and trust in your offensive line is teachable.

On the other hand, I think that gaining composure is teachable only if you prove to the quarterback that they are protected. Once he starts to lose that protection he will regress. All of those turnovers last year pointed to the fact that Beck had little faith in his offensive line or himself.

So, would I have kept Beck or McCown as my #3 QB. I can safely say that the Dolphins made the right choice. In fact, I am not sure why Parcels gave McCown such a big contract. Looking back on it I am sure Parcels felt the same way when he saw that McCown looked like the 4th best quarterback on this roster. Do not feel bad for McCown as he's had his chances in this league. The Cardinals thought he was their quarterback of the future when they drafted him. Then the Raiders thought he's be a good 1 or 2 year fill for their starting job. They realized quickly that he would be that quarterback. And this year the Dolphins realized rather quickly that McCown did not have the tools to be their #1 or #2.

I believe McCown has shown the NFL his potential, but the jury is still out on Beck. Ireland said that the Dolphins will keep what they have and not add another quarterback. I think this to be a wise decision. You do not expect to win with your #3 QB. If we get down to Beck due to injuries you can kiss season bye-bye.

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