

## Dolphins Youth a Blessing and a Curse

Contributed by David Grotefend  
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The Dolphin's 'newness' as a team was readily apparent on Sunday, as the players weren't always on the same page. The lack of cohesion cost us, and a few positions still need upgrades desperately. It's not all gloom-and-doom, though.

I would say our number 1 need was WR. We have Ginn and Camarillo, and little else. Ginn hasn't yet blossomed into the bonafide #1, and Camarillo is a solid #3-slot guy. Those are our starters. A potential #1 and a good #3 won't be enough to make our passing game effective. The real problem is that the #2 we need may not be on the roster. Hagan hasn't siezed the position which is his for the taking. Wilford is a ghost; for him not to start was a real indication of what we've got going on at the position.

The youth of our OLine cost us badly. Jake Long did not have a good first day. The 'Line as a hole didn't do much for the Backs or the QB. This I expect to improve each week, and I honestly think we'll have one of the better lines by the end.

However, it wasn't all gloom-and-doom. There were some bright spots.

On the DL, Langford and Merling displayed flashes, with Langford nabbing a Sack, a QB hurry and 3 Tackles (he went to Hampton, a miniscule 1AA school, so hooray for the little guys). Vonnie Holliday appears to still have some tread left on his tires.

The TE position, a miserable weakness last season, played wonderfully. If Fasano has a game like this each week, he'll be in Hawaii.

Will Allen showed he can still cover, but I'd give a year off the end of my life sight-unseen for someone who can intercept the ball. That lame-duck floater Favre gorfed out in desperation should have been picked or knocked down...can't have that nonsense hurt you.

Penny ended up with a decent game, despite a poor first half. His last pass was ill-advised IMHO, but he had led us into scoring position, and had directed the previous drive for a score. He would have had a far better game but had some drops, and I don't think most of those were on him.

We knew this was a work-in-progress. Like most of you, my expectations were forged by a very good preseason, and I honestly thought we'd win. It didn't happen, but I do feel that we are on the upswing: it's not more of the Same Ol'-Same Ol'.

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