

Patience Hard but Vital Commodity

Contributed by David Grotefend
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It's pretty easy to find frustrated fans after any loss. I mean, we're unhappy because we lost the game, and we all feel attached to the Dolphins, so we vicariously share their disappointment.

We all have opinions on what malfunctioned here, what went haywire there, why this should have been done, why that should never have been tried, etc.

The one thing most of us have a hard time coming to grips with is when we overestimate that which we admire, and that is where the frustration gets ignited. We felt like we were going to squish Flacco and win the Baltimore game. We felt like we were going to beat the Texans in a close game. When those didn't happen, it stung, and probably still does to most of you (it certainly does to me).

However, look at what is going on. I've read several posts in the forums that have called the coaches boneheaded (and worse...stupid and idiotic have also been bandied about).

That just isn't true.

Have they made some questionable calls? Absolutely, to the lay fan.

Have they made some questionable personnel moves? Absolutely, to the lay fan.

They're a new staff. Stuff happens, and sometimes you live good, sometimes you don't. The roster is full of new guys. This is a whole new beginning: bound to be bumps, potholes and even roadkill along the way. Our roadkill in '08 is going to be many of the current Secondary players, and some of the WRs. They're not going to survive to play here in '09. Until we get the bodies to replace them, we have to live with them. And their mistakes. And their deficiencies.

The staff knows what they're doing, more than any group we've had in years. They're the reason our DBs are right in the right spot, only to watch the ball bounce off their numbers. The coaches can't go out on the field and catch it for them.

The Wildcat is a direct result of that. The struggle to move the ball prompted the staff to look for any possible solution. They found a blast from the past, a freaking Pop Warner formation, the Single Wing. It gives us a chance to get favorable matchups with our best skill players. The staff didn't put that in because we have Drew Brees at QB. They didn't put it in because we have Reggie Wayne at WR. They put it in because we are still talent-poor at WR and we needed to move the chains. Simple as that. It has the same significance as putting in 5 wide, or going into the Shotgun, or the No-Huddle. It gives us matchups favorable to us. It has already been wildly successful. If it doesn't do anything else for us it has already been worth every minute of practice spent on it. Kudos to the staff.

This will be a long process to restore the gleam to Miami, and I am excited for it. Watch us pull an upset in one of the next two games. It was all gloom and doom after Arizona, too. Then suddenly the sun broke through the clouds and we blistered NE. The followup on SD had us all puffed up and out of our minds.

Now we've simply come back to earth, and had to realize, yeah, we've got some more renovation that needs to happen.

I take comfort in the fact that we have the right crew in place to do the job. They're already working wonders with one of the most rebuilt teams in the league, and one of the youngest. Kudos to the staff.

Look at the decision with Porter. High salary, not all-world performance in '07, hmmm., he'll certainly be a casualty...whoops, nope, we're simply going to play him where he should have been all along, and get a guy playing at a probowl level. Kudos to the staff.

Look at the injury report. It's gotten almost comical. We are a superbly-conditioned team. Kudos to the staff.

Patience has never been one of my overriding qualities, but with Sparano's boys, I'm comfortable, and I for one am going to enjoy the process. Bring on the Buffs.