

## Safety concerns....

Contributed by Gary Ramey  
Wednesday, 25 July 2012

If you speak with most defensive coordinators around the NFL they will openly talk about the key to having a chance at being a good defense is also being solid up the middle. It begins with the NT or DT's depending on the type of defense you have. Miami has Paul Solai, Randy Starks, Jared Odrick and Tony McDaniel. That's a pretty good group of veterans up front and barring injury should make for a good interior defensive line.

The next position in the middle is the LB's. Miami has a pretty solid pair in Kevin Burnett, or Karlos Dansby whoever gets that MLB job Miami will be in good hands. This might even be a good position for a guy like Koa Misi sandwiched between Dansby and Burnett. In any case, you can check this off the list of concerns.

Finally to be solid up the middle you need good safeties. Miami cut Jeremiah Bell in the off-season and has neither drafted, nor signed through FA, a player to replace him. Tyrone Culver, Chris Clemons, Tyrell Johnson, Reshad Jones, Russell Anderson and Kelcie McCray are all listed at safety on Miami's current roster. If there is a name that inspires confidence there, please point them out. Culver is a journeyman. Johnson, Anderson and McCray are young nobodies. That pretty much leaves Clemons and Reshad Jones as the starters barring one of the aforementioned young players stepping up in a big way. Both Jones and Clemons gave us reasons to cheer; but they also gave us reasons to cry. Therein lies the crux of the argument: Neither player has really been anything special, more to the point, they've both been frustratingly inconsistent.

You can begin to see how safety is a huge concern even though it gets no mention in the press. The news isn't all bad. Kevin Coyle worked magic in Cincinnati's Backfield before joining Miami as the defensive coordinator. He has a proven track record putting together a bunch of cast-offs and turning them into a truly good NFL unit. Miami did sign Richard Marshall, a CB, more as a safety than as a CB. Many fans are also hoping Coyle can put Sean Smith's insane physical gifts to better use this season. Smith has insane ability that has yet to show up in prime time.

I'll close by saying I'm getting that familiar itch...no it isn't rash. Football season is right on our doorstep and I can almost smell it. I can't wait for preseason to see how this new unit is going to perform.

Go Dolphins!!!!

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