

4 Thoughts On The Dolphins Before the NFL Screws Up The Draft For The Fans.

Contributed by Dave Blake
Saturday, 25 May 2013

1. NFL DRAFT BEING MOVED TO MAY?

With Radio City Music Hall unavailable next year in late April for the NFL Draft, the NFL is using this as an excuse to push back the draft 3 weeks to the middle of May. And they want to make this permanent. If you are on the NFL's side of it then it does make sense as it would give the NFL something going on every month of the year:

- Jan-Playoffs/Pro Bowl
- Feb-Super Bowl
- March-Free Agency/Combine begins
- April-Combine ends/Draft lead up
- May- NFL Draft
- June-June 1st cuts (second wave of FA)
- July-Training camp
- August-Preseason/Hall of Fame inductions
- Sept-Dec-Regular Season

First off, the fans hate it. How can we wait another 3 weeks for the draft? Also, how can teams obsess another 3 weeks to make a decision on something that they've all ready made after their free agent moves? Teams all ready have their rookie evaluations complete by the Combine, and what they are looking for there are character information.

I was on board with stretching out the draft to 3 days, but I am not on board with moving the draft back. We'd better get used to it as this is going to be the future.

2. GOT A VERY GOOD FEELING ABOUT BRENT GRIMES

One thing about OTA's is that you can't take anything you hear coming out of camp too seriously. There is no contact as the pads aren't on and the coaches are trying out different scenarios with their players trying to get a gauge on where they may fit well in our schemes. Currently the Dolphins are looking at Brent Grimes at LCB and my guess is that he will be our starter on that side.

Now, I do understand that Brent Grimes had two injury plagued years the past two years. The big one was last year when he tore his Achilles in the first game of season and was lost for the year. So far in OTA's he is looking very good physically and that is a very good thing for the Dolphins. Can he stay healthy?

He has Pro Bowl talent and signed a 1 year contract with the Dolphins to show the NFL that he can play a full season at a high quality of play. So, as the Dolphins gradually work 2nd round rookie CB Jamar Taylor into the rotation, the cornerback position is not as weak as we had thought after we lost both Vontae Davis and Sean Smith in less than a year.

Will the Dolphins sign Grimes to a long term contract if he has a good year? I seriously doubt it. He is 29 years old, so, he is looking for his last big pay day. I am hoping for the best for him this year for our sake and his, but the Dolphins will continue to address the CB position next year in the draft.

3. WHO WRITES ROTOWORLD'S ANALYSIS?

Is anyone out there getting tired of RotoWorld's negative analysis on our Dolphins? Every move that Ireland has made, in their opinion, has been the wrong one. It's got to be a Jets fan writing these things as their point of view is rarely from a Dolphins perspective.

The latest comment is another backhanded slap at Ireland. Get this ...

"Stone-handed with zero after-the-catch ability, Gibson is not a good fit for the slot, but the coaching staff has to play him somewhere after GM Jeff Ireland foolishly handed out a three-year, \$9.755 million deal. The Dolphins would have been better off letting the Jets sign Gibson and keeping Davone Bess through the final year of his contract."

We all know that Bess has good hands, but did you know that according to Pro Football Focus that Brandon Gibson caught a higher percentage of passes thrown his way than Bess did last year? What about drops? They each had 2 drops a piece, but Gibson caught 4 more touchdown passes than did Bess.

Does that mean that Gibson is a better fit than Bess playing the slot? Not at all but let's let the season play out before we criticize Ireland's decision to go with Gibson over Bess. Gibson is taller and bigger than Bess, and there is something that

happened at the end of last season that seemed to sour the Dolphins to Bess. Personally I would have been much happier if we kept Bess for his final season as a 4th receiver, but it was about unloading his salary.

4. TE DUSTIN KELLER IS A 1 YEAR BAND-AID

There was a lot of speculation that Dustin Keller wanted a long term contract but the Dolphins only wanted to sign him to a 1 year contract. Keller came out this week and said that a 1 year contract was his idea and that the Dolphins tried to get a 2 year contract out of him.

I like Keller as a receiver but he has had injury issues. He was looking for a much larger contract than what the Dolphins were offering him, so, he is going to use this season as a springboard to show the NFL that he can be play a full season at a high rate of play.

The Dolphins should get his best this year and that has me excited.

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