

A Couple Thoughts From This Week's OTAs.

Contributed by Dave Blake
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DON'T GIVE UP ON TE MICHAEL EGNEW JUST YET

Reports out of OTA camp is that Michael Egnaw is looking better than last year. Sure, the pads aren't on, but the positive thing that can be said is that Coach Philben is saying these things. Last year all of the reports about Egnaw made GM Jeff Ireland look like he whiffed majorly on his mid 3rd round draft pick.

ESPN's James Walker asked Coach Philben his thoughts after noticing marked improvement by Egnaw this week:

"I see the same things you do, and it makes me feel more confident about his ability," Philbin responded. "He's starting to understand his role in the offense better, and maybe we know a little more about him, too, so we can put him in a position to make those type of plays. It's been encouraging."

"I've learned years ago to never write off a player after his first season. The NFL is a very tough league, and sometimes it takes a two or three years for the light to turn on."

Most draft analysts felt that Egnaw was a good pick. He's a converted wide receiver, so, it sounds as if he had some real growing pains last year. I'm not ready to give up on him yet.

Some 2012 Post Draft Analysis on Egnaw :

PETE PRISCO: Best pick: Third-round tight end Michael Egnaw has the ability to split out and create matchup problems. He's what you want in a tight end.

MEL KIPER: Michael Egnaw was my No. 4 tight end, and has solid athleticism. He's 6-foot-5, but can run in the mid-4.5 range.

TODD MCSHAY: Intriguing pick - TE Michael Egnaw (third)

WALTER: Michael Egnaw was a reach, but is probably the best pass-catching tight end on the roster.

Again, he wasn't doing anything in shorts last year. It just shows improvement from a year ago. How much? Well, we won't know until the pads come on and we see him in a few preseason games. It is encouraging, but I expect to see Dustin Keller as our #1 TE this year. The Dolphins will try to work Egnaw into the rotation to see if he can take over next year, but observing from someone of Keller's talents will only help brighten the light bulb that we hope has finally been turned on.

TALK ABOUT EGNEW ON OUR FORUM HERE .

RIP DEACON JONES

The NFL lost a great one this week as the "Secretary of Defense" died at the age of 74. As body-damaging as the NFL is, it is good to see someone actually live a long life after a full NFL career. I am sure after the autopsy there will be a lot of evidence of brain damage due to concussions. In the old days they would just give a player smelling salts and push them back on the field.

Deacon Jones was a sack master in the days when the NFL did not keep sacks as a statistic. He won the NFL Defensive Player of the Year twice.

How does he affect the Dolphins? I'm glad you asked that. Check this out from Miami's 1972 undefeated Super Bowl season:

Bob Griese was tackled by Deacon Jones and Ron East of the San Diego Chargers, and he went down with a broken leg and dislocated ankle. (wiki).

Evans bawled because he just heard the diagnosis on the radio. It's my fault. I got beat. My man broke Bob's ankle. I've cost us the season. (goldenrankings.com).

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