

The Pads Go On in 2 Weeks. Kaepernick? Hello Sturgis.

Contributed by Dave Blake
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TRAINING CAMP STARTS ON JULY 20

Well, it's about time. We have heard a lot of camp stories this spring/summer, and we have heard some encouraging words about several of our Dolphins. WR Armon Binns is playing faster and is pushing free agent WR addition Gibson for the slot position ... Tannehill is throwing very well and poised for a big year ... RB Lamar Miller is pass blocking well and looks to be more explosive than Reggie Bush ... WR Brian Hartline is looking even better than last year ... DE Olivier Vernon is taking first team snaps ... CB Brent Grimes is fully back ... etc, etc. Yep, they are playing in shorts and contact separates the players from the pretenders.

Still, it's been a good offseason for positive news, unless you go to RotoWorld. With every "hype" they seem to be able to take a swipe at GM Jeff Ireland. Over the past several years teams were praised for spending money in free agency to improve their teams, but the Dolphins don't get that. Maybe it's because the Bills flopped last year after spending all that coin. Maybe RotoWorld still doesn't like GM Jeff Ireland for that question he gave Dez Bryant about his prostitute mother (guess what ... Ireland was right as the Cowboys are babysitting him). Who knows what their problem is, but RotoWorld is known for fantasy news of individual players and not the state of any team. I take their comments with a grain of salt.

There are 3 ways to take the summer hype so far: (1) You can be a homer fan, bite on every report coming out of camp, and be on the edge of your seat with anticipation waiting for the Dolphins to claim their Super Bowl trophy. Hey, there is nothing wrong with that, but don't hang yourself like Jets fans do in October when you realize their dream of a Super Bowl was just a summer dream. Chances are that the wheels will fall off your Super Bowl bus. (2) You can be a "realist" and say that this is all a waste of time since everything changes once the pads come on. Of course, you prepare yourself for the chance of another dismal season as the odds are 1:32 of winning a Super Bowl .. or 1:16 of being in the Super Bowl. Is there really any fun in that? (3) This is where I fit in ... you can enjoy the news knowing that the pads have not come on, but there is hope that some of the improvements that are being reported are showing an improved team over 2012.

Heck, the last few months have fed our football addiction, and we know that any team has a chance of being the 1999 Rams. We're looking for improvement over last year's 7-9 team. Can the Dolphins win 3 more games than last year and be at 10-6? It is very possible in year 2 of the Joe Philben Miami Dolphins project. GM Jeff Ireland has done a good job of changing gears by rebuilding the team from the slow pound it kind of players to a faster and more dynamic team. The Dolphins are looking for smart playmakers now and not just 'leadership' players. It's about freakin' time.

So, buy your NFL Ticket (or join us in our chat room) and join us this year at Phinfever to get a balanced glass is half full type of optimism that we are known for. Are you ready for some football?

WHAT'S KAEPERNICK DOING WEARING A DOLPHINS CAP ON JULY 4TH?

I like it, but it's because I'm not a 49ers fan. Who wears the logo of another team? What would you think if Tannehill was wearing a 49ers cap? So, for those who do not like the new logo, Kaepernick is a big fan.

"This the hat y’all mad at? I’m goin wear what I want regardless of what you think, all you need to worry about is the fact that I grind for my teammates and the 49ers! I plan on doin this until they won’t let me in the building!" Instagram

WILL MONEY DECIDE DOLPHINS KICKER?

You betcha. Money and performance is the nature of the business unfortunately. I'm a Carp fan, but the writing was on the wall when the Dolphins used a high 5th round pick on a kicker. Why did the Dolphins use a 5th round pick on a kicker? There were a couple other teams getting ready to draft him, and Carpenter's \$2.68 million salary hit this year has to be dealt with. With S Rashad Jones, DT Paul Solia, and DT/DE Randy Starks hitting free agency after this season, money has to be used wisely to try to keep the players we want and need to keep.

When the Dolphins drafted Sturgis, I'm sure that Carpenter started to pack his bags. Unless Sturgis flops, the Dolphins will look to use that cap money somewhere else.

I like Dan Carpenter even though he missed a few very important kicks early last season. He's been the most

dependable kicker that we've had since Pete Stoyanovich. If you want to hold those few mistakes he made last year, here's some fantasy stats on Miami's kickers to remind you what he has been for us.

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