

OFF-SEASON FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEWSLETTER
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OFL CALENDAR OF EVENTS • ACTUAL EMAIL DUE DATES

THR-JAN 1 st	1 st Day 2010 draft picks can be discussed or traded
MON-JAN 19 th	Emergency Draft List [EDL] due to Commissioner mefer1917@yahoo.com
SAT-JAN 24 th	Live 8-round Rookie Draft via AIM chat room begins promptly at 1 PM EST
SUN-FEB 1 st	Amendment votes due. Abstentions not permitted. Vote yes or no on all.
SUN-FEB 8 th	Newsletter No. 12 shall be published, with complete Rookie Draft results Supplemental Draft Bids due to Mike Jaime.

Final Amendment Proposals Inside

This year you're voting on the Yahoo OFLpost site.
Log onto the OFLpost, select "Polls" and you'll find the 9 amendment proposals.
Simply click on amendment and voting ballot will pop up.
You may revise your vote any time before balloting closes.

Understanding I submitted all the proposals this year, I'd still be miffed as to why 8 of the 9 did not pass unanimously- with the revised draft order being the thorn in most coaches' side.

Be sure to verify you have voted on all the proposals. Some coaches like to mull over a few, but don't forget to log back in and actually cast your vote.

Email your mandatory Emergency Draft List to Matt Farmer

Monday, January 19th is the final deadline date to email your EDL to Commissioner Matt Farmer. Your EDL must contain sufficient names to cover all your draft picks as of that date. Clear understandable special instructions (i.e. "skip KR once I've selected two") are permitted though you're cautioned can often be interpreted differently than you intended thus its strongly recommended you apply them sparingly- avoiding them entirely if possible.

Perfect example is "best available WR remaining"... Is that a 35 yr old who retired after NFL 2007 with 37 receptions for 9.9 yd/catch average or a 22 yr old 3rd round NFL pick with 10 receptions for a 17.7 yd/catch average who moved up to his NFL team's #3 WR in NFL 2008?

Mandatory Roster Requirements Reminder

In latter rounds of Draft & perhaps between Supplemental or Trades keep these in mind

Teams must BEGIN the season with a minimum 3 RBs, 3 WRs, 1 TE or 1 H-Back, with an aggregate TOTAL for those positions of AT LEAST 9 players, (H-Back may count towards RB or TE but NOT both), 2 QBs, 8 OLs, 1 PK, 1 Punter, 6 DLs, 6 LBs and 7 DBs on their 53-man roster whom are Active and eligible to play in Game 1. (7 DBs are required for the "quarter defense" so you should carry 8 in case of injury.)

Thereafter, beginning Week 2, teams may opt to play a game with little or no depth at certain positions, with the only staffing requirement after Game 1 being teams must start each game with a minimum 2 QBs & 1 Kicker (either PK or Punter) dressed/active (not injured).

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER..... By Matt Farmer

1st & 10: Let me start by wishing all of you a Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that the regular season will start again here in a few short months. I have said it before, and I will say it again: the regular season is my least favorite time of the year in the league. I have always enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, the many off season activities in the league. I guess that is why the league remains aptly named "The Offseason Football League!"

Second Down: The draft is less than a month away. If you have not yet started preparations for the draft, it is time to start crackin'. It takes a lot of work to have a successful draft. Luck, no doubt, plays some role as well. Fortunately, we have the benefit of two seasons of play in analyzing players before we draft. Good luck to those participating in the draft.

Time Out: Still speaking of the draft, be sure you submit a well prepared Emergency Draft List ("EDL"). Who knows when you might get booted off the AIM system. It happened to many during the live free agency bidding. As such, don't screw around with an EDL. Put some thought into it-- you never know when you might need it.

Third Down: Looking at the teams at this early stage, I have to again say I see the Winnipeg team as the hands down favorite to win it all. With Adrian Peterson soon to be a Vigilante and a devastating return game, Lance's squad will be hard to beat. No pressure Lance. Don't screw it up this year.

Fourth Down: With the turnover we have had recently, it seems like a good idea to keep on the look out for backup coaches. If any of you know of any backups, please let me know. Cheers to all!

COACHES CORNER

With the resignation of Tim Molinaro, Dave Pittner has taken over the former Ringgold franchise. Dave has renamed the team: Scottsdale Rancheros
His email: davioworld@aol.com AIM: davioworld

MONEY MATTERS..... THIS MONTH

Report errors in Money Matters ASAP to Mike Jaime

OFL FRANCHISE	1st Article	2nd Article	3rd Art/Photo	Traded Money	Total XXVII-12
Antelope					
Baltimore	FEB	+ 1000	OCT		+ 1000
California	MAR	MAR	MAR		
Denver	JULY	OCT	OCT		
Durham	+ 1000	+ 1000	+ 1000		+ 3000
Florida	DEC 07	JAN	DEC 07		
Fresno	JAN	FEB	JAN		
Kutztown	FEB	+ 1000			+ 1000
Las Vegas	JAN	APR	FEB		
Malvern	FEB	NOV	MAR	- 1500	- 1500
Medicine	AUG	+ 1000	+ 1000		+ 2000
New Jersey	SEPT	SEPT	SEPT		
New York	+ 1000	+ 1000		- 200	+ 1800
Pittsburgh	FEB	AUG	OCT		
Prairie	+ 1000	FEB	+ 1000	+ 1200	+ 3200
Round Rock	SEPT	SEPT	NOV	+ 500	+ 500
Sacramento		FEB	FEB		
San Francisco					
Scottsdale					
Winnipeg	JAN	JAN	SEPT		

NOTES: Teams enjoy 12 months to submit their 2009 articles/photos to earn \$1 million each, for up to maximum of \$3 million total for the franchise. Article/Photo credits are earned January thru December. Month 2008 credits earned are shown above.

Current Superstar Salaries are immediately raised if dictated by trade acquisitions. Player Contracts are very important factor in valuing trade proposals. Their impact on your current & future finances should weigh in all your trade decisions.

Review Pg. 15 in Constitution for upcoming Bonus opportunities.

\$TEALS & DEALS.....

This 2nd Trade Period is open thru the 1st week in March

1. MALVERN trades their 4th & previously acquired San Francisco's 3rd round picks to RINGGOLD for \$ 2 million.
2. DURHAM trades their 1st & 4th round picks to FRESNO for CB Champ Bailey.
3. PITTSBURGH trades their 2nd & 5th round picks to FRESNO for CB Rhonde Barber.
4. MEDICINE trades their 2nd & 5th round draft picks to FRESNO for DT Pat Williams.
5. MALVERN trades WR Roydell Williams and WR David Patten to DURHAM for \$1.2 million.

6. PITTSBURGH trades their 4th, 7th and 8th round picks to FRESNO for G Mike Wahle.
7. RINGGOLD trades \$50K to LAS VEGAS for DE Kenyon Coleman, TE Todd Heap & CB Justin Miller.
8. DURHAM trades \$800K to ROUND ROCK for WR Shawn McDonald.
9. PITTSBURGH trades T Eric Winston & previously acquired Prairie's 6th round pick to FLORIDA for OLB Greg Ellis.
10. ROUND ROCK trades G Vince Manuwai to PITTSBURGH for their 3rd round pick and RB Ladell Betts.

11. MALVERN trades DE Mike Rucker & QB David Carr to NEW YORK for \$200K.
12. MALVERN trades G Chris Naoele and \$500K to DURHAM for their 8th round draft pick.
13. MALVERN trades \$1.2 million & previously acquired Antelope's 3rd round pick to PRAIRIE for WR Bobby Engram and ILB Keith Brooking.
14. ROUND ROCK trades WR Deion Branch to DURHAM for \$500K
15. PITTSBURGH trades previously acquired Fresno's 3rd round pick to PRAIRIE for RET Joshua Cribbs.

16. WINNIPEG trades previously acquired Kutztown's 1st, 2nd, 4th, their own 3rd, 6th thru 8th, G Max Jean-Gilles & QB Damon Huard to CALIFORNIA for their 1st & G Kynan Forney.
17. PITTSBURGH trades their 6th round pick to WINNIPEG for S Clinton Hart.
18. MALVERN trades DE Ray Edwards and their 5th round pick to DENVER for RB Jerriuos Norwood and their 6th round pick.

ONE MAN'S OPINION ON THE NFL AS THE PLAYOFFS NEAR BY THE MAD GREEK, PETE KATSAFANAS

with the current national football season in the final stretch perhaps it is time for a perspective of the season to date and beyond....

nfc east

giants---sure they miss plaxico burress who nearly ended his ability to produce children in a nite club in manhattan but the real problems are with the offense and defensive line...

dallas---team turmoil starts at the top..... when the cowboys won those super bowl in the jimmy johnson days they had a coach with heart and the triplets of emmitt smith, michael irvin and troy aikman... fast forward to now and you have a coach with no gumption to discipline, a qb who won't tell his receivers to shut up, a wide out who cries like a baby and the only strong part of the equation a rb who pays little attention to what is going on..

eagles---can make the playoffs but will lurie and reid keep mcnabb or cut him because of cap reasons

redskins---jim zorn will be the latest coach to exit the daniel snyder merry go around..

nfc south

carolina---perhaps the best team in the nfc that has a coach with balls to discipline, a receiver who will catch it over the middle and a defense that can function...

tampa---can garcia carry the offense and will the defense continue to excel despite two difficult losses

atlanta---matt ryan leads an offense that is a year away from being awesome but could make the playoffs now

new orleans---drew bree's does not have time to play in the secondary and it is a shame since his season will go to waste

nfc north

minnesota--the best running back in the league and a strong defense but can these two components carry the vikings to the super bowl.. i doubt it..

bears---- not good enough to advance beyond divisional play

packers-- the current qb is not good enough to make people forget about brett favre but he is not the reason the pack fail to make the playoffs.. the defense has gone south...

lions---what more can one say about this sorry operation

nfc west

arizona-- the best in a bad group of team with a strong passing game but not good enough to go beyond the first game

san francisco--this team could be on the rise but need several years and must keep the current interim coach...

seattle--mike holmgren will take a year off and come back in 2010 but not in the northwest

st. louis--jim haslett will have to look elsewhere for a head coach opportunity

afc east

jets--favre still has enough in the tank to get this team to the playoffs but the defense must fix the porous secondary..

patriots-- a shell of itself from last year but bill belechick has kept this team in the hunt with a fill in qb and a defense nearing the end of its run...

dolphins--- the best job the tuna has ever done despite the body of work elsewhere..

buffalo--a qb for the future in edwards but will this team play in canada rather than in new york

afc south

tennessee --the best coaching job of the year since vince young played himself to the bench.. the defense is among the top three in the league and kerry collins has managed the game enough to win...

indy--peyton manning is back and no one wants to play this team in the playoffs.. the defense can still function but are they good enough to go beyond a game in the playoffs

houston---the best is yet to come as the offense is a work in progress...still 7-7 is a great start...

jacksonville-- one of the biggest disappointments this fall... expect many changes...

afc north

steelers-- the defense reminds one of the 70's and the first two super bowls.. are they good enough to win it all.. big ben has been phenomenal but the running game must be a factor.. the offensive line is a work in progress

ravens-- the second best defense in the league .. among the top three with steelers and titans..

cleveland---say goodbye to the head coach and general manager... will bill cowher come to the rescue....

cincy--another badly run organization.. a coaching change is coming

nfc west

denver-- the best of a bad group... no defense when it matters..

chargers-- the most talent in the afc but no heart.. norv turner continues to show why he should be just an offensive coordinator...

oakland--al davis is living in the past... see detroit...

kansas city--see oakland and detroit...

Cobras not very Offensive By- Steve Vetrone

The New York Cobras are looking to upgrade their skill positions in the upcoming draft. The wide receiver position is bereft of any big named talent and has very little in the pipeline for the immediate future. The running back position is also thin, with the lack of a workhorse, or any home run type threat. The tight ends are adequate, but nothing special, and there are four quarterbacks on the roster, none could be considered a true starter, and the future at the most important position is not on the roster as of yet. We look at the positions player by player, and add our impressions of the help available through the draft.

WIDE RECEIVER: Nate Burleson and Josh Reed are the starters, which should keep defenses laughing all year long. Both are serviceable veteran players, and if the Cobra front office had any intention of bringing a stud wide out into the fold via the draft, they would serve as excellent mentors, but not much else. Depth is provided by Nate Washington, a still young and somewhat promising talent. Washington has decent skills but has yet to show consistency. Demetrius Williams and Terrance Copper are disappointments, their development slowed by injury. Jerome Mathis, the dangerous return man with blazing speed has blown his chance with drug and domestic violence issues. Mathis is a casualty of the stupidity which is quickly becoming ingrained into the OFL. Young players making too much money with no life skills and a bulletproof mentality is a sure recipe for disaster.

POSSIBLE FIXES: Calvin Johnson's skills and ability jump off the page as the most obvious choice at the 6th position in this draft. The guy can play, but will the GM risk a high pick on a wide out? That question remains to be seen. There are other needs that could be addressed early, and WR's will be available in rounds 2 and 3.

RUNNING BACK: Marion Barber is the best skill player on this team. Marion Barber doesn't play running back, he plays more like Jack Tatum with a different job. Barber's style may also be his downfall as the punishment he dishes out will eventually catch up with his body. Rudi Johnson had an awesome run as one of the OFL's most productive back's. Johnson totaled out his hamstring, effectively ending his career. Veteran Kenny Watson was added as insurance. Watson is an adequate third down type back and has a season or so left in his tank. Fullback Justin Griffith is a good blocker and does pose a threat to catch the odd pass out of the backfield. His career is also coming to a close and his replacement will be addressed after the 2009 season.

POSSIBLE FIXES: Marshawn Lynch looks to be a very solid choice at 6, if he lasts that long. Lynch and Barber would set the franchise up for a long time. If Lynch is gone the possibility of picking up a solid back still exists into the 2nd round.

TIGHT END: Probably the most settled of the skill positions; the Cobra TE's are solid yet unspectacular. Ben Graham is the top dog, Chris Baker a solid 2nd TE and Anthony Fasano appears to have a promising future. Graham has had some very good seasons' but never reached his full potential. Baker blocks well and has good hands, while Fasano had a great college career and will be counted on in the near future.

Random Thoughts By- Steve Vetrone

I sit at my desk at the Police Department on a cold Saturday night. Jack Frost is on the beat keeping the little hooligans at bay. I have some time to put some of my observations about the OFL and NFL on paper and want to take advantage of the opportunity. In the past two seasons I have not been nearly as involved as I want to be in the OFL. I admit to not watching a helluva lot of football. Things just aren't the same in my once little town, just as they aren't the same in my head. I may get to watch Brett Favre and my favorite team, the Jets tomorrow. I wouldn't have made the trade for Favre, I don't think the Jets are a very good team with or without him. I believe the team was built to run a ball control offense centered on Thomas Jones. I think the defense is lacking a ball hawk at FS and a real threat at OLB ala Demarcus Ware. Vernon Gholston has shown nothing. David Harris is going to be a good one, but really what did we get for Vilma? How about Dwayne Robertson? Two top 10 draft picks blown, why do we bother drafting in the top 10 ever? Gholston looks like he was a total reach, Robertson a total bust and Vilma was not good enough to move to the outside. I plead with the Jets management to trade down into the 4th round. I want more Leon Washington's and Jericho Cotchery's please. DaBrick is not Orlando Pace Jr. while I'm ranting about top 10 picks. Manguenius my ass!

I strongly believe Plaxico Burress should have his coconut checked. 35 million reasons to stay healthy and follow the rules. I'm sure everyone in the OFL stays relatively healthy by choice, we really have no choice. I go to work because nobody else is going to feed my kids. I have to follow lots of rules, and I carry a gun. They pay me well, but not enough to go out and buy Chinchilla fur coats. Stupid ass... Shaun Ellis gets bagged with weed. That explains a lot to me Shaun, I've watched your career, and you really don't show me you care. Weed will do that to you... Will someone tell Keyshawn Johnson to shut up already... Crappy teammate couldn't carry Al Toon's jock, just shut up... I think the OFL is the best league and we have the best rules, why do we need to keep changing them?... Draft lotteries are just plain wrong... Reverse positioning is wrong too... If your team sucks, you lose a lot, so you want the guy to lose again? Building a team is like our economy, if done right it fixes itself... leave it alone, it's a correction period... GM and Ford can't get things right, so let's give them more money? Where does that make any sense? You can't afford the 545,000 dollar mortgage with no money down so we will give you money to pay it... I paid 160 for my crib, fixed it up and continue to pay for what I feel I can afford, but you won't reward me with a lower rate of interest? What the hell is going on?

Did I mention I don't like Keyshawn, never did? I think when it's said and done; Chad Pennington was probably the 2nd best Jets QB ever, which is crazy. I like Pennington, don't take that wrong, but the team has been run like Romper Room for over 40 years. For all the Pennington haters, he has his team even with Brett's Jets, and with a lot less talent and payroll... If the Jets merged with the Browns this world would explode... Mother Earth would hold her own revolution... I enjoy the Draft more than anything else in this league... I also like coaching games in where I shouldn't win, but I'm gonna try like hell anyway... For all the bitching about Koch's baby, it's still the best sim on the market... I like the randomness of the results, but I dislike the glitches in connecting to play H2H games... Someone has to figure out how we can "watch" the OFL playoffs and Super Bowl live... I think that would be very cool... George Kaldis I remember going to an Islander game with you in the late 70's... damn we are old... Where are the Evil Twins... I miss those guys... As well as John Anderson and sadly John Borelli... Tuna you better never quit this league, Pete and Eugene that goes for you too... Mike can leave any time he wants... ONLY KIDDING...IT'S A JOKE... I have learned a lot from Mike and appreciate his help... I'll coach his Ratbastids any time... Well it's about that time... I hope you guys are sleeping by now, this article was like one of those public service things, promoting excellent sleep...

GLORIES AND WOES OF THE ACTION PC GAME ENGINE By Jim Coghlin

As Week 14 of the EFL (Elite Football League) comes to a close, I have some observations to make about the way that Action PC Football 2008 is playing compared with other versions. Although I attach the caveat that these are simply my observations, not ones based upon a systematic statistical analysis designed to establish real truth; they appear to be supported by some statistical evidence from 14 weeks of game play in the EFL.

That every season brings new features to the Action PC game is a matter of record. That these have an impact on game play from year-to-year is indisputable. Attempting to quantify those changes, when looking from outside the hidden game engine, is not easy. But over time, trends begin to emerge that suggest what those changes are, causing coaches to adjust their play-calling and team-building strategies accordingly.

As background, a few years ago a former SFL coach, Eric Bowen, did a "regression and correlation" analysis (whatever that means!) to see which of 6 *team* factors was the best predictor of wins on the field. He looked at SFL team point totals from 2004 to 2006 (in those years, the SFL was a 24-team draft league) for: RUN Offense, PASS Offense, TOTAL Team Defense, RUN Defense, PASS Defense and RUSH Defense, and compared them with NFL team ratings from the 2004 and 2005 seasons. (If you want a copy of the spreadsheets containing the data and the graphs, send me an e-mail).

Based on an admittedly small sample, certain points stood out:

- 1) Total Team Defense was the best predictor of wins overall. "Defense wins championships."
- 2) From 2004 to 2006 in the **SFL**, TOTAL points on Offense and Defense were more directly correlated to wins than similar totals for stock NFL teams.

- 3) The correlation between Total RUN Offense and wins steadily increased from 2004 to 2006 and that by 2006, improvements on the OL were double the effectiveness of the same improvements on the DL.
- 4) The least accurate predictor of wins was Total RUSH Defense (where a 15-win team in 2006) had a total of 5 “Rush” factors in ‘Basic 4-3,’ but the highest TOTAL RUN Defense in the league).

Eric’s recommendations, based on his study, were to build your offensive line; something that many coaches (without a study) were already trying to do based on their personal observations during game play.

My OFL team, the Medicine Mad Hatters, does not have a dominant offensive line and never has since I demolished the team I took over in 2004. But there have been so many other things wrong with the team that blame for always losing can be shared equally among all facets of its game.

My other team, the Cowtown Corn Kings, however, has always made the offensive line a priority. In the 2007 EFL season, this line, which was the best overall in the league, is what I credit with enabling my team to lead the league in offensive effectiveness and a league-high 13-3 record, despite also having, by league standards, an average QB and mediocre wide receiving corps. The defense was also very good, although not the highest rated. True to Eric’s analysis, an advantage in the running game, coupled with a good defense, seemed to be a good predictor of wins on the field.

This year, the “line first” strategy seems to be in question. At least from what I have seen in the EFL. The top three RUN offenses in the league, by point total, have the following wins after 14 games: **57** (7); **55** (13); **49** (6). The team with 13 wins also has Tom Brady and one of the best defenses in the league, so take them out of consideration for this argument. The other two (7 & 6 wins) have solid defenses to go along with what should be excellent running attacks – however both have struggled to move the ball and are considered underperformers overall in all aspects of the game.

It appears that, rather than a good offensive line *raising* an average running back’s game, the average running back seems to be *dragging down* the play of a good line. Take the team with 6 wins, Durham. Their two running backs: Clinton Portis (3.9 NFL avg.) and Frank Gore (4.2 NFL avg.) are rushing at 3.2 and 4.1 respectively, despite a line that features Steve Hutchinson, Leonard Davis, and Walter Jones. Hutchinson has allowed a team high 3 sacks, which although not horrible compared with the league’s worst (7), is far too many for an All Pro with the cherished ‘+’ rating. He has also created a measly 12 “big holes” compared with 26 by the leading Guard, Shawn Andrews, and 39 by the leading Tackle, Chris Samuels.

I admit, there are many factors to consider when looking at a team’s performance (play-calling, QB, receiving corps), but the performance of the Durham line, especially in the running game, is raising eyebrows around the league based on anecdotal evidence alone.

On the defensive side of the ball, something is definitely different about the Pass Rush this season. The Total RUSH rating appears to be largely irrelevant – at least it is not obvious that has an effect on every passing situation. The *top* 4 RUSH defenses in the league have the following number of sacks each: **25**(27); **21**(20); **21**(19); **20** (16), while the *bottom* 5 RUSH defenses have the following number of sacks each: **11**(9); **13**(22); **14**(18); **14**(17); **14**(16).

Overall, what appears more important is having a star individual player (Vrabel – 13 sacks on a team with 13 total RUSH factors) than a team advantage in total factors, although there are exceptions (Kampman – only 2 sacks on a team with 20 total RUSH factors). The team with the most sacks, 32, has a middle-of-the-pack **15** total RUSH factors. Again, play-calling, match-ups, and luck play a role in outcomes, but the role of total team RUSH factors seems secondary to the role of individual players.

I do not have time to exhaustively study all aspects of our league's stats, which would include play-calling and game situations (I suspect few of us do) but the game *feels* quite different this year. It's not all bad, just different. It's bad if the things you counted on don't work like you thought they would.

I feel like there are two big differences between 2008 and 2007 (and other past versions of the game):

- 1- **Individual players, especially quarterbacks, play a more important role in outcomes** and can more easily rise above, or fall below, their supporting cast. Somewhat like Strat-O-Matic Football, the "*player's card*" can overcome any defense.
- 2- **Game situations** (time, down, distance, field position and score) influence play outcomes more than ever.

It seems much more difficult to "fool" your opponent this year with a successful run for a first down on 3rd down-and-6+. I have lost track of how many times I have seen good runners come up 1 yard short in such situations against pass-defending defenses. It is like the game is telling you, "running on a passing down: low percentage play in the real world – low percentage play in simulation." Similarly, red zone has a definite effect on the offence – it is harder to move once inside it than it is to get to it (as it should be, I guess). At least that is *my* explanation for why average teams can put together a succession of effective long drives with good play-calling only to suddenly have the wheels come off as they get inside their opponent's red zone, even with continued play-calling advantage.

Similarly, poorer teams gain many of their yards later in the game, when down by many points, seemingly regardless of how prepared the defense is for them. A team that is shut down for 3 quarters, no matter what happens, suddenly finds its receivers open late in the 4th quarter when it doesn't matter versus strong PASS defenses and goes on to score that meaningless touchdown or two to bring the final score closer.

Quarterbacks perform largely according to their real NFL performances, with adjustments made for zany play-calling and unusual match-ups. Kurt Warner will slice and dice a secondary on a good day, but on a bad day he will fumble the game away. Peyton Manning will throw some stupid interceptions but in the end will make the throws he needs to make to win. There is one notable exception in the EFL that proves the rule: Tarvaris Jackson, a 70.1 rated QB in the NFL is performing at 100.1 level after 176 attempts! (But his team is performing strangely on defense too, which means the coaching is probably more involved than usual in the outcomes).

It is not obvious that the offensive line has any effect on the QB, let alone much effect. A QB that gets sacked a lot on the NFL will get sacked a lot in Action. One that doesn't won't. The argument continues in the real world as to whether QB effectiveness is a product of the supporting cast or vice versa. At some point, the QB, as an individual, has to make a play or two *on his own* to be successful – this seems to have been factored in to the game, but has it gone too far? We have all watched real games where break downs in line play, poor route-running, and missed assignments play a role in reducing a great QB's effectiveness.

What is clear about this year's version of Action PC Football is that it is *unclear* whether or not a poor supporting cast can have more than a trifling and transient impact on QB performance.

Referee intervention, a reality in the NFL, seems to have been incorporated into the Action PC game as well. The number of "critical moment" penalties seems to be on the rise. This can feel like Divine Intervention if it goes in your favour, but it can feel like a kick in the sack when it ruins your carefully crafted drive for the winning field goal, as I am sure it does for real NFL coaches.

I think this is the best simulation going but a couple of things still bother me about it. First, it seems like, more than in the past, the game engine itself "takes over" a game – as if the outcome were pre-determined and the coaching were irrelevant. This, thankfully, is not an every game occurrence, but when it happens, it is painfully memorable when it goes against you, and an empty victory, when it goes in your favour. This must really happen though – games won that you deserve to lose (Jets over Bills) – and games you lose that you deserved to win (San Diego's first loss to Denver this year).

The second thing that bothers me is that the game dynamics are so opaque. In the good old days of dice-rolling and chart simulations, both coaches could see the outcome "develop" in front of them with the rolls, and the odds were known and understood at every stage of the process. When something "freaky" happened, you knew exactly "why" – the infamous "12" roll on two six-sided dice. If you lost to a string of "12s" and "2s" it was somehow less frustrating than the mysterious long pass completion with a 0.3 % success probability that seems to *always* get completed against you for the go-ahead TD late in a close game when you are the underdog winning against a better team.

To keep your sanity, it is best not to have the "play analysis" tab showing during game play, as this is the most misleading feature of the game. It is probably the source of most of the frustration we experience as Action coaches. There it is, in front of us, an 80% chance of a completion, with almost no chance of an incompleting or interception, and the pass falls incomplete. If this happens once, or even twice a game, we can shrug it off as bad luck. But when it continually happens over the course of an entire game, something else is going on – but what the heck is causing it? That's the problem – nobody but Dave Koch, and perhaps a few of his beta-testers, know for sure what "other" factors come into play in addition to the basic percentages based on play calls, team ratings, and individual players. We are left to "figure it out" for ourselves, not knowing if there is, indeed, anything more to "figure out," or whether we are simply vainly rationalizing a virtually random Koch Universe in which computer "bugs" and "glitches" are the cause of the greatest anomalies.

We all have our stories to tell about the game – great and sad tales many of them. I am holding off at arriving at firm conclusions about the latest version of Action until I see how our playoffs go in the EFL and how teams in the larger OFL perform. Right now, it *feels* different, in some of the ways I described above, but I am sure there is much I am overlooking or forgetting to mention here.

But in the final analysis, Action reminds me of one of my other favourite hobbies: like Golf, it is one "**hell** of a great game."

Cardiac Cardinals: The Coryell Years (Part I)

By- George Kaldis

Before Don Coryell led San Diego's Air Coryell he piloted the Cardiac Cardinals in the early to mid 70's. Coryell, born October 17, 1924, was a defensive back with the University of Washington from 1949 to 1951. At the conclusion of his playing days he moved into the coaching fraternity – guiding Whittier College (California) to a 23–5–1 record over three seasons before moving on to San Diego State where he compiled a 104–19–2 record with the Aztecs from 1961 to 1972, including 32 straight games without a defeat. During his time in the college ranks Coryell came to be known as an offensive genius as he led scoring juggernauts to numerous conference titles.

In 1973 Coryell made the move to the pros, becoming the head coach of the St. Louis Cardinals who were coming off back-to-back 4–9–1 seasons while ranking 20th (1971) and 23rd (1972) in offence in the 26 team NFL. 1973 looked eerily similar to the previous two years as the Cardinals once again limped in at 4–9–1, besting only the pathetic New York Giants in the NFC East standings. The offensive tide, however, was turning as Coryell's offensive system took root and the Cardinals improved from a lowly 193 points scored and a 13.8 average in 1972 to 286 points scored and a 20.4 average in 1973 (11th overall). This improvement seemed to come at the expense of the defence, though, as the Cardinals went from a bad 303 points allowed and a 21.6 average (18th overall) to a pathetic 365 points allowed and a 26.1 average (23rd overall).

1974 marked the first time since 1948, when the team played in Chicago, that the Cardinals managed double-digit victories, including seven straight wins to start the season, before going on a 3-4 skid to end the season at 10–4, tying the Washington Redskins for first place in the East Division. While the offence continued to be solid the defence made a quantum leap, improving by more than ten points per game (10.5 points) and moving into the top third of the league – allowing 218 points on the season for a 15.6 average and an 8th place ranking in the 26 team NFL.

The Cardinals, by virtue of their lacklustre play down the stretch, were forced to travel to Minnesota to face the Vikings in the opening round of the playoffs, the Cardinals' first post-season appearance since the Chicago Cardinals faced the Philadelphia Eagles in the 1948 National Football League Championship game – losing 7–0 on a fourth quarter Steve Van Buren five-yard touchdown run.

In frigid Minnesota, on the 21st day of December, the Cardinals scored first (Jim Hart to Earl Thomas – 13 yard pass) and last (Terry Metcalf – yard run) but sandwiched in between these two "highlights" were numerous "low-lights" as the Minnesota Vikings racked up thirty points en route to decisive 30–14 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals. Jim Hart, having performed admirably all season long, appeared unprepared for both the weather and the Vikings defence as he finished the afternoon with a pedestrian 18 of 40 for 200 yards. All in all, 1974, which started with great promise, ended in disappointment for a franchise, which had gone twenty-six years between playoff appearances.

Coming off a successful 1974, despite their poor showing in the playoffs, the Cardinals opened the 1975 by splitting their first four games. The Cardinals scored ten fourth quarter points to come from behind and beat the perennially lowly Atlanta Falcons 23–20 in the season opener at home before travelling to Dallas where they scored two late touchdowns to send the game into overtime, ultimately losing 37–31 to the Cowboys. St. Louis then hosted the hard luck New York Giants, pounding them into submission with the running of Terry Metcalf (15 – 109 yards and a TD) and Jim Otis (20 – 101 yards and a TD), building up a 23–0 lead before settling for a 26–14 win. St. Louis (2–1) then travelled to Washington to face the Redskins (2–1) who after crushing the Saints and Giants in the first two weeks of the season had suffered a humiliating loss to the Philadelphia Eagles who shredded them for 213 yards on the ground. Coming off their impressive performance against the Giants and seeing the apparent Redskins' weakness against the run the Cardinals looked to run the ball. Unfortunately for the Cardinals the Redskins corrected their run defence deficiencies, limiting St. Louis to 68 yards on 18 carries and forcing the Cardinals to the air where Jim Hart was picked off three times in a 27–17 Redskins win.

St. Louis then rattled off six straight victories, including fourth quarter comebacks against the New England Patriots – a game the Cardinals were trailing 17–10 before scoring fourteen late points for a 24–17 win, the Philadelphia Eagles who led 23–7 before the Cardinals rallied for a 24–23 decision and the Washington Redskins who led 14–3 before the Cardinals scored fourteen points in the fourth quarter to force overtime where Jim Bakken kicked a 37 yard field goal for the win. The “Cardiac Cardinals” were born and after ten games St. Louis stood at 8–2 and held a one game lead over the 7–3 Dallas Cowboys for the East Division lead.

Facing the 6–4 Buffalo Bills who averaged 32 points per game over the first ten weeks of the season the Cardinals were torched for 264 yards on the ground, including 160 yards and three touchdowns by Jim Braxton, as the Bills ended St. Louis' six game winning streak in convincing fashion with a 32–14 win. Embarrassed by the Buffalo Bills the Cardinals regrouped and scored easy victories over the Dallas Cowboys (31 – 17), the Chicago Bears (34 – 20) and the Detroit Lions (24–13) to finish the 1975 season with an 11–3 record and another trip to the playoffs.

In spite of their 11–3 record the Cardinals were once again forced on the road for the opening round of the playoffs, this time heading out to the west coast where they would meet the equally hot Los Angeles Rams (12–2) who were riding an eight game winning streak. The Rams opened the scoring on a five-yard run by Ron Jaworski (minus the lady glasses he wears today). Trailing 7–0 Jim Hart took to the air with disastrous results, getting picked off by Jack Youngblood and Bill Simpson on back to back possessions with both picks returned for TD's and a quick 21–0 Rams lead. From there Lawrence McCutcheon eat up the clock with 202 rushing yards and the Cardinals were once again forced out of the playoffs in the first round, this time on the wrong end of a 35-23 score.

1976 saw the Cardinals once again come out of the gate strong, building a 5–1 record (their only loss over the first six weeks coming at the hands of the San Diego Chargers 43–24) and sharing first place with the Dallas Cowboys who they beat at home in week six 21–17. Week twelve featured a rematch with the Cowboys at Dallas, the Cardinals coming into the contest with an 8–3 record while the Cowboys stood at 9–2. With a St. Louis win, to go along with their win over Dallas in week six, the Cardinals would control their destiny heading into the last two weeks of the season. But alas, it was not meant to be as the Cardinals; in spite of securing more first downs (24–16), gaining more total yards (377–295) and winning the turnover battle (3–2); came out on the short end of the score 19–14.

The Cardinals managed wins in their last two games of the season, 21–17 over the Baltimore Colts and 17–14 over the New York Giants but with Dallas splitting their last two games, a win over the Philadelphia Eagle and a loss against the Washington Redskins, Dallas headed to the playoffs while St. Louis headed home.

St. Louis struggled at the start of the 1977 season, going 1–3 over their first four games. The team rallied, however, notching six straight wins, including victories over divisional foes Dallas, New York and Philadelphia. Standing at 7–3 and only one game behind the 8–2 Dallas Cowboys the Cardinals played host to Miami needing a win to keep their playoff hopes alive. In this “must win” game the Cardinals came out flat and were annihilated by the Dolphins 55–14, setting the tone for the last three games of the season – all Cardinal losses and a 7–7 final record. Don Coryell was cut loose after the 1977 season and the Cardinals began a streak of futility that continues to this day.

Cardiac Cardinals: Terry Metcalf (Part II)
By- George Kaldis

During the exciting Cardiac Cardinals’ run as a “minor” force in the National Football League from 1973 to 1977 they were led by three core offensive players as well as a cast of supporting players that were second to none. Terry Metcalf, Mel Gray and Jim Hart formed a strike force that could score from any part of the field at any time against any defense. The following is the story of Terrence Randolph Metcalf or, as he was called in St. Louis “The Franchise.”

Terry Metcalf was born on the 24th day of September 1951 in Seattle, Washington. After a stellar high school career at Franklin High in Seattle where he ran, caught and returned the football – shattering numerous offensive records and ultimately being named as one of the State of Washington’s top ten high-school running backs in state history, Metcalf was shunned by college recruiters, ending up at Everett Community College in nearby Everett, Washington. After two impressive seasons at Everett Metcalf made the move to Long Beach State in 1971, taking the 49ers and the NCAA by storm as a Junior.

In Metcalf’s first season at the “Beach” he carried the ball 267 times for 1673 yards (6.27 yards per carry) and set NCAA records for rushing touchdowns (28), total touchdowns (29) and points score (178). Slowed somewhat by nagging injuries throughout his senior year Metcalf, nonetheless, put together another stellar campaign – finishing his two-year career at Long Beach State with 2432 yards rushing and 45 touchdowns, totals which would get Metcalf inducted into the Long Beach State 49ers Hall of Fame in 1986.

In the 1973 NFL draft the Cardinals snagged Purdue defensive tackle Dave Butz with their first round draft choice, 5th overall. They then followed up with Texas-El Paso quarterback Gary Keithley in the second round, 45th overall, and Bowling Green guard Fred Sturt in the third round, 59th overall. While Butz went on to have a solid NFL career with the Washington Redskins he did little with the Cardinal’s to justify his early selection, playing in only 13 games over two seasons, with Keithley and Sturt making even less of an impact with the Cardinals as only Keithley played for St. Louis and his numbers were abysmal at 32 of 73 for 369 yards, 1 TD and 5 INTs over one season.

What saved the Cardinals' 1973 draft and their fortune going forward was the fortuitous decision to draft a smallish running back out of Long Beach State, one Terrence Randolph Metcalf, with their second third round draft choice, 65th overall. In drafting Metcalf the Cardinals thought they had secured a change of pace back to incumbents Donny Anderson (3.5 yards per carry in 1972) and Johnny Roland (3.9 yards per carry in 1972), instead they captured lightning in a bottle.

In his first year (1973) in St. Louis Metcalf displaced Johnny Roland, who was moved to the New York Giants, and teamed up with Donny Anderson to form a solid one – two punch, with Metcalf gaining 628 yards on 148 carries for a 4.2 average and another 316 yards on 37 receptions. Metcalf's return talents, however, were wasted as he did not return any punts and only four kickoffs for 124 yards (31.0 yard average).

1974 was Metcalf's "coming out party," garnering his first Pro Bowl selection and becoming the dominant force he would be remembered as. Teaming with fullback Jim Otis Metcalf slashed his way through defenses for 718 yards on 152 carries (4.7 yards per carry and 6 TDs) and another 377 yards on 50 receptions (7.5 yards per catch and 1 TD). Metcalf's most impressive numbers, however, came in the return game where he came through with a league leading 31.2 yard average and one TD on kick returns and a solid 13.1 yard average on punt returns – while leading the Cardinals to their first playoff appearance since 1948 when the team was still in Chicago.

In 1975 Metcalf improved on his impressive 1974 season, not only returning to the Pro Bowl but also leading the NFL with 2439 All-Purpose yards; gaining 816 yards on the ground and catching 43 passes for 378 yards as well as amassing 285 punt return yards and another 960 yards on kick returns. Metcalf also hit double digits (14) in touchdowns; rushing for nine, catching two, passing for one and returning one punt and one kickoff for scores – once again leading the Cardinals to the playoffs.

Metcalf's totals slumped sharply across the board in 1976 before rebounding in 1977, gaining him another invitation to the Pro Bowl, his third selection in four years. Unfortunately 1978 was a contract year for Metcalf's and with cheapskate owner Bill Bidwell playing hardball Metcalf's numbers were not nearly impressive enough to loosen the crusty owner's purse strings. Unable to get what he thought was a fair contract Metcalf reached across the border and signed with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. Metcalf spent three uneventful seasons in the CFL, although he was selected an Eastern Division All Star in 1979, before returning to the NFL for one last season in 1981, as a receiver with the Washington Redskins, catching 48 passes for 595 yards.

Since retiring from Pro Football Terry Metcalf has worked as a youth pastor and ordained ministered at the Zion United House of Prayer and as a Grade School teacher and Reading Specialist at Zion Preparatory Academy in Seattle Washington. Currently, in addition to the aforementioned positions, Metcalf is the Football Head Coach at Renton High School (Indians) in Renton, Washington – leading the Indians' to a 5-4-1 record in 2008.

2008 NFL PLAYOFFS
By – Jason Findlay, BROKE GAMBLERS INC.
December 28, 2008

A brief glimpse into the future as the NFL playoffs rolls around. Inside you will find all you need to know about the 2008 NFL playoffs.

AFC PLAYOFF PICTURE

- 1) Tennessee Titans; 13-3 – Cagey veteran Kerry Collins takes over this team early and leads them to the best record in the AFC. I just don't see this team making it to the Superbowl.
- 2) Pittsburgh Steelers; 12-4 – Steelers miss out in week 16 on opportunity to have home field advantage throughout the playoffs when they lose to Tennessee who we're missing there best 2 players.
- 3) Miami Dolphins; 11-5 – A year after going 1-15, Parcells works magic and Pennington returns to New York to knock out the Jets and a 40 year old who should have stayed retired.
- 4) ***San Diego Chargers; 8-8 – Chargers play the Broncos for the division title in Week 17 but I'm expecting a Charger win. 3 games down with 3 weeks left to go, but did they leave anything in the tank.
- 5) Indianapolis Colts; 12-4 – After a woeful start, league MVP Peyton Manning leads the colts to 9 straight wins and probably another return appearance to Pittsburgh.
- 6) Baltimore Ravens; 11-5 – Ravens lose starting QB just before the season starts and it likely saved there season as Rookie Joe Flacco played this team to the playoffs. He did get some help from the Raven 'd' of course.

Wild Card Games

- 1) Indianapolis Colts 27 San Diego Chargers 14
 - Rematch of last year's semi-final game. Colts won't give Vinatieri a chance to blow it this year. Colts are quite likely the best team in the AFC.
- 2) Baltimore Ravens 17 Miami Dolphins 10
 - Raven defense shuts down Miami, and rookie Flacco does just enough to propel the Ravens on to the next round.

AFC Semi Final Games

- 1) Tennessee Titans 16 Baltimore Ravens 9
 - In a battle of defenses, the Titans prevail at home.
- 2) Indianapolis Colts 31 Pittsburgh Steelers 28
 - Manning proves to be too much for that powerful Steeler defence.

AFC Conference Championship

- 1) Indianapolis Colts 24 Tennessee Titans 17
 - Colts lost the division early in the season to the Titans but win the game that matters most. Peyton Manning is on fire and looking for title number 2.

NFC PLAYOFF PICTURE

- 1) New York Giants; 12-4 – The Giants have been the class of the NFL all season long. Look for them to repeat what they did last season.....somehow I don't think so.
- 2) Carolina Panthers; 12-4 – Jake Delhomme has this team on a roll, but really it's the two headed monster of Williams and Stewart that have this team moving.
- 3) Minnesota Vikings; 10-6 – A great o-line and d-line really make this team tick. Throw in Adrian Peterson and this team will give any team trouble in the playoffs.
- 4) Arizona Cardinals; 9-7 – 3 wins outside of there own division. This is by far the worst team to make the playoffs.
- 5) Atlanta Falcons; 11-5 – League rookie of the year, Matt Ryan leads this team to the playoffs. Would a turn around and if it wasn't for the Dolphins by far the biggest surprise in the NFL this year.
- 6) Philadelphia Eagles; 9-6-1 – McNabb leads the Eagles to the playoffs with a blowout win over the Cowboys in Week 17 and a Tampa Bay loss to the Oakland Raiders and a Bear loss to Houston.

Wild Card Games

- 1) Minnesota Vikings 20 Philadelphia Eagles 10
 - Eagles are paced by Bryan Westbrook. Westbrook will prove no match for the best run defense in football. Tarvaris leads the Vikings onto Carolina.
- 2) Atlanta Falcons 24 Arizona Cardinals 17
 - Rookie Matt Ryan, leads the Falcons to his first playoff team. The Cardinals are simply over matched outside of there division.

NFC Semi Final Games

- 1) Atlanta Falcons 20 New York Giants 17
 - The Giants really miss Plaxico in this one. The Giant run defense continues to give up big plays in the playoffs as the Falcons run all over them and manage to hold on the slim win.
- 2) Carolina Panthers 24 Minnesota Vikings 17
 - The Carolina running game gets going just enough at home. Adrian just doesn't get on track. Panthers will advance to the title game.

NFC Conference Championship

- 1) Carolina Panthers 31 Atlanta Falcons 17
 - The Panthers run all over the Cowboys as the other Cowboy team shows up in this one. Peppers has a field day with the slow Cowboy o-line.

SUPERBOWL XLIV

- 1) Carolina Panthers 34 Indianapolis Colts 24
 - Panthers go to there 2nd Superbowl and come away with there 1st Superbowl win. Steve Smith is the game MVP.

Prairie Wildfire – Rebuilding Process Begins Yet Again

By- Jason Findlay

Midway through another off-season, the Wildfire are firmly entrenched in yet another rebuilding program. The team parted ways with 2 veterans, Jason Taylor and Al Harris who both left via free agency. The team is short on draft picks as many were traded away a year ago for Jason Taylor. This group was one of the league's best but will struggle to win most weeks this season. As we get ready for the annual draft, here's a positional break down of the offense and defense.

Quarterbacks – Grade B

Carson Palmer and J.P. Losman man this position. Palmer really struggled last year to a slightly above average rating of 86.7. Losman has had a hard time adjusting to the NFL game and has been relegated to a backup. A dependable backup would be nice to add.

Running-backs – Grade F

A serious upgrade is required at this position. The team boasts 3 running backs and both have serious injury problems. The 3 combine for 163 carries and Ronnie Brown has 119 of these. Some serious depth will need to be added here.

Wide Receivers – Grade A

TJ Houshmandsadeh is the best of this group with Plaxico Burress, Reggie Brown rounding out the top 3. Word on the street is that the top 2 are on the market as the team looks to add a few draft picks in return.

Tight Ends – Grade A

Antonio Gates is still one of the leagues best tight end in football while Daniel Graham is arguably the best blocking tight end in football. Kyle Brady provides the depth. Gates would also be available for trade.

Offensive Line – Grade D

This is a very below average o-line with no real standouts; all-pro tackle Tarik Glenn unexpectedly retired in the prime of career. Mike Goff and Tony Pashos will be the standouts on this aging o-line. The draft will hopefully bring some youth to this group.

Defensive Line – Grade C

All-Pro Jamal Williams who drew no interest during free agency anchors the D-line, while Julius Peppers provides the only pass rush. The team will look to add some depth at Defensive end in the draft. Jamal Williams will also be hitting the open market in early January.

Linebackers – Grade C

All-Pro Shawne Merriman is far and away the best linebacker of this unit. The team traded away long time veteran Keith Brooking this past offseason. The team will accept offers for Merriman and will look to add some young talent.

Defensive Backs – Grade C

Asante Samuel and Adrian Wilson lead this group of defensive backs. With Samuel entering his contact year, the team may look to trade him before the next season starts.

Thoughts on Rules Proposals
By- Bobby Elder

#1 GAME DAY: I like this proposal a lot. Granted, we've all benefited from systematic "benching" of key players but it really is a completely unrealistic strategy...one that, even in this fantasy environment, makes no sense. I will vote YES!

#2 ENCOURAGE H2H: I like it. Allows guys to earn money for putting in more time but won't kill a coach that goes through a rough patch in his personal life and can't play live for some reason.

#3 OFFER NEW COACH A RUNNING START: I am a dino. For those that don't know what that means, I "grew up" in the good old days (pre-Internet) of three-hour phone calls where we talked all things OFL: strategy, trades, player value, OFL money, contracts, drafting, free agency, etc. I learned everything I needed to know about building an OFL franchise from many hours spent on the horn with Mike, Eugene, and John Anderson and from paying close attention to the strategies of others who won year after year. Over time I adopted my own philosophies but the foundation was laid by those sessions.

Over the years, since the advent and widespread use of email, we have fallen farther and farther away from that "teaching" model. For years I could not wrap my brain around why but I've come to realize that email (or even our newsletter) is not conducive to the types of "stream of consciousness" question and answer sessions we used to have. So we no longer teach our new guys the way we used to.

All that said, I grudgingly accept that the time for this proposal has come. We have one of the more complex formats around and this could be a big plus in recruiting (and keeping) new members. I will vote YES!

#4 ADD A MARCH CLAIM PERIOD: Simple, effective, adds another option for grabbing a guy you can keep. YES.

#5 RESSURECTING OLD IDEA/SAME LOGIC: I proposed this amendment originally and still believe it would be a bold and effective move towards keeping our league ahead of the curve. I don't believe in the lottery system because it still encourages a large number of teams to lose each year. This system – inverting the draft order for non-playoff teams – is almost a perfect solution for a league that wants to encourage fielding competition teams. The only teams that may be "encouraged" to lose are those on the fringe of making the playoffs. We can't account for all things but this system accomplishes the goal more effectively than what we have or the alternately proposed lottery system. YES, YES, YES!

FORMAL 2008 AMENDMENTS

2/3rds Majority Required for Passage

Abstentions are not permitted. You must vote yes or no on all.

Amendments that pass take effect 1 month prior to 2009 Regular Season

This year you cast your votes differently from prior seasons. Don't send them by email.

You must log onto the OFL's yahoo post and click on "Polls".

Amendments are listed there and you vote yes or no for each one.

(Note, they're not shown in same order as listed here.)

You can change your vote any time prior to the closing- which shall be Jan 24th

Commissioner can declare polls closed earlier, once all teams have voted.

1. Extend Commissioner Matt Farmer's term for one more year.
2. Add section 2.3 to Game Playing Rules: Teams are not permitted to selectively de-activate players until they've either clinched their Division or AFTER Week 14, which ever occurs first. (An exception will be the League Statistician on directive from Commissioner may de-activate injured and/or uncarded players if the Game Engine does not recognize their correct status.)
3. Modify section 1.C.I.1(b) In-Season Reporting Bonus: \$150K Bonus per week of Play shall apply only to games actually played H2H. Use of a sub/interim coach permitted & qualifies for earning Bonus.

If a team (other than Owner-less) cannot for whatever reason find the 90 minutes each week to play their game H2H they forfeit their weekly bonus.

4. Add exception to Player Contracts in sections 1.C.II.7 & Superstars in III., with new section 1.C.II.9:

New coaches may exercise up to 5 Restructuring Moves, which they can apply in any combination of the following 3 ways.

(a) They can cut any inherited player (including Superstars) at no cost. Said cuts are returned to the next Rookie Draft, Supplemental Draft or FA pool (whichever applies) if they appear on league disk.

(b) They can claim a compensatory draft pick at the end of ANY round in which they don't own a pick. This shall be based on the draft picks they inherit, they're not permitted to trade their way into this.

(c) They can buy out any inherited player contract (including Superstars) for 100% remaining contract value and re-sign him to a standard OFL contract. This also includes players whose contract expired, effectively the buy out cost of those is zero dollars and the player BYPASSES upcoming free agency.

If more than one new coach comes aboard and seeks the compensation picks they'll be slotted (at the end of the round) based on the final standings.

New Coaches taking over prior to Final 53-Man regular season rosters being set have 30 days to announce their Restructuring Moves. New Coaches taking over after that must exercise their Restructuring Moves after completion of their team's final regular season game. (Similar to now these would be administrative moves not affecting post-season roster, if applicable). Commissioner may extend time period if he deems necessary.

5. Add a new March Cut/Claim Period to section 1.B.V (renumber in-season Cut/Claims to #5)

After initial mandatory cut-down to 53 players about March 1st, teams may begin to place claims on 1st come - 1st served basis 48-hours AFTER a league wide posting of the initial cuts are posted by the Director of Player Personnel [DPP].

Thereafter, The 1st opportunity to place claims on any shall be a full 24 hours AFTER they've been cut as announced on the OFLPost. Any claim posted within 24 hours of an announced cut shall be null & void. This 24-hour window provides sufficient opportunity of notice of a cut player's availability to all clubs.

All cuts & claims during this period must be sent league wide via the OFLpost.

Teams must maintain exactly 53 players at this stage, so to place a claim would require a cut (or trade). Once this claim period has concluded, about March 15th, teams shall submit their final 53 man rosters to start the season.

Players claimed above may be signed to any standard OFL contract (1-5 years) with teams having full 1st refusal rights.

6. Revamp first 12 drafting slots of the Rookie Draft in section 1.B.I.1 to:

The non-playoff team with the best win percentage drafts first down thru the non-playoff team with the lowest win percentage drafts 12th

7. Modify section 1.B.III.1 Live Bidding to:

Teams declaring (directly or via their instructions) they're passing in any round must automatically pass in subsequent rounds.

Reason: Some teams may be delayed getting into the chat room or experience internet problem in a round thus miss their opportunity. While that will cause them to pass that round by default if they make it back for later round they should have the chance to declare a player.

8. Add to 1.B.III.1 Live Bidding: A third (3rd) round of Live Bids.

The more free agents we dispense with in Live Bids (much more efficient) the fewer we'll need to deal with in Phase II email bids.

9. Modify 1.B.V to: Claims from 1st & 2nd Periods shall be assigned a standard OFL contract (1-5 years) by new team AFTER they're awarded the players. Exception to 1st Period Claims shall remain those whose contract expired and are actually bona fide free agents eligible for bidding- same as now- you are claiming their 1st refusal rights.

Currently we don't do this until final 53-man rosters are submitted. This will clarify roster management, while enhancing the risk/reward with claims.