

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

AFC South

Last season was termed as a make-or-break year for both Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio and quarterback David Garrard. It wasn't. The Jaguars were in contention for the AFC South title all the way into December as running back Maurice Jones-Drew played through a torn meniscus. But, with a chance to clinch the division in Indianapolis, Jacksonville lost, then dropped their final two games as well.

This year the same narrative returns, as the Jaguars hope to have another chance to clinch the division. Adding to the intrigue, the Jags drafted QB Blaine Gabbert 10th overall in hopes he is their future franchise quarterback.

Garrard has been gracious in the face of the team drafting a first-round rookie at his position. With the lockout, the likelihood of Gabbert taking Garrard's job is slim. A healthy Jones-Drew should be significant. He works best with underdog's motivation.

Tackles Eugene Monroe and Eben Britton are entering their third season. Britton, the right tackle, is coming off shoulder surgery after missing the final nine games last season. At guard, the Jags will have a new face belonging either to rookie Will Rackley, who's learning quickly during training camp, or veteran free agent signee Jason Spitz.



2010 AFC SOUTH STANDINGS

Indianapolis Colts	10-6
Jacksonville Jaguars	8-8
Houston Texans	6-10
Tennessee Titans	6-10

2011 AFC SOUTH PROJECTIONS

Houston Texans	11-5
Tennessee Titans	8-8
Jacksonville Jaguars	6-10
Indianapolis Colts	5-11

STARTING ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB	11	Blaine Gabbert
RB	32	Maurice Jones-Drew
FB	33	Greg Jones
WR	80	Mike Thomas
WR	83	Jason Hill
TE	89	Mercedes Lewis
LT	75	Eugene Monroe
LG	65	Will Rackley
C	63	Brad Meester
RG	77	Uche Nwaneri
RT	73	Eben Britton

DEFENSE

DE	90	Matt Roth
DT	93	Tyson Alualu
DT	96	Terrance Knighton
DE	92	Austen Lane
LB	52	Daryl Smith
LB	51	Paul Posluszny
LB	55	Clint Session
CB	27	Rasheen Mathis
CB	30	Drew Coleman
SS	36	Courtney Greene
FS	26	Dawan Landry

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	10	Josh Scobee
P	1	Matt Turk
KR	35	Deji Karim
PR	80	Mike Thomas

OFFENSE

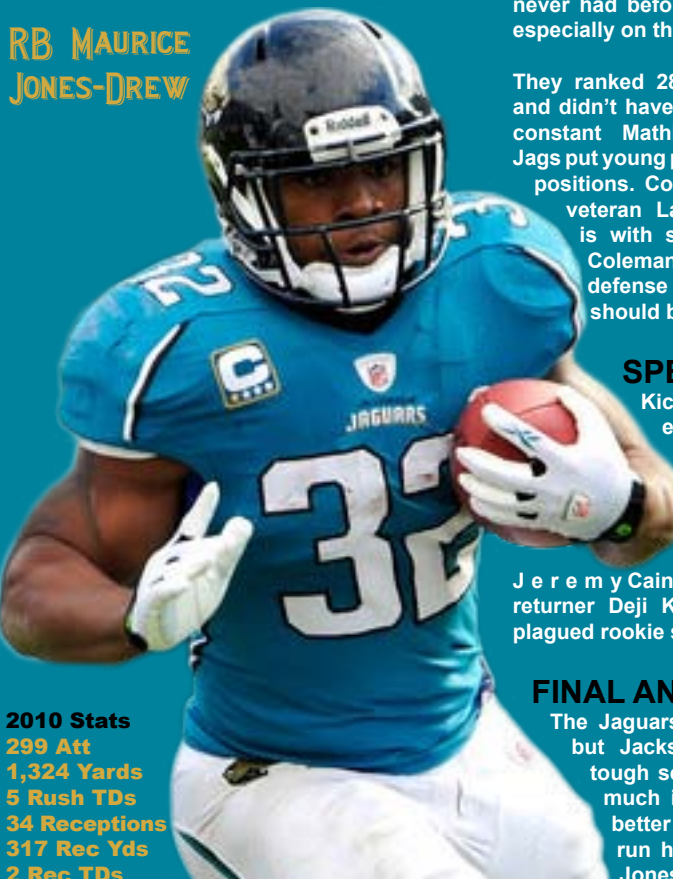
Offense wasn't the team's main problem. It certainly has room for improvement, though. The Jags still don't have an explosive receiver. They expect Mike Thomas to be their No. 1 receiver. A fourth-round pick in the 2009 draft, Thomas caught 66 balls for 820 yards and four touchdowns last year. Jason Hill, who impressed in 2010, could serve as their deep threat. Also in the mix are Jarett Dillard and rookie Cecil Shorts.

DEFENSE

The Jags opted to repair their defense in free agency. First, Buffalo linebacker Paul Posluszny, who got \$45 million over six years. Next was Colts linebacker Clint Session, who came at a price of \$29 million. He will start on the weak side. Jacksonville upgraded its secondary, adding Baltimore safety Dawan Landry at \$27.5 million over 5 years and Jets cornerback Drew Coleman, whose 3-year deal could be worth up to \$7.4 million. They've added speed they never had before and much more experience, especially on the back end.

They ranked 28th against the pass last year and didn't have regulars in the backfield. Only constant Mathis was constant. Last year the Jags put young players in unfamiliar and difficult positions. Communication will improve with veteran Landry. Rookie Chris Prosinski is with start next to Landry at safety. Coleman will be the nickel corner. The defense made serious upgrades that should be worth more wins.

RB MAURICE JONES-DREW



2010 Stats
299 Att
1,324 Yards
5 Rush TDs
34 Receptions
317 Rec Yds
2 Rec TDs

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Josh Scobee is entering his eighth season with the team. He made 22-of-28 field goals last season, including a 59-yarder. Punter Adam Podlesh left for the Bears, and replaced by Matt Turk. Long snapper Jeremy Cain signed a three-year deal. Kick returner Deji Karim is healthier after injury-plagued rookie seasons.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The Jaguars defense will be much better, but Jacksonville is still facing a very tough schedule. The Texans should be much improved. The Jags should be better yet the likelihood of a playoff run hinges on the legs of a healthy Jones-Drew.

2011 SCHEDULE

1	9/11	vs Tennessee
2	9/18	at New York Jets
3	9/25	at Carolina Panthers
4	10/2	vs New Orleans Saints
5	10/9	vs Cincinnati Bengals
6	10/16	at Pittsburgh Steelers
7	10/24	vs Baltimore Ravens
8	10/30	at Houston Texans
9	Bye	
10	11/13	at Indianapolis Colts
11	11/20	at Cleveland Browns
12	11/27	vs Houston Texans
13	12/5	vs San Diego Chargers
14	12/11	vs Tampa Bay Buccaneers
15	12/15	at Atlanta Falcons
16	12/24	at Tennessee Titans
17	1/1	vs Indianapolis Colts

Owner Wayne Weaver
General Manager Gene Smith
Head Coach Jack Del Rio
Offensive Coordinator Dirk Koetter
Defensive Coordinator Mel Tucker

TENNESSEE TITANS

AFC South

The relationship finally went stale. Jeff Fisher and the Tennessee Titans — over, after 16 years. It's somewhat astounding that Bud Adams employed Fisher as long as he did. In the Fisher era, the Titans made the playoffs just six times. It may seem a little strange that Adams and General Manager Mike Reinfeldt decided to start anew by staying within the organization and promoting offensive line coach Mike Munchak to coach. Munchak is even more tied to this franchise than Fisher. Munchak had a Hall of Fame playing career with the Oilers from '82-'93 and became their offensive assistant in '94. Because of this, the Titans hope for a seamless transition

to learn a new system for the first time in his 13-year career, he's still a major upgrade over the exciting, but inconsistent Vince Young.

This receiving corps lacks explosiveness. That could change if Kenny Britt continues to emerge, but Britt's off-field problems have been so extensive. Nate Washington is a swift all-around threat but probably best suited as a slot No. 3, Justin Gage is a hit or miss over-middle target. Damian Williams doesn't pop out on film. Center Eugene Amano can be trusted to steer most opponents well enough. Guards Leroy Harris and Jake Scott are both mobile run-blockers.



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STARTING ROSTER

OFFENSE

QB	8	Matt Hasselbeck
RB	28	Chris Johnson
FB	45	Ahmad Hall
WR	85	Nate Washington
WR	18	Kenny Britt
TE	88	Craig Stevens
LT	71	Michael Roos
LG	64	Leroy Harris
C	54	Eugene Amano
RG	73	Jake Scott
RT	76	David Stewart

DEFENSE

DE	91	Jason Jones
DT	99	Jurrell Casey
DT	93	Shaun Smith
DE	98	Dave Ball
LB	92	Will Witherspoon
LB	55	Barrett Ruud
LB	56	Akeem Ayers
CB	31	Cortland Finnegan
CB	30	Jason McCOurty
SS	26	Jordan Babineaux
FS	33	Michael Griffin

SPECIAL TEAMS

K	2	Josh Scobee
P	6	Matt Turk
KR	83	Marc Mariani
PR	83	Marc Mariani

OFFENSE

Chris Johnson is wise to hold out. And the Titans would be wise to pay him. After an N.F.L.-high 674 carries the past two seasons, Johnson, who turns 26 in September, knows his earning power is peaking and his window will soon be closing. It'd probably be prudent to phase in a complementary back now. Javon Ringer offers a similar style to Johnson. He can accelerate and run with fairly compact power. Though Matt Hasselbeck is struggling

DEFENSE

It's supposedly an open competition between Alterraun Verner and Jason McCourty for the No. 2 corner job. Expert Verner to win it. He's the more confident player. And not that it's a significant factor, but he has a chance to be one of the premier run-defending corners. McCourty should easily secure the No. 3 job

The saving grace for what appears to be an excruciatingly ordinary linebacking group is that in this new scheme, the defensive linemen are expected to be a more impactful force against the run. New defensive line coach Tracy Rucker is prioritizing size, which is why expensive speed-rusher Jason Babin was not re-signed, and also why 280-pound Jason Jones was moved to defensive end.

RB CHRIS JOHNSON



2010 Stats

316 Att
1,364 Yards
11 Rush TDs
44 Receptions
245 Rec Yds
1 Rec TD

SPECIAL TEAMS

Rob Bironas is a remarkable 8/10 on 50-plus-yard field goals over the last three years. Punt returners managed only 6.1 yards per runback against Brett Kern and Tennessee's punting unit last season, second fewest in the NFL. Pro Bowl return specialist Marc Mariani has a gift for seeing running lanes before they even open up.

FINAL ANALYSIS

The sweeping changes to playbooks and day-to-day operations aren't so concerning. What is concerning is the defensive personnel. There's only so-so playmaking talent in this front seven, which doesn't help a secondary that has struggled the past two seasons.

A lot will hinge on how quickly Hasselbeck can pick up the new offense. If the Titans can't establish a consistent passing game, it could mean opponents put extra men in the box to stop Johnson and Ringer at the line of scrimmage.

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General Manager Mike Reinfeldt
Head Coach Mike Munchak
Offensive Coordinator Chris Palmer
Defensive Coordinator Jerry Gray