

PLAY FOOTBALL VIGNETTES

NFL SEASON LAUNCH 2012

ADRIAN PETERSON

2011 WAS A DISAPPOINTING YEAR FOR THE VIKINGS ADRIAN PETERSON WHO MISSED 4 GAMES DUE TO INJURY AND RECORDED THE LOWEST RUSHING OUTPUT OF HIS CAREER.

THE 4 TIME PRO BOWLER SURPASSED THE 6,000 YARD RUSHING MARK AND CLIMBED INTO SECOND PLACE IN THE VIKINGS RECORD BOOKS.

AT 3 AND 13, PETERSON AND THE VIKINGS FINISHED WITH THE 2ND WORST RECORD IN THE NFC

THE FUTURE FOR PETERSON AND MINNESOTA LOOKS BRIGHT AS A STRONG DRAFT CLASS LOOKS TO RE-CHARGE THE VIKINGS HEADING INTO THE 2012 SEASON.

LESEAN MCCOY

IN 2011, LESEAN "SHADY" MCCOY SOLIDIFIED HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE TOP RUNNING BACKS IN THE NFL.

MCCOY RECORDED A CAREER HIGH 1,309 RUSHING YARDS WHILE SETTING A FRANCHISE RECORD WITH 20 TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS.

KNOWN FOR HIS SPEED, QUICKNESS AND HANDS, MCCOY ACCUMULATED OVER 1600 YARDS OF TOTAL OFFENSE WHILE LEADING THE NFL WITH 14 RUNS OF AT LEAST 20-PLUS YARDS.

IN 2012, LOOK FOR MORE TEAMS TO FOCUS ON MCCOY AND TRY TO SLOW HIM AND THE EAGLES HIGH POWERED OFFENSE DOWN.

ARIAN FOSTER

COMING OFF ANOTHER STELLAR SEASON, ARIAN FOSTER KEPT DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS BUSY.

KNOWN FOR HIS POWERFUL RUNNING AND ELUSIVE MOVES, FOSTER HELPED THE TEXANS WIN THE AFC SOUTH AND THEIR 1ST EVER PLAYOFF GAME.

FOSTER EARNED HIS SECOND STRAIGHT PRO BOWL LEADING THE NFL IN YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE WITH 141.6 YARDS PER GAME.

IN 2012, THE TEXANS FEATURE BACK WILL LOOK TO HELP HIS TEAM REACH THE PLAYOFFS IN BACK TO BACK SEASONS.

RAY RICE

RAY RICE, THE RAVENS ALL EVERYTHING BACK AND GO TO PLAYER ON OFFENSE, RUNS WITH A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER.

SINCE ENTERING THE NFL IN 2008 ONLY TWO OTHER RUNNING BACKS HAVE MORE YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE.

COMING OFF HIS 3RD CONSECUTIVE 1200 YARD SEASON, RICE DOES NOT SHOW ANY SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

IN 2012, LOOK FOR RAY RICE TO CONTINUE TO SOLIDIFY HIMSELF AS ONE OF THE TOP RUNNING BACKS IN THE NFL.

MATT FORTE

IN 2011, MATT FORTE ETCHED HIS NAME IN HISTORY BY BECOMING JUST THE SECOND PLAYER TO RECORD 4 STRAIGHT SEASONS WITH 700-PLUS RUSHING YARDS AND 400 PLUS RECEIVING YARDS.

#22 RECORDED HIS 4TH STRAIGHT SEASON WITH 1300-PLUS YARDS FROM SCRIMMAGE AND 50 PLUS RECEPTIONS.

COMING OFF A SEASON IN WHICH HE MISSED 4 GAMES DUE TO INJURY, FORTE IS POISED TO MAKE A STRONG COMEBACK AND HELP HIS TEAM REACH THE PLAYOFFS.

MAURICE JONES-DREW

2011 WAS AN OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR MAURICE JONES-DREW. MJD LED THE NFL IN RUSHING YARDS AND ACCOUNTED FOR 48 PERCENT OF THE JAGUARS OFFENSE.

POCKET HERCULES 1,606 RUSHING YARDS WAS A FRANCHISE RECORD.

MJD WAS THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IN THE JAGUARS 5 AND 11 SEASON.

WITH 2ND YEAR STARTER BLAINE GABBERT UNDER CENTER LOOK FOR BIG THINGS OUT OF MAURICE JONES-DREW AND THE JAGUARS IN 2012.

PATRICK PETERSON

THE FIRST ROUND PICK OF THE ARIZONA CARDINALS IN 2011, PATRICK PETERSON PROVED HIS WORTH DURING HIS ROOKIE SEASON.

PETERSON RECORDED 699 PUNT RETURN YARDS SETTING A NFL ROOKIE RECORD FOR MOST PUNT RETURN YARDS IN A SINGLE SEASON.

PETERSON ALSO TIED AN NFL RECORD WITH 4 PUNT RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS AND EARNED HIS 1ST PRO BOWL.

ON THE DEFENSIVE SIDE OF THE BALL PETERSON RECORDED 64 TACKLES AND 2 INTERCEPTIONS.

IN 2012, LOOK FOR PETERSON AND THE CARDINALS TO MAKE SOME NOISE IN THE NFC WEST.

DEVIN HESTER

ONE OF THE MOST ELECTRIC RETURN MEN IN NFL HISTORY, DEVIN HESTER NEVER DISAPPOINTS WHEN THE BALL IS IN HIS HANDS.

IN 2011, HESTER HAD 3 RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS BRINGING HIS CAREER TOTAL TO 17.

NOT ONE TO LET WHAT HE DOES ON OFFENSE BE OVERSHADOWED BY HIS SPECIAL TEAM PROWESS, HESTER AVERAGED 14.2 YARDS PER RECEPTION IN 2011.

WITH MORE OF A ROLE ON THE BEARS OFFENSE IN 2012 LOOK FOR DEVIN HESTER TO BE MORE OF A THREAT AS A WIDE RECEIVER THIS SEASON.

JOSH CRIBBS

JOSH CRIBBS, THE NFL'S ALL- TIME LEADER IN KICKOFF RETURNS FOR TOUCHDOWNS AMAZES FANS EVERY TIME HE TOUCHES THE BALL.

IN 2011, CRIBBS AVERAGED 11.4 YARDS PER PUNT RETURN AND 25.0 YARDS PER KICKOFF RETURN.

ON OFFENSE, CRIBBS POSTED CAREER HIGHS IN RECEPTIONS, RECEIVING YARDS, AND TOUCHDOWN RECEPTIONS.

IN 2012, CRIBBS SHOULD SEE MORE TOUCHES AND PRODUCTION AS THE BROWNS TRY TO IMPROVE ON THEIR LAST PLACE FINISH IN THE AFC NORTH IN 2011

MARIO WILLIAMS

IN 2011, MARIO WILLIAMS MISSED 11 GAMES AFTER HE WAS PLACED ON IR WITH A TORN PECTORAL MUSCLE.

DURING THE OFFSEASON WILLIAMS WAS SIGNED AS A FREE AGENT TO THE BUFFALO BILLS CHANGING HIS NUMBER FROM 90 TO 94.

WILLIAMS WILL TRY TO HELP A BILLS DEFENSE THAT RECORDED ONLY 29 SACKS LAST SEASON.

IN 2012, MARIO WILLIAMS SHOULD PUMP SOME LIFE INTO A BILLS TEAM THAT HAS NOT MADE THE PLAYOFFS SINCE THE 1999 SEASON.

ROBERT GRIFFIN III

AS THE 2ND OVERALL PICK BY THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS IN THE 2012 DRAFT, ROBERT GRIFFIN THE 3RD, OR RG3 AS WE HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM, HAS THE WEIGHT OF THE NATION'S CAPITOL ON HIS YOUNG SHOULDERS.

RG3 WAS THE FIRST QUARTERBACK TAKEN BY THE REDSKINS IN THE 1ST ROUND SINCE JASON CAMPBELL BACK IN 2005.

A QUICK LEARNER RG3 SHOULD STEP IN AND MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE REDSKINS OFFENSE.

THE 2012 SEASON IS FULL OF HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR RG3 AND THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS.

TRENT RICHARDSON

THE 2011 DOAK WALKER AWARD WINNER AND THE 3RD OVERALL PICK BY THE CLEVELAND BROWNS, TRENT RICHARDSON IS ALL THE BUZZ IN CLEVELAND, OHIO.

STANDING 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL, WEIGHING 224 POUNDS, RICHARDSON IS GIFTED WITH BOTH SPEED AND POWER.

FINISHING 28TH IN THE RUN GAME LAST SEASON, TRENT SHOULD BOOST THAT NUMBER FOR THE BROWNS.

THIS YEAR'S TOP RUNNING BACK PROSPECT WILL LOOK TO HELP A BROWNS TEAM THAT HAS NOT WON MORE THAN 5 GAMES IN THE LAST 5 SEASONS.

MORRIS CLAIBORNE

THE 1ST CORNERBACK DRAFTED BY THE COWBOYS IN THE 1ST ROUND SINCE 2008, MORRIS CLAIBORNE SHOULD BE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT PLAYER.

POSSESSING RANGE, MAN TO MAN SKILLS, AND GREAT BALL INSTINCTS, CLAIBORNE WILL BE THE FOCAL POINT OF MANY OFFENSIVE COORDINATORS GAME PLANS.

THE LOUISIANA NATIVE WILL LOOK TO HELP A COWBOYS DEFENSE THAT RANKED 23RD AGAINST THE PASS AND RECORDED ONLY 15 INTERCEPTIONS LAST YEAR.

LOOK FOR MORRIS CLAIBORNE AND THE COWBOYS TO GET BACK ON TOP OF THE NFC EAST.

ANDREW LUCK

ON APRIL 26, 2012, THE PEYTON MANNING ERA IN INDIANAPOLIS OFFICIALLY CAME TO AN END WHEN THE COLTS DRAFTED QUARTERBACK ANDREW LUCK 1ST OVERALL. DURING HIS TIME AT STANFORD, LUCK SET NUMEROUS PASSING RECORDS AND WAS TWICE THE RUNNER-UP FOR THE HEISMAN TROPHY. IN 2012, LUCK FACES THE CHALLENGE OF REPLACING A LEGEND WHILE TURNING A PROUD FRANCHISE INTO A WINNING ONE ONCE AGAIN.

TIM TEBOW

AFTER HELPING THE BRONCOS TO THEIR FIRST PLAYOFF WIN IN 6 YEARS, TIM TEBOW WAS TRADED TO THE NEW YORK JETS AFTER PEYTON MANNING TOOK HIS PLACE AS DENVER'S STARTING QUARTERBACK. IN 13 GAMES IN 2011, TEBOW WON 7 OF THEM IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OR OVERTIME. DESPITE BEGINNING 2012 AS A BACKUP, TEBOW REMAINS READY TO DO WHAT HE DOES BEST--HELP HIS TEAM WIN.

MICHAEL VICK

IN 2011, MICHAEL VICK LED THE EAGLES TO A DISAPPOINTING 3-6 START BEFORE A RIB INJURY SIDELINED HIM FOR 3 GAMES. DESPITE THE MISSED TIME, VICK THREW FOR OVER 3,300 YARDS--A CAREER HIGH--AND CAME BACK AT THE END OF THE SEASON TO WIN THE EAGLES' LAST 4 GAMES. WITH A LETHAL COMBINATION OF MOBILITY AND ACCURACY, VICK REMAINS ONE OF THE LEAGUE'S MOST DANGEROUS PLAYERS.

CAM NEWTON

THERE ARE ROOKIE SEASONS AND THEN THERE'S CAM NEWTON'S 2011 CAMPAIGN, IN WHICH THE HEISMAN WINNER FROM AUBURN TOOK THE NFL BY STORM. NEWTON SET A NEW ROOKIE RECORD WITH 4,051 PASSING YARDS AND HIS 14 RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS IN A SINGLE SEASON ARE THE MOST EVER BY A QUARTERBACK. NEWTON WAS NAMED THE NFL'S ROOKIE OF THE YEAR IN 2011 AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

AARON RODGERS

AARON RODGERS NOT ONLY HAD THE BEST YEAR OF HIS CAREER IN 2011, BUT ARGUABLY THE MOST IMPRESSIVE REGULAR SEASON BY ANY QUARTERBACK IN NFL HISTORY. EN ROUTE TO A REMARKABLE 15-1 RECORD, RODGERS BECAME THE ONLY PLAYER TO THROW 45 TOUCHDOWNS AND 6 OR LESS INTERCEPTIONS IN A SINGLE SEASON. IN 2012, RODGERS HOPES TO IMPROVE THOSE NUMBERS AND RETURN THE LOMBARDI TROPHY TO ITS HOME IN GREEN BAY.

DREW BREES

DREW BREES' 2011 SEASON WAS NOTHING SHORT OF SPECTACULAR AS HIS 5,476 YARDS SET A NEW NFL PASSING RECORD. HE ALSO IMPROVED HIS STREAK OF CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH AT LEAST 1 TOUCHDOWN PASS TO 43--JUST 4 SHY OF JOHNNY UNITAS' HALLOWED RECORD. AFTER A TURBULENT OFFSEASON FOR THE SAINTS, BREES REMAINS DEDICATED TO RETURNING HIS TEAM TO THE NFL'S BIGGEST STAGE.

CALVIN JOHNSON

CALVIN JOHNSON ENJOYED ONE OF THE BEST SEASONS BY A WIDE RECEIVER IN 2011, REACHING A CAREER HIGH 1,681 RECEIVING YARDS. THE ONE THEY CALL MEGATRON CAUGHT 16 TOUCHDOWN PASSES EN ROUTE TO THE LION'S FIRST PLAYOFF APPEARANCE SINCE 1999. IN 2012, JOHNSON

SHOULD ONCE AGAIN BE MATTHEW STAFFORD'S FAVORITE TARGET AND A NIGHTMARE FOR OPPOSING DEFENSES.

VICTOR CRUZ

VICTOR CRUZ ENJOYED A BREAKOUT YEAR IN 2011, RISING FROM RELATIVE OBSCURITY TO NEW YORK SENSATION AND SUPER BOWL CHAMPION. ALONG WITH A 99 YARD TOUCHDOWN RECEPTION AGAINST THE JETS IN WEEK 16, CRUZ HAD 1,536 YARDS RECEIVING--A NEW SINGLE SEASON FRANCHISE RECORD. IN 2012, CRUZ SHOULD PLAY AN EVEN BIGGER PART IN DEFENDING THE GIANTS' 4TH SUPER BOWL TITLE.

WES WELKER

SINCE JOINING THE PATRIOTS IN 2007, WES WELKER HAS CAUGHT MORE PASSES THAN ANY OTHER PLAYER IN THE LEAGUE. IN 2011, HIS 122 RECEPTIONS MADE HIM THE NFL LEADER FOR THE 3RD TIME IN HIS CAREER AND IS TIED FOR THE 4TH HIGHEST TOTAL IN NFL HISTORY. ENTERING 2012, WELKER REMAINS TOM BRADY'S FAVORITE TARGET AND A BIG REASON FOR THE PATRIOTS' CONTINUED SUCCESS.

STEVE SMITH

ONE OF THE MOST PRODUCTIVE RECEIVERS CURRENTLY IN THE NFL, STEVE SMITH ENDED 2011 AS THE OWNER OF EVERY MAJOR RECEIVING RECORD FOR THE CAROLINA PANTHERS. AS THE BENEFICIARY OF CAM NEWTON'S EXTRAORDINARY ROOKIE SEASON, STEVE SMITH BECAME JUST THE 35TH PLAYER IN LEAGUE HISTORY TO AMASS 10,000 RECEIVING YARDS IN A CAREER, AND LOOKS TO IMPROVE THAT NUMBER IN 2012.

TONY GONZALEZ

2011 MARKED THE 15TH SEASON FOR TIGHT END TONY GONZALEZ, AND ANOTHER CHAPTER IN HIS ILLUSTRIOUS HALL OF FAME CAREER. BESIDES BECOMING THE FIRST TIGHT END TO REACH 13,000 RECEIVING YARDS, GONZALEZ PASSED MARVIN HARRISON FOR 2ND ON THE ALL-TIME RECEPTIONS LIST. DESPITE HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, GONZALEZ HAS YET TO WIN A PLAYOFF GAME, SOMETHING HE HOPES TO CHANGE IN 2012.

ROB GRONKOWSKI

ROB GRONKOWSKI FOLLOWED UP HIS 2010 ROOKIE CAMPAIGN WITH A RECORD-SETTING SEASON IN 2011, BECOMING THE FIRST TIGHT END TO LEAD THE LEAGUE IN RECEIVING TOUCHDOWNS WITH 17. HIS 1,327 RECEIVING YARDS ARE THE MOST EVER BY A TIGHT END, AND IN 2012, THE PATRIOTS HOPE FOR AN ENCORE FROM GRONK AS THEY MAKE ANOTHER RUN AT THE TITLE.