

Redskins 2011



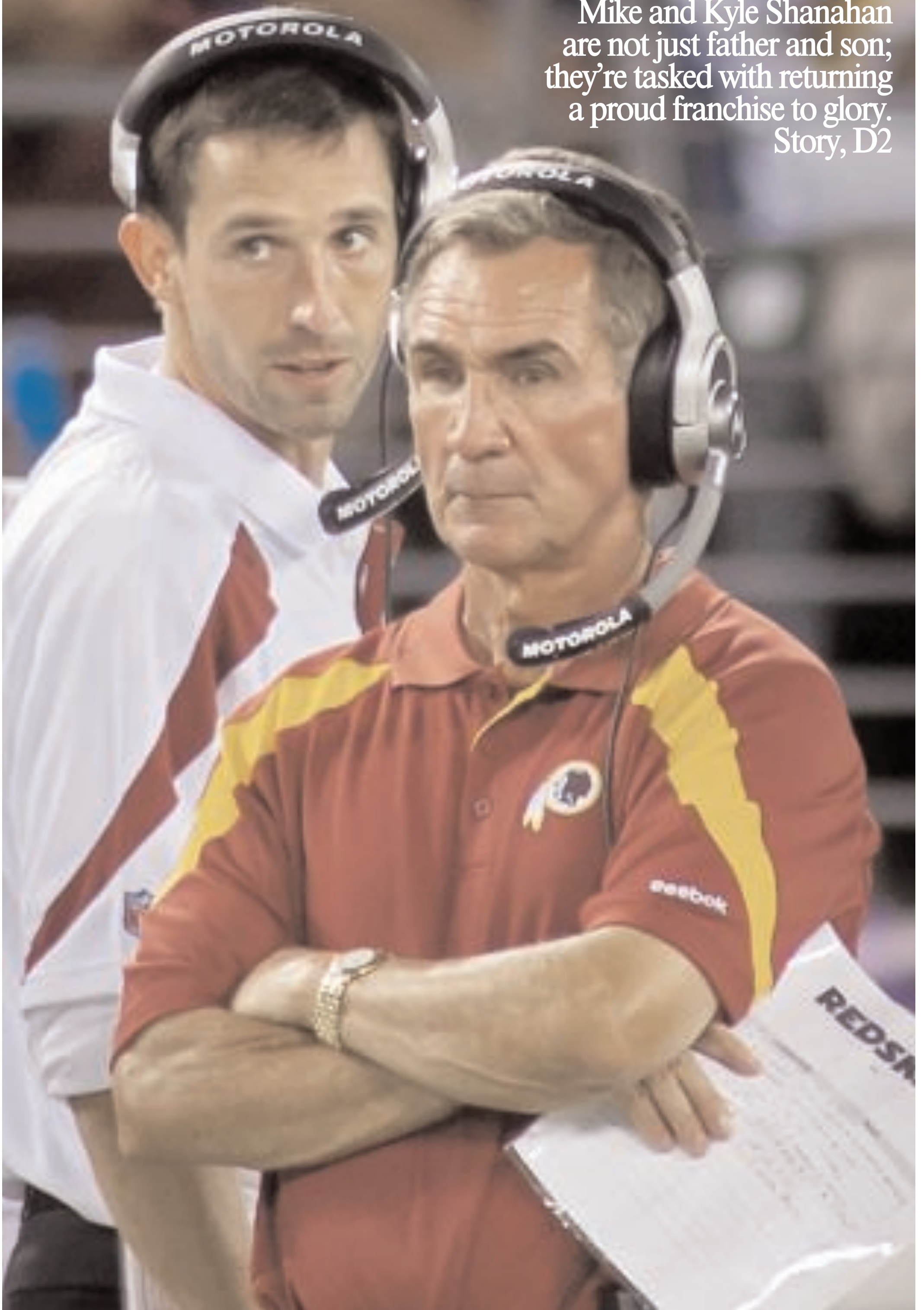
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

The Washington Times

SECTION D

FAMILY DYNAMIC

Mike and Kyle Shanahan are not just father and son; they're tasked with returning a proud franchise to glory.
Story, D2



EXPANDED REDSKINS COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON: WASHINGTONTIMES.COM/SPORTS/FOOTBALL

COVER STORY

BLOODLINE ON THE SIDELINE

Two Shanahans make it work as team rebuilds

By Rich Campbell

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Peggy Shanahan feared the worst because she knows her husband and son as well as anybody. A pair of intense, detail-obsessed competitors working closely for 16 hours a day or more? Oh yeah, that would end well. She could see the outcome clearly — the awkward silence at family dinners, the tumultuous discussions on vacation. What a joy it would be for Mike to captain the Washington Redskins' building project with Kyle as one of his top lieutenants.

"I actually thought they were both crazy when they wanted to do it," Peggy said. "But it was obviously so different than that. It's really a treat for both of them."

On the eve of their second season as Redskins coach and offensive coordinator, Mike and Kyle Shanahan are reaping all of the personal rewards and many of the professional benefits they hoped for 20 months ago when Kyle left his promising coordinator position with the Houston Texans to work for his father.

Yet with questions at quarterback that persist after a bumpy 6-10 debut campaign, Mike and Kyle still have to prove their union will produce in Washington the same success on which they separately built their reputations in other cities.

"When you have any adversity and your last name is the same as the head coach's, I know exactly what people are going to say," Kyle said. "I've known my whole life. But I'm very confident in myself because of what I've done without him, and I'm also confident that you can ask any player that I've coached, and I feel very good about that."

Not a lot of precedent

Wade Phillips has considered his father something of a hero for as long as he can remember. Growing up on Texas' Gulf Coast, about 90 miles east of Houston, he learned football by hanging around the high school teams coached by his dad, Bum.

Wade played for Bum at Port Neches-Groves High School, and Bum was the defensive coordinator at the University of Houston when Wade was a linebacker there in the mid-1960s. Football always has been their connection. Over the years, Bum's philosophies, especially those about the 3-4 defense, became Wade's.

In 1981, Bum took his signature Stetson cowboy hat to New Orleans and became coach of the Saints. Wade served as Bum's defensive coordinator until Bum resigned during the 1985 season.

According to researchers at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, they were the only father-son, head coach-coordinator tandem on record until Mike and Kyle teamed in Washington last year.

"You want your assistant coaches to be loyal," said Wade, now the Texans' defensive coordinator. "Nobody is going to be more loyal than your son, so you can always count on that."

"They'll tell you the truth. Some other coaches might hesitate about telling you what they think about things, but if you ask your son, he's going to tell you exactly what he thinks. You get a valuable opinion there."

That was the case at Redskins Park last year as the first-year coaching staff evaluated new quarterback Donovan McNabb and determined which players fit into its schemes and were worth keeping.

"Kyle has got a lot of football in his



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Redskins coach Mike Shanahan took a chance by hiring his son, Kyle, as offensive coordinator last year. The veteran coach admitted he had never seen his new assistant run a meeting with the entire offense present. "I was shocked to see how relaxed he was at his age," the elder Shanahan said.

background; what I mean by that is we're on the same page," Mike, 59, said. "We talk a lot of football; the running game, the passing game. It's pretty easy to be connected because we spend so much time together talking ball."

Coaches' reviews were highly critical at times last season, as the Redskins averaged 5.36 yards per play, 14th-best in the 32-team NFL.

That is not good enough for Mike and Kyle Shanahan.

Kyle's offense during his two years calling plays in Houston ranked sixth (5.88 yards) and fourth (6.0 yards). During Mike's two Super Bowl seasons in Denver, the Broncos' offense ranked third each year.

They discussed the offense and ex-

The situation would have been disastrous if it somehow cost Kyle the respect and confidence of players, but that didn't happen. In fact, it's the opposite.

"I think they handled it as good as you can," quarterback Rex Grossman said. "To bench somebody for their performance, anytime it's a Donovan McNabb-caliber player, there's no right way to do it. You're going to catch heat no matter what because he's a big name. They were in a lose-lose situation there."

You can't just take it from Grossman, though, because he directly benefited from McNabb's demotion and replaced him as the starter.

"I don't think anything with the Donovan situation makes Kyle a target," tight end Chris Cooley said. "What makes you

reads are. I care about other positions besides mine."

The benefits of youth

Mike Shanahan didn't know exactly what to expect that day in March last year. He did all the required due diligence before hiring his new offensive coordinator, but Shanahan had never actually seen this coach run a meeting with the entire offense present.

"I was shocked to see how relaxed he was at his age," Mike said. "Then I started thinking about it. The first time I got in front of a team was coming out of college. I was about 30 years old. He's in that time frame, 30, 31, and he's been doing it for six years. In high school, he was on the side-

"You want your assistant coaches to be loyal. Nobody is going to be more loyal than your son, so you can always count on that. They'll tell you the truth. Some other coaches might hesitate about telling you what they think about things, but if you ask your son, he's going to tell you exactly what he thinks. You get a valuable opinion there."

— Wade Phillips, who coached with his dad Bum in New Orleans

changed ideas throughout the season, as all head coaches and coordinators do. However, their relationship allowed for greater candor.

"Sometimes I'd maybe be a little more nervous to piss the head coach off," Kyle, 31, said. "It's a little easier for me to ask him a tough question than maybe it has been [with other coaches] in the past. That has been nice because I can always ask that question. And definitely being his son, he probably gets more pissed off at me than he does with most people. So it goes both ways."

Earning respect

Kyle Shanahan expected to be the target of scrutiny and criticism after Mike decided to demote McNabb in Week 15 of last season. It's part of the package that comes with his job and his last name.

But he was caught off guard when McNabb's agent, Fletcher Smith, publicly blamed him for McNabb's falling out with the team. Smith accused Kyle of ignoring suggestions McNabb made to improve the offense. When Kyle confronted McNabb and McNabb told him Smith's allegations weren't true, Kyle could only press forward.

McNabb, through a personal spokesman, declined to comment for this story.

a target is losing football games. If we're winning games, I think that situation probably still happens, maybe not to the extent it did. But winning overrules everything."

And toward that end, players are certain the best man for the job is running the Redskins' offense.

Not only did Kyle earn his reputation as a rising star offensive coach on his own, away from his father, Redskins players also have seen proof in meetings, the film room and on the field.

"This offense is so dynamic," receiver Santana Moss said. "The things that we can do offensively, individually and collectively, Kyle's offense gives us an opportunity to be great. All we have to do is go out there and handle our jobs. Last year, we left a lot on the field — I mean every game."

Cooley's belief in Kyle is at unprecedented levels.

"This is the first time in my career that an offense has fit so much that I've been willing to study it," he said. "I've been willing to know it as thoroughly as I do. It's exciting. It's fun. It makes sense."

"A lot of offenses have contradictions. Instead, this offense has answers. It's neat to see the way we get everyone involved. It's the first time I care what we're doing on the line. I care what our quarterback's

line in the Super Bowl. He's been through it."

Mike and Kyle's professional growth together has continued from that first meeting. Their conversations are different now than they ever were.

When Kyle was growing up, topics centered on his playing career and the path he hoped would lead to the NFL. When Kyle broke into coaching, first with UCLA and then the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the father-son discussions about coaching were limited because their experiences weren't shared.

Now, because they work so closely together, the depth of their interaction is more beneficial to how they coach.

"Mike, I know, has learned a lot of things from Kyle, being so young but having the ear of players and just new things and different ways to do things," Peggy Shanahan said.

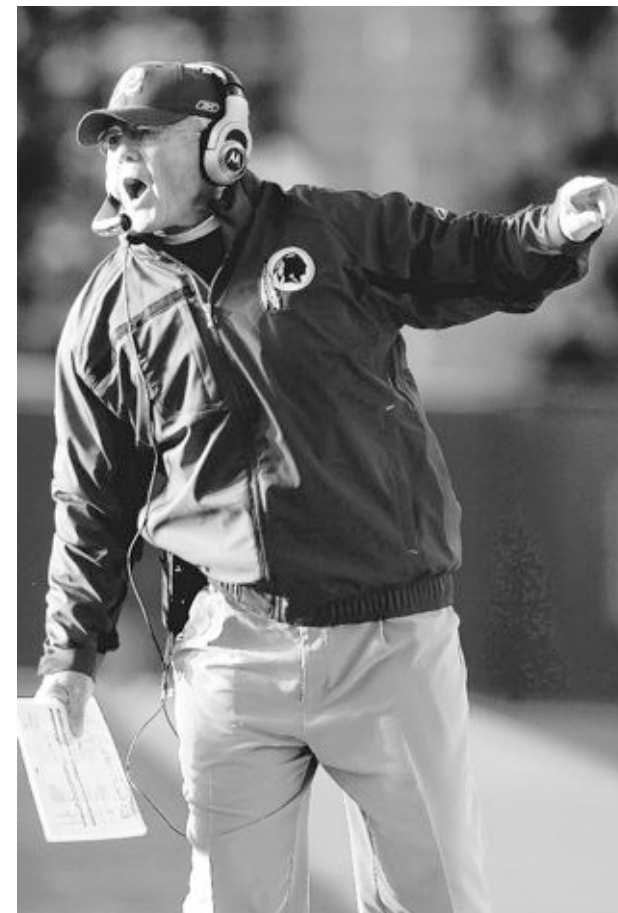
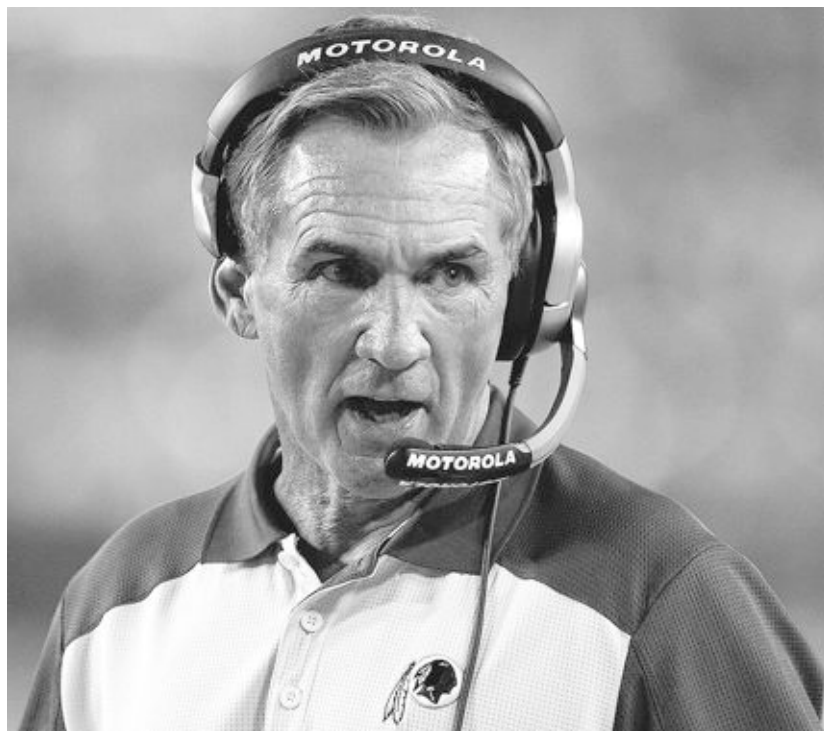
Kyle, for example, uses film analysis to anchor his meetings. The young generation of NFL coaches entered the profession with the technology to digitally break down game footage. Many young coaches, such as Kyle, have developed their methods accordingly.

In meetings, Kyle will show footage that

» see SHANAHANS | D3

Redskins 2011

Sports editor: Mike Harris
Section editor: Marc Lancaster
Design: Matt Pallister, Greg Groesch
Copy editing: Judd Hanson
Cover photo: Rod Lamkey Jr.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Jim Zorn (left) experienced a four-game dropoff in 2009, his second season as the Redskins' coach. Joe Gibbs (right), on the other hand, showed a four-game improvement in 2005 — his second season in his second stint as coach — and took Washington to the playoffs. Mike Shanahan is entering Year 2 and coming off a 6-10 record he has to improve upon.

Second (year) and goal to go



DAN DALY

“There are no five-year plans in the NFL,” Joe Gibbs is fond of saying. “I don’t care who you are. You’d better start winning pretty quick.”

He’s right, of course. By Year 2, a coach needs to show real progress — or rather, his team does. Certain allowances can be made for Year 1, which is usually a time for taking inventory (and doing some moderate-to-heavy housecleaning). The second year, though, is all about trajectory — preferably upward rather than downward.

This is the situation Mike Shanahan finds himself in with the Redskins. His bumpy 6-10 first season is in the books, and it’s imperative that he improves on it. Otherwise, well, you know the deal. Folks might begin to wonder whether, at 59, the game has passed him by. They might even begin to wonder whether he was ever as good as his two Super Bowl wins in Denver suggested.

Think about it: George Allen took the Redskins to the Super Bowl in Year 2. Gibbs, in his first term, won the Super Bowl in Year 2. In fact, let’s look at some recent Redskins coaches and see how many passed the Year 2 test:

- Norv Turner I (passed): 3-13 in Year 1 (1994, under longtime owner Jack Kent Cooke), 6-10 in Year 2. Wound up coaching in Washington for almost seven seasons.

- Norv Turner II (failed): 10-6 and a division title in Year 1 (1999, under new owner Dan Snyder), 7-6 and out of the playoffs in Year 2. Snyder fired him with three games left in the 2000 season — not that it accomplished anything.

(Note: Because of the ownership change, Turner actually had to prove his worth twice.)

- Steve Spurrier (failed): 7-9 in Year 1 (2002), 5-11 in Year 2. Resigned after the ’03 season and, after taking a year off, returned to college coaching at South Carolina.

- Gibbs II (passed): 6-10 in Year 1 (2004), 10-6 and a wild card berth in Year 2. Also made the playoffs in Year 4 before retiring for a second time.

- Jim Zorn (failed): 8-8 in Year 1 (2008), 4-12 in Year 2. Was canned as soon as he stepped off the plane from San Diego after the ’09 season finale.

The pattern is fairly well-established — in Washington, at least. If things are on the upswing in your second year, you get to keep your job. If not, you might want to put together your resume. Which isn’t to say the boss will run out of patience with Shanahan if the Redskins aren’t in the playoff hunt this year. Snyder has invested many millions in Shanny and might be inclined to give him another season or two. But how many of us would bet the house on it, given Snyder’s impulsiveness?

In Shanahan’s second year in Denver, by the way, the Broncos made major strides, going from a middle-of-the-pack 8-8 to an AFC-best 13-3. (The next season, they won the first of back-to-back Super Bowls.) But it’s hard to imagine the Redskins winning five more games this year than they did in 2010. They’ve made some nice roster additions — Barry Cofield, O.J. Atogwe, Tim Hightower, Chris Chester — but an 11-5 record seems a

little out of reach, especially with so much uncertainty at quarterback.

That said, their depth is undeniably better, almost across the board. And while they’re still very much a work in progress, they appear headed in the right direction. The 350-pound weight of Albert Haynesworth has been lifted from everyone’s shoulders — he’s New England’s problem now — and the infusion of a large draft class and several other young players has created a sense of renewal. This is no longer an old team, it’s one whose best football is likely ahead of it. The question is: How far in the future are we talking about? December? Next year? The year after that?

The year after that, after all, would be Year 4, and four years are an eon by Dan Snyder’s Rolex. They’re also pushing the limits of Gibbs’ dictum: “There are no five-year plans in the NFL.” But first things first: Shanahan needs to find seven wins on the 2011 schedule, maybe eight, to keep hope alive in Redskinsland. Otherwise, there’s no telling what might happen — as Turner, Spurrier and Zorn can attest.

SHANAHANS

From page D2

splices how the Redskins ran a play incorrectly with footage of how they or another team ran it properly. That highlights the contrasts and teaching points.

“I know that’s something that’s not as big with the older coaches because they didn’t have the film capabilities that we have,” Kyle said. “I was pretty confident he would like how I did it. I had always wanted to show him.”

Kyle’s history as a receiver — he played the position at the University of Texas — and an NFL receivers coach also has helped Mike, a former quarterback, in his understanding of that position.

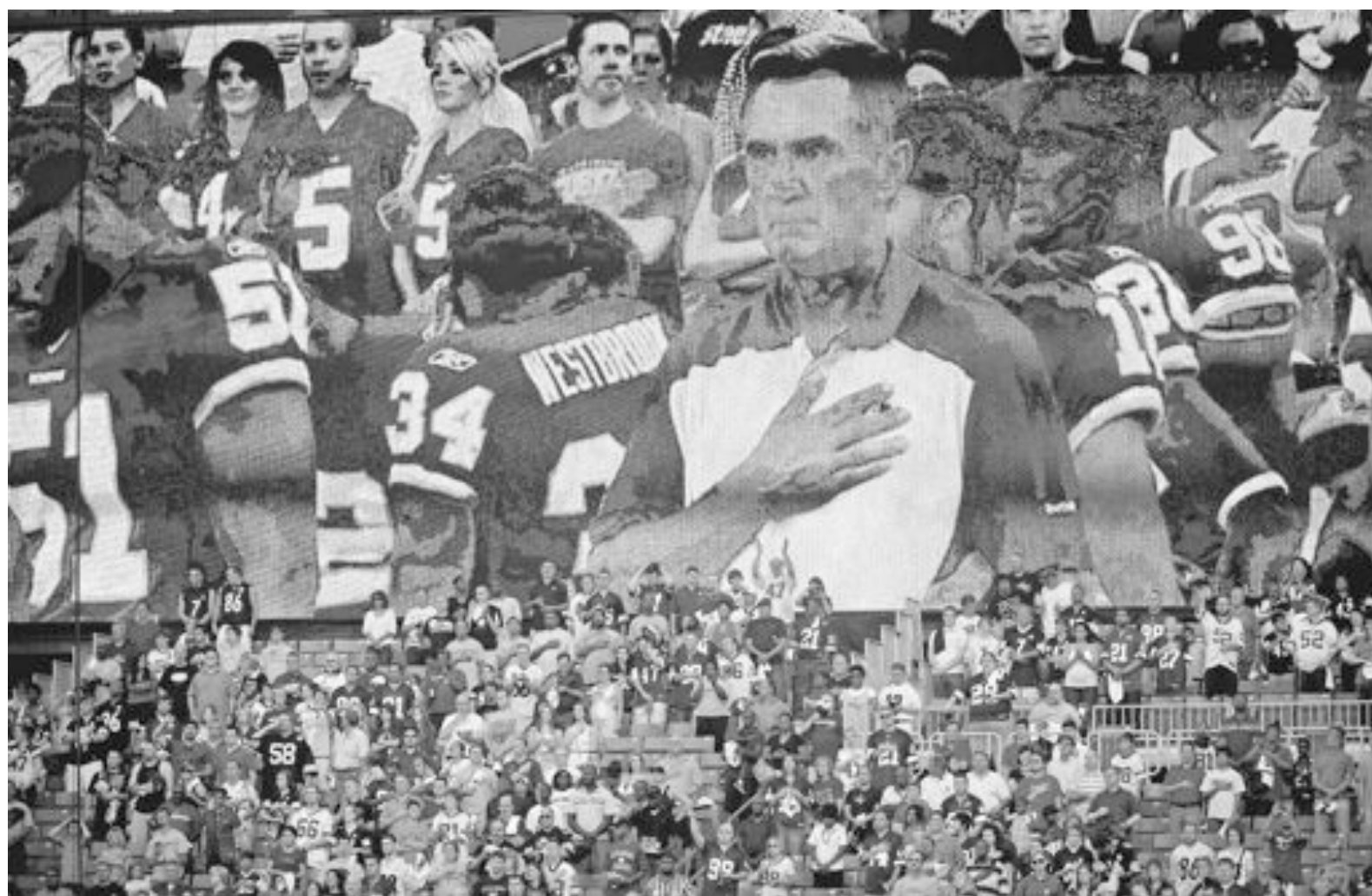
Because Kyle had his heart set on being an NFL receiver, he used to analyze his dad’s tapes of Jerry Rice, Rod Smith and others.

“When you study it to be a player, and you’re actually a wide receivers coach, you’ve got to know that as good as anybody,” Mike said.

In turn, Kyle has thrived under Mike’s disciplined, detail-oriented coaching style.

If the Redskins’ offense breaks down in a game, Mike follows up by asking Kyle whether he covered that play or concept in practice. The answer better be yes.

“If you’re slipping, he will be your worst enemy and your biggest pain because he’ll be all over you,” Kyle said. “It makes you a better coach. You’ve got to think everything out and be organized.”



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Win or lose, coach Mike Shanahan’s presence will loom large over FedEx Field and the Washington Redskins this season. The fortunes of his son, Kyle Shanahan, the offensive coordinator (right), will go a long way toward determining the team’s success.

Family time, football time

It doesn’t matter whether your last name is Shanahan or Smith, there’s never a bad time for ice cream.

Friday mornings around 10:30 suit Mike Shanahan perfectly. That’s when he likes to drive the 10 minutes or so across Leesburg, Va., to Kyle’s house and take grandchildren Stella, 4, and Carter, 1, out for a treat.

“He’s a real good grandpa,” Kyle said.

Kyle and Mike said they don’t feel the need to see each other often outside of Redskins Park, but they do when Mike visits the grandkids and Kyle sees his mom. The convenience of those visits is just one of the perks of working together.

The NFL lockout this summer allowed for some additional time. Kyle’s family, his sister Krystal’s family, Peggy and Mike all went to the Bahamas.

Not that talk of football and the Redskins stayed behind. That has a passport, too.

“We annoy the heck out of my wife, my sister

and my mom,” Kyle said. “There’s not many dinner tables that go by without it leading to football.”

The conversation inevitably winds back to the job at hand.

Father and son have moved on to a new quarterback project now, as Mike’s vision for the team starts to take shape.

He wants players who value the work it takes to win. Those who don’t meet his standard, regardless of their resume or the size of their contract, will be gone.

“We’re going to get people that are very passionate about what they do,” Mike said. “They’re here to win a Super Bowl, and I’m never going to go away from that mindset.”

Mike’s two Super Bowl rings don’t guarantee success, though. Nor do the crooked numbers that Kyle’s offenses put up in Houston. These two are starting over.

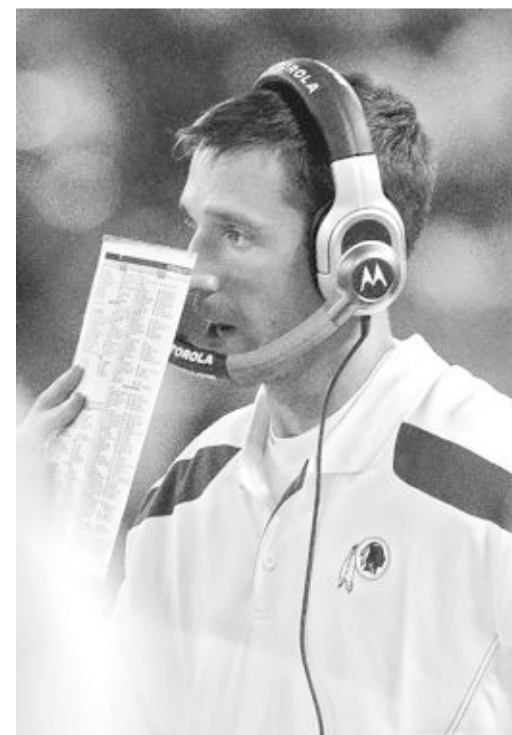
“That’s this business — it’s ‘What have you done for me lately?’” Kyle said. “I feel very good that we can do it, but we’ve still got to go out and do it.”

Winning the title this season seems improbable because of the massive scope of the Redskins’ building project. It requires more than just two years.

But the Shanahans have the big picture in mind.

They expect to get to the top eventually and get there together.

“It’d be special, and that’s why I’m here,” Kyle said. “I came here for one reason, and that was to help my dad turn something around. It’s not easy, but it’s something we are enjoying. If that’s something that we can do, and I can be a part of it with him, that would mean a lot to me.”



OFFENSE



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Veteran wide receiver Santana Moss has had six offensive play-callers and five quarterbacks since the Redskins acquired him from the New York Jets in 2005. His 93 catches last season were the most in his 10-year career, and his 1,115 receiving yards were second best.

MOSS IS STILL THE BOSS

Despite turnover, veteran remains a steadying influence

By NATHAN FENNO
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Santana Moss was surrounded. Music thumped in the locker room at Redskins Park. But the lyrics couldn't drown Moss' words. So the television cameras and microphones swarmed, something that seems to happen each time the veteran wide receiver opens his mouth.

The phalanx of media almost buried the face of the Washington Redskins' offense.

Most of big names are gone — Donovan McNabb dispatched to the Minnesota Vikings, Clinton Portis looking for work — leaving Moss and fan-favorite tight end Chris Cooley as leaders of a largely anonymous group. With question marks at quarterback, an influx of young receivers and a reshuffled offensive line, Moss is the certainty in a unit buffeted by change.

"I've been here [six] years, and I never had the chance to grasp the offense," Moss said. "There's always been a change here or something there. It's one of those moments where we have the advantage."

Turnover has been Moss' companion since the Redskins acquired him from the New York Jets for Laveranues Coles in 2005.

Mike Shanahan is his third coach. Five men have called offensive plays. Six quarterbacks — remember Patrick Ramsey? — lobbed passes to him.

"I've played with so many quarterbacks, man," Moss said. "Every year that goes by, it's something new. But I never really think about it."

The turnover hasn't helped the Redskins' offense, ranked in the NFL's bottom third in total offense over the past three seasons.

Last season's total — 5,374 yards — ranked No. 18 in the league. It was the

OFFENSE

2-Deep Depth Chart

- QB:** Rex Grossman, John Beck
- RB:** Tim Hightower, Roy Helu
- FB:** Darrel Young, Mike Sellers
- TE:** Chris Cooley, Fred Davis
- WR1:** Santana Moss, Anthony Armstrong
- WR2:** Jabar Gaffney, Terrence Austin
- LT:** Trent Williams, Sean Locklear
- LG:** Kory Lichtensteiger, Erik Cook
- C:** Will Montgomery, Erik Cook
- RG:** Chris Chester, Erik Cook
- RT:** Jammal Brown, Willie Smith

Position of strength

Tight ends Chris Cooley and Fred Davis are above-average route-runners adept at gaining yards after the catch. Will offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan exploit that tandem more than he did last season?

Position of weakness

The old NFL adage goes something like: "If you have two quarterbacks, it means you don't have one." Until Beck or Grossman prove they can lead the Redskins to the playoffs, they have questions at the most important position on the field.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

best in Moss' six seasons in Washington. Each time, he's led the team in receiving.

But after Moss voided his contract in February, the onetime University of Miami walk-on re-signed with the Redskins in July. Other teams called. He didn't talk to them.

The past shuffling on the roster, among the coaching staff and in the front office at Redskins Park couldn't keep him away.

"If I'm going to still play, why go somewhere and start all over?" Moss said. "If we put the right people in the right places . . . we can really do some good things."

That starts with feeling more at ease in his second year under offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan. Last sea-

son, Moss caught a career-best 93 passes for 1,115 yards and six touchdowns. Kyle Shanahan used Moss more in the slot than he ever played there before while Anthony Armstrong ran deep patterns.

The relative familiarity of the offense, regardless of the quarterback, seems a luxury to Moss.

Mention Kyle Shanahan's offense and Moss drops superlatives like a late-night infomercial: "dynamic," "wide-open," "opportunity to be great," "able to prosper." But some parts of the offense aren't exactly as seen on television. A grab-bag of veterans such as Armstrong, Jabar Gaffney, Donte Stallworth, Terrence Austin and two rookies,

Leonard Hankerson and Niles Paul, are battling for playing time alongside Moss at receiver.

"We have a lot to work on still," Stall-

"If I'm going to still play, why go somewhere and start all over? If we put the right people in the right places . . . we can really do some good things."

— Santana Moss, Redskins receiver

worth said. "But we're moving in the right direction. That's the most important thing."

Added Kyle Shanahan: "I think every-

one is more comfortable with what we're doing, and I think it's showing."

Trent Williams, the hulking offensive tackle, echoed the sentiment. In his second year in the league, Williams felt obligated to assume a leadership role on the offensive line after the turnover.

Moss is where he looks for an example. For stability. Even a mentor.

And as the music blasted in the locker room and the cameras cloaked Moss, Williams grinned and revealed perhaps the lone weakness of the offense's face.

"There's not much," Williams said, "he can tell me about blocking somebody."

DEFENSE



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Redskins linebacker Brian Orakpo has 19½ sacks in his first two seasons, coming under two defensive schemes. With Orakpo already comfortable in the 3-4 defense, big things are expected from him in 2011.

'RAK' ATTACK SETS TONE

Orakpo keeps the pressure on opposing QBs

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

When Mike Shanahan was building winning football teams with the Denver Broncos, it wasn't hard to identify the face of the franchise — first John Elway and later on players such as Terrell Davis and Shannon Sharpe. The Redskins don't have an Elway or a Davis, but on defense they do have an emerging star.

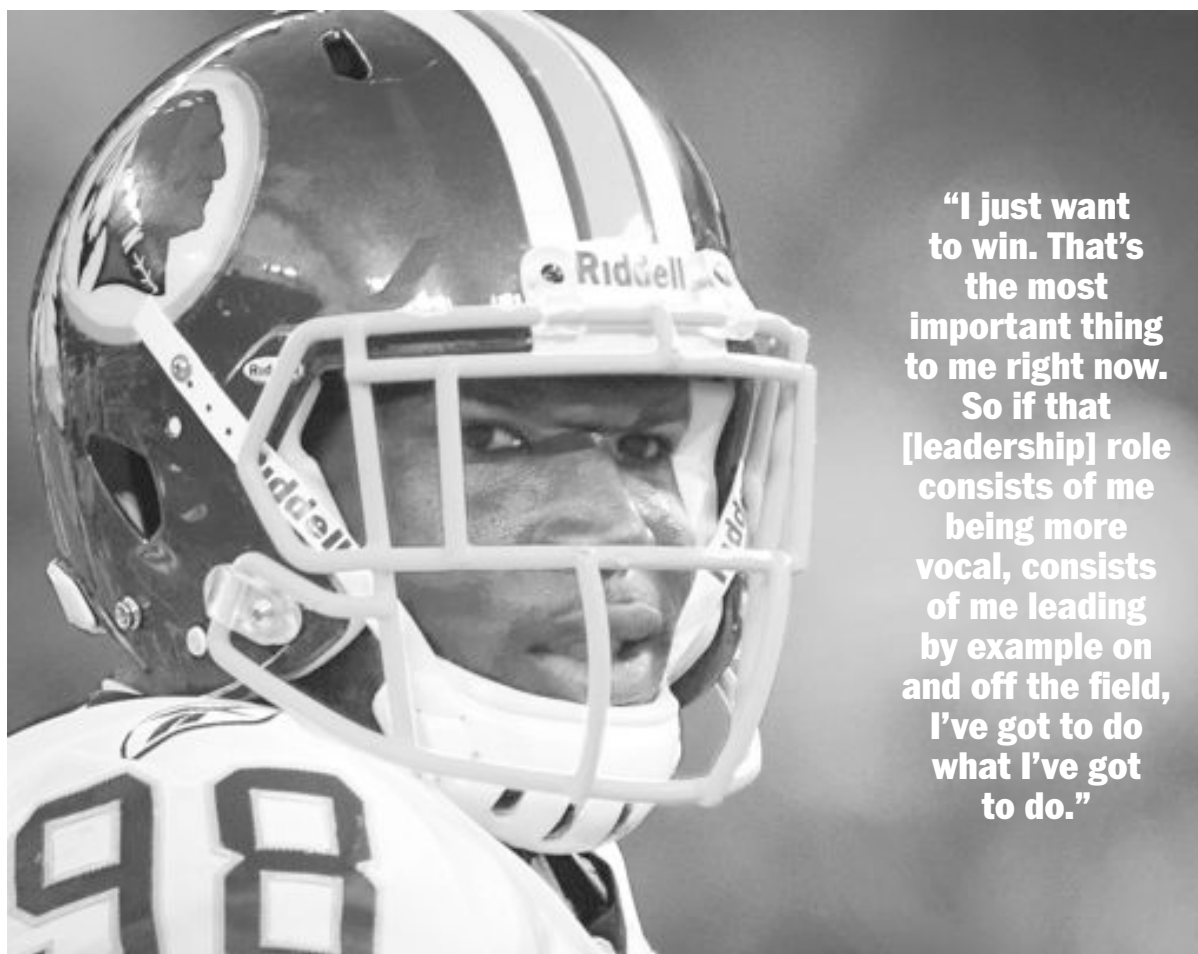
Brian Orakpo might not have the name recognition of a future Hall of Famer — at least yet — but the linebacker is growing into a vital role on an evolving defense as a playmaker and leader.

"If that [leadership label] is what y'all want to give to me, or my teammates want to, I'm going to embrace it," he said. "I just want to win. That's the most important thing to me right now. So if that role consists of me being more vocal, consists of me leading by example on and off the field, I've got to do what I've got to do."

Orakpo is only in his third season, but his impact on the team and stature within the locker room has been steadily increasing. There's a lot left to learn, though he's now a role model for younger players such as Ryan Kerrigan because he's quickly picked up Jim Haslett's defensive system.

"He's a lot more comfortable, obviously. He's not thinking as much, he's reacting," Haslett said. "Obviously, he has great pass-rush skills and he's powerful and he knows what he's doing on the run. It's night and day from last year."

In the offseason, a list of the league's top pass-rushers came out that dumped Orakpo into the third grouping, well behind the likes of Pittsburgh's James Harrison and Dallas' DeMarcus Ware. The man the Redskins took with the 13th pick in the 2009 draft is using that as "fuel to the fire," he said.



"I just want to win. That's the most important thing to me right now. So if that [leadership] role consists of me being more vocal, consists of me leading by example on and off the field, I've got to do what I've got to do."

But it doesn't seem like Orakpo — referred to as "Rak" by his teammates — needs external motivation. He has 19½ sacks in two seasons (in two different defensive schemes) and his producing even more in 2011 is seen as natural progression. The Redskins are counting on him for that.

"You need somebody that can make that quarterback get flustered, throw bad balls, not give him the time to sit back there and read and throw layups," cornerback Josh Wilson said. "Rak is a big part of this defense because he brings that pass-rushing ability to the team."

It's already evident how much Orakpo has developed a comfort zone in the 3-4 defense. The 25-year-old cited an ability to play more loosely rather than hesitating and playing tentatively.

That has shown in Orakpo's improved ability to get off blocks and

into the backfield.

"He's using his hands really well," Haslett said. "He would use his shoulders once in a while last year. But he's doing a good job with his hand placement. He's powerful and can throw tight ends around."

Selfishly — in a good way — fellow defensive players approve of Orakpo's increased role.

"He's got to be accounted for. I'm sure if you ask any offense, they locate Brian on every play and they understand that he's dangerous," nose tackle Barry Cofield said. "Any attention that's being paid on him is not being paid to me, so it helps."

Orakpo is taking the fast track to becoming not only the best player on defense for the Redskins but an elite NFL linebacker. Still, he's learning on the job in a lot of ways.

Some teammates, including cornerback Kevin Barnes, see London

Fletcher as the backbone of the defense because of his spot at middle linebacker and the Pro Bowl appearances on his resume. Orakpo hasn't been shy to rely on Fletcher for help, either.

"I've learned from him what he's brought to the table, what he's done over the years and all the teams he's been on — especially what he's done for this organization," Orakpo said. "That's the first guy that I leaned on, obviously, being a linebacker. He made the transition a lot easier seeing what he does."

Fletcher taught — and still is teaching — Orakpo how to play "faster" and count on his athleticism to produce. In turn, Orakpo has used his brief NFL experience to assist Kerrigan, the Redskins' first-round pick out of Purdue in April who is making the same transition from defensive end to linebacker.

"Rak talks to Ryan all the time about little things — about hand usage, cov-

DEFENSE 2-Deep Depth Chart

LDE: Adam Carriker, Kedric Golston

NT: Barry Cofield, Chris Neild

RDE: Stephen Bowen, Darrion Scott

LOLB: Ryan Kerrigan, Lorenzo Alexander

MLB: London Fletcher, Keyaron Fox

JLB: Rocky McIntosh, Perry Riley

ROLB: Brian Orakpo, Rob Jackson

LCB: DeAngelo Hall, Kevin Barnes

RCB: Josh Wilson, Byron Westbrook

SS: LaRon Landry, Reed Doughty

FS: Oshiomogho Atogwe, DeJon Gomes

Position of strength

Linebackers London Fletcher and Brian Orakpo made the Pro Bowl last year for the second straight season. The 3-4 defense requires linebackers to make plays, and those two are among the best in the NFL.

Position of weakness

The Redskins believe they upgraded the defensive end spot by bringing in Bowen from Dallas, but he wasn't nearly as impressive as new nose tackle Barry Cofield during the preseason. Adam Carriker didn't generate a sufficient pass rush last season, so he and Bowen have a lot to prove.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SPECIAL TEAMS

CHOREOGRAPHED MAYHEM

Alexander a force when ball is kicked

By Rich Campbell
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The chaos of covering a kickoff return is a beautiful thing to Lorenzo Alexander. Maybe that's because, to him, it's not chaos at all.

"The way he prepares and knows what's coming, it's like the play is already made before it happens," Redskins fullback Darrel Young said.

"You listen to the way he talks and you're like, 'Man, how did you see that?' He'll say, 'Well, they did this in Week 3 on a certain return.' You're like, 'How are you thinking about Week 3? It's Week 12!'"

Alexander, the two-time reigning Redskins special teams player of the year, has built his career on one of the most nuanced portions of the sport. His physical prowess, leadership and desire that extends to the film room have made him one of Washington's most respected players.

"If there's a better special teams player in this league, I haven't seen it," said special teams coach Danny Smith, who's in his 13th season coaching it at the NFL level. "I'll match him up against anybody."

Alexander, 28, is a big reason why the Redskins' coverage team has ranked in the NFL's top five in kickoff return-yard average in each of the past five seasons. He didn't play special teams during his collegiate career at California. But after unsuccessful stints with Carolina and Baltimore, the undrafted college free agent knew it was the only way to get a foothold in the NFL.

He was a defensive lineman at the time and weighed almost 300 pounds. Smith gradually broke him in after he joined the Redskins in 2007, starting him off as a member of the wedge that blocks for the kickoff returner.

"He couldn't walk and chew gum, to be honest with you," Smith said. "It's something that he'd never done. He's an easy guy to coach because you don't ever have to tell him twice. He's a tireless worker, and he loves to play the game. There are a few guys in these programs that say, 'I'll do anything to get on the field.' He's one of them."

As Alexander's position on defense — and offense — changed, so did his role on special teams.

Coach Joe Gibbs used him as a lineman on both sides of the ball in 2007. Under coach Jim Zorn, Alexander played defensive end.

When coach Mike Shanahan installed the 3-4 scheme last season, Alexander moved to outside linebacker.

The position changes have required weight loss, and the resulting speed increase has carried over to special



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Lorenzo Alexander's blend of size, speed and technique make him a matchup nightmare on kickoff coverage for the Redskins.

"Special teams happens so fast that you've got to be able to close distances and play with good pad level. When you're a big guy you think you can just run over anybody. So between being smart and playing my leverage and understanding where everybody else fits, it has really helped."

— Lorenzo Alexander, Redskins special-teamer

teams. He became a key member of the punt coverage unit, and then kickoff coverage. He's now around 265 pounds, a missile that few players want to get in front of to block.

"Speed on special teams is a factor, but big speed, especially," Smith said. "That's why he's special. He's a matchup nightmare for a lot of people because of his size, speed, attention to detail and technique."

And technique is such a big part of it. There's so much more to covering kicks than just sprinting 50 yards and slamming into a blocker.

"Special teams happens so fast that

you've got to be able to close distances and play with good pad level," Alexander said. "When you're a big guy you think you can just run over anybody. So between being smart and playing my leverage and understanding where everybody else fits, it has really helped."

That understanding comes from watching film. Where fans might see 11 guys chasing the guy with the ball, Alexander sees a blocking scheme that can be conquered.

Want to get technical about kickoff coverage? Alexander is more than willing.

"You've got to understand who's blocking you," he said. "If the guard is blocking you, it's going to be a middle return. If the tackle comes across my face, I know the ball is going away, so then I've got to squeeze a lot more. If I know it's a bloop kick, I'm squeezing right now to the ball."

So it's no coincidence that he led the Redskins last season with 20 special teams tackles, 13 of which were solo.

"He'll not only beat you with his physical skills, but he'll outprepare you as well," Smith said. "When you get that combination, you're special."

SPECIAL TEAMS

Key specialists

KR: Brandon Banks

PR: Brandon Banks

K: Graham Gano

P: Sav Rocca

LS: Nick Sundberg

Special strength: Lorenzo Alexander leads a kickoff coverage unit that ranked in the NFL's top five in kickoff return-yard average in each of the past five seasons. Add Gano's strong leg, and the Redskins have an advantage in determining field position.

Special weakness: The Redskins' annual merry-go-round of veteran punters stopped on Rocca, 37, who Philadelphia opted not to re-sign. He averaged almost three yards more than Redskins punters did last season, and he must continue that form.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEWCOMERS

Best of the rest

RB Tim Hightower

FS Oshiomogho Atogwe

RDE Stephen Bowen

WR Jabar Gaffney

OLB Ryan Kerrigan

RG Chris Chester

CB Josh Wilson

Notable departures

RB Clinton Portis

QB Donovan McNabb

CB Carlos Rogers

C Casey Rabach

DL Albert Haynesworth

DE Phillip Daniels

NT Ma'ake Kemoeatu

DE Vonnie Holliday

OLB Andre Carter

LG Derrick Dockery

OLB Chris Wilson

Still in need

The Redskins won only 10 games in the past two seasons because they had major roster deficiencies. They have started fixing those holes, but depth remains an issue, especially on the offensive line. Washington simply can't withstand injuries there.

Surprise rookie

First-round pick Ryan Kerrigan could surprise — for the wrong reasons. He got a late start on transitioning to outside linebacker from defensive end because of the lockout and a bone bruise in his knee. He did not appear to be an explosive, dominant pass rusher during the preseason.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEWCOMERS

NOSE TACKLE TOES THE LINE

Cofield a change from Haynesworth

By Stephen Whyne
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

To say 2010 was a lost season for the Washington Redskins' defensive line would be a huge understatement. Albert Haynesworth again was supposed to be the big man in the middle, but myriad problems limited him to eight games as his team limped to a 6-10 finish.

Haynesworth is gone, his mammoth seven-year, \$100 million contract from 2009 jettisoned to make way for someone — anyone — to fill his spot. But the Redskins consider themselves fortunate that among a host of new faces they picked up during roster roulette in the days after the lockout, they didn't just get anyone as a new nose tackle.

They got Barry Cofield — a player with leadership skills who not only fits coordinator Jim Haslett's scheme better but allows the Redskins to do much more on the defensive side of the ball.

"Coach Haslett has a great plan, and I think this year we have a lot of the pieces for him to work with," Cofield said. "The Skins did a great job of acquiring talent; now it's our job to go out and execute."

On defense, Washington is expected



ANDREW HARNIK/THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Teammates say new nose tackle Barry Cofield's athleticism allows him to do more than just stop the run.

to have five new starters: Cofield at nose tackle, Stephen Bowen at defensive end, first-round pick Ryan Kerrigan at outside linebacker, Josh Wilson at cornerback and Oshiomogho Atogwe at free safety. On offense, there will be a new starter at quarterback (Rex Grossman) and running back (Tim Hightower).

But the addition of Cofield could be the biggest splash the Redskins made — even though the six-year deal is worth just over a third of Haynesworth's at \$36 million and because the 27-year-old isn't hyped as the greatest defensive player

available. Instead, Cofield calls himself an "undersized" nose tackle even at 6-foot-4 and 306 pounds.

Teammates prefer the term "athletic," because Cofield can do a lot more from the middle than just clog it up.

"He's not your typical 3-4 nose tackle where he's just in there stopping the run," middle linebacker London Fletcher said. "He does a great job of that, but he also makes plays, he can rush the passer. I've been free to run to the football a lot more."

Last year, the Redskins finished tied for 25th in sacks with 29. Cofield's addition along a revamped line and an enhanced 3-4 defense should only help.

"I feel like we're going to get more pressure on the quarterback. I feel like we're going to be able to stop the run, which in turn makes teams throw the ball," cornerback DeAngelo Hall said. "Any time you've got a team that's going to throw the ball, me, myself, you feel good about your chances of the getting the ball. It's going to give us a chance to get more turnovers."

It's evident already in the preseason how big an impact the "undersized" Cofield can have on the Redskins' success. They allowed a combined 10 points against Pittsburgh and Indianapolis while surrendering the fewest yards of any team in the league. When Cofield was not playing well against Baltimore, the first-team defense gave up 14 points

and 200 yards.

"We were sloppy. I know I was sloppy — it starts with me, so I take a lot of blame for it," Cofield said. "I didn't play my best ball."

Cofield is only 27 and a newcomer around these parts, but his words seem to carry a certain amount of gravitas for the Redskins. He said that preseason experience was good to build adversity, and teammates seem to agree and follow his lead more often than not.

"I think he's a natural leader more than anything," Haslett said. "And he does it more by his play on the field. He doesn't say much. He's really smart. He picks things up really fast."

There's a reason younger and older teammates alike listen — because Cofield's presence provides more opportunities for others.

"From a nose tackle standpoint, he's keeping linemen out of my way. That's his main job," Fletcher said. "Don't let them get to me. It's not going to be where he's going to have a bunch of tackles. He don't need a bunch of tackles. Leave that to me!"

Cofield looks poised to help teammates pile up sacks while also getting a few himself — in other words providing big-time production in an "undersized" package.

"We're coming along well. We've got a lot of talent," Cofield said. "Put it all together and it's a recipe for success."



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Ravens RB Ray Rice (above) figures to be a workhorse around the goal line with Willis McGahee now in Denver. The Eagles' Michael Vick (inset) is still a thrill-a-minute QB, but can his offensive line keep him upright? For yardage and TDs, you could do worse than hitching your wagon to Redskins RB Tim Hightower (below).

FANTASY FOOTBALL

Thin line separates genius, stupidity

By MATT PALLISTER
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The NFL season starts Thursday, which spares me from the obligatory advice column. And that's a good thing because fantasy football advice is much like relationship advice. No one really knows what they're talking about, and success is more dumb luck than anything.

I've never bought a significant other an appliance for a special occasion, but I have drafted a defense in the fourth round. I've won multiple league championships, but I inexplicably made a "Beep, Beep" noise one night when my pregnant wife scooted backward on the bed. Success and stupidity are intertwined.

With that in mind, and in honor of my wife's favorite player, John Elway (hoping this negates the "Beep, Beep" mention), here are seven observations on the upcoming season. Let's hope most of them do not turn out to be the fantasy equivalent of an anniversary vacuum cleaner.

- If you drafted Michael Vick, you better have a good backup. The quarterback's reckless style of play and the Eagles' porous offensive line guarantee he will get hurt at some point. Not to mention defenders will be looking to make their bones by getting after the league's newest \$100 million man. The leader of the "Dream Team" will be in every defensive coordinator's crosshairs. Also, if you drafted Michael Vick, you'll never meet our pug.

- Ray Rice will not disappoint this year. With legendary touchdown vulture Willis McGahee now in Denver, the hard-running Raven will reach the end zone at least 10 times and lead the league in yards from scrimmage. If he starts slow, don't worry. If you passed on him in the draft, swing a trade. Trust me. Would a guy who once protected Stan Humphries in a keeper league steer you wrong?

- I don't like Jamal Charles. Not personally; never met the man. I just think it's going to be tough for him to live up to the expectations. He's ranked as the No. 2 running back by ESPN. But he benefited greatly last year from being under the radar (Thomas Jones started the season as the primary back) and from Matt Cassel and Dwayne Bowe taking the pressure



off him with career years. The Chiefs looked terrible during the preseason, and I don't think that's a fluke. Then again, I once selected Marion Butts and Ricky Ervins as my starting running backs.

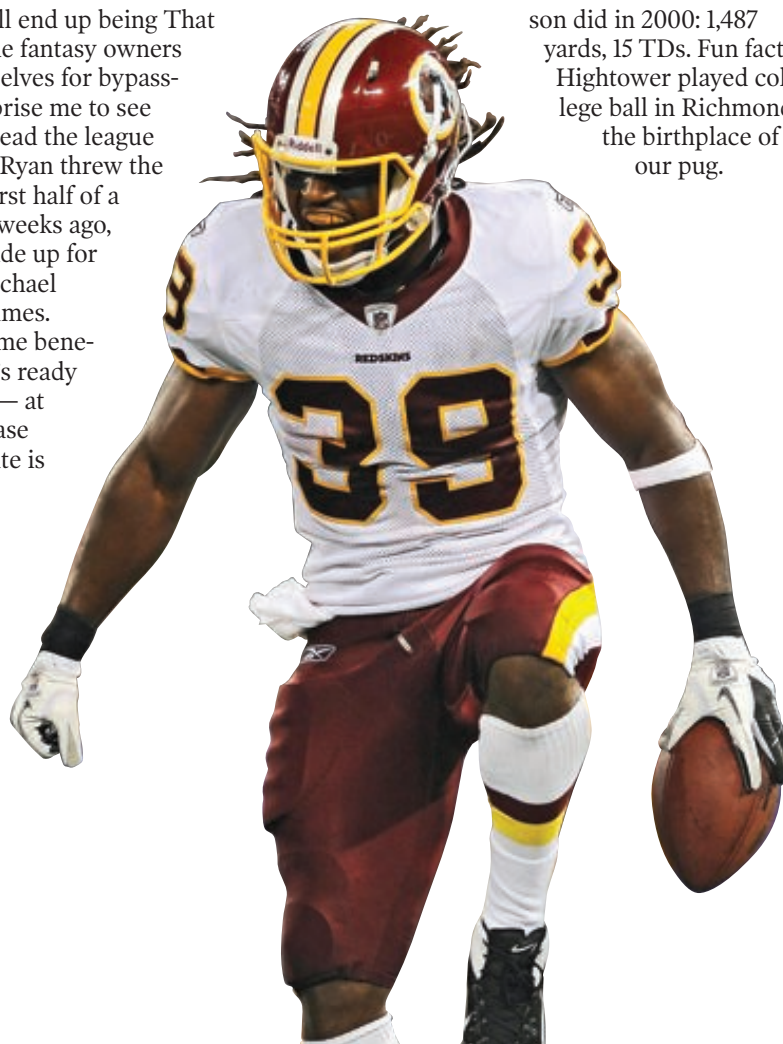
- Roddy White will end up being That Guy this year. The one fantasy owners will be kicking themselves for bypassing. It would not surprise me to see the Falcons receiver lead the league in touchdowns. Matt Ryan threw the ball 42 times in the first half of a preseason game two weeks ago, and Atlanta didn't trade up for Julio Jones to give Michael Turner the ball 400 times. White will be the prime beneficiary of a team that's ready to take the next step — at least offensively. In case you didn't know, White is a big fan of Michael Vick, so he, too, is on the list of people not

invited to our pug's next birthday; he'll be 6.

- My big hunch is that Mark Ingram is going to have a HUGE year. The Saints rookie is not particularly big, fast or elusive. But neither was Walter Payton. Actually, he reminds me of Emmitt Smith, another intangibles guy. Comparisons aside, a tough runner on a prolific offense is bound to score his share of touchdowns. This prediction is brought to you by a guy who was smart enough to take a flier on Kurt Warner in a 1999 fantasy draft, but dumb enough to trade him for Antonio Freeman six weeks into that MVP season.

- Don't believe the Matt Stafford hype. Even if he can stay healthy, the offense is too unbalanced for him to be a consistent fantasy producer. Yes, Calvin Johnson is great, and Nate Burleson is sneaky good. But the Lions can't run the ball. That means Stafford is always a target, and it's why the odds of him making it through 16 games are roughly the same as the chance that drafting Koren Robinson in the third round would prove successful. Yes, I did that.

- Tim Hightower will have the first significant fantasy season from a Redskin in years, becoming the latest running back to benefit from Mike Shanahan's system. He's no Terrell Davis, but with the coach needing to take the pressure off flighty starter Rex Grossman, and the offensive line performing much better than expected, he could have the type of season that Mike Anderson did in 2000: 1,487 yards, 15 TDs. Fun fact: Hightower played college ball in Richmond, the birthplace of our pug.



Tim Hightower is no Terrell Davis, but with coach Mike Shanahan needing to take the pressure off flighty starter Rex Grossman, and the offensive line performing much better than expected, he could have the type of season that Mike Anderson did in 2000: 1,487 yards, 15 TDs.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Santana Moss needs 58 receptions to become just the fourth wideout to catch 500 passes as a Redskin. The other three: 888 Art Monk*, 1980-93; 549 Gary Clark, 1985-92; 530 Charley Taylor*, 1966-77

* Hall of Fame

Note: Taylor caught 119 passes as a running back early in his career before switching to receiver 10 games into 1966.

- Brian Orakpo, the Redskins' Pro Bowl outside linebacker, has 19.5 sacks in his first two NFL seasons. That's as many as the Cowboys' DeMarcus Ware had (2005-06) and more than Julius Peppers did (19 in 2002-03). Since 2000, only seven pass rushers have had more in their first two years. The top 10:

27 Shawne Merriman, Chargers, 2005-06
24 Dwight Freeney, Colts, 2002-03
23.5 Clay Matthews, Packers, 2009-10
22.5 Terrell Suggs, Ravens, 2003-04
22 Kevin Williams, Vikings, 2003-04
21 Elvis Dumervil, Broncos, 2006-07
20 Jared Allen, Chiefs, 2004-05

19.5 Brian Orakpo, Redskins, 2009-10

19.5 Cameron Wake, Dolphins, 2009-10

19.5 DeMarcus Ware, 2005-06

- Since 2004, the year Chris Cooley broke into the NFL, just eight tight ends have caught 300 or more passes. Cooley, a two-time Pro Bowler, is No. 4 on the list: 601 Tony Gonzalez, Chiefs/Falcons



ROD LAMKEY JR./THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Since joining the NFL in 2003, Chris Cooley is fourth in the league among tight ends with 420 receptions.

582 Jason Witten, Cowboys
505 Antonio Gates, Chargers
420 Chris Cooley, Redskins
388 Jeremy Shockey, Giants/Saints
364 Dallas Clark, Colts
362 Kellen Winslow Jr., Browns/Bucs
326 Todd Heap, Ravens

- Mike Shanahan had a great run with Denver from 1996 to '98, compiling a 46-10 record (playoffs included) and winning two Super Bowls. In his other 14 years as a coach, though — with the Raiders, Broncos and Redskins — he's a much more mortal 114-103 (.525), including just one postseason victory (in the second round against the Patriots in 2005).

- In the past decade (2001-10), only six teams have fewer wins than the Redskins (68) and only four have a worse division record (21-41, .339).

The clubs with fewer wins: Lions (39), Texans (55), Raiders (58), Browns (59), Bills (62), Cardinals (64). Note: The Raiders (2002) and the Cards (2008) have gone to the Super Bowl in this time. Also, the Texans didn't come into existence until '02.

The clubs with worse division records: Lions (12-50, .194), Texans (16-38, .296), Browns (19-45, .297), Bills (20-42, .323).

- The Redskins haven't had a 1,000-yard rusher since 2008, when Clinton Portis went for 1,487. Believe it or not, though, seven teams have gone even longer without one — the Lions (Kevin Jones, 1,133, 2004), Seahawks (Shaun Alexander, 1,880, 2005), Cowboys (Julius Jones, 1,084, 2006), Saints (Deuce McAllister, 1,057, 2006), Broncos (Tatum Bell, 1,025, 2006), Cardinals (Edgerrin James 1,222, 2007) and Colts (Joseph Addai, 1,072, 2007).

Compiled by Dan Daly

RAVENS 2011

WILLIAMS' RISE NO SURPRISE TO HIM

By Jason Butt

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

OWINGS MILLS, MD. | Cary Williams was a little-known cornerback fighting for a roster spot when training camp started.

But as the preseason wraps up, Williams has emerged as a starter in Baltimore's defensive backfield. Needless to say, Williams' rise up the depth chart wasn't expected, especially with Domonique Foxworth back from ACL surgery and the Ravens re-signing Chris Carr.

"It's been a lot of work obtaining the dream," Williams said. "It's something I've always wanted to do since I was a little kid."



Williams

Compared to some of his starting mates, his dream has been quite different. The other 10 defensive starters all attended BCS colleges. These schools didn't recruit Williams, whose only major visit was to Auburn. A native of Hollywood, Fla., Williams originally landed at Fordham in New York City. After minimal playing time and butting heads with a position coach his freshman season, he transferred to Division II Washburn in Topeka, Kan.

He excelled at Washburn as he was named an All-American in 2007. He also is the only player in school history to score a touchdown on an interception, kickoff return and reception in the same season. But it wasn't until he secured a spot at the University of Kansas pro day — where he ran a faster 40 time than former Jayhawks corner Aqib Talib — that he caught the attention of NFL scouts.

"People have always doubted me," Williams said. "I've always been the small fry or the guy that didn't get as much attention. But I never wavered on anything. I've always had my goals. My mindset was to be in the NFL and I wouldn't let any negativity affect me getting to my goal and being where I'm at right now."

The Ravens had a draftable grade

RAVENS PREVIEW

The basics

Offensive coordinator: Cam Cameron

Defensive coordinator: Chuck Pagano

Last season: 12-4 (second in AFC North)

Key players

LT Bryant McKinnie: The Ravens gave up 40 sacks a season ago. McKinnie's addition was made to keep pass rushers off of QB Joe Flacco.

QB Joe Flacco: It's Flacco's team with WR Derrick Mason, RB Willis McGahee, NT Kelly Gregg and TE Todd Heap gone. Flacco has taken more of a leadership role within the team this preseason.

DT Haloti Ngata: Ngata dropped 20 pounds during the lockout in an attempt to be in better shape at the end of the season. He's hoping to improve Baltimore's pass rush, which only generated 27 sacks a year ago.

FB Vonta Leach: Leach was brought in to help RB Ray Rice and the running game. Rice saw his yards per carry average drop by 1.3 yards from 2009 to 2010. Leach is hoping to lead the way to get Rice's numbers get back to where they were.

OLB Terrell Suggs: Suggs has performed better in even years, being a Pro Bowler in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. Odd years seem to be his off years. He's hoping to break that trend in 2011.

Good things will happen if

It all starts with the offensive line giving Flacco more time in the pocket. If it can, and Flacco can make plays downfield to receivers Anquan Boldin and Lee Evans, then that will help produce a more balanced offense with Ray Rice and Ricky Williams in the backfield.

Bad things will happen if

Behind receivers Anquan Boldin and Lee Evans are rookies Torrey Smith and Tandon Doss. Both possess potential but need time to grow. If one of them goes down to injury then defenses will turn their attention to loading eight men in the box and stopping the Ravens' rushing attack.

Fun fact

In between meetings and practices, the Ravens have another game on their mind: Cornhole. Defensive end Cory Redding introduced the game to his teammates and it's caught on. Punter Sam Koch is the best on the team at it,

while right tackle Michael Oher, defensive tackle Haloti Ngata and safety Haruki Nakamura are frequent players. Cornhole tournaments are often scheduled in the team's locker room.

Schedule

9/11 vs. Steelers: Pittsburgh's won seven of the last 10 and has the upper hand in this bitter rivalry.

9/18 at Titans: The Ravens' biggest strength is their run defense, which will look to slow down superstar running back Chris Johnson.

9/25 at Rams: Baltimore was lucky to get the NFC West on its schedule. But traveling to St. Louis won't be easy.

10/2 vs. Jets: The Jets will be looking to avenge a tough 10-9 loss in opening week last year.

10/16 vs. Texans: The Ravens are fortunate to have a week off to prepare for one of the NFL's most dynamic offenses when healthy.

10/24 at Jaguars: Baltimore faces another tough rushing attack on its lone Monday night appearance.

10/30 vs. Cardinals: Is Kevin Kolb the answer for Arizona? Baltimore will find out midseason.

11/6 at Steelers: Baltimore's hoping to at least split both games this year. Losing two would give Pittsburgh the inside track to the AFC North title.

11/13 at Seahawks: It's never easy to travel to CenturyLink Field, arguably the loudest stadium in the NFL.

11/20 vs. Bengals: Of the rookie quarterbacks starting this season, Cincinnati has the biggest challenge with Andy Dalton at the helm.

11/24 vs. 49ers: Call it the Harbaugh Bowl. Brothers John and Jim Harbaugh coach against each other for the first time on Thanksgiving.

12/4 at Browns: Quarterback Colt McCoy has looked good this preseason. His running game, led by Peyton Hillis, certainly helps.

12/11 vs. Colts: The first of two late-season challenges, the Ravens' secondary will certainly be tested by Peyton Manning — if healthy.

12/18 at Chargers: A week after Indianapolis, the Ravens will face Philip Rivers, who won't be afraid to throw deep against Baltimore's defensive backs.

12/24 vs. Browns: To make a sure-fire run at the AFC North title, the Ravens will need to sweep Cleveland and Cincinnati. Here's their chance against the Browns.

1/1 at Bengals: Cincinnati will have had a whole season to work out its kinks by the season finale.

— Jason Butt

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

on Williams but were wary since he played at a small school. Others were interested, though, as the Titans took him in the seventh round of the 2008 draft.

Williams said he had plenty of ups and downs in Tennessee, being injured and spending the majority of his time on the practice squad. In No-

vember 2009, the Ravens were scouring practice squad talent in search of a special teams player with upside to contribute at any position. With previous scouting work, Williams was on the top of that list.

"The thing that was interesting about him when he came out was he had the measurables that intrigued

you," said Vincent Newsome, the Ravens director of pro personnel. "Essentially, what we ended up doing is saying let's watch another team develop him and see how he does."

Williams has seen time in 18 games and started one over the past two seasons with Baltimore. Heading into camp this year, he was seen as a spe-

cial teams asset. Now he's looking at locking down the opposition's top receiver. This preseason, he's gone toe-to-toe against Kansas City Chiefs receiver Dwayne Bowe and Washington Redskins wideout Santana Moss.

Against Bowe, he displayed solid technique in his drop before breaking on a pass and ripping the ball out of the tall receiver's hands. Against Moss, Williams was beat for what could have been a touchdown. But Williams used his length to catch up and do just enough to swipe the ball out of the veteran's hands.

Williams looked like the best corner on Baltimore's roster this preseason. He also saw extra time because of a hamstring injury to Carr and a slow rehab process for Foxworth. But doing it the old-fashioned way, Williams outworked his competition to earn the inside track to a starting spot.

"We always tell them don't count numbers," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "You never know what's going to happen. What it's based on is how you play. If you play well and do the things you need to do to be successful, then things will work out well for you."

Williams has turned into an ideal corner in first-year defensive coordinator Chuck Pagano's defensive scheme. At 6-foot-1, 190 pounds, Williams has the size and strength to jam bigger receivers. Combine Williams with rookie cornerback Jimmy Smith, listed at 6-foot-2 and 210 pounds, and you have a tandem that can aid the pass rush by being physical at the line of scrimmage.

Baltimore's opening game will be a huge test to see if Williams is ready for the NFL. The Ravens open with Pittsburgh, which has won seven of the past 10 meetings. Through his journey, Williams said he's thankful Baltimore took a chance on him when his time in Tennessee wasn't working out.

"The Ravens saw something Tennessee didn't see in me," Williams said. "But hey, that's how the NFL is. It's a business. But you know what they say, one man's trash is another man's treasure."



Grand Opening

FIAT OF ALEXANDRIA

TOP FUEL EFFICIENCY

2012 Fiat 500

stock # 10070 starting at:

\$15,500

up to 38 mpg*



As Low As

\$199 PER MONTH LEASE

FINANCING **As Low As 1.9%** APR AVAILABLE

Over 75 Vehicles in Stock and Ready for Immediate Delivery

FIAT OF ALEXANDRIA
 5651 Edsall Road, Alexandria, VA 22304
 1-888-721-2896 • www.fiatofalexandria.com

Off 395 Exit 2A Edsall Road

RosenthalAuto.Com

<p>ROSENTHAL JAGUAR/LAND ROVER TYSONS CORNER 1292 Springfield Road, Tysons Corner, VA 1.877.296.6796 www.rosenthaljaguar.com www.rosenthallandrover.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL JAGUAR/LAND ROVER CHANTLEY 4120 Auto Park Circle, Chantley, VA 1.866.949.4384 www.jaguarchantley.com www.landroverchantley.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL LANDMARK HONDA 5125 Dale Street, Alexandria, VA 1.877.394.4382 www.landmarkhonda.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL FAIRFAX HONDA 11022 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 1.888.438.8656 www.fairfaxhonda.com</p>
<p>BMW OF ALEXANDRIA 497 South Park St, Alexandria, VA 703.684.8330 www.bmwofalexandria.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL ARLINGTON MAZDA 730 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA 1.877.356.8466 www.arlingtonmazda.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL GAITHERSBURG MAZDA 623 North Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 1.877.969.3486 www.gaithersburgmazda.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL FAIRFAX VOLKSWAGEN 11022 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 1.877.600.4334 www.fairfaxvw.com</p>
<p>ALFA OF ALEXANDRIA 1704 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA 703.739.7460 www.alfaofalexandria.com</p>	<p>PORSCHE OF ARLINGTON 3120 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 703.684.6600 www.porscheofarlington.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL ACURA 623 North Frederick Avenue Gaithersburg, MD 1.877.333.6692 www.rosenthalacura.com</p>	<p>ROSENTHAL FAIRFAX VOLVO 11022 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 1.866.669.4738 www.fairfaxvolvo.com</p>

FIAT OF ALEXANDRIA
 5651 Edsall Road, Alexandria, VA
 1.888.721.2896
 www.fiatofalexandria.com

ROSENTHAL JEEP
 3400 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA
 1.866.629.8437
 www.rosenthaljeep.com

ROSENTHAL CHEVY
 3400 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA
 1.866.629.8437
 www.rosenthalchevy.com

