

2016 Football America Team Previews



Team Name	Grade	Strengths	Weaknesses	Key Players	Top Rookies	Free Agent Signings	Comments
Orlando	A	defense running game	—	RB Rashad Cunningham OT Jerrelle Strange DE Trevathan Lenon CB Shaheer Allison DB Amari Carlisle-Houston	LB Von Ivory DE Theron Felix WR Terrell Crabtree K Dallas Moynihan	FS Marcus Heaps G Tra Jackson	Loaded with talent on defense, and a “down your throat” run-oriented ball-control offense; should prove to be a winning combination. Championship game favorite.
Chicago	A	pass offense defense	—	QB Matt Harrell WR Jonte Reed TE Ben Standeford G Carter Aldrich CB Donte Bass LB Dre Lewis DT Derrick Nix	RB Ru’fala Jones	DE Joel Rowe	Powerful combo of effective pass offense and solid defense makes this a team to be reckoned with in 2016. Rowe adds speed and power to pass rush. Rookie class a little thin, but Jones should contribute.
St. Louis	B+	big-play offense	pass defense	QB Geoff Russell TE Sen’Darius Ross	RB Royal Whittington DT Osvaldo Ortiz P Brendan Razo	SS Maurice Lewis	Exciting offense with big arm of Russell, explosiveness of rookie Whittington, and capable offensive line. Defense has some soft spots, especially LBs defending against the pass, but shouldn’t keep club out of playoff hunt.
Philadelphia	B	offensive line secondary	special teams RB corps	CB Vincent Brown LB Darius Wilkinson G Cody Greer	DL Herman Faris RB Ahmed Center	P Greg Miller	Slow-footed running game and middle-of-the-road passing attack puts a lot of pressure on the defense and special teams. Defense has some star-power, but kicking game is shaky, putting playoff hopes at risk.
New York	B	pass offense	pass rush depth	QB Stu Barton WR Jada Baldwin G Keith Kirschke	DE Cleo Kearse DB Derrick McCurdy QB Carson Eubank	TE Montey Seneca C Emery Correa	Barton is at the top of his game and has lots of solid targets. Lack of pass rush on defense will likely make for numerous offensive shoot-outs; if New York can win more of those than they lose, the playoffs are a possibility.
New Jersey	B	balanced offense	run defense	QB Wally Williamson WR Damien Brazil RB Cato Kudu OT Ryan Senechal LB Chris Page CB Alex Massey	DB Deandre Woodruff LB Isaiah Doggett	WR Roddy Jones DE Tisa Umenyola	Recent contender starting to look old, with replacement parts not on the roster. Williamson has enough tools and a decent surrounding cast to make some noise on offense, but stopping the other guys could be a problem, especially against the run.

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San Antonio	B	pass defense	unproven offense	QB Drew McNiell OT Ryan Moran NT Brandon Brown DE Martez Pointer CB Mawan Choate	TE Dirk McCool WR Tyree Drum DB Kareem Connell	WR Adan Ware G Kyle Robertson	This club has a fresh look for 2016, starting at QB where McNiell takes over for long-time starter Adam Davey. Several interesting rookies, and a defense with the potential to dominate if it stays healthy.
Detroit	C	offensive line	def. secondary	FB Hoby Hillis RB Dathan Noa QB Chris Anzalone OT Julian Rees DT DeMarco Speller	G Eli Manion QB Sonny Romano DB Elvis McRae	LB-DE Demarius Wilson OT Rolando Parker	Improved over last year, with strong draft and a couple of excellent free-agent signings. Not much excitement on offense, and secondary has issues. Building for future, but could win now with a few breaks.
Golden Bay	C-	running game	run defense	RB Adrian Judge OT Marcus Phelps C Bryant Sutter DE Maurice Bennett	LB-DE Shaun Mayberry	LB Lamar Daniels	Judge is still a force to be dealt with as a runner, but there's not much elsewhere in the offense to take the defense's focus away from him—and that's a problem. Add in a defense virtually absent of any real difference-makers, and you have the makings of a long season.
Memphis	C-	—	quarterback pass defense	TE Lavell Hooks RB T. J. Terry G Hersch Hoda CB Derrick Rogers	DE Lincoln Leger WR Reggie Hiller G Leonel Newhouse	QB Archie Graham K Storm Vestergaard DT Mike Welton	With former franchise-savior QB Jimmy van Zell playing himself out of a starting job, journeyman veteran Archie Graham steps in with an alarming lack of offensive weapons to assist him. The defense is stocked with mostly unproven players.
Portland	D	interior def. line	offense	DT Kenrick Carter LB Darius Davis	DB SirVincent Dowdell, WR-KR T. S. Beason	QB Brock Taylor DB Charles Ewing	Serious QB issues here, with former backup Bryce Bollinger the early favorite over fizzled vets Chase Haden and Brock Taylor. Plodding run game and undistinguished offensive line. Stop-gap veterans and unproven rookies make up a vulnerable defense.
Oklahoma City	D	pass rush	secondary pass offense	LB-DE Cameron Little G Rodderick Hardy	TE Marc Kuhns RB Bobby Wheeler WR Sammy Holcomb NT Angel Cousins LB Jeremiah Wallace	OL Preston McGovern	The youth movement is on, with several rookies thrust into the line-up for on-the-job training. QB is a sticking point, with defenses figuring out Ubiya Foster-Owens, leaving Colt McCown to try to generate some offense. Steep drop from the days of Ronde Lincoln, the "Prairie Bulldozer."