

2019 Football America Team Previews

Team Name	Grade	Strengths	Weaknesses	Key Players	Top Rookies	Free Agent Signings	Comments
Detroit	A+	Fearsome defense, ball-control offense	--	T Steve Tunstall QB Chris Anzalone DE-LB Marshe Britton DE Alex Ahmed LB Kerryon Sullivan CB Uriah Smiley	DT Terez Houston CB TreVontae Fournette	G Aric Faoro FS Jonathan Mouton	Front-runner for the FA title heading into the season, a defense loaded with stars and rookie RB Artayvious Taylor adding the “wow factor” to an already-solid offense. Field goal kicking is a bit of a concern, but there may not be many opportunities to worry about it, given the over-all strength of this talented squad.
New York	A	Run defense and pass rush; special teams	--	CB Nnamdi Tauaaloo LB Tupac Rachman MLB Tre' Holton DT Ruka Soa'ta WR Damien Brazill	PK Logan Ruozzo	DT DeMarco Speller SS Corbin McRae OT Rolando Parker	This is a team with no glaring weaknesses and enough defense and kicking to maybe take all the marbles. The defensive secondary is only average, but a play-making defensive front should minimize the effect. LB Tupac Rachman has emerged as one of the FAs top defensive stars. On offense, the Stu Barton era is over, with Carson Eubanks taking over at QB. He'll get ample help from RB LaShaun Boomer and WR Damien Brazill.
San Diego	A	Quick-strike, multi-faceted offense	Sluggish pass rush	QB Geoff Russell TE Max Crespo RB Detrel Sealey T Ryan Senechal	WR Jett Joyner RB Edge McElwaine	T Julian Rees FB Wetrell Watts DB Jae O'Connor	Scored big in free-agency with the signing of Rees, and added rookies Golden and McElwaine to further enhance an already fearsome offense, led by multi-faceted threat QB Russell. Maturing defense should play better, which makes this club one of the “teams to beat” for 2019.
Portland	A-	“Boring” but effective offense, game-changing defenders	Suspect secondary aside from established stars	CB Pharaoh Favreau LB-DE Cameron Little T Ryan Moran G Minkah Elijah WR Michael Cruise QB Bryce Bollinger	TE/FB Gannon Cook RB-KR T.D. Arrelano	FS Ron'Dell Campbell OL Mac Whitmer	Free-agent signing of Campbell may have been the tipping point for a title season for Portland, as he adds stability to the secondary that suffers noticeable drop-off beyond all-FA CB Pharaoh Favreau. The offense is formidable for its potency as well as its high priority on ball security and PK Chase Gambrell is “money” inside 50 yards.
Philadelphia	B	Power running game, beefy offensive line	Unproven players manning key positions	RB Hassan Driggs T Omi Kelaho LB-DE Malcolm Khalil DE Herman Faris	TE Chandler Daxon T Matt Mischler DB Tyjuan Richter LB Quartney Davis	SS Jeremy Bonner LB Akeem Lewis DL Junior Marsau K Bryce Coley	A club that's pinning hopes on unproven players to rebound from a disappointing 2018 season. Free-agent pickups are being counted on to liven up a lethargic defense. On offense, QB Kyler Tulmaselli was jettisoned, and Kel Jeunemann installed as the starter. Jeunemann's job will be mainly to give the ball to RB Hassan Driggs and let star linemen like Omi Kelaho, Cody Greer and Zach Hess clear holes for him. PK Bryce Coley gets a fresh start after missing some key kicks with Chicago last year.
Memphis	B	Run offense, defensive backfield	Mediocre pass rush, drop-off in talent on offensive-line	SS Vonn Crocker CE Troy Fontenalu QB Joe Mattox RB Keon Portress TE Ryan Schafenacker	FB/TE O'Shaan Tresser LB Ni' Jeel Otomewo.	DT Rodell Payton DE Joel Rowe G Preston McGovern	Last year's return to respectability should continue, with a run-first offensive mindset fueled by workhorse RB Keon Portress and sufficient star-power on defense to keep any game close. Last year's ongoing QB discussion was ended when Kendall Cannon was traded to St. Louis, giving Joe Mattox the starting job.

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Oklahoma City	B	Shut-down defense when game on the line, veteran leadership on offense	Pedestrian corps of running backs	CB Sentrell Jury CB Robbie Bush SS Kway Duhon LB Eric Stonebreaker	WR JuJu Golden CB Lecitus Drake DL Ontario Mitchell	G Jacoby Ivy TE Zola Turner	With a big-play defensive secondary in place, and rookie WR Golden rejuvenating veteran QB Wally Williamson, this club enters the season as a bona-fide contender. Only holdback is a cadre of RBs that lacks durability and big-play explosiveness. OLB combo of Stonebreaker and Cotner might be the best in the FA, and the defensive front three is solid, too.
San Antonio	C+	Huge offensive line, balance and depth on defense	Unsettled situation at QB, lack of explosiveness in passing game	G Keike Aheahe G Hoyt Conde C Rex Unger TE Dirk McCool DE Cardale Copps CB Mawan Choate	RB Mike Lewis TE Stephon McNaboe CB Jordyn Douglas	OL Warren Rathbun WR Eddie Newlin	QB controversy carries over from 2018, with feast-or-famine Billy Whittle battling it out with mobile, athletic Lorenzo MacArthur. Either will benefit, though, from massive, talented offensive line. The club mostly ignored free-agency and focused on draft to fill needs. Rookie RB Lewis should add spark to ground game. Defense is "good enough."
Orlando	C	Dynamic skill players at RB, WR	Question marks at QB, defensive line	T Jerelle Strange RB Rashad Cunningham WR Xavien Simmons CB Shaheer Allison DE-LB Von Ivory.	D'Monte Guyton DT Trae He'Bert TE Paul Ireland	WR Reggie Shuler TE Kendrick Donovan	Discussion in off-season about trading for on-the-bubble Memphis QB Kendall Cannon to take over for much-maligned Chuck Kent, but instead both wound up in St. Louis. That leaves Orlando's signal-calling duties in the hands of journeyman Colt McCown. A bigger problem, though, is a club that seems to not be very "hungry," which, coupled with the lack of action on the QB situation and a scarcity of wins, could trigger a coaching change.
Golden Bay	C	Core of star players scattered through offense	Gaps in defensive secondary, offensive line	QB Corey Bondarenko RB Adrian Judge CE Bryant Sutter CB Asante Miller LB Nashaun Young	LB Truth Jones DE Ja'Karius Madumere TE Buddy Hardge PK Justin Luckett	G Peter Roy LB Jacoby Alexander	Tough club to figure heading into the new season, with past heavy workload now taking its toll on perennial star RB Adrian Judge, and potential problems in the defensive secondary. The negatives are offset by super-rookies LB Truth Jones and PK Justin Luckett, and continued strong showings from players like C Sutter, Bondarenko and Leggett. Playoffs are not out of reach, but it will likely require a couple breaks.
Chicago	D	Prolific veteran passer, capable targets	Soft defense, sub-par special teams	QB Matt Harrell WR Billy Howey DT Malik Nkemdiche DT Cameron Peart	CE Brock Oelsner WR Cory Wiederkehr	K Brandon Ackerman DB Jalin Kamara	A weak showing in free-agent competition could doom this club to the bottom half of the standings. All-pro CE Carter Aldrich retired, rookie Oelsner will have to step in. QB Harrell has flooded the air with passes last several years, but doesn't have the support cast this year to offset the club's chronic lapses on defense. DT's Nkemdiche and Peart are big-time pros, but there's not much else.
St. Louis	F	--	Where to begin?	SS Maurice Lewis TE Chris Shockley QB Kendall Cannon	DT Jovonn York T Cage Baker P Klyde Absher	QB Chuck Kent C Tyrone Pears T Todd Birchall DE Joe Schoennscheck	The stage is set for a historically poor season in St. Louis with huge questions at quarterback and a revolving door roster filled with cast-offs and rookies. Two seasons ago, Geoff Russell was behind center of a playoff-caliber club; that spot is now manned by the likes of Connor Hoxie, Kendall Cannon and Chuck Kent.

2019 Football America Schedule

This is a fourteen game league schedule, each team plays home-and-home with all divisional opponents and one game (home or away) with each of the other eight teams outside its division. The schedule works with the following divisional alignment...

Eastern Division: New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Memphis.

Central Division: Chicago, Detroit, Oklahoma City, St. Louis.

Western Division: Golden Bay, San Diego, Portland, San Antonio.

Weeks four, five and fourteen are "intra-divisional" weeks, all others are a mix of divisional and non-divisional games. TV "Game of the Week" is highlighted in ***bolded italics***. The TV schedule was arranged to be as balanced as possible, showcasing each of the league's teams at least once, with the better teams getting more games.

Week One

Portland at New York
Chicago at Oklahoma City
St. Louis at San Antonio
Memphis at San Diego
Golden Bay at Detroit
Philadelphia at Orlando

Week Two

Philadelphia at Memphis
Portland at Chicago
Oklahoma City at San Antonio
Orlando at New York
St. Louis at Golden Bay
Detroit at San Diego

Week Three

Memphis at New York
Portland at Orlando
St. Louis at San Diego
San Antonio at Chicago
Detroit at Philadelphia
Golden Bay at Oklahoma City

Week Four

New York at Philadelphia
San Antonio at Golden Bay
Oklahoma City at Chicago
Memphis at Orlando
San Diego at Portland
Detroit at St. Louis

Week Five

New York at Memphis
Oklahoma City at Detroit
St. Louis at Chicago
San Diego at San Antonio
Orlando at Philadelphia
Golden Bay at Portland

Week Six

Oklahoma City at Philadelphia
Orlando at Detroit
Chicago at San Diego
New York at St. Louis
Memphis at Portland
Golden Bay at San Antonio

Week Seven

San Antonio at Memphis
Detroit at Chicago
Orlando at Golden Bay
Philadelphia at Portland
St. Louis at Oklahoma City
San Diego at New York

Week Eight

Orlando at St. Louis
Philadelphia at Chicago
Portland at Golden Bay
San Antonio at San Diego
New York at Oklahoma City
Detroit at Memphis

Week Nine

Chicago at New York
Oklahoma City at Orlando
St. Louis at Memphis
Golden Bay at San Diego
Detroit at Portland
San Antonio at Philadelphia

Week Ten

Orlando at Memphis
Philadelphia at St. Louis
San Diego at Oklahoma City
San Antonio at Portland
Chicago at Golden Bay
New York at Detroit

Week Eleven

New York at San Antonio
St. Louis at Detroit
Chicago at Orlando
Memphis at Oklahoma City
Philadelphia at Golden Bay
Portland at San Diego

Week Twelve

Golden Bay at New York
Portland at St. Louis
Detroit at Oklahoma City
Orlando at San Antonio
San Diego at Philadelphia
Memphis at Chicago

Week Thirteen

Philadelphia at New York
San Diego at Orlando
Oklahoma City at Portland
Chicago at St. Louis
Golden Bay at Memphis
San Antonio at Detroit

Week Fourteen

Memphis at Philadelphia
Chicago at Detroit
Oklahoma City at St. Louis
San Diego at Golden Bay
Portland at San Antonio
New York at Orlando