2020 Football America Team Previews

Team Name	Grade	Strengths	Weaknesses	Key Players	Top Rookies	Free Agent Signings	Comments
Portland	**A**	Rock solid lines (offense and defense), unheralded but highly effective QB, solid defense.	Not much depth in the defensive secondary.	T Ryan Moran G Minkah Elijah QB Bryce Bollinger OLB Cameron Little FS Rondell Campbel CB Pharoah Favreau	LB Eriq Amador TE Wardalis Jordan RB DeeCee Ferro	OL Derek Jacobs	Building on a solid 2019, this club should make another run at the FA title with much the same bunch. QB Bryce Bollinger is the key on offense, either handing the ball off to under-rated RB Khalil Aldredge, taking off on his own from a collapsing pocket, or finding WR Michael Cruise thru opponents' zone coverage. Cruise could use a little help—which was the motivation to grab pass-catching TE Jordan Wardalis with a high draft pick. LB Cam Little is the league's best, and anchors a play-making defense.
St. Louis	**A–**	Overhauled offense with plenty of rookie energy and revitalized defense.	Unproven QB situation.	OT Cage Baker G Vance Dockett DT Jovonn York DT Tymir Golston	WR Trillion Ben-Burgess RB Bentavious Ealy, Jr. DB Dedrion Mackin	WR Sadrick Childs	Last year's new regime suffered through an ignominious season of growing pains and losses, but the silver lining was great positioning for the 2020 draft. St. Louis snagged the best collegiate RB, Bentavious Ealy, Jr. Then they got lucky when play-making WR Trillion Ben-Burgess fell to them in round two. After the draft, the club made headlines again grabbing two of the biggest prizes in free-agency, elite WR Sadrick Childs, and sack-machine DE Doro Omerhi. A new 4-3 defense plays to the strengths of the latter. Much of the dead wood from last year's roster has been cleared out, but QB Connor Hoxie is back for another go-round and if he can play well, it could be an honest-to-goodness "worst to first" story in St. Louis in 2020.
San Antonio	**A–**	Exciting, speedy, unpredictable offense; strong defense, especially the line.	Some soft spots in the secondary, average-or-worse kicking game.	CB Mawan Choate LB Cardale Copes LB Martez Pointer G Keike Aheahe QB Billy Whittle	RB Tanner Matsos WR Davonchae Goode G Tyler Hinojosa DB Kameron Lyght-Jones	DE Myles Spencer DT LeQuan Young	San Antonio used the draft to freshen up its offense and free-agency to bolster the defense. Smallish speedster RB Tanner Matsos adds breakaway speed, an upgrade from last year's plodding pace. The offensive line is one of the best in the FA, and adds hometown college star Tyler Hinojosa to the right side of the line to make it even better. Picking up DE Myles Spencer, one of the jewels of free agency, was huge: he and holdover DE Terrance Cook will bookend respected NT Dustin Carlton for what should be a big-play defensive line.
Oklahoma City	**B**	"Defense, defense, DEEE-fense!"	Lack of explosiveness on offense.	LB Eric Stonebreaker LB CJ Cotner LB Yusuf Fa'amasino CB Lecitus Drake CB Sentrell Jury NT Tyree Cherry	T Dorceus Quinn QB Dallas Hedrick DB Trejan Vigil	P O'Keeron Pearson	The OKC defense reads like an all-pro team, with top-level players manning nearly every position. Best of the best is LB Eric Stonebreaker—a pass-rushing maniac and run-stuffing concrete pylon. CBs Sentrell Jury and Lecitus Drake are perhaps the FA's best pair. The accolades end, though, when you start talking about the offense. Veteran Wally Williamson is back at QB, but the clock is ticking for someone who used to be one of the FA's most dynamic signal-callers. First-round draft pick QB Dallas Hedrick is the heir apparent. There's a drop-off from 2019 in the running and pass-catching corps, and while the offensive line isn't showing any glaring weaknesses, there's not much sparkle there, either.

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San Diego	B	Best quarterback in the FA, with top targets to throw to.	Sluggish defensive secondary, suspect to both pass and run.	QB Geoff Russell RB Detrel Sealey TE Max Crespo WR Kam'Ron Dorsey	LB Montalvo Gurrola CB Darios Metcalf	DE Rico Guyton OL Matt Blackwelder QB Matthew Bond	Ever since this club snatched QB Geoff Russell from St. Louis (arguably the best free-agent signing in the history of the FA) and moved west, San Diego's game plan has always been to out-score the other guys. It'll be the same in 2020, with Russell and offensive cast-mates posting big numbers and basically relying on the defense to make a stop here and there. Not much defensive help was gained from the draft or free agency. Particularly problematic is the LB crew, which is alarmingly devoid of speed. Journeyman QB Matthew Bond was brought in as this year's back-up to Russell—they have to hope they'll never need him.
Golden Bay	B–	Fresh set of wheels in the running game, top players in guts of defense.	Question marks in deep secondary.	CB Asante Miller LB Truth Jones III LB Na'Shaun Young DE Koa Ihenachko G Tevis Kendrick QB Korey Bondarenko	RB Deuce Caudill T Kasey Hyland DB Tyrese Garron	LB Kamalei King OL Connor Eason K Seth Vogt P Brendan Razo	It's the end of an era with the club choosing to move on from franchise career leading rusher RB Adrian Judge. To take his place, Golden Bay made RB Deuce Caudill its top pick, and are hoping he can add back some of the lost explosiveness from 2019. Korey Bondarenko is back at QB, his top strength is a penchant for avoiding turnovers. Also back is G Tevis Kendrick, who missed all of 2019 with an injury. If he returns to form, it'll make everyone on this offense better. The heart of the defense beats strong with ILBs Truth Jones and Na'Shaun Young. The kicking game is under the microscope, though, with free-agent pickups K Seth Vogt and P Brendan Razo—it's an area that has to get better for the club to contend.
Memphis	C+	Balanced offense with settled QB situation and league's top runner.	Vulnerable to strong pass attacks, with mediocre LBs and pass rush.	SS Vonn Crocker CB Brodney DeVoe WR Keivarae Langhorne QB Joe Mattox RB Keon Portress	WR Shadriq Foy-Lockett DE Major Pleasant OL Stevenson Minnick	LB Kentrell Dray DE Aramis McEowen RB Tyrone Cadet	Any club that has Keon Portress in the backfield has to be included in the playoff conversation. QB Joe Mattox earned accolades for his smart, poised play in 2019 and there's a solid line to protect him and clear holes for Portress. DE Major Pleasant is expected to make an immediate impact on an in-flux defensive unit, putting heat on opposing passers. Vonn Crocker and Brodney DeVoe are the lynchpins of a capable secondary, but there could be trouble in defending underneath coverage—the LBs will have to play better.
Philadelphia	C–	Emerging stars at WR, solid offensive line.	Queasy kicking game, overall lack of star power on defense.	G Omi Kelaho WR Chandler Daxon WR R'Tarrian Burks DE Herman Faris	RB Marlon Bright DB Kenny Welldale	DB Tyrell Smith DE Theron Felix WR Dazzie Womack	Last year's middle-of-the-pack finish may be difficult to match for a club that didn't get better through either the draft or free agency, and whose general player development seems stuck in neutral. WR Dazzie Womack was a nice pick-up, and fellow WR Chandler Daxon looks to have a breakout season, but aside from those two it looks like another year of struggling to get above .500. RB Hassan Driggs is starting to show the wear and tear of his heavy workload last couple years.

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New York	C–	Dynamic skill players at RB, WR.	Alarming drop-off in defensive line play, run defense.	LB Tupac Rachman T Grant Straubmueller TE Brandon Yuhas RB LeShaun Boomer	WR E. J. Collett DT Daviyon Young CB Tahj Goodson	DB Patrick Graham DB Yasser Brooks DT Peria Clemente	A top contender last season, this club has taken some blows heading into 2020 with issues defending the run topping the list of problems. The pre-season injury loss of DL DeMarco Speller, free agency defection of DE Will Simeon and the retirement of DT Travis White forced the club to scramble to fill holes on the line. On offense, there's some positive news with game-breaking WR E. J. Collett the top draft pick—(chosen before Speller's injury)—he should help QB Carson Eubank maintain the potential the club hoped for when they cut loose veteran Stu Barton a couple years ago and made Eubank the starter.
Orlando	C–	Durable, potentially explosive run offense.	Sometimes-sluggish pass rush, uninspired QB play.	RB Rashad Cunningham WR Xavien Simmons T Jerelle Strange LB Von Ivory CB Shaheer Allison	DT Ahmad Tatum WR Alex Kallenberger	G Zach Hess LB Titus Poe	The lack of a quality starting QB will likely keep this club on the fringe of the playoff mix, despite the production of star RB Rashad Cunningham. Journeyman Colt McCoy is—once again—the best available option, although rookie Brayden Peace may get a shot if the club falls out of contention. Pass protection is a red flag, and the pass-catching cadre is average at best. There are some play-makers on defense, but probably not enough of them to offset the lack of offensive firepower. No real help from the draft or free-agency.
Chicago	D+	Continued elite-level play at QB.	Patchwork defense in need of complete overhaul.	QB Matt Harrell WR Jonte Reed T Kyle Shoyne	DB Tre'mon Morning DE Felix Dotson WR Taajhir Nixon	TE Tillman Richardson DE Will Simeon LB Jack Ebaugh DB Jameel Presley	With QB Matt Harrell continuing to play at a very high level, Chicago remains an opponent not to be taken lightly. Harrell gets great production from a rather unspectacular supporting cast. The club attempted to shore up the defense through draft picks and some key signings in free agency, but it remains to be seen if the disparate pieces work together. The playoffs are unlikely—but not completely out of the question, with a few breaks.
Detroit	D	Stability at offense skill positions.	Injury, exodus of free agents leaves holes in defense.	QB Chris Anzalone G Aric Faoro RB Artayvious Taylor DE Marshe Britton	WR-KR K'Jakyre Jenson OL Kyle England LB Lokahi S'eo	OL Jarrett Fisher DB LaShaun Hill	The front office fumbled the ball in the off-season, with the departure in free agency of key starters like LB Titus Poe, DE Alex Ahmad and TE Hoby Hillis. With a lackluster draft and only a couple of token free agent signings, Detroit will have to reach to its bench to fill most of the holes, and that won't be a long-term solution. On defense, DE Marshe Britton is being counted on more than ever to plug the run and pressure the opposing passer. QB Chris Anzalone and RB Artayvious Taylor provide a solid offensive nucleus, but there's not much help surrounding them.