



2009 Season Preview Series Vol. 1.4



Can the Maniacs massacre their competition in the AFC again in 2009?

The Maniacs failed to capitalize on their remarkable 2008 campaign as they lost the AFC Championship game to the Teelers and now they faced increased competition in the AFC in 2009.

They have an all world option at QB with Peyton Manning at the helm. As long as he remains healthy the Maniacs have a chance to compete for a postseason berth. The team better hope that he doesn't suffer and injury because they literally have no legitimate starting backup at this time.

The team has some question marks at this critical position with Brian Westbrook's injury. If he is healthy he provides the team with a great compliment to Brandon Jacobs who will once again be expected to carry the team. Derrick Ward is the wild card here. If he produces for his new team in the NFL, the Maniacs will be much better. Willis McGahee and Kevin Jones will be primary backups this year.

The team has the game's top option at WR with Larry Fitzgerald. He is a special player that can win games by himself. Santana Moss has been long stay on this team and is solid

as a #2 option. After those two the cupboard gets bare with several roster players on the team, but none worthy of a starting role in TBL.

Dallas Clark is a top 5 TE and will provide the team with plenty of production at the TE position. Desmond Clark still is serviceable, but will lose playing time in 2009. David Martin could be the dark horse on the team.

The Falcons are a no-name DEF/ST unit. I expect them to make a move for one prior to the start of the season.

At this time, the team does not have a starting kicker on their roster.

Norv Turner should provide the team with a decent amount of points at the HC position each week.

This is not the same team that won the AFC Division last year. They have several question marks and have not addressed several critical areas of their team this offseason. However, they will be in the thick of things once again in 2009 and are only a player away from being a legitimate contender in a much improved AFC Division.

2009 OUTLOOK

2008 Record

13-4 (1st place)

Key Additions:

None

Key Losses:

RB Leon Washington, WR Lance Moore ,K Jason Hanson

Highest 2009 draft pick:

#33 overall

Needs:

Starting WR, Starting DEF/ST, Starting K, Backup QB

2009 Prediction:

10-7 (4th place)