



2009 Season Preview Series

Vol. 1.14



Rhinos are hoping to overcome odd ending year curse

Over the course of TBL history, some things always just “seem” to happen. Until last year, the Rhinos were always able to play strong on even ending seasons and have problems in odd ending years. This Rhinos are hoping that the pattern is over as they take the field in 2009 hoping for their first winning season in an odd ending year ever.

At QB the team has one of the brightest young players to take the helm in years in Matt Ryan. They better hope that he stays healthy all year because Alex Smith and Tyler Thigpen do not provide much help.

Ryan Grant is the center of the Rhino’s rushing attack. Newcomer Le’Ron McClain had a productive year last season, but has been seeing time at FB so his value has dipped a bit. Earnest Graham, and Fred Taylor will both provide quality options and depth to the team this year.

The team added TJ Houshmanzadeh via RFA and he

instantly becomes their top option. Derrick Mason has decided to return after flirting with retirement. Second year TE John Carlson is the team’s lone option.

The Panthers DEF/ST unit is solid and should provide points each week.

At this time the team does not have a kicker or HC on their roster.

Overall, the Rhinos are much improved from the team that took the field a year ago. Matt Ryan is a legitimate star in the making and will win some games all by himself. If the team can add a few more pieces they may be able to overcome the pattern of playing poorly in odd ending seasons.

2009 OUTLOOK

2008 Record

3-14 (8th place)

Key Additions:

WR TJ Houshmanzadeh, RB Le’Ron McClain

Key Losses:

WR Roy Williams

Highest 2009 draft pick:

#13

Needs:

WR, TE

2009 Prediction:

3-14 (8th place)