

SEPT. 12 | VS. NEW ENGLAND

7 p.m. (ESPN/WSFL): A rude NFL welcome as Vince Wilfork devours Mike Pouncey and uses Daniel Thomas as a toothpick. **Prediction:** Patriots 24, Dolphins 20.

SEPT. 18 | VS. HOUSTON

4:15 p.m. (CBS): They never beat the Texans (0-5 vs. post-Houston Oilers) even when they should and they shouldn't here. **Prediction:** Texans 31, Dolphins 30.

SEPT. 25 | AT CLEVELAND

1 p.m. (CBS): Unless Jim Brown and Brian Sipe show up in the uniforms of Peyton Hillis and Colt McCoy. ... **Prediction:** Dolphins 23, Browns 10.

OCT. 2 | AT SAN DIEGO

4:15 p.m. (CBS): The anti-Houston rarely plays the Dolphins as well as they should. **Prediction:** Chargers 24, Dolphins 23.

OCT. 17 | AT NEW YORK JETS

8:30 p.m. (ESPN/WSFL): Who will throw the big interception, or, rather, who'll hold onto the big interception? **Prediction:** Dolphins 17, Jets 13.

OCT 23 | VS. DENVER

1 p.m. (CBS): Whether stirred by Kyle Orton or Tim Tebow, the Broncos are still a crock pot of mediocrity. **Prediction:** Dolphins 30, Broncos 16.

OCT. 30 | AT NEW YORK GIANTS

1 p.m. (CBS): Game week sees much talk about how Dolphins haven't lost in New Meadowlands. So, they do. **Prediction:** Giants 27, Dolphins 10.

NOV. 6 | AT KANSAS CITY

1 p.m. (CBS): The Chiefs are either where the Dolphins were in 2009 or where they thought they'd be in 2011. **Prediction:** Chiefs 30, Dolphins 20.

NOV. 13 | VS. WASHINGTON

1 p.m. (FOX): Quit playing, Shanny. John Beck? Come on, man. **Prediction:** Dolphins 34, Snyder's Folly 10.

NOV. 20 | VS. BUFFALO

1 p.m. (CBS): One Dolphin killer, Lee Evans, is gone, but another, Ryan Fitzpatrick, remains. **Prediction:** Dolphins 20, Bills 13.

NOV. 24 | AT DALLAS

4:15 p.m. (CBS): Do all those ex-Cowboys put together one stick-it-to-'em-on-Thanks-giving effort against a better team? **Prediction:** Dolphins 27, Cowboys 21.

DEC. 4 | VS. OAKLAND

1 p.m. (CBS): 10-day rest, at home, 1 p.m. against a blah West Coast team. **Prediction:** Dolphins 33, Oakland 14.

DEC. 11 | VS. PHILADELPHIA

1 p.m. (FOX): They couldn't handle Michael Vick when he couldn't throw and didn't know the playbook. **Prediction:** Eagles 34, Dolphins 17.

DEC. 18 | AT BUFFALO

1 p.m. (CBS): Since 1987, the Dolphins are 3-10 when suffering Buffalo after Thanksgiving. **Prediction:** Buffalo 24, Dolphins 14.

DEC. 24 | AT NEW ENGLAND

1 p.m. (CBS): Only thing less fun than Buffalo in December: Christmas Eve in Foxborough out of the playoff race. **Prediction:** Patriots 41, Dolphins 17.

JAN. 1 | AT NEW YORK JETS

1 p.m. (CBS): Humming "Popsicle Toes" before each snap, the Dolphins end their season happily. **Prediction:** Dolphins 20, Jets 17.

2010 TEAM STATISTICS

	MIA	OPP
Points	273	333
First downs	91	84
Total offense	5170	4949
Rushing yards	1643	1601
Com./Att./Int.	335-557-21	288-502-11
Passing Yards	3527	3348
Punts/avg.	75-44.9	77-42.3
Sacks by	38	39
Field goals	30-41	27-31
Touchdowns	26	36
Time of poss.	30:53	29:28

INDIVIDUAL OFFENSE

Passing	Comp	Att	Yds	TD	Int.
Chad Henne	301	490	3301	15	19
Tyler Thigpen	33	62	435	2	2
Chad Pennington	1	2	19	0	0

Rushing	Att.	yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
Ronnie Brown	200	734	3.7	51	5
Ricky Williams	159	673	4.2	45	2
Chad Henne	35	52	1.5	10	0
Lousaka Polite	26	62	2.4	4	1
Tyler Thigpen	13	73	5.6	12	0
Patrick Cobbs	4	0	0.0	4	0
Brian Hartline	2	27	13.5	30	0
Brandon Marshall	2	3	1.5	4	0
Davone Bess	2	-3	-1.5	0	0
Marlon Moore	1	16	16.0	16	0

RECEIVING

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	Lg	TD
Brandon Marshall	86	1014	11.8	46	3
Davone Bess	79	820	10.4	29	5
Brian Hartline	43	615	14.3	54	1
Anthony Fasano	39	528	13.5	31	4
Ronnie Brown	33	242	7.3	24	0
Ricky Williams	19	141	7.4	28	1
Lousaka Polite	12	61	5.1	14	0
Patrick Cobbs	8	91	11.4	29	2
Marlon Moore	6	128	21.3	57	1
Robert Wallace	6	62	10.3	19	0
Mickey Shuler	2	44	22.0	28	0
Lex Hilliard	1	3	3.0	3	0

INDIVIDUAL DEFENSE

Name	Tack.	Ast.	Sacks	INT
Yeremiah Bell	83	18	1.5	1
Karlos Dansby	78	17	3	0
Chris Clemons	51	10	1.5	1
Cameron Wake	48	9	14	0
Vontae Davis	46	8	0	1

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OFFENSE

Quarterback

Chad Henne will be the starter for the third season in his four-year NFL career but this one is different than the rest on many levels. Henne has been given a new offense and surrounded by new weapons. That means there are no more excuses if he does not finally develop into the solid, consistent starter. If Henne doesn't get it done this year, he's probably not going to be getting it done in Miami. Matt Moore, who has starting experience at Carolina, will be the backup and the Dolphins feel comfortable he can fill in emergencies and in case Henne falters. Everyone behind Henne is unproven and virtually untested so the Dolphins seem to have work to do in upgrading there.

Quarterbacks

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
7	Chad Henne	6-3	230	4
4	Kevin O'Connell	6-5	225	4
8	Matt Moore	6-3	202	5
9	Pat Devlin	6-3	225	R

Running backs

Reggie Bush didn't get many chances in New Orleans and that bothered him. So he packed his Super Bowl ring and headed to the Dolphins, who traded for him. Miami plans to give him all the work he can handle - sort of. He will start and get the ball maybe 20 times a game if you include the touches he's likely to get in the passing game. Some games that number might be higher. Some games it might be lower. The Dolphins lack real offensive speed and Bush is a source of that so the team will rely on him for game-defining plays. But Bush is not built for 350 carries. He's more likely maxing out at 200 carries. That means the Dolphins need reinforcements behind Bush and that comes in the person of rookie Daniel Thomas. He is big (230 pounds) but raw. He needs to learn to play. Perhaps that is one reason the Dolphins brought in erstwhile superstar running back Larry Johnson midway through the preseason. Maybe Johnson has something left in the tank and keeps himself out of trouble. That will keep him employed in Miami. If he cannot meet those expectations, he'll become a blip on the radar screen of Dolphins history.

Running Backs

NO	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
22	Reggie Bush	6-0	203	6
23	Larry Johnson	6-1	235	9
26	Lex Hilliard	5-11	240	2
33	Daniel Thomas	6-1	228	R
42	Nicolas Grigby	5-11	199	R

Fullbacks

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
36	Lousaka Polite	6-0	245	8
31	Charles Clay	6-3	239	R

Wide Receivers/Tight Ends

Brandon Marshall was good in 2010 despite dealing with emotional problems at home and with acclimating to a new scheme and teammates at work. The Dolphins need Marshall to do better than good. He has to be great and provide the proven downfield playmaking threat they otherwise lack. Marshall contends he is in control of his emotional problems and anecdotal information suggests he's more comfortable with his role on the team. The club conducted a competition for the other starting wide receiver job in the preseason and will likely continue that battle throughout the season as injuries warrant and as young players such as Clyde Gates gain experience. Brian Hartline, awarded the job last season, must stay healthy and continue to show the deep threat ability he occasionally flashed the past two years.

Wide Receivers

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
19	Brandon Marshall	6-4	230	6
82	Brian Hartline	6-2	186	3
10	Clyde Gates	5-11	197	R
11	Julius Pruitt	6-2	206	2
14	Marlon Moore	6-0	190	2
15	Davone Bess	5-10	190	4
17	Patrick Carter	6-3	215	1
18	Roberto Wallace	6-4	225	2
85	Phillip Livas	5-7	179	R
87	John Matthews	6-0	200	2

Tight Ends

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
80	Anthony Fasano	6-4	255	6
81	Dedrick Epps	6-3	250	2
84	Brett Brackett	6-5	248	R
86	Mickey Shuler	6-4	247	2
88	Jeron Maulud	6-6	253	2

Offensive line

Year Four of the current administration has brought the team's fourth generation offensive line. Vernon Carey has moved from right tackle to right guard. Marc Colombo was plucked in at right tackle but don't sleep on Lydon Murtha if things get ugly. The center spot seems set with rookie first-rounder Mike Pouncey, assuming his shotgun snaps don't cause problems. On the left side, Jake Long returns to anchor the tackle spot that protects Henne's blind side. And 2010 pleasant surprise Richie Incognito fills the left guard spot. Interestingly, the Dolphins might become a right-handed running team despite the fact the stability of the line is on the left side.

Center

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
51	Mike Pouncey	6-5	303	R
67	Joe Berger	6-5	311	7

Guards

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
68	Richie Incognito	6-3	324	7
70	Vernon Carey	6-5	340	8
62	Garrett Chisolm	6-5	312	R
69	Ray Feinga	6-4	337	2
74	John Jerry	6-5	328	2

Tackles

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
71	Marc Colombo	6-8	320	10
76	Lydon Murtha	6-7	315	3
61	Matt Kopa	6-6	303	2
64	Ray Willis	6-6	304	7
65	D.J. Jones	6-5	310	R
73	Allen Barbre	6-4	305	4
75	Nate Garner	6-7	325	4
77	Jake Long	6-7	317	4

meltdown at the end of 2010. He missed five of his final seven attempts over the last three games. Despite the relative long length of some of those attempts, that is nonetheless a bad statistic. So where is this kid's mind this year? Is he haunted by those misses? Or did he go biking the day after the season and forget his nightmarish finish? The Dolphins obviously believe the latter is true because they didn't even bring a kicker to camp to compete with Carpenter. But the question will be answered when the 2011 regular season kicks off. Pardon the pun. Starting punter Brandon Fields also had no competition in camp. That didn't raise eyebrows because his 46.2 gross average and 37.8 net were very good. Did I mention he had 31 kicks inside the 20? Did I mention that is a defense's BFF? Fields did have two punts blocked in 2010 but blocking breakdowns caused both.

Long Snapper

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
92	John Denney	6-5	255	7

Kicker

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
5	Dan Carpenter	6-2	225	4

Punter

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
2	Brandon Fields	6-5	245	5

Punt Returners

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
15	Davone Bess	5-10	190	4
10	Clyde Gates	5-11	197	R
85	Phillip Livas	5-7	179	R

Kick Returners

NO.	PLAYER	HT	WT	YR
15	Davone Bess	5-10	190	4
10	Clyde Gates	5-11	197	R
85	Phillip Livas	5-7	179	R

ARMANDO SALGUERO



HENNE

LANGFORD



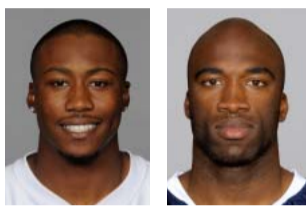
BUSH

STARKS



POLITE

SOLIAI



MARSHALL

BURNETT



HARTLINE

MISI



FASANO

DANSBY



POUNCEY

WAKE



INCOGNITO

DAVIS



CAREY

SMITH



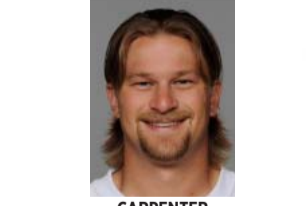
COLOMBO

CLEMONS



MURTHA

BELL



CARPENTER



DOLPHINS COACH TONY SPARANO

DEFENSE

Defensive line

The Dolphins might be just behind Pittsburgh if one is ranking teams with the most talented 3-4 lines. This seems certain: Miami is deeper than the Steelers at the position. The club will play six and sometimes seven defensive linemen in a game and coaches do it freely because they see minimal if any drop from the starters to their substitutes. That's a lot of names shutting in and out of the lineup, but the one name you must remember is Paul Soliai