

NFL - 2010 Fantasy Football Detroit Lions Team Preview

Written by Jesse Severe

Monday, 06 September 2010 22:00 - Last Updated Monday, 06 September 2010 22:25

We have many great articles planned leading up to the 2010 Fantasy Football season including sleepers, busts, rookies, strategy, full player rankings and projections all wrapped up into a nifty draft kit to help you win your league next year. Stay tuned for more, but for now, here's a team preview for you.

Ask a question about your fantasy team in our [FORUM](#) . Leave a comment about this article down below.

OFF-SEASON TRANSACTIONS

KEY ADDS

- Best, Jahvid. RB (rookie)
- Burleson, Nate WR(SEA)
- Hill, Shaun (SFO)
- Scheffler, Tony (DEN)

KEY SUBTRACTIONS

- Culpepper, Daunte (FA)
- Northcutt, Dennis (FA)

NOTE: Did you know Dennis Northcutt is 29th among active players in receiving yards? Wasn't enough to save the aging receiver's job when Spencer Havner hit the waiver wire.

THE BIG QUESTION

Sleeper offense or another year of the "curse of Barry Sanders?"

Quick: what was the last year the Lions had an offense in the upper half of the NFL in points scored and yards gained? If you guessed 1997, congrats. That was one year *before* Barry Sanders retired, the year the elusive one topped 2000 yards. The irony is that for many of the past ten years, pundits have scrambled to be the first to foresee the return of a great Detroit offense. Needless to say, those predictions were premature and weren't helped by the team picking high profile busts Joey Harrington, Charles Rodgers, or Mike Williams, weren't undone by getting the best years of Roy Williams, Calvin Johnson or short-time standouts Johnnie Morton or Mike Furrey. Kevin Jones until his injury decline and James Stewart in his late career flourish were OK, but never enough to make the offense merely average. The point is that on paper, many of those years there were young players coming in that gave real cause for optimism the team could improve. In none of them did Detroit manage adequacy.

If you want to argue the team will improve this year, the basis is in a combination of maturation of blue-chip sophomore QB Matt Stafford and a breakthrough by much-acclaimed rookie Jahvid Best. Remember, though, that the offensive line is 4 of the same that were in place last year, and the fifth (LG Rob Sims) came from the equally lame O-line of the Seattle Seahawks. Jahvid Best as a low-level RB2 and Stafford as a deep-league backup seem about right.

FANTASY DEPTH CHART

QB

- Stafford, Matt

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- Hill, Shaun
- Stanton, Drew

RB

- Smith, Kevin
- Best, Jahvid
- Morris, Maurice
- Brown, Aaron

WR

- Johnson, Calvin
- Burleson, Nate
- Johnson, Bryant
- Williams, Derrick

TE

- Scheffler, Tony
- Pettigrew, Brandon

NOTE: Calvin Johnson continues to be the fantasy standout for the team, despite any flaws of the surrounding cast... Brandon Pettigrew is coming back from a 2009 season-ending knee surgery. Tony Scheffler should get targets as Pettigrew works his way back into the offense. Either could be a decent option as a spot-start TE sometime this fall... Nate Burleson gets more play in fantasy circles than he has earned over the years, largely because he has several times been the best receiver on a poor passing team... Ageless Jason Hanson continues to be an effective NFL kicker.

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