

fall sports

by Nathan Teada

The fall season is one of the most exciting times in our school district. The school season is just beginning as are many sports. Almost every day there is some sort of game or match. It could be a Saturday afternoon football game, a Wednesday afternoon soccer game, maybe even a golf match. As these all are beginning, so is the excitement for reaching each team's potential.

Is there any better tradition than a Saturday afternoon football game? Each game seems to have that feeling that this is how football is supposed to play. Senior Fred Lunt predicts "The team potential to finish second or third." I think this team has all the makings to be a playoff team. With the passing from junior quarterback, Nathan Hood, and the defensive leadership and play from senior, middle linebacker, Matt Spink.

Soccer has been on the rise for the last few years. Each year the team seems to get better in one way or another. This season should not be much different. That being said if senior Ben Smith does not come back to full health by the end of the season, the team's record may not show how hard they have worked. The team is filled with seniors that are experienced and know how to handle almost anything the league can and has thrown at them. Senior Brandon Wenz predicted that they have, "above a .500 winning percentage and make districts."

The golf team is yet another team on the rise. This team is a solid mix between youth and potential and veteran and experience. Seniors Mike Kukla, Matt Frawley, and Jeremy Yurescko, know the course just about as well as anyone in the area. They continue to get better and once again improve their record over last year and send at least two players to districts.

The field hockey team did great last year behind some great seniors. Now they are gone, off to college the question now remains how will the team respond and play without them? This is one of the hardest teams in the school to predict because of how many players they have lost. That being said I think they have the potential on the team to go into districts yet again. They may go through some growing pains in the beginning of the season but become consistent and have one of the best seasons in the school's history.

Tennis is another team with great potential. Senior Amy Caracio said this about the team, "I think we're going to do amazing. We got off to a good start and were going to make this year count." I once again agree with the experienced leaders of the team. This team is always a solid well coached team that knows how to handle the pressure and seems to get better with the spotlight on them. This team is going to be great to say the least. I am not sure who and how many we send to districts but I highly doubt that we send no one to districts.

The cross country team is sometimes the forgotten of the busy fall schedule, but they are no less talented than the other sports. This sport is one of the most difficult to participate, I personally love their past team shirts saying how what others do for punishment, they do for pleasure. This statement is the reason that they are ready for the season. This is once again a tough sport to predict. I think that they will be about the same as last year's team if not a little better.



N. Teada, Echo

nfl predictions

by Nathan Teada

Arguably the most exciting part of any season is the preseason. Every team has at least a small bit of hope. The worst team in league history Detroit Lions even has some hope for the upcoming season. Putting my predictions into print just makes that embarrassment public. Before you all start laughing at these predictions just keep in mind I am going to do my best attempt to be completely unbiased in these picks.

In the AFC East the return of Mr. Tom Brady only means that the Patriots are back to their glory days and win the division. The Bills added the future hall of famer Terrell Owens which gives them the inside track for second in the division. The Jets and Dolphins then battle for the third and fourth spot, but I give the edge to the new and improved Jets defense to help the team beat out the Dolphins for the third spot.

The NFC East poses the most confusion for the upcoming year. I love the Giants but they lost their top wide receiver, I like the Eagles but I hate the coaching and play calling, and I think the Redskins made the most improvements in the offseason. So I am going to predict them in that order, Giants to win it, the Eagles to finish second and win a wild card spot, and the Redskins to finish third and stay close to the Eagles all year.

While the Cowboys fall to the last spot. The AFC North is home of the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers. This division does not change much from last year. The Steelers win it over the Ravens who get a wild card spot. The Browns and Bengals then battle

for the worst record in the league. I assume half of the Bengals team ends up in jail so I think the Browns finish third by default.

NFC North was the host of almost all the media this offseason. The Bears finally add a great quarterback, by trading for the Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler to their team and now can win the division handedly. The young Packers get a year more experienced and win the wild card and come in second in the division. Farve does not start every game this year and the Vikings struggle and finish third in front of the Lions. The Lions improve a little bit but not nearly enough to become respectable.

AFC South had a new winner last year for the first time in five years last year. The Titans shocked the world and beat the Colts for the division crown. However this year the Colts take it back behind their leader and quarterback Peyton Manning. The Titans run into quarterback problems and fall to third in the division. The Texans rise up to steal the second spot and the last wild card spot. Finally the Jaguars struggle again and finish in last.

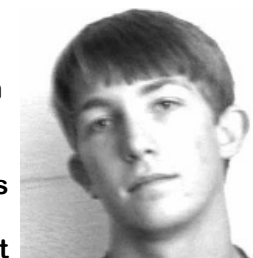
The NFC South has never had a repeat division winner. This year is the year to break the trend. The Panthers return almost every starter from last year and are motivated from getting embarrassed in the playoffs last year. Matt Ryan leads the Falcons to second and the final NFC wild card spot. The Saints defense struggle again as they finish third, while the young Buccaneers struggle for leadership and have a rough year finishing last.

The AFC West is a one team division. The Chargers should win this division easily as Philip Rivers puts him self into the elite quarterback category. The Broncos surprise some people including Aldo Boscia, a known Broncos fan, who already said "I am throwing in the towel for this season." The chiefs expect a little too much from their new players and finish third. The Raiders continue their downward spiral to a black hole and have one of the worst records in the league again this year.

The worst division in the league is with out a doubt the NFC West. There is no clear cut best team here. I was telling James Crossen this and he asked "Didn't the Cardinals come out of this division?" Yes the Cardinals did but they were simply a team who got hot at the right time. This year the 49ers surprise most and win the division. The Cardinals finish second while the Seahawks take advantage of an easy schedule and finish third and the Rams again are last in a weak division.



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