

Personnel Review: AFC West by Tony Villiotti

The effectiveness of a team's personnel decisions is ultimately judged by that team's won-lost record. There is more than one way to build a winning team, though, and **DRAFTMETRICS** believes that exploring the "how" for a team's success or lack thereof can be quite interesting.

There are two basic aspects of building a winning team - - hanging onto your good players and bringing in new talent. Everything beyond that is a matter of degree. If a team does not have many good players, there is a heavy emphasis on bringing in replacements. If a team has a solid core of players it can be very selective in adding talent.

Free agency and the salary cap make player retention a difficult issue. Players move from team to team to maximize their earnings or seek opportunities for more playing time. In some cases a team is forced to cut a player they would otherwise keep in order to stay under the salary cap. These factors make player retention a real balancing act as a team must continually weigh its options in order to maintain the proper investment level at each playing position.

A team has several options available to it when acquiring talent. It can seek help in the draft while maneuvering to move up or down to get the players it wants at a reasonable price. It can venture into the free agent market where they usually have to pay top dollar to land top of the line talent. It can make trades, usually surrendering draft choices for a player. Finally, it can "dumpster dive" and try to find bargains in released players, Canadian Football League players, undrafted free agents or on the waiver wire.

This is the third in a series of eight articles in which **DRAFTMETRICS** will review, by Division, the personnel moves of NFL teams over the past five seasons (2006-2010). In this review, **DRAFTMETRICS** will address the following for each team in the AFC West:

- How it got its starters
- The stability of its starting lineup
- Quarterbacks

The Source of Starters

NFL starters from 2006 through 2010 fall into one of several categories:

- They were on the roster in 2005 and continued with the team for part or all of the study period
- They were drafted from 2006-2010
- They were signed as veteran free agents from 2006-2010
- They were acquired via trade from 2006-2010
- They were obtained in another manner (waivers, undrafted free agents, etc.) from 2006-2010

During the 2006 through 2010 seasons, starts across all teams were distributed as follows:

- 43% of all starts were made by players on the same team's roster in 2005;
- 26% of all starts were made by players drafted by that team from 2006 through 2010;
- 31% of all starts were made by players signed as free agents, acquired via trade or any other source from 2006 through 2010.

DRAFTMETRICS will comment on each team's player acquisition activities as well as provide some comparative metrics. It should be recognized that it is impossible for a team to have favorable metrics for each activity. A team that retained a lot of its starters from the 2005 roster, for example, does not have as many starting spots to fill through the draft or free agency and will have fewer starters from those activities than a team with a poor starting point.

Stability of the Starting Lineup

Continuity is an important element in a team's success. Football is a team game and developing a cohesive unit from a collection of individual talents is a critical success factor. While a team is always striving to improve by replacing weaker links with stronger players, keeping the unit relatively intact is also important. Sometimes injuries interfere with this process and sometimes the continuing effort to find better talent results in a "revolving door" for certain positions in the starting lineup.

In addition to a **DRAFTMETRICS** commentary on this subject, a few metrics have been developed to aid in the analysis. The first is a "Stability Index" that is calculated for each team. The basis for the stability index is determining the number of games that are started by players who started for that same team in the previous season. The percentage of that number of games divided by 352 (16 games with 22 starters) is the stability index.

It is worth noting that for all NFL teams combined, the average number of starts by players who also started at least one game for that team in the prior year was 252.7, which is about 72% of all games started. The Steelers had the highest average with 296.2 games and the Lions at 187.8 games were the lowest.

Another metric used to measure continuity was to determine the number of players who started at least 13 games in each of the seasons. On average, NFL teams have 75 such players (or 15 per year). The highest was the Cowboys with 89 and the lowest was the Lions with 57. The intent of this metric is to determine how "settled" a team is at its starting positions. This can be affected by both injury and trying to find the right player.

Quarterbacks

It has been repeated ad nauseam that the NFL is a “Quarterback-Driven League”. There is no questioning the importance of this position so **DRAFTMETRICS** will comment on the success of each team in this area and list the QB starters during the study period for each team.

Before starting on the team analysis for the AFC West, here is each NFL team’s won-lost record for the 2006-2010 seasons.

Patriots	63-17	Giants	48-32	Cardinals	37-43	Dolphins	32-48
Colts	61-19	Packers	48-32	Panthers	37-43	Redskins	32-48
Chargers	55-25	Bears	47-33	Texans	37-43	Bills	31-49
Steelers	51-29	Titans	45-35	Broncos	36-44	Chiefs	29-51
Ravens	50-30	Falcons	44-36	49ers	35-45	Browns	28-52
Saints	49-31	Jets	43-37	Bucs	35-45	Raiders	24-56
Eagles	48-31-1	Vikings	42-38	Seahawks	35-45	Rams	21-59
Cowboys	48-32	Jaguars	39-41	Bengals	33-46-1	Lions	18-62

The next division that will be analyzed is the NFC East and that article will be posted on the website within the next week.

DENVER BRONCOS

Won-Lost Record

2006	9-7	2008	8-8	2010	4-12
2007	7-9	2009	8-8	All Years	36-44 Rank:20

Broncos Metrics

Metric	Broncos	NFL Average	Rank
Percentage of Games Started By:			
Players on 2005 Roster	30%	43%	28
Players Drafted from 2006 thru 2010	26%	26%	16
Players signed as free agents or acquired in trades	44%	31%	4
Stability Index	59.7%	71.8%	31
Number of Players who started 13 games or more in a season	77	75	14

Players Starting 32 Games or More

From 2005 Roster		Players Drafted: 2006-2010			Other Players Signed: 2005-2010			
Champ Bailey	71	Ryan Clady	2008-12	48	Dre Bly	T	2007	32- FA
Ben Hamilton	40 – FA	Jay Cutler	2006-11	37 – T	Daniel Graham	FA	2007	60
DJ Williams	73	Elvis Dumervil	2006-126	45	Mario Haggan	FA	2008	32
		Ryan Harris	2007-70	34	Casey Wiegmann	FA	2008	32 – W
		Chris Kuper	2006-161	57				
		Brandon Marshall	2006-119	45 – T				
		Eddie Royal	2008-42	37				

Bold indicates a player was not on the team at the end of the 2010 season with the letter designation indicating how they left the team

T= Traded; R = Retired; W= Waived; FA= Lost in Free Agency; F= Released

Quick Take

The Broncos would look a lot smarter if Tim Tebow turns out to be a good quarterback. Between headaches with players such as Cutler and Marshall and relative lack of success in the draft, this has not been a good five years for the Broncos.

Players from 2005 Roster

Despite coming off a 13-3 season in 2005, the Broncos ranked only 28th in the number of games started by players on their 2005 roster. Only two players (Champ Bailey and DJ Williams) from 2005 started games in 2010. Nineteen of the 22 starters from 2005 were gone by the end of the 2007 season. Only three (Cooper Carlisle, Nick Ferguson and Michael Myers) were lost to free agency. Of the remaining 16 players who departed, four were traded, eight were released or waived, three retired and one died in an off-season shooting.

The Draft

The Broncos are about in the middle of the pack in starts from 2006-2010 draftees, ranking 16th. The 2006 draft was a good one but three of the five “good picks” are no longer with the Broncos. Jay Cutler was taken in the first round, Tony Scheffler in the 3rd (no 2nd rounder), Brandon Marshall and Elvis Dumervil in the 4th and Chris Kuper in the 5th. 2007 was not so good, as 1st round pick Jarvis Moss and 2nd rounder Tim Crowder were busts. 3rd rounder Ryan Harris kept it from being a total washout. 2008 brought immediate starter Ryan Clady in the 1st round and Eddie Royal in the 2nd. Ryan Torain (waived, but a starter for the Redskins in 2010) was added in the 6th round and Peyton Hillis (traded to the Browns) was added in the 7th. 2009 brought five picks in the first two rounds, with Robert Ayers and Knowshon Moreno in the 1st round and Antonio Smith, Darcel McBath and Richard Quinn in the 2nd. None of the 2nd rounders are still with the Broncos. The jury is still out on the 2010 draft, with the Broncos taking Tim Tebow and DeMarius Thomas in the first round. 2nd rounder Zane Beadles and 3rd rounder J.D. Walton started as rookies though. 3rd rounder Eric Decker has also looked promising. Broncos drafts have been a real mixed bag. **DRAFTMETRICS** gives them a slightly negative grade, though, for the major missed opportunity with the three 3rd rounders in 2009 and the lousy 2007 draft.

Free Agent Signings

The Broncos were pretty active in the free agent market. Their most significant signings were Brian Dawkins, Daniel Graham, Renaldo Hill and Casey Wiegmann. Denver also had a high number of “transient” free agents who started a few games or as much as a season and then moved on. They made pretty good use of the free agent market.

Trades

The Broncos were involved in a large number of trades. Many of these were trade up/trade down maneuvers. They traded up to select Jay Cutler, Jarvis Moss, Alphonso Smith (trading a 1st round pick in 2010 that turned out to be #14 for the #37 pick in the 2010 draft) and Tim Tebow. Some of the more significant of the other trades were:

- Received Javon Walker for a 2nd rounder
- Traded Ashley Lelie for 3rd and 4th rounders
- Traded Gerard Warren for a 5th rounder
- Traded Chris Myers for a 6th rounder
- Traded Jake Plummer for a 7th rounder (turned out to be Peyton Hillis)
- Traded Dominique Foxworth for a 7th rounder
- Traded Tatum Bell, George Foster and a 5th rounder for Dre Bly
- Traded Jay Cutler and a 5th rounder for Kyle Orton a 2009 1st rounder, a 2010 1st rounder and a 2009 3rd rounder
 - The draft picks, with additional maneuvering, ended up being Robert Ayers, Demarius Thomas and Richard Quinn.
- Traded Peyton Hillis and a 6th rounder for Brady Quinn
- Traded Brandon Marshall for two 2nd rounders

- Traded Tony Scheffler for a 5th rounder
- Traded Alphonso Smith for Dan Gronkowski
- Received Russ Hochstein for a 7th rounder

In perhaps the oddest trade (that ended up being a non-trade) the Broncos received Dewayne Robertson (the #4 pick in the draft in 2003) from the Jets in exchange for a conditional draft choice. Robertson started 15 games for the Broncos in 2008 but was released in the offseason and the Broncos did not have to give the Jets a draft choice.

Only fair grades for these trades. They traded away too many players for very little consideration who went on to start for others. The Broncos also traded away players who were management issues (Cutler and Marshall) that otherwise might have been cornerstones. They did get reasonable consideration for those players, though.

Stability

The Broncos were next to last (31st) in the Stability Index. Personnel turnover was low in 2006 but very high thereafter. The Broncos' personnel turnover dilemma is probably best illustrated by looking at the offensive and defensive lines.

The predominant offensive line starters in 2006 were Cooper Carlisle, George Foster, Ben Hamilton, Tom Nalen and Erik Pears. Hamilton missed 2007 and Nalen started only five games due to injuries. Carlisle and Cooper were both gone after 2006. Montrae Holland, Chris Kuper, Matt Lepsis and Chris Myers stepped in to replace the departed starters (Lepsis was a 2005 starter who missed most of 2006 due to injury). 2008 brought three new starters in Ryan Harris, Ryan Clady and Casey Wiegmann and Hamilton returned from injury. Only Kuper was a holdover from 2007. The offensive line was actually stable in 2009 with the only real change being that Russ Hochstein split time with 2008 starter Ryan Harris. 2010 brought two new starters as 2010 draftees J.D. Walton and Zane Beadles moved into the starting lineup replacing Wiegmann and Hamilton.

The 2006 defensive line starters were Ebenezer Ekuban, Kenard Lang, Michael Myers and Gerard Warren. None of these players started a game in 2007. The group was replaced by rookie Elvis Dumervil, John Engelberger, Alvin McKinley and Sam Adams. In 2008 Ekuban returned from injury and joined holdover Dumervil. Two new starters were added in Dewayne Robertson and Marcus Thomas. Dumervil was the only 2009 holdover with new starters being Ronald Fields, Ryan McBean and Kenny Peterson. The defensive line starters turned over completely again in 2010 with Dumervil (the only real constant in the period) missing the season with an injury. The new starters were Justin Bannan, Jason Hunter, Kevin Vickerson and Jamal Williams.

Quarterbacks

Jake Plummer was coming off a big 2005 season, but lost his job to Jay Cutler towards the end of the 2006 season. The Broncos looked set for the future, but Cutler and new coach Josh McDaniels butted heads and Cutler was dealt to the Bears for veteran Kyle Orton and draft choices. Orton is serviceable but doesn't look to be the future of the franchise. Most people think Tebow isn't either, so that leaves the position up in the air. Brady Quinn is also on the roster but he seems like a longshot.

Quarterback Starts

Player	How Acquired (Selection #)	Year Acquired	Number of Starts
Jay Cutler	D- 11	2006	37
Kyle Orton	T	2009	28
Jake Plummer	FA	2003	11
Tim Tebow	D -25	2010	3
Chris Simms	FA	2009	1

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Won-Lost Record

2006	14-2	2008	8-8	2010	9-7
2007	11-5	2009	13-3	All Years	55-25 Rank: 3

Chargers Metrics

Metric	Chargers	NFL Average	Rank
Percentage of Games Started By:			
Players on 2005 Roster	65%	43%	2
Players Drafted from 2006 thru 2010	20%	26%	29
Players signed as free agents or acquired in trades	16%	31%	29
Stability Index	82.0%	71.8%	2
Number of Players who started 13 games or more in a season	79	75	10

Players Starting 32 Games or More

From 2005 Roster		Players Drafted: 2006-2010			Other Players Signed: 2005-2010			
Luis Castillo	63	Jeromey Clary	2006-187	48	Brandon Manumaleuna	T	2006	35 – FA
Jacques Cesaire	47	Antonio Cromartie	2006-19	38 – T				
Stephen Cooper	59	Marcus McNeil	2006-50	73				
Kris Dielman	77	Eric Weddle	2007-37	45				
Antonio Gates	74							
Mike Goff	48 – FA							
Nick Hardwick	60							
Clinton Hart	34- W							
Vincent Jackson	59							
Quentin Jammer	78							
Shawne Merriman	43 – W							
Igor Olshansky	42 – FA							
Shaun Philipps	77							
Philip Rivers	80							
LaDainian Tomlinson	62 - W							
Jamal Williams	45 - W							

Bold indicates a player was not on the team at the end of the 2010 season with the letter designation indicating how they left the team
T= Traded; R = Retired; W= Waived; FA= Lost in Free Agency; F= Released

Quick Take

The Chargers join the Steelers in the strategy of establishing a solid base and hanging on for the ride.

Players from 2005 Roster

The Chargers are behind only the Steelers in the number of games started by players from their 2005 roster. 11 players from 2005 started games in 2010. The most interesting loss from that roster was Drew Brees. Brees, of course, went on to lead the Saints to the Super Bowl and is recognized as one of the top QBs in the game. The shame of it from the Chargers standpoint is that they didn't receive anything in return for his loss. Other valuable players lost from the 2005 roster include Donnie Edwards (free agency), Drayton Florence (free agency), Mike Goff (free agency), Shawne Merriman (waived),

Lorenzo Neal (released), Igor Olshansky (free agency), LaDainian Tomlinson (waived) and Jamal Williams (waived).

The Draft

The Chargers ranked 29th in number of starts by draftees from 2006 through 2010. The 2006 draft was probably their best, yielding Antonio Cromartie in the 1st, Marcus McNeil in the 2nd, Charlie Whitehurst in the 3rd and Jeromey Clary in the 6th. 2007 produced Eric Weddle in the 2nd, but 1st and 3rd round busts in Craig Davis and Anthony Waters. Legedu Nanee was taken in the 5th and has been a useful backup. 2008 1st rounder Antoine Cason made his way into the starting lineup in his 3rd season and Jacob Hester was a useful addition. The jury is still out on 2009 1st rounder Larry English. 3rd rounder Luis Vasquez was an immediate starter. 2010 1st rounder Ryan Mathews has an injury filled rookie season but is counted on to be a good one and the jury is still out on the rest of the draft class. Not really high marks for drafting. It hasn't caught up to them yet, but they need to get more out of the draft.

Free Agent Signings

The Chargers have not been big players in the free agent market but have made some helpful signings. Kevin Burnett was a starter in 2010 and Marlon McCree started in 2006 and 2007. They have also been able to acquire some "spot" help with players like Antonio Garay and Randy McMichael. The Chargers have also had some help from such undrafted free agents as Antwan Applewhite, Brandon Dombrowski and Mike Tolbert.

Trades

Most of the Chargers trade activity was in the trade-up area as they moved up to take Eric Weddle, Jacob Hester, Ryan Mathews and Donald Butler. The only significant players acquired via trade were Brandon Manumaleuna (for a 4th rounder), backup QB Billy Volek for a 6th and Chris Chambers for a 2nd. The Chargers traded Antonio Cromartie for a 2nd and Charlie Whitehurst and a 2nd rounder for 2nd and 3rd round picks. No earth shaking trades.

Stability

The Chargers were 2nd in the NFL in the Stability Index. There really isn't very much to say about the personnel turnover as they consistently average only 3-4 new starters per year. In 2006 Philip Rivers replaced Drew Brees, Marcus McNeil replaced the combo of Roman Oben and Leander Jordan, Marlon McCree replaced Bhawoh Jue and Shaun Phillips replaced Steve Foley. In 2007 Stephen Cooper replaced Donnie Edwards, Matt Wilhelm replaced Randall Godfrey, Clint Hart replaced Terrence Kiel and Vincent Jackson replaced Keenan McCardell. In 2008 Jeromey Clary replaced Shane Olivea, Antonio Cromartie replaced Drayton Florence, Eric Weddle replaced Marlon McCree and Jyles Tucker replaced an injured Shawne Merriman. In 2009 Merriman reclaimed his starting position from Tucker, Luis Vasquez replaced Mike Goff, Jacques Cesaire replaced Jamal Williams and Scott Mruzowski replaced an injured Nick Hardwick. In 2010 Ryan Mathews replaced LaDainian Tomlinson, Antwan Applewhite replaced Merriman, Antoine Cason replaced Cromartie and Hardwick returned from injury to replace Mruzowski.

Quarterbacks

Philip Rivers was acquired in a draft day trade for Eli Manning and after serving a two-year apprenticeship behind Drew Brees has been the man for the Chargers. Veteran Billy Volek is his backup. Barring injury, the Chargers appear set for awhile.

Quarterback Starts

Player	How Acquired (Selection #)	Year Acquired	Number of Starts
Philip Rivers	T	2004	80

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Won-Lost Record

2006	9-7	2008	2-14	2010	10-6
2007	4-12	2009	4-12	All Years	29-51 Rank: 28

Chiefs Metrics

Metric	Chiefs	NFL Average	Rank
Percentage of Games Started By:			
Players on 2005 Roster	33%	43%	25
Players Drafted from 2006 thru 2010	32%	26%	5
Players signed as free agents or acquired in trades	36%	31%	11
Stability Index	62.3%	71.8%	29
Number of Players who started 13 games or more in a season	80	75	7

Players Starting 32 Games or More

From 2005 Roster		Players Drafted: 2006-2010			Other Players Signed: 2005-2010			
Tony Gonzalez	47 – T	Branden Albert	2008-15	44	Ron Edwards	FA	2006	60
Derrick Johnson	61	Dwayne Bowe	2007-23	56	Ty Law	FA	2006	32 – F
Larry Johnson	43 – W	Brandon Carr	2008-140	48				
Patrick Surtain	34 – W	Glenn Dorsey	2008-5	46				
Brian Waters	77	Brandon Flowers	2008-35	43				
Casey Wiegmann	48	Tamba Hali	2006-20	79				
		Jarrad Page	206-228	39 - T				

Bold indicates a player was not on the team at the end of the 2010 season with the letter designation indicating how they left the team
T= Traded; R = Retired; W= Waived; FA= Lost in Free Agency; F= Released

Quick Take

The Chiefs essentially tore their roster down and started over after the 2005 season. They made good use of the draft and selective use of trades and the free agent market.

Players from 2005 Roster

The Chiefs rank 25th in the number of starts from players on their 2005 roster even though they were coming off a 10-6 season in 2005. Only three players from the 2005 roster (Derrick Johnson, Brian Waters and Casey Wiegmann) started games in 2010 and Wiegmann actually left and came back. The breakup of the 2005 season took place over a few years. There were only minor personnel changes in 2006 losing Willie Roaf to retirement, Priest Holmes and John Browning to injury and Kawika Mitchell to free agency, while adding Tamba Hali through the draft and Ty Law through free agency. The team, though, took a downward spiral in 2007, as they continued to lose their foundation from 2005. Among the players leaving were Kendrell Bell, Jordan Black, Trent Green, Sammy Knight, Will Shields and Eric Warfield. Arguably the best remaining offensive and defensive players remaining from the 2005 roster (Tony Gonzalez and Jared Allen) left in trades before the 2008 season along with Eddie Kennison, John Welbourne and Kris Wilson.

The Draft

The Chiefs ranked 5th in starts by players taken in the 2006 through 2010 drafts. The 2006 draft included Tamba Hali in the 1st round, two 2-year starters in Bernard Pollard (2nd round) and Jarrad Page (7th round) plus backup QB Brodie Croyle in the 3rd. Dwayne Bowe was the 1st round pick in 2007 but the 2nd and 3rd round picks (Turk McBride and Tank Tyler) were disappointing and are gone. The Chiefs had six picks in the first three rounds in 2008. 1st rounders Glenn Doresey and Branden Albert have been three-year starters as was 2nd rounder Brandon Flowers. Jamal Charles was one of the 3rd round picks. The other 3rd rounders (DaJuan Morgan and Brad Cottam) didn't do so well. 5th rounder Brandon Carr has also been a three-year starter and 6th rounder Barry Richardson moved into the starting lineup in 2010. 2009 was not as fruitful, bringing only 1st rounder Tyson Jackson. They had no 2nd rounder and 3rd rounder Alex Magee was traded. Early returns on the 2010 draft class are good as the Chiefs added Eric Berry in the 1st round, Gilbert Arenas in the 2nd and Tony Moeaki and Jon Asamoah in the 3rd plus Kendrick Lewis in the 5th. While there were some disappointments, the Chiefs get positive grades for their drafting.

Free Agent Signings

The Chiefs have not been particularly active in the free agent market. Only Ron Edwards and Ty Law started for two-years or more among their signings. Shaun Smith and Thomas Jones are recent signings who started in 2010.

Trades

The Chiefs were pretty active in the trade market, with most of their transactions being trades of their players for draft choices. Their most significant trades were (1) sending Jared Allen and a 6th to the Vikings for a 1st, two 3rds and a 6th, (2) acquiring Matt Cassel and Mike Vrabel for a 2nd and (3) trading Tony Gonzalez for a 2nd. The only other players acquired via trade were Michael Bennett for a 4th and Andy Alleman and Ikechuku Nduke for a 5th. Almost all of their other player trades involved late round picks with Ryan Sims, Lewis Tynes, Trent Green, Michael Bennett, Dante Hall, Tyler Thigpen, Tank Tyler, Jarrad Page and Alex Magee all traded for 5th round or later selections. The Chiefs had relatively few trade-ups, moving up to take Branden Albert and Tony Moeaki.

Stability

The Chiefs had the 29rd highest Stability Index. Their 2008 and 2009 seasons showed the biggest personnel turnovers, with some of that turnover setting the stage for their successful 2010 season. In 2008 the Chiefs featured seven new starters on the defensive side of the ball as only Jarrad Page, Bernard Pollard, Tamba Hali and Derrick Johnson retained their starting positions. The new starters included four players from the 2008 draft. Changes were not quite so drastic on offense with Tyler Thigpen moving into the starting QB job and 2008 draftee Branden Albert and UDFA Rudy Niswonger moving into starting positions on the offensive line. 2009 had about as much turnover as 2008. Matt Cassel assumed the starting QB role from Thigpen; Mike Brown replaced Bernard Pollard; Tyson Jackson replaced Tank Tyler, who was traded; Ron Edwards worked his way back into the starting lineup to replace Turk McBride, who was waived; Ryan O'Callaghan replaced Damian McIntosh; Jamal Charles

replaced Larry Johnson; and the combination of Leonard Pope and Sean Ryan replaced Tony Gonzalez. Changes were modest in 2010 but the team continued to upgrade with Eric Berry replacing Mike Brown; rookie Tony Moeaki moving in at TE; Derrick Johnson returning to the starting lineup and replacing Corey Mays; Casey Wiegmann resigned in free agency and replacing Rudy Niswanger; and Jovan Belcher replacing Demorrio Williams.

Quarterbacks

Replacing Trent Green was not a smooth transition. Matt Cassel finally came over in a 2009 trade and might be the guy. The Chiefs QB depth chart probably contains the least experience of any team in the league.

Quarterback Starts

Player	How Acquired (Selection #)	Year Acquired	Number of Starts
Matt Cassel	T	2009	30
Damon Huard	FA	2004	21
Tyler Thigpen	W	2007	11
Brodie Croyle	D – 85	2006	10
Trent Green	T	2001	8

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Won-Lost Record

2006	2-14	2008	5-11	2010	8-8
2007	4-12	2009	5-11	All Years	24-56 Rank: 30

Raiders Metrics

Metric	Raiders	NFL Average	Rank
Percentage of Games Started By:			
Players on 2005 Roster	40%	43%	19
Players Drafted from 2006 thru 2010	30%	26%	8
Players signed as free agents or acquired in trades	30%	31%	17
Stability Index	66.4%	71.8%	27
Number of Players who started 13 games or more in a season	68	75	27

Players Starting 32 Games or More

From 2005 Roster		Players Drafted: 2006-2010			Other Players Signed: 2005-2010			
Nnamdi Asomugha	75	Tyvon Branch	2008-100	32	Cooper Carlisle	FA	2007	63
Derrick Burgess	40 – T	Thomas Howard	2006-38	62	Cornell Green	FA	2007	38 – FA
Robert Gallery	60	Michael Huff	2006-7	66	Gerard Warren	T	2007	37 – FA
Tommy Kelly	70	Zach Miller	2007-38	61				
Kirk Morrison	64 - T							
Stanford Routt	36							
Warren Sapp	32 – R							

Bold indicates a player was not on the team at the end of the 2010 season with the letter designation indicating how they left the team
T= Traded; R = Retired; W= Waived; FA= Lost in Free Agency; F= Released

Quick Take

The Raiders have built their roster through modestly good drafting and a series of trades. They have acquired five of their present starters through trades and four of them are former 1st round draft choices, with the fifth being a 2nd rounder.

Players from 2005 Roster

The Raiders ranked 19th in the NFL in starts by players on their 2005 roster, about in the middle of the pack. Four players (Nnamdi Asomugha, Robert Gallery, Tommy Kelly and Stanford Routt) from 2005 started games in 2010, though two of those departed before the 2011 season. The 2005 team was 4-12 but had some solid talent on it. Some of the players who were on that 2005 roster who went on to play for other NFL teams include Charles Woodson (free agency), Danny Clark (released), Kerry Collins (released), Renaldo Hill (free agency), Kirk Morrison (traded) and Randy Moss (traded). Several other players including Warren Sapp and Ron Stone reached the end of their playing career with the Raiders.

The Draft

When you think of recent Raiders drafts there is a tendency to focus on JaMarcus Russell. The Raiders, though, rank 8th in games started by players who were draft selections made in 2006 through 2010. Their 2006 draft yielded two starters in 1st rounder Michael Huff and 2nd rounder Thomas Howard. 3rd rounder Paul McQuistan started some games but was more of a backup. The fateful 2007 draft had Russell as the top pick. They did pick up Zach Miller in the 2nd round, though. 3rd rounder Quentin Moses was a bigger flop than Russell, and was waived before his rookie season. Johnnie Lee Higgins, their other 3rd rounder, was a backup and kick returner. They did get some value in the 4th round in Michael Bush and in the 5th round with Jay Richardson, who was a 2-year starter before being released. The 1st round in 2008 brought Darren McFadden and their 2nd and 3rd round picks were traded away. Tyvon Branch, who became a starter in 2009, was their 4th round pick. 2009 brought the much criticized Darrius Heyward-Bey pick in the 1st round. 2nd rounder Michael Mitchell hasn't cracked the starting lineup yet while 3rd rounder Matt Shaughnessy has started a few games. 4th rounder Louis Murphy has added value. Each of the Raiders first four picks in the 2010 draft (Rolando McClain in the 1st round; Lamarr Houston in the 2nd; Jared Veldheer in the 3rd; and Jacoby Ford in the 4th) started as rookies. Overall, the Raiders drafts have been somewhat disappointing but better than the common perception. The 2010 draft could have been a pivotal draft.

Free Agent Signings

For all their wheeling and dealing the Raiders have not really been major players in the free agent market. Their most significant signings were Cooper Carlisle and Cornell Green.

Trades

The Raiders have been frequent traders. 2010 starters acquired through trades include:

- Samson Satele and a 4th rounder acquired for a 4th and 6th rounder
- Richard Seymour acquired for a 1st round choice
- Kamerion Wimbley acquired for a 3rd round choice
- Quentin Grove acquired for a 5th round choice
- Jason Campbell acquired for a 4th round choice

The most ill-fated acquisition was getting D'Angelo Hall for a 2nd round choice. Hall played only eight games and was released.

The most significant trades sending players from the Raiders were Randy Moss for a 4th rounder; Doug Gabriel for a 5th rounder; Fabien Washington for a 4th rounder; Derrick Burgess for 3rd and 5th rounders; and Kirk Morrison and a 5th rounder for a 4th rounder.

Stability

The Raiders were 27th in the Stability Index and had below average stability in each of the five years studied, with between five and six new starters in each season. The biggest area of instability has been in the Raiders passing game and their QBs and wide receivers. At QB 2005 starter Kerry Collins was

replaced by the combination of Aaron Brooks and Andrew Walter in 2006. Neither of them started a game in 2007 and were replaced by Josh McCown, Daunte Culpepper and the ever popular JaMarcus Russell. Russell was handed the job in 2008 and most of 2009, with Charlie Frye and Bruce Gradkowski also starting in 2009. Jason Campbell was the primary starter in 2010, with a handful of games started by Gradkowski.

The Raiders were strong at the WR position in 2005 with Randy Moss and Jerry Porter combining for 136 receptions. Porter was inactive for most of the 2006 season (management issues) and was replaced by Alvis Whitted. Porter returned in 2007 but Moss was traded and replaced by Ronald Curry. Porter was lost to free agency prior to the 2008 season and the Raiders used a combination of Curry, Javon Walker, Chaz Schilens and Ashley Lelie. In 2009 draftees Darrius Heyward-Bey and Louis Murphy got most of the starts with Schilens also getting some starts. 2010 featured Heyward-Bey, Murphy, draftee Jacoby Ford and practice squad player Marcel Reece.

Other notable personnel turnover situations were (1) the offensive line in 2007 with free agents Cooper Carlisle, Cornell Green and Jeremy Newberry stepping into the starting lineup and (2) the complete turnover in the linebacker starting corps in 2010 as the Raiders traded for new starters Quentin Groves and Kamerion Wimbley and also inserted draftee Rolando McClain into the starting lineup.

Quarterbacks

The Raiders looked to have their future insured when they drafted JaMarcus Russell, but he turned out to a bust so they are currently relying on Jason Campbell and Kyle Boller.

Quarterback Starts

Player	How Acquired (Selection #)	Year Acquired	Number of Starts
JaMarcus Russell	D – 1	2007	25
Jason Campbell	T	2010	12
Josh McCown	T	2007	9
Andrew Walter	D – 69	2005	9
Aaron Brooks	FA	2006	8
Bruce Gradkowski	W	2009	8
Daunte Culpepper	FA	2007	6
Charlie Frye	FA	2009	3