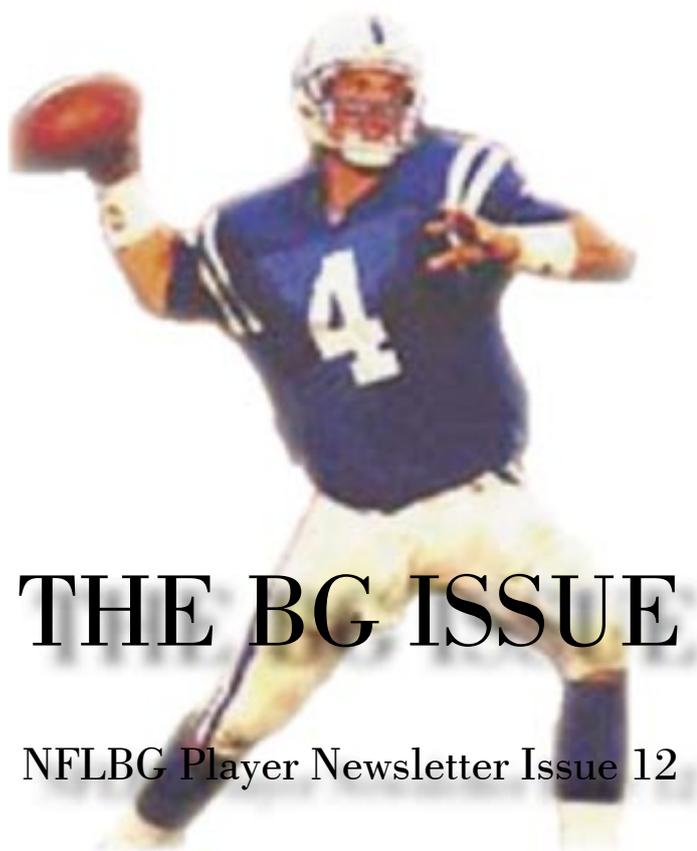


Colts Repeat as BG Champions

Colts review of season 2003

Colts go 5/7 SB's & a three-peat to boot! With all the success I have had with these great Colts over the years this was a particularly pleasing season. I had decided to quit BG 2 seasons ago & just run my credits down & leave the league, but it wasn't until like week 10 or so I started to get a little tingling about the playoffs coming and shall I try to defend my title? I was in trouble with my Win/loss situation and needed to win all the remaining games to get a WC. Beating Jack Startin in week 16 was all the proof I needed that I could retain my title. I entered the playoffs as a wild card and beat the Oilers 34-12. I then travelled to Baltimore & sneaked past Dom with a shoot out 42-35. The championship game was a blow out. Playing Jack again at his after I had inflicted only his 2nd defeat of the season, I was confident of doing the same but this time I had played UP once more, Would this affect my chances? Well when I was 38-0 up at the end of the 4th I thought obviously not! Poor old Jack! He didn't deserve that after the season he had.

The final was against that man Barton again! He must have thought he would win this baby against a WC team? A look at the stats says otherwise....



THE BG ISSUE

NFLBG Player Newsletter Issue 12

495 yards to 248, 25 FD's to 12 & 28-12 score line. Probably the most pleasing of my SB's as I had done it from the WC.

Season 2004

I had stated that I would put a gameplan in from the start and raced into a 14-0 start, playing Neil Arthurton was the only thing stopping me from going 16-0 IMO, so I sent in the gameplan to stop his passing attack. Sadly Danny did not receive the gameplan on time, even though I sent it a week early! I got beat 28-14 with a basic run stopping defence with a 24-10 loss, man I was annoyed! I had homefield for the playoffs and my first game was against Graeme Odgers (Titans) Graeme had impressed me with his regular season game so I knew this was tough. With the help of 10 4th quarter points I got through 17-14 just! Bring on Mr Arthurton again; I wanted revenge for week 15. The Raiders were up 10-3 at the end of the first and I knew this was going to be close. Moving 23-10 up at the end of the third however I thought that should be enough surely? The start of the 4th was horrible as the Raiders connected with a 47 yarder to pull within 6, with less than 5 minutes on the clock I had to punt from the 57 yard line & knew this was Neil's best chance of running a lot of time off the clock & scoring late to seal the victory. Unfortunately for Neil, he fumbled the punt & I gained possession at the 6. A FG later and that's that, 29-20. Bad luck Neil, great game but some revenge for me.

The superbowl

Martyn is a great coach; a 15-1 record is testimony to his good gameplanning. The Redskins opened up with a 7-0 lead in the first Quarter, all I could do was get intercepted when throwing from the 39. The second Quarter saw the Redskins move 14-0 up, it did not look good, and I had to score. Three plays & 76 yards later we were back in it 14-7. Washington extended their lead to 10 with a FG; I was intercepted again from the 37. The Redskins next drive stalled leaving me a minute 37 secs to score. 4 Plays later & a 51 yarder reduced the arrears to 3, 17-14. The third quarter started with a great Punt for Washington and backed me up to the 5, the ensuing safety was a formality with the plays

called, Washington then marched downfield and added another FG to move 22-14 up, then after I had given up my 3rd turnover, they added another FG to make it 25-14. At the start of the fourth with heart pounding I needed a TD or this game's gone baby. Boom! A TD to make it 25-22, with the Redskins failing to move the ball I sensed a shift in my fortunes. I moved 79 out of the 84 yards needed but kicked the tying FG, 25-25. With a kick off to 9 and run back 55 yards to the Colt 36 and 5 minutes remaining, I needed to make my stand. This I did & with less than 3 minutes on the clock I stood 80 yards between me & the three-peat. First play was a 23 yarder leaving me 57 from home, with immense pressure from the Redskin blitzers, Jim Harbaugh, the player I have had since the start of my career and the man who has won all 4 Super-

bowls with me in BG, an 11 year veteran QB with ORO + OQB strengths, resisted all and dumped off a 2 yarder to RB Albert Bentley a 9 year vet with OPS, DKR+DPR strengths that turned the 2 yard gain into a 57 yard TD! Washington did have 2 minutes to find a TD but only managed to get near midfield against a massive Colt D. The game was over...the crowd went wild.... well I did anyway. Commiserations to Martyn, a great game.

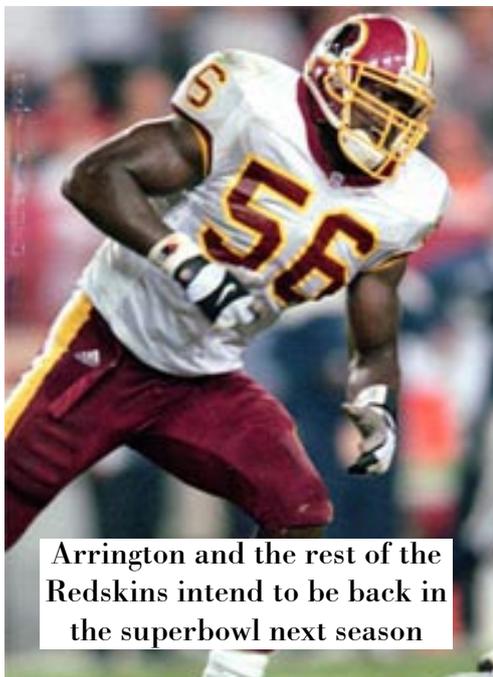
With best wishes from Neil & Graeme, Neil said that he would take my title next year... but he said that last year :) . Mr Odgers may have more to say on the matter with his impressive squad however. Thanks guys.

- Apple

Redskins Plot Revenge

Washington Redskins 2004 Season and Training Camp Review

Well, I can't really complain with my second season in charge of the Redskins. My aim at the beginning of the season was to repeat as division champions, with a better record than 10-6, and to win through to the NFC Championship game. I thought they were realistic goals, but didn't think the squad was in place yet to seriously challenge Dex and Rob in Atlanta and Minnesota respectively. But behind a simply fantastic last season for QB Tony Banks, the O flourished and the D continued to play tough,



Arrington and the rest of the Redskins intend to be back in the superbowl next season

resulting in an excellent 15-1 finish. Revenge against Rob's Vikings in the Championship game, for 3 previous defeats in BG, was extremely sweet, and the match up against APPLE's Colts in the

Super Bowl was the one I would've asked for at the beginning of the season – after all to become the best you have to beat the best! I was obviously disappointed to lose the Super Bowl, but still as happy as I could be in defeat. My team played the Colts far closer than I expected, and but for two fantastic goal line stands by the Colts in the third quarter, I truly believe the Redskins would have won it all. But congratulations to APPLE for masterminding a great 4th quarter comeback, and proving once again he is the Daddy of NFLBG!

Looking towards next season, I consider the last few pieces of the jigsaw to have fallen into place now in Washington. Squad wise we are stronger than ever with more special teams ability, a 6* QB and an extremely experienced and strong OL to protect him. The training regime is now well in place and I expect this team to hit the ground running week one. After losing a Super Bowl there is only really one thing to aim for the next season, and that is to win it, and so that is what the Redskins have their sights on. But first off we need to win the East again. I expect a tougher battle for the division this season, and of course there are still those damn Vikings and Falcons to worry about, and I fully expect the Packers to come back a lot stronger this season as well. So see you in the Super Bowl APPLE!

- Martyn Williams

Back on the Charge

When I first joined BG at the beginning of last season, I found it difficult to get going in this league for some reason. After about week 4, I decided to call it a day to concentrate on other teams and get myself organised a little. I decided to give BG another go and have re-joined in the draft. The squad hasn't changed much and I feel we are a lot

stronger for this coming season and we are going to give it a damn good go this time. I can't let Apple dominate again, and seeing as I've got his number now, I aim to knock him off his BiG perch. :)

- Paul Gorner

Vikings Still Hunting for Glory

Last season was a big disappointment for us, though if you'd said at the start of the year we'd make it to the NFC championship game I wouldn't have believed you! We had major retirements on the OL and at LB last offseason and felt like we spent most of the year papering over the cracks. In the end a victory over our playoff jinx of recent years, the Falcons, had us believing that we could finally go all the way. We were still believing halfway through the third quarter of the championship game, but then we failed to capitalise on a Washington turnover when we turned the ball over ourselves. We could have gone fourteen points up and instead found ourselves level by the start of the fourth quarter. There was no stopping the Redskins after that and fair play to them, they kicked our asses all over the field in the fourth.

Now that we've had some time to put it all in perspective, however, last season was fairly successful for us. The offseason went well, we lost three veterans and they will be missed, but I feel like we covered the holes they left through the draft and free agency and even managed to get stronger in the defensive secondary. We invested in some quality rehab for a couple of key receivers, our OL returns with a year of extra experience and overall I'll have no-one to blame but myself if we're not back challenging for the superbowl again this season. Of

course, we're going to have to figure out how to beat the Falcons again, we've managed it twice in a row now and I have a feeling our luck is about to run out. The Redskins are a very dangerous team, particularly their ability to turn short passes into long gains. At least it looks like the Giants may be able to give them a run for their money in the division this year.



Brad Johnson is hoping to shake off that 'bridesmaid' tag

In our own division we're hoping the sudden return to form of the Lions was only a blip and we'll only have to worry about the Packers this year. Green Bay are usually plenty to worry about all by themselves, they struggled a bit last season but they have a very solid looking squad once again and I expect them to be our main challengers for the division. Chicago

are burdened with the smallest squad in the division and, unless they suddenly hit on a very clever gameplan, I think the rest of the division will have them marked off as two wins already. It wouldn't be the first time I've been embarrassed by a supposedly 'weak' team of course.

So, overall I'm happy with the way the squad is developing and the aim, as always, is to grab that superbowl title. I believe we have the tools to do it, just have to go out there and do the business on the field.

- Rob Crowther

Runners and Riders - A Brief Run Down of the Contenders

AFC

Indianapolis Colts - The daddy returns, with big Jim coming back for one more year, Apple will be back too. The three-peat is definitely on, with massively experienced players throughout the roster, notably at QB, WR, DL and LB. There might be some joy challenging them deep, but I doubt many teams will be able to get away with it.

New York Jets - Always the bridesmaid, the Jets just can't seem to beat the Colts in big games. They don't have as much experience as Indy and it looks like they'll come up just short again.

Buffalo Bills - Made great strides last season, but still a way to go. They have to keep improving, but may be held back by a potential QB controversy.

Tennessee Titans - Tipped already to be the team to watch in the AFC this year. They have a great big roster, and there's plenty of experience on board.

Baltimore Ravens - A very small roster, but with some very experienced players in key positions: Vinny will be looking to hook up with Jackson and Lewis, coach Williams will be relying on Croel to hold the defense together.

Oakland Raiders - Only team to beat the Colts last year, they just have to figure out how to do it twice! May struggle with a young QB but Coach Arthurton is a crafty one.

San Diego Chargers - The Goz is back at the reins

and, with him paying full attention this year, the Chargers have to be taken seriously.

NFC

Washington Redskins - Not many picked them to go all the way last season, but they were dominant throughout the regular season. Back this year with a new QB, the consistency may suffer a bit but they'll still be challenging for the honours.

New York Giants - Previously a team which was all about defense, Coach Cox has made the offense a bit more of a threat. The roster isn't ideal, however, but still a potential wildcard.

Minnesota Vikings - Three straight divisional titles have raised expectations in formerly lowly Minnesota. As Johnson comes of age at QB the challenge is to maintain a decent supporting cast, this year it looks fairly solid if lacking experience in some areas.

Green Bay Packers - A surprise exit from the playoffs last year was the culmination of a disappointing season by Packer standards. Coach Ward has all the pieces in place and they should be setting the record straight this year.

Detroit Lions - Are they a one season wonder? They're going to have to prove me wrong...

Atlanta Falcons - Doesn't look like the roster's quite in place yet, so they may struggle a bit in the early going. Coach Barton won't be happy about the way things went last season, however, and I'm sure he's plotting his revenge.

Hope you enjoyed the first BGI for over a season - sorry I haven't had time to do one more often. I'll endeavour to get a few out this season but if you send any contributions try not to make them too time critical :)

My address these days is: Robert Crowther, 35a Dukes Avenue, Finchley, London. N3 2DE

Email: gameplan@crowther.info

Check out <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/gameplan/> for Gameplan related chat.