

Madden Online League

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Top Headlines

Rookies Struggle In Week 1

By: Larry Morris

There was a lot of hype involving this year's draft class. Week 1 proved there is a huge difference from college to the pro level. Of course when you're a 1st round pick you're expected to play well right away. A large number of rookies struggle in their season debuts. #1 overall pick QB Eli Manning had a rough debut, completing only 5 of 19 passes for 63 yards, 1 touchdown and 1 interception. The #2 overall pick, TE Kellen Winslow Jr. only caught 1 pass for 6 yards. #3 pick WR Larry Fitzgerald only caught 2 passes in his career opener. OT Robert Gallery, who was selected with the #4 overall pick gave up 2 sacks in his first game. QB Ben Roethlisberger completed 11 of 21 passes for only 95 yards, 1 touchdown, and 2 interceptions. Look for the top 5 picks to rebound nicely in week 2.

Not all the rookies had disappointing debuts. HB Steven Jackson, who was taken #55 overall, rushed for 83 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries. CB Chris Gamble, the #13 pick, made a huge splash in his debut, returning 2 punts for touchdowns. Ravens rookie WR B.J. Johnson caught 5 passes for 144 yards. Johnson was taken in the 2nd round, #52 overall. WR Lee Evans caught 5 passes for 79 yards and a touchdown. Evans was selected by Jacksonville with the #15 overall pick. Phillip Rivers had the best debut out of the quarterbacks, completing 18 of 26 passes for 210 yards, 1 touchdown, and 2 interceptions.

Obviously not all rookies have made an impact yet. One rookie who might be able to take advantage of an injury is rookie QB Matt Schaub for the Giants. Schaub was taken in the 5th round of this year's draft. After Giants QB Kerry Collins has gone down for the season, Schaub looks like a great candidate to take over at least for now.

The defensive rookies are the ones who seem to be making the least impact thus far. DE Kenechi Udeze, the #7 overall pick recorded 2 tackles. Browns DT Darnell Dockett recorded the first sack of his career, but only recorded 1 other tackle.

Off Season Turnaround Erupt In Week 1

By: Larry Morris

Week 1 provided us with many turnarounds from last season to week 1. This happened in both good and bad turnarounds.

The Arizona Cardinals and Houston Texans both had 2-14 seasons last year. The San Diego Chargers and New Orleans Saints both finished 1-15. What do they all have in common?? They all started this season off with wins. Most impressive was how impressive the wins were.

The Texans defeated the Tennessee Titans, who were 12-4 last season, 52-14. The Texans defense intercepted Titans QB Daunte Culpepper an astounding 9 times.

The Arizona Cardinals manhandled the Seattle Seahawks, who also finished the season 12-4 last year. The Cardinals won the game 28-3, holding the Seahawks offense to 68 yards of total offense. Rookie HB Steven Jackson had a impressive debut. Many believe the Cardinals had the best draft in the league.

The New Orleans Saints defeated the Oakland Raiders, who are the defending Super Bowl champions, by a score of 45-21. The rushing attack of Eddie George looked unreal in week 1 rushing for 204 yards and 4 touchdowns on only 19 carries. The defense still gave up a good amount of yards to the Raiders.

The San Diego Chargers defeated the Jacksonville Jaguars 47-28. The Jaguars just missed the playoffs last season and finished the year with a 8-8 record. Rookie CB Chris Gamble had a very impressive debut returning 2 punts for touchdowns. The Chargers still gave up almost 500 yards through the air to make opinions of things to come be a wide variety.

Now whether these teams have made a true turn around will be better known after week 2.

League Standings								
NFC East								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Eagles	1	0	0	1.000	27	13	0-0-0	1-0-0
Giants	1	0	0	1.000	31	7	0-0-0	0-0-0
Redskins	1	0	0	1.000	17	16	0-0-0	1-0-0
Cowboys	0	1	0	0.000	6	38	0-0-0	0-1-0
NFC West								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Cardinals	1	0	0	1.000	28	3	1-0-0	1-0-0
Rams	1	0	0	1.000	23	20	1-0-0	1-0-0
49ers	0	1	0	0.000	20	23	0-1-0	0-1-0
Seahawks	0	1	0	0.000	3	28	0-1-0	0-1-0
NFC North								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Vikings	1	0	0	1.000	38	6	0-0-0	1-0-0
Packers	1	0	0	1.000	31	13	1-0-0	1-0-0
Lions	0	1	0	0.000	13	31	0-1-0	0-1-0
Bears	0	1	0	0.000	20	45	0-0-0	0-0-0
NFC South								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Falcons	1	0	0	1.000	17	10	0-0-0	0-0-0
Saints	1	0	0	1.000	45	21	0-0-0	0-0-0
Buccaneers	0	1	0	0.000	16	17	0-0-0	0-1-0
Panthers	0	1	0	0.000	13	27	0-0-0	0-1-0
AFC East								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Jets	1	0	0	1.000	30	0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Dolphins	0	1	0	0.000	13	16	0-0-0	0-1-0
Bills	0	1	0	0.000	7	43	0-0-0	0-1-0
Patriots	0	1	0	0.000	0	30	0-1-0	0-1-0
AFC West								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Broncos	1	0	0	1.000	16	13	0-0-0	1-0-0
Chargers	1	0	0	1.000	47	28	0-0-0	1-0-0
Raiders	0	1	0	0.000	21	45	0-0-0	0-0-0
Chiefs	0	1	0	0.000	10	17	0-0-0	0-0-0
AFC North								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Bengals	1	0	0	1.000	56	21	1-0-0	1-0-0
Browns	1	0	0	1.000	43	7	0-0-0	1-0-0
Steelers	0	1	0	0.000	7	31	0-0-0	0-0-0
Ravens	0	1	0	0.000	21	56	0-1-0	0-1-0
AFC South								
Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	PF	PA	V/S Div	V/S Conf
Texans	1	0	0	1.000	52	14	1-0-0	1-0-0
Colts	1	0	0	1.000	45	20	0-0-0	0-0-0
Jaguars	0	1	0	0.000	27	48	0-0-0	0-1-0
Titans	0	1	0	0.000	14	52	0-1-0	0-1-0
Weekly Awards								
Offensive Player Of The Week			Team Of The Week			Defensive Player Of The Week		
			 					
Eddie George			Arizona Cardinals & Houston Texans			Jevon Kearse		
Ran the ball 19 times for 204 Yards and 4 touchdowns in 45-21 victory over Oakland.			Both coming off of 2-14 seasons, Arizona wins 28-3, Houston 52-14.			Recorded 6 tackles, 2 for loss, and 3 sacks in 38-6 win over Dallas.		

B - Jizzle Reporting	
B Jizzle gets the scoop with the Panthers GM	B Jizzle sits down with New York Jets GM for a weekly chat
B. Jizzle says: Coach, this past weeks game against the Eagles Muhsin Muhammad had a great game but the team ended up losing, what went wrong? MOL Panthers says: Well in the end the Eagles defense was very strong and 2 INT's of QB Delhomme throws were for TDs. Well next week when I play what ever team I don't know. Maybe we won't throw INT's and try to have a good game. B. Jizzle says: Even though it is the first game of the season does the loss mean anything to you? MOL Panthers says: Well it's just the first game of the season, we can change the offense around so they can catch the ball and score. The first game is not important, the only thing is important is win the most games if I do good the rest of the season I can get a spot of the playoffs maybe the NFC South Division Title. B. Jizzle says: Ahh ok, well thank you and good luck during your season. MOL Panthers says: Well thank you for the interview and good luck on your season maybe you can win the AFC North Division B. Jizzle says: Hehe why thank you, I will try my best to do what I can.	B. Jizzle says: Coach, your team managed to shut down Tom Brady's Offense this week, How to you do it? MOL Jets says: Well it started last season when I took over the coaching position. I recognized we needed a secondary and went out in the off-season and acquired Prioleau and Milloy. We knew Brady would go for the pass whenever he thought he had a chance. So we played in our man then went to zone to confuse him. It worked well with 4 interceptions and 1 returned for a TD all by our 2 new safeties. B. Jizzle says: Sorta like a double package huh? MOL Jets says: That's correct. Our defense has changed since last season. They are all on the same pace and are thinking alike. We have our base run stop our base pass rush and then we have our 6 DB set that we throw in when we know they are going to pass. B. Jizzle says: Well if your defense is beefed up this season what about the offense? You gotta have some key players on offense to get the points on the board. MOL Jets says: Pennington is still the key on offense. It revolves around him. I ask him if he thinks the play would work and he gives me his thoughts. We didn't have the ball for that long last game so we couldn't see how everything was clicking. LaMont Jordan is our new starter over Curtis Martin. He brings in a younger more diverse since of running that we need. Carter and Baker are the men that made the catches that we needed. No one on offense has broken out from the rest. They all are playing about equal. We'll see against the Steelers who wants to be the man on offense everyone looks forward to. B. Jizzle says: Alright then, sounds interesting. I will be seeing how things unfold during the season. So good luck with your team and your season and hope you guys get a good shot at going to the playoffs MOL Jets says: Thank you

League Gossip	
Minnesota Vikings	Miami Dolphins
The Vikings are believed to be looking to land one of the rookie WR's from this years class to go along with Andre Johnson and Kelly Campbell. Rumor has it that Minnesota is willing to ship HB Jamel White and WR's Jerome Pathon and Brandon Stokley. WR Lee Evans is believed to be the rookie receiver the Vikings are going after. There is also a rumor that the Vikings are trying to land Pro Bowl TE Tony Gonzalez, and that hard talks have been going on the last few days. The hold up seems to be Minnesota clearing salary space somehow. Minnesota head coach Larry Morris was pretty happy with his teams play in week 1. "Our defense played great, and our offense is always scary." "If Peyton can be efficient, things run smooth as can be offensively", Morris said.	The Dolphins have been quite impressed with the early play of Rookie WR Michael Clayton. They feel if they can secure another big time wide receiver on the other side they may finally have the duo they have been searching for. HB Ricky Williams didn't have a big game and the Dolphins management is quietly wondering if all the hits he took last season are staring to wear on his body. On the defensive side of the ball, they were once again pleased with the play from their defensive backs. Even with the loss, they seemed to have been in midseason form. There have been rumors that they are looking to upgrade the safety position considering the ages of the veterans they have.
Houston Texans	Madden Online League
The word out of Houston is that Ike Hilliard is on the way out. The management really likes rookie WR Ernest Wilford and is looking for potential trade in Hilliard. Hilliard who's 2 early drops in week 1 stalled some early drives while the running and receiving of Domanick Davis got the team going. Hilliard redeemed himself later in the game with 4 catches and 1 for a touchdown. While the coach denies wanting to move Hilliard it would make sense. The team needs help in other areas. The offensive line could use a boost. Carr was under constant pressure and Davis had to make his own holes most of the day. Masked by a big day by the D. There was no pressure put on by the front 3. The Texans could use a veteran pass rusher to help with the young guys on the D Line. First round pick Robert Gallery had an up and down first game. He was the best O lineman but also gave up 1 of the 2 sacks Carr suffered.	So much for the thought of playing at home being an advantage according to week 1. Only 4 of the 16 home teams were victorious in the 1st week of the season. If this trend continues, I will be volunteering to play all my games on the road, well not really. Teams shouldn't worry too much about the week 1 trend. Its more of a plus to the fact that the league is very even, and anybody can beat anybody on any day.

GM Quotes	
"This could be one of the deepest leagues as far as talent within the GM's around by far. I mean look at the teams who were 2-14 or worse last year in week 1." Vikings GM	"MOL is not just a league it is THE LEAGUE. It is where people get together and have fun playing Madden. Season 1 was a great success and now it's time to move on. This season is where it all begins again but just a year in advance. So... drop the shit talk and pick up the sticks and show us what you are made of. This league is where you earn your respect for being good or sucking so stop losing and start winning." Bengals GM
"Whatever u going to do in a game, do it with heart and honor. There is no need for cheesers and cheaters in what looks to be a great league." 49ers GM	
"The loss of Kerry Collins for the season is going to hurt us tremendously. Right now it's not clear what route were going to go. A trade could very well be on the horizon here in New York to acquire a quarterback." Giants GM	"Chicago has started off the season on a bad note. They are hoping to step it up a bit in week 2 but Washington is gonna give them a run for their money. Chicago's defense needs to hold a steady ground & stop the offense whether it's on the ground or in the air." Bears GM

Week 1 Power Poll			
TEAM Win - Loss	THIS WEEKS RANK	LAST WEEKS RANK	OBSERVATION
1  0	1	-	Last seasons top defensive team came out strong with a dominating performance against the Dallas Cowboys.
1  0	2	-	Run Amos Run!! Who could have expected a game like this from the back getting his first start in Cleveland?
1  0	3	-	Lamont Jordan made have made a statement as to who the starter should be in New York.
1  0	4	-	Brett Favre isn't showing his age too much in Green Bay, and showed who his main target this season will be in Quincy Morgan.
1  0	5	-	CB Bobby Taylor had to be a very happy camper returning two interceptions for touchdowns.
1  0	6	-	Wouldn't have expected Jabar Gaffney to lead the receiving corps in Indy. Look for Michael Bennett to have a sold season.
1  0	7	-	The week 1 surprise team hands down. Rookie HB Steven Jackson showed he will be a premier back in this league.
1  0	8	-	A solid game all around defeating the Chiefs in week 1. Look for QB Michael Vick to become more active running the ball.
1  0	9	-	Offense struggled, but defense was able to take control of the game against the Dolphins.
1  0	10	-	Eddie George had a career game rushing for 204 yards and 4 touchdowns on only 19 carries. That's a 10.7 yards per carry average. That's SCARY!
1  0	11	-	Couldn't make a bigger statement after a 2-14 season last year any better than with a dominating 52-14 victory over Tennessee.
1  0	12	-	TE Tony Gonzalez decides to use week 1 to prove that he is still an elite tight end in the league with 8 receptions and 113 yards and a TD.
1  0	13	-	McNabb running is a deadly weapon in Philly. Great mix on offense can be very successful.
1  0	14	-	Carson Palmer's efficiency in week 1 was scary. But, 6 INT by that defense is even scarier.
0  1	15	-	QB Jeff Garcia has already made it known who his go to receiver is gonna be, Terrell Owens. The 49ers offense just needs to be more efficient in the red zone.
1  0	16	-	Rookie CB Chris Gamble wants his name to be said when referring to the top returners in the league after his week 1 debut.
0  1	17	-	Special team's coverage became a killer in Week 1 giving up 2 punt returns to the Chargers.
1  0	18	-	HB Stephen Davis was non existent in week 1. Rams got by, but will be a lot more difficult if he keeps playing like that.
0  1	19	-	Are looking at a long season if Drew Bledsoe can't be more accurate throwing the pigskin.
0  1	20	-	WR Muhsin Muhammad had a huge week. He needs to get a little more help for Carolina.
0  1	21	-	When both QB Brad Johnson and HB Michael Pittman struggle, the Buccaneers have little chance to win.
0  1	22	-	HB Willis McGahee did his part, but the Raiders have no chance when they give up that kind of rushing yardage.
0  1	23	-	Defense was able to hold the Broncos to 1 touchdown, but also gave up 3 field goals and wasn't able to get much going on offense.
0  1	24	-	Need to get more than 35 yards out of HB Ahman Green no matter what to take some of the pressure of QB Steve McNair.
0  1	25	-	Not what would be expected from a team that finished 12-4 last season. Things should be turned around quickly for the Titans. Culpeppers league record 9 interceptions didn't help any at all.
0  1	26	-	68 Yards of total offense will not get it done. Some major shake ups need to happen offensively in Seattle.
0  1	27	-	Need to get HB Anthony Thomas more involved in the offense like last season.
0  1	28	-	QB Joey Harrington needs to improve on his completion percentage. WR Randy Moss needs to catch more than 3 passes for the Steelers to win.
0  1	29	-	Pass defense is very shaky and it showed giving up 4 touchdown passes in loss to Green Bay.
0  1	30	-	Could be a very long season if Tom Brady doesn't improve his game play quickly.
0  1	31	-	Rough outing for the rookie signal caller Eli Manning, but still showed some promise for the Bills.
0  1	32	-	The Cowboys need Quincy Carter to be more efficient passing the ball. Rookie HB Michael Turner showed promise.

Obermullers's Picks 8-8 On The Season, 8-8 Last Week			
Away	Home	Winner	Outlook
STL	CAR	STL	St. Louis showed their heart in their comeback win. Carolina struggled and could struggle again.
DET	MIN	MIN	Minnesota needs to not have a let down against the Detroit Lions and contain Kevin Jones.
CHI	WAS	CHI	If Chicago can stop Tony Gonzalez, this game should be theirs. Get the A Train more involved.
IND	TEN	IND	These two battled all last season for the division title. But things look brighter in Indy.
BAL	DAL	BAL	Look for the defensively loaded Ravens to rebound and bet up on the Cowboys.
PIT	NYJ	NYJ	Steelers have the better team on paper. But that's why they play the games on the field.
OAK	TB	TB	Expect the defending champs to get back on track this week against the struggling Bucs.
NYG	ATL	ATL	Look for Atlanta to make life miserable for the Giants who lost Kerry Collins for the season.
JAX	HOU	HOU	Houston had 9 picks last week. Jacksonville threw for 474 yards. Something has got to give.
CIN	NE	CIN	Look for the Bengals to roll against the struggling Patriots.
BUF	ARI	ARI	Can Eli rebound with a better game to defeat the surprising Cardinals? Ben v/s Eli Round 1
MIA	SEA	MIA	Miami lost close while Seattle lost big. Miami gets in the win column.
CLE	DEN	CLE	The Browns erupted for a lot of points while Denver held Miami to very few points. Let's see what wins championships, Offense or Defense.
NO	SF	NO	The Saints should keep rolling against the 49ers. TO might try and answer though.
KC	SD	KC	The Chargers won big but gave up a lot of yards. Realist sets back in for the Chargers.
PHI	GB	*GB*	Battle of two undefeated teams. Favre has more weapons than McNabb.
* Game Of The Week			

WHO'S HOT			WHO'S NOT		
Team	Player	Statistics	Team	Player	Statistics
CLE	Amos Zereoue	29 Carries, 189 Yards, 1 TD	BUF	Eli Manning	5-19, 63 Yards, 1 TD, 1 INT
GB	Brett Favre	17-23, 268 Yards, 4 TD	SEA	Matt Hasselbeck	5-14, 51 Yards, 0 TD, 1 INT
GB	Quincy Morgan	10 Receptions, 172 Yards, 3 TD	ARI	Ben Roethlisberger	11-22, 95 Yards, 1 TD, 2 INT
CIN	Carson Palmer	8-13, 138 Yards, 4 TD	SEA	Edgerrin James	13 Carries, 31 Yards, 0 TD
BUF	B.J. Johnson	5 Receptions, 144 Yards, 2 TD	NE	Tom Brady	16-39, 180 Yards, 0 TD, 4 INT
NJY	Pierson Prioleau	3 Interceptions, 1 TD	NE	William Green	11 Carries, 16 Yards, 0 TD
HOU	Domanick Davis	30 Carries, 101 Yards, 2 TD	TEN	Daunte Culpepper	12-31, 223 Yards, 2 TD, 9 INT
HOU	Team Defense	9 Interceptions, 3 TD	TEN	Deuce McAllister	8 Carries, 29 Yards, 0 TD
IND	Trent Green	23-35, 331 Yards, 3 TD, 2 INT	DAL	Quincy Carter	12-22, 114 Yards, 0 TD, 3 INT
CHI	Mike Brown	8 Tackles, 1 INT, 1 TD	PIT	Joey Harrington	6-19, 53 Yards, 0 TD, 3 INT
MIN	Jevon Kearse	6 Tackles, 2 For Loss, 3 Sacks	KC	Ahman Green	15 Carries, 35 Yards, 1 TD
MIN	Kelly Campbell	6 Receptions, 118 Yards, 2 TD			
WAS	Tony Gonzalez	8 Receptions, 113 Yards, 1 TD			
OAK	Willis McGahee	17 Carries, 115 Yards, 2 TD,			
SD	Chris Gamble	2 Punt Returns For TD			
NYG	Bobby Taylor	2 INT Returned For TD			
Larry Morris – Editor In Chief			Steve Obermuller – Obermuller's Picks		
** Please send all articles or news columns to smtwolves16@hotmail.com					

A Word From The Commissioner
Overall I was very happy with the success of Week 1. A few issues were easily and quickly resolved. I recommend more people trying to get their games in early as the weekly deadline has been upped 1 day to Saturday at midnight. This is so I can use Sunday to finalize the new rosters and franchise files along with complete the newsletter. A quick reminder we have a new INI file for week 2. Also make sure you don't play with injured players. Good luck in week 2 and let's remember to play and have "FUN".

