

**Ultimate Glory:** For a franchise that struggled in its early days, the Bucs' Super Bowl XXXVII win was sweet redemption.

## BUCS/JAGUARS



# PASS OR FAIL FOR BUCS

**Scouting Report:** Bucs have invested heavily in the passing game with the hope it translates to more wins

Hope and Glory:  
Keys to the season

**Wining in the trenches:** The Buccaneers defensive line needs to show up on Sundays. It's really that simple. Tampa Bay has ranked last in the NFL in sacks for two consecutive seasons and allowed a league-high 156 rushing yards per game in 2011. You don't win many games by allowing those kind of stats.

**QB leadership:** Josh Freeman's resurgence is critical to the Bucs' offense. The Bucs invested big bucks in free agents Vincent Jackson and Dallas Clark, putting a mandate on upgrading the passing game. Now it's time to see if it was money well-spent.

**Coaching connection:** How will the Bucs respond to new coach Greg Schiano? He brings a tough-cop attitude to the team, which is a huge philosophical shift from Raheem Morris – under whose tenure the Bucs were often viewed as lacking focus and discipline.

No Guts, No Glory:  
Make-it or break-it games

**Sept 30 vs. Washington:** This is the first game in a critical stretch for the Buccaneers. The Redskins will bring dynamic rookie quarterback Robert Griffin III to Raymond James Stadium.

**Oct. 10 vs. Kansas City:** After a bye week, Tampa Bay faces Kansas City in another key divisional matchup. The Chiefs stumbled through last season and are equally hungry for this win.

**Oct. 21 vs. New Orleans:** Drew Brees will lead the potent Saints offense to Raymond James Stadium. Ideally, the Bucs have to find a way to close out a very tough four-week stretch with at least a 2-1 record.

### Five Buccaneers Chasing Glory



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**QB Josh Freeman:** One of the most intriguing questions of the season revolves around Freeman. Is he the QB who threw 25 TD passes in 2010? Or the guy who stunk it up in 2011?

**WR Vincent Jackson:** He gives Freeman the big-play target he needs to make this offense click and is a huge upgrade from under-achieving Mike Williams, who now becomes a secondary option.



**OL Carl Nicks:** Another new guy in the mix who will give the ground game much needed muscle up front. Can LeGarrette Blount and Doug Martin follow his lead?



**S Ronde Barber:** A 16-year pro, Barber moves from corner to free safety as the Bucs try to strengthen their secondary with a number of new players in the mix. Will it work?



**DT Gerald McCoy:** Needs to stay healthy. A former first-round pick in 2010, McCoy has missed 13 of his first 32 games.



Quest for Glory:  
Did you know ...

The Bucs have six projected starters who are former first- or second-round draft picks.

Quarterback Josh Freeman played soccer two or three times a week to get in shape for the season.

The Bucs haven't finished a season inside the Top 10 in sacks since 2004.

### Glory Days: Bucs' 5 greatest players

**Lee Roy Selmon**

**(1976-1984):** The first player picked by the Bucs in the NFL draft, Selmon went to six straight Pro Bowls and was named the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1979.



**Jimmie Giles**

**(1978-86):** A four-time Pro Bowl tight end, Giles still holds the team record with four receiving TDs in one game (Oct. 20, 1985, Miami Dolphins).



**Doug Williams**

**(1978-82):** Although Williams played only five seasons with the Bucs because of a contract dispute, he led them to the playoffs three times and put a losing team on the NFL map.



— George Diaz

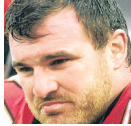
**Derrick Brooks**

**(1995-2008):** He started 221 out of 224 games in his Bucs career and is considered one of the best linebackers in NFL history.



**Paul Gruber**

**(1988-99):** Spent his entire career with the Bucs and never missed a snap in his first five years in the league as an offensive tackle.



# JAGS CHASE A COMEBACK

**Scouting report:** Jacksonville faces too much competition in AFC South to make playoffs (even with MJD)

Hope and Glory:  
Keys to the season

**Bring back MJD:** Obviously, the Jags' identity (and ticket sales) are linked to Jones-Drew's return after a high-profile holdout. Fans (and coaches) hope he'll be back in teal and black before the start of the season.

**Use the new target:** If the Jaguars can develop talented rookie wide receiver Justin Blackmon, he would give the team a much-needed strong downfield threat.

**Sharing the load:** With Jones-Drew's status in flux for the early part of the preseason, the Jags learned they had to depend on RB Rashad Jennings to carry rushing load. The 6-1, 228-pounder from Liberty has certainly received notice for his efforts.

No Guts, No Glory:  
Make-it or break-it games

**Sept. 16 vs. Houston:** A big home opener against Houston is sandwiched between two road games (at Minnesota and at Indianapolis).

**Sept. 23 at Indianapolis:** Speaking of the Colts, this will be a must-win game for Jacksonville against rebuilding Indianapolis. The Colts are hoping rookie quarterback Andrew Luck can spark a quick turnaround.

**Nov. 4 vs. Detroit:** The Lions seem to be pulling off the comeback Jacksonville is chasing. The Jags could use a win over Detroit four days before another key at Indianapolis.

### Five Jaguars Chasing Glory



JAKE ROTH/US PRESSWIRE

**RB Maurice Jones-Drew:** MJD is the most-watched player — wherever he might be, thanks to contract issues. As of deadline for this preview section, he was still holding out.

**QB Blaine Gabbert:** Gabbert begins his second season and still owns the starting job. Can he take another step?



**WR Justin Blackmon:** Much is expected of rookie first-round pick, especially after his off-the-field problems.



**WR Laurent Robinson:** Free-agent signee should provide consistent target for Gabbert.



**DT Jerome Mincey:** Ex-Gator can make Jags' defense even better than last season.



Quest for Glory:  
Did you know ...

Gabbert scored 42 of 50 on Wonderlic test and is a war history buff.

Blackmon's mother is a kindergarten teacher.

Coach Mike Mularkey will donate \$250 to charity every time one of his players scores a touchdown — without doing an end-zone dance.

### Glory Days: Jaguars' 5 greatest players

**QB Mark Brunell**  
**(1995-2003):** He made the Jags go from expansion to exceptional quickly.



**RB Fred Taylor**  
**(1998-2008):** Former Florida-Gator star turned in seven 1,000-yard seasons with the Jaguars.



**RB Maurice Jones-Drew**  
**(2006-present):** Workhorse running back won the NFL's rushing title last season. Will his preseason holdout impact his legacy with the team?



— Brian Schmitz

**OL Tony Boselli**  
**(1995-2001):** Rock of the offensive line, one of NFL's best when healthy.



**WR Jimmy Smith**  
**(1995-2005):** 12,287 yards, 67 TDs says it all.

