

# The NFL on REO

[Titans Tuesday](#) is dead! Vaya con Dios Titans Tuesday!

It was fun while it lasted but after churning out two dozen amazing and insightful articles that focused on the Tennessee Titans, a few things became very clear:

1. I am probably not as amazing or as insightful as I think. Nah! That can't be it.
2. The REO readership doesn't care about the Tennessee Titans very much. The stats bear that out with depressing accuracy. Sad face.
3. The best performing editions were those that branched out and covered general NFL topics and not just things related to the Titans.

What that means is that instead of continuing Titans Tuesday, I have decided to let it evolve and become something that is more comprehensive of the whole league. That is not to say I will ignore my favorite team. The Titans will get their own section each week. If you have don't care for the Titans, you are more than welcome to not read that section.

With the table set, as it were, let's get to the topics of the day:

## The 2017 NFL Regular Season Schedule

Back when the Colts and the Patriots played nearly every season, you would hear a lot of talk about how the NFL manipulated the schedule to get those kinds of matchups. You still hear that kind of talk these days, when various fan-bases cry and moan about how their team got the short end of the stick, or how their rival team was gifted with one of the easiest schedules in the league.

If you are one of those conspiracy nuts, stop it. Just stop. There is no conspiracy. There never has been some grand conspiracy. The NFL doesn't sit back and attempt to devise ways to screw over this team or that. They don't conspire to make one team's schedule as easy as possible. Do you know how I can say this with utmost certainty? Because the NFL schedule is basically set in stone years in advance. Yes, there are two games every season that are fluid until the previous season ends, but for the most part, every other game was decided years in advance. Allow me to demonstrate using the Tennessee Titans schedule:

The NFL schedule is almost beautiful in its symmetry and logic. My only concern is that Roger Goodell is going to see how wonderful and perfect the schedule is and he will try to sabotage it in some way. I'm sure it tarnishes the shield or something. It's 2017 and Roger Goodell still has a job as the commissioner of the biggest professional sports league in the country. If that is not a sign of the end times, I don't know what is.

## **The NFL Draft**

The draft is tomorrow.





I am no draft expert but I have no problem pretending to be one on the internet. Not being an expert doesn't seem to have stopped thousands of others from spouting their draft wisdom. I do not follow the college game close enough to have a strong opinion about most of these players so I will condense my thoughts about the NFL draft and put them in bullet points (nifty little footballs) to facilitate easy reading and comprehension:



As far as I can tell there are no great QB's in this year's draft. At least, there are no QB's that multiple teams are falling over themselves to draft. That's not to say that there will not be a handful of teams that convince themselves that they have to draft a QB high, which will create a mad frenzy at the top of the 1<sup>st</sup> round.



While there do not seem to be any "can't miss" type players, this draft does seem to be extremely deep in a variety of positions. I have a feeling that in a few years, this draft will be looked upon favorably outside of the QB

position. Cornerback and Wide Receiver seem to be particularly deep this year, which bodes well for teams that need help at those positions. Yay for the Titans!



A recent [stat](#) was released that showed that more than 30 of the players that are hoping to be drafted have been arrested. That is nearly 1/7<sup>th</sup> of the total number of players that will be selected this year. So, for the last time, any people out there that are still beating the NFL for their off the field issues yet conveniently ignoring the problems in the college game, enough is enough. The NFL is importing their problems and they have very little choice in the matter. There is no other talent pool they can dip into to acquire players. If we are going to be fair about the real problems in the NFL we need to start by addressing the myriad of problems in College football. I need to hurry up and finish this article before a few more college players get busted for drug use or get arrested for domestic violence.

## Titans Talk



I'll keep this brief because I really have no idea how Jon Robinson is going to operate in this year's draft. If I were a betting man, I would put money on Robinson trading one his two first round picks. I think he values picks and not having a second round pick is probably driving him crazy. If he can still get a player he likes by trading either the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 18<sup>th</sup> picks, he will do that in a heartbeat.

I don't see any way around the Titans drafting at least one cornerback this year. Adding Logan Ryan this offseason was a good move but they also lost Jason McCourty, which offsets the Ryan addition a little. McCourty had lost a step or two and he was certainly not worth the money his contract was due to pay him, but he was still a body in the rotation that could give you some quality minutes from time to time. The Titans need at least one starter in this draft and perhaps another nickel or dime corner.

Did anyone else get a surge of parental pride when you saw the video clip of Marcus Mariota arriving to the first day of OTA's? It was still mostly dark outside when our man got to Saint Thomas Sports Park. He was walking fine and looked ready to get to work. If he is 100% healthy this season, I think he will have a Pro Bowl type of year. He gets it. He gets all of it.

If you haven't jumped on the bandwagon yet, you need to do so soon. After going 9-7 last season the Titans are poised to be one of the breakout teams of 2017. Don't wait too long to get on board or you are going to be left behind.

Finally, thank you and good luck to Paul Kuharsky. Paul has covered the Titans and the AFC South for a long time. He announced on Monday that he has been let go by ESPN. While I disagreed with Paul at times in how he covered things, or his opinion on certain players or situations, I truly believe he wrote with integrity and passion. He will be missed in that role but hopefully this will be the beginning of a new, more fulfilling chapter in his life. He can still be heard on The Midday 180 on [104.5 The Zone](#).

See you next week as I recap the draft and address a few more reasons why Roger Goodell needs to be fired.