PRO FOOTBALL

Bills and Browns aim to be contenders this season

NICK BLAKE
sports editor

The Buffalo Bills open the 2009 season on Monday Night Football against their AFC East rival, the New England Patriots on Sept 14.

The Bills finished with a discouraging 7-9 record last season, after shooting out of the gates to a 5-1 record.

The biggest offseason news for the Bills would have to be the quisition of wide receiver Terrell Owens.

Owens departed the Dallas Cowboys, signing a one-year contract with the Bills, worth 6.5 million dollars.

Quarterback Trent Edwards should feel more confident in the pocket this year with the addition of Owens, who joins six-year veteran Lee Evans and eight-year veteran Josh Reed.

Buffalo made a key decision in the firing of offensive coordinator Turk Schonert, 10 days before the start of the regular season.

Jauron relieved Schonert of his duties, due to the lack of offensive improvements.

Bills' quarterback coach Alex Van Pelt was selected as the new offensive coordinator by head coach Dick Jauron.

The Bills also made another big move by releasing seven-year veteran and two-year starter Langston Walker.

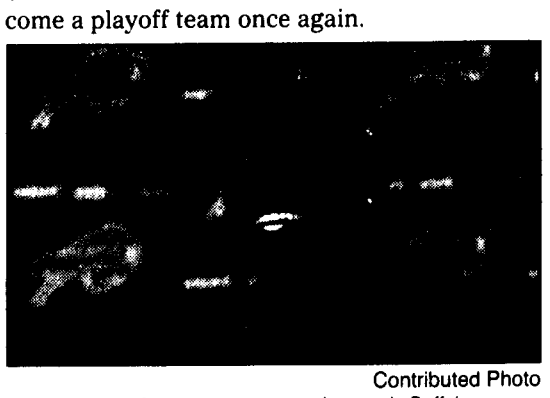
Walker will be replaced on the Buffalo offensive line by rookie Demetrius Bell.

It is a risky move, but one Van Pelt is comfortable with.

"He's a great athlete, a great talent," Van Pelt said. "The only thing he lacks right now is experience and he'll get tons of that coming up real quick."

Penn State Alum and linebacker Paul Posluszny led the Buffalo defense last year with 110 tackles and will surly be one of the leaders for the Bills this season.

The Bills have finished 7-9 in the past three seasons. They hope that with the addition of Owens and a new offensive coordinator they will be able to climb out of the AFC cellar and become a playoff team once again.



Contributed Photo
Terrell Owens at a press conference in Buffalo.

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The Cleveland Browns open the 2009 season at home on Sept. 13 against Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings.

The main story going into the game is, who is going to start at quarterback.

Derek Anderson was the number one guy for most of the season last year, but it looks like former first round pick Brady Quinn would get the nod.

At practice on Sept. 9, Quinn took most of the snaps, so it would appear that he will lead the offense onto the field on Sept. 13.

Quinn had an impressive preseason, completing 67.7 percent of his passes and it seems time for the third-year quarterback to lead the offense.

A key move for the Browns this offseason was the trade of tight end Kellen Winslow. Winslow was traded to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for two 2009 draft picks and one 2010 draft pick.

The Browns will also be without wide receiver Donte' Stallworth, who has been suspended by the league following a prison sentence for DUI manslaughter. Stallworth's suspension will last the entire season.

Cleveland also fired head coach Romeo Crennel at the end of the 2008 season.

Crennel was replaced by former New York Jets head coach Eric Mangeni.

The Browns' defense will be led by defensive lineman Shaun Rogers.

Rogers had 4.5 sacks last season and was the only Cleveland player to be selected for the Pro Bowl.

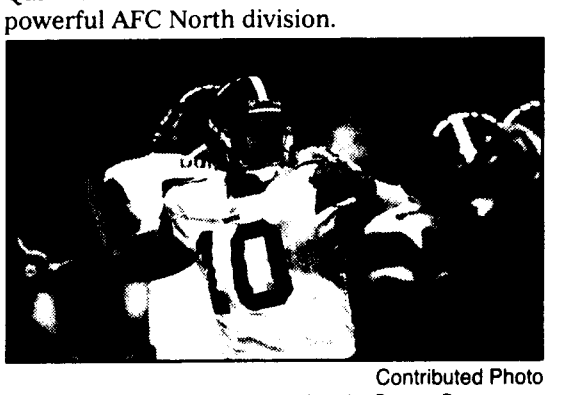
The Browns finished at an abysmal 4-12 last year, good enough for last in the AFC North.

They will try and improve upon that record this season, but it will be a difficult task.

The Browns will have to play both the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Baltimore Ravens twice.

They will also have to face the Green Bay Packers, Chicago Bears and the San Diego Chargers.

Cleveland, however, hopes to rebound with Quinn at the helm and become a contender in the powerful AFC North division.



Contributed Photo
Brady Quinn throws a pass against the Denver Broncos.

2008 Statistics: Buffalo

Offense

Passing	Cmp%	Yds	TD	Int
Trent Edwards	65.5	2,699	11	10
J.P. Losman	60.6	584	2	5

Rushing	Yds	Yds/Att	TD
Marshawn Lynch	1,036	4.1	8
Fred Jackson	571	4.4	3

Receiving	Rec	Yds	Yds/Rec	TD
Lee Evans	63	1,017	16.1	8
Josh Reed	56	597	10.7	1
Marshawn Lynch	47	300	6.4	1
Robert Royal	33	351	10.6	1

Defense

	Tkl	Solo	Sk	Int	FF	FR
Paul Posluszny	110	87	0	1	1	1
Kawika Mitchell	82	57	4	2	2	0
Terrence McGee	66	61	0	3	0	0
Bryan Scott	64	51	1	0	1	1
Ryan Denney	61	50	4	0	1	0

2008 Statistics: Cleveland

Offense

Passing	Cmp%	Yds	TD	Int
Derek Anderson	50.2	1,615	9	8
Brady Quinn	50.6	518	2	2

Rushing	Yds	Yds/Att	TD
Jamal Lewis	1,002	3.6	4
Jerome Harrison	246	7.2	1
Josh Cribbs	167	5.8	1

Receiving	Rec	Yds	Yds/Rec	TD
Braylon Edwards	55	873	15.9	3
Steve Heiden	23	249	10.8	0
Jamal Lewis	23	178	7.7	0
Jason Wright	22	156	7.1	1

Defense

	Tkl	Solo	Sk	Int	FF	FR
D'Qwell Jackson	154	95	2	3	0	0
Shaun Rogers	76	61	4.5	0	0	0
Kam. Wimbley	64	50	4.0	1	0	0
Brodney Pool	64	59	1	3	0	1

Beat The Experts has now been changed to Beat the Editors.

We have decided that since we are not quite experts, editors is a more fitting title.

Nick and Shawn, though, still feel that they are better fans than the rest of Behrend; someone must knock them down a level.

Play against us by e-mailing your picks to Nick Blake (npb5041@psu.edu) or Shawn Annarelli (sma5189@psu.edu).

Beat The Editors

NFL	Connor	Nick	Shawn	Christine	Dan	Mike
Jacksonville @ Indi.	Indi.	Indi.	Indi.	Indi.	Indi.	Indi.
Detroit @ N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	N. Orleans	Detroit	N. Orleans
Philly @ Carolina	Philly	Philly	Carolina	Philly	Carolina	Philly
Dallas @ Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Tampa Bay
N.Y. Jets @ Houston	Houston	Houston	Houston	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets
K.C. @ Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore	Baltimore
Minn. @ Cleveland	Minn.	Minn.	Minn.	Minn.	Minn.	Minn.
Wash. @ N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants
Miami @ Atlanta	Atlanta	Atlanta	Miami	Atlanta	Miami	Atlanta
Buffalo @ N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England	N. England
S. Diego @ Oakland	S. Diego	S. Diego	S. Diego	S. Diego	Oakland	S. Diego
Tie Breaker Chicago @ Green Bay	+7 Green Bay	+3 Green Bay	+4 Green Bay	+3 Chicago	+5 Green Bay	+10 Green Bay
NCAA						
Syracuse @ #7 Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.
#3 USC @ # 8 OSU	USC	USC	USC	USC	OSU	USC
#18 N. Dame @ Mich.	Michigan	N. Dame	N. Dame	N. Dame	N. Dame	N. Dame
Troy @ #1 Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida
Season Totals:	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**