

SOUTHEASTERN

ATHLETIC



INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

2021 EXPECTAIONS

Last season marked the Colts best season record wise, since 2014 with an 11-5 record. Why? Just look at the big, but subtle moves this franchise has made in recent years. After Chuck Pagano was released by the Colts after a 4-12 season in 2017 the team replaced him with Eagles Offensive Coordinator Frank Reich. The Colts then drafted Darius Leonard who would become Defensive Rookie of the Year and quarterback Andrew Luck came back from his injury to win Comeback Player of the year. All looked well. The Colts had a strong offense led by the talented Andrew Luck and a defense with star linebacker Darius Leonard. Fast forward to the next season. Pre-season matchup for the Colts. Luck sat on the sidelines for this one as news broke that he was planning to retire later that week. Luck, due to the drama, made his announcement.

"I've been stuck in this process. I haven't been able to live the life I want to live. Taking the joy out of the game, and after 2016, when I played in pain and was unable to regularly practice, I made a vow to myself that I would not go down that path again. I find myself in a similar situation and the only way forward for me is to remove myself from football and this cycle that I've been in."

So now the Colts offense was left in the hands of backup quarterback Jacoby Brissett. A solid QB but not necessarily the guy you want running your team. The team started off hot and Brissett showed that he could hang until an injury against the Steelers that put Brian Hoyer in at quarterback. The rest of the season was a dumpster fire ending with a mediocre at best record of 7-9. This put the team in a rare situation. The Colts had the 13th overall pick in the draft. A solid defense and an offense that was really just missing a quarterback. Chris Ballard traded the Colts first pick of the draft for defensive lineman DeForest Buckner. Now the Colts have an elite pass rusher. The Colts had some serious talent.

The Colts had all of this minus a quarterback. Enter Phillip Rivers. A veteran QB from the Chargers that tends to do well but cannot make it happen in the postseason. Known for accuracy and good decision making early in games. However it was inability to make things happen at the end of games that hurt the Colts. Week one, Colts at Jaguars. Colts down by seven with the ball and Rivers throws an interception that ended the game. It became a trend later in the season. The Colts would start strong then fall behind and wouldn't be able to recover. Despite losing scares towards the end of games they finished 11-5 and barely lost to the Bills in the first game of the playoffs. Exit Phillip Rivers.

Once again the Colts have a solid team just like the year before, and once again do not have a quarterback. Enter Chris Ballard and his GM magic. Boom. One second 2021 second round draft pick and a conditional third round 2022 draft pick later and the Colts have Carson Wentz, an MVP candidate from 2017 who struggled with injuries for the past couple of years but showed potential. Quickly things start to look up for the team. TY Hilton resigns along with Marlon Mack who is coming off an injury. Xavier Rhodes the cornerback and a crucial part of the defensive success that the team had resigned, and Sam Tevi along with Julie'n Davenport, two offensive tackles sign hoping to replace the retired Anthony Castonzo.



So what can we expect from this team now? The team finally has a quarterback they trust. A top three offensive line in the NFL. A solid defense with multiple Pro-Bowlers, and a first round draft pick later this month. Things look great. Week one the Colts face the Jags in Jacksonville. Although the team has signed legendary head coach Urban Meyer and is expected to draft Trevor Lawrence this should be an easy win, 1-0. Week two against the Vikings. If it is anything like last season once again the Colts should win the one, 2-0. Week three is a joke. Colts at home taking on the Jets, 3-0. Week four at the Bears could be a tough one and given that the Colts have a history of losing to teams they shouldn't lose to I say Bears win, 3-1. Week five at Cleveland. This should be the best matchup of the season for the Colts. It could go either way, but given that the Colts will still be getting used to having Wentz under center I'll take the Browns in a close one, 3-2. Week six against the Bengals, win, 4-2. Then come a bye week before heading out to Detroit. Once again this should be a win the Lions don't have any threat at all anymore, 5-2. Another great matchup. Baltimore comes to Indy. This should be a great game but the edge goes to the Ravens as most expect Lamar to come back and play like he did two seasons ago, 5-3. Colts then should beat the Titans in Nashville bringing them to a 6-3 record. After the Titans they have two weeks at home first against the Packers, loss. Then against the Titans again. Win. Colts should at this point lead the AFC South with a 6-4 record with only six games remaining. Texans, Raiders, Texans, three wins in a row. 9-4. Steelers and Jaguars, loss and a win. Colts end up 10-6.

With a weak division this a 10-6 record should give the Colts another AFC South Championship and secure a spot in the postseason. However, don't expect much. This team is still fairly young so I'd give them no more than a win, maybe two in the playoffs. Come next year however, assuming Chris Ballard continues to sign guys that significantly help the team I would not be completely surprised to see this team make a run. *Story by Keegan Stein*

MASTERED MASTUYAMA WINS 2021 MASTERS

Luckily after the Augusta National Masters tournament was cancelled in 2020- the 2021 Masters took place from April 8-11. This year's champion of the Masters is a man by the name Hideki Matsuyama. Matsuyama was the first person from Japan to win not only a Masters, but the first to win a men's major championship. Matsuyama had been struggling all year in his tournaments, moving from a Number 2 World Golf Ranking to a Number 25 while entering into Florida and had not had a top-10 finish since last fall. Matsuyama has only been the 7th golfer to get a Green Jacket at a Low Amateur level with some legendary names like Phil Mickelson, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods. The entire tournament, Matsuyama's lead continued to increase and decrease against players like former champion Jordan Spieth. He ended up taking the victory -10, next to Will Zalatoris at -9 and Jordan Spieth at -7. *Story by Delaney Crace*.



IN MEMORY OF TERRENCE CLARK

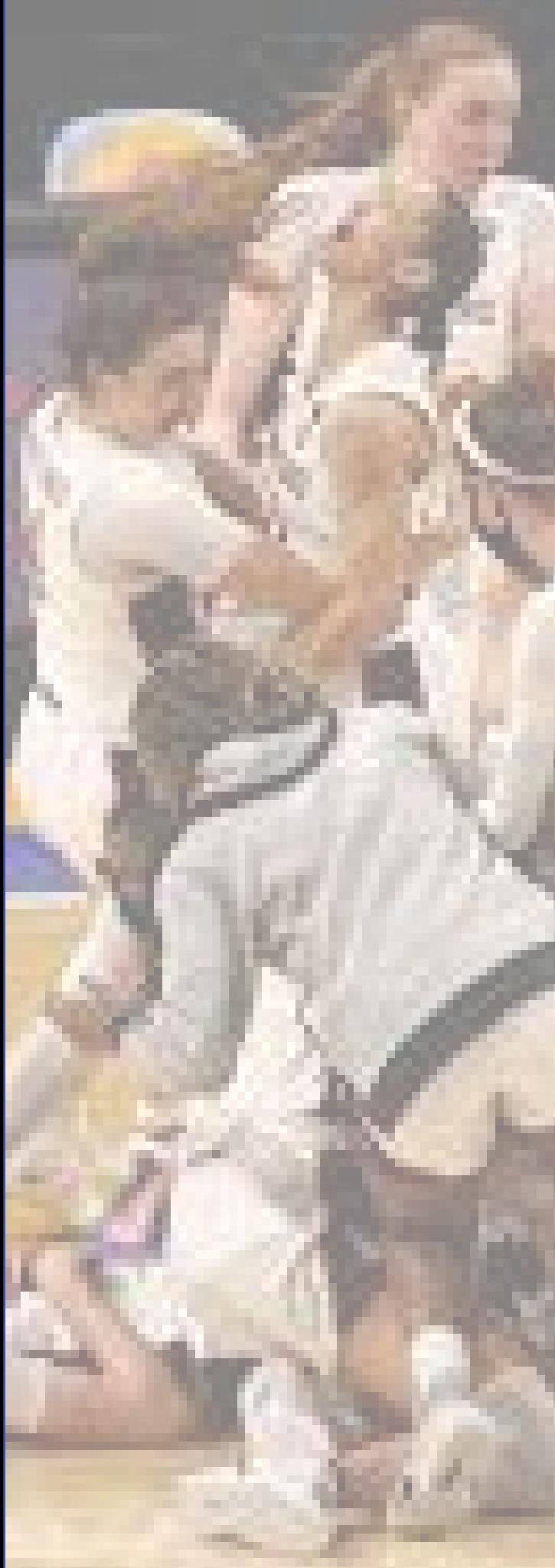
19-year-old Terrence Clarke had just signed with Klutch Sports and declared for the NBA just 1 day before his tragic and unexpected death on April 23rd, 2021. Clarke passed in the hospital after a horrific car accident at an intersection in Los Angeles. Clarke and teammate, Brandon Boston Jr. were on their way home from an off-season workout that they were doing together. Boston Jr. was in the car behind Clarke when the accident occurred.

Coach John Calipari expresses his emotion over the loss of Clarke, "He was caring of a person I have ever coached. His enthusiasm and energy- not just for basketball, for life- are all what we hope to have on this journey... Terrence had a spirit about him that rubbed off on every single person that was fortunate to cross paths with him". Calipari flew to Los Angeles to give comfort to Clarke and Boston's families. Boston Jr. did survive the accident after the hospital- but the trauma of seeing his best friend die in a car crash is unmatched.

Calipari also speaks out about something he will regret for a very long time- resisting his urge to reach out to Clarke and see how he was doing in Los Angeles. "I have to live with that regret for the rest of my life".

People are now reaching out to the Boston Celtics, Clarke's hometown, asking that they draft him as one of their picks in memory of him. It is unclear now if they will do that for his family. The Boston Red Sox have taken it upon themselves to honor Clarke outside of Fenway Park. His past AAU team also had a small memorial for him before one of their games after his death. Classmates and various teammates from Kentucky went to Clarke's candlelight vigil on campus.

This is not Kentucky's first loss of a loved teammate of the season. In January of 2021- walk-on Ben Jordan also passed away of what is believed to be suicide. The team has banded together to honor and love one another during this tough time of losing 2 great teammates unexpectedly. *Story by Delaney Crace.*



March 29th wrapped up the NCAA Women's Basketball Elite Eight, moving us on to the Final Four. First seed UConn will be playing for their 12th NCAA championship after a comeback win against second seed Baylor. UConn last won the championship against Syracuse in 2016. Stanford will be appearing in the Final Four for the college's fourteenth time after defeating second seed Louisville. Arizona, however, beat fourth-seed Indiana 66-53 in the Elite Eight, advancing them to the Final Four for the first time in history.

During Baylor's last game in the tournament, many fans and players were calling for a foul that could have changed the game. Throughout the entirety of the game, both teams were working for the win. UConn had a 19 point run at one point in the game and came back from a 10 point deficit. UConn's Dijonai Carrington put her team back in the lead by hitting four free throws in a row. They were up 68-67 with just 20 seconds left in the game. Christyn Williams from UConn was fouled and given the chance to hit two free throws, missed them both giving Baylor the chance to come back.

Two UConn players were face to face with Carrington attempting to stop her from making what could give Baylor the game-winning shot that would take them to the Championship. One player blocked the shot which led to the controversial call. NBA star Lebron James even took to Twitter to express his thoughts. Stating "Cmon man!!! That was a FOUL!!"

Arizona's head coach Adia Barnes is the second former WNBA player to lead a team to NCAA Final Four. South Carolina's head coach Dawn Staley was the first. This is also the first time in history that two black female coaches have coaches in the final four. *Story by Hannah Elkins*

NCAA WOMEN'S
BASKETBALL
ELITE EIGHT

INTERVIEW



Q: What does it mean to be the starting second baseman this season?

A: "Baseball is a huge part of my life, it's honestly all I do outside of football season," Wolf said. "I was hoping for some varsity time last year, but I worked my tail off during the offseason to put myself in a position to start this year."

Q: How did being a starter last season in football translate to this baseball season?

A: "Being a starter this year in football brought a new perspective into baseball this year," Wolf said. "I'm able to lead a lot more and work with the coaches to help the team."

Q: Your main sport is baseball, so explain why you choose to play football

A: "I feel like if I didn't play football and just played baseball, I don't think I would enjoy it as much as I do," Wolf said. "I think I would sike myself out, get too anxious, and try to do more than what is needed of me."

Q: Which sport is more intimidating, football or baseball?

A: "Easily football, I feel like baseball I'm a little more confident in myself," Wolf said. "There aren't many kids that are 5'6" starting at safety in Indiana 6A football. I have to play a little bit differently than most people in both sports because of my size."

Q: What would you describe your play style to be in baseball?

A: "I'm not as traditional of a player as most people are," Wolf said. "I try to be a pest at the plate, I try to be annoying through battling with two strikes and just try to get on base in whatever way I can. And then when I get on base, I try to steal as many bases as possible. I guess you could say I play with a chip on my shoulder."

Q: How does being the leadoff hitter effect you as a player?

A: "It can be a really good thing or it can be disastrous," Wolf said. "Starting that game, if you can get on base the team automatically thinks that they can have a big inning or a big game. But if you strike out, it gives the pitcher the power. I want to be aggressive at the plate, but as leadoff I have to be patient. I have to see where he is throwing, how he mixes his pitches, and attack the misses. It's a blessing and a curse."

Story by Tristain Fluhr