

# Indianapolis Colts

<b>2013 Record:</b> 11-5	<b>Total DVOA:</b> 3.2% (13th)	<b>2014 Mean Projection:</b> 8.7 wins	<b>On the Clock (0-4):</b> 5%
<b>Pythagorean Wins:</b> 9.4 (10th)	<b>Offense:</b> 4.3% (13th)	<b>Postseason Odds:</b> 53.4%	<b>Mediocrity (5-7):</b> 23%
<b>Snap-Weighted Age:</b> 26.6 (20th)	<b>Defense:</b> 0.9% (16th)	<b>Super Bowl Odds:</b> 7.3%	<b>Playoff Contender (8-10):</b> 48%
<b>Average Opponent:</b> -2.6% (23rd)	<b>Special Teams:</b> -0.1% (18th)	<b>Proj. Avg. Opponent:</b> -3.4%	<b>Super Bowl Contender (11+):</b> 23%
<b>2013:</b> <i>The Andrew Luck Show</i> starring Andrew Luck and, um... some other people, apparently.			
<b>2014:</b> Still very little time-slot competition, but they won't be playing into February sweeps.			

**T**he *Andrew Luck Show* (2012—current) is an American football drama that mixes the life of a burgeoning superstar quarterback with the basic plot of *The Truman Show*. The lead star, Luck, is forced into nigh-unwinnable circumstances. He is meant to replace one of the best quarterbacks of all time, Peyton Manning. He is selected with the first pick of the NFL Draft. He and the rest of his rookie class head to Indianapolis and find a roster that is roughly 10 percent Manning's war buddies and 90 percent filler.

Other factors begin to conspire against young Luck as well. His coach (Chuck Pagano, played by Tim Daly) contracts leukemia during the first season of the show, leading to the creation of the brand-phrase "ChuckStrong." The Colts run off a 9-2 record during Pagano's absence, but fall to Baltimore in the playoffs. The second season then took the dramatic narrative of the initial episodes and flipped it on its head. The Colts jumped out to a 6-2 start, with wins over power teams Seattle, San Francisco, and Denver. They came back to dispatch the reeling Texans, the former kings of the AFC South. But the team began to struggle down the stretch. Reggie Wayne (Larenz Tate) went down with a torn ACL, ending his season. With promising dual-threat tight end Dwayne Allen (Chiwetel Ejiofor) sidelined by a hip injury, Luck struggled to find targets from the rag-tag cast of extras surrounding fellow 2012 draftee T.Y. Hilton (D.B. Woodside). The running back for whom the team saw fit to trade a first-round pick, Trent Richardson (Jaden Smith), couldn't muster more than three yards a carry. Ultimately the team fell to the New England Patriots, as so many Colts teams have before, in a game that wasn't close.

A key conflict in *The Andrew Luck Show* is that Andrew Luck is rarely allowed to have any teammates of equivalent value. In this way, we experience the weekly struggle of a man trying to atone for mistakes that were never his own. All one needs to do to see how much Luck is accountable for is to research the history of roster construction in Indianapolis.

General managers Bill Polian (played by himself) and Ryan Grigson (Dave Annable) both have contributed to the roster malaise that surrounds Luck. After years of poor drafting, Polian left a bare-bones depth chart that was slaughtered by the league when the Colts took the field without Manning in 2011. Grigson took over that roster and added Luck, Hilton, and Allen. Every other move Grigson has made since that point has been a wash at best (Table 1).

**Table 1: Colts in 2011, Colts in 2014**

Name	Position	AV (2012-2013)
Reggie Wayne	WR	16
Robert Mathis	DE	19
Anthony Castonzo	OT	16
Joe Reitz	G	7
Fili Moala*	DL	7
Pat McAfee	P	5
Adam Vinatieri	K	6

\*- will miss 2014 season due to ligament tear

Table 1 lists the players that were on the team in 2011 and will still be on the team in 2014. It's a short list. We've used pro-football-reference's AV, or Approximate Value, as a tool to show how impactful those players were. AV is meant to be a smarter stat than games started or seasons played; a good season will score around 10, and Peyton Manning led the league last year with 19. The 2011 Colts that are still on the current roster combined for just 76 total AV over the past two years. More importantly, there are reasons to doubt that some of the players had as much value as their listed AV. For instance, Anthony Castonzo has struggled to be anything more than league-average since he began playing, but the AV system gives him credit for just being a starting left tackle for a winning team. Punters and kickers are a strange test of the AV system, and while McAfee has been more valuable than the average punter, Vinatieri has essentially been league-average the last few seasons. Joe Reitz wouldn't have played for most NFL teams at all. We could get into all the bad draft picks that left the Colts in this position, but this isn't a ten-page essay. And it wasn't like good players were running away from Indianapolis left and right. Antoine Bethea, Pierre Garcon, Donald Brown, and Phillip Wheeler have all since escaped the set. Those are nice complimentary players, but not the core of a successful team.

Luck's dilemma is simple: most of his teammates are extras, and Grigson has shown little capacity to find players who aren't. If we era-adjust for how running backs are valued today, the Trent Richardson trade is the modern equivalent of the Herschel Walker trade. But much like smaller tests of character show more about us than the crises in our lives, the trade that really demonstrated the flaws in Grigson's long-

2014 Colts Schedule					
Week	Opp.	Week	Opp.	Week	Opp.
1	at DEN	7	CIN	13	WAS
2	PHI (Mon.)	8	at PIT	14	at CLE
3	at JAC	9	at NYG (Mon.)	15	HOU
4	TEN	10	BYE	16	at DAL
5	BAL	11	NE	17	at TEN
6	at HOU (Thu.)	12	JAC		

term thinking was not the Richardson deal but the Vontae Davis deal, which sent a second-round pick to the Dolphins for the former first-round cornerback.

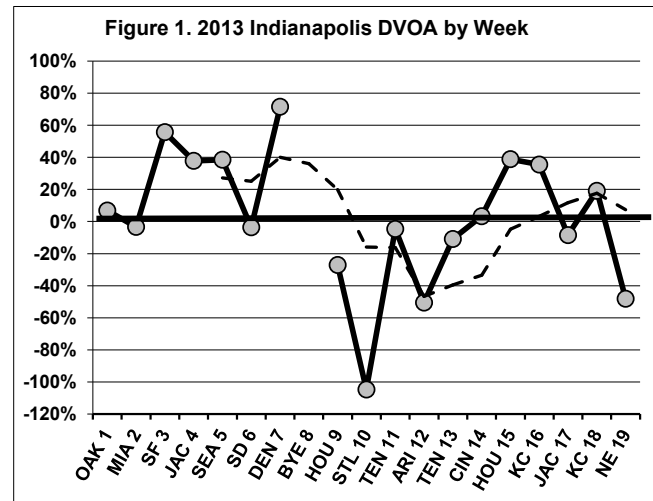
Davis just had his best season by FO's cornerback charting stats. He compiled a 62 percent Adjusted Success Rate in 2013, seventh in the NFL. He was at 41 percent in 2012 and 57 percent in 2011. While he has historically been an under-achiever, Davis put it all together in 2013 and became one of the only Colts defenders worth his salt. Then, after the season, he signed a four-year, \$36 million deal, and immediately became a commodity rather than an asset.

Because Grigson traded for Davis two years into his career, he only received two seasons of pay on a cheap rookie deal. The asset he gave away, the second-round pick, would have given him four seasons of that—and at a bargain rate, as well. The player the Dolphins picked in that slot, Jamar Taylor, won't have a cap number higher than \$1.15 million in any of those four seasons. In 2015, Davis' cap number will be \$11.2 million. Grigson traded away that future asset because he felt he had to get a starting cornerback, despite the fact that there was zero internal pressure to compete for a playoff berth as the Colts broke in Luck during the 2012 season.

When a team is as bereft of assets as the Colts were after Grigson took over, they have two options to accumulate more of them. They can draft players that turn into serviceable stars, or they can sign undervalued free agents to bargain contracts. By trading two high picks away, Grigson forfeited two of his best shots to find a young star at a draft-level salary. Instead, he ended up with a talented-but-inconsistent cornerback who carries a big cap figure and the worst starting running back of 2013.

Grigson's work in free agency has been similarly uninspiring. He certainly has been trying to follow a blueprint that features undervalued free agents with bargain contracts. Beyond Davis, Mathis, Wayne, and Luck, no Colts have a cap figure above \$6 million this season. But he has scouted poorly and inefficiently. Cory Redding, Ricky Jean-Francois, D'Qwell Jackson, Arthur Jones, and Erik Walden take up \$24 million in cap space this season. They combined for 16 sacks in 2013, and only Jones has much on-field talent for rushing the passer.

Instead, the Indianapolis brain trust devotes its attention to snuffing out opposing running games. Between the myopic ramblings of Pagano about stopping the run and the payroll space allocated to it, you would forgive Colts fans for believing it was actually important. All that emphasis on the run game just for the Patriots to roll the Colts' defense for 234 rushing yards and six touchdowns in the playoffs? That only



further emboldened Grigson and Pagano, which is why they signed Jones and Jackson rather than doing any work on the already-questionable pass defense.

Indianapolis finished 13th in pass defense DVOA last season, thanks primarily to standout seasons from Mathis and Davis (Table 2). Davis has always been a boom-or-bust corner, as the high Adjusted Yards per Pass figure shows. Even while he was having his best season in 2013, he allowed some humongous gains and big games. Tavon Austin and Andre Johnson both torched him in the middle of the season. Meanwhile, Mathis essentially stuffed his two previous seasons worth of sacks and hurries into one über-season. Given his advanced age (33), he was a good bet to regress even before a four-game substance abuse suspension was announced this offseason. With those four games gone, a worst-case scenario where Mathis plays as he did in 2012 could knock his sack total closer to six or seven.

**Table 2: Here Comes the Pass Defense Regression!**

	Robert Mathis			Vontae Davis		
	Sacks	Hits	Hurries	Target Rate (Rk)	Adj. Yards per Pass (Rk)	Success Rate (Rk)
2011	9.5	9	19	17.6% (40)	8.1 (54)	57% (21)
2012	8	6	8.5	19.4% (30)	9.9 (85)	41% (82)
2013	19.5	7	33.5	19.9% (30)	7.1 (33)	62% (7)

If the Colts had spent the last few years stockpiling intriguing pieces that played well in limited time around Mathis, that might have been acceptable. But they lost their only competent safety, Bethea, to free agency. Indianapolis signed no safeties of note and drafted none either, so they'll be starting either 33-year-old journeyman Mike Adams or a UDFA pizza party contest winner. 2013 first-round pick Bjoern Werner has a fine pedigree, but as a rookie he generated just five hurries and 2.5 sacks in 306 snaps. This is where we'd tell you about the other young contributors on Indy's defense, but if you skip ahead to the tables in the unit comments, you can see there aren't any. Josh Chapman is the only other player under 27 who played any real role for

the Colts last season, and he's just a hulking nose tackle, not a burgeoning sackmaster. It speaks poorly for the few recent defensive draft picks that they weren't even able to beat out the collection of mediocrities the Colts trotted out in 2013. Was the issue here injuries? No: while Indianapolis finished 31st in Adjusted Games Lost in 2013, that was mostly contained to the offensive side of the ball. The only place Indianapolis had devastating injury problems on defense was in the secondary, and that's mostly because they made a conscious choice to target veterans Greg Toler and LaRon Landry in free agency. If Donte Whitner can threaten to change his name to Hitner, the least Landry and Toler could do is add "-Doubtful" to the end of their surnames. If Mathis is anything less than the Defensive Player of the Year candidate he was last season once he finally gets on the field, this defense could completely collapse.

The good news is that we are projecting the Colts offense to take a step forward in 2014. There are individual question marks about Wayne (age, injury comeback), Hakeem Nicks (diminished skill set from previous injury) and Allen (injury comeback), but surely the Colts can bank on at least one of them providing value. That's an improvement on the 2013 receiving corps colloquially known as "Hilton, Fleener, then drink drain cleaner." If the offensive line can have a year where they don't subject Luck to the most quarterback knock-downs in football—something that has been empirically beyond them so far—that would also help.

Despite Luck, the Colts actually ranked higher in run offense DVOA than pass offense DVOA in 2013. When you think of the 2013 Colts, you probably don't think of a dominant red-zone team. But they actually had the highest red-zone rushing DVOA in the NFL last year. While that is sure to regress in 2014, the good news is that most of the teams that led the league in this stat (Table 3) were still above-average the next season.

Let's list out the leading rushers by red zone DVOA, in reverse order: Richardson (-20.9% on 16 carries), Ahmad Bradshaw (17.7% on nine carries), and Brown (54.7% on 14 carries). Wait, that doesn't add up at all. Oh, right, it's because Luck rushed for a 61.5% DVOA in the red zone. Luck is not thought of as a running quarterback, perhaps because he lacks certain pigments, but he's every bit as talented at scrambling as Colin Kaepernick or Russell Wilson. (OK, we'll admit... he also isn't thought of as a running quarterback because the team doesn't want to expose him to injury on zone reads.)

In season three of *The Andrew Luck Show*, we're projecting the Colts to again return to the playoffs. However, because the team around him continues to be poor, there should be plenty

**Table 3: League Leaders in Red Zone Rushing DVOA, 2002-2013**

Team	Year	Red Zone Rush DVOA	Red Zone Rush DVOA Y+1	Difference
2002	KC	63.0%	71.8%	8.8%
2003	KC	71.8%	22.5%	-49.3%
2004	ATL	33.0%	16.0%	-17.0%
2005	SEA	61.3%	10.0%	-51.3%
2006	SD	65.7%	37.3%	-28.4%
2007	MIN	59.6%	-8.6%	-68.2%
2008	CAR	56.2%	-17.9%	-74.1%
2009	ARI	40.4%	4.6%	-35.8%
2010	DET	38.6%	10.7%	-27.9%
2011	NYG	38.6%	25.2%	-13.4%
2012	WAS	38.3%	10.6%	-27.7%
2013	IND	56.0%	--	--
02-12 AVERAGE		51.5%	16.6%	-34.9%

of room for fourth-quarter suspense on a week-to-week basis. Only playing in the AFC South threatens to remove any of the dramatic tension.

But spectators do eventually tire of the same old, same old. There is only so much the Colts can wring from what is left of the Manning core. There is a cost for the producers of *The Andrew Luck Show* to stay married to the poor casting techniques they've used so far. Time is like a river, and repeating the same roster strategies Grigson has employed so far will lead Indianapolis directly back to 2011.

The emerging crisis point for this show, then, is how poor management will be corrected or punished. Grigson has been extraordinarily lucky thus far. His boss, Jim Irsay, has enough problems of his own to deal with, so oversight has been minimal. The star of the show has suspected nothing so far, mostly because he's so good that even a team of complete nobodies around him could win seven or eight games. But the Colts must construct a team worthy of changing the narrative around Luck before he comes to his senses and realizes that he can leave. That may be a ways off given Indianapolis' recent success and exclusive bargaining position, but if Grigson continues uncorrected, Luck may have no choice but to seek a show that's actually worthy of his talents.

The Colts simply have to create the correct roster around Luck to get a repeat of *The Peyton Manning Show*. Grigson's touch as general manager has instead given us a hi-def modernization of *The Archie Manning Show*.

Rivers McCown

### 2013 Colts Stats by Week

Wk	vs.	W-L	PF	PA	YDF	YDA	TO	Total	Off	Def	ST
1	OAK	W	21	17	274	372	+2	7%	18%	13%	2%
2	MIA	L	20	24	448	398	0	-3%	21%	19%	-6%
3	at SF	W	27	7	336	254	+2	56%	30%	-18%	8%
4	at JAC	W	37	3	437	205	+2	38%	-2%	-46%	-6%
5	SEA	W	34	28	317	423	0	39%	43%	-2%	-6%
6	at SD	L	9	19	267	374	-1	-4%	-15%	-1%	11%
7	DEN	W	39	33	334	429	+2	72%	16%	-34%	22%
8	BYE										
9	at HOU	W	27	24	314	483	0	-27%	16%	51%	7%
10	STL	L	8	38	406	372	-4	-105%	-56%	13%	-36%
11	at TEN	W	30	27	366	340	+1	-5%	31%	40%	4%
12	at ARI	L	11	40	239	410	-1	-51%	-26%	25%	1%
13	TEN	W	22	14	264	347	+3	-11%	-41%	-28%	2%
14	at CIN	L	28	42	389	430	0	3%	74%	51%	-20%
15	HOU	W	25	3	331	239	+1	39%	-25%	-54%	10%
16	at KC	W	23	7	367	287	+3	36%	15%	-20%	1%
17	JAC	W	30	10	379	350	+2	-8%	-13%	-1%	4%
18	KC	W	45	44	536	513	-3	19%	29%	13%	3%
19	at NE	L	22	43	386	419	-4	-48%	-32%	18%	1%

### Trends and Splits

	Offense	Rank	Defense	Rank
Total DVOA	4.3%	13	0.9%	16
Unadjusted VOA	5.9%	11	-1.2%	16
Weighted Trend	-3.5%	20	1.9%	19
Variance	11.2%	29	10.5%	32
Average Opponent	-0.4%	15	-2.9%	27
Passing	8.3%	17	1.8%	13
Rushing	3.1%	11	-0.1%	22
First Down	5.4%	12	4.3%	20
Second Down	5.4%	13	3.3%	18
Third Down	0.5%	14	-8.9%	11
First Half	-2.0%	17	5.4%	24
Second Half	11.4%	7	-4.0%	14
Red Zone	12.8%	10	9.8%	20
Late and Close	21.0%	6	-18.0%	6

### Five-Year Performance

Year	Pyth		Est		PF	PA	TO	Total	Rk	Off	Rk	Def	Rk	ST	Rk	AGL	Rk	AGL	Rk	Off	Age	Rk	Def	Age	Rk	ST	Age	Rk
	W-L	W	W	W																								
2009	14-2	10.9	11.1	416	307	+2	16.5%	8	16.8%	6	-0.8%	16	-1.1%	19	30.1	21	51.9	30	27.8	9	25.7	30	25.2	32				
2010	10-6	9.2	8.2	435	388	-4	1.3%	16	13.1%	6	5.5%	24	-6.3%	31	42.5	30	48.1	31	28.0	8	26.4	23	25.4	31				
2011	2-14	3.2	3.0	243	430	-12	-32.8%	31	-17.2%	27	9.3%	26	-6.2%	31	37.5	22	47.2	28	27.9	8	26.0	27	25.4	30				
2012	11-5	7.2	6.2	357	387	-12	-16.0%	25	-2.9%	18	14.0%	31	0.9%	12	44.4	24	43.1	24	25.9	28	26.6	20	25.2	31				
2013	11-5	9.4	9.5	391	336	+13	3.2%	13	4.3%	13	0.9%	16	-0.1%	18	76.4	30	33.9	21	25.8	31	27.7	4	26.0	20				

### 2013 Performance Based on Most Common Personnel Groups

IND Offense					IND Offense vs. Opponents				IND Defense				IND Defense vs. Opponents			
Pers	Freq	Yds	DVOA	Run%	Pers	Freq	Yds	DVOA	Pers	Freq	Yds	DVOA	Pers	Freq	Yds	DVOA
11	50%	6.4	11.9%	18%	Nickel Even	36%	5.9	0.5%	3-4-4	45%	4.9	-2.6%	11	47%	6.4	1.0%
12	15%	4.2	-22.3%	41%	4-3-4	22%	5.7	13.2%	Nickel Even	30%	6.2	0.9%	12	23%	5.1	10.2%
21	11%	6.7	25.1%	44%	3-4-4	17%	4.9	-8.2%	Nickel Odd	14%	7.0	0.1%	21	16%	5.2	-7.8%
20	7%	5.4	5.3%	37%	Dime+	11%	6.3	20.8%	4-3-4	4%	6.8	35.9%	22	3%	5.1	2.9%
22	5%	5.6	12.7%	58%	Nickel Odd	10%	6.2	27.2%	Dime+	4%	5.4	-26.3%	13	3%	2.2	-34.7%
621	4%	4.0	6.4%	83%												

### Strategic Tendencies

Run/Pass	Rk	Formation	Rk	Pass Rush	Rk	Secondary	Rk	Strategy	Rk	
Runs, first half	29%	31 Form: Single Back	58%	27 Rush 3	5.4%	19 4 DB	49%	7 Play action	19%	22
Runs, first down	42%	27 Form: Empty Back	6%	17 Rush 4	62.2%	15 5 DB	44%	25 Avg Box (Off)	6.36	16
Runs, second-long	25%	28 Pers: 3+ WR	57%	15 Rush 5	23.6%	16 6+ DB	4%	19 Avg Box (Def)	6.39	16
Runs, power sit.	54%	15 Pers: 4+ WR	0%	28 Rush 6+	8.8%	12 CB by Sides	86%	7 Offensive Pace	28.50	7
Runs, behind 2H	19%	31 Pers: 2+ TE/6+ OL	33%	16 Sacks by LB	76.2%	1 DB Blitz	10%	21 Defensive Pace	29.78	16
Pass, ahead 2H	42%	26 Shotgun/Pistol	52%	23 Sacks by DB	2.4%	26 Hole in Zone	5%	31 Go for it on 4th	0.67	25

Despite the injury to Dwayne Allen, the Colts used two-tight end sets just as often as they did the year before. But Pep Hamilton brought in a big change in how many players were in the backfield, as the Colts went from using single-back formations on 76 percent of plays (fourth in 2012) to 58 percent (26th in 2013). And the Colts went from targeting running backs on a league-low 8.1 percent of passes in 2012 to targeting running backs on 19.0 percent of passes (12th in the league) in 2013. 🏈 The Colts used at least six offensive linemen on 9.7 percent of plays, second only to Chicago. They were particularly successful when they used the extra lineman on a short-yardage run, converting 19 of 24 opportunities. 🏈 Shades of the old Colts defense that was built to destroy quarterbacks once the Colts got the lead: the 2013 Colts had -10.8% defensive DVOA (sixth in NFL) when playing with a lead but 12.9% defensive DVOA (30th) when the game was tied or the Colts were behind. 🏈 The Colts allowed just 3.4 yards per pass with a big blitz (six or more pass rushers).

## Passing

Player	DYAR	DVOA	Plays	NtYds	Avg	YAC	C%	TD	Int
A.Luck	650	4.6%	606	3612	6.0	5.6	60.5%	23	9
M.Hasselbeck	-15	-28.6%	12	130	10.8	12.9	58.3%	0	1

## Rushing

Player	DYAR	DVOA	Plays	Yds	Avg	TD	Fum	Suc
T.Richardson	-95	-22.8%	157	459	2.9	3	3	41%
D.Brown*	117	19.2%	101	533	5.3	6	0	54%
A.Luck	151	47.6%	48	392	8.2	4	1	-
A.Bradshaw	33	9.3%	41	186	4.5	2	0	54%
V.Ballard	22	34.3%	13	63	4.8	0	0	46%
T.Choice*	-2	-13.1%	11	44	4.0	0	0	27%
S.Havili	-21	-75.5%	7	7	1.0	0	0	29%
D.Herron	19	63.6%	5	33	6.6	0	0	60%

## Receiving

Player	DYAR	DVOA	Plays	Ctch	Yds	Y/C	YAC	TD	C%
T.Y.Hilton	155	1.1%	140	84	1089	13.0	4.8	5	60%
D.Heyward-Bey*	-63	-24.5%	64	29	309	10.7	4.5	1	45%
R.Wayne	104	8.6%	59	39	508	13.0	4.6	2	66%
G.Whalen	32	-2.7%	40	24	259	10.8	5.0	2	60%
L.Brazill	-37	-30.2%	27	12	161	13.4	4.4	2	44%
D.Rogers	60	18.5%	23	14	192	13.7	8.4	2	61%
H.Nicks	83	-2.4%	101	56	896	16.0	4.8	0	55%
C.Fleener	-24	-11.3%	87	52	608	11.7	4.9	4	60%
W.Saunders	-17	-27.6%	11	4	46	11.5	3.3	0	36%
J.Doyle	-30	-67.9%	7	5	19	3.8	2.6	0	71%
T.Richardson	39	2.1%	41	28	265	9.5	9.1	1	68%
D.Brown*	44	6.2%	36	28	218	7.8	8.8	2	78%
S.Havili	32	11.4%	21	18	128	7.1	6.4	1	86%
A.Bradshaw	10	8.6%	8	7	42	6.0	5.6	0	88%

## Offensive Line

Player	Pos	Age	GS	Snaps	Pen	Sk	Pass	Run	Player	Pos	Age	GS	Snaps	Pen	Sk	Pass	Run
Gosder Cherilus	RT	30	16/16	1068	4	4.8	23.2	0.5	Samson Satele*	C	30	13/13	820	2	0.0	9.3	3.0
Anthony Castonzo	LT	26	16/16	1065	6	4.0	23.0	3.0	Jeff Linkenbach*	G	27	11/4	385	1	1.5	5.5	1.5
Mike McGlynn*	RG	29	15/14	887	2	3.0	29.7	3.5	Xavier Nixon	OT	24	4/1	152	0	1.0	3.3	3.0
Hugh Thornton	LG	23	14/12	868	2	5.3	21.2	8.0	Joe Reitz	G	29	13/3	146	0	0.0	2.0	0.0

Year	Yards	ALY	Rk	Power	Rk	Stuff	Rk	2nd Lev	Rk	Open Field	Rk	Sacks	ASR	Rk	Short	Long	F-Start	Cont.
2011	4.12	3.91	25	50%	30	20%	17	1.13	20	0.72	23	35	6.9%	18	17	8	19	22
2012	3.78	3.76	26	72%	2	25%	30	1.23	13	0.48	28	41	6.8%	17	8	17	10	22
2013	3.96	3.89	15	65%	15	18%	10	1.09	19	0.63	21	32	5.6%	6	12	9	8	29
2013 ALY by direction:		Left End 3.33 (18)			Left Tackle 4.94 (3)			Mid/Guard 3.80 (21)			Right Tackle 4.81 (2)			Right End 2.98 (28)				

Tackles Anthony Castonzo and Gosder Cherilus have similar resumes. They're both 6-foot-7. They were both selected in the bottom half of the first round out of Boston College. They've both proven capable of having good games at the NFL level. But the consistency isn't there. Another similarity: they both finished among the bottom 20 tackles in blown pass blocks last season. They'll both be here for a while. The Colts picked up Castonzo's fifth-year option over the offseason. Meanwhile, cutting Cherilus before 2016 would lead the Colts to take a salary cap hit. Both players have mildly improved since their futile early years, but complimenting either of them leads to reaching for synonyms of "they show up and play every day." Castonzo and Cherilus: they're as tangible as tackles can be.

There will be upheaval in the middle of the line. Indianapolis spent their second-round pick on Ohio State lineman Jack Mewhort. Mewhort played left tackle last year for the Buckeyes, but will likely move inside. Ryan Grigson compared Mewhort to Logan Mankins noting, "He's kind of a similar-type guy to me. You thought, he's probably not a left tackle but if you left him there, he would probably be a good, solid starter." Setting aside the idea that it's not smart to make fans expect Mewhort to turn into Mankins, it sounds like versatility was a calling card for Grigson. Hugh Thornton will be trying to build on a rough first season. Donald Thomas, who tore his quadriceps in Week 2 and missed the rest of the season, will also join the fray. Lance Louis is lurking at the bottom of the depth chart—so things could be worse. Assuming Thomas is healthy, he'll likely win one spot and the two youngsters will battle for the other. The guards can't help but be better than the Mike McGlynn-Thornton tandem was last season—they were first in the NFL in blown blocks per snap among right guards and left guards, respectively.

The Colts released Samson Satele after the season, so they did show some mercy for their fans. Center will fall into the hands of 2013 fourth-rounder Khaled Holmes. Holmes had 12 more snaps than you did last season. He is also the only real game in town after free-agent veteran Phil Costa signed with the Colts and then abruptly retired. Look for Indianapolis to send out feelers for an experienced center as training camp approaches.

### Defensive Front Seven

Defensive Line	Age	Pos	Overall							vs. Run					Pass Rush				
			G	Snaps	Plays	TmPct	Rk	Stop	Dfts	BTkl	Runs	St%	Rk	RuYd	Rk	Sack	Hit	Hur	Tips
Cory Redding	34	DE	15	625	36	4.6%	54	28	15	3	27	74%	53	1.0	6	4.5	5	10.5	2
Fili Moala	29	DE	16	508	20	2.4%	83	16	5	2	15	73%	57	4.0	84	1.5	2	13.0	1
Ricardo Mathews*	27	DE	16	428	19	2.3%	84	12	3	0	17	59%	82	3.0	69	0.5	2	6.5	0
Ricky Jean-Francois	28	DE	10	393	20	3.9%	69	18	6	0	14	86%	13	1.9	33	2.5	2	6.8	2
Aubrayo Franklin*	34	DT	16	334	29	3.5%	--	20	1	0	27	67%	--	2.7	--	0.0	0	0.0	2
Josh Chapman	25	DT	13	237	15	2.2%	--	13	1	0	14	93%	--	1.6	--	0.0	0	2.0	0
Arthur Jones	28	DE	14	521	53	7.3%	14	42	13	1	48	77%	45	2.4	52	4.5	3	9.5	0

Edge Rushers	Age	Pos	Overall							vs. Run					Pass Rush				
			G	Snaps	Plays	TmPct	Rk	Stop	Dfts	BTkl	Runs	St%	Rk	RuYd	Rk	Sack	Hit	Hur	Tips
Erik Walden	29	OLB	15	843	48	6.2%	28	32	13	2	34	65%	62	3.6	66	3.0	6	23.8	1
Robert Mathis	33	OLB	16	841	59	7.1%	17	52	33	2	33	85%	15	1.7	16	19.5	7	33.3	2
Bjoern Werner	24	OLB	13	306	19	2.8%	--	17	9	3	10	90%	--	2.0	--	2.5	0	5.0	2

Linebackers	Age	Pos	Overall							Pass Rush			vs. Run					vs. Pass							
			G	Snaps	Plays	TmPct	Rk	Stop	Dfts	BTkl	Sack	Hit	Hur	Runs	St%	Rk	RuYd	Rk	Tgts	Suc%	Rk	AdjYd	Rk	PD	Int
Jerrell Freeman	28	ILB	16	958	132	15.9%	19	77	23	10	5.5	3	8	83	66%	38	4.0	66	45	45%	57	5.8	16	5	2
Pat Angerer*	27	ILB	11	493	65	11.4%	54	38	7	5	0.5	1	1	45	60%	57	3.4	47	29	66%	5	7.5	56	2	1
Kelvin Sheppard	26	ILB	15	333	43	5.5%	--	28	6	4	1.0	1	1	35	69%	--	2.5	--	9	42%	--	6.1	--	0	0
D'Qwell Jackson	31	ILB	16	1147	148	17.2%	13	81	23	5	1.5	3	9.5	87	67%	35	3.2	29	36	54%	35	6.8	42	4	1

Year	Yards	ALY	Rk	Power	Rk	Stuff	Rk	2nd Level	Rk	Open Field	Rk	Sacks	ASR	Rk	Short	Long
2011	4.36	4.41	27	65%	19	17%	24	1.27	22	0.70	11	29	6.8%	15	12	12
2012	5.10	4.32	27	64%	19	16%	30	1.15	10	1.49	32	32	5.8%	27	14	9
2013	4.25	4.30	28	53%	5	16%	26	1.18	24	0.58	14	42	7.6%	8	16	12

2013 ALY by direction: Left End 5.14 (32) Left Tackle 3.79 (10) Mid/Guard 4.14 (21) Right Tackle 5.06 (31) Right End 4.11 (23)

As noted earlier, Robert Mathis will regress in 2014, both because of aging and his four-game suspension for desire to procreate. But he won't be the problem with this unit. Opposite him is Erik Walden, a stopgap solution who has problems setting the edge. Walden managed a few more hurries than expected last year. We should note that 11 of those hurries were against Ryan Fitzpatrick, Case Keenum, and Russell Wilson without Russell Okung and Max Unger. The Colts were hoping that Bjoern Werner would push Walden for snaps, but that didn't happen in 2013. Werner is an odd fit at outside linebacker given that his work at defensive end in college was more on the strong side. There were questions about his burst coming out, and he did nothing to answer them in year one. He'll be the starter outside for those first four games, but likely reverts to the bench once Mathis returns.

The Colts reinforced the line with Arthur Jones, a multi-dimensional end who came over in free agency. Despite a virus that robbed him of 15 pounds before the season, Jones was still Baltimore's most effective lineman last year. If you follow the money, Indianapolis now has three 3-4 ends making more than \$4 million: Jones, Ricky Jean-Francois, and Cory Redding. Expect Jones to see some time at nose tackle against lighter centers and in nickel sets. The regular nose tackle job will likely fall to Josh Chapman with Aubrayo Franklin walking in free agency. Chapman fell to the fifth round in the 2012 draft due to a torn ACL, but when healthy, he's a 350-pound boulder. Behind him is Montori Hughes, a third-rounder from the 2013 draft class who didn't play much last year. So, he was just like every other Colts draft pick from 2013, is what we're saying.

At inside linebacker, the Colts replaced Pat Angerer with D'Qwell Jackson. We hope that quelled whoever was angered. Handing Jackson \$10 million in guarantees is an odd move for a team that had more glaring weaknesses, but at least the Colts can release him without repercussions after 2015. Jerrell Freeman, a decent inside linebacker, finished second on the team in sacks in 2013. That says more about Chuck Pagano's ability to create pressure—and the lack of edge rusher talent on the roster—than it does about Freeman.

### Defensive Secondary

Secondary	Age	Pos	Overall							vs. Run					vs. Pass										
			G	Snaps	Plays	TmPct	Rk	Stop	Dfts	BTkl	Runs	St%	Rk	RuYd	Rk	Tgts	Tgt%	Rk	Dist	Suc%	Rk	AdjYd	Rk	PD	Int
Antoine Bethea*	30	FS	16	1028	116	14.0%	5	40	19	6	65	40%	37	7.5	50	30	7.1%	25	13.3	41%	72	13.2	76	5	2
Vontae Davis	26	CB	16	930	58	7.0%	62	29	7	2	13	38%	48	7.2	44	76	19.9%	30	13.6	62%	7	7.1	33	12	1
LaRon Landry	30	SS	12	787	88	14.1%	4	23	5	6	47	30%	63	6.9	38	27	8.2%	43	8.6	41%	71	6.9	40	2	0
Darius Butler	28	CB	16	693	67	8.1%	49	33	16	4	13	31%	63	7.5	50	70	24.6%	71	10.6	52%	49	8.0	56	13	4
Greg Toler	29	CB	9	437	30	6.4%	--	10	2	3	8	25%	--	8.0	--	39	21.4%	--	13.0	54%	--	6.0	--	6	1
Cassius Vaughn*	27	CB	16	404	34	4.1%	--	11	5	1	8	38%	--	5.8	--	38	22.6%	--	13.7	48%	--	9.8	--	6	3

Year	Pass D Rank	vs. #1 WR	Rk	vs. #2 WR	Rk	vs. Other WR	Rk	vs. TE	Rk	vs. RB	Rk
2011	28	26.2%	26	25.3%	27	33.7%	32	19.6%	22	-2.5%	17
2012	27	11.0%	22	3.0%	17	28.5%	31	22.2%	30	-22.3%	6
2013	13	-6.5%	14	7.6%	19	13.4%	26	17.7%	26	-0.9%	15

The Colts did what they had to do in re-signing Vontae Davis. He's proven himself capable of big things, both good and bad, in his two seasons in Indianapolis. Davis was undeniably good in 2013, justifying years of scouting hype despite playing through a groin injury. (This injury thing, you might hear about it again soon.)

Indianapolis' other projected starter at corner is Greg Toler. Toler led the NFL in circular finger-spins around the earhole of his helmet after incomplete passes at his assignment. Yes, the NFL competition committee does want to cast him down into the core of the Earth. How did you know? Toler is an adequate corner when on the field, but spent more than half of the season rehabbing his own groin injury that never healed. He had offseason sports hernia surgery, and still hasn't returned to practice as we go to press. Nickelback Darius Butler plays some terrific games (Sunday Night Football against the Broncos in Week 7, where his aggressive slot play helped slow Denver). He also plays some awful ones (Andy Dalton went 5-for-5 for 74 yards and a DPI targeting him).

Ryan Grigson brought on LaRon Landry last season to provide toughness and tackling. He did neither. He also (surprise!) missed time with a high-ankle sprain and concussion. Landry plays safety like your kid brother plays video games. Sometimes all that button-mashing works, and you're surprised. More often, he's just flailing around and getting little out of maximum effort. Antoine Bethea had started 16 games for the Colts in each of the past six years. They let him go since that didn't fit the theme of this secondary. Grigson failed to sign, draft, or trade for a replacement of any notable worth. He did do the absolute bare minimum by signing 33-year-old Mike Adams after the draft. Behind Adams is an untested field of Delano Howell, Corey Lynch, and Sergio Brown. Howell is the most likely candidate to challenge Adams for the starting job going into training camp. The winner of this battle would be the good quarterbacks playing for Indy's three AFC South rivals, except there aren't any.

## Special Teams

Year	DVOA	Rank	FG/XP	Rank	Net Kick	Rank	Kick Ret	Rank	Net Punt	Rank	Punt Ret	Rank	Hidden	Rank
2011	-6.2%	31	-0.1	16	-2.8	25	-9.1	32	-10.9	30	-8.3	28	-5.8	24
2012	0.9%	12	-3.1	22	4.4	9	0.1	15	-2.4	19	5.3	6	1.4	14
2013	-0.1%	18	2.9	12	4.4	9	-3.3	21	-3.9	26	-0.6	16	6.2	7

Punters and kickers aren't worth the franchise tag. There are so many plausible replacements that it's silly to waste bargaining position on a specialist. That said, if one punter is worth the tag, it's Pat McAfee. McAfee handles kickoffs for the Colts, which means Indianapolis gets more out of his leg than most teams do of their punters. After playing out 2013 under the franchise tender, McAfee landed a five-year, \$14 million contract. It's a fair deal as long as he continues to handle both roles. Adam Vinatieri, who you've heard plenty about at this point, handles field goals and extra points. Jeff Feagles was the last Tecmo Super Bowl player to hang 'em up. Vinatieri has a shot to be the last player mentioned in the first *Pro Football Prospectus* to do the same.

Kick returns were a bit of an adventure for Indianapolis last season. David Reed's insistence on returning every kickoff he could was his undoing. (Nine times, Reed took the ball at least five yards into the end zone and eschewed a touchback, but he never made it past the 22-yard line.) Replacement Chris Rainey got hurt after just a few games. Cassius Vaughn and LaVon Brazill had small cameos. Griff Whalen returned the last kickoff chance in the playoffs. Brazill's year-long substance abuse policy suspension got him released, as he does not own the Colts, so Whalen should be the top in-house candidate for the role in 2014. T.Y. Hilton returned punts, and did a decent job of it. But Hilton has become enough of a focal point for the offense that Indianapolis would likely prefer someone else do that job.