

## Quiet times at BSP

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It has been very quiet recently at Baptist Sports Park.

I guess that means Titans Coach Mike Munchak has completed his staff for next season. Warning: You won't be able to tell the assistant coaches without a program.

The first thing that sticks out to me is that even though the Titans defense was one of the worst in the NFL this season, Munchak made significantly more changes on the offensive side of the ball.

How Jerry Gray is still the defensive coordinator is baffling. I know Munchak played and coached with Gray and thinks a lot of him.

But in the NFL, friendship can get you fired, and Munchak only has one season to markedly improve his team's record. With owner Bud Adams breathing down his collar, I think anything less than making the playoffs will spur Adams to change coaches.

So this new staff doesn't have long to get its act together. It's not a staff with name recognition that makes you want to run out and buy season tickets.

They have a young, unproven offensive coordinator in Dowell Loggains. Gray's record is what it is.

Tight ends coach George Henshaw was let go by former head coach Jeff Fisher and Henshaw hasn't worked in the league in six years. He was a good tight ends coach when he was here,

but having Frank Wycheck helped a lot. Maybe George can pull Wycheck out of the broadcast booth.

It seems the coaches who were let go coached the few positions in which the Titans were strong. Linebackers coach Frank Bush had three solid starting linebackers who were young, but showed great promise when healthy.

Special teams coach Alan Lowry was another of Munchak's casualties. They have two of the best punters and place-kickers in the NFL in Brett Kern and Rob Bironas. Lowry lost Pro Bowl return specialist Marc Mariani to a broken leg in a preseason game. All he did was promote journeyman Darius Reynaud and Reynaud performed better than anyone predicted.

The Titans better make some headlines in the upcoming NFL draft and free agency. Fans I talk to are generally unimpressed with the changes made on the coaching staff.

This franchise needs a high-energy drink drip in its veins. There is no excitement, no expectation of great things happening this coming season.

The Titans lack an identity. Look at the four teams that played for a spot in the Super Bowl. You knew all of them would be tough outs. They have star power on their rosters such as linebacker Ray Lewis and quarterbacks Tom Brady and Matt Ryan. The 49ers have a dangerous up-and-coming quarterback in Colin Kaepernick. And all Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco has done is send Andrew Luck, Peyton Manning and Tom Brady home without a ring. And Flacco didn't throw one interception in those three games.

I can't envision Titans quarterback Jake Locker being able to do in his third season what Kaepernick did in his first year.

The Titans don't begin to have a leader who has the fire and passion that Ray Lewis has after 17 years in the league. He made 14 tackles against New England and generated more energy in his pre-game pep talk than a two-week tent revival.

The Ravens have Lewis to generate passion. The Titans have the late Johnny Cash singing *Folsom Prison Blues*

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