

Time to put a finger on the pulse

By **PAUL DOMOWITZ**

OVERRATED

- Derrick Mason, WR, Ravens
- Tony Romo, QB, Cowboys
- Reggie Bush, RB, Saints
- Adalious Thomas, LB, Patriots
- Hines Ward, WR, Steelers
- Julian Peterson, LB, Seahawks
- Clinton Portis, RB, Redskins

UNDERRATED

- Kevin Curtis, WR, Eagles
- Dallas Clark, TE, Colts
- Reggie Williams, WR, Jaguars
- Jon Runyan, OT, Eagles
- Aaron Kampman, DE, Packers
- Rashean Mathis, CB, Jaguars
- David Diehl, OT, Giants

ON THE DECLINE

- Torry Holt, WR, Rams
- David Akers, PK, Eagles
- Champ Bailey, CB, Broncos
- Brian Urlacher, LB, Bears
- Al Harris, CB, Packers
- Orlando Pace, OT, Rams

IMPACT ROOKIES

- Jerod Mayo, LB, Patriots
- Leodis McKelvin, CB, Bills
- DeSean Jackson, WR, Eagles
- Felix Jones, RB, Cowboys
- Chris Long, DE, Rams
- Devin Thomas, WR, Redskins
- Dustin Keller, TE, Jets
- James Hardy, WR, Bills
- Ray Rice, RB, Ravens
- Jordan Dizon, LB, Lions
- Trevor Laws, DT, Eagles
- Rashard Mendenhall, RB, Steelers
- Chris Johnson, RB, Titans
- Limas Sweed, WR, Steelers

HOT ASS

- Steve Spagnuolo, defense, Giants
- Jason Garrett, offense, Cowboys
- Leslie Frazier, defense, Vikings
- Ron Rivera, linebackers, Chargers
- Jim Schwartz, defense, Titans

Vikings quarterback Tarvaris Jackson



Bills defensive lineman Marcus Stroud

Photos: Getty Images

OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

- AFC: Tom Brady, QB, Patriots
- NFC: Drew Brees, QB, Saints

BY THE YEAR

- AFC: Mario Williams, DE, Texans
- NFC: Jared Allen, DE, Vikings

GOING UP

- AFC: LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers
- NFC: Adrian Peterson, Vikings
- Vikings: If Tarvaris Jackson can give them decent quarterback play, they could make a Super Bowl push.
- Bills: With Marcus Stroud anchoring the d-line, Bills just might be a nine- or 10-game winner.
- Eagles: If you can't find 10 wins on their schedule, you've been listening to WIP too long.

GOING DOWN

- Giants: Without Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora, their vaunted pass rush has lost its venom.
- Patriots: Half of their starting de-

fense are card-carrying AARP members.

- Packers: Seriously, who would you rather face — Aaron Rodgers or Brett Favre?

GO!

- Raiders: Al Davis couldn't screw up this franchise any more if he tried.
- 49ers: The personnel gaffes they've made over the last several years are too numerous to mention.
- Broncos: Former genius Mike Shanahan has won one playoff game in the last 9 years.

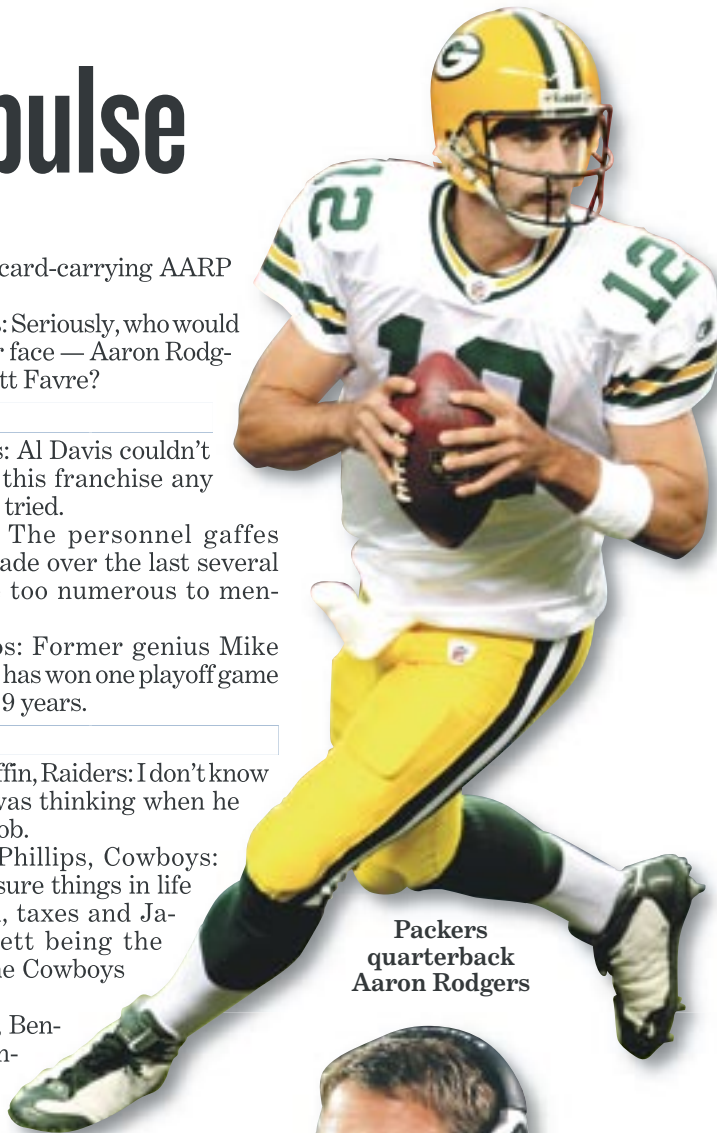
- Lane Kiffin, Raiders: I don't know what he was thinking when he took this job

- Wade Phillips, Cowboys: The only sure things in life are death, taxes and Jason Garrett being the head coach of the Cowboys in '09.

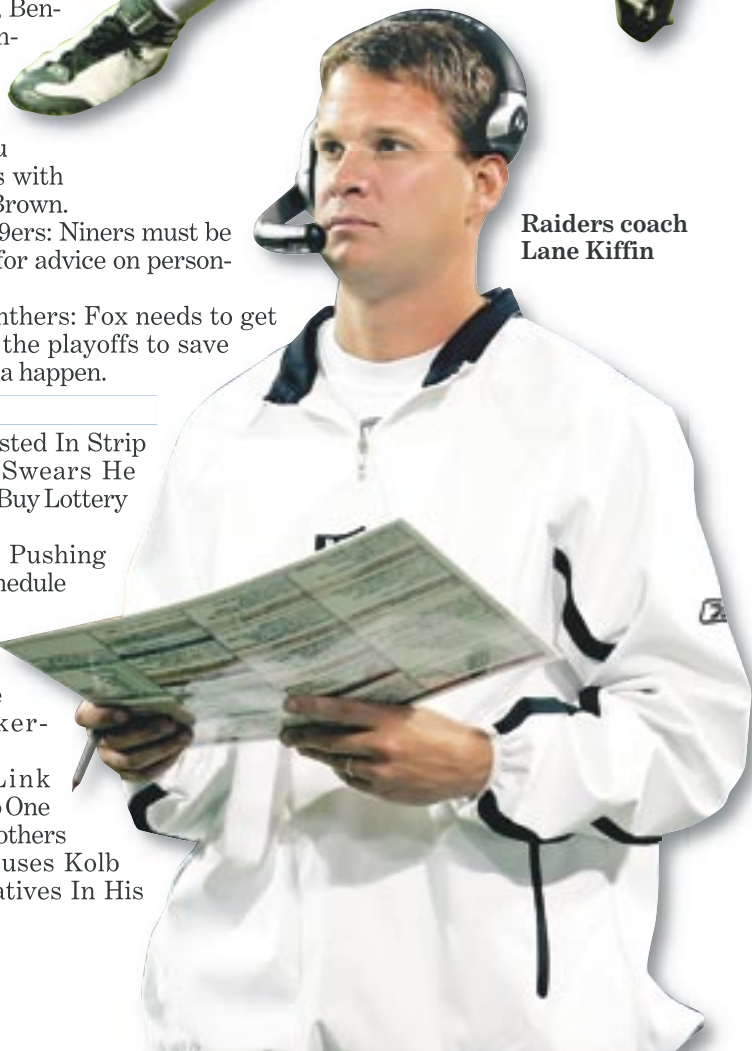
- Marvin Lewis, Bengals: The re-signing of Chris Henry, over Lewis' objections, tells you where he stands with president Mike Brown.
- Mike Nolan, 49ers: Niners must be calling Al Davis for advice on personnel decisions.
- John Fox, Panthers: Fox needs to get the Panthers in the playoffs to save his job. Not gonna happen.

DECEMBER

- Pacman Arrested In Strip Club Incident, Swears He Just Went In To Buy Lottery Tickets
- NFL Owners Pushing For 25-Game Schedule
- Catfight! Jessica And Carrie Exchange Punches Outside Cowboys Locker-room
- NY Tabs Link Deanna Favre To One Of The Jonas Brothers
- McNabb Accuses Kolb Of Putting Laxatives In His Gatorade



Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers



Raiders coach Lane Kiffin