

Rookies report, but Cowboys QBs on spot

Minicamp to give Parcells look at Hutchinson, Carter

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BY JEAN-JACQUES TAYLOR / The Dallas Morning News

IRVING – Bill Parcells steps on the field as the Cowboys' head coach for the first time Friday, when Dallas begins a three-day minicamp for rookies at the club's Valley Ranch training complex.

Owner Jerry Jones said he can't wait.

"This is where you get Bill's real value," Jones said. "His interaction with the team and the staff and the things he does on the field are invaluable."

But his decisions off the field will be equally important.

The biggest will be his choice of starting quarterback. For now, Chad Hutchinson is the starter and Quincy Carter the backup. Clint Stoerner and Tony Romo, the Division I-AA player of the year last season, are competing for the third spot.

Parcells has said that he wants options at quarterback. There has been speculation that he wants a veteran capable of starting if he feels uncomfortable heading into the season with Hutchinson or Carter.

There has been speculation that Ray Lucas or Vinny Testaverde, each of whom played for Parcells in the past, will end up in Dallas.

Lucas, 2-4 as a starter with Miami last season, was released by the Dolphins on Monday. His agent has phoned the Cowboys, who said they weren't interested at this time. Testaverde would count several million dollars against the Jets' salary cap if they released him, so that doesn't appear to be a viable option.

There also have been unfounded rumors of a trade with Cleveland that would bring Tim Couch to Dallas.

None of those scenarios is likely to happen. Besides, any veteran that joins the Cowboys will do so knowing that he's not going to get many repetitions in practice.

Parcells has studied Hutchinson and Carter during informal throwing sessions this off-season, but he figures to start turning up the intensity with this minicamp. He's also watched film of both quarterbacks but has been adamant about waiting to see them on the field before making a determination about how they fit into his plans.

Parcells is notoriously hard on quarterbacks.

He agitates them. He berates them. He plays mind games. He wants their experience with him to be tougher than any game they've ever played.

Hutchinson, 2-7 as a starter last season, completed 50.8 percent of his passes for 1,553 yards with seven touchdowns and eight interceptions. He was sacked 34 times and fumbled 12 times, losing eight, including two that were returned for touchdowns.

Carter, 6-7 in his last 13 starts, was benched after throwing a career-high four interceptions in a 9-6 loss to Arizona last season. His stock dropped significantly within the organization because of differences he had with the coaching staff, including former offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet.

None of that matters now.

"We're going to give every opportunity to Chad, Clint and Quincy to show what they can do," Jones said.

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COWBOYS MINICAMP

When: Friday-Sunday

Where: Valley Ranch complex

Who will attend: It's mandatory for rookies and voluntary for veterans, although several veterans, including QBs Hutchinson, Carter and Stoerner, will attend.

FREE AGENTS				
The Cowboys have signed 12 rookie free agents:				
Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	College
Charles Alston	DE	6-5	284	Bowie St.
Aaron Boone	WR	6-2	209	Kentucky
ReShard Lee	RB	5-10	230	Middle Tennessee
Aaron Martin	WR	6-3	205	Rutgers
Jonathan Martin	S	5-10	209	South Carolina
Don McGee	CB	5-10	195	North Texas
Keith O'Neil	LB	6-1	230	Northern Arizona
Tony Romo	QB	6-2	230	Eastern Illinois
Shaun Smith	DT	6-2	311	South Carolina
Noah Swartz	G-T	6-5	313	Toledo
Torrin Tucker	G	6-6	325	Southern Miss.
Darrell Wright	DE	6-4	279	Oregon

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