

BREAKING DOWN THE BIRDS 2014

With the season coming to a close, azcardinals.com writer Darren Urban gives his personal take on the majority of the Cardinals' roster heading into the offseason. UFA is unrestricted free agent. RFA is restricted free agent (and whose movement can be controlled with a tender offer, which gives right of first refusal). ER is exclusive rights, meaning a player must accept a tender offer.

The Cardinals are set in the front office and on the coaching staff. But the roster for could have interesting change with so many contracts coming to an end. Comments are for today and the future for any particular player could be fluid.

QUARTERBACKS	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Ryan Lindley	2015	Odd man out if Cards draft QB
Carson Palmer	2014	Showed he can still be effective, but must cut INTs
Drew Stanton	2015	Arians' security blanket as backup
RUNNING BACKS	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Andre Ellington	2016	Showed he can be lead NFL back
Rashard Mendenhall	UFA	B.A. likes him, but do the Cards bring him back
Alfonso Smith	RFA	Playing time shrunk as year went on
Stepfan Taylor	2016	Makes sense that he could team with Ellington in 2014
Ryan Williams	2014	Inactive all 16 games. Do Cards give him chance again?
WIDE RECEIVERS	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Jaron Brown	2015	Showed some promise as undrafted rookie
Brittan Golden	2014	He provides speed, and Arians wants a speed WR
Larry Fitzgerald	2018	Still can produce, still draws attention. Now, that contract ...
Michael Floyd	2015	Emerged as a 1,000-yard receiver and future No. 1
Andre Roberts	UFA	Probably moves on to where he can get more targets
Teddy Williams	2014	Also there for speed but Achilles injury clouds future
TIGHT ENDS	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Jake Ballard	RFA	Will monitor rebuilt knee but provided stability
Jim Dray	UFA	Was Arians' steady TE and made some catches too
Rob Housler	2014	Had his flashes, but needs consistency and health
Jeff King	UFA	Out for the season with injury, likely does not return
Kory Sperry	UFA	In a bit of no-man's land as Cards try to upgrade position
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Jonathan Cooper (G)	2016	Cards counting on injured rookie to anchor line
Daryn Colledge (G)	2015	Had solid year, although Cards may want to adjust contract
Paul Fanaika (G)	2014	A surprise, and will be depth with Cooper return
Mike Gibson (C)	UFA	Will have to fight for roster spot
Bobby Massie (T)	2015	Frustrated to have to sit; Will he or Winston be '14 RT?
Nate Potter (T)	2015	Struggled in camp and never quite got back into mix
Lyle Sendlein (C)	2015	Anchored the middle of the line
Bradley Sowell (T)	2014	Levi Brown replacement battled. Depth if Cards get new LT
Earl Watford (G)	2016	Looks the part, but will he be ready to play?
Eric Winston (T)	UFA	Good in locker room, played steady. Price dictates status

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Calais Campbell	2016	Pro-Bowl caliber season. Has become a star
Darnell Dockett	2015	Bounced back in Bowles' scheme
Frostee Rucker	UFA	Quality off bench, so Cards likely would like back
Alameda Ta'amu	ER	ACL tear blow to what had been impressive season
Ronald Talley	RFA	See him on offseason roster but battle to make team
Dan Williams	2014	Teamed well with Ta'amu in his best season
LINEBACKERS	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
John Abraham	2014	Ended up being incredibly effective at age 35
Sam Acho	2014	Is he a starter or a backup next season?
Lorenzo Alexander	2015	Will be tough to beat out Abraham to start
Marcus Benard	RFA	Need back, had surprising productivity
Jasper Brinkley	2014	Emergence of Dansby left him as only special teamer
Karlos Dansby	UFA	Fantastic. Can he, Cards come to contract terms?
Dontay Moch	2014	Supplanted by Benard, he'll have uphill fight
Kevin Minter	2016	Cards feel he has future. Just might not be 2014
Alex Okafor	2016	Raw and injured, still has a ways to go
Matt Shaughnessy	UFA	Was solid, but is looking to cash in on new deal
Daryl Washington	2017	Suspension possible, but another very good year
DEFENSIVE BACKS	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Javier Arenas (CB)	UFA	A player who probably tests market
Yeremiah Bell (S)	UFA	Wants to return but Cards might want youth instead
Justin Bethel (CB)	2015	A Pro Bowler on special team and key cog
Antoine Cason (CB)	UFA	Wants to start and probably won't in Arizona
Rashad Johnson (S)	2015	Steady play in secondary and dealt well with Mathieu
Tony Jefferson (S)	2015	Showed flashes of being future starter
Tyrann Mathieu (S)	2016	Great addition. But ACL rehab clouds early 2014
Bryan McCann (CB)	UFA	Good on special teams. Would think Cards want back
Patrick Peterson (CB)	2014	Deserving of Pro Bowl nod as he chased No. 1 WRs
Jerraud Powers (CB)	2015	Had ups and downs but fosters belief from Ariens, Bowles
Curtis Taylor (S)	2014	If safeties are healthy, he isn't on roster
SPECIALISTS	CONTRACT EXPIRES	COMMENT
Mike Leach (LS)	2014	You don't notice him, which is a good thing
Jay Feely (K)	UFA	Made 30/36 FG, but Cards likely will look at options
Dave Zastudil (P)	UFA	Continues to punt well

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