

BREAKING DOWN THE BIRDS 2015

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	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
Ryan Lindley	RFA	Would think Cards look elsewhere for a fourth
Carson Palmer	2017	Cards counting on him to start
Drew Stanton	2015	Work in 2014, knee injury showed his importance
Logan Thomas	2017	B.A. called him "nice project." But still a project
RUNNING BACKS	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
Andre Ellington	2016	First chance to be main guy wrecked by injuries
Jonathan Dwyer	UFA	Arrest likely ends time in Arizona
Marion Grice	2015	Got some work as a rookie
Robert Hughes	2015	Cards don't have fullback, but he's close to it
Stepfan Taylor	2016	Was the one running back-constant
Kerwynn Williams	2015	From nowhere to in-the-mix for 2015
WIDE RECEIVERS	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
Jaron Brown	2015	Faces big offseason if Cards want him to step forward
John Brown	2017	"Smokey" tailed off but he'll be a big part of 2015
Ted Ginn	2016	Didn't make impact and seems likely to be released
Brittan Golden	2015	Maybe he earns Ginn role for next season?
Larry Fitzgerald	2018	Contract decision looms in March for franchise's face
Michael Floyd	2015	Up-and-down production
TIGHT ENDS	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
John Carlson	2015	Didn't produce as hoped. Does he remain?
Darren Fells	2015	Emerged as one of tight ends of future
Rob Housler	UFA	Seems unlikely to be brought back
Troy Niklas	2017	Ankle ruined rookie year but flashed at times
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
Jonathan Cooper (G)	2016	Two years of not much; No. 1 pick crucial in 2015
Paul Fanaika (G)	UFA	With Cooper coming back, does he re-sign?
Ted Larsen (G)	2015	Turned out to be important signing with Cooper injuries
Bobby Massie (T)	2015	Not always consistent; Cards may try to upgrade
Lyle Sendlein (C)	2015	Arians insisted he had a good year, but it wasn't his best
Bradley Sowell (T)	RFA	Filled role as swing backup; Cards will look at options
Anthony Steen (G/C)	2015	Team liked this undrafted rookie
Earl Watford (G)	2016	Disappointingly was never really in the mix
Jared Veldheer (T)	2018	Exactly what Cards hoped he'd be as big-ticket signing
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT

Calais Campbell	2016	Pro Bowl season, star of the defense
Darnell Dockett	2015	ACL surgery and near-\$10M cap number clouds future
Tommy Kelly	UFA	Wore down after so many snaps, but Cards want him back
Kareem Martin	2017	Disappointing rookie year for third-rounder
Josh Mauro	2015	Cards might have found depth off the street
Frostee Rucker	2015	Was crucial part to defense and played well
Ed Stinson	2017	Cards liked what rookie did before he got hurt
Alameda Ta'amu	RFA	After impressive 2013, couldn't get on field in 2014
Dan Williams	UFA	Figures to test market; Leaves big hole if he departs

LINEBACKERS	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
John Abraham	UFA	Bizarre offseason, concussion makes return doubtful
Sam Acho	UFA	Could return but it'd probably be in a reserve role
Lorenzo Alexander	2015	Key on special teams but age makes him cap vulnerable
Marcus Benard	UFA	Was on the yo-yo at the end of roster all year, on and off
Glenn Carson	2016	Impressed in camp but still has to climb learning curve
Kenny Demens	2015	Surpassed by Carson on depth chart by end of season
Larry Foote	UFA	Could retire, could be back if it's the right price
Kevin Minter	2016	Disappointing second season; Still has lot to prove
Alex Okafor	2016	Proved a guy who could get you some sacks once healthy
Matt Shaughnessy	2015	Remains solid part of the Cards' run defense
Daryl Washington	2018	Is he brought back after suspension? A huge question

DEFENSIVE BACKS	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
Justin Bethel (CB)	2015	Pro Bowler on special teams again, CB potential
Deone Bucannon (S)	2017	Outstanding as rookie as nickel LB
Chris Clemons (S)	2015	Fill-in at end of the season
Antonio Cromartie (CB)	UFA	They'd like him back, but price will dictate situation
Rashad Johnson (S)	2015	Had a very good season; Leader in secondary
Tony Jefferson (S)	2015	Played pretty well, especially early with Mathieu out
Tyrann Mathieu (S)	2016	Between ACL rehab and thumb, never made impact
Patrick Peterson (CB)	2020	Made Pro Bowl but consistency slipped too often
Jerraud Powers (CB)	2015	Good year as key member of nickel package

SPECIALISTS	SIGNED THROUGH	COMMENT
Drew Butler (P)	2015	Bad playoff game, Zastudil comeback makes return unlikely
Chandler Catanzaro (K)	2016	Turned out to be great choice as rookie
Mike Leach (LS)	UFA	Never makes a mistake; Cards should bring back
Dave Zastudil (P)	2015	Butler's struggles solidifies team's need for his return

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