

McCown will have targets

Fitzgerald to participate in minicamp

By **DARREN URBAN**
TRIBUNE

Josh McCown had just finished talking about whether or not the Cardinals would ever bring in a veteran quarterback to challenge him, and the topic switched to McCown's newest offensive weapon, receiver Larry Fitzgerald.

When McCown was asked if he had started breaking down his plan to throw the ball to Fitzgerald, Pro Bowl receiver Anquan Boldin, former first-round pick Bryant Johnson and tight end Freddie Jones, McCown could only smile.

"We may have to bring in another quarterback," McCown said. "And he might have to play at the same time."

McCown was joking, of course. For a young and relatively inexperienced quarterback like McCown, there are worse things than having multiple targets wanting and needing the ball. He will get a full sense of it for the first time beginning today, when the Cardinals hold their first post-draft minicamp and rookies will be included.

For the first time since 2001, the Cardinals will have their first-round pick participating. Previously, unsigned injury waiver forms kept 2002 first-rounder Wendell Bryant and 2003 first-rounders Johnson and Calvin Pace on the sideline because the players and team couldn't compromise on the agreement.

That was ironed out last summer, when the Cards changed the way they filled out the waiver and got Pace and Johnson in for a second minicamp. Fitzgerald's signed injury waiver was received Thursday afternoon.

As for the concerns of spreading the ball around, even coach Dennis Green has admitted it is ambitious to think every member of the offense will be as productive

Cardinals minicamp

When: Two practices today, two Saturday, one Sunday; closed to the public except for Saturday afternoon's Fan Fest.

Where: The Cardinals' Tempe complex, Warner and Hardy roads.

Fan Fest: Saturday's afternoon practice. Gates open at 2 p.m. for Gatorade Junior Training camp and inflatables at the Ford Fun Zone. Practice runs from 3:15-5 p.m., with an autograph session (fans 17 and younger) from 5-5:30 p.m.

as they want to be. Green said he wants to be a team in the top five in first downs, which will allow for more plays and naturally, more chances for all the receivers.

McCown insisted he isn't concerned.

"Everyone just wants to win," McCown said. "They really won't care (who gets the ball) as long as we are winning, especially coming off the year we had."

Fitzgerald isn't the only rookie who will have an opportunity for an immediate impact. Second-round pick Karlos Dansby could eventually make a run at starting strongside linebacker, and third-round pick Darnell Dockett has a chance to win the starting "under" defensive tackle position.

But Green has also emphasized the need for the veteran players to improve their own game and not rely on any "saviors" in the draft.

"We are not going to sit around waiting for us to get good," Green said. "We have great respect but expectations for the present Arizona Cardinals players. That is good for them, and I hope they will respond to that."

EXTRA POINT: The Cardinals are expected to have about \$4.7 million available for their rookie salary pool, essentially a salary cap within the salary cap. Arizona has about \$6.9 million of total room under the \$80.6 million cap.

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