

DETROIT

NFC NORTH



Head Coach: Jim Schwartz (2nd year)

Off. Coord: Scott Linehan; Def. Coord: Gunther Cunningham

2009 Record: SUR 2-14, PSR 4-11-1, O-U 8-8

Field: Ford Field (65,000) FieldTurf



It appears the Lions finally have their man. Perhaps more accurately, their *men*. After more than a decade of frustration under a series of general managers and coaches with good intentions but often dubious credentials, Detroit re-established some credibility in 2009 even though the Lions won only two games. But that was two more than in their infamous 0-16 season in 2008. The losing skein had reached 19 before Detroit held on to edge the Redskins 19-14 in Game Three. New coach Jim Schwartz, used to winning as the orchestrator of hustling, successful defenses of the Tennessee Titans the previous eight years, had a brief meeting with his players in the locker room after that victory. Then, he sent them back out onto the field to thank the loyal, long-suffering Detroit fans who had remained to celebrate.

The man who hired Schwartz is GM Martin Mayhew, who took over the failed regime of the excoriated Matt Millen, whose questionable coaching hires and draft selections had made him the main target of rage in the Motor City. In Mayhew—the former under-sized, over-achieving NFL CB with a law degree—the Lions finally might have a front-office decision maker with multiple functional skills and judgement.

Although the returns are still early, Mayhew appears to have hit a home run with strong-armed, willing-working QB Matthew Stafford, the Georgia junior who was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 draft. The Lions knew they had their new face of the franchise in Game Ten, when the rookie fired a desperation pass in the closing seconds vs. Cleveland, only to be hit hard and suffer a left shoulder separation. However, the Browns were called for pass interference in the end zone, giving Detroit one un-timed down from the one. Thanks partly to a timeout called by Cleveland, the injured Stafford insisted he could return for that single play, hitting fellow rookie TE Brandon Pettigrew for the winning TDP in a 38-37 victory, then waving off happy teammates trying to hug him while his shoulder was throbbing.

So the GM-HC-QB triumvirate seems to be in place for the Lions to begin working their way back up the NFC North ladder. Detroit has not won a division since taking the NFC Central in 1993; hasn't been in the playoffs since 1999. And, despite snapping their losing streak, the 2009 Lions were still last in pass defense, last in total defense, last in scoring defense, and gave up the most TDs in the NFL. With Stafford and big-play WR Calvin Johnson around as the core building blocks for the offense, the major focus of the offseason has thus been the defense.

Schwartz told Mayhew the defense needed to get bigger, faster and deeper in order to be better. The selection of Nebraska A-A DT Ndamukong Suh (defensive coordinator Gunther Cunningham gave Suh the highest draft grade he has ever given any player) was a plus. But the Lions also landed the likes of DT Corey Williams (pleased to move to a 4-3 team) from Cleveland, CB Chris Houston from Atlanta, S Ko Simpson from Buffalo, and S C.C. Brown from the Giants. No. 3 pick CB Amari Spivey from Iowa will get a chance to start, and FA CB Aaron Berry from Pitt impressed in minicamp with his NFL-like techniques. HC Schwartz personally courted former Titan DE Kyle Vanden Bosch at 12:01 AM at the very opening of free agency, saying the high-motor pass rusher "has a lot left in the tank" and is exactly what the team needs. LY's draft landed starting S Louis Delmas and MLB DeAndre Levy, while DE Cliff Avril (5½ sacks LY) was a beneficial sixth-round pick in 2008. Throw in ageless OLB Julian Peterson and a 2010 wild card in former Army S Caleb Campbell (now a LB at 235 after his required two-year military hitch), and the Lion defense might be able to pressure QBs better and cover receivers better than LY's super-weak 26 sacks, 9 ints., and 68% completions.

Despite Stafford's budding potential, LY showed clearly he was still a rookie, as he hit only 53.3% with 13 TDs vs. 20 ints., going 2-8 as a starter and missing 6 games due to shoulder and knee injuries. Fortunately, both he and WR Johnson (67 recs., 5 TDs) are getting help. Possession receiver Nate Burleson was courted from Seattle, and receiving TE Tony Scheffler acquired from Denver. G Rob Sims from Seattle adds depth and savvy to the OL. Veteran QB Shaun Hill (10-6 as a starter with S.F.; 7-1 at home) was added to back up Stafford. Mayhew traded up to draft speedy RB Jahvid Best (who might also be used in the slot). Best and Scheffler provide insurance for RB Kevin Smith & TE Pettigrew, both returning from ACL injuries late LY.

Bottom Line...The Ford family NFL franchise is finally on the rise. Five wins? Perhaps. Six? Maybe. Playoffs? Better hold up on the latter.

PRESEASON NOTES: Schwartz was 3-1 SU and 2-2 vs. the spread in his first preseason, 2-1 as a dog, and 1-0 after a SUL loss.

2009 DETROIT LIONS

REGULAR-SEASON STAT LEADERS

PASSING	PA	PC	YDS	PCT	TD	INT	RAT
M. Stafford	201	377	2267	53.3	13	20	61.0
D. Culpepper	89	157	945	56.7	3	6	64.8
D. Stanton	26	51	259	51.0	0	6	26.1
TOTAL	316	585	3471	54.0	16	32	58.1

RUSHING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
K. Smith	217	747	3.4	31	4
M. Morris	93	384	4.1	64	2
A. Brown	27	131	4.9	19	0
TOTAL	409	1616	4.0	64	9

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
C. Johnson	67	984	14.7	75	5
B. Johnson	35	417	11.9	36	3
K. Smith	41	415	10.1	63	1
D. Northcutt	35	357	10.2	47	1
B. Pettigrew	30	346	11.5	30	2
W. Heller	29	296	10.2	24	3
M. Morris	26	210	8.1	19	0
J. Felton	13	133	10.2	27	0
C. Fitzsimmons	18	128	7.1	12	0
A. Brown	9	84	9.3	26	1
TOTAL	316	3471	11.0	75	16

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
J. Hanson	0/0	5/5	8/9	7/10	1/4
TOTAL	0/0	5/5	8/9	7/10	1/4

DEFENSE	Total	Tackles	Assists	Sacks	FR
L. Foote	99	70	29	2.0	1
L. Delmas	94	65	29	1.0	0
D. Levy	85	61	24	0.0	1
W. James	73	58	15	0.0	0
J. Peterson	76	49	27	4.5	5
M. White	51	39	12	0.0	0
A. Henry	46	38	8	0.0	0
P. Buchanon	43	38	5	1.0	2
E. Sims	49	32	17	0.0	0
M. Manuel	36	30	6	0.0	1
C. Avril	41	27	14	5.5	3
J. Hunter	34	27	7	5.0	0
K. Simpson	30	26	4	0.0	0
K. Hobbs	37	24	13	0.0	1
J. Dizon	29	21	8	1.0	1
G. Jackson	32	20	12	0.0	1
T. McBride	27	17	10	1.5	1
S. Hill	26	14	12	0.0	0
L. Cohen	21	14	7	0.0	0
K. Pearson	19	14	5	0.0	0
D. Smith	16	10	6	0.0	0
A. Fluellen	18	9	9	1.5	0
Z. Follett	10	6	4	0.0	0
TOTAL	1129	829	300	26	18
OPPONENTS	1035	818	217	43	19

INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yards	Avg	Long	TD
L. Delmas	2	130	65.0	101	1
W. James	2	41	20.5	38	1
A. Henry	2	26	13.0	26	0
TOTAL	9	210	23.3	101	2
OPPONENTS	32	508	15.9	61	3

2010		2009		2008		2007		2006	
		(SUR: 2-14 PSR: 4-11-1 O-U: 8-8)		(SUR: 0-16 PSR: 7-9 O-U: 10-5-1)		(SUR: 7-9 PSR: 6-9-1 O-U: 11-5)		(SUR: 3-13 PSR: 6-10 O-U: 9-7)	
S.12 Chicago		S.13 New Orleans	L +13 27-45 o50	S.07 Atlanta	L -3 21-34 o41	S.09 Oakland	W +2 36-21 o39'	S.10 SEATTLE	W +6 6-9 u45
S.19 PHILADELPHIA		S.20 MINNESOTA	L +10 13-27 u45	S.14 GREEN BAY	L +3 25-48 o46	S.16 MINNESOTA-OT	N -3 20-17 u43	S.17 Chicago	L +8 7-34 o32
S.26 Minnesota		S.27 WASHINGTON	W +6 19-14 u38'	S.21 San Francisco	L +4 13-31 u46	S.23 Philadelphia	L +5 21-56 o44	S.24 GREEN BAY	L -6 24-31 o39
O.03 Green Bay		O.04 Chicago	L +10 24-48 o41'	S.28 Bye		S.30 CHICAGO	W +2 37-27 o45'	O.01 St. Louis	L +5 34-41 o43
O.10 ST. LOUIS		O.11 PITTSBURGH	W +10 20-28 o44'	O.05 CHICAGO	L +3 7-34 u45'	O.07 Washington	L +3 3-34 u45'	O.08 Minnesota	L +6 17-26 u40
O.17 NY Giants		O.18 Green Bay	L +14 0-26 u48	O.12 Minnesota	W +13 10-12 u44'	O.14 Bye		O.15 BUFFALO	W +1 20-17 u40'
O.24 Bye		O.25 Open Week		O.19 Houston	W +10 21-28 o47	O.21 TAMPA BAY	W -2 23-16 u44'	O.22 NY Jets	L +3 24-31 o43
O.31 WASHINGTON		N.01 ST. LOUIS	L -4 10-17 u44	O.26 WASHINGTON	L +7 17-25 n42	O.28 Chicago	W +5 16-7 u45	O.29 Bye	
N.07 NY JETS		N.08 Seattle	L +10 20-32 o42'	N.02 Chicago	W +12 23-27 o43	N.04 DENVER	W -3 44-7 o46'	N.05 ATLANTA	W +5 30-14 u47
N.14 Buffalo		N.15 Minnesota	N +17 10-27 u47	N.09 JACKSONVILLE	L +6 14-38 o43'	N.11 Arizona	L +2 21-31 o44'	N.12 S. FRANCISCO	L -6 13-19 u46
N.21 Dallas		N.22 CLEVELAND	L -3 38-37 o38	N.16 Carolina	W +14 22-31 o40	N.18 NY GIANTS	L +3 10-16 u48	N.19 Arizona	L +2 10-17 u45'
N.25 NEW ENGLAND		N.26 GREEN BAY	L +11 12-34 u47'	N.23 TAMPA BAY	L +8 20-38 o42	N.22 GREEN BAY	L +3 26-37 o47	N.23 MIAMI	L +3 10-27 u40
D.05 CHICAGO		D.06 Cincinnati	W +13 13-23 u42	N.27 TENNESSEE	L +11 10-47 o44'	D.02 Minnesota	L +4 10-42 o45	D.03 New England	W +13 21-28 o41
D.12 GREEN BAY		D.13 Baltimore	L +13 3-48 o39	D.07 MINNESOTA	W +10 16-20 u45	D.09 DALLAS	W +10 27-28 o50'	D.10 MINNESOTA	L -1 20-30 o40
D.19 Tampa Bay		D.20 ARIZONA	W +13 24-31 o47	D.14 Indianapolis	W +17 21-31 o45	D.16 San Diego	L +10 14-51 o45'	D.17 Green Bay	L +5 9-17 u44'
D.26 Miami		D.27 San Francisco	L +13 6-20 u41	D.21 NEW ORLEANS	L +7 7-42 u50'	D.23 KANSAS CITY	L -5 25-20 o43'	D.24 CHICAGO	W +5 21-26 o42
J.02 MINNESOTA		J.03 CHICAGO	L +4 23-37 o44'	D.28 Green Bay	W +10 21-31 o42	D.30 Green Bay	L +4 13-34 o38'	D.31 Dallas	W +13 39-31 o45

DETROIT

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DETROIT 2009 REGULAR SEASON TEAM STATS

	LIONS	OPPONENTS
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	281	332
FIRST DOWNS (Rushing-passing-by penalty)	82-168-31	95-213-24
THIRD DOWN CONVERSIONS	84/234	85/210
FOURTH DOWN CONVERSIONS	7/26	10/15
TOTAL OFFENSIVE YARDS	4784	6274
OFFENSE (Plays-Average Yards)	1037-4.6	1029-6.1
TOTAL RUSHING YARDS	1616	2025
RUSHING (Plays-Average Yards)	409-4.0	458-4.4
TOTAL PASSING YARDS	3168	4249
PASSING (Comp-Att-Int-Avg)	316-585-32-5.9	371-545-9-8.1
SACKS	26	43
FIELD GOALS	21/28	31/34
TOUCHDOWNS	28	57
(Rushing-Passing>Returns-Defensive)	9-16-0-3	18-35-1-3
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:56	31:03

PROJECTED OFFENSE

QB	9	Matthew Stafford	14	Shaun Hill
			5	Drew Stanton
RB	34	Kevin Smith	44	Jahvid Best (1st Rd)
		28	21	Aaron Brown
FB	45	Jerome Felton	35	Matt Clapp
WR	13	Nate Burleson	80	Bryant Johnson
			86	Dennis Northcutt
WR	81	Calvin Johnson	12	Derrick Williams
		87	83	Tim Toone (7th Rd)
TE	84	Brandon Pettigrew	83	Tony Scheffler
LT	76	Jeff Backus	70	Jason Fox (4th Rd)
			78	Corey Hilliard
LG	67	Rob Sims	63	Manny Ramirez
C	51	Dominic Raiola	65	Dylan Gandy
RG	66	Stephen Peterman	73	Kurt Quarterman
RT	77	Gosder Cherilus	68	Jon Jansen

PROJECTED DEFENSE

DE	97	Jason Hunter	95	Jared Devries
			79	Willie Young (7th Rd)
DT	90	Ndamukong Suh (1st Rd)	98	Landon Cohen
DT	79	Sammie Hill	99	Corey Williams
DE	93	Kyle Vanden Bosch	92	Cliff Avril
OLB	59	Julian Peterson	53	Caleb Campbell
MLB	54	DeAndre Levy	57	Jordan Dizon
OLB	49	Zack Follett	55	Landon Johnson
CB	23	Chris Houston	24	Jonathan Wade
S	40	Marquand Manuel	25	Marvin White
			27	Daniel Bullocks
S	26	Louis Delmas	30	Ko Simpson
CB	29	Eric King	41	Dante Wesley
			42	Amari Spivey (3rd Rd)

PROJECTED SPECIALISTS

K	4	Jason Hanson
P	2	Nick Harris

Detroit 2010 Draft Picks

Rd	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	School
1 (2)	Ndamukong Suh	DT	6'4"	307	Nebraska
1 (30)	Jahvid Best	RB	5'10"	199	California
3 (66)	Amari Spivey	CB	5'11"	195	Iowa
4 (128)	Jason Fox	OT	6'7"	303	Miami
7 (213)	Willie Young	DE	6'5"	251	North Carolina St.
7 (255)	Tim Toone	WR	5'10"	175	Weber State

DETROIT LIONS POINTSPREAD BREAKDOWN (INCLUDING PLAYOFFS)

	SUR	Spread	Home	Home	Road	Road	SB	Fav	Fav>3	Dog	After
			SUR	Sprd	SUR	Sprd	Spr	Spr	Spr	Spr	SUL
2009	2-14	4-11-1	2-6	3-5	0-8	1-6-1	---	0-2	0-2	4-9	4-8-1
2008	0-16	7-9	0-8	1-7	0-8	6-2	---	0-1	---	7-8	7-8
2007	7-9	6-9-1	5-3	4-3-1	2-6	2-6	---	2-1-1	0-1	4-8	3-5
2006	3-13	6-10	2-6	4-4	1-7	2-6	---	0-3	0-2	6-7	5-8
2005	5-11	7-8-1	3-5	3-5	2-6	4-3-1	---	3-2	1-0	4-5-1	6-4
L5 Years	17-63	30-47-3	12-28	15-24-1	5-35	15-23-2	---	5-9-1	1-5	25-37-1	25-33-1

DETROIT LIONS 2009

REGULAR SEASON STAT RANKINGS

OFFENSE	TOTAL	RANK
TOTAL OFFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	299.0	26
FIRST DOWNS (Per Game)	17.6	22
POINTS PER GAME	16.4	27
RUSHING (Yds. Per Game)	101.0	24
RUSHING TDS	9	T-22
PASSING OFFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	198.0	21
PASSING COMPLETION %	54.0	28
PASSING TDS	16	T-24
FIELD GOALS	21	T-22
TIME OF POSSESSION	28:57	22
DEFENSE	TOTAL	RANK
TOTAL DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	392.1	32
SCORING DEFENSE	30.9	32
RUSHING DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	126.6	25
PASSING DEFENSE (Yds. Per Game)	265.6	32
PASS COMPLETION%	68.1	32
INTERCEPTIONS	9	30
SACKS	26	29
TOTAL TEAM PENALTIES	98	T-12
TURNOVER MARGIN	-18	32

DETROIT—2009 Game-by-Game Statistics

OPPONENT	OFFENSE						DEFENSE					
	PF	PA	RA-YR	PC-PA-I-YP	SK	F-FL	RA-YR	PC-PA-I-YP	SK	F-FR		
New Orleans	27	45	20/33	16/37/3/198	1	0-0	35/157	26/34/1/358	0	3-2		
Minnesota	13	27	34/129	18/30/2/136	2	2-1	25/112	24/28/0/153	3	2-1		
Washington	19	14	36/154	21/36/0/227	2	1-0	14/65	27/41/1/325	2	2-0		
Chicago	24	48	26/90	30/47/1/308	5	1-1	20/151	18/28/0/125	2	2-0		
Pittsburgh	20	28	25/110	23/37/1/225	7	4-0	21/82	23/30/1/262	3	1-0		
Green Bay	0	26	18/78	11/25/3/71	5	2-0	30/107	29/37/1/328	5	3-1		
St. Louis	10	17	33/127	14/33/1/162	2	0-0	26/150	18/36/1/212	0	0-0		
Seattle	20	32	21/114	22/42/5/186	2	2-0	18/55	40/52/1/342	1	3-1		
Minnesota	10	27	22/93	29/51/0/204	3	2-1	31/152	20/31/0/340	1	2-2		
Cleveland	38	37	17/57	26/43/2/416	1	1-0	40/131	22/34/0/308	1	0-0		
Green Bay	12	34	23/73	20/43/4/199	2	1-1	27/80	28/39/0/342	1	2-2		
Cincinnati	13	23	20/80	13/29/2/165	3	0-0	44/119	17/29/2/202	2	1-1		
Baltimore	3	48	32/103	16/34/2/126	1	1-0	40/308	15/23/0/240	0	1-1		
Arizona	24	31	27/161	16/31/2/121	2	2-1	26/117	23/37/1/223	2	2-2		
San Francisco	6	20	31/114	18/33/3/175	2	3-3	32/84	20/31/0/226	1	1-1		
Chicago	23	37	25/100	23/34/1/249	2	2-1	28/150	22/36/0/268	2	1-0		

DETROIT TEAM STATISTICS 2006-2009 (INCLUDING ALL PLAYOFF GAMES)

YEAR	OFFENSE														DEFENSE																				
	SUR	PSR	PF	PA	FD	RA	RY	YPC	F-FL	T-R-P	PC	PA	PI	SK	YP	YPP	YPT	FD	RA	RY	YPC	F-FR	T-R-P	PC	PA	PI	SK	YP	YPP	YPT	DIF	APR	OPR	TM	TO
2009	2-14	4-11	16	31	18	26	101	3.9	F-FL	T-R-P	PC	PA	PI	SK	YP	YPP	YPT	21	29	126	4.4	26-14	57-17-36	23	34	9	26	266	7.8	12.7	-5.6	15.1	5.2	29	-18
2008	0-16	7-9	17	32	15	22	83	3.8	31-10	29-10-18	18	32	19	52	185	5.8	16.0	22	33	172	5.2	31-16	63-31-25	19	28	4	31	232	8.4	12.5	-3.5	14.0	5.1	27	-9
2007	7-9	6-9	22	28	19	20	81	4.0	34-13	37-13-19	23	37	23	54	242	6.6	14.9	23	28	119	4.3	40-18	56-19-32	26	38	17	37	258	6.9	13.6	-1.3	8.9	5.0	28	-1
2006	3-13	6-10	19	25	18	19	70	3.7	26-17	31-9-21	23	37	22	63	239	6.4	16.2	20	31	125	4.1	29-18	44-18-22	21	32	12	29	220	6.9	13.9	-2.3	11.5	6.6	28	-9