

# Who will start at cornerback for the Bucs in 2015?

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The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have three very suitable options at cornerback, which means it could be one of the most interesting position battles for the Bucs leading up to the 2015 season.

Tampa Bay has two starting cornerback slots open, and three players fighting for those slots in Alterraun Verner, Johnathan Banks and Mike Jenkins.

Verner is considered by many experts to be a lock at corner for Tampa Bay.

The former Tennessee Titan cornerback is in his second year with Tampa after signing with the Bucs as a free agent prior to the 2014 season.

Verner was considered a huge pick up for Tampa, and really stepped up for the Bucs after Darrelle Revis was traded to the Patriots.

Verner played in 14 games in 2014, where he recorded 78 combined tackles, two forced fumbles and two interceptions.

The sixth year veteran out of UCLA is considered to be the top cornerback in Tampa Bay.

With that in mind, that leaves one spot open for either Banks or Jenkins.

Now most would assume that whichever player doesn't win the starting cornerback job will just take over as the nickelback. That however is not the case as the Bucs consider that a different position altogether, and even have a coach who is solely dedicated to working the nickelbacks.

Jenkins, who played 71 games over five seasons for the Dallas Cowboys, signed a one-year deal with Tampa as a free agent prior to the 2014 season. Jenkins was suppose to be the other starting cornerback after the departure of Revis, but Banks stepped up and won the job in training camp prior to the start of the season. Then Jenkins suffered a pectoral strain against the Carolina Panthers in the first game of the season and was ruled out for the remainder of the season.

Jenkins, who has 227 career combined tackles and ten career interceptions, accepted another one-year contract from the Bucs prior to the 2015 season. But it is not certain yet if the seven-year veteran will be the starter in Tampa just yet Banks has been impressive in his short career.

Banks is a third-year pro out of Mississippi State, and impressed a lot of members of the Tampa Bay front office in 2014.

Banks was a standout defensive back for the Bulldogs from 2009 to 2012, compiling 221 tackles, 16 interceptions (which is a Mississippi State school record) and four career touchdowns. As a senior, Banks won the Jim Thorpe Award, was a first-team All-Southeastern Conference selection and received first team All-American honors from the Football Writers Association of America, the Walter Camp Football Foundation and Scout.com.

Banks won the starting job opposite of Verner for the 2014 season in training camp, and made the most of the opportunity by recording 50 combined tackles and four interceptions.

In his two years in the NFL, Banks has played in 31 games and has accumulated 105 combined tackles, seven interceptions and one touchdown.

Will Jenkins revive his career on a contract year and step up big for Tampa, or will Banks retain his job and become Tampa Bay's cornerback of the future? Only time will tell as we head into the 2015 season.