

Wilson: Drew Willy gets a promotion in Indianapolis

by Aaron Wilson

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In a transaction that raises the question of whether the Indianapolis Colts plan to give starter Peyton Manning an early hook against the New York Jets, the undefeated AFC South leaders promoted quarterback Drew Willy from the practice squad today.

Willy, who was with the Baltimore Ravens during minicamps and part of training camp after going undrafted out of the University of Buffalo, now gives the Colts three quarterbacks on the active roster. That includes Manning, Curtis Painter and Willy.

Willy was signed by the Colts earlier this month. He started for four seasons at Buffalo, setting numerous school passing records.

The move, which we've confirmed through a league source, wasn't accompanied by an announcement or explanation, so the meaning of the move is up for interpretation.

It's possible the Colts plan to start Manning, build a lead and then have Painter take the rest of the snaps with Willy operating as the emergency quarterback just in case something happens to Painter.

At this point, though, the reason behind the move remains unclear.

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