The Cleveland Browns – much like the Cleveland Indians before them – are doing things in free agency.

And, just like the moves that the Tribe made, it remains to be seen if the new acquisitions are going to make a difference as the Browns continue to rebuild the team and try to become a relevant player in the AFC North Division.

By focusing their efforts on the defensive side of the ball with Paul Kruger, Desmond Bryant and Quentin Groves, the Browns brought in players at key spots to give new defensive coordinator Ray Horton options for his defense.

“I think if we keep building the defense the way we are, it’s like that pyramid system where you keep stacking blocks on top and you get to the top and you’ve got that pinnacle of players or player that’s your leader,” Horton said on the team’s website . “One of those guys is D’Qwell (Jackson), and I think bringing Paul Kruger in, that’s another where he’s been there and done that. That adds instant credibility in the locker room, on the field, for the opponents that the Cleveland Browns are going to get quality, good football players.”

The addition of Bryant to the defensive front gives the Browns something they haven’t had in ... well, we’re not sure, let’s say quite a while, which is depth. As of today, the Browns have a six-man rotation on the defensive line and Bryant, at age 27, is the oldest player among the group.

In one of those Only in Cleveland moments, seeing the Browns build depth at a critical position is confusing to some , but it really shouldn't be. One thing you can count on in the NFL is injuries – just last year Phil Taylor missed eight games with a torn pectoral muscle, while Ahtyba Rubin missed three with an ankle injury. Guys are going to get hurt and having a deep position group can never be a bad thing.

Thankfully CEO Joe Banner seems to get it.

"Our purpose has been to put together a really strong unit and have some depth so we can rotate if we have any injuries the line will still be one of the primary assets of the team," Banner said during the news conference announcing Bryant's signing . "That's what we feel like we are achieving. We are not looking to be trading anybody."

The other reason is that defenses across the league need to adapt to the changing nature of offensive football across the NFL.

When the Browns were talking with Chip Kelly about leaving Oregon to come and coach the Browns, there was one quote that stood out to us when looking at Kelly's high-speed offense.

"(Opposing defensive players) talk about throwing up on themselves," Oregon lineman Ryan Clanton, a redshirt senior, told *The Daily Emerald* in an article from early in the 2012 season. "That's just kind of common."

With more and more NFL offenses looking to speed up the game and put pressure on opposing defenses, having multiple players that can rotate in along the defensive line seems like a pretty good idea.

After all, Horton can't really build an "attacking defense" if he only has a couple of defensive linemen and they are all too busy throwing up to actually be on the field.

“I can’t tell you how excited I am about having the men that we have up front,” Horton said. “One of the first things that jumped out on film when I looked was how these guys run to the ball. They’re all big, strong, tough guys that love football, run to the football, and boy, I’m excited. Everybody, in my opinion, can play football and you can roll guys through. I don’t think we’ll see a drop-off in the talent level. I know you won’t see a drop in effort.”

In a nutshell, depth is never a bad thing.

The same can be said about the linebackers, where the Browns currently go six-deep after adding Kruger as an outside pass rusher and Groves as a veteran who turned his career around under Horton at Arizona and is someone who can help teach Horton’s defensive philosophy.

“It always helps when you know you’re getting good men, good players, good leaders,” Horton said. “You’re looking for that combination, and so, for me, it gives me a little comfort where if a player has a question, sometimes, players don’t want to ask coaches because they want the coach to assume they know everything.

“It’ll help a little bit with Quentin where a young guy may come to him and go, ‘What did he mean by X, Y, and Z?’ and he’ll be able to say, ‘Oh, it’s this.’ It gives you a little bit of that comfort. If something’s going some way, he can vouch a little bit, ‘This is a good system; this works. Just trust him.’ ”

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