

QB LIST FANTASY FOOTBALL GUIDE 2020

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TEAM PREVIEWS



TEAM PREVIEWS
ARIZONA CARDINALS

KYLER MURRAY



By Marc Salazar

In his first season as the head coach of the Arizona Cardinals, Kliff Kingsbury ushered a new era of offense into the NFL, struggled out of the gates, but quickly adapted as the season progressed. The team finished 5-10-1 on the season but hopes are high for an improved 2020. The team's issues on the offensive line haunted them all season, forcing Kingsbury to alter his gameplans, mostly by removing receivers to add additional pass blockers. The defense was also among the worst in the league, but the Cardinals focused their entire off-season on improving those areas. All of this points to Arizona putting more receivers on the field, which could mean great things for fantasy owners in 2020.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	5
2020 Projected Wins	7
Total Plays	1,074
Total Plays Rank	23
Pass %	60%
Pass % Rank	12
Rush %	40%
Rush % Rank	15
Plays/Gm	67
Plays/Gm Rank	23
Points Per Game	23
PPG Rank	16

QUARTERBACK

KYLER MURRAY

ADP: 63.4, QB5

Kyler Murray, the number one overall pick in 2019, exceeded even the highest of expectations in his rookie year. Murray set team rookie records for nearly all passing stats, including five 300-yard passing games, and his 544 rushing yards were a team record as well. Murray finished as the QB8 in fantasy with more than 3,700 yards passing and 20 touchdowns. Murray, however, was tied for the league lead in sacks taken with 48 and was running for his life most weeks. Kingsbury began the season with more receivers on the field but was forced to add blockers as the year progressed. The Cardinals focused their off-season on improving the offensive line, and fantasy owners would be thrilled to see an uptick in the number of 4-receiver sets. That will mean great things for Murray, and the addition of DeAndre Hopkins gives Kingsbury all the more reason to open up the offense even further.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Murray feels right at home with more receivers on the field and overwhelms the league with a diverse passing game. Murray tops 4,500 yards and 30 touchdowns and adds 500 yards rushing. He finishes as the overall QB1.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The offensive line woes continue to limit Murray, and the Air Raid offense doesn't find a place in the league. Murray finishes as the overall QB10, not living up to his high draft cost and disappointing owners who drafted him expecting the breakout.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	370
COMP	565
YARDS	3,994
TD	26
INT	14
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	106
YARDS	565
TD	3

RUNNING BACK

KENYAN DRAKE

ADP: 11.6, RB9

Kenyon Drake is a player many fantasy owners have an affinity for. After years of flashing talent in Miami but struggling to get a legitimate opportunity, Drake was traded to Arizona mid-season and given the lead-back role. Drake closed out the season by helping plenty of fantasy owners to championships. Drake has shot up draft boards and is expected to explode this season in a full-time role. This Arizona offense is favorable to running backs; the backfield trio of Drake, Chase Edmonds, and David Johnson combined as the overall RB5 and scored more than 300 fantasy points. Drake has been up and down over his career but he looks locked in as the every-down back and his upside is a top-5 running back. The reward outweighs the risk and the price is too good to pass on, as the departure of Johnson leaves a relatively wide-open backfield for Drake to take over.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Drake dominates in this spread offense, both as a runner and receiver. Drake sets career highs in rushing and receiving, finishing with more than 70 catches and adding 1300 yards rushing. A top-3 running back finish is within reach.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	230
YARDS	1,087
TD	9
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	68
REC	54
YARDS	456
TD	1

Outside of injury concerns, the downside on Drake is low. Drake finished as the RB15 in points per game and a top 15 finish is his floor. None of the backups profile to steal the job from Drake, so the opportunity is there for him while assuming health.

CHASE EDMONDS

ADP: 109.1, RB47

Last season, as the team struggled with injuries, Chase Edmonds earned extra touches and proved he can be explosive. Edmonds scored 15+ fantasy points three games in a row, including a three-touchdown 35 point outing against the Giants. However, Edmonds was a non-factor once Drake joined the team. Edmonds will again play backup, and while he may earn a few weekly snaps, it will not be enough to warrant even a week to week flex play without a Drake injury. However, if Drake misses time, Edmonds will be a Top 20 fantasy back in this offense that caters to ball carriers. He's an outstanding best ball target, but most owners should not take him as a handcuff to Drake unless the price is late in drafts.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Drake misses 4-6 weeks and Edmonds becomes the primary ball carrier for that stretch. Edmonds gives owners several RB2 weeks and a couple of RB1 weeks.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Edmonds is undersized and the team uses him in the change of pace role all year, even through injury to Drake and others. Edmonds doesn't make a fantasy impact this season outside of the weeks he scores a touchdown.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	94
YARDS	376
TD	2
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	36
REC	24
YARDS	221
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVER

DEANDRE HOPKINS

ADP: 16.9, WR5

The Cardinals shocked the fantasy community when they acquired DeAndre Hopkins for an aging player in David Johnson and a second-round draft pick. Hopkins has been nothing less than dominant for fantasy owners over the last five seasons and is among the best of the best. Hopkins has finished as a top-5 wideout in four of five seasons since 2015 and led the position in fantasy points in 2017 and 2018. His only down year came in 2016 when his quarterbacks were Brock Osweiler and Tom Savage. Historically when receivers change teams they suffer a hit to production but we have seen a change in that trend in recent years. Hopkins is falling to the mid-second in most drafts and obtaining a bonafide franchise wideout at the price is unusual. With a great young play caller and solid young quarterback, the risk is low and the reward is high. Owners shouldn't shy away from Hopkins at this current price, as even if they don't get a massive breakout from this offense, Hopkins should be a weekly floor play at the least.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Hopkins dominates defenders from the get-go with Murray, topping 1200+ yards for the fifth time and scoring north of ten touchdowns for the fourth time. He finishes as the overall WR3, and a WR1 overall finish is not out of the question.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Hopkins struggles to adjust to the NFC and his new team, and he has his worst season since 2016. Murray spreads the ball around as teams focus on Hopkins, and the offense leans on the running game at times. Hopkins finishes as the WR15 on the season, not a complete disaster, but far from what fantasy drafters were hoping for.

CHRISTIAN KIRK

ADP: 117.2, WR46

Heading into the 2019 season, Christian Kirk was a favorite sleeper pick for a breakout season. He clearly improved and took a step but he left many owners disappointed, finishing as just the WR32 in points per game. Still, the signs are encouraging. Kirk saw the field on more than 90% of the team's snaps and was at least a flex play in 10 of his 13 starts. On the downside, Kirk scored in just one of those starts, a three-touchdown outing that was his only WR1 finish on the year. Kirk did suffer an ankle injury during the 2019 season that may have derailed further progress, so there are reasons for optimism in 2020. The addition of Hopkins on the other side may free up Kirk to excel in the intermediate areas, but that remains to be seen. Kirk is a decent mid-round receiver target, but do not expect much upside until we see him develop a more consistent touchdown scoring role.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	95
REC	68
YARDS	757
TD	4

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Hopkins draws the attention of opposing defenses and frees up Kirk for the easy targets underneath. Kirk cracks the 1000-yard mark for the first time and is a solid weekly WR2.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Kirk is who we thought he was and finishes with another season much like the previous. Outside of a handful of bye week starts, drafters cannot trust Kirk week to week with confidence, and his lack of upside leaves much to be desired.

LARRY FITZGERALD

ADP: 160, WR60

Veteran receiver Larry Fitzgerald returns for his 17th season with the Cardinals. While he has slowed down, at age 36 he did lead the team in receptions (75), receiving yards (804) and receiving touchdowns (4). Hopkins' addition will let Fitzgerald line up in the slot more often, a role he excels in. Fitz finished as just the WR46 on a point per game basis but he did have six WR2 or better starts on the season. Owners probably should not worry about drafting Fitz this preseason but he will make a solid bye week or injury replacement play as a floor play.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	65
REC	47
YARDS	576
TD	4

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Fitz tops 700-yards for the 17th straight season and scores six times. Surprisingly, he makes an excellent flex play through the bye-week gauntlet and COVID-19 related IR stints.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Fitz plays third fiddle to Hopkins and Kirk, and has to battle with young receivers on the roster. He struggles to top 500 yards receiving and does not contribute for fantasy owners all season as he rides off to Canton in the offseason.

TIGHT ENDS

DAN ARNOLD

ADP: 351, TE38

As the season wore on, Kliff Kingsbury began to utilize the tight ends into packages more to protect his franchise quarterback. Late in the year when Dan Arnold was acquired, he had immediate chemistry with Murray, catching 8 of 14 targets for 127 yards and two touchdowns in three games. The hopes are that both trends continue and Arnold enjoys a breakout season. For owners, Arnold is a player to put on the priority free agent target list but doesn't need to be drafted unless you are in a league with large benches.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Arnold continues his chemistry with Murray and the Cardinals play more tight ends than expected. Arnold eclipses the 500-yard mark and becomes a preferred red zone target.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Kingsbury adjusts his playcalling in year two and finds ways to protect his franchise QB and get more receivers on the field. Outside of a handful of games, Arnold is quiet on the year.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	45
REC	33
YARDS	323
TD	2



CALVIN RIDLEY

By Kevin Taylor

2019 was a story of two halves for the Falcons. They started out 1-7 with their defense giving up 27 or more points in six of those losses. Head Coach Dan Quinn was on the hot seat and it was not a good look for a team with a good amount of name-value throughout their roster. After their Week 9 bye, the Falcons went 6-2 to close out the season, rallying to save Quinn's job for another year. During that last eight-game stretch the defense gave up more than 27 points only one time and the offense scored 25 or more points in five of those eight games. Statistically, the Falcons were top-five in both passing attempts and passing yards while they were a bottom-five unit in rushing attempts and rushing yards.

Looking at 2020, the Falcons look to build off of their impressive second half of last season. Their offensive skill position group is not deep and might be worse than last season. They still have veteran Matt Ryan at quarterback and brought in Todd Gurley to replace Devonta Freeman at running back. At wide receiver, they are top-heavy with the dynamic duo of Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley but not much depth behind them. At tight-end, they replaced breakout star Austin Hooper with sleeper Hayden Hurst from Baltimore. Their offensive line isn't great and their defense had some turnover in the offseason and they will hope to improve on last year's performance.

2019 TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	7
2020 Projected Wins	7.5
Total Plays	1,197
Total Plays Rank	1
Pass %	67%
Pass % Rank	1
Rush %	33%
Rush % Rank	32
Plays/Gm	75
Plays/Gm Rank	1
Points Per Game	24
PPG Rank	13

QUARTERBACK

MATT RYAN

ADP: 83.5, QB8

Matt Ryan has been the QB2 in fantasy football in 2 out of the last 4 seasons. Last year he finished around QB10 on a point per game basis. He led the league in passing attempts, was fifth in yards, and eighth in touchdown passes. The offensive line for Ryan isn't great but has a chance to be average. That would be an improvement over last year, where he was 24th in protection rate a season ago per FantasyData. When he did have a clean pocket he had the third-best completion percentage among quarterbacks. His offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter returns for his fifth season (2nd consecutive) coaching Ryan and the Falcons offense.

For 2020, Ryan is positioned to lead or be near the top of the league in pass attempts once again. Under Koetter, Ryan has been top-three or better in passing attempts in three out of his four seasons. He also has finished no worse than seventh in passing yards during that time. Despite being third among quarterbacks in red-zone attempts last year Ryan finished eighth in passing touchdowns thanks to a woeful 51.1% completion percentage inside the 20 (36th among QB's). Ryan is being drafted as the eighth quarterback off the board right now and has upside for more in my opinion. He is a safe bet to be a top-10/12 producer with so much volume, and if he can have some positive touchdown regression from a year ago he can push to be a top-five option at the position once again.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Hurst steps into Hooper's vacated tight end spot seamlessly and gives the Falcons a legit third option in the passing game. The defense is still poor, thus Ryan and the Falcons are in a lot of shootouts/come from behind games. Ryan leads the league in attempts, yards, and is top-five in touchdown passes on his way to a top-3 fantasy quarterback season.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Hurst does not do much in his first year with the Falcons and one of Jones or Ridley gets injured, giving Ryan only one true option in the passing game. His offensive line doesn't improve and the running game is still poor. He finishes top-10 in attempts and yards while his touchdown percentage remains poor, and finishes in the QB10-15 range.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
ATT	608
COMP	407
YARDS	4,500
TD	28
INT	13

RUNNING BACKS

TODD GURLEY

ADP: 22, RB15

Last year, Todd Gurley played on an above-average offense that threw a lot more than they ran it with the Rams and now he goes to the Falcons where the situation is very similar. The Rams had a poor run-blocking offensive line and the Falcons did as well last year. Gurley himself wasn't very efficient with his touches (3.8 yards per carry and ranked 48th among RB's in yards per touch) but he did have 14 overall touchdowns (tied for fifth among running backs). That led him to be the RB14 in PPR leagues and Devonta Freeman finished as the RB20 for these Falcons a year ago. Last year, Freeman was top-10 in both targets and receptions among running backs and that is a place Gurley can improve on from last year as he was outside the top-30 in both of those aspects. It is concerning that he led all running backs with nine drops, per FantasyData. If he continues to struggle in the passing game, there's a chance he may lose third-down playing time to one of the other Falcons' running backs. Last year Freeman averaged just over 17 touches per game and Gurley averaged just under 17 per game so expect a similar workload with not much depth behind him. I don't view Gurley as a good value at his current ADP, as he is going to be running behind a mediocre offensive line again, struggled in the passing game last year, and has some touchdown regression coming his way. Gurley should be drafted as mid/low RB2 rather than a high-end RB2.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The Falcons' offensive line is better than expected and Gurley is more explosive/elusive than he was last year. He is a true three-down back on one of the leagues best offenses and becomes the third-weapon for Matt Ryan in this offense. Goes over 1,200 combined yards and touchdown regression does not hit him this year. Top-10 running back is in his range of outcomes.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Gurley further declines in his skillset while the Falcons offensive line struggles to open holes from him. He loses third-down work to one of the backs behind him and he becomes no more than a touchdown dependant two-down back. That would make him an RB3 for most weeks.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	205
YARDS	758
TD	7
FUM	2
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	61
REC	46
YARDS	350
TD	3

WIDE RECEIVERS

JULIO JONES

ADP: 15.6, WR5

Julio Jones is a model of consistency. He has finished as top-7 wide receiver in each of the last six seasons. He has averaged over 100 receptions and over 1,500 yards during that stretch as well. The one knock on him (and was in 2019 again) has been his touchdown production. He has hit double digits scores just once in his nine-year career. In 2019 he only had six touchdown receptions, despite him being a top-five receiver in receptions, yards, air yards, targets, and seventh in red zone receptions. Jones had the 10th best target share among wide receivers last year and the Falcons are missing 32% of Matt Ryan's targets from a year ago. Julio could easily grab some more target share on the team that passed more than anyone else last season. He makes a great WR1 for any team and I would be happy to draft him at current ADP.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	162
REC	104
YARDS	1,475
TD	8

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The Falcons defense continues to disappoint, leading to more shootouts and come from behind games for the Falcons. Ryan then leads the league in passing attempts again and Jones has a top-five target share among receivers. Last but not least, Ryan and Jones figure out these touchdown issues and Julio goes for double digits and becomes the number one fantasy wide receiver.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Jones does not see the target share increase as that gets spread around to other players. His touchdown woes continue and he just underwhelms overall. Low-end WR1 numbers instead of mid/high WR1.

CALVIN RIDLEY

ADP: 40.7 WR 16

Calvin Ridley was a mid-range WR2 in points per game last season and that is about where he is being drafted at the moment. It was a solid second-year for Ridley, as he increased his yards, yards per target, and yards per reception from his rookie year on only one additional target due to missing three games. He was top-14 at wide receiver in air yards per game, per target, and per reception making him a dangerous downfield option. In the three games that the Falcons were without both Hooper and Mohamed Sanu, Ridley was the WR3 in PPR leagues and was fourth at receiver in targets over that span. That is very encouraging as the Falcons have a lot of question marks behind Jones and Ridley. He seems like he will be the biggest beneficiary of the missing 32% of market share from 2019. Ridley only commanded 17.7% of Ryan's targets in 2019, ranking just 55th among wide receivers. I love Ridley this year and think he is poised to be a low-end WR1/high-end WR2 week in and week out and would make for a great WR2.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	110
REC	75
YARDS	1,024
TD	9

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Ridley stays healthy over a full season and commands a better target share in an offense that should be in the top-5 in passing attempts once again. He will continue his touchdown scoring prowess over Jones (Ridley has outscored Jones 17-14 over the last two years) by getting double digits again this season, and will finally break 1,000 yards receiving in his third-year in the league. He has mid-range WR1 in his possible outcomes.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Ridley does not see a bump in target share and remains a largely boom-or-bust type of player. He settles in as WR2/3 option that frustrates on a week-to-week basis.

TIGHT END

HAYDEN HURST

ADP: 77.7, TE8

Hayden Hurst was drafted in the first round in 2018 by the Baltimore Ravens, battled injuries early on, and quickly fell behind Mark Andrews and blocking tight end Nick Boyle on the depth chart. He was used sparingly the last two years and averaged two and three fantasy points per game in 2018 and 2019 respectively. With Hooper out of town, the Falcons traded for Hurst and the hype is real on him already. He is being drafted as the eighth tight end overall, just behind Evan Engram and ahead of Tyler Higbee and Hunter Henry. Hooper averaged 93 targets per year for the last two years and had 10 total touchdowns over that span as well. In 2019, Hooper had the second-highest target share on the Falcons behind Jones. Hooper was also fourth among tight ends in red-zone targets with 18, despite missing three games. It's hard to see, with a limited offseason on a new team, Hurst stepping right into that significant of a target share and role at least initially. I like the upside on a team that passes more than anyone, and Hurst has shown success in his limited opportunities before. If you miss out on one of the elite options Hurst makes for a good later round target at tight end. Being drafted as the eighth tight end feels a little rich to me but he has top-five tight end upside in this offense so I don't hate it.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	79
REC	55
YARDS	635
TD	4

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Hurst comes in immediately and shows that he can be a legitimate third option to Ridley and Jones. He grabs most if not all of Hooper's old target share and red zone work. Hurst breaks out as a top-five tight end in 2020 and pays off his pre-draft ADP.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Hurst is not on the same page to start the season with Ryan after this limited offseason. He falls significantly behind Jones and Ridley in targets and is in a weekly carousel with the third wide receiver and Gurley for third place in target share on the team. We can't trust him on a weekly basis and he is a TE2/streamer type.

TEAM PREVIEWS BALTIMORE RAVENS

LAMAR JACKSON



By Kevin Taylor

The Ravens were a powerhouse team in 2019. They finished with a 14-2 record and easily secured the number one seed in the AFC for the playoffs. Unfortunately for Baltimore and their fans, we saw Derrick Henry and the Titans come into town and grind out a win in the playoffs. As a team, they were first or second in the NFL in points, first downs, total yards, and rushing yards on offense. Quarterback Lamar Jackson won the MVP trophy and Baltimore had multiple fantasy-friendly options to rely on. On defense, the Ravens were a top-four unit in both points allowed and yards allowed. However, they were just a middle of the road defense in terms of interceptions percentage and sack percentage, finishing 11th and 19th respectively.

Taking a look at 2020, the Ravens lose future Hall of Famer Marshall Yanda at right guard to retirement. Replacing Yanda will be key for the Ravens and Jackson as he had the eighth-best sack percentage and clean-pocket percentage in the league in 2019. In terms of playmakers, Jackson loses backup tight end Hayden Hurst and rotational receiver Seth Roberts, the pair accounted for about 17.5% of Jackson's targets in 2019. The Ravens drafted two wide receivers and a dynamic running back to help supplement their weapons on offense. They also should have a fully healthy second-year wide receiver Marquise Brown in 2020 after he battled a myriad of lower-body injuries throughout the 2019 season. We know the Ravens will run the ball early and often this season as they led the league in attempts in 2019 and were last in passing attempts. There's no doubt that this offense is lined up to be a top-five unit again in 2020.

2019 TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	14
2020 Projected Wins	11.5
Total Plays	1,139
Total Plays Rank	6
Pass %	44%
Pass % Rank	32
Rush %	56%
Rush % Rank	1
Plays/Gm	71
Plays/Gm Rank	6
Points Per Game	33
PPG Rank	1

QUARTERBACK

LAMAR JACKSON

ADP: 20.4, QB2

Lamar Jackson finished 2019 as the number-two overall fantasy scorer and the QB1 by over six points per game. He led the league in passing touchdowns and had over 1,200 rushing yards on his way to the MVP award. He didn't throw the ball a ton (Ravens were dead last in pass attempts as a team) but when he did he was very efficient. He ranked second in true passer rating and sixth in accuracy rating according to FantasyData. Jackson finished first or second in all of the major rushing categories, but what really ties his profile together is his downfield throwing. He was fifth in adjusted yards per attempt (8.4) and seventh in distance on his deep-ball attempts. In 2019, Jackson ran the ball a lot (led all QB's), pushed the ball downfield when he did throw it, and was efficient in the red-zone leading to his 36 passing touchdowns.

We know the Ravens are going to run the ball and run it a lot. A big question for this 2020 season will be whether they can stay efficient enough in the passing game to compliment that elite running game. Jackson led the league in passing touchdowns and was top-ten in yards per attempt a year ago but was only 26th in passing attempts for the season. The Ravens have a great team and shouldn't be trailing much in games. It should be expected that Jackson is outside the top-20 in pass attempts again this season. We can assume that he will lead all quarterbacks in rushing attempts again as he had an absurd 11+ per game in 2019. He ran the ball 67 more times than the second-place quarterback, while also playing one less game (rest). There is no doubt that Jackson should be the QB1 or QB2 off the board in fantasy football drafts this season.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Jackson can build off the strides he took throwing in 2019 while maintaining his elite rushing ability and volume. One of the two rookie receivers steps up to create another weapon apart from Marquise Brown and Mark Andrews. The offensive line molds together quickly to replace the veteran Yanda at guard. Jackson posts QB1 numbers again and is a top-five overall fantasy contributor on his way to back-to-back MVP awards.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

With the limited offseason, Jackson and the new receivers can't develop chemistry. Jackson or his key pieces battle injuries throughout this year leading to a good, but not a great year from this whole offense.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	430
COMP	288
YARDS	3,400
TD	30
INT	11

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	164
YARDS	1,008
TD	7
FUM	5

RUNNING BACK

MARK INGRAM

ADP: 47.9, RB26

Mark Ingram thrived sharing the backfield with Lamar Jackson in 2019. He had a crisp 5.0 yards per rushing attempt in an offense that ran the ball more than any other team in the league. He was also top-ten at the position in touchdowns, yards per touch, fantasy points per game, and evaded tackles. Not bad for a 30-year-old running back. The Ravens did invest second-round draft capital into J.K. Dobbins, a dynamic running back out of Ohio State. With the lack of a proper offseason, it will be tough for Dobbins to carve a significant role at the beginning of the season on a team poised to win now. Backups Gus Edwards, and Justice Hill combined for 206 touches last season. It is easy to envision Dobbins splitting backup work with those two to start the year and then him taking more work as the season progresses. Ingram can expect touchdown regression in the receiving game as he had five scores on only 26 receptions in 2019. He likely won't be an RB1 again this year due to some receiving regression but is a rock-solid draft value who should put up consistent RB2 numbers in the run-heaviest, highest-scoring offense. He is great value in my opinion and I would be thrilled to have him as my RB3, where he currently is being drafted.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The best-case scenario for Ingram is that Dobbins is slow developing and is fighting for backup work most of the year. The Ravens continue to be one of the run-heaviest offenses in the league (37 rushes per game as a team in 2019) and their offensive line continues its high-quality work.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Ingram gets totally eliminated from the passing game with the emergence of Dobbins and the mobile quarterback factor. He then cedes some rushing work to all three of Dobbins, Hill, and Edwards and this becomes a messy four-man committee with Ingram logging 8-12 touches per game instead of the 15+ he did a year ago.

J.K. DOBBINS

ADP: 74, RB32

This Covid-19 dominated offseason is no doubt a hindrance for the 2020 rookie class as they have to rely on zoom meetings to interact with their coaches while trying to make a positive impression. The Ravens already have a crowded backfield with incumbents Ingram, Edwards, and Hill. I would expect Ingram to resume his lead role, early on especially, and to see J.K. Dobbins mixing in with the other two backups. Dobbins was drafted as a big value for the Ravens instead of a need so it will be interesting to see how he is utilized and if he can dethrone Ingram as the season progresses. If Dobbins can take over the lead role he will be a weekly RB2 for sure with his passing ceiling capped by the Ravens lack of passing attempts to their running backs. In 2019, the Ravens were last in the league in passes to their backfield, and that may not change with Jackson at quarterback. Dobbins seems like a much better dynasty asset than redraft at the moment. But, he is only an injury away from being the potential lead back in the

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
ATT	180
YARDS	882
TD	9
FUM	2
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	28
REC	24
YARDS	192
TD	2

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
ATT	120
YARDS	564
TD	4
FUM	1
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	26
REC	22
YARDS	195
TD	2

leagues most run-heavy offense, and there is certainly value in that. However, his draft price seems a bit steep for me at the moment. I love the talent, but he is being drafted as an RB3 and we have no idea what kind of role he is going to have on this team right now.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Ingram’s age catches up to him or he is hampered by injuries and Dobbins steps into the lead back role in this offense. A non-injury scenario would be Dobbins stepping in immediately to play the passing downs and overtaking Gus Edwards and Justice Hill to make this a two-man backfield.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The lack of a true offseason program hurts the rookie and he gets the Justice Hill treatment from 2019. He becomes largely an afterthought this season playing behind Ingram and Gus Edwards/Justice Hill.

WIDE RECEIVER

MARQUISE “HOLLYWOOD” BROWN

ADP: 67.1, WR27

Marquise Brown comes into 2020 as the clear number one wide receiver and the number two option in the passing game behind tight end Mark Andrews. Brown dealt with a variety of injuries last year; he had a Lisfranc foot injury coming into the season that lingered, followed by an ankle sprain and a thigh strain in the middle of the year. He flashed for some big plays at various points in the year but never seemed to put it all together consistently. One can make a convincing argument that we didn’t see the best of Brown. He was hampered by injuries all season, evidenced by the fact that he only played on 59% of the snaps in 2019. He did show what he can do with a full complement of snaps in the playoffs, however, hauling in seven receptions on a team-high 11 targets for 126 yards. Brown should be closer to a full-time player in 2020 but could be subbed out for larger running formations to get better blockers in there. He pairs up well with Lamar Jackson’s deep-shot skillset ranking eighth in fantasy points per pass route. I like Brown this season, he is being drafted as a high-end WR3 right now and could be in line for increased production with a boost in playing time and if his health holds up.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	94
REC	67
YARDS	890
TD	6

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Brown becomes the 1A to Andrews’s 1B and consistently performs on the level that he did in the playoff game against the Titans. He pushes for a 1,000-yard season and is a consistent WR 2 in fantasy leagues.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The run-first nature of this offense overshadows Brown and he becomes a distant second option to Andrews. The rookie wide receivers perform well and start taking chunks out of his target share and then he is a risky WR3/4 on a week to week basis.

MILES BOYKIN

ADP: 196, WR 85

WILLIE SNEAD

ADP: 207, WR 93

DEVIN DUVERNAY

ADP: 245, WR 113

JAMES PROCHE

ADP: WR 150+

These receivers will be fighting for a distant third/fourth/fifth in terms of options in the passing game. Unfortunately, they are on the team that passes the least in the NFL. Snead was third on the team in team target percentage and he was only at about 10%. Boykin is being drafted as a WR7 right now and these guys can mostly go undrafted or be a late, late dart throw if you want to take a shot on a breakout. They are worth keeping an eye on, however, because there is talent here with two slot-type rookies in Duvernay/Proche and the tools of Miles Boykin (check out his player profile). Keep an eye on snap percentages and targets through the start of the season for these four.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

An injury opens up a significant role in the passing game for one of these four receivers.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The four wide receivers cannibalize each other's targets or are on the field hardly at all, making them only a stash in dynasty leagues.

TIGHT END

MARK ANDREWS

ADP: 40, TE3

Mark Andrews broke out in a big way in 2019, almost doubling both his targets and receptions from 2018 and more than tripling his touchdown total. He finished 2019 as the TE5 (tied for 4th in PPG) and that was despite popping up with four different injuries throughout the year. He battled through knee, ankle, and foot sprains, as well as a knee contusion. He was top-five at the position in receptions, receiving yards, and led the group in touchdowns with 10. All of the underlying stats back up his performance too. He was third in percentage of team target share, third in yards per route, first in end zone targets, and first in deep targets at the tight end position. Shockingly, Andrews only played on 43% of the snaps despite all of the production that he had. It's easy to see a scenario where he is healthy, playing more snaps and repeating or improving his stats from 2019. I have no issue where Andrews is being drafted and hope that the injury bug can stay away from him this season.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	105
REC	67
YARDS	900
TD	8

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Remains the most consistent and reliable top option for Jackson in this high-powered offense. Andrews plays 75% or more of the snaps, goes over 1,000 yards, and finishes as the number one tight end this season.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The injuries from last year wear Andrews down and the receivers/running backs take on a larger role in this offense. Leaving Andrews as a productive but volatile TE1/2.



JOSH ALLEN

TEAM PREVIEWS
BUFFALO BILLS



By Mike Miklius

Last year was the start of the coming-out party for the Buffalo Bills. For the first time since 1999, they won double digit games. For only the second time since 1999, they made the playoffs. Tom Brady is finally out of the division, the Jets and the Dolphins are still the Jets and the Dolphins, and things are looking up in a big way for the Bills (as long as we ignore the brutal playoff loss). How about the offense? Josh Allen returns behind center for year-three and Devin Singletary returns as the lead back after a strong rookie showing. Newcomer Stefon Diggs will shore up the receiving corps (alongside John Brown and Cole Beasley) and rookie running back Zack Moss will spell Singletary in the backfield. Dawson Knox is the name to know at tight end. With an offense full of weapons, let's see how things look for the 2020 season.

2019 TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	10
2020 Projected Wins	9
Total Plays	1,102
Total Plays Rank	16
Pass %	54%
Pass % Rank	26
Rush %	46%
Rush % Rank	5
Plays/Gm	69
Plays/Gm Rank	16
Points Per Game	20
PPG Rank	23

QUARTERBACK

JOSH ALLEN

ADP: 99.1, QB11

Josh Allen largely improved in year two, seeing a spike in completion percentage, touchdown percentage, and a nice drop in his interception rate. Allen has a strong arm and he isn't afraid to let the ball fly. Perhaps his greatest strength, though, is as a runner. Allen averages just over 40 rushing yards per game or roughly 640 yards over the course of the season. Anyone who plays fantasy football knows about the quarterback rushing cheat code. Is there any reason to be worried? Unfortunately yes. While Allen was safer throwing the ball, he still accounted for 23 turnovers last year. The passing game also seems to be an afterthought in Buffalo. Of the 13 quarterbacks to play 16 games last year, Allen had the lowest marks for completions, attempts, yards, and touchdowns. Allen will probably never be a high-volume passer, and in this regard, he needs those rushing yards just to stay afloat. I don't love him as a player, but he looks like a strong fantasy option at quarterback.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Allen continues to improve as a passer and earns a bit more of the team's trust with each passing week. Against a subpar division he feasts, on his way to a 30 touchdown season that puts him in the MVP conversation. The Bills win the AFC East and the Patriots are left on the outside looking in.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Allen regresses from an apparent breakout, taking the whole passing game with him. He continues to be careless with the ball and racks up another 15 fumbles to go along with a dozen interceptions. Bills fans are left wondering who they plan to draft at quarterback next year.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	480
COMP	288
YARDS	3,250
TD	22
INT	12
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	100
YARDS	530
TD	8
FUM	11

RUNNING BACK

DEVIN SINGLETARY

ADP: 41.5, RB23

Devin Singletary was, in my opinion, the brightest spot on the offense last year. In 12 games, he totaled 775 rushing yards and 194 receiving yards. That pace would give him nearly 1300 yards from scrimmage over 16 games. Singletary passed the eye test for me, and I expect him to be heavily involved once more in 2020. There are a couple of caveats, though. Be aware that rookie Zack Moss joins the team and looks to be taking the 'Frank Gore' role. This means we should keep our touchdown expectations low. Singletary will also need to be more involved in the passing game. The Bills only targeted the running back position about 60 times last year and 41 of those went to Singletary. I'd like to see that number jump. Either way, I expect the Bills to be run-heavy once more in 2020, and Singletary will get his fair share of opportunities.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Singletary continues his fast start in 2019 and becomes the top weapon in the backfield. Moss steals some carries here and there, but Singletary remains the top play-maker in the backfield on his way to 1500 yards from scrimmage.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Singletary proves that 2019 was an aberration, and he has trouble keeping up with the more talented Moss. Moss steals the lead job and the bulk of the carries, including all red zone work. Singletary is relegated to the change-of-pace role and fades from fantasy relevance.

ZACK MOSS

ADP: 109.8, RB46

Zack Moss was the third-round selection of the Buffalo Bills and he hails from the University of Utah. Moss looks to be replacing the departed Frank Gore, and the team has said as much. Gore was 36 years old last season and still managed 166 carries and 16 targets. Moss should be expected for around the same, if not more, assuming he learns quickly. Moss is known as a powerful runner and a skilled blocker, which bodes well for playing time right away. Expect Moss to earn a big role alongside Singletary and for the team to run, run, run.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Moss proves himself to be a three-down back and grabs the lead role from Singletary. On a team that wants to run, Moss runs his way to the lead role and dominates the red zone work. Talk of a split backfield seems ridiculous by year's end.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Moss has trouble gaining traction as a runner and his strong pass-blocking isn't enough to keep him on the field. Before he can break out, he goes down to yet another injury and the Bills sign a replacement from the practice squad. Moss' future with the team is uncertain.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

ATT	201
YARDS	985
TD	5

RECEIVING

TARGETS	60
REC	39
YARDS	260
TD	4

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

ATT	150
YARDS	625
TD	6

RECEIVING

TARGETS	30
REC	18
YARDS	108
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVER

STEFON DIGGS

ADP: 60.3, WR26

After 2018, Stefon Diggs appeared well on his way to becoming a superstar. On top of his excellent route running, he was averaging 10 targets per game. Once Adam Thielen went down to injury early in 2019, I knew the explosion was coming. Crickets. Diggs saw drops in targets, receptions, and touchdowns despite being the only show in town. Fast forward to 2020 and he joins a Bills team in need of a top receiver. So, should we be more excited? Less? In reality, I consider this a slight downgrade. Both the Vikings and the Bills want to be run-heavy and both have a hole at the receiver position. I have Kirk Cousins as a better passer than Josh Allen, and I don't like guys who change teams, in year-one anyway. Diggs is still an excellent receiver, but I'm expecting more 2019 and less 2018 in Buffalo.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	130
REC	80
YARDS	1,100
TD	8

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Diggs and Allen establish a quick connection as Diggs develops into a target monster. He dominates the sparse Buffalo passing game on his way to career marks in yards and touchdowns.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Diggs continues his streaky play from last year, but his efficiency stats don't hold up to their previously excellent levels. Diggs finishes short of 100 targets and 1,000 yards for the first time since 2017.

JOHN BROWN

ADP: 143.2, WR56

John Brown was the top dog in Buffalo last season, posting career bests in targets, receptions, and yards. Brown is still only 29 with low mileage, so it's conceivable he has a few more years at his current level. I think Brown and Diggs will fit well together; Brown should take the top off the defense while Diggs uses his route running to get open underneath. If all goes according to plan, Buffalo could be looking at their best passing attack in years. The biggest question is still if there will be enough to go around. Without a more robust air attack, someone in Buffalo is going hungry. Given the first-round pick spent on Diggs, Brown will have to hope the leftovers are enough.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	100
REC	60
YARDS	900
TD	6

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Brown becomes the new Thielen to Diggs, and he benefits from fewer top corners. He takes a step forward from 2019 and breaks one thousand yards for a second consecutive season. He also tallies a team-high 10 touchdowns as the Bills develop into a well-rounded offense.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Brown's 2019 season proves an anomaly. There isn't enough volume to go around, and Brown is relegated to a couple of deep shots here and there. He goes down with an injury midseason and hobbles to the finish of a disappointing year.

TIGHT END

DAWSON KNOX

ADP: 309, TE27

Dawson Knox is the only tight end worth noting in Buffalo, and he is coming off a solid rookie season where he saw 50 targets and 388 yards in the regular season—each number finishing third-best on the team. Knox would be a nice tight end option in a higher-flying pass attack, but he is fighting for scraps in Buffalo. It’s hard to consider him as anything better than the third target, and even that spot is hardly a given with Cole Beasley, Singletary, and Moss in the mix. I like the future potential of Knox, but I am not optimistic about 2020.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Knox continues to develop and becomes the clear third option behind Diggs and Brown. He cracks 600 yards and 5 touchdowns while helping the run game excel via his blocking. He enters 2021 as a top-ten option.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Knox is lost in the mix of weapons and sees a drop in all major receiving stats as there just isn’t enough to go around. He struggles to flash and proves all but useless for fantasy purposes.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	50
REC	30
YARDS	400
TD	3

TEAM PREVIEWS CAROLINA PANTHERS



CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY



By Frank Costanzo

The beginning of last season for the Panthers was another typical year in Carolina. Ron Rivera was the head coach and Cam Newton was the starting quarterback. They had been together for their entire careers and that didn't look like it was changing. Until it did.

Now the Panthers are the only team in the NFL with a new head coach (Matt Rhule), offensive coordinator (Joe Brady), defensive coordinator (Phil Snow), and starting quarterback (Teddy Bridgewater). Additionally, the defense lost long time leader Luke Keuchly and cornerback James Bradberry, arguably the two best defenders on the team. In the most turbulent offseason in NFL history, the Panthers may have it the worst.

Sometimes if you look hard enough though, you can find benefits in what appears to be instability. New offensive coordinator Joe Brady just led one of, if not the best, all-time offenses in NCAA history. Brady runs a scheme that stems from Saints coach Sean Payton's system, who just so happened to coach Bridgewater for the last two seasons. So let's look closely because there is plenty to like for fantasy football purposes in Carolina this year.

2019 TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	5
2020 Projected Wins	5.5
Total Plays	1,135
Total Plays Rank	8
Pass %	64%
Pass % Rank	3
Rush %	36%
Rush % Rank	29
Plays/Gm	71
Plays/Gm Rank	8
Points Per Game	21
PPG Rank	20

QUARTERBACK

TEDDY BRIDGEWATER

ADP: 166.5, QB25

Last season, Teddy Bridgewater returned to the Saints to back up Drew Brees. It turned out to be a smart decision, as Brees injured his thumb on his throwing hand during the season. This gave Bridgewater the stage to let the other teams in the league see what he still had. Bridgewater led the Saints to a 5-0 record in his starts and earned himself a nice new contract and starting job with the Panthers.

Compared to last year's Panthers starter Kyle Allen, Bridgewater is a massive upgrade. Last year Allen ranked 29th in QBR, 32nd in DVOA (per Football Outsiders), and 32nd in ANY/A (adjusted net yards per attempt, one of the strongest passing metrics). Basically, one of the worst starters in the NFL. Bridgewater was 9th in DVOA and 12th in ANY/A (he didn't qualify for QBR for the season). NFL NextGen Stats has a statistic called Competition Percentage over Expectation, which determines what a quarterback's completion percentage should have been, then takes what they actually had and finds the difference. Allen was 24th and Bridgewater was 13th. I can keep doing this, but I think you see how much more Bridgewater brings to the Panthers offense.

Now, most of you will try to say that Bridgewater was in an excellent situation in New Orleans and checked the ball down a ton. But, don't both of those things apply here as well (and is that a bad thing)? Rhule was particular in who he wanted as his offensive coordinator. Hiring Brady and pairing him with Bridgewater was no accident. There will be plenty of scheme crossover and it highlights Bridgewater's strengths. Checking the ball down to receivers like Christian McCaffrey, D.J. Moore, Curtis Samuel, and Ian Thomas is exactly what this offense should be doing. They are collectively one of the best groups of pass-catchers for their yards after catch ability. Brady will put Bridgewater in favorable situations/matchups and allow Bridgewater to do the rest.

To top it all off, the Panthers defense projects to be one of the worst in the NFL. They spent every draft pick they had this year on defense but that won't make a major difference for this season. This sets up the Panthers to be in pass-heavy situations quite often this season, especially with playing the rest of the NFC South twice. These should be fruitful passing situations as the Panthers have the 12th easiest schedule for passing defenses (per Sharp Football Analysis). Bridgewater is in a prime position to outkick his QB25 ADP (per FantasyData) and is a smart late-round QB selection.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Teddy seamlessly fits into Brady's offensive scheme finding easily completions to his strong YAC receivers. The NFC South proves to be as tough as many think and the Panthers end up playing catch-up most of the season allowing Bridgewater to rack up the fantasy points.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

There is too much change from last season to this season for Carolina to overcome in one extremely difficult offseason. Rhule's plan begins to take shape but it doesn't translate the fantasy points. Bridgewater ends the season as a low-end QB2.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	580
COMP	389
YARDS	3,650
TD	24
INT	9
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	55
YARDS	76
TD	1
FUM	4

RUNNING BACK

CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY

ADP: 1.3, RB1

I'm not really sure where to begin or if I even need to write this section. You all know everything about Christian McCaffrey aka CMC aka Dairy Sanders aka Mr. 1.01. As that last nickname that I totally didn't just make up now says, McCaffrey is the automatic first pick in every upcoming draft this summer (unless it's Superflex and even then he has a case). He became the third player ever to record 1,000 receiving yards and 1,000 rushing yards in the same season. He played for 93% of the Panthers offensive snaps and handled 88.2% of their running back touches. He is the definition of a true do it all bell-cow running back. He outscored the RB2 in PPR scoring last year by a whopping 8.7 points per game. Over a touchdown per game!

McCaffrey managed these accomplishments with the toughest schedule for a running back last year and a middling offensive line. Unfortunately, these factors won't change much for this season. The Panthers offensive line ranked 17th in adjusted line yards (per Football Outsiders). This measures how much an offensive line contributes to rushing yardage. The Panthers line will have some new starters but they are question marks. They traded star guard Trai Turner to the Chargers for left tackle Russel Okung, who has some injury concerns and Turner's replacement at guard is up in the air. Per Sharp Football Analysis, the Panthers face the 10th toughest schedule for rushing defenses. Neither of these hurt McCaffrey all too much last year and this is technically an easier schedule.

McCaffrey's open field talent (30 broken tackles last season) and receiving workload (over 100 targets the last two seasons) help offset any potential concerns. Since McCaffrey entered the NFL, he has the third-most receptions. That's for the entire NFL, not just for running backs. Only Michael Thomas and Deandre Hopkins have more. Yes, that is real. He has more receptions than every other great receiver you can think of. That won't be slowing down under Brady. Last year, Brady's offense threw heavily to running backs and not just for check downs. LSU's Clyde Edwards-Helaire had 55 receptions, which was the most for an SEC running back in nearly 20 years. He's extremely effective with his receptions as well. McCaffrey's yard per route run (one of the most predictive receiving statistics) last season was 1.88, which was ninth among running backs. He managed that with Allen at quarterback. Now lets picture all this with Bridgewater at quarterback, who is no stranger to throwing to an efficient receiving back (hello Alvin Kamara).

The only possible issue with McCaffrey's outlook for 2020 is touchdown regression. He managed to hit paydirt 19 times last year. Carolina struggled to score the ball through the air which boosted McCaffrey's rushing touchdowns. They will likely come down a bit this year, but that's not enough to move him off the 1.01. Without any touchdowns last year, he still would have been the highest-scoring RB in PPR. Also, McCaffrey can score more receiving touchdowns to offset any loss in rushing touchdowns.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

McCaffrey becomes the first player to ever have a back to back 1,000 rushing yards and 1,000 receiving yards season. Bridgewater and McCaffrey find chemistry early on and Bridgewater peppers him with tons of targets on CMC's way to another RB1 finish.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The Panthers' offense struggles to come together this season and the revamped offensive line actually plays worse than last season. McCaffrey still manages a bunch of receptions but his touchdowns and rushing yardage drop a bit. He still manages to be a top 10 RB so it doesn't totally tank your season.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
ATT	267
YARDS	1,265
TD	12
RECEIVING	
REC	106
YARDS	890
TD	6
FUM	2

WIDE RECEIVER

D.J. MOORE

ADP: 37.1, WR14

D.J. Moore had his second-year break out last season and not enough people are talking about it. Moore had 135 targets (10th most in the NFL), 87 receptions, 1175 receiving yards, and four touchdowns. This was as a 22-year-old with Allen as his QB. The advanced metrics also paint a pretty picture for Moore. His yards per route run was 2.4 per FantasyData (16th among wide receivers), he earned 1499 air yards per (12th in the NFL), and he had a WOPR of 0.56 per AirYards.com (18th in the NFL). WOPR, or weighted opportunity rating, measures a combination of a player's target share and share of the air yards in an offense. It is a great statistic for measuring how a receiver performed and it has a high year over year correlation. Now, I'll say this again: he did this with Kyle Allen!

Having new offensive coordinator Joe Brady will also be an advantage for Moore this season. Brady was effective at spreading out the offense and letting his primary receivers go to work. Justin Jefferson and Ja'Marr Chase each posted over 1,500 receiving yards last year for LSU. This was because of Brady's ability to work with his player's strengths and put them in a position to succeed. Moore will likely be playing a similar role that Michael Thomas and Jefferson played in this offense. Running routes in the short and intermediate areas of the field (with a good amount out of the slot) to give Bridgewater easy completions. Moore would thrive in this role for two reasons. First, he has great hands. Moore's true catch rate was 13th in the NFL and he is strong in contested catches, converting over 55% of them per FantasyData. Secondly, he can utilize his incredible ability to generate yards after the catch. Moore had a 0.9 YAC above expectation, which was 8th among qualifying wide receivers (per NFL NextGen Stats). Moore's new partnership with Bridgewater and his role in the offense are seamless fits for real football and fake football.

As discussed in the Bridgewater breakdown, the Panthers offense faces the 12th easiest schedule of opposing pass defenses in 2020. The Panthers' own weak defense and playing against stronger NFC South teams twice will put the Panthers in a ton of passing situations. These factors in concert with Moore's new role make him an easy buy at his WR14 ADP (per FantasyData).

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Moore is the beneficiary of a quarterback upgrade, a smart scheme for his skill set, and constantly playing from behind to become a no-doubt WR1 by the end of the season.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The Panthers' offense struggles to adapt to Brady's play style. Bridgewater and Moore can't seem to create the connection needed to sustain Moore enough for his price tag. Moore ends up as a low-end WR2.

CURTIS SAMUEL

ADP: 176, WR66

Curtis Samuel bore the brunt of Allen's inability to be a functional quarterback last season. Samuel led the NFL in unrealized air yards but not because he couldn't catch. Allen had the worst completion percentage in the NFL on deep

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	137
REC	89
YARDS	1,225
TD	7

passes last season (per Football Outsiders). Allen completed just 13 of 41 deep pass attempts, or 31.7. That percentage is actually somehow propped up by Allen's deep passes traveling 20-31 yards, which was a respectable 55%. Allen managed to go 2 for 21 on passes traveling 31+ yards last season. Good for 9.5%! That is incredibly bad and a long-winded way to say how badly Samuel was treated last year. This lack of accuracy dropped Samuel's yards per route run to a lowly 1.16 (75th among wide receivers per Fantasy Data). Bridgewater isn't known for his deep ball prowess, but he will likely be much better than Allen last season (as you can't do much worse).

Samuel really was a bit better last year than he is getting credit for. He was 14th in the NFL in average target separation, showing that he can get past defenders. His ability to evade tackles and get away from defenders is probably his defining trait. He was used as a hybrid RB/WR at Ohio State and the beginning of his NFL career. He may be headed to something similar this year after the failed experiment as a deep threat (not really his fault) and the signing of Robby Anderson. Samuel's best role is likely some time in the slot, some end-around rushes, and a few deep shots mixed in. Samuel is being drafted as the WR66 and that generally makes sense with his inefficient prior season and lack of clarity on his role going forward. But... there is one way this really pays off. If McCaffrey (god forbid) got injured or had to miss time due to COVID-19, would anyone be surprised if Samuel ended up as the primary running back? His skill set would fit into McCaffrey's role and Reggie Bonnafon isn't the same level of football player as Samuel. So while I pray that this does not happen, it is something to be considered later in your drafts.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Samuel is able to carve out a better role in Brady's offense than being solely a deep threat and Bridgewater's accuracy raises Samuel's floor. Samuel pays off with WR2 weeks until McCaffrey gets injured and Samuel becomes a must-start.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The new coaching staff prefers the newly signed Anderson, and Samuel gets demoted to the third wide receiver on the depth chart. Bridgewater never ends up trusting Samuel and he becomes a wasted draft pick and waiver-wire fodder.

ROBBY ANDERSON

ADP: 167.3, WR64

Robby Anderson left the Jets this offseason to play under his former college coach Matt Rhule again. It was an understandable decision for personal reasons, but an odd fit for football. While Bridgewater is an accurate passer and an upgrade from Sam Darnold (at his current development stage), Anderson is a true deep threat receiver (12th highest aDOT for WRs with at least 50 targets) that doesn't mesh well with Bridgewater's strengths. Anderson may fall into the decoy/clear out receiver to let McCaffrey, Moore, Ian Thomas, and even Samuel have space underneath.

If Bridgewater throws deep more often than the past, Anderson can capitalize. The main issue is that we won't know when those weeks are coming (if they are). Anderson has his spike weeks, similarly to other deep threat receivers. It makes it difficult to thrust him into your lineup. With this tendency and his new quarterback, I am a bit bearish on Anderson this year. You will have the choice between Samuel and Anderson late in drafts and I would lean towards Samuel

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	82
REC	56
YARDS	640
TD	4
RUSHING	
YARDS	74
TD	1

because he has more paths to success.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Matt Rhule knows how to use Anderson best and Anderson is able to become a more complete receiver. Bridgewater is coaxed to take more deep shots under Brady, which pays off for Anderson. Anderson ends up as a solid WR2, stemming from multiple spike weeks.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Anderson is primarily used as a decoy in the offense to take the safeties away from the primary targets. Anderson catches the random deep ball, but it never amounts to much fantasy production. Anderson ends the season as a low-end WR3 or WR4.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	74
REC	51
YARDS	625
TD	4

TIGHT END

IAN THOMAS

ADP: 308, TE28

Ian Thomas finally is getting his chance to be the starting tight end for the Panthers. When Greg Olsen was injured for parts of the past two seasons, Thomas started and had 5 games as a TE1. For a rookie and sophomore tight end to produce that well without consistent playing time is impressive.

Thomas is also another strong fit for the new offense and quarterback. Thomas has a 71st percentile size-adjusted speed score (per PlayerProfiler) which is one of the most important metrics for finding a breakout tight end. Thomas is able to move well for a tight end which could allow for similar YAC production we have been looking for in these Panthers receivers. It is difficult to project a meaningful role in this offense for Thomas, but he's an intriguing option if you wait (like really wait) at tight end in your draft.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Thomas is able to break into the Panthers receiving hierarchy behind Samuel, allowing him to see a larger amount of targets than expected. Thomas is able to replicate his form without Olsen and is a low-end TE1 for the season.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Thomas never really breaks into the new offense and is used more for his blocking ability. He sees CMC, Moore, Samuel, and Anderson all work ahead of him in the offense, leaving few target opportunities left over. He stays as the TE3 that he's being drafted as.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	67
REC	43
YARDS	520
TD	3

TEAM PREVIEWS CHICAGO BEARS



ALLEN ROBINSON



By Mike Miklius

Last year, the Chicago Bears were a disaster on offense; they ranked 31st in yards per play, 32nd in yards per pass attempt, and 29th in yards per carry. The only bright spot was an amazing season by Allen Robinson. Otherwise, Bears fans were left wondering who was most at fault: Coach Matt Nagy or their quarterback. The front office traded for Nick Foles to challenge Mitch Trubisky for the starting role, so we have their answer. Even without a new quarterback, it's hard to imagine Chicago matching their futility of last season: since 2010, the bottom five offenses in per-play efficiency have gained an average of 0.7 yards per pass play and 0.4 yards per carry the next season. I don't expect greatness here, but we can still reasonably hope for better.

The Bears appear to envision themselves as a win-now team, though they have a lot of competition both in the division and the conference. Robinson and Anthony Miller will be the starting wide receivers with Ted Ginn Jr. joining for three-wide sets. David Montgomery will be the workhorse while Tarik Cohen should continue as the third-down back. Rookie Cole Kmet looks to be the immediate starter at tight end while Jimmy Graham should be his backup. There are definitely some useful pieces here for the coming season.

2019 TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	8
2020 Projected Wins	8.5
Total Plays	1,103
Total Plays Rank	15
Pass %	61%
Pass % Rank	11
Rush %	39%
Rush % Rank	22
Plays/Gm	69
Plays/Gm Rank	15
Points Per Game	18
PPG Rank	29

QUARTERBACK

Note: I expect Nick Foles to be the starter in 2020. As such, the other projections are based on this number. I am including Mitch Trubisky's projections as well just in case.

NICK FOLES

ADP: 244, QB32

Nick Foles has never played a full season. He's only started more than eight games twice in his career. Still, he has two things going for him: he's a Super Bowl MVP and he's not Mitch Trubisky. At this point, that might be enough. It's fair to say Foles is already a better quarterback than Trubisky ever will be, and he rejoins former coach Matt Nagy. I have to believe Nagy had some serious input on this choice, and I project Foles will be the starter by week 3 -- if not when the season begins. Due to a limited track record, it's hard to say what Foles will do for 16 games or if he can even hold up. Still, he provides some optimism for an often disappointed franchise.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Nick Foles grabs the job during the preseason and holds it throughout the year. He clicks in Coach Nagy's familiar system, and the team finally starts to look like a well-oiled machine. The Bears win the NFC North.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Foles gets his chance, but he proves not to be the savior Chicago was hoping for. Despite a familiar quarterback, Coach Nagy is unable to keep the offense running smoothly. Trubisky is swapped back in, but nothing improves. The die has been cast.

MITCH TRUBISKY

ADP: 262, QB33

Mitch Trubisky was supposed to be the answer in Chicago when Ryan Pace made the bold move to move up one spot and secure him in 2017. Unfortunately, the question turns out to have been 'Who should we avoid?' After being subjected to a stone-age John Fox offense in 2017, Trubisky showed some flashes in 2018. He had the physical abilities as a passer and runner to make expectations soar. There were plenty of issues, but hopefully, another year would help iron them out. That was not the case; Trubisky heavily regressed in 2019 as the offense regularly sputtered. The team has apparently seen enough, and Trubisky's days are numbered. Still, it's worth wondering what the season might look like if he is forced to be the starter.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Trubisky runs more with the ball--ala 2018--and this opens up some easy throws to help him regain his confidence. He stays at starter and Chicago sneaks into a wildcard spot.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Trubisky again struggles in the preseason and is supplanted before the regular season begins. Outside of an appearance here or there, his time in Chicago is over.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	540
COMP	350
YARDS	4,000
TD	25
INT	12
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	30
YARDS	90
TD	1

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	500
COMP	320
YARDS	3,500
TD	24
INT	12
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	64
YARDS	380
TD	3

RUNNING BACK

DAVID MONTGOMERY

ADP: 43, RB23

David Montgomery was highly touted heading into 2019; he was a third-round pick and the backfield was his to lose. So how did it go? The offensive line fell apart and Montgomery struggled his on way to 889 rushing yards on 3.7 yards per carry. From my perspective, it's hard to say just what Montgomery is--he looked timid at times and was slow to hit holes. Still, he was hard to bring down on the first contact and frequently fought for more yards. Here's where I stand: I think Montgomery is serviceable and has no competition for workhorse touches. At least for 2020, he is going to eat. How valuable he becomes will depend on how good his blocking is.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Montgomery takes a step forward and the line plays better. He functions as a true three-down back, taking the majority of the passing-game work as well. He finishes as an RB1 with 1500 yards from scrimmage.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Montgomery looks the same as last year: hard to bring down, but slow to hit the holes. The line isn't any better, and the result is a second straight sub-1000 season.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	275
YARDS	1,150
TD	6
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	40
REC	28
YARDS	210
TD	1

TARIK COHEN

ADP: 94.4, RB41

Tarik Cohen regressed in a big way last year, seeing a drop in carries, yards per carry, yards per reception, and touchdown rate. Now, there is a question of whether or not Cohen can hold off Montgomery and remain the pass-catching threat. Personally, I think Cohen is safe. He was used poorly last year, but the coaches know his strengths: he was an RB1 for the same staff in 2018 despite seeing only 99 carries. Cohen will never see anything close to a workhorse role, and he has a bit of a fumbling problem. That being said, he should be one of the top pass-catching threats again. He's also going at a dirt-cheap ADP if you plan on a Zero-RB strategy.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Cohen continues to eat 4-5 carries per game in the change of pace role as well as dominating the backfield's pass-catching role. Foles makes better use of Cohen's skills, and the "Human Joystick" scores 10 touchdowns.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Cohen is all but squeezed out of the running game as Montgomery proves the better weapon in nearly every case. He also loses targets to Miller, Montgomery, and rookie tight end Kmet. His days in Chicago are numbered.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	70
YARDS	300
TD	2
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	100
REC	75
YARDS	600
TD	4

WIDE RECEIVER

ALLEN ROBINSON

ADP: 32.4, WR11

Allen Robinson was a beast in 2019. Despite miserable quarterback play, he still saw 154 targets, 98 receptions, and 1,147 yards. On top of the accumulated stats, Robinson was consistent: he only had two games with fewer than 7 targets and three games with fewer than 5 receptions. Because of the success last season, I have no worries about who is behind center in 2020. Robinson should eat no matter who is throwing to him. Did I mention he finished in the 98th percentile against man coverage and the 97th percentile against press coverage?

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Robinson is once again the only reliable threat on the team, and he continues to devour targets left and right. He crushes last year's numbers as Foles is an improvement over Trubisky, and Robinson elevates to the elite tier of receivers.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Robinson regresses from last year while Miller, Montgomery, and Kmet become viable targets as well. With the ball spreading around more, Robinson has trouble matching last year's standout season.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	150
REC	100
YARDS	1,300
TD	8

ANTHONY MILLER

ADP: 128.6, WR49

Anthony Miller was on my breakout list heading into last season, but he was slowed down early by a shoulder injury from the year before. Through his first 9 games, he had 30 targets for 17 receptions. He came on strong late before re-injuring the same shoulder again in the last game of the season. The next six games saw 54 targets and 34 receptions. At that pace, Miller would have had this season: 144 targets, 91 receptions, 1,155 yards, and 5 touchdowns. That may be a high expectation, but it shows what a healthy Miller can do in this offense.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Miller proves that the flashes of talent were for real. He stays healthy all season and becomes a full-fledged weapon to complement Robinson. He totals his first career thousand-yard season and takes some pressure off Robinson's shoulders.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Miller comes into another season unhealthy, and he gets off to another slow start. With Miller having failed to break out in his first three seasons, the team drafts his replacement in the offseason.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	110
REC	72
YARDS	935
TD	5

TIGHT END

COLE KMET

ADP: 333, TE35

Chicago is not where you want to be looking for your tight end this year. The top contenders for starting tight end are Jimmy Graham, who looks about three years past his prime, or rookie Cole Kmet. If I had to choose someone here, it's Kmet. Graham could outproduce Kmet this year, but there is a virtually-zero chance that Graham does anything of value this season. At least with Kmet, there is the chance of a breakout. Kmet was a second-round selection out of Notre Dame, and he has the size and speed of a prototypical tight end. Still, it's tough for tight ends to break out early.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	50
REC	30
YARDS	350
TD	2

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Kmet is able to find holes in opposing defenses as they focus on trying to stop Robinson and Miller. He breaks some big plays and has a few big breakout games. His presence also helps stabilize the run game and the offense clicks.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Kmet is the next Adam Shaheen -- despite the hype and draft capital, he fails to do much of anything in his rookie season. Without a useful talent at tight end, the offense sputters and the team crawls to the finish with a losing record.

2020 Projection: 50 targets, 30 receptions, 350 yards, 2 TD

JOE MIXON



By Erik Smith

The Bengals successfully bottomed out in 2019 as they moved on from quarterback Andy Dalton, finishing 2-14 and more importantly locking in the #1 overall pick in the 2020 NFL Draft. Enter LSU quarterback Joe Burrow, fresh off of arguably the greatest statistical performance by a college quarterback in modern history. While most teams struggle through a few transition years of finding a new quarterback, the Bengals will instantly snap into a new era, making them a difficult team to project for 2020.

In Zac Taylor's first year as head coach, the Bengals finished 30th in points scored and 26th in yards gained with 13 games of Dalton and three games of Ryan Finley under center. How big of a jump they can take will largely rest on the shoulders of Burrow, as he is all but assured to be the starting quarterback from day one. If Burrow takes some lumps as a rookie we could be looking at another below-average offensive season in Cincinnati. But if Burrow is the real deal and an improved offensive line and receiving corps gel early, a meteoric rise on offense isn't out of the question.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	2
2020 Projected Wins	5
Total Plays	1,133
Total Plays Rank	10
Pass %	63%
Pass % Rank	5
Rush %	37%
Rush % Rank	27
Plays/Gm	71
Plays/Gm Rank	10
Points Per Game	17
PPG Rank	30

QUARTERBACK

JOE BURROW

ADP: 140, QB18

Joe Burrow smashed records on his way to the Heisman Trophy in 2019, lighting up the SEC with 65 total touchdowns, 5,671 passing yards, and a sparkling 76% completion percentage. The few knocks on Burrow would be his less than elite arm strength and his lack of a track record before last year's breakout. But Burrow makes up for his lack of arm strength with a mastery of his offense, excellent pocket presence, and a natural feel for the position. In theory, Burrow is the type of quarterback that could make an immediate impact at the NFL level.

For fantasy purposes, Burrow checks off a couple of important boxes. While he won't be mistaken for Lamar Jackson with the ball in his hands, he does project as a quarterback with some rushing upside. Burrow rushed for 767 yards over his two seasons at LSU, which is an even more impressive number when you consider that the NCAA counts sacks as negative rushing yards. Throw in 12 total rushing touchdowns over the last two seasons, and we may be looking at a quarterback that can separate himself from the pack in fantasy football. Another plus is that Burrow manned a high volume passing offense in college, and joins a Bengals offense that was pass-heavy in 2019. Cincinnati had the sixth-most passing attempts in the NFL last season, and while much of that can be contributed to playing from behind on their way to just two wins, Vegas sees the Bengals as a five or six-win team this year, so pass-heavy game scripts may still be the norm.

Burrow is being drafted as a QB2 in fantasy football, leaving him with plenty of room to exceed expectations. Kyler Murray, last year's number one overall pick, finished the season as the QB8 overall and the QB12 on a points per game basis. While Burrow may not match Murray's 544 yards rushing, he may not finish too far off of that number. And Murray's 3,722 yards and 20 touchdowns through the air feel very attainable for Burrow, who may be the more complete passer coming into the league. Burrow is an excellent target for the late-round quarterback philosophy, and in superflex leagues provides an upside QB2 locked into 16 games started barring health.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The Bengals' offensive line takes a leap with Jonah Williams's return to health, Tyler Boyd fills the Justin Jefferson role from Burrow's days at LSU, and A.J. Green and Tee Higgins provide dangerous outside options, giving the Bengals a lethal three-wide receiver set. Burrow is forced to air it out with the Bengals' poor defense getting gashed on a weekly basis, giving him high passing volume on an above-average offense. A poor man's Murray on the ground, Burrow combines that with a rookie-year Baker Mayfield performance through the air and is a top 10 fantasy quarterback in 2020.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The offensive line remains a mess, and Burrow is battered on a weekly basis and misses some time with injury. Even worse, he becomes nervous in the pocket, and with Green unable to return to health and the shortened offseason stunting Higgins's development, he lacks the weapons to make up for the lack of time to throw. The Bengals resort to a conservative offense to protect Burrow, hurting his volume as well. His season looks more like Mayfield's second season with the Browns, and much like Freddie Kitchens in Cleveland, Cincinnati moves on from head coach Zac Taylor in an attempt to save their franchise quarterback.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	545
COMP	348
YARDS	3,975
TD	24
INT	16

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	65
YARDS	305
TD	3

RUNNING BACK

JOE MIXON

ADP: 12.7, RB9

Joe Mixon had a strange 2019 season, and his RB13 overall finish is misleading since he was a fantasy team-wrecker in the first half of the season. Mixon was RB19 on a points per game basis last season, which feels like a more accurate representation of his season as a whole. Mixon's talents as a rusher leave very little to debate, as he grades out as one of the best pure runners in the league. Per FantasyData, Mixon ranked first among all running backs with 103 evaded tackles, fourth at the position with a 32.9% juke rate, and ranked fourth among all running backs with 36 yards created per game. With that kind of ability combined with very little competition behind him on the depth chart, Mixon sounds like a no-doubt selection in the middle of the first round of fantasy drafts. However, his team and his usage in the passing game have held him back from a complete breakout.

Despite coming into the league with the reputation of an asset in the passing game, the Bengals have surprisingly not fed Mixon the number of targets that we would like to see for fantasy purposes. In his three year career, Mixon topped out at 55 targets in 2018 and has yet to reach 300 receiving yards in any one of his three NFL seasons. By all accounts, he has been impressive when called upon, as he ranked fourth among all running backs with 30 or more targets with 5.01 fantasy points per target, per FantasyData. After receiving a 73% snap share in 2018 that number did dip to 62.2% in 2019, so Mixon isn't quite at that elite level of usage for a running back either. Coupled with a Bengals team that has often had to play from behind, and projects to be a losing team yet again in 2020, and the warts are beginning to add up for a true Mixon breakout. With the premium put on running backs in drafts this year, Mixon is a more-than-reasonable selection at the end of the first round of drafts. If you are counting on a true league-winning breakout for Mixon, however, we will need to see the Bengals use him in a different way than they have so far in his NFL career. It's worth noting, at the time of this writing, Mixon is looking for a new contract from the Bengals. He hasn't threatened to hold-out at this point, but we should keep an eye on the news out of Cincinnati.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Burrow looks like a professional quarterback from day one and makes this the best offense that Mixon has been a part of in his Bengals career. Burrow carries over his affinity for targeting running backs from his LSU days, and Mixon sets career highs in targets, receptions, and receiving yards. Cincinnati's high-octane offense provides Mixon more scoring opportunities than ever before, and he cracks double-digit touchdowns for the first time. On a team that is still in the running for a wild-card spot late in the season, Mixon finds himself playing more snaps than last year and even gets to kill the clock on the ground in some wins. He finally puts together a breakout season and finishes as the RB5 overall.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Mixon's passing-game usage doesn't increase, despite the Bengals being more pass-heavy than ever with Burrow under center. Cincinnati features Mixon less and less as they try to develop Burrow, but the wins don't come immediately with their rookie quarterback slinging it 35 times a game in catch-up mode. Mixon has fewer of those 30 carry games from the end of 2019 and finishes as a touchdown-dependent RB2 in 2020. Fantasy owners begin to wonder if Mixon's prime is being wasted on a team that isn't utilizing him properly.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	268
YARDS	1,175
TD	9

RECEIVING

TARGETS	55
REC	45
YARDS	345
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVER

TYLER BOYD

ADP: 84, WR34

The hype is beginning to grow on Tyler Boyd in the fantasy community, which unfortunately may cause his ADP to rise as drafts approach. But he remains a target of mine in almost every draft and provides an excellent floor if you can grab him as the WR3 on your team. Boyd has very quietly amassed two 1,000 yard seasons before turning 26 years old, all while playing with Andy Dalton, Ryan Finley, and Jeff Driskel at quarterback during his career. Boyd can probably pay off his WR34 ADP even if Burrow struggles this year. And if Burrow hits the ground running, we could be looking at a massive season out of Boyd, especially in PPR leagues.

Boyd saw the 7th most targets in the NFL last year and has very little competition in the slot from his fellow Bengals wide receivers. A.J. Green, if he can stay healthy, will spend a decent chunk of time lined up out wide, and Green's presence would likely only help to open up space for Boyd to operate. Tee Higgins looks like a promising rookie, but in his first year in the league in a COVID-19 altered offseason, it would not be a surprise to see him struggle out of the gate. John Ross III has battled injuries and inconsistency and plays a different role in the offense than Boyd anyway. Burrow leaned on a similar player to Boyd at LSU in Justin Jefferson, and it wouldn't be a surprise if Boyd is his favorite target year-one in the NFL. If Green struggles to regain his form and Higgins is a slow learner at the pro level, Boyd could be looking at another massive target share, similar to his 25% mark from 2019. There's a good chance that a 25% target share with 16 games of Burrow is better than what Boyd dealt with last year, and while Boyd is closer to Jarvis Landry than Chris Godwin, the volume alone should propel Boyd into the best season of his career and a potential breakout campaign.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The offense is improved with Burrow under center, but the rest of the receiving corps struggles with inconsistencies and injuries. Boyd is the constant all season long and improves on his 2019 efficiency on a similar target share. He approaches 100 catches and 1,100 yards, adds in a few more scores, and finishes as a consistent back-end WR1 or high-end WR2.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Green and company stay on the field more than last year, providing Boyd with more competition for targets. The offense struggles, yet unlike 2019 there are too many mouths to feed in order to replicate Boyd's 25% target share. His season looks like a disappointing Landry season from years past, and Boyd is a low upside option with a mediocre weekly floor.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	135
REC	90
YARDS	1,050
TD	7

A.J. GREEN

ADP: 65, WR28

There really isn't a ton of analysis to be done on A.J. Green. From 2011-2015, Green was among the elite fantasy receivers in the league, topping 1,000 yards each year and averaging nine touchdowns per season. There were warning signs in 2016 when he tore his hamstring and missed the final six games of the season. Green rebounded in 2017 to play all 16 games, though his 75 receptions were a bit low for his standards. The real trouble started in 2018, however, when Green suffered a toe injury in Week 8 and missed the next three games. He returned to the field only to reinjure the same toe in his first game back and was placed on injured reserve after playing in just nine games. Green came into last season with legitimate injury concerns and did nothing to prove that he had overcome them, as he tore ligaments in his ankle during training camp that caused him to miss the entire 2019 season. Green says that the injuries are behind him and that he has been running routes since February. But after having missed 23 games over the past two seasons, there is reason to worry whether Green still possesses the elite upside that would worth taking on his substantial risk. In such a deep wide receiver position in 2020, I will be looking at healthy players with legitimate upside and letting other drafters find out if Green has anything left in the tank at age 32.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Green shakes the injury bug, is rejuvenated by Burrow, and looks like the dynamic player from the past. It's hard to see a full 16 games from him at a full snap rate even in the best-case scenario, but 14 or so games of elite production on a slightly lowered snap count would still prove valuable. He ends up with around 900 receiving yards and chips in some consistent touchdown scoring as a trusted red zone option.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The Bengals handle Green cautiously, preventing him from receiving a full starter's share of snaps early on. Injuries hit again, and Green is in and out of the lineup throughout the season and lacks the burst that he once showed. He clogs a spot on your roster for much of the year, and you're left wondering if he still possesses that upside that you have been holding out hope for.

TEE HIGGINS

ADP: 196, WR83

In a normal offseason, the Tee Higgins hype might be ramping up as fantasy football drafts approach. The Bengals drafted Higgins at the top of the second round, and it would be logical to see him and Joe Burrow begin to develop some chemistry in training camp as fellow rookies being thrown to the fire in year-one. With this chaotic and shortened offseason, and potentially just one preseason game to work on their timing together, betting on a rookie wide receiver year-one has suddenly become an even scarier proposition. At nearly 6'4" and 216 pounds, Higgins profiles as a contested-catch specialist, and Burrow had success giving his receivers a chance to make plays at LSU when he found them in single coverage. Higgins was often on the bench in the second half as Clemson blew out opponents in 2019, so he could end up a value for the Bengals in the second round. But he is pretty clearly outside of the top tier of rookie pass-catchers, and

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	90
REC	54
YARDS	756
TD	5

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	75
REC	45
YARDS	540
TD	5

a slow start in this disjointed year would be very predictable. When you get to the final picks of your draft, depending on league size, you should be shooting for upside. In that case, I wouldn't fault you for taking a shot on Higgins, especially if you drafted Burrow and wanted a cheap stack that you could move on from quickly if things don't work out. But for most leagues, Higgins can likely go undrafted, though I would put him on my watchlist immediately after the draft.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Green loses another year to injury and the Bengals are desperate for an outside threat to pair with Boyd. John Ross III is inconsistent and/or injured, and Higgins provides a contested-catch presence with much better athleticism than fellow wide receiver Auden Tate. While it isn't always pretty, Higgins makes plays and develops chemistry with Burrow, and by the end of the year is a streaming WR3/flex option with promising upside in dynasty leagues.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The offseason proves to be too much to overcome and we go most of the year with Higgins operating behind Green, Boyd, and Ross as the WR4 in Cincinnati. Outside of some designed red zone targets, Higgins doesn't make an impact, and he enters year two with a concerning lack of production under his belt.

TIGHT END

C.J. UZOMAH

ADP: 330, TE37

If you squint hard enough, especially considering his ADP, you can see reasons for optimism for C.J. Uzomah. At age 27, he is approaching the years where tight ends finally start to contribute, and while he took a step back last year to just 40 total targets across 16 games, he does have a respectable 104 combined targets over his last two seasons. And with an 87% snap share in 2018 and a 62% snap share in 2019, Uzomah is a safe bet to be on the field consistently, giving him a chance to gel with Burrow. But at the end of the day, Uzomah will go undrafted in your league and probably lacks any meaningful upside. He's interesting depth in dynasty leagues, and someone to keep your eye on early in the season while he sits on waivers in your redraft league.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Burrow likes using his tight end as a security blanket and Uzomah plays a healthy share of snaps. Uzomah catches a touchdown here or there and is a poor man's Kyle Rudolph, giving him some upside heading into the 2021 season.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Second-year tight end Drew Sample sees the field more as the better run blocker, Uzomah's snap share drops below 50%, and the tight ends are not a factor in the passing game. Cincinnati enters the 2021 NFL Draft as a team likely to address the tight end position with an early pick.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	50
REC	33
YARDS	325
TD	3

NICK CHUBB



By Eli Grabanski

Last year, the Cleveland Browns entered the season with sky-high expectations. It was supposed to be the year that the Browns finally escaped their standing as laughing-stock of the NFL. But after a promising 2018 season where the Browns finished the season winning five of their last seven games (7-8-1 record), the Browns failed to build upon it, stumbling to a disappointing 6-10 record. Rising star Baker Mayfield went from being regarded as the next great quarterback to being most well-known for starring in Progressive commercials. Superstar wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. had one of the worst years of his career in his first year for the team. And the once-promising offensive coordinator Freddie Kitchens was fired after just one season as the head coach after his offense ranked 22nd in passing yards and averaged only 20 points per game. The Browns decided to bring in a whole new front office and coaching staff headlined by former Vikings offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski. With Stefanski and the new coaching staff, there's a lot of hope that the Browns will get their offense going and finally escape their status as being bottom-dwellers of the NFL.

The Browns are positioned to be a win-now team and should be in the mix for a wild card spot. Mayfield will retain his spot as the starting quarterback, and be backed up by journeyman Case Keenum. Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry will start at wide receiver with Rashad Higgins joining them for three-wide sets. Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt will be in contention for the best running back duo in the league. Free-agent acquisition Austin Hooper is set to be the starting tight-end with plenty of David Njoku mixed in as well. There are a lot of great pieces here for the Browns, and fantasy owners should have the opportunity to capitalize on many of the Browns post-hype sleepers.

2019 TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	6
2020 Projected Wins	8.5
Total Plays	1,073
Total Plays Rank	24
Pass %	60%
Pass % Rank	12
Rush %	40%
Rush % Rank	15
Plays/Gm	67
Plays/Gm Rank	24
Points Per Game	21
PPG Rank	22

QUARTERBACK

BAKER MAYFIELD

ADP: 138.2, QB17

Baker Mayfield had a record-setting rookie year where he completed 310 passes for 3725 passing yards (266.1 per game) and 27 touchdowns in just 13.5 games. But in 2019, he suffered a sophomore slump where he threw for only 3827 passing yards (239.2 per game) and 21 interceptions (7 more than his rookie year). Despite this down year, with the coaching staff changes and offensive line additions of Jack Conklin and Jedrick Wills, Mayfield should be able to get back on track and show why he was taken 1st overall in 2018.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Mayfield lives up to his status as a #1 overall pick and throws for 4500+ passing yards with 30+ touchdowns in the new system. The Browns end their playoff drought and are a legitimate contender for the Super Bowl

Worst Case: Mayfield continues to struggle and has a year as bad as 2019. The Browns make the decision that they need a new QB for the 2021 season, and Mayfield is only known for his Progressive commercials.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	475
COMP	310
YARDS	3,800
TD	27
INT	9
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	30
YARDS	140
TD	1

RUNNING BACK

NICK CHUBB

ADP: 13.2, RB11

Ever since Nick Chubb took the starting job from Carlos Hyde in 2018, he's proven himself to be one of the best running backs in the league. And despite a terrible offensive line last year, Chubb managed to finish 2nd in the NFL in rushing with 1494 yards (5.0 YPC). The craziest thing about that? He averaged four yards per carry after contact. This year he will be running behind a much improved offensive line with the additions of Wills and Conklin. Head Coach Kevin Stefanski is a very run-heavy play-caller, with his offense averaging 29.42 rushing attempts per game when he called plays with the Vikings (19 games). Chubb will prove this year, if not for sharing the load with Hunt, he would belong in the same conversation as Ezekiel Elliott, Saquon Barkley, and Christian McCaffrey for fantasy purposes. For 2020, however, Chubb will have to split touches with Hunt, so that'll make it difficult for him to challenge for the #1 overall fantasy running back this year. Regardless, Chubb remains a surefire RB1 in virtually all fantasy football leagues.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Chubb is the clear lead back in Stefanski's system, with Stefanski deciding only to use Hunt as a change-of-pace option. Chubb leads the league with 320 carries and runs for a league-leading 1700+ yards and 10+ touchdowns.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Hunt is the better fit for Stefanski's offense and takes a lead with a 70/30 split. Mayfield's continued struggles result in opposing defenses stacking the box, and Chubb has his least efficient year to date.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	250
YARDS	1,250
TD	12
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	25
REC	20
YARDS	150
TD	1

KAREEM HUNT

ADP: 53.9, RB26

Kareem Hunt is the second part of this dynamic duo that could rival the 2017 New Orleans Saints' backfield of Mark Ingram & Alvin Kamara for the best RB pairing in recent years. Hunt was a star for the Kansas City Chiefs, running 272 times for 1327 rushing yards and catching 53 passes for 455 yards in his rookie year in 2017. Hunt has been involved in a few off-the-field incidents since then, but his football talent remains. He will be the primary pass-catching/third-down running back for the Browns, the best "handcuff" in fantasy football, and in Stefanski's run-heavy offense he should have some standalone value as well.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Hunt fits Stefanski's offense like a glove to a hand and commands the majority of the carries/running work. He returns to his Kansas City glory as one of the best backs in the league, running for over 1000 yards on the ground while excelling in the passing game.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO (FOR FANTASY PURPOSES)

Hunt is clearly bested by Chubb, and Stefanski only uses Hunt as a change-of-pace and third-down running back.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	155
YARDS	725
TD	5
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	60
REC	50
YARDS	450
TD	3

WIDE RECEIVER

ODELL BECKHAM JR.

ADP: 36.6, WR13

Odell Beckham Jr. had a bit of a down year in 2019 playing through a sports hernia. Despite it being a down-year for the supremely talented receiver, he still saw 133 targets for 74 receptions, 1035 receiving yards, and 4 touchdowns. With another year to develop chemistry with Mayfield at quarterback, and an improved offensive line giving Mayfield more time in the pocket, expect Beckham to be much more efficient this upcoming year even with the shift to a more run-heavy Stefanski led offense.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Seeing the Browns' pass-catching weapons, Stefanski changes his approach to be more pass-friendly. Beckham Jr. is healthy all season long, and with Mayfield's improved accuracy, OBJ averages over 100 receiving yards per game and catches double-digit touchdowns.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Stefanski goes run-heavy with Hunt & Chubb, and Beckham Jr. struggles with injury yet again. OBJ has to fight for targets between Landry, Hooper, Njoku, Hunt, Chubb, and Higgins, and lacks the target volume to be a true fantasy football difference-maker.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	110
REC	65
YARDS	1,100
TD	8

JARVIS LANDRY

ADP: 76.9, WR32

Despite the addition of former LSU teammate Beckham Jr. last season, Jarvis Landry remained Mayfield's favorite receiver, seeing 138 targets and catching 83 passes for 1174 receiving yards and 6 touchdowns. In the past, Landry has been one of the most consistent wide receivers in the league, playing in every game of his six-year career (96 games) and totaling 564 receptions for 6188 receiving yards. While he had a career year last season, I expect Landry to fall into high-end WR3 territory in Stefanski's offense. Landry underwent hip surgery in February of this year, and while all signs of his recovery are positive at the moment, be aware that he could be eased back into camp as he builds up strength and conditioning.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Landry continues to be Mayfield's favorite receiver, keeps his iron-man streak alive, and has over 1000 receiving yards. His WR32 ADP looks like a steal in retrospect.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Stefanski's offense is extremely run-heavy. Beckham Jr. cements himself as the clear WR1 on the team. Landry fights for targets with the other talented Browns players and ends up with under 700 yards receiving as his injury recovery limits him to start the season.

RASHAD HIGGINS

ADP: 226, WR100

Higgins is expected to be number three wide-out for the Browns in 2020. But considering there are six skill position players better than him in Hunt, Chubb, Beckham Jr., Landry, Hooper, and Njoku, as well as Stefanski's preference for 2 tight-end sets, it's difficult to envision him as fantasy-relevant barring an injury.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Higgins steps in if his teammates miss time and keeps the ship afloat. He ends up being a streamer for favorable matchups in fantasy football leagues.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Higgins gets beat out for the #3 WR job and is later cut.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	100
REC	65
YARDS	800
TD	5

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	15
REC	8
YARDS	80
TD	0

TIGHT END

AUSTIN HOOPER

ADP: 135.4, TE13

Austin Hooper was exceptional for the Atlanta Falcons last year, catching 75 passes on 97 targets for 787 receiving yards and 6 touchdowns in just 13 games. This was his second year in a row in which he caught 70+ passes, establishing himself as one of the better receiving tight ends in the league. But it's a new year, new team for Hooper. While Stefanski's offense does a good job of utilizing tight ends, Hooper will have more competition than he did in Atlanta with former 1st round pick Njoku still on the Browns roster. With two talented wide receivers, a workhorse running back in Chubb, and an above-average pass-catcher in Hunt, this Brown's offense is much more crowded than what Hooper dealt with in Atlanta, making volume concerns his primary obstacle in 2020.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Hooper is the clear receiving tight end while Njoku is primarily used for blocking. He has a few big games when defenses are focused on Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry, and is a steady presence in fantasy lineups all year long.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Hooper starts the season off as the starter, but as the season wears on the Browns opt to utilize Njoku more and more. Hooper settles into the profile of a solid on-the-field contributor at tight end, but for fantasy purposes, he lacks the upside to make a difference in your weekly lineup.

DAVID NJOKU

ADP: 354, TE41

David Njoku struggled with injury in 2019, only appearing in four games and catching five passes. But it wasn't so long ago that the former 1st round pick was showing promise: In 2018, Njoku caught 56 of 88 passes for 639 yards and 4 touchdowns. Njoku is still a young player, set to be 24 years old at the start of the season, but this season he will face some tough competition for reps in former Falcons tight end Austin Hooper. He likely won't have a breakout season unless a few of his teammates miss time, but the potential is still there for Njoku.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Njoku shows out in preseason and training camp, making it hard to keep him off the field. As the season goes on he takes on a larger and larger role and helps the Browns make the playoffs and fantasy owners win their championships.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Njoku has another forgettable season like 2019 and is unable to step up when the team needs him due to injuries and the prominence of two tight end sets. The Browns miss the playoffs and regret not trading Njoku in the preseason to recoup some of their investment.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	70
REC	52
YARDS	570
TD	6

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	40
REC	28
YARDS	380
TD	4

TEAM PREVIEWS DALLAS COWBOYS



EZEKIEL ELLIOTT



By Marc Salazar

The 2019 Dallas Cowboys enjoyed an offensive rejuvenation amid a season of disappointments. The offensive unit was explosive, leading the league in yards, sixth in scoring and dominated defensive units throughout the season. However, the team failed to make the playoffs after another Jason Garrett lead team underachieved. Dallas finished 8-8 and did not resign Garrett for 2020. Instead, former Super Bowl-winning head coach Mike McCarthy signed on to lead the team. The Cowboys also retained their offensive play-caller, coordinator Kellen Moore, who has shown a unique understanding of how the NFL game is evolving. Fantasy owner's hopes are high, as they should be, with offensive talent in spades across the Dallas offense.

2019 TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	8
2020 Projected Wins	9.5
Total Plays	1,135
Total Plays Rank	8
Pass %	58%
Pass % Rank	21
Rush %	42%
Rush % Rank	11
Plays/Gm	71
Plays/Gm Rank	8
Points Per Game	27
PPG Rank	6

QUARTERBACKS

DAK PRESCOTT

ADP: 60.5, QB5

Since coming into the league in 2016 Dak Prescott has been a consistent fantasy producer at quarterback. Prescott has never finished worse than the QB11 in his career, and was second overall at the position last season. He performed as a QB1 in 63% of his games and has been a startable player in 90% of his career games. Last season Dak enjoyed a breakout season with career highs in passing attempts, completions, yards, and touchdowns. Credit this improvement to outstanding efficiency and aggressive passing. However, if you look back to Dak's rookie season you find similar performance, just at a lower volume. With weapons in the passing game and another year in the system, Dak should continue the success we saw in 2019.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Volume comes down a bit but efficiency stays at the same clip and touchdowns improve. A thirty-five touchdown season is not out of reach. A top-3 quarterback finish is a lock, as Prescott fully takes advantage of one of the most talented offenses in the league. Dallas' defensive struggles also help Prescott find himself in numerous shootouts, boosting his overall line.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The Cowboys deal with injuries along the offensive line, and the team returns to the middle of the pack on offense. McCarthy doesn't jump-start this franchise like hoped, and it is more of the same in Dallas. Still, Dak finishes as a top-8 fantasy quarterback, as his ceiling is high with this talented group of skill-position players surrounding him.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	551
COMP	371
YARDS	4,304
TD	26
INT	8
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	56
YARDS	276
TD	4

RUNNING BACKS

EZEKIEL ELLIOTT

ADP: 5.3, RB3

Throughout his career, Ezekiel Elliott has averaged 93 yards and nearly a touchdown per game. He's become one of the more consistent backs in the league, money in the bank for fantasy owners. Anyone who watched Zeke last season could see his explosiveness has slowed, but whether that is due to scheme or age is anyone's guess. After leading the league with 30+ runs of 20-yards or more from 2016 to 2018, Zeke had just a handful last season. Still, Zeke finished with more than 1300 yards on the ground and 54 receptions. His usage actually increased last season, seeing more than 23 opportunities per game. Elliott has also never missed a game due to injury in his four-year career. He might not be the sexy pick at the top of your draft, but he will be the safest first-round selection you can make and an anchor to your fantasy team.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Zeke's explosion is back and he challenges for the rushing title with more than 1500 rushing yards and double-digit touchdowns. He continues to be a factor in the passing game with 50+ receptions.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Zeke slows way down and averages less than four yards-per-carry for the first time in his career. He carries the ball less than 250 times and is not a factor in the passing game, as Pollard begins to force himself onto the field. Elliott finishes just outside the top-12 running backs on the year.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	289
YARDS	1,282
TD	11
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	74
REC	61
YARDS	522
TD	2

TONY POLLARD

ADP: 115.7, RB49

Dallas drafted Tony Pollard in the 4th Round of the 2019 draft, and the rookie did not disappoint in his first season. With limited volume, Pollard was electric when he touched the ball, breaking multiple explosive plays in the running and passing games. However, more than half of his total yards came in two games, so we are dealing with an extremely small sample here. Opportunity will be the deciding factor on whether or not Pollard is a fantasy league-winner this season. He is a player you should be targeting once the every-down backs are off the board, as he provides stand-alone potential while remaining one of the elite handcuffs in fantasy football.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Pollard gets half a season as the lead back due to injury and finishes as an RB1 down the stretch. He proves he has the frame and the talent to lead a backfield and adds more in the passing game than Zeke can.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Pollard continues as a part-time player, with limited opportunity behind a healthy Zeke all season. He continues to add to his highlight reel, but it's anyone's guess as to which games he can be a dependable start for fantasy purposes. Still, this makes him an ideal best ball target with upside for more.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	108
YARDS	524
TD	3
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	34
REC	22
YARDS	223
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVERS

AMARI COOPER

ADP: 35.7, WR12

Last season Amari Cooper set career highs in yards and touchdowns, his first full season with the team. What's troubling is that his trademark inconsistency was in full view. Cooper performed as a WR1 in just 25% of his games last season, slightly above his 22% career average. We want to see that number at 40% or above in elite wideouts. Anyone who's ever rostered Cooper for a season knows exactly what these ups and downs feel like. Still, Cooper is a valuable fantasy asset, just don't expect his consistency to drastically improve even with another year in a stable system. If you are drafting Cooper you are banking on the weeks where he wins you the matchup single-handedly, making him a prime best ball candidate. Just be prepared to surround him with more consistent performers to help manage the weeks where he disappears.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Cooper has the best season of his career with 90 catches and 1300 yards. He still has his peaks and valleys, but with more peaks and fewer valleys in 2020. Cooper finishes as a top-5 receiver in all fantasy leagues and continues to look like one of the young stars of the league.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Cooper loses volume to his talented teammates, and he becomes the short and intermediate target only. He scores less than five touchdowns for the first time in his career, leading some to wonder if his nagging injuries are beginning to take their toll.

MICHAEL GALLUP

ADP: 80.1, WR33

After flashing in his rookie season, Michael Gallup earned his first 1000-yard season despite missing two games due to injury. Gallup served as a primary receiving option for Dallas, and you could argue that Gallup was 1A to Cooper's 1B. Gallup earned more targets per game and averaged more yards per game. His catch rate, however, leaves much to be desired. Gallup dropped 13 passes last season and he must improve on that if he hopes to be among the leagues elite. There is also some worry that his production will take a big hit with the addition of rookie CeeDee Lamb. I don't subscribe to that theory, however. Gallup operates as the X in the scheme and with the amount of vacated targets that are leaving the team, there will be plenty of opportunities to go around. He will be one of the most important targets for owners to acquire in the mid-rounds, especially at his depressed price.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Gallup becomes the alpha in Dallas and improves his catch rate by 10%. He finishes with more than 1300 yards receiving and ten touchdowns. This propels Gallup into a top-8 receiver finish as his explosive playmaking ability is on full display.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Gallup struggles with drops and the team loses confidence in him. His role in the offense becomes the third or fourth option in the passing game as Lamb excels. He struggles to produce 800 yards and finishes outside the top-24 receivers.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	121
REC	73
YARDS	1,098
TD	7

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	103
REC	64
YARDS	1,032
TD	7

CEEDEE LAMB

ADP: 100.4, WR39

The Cowboys could not pass up CeeDee Lamb when he fell down the draft board to pick 17. Dallas went with the best player available and added to an already excellent stable of offensive talent. In hindsight, the decision is not a surprise, as the team has shown a tendency to add to team strengths rather than fill perceived holes. Lamb walks into a roster that should still have plenty of opportunities for him to produce. Dallas vacated 190 targets from 2019 and while the overall amount of passes attempted is likely to come down, the large amount still gives the rookie plenty of opportunities. Just don't expect Lamb to take over as a primary receiver. He is certain to have some blow-up games but appears unlikely to get a consistent amount of targets in order to be a trusted every-week starter. Still, at his price, the amount of upside in this offense is too great to ignore, and he will make an excellent flex with upside.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Lamb's talent is too much to keep off the field and he steals snaps from Cooper and Gallup, and Cooper misses some time with his usual nagging injuries. Lamb earns 100 targets in his first season and leads all Cowboys wide receivers in touchdowns.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

With a shortened offseason, Lamb struggles to find consistency in his rookie year and plays in just 50% of Dallas' offensive snaps. He finishes with 40 catches and less than 500 yards.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	72
REC	54
YARDS	725
TD	4

TIGHT ENDS

BLAKE JARWIN

ADP: 156.5, TE18

Blake Jarwin steps into a prime opportunity this season with Jason Witten exiting for Las Vegas. Witten was signed out of retirement last season to stabilize the tight end group and, in essence, pass the torch to Jarwin. After spending his rookie season in 2017 on the practice squad, Jarwin has earned valuable opportunities while still playing in less than 40% of the snaps. Last season he proved that he can be a complete tight end but also fit into a scheme that is more flexible than a typical Garrett offense. Jarwin is primed for a breakout and should take a big step this season. At his price, he is a steal that you can take a flyer on him in the late rounds of drafts.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Jarwin sees 90 targets and gains more than 800 yards. He scores seven touchdowns and is a TE1.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Jarwin cannot handle duties as a full-time tight end. His opportunity only slightly grows from his first two full seasons and he fails to ellipse 400 yards.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	61
REC	48
YARDS	541
TD	4

COURTLAND SUTTON



By Marc Salazar

2019 was a tale of two seasons for the Denver Broncos. A disappointing 7-9 season ended on a high note when a young quarterback took over the team and closed out the year strong. Denver could not have been unluckier in close games, losing at least four games after leading in the 4th. Hopes are high in Denver after a solid draft, a strong nucleus of offensive talent, and a surprising young quarterback. Let's look at what that means for fantasy owners.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	7
2020 Projected Wins	7.5
Total Plays	1,036
Total Plays Rank	29
Pass %	57%
Pass % Rank	23
Rush %	43%
Rush % Rank	9
Plays/Gm	65
Plays/Gm Rank	29
Points Per Game	18
PPG Rank	28

QUARTERBACKS

DREW LOCK

ADP: 152, QB20

Drew Lock, the Broncos second-round selection in 2019, closed out the season winning four of five games for the Broncos. More importantly, the team responded to his leadership and swagger. The team has already come out and said he is the starter heading into the year and they have focused on providing him weapons to thrive. Lock is a favorite at QB List and he is a solid late-round target for owners waiting on the position. The Broncos made the right choice in strengthening the offense around a young quarterback and Lock has shown the toughness to survive adversity. Look for him to take another step, perhaps not into the elite category, but certainly as a fantasy starter.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Lock finishes close to 4,000 yards passing and 22 touchdowns. Most weeks are a solid 250 yards and 2 TDs with a few big games sprinkled in, finishing as the QB10.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Lock is up and down all season, with a handful of 300 yards passing performances but more performances of less than 200 yards passing. While he doesn't get benched he isn't the consistent fantasy starter owners drafted him to be.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	484
COMP	331
YARDS	3,717
TD	19
INT	12
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	41
YARDS	140
TD	1

RUNNING BACKS

MELVIN GORDON

ADP: 35.4, RB21

Melvin Gordon signed as an unrestricted free agent this off-season, a two-year 16 million deal with \$13.5 million in guarantees. For years now, Gordon has been one of the more productive backs in the league when he's on the field. However, he has missed an average of 2.5 games each of his five seasons. Gordon's role should be secure as the lead back since the team paid him well, and he will dominate the carries if healthy. Gordon will almost certainly be on the field on passing downs and could have his most productive season as a receiver, and 60+ catches are within reach. Gordon has always been solid in the red-zone, as evidenced by four straight years with at least eight rushing touchdowns. Gordon should finish no lower than RB16 but he may not have the ceiling he has in the past. He's a safe selection at his ADP and a steal should he fall but there is too much injury risk to reach.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Gordon plays a full 16-game season for just the second time in his career, and tops 1,000 yards. He adds 65 receptions and double-digit touchdowns, vaulting him into the top-10 of fantasy running backs.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Gordon misses four games and splits the early-down work with other backs when healthy. He rushes for less than 1,000 yards for the fifth time in six seasons and finishes as the RB24.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	219
YARDS	1,021
TD	8
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	68
REC	46
YARDS	389
TD	2

PHILLIP LINDSAY

ADP: 102, RB44

The real tragedy of the Broncos off-season may be the fate of Phillip Lindsay. After two highly efficient and productive seasons, the team went out and signed a big name back in the off-season. Lindsay again rushed for 1,000 yards, finishing 2019 with 1,011 yards on just 224 carries. He added seven touchdowns and continued his high yards-per-carry marks. Still, the Broncos felt his work as a pass-catcher left something to be desired. It is possible that Lindsay gets a timeshare as the early-down back and could collect 180+ carries. In that role, he would be a bargain. Gordon could also miss time, which would cause Lindsay's value goes through the roof. Lindsay is a prime mid-round target at running back and one of the best handcuffs available regardless of owner. Lindsay is good enough to well outperform his #43 ADP, as he's finished RB13 and 19 in two seasons while dealing with another back stealing carries. He may even need to be secured a round or two earlier than ADP, but he will provide an excellent return on his value.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Lindsay maintains his role in the system, earning 200 carries and finishing with similar production as previous years. Lindsay finishes at RB16 and well outperforms his ADP.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Lindsay loses a significant amount of carries and snaps to Gordon, earning just a fraction of the opportunity in the backfield. Lindsay finishes as the RB36.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	161
YARDS	678
TD	5

RECEIVING

TARGETS	44
REC	32
YARDS	262
TD	1

WIDE RECEIVERS

COURTLAND SUTTON

ADP: 58.7, WR25

Courtland Sutton took a big step forward in his second year in the league, earning 26% of the team's target share and finishing with 72 receptions for 1,112 yards. Sutton added six receiving touchdowns and finished as the WR19. Where Sutton struggled was with consistency as a whole and in his production with Lock. In 9 of 16 games, Sutton was only startable as a flex. He also struggled to score better than a WR3 in four of five games with Lock. If he hopes to take the next step as a top receiver option in the league, Sutton must show improvement here. Still, his cost is cheap at WR25 and he is almost certain to out-perform that cost as the primary option in the offense. We will just need to see Sutton and Lock develop chemistry in their first full season together.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Sutton becomes a more consistent target and thrives with Lock as the QB. Sutton tops 1,400 yards and ten touchdowns and finishes inside the Top 12 at the position.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Sutton remains a focal point of the offense but is still just average in the red zone. Lock struggles as a quarterback and Sutton suffers as a result. Sutton again finishes as a WR2, with below-average games more than half the time causing frustration for those who drafted him.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	127
REC	72
YARDS	1,061
TD	8

JERRY JEUDY

ADP: 106.7, WR42

Denver used their first-round pick, number 15 overall, to select Jerry Jeudy, the precision route runner out of Alabama. Jeudy joins a group of young Broncos playmakers that the team has surrounded Lock with. Denver plans to compete with Kansas City by building up their offense, and that may be the best decision they could have made. Jeudy should have little competition for snaps and quickly slot in as the starter beside Sutton, and Jeudy might be the perfect complement to Sutton. He will enter the league as one of the better route-runners day one and should make a living in the short to intermediate game. The question will be how much of the target share can Jeudy take in his freshman year. Conservatively owners should expect about 80 targets or about 15% of the share. With that, he should return his draft price pretty easily and is all upside after that.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Jeudy quickly earns the trust of Lock and thus a larger target share than is typical of a rookie receiver. Jeudy finishes just north of 100 targets and finishes inside the Top 24 at his position but not the Top 16.

Worst Case: Jeudy struggles to adjust to the league, with limited practice and pre-season, and splits time with veteran options as the second receiver. He finishes with just 500 yards and a handful of touchdowns.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	88
REC	59
YARDS	728
TD	5

TIGHT ENDS

NOAH FANT

ADP: 124, TE12

Noah Fant finished a fine rookie season with 40 receptions for 562 yards and three touchdowns. To surpass 30 receptions as a first-year tight end is quite an accomplishment, less than 60 tight ends have done that previously. The true test will come in his second year and whether or not he can add to his production. While he flashed at times in 2019, 40% of his season-long production came in two games. That means in 88% of his starts, fantasy owners were starting a TE2 or worse. Fant struggled to find favor with Lock, earning under three targets per game with the quarterback. If Fant is to take the next step, his rapport with the young signal-caller must improve and he will need more consistency. Fant has the talent to vault himself into the top-6 at his position, he just isn't a lock to do so. Still, at his draft position, he makes for an excellent target for those owners waiting on a tight end.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Fant takes a second-year jump, similar to the second-year jump Mark Andrews or George Kittle made, and increases his production by 40%. Fant becomes the secondary target on the team with 90+ targets and over 800 receiving yards. He propels himself into a top-6 finish.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Lock considers Fant the third or fourth option in the passing game with the additions of Jeudy and Gordon. His production doesn't look much different than the previous season but he still manages a handful of big games. Other young tight ends take a step up around him and Fant finishes as the TE16.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	59
REC	50
YARDS	675
TD	4

TEAM PREVIEWS DETROIT LIONS

KENNY GOLLADAY



By Jeffrey Brown

In 2019, the Detroit Lions found themselves somewhere in the middle of the pack when it comes to offense, finishing 17th in yards per play (5.4), 22nd in yards per carry (4.1), and 15th in yards per pass attempt (6.4). Matthew Stafford was having arguably his best season through the first half of the year, on pace for nearly 5,000 yards and 38 TDs against 10 INTs (106 QB rating), before a back injury sidelined him for Detroit's final eight games. Injuries would become a theme for the Lions as Kerryon Johnson was also limited to just eight games, Marvin Jones was lost for the season in week 13, and T.J. Hockenson was only able to muster 12 appearances suffering through a litany of ailments.

Detroit will look very familiar on offense heading into 2020 as the only notable departure was guard Graham Glasgow who signed with Denver. Stafford will have familiar faces Kenny Golladay, Marvin Jones, and Danny Amendola as the primary wide receiver trio and will look for improvement out of second-year tight end T.J. Hockenson. Jesse James will see the field when Detroit elects to go with two TEs. Kerryon Johnson will have a new backfield mate in rookie running back D'Andre Swift out of Georgia. There is no clarity at this point as to how Johnson and Swift will divvy up the rushing duties. Detroit's defense underwent significant changes in the offseason and could underwhelm again, putting the onus on the offense to keep the team in games.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	5
2020 Projected Wins	7.5
Total Plays	1,085
Total Plays Rank	21
Pass %	63%
Pass % Rank	5
Rush %	37%
Rush % Rank	27
Plays/Gm	68
Plays/Gm Rank	21
Points Per Game	21
PPG Rank	21

QUARTERBACK

MATTHEW STAFFORD

ADP: 110.6, QB13

As mentioned in the intro, Matthew Stafford was on pace through the first half of 2019 to finish with his best season since 2011 when he threw for 5,038 yards and 41 TDs. Entering 2019, Stafford was Detroit's ironman, starting all 16 games the previous eight seasons despite reports of tiny fractures in his back that bothered him near the end of the 2018 season. Stafford was finally forced from action following the team's week nine game against the Oakland Raiders as a result of, perhaps not surprisingly, broken bones in his back. Stafford has indicated his back is now fully healed, however, and he will be under center for Detroit in week one, barring any unforeseen setbacks. Stafford will be a welcome sight for Lions fans after eight games of Jeff Driskel and David Blough to close out the 2019 season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Stafford picks up where he left off in 2019 and makes a run at 5,000 yards and 40 TDs. The Lions snap a streak of three seasons without a playoff berth and take advantage of the NFL's expanded playoff format for the 2020 season as a wild-card representative for the NFC.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Detroit's new parts on defense can't get on the same page as the coaching staff and the weight of the season falls on Stafford's shoulders. Stafford struggles with inconsistency from his receiving corps and an uptick in INTs leads to a subpar season. HC Matt Patricia and GM Bob Quinn are relieved of their duties as Detroit misses the playoffs for a fourth consecutive season.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	560
COMP	364
YARDS	4,368
TD	32
INT	12
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	31
YARDS	102
TD	1

RUNNING BACK

KERRYON JOHNSON

ADP: 106.4, RB46

Kerryon Johnson came into 2019 as a breakout candidate after a rookie season that saw him average 5.4 yards per carry and nearly four targets per game despite being shortened by injury after 10 games. Unfortunately for fantasy owners, the only thing that remained constant was an injury-shortened season. Johnson mustered just 3.57 yards per attempt and was limited to just two targets per game in the eight games he played (he missed weeks 7-14). Johnson can certainly be labeled as "injury-prone" as he has suffered numerous injuries dating back to his high school days. To compound matters for Johnson, the Lions used a high second-round pick on Swift out of Georgia. Johnson is currently penciled in as the starter, and limited offseason workouts will work in Johnson's favor, but Swift is certainly a threat and likely to steal touches as the season progresses.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Johnson explodes out of the gate and holds off the rookie for the season and stays healthy. He sees more involvement in the passing game and becomes a true threat in all phases of the game, accumulating 1,400 total yards and double-digit TDs to finish as a low-end RB1.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Johnson succumbs to yet another injury or is unable to separate from Swift and loses the majority of touches to the rookie. Johnson becomes a viable backup but doesn't see enough action to be reliable for fantasy owners.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	205
YARDS	825
TD	5
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	35
REC	25
YARDS	325
TD	1

D'ANDRE SWIFT

ADP: 60.5, RB29

D'Andre Swift profiles as a complete back out of Georgia and could immediately challenge Johnson for the bulk of the work. Swift is small (5'8") but not slight (212 pounds) and has good enough speed (4.48 forty-yard dash) to handle both the rigors of between the tackles runs as well as stretch plays designed to get him in space. Also, Swift was a competent receiver at Georgia, reeling in 73 receptions during his three-year tenure. Unfortunately for Swift, it could be argued his O-line at Georgia was better than the one that will be paving the way for him in Detroit. A shortened offseason program is also a con for the rookie, although history suggests the RB position is the easiest to adapt to in transitioning from college to the NFL. Swift looks likely to start the season as Johnson's backup but could emerge as the preferred option by midseason.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Swift picks up on the nuances of Detroit's offense and excels on the field during the offseason to the point the coaching staff has to bump him ahead of Johnson on the depth chart. Swift's explosiveness gives Detroit an option they haven't had since Reggie Bush, and they become a more run-oriented team as Swift finishes as a high-end RB2.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Swift struggles behind a lackluster offensive line and never gets the chance to usurp Johnson as the lead back. The Lions continue to lean on the arm of Stafford to stay in games and Swift contributes enough in the receiving game to make neither Detroit running back trustworthy for fantasy owners.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	125
YARDS	565
TD	5

RECEIVING

TARGETS	75
REC	45
YARDS	675
TD	3

WIDE RECEIVER

KENNY GOLLADAY

ADP: 25.3, WR7

Kenny Golladay has seen an increase in his yardage (477-1,063-1,190) and TD receptions (3-5-11) in his first three seasons and has established himself as the clear-cut #1 receiving option in Detroit. Golladay has great size (6' 4", 214 lbs) and has surprisingly good speed (4.50 forty-yard dash) for a player his size. Golladay led the NFL in TD receptions in 2019 (11) and averaged 18.3 yards per reception, and remember he only had Stafford for eight games last season! Golladay's biggest knock is his lack of opportunities in the Detroit passing game. Golladay was 21st in targets (116) last season, but only 86 were catchable. On the plus side, Golladay also led the league in deep targets (37), defined as targets of 20 yards or more. Golladay's TD rate (16.9%) seems unsustainable, so a downtick in TDs seems likely barring an increase in targets in 2020.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Golladay creeps into the top 10 of targets and continues to frequently find the end zone en route to another Pro Bowl season. He once again leads the Lions in all receiving categories and easily finishes inside the WR1 ranks.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Golladay sees his target share dip with the emergence of Hockenson and Swift as viable options in the passing game. Jones also gets in a full season, further cannibalizing Golladay's numbers. Golladay's TD rate comes back to earth and he finishes as a solid WR2.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	110
REC	62
YARDS	1,045
TD	8

MARVIN JONES, JR.

ADP: 97.3, WR38

Marvin Jones has been the perfect complement to Golladay - when he's been able to stay healthy. Jones missed seven games in 2018 (knee) and three in 2019 (ankle) with Detroit and missed the entire 2014 season (foot) as a member of the Bengals. Jones is heading towards the twilight of his career and is in the final season of his contract with Detroit, but still profiles as a solid weapon as the team's #2 wide receiver. Jones eclipsed 1,000 yards in his last fully healthy season (2017) and scored nine touchdowns - a total he matched last season in 13 games.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	90
REC	52
YARDS	715
TD	6

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Jones plays all 16 games and reaches 1,000 receiving yards for the second time in his career. He combines with Golladay to form one of the best 1-2 WR tandems in the NFL and finishes as a weekly WR2 option.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Jones loses more time to another injury and Father Time catches up with the nine-year veteran. The Lions get more out of the ground game than expected and Hockenson and Swift evolve into reliable options in the passing game. Jones finishes as a WR4 and the Lions elect to not re-sign the soon-to-be 31-year-old veteran following the season.

DANNY AMENDOLA

ADP: 183, WR75

Danny Amendola is not going to wow you with his measurables (5' 10", 186 pounds), speed (4.68 forty-yard dash) or elite yardage or touchdown totals (career 38 receiving yards per game and 21 career TDs) but he is going to make tough catches over the middle or convert a third-down when you need him to. Amendola is a scrappy WR who knows what is required of him and does it well.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	83
REC	57
YARDS	585
TD	2

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Amendola becomes Stafford's favorite target due to the attention drawn by Golladay and Jones and has one of his best seasons to date.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Amendola struggles to carve out a role in the Detroit offense as the team looks to live and die by explosive plays. He loses time to newcomer Geronimo Allison and is an afterthought in the offense.

TIGHT END

T.J. HOCKENSON

ADP: 144, TE14

T.J. Hockenson entered the NFL as one of the most highly-touted rookie TEs in recent memory. His combination of receiving and blocking was fawned over by analysts everywhere and those high praises seemed to be in order after a week one coming out party that consisted of six receptions for 131 yards and his first NFL TD. The reality of being a rookie TE soon took over and Hockenson struggled through injuries and inconsistencies to compile 26 more receptions, 236 more yards, and one more TD the rest of the season. Hockenson missed the final four games with an ankle sprain and the expectations for his second season are considerably lower. Does Hockenson turn the corner this year into the elite TE everyone expected or does he need more time for things to slow down for him if they ever will?

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Hockenson moves into the upper tier of TEs and quantifies the potential he showed coming out of Iowa. He becomes a threat in the red zone and is a viable every-week option for fantasy owners.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Hockenson just can't grasp the speed and complexity of the NFL and shows the week one breakout of 2019 was an aberration. He struggles with injuries again and is unreliable for fantasy owners.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	80
REC	49
YARDS	604
TD	4



TEAM PREVIEWS
GREEN BAY PACKERS

DAVANTE ADAMS



By Ryan Kruse

An impressive campaign under first-year head coach Matt LaFleur, the Packers made it to the NFC Championship last year but unfortunately fell to the 49ers. Their impressive season ended in disappointment when the '9ers handily defeated Green Bay with only eight pass attempts. Be that as it may, the Packers consider themselves contenders while the “Rodgers-age-window” gently closes. Plenty of cheese heads thought that meant drafting a wide receiver to aid an aging Rodgers, but the Packers instead drafted his likely successor, some kid out of Utah State. The Jordan Love pick is intriguing, but it has little to do with how the Packers will perform this season (hopefully). The overall look of this team is pretty similar to last year besides a couple of new pieces to the puzzle.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	13
2020 Projected Wins	9
Total Plays	1,114
Total Plays Rank	11
Pass %	60%
Pass % Rank	12
Rush %	40%
Rush % Rank	15
Plays/Gm	70
Plays/Gm Rank	11
Points Per Game	24
PPG Rank	15

QUARTERBACK

AARON RODGERS

ADP: 91.9, QB10

There's little to be said about Aaron Rodgers that hasn't already been dissected a thousand different ways over the offseason. Many thought the Packers would draft a wide receiver in the 2020 draft, but they instead grabbed Love, a quarterback from Utah State, in the first round. Plenty of people want to go in-depth on the Love pick but that's a breakdown for another article. Love should not be starting anytime soon unless Rodgers succumbs to an injury. Speaking of Aaron, It's pretty much a given that Rodgers should finish among the top 10 quarterbacks so long as he plays 16 games this year. Going back to 2008, Aaron Rodgers has finished as an overall top 10 fantasy QB in every season he has played at least 15 games (10 seasons). Rodgers was an overall top-3 fantasy QB seven times in that same span. If he stays healthy, Aaron should finish as a top-10 fantasy QB at the very least. It's tough to argue with that consistency.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Former Packers wide receiver James Jones has said that Rodgers will be playing with a chip on his shoulder this year and predicts the 36-year-old quarterback will win MVP in 2020. That's quite the bold prediction, but I wouldn't discount Jones' prophecy. He was right on the money in 2019 when he projected a 13-3 season for the Packers.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Barring any potential injuries, the worst-case scenario would be that Aaron Rodgers simply underperforms to his level of play. If he plays 15 games and falls into the back half of fantasy QB scoring then I would be very concerned.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	575
COMP	360
YARDS	4,100
TD	27
INT	4
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	40
YARDS	160
TD	2

RUNNING BACK

AARON JONES

ADP: 17.5, RB13

This position could be tough to pin down in Green Bay, or at least the usage. Although Aaron Jones was the second-highest-scoring PPR running back in 2019, Matt LaFleur has been transparent about his love for bruising backs. LaFleur's offensive game plan revolves around showing similar looks with different play calls. He figures he can open up passing lanes by forcing the defense to respect the run. Jones will get plenty of playing time, but rookie AJ Dillon should immediately factor into the one-two punch system that LaFleur wants to run. Jones owners in dynasty leagues would do well to draft Dillon if only to lock down this backfield.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Considering his performance in 2019, it feels like the best cast scenario for Jones is similar numbers. I don't think anybody is predicting him to be the overall RB1, so realistically Jones should hope for another RB2 finish in PPR leagues.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

This backfield becomes far too crowded for Aaron to make a meaningful fantasy impact in 2020. Not the most likely scenario, but hey, you wanted the worst case.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	230
YARDS	975
TD	14
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	65
REC	45
YARDS	450
TD	3

AJ DILLON

ADP: 139.8, RB55

Knowing the way LaFleur wants to run this offense, it wasn't much of a surprise to see the Packers draft AJ Dillon in the second round of the 2020 draft. At six feet and 247 pounds with tree trunks for legs, AJ looks like an absolute unit and should contribute immediately. Any Dillon 2020 projections are bound to be a shot in the dark, but I believe he will mainly be used in short-yardage situations to grind down opposing defenses in his first year although he does have deceptive top speed.

I believe Dillon will be the first Packer 2020 draft pick to make an immediate on-field impact. The guy is just built too well for a Matt LaFleur system. AJ will likely take the RB2 duties from Jamaal Williams this year.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

AJ earns his spot as Green Bay's RB2 and gets plenty of usage to wear down opposing defenses. He uses that opportunity to break off a few big runs here and there whenever opposing defenses don't account for his impressive elusively and top speed for his size.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Dillon becomes a LaFleur draft bust and quickly fades into irrelevance, earning little to no time on the field.

JAMAAL WILLIAMS

ADP: 163.5, RB65

Jamaal Williams became a bit of a fan favorite last year in Green Bay with his clutch play and hilarious SpongeBob quotes. Be that as it may, I predict him falling back to third on the RB depth chart considering how well rookie Dillon fits LaFleur's system. I could be way off on my prediction; I fully admit that Williams' ADP is currently right next to Dillon's. Williams (alongside Aaron Jones) was part of the fourth most-valuable running back group of 2019 (per PFF WAR). Maybe he retains his role in 2020, but it could go either way. As we all know, many players are susceptible to losing depth chart position after just a few weeks of practice.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Williams retains his position as Green Bay's RB2 and has some fantasy-relevant weeks here and there (similar to 2019).

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Jamaal's role becomes nearly non-existent while he sits on your fantasy waiver wire for the rest of 2020 after somebody in your league drops him in Week 4.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	110
YARDS	500
TD	6

RECEIVING

TARGETS	40
REC	30
YARDS	225
TD	1

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	65
YARDS	325
TD	0

RECEIVING

TARGETS	35
REC	29
YARDS	200
TD	4

WIDE RECEIVERS

DAVANTE ADAMS

ADP: 12.3, WR3

Even Davante Adams had some injury troubles in 2019. Green Bay's star receiver only played 12 games in 2019 and still finished as the overall PPR WR22. Extrapolated over a 16-game season, Adams would have finished as the overall PPR WR2 just above Chris Godwin in 2019. Adams is still an elite talent and should be a lock for another impressive season. His 2020 ADP certainly reflects that. With a lack of established pass-catchers behind him and a proven connection with Rodgers, Adams projects to be one of the most targeted receivers in the league.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	130
REC	80
YARDS	1,000
TD	12

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Adams stays healthy in 2020 and competes for the overall PPR WR1 position in 2020. His volume and red zone role give him both a high floor and a high ceiling.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Green Bay has too many receivers and they take away some production from Adams (not likely). Outside of an injury to Adams or Rodgers, it is hard to envision a bad fantasy season.

ALLEN LAZARD

ADP: 160.6, WR60

Allen Lazard's play ascended down the stretch last year when he did something few young players are capable of achieving: earning Aaron Rodgers' trust. Any die-hard Packer fans will tell you how difficult it can be for young receivers to access Rodgers' circle of trust. When the Packers needed someone to take a step up while Adams nursed his turf toe for a few weeks, Allen was the only receiver to answer the call. He will enter training camp as the Packers de facto WR2, but there are plenty of returning and healthy players itching to take his spot. Anyone of St. Brown, Valdes-Scantling, or even Begelton could quickly take the "Lazard King's" role away from him. I love Allen's hands but his difficulty creating separation is concerning. In light of Funchess' opting out, I'm upgrading Lazard's projection. In fairness, Allen had the fourth-highest receiving grade when targeted in single coverage in 2019 (per PFF).

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	75
REC	51
YARDS	650
TD	6

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Lazard has a great camp and retains his WR2 position heading into 2020 Week 1. Even if he isn't the main guy lining out wide with Adams, he's still a dependable big target in the slot.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Allen quickly descends the depth chart and you curse yourself for wasting a late-round flyer pick on him.

EQUANIMEOUS ST. BROWN

ADP: 371, WR172

Equanimeous St. Brown, a player many were expecting to take a big step forward in his sophomore year, was placed on season-ending IR just before the 2019 campaign. St. Brown ran a pretty impressive 4.48 40-yard dash at the NFL combine and has a first-rate body control and catch radius. Rodgers has even said that he's "excited about getting EQ back from injury."

BEST CASE SCENARIO

St. Brown picks up where he left off and creates a quick rapport with AR12 and earns a position in the final 53-man roster. He performs enough in 2020 to warrant some flex consideration from week to week.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

"EQ" gets the sophomore slumps in his (technically) third year and can't get on the same page with Rodgers or make enough meaningful impact to get playing time.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	55
REC	30
YARDS	450
TD	3

MARQUEZ VALDES-SCANTLING

ADP: 265, WR125

Marquez Valdes-Scantling had his fair share of bad luck during his second year in the NFL. He could never quite get on the same page with Rodgers and battled a bum ankle through the second half of the season. According to PFF, Valdes-Scantling was the unluckiest receiver in 2019, with a staggering 48% uncatchable target rate. This, to me, signifies that Rodgers and MVS might just need a bit more work getting on the same frequency. Keep in mind that even Adams had a similar sophomore slump with Rodgers back in 2015. Valdes-Scantling showed some promise with two games of 20+ fantasy points within the first seven weeks. Unfortunately, his tweaked ankle hampered him for a large portion of the 2019 season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Valdes-Scantling shakes off the bad luck and dials it in with Rodgers, using his speed to go for plenty of successful deep shots. As Green Bay's best deep threat, he's capable of nabbing the homerun ball any given Sunday.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The sophomore struggles continue into MVS' third year, he becomes another bust draft pick and proves to be completely fantasy irrelevant.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	90
REC	55
YARDS	750
TD	7

TIGHT ENDS

JACE STERNBERGER

ADP: 301, TE27

In 2019 the Packers' rookie tight end, Jace Sternberger, experienced some bad luck as well when he was placed on the injured reserve just two days before the season began. He eventually came back and got a bit of playing time during the playoffs, even catching his first NFL touchdown in the process. I think Sternberger is flying under plenty of radars this year and could be a sneaky pick late in 2020 fantasy drafts. The Pack likes Sternberger enough that they let Jimmy Graham walk over the offseason, so the former should be a viable fantasy option this year. Rookie Josiah Deguara will get in the mix, but I believe Sternberger will be the pure pass-catching tight end on this team.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Jace breaks out this year and becomes a viable fantasy tight end option in 2020.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Rookie Josiah Deguara somehow takes over as the chief TE pass catcher in Green Bay (highly unlikely).

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	75
REC	55
YARDS	675
TD	5

TEAM PREVIEWS HOUSTON TEXANS

DESHAUN WATSON



By Marc Salazar

The 2019 Houston Texans season ended almost exactly like the season played out, with soaring highs and plummeting lows. The team pummeled the Falcons early in the year, beat two playoff teams in the Chiefs and Patriots, but lost badly to the Panthers and Broncos led by young, unproven quarterbacks. They were unable to solve their pass protection woes, yielding 49 sacks a year after surrendering 62. Opponents outgained and outscored the Texans, yet they managed ten wins and a division title for the 4th time in five years. The team decided to move on from a dominant receiver on offense and bring in talented but risky replacements. Houston has overperformed their expected value for most of last season, before bowing out of the playoffs in heartbreaking fashion. Could this be the year the team takes a step forward or will the mediocrity finally catch up to them?

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	10
2020 Projected Wins	8
Total Plays	1,106
Total Plays Rank	14
Pass %	57%
Pass % Rank	23
Rush %	43%
Rush % Rank	9
Plays/Gm	69
Plays/Gm Rank	14
Points Per Game	24
PPG Rank	14

QUARTERBACK

DESHAUN WATSON

ADP: 68.4, QB6

With back-to-back Top 5 QB finishes, DeShaun Watson has cemented himself as the cream of the crop for fantasy owners. Although Watson's production was slightly down from 2018, Watson carried the Texans to a division title and playoff victory. Watson threw 26 touchdowns for the second straight season and topped 3,800 yards passing. He was among the best in the league in deep-ball attempts and accuracy, air yards, and deep completion percentage. Heading into the season the biggest question will be how he performs without star wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins. Hopkins earned a nearly 30% target share, and though the team did add veteran playmakers, it will be hard to replace the lost production. Watson is certain to add rushing value with another year of 400+ yards as a ball carrier. The Texans have surrounded Watson with downfield playmakers and it's not out of the question for Watson to finish as the QB1. However, it is more likely Watson finished at the end of the top QB tier.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

The replacement weapons in the passing game are enough to supplement and propel Watson to the best finish of his career. Watson's dynamic playmaking is too much for the league to handle. He maintains his rushing production but tops 30 touchdowns and 4,200 yards for a QB1 finish.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The Texans offense struggles to protect and the older offensive players lose significant time with injury. Watson has his least productive season and finishes as the QB12.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	503
COMP	329
YARDS	3,748
TD	24
INT	13
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	96
YARDS	513
TD	5

RUNNING BACK

DAVID JOHNSON

ADP: 30.3, RB18

At his best, David Johnson is an incredible weapon in the pass and run games, dynamic and explosive. At his worst, Johnson is a player who's body seems to be failing him. Last season we saw both sides of the coin when he came out of the gates blazing but quickly cooled off and eventually was benched. Johnson was acquired for Hopkins and a second-rounder (the teams also swapped fourths) in the off-season and he is looking at a fresh start with a Texans team who gave 245 carries to their lead back last season. Johnson should have little competition for a three-down role, granted he can stay healthy, which is a pretty large risk for the 28-year old back. Still, the price is good for those owners who are optimistic or those willing to risk the upside. Just remember, Johnson is four years removed from his breakout 2016 season. His ceiling may not be as high as you think.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Johnson regains his old form for stretches and finishes the season injury-free. However, because of the nature of Watson, who limits dump-offs, his receiving ceiling is 85 targets. Johnson finishes just outside of the Top 12 but wins owners a handful of weeks.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Johnson is in and out of the lineup, with small stretches of the old David Johnson. Houston is forced to sign a veteran back to finish the season.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	177
YARDS	771
TD	7
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	63
REC	47
YARDS	459
TD	4

WIDE RECEIVER

BRANDIN COOKS

ADP: 75.6, WR31

After four-straight seasons of a thousand yards receiving, Brandin Cooks fell out of favor in Los Angeles. Cooks has a history of concussions and suffered two in 25 days in 2019. When he was on the field, he didn't look like himself and the Rams eventually traded him to Houston in the off-season. Cooks could be a sneaky value at his ADP but just like with Johnson, the risk is high. Last season Cooks had his lowest yardage totals since his rookie season and his lowest yards per reception since 2015. Reports are that he is working out with Watson and should be ready to roll to start the season. While all that can change for Cooks with one bad hit to the head, until that happens Cooks is a screaming sleeper and could end up well outperforming his ADP.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Cooks bounces back and becomes Watson's favored target. Cooks and Watson are an instant match and Watson's aggressive passing style plays well with the speedy wideout. Cooks finishes as the WR15.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Cooks suffers a hit that causes him to lose multiple games. While in the lineup, he is relatively quiet and doesn't return his ADP.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	99
REC	64
YARDS	1,011
TD	4

WILL FULLER

ADP: 88.8, WR36

While in the lineup Will Fuller is the ultimate game-changer. In Week 5 of 2019, Fuller exploded for 217 yards on 14 receptions and scored three times. That was a 50-point performance for most fantasy owners and the tenth time he's posted 20+ fantasy points in a week. A healthy Fuller could be the single best fantasy points scorer at the position. Alas, that Fuller may never happen. For most owners, a healthy 14-games would be a thrill. Fuller is the ultimate boom or bust play and has the chance to win you weeks without blinking. But which Will Fuller will we get each week is the question.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Fuller finishes a full season healthy and available, sets career highs with his first thousand yards receiving season of his career. He also passes ten touchdowns receiving and finishes as the WR10.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The same Fuller shows up in 2020, the Fuller who has explosive highs and disappears for the other 12 games. Fuller struggles to outperform his ADP and finishes as a WR3.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	76
REC	52
YARDS	821
TD	4

TIGHT END

DARREN FELLS

ADP: 308, TE31

Darren Fells has operated as a primary red-zone target for Watson and a reliable touchdown scorer. However, inconsistent hands and primary blocking duties have limited his role as a fantasy asset. While Fells cannot be relied on as a weekly starter, he could make for a nice bye week play with the right matchup.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Fells sets a career-high with ten touchdowns but still is limited to 425 yards. A solid bye week fill-in for some weeks.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Younger options at tight end win the majority of the passing game work. Fells finishes under 300 yards receiving and just three touchdowns.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	40
REC	31
YARDS	319
TD	5

JORDAN AKINS

ADP: 372, TE44

Jordan Akins receives the work between the twenties but not often in the red zone, which limits his upside. With Fells stealing the high priority targets closer to the goalline, Akins remains a very inconsistent option. Even an injury to others at the position won't guarantee Akins a more prominent role.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Akins continues to be a reliable target in the middle of the field and sets a career-high in receiving yards. Akins turns a handful of these into scores and finishes as a TE2.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Akins is surpassed on the depth chart by the options behind him, and never even reaches streaming status in fantasy leagues.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	46
REC	34
YARDS	381
TD	2

TEAM PREVIEWS INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

T.Y. HILTON



By Kenny Hyttenhove

After their first playoff appearance since 2014, the 2019 Colts were riding high coming off a 10-6 record. Things took a quick turn when quarterback Andrew Luck announced his retirement just before their season opener against the Los Angeles Chargers, shocking both fans and the organization. Just as optimism started to creep into the fan base, something would turn that into the feeling where you can only laugh and throw up their hands. Indianapolis felt fortunate to have who they felt was a starting-caliber back-up in Jacoby Brissett to help them weather waves that the Luck retirement storm had created. Just as Brissett looked like he may help keep the team competitive headed into the Week 6 bye, Indianapolis started to see cracks in other areas that are usually part of a solid foundation, namely the kicking game and the decline of Adam Vinatieri. It also became evident as injuries began to pile up (T.Y. Hilton, Parris Campbell, Eric Ebron, Devin Funchess all missed time) that the Colts were lacking in big playmakers, especially at wide receiver.

The silver lining of the eventual disappointing outcome of the 2019 season was that the wheels came off all at once. GM Chris Ballard and Head Coach Frank Reich had their most aggressive offseason in free agency to sure things up at quarterback and on the defensive front. Then they made a big splash by making two offensive picks in the second round (moving up for only the third time in the Ballard tenure) to draft players that the organization felt could be the playmakers that they so sorely lacked in 2019. On paper, the 2020 season looks to be a much-improved offense. The 2020 Indianapolis Colts will be generating fantasy-relevant players, the question is, who will they be?

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	7
2020 Projected Wins	9
Total Plays	1,094
Total Plays Rank	18
Pass %	54%
Pass % Rank	26
Rush %	46%
Rush % Rank	5
Plays/Gm	68
Plays/Gm Rank	18
Points Per Game	23
PPG Rank	16

QUARTERBACK

PHILIP RIVERS

ADP: 160, QB22

What will the Colts get with the aging gunslinger in Philip Rivers? Over the last three seasons, he has averaged 4479 yards, 28 TD and 14 INT as a Charger and that is with what was an admittedly down season in 2019. Prior to 2019, Rivers was a top 10 quarterback in passing yards perennially. So what happened in 2019 and what can that tell us about 2020?

Interceptions plagued Rivers' season in 2019. He tied for the second-highest mark in his career with 20 picks. He finished second to the 30/30 man Jameis Winston with 36 total throws considered interceptable according to FantasyData. Surprisingly, we cannot blame the historically porous offensive line either. While Pro Football Focus ranked the Los Angeles Chargers offensive line 29th in the NFL in 2019, Rivers still benefited from a protection rate of 85.4% which was good for 8th in the league. Even when Rivers did see pressure, his completion percentage was top 12, completing 37.6% of passes under duress. He also struggled to throw the ball deep with accuracy. He connected on only 30.7% of his 75 deep ball attempts which was good for 25th in the NFL, a stark contrast to his 6th place finish in deep-ball accuracy just the year before in 2018.

Reich and offensive coordinator Nick Siriani no doubt know this. They will create a scheme to maximize Rivers' current strengths and help minimize the risk within the offensive scheme. Rivers is still an effective passer within the short and intermediate routes. He has also been very good with the play-action pass, having top 10 finishes in play-action completion percentage the last two seasons. As a result, the Colts offense should look more like the up-tempo, timing-based passing attack with deep shots downfield off of play-action like we saw with Andrew Luck in 2018.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Rivers have a bounce-back season in 2020. Reich and Siriani will scheme to take away the high-risk throws, particularly downfield. Rivers can be a high-end QB2.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Rivers really is shot. He pulls a repeat of his 2019 season.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	628
COMP	409
YARDS	4,340
TD	31
INT	13

RUNNING BACKS

JONATHAN TAYLOR

ADP: 39.5, RB22

Ballard has been conservative when it comes to making moves up the draft board in his tenure in Indianapolis. However, he made a big splash when the Colts moved up in the second round to take Jonathan Taylor from Wisconsin after already choosing wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr. from USC earlier in the round.

On paper, Taylor looks to be the right guy with the right team. Taylor left Wisconsin with over 6200 total yards and 53 touchdowns. While he did have some issues holding onto the football with a fumble rate of 1.9% in college, this is something that he will continue to work on. Taylor only showed that he could be a part of the passing offense in his final year at Wisconsin, the only year he reached a 10% target share of the passing offense while in college.

Despite the few drawbacks, there is no doubt Taylor is explosive, with 4.39 speed at 226 lbs. His adjusted Speed Score is in the 99th percentile according to Player Profiler. With a top run-blocking offensive line, Taylor should be able to break off some big runs this season, which is exactly why Ballard moved up to draft him.

Expect Marlon Mack to retain the title of “starter” as he plays the first snap of the opening drive, but the Colts are going to get Taylor on the field as much as they can if Taylor proves to be a home run hitter. I expect Taylor and Mack’s role to be game script dependent. Expect Taylor to have the ball more when Indianapolis is behind or in need of a big play. Expect Mack to have more touches when the Colts are in the lead and want to grind out a win and eat clock, especially if Taylor’s ball security issues reemerge at the NFL level.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Taylor takes over the backfield in something like a 60/30/10 split. As the bigger back, Taylor gets the goal line work ahead of Mack, and is an RB1 down the stretch.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Taylor does not break off the big plays early in the season and Mack is successful. Mack’s touches increase and Taylor is stuck in too much of a timeshare to be a fantasy difference-maker.

MARLON MACK

ADP: 85.6, RB38

Marlon Mack finished 2019 as a fringe RB2 in PPR scoring leagues. His upside has always been capped by his lack of usage in the passing game despite his 10.9% target share in college. He has proven himself a capable runner behind one of the best lines in football but is now a running back with a good portion of his opportunities siphoned off to pass-catching back Nyheim Hines and the explosive rookie Taylor.

With all the excitement over Taylor’s big-play ability, do not forget that Mack was behind only Nick Chubb and Derrick Henry with 13 breakaway runs, runs of 15 yards or more, last season. He was also 10th in yards created, which takes into account his ability to create rushing yards beyond what is blocked for him. Long story short, don’t expect Mack to just disappear. When Reich described the

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	207
YARDS	952
TD	8
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	35
REC	21
YARDS	116
TD	0

backfield as a “1-1 punch” as opposed to a 1-2, it makes sense. The Colts have two backs that can be used in specific game script situations. As I stated in the Taylor preview, Indianapolis will most likely try to use Taylor and Mack equally in neutral game scripts or wherever there is an edge against the opposing defense. Taylor and Hines will split the backfield while the Colts are in negative game scripts. Mack will see most of his carries in positive game scripts to ensure ball security and setup play-action passing. It is also important to note that the Colts currently have the easiest strength of schedule according to Sharp Football Analysis. The Colts should be leading a lot this season if this scenario I presented is true, in turn making Mack an extreme value at his current ADP.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Mack gets the majority of the touches and Taylor doesn’t get off to a hot start. With Rivers under center, he finally sees more looks in the passing game as he did while in college, and puts together a solid season despite the increased competition. Mack is able to take advantage of any injury/fumbling issues that arise with Taylor.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Taylor takes the majority of the touches and gets the goal line work. Mack is not used in the passing game and continues to hover around his 5% target share from the last two seasons. Mack owners are left waiting for an injury to Taylor.

NYHEIM HINES

ADP: 137.7, RB54

Nyheim Hines has shown that he does two things well, return punts and catch passes out of the backfield. Hines has not been great running with the ball past what the line blocks. He was only able to create 54 yards on his own which was near the bottom of the league according to FantasyData. Hines should continue to be the receiving back that caps the volume of the other more talented backs on the roster. He is worth drafting late or streaming off the waiver wire, but remember that the Colts have the weakest strength of schedule in football this season, so there should be less throwing from behind which is when Hines gets the majority of his snaps.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Hines gets lots and lots of dump-offs from Rivers and increases his target share to a career-high 13%+. The team plays from behind more than expected, and Hines provides a nice weekly floor play at running back.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The Colts attempt to use Mack more in the passing game as he did in college and also work Parris Campbell into the backfield for some snaps. Taylor is an explosive talent, and Hines becomes no more than a complementary passing game running back in a run-heavy offense.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	180
YARDS	810
TD	7
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	41
REC	31
YARDS	202
TD	0

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	45
YARDS	176
TD	2
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	69
REC	55
YARDS	440
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVERS

T.Y. HILTON

ADP: 53, WR22

Injuries ruined T.Y. Hilton's 2019 season. Hilton came out of the gates strong, scoring four touchdowns in the first three games, but he only scored one more for the rest of the season. He never topped 90 yards receiving in 2019. His best performance was in Week 1 for 87 yards. He battled two soft tissue injuries, including a calf tear that caused him to miss five games. As a result, Hilton did not lead the Colts receivers in fantasy points; the projected fourth wide receiver on the 2020 depth chart Zach Pascal did.

When Hilton was on the field he produced a respectable 2.24 yards per route run. Over the last three seasons Hilton's average depth of target has started to steadily decrease from 12.7 in 2017 to 11.2 in 2018, and 10.5 in 2019. Hilton's role as a splash play receiver on the outside may start to shift to the intermediate and underneath routes where he can rely more on his route running ability to create separation as opposed to his speed. The good news is, Philip Rivers excelled throwing to the likes of Kenan Allen (although Allen is a better route runner), so the blueprint is there.

Hilton is still the best receiver in Indianapolis. Nagging injuries and the fact that he is 30 years old may force him to adapt his game this season, but the talent is still there.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

A healthy Hilton is still a high-end WR2 on your fantasy team. He establishes a veteran connection with Rivers and continues his solid red zone role to provide solid weekly production.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Injuries continue to rob his opportunities to contribute. He becomes a low-end WR3 and best used in best ball when you don't have to guess when he will be in the lineup and healthy.

MICHAEL PITTMAN JR.

ADP: 144.5, WR55

The Colts have been looking for a WR2 to lineup across from Hilton since Reggie Wayne retired. The current regime of Ballard and Reich seem to want that receiver to be a big, long receiver as evidenced by their investments on receivers fitting that prototype as Devin Funchess, Deon Cain, and Marcus Johnson. The Colts have moved onto a new receiver and none of the prior investments have cost as much capital as Michael Pittman Jr., which would excite fans about what Indianapolis thinks about his prospects.

Pittman does not have any elite testing measurables. He has a solid Speed Score and Catch Radius scores according to Player Profiler. His College YPR and Breakout Age are just above average, but the Colts scouts loved what they saw. The Colts see Pittman as a big-bodied receiver that can go up and win contest catches with reliable hands.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Pittman maintains somewhere near his healthy 74% catch rate from his senior year at USC. He becomes a red zone and deep-ball threat as Philip Rivers develops trust with him to win contested catches.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Pittman shows more of his mid-to-high 50% catch rate and doesn't earn the trust of Rivers. This could impact the number of targets he gets downfield and in the red zone where fantasy points are highly correlated.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	126
REC	79
YARDS	1,066
TD	8

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	100
REC	60
YARDS	780
TD	7

PARRIS CAMPBELL

ADP: 177, WR72

After missing the majority of his rookie season due to three different injuries, it is rookie season 2.0 for Parris Campbell. Coming into his rookie year, Reich was excited to be able to move Campbell around to utilize his speed to create mismatches. In 2019 he ran 39.3% of his snaps from the slot position according to Player Profiler. Although he will be listed as the slot receiver, look for Reich and Sirianni to find ways to get him the ball from all over the field.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Campbell is what the Colts thought he was and can be a WR3 with WR2 upside. The Colts find creative ways to get him the ball, and he makes explosive plays.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Campbell has lost some explosiveness from his broken foot and has to start from scratch in his second year with a new quarterback. He fails to make a difference in fantasy football.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	75
REC	48
YARDS	552
TD	4

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	9
YARDS	90
TD	0

ZACH PASCAL

ADP: 268, WR131

The Colt receiver with the most fantasy points in 2019 should be on your waiver wire to start the season. Zach Pascal showed that he is talented and should get snaps, but will need an injury to a fellow receiver to get the volume to be fantasy relevant in 2020. Keep him on your radar.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Pascal finds his way onto the field in passing opportunities. Pascal is a great blocker, so he should be used in running plays, but he has shown himself to be a capable option in the passing game. He could be an interesting flex option if the Colts give him snaps on passing plays.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Pascal cannot find the field enough to have the opportunity to score you fantasy points.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	19
REC	11
YARDS	148
TD	1

TIGHT ENDS

JACK DOYLE

ADP: 158.5, TE18

Mr. Reliable. Jack Doyle is anything but flashy, but he gets the job done. He will continue to be a TE2 this season although he may see a slight uptick in targets if he develops a rapport with Rivers since the quarterback loves throwing to his tight ends. Doyle did finish seventh in red zone targets for tight ends last season with 14 according to FantasyData. When they get in close, the Colts are looking at the tight end, and with Eric Ebron gone to Pittsburgh, there are red zone opportunities available.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	88
REC	57
YARDS	542
TD	5

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Doyle returns to fringe TE1 glory as Rivers pumps him full of targets.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Doyle continues as a TE2 or fringe TE3 as the Indianapolis passing game starts to proliferate to the other new weapons within the offense.

TEAM PREVIEWS JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS



D.J. CHARK



By Matthew Bevins

The Jacksonville Jaguars are NOT an exciting team to watch in 2020. Coming out the other end of the tunnel from a 6-10 2019 season, the best part of this team is either in disarray or metaphorically have been zip-tied/taped/cobbled together in hopes they can just be a respectable squad. Leonard Fournette had an offseason with murmurs of being traded, after 2018 of on and off the field fights. Their best player overall, Jalen Ramsey, ended up traded from the squad, and on his way to the west coast, joining up with the Los Angeles Rams. And to add to that spicy humid dilemma, the team started last season rolling with Nick Foles and ended up with real-life Uncle Rico behind center, swapping out Foles for Gardner Minshew. This is a very oddly aligned squad with plenty of question marks, though most everyone agrees that they will finish with a losing record. Buuuuuut, what can their specific players do for your fantasy teams? Isn't that what we're here for? Let's dive in.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	6
2020 Projected Wins	4.5
Total Plays	1,108
Total Plays Rank	13
Pass %	62%
Pass % Rank	7
Rush %	38%
Rush % Rank	23
Plays/Gm	69
Plays/Gm Rank	13
Points Per Game	19
PPG Rank	26

QUARTERBACK

GARDNER MINSHEW

ADP: 210, QB 26

After finishing his first professional season at 6-6, most can agree that enjoying Gardner MinsheW as a human is more worthwhile than banking on him to lead your team to any worthwhile fantasy outcome. A middle to end of the line second-tier quarterback, MinsheW will bring a 60.6 completion percentage with him in hopes of showing the Jaguars that he is more than serviceable. He has some decent weapons if nothing incredibly sexy in “his garage”, so there’s potential he ends up putting up a fantasy resume equivalent to someone like Matthew Stafford or Jared Goff, but I personally find he’ll be more hit or miss or aggravating, resembling someone more like Ryan Fitzpatrick. MinsheW makes some amazing passes out of nowhere but finished his season as fourth from the bottom among quarterbacks in completion percentage, and was middle of the pack in average passing yards per game, first down completions, and touchdowns. One of the very few things that MinsheW excels in is that he more than likely won’t throw many picks, and therefore will give himself more opportunity to stack stats up, as he only had six interceptions in last year’s 14 games. If Gardner can build some form of friendship with newcomer and potential stud wide receiver Laviska Shenault Jr., fix the broken bones and morale of newcomer Tyler Eifert, and build upon a stunning season last year from DJ Chark, there’s a chance he builds a bit of pedigree and is someone to watch in fantasy leagues, but I just don’t think there’s much here for 2020.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

MinsheW clicks with his new weapons and provides a boost with his rushing ability. He fills in admirably all season as a back-end QB1, paying off on his ADP and helping late-round quarterback drafters in both one and two-quarterback leagues.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Some of the magic from year-one wears off, and we are left wondering why we used a pick in fantasy on a quarterback that lasted until the sixth round of the NFL draft. MinsheW turns the ball over more frequently, doesn’t progress in year-two, and the Jaguars head into the offseason interviewing rookie quarterbacks for the draft.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	340
COMP	523
YARDS	3,925
TD	24
INT	9
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	100
YARDS	350
TD	0

RUNNING BACK

LEONARD FOURNETTE

ADP: 28.4, RB17

I fell for it. I get it. I'm still falling for it. There was that season when we all reached for Fournette in the top five picks, in the belief we may just be ahead of the curve on the NFL's next big stud. Then, as was alluded to in the intro, Fournette couldn't keep his hands off other teams' players. He couldn't avoid getting speeding tickets, or ripping it up at coaching staff or requesting that trade away that seemed so so close to happening, and now we are three years removed from a fourth overall pick out of LSU and just hoping that Fournette can find that mojo, and make himself look like a stud back before he likely walks after his rookie deal. With the cost that he'll likely come at, I'm all about buying in on him this year and hoping his value in relation to his pick is large. You can call Fournette overpaid, or underwhelming, but he's been a serviceable back if you just remove the name brand he had built for himself coming out of college. In 2017, he rushed for slightly over 1000 yards. In 2018, he was an absolute nightmare to own, only gathering 439 yards, and in 2019 he gained 1152 yards. You may never fully see the transcendent talent that Fournette could be (at the very least, until he leaves Jacksonville) but the guy is a bruiser with solid pass-catching hands and has heaps to prove as he wants to build his resume up for a large new contract. No longer having to worry about yearly underachiever and Jake Jortles wannabe Blake Bortles causing packed boxes for rushing lanes, Fournette is currently a third-round draft pick, and RB17 off the board, per FantasyData. If he can edge his efficiency just a touch more towards five yards per carry while retaining close to the seventy-plus receptions he received last year, then Fournette could be equal to his ADP in drafts. If you pass on a running back in the first two rounds of drafts, Fournette could be the discounted RB1 that you are looking for.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Fournette and the Jaguars play nice for his final year in Jacksonville, and the offense is more efficient under offensive coordinator Jay Gruden. Fournette still dominates the snaps at running back, and even sees some positive touchdown regression, vaulting him into the top-ten running back ranks.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The two sides can't even make it out of camp before they trouble starts, and Fournette finds himself cut or traded. The lack of time to acclimate to his new offense results in fantasy disappointment and Fournette finishes as an RB3.

CHRIS THOMPSON

ADP: 579, RB164

Chris Thompson has come over from the Washington NeedsANewTeamNames, where he was outshined by the injury-troubled Derrius Guice and football dinosaur Adrian Peterson. Thompson is, to be fair, a one-trick pony, but that one trick he does is very good and has led him to a new contract while some much more well-known players are still looking for a job at this point. Averaging just shy of forty receptions every year since he entered the league, Thompson

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	302
YARDS	1,245
TD	6
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	62
REC	48
YARDS	400
TD	1

will likely spell Fournette after long series but is not likely to be a starter even if Fournette does go down. That job has been likely handed off to Ryquell Armstead without being specifically stated, but Thompson is a value menu version of James White and someone I've been looking at for most of my late-round draft selections as a pretty cheap pick and someone who could be a nice bye week plug-in.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

We see the pass-catching volume of old in a fully healthy season, and Thompson even chips in a few touchdowns. A poor man's James White, and Thompson can be grabbed off waivers in most leagues.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

He's in and out of the lineup with injuries, and even when he plays he lacks the burst of old. With plenty of new weapons in the receiving corps, there isn't much of a role for Thompson left in the passing game anyway.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	65
YARDS	248
TD	0
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	40
REC	45
YARDS	300
TD	6

WIDE RECEIVER

DJ CHARK JR.

ADP: 50.1, WR20

Doot doot doo doo doo doo. DJ Chark Jr. Chark was drafted in the second round of the 2018 draft by Jacksonville and was not looked at as much more than background noise for Marqise Lee and Dede Westbrook. Could Keelan Cole be something? Man, I've really missed on some Jacksonville Jaguars receiver opportunities, haven't I? Chark ended his season with 73 receptions and just north of 1000 yards, and has decidedly done everything to make himself the lead dog for the top wide receiver role here in Jacksonville. Chark was consistent, averaging 4.9 receptions per game, and put himself in a spot to be the new bell cow receiver for Minshew, as all new quarterbacks growing into their roles will look to find someone with consistency who will show up and muscle for receptions. There isn't a perfect situation here, as Chark was basically invisible man numero uno after Week 11, putting up almost all of his fantasy scoring in the first two and a half months of the season. I'm banking on a bounce back.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Minshew and Chark grow on their 2019 season and Chark is a rock-solid weekly option. Gruden schemes up a better offense, the new weapons create more space for Chark, and he ascends to the upper level of best young receivers in the league.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Chark looks like a bit of a flash in the pan, as Minshew regresses and pulls Chark down with him. More of a WR3 in fantasy leagues, Chark scores fewer touchdowns and lacks much upside on a weekly basis.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	105
REC	78
YARDS	1,125
TD	9

LAVISKA SHENAULT JR.

ADP: 215, WR95

Now, this is the guy I'm excited about. Potentially my favorite late rookie to take, Laviska Shenault Jr. came out of Colorado with some incredible burst but marred by injury. Shenault earns his pay in the short game, using his big body frame to muscle off cornerbacks and win in a jump ball, but has the potential to be an incredibly high-end wide receiver if he can shake his injury history and form a dynamic bond with Minschew. I'm willing to bank on it. You can currently get Shenault at WR95 in ADP, and to see him going behind wide receivers like Randall Cobb, Tee Higgins, and Larry Fitzgerald while having youth and the opportunity for upside is surprising to me. Take Shenault a few picks before his ADP and hopefully you and I will both be dancing to our piggy banks to shatter them for winnings.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Shenault is talented from the start and provides the Jaguars an opportunity for some creative playcalling. A different type of player from Chark, Shenault provides a much-needed playmaking presence and looks like an injury-discounted steal for Jacksonville.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Lack of offseason, underrated competition in the receiving corps, and a struggling second-year quarterback in a lame-duck season give Shenault very little chance at fantasy relevance, and we wonder how he will mesh with the next quarterback in 2021.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	82
REC	52
YARDS	685
TD	6

TIGHT END

TYLER EIFERT

ADP: 317, TE32

"Hey, how'd you find yourself here too?" Setting his coffee cup down, he sadly slid his chair up to talk to me about why he too was at the Tyler Eifert anonymous meeting.

This guy has burned me more than the sun most August days sans suntan lotion, and so I'm not falling for this one again. There will be absolutely zero cost to bury Eifert at the back end of your roster, but the injury-riddled tight end may just be one pro contract away from being out of the league. A big body presence who likely will get the opportunity to showcase himself one last time, you can go on this ride if you'd like, but I myself will sit this one out. At very worst, pick him up after a few solid weeks to start the season, as Eifert will go undrafted in plenty of leagues.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

He's (relatively) healthy and finally begins to regain some of his early career athleticism. He flirts with streaming status all season long.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

He's not on the field enough to be a factor and suffers yet another injury.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	48
REC	28
YARDS	425
TD	5

TEAM PREVIEWS KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



PATRICK MAHOMES



By Marc Salazar

The Kansas City Chiefs closed out the 2019 season with a Lombardi trophy, their first title in 50 years, on the shoulders of a superstar quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, and one of the best head coaches in all of football, Andy Reid. Fantasy owners suffered some letdown, however, as injury and inconsistency watched the offense as a whole take a step back. The team started the season 4-0 then found themselves 6-4 after 10 weeks and a hobbled quarterback. From Week 11 on the team was unstoppable, winning nine straight, including the Super Bowl, all by seven points or more. The Reid led Chiefs have set fantasy records in recent years, and last season may have just been a speedbump to better things. All relevant fantasy players return and the team added a potentially dynamic running back to the mix. This is a train that owners will want to ride in 2020.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	12
2020 Projected Wins	11.5
Total Plays	1,067
Total Plays Rank	25
Pass %	62%
Pass % Rank	7
Rush %	38%
Rush % Rank	23
Plays/Gm	67
Plays/Gm Rank	25
Points Per Game	28
PPG Rank	5

QUARTERBACK

PATRICK MAHOMES

ADP: 19.1, QB1

Patrick Mahomes started off 2019 the same way he ended 2018, with 11 touchdowns in just three games, continuing his torrid 2018 pace when he threw 50 touchdowns. Mahomes hit a rough patch in October, including a nasty injury that caused him to miss two games. Mahomes bounced back but his numbers regressed, throwing for a thousand fewer yards and just 26 touchdowns. Still, Mahomes finished as the QB6 and supported multiple studs on offense. Expect a bounceback with a ceiling of the best player in fantasy football. If Mahomes continues to run as much as he did in the playoffs last year, he will be an unstoppable fantasy force.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Mahomes throws for 5000+ yards for the second time in his career and 40+ touchdowns. He carries over his spiked rushing yardage from the postseason as well. Mahomes scores more than 400 fantasy points and dominates the league yet again.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Mahomes' floor is what we saw last season, Top 10 QB even missing a few games. He hits 4000 yards and 25 TDs and finishes just outside the Top 5 QBs.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	577
COMP	378
YARDS	4,644
TD	37
INT	9
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	51
YARDS	316
TD	3

RUNNING BACK

CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE

ADP: 22.1, RB14

When the Chiefs selected Clyde Edwards-Helaire at the end of the first round, no one really knew how the lingering presence of Damien Williams would affect his role. Historically, when a first-round pick has been used on a back, the team has plans to feature him heavily. Now that Williams has opted out of the season the only questions are how high should CEH be drafted and what is his true ceiling. CEH became the first player in SEC history to rush for more than 1,000 yards and catch at least 50 passes. For anyone who has followed Andy Ried's career knows that he makes fantasy magic with his running backs. The Chiefs have talked extensively about the role they envision CEH in, an all-purpose back that is the bellcow of the backfield. 250 touches should be his floor, granted he checks the boxes leading up to the season. Training camp may tell owners how quickly CEH can get acclimated to the offense in an unorthodox off-season. Edwards-Helaire's upside is league winning and owners can feel good about drafting him at his RB6 price. He could finish the year as the top fantasy running back and his floor is no worse than RB10.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

CEH is the dynamic back that Chiefs fans watched dominate in Baton Rouge last season. He becomes the every-down back from week one and manages 1,700 total yards and ten total touchdowns. CEH finishes as the top fantasy running back.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

CEH shares the backfield in a running back-by-committee, mostly due to his lack of pass protection. He finishes with modest totals and is outside the top twenty backs on the season.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	245
YARDS	1,174
TD	7
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	67
REC	40
YARDS	411
TD	3

WIDE RECEIVER

TYREEK HILL

ADP: 10.7, WR3

2019 was a rough season for Tyreek Hill. Hill injured his shoulder in Week 1 and didn't return until Week 6, missing four games. Hill had just two 100-yard receiving games and just two multi-touchdown games on the season, a year after doubling those totals. Heading down the stretch, Hill produced less than 75 yards receiving in six straight games. Not quite the dynamic receiver owners have come to love. Despite the troubles, Hill finished as the WR12. His ADP, although high, reflects his enormous upside and playmaking abilities. Owners should fully expect a bounceback season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Hill tops 1,400 yards for the second time in his career and double-digit scores for the first time. In a disjointed offseason, the chemistry between Mahomes and Hill is tough to beat. Hill finishes as the overall WR1 in fantasy, with several week-winning performances.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Injuries keep Hill in and out of the lineup more often than we would like. Mahomes continues to spread the ball around, at the detriment to Hill at times. Hill scores less than five times and doesn't top 1,000 yards, and finishes as the overall WR16.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	131
REC	77
YARDS	1,261
TD	9

MECOLE HARDMAN

ADP: 110.1, WR43

There is no denying that Mecole Hardman is an explosive playmaker, and he showed that with six receiving touchdowns in his first NFL season. Each was no less than 20 yards, including four 40+ yard scores. Hardman's issue is not with ability, it is with playing time. His playing time increased when Hill was battling injury but dipped when he was healthy. During the Chiefs winning streak to end the season, Hardman played less than 40% of the team snaps and scored just once. Hardman will have a difficult time with a loaded receiving corps. He is an ideal late-round best ball target but cannot be relied on even as a flex in redraft, unless Reid makes significant changes to his wide receiver usage.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Hardman earns primary snaps and manages to finish just outside of the Top 24 receivers, with 800 yards and eight scores.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Hardman remains a part-time player but his touchdown total is cut in half. He finishes outside the Top 60 receivers.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	59
REC	35
YARDS	614
TD	5

SAMMY WATKINS

ADP: 132.6, WR52

Sammy Watkins teased fantasy owners with 198 yards receiving and three scores in Week 1 of 2019. The rest of the season was a dud. Watkins did not score again and he failed to top 65 yards. He was held without a catch in two games and caught just one ball in another. Watkins, however, was dominant in the playoffs and the Chiefs decided to bring him back for one more season. Just 27, Watkins' best years may have already been behind him. With Watkins' up and down nature, owners may not feel comfortable starting him even in the flex. His ADP still seems high.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Watkins regains old form and tops 800 yards receiving and five scores. He is comfortably a WR3 for fantasy owners.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Watkins loses his starting role to other challengers on the roster and finishes below 400 yards receiving for the first time in his career.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	83
REC	56
YARDS	795
TD	4

TIGHT END

TRAVIS KELCE

ADP: 18.6, TE1

Travis Kelce finished as the overall TE1 for the fourth straight year last season. He did this without a single multi-touchdown game and just two 100-yard weekly efforts. Kelce maintains his dominance because he is Mahomes' most trusted target, and he again topped 1,200 yards. Kelce will be thirty entering the season but he has little sign of slowing down. While Kelce may not be able to lead all tight ends in scoring for a fifth straight season, he is almost certain to compete for the top spot. He is a clear early-round target for fantasy owners.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Kelce finishes as the overall TE1 for the fifth straight season, topping 85 receptions, 1,200 yards, and 6 touchdowns.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Kelce has proven to be durable and his downside is just TE3. He's about as safe a fantasy pick as they come.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	136
REC	94
YARDS	1,188
TD	8

TEAM PREVIEWS LOS ANGELES CHARGERS



AUSTIN EKELER



By Rich Holman

In 2019, the Los Angeles Chargers struggled to a 5-11 record in a season that saw their offensive coordinator replaced nine games into the season. After having Philip Rivers under center for the last 15 years, the Chargers will start anew in 2020. Even in a bad year, the Chargers ranked 10th in yards per game and 7th in passing yards per game. With Tyrod Taylor at the helm, what can we expect from the Chargers offense? Or will Taylor's short leash lead to their shiny new toy, Justin Herbert, being under center sooner rather than later?

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	5
2020 Projected Wins	7.5
Total Plays	1,085
Total Plays Rank	21
Pass %	63%
Pass % Rank	5
Rush %	37%
Rush % Rank	27
Plays/Gm	68
Plays/Gm Rank	21
Points Per Game	21
PPG Rank	21

QUARTERBACKS

TYROD TAYLOR

ADP: 218, QB 29

Tyrod Taylor has been a backup the last two seasons, throwing just 91 passes in that time. You have to go back to 2017 to see what Taylor last did as a starter for Buffalo. Taylor started for the Bills from 2015-2017 and did a decent job of being a game manager. He went 22-20 for the Bills while throwing for just around 3,000 yards per year and averaging 17 passing touchdowns. For some perspective, Philip Rivers eclipsed those numbers every single one of the 15 seasons he started with the Chargers. That casts a big shadow of doubt over the Chargers skill position players' fantasy outlook for 2020. Taylor does add some productivity on the ground with his legs, as he rushed for at least 420 yards and four touchdowns in his three starting years in Buffalo. While Taylor won't throw away the game, he lacks the upside we look for as fantasy players. Taylor doesn't project as a quarterback to roster for fantasy purposes.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Let's keep our expectations reasonable here. Taylor's arm leaves something to be desired, but if he can use his weapons properly along with his legs, I could see a top-end QB2 that could be used as a streamer occasionally.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

How many games until Justin Herbert is ready? Taylor provides mediocre fantasy production while starting, and Herbert replaces him in the first half of the season.

JUSTIN HERBERT

ADP: 319, QB35

The Chargers spent the sixth overall pick on Justin Herbert, so the tea leaves don't indicate a long "incubation" period for the Oregon Duck. Herbert was the rare four-year college starter, going 29-13 in his starts. The Duck is applauded for having a strong skill set and a big arm. He's also a quality athlete and while he doesn't have Deshaun Watson speed/running ability, he does have the ability to evade would-be sackers. The shortened preseason does no favors for Herbert's development, but with Tyrod Taylor being his only competition, it should only be a matter of time before he gets an opportunity to prove his worth. Herbert is coming off the board as the clear QB3 in dynasty drafts but is likely not draftable for single-year leagues.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Herbert's fantasy outlook is all about when he gets his opportunity. Unfortunately for Chargers fans, that might be accelerated by the team struggling with Taylor under center. If the team starts off 1-3, Herbert should get an early opportunity and with Keenan Allen, Mike Williams, Austin Ekeler, and Hunter Henry, there are plenty of offensive weapons to help him learn on the job.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Taylor game manages the Chargers to a winning record and 2020 is just a developmental year for Herbert.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	378
COMP	220
YARDS	2,779
TD	15
INT	8
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	60
YARDS	316
TD	2

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	137
COMP	79
YARDS	1,216
TD	6
INT	6
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	60
YARDS	90
TD	1

RUNNING BACKS

AUSTIN EKELER

ADP: 16.3, RB12

Austin Ekeler thrived as the lead back during Melvin Gordon’s holdout last year. During the four games that Gordon missed, Ekeler averaged 20 touches and 122 yards per game and found the end zone six times. Included in those touches were six receptions per game. At 5’10”, 200 lbs, I’m not sure that Ekeler will be asked to carry that full load all year, but he will certainly have an increased workload now that Gordon has departed. His 18% target share in 2019 was tied for third in the league at running back, behind just Christian McCaffrey and Alvin Kamara. While he may cede carries to Justin Jackson and rookie Joshua Kelley, Ekeler’s floor is secure in the receiving game. Ekeler is coming off the board as the RB12 in the second round of most leagues, which speaks to both how valuable his floor is and how rare the work-horse back is.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The best-case scenario for Ekeler resembles the first four games of the 2019 season. An increased workload to go along with his receiving floor would provide the upside of a top 5 back.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Thankfully, the receiving floor is in place for Ekeler, so even if he cedes carries to Jackson and Kelley, he should still land as an RB2 on his receiving work alone. In fact, last year’s 193.3 PPR points on his receiving work alone would’ve landed him as RB19.

JUSTIN JACKSON

ADP: 128.6, RB53

With Gordon holding out, Justin Jackson had a shot at being the thunder to Ekeler’s lightning. Jackson was on a roll, racking up 142 yards on just 18 carries over the team’s first three games. Unfortunately, Jackson suffered an ankle injury heading into Week 4, which was also the same week that Gordon ended his holdout. By the time Jackson returned from the injury, Gordon had reestablished himself as Ekeler’s partner in crime. With Gordon out of the picture, Jackson will have the first shot at sharing the workload with Ekeler, although he has new competition nipping at his heels. The Chargers took Joshua Kelley in the fourth round of the NFL Draft and the rookie back profiles similar to Jackson. If you’re into handcuffing, Jackson is a decent late-round option.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Jackson picks back up where he left off in Week 3 and establishes himself as a good complement to Ekeler. Because of Ekeler’s size, Jackson could take over the goalline work and could put up solid RB2 numbers.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Because Ekeler owns the majority of the passing down work, Jackson’s floor is relatively non-existent. If he’s outplayed by Kelley, he would end up being the third running back in the pecking order.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	155
YARDS	675
TD	4
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	103
REC	78
YARDS	722
TD	5

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	138
YARDS	609
TD	5
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	17
REC	11
YARDS	84
TD	0

JOSHUA KELLEY

ADP: 158.1, RB60

The Chargers took UCLA's Joshua Kelley with a fourth-round pick in this year's draft. Kelley performed well at UCLA despite poor offensive line play, putting up a pair of 1,000-yard seasons and scoring 12 touchdowns per year. The Bruin standout did a good job of attacking the line with urgency but his elusiveness, quickness, and receiving skills do not stand out. One skill that he possesses that should help him get on the field right away is his pass blocking prowess. However, the lack of a training camp (or even a shortened one) will affect all rookies and should give Jackson an early advantage over Kelley.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Jackson struggles and Kelley takes over as the change-of-pace back behind Ekeler. Due to his running style, Kelley is frequently used in short-yardage and goal-line situations.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The lack of a normal training camp puts Kelley even further behind Jackson. 2020 is just a learning year for the rookie.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	77
YARDS	321
TD	2

RECEIVING

TARGETS	20
REC	14
YARDS	106
TD	0

WIDE RECEIVERS

KEENAN ALLEN

ADP: 57.4, WR24

Rivers' departure will have a major impact on the passing offense. That, combined with his initial replacement Tyrod Taylor, makes Keenan Allen's outlook paltry at best. Allen has seen at least 136 targets over the last three seasons which has led to him averaging 100 catches per year. While I don't expect his 25% target share to change much, I just see the passing volume dropping without Rivers under center. For fantasy, Allen makes for a WR2 with a high floor, but his limited ceiling has him going towards the backend of the fourth to the beginning of the fifth round. I love pairing him with a high ceiling wideout like Tyreek Hill, but expecting the WR1 days of old with Allen may be wishful thinking.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Is it wrong that I'm viewing the best-case as a repeat of his last three years? Something like 100 receptions for 1200 yards and six touchdowns would be ideal. With those numbers, he managed to finish as the WR6 in PPR leagues last year. Not terrible for coming off the board as the WR24.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

A combination of conservative quarterback play and/or a rookie learning on the job leads to Allen's targets being of poor quality. Combined with a run-heavy offense, and Allen had his worst fantasy production in years. I still think the floor is WR3 level at worst.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	123
REC	88
YARDS	1,079
TD	6

MIKE WILLIAMS

ADP: 160.7, WR61

Despite just 90 targets in 2019, Mike Williams managed to finish 14th in Air Yards per FantasyData. Williams' 18.1 aDOT was tops among receivers that saw at least 50 targets. Despite all the Air Yards, Williams' catch rate and True Catch Rate ranked 94th and 97th in the league. He finished the year with 49 catches for 1,001 yards and two scores. While Keenan Allen has a decent floor, Williams' floor is nearly non-existent. With uncertainty surrounding the passing game volume and how conservative the offense will be with Tyrod Taylor under center, Williams' role could be in flux. However, Williams is coming off the board as the WR61, which makes him well worth a dart throw later in drafts.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

To only have two touchdowns despite having so many big plays is a little odd. If he can be a little more efficient with fewer targets, I could see him landing around 50 catches for 1,000 yards again. In 2018, we saw him score 10 touchdowns, so if some of those big plays turn into touchdowns and he's utilized a little more in the red-zone, hitting double-digit touchdowns could be in his future once more.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Woof, that sunshine, and rainbows above? Forget that. The downside is fewer targets from a less accurate quarterback than Rivers leading to fewer catches, fewer yards, and fewer touchdowns than last year.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	82
REC	49
YARDS	823
TD	4

TIGHT END

HUNTER HENRY

ADP: 95.8, TE10

The Chargers brought Hunter Henry back on a one-year deal for the 2020 season. After missing the entire 2018 season with a torn ACL, Henry missed the start of the 2019 season with a tibia plateau fracture in his left knee. Henry ended up missing the first four games of the season but still managed to put up career bests in targets, catches, and yards. He finished the season with 55 catches for 652 yards and five touchdowns, which landed him at TE9. When we adjust to per game scoring, he gets a slight bump up to TE8. Henry is currently coming off the board as the TE10 in the seventh or eighth round of drafts. Overall, I think that's a fair price, but you'll likely want to grab a second tight end due to Henry's injury risk.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

I don't like factoring in health into the best-case/worst-case scenarios, but Henry's is impossible to ignore. A healthy season from Henry would likely lead to career-bests in catches, yards, and maybe even touchdowns - although the 8 he scored as a rookie are pretty beastly. That could lead to him being bumped up into elite tight end territory.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The injury bug hitting again is the ultimate worst-case. However, we've only seen Henry's productivity with Philip Rivers under center. What if he doesn't gel with Taylor or Herbert? The downside is finishing in the TE2 range where you're trying to guess what week he scores a touchdown.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	88
REC	59
YARDS	734
TD	5

TEAM PREVIEWS LOS ANGELES RAMS

ROBERT WOODS



By Erik Smith

Coming off of a Super Bowl appearance and loss in 2018, the Los Angeles Rams suffered the dreaded Super Bowl hangover in 2019, finishing 9-7 and missing the playoffs as the third-place team in the stacked NFC West. After an offseason full of concern about running back Todd Gurley II's knee, Gurley played in 15 games and looked relatively healthy in 2019, though he saw his yards per carry drop by over a yard and his receptions cut in half from the previous season. The Rams must have seen something in Gurley's performance, as he was released this offseason despite a major cap hit. The Rams also parted ways with wide receiver Brandin Cooks, who they traded to the Houston Texans in a draft pick swap. The Rams quickly replaced both Gurley and Cooks during the NFL Draft with the addition of second-round running back Cam Akers and second-round wide receiver Van Jefferson.

The Rams had begun to transition away from their patented three-wide sets to more two tight end sets down the stretch of 2019, which coupled with an injury to Gerald Everett allowed Tyler Higbee of all people to break out and win some fantasy leagues. The big question for fantasy managers heading into 2020 is whether the Rams will stick with the two tight end formations that brought them success last year, or if they will go back to the three wide receiver formation from years past.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	9
2020 Projected Wins	8.5
Total Plays	1,152
Total Plays Rank	5
Pass %	62%
Pass % Rank	7
Rush %	38%
Rush % Rank	23
Plays/Gm	72
Plays/Gm Rank	5
Points Per Game	25
PPG Rank	11

QUARTERBACK

JARED GOFF

ADP: 150.9, QB20

Playing in all 16 games in 2019, Jared Goff compiled the 13th most fantasy points at the quarterback position, a bit of a deceptive finish. On a points per game basis, Goff finished 21st among all quarterbacks with at least 8 starts, a more representative ranking of his up and down season. Goff had 30 or more attempts in all but three games, seven weeks with more than 40 attempts, and topped 50 attempts twice, including an outlandish 68 attempts in Week 4 against Tampa Bay. But he often disappointed from a scoring perspective even during his volume weeks, as he scored just 20.7 fantasy points during his 68 attempt game.

Goff is due for positive touchdown regression, as he should have scored 24 to 36 more points last year based off of his passing volume. Those additional points would have bumped Goff back up to the QB12 range on a points per game basis, so there is certainly reason to buy in on Goff at his current ADP. However, advanced statistics don't love Goff's 2019 season, as he ranked 22nd with a 32.3% Pressured Completion Percentage and 22nd with an 84.8 True Passer Rating, both per FantasyData. Goff lacks the true upside that mobile quarterbacks possess, so he should be viewed as a streaming option or QB2 in superflex leagues for the most part. But if you do end up needing to start him in single quarterback leagues, there are reasons to think that he can put up better numbers if given similar volume in the passing game.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Head coach Sean McVay regains his magic, the offensive line plays closer to league average, and Goff is the beneficiary. His high volume coupled with more touchdowns leads to a solid mid-range QB1 season. He doesn't have the rushing ability to challenge the top of the quarterback class outside of a fluky high touchdown year, but Goff settles in near the top of the next group and is a weekly fantasy starter.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The running game never gets back to the days of old, the offensive line continues to be exposed, and Goff struggles under pressure for the second-straight year. Goff's contract looks more and more like an albatross that McVay can't fix, and the franchise's short term future is in serious doubt. Goff falls behind the young quarterback class of Daniel Jones, Joe Burrow, and even Gardner Minshew II for fantasy purposes, and is no more than a streamer in expected shootouts in matchups against poor pass rushes.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	575
COMP	362
YARDS	4,658
TD	27
INT	15
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	25
YARDS	35
TD	1

RUNNING BACK

CAM AKERS

ADP: 60.5, RB30

Cam Akers earned the respect of Seminole fans during his college career, running hard behind bad offensive lines at Florida State, and showed some versatility while catching 69 passes across 36 games. At 5'10" and 217 pounds, Akers has the size to hold up to a heavy workload, and profiles as a potential three-down running back. He flashed at the combine and separated himself from the pack at his position, running a 4.47 40-yard dash and displaying quick feet.

As the 52nd player selected in the draft, the Rams are showing a commitment to Akers that instantly launches him into fantasy-relevance. Darrell Henderson was a third-round pick last year, and on a Rams offense that was struggling to find a spark for much of the year, Henderson's 39 attempts and lack of passing game involvement should be a major red flag. Malcolm Brown is a career backup and shouldn't be a concern for Akers, who the Rams just used a premium pick on for a reason. While this Rams' offense isn't what it once was, Gurley racked up over 1,000 yards and 14 total touchdowns last year while battling an arthritic knee, and with Gurley in Atlanta now, Akers has a chance to be a starting fantasy running back. How quickly Akers can take over the backfield, how involved he is in the passing game, and how many of Gurley's vacated red zone work he receives will all ultimately determine Akers' ceiling.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

It turns out that the Rams stopped throwing to their running backs last year primarily due to Gurley's knee issues. McVay jumps at the chance to get Akers involved in the passing game, and it quickly becomes clear that Akers is one of the league's true three-down running backs. While it isn't quite the glory days of the Rams offense when Gurley was winning fantasy leagues, Akers pays off handsomely on his fifth-round ADP. Akers finishes as an RB1, with Henderson and Brown simply spelling Akers when needed. In a year where the Rams are desperate to return to the playoffs, they ride Akers from start to finish in order to lessen the burden on Goff.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Henderson turns out to provide more competition than we thought as he battles Akers for playing time. Henderson is the starter Week 1 due to his veteran status and excels with the opportunity, grabbing the better end of a 60/40 split. Akers is caught in the lesser side of the timeshare and even loses red zone work to Brown. Akers flashes from time to time but never gets quite enough consistent work and puts up a Ronald Jones-like season, settling in as an RB3/Flex that you never feel especially confident about starting.

DARRELL HENDERSON JR.

ADP: 111.1, RB47

Darrell Henderson Jr.'s 2019 season was a disaster from a fantasy perspective. With Gurley entering the season with knee issues, fantasy drafters couldn't help themselves when it came to the third-round rookie from Memphis. Henderson flashed explosive ability on a consistent basis in college while sharing a backfield

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	220
YARDS	924
TD	8

RECEIVING

TARGETS	42
REC	30
YARDS	258
TD	2

with Tony Pollard, and the fantasy community envisioned a split backfield with Henderson providing the lightning to Gurley's thunder. Henderson wound up going in the eighth-round of many fantasy drafts, and his ensuing line of 39 rushes for 147 yards along with four receptions on six targets for the season was an absolute worst-case scenario. The rationale made sense though, even in retrospect. While Gurley was somewhat surprisingly on the field for a majority of the season, his performance left much to be desired. In an offense in need of a spark, Gurley rushed for 3.8 yards per carry and disappeared in the passing game. But Gurley still scored 14 total touchdowns, a testament to the value of the Rams' running back role.

With Gurley now in Atlanta, the backfield opens up for Henderson. Now, however, Henderson has to battle with a second-round rookie in Akers, as well as the veteran Brown. With such an awful rookie season in 2019, there are legitimate questions about Henderson's fit with the team and future in the league, especially after Los Angeles spent such a high pick on the position to bring in Akers. But at his tenth-round cost, Henderson looks like an appealing dart throw for those that missed out on running backs early. This is a backfield that we want a piece of, as evidenced by Gurley's 14 touchdowns last season, and there are plenty of opportunities in this COVID-19 offseason for Akers' development to be stunted at first. Henderson should have an opportunity to contribute, and if he can make some noise early, fantasy drafters could end up with a nice value in the later rounds of drafts.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Akers struggles to learn the offense, and maybe even comes down with some nagging soft tissue injuries while adapting to the NFL in this weird offseason. Henderson takes the opening and runs with it, and by the time Akers is fully incorporated into the offense, Henderson has cemented his role. Henderson sees 40-50% of the snaps on a typical week with some spiked weeks and is a surprisingly consistent RB2. Henderson steals some touchdowns, catches some passes, and revives his NFL career.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

There's a reason that Henderson only received 43 touches during his rookie year -- he's a bad fit in this offense. Akers dominates the workload and even Brown sees the field more consistently than Henderson. Henderson looks like a failed draft pick that may be looking for a new team sooner rather than later.

MALCOLM BROWN

ADP: 221, RB77

Malcolm Brown looks like an appealing late-round dart throw at the running back position at first glance. With his primary competition being a rookie running back in the weirdest offseason on record and a disappointing second-year back in Henderson, Brown appears to have a path to production. But the upside just isn't there to be worth drafting in all but the deepest leagues. The former undrafted free agent has played five years in the league, and while Brown seems to be loved by coaches, his usage has been non-existent. Brown's career-high rushing yardage in a season is 255 yards and his best season through the air saw him catch nine passes. Sure, he scored five touchdowns last year, and he has been trapped behind the superior athlete in Gurley. But Brown still finds himself battling a second and third-round pick for playing time, and likely doesn't have much of a

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	120
YARDS	491
TD	2

RECEIVING

TARGETS	29
REC	20
YARDS	150
TD	1

use for fantasy purposes outside of the occasional vultured touchdowns.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

2020 proves to be a crazy year with COVID-19 IR stints and injuries resulting from the shortened preseason. Brown finds himself on the field a lot more than expected with Akers and Henderson missing time at various points. Brown locks in the red zone role all year and has a few weeks where he is startable when the other running backs sit out.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Akers joins the offense at full speed and takes over, Henderson shakes off his disappointing rookie season and is a nice compliment, and Brown settles in as the veteran presence. His only role is to occasionally steal a touchdown from his fantasy-relevant teammates.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	61
YARDS	220
TD	4
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	11
REC	11
YARDS	45
TD	0

WIDE RECEIVER

ROBERT WOODS

ADP: 42.8, WR17

Robert Woods is likely the safest Rams wide receiver to draft for fantasy purposes, and if he can ever find a way to score more touchdowns he could be a breakout value. With 130+ targets and 1,100+ yards receiving over the past two seasons, Woods has been an under the radar fantasy contributor. Woods is relatively immune to McVay’s decision to go with more two tight end sets, as Woods rarely comes off the field as the primary outside option while Kupp works better in the slot with three receivers on the field. In fact, Woods saw 100% of the team’s offensive snaps on four different occasions last year, and Woods saw nine or more targets in each of his last seven games played in 2019 as the team transitioned their scheme.

The fact that Woods only scored two touchdowns last year on 139 targets (he did add a third touchdown on one of his 17 rushing attempts) is relatively astounding, and will no doubt positively regress in 2020. Woods scored seven total touchdowns in 2018, and while Kupp does have the more consistent red zone role, Woods could even surpass that number if things break right. Woods is a rock-solid WR2, and I wouldn’t feel too bad about grabbing him as my WR1 in drafts where I draft running backs early.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Woods continues his excellent production and is immune to whatever shifts in offensive philosophy that the Rams go through. With Gurley out of the picture and Kupp on the field less, suddenly there is a bigger piece of the pie available in the red zone. Woods approaches double-digit touchdowns and has his breakout fantasy season, providing consistent mid-range WR1 numbers at the price of a WR2.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Woods has an incredibly high floor barring injury. His worst-case scenario would involve the offense regressing as Goff struggles more and more, and the absence of Gurley puts too much pressure on the offensive line. Even in this scenario, it is hard to see Woods lacking in volume, but a worse overall offense could reduce his yardage closer to 1,000 and prevent any improvement in the touchdown department.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	135
REC	85
YARDS	1,160
TD	6
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	18
YARDS	121
TD	1

COOPER KUPP

ADP: 40.7, WR15

Cooper Kupp is a polarizing player ahead of 2020 drafts. The slot specialist has amassed an extremely impressive resume in his early career, totaling 196 receptions, 2,596 receiving yards, and 21 touchdowns over his first three seasons in the NFL. These numbers are even more impressive after considering that Kupp suffered an ACL injury in the middle of this three-year stretch and returned to near full force last year. Kupp's red zone role has been especially impressive, ranking ninth in the league in red zone targets during his rookie 2017 season and ranking fifth in the league in targets inside the ten last year. With 21 touchdowns scored in his first 39 games, Kupp's red zone role sure seems to be a product of the offense and his connection with Goff that is unlikely to go away any time soon.

The primary concern around drafting Kupp in the fourth round of fantasy drafts is the Rams' transition away from 11 personnel to more 12 personnel down the stretch of 2019. This meant fewer snaps in the slot for Kupp where he is most dangerous, and fewer snaps in general as his snap rate dipped into the 60% and 70% range several times down the stretch. While Kupp finished the year with a touchdown in five straight games, his volume was down from his red-hot start, and he didn't reach 70 receiving yards from Weeks 10-16. There's a chance Kupp faded down the stretch in his first year back from ACL surgery, regardless of the offensive personnel changes. We shouldn't forget Kupp's nuclear start to the 2019 season where he topped 100 yards in five of the first eight weeks, including a 220-yard performance against the Bengals. Kupp is more boom or bust for 2020 than Woods, as his production will certainly suffer if he sees fewer snaps. But if he regains his snap share, especially from the slot, and maintains his touchdown production, Kupp is fully capable of paying off on his ADP.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The Goff-Kupp connection is too strong for a late-season personnel shift to disrupt, and Kupp is right back to his normal usage. The offense is more explosive with some fresh legs in the backfield, McVay continues to adapt to the league, and Kupp produces another excellent fantasy season. He reaches double-digit touchdowns for the second-straight season and sets a new career-high in receptions and yardage as a fantasy WR1.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The changes from last year are real, and Kupp sees the field much less than the 90+% snap share that we are used to. Additionally, his touchdown luck regresses, and we are left with a slot receiver that we drafted in the fourth round that lacks big-play ability.

JOSH REYNOLDS

ADP: 186, WR77

If this was the Rams offense of old, we would currently be looking at a big-time sleeper in Josh Reynolds. The departure of Brandin Cooks leaves Reynolds a huge opportunity to see the field, and though they drafted Van Jefferson in the second round of the NFL draft, this disjointed offseason likely gives Reynolds the upper hand. The problem with a Reynolds breakout is that this isn't the same offense that set the league on fire in 2017, and their recent commitment to 12

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	130
REC	85
YARDS	1,060
TD	9

personnel means fewer snaps available after Kupp and Woods. Reynolds has produced fairly lackluster results when given the opportunity, so he's mainly a pass for me in standard leagues. Put him on your watchlist maybe, but I don't see the upside to spend a pick on him.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The Rams revert to their past usage of 11 personnel and Reynolds is on the field often. He finally breaks through in his fourth year in the league while holding off the rookie Jefferson. Reynolds is a streaming option in good matchups and is a capable bye-week fill-in.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Reynolds can't be counted on for consistent production as the Rams run more 12 personnel, and the snaps that are available for a third receiver are split between Reynolds and Jefferson. By the end of the year, Jefferson is clearly the superior prospect.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	54
REC	37
YARDS	550
TD	2

TIGHT END

TYLER HIGBEE

ADP: 89.7, TE9

Along with Kupp, Tyler Higbee is a player that the fantasy community has a wide range of opinions on. With fellow tight end Gerald Everett missing time down the stretch of 2019, Higbee exploded with four straight 100-yard games from Weeks 13 to 16. Higbee saw eight or more targets in each of the final five weeks, including 11 or more targets in each of the final four weeks. Higbee didn't have a massive touchdown scoring role, only producing two touchdowns over this span, but the volume and reception totals were a shock, and should certainly make us take notice in 2020.

On the plus side for Higbee is the Rams' potential reliance on two tight end sets this year, as well as the rapport he developed with Goff. While Everett will be back from injury, you would have to think that his play earned him the leg up on his competition. On the negative side, Higbee's breakout was reliant on Everett missing time, so his upside could be capped if Everett sees the field often. And it should be noted that two of Higbee's big performances came against the Arizona Cardinals, who were historically bad at defending the tight end position. Higbee's ADP feels about right, as his upside is undeniable. Very few tight ends in other offenses could have seen the volume Higbee received down the stretch of 2019, regardless of the circumstances. Just don't draft him expecting the league-winning performance from late last year.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

More of the same from last year, as Higbee takes a stranglehold on the TE1 job in Los Angeles and forces the Rams hand in sticking with 12 personnel more often. He flirts with TE5 overall status and pays off on your draft day investment.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Last year was a fluke, and Higbee more resembles the player that had yet to top 300 yards receiving through his first three seasons. He splits too much work with Everett and lacks enough scoring potential to be more than a matchup dependant streamer by the end of the year.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	90
REC	70
YARDS	745
TD	5

GERALD EVERETT

ADP: 298, TE27

There isn't a reason to draft Gerald Everett in your typical 12 team league, but in deep leagues he should be on your radar, and he might be worth a watchlist after the draft. Everett showed signs himself of breaking out before his injury, drawing eight or more targets in four of his first nine games, including a 136-yard game in Week 5. He was much more inconsistent than Higbee and will likely receive fewer targets to start out 2020. But if this Rams offense really is transitioning to more 12 personnel, maybe there is room for Everett to develop a role as well. As a second-round pick in the 2017 NFL Draft, maybe there is another level of development left for Everett.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The Rams offense is rejuvenated with two talented tight ends on the field, and Everett shows enough reason to feed him targets as the year progresses. He is suddenly an appealing dynasty option and is on the redraft radar in 2021.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Higbee takes ahold of the starting tight end job, which turns out not to be that lucrative of a role anyway. Everett looks like an ideal change of scenery option in the coming years.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	65
REC	41
YARDS	501
TD	2

TEAM PREVIEWS LAS VEGAS RAIDERS



JOSH JACOBS



By Ben Brown

The “Raidahs” have been a laughingstock of the NFL for many, many years. Fantasy production has been slim in the past, as you more than likely remember their name bellowed by Chris Berman than you heard it repeated by anyone in the discussion of their fantasy squads. Things have finally changed in 2020, however, and you’re beginning to see some incredibly intriguing fantasy options here in Josh Jacobs, Henry Ruggs III, and Darren Waller. Will those intriguing options help create a resurgence for Derek Carr? Or will we see a little too much of Hunter Renfrow or Jason Witten?

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	7
2020 Projected Wins	7.5
Total Plays	1,044
Total Plays Rank	26
Pass %	56%
Pass % Rank	25
Rush %	44%
Rush % Rank	8
Plays/Gm	65
Plays/Gm Rank	26
Points Per Game	20
PPG Rank	24

QUARTERBACK

DEREK CARR

ADP: 207, QB28

Just five seasons into his NFL career, and sadly the plateau of Derek Carr has already been reached. Likely at best, you're looking at a quarterback who is going to spend his time as a bye week fill in, or a last-minute injury replacement (which sadly could be a situation we see in 2020). Coming into this write up totally anticipating that I would outright gag at Carr's portfolio, I find myself somewhat perplexed. Not likely a fantasy quarterback you're going to love starting, Carr ended last season with the highest completion percentage in his career. Alongside that, it came with him throwing the least amount of passes in a single season yet, finally attached to a workhorse running back in Jacobs and not forced to throw a large number of passes into coverage. Carr, however, will not do much more than being a fill-in for your squads. He doesn't add much on the ground with his feet (he's eclipsed 100 yards rushing just once in his six-year career) and has only averaged a half a rushing touchdown per season. And if you're looking for him to punch in a large amount of scoring passes with laser-like precision, he, unfortunately, won't do much of that either (22 touchdowns in 2017, 19 in 2018, 21 in 2019). Lamar Jackson was five touchdowns short of doubling that.

In short, the Raiders will look to Carr as a reliable, professional quarterback who won't make many mistakes, however, they don't gameplan him or anticipate him to be an "en Fuego" option who will make you laugh at the rest of your league while you wait for him at the end of the draft. For reference, the Raiders didn't even eclipse the 31 point total in all of 2019. Is there some value here? Sure. Maybe. He has a second year with Waller back as a force of a tight end. They've got Jacobs causing defensive squads to push up close to the line and try to box out a legit stud rusher. And they've added premiere speedster and Flash replica in Ruggs, so, there are ultimately chances to succeed. Just don't feel right about anything other than waiting, and making him the last player on your squad. Maybe latches on to an upstart offense looking poised to breakout as a unit.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Carr finds himself locked into an offense he has desperately been seeking out since his career started, and he connects on some deep routes with Ruggs, some jump balls with Waller, and Jacobs continues to bloom. Carr finally sees his value hover closer to a low-end QB1 in your draft pool, as opposed to an afterthought, and pushes into a more reasonable 2021 season.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The team built around Carr is not the issue with Carr's production and Carr is exposed as an average NFL quarterback. The team heads into 2021 looking at a juicy group of high profile college quarterbacks.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	535
COMP	372
YARDS	4,200
TD	24
INT	10
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	25
YARDS	52
TD	0

RUNNING BACK

JOSH JACOBS

ADP: 12, RB9

Josh Jacobs is the anticipated centerpiece to the Las Vegas Raiders squad. Coming out of Alabama, the running back is seen as an “Angry Back.” He may not outrun you off the line, but he will run into you, into anyone, and gives zero care if it’s putting you on your giant, lineman heinie. Jacobs came out of college lacking a high-end 40-yard dash (a little bit above 4.5 seconds), but we saw him produce as obviously the best back to come out of college for the year, if not the past few years.

Jacobs does not do any particular thing well that jumps off the page, but if anything, doesn’t do much wrong. And that’s the true allure of Jacobs to me. He doesn’t avoid contact, in fact, he revels in it. He swims into the waves and likely stirs them back if anything. His motion upon contact is often impressive, and he’s tough to stir from his center of gravity. Just check out this (go to roughly 27 seconds, and watch as he spins out of a good tackle). That’s football porn. Jacobs will be the cause of many teams’ defensive scheming and will help Carr as much as anyone. Still, there’s nothing to show that Jacobs can’t find a way to get better, as he’s a year developed into a playbook and sees teammates enter into the fray such as Ruggs. The latter played directly with Jacobs in Alabama for a short time. Jacobs finished his first season up with the third-most rushing yards per game, even eclipsing unanimous number one back Christian McCaffrey. Jacobs is an absolute delight to watch play and reminds me of someone like Bo Jackson in terms of appreciating and enjoying being hit in his tackles, while also showcasing some flash when able to hit the open field. Jacobs is a steal at the end of the first round. Point blank.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Jacobs gets better. That’s the long and short of it. On a Raiders team beginning to add some talent around him, finally, Jacobs thrives and becomes one of the five best rushers in the league. He opens up as an elite pass-catching option at running back and goes into 2021 at the top half of round one.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The Raiders either have a coaching issue, a quarterback issue, or a game-planning issue, and Jacobs cannot vault himself up the charts and showcase what he’s able to do.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	269
YARDS	1,425
TD	10
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	48
REC	40
YARDS	388
TD	1

WIDE RECEIVER

TYRELL WILLIAMS

ADP: 180, WR70

Tyrell Williams is coming off a season that started off strong but was heavily impacted by a nagging plantar fasciitis injury that he sustained in Week 4. He started the year with a touchdown in each of his first four games prior to the injury, then scored again when he returned to the lineup in Week 8. Lining up as the number one outside receiver against the defense's best cornerback week in and week out is tough enough, but trying to get separation and go up for jump balls with a foot injury that just won't go away is not an easy task. To his credit, he finished with a line of 42-651-6 on 64 targets and finished in the top 20 in air yards per target among all receivers. As Jon Gruden would probably say, "That dude gets down the field and balls-out, man".

Plantar fasciitis is a tough injury to come back from because the only treatment that really works is rest. In this crazy offseason, rest was abundant for Williams, and coming into training camp he feels 100% healthy. This is huge news for a 28-year-old guy who is entering the second year of a four-year \$44 million contract, not to mention the stiff competition he now faces in the wide receiver room. That last part could work in his favor now that he doesn't have to be the go-to guy on every down. For the first time in a while, the Raiders have a group of weapons in the passing game that should strike fear in opposing defenses. Unlike last year, Williams is no longer the only deep threat receiver that defenses need to worry about. The additions of rookies Ruggs and Bryan Edwards should allow for more opportunities for Williams to get open downfield when they are on the field. Like Williams, Edwards is projected to line up as an X receiver so he could cut into Williams' playing time down the line if he breaks out like many are projecting, but Williams has the edge in that he already has a year of chemistry under his belt with Carr. That could be a difference-maker for Williams' fantasy stock in 2020 when many are overlooking him. He clearly has the talent and showed a rapport with Carr last season, which can't be overlooked.

Williams' ADP of 180 is surprisingly low, and I would much rather draft him than some of the guys going ahead of him, including Alshon Jeffrey, Justin Jefferson, and Sammy Watkins. Whether you agree on that note or not he is definitely worth looking at as a late-round flier.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The additional weapons in Las Vegas help take the pressure off Williams, allowing him to exploit more holes in the defense for long gains.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The foot injury rears its ugly head again, or Bryan Edwards becomes a breakout star and takes a majority of snaps away from Williams.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	74
REC	47
YARDS	743
TD	5

HENRY RUGGS III

ADP: 103, WR41

Speed, speed, speed. Those are the three words (well one, really) that come to mind whenever Henry Ruggs III's name comes up. Las Vegas shocked the football world when they took Ruggs ahead of Jerry Jeudy and CeeDee Lamb in April's draft, but their strategy appears to make sense when you think about it. With their \$44 million commitment to Tyrell Williams, why invest high draft capital in a player that projects as another X receiver like both Jeudy and Lamb do? Ruggs projects to begin the year as the starting Z receiver in Las Vegas' offense, allowing him to go in motion pre-snap and exploit matchups using his speed. That should help complement Williams, and Ruggs has been compared to Tyreek Hill, which is quite the lofty comparison for a rookie receiver, and that's exactly the type of player that Jon Gruden would love to be able to utilize on a weekly basis. If Ruggs does end up being a matchup nightmare a la Hill, it should open up wide swaths of the field for Carr to dump it off to his backs and tight ends underneath.

And that is the main difference between Hill and Ruggs. Hill has the pleasure of playing with future hall of famer Patrick Mahomes, while Ruggs will be playing alongside Carr. Carr is nowhere near the talent Mahomes is and never will be. Mahomes is a playmaker and Hill is often the recipient of a long completion after Mahomes uses his feet to extend a play, Carr isn't capable of doing that. While Ruggs' measurables may be comparable to Hill, his situation certainly isn't and that will cap his potential production significantly lower. Not to mention the fact that rookie WRs typically don't fare well in their rookie season, and this will be a rookie season like no other.

Ruggs is currently being taken around the 9th round of fantasy drafts, which seems appropriate for a guy with his talent and potential in this offense. In PPR he's going right around the same time as Jeudy, Lamb, and Reagor, so pick your poison really. Though, in the case of those four, that poison could end up being mighty tasty once the season starts.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Ruggs picks up the offense quickly and makes an immediate impact as a game-changer. He's highly utilized in the offense and immediately becomes one of the most feared receivers in the AFC West, if not the league.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

He either doesn't click with Derek Carr or simply doesn't pick up the offense until late in the season.

HUNTER RENFROW

ADP: 178, WR69

Hunter Renfrow really grew into a dependable slot receiver near the tail end of his rookie season, gathering in 13 receptions on 18 targets for 209 yards and two touchdowns in the final two games of the season. He's not the most athletic guy in the world but his grit and determination are evident as he fights to get open in the middle of the field. He had a phenomenal career at Clemson where he learned how to win, and that experience should help him and the Raiders as they embark on their journey to relevance in 2020.

Despite adding so many new pieces on offense, including former Eagles' slot receiver Nelson Agholor, Renfrow still projects as the starter in the slot. Honestly, Agholor doesn't pose a threat to Renfrow's job so there's nothing to worry about there. Renfrow is firmly entrenched as the starter and should benefit from lots of open space as defenses attempt to cover Waller, Williams, and Ruggs on passing downs, while also serving as Carr's safety

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	67
REC	46
YARDS	687
TD	3

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	79
REC	54
YARDS	726
TD	2

net on key third downs. Renfrow should be a fantastic late-round option for those looking for some stability in PPR formats.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

With all the added focus on stopping everyone else in the offense, defenses forget about Renfrow and his target share explodes as Carr’s safety net.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Ruggs’ targets come at the expense of Renfrow’s and he takes a giant step back in 2020.

BRYAN EDWARDS

ADP: 209, WR92

Bryan Edwards has been compared to Davante Adams, AJ Green, and the Chargers’ Mike Williams, all in the last month. He has rocketed up draft boards and for good reason. He’s a physical freak at 6 foot 3, 212 lbs while running a 4.5 40 yard dash. He caught a ball in every game he played at South Carolina, setting the school record for most consecutive games with a reception (48). He’s got good hands and has a thick build, so he can catch a ball in coverage and break a tackle for some additional YAC. He projects to line up as the backup X receiver and was a third-round pick, which sounds like a bargain and makes Las Vegas’ choice to take Ruggs over Jeudy and Lamb look smart.

Edwards won’t have to come in and be the #1 receiver like those other big names. He also doesn’t have to worry about starting Week 1, which may not be what fantasy players want to hear but should bode well for his long term stock. As a fantasy asset for 2020, I understand the hype but don’t be surprised if he doesn’t live up to expectations right away. I would feel much more confident if he had the starting gig, but until Williams gives the coaching staff a reason not to continue playing him I don’t see Edwards fully breaking out. That doesn’t mean he’s not worth a late-round flier, but if his draft-day price continues to creep up I would start to look elsewhere instead.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

At some point in the season, it becomes clear he is the alpha dog X receiver, overtaking Williams’ starting gig and putting up WR2 numbers as a late-round flier in fantasy.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

He doesn’t live up to the hype or simply isn’t utilized enough, finishing the season with a mediocre 20-30 catches.

NELSON AGHOLOR

ADP: 308, WR144

What more is there to say about Nelson Agholor? He had plenty of opportunities to break out in Philadelphia and didn’t capitalize on them once. It should be no surprise that, despite being desperate for WR help in the offseason, the Eagles let him walk away without shedding a tear. He’s since landed in Las Vegas as the backup slot receiver behind Renfrow and shouldn’t see much time on the field unless there are a number of significant injuries. Even then, as Agholor has shown in the past, he’s a better meme than he is a receiver and there are much better upside options out there than him.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Agholor carves out a role as the second option in the slot, gets a decent number of looks and turns a few of them into TDs.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	51
REC	39
YARDS	507
TD	2

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	45
REC	25
YARDS	270
TD	1

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

He's the forgotten member of a revitalized offense and is relegated to mop-up duty or injury replacement.

TIGHT END

DARREN WALLER

ADP: 61, TE5

Darren Waller exploded onto the scene in 2019, living up to the preseason hype that surrounded him after the team's appearance on Hard Knocks. He was the 18th TE off the board as a late-round sleeper for many, and those who took a shot on him were rewarded with a top 5 season that likely helped win many leagues. His 90 receptions and 1145 receiving yards were second-most in the league among tight ends, and his 117 targets were third. Despite those gaudy numbers he only scored three touchdowns all year, good for 18th in the league among tight ends. That number is due to increase this season, though I wouldn't be surprised if he receives fewer targets with the additional weapons around him. He's capable of taking the next step and joining George Kittle and Travis Kelce as one of the premier tight ends in the NFL, but I think Carr will spread it around a bit more this year which will hurt Waller's final volume numbers. They'll still be TE1 worthy, just not quite as good as last year's version.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	101
REC	78
YARDS	989
TD	7

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Waller experiences positive touchdown regression and evolves into his third form - a monster fantasy tight end in the same tier as Kittle and Kelce.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Waller regresses with all of the added competition for targets in Las Vegas and disappoints by finishing the season as a low TE1/high TE2.

JASON WITTEN

ADP: 357, TE39

Jason Witten is leaving Dallas for the first time in his career and will no longer be asked to shoulder the load as TE1 on the depth chart. Those days may be long past him, but in a Jon Gruden run offense that favors heavy personnel sets, Witten's still-elite run-blocking skillset will be utilized often. This may be the main reason why he was signed in the first place, as well as the fact that he still can fill in as the lead dog at times if necessary. If Waller were to go down, Witten would be the guy over Clive Walford, but don't expect Waller-type numbers if that were to happen. Witten is a complimentary piece these days and should be treated as such for fantasy purposes. He's more of a shot-in-the-dark DFS option than a year-long consideration, and his ADP reflects that. He's still a solid contributor to a real football team but forget about drafting him for your fake one.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	35
REC	25
YARDS	224
TD	2

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Witten carves out a role as a red-zone threat and can be used as a cheap, sporadic DFS filler.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

He fades into fantasy irrelevance as a run-blocking TE on a run-heavy team.

TEAM PREVIEWS MIAMI DOLPHINS

DAVANTE PARKER



By Ben Brown

2019 was a tale of two Miami Dolphins teams. After being outscored 163-26 in their first four games (and looking like an 0-16 team out of the gate), the 'Fins rattled off five wins in their last nine games and finished the season 5-11 looking like a team completely reborn. Despite playing behind the worst offensive line in football, Ryan Fitzpatrick ranked in the top half of all quarterbacks in Air Yards (7th), Deep Ball Completion % (13th) and Pressured Completion % (13th) per FantasyData, and was generally a serviceable fantasy QB, finishing the season as the QB17. Fitzpatrick's success finally led to the long-awaited breakout of former 1st round pick DeVante Parker, who set career highs in pretty much every stat you can imagine.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	5
2020 Projected Wins	6
Total Plays	1,096
Total Plays Rank	17
Pass %	66%
Pass % Rank	2
Rush %	34%
Rush % Rank	31
Plays/Gm	69
Plays/Gm Rank	17
Points Per Game	19
PPG Rank	25

QUARTERBACK

TUA TAGOVAILOA

ADP: 163.2, QB26

Did you think I forgot about Tua Tagovailoa? The 5th overall pick in the draft comes into his rookie year having recovered from a season-ending hip injury and amidst a devastating worldwide pandemic. The hip in and of itself is a large question mark; Tua sustained a dislocated hip and a posterior wall fracture last November, ending his 2019 season prematurely and putting his future career in serious doubt. All reports are that the hip has fully healed and that Tua should be ready to go for the NFL season. It's great news for Tua, but after such a serious injury one has to imagine that it will take some time for him to get back into football shape after focusing on rest and rehab for so long. This could be challenging in the midst of a pandemic that is currently hitting Florida especially hard. Will workouts be held on schedule? Will all of the coaches and players test negative and be allowed to participate?

Per Mike Freeman of Bleacher Report, it's a "foregone conclusion" that Tua starts for the Dolphins in week one. This was back in May, prior to Florida's current devastating COVID outbreak, so it's possible that plans have changed since then. My gut tells me that with a shortened training camp and fewer preseason games, Tua may not be ready to take over in week one, and may actually earn the job around week four or week five after getting in a month of practice with the team. There is no sense in rushing him back since Miami is not in win-now mode, so why not start off the year with Fitzpatrick?

From a fantasy perspective, there's a lot of risk involved here. First, the guy is only eight or nine months removed from a very serious, career-threatening injury. Is he in football shape? Will he have enough practice time to get on the same page with his receivers? I worry that a Tua-led offense actually hurts everyone else's fantasy outlooks in the short term, but there's no denying the talent is there. At his current ADP, I don't think I'll be rostering him this season, and I would much rather have Teddy Bridgewater, who isn't coming off an injury and has a guaranteed starting gig, at QB27.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Florida enforces a mask mandate, the Dolphins report on time, Tua wows everyone in camp, earns the job, and immediately inserts himself into the discussion for the best young quarterback in the league.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Camp is cut short, Tua doesn't get into football shape or develop chemistry with any of his weapons and sits for the first half of the season.

RYAN FITZPATRICK

ADP: 324, QB36

There was plenty of Fitzmagic in the air in Miami last year as Ryan Fitzpatrick accumulated one of the best statistical seasons of his career. This was due in large part out of necessity because of the terrible Miami defense giving up so many points, but also because Fitzpatrick had a proper set of weapons in his arsenal and didn't commit too many mistakes. His 2.6 interception% was the second-

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	456
COMP	276
YARDS	3,142
TD	15
INT	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	33
YARDS	118
TD	1

lowest of his career in seasons he has started 12 or more games. Fitzpatrick did everything Miami asked him to do and more, and it's a shame that Tua will likely overtake him at some point this season because I was looking forward to watching Fitzpatrick build on the chemistry he had with his receivers.

Yeah, I just said I was looking forward to seeing Fitzpatrick play. You can't deny he's a fun guy to watch, and where else are we going to hear about guys from Harvard? Fitzpatrick gives Miami the best chance to win in 2020, which doesn't really matter to them but for fantasy purposes, it would mean better seasons for Parker, Williams, etc. People also forget that Fitzpatrick finished as QB17 last year and was a valuable piece in the second half of the season. In standard scoring leagues, Fitzpatrick had seven games of 20+ fantasy points with six of them coming in week eight or later. Yes, Ryan Tannehill won a lot of fantasy leagues down the stretch but if you missed out and picked up the other Ryan instead I'm willing to bet you still felt pretty good about it.

If Tua doesn't earn the starting gig or gives it up at any point during the season then Miami will be in good hands with Fitzpatrick. At his current ADP he likely isn't getting drafted in many leagues, but keep an eye on this situation and pounce on him if he ends up starting. He's a solid QB2 and bye week backup when he's out there.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Tua is unable to take the job in camp, the offensive line and backfield are much improved and Fitzpatrick continues to surprise everyone with another solid season in Miami.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Fitzpatrick is relegated to a bench role as an injury fill-in after Tua takes the starting gig in camp.

RUNNING BACK

JORDAN HOWARD

ADP: 105.7, RB42

Jordan Howard signed a 2 year, \$9.5m deal with the Dolphins in the offseason and immediately becomes the bell cow back for a team that desperately lacked a #1 guy in 2019. Howard broke out in a big way in his rookie year, gathering 1313 yards on the ground on 5.2 yards per carry. His production got worse in each of the next two years, bottoming out at 935 yards on 3.7 yards per carry in 2018. After a trade to Philadelphia in the 2019 offseason, he had a nice six-game stretch where he averaged 15.1 fantasy points per game before injuring his shoulder and missing essentially the rest of the season. There are some out there labeling Howard as injury-prone but it was the first time he's missed games in his career due to injury, so dismiss any injury concerns you may have.

One thing to note is that Howard was running behind the best offensive line in football last season and that has obviously changed. Howard had seven runs of over 15 yards in nine games last year compared to nine in fifteen games in 2018. For fantasy purposes he was efficient in his attempts, earning .94 fantasy points per rushing attempt which was ranked 33rd for all running backs with 50+ carries. That should regress a little now that he's in Miami but as long as he's given 200+ carries he should still have a nice season. There were only 349 carries

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	121
COMP	74
YARDS	1,103
TD	6
INT	

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	15
YARDS	83
TD	0

to go around in Miami in 2019, which ranked dead last in the NFL, but with that offensive line and that collection of running backs why even bother running the ball at all? Expect more of a focus on the run this year to keep their defense off the field.

Howard averaged 259 carries per year in his three years with Chicago and was on pace for 211 before the injury last year. I have him projected for 180 carries because of the breakout potential for the #2 guy on the depth chart but Howard should still return solid value at his current ADP.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Howard carries the rock 200+ times behind a much improved offensive line and finishes the season as a solid RB2 in fantasy.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The offensive line still stinks and Howard doesn't find the openings he has in the past to use his excellent burst. As long as he's not overdrafted he's at least worth the risk as the number one back on the depth chart.

MATT BREIDA

ADP: 94.7, RB37

Matt Breida was traded to the Dolphins during the draft for a fifth-round pick, which seems like a steal for a guy with his talent. His 4.38 40-yard dash time was just a fraction of a second off from the fastest in his draft class, and in his first three seasons with San Francisco, he averaged five yards per carry with six touchdowns. He also caught 67 passes for 561 yards and four touchdowns. In 2018, his best season, Breida ranked fourth in breakaway rate (total carries of 15 or more yards) with 8.5%, and 24th in yards created per game with 18.9. Yards created are defined as being "generated by the runner after the first evaded tackle" so, on a team with four new starters on a league-worst offensive line, Breida will need to continue creating his own yards if he's going to find a lot of success on the ground but the talent is obviously there to do so.

Breida will be the yin to Jordan Howard's yang in this offense and I actually like him more than Howard in fantasy this season. We all know Howard isn't a pass-catching back, but Breida can be and on an offense that should be throwing the ball a ton that's a valuable skill to have. Injuries have been an issue in Breida's career but he should be fully healthy heading into 2020. If Breida can stay on the field, which is, of course, no guarantee, look for the Miami coaching staff to try to find ways to get him the ball in open space where he can use his speed to break out some long plays. Currently being drafted as RB37 according to FantasyData, Breida has a lot of upside and could return great value for you on draft day.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Breida stays healthy all season and splits time in the backfield with Howard as the receiving and change of pace option, and puts up a consistent fantasy season with some spiked weeks.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Injury strikes and Breida misses time, or Howard is used as a bell-cow back and Breida splits 3rd downs with Patrick Laird. Both scenarios would be equally devastating for anyone rostering Breida.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	180
YARDS	722
TD	9
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	14
REC	9
YARDS	73
TD	0

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	103
YARDS	483
TD	5
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	62
REC	46
YARDS	402
TD	3

PATRICK LAIRD

ADP: 241, RB82

Undrafted in 2019, Patrick Laird was given the opportunity to start in weeks 14-17 and his performance was underwhelming at best. His awful 2.9 yards per carry was certainly made worse by the offensive line in front of him but he isn't a strong runner between the tackles anyway. Laird has great hands and ideally would be used as a complimentary change of pace back on passing downs. His fantasy role in 2020 is totally dependant on the health of Breida. If Breida gets hurt then Laird will step in as the primary pass-catching back once again. He averaged nearly 9 yards per reception in 2019 which could make him a useful piece in 2020 if he's given an opportunity but he certainly won't be racking up the rushing yards anytime soon. He's a one-trick pony and I wouldn't draft him in any leagues but, if injury strikes Breida, Laird will be a waiver target in PPR leagues once again.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Unfortunately, Laird's best-case scenario involves an injury to Breida, which nobody wants to see, but a third-down role in a sneaky good offense with an improved offensive line would make Laird a flex play in PPR leagues.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Breida remains healthy for 16 games and Laird is only targeted one or two times per game.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	31
YARDS	95
TD	1

RECEIVING

TARGETS	37
REC	28
YARDS	251
TD	0

WIDE RECEIVER

DEVANTE PARKER

ADP: 74.4, WR31

Is DeVante Parker for real? This is the question we all want to know the answer to after his breakout 2019, and luckily for you, I do have the answer: Maybe. Wait what? Yeah, the answer is maybe, because the question can be answered in two different ways. Let's start off with Parker the football player. Yes, the talent is for real. Parker finished 2019 as one of the top deep threats in the game with 16.7 yards per reception, good for 8th in the league. He also ranked 4th in air yards with 952. If you combine Parker's 4.45 40-yard speed with his 19 contested catches in 2019 (tied with Michael Thomas for 3rd in the league), his ability to get downfield and catch any ball thrown his way is up there with the best in the game. Where was this talent in past years though? It was probably there the whole time, but Fitzpatrick's gunslinger tendencies brought out the best in him. Jay Cutler had 1,495 air yards in 2017, and in 2018 the pair of Ryan Tannehill and Brock Osweiler combined for 1,531 air yards. Fitzpatrick's number in 2019? 2,349. This is a case of a quarterback making the players around him better by giving them opportunities they didn't have before.

So, Parker is for real right? In real life talent-wise, absolutely. In fantasy for 2020? I'm not sold on a repeat. If you don't remember, Preston Williams was the Dolphins receiver breaking out through the first eight games of the season. It was a quiet breakout but Williams averaged 7.5 targets per game compared to Parker's 6.5. After Williams' ACL injury, Parker's targets per game skyrocketed to 9.5. As long as Williams is back I expect Parker's number of targets to decrease

again to around 7, and with a yard per target rate of 9.4, that's 20 fewer yards per game on the stat sheet.

Parker's current ADP as WR31 seems about right for him but I do expect that to rise a bit as we get closer to the season and the hype train gets going. In a 12 team league, he's going at the beginning of the 7th round, but I would rather pass on him and take a guy like Tyler Boyd, who I love this year, a round later. Overall, Parker is the real deal but I don't think he'll have the same opportunities this year as he did last year, and that will ultimately hurt his fantasy production.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Parker establishes himself as the clear number one option in the offense and builds on his breakout 2019 season. His target share remains the same or even improves and he becomes a legitimate top 10 receiver in the league.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Williams returns and steals some of Parker's targets, leading to mediocre numbers that do not live up to his ADP.

PRESTON WILLIAMS

ADP: 134.6, WR54

Preston Williams started out the 2019 season as an undrafted free agent who flashed in the preseason, made the team, and led the Dolphins in receiving yards (428), targets (60), and receptions (32) before tearing his ACL in week 8. This was certainly unexpected but not totally surprising after his 96/1,345/14 TD senior year at Colorado State, however, the NFL is an entirely different animal and rookie receivers don't often lead their teams in multiple statistical categories right out of the gate. Williams' true breakout onto the fantasy scene occurred in weeks 6-8 when he accumulated 15 catches on 24 targets, 196 yards, two touchdowns, and showed wonderful chemistry with Fitzpatrick. Had it not been for his torn ACL we would likely be talking about him in the same ways we talk about A.J. Brown, Deebo Samuel, and Terry McLaurin, three rookie receivers who lit the world on fire in 2019.

One stat that does worry me is his 5 drops in only eight games, which tied him for 29th in the league overall, but his 8.3% drop rate put him in the top 10 droppers in the league. If this trend continues I can see more targets going elsewhere and Williams could miss out on an opportunity to build on the solid start to his rookie season.

Williams tore his ACL in November of last year, so we're about eight to nine months out from the injury. He's expected to be ready for the start of the regular season, but it's been reported that he has not yet participated in any on-field workouts which is concerning to hear. Whether it's COVID related or not, keep an eye on this as it's not crazy to think he may begin the season on PUP. His current ADP in the 11th round isn't a huge investment but it's still a risk and you may want to target other upside guys like Anthony Miller or Jamison Crowder who are going around the same time but don't have the same injury concerns. Approach with caution but Williams could be a true difference-maker for your team if healthy.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Williams is back healthy for week 1, picks up where he left off last year, improves and becomes a great value WR2 in fantasy.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Williams starts the year on PUP, returns later in the year, and comes down with a case of the dropsies, hindering his development and ruining your championship aspirations.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	110
REC	63
YARDS	915
TD	6

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	105
REC	56
YARDS	747
TD	4

ALBERT WILSON

ADP: 221, WR97

Albert Wilson likely isn't on your radar and I don't blame you. He's had a relatively disappointing career up to this point after five years in Kansas City and his last two in Miami, but I'm here to tell you that he could be a diamond in the rough in PPR leagues this season. Wilson finished the last three games of the season with 23 targets, 17 catches, and 197 yards, a pace that would give him 90 catches and 1,015 yards over a 16 game season. Obviously it's unlikely that he'll reach those numbers as the third or fourth option in this offense but his increased usage in the last three weeks of the season is eye-opening.

Yes, the return of Preston Williams and an improved Mike Gesicki should eat up a lot of targets, but Miami should be throwing the ball a ton so there should still be plenty of opportunities for a speedy slot receiver to make an impact on this team. Williams and Parker will be drawing a lot of attention downfield which could open up some space for Wilson to run free. I love Wilson in deeper PPR leagues and especially Best ball formats as he could provide some sneaky 15 point games when you least expect it.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Wilson breaks out into a PPR machine, catches 120+ balls, and becomes a top 20 WR. Just kidding, but 60-70 catches aren't out of the question if someone goes down with an injury.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Wilson is rarely used and loses playing time to Allen Hurns, making him un-rosterable in all formats

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	71
REC	47
YARDS	552
TD	3

TIGHT END

MIKE GESICKI

ADP: 134.5, TE15

Not long ago, the tight end position in fantasy was dominated by Rob Gronkowski and Travis Kelce at the top but quickly shallowed out. If you didn't get one of those two guys then you were likely rotating two or three tight ends in and out of your lineup throughout the season. That changed in 2019. George Kittle broke out and turned in a monster season, making him the definitive TE2 in fantasy. Both Darren Waller and Mark Andrews came out of nowhere to finish as top 5 tight ends. Philadelphia proved to be a TE dependant team with two viable fantasy starters in Zach Ertz and Dallas Goedert. Rookie tight ends such as Noah Fant and T.J. Hockenson flashed the talent that made them first-round draft picks, and then there was Tyler Higbee, who dominated down the stretch and single-handedly won fantasy championships for many teams. Tight end is suddenly a deep position that many drafters are waiting on and finding valuable starters in the middle rounds.

Mike Gesicki is also one of them. He ranked top 12 in receptions (51), yards (570), air yards (7.8 per reception), touchdowns (5), and red-zone targets (11), and appropriately finished 12th in PPR scoring. He was Fitzpatrick's number two receiving target in the second half of the season, trailing only Parker in targets while matching him in touchdowns. His 3rd ranked aDOT (10.2) didn't quite translate to a high yards per target (6.4, 27th), likely because of his 33.3% contested catch rate. It would be great to see some improvement there in 2020 since his 6'6" 250lb frame should be tough to guard with his 4.55 40-yard speed. With Williams back this year I'd expect Gesicki to spend less time working downfield and more time gashing linebackers on drag and slant routes with his speed and huge frame, leading to a high-floor mid-round PPR TE1.

His current TE15 ADP seems low to me, and I would much rather have him at that price than guys like Fant (TE10), Jared Cook (TE11), and O.J. Howard (TE12). If you're looking to wait on TE while still coming out of the draft with a TE1, Gesicki is your guy.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Gesicki improves his contested catch rate and spends more time running shorter routes, making him a more efficient PPR option while still racking up yards after the catch. He has top 8 upside, folks.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The impact of Williams' return and a much better backfield cuts into Gesicki's target share, reducing his utilization and relegating him to a borderline TE1/TE2 fantasy role.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	91
REC	55
YARDS	580
TD	4

TEAM PREVIEWS MINNESOTA VIKINGS



DALVIN COOK



By Mike Miklius

The Minnesota Vikings finished 10-6 last season on the back of a strong rushing attack, a stout defense, and a passing attack that avoided unnecessary mistakes. The offense stays mostly the same, save for one big change: Stefon Diggs is gone. Minnesota will now rely on Adam Thielen as their top pass-catcher while rookie Justin Jefferson should line up opposite him. If the defense stays where it was last year and Dalvin Cook stays healthy, the Vikings should again be in the playoff picture in 2020. An injury to Kirk Cousins, Cook, or Thielen would put the team in a tough spot though, as this team is very top-heavy in talent on offense.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	10
2020 Projected Wins	9
Total Plays	1,040
Total Plays Rank	27
Pass %	51%
Pass % Rank	30
Rush %	49%
Rush % Rank	2
Plays/Gm	65
Plays/Gm Rank	27
Points Per Game	25
PPG Rank	8

QUARTERBACK

KIRK COUSINS

ADP: 160.6, QB22

Kirk Cousins was the definition of a game manager last year for Minnesota. I don't mean that to be an insult: Cousins wasn't asked to pass much, but he played smart football and minimized mistakes all season long. He completed nearly 70% of his passes while only throwing six interceptions. As a Bears fan, I would love to have Cousins in Chicago this year. The issue, however, is that Cousins has a low ceiling. He threw for 225 yards per game last year and his top weapon left town. Given the slow developmental curve of rookies, I don't expect Jefferson to be an immediate replacement for Diggs. I like Cousins in real life, but he is a low-reward option for fantasy teams in 2020.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

The strong running game opens up passing lanes and Cousins repeatedly finds Thielen breaking open. Jefferson develops quickly and puts up 1,000 yards of his own. Cousins finishes with 4,000 yards and 30 touchdowns as the offense cruises.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Cousins clearly misses Diggs, and things get worse when Cook and Thielen each miss some time. Cousins barely manages 3,000 yards as the offense struggles to score points all year. The lack of weapons becomes frustrating and Cousins' interception numbers balloon.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	480
COMP	330
YARDS	3,600
TD	25
INT	7

RUNNING BACK

DALVIN COOK

ADP: 6, RB5

We've been waiting since the earliest flashes of 2017 to see what a healthy Dalvin Cook season would look like. Well, we basically got it -- save for two missed contests. Cook was a big factor in both the run and passing game and, quite frankly, the offense would have taken a big step back without him. Still, I'm left wondering if Cook will hold up week to week as he has missed 19 games through his first three seasons, and his stats also trailed off in a big way towards the end of the season. Cook definitely has some risk/reward to him and it feels like right now he is being bought at his ceiling. Still, he's a good option as an early to mid-first round selection this year, as running backs are in high-demand and he possesses a true three-down role.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Cook stays healthy all season and takes another step forward from 2019, proving that he belongs in the conversation with Christian McCaffrey and Saquon Barkley for the number one pick. He breaks 1,500 rushing yards and 2,000 yards from scrimmage to go along with 15 touchdowns on his way to an MVP-worthy performance.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Cook gets banged up early and ends up in a timeshare with the team hoping to keep him fresh for the playoffs. He plays effectively, but limited touches lower his ceiling and he fails to reach 1,500 yards from scrimmage. With his rookie contract coming to an end, the team ponders letting him go to avoid overpaying a running back of questionable health.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	280
YARDS	1,260
TD	12
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	70
REC	56
YARDS	570
TD	2

ALEXANDER MATTISON

ADP: 95.3, RB42

Alexander Mattison was one of the most interesting backups in the league last year because he was backing up Dalvin Cook. Mattison saw 100 carries and a dozen targets and looked effective in his limited role. Mattison won't have major value if Cook stays healthy, but he will sky-rocket if Cook gets hurt OR if he holds out. If either were to happen, Mattison would become a top-15 play at running back each week. Given how much time Cook misses, I'm definitely investing in Mattison as well -- just in case.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Cook goes down early and Mattison takes over the backfield. He proves to be an excellent runner and the team doesn't miss a beat. Mattison finishes his second season with 1,000 rushing yards and the starting job for 2021 as Cook leaves in free agency.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Mattison is trapped behind a dominant Cook and sees his workload decrease from last year. He takes a series here or there, but he fails to gain traction in his limited work. Mattison remains the tantalizing backup on your bench without much to show for it.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	125
YARDS	560
TD	2

RECEIVING

TARGETS	24
REC	18
YARDS	150
TD	0

WIDE RECEIVER

ADAM THIELEN

ADP: 28.9, WR9

Following huge seasons in 2017 and 2018, expectations were sky-high for Adam Thielen again in 2019. Instead, he disappointed fantasy players as he slogged through various injuries. Thielen seemed like he wasn't healthy for almost the whole year -- until the playoffs. When he is healthy, though, Thielen has proven himself a capable weapon. With Diggs gone, he is the only game in town. If this was a higher volume passing attack, Thielen would be a first-round lock. Instead, he comes at what I think is a fair price. The biggest hesitation is what happened to Diggs last year: Thielen went down and Diggs failed to truly capitalize. Could we see the same, but in reverse, in 2020?

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Thielen is fully healthy and back to his dominant form on his way to his best career season. He sees 175 targets, 125 receptions, 1,500 yards, and 12 touchdowns while fighting Dalvin Cook for honors as the team's offensive MVP.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Much like Diggs last year, Thielen struggles to stay consistent despite the lack of competition on the team. He still hits 100 receptions and 1,000 yards, but he becomes impossible to predict week to week.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	160
REC	115
YARDS	1,400
TD	12

JUSTIN JEFFERSON

ADP: 123.7, WR47

Justin Jefferson was one of many talented receivers coming out of the 2020 NFL Draft, and plenty of experts tout what he could become in the league. I'll never say a rookie can't, but here is a simple truth: 51% of receivers taken in the first round never put up a 1,000-yd season in their careers. Last year, Marquise Brown and N'Keal Harry had 584 and 104 yards respectively. The year before that, D.J. Moore and Calvin Ridley had 788 yards and 821 yards. I could keep going, but the truth is: rookie receivers are not a smart bet in fantasy. The opportunity potential for Jefferson is massive, with little to no competition behind Thielen in the receiving corps. But with a crazy offseason, a low volume passing offense, and a clear alpha receiver ahead of him in Thielen, Jefferson may not amount to more than a streaming flex option.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Jefferson gels quickly as a starter opposite Thielen, and he thrives against opponents' number two corners. He manages 1,000 yards and double-digit touchdowns and the rest of the league knows it: they screwed up by not picking this kid.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Jefferson struggles to gain traction after a shortened offseason, and he spends the first few weeks coming off the bench. Despite improvements, he struggles to get a firm foothold before the season is over and barely manages to accrue 500 yards.

2020 Projection: 80 targets, 54 receptions, 650 yards, 4 touchdowns

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	80
REC	54
YARDS	650
TD	4

TIGHT END

IRV SMITH JR.

ADP: 290, TE24

Irv Smith Jr. was one of my three favorites rookie tight ends heading into the 2019 season, but he was far behind TJ Hockenson and Noah Fant in terms of name recognition. That should change in 2020. Smith played well in 2019, totaling 47 targets, 36 receptions, and 311 yards in 14 games. That's not bad for a rookie, and not far behind Hockenson (367 yards) or Fant (562 yards). Smith had the additional obstacle of Kyle Rudolph ahead of him on the depth chart as well. What should we expect from Smith in 2020? I expect Rudolph's role to continue to decrease as Smith progresses in year two. Smith should see an increase in all important receiving stats as the Vikings like using the tight end, and Diggs' departure opens up plenty of targets. Minnesota's frequent usage of two tight end sets should ensure that Smith sees the field frequently, and his competition for targets is relatively weak.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Smith takes another step forward and usurps Rudolph as the team's top option at tight end. He doubles up his stats from 2019 -- becoming a viable fantasy option moving forward. He particularly capitalizes in the endzone, totaling ten touchdowns thanks to teams stacking the box against the run game.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Last year proves to be the expectation rather than a jumping-off point. Smith sees modest gains in his volume and effectiveness, but he still fails to become the team's top option at the position. He's a better real-life threat than a fantasy option.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	80
REC	60
YARDS	540
TD	4

TEAM PREVIEWS NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



JULIAN EDELMAN



By Ryan Heath

You might have heard about this already, but if you didn't know, Tom Brady is no longer with the Patriots. He leaves in his absence a void at the most important position in football, the effects of which will ripple across this entire offense. Even last year, the Patriots ranked an uninspiring 18th in the league in net yards per pass attempt and 25th in yards per carry. With former 4th-round draft selection Jarrett Stidham the presumed starter at quarterback, no meaningful additions to the receiving corps, and the running back room from last year remaining intact, this offense is set to slide even further into fantasy irrelevancy...

...That's what I wrote to introduce the team before the Cam Newton signing. Suddenly, this offense has a lot more intrigue. Newton has his detractors, but as I'll discuss, the signing raises the ceiling of the entire offense, and could bode incredibly well for certain other skill position players in fantasy. I do expect Newton to immediately seize the starting job if in adequate health, potentially bringing a new versatility to the offense.

Sophomore wide receiver N'Keal Harry will hope to bounce back after an injury-riddled rookie campaign, and should challenge the aging Julian Edelman and Mohamed Sanu for targets. Former preseason darling Jakobi Meyers will also fight for snaps. In the running game, Sony Michel will likely take the lead once again on early downs in what may be a slow-paced, ball-control style offense. James White should retain his third-down role, and Damien Harris still lurks on the depth chart as a talented and versatile back. Rex Burkhead will mostly contribute on special teams. The tight end position will also likely be run by committee, with recent draft picks Devin Asiasi and Dalton Keene joining Matt Lacosse.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	12
2020 Projected Wins	9.5
Total Plays	1,164
Total Plays Rank	4
Pass %	59%
Pass % Rank	19
Rush %	41%
Rush % Rank	13
Plays/Gm	73
Plays/Gm Rank	4
Points Per Game	26
PPG Rank	7

QUARTERBACKS

CAM NEWTON

ADP: 118.3, QB14

For those who need a refresher, 2019 was a lost year for Cam Newton, as he aggravated a foot injury early on and missed the bulk of the season. The year before, in 2018, Newton suffered a shoulder injury in Week 7, played through it until Week 15, and was then shut down. This means the most recent sample of a truly healthy Cam was in 2018 before he sustained the injury. Over that span on a per-game basis, he averaged 237.8 passing yards, 1.8 passing TDs, 42.8 rushing yards, and 0.5 rushing touchdowns. This was good for the fantasy QB4, averaging 23.46 fantasy points per game up to this point. All of this was accomplished with Devin Funchess and a rookie D.J. Moore as the team's top wide receivers.

Cam also boasted the best play-action completion percentage in the league in 2018, completing 75.7% of his attempts. Play-action has been widely demonstrated to increase passing efficiency and has caught on to an even greater degree around the league over the last two years. Tom Brady ranked just 27th in the league in the same metric last season. Newton's skill in this facet of the game could be invaluable, adding an entirely new dimension to the Patriots' offense. This potential upside combined with his rushing ability makes Newton an ideal late-round quarterback target. If he gets hurt, you can simply stream QBs off the waiver wire, but if he hits his ceiling, you'll be rewarded nicely.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Cam manages to stay somewhat healthy the entire season, starring in a revamped offense that features ample play-action and RPOs. The offense enjoys above-average productivity, and he supports multiple skill-position players that can be had at a value in fantasy drafts.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Injury strikes once again, forcing the team to turn to Stidham and flushing Newton's career down the toilet along with the franchise.

JARRETT STIDHAM

ADP: 377, QB37

So the Jarrett Stidham era begins hopefully ends in Foxboro. Though largely an unknown commodity in the NFL, Stidham was thoroughly mediocre in his two years at Auburn at the college level, throwing for 18 touchdowns and clocking in above a 60% completion percentage each year. That said, fantasy gamers shouldn't expect him to be much more than a game manager, and he also lacks the rushing ability we often look for in late-round quarterbacks. Most of the intrigue comes from how Stidham would ultimately distribute his passing attempts between the weapons in this passing game, and the possibility for him to fixate on a certain pass-catcher as mediocre quarterbacks often do.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Stepping in for an injured Newton, Stidham funnels targets to Julian Edelman or N'Keal Harry, supporting strong fantasy seasons for one or both of them. The weapons help out enough to make Stidham worth weekly consideration in 2QB

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	520
COMP	312
YARDS	3,744
TD	25
INT	14

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	80
YARDS	384
TD	5

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	550
COMP	330
YARDS	3,575
TD	23
INT	16

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	30
YARDS	65
TD	1

and Superflex formats, and the offensive efficiency does not take a massive nose-dive.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Stidham is incompetent, torpedoing the offense to the bottom of the league and sinking the fantasy prospects of every other player, as New England prepares to start up the QB carousel once more. The Patriots begin running a very slow-paced, ball control offense with limited fantasy appeal.

Note: Though I've provided projections for both quarterbacks in the event that they are the starter, the remaining projections will all assume that Cam Newton starts and keeps the job for the entire year

RUNNING BACKS

SONY MICHEL

ADP: 91.7, RB39

Update: Sony Michel has begun training camp on the PUP list, and the recent signing of veteran Lamar Miller puts his status for week 1 further in doubt. A season lost to injury is now firmly in Michel's range of outcomes, and the other backs may benefit.

Though he received the lion's share of the work on the ground last year, Sony Michel managed just 3.7 yards per carry and corralled just 20 targets in the passing game. He even managed to record 4 drops on those 20 targets! Even on the ground, Michel did not gain many yards beyond what was blocked, finishing outside the top 35 RBs in juke rate. This speaks to a lack of elusiveness and play-making ability. Last year's 7 touchdowns were also underwhelming, but even that number can't be counted on this year, as the offense may be making fewer trips to the red zone while Newton is likely to vulture a significant number of goal-line carries. Michel should once again take the lead on early downs, and rushing lanes may open up as a product of Newton's presence, but he'll be hard-pressed to deliver much more than low-end RB2 numbers on a consistent basis.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Due to other injuries at the position, Michel manages to capture a legitimate role in the passing game, finally delivering on the explosiveness he showed while at Georgia. This in combination with the Patriots implementing a more run-heavy offense in Tom Brady's absence supports Michel running for over 1000 yards and contributing in all phases.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Michel remains in his strictly two-down role, once again failing to eclipse 1000 yards rushing and providing only marginal flex appeal. Frustrated with Michel's lacking efficiency, New England decides to see what they have in Damien Harris.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	250
YARDS	1,000
TD	6
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	11
REC	6
YARDS	51
TD	0

JAMES WHITE

ADP: 73.3, RB32

Ranking second on the team in both targets and receiving yards last year, James White seems fairly entrenched in his receiving role out of the backfield. However, his lighter frame at 5'9", 204 pounds, and his lack of top-end speed and explosiveness caps his rushing ceiling. A workhorse role for White is hard to imagine under any circumstances. Whether White will retain his floor in PPR leagues depends largely on Newton's tendencies in the check-down game - don't be baited into thinking White is Christian McCaffrey just because he's now playing with his former quarterback.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

The Pats suffer in the win column and face more negative game scripts, allowing White to rack up targets in garbage time and become a viable RB2 option in PPR leagues. Newton enjoys using White as a weapon in the middle of the field on short routes.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Newton does not throw to the running back very often, instead preferring to force the ball to his first read on the outside. The Patriots actually win nearly as many games as last year, robbing White of the negative game scripts he thrives on. White misses his rapport with Tom Brady and succeeds only in cannibalizing the target shares of other players without offering much fantasy value of his own.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	60
YARDS	246
TD	1

RECEIVING

TARGETS	85
REC	64
YARDS	560
TD	4

REX BURKHEAD

ADP: 194, RB68

Though capable in both the running and receiving game, most of Rex Burkhead's value to the Patriots comes as a depth option and on special teams. He is a potential candidate to take on a bigger role should Michel or White get injured, and should have no trouble replicating either player's production if given the opportunity. He will be active on game day throughout the season if healthy.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

An injury in front of him on the depth chart allows Burkhead to deliver stop-gap fantasy production off the waiver wire to RB-needy owners.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Burkhead never gets much of an opportunity this year and remains the third piece of this backfield, either due to the good health of his teammates or being supplanted on the depth chart by Damien Harris.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	25
YARDS	110
TD	0

RECEIVING

TARGETS	16
REC	12
YARDS	112
TD	1

DAMIEN HARRIS

ADP: 133.1, RB54

Damien Harris is a bit of a wildcard this season. Though he was selected in the third round of the NFL Draft last year, he has yet to get a real opportunity at the next level, only being activated on game day twice during all of last season and receiving just 4 carries. Harris is a comparable athlete to Michel, and tested well at the NFL Combine in the broad jump and vertical, but it's worth wondering whether he's truly part of the team's plans at the position given the lack of chances he was afforded as a rookie. Harris was never much more than a committee back during his time at Alabama, sharing the backfield with Josh Jacobs. His medical history is much cleaner than Michel's, on the other hand, so he's a viable candidate

to capture a role in this committee one way or another. If Michel continues to perform poorly, doors could certainly open for Harris in this backfield regardless.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Harris shows why the Patriots ignored other needs to draft him, stepping in for an injured Michel and carving out a workhorse role.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Harris goes the way of so many other rookie running backs that fail to produce early on in their careers, languishing at the back of the depth chart and piling up another string of inactive weeks.

WIDE RECEIVERS

JULIAN EDELMAN

ADP: 73.6, WR30

Julian Edelman represents a tricky conundrum. To what extent have his massive target shares historically been a product of his individual rapport with Tom Brady? Coming off an impressive 153 targets from last year, Edelman would be hard-pressed to improve on his production. Though Edelman was 4th among wide receivers last year in receptions, he was outside the top 60 in yards per reception, 49th in air yards per target, and tied for 64th in end zone targets. This all suggests that Edelman relies almost entirely on volume for his fantasy production, a more uncertain proposition given the change at quarterback. On the bright side, no pass-catchers of consequence have been added, and the departure of Phillip Dorsett leaves even more targets up for grabs. Edelman’s ceiling remains a WR1 target-hog in PPR leagues, but the floor is incredibly low for him at 34 years old and without his best friend at quarterback.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

The younger options in the passing game fail to progress, leaving Edelman to once again vacuum up an obscene amount of targets due to the lack of talent around him. Newton tries to focus on quick releases and fixates on him in the slot. Edelman outperforms his ADP once again.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Edelman finally hits the wall at age 34, contributing to a massive downturn in production spurred on by decreased offensive efficiency. Younger players like N’Keal Harry and Jakobi Meyers step in to fill the void, leaving Jules to contemplate retirement.

N’KEAL HARRY

ADP: 140, WR54

One year ago, the Patriots selected N’Keal Harry with the last pick in the first round of the NFL Draft. Unfortunately, an ankle injury forced him to miss the majority of his rookie year, and Harry only exceeded a 60% snap share once in his seven games after returning. As a college prospect, Harry was a monster producer who broke out at the early age of 18, a combination of traits that is often highly predictive of NFL success. The draft capital the team spent on him ensures Harry will continue to receive the opportunity to compete for playing time and targets even after the disappointing rookie year. Standing at 6’2”, 228 pounds, Harry has a chance to be a

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	50
YARDS	225
TD	3
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	21
REC	14
YARDS	110
TD	1

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	127
REC	84
YARDS	924
TD	5

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	101
REC	60
YARDS	785
TD	7

force both in the slot and outside at X, as well as the team's biggest viable weapon in the red zone. It wouldn't be crazy for his talent to win out among this underwhelming group of receivers. He's got to be better than Kelvin Benjamin, right?

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Harry overcomes his separation issues and becomes Newton's favorite target, overtaking the aging Edelman and breaking out like crazy for over 1200 yards and double-digit touchdowns. There's a new alpha dog in New England.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Harry joins the long list of first-round wide receiver busts in recent years, again failing to consistently stay on the field due to injury, or otherwise failing to make a dent in the offense's target distribution. He becomes a rarely-used decoy on the outside.

MOHAMED SANU

ADP: 187, WR76

Mohammed Sanu will be turning 31 before the start of the season and just had surgery on a high ankle sprain he suffered last year. He's likely a safe bet to see snaps, but he lacks explosiveness in an offense that's unlikely to be doing him many favors. The departure of Phillip Dorsett could lead to more targets, but this isn't an outcome likely to provide much fantasy value. He may look great in the workout videos with Cam Newton on Twitter, but don't expect too much from an aging player who hasn't surpassed a 16% target share in either of the last two seasons and has cracked the top 60 in yards per reception just once in the last three years.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

A consolidated target share results from the failure of the second-year receivers, letting Sanu rack up over 100 targets and be an underwhelming fantasy WR3.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Sanu falls off a cliff and is overtaken by both Harry and Meyers. He can't shake his ankle injury and fails to develop any on-field rapport with Newton, becoming an afterthought.

JAKOBI MEYERS

ADP: 253, WR116

Though Jakobi Meyers does not possess the draft pedigree, college production, or athleticism of his fellow sophomore receiver N'Keal Harry, he does hold one key advantage: Meyers actually got on the field more last year, mostly due to superior health. The coaching staff seems to like him, so it wouldn't be that crazy for Meyers to outproduce Harry once again this year. Not much really pops about Meyers' profile or play, and I wouldn't bet on a breakout, but he's a name to watch in an offense with targets up for grabs. He could conceivably overtake Sanu to see the field in three-receiver sets. Meyers is best equipped to play from the slot, however, meaning Edelman is the most significant barrier to his progression.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

The undrafted Meyers overtakes those in front of him on the depth chart in typical unheralded Patriots wide receiver form, producing passably for fantasy players who pick him up off the waiver wire during the season.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The logical thing happens, where Meyers is blown to the back of the depth chart by more dynamic and experienced players. He can't even be held in the deepest of leagues.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	80
REC	48
YARDS	525
TD	3

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	37
REC	24
YARDS	332
TD	2

TIGHT ENDS

DEVIN ASIASI

ADP: 330, TE30

After incumbent Matt Lacosse opted out for the year, rookie Devin Asiasi is left as the presumptive starter at tight end, with only former 7th-round pick Ryan Izzo standing in his way. The big-bodied Asiasi was tough for PAC-12 defenders to bring down last year, frequently exploiting smaller and slower competition for long runs after the catch. Sporting a 67th-percentile speed score, Asiasi could possess more upside than it may appear at first glance. However, as with all rookie tight ends, the likelihood of fantasy relevance is incredibly low. The position is among the most difficult to transition to at the NFL level due to the wide variety of blocking and route-running concepts most teams expect their players to pick up. Still, given the playing time Asiasi will likely see, the offense's history of utilizing the tight end position heavily, and the lack of proven receiving threats surrounding him, he's a name worth watching on the waiver wire this year.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Asiasi flashes potential as a rookie, quickly becoming a trusted weapon in the end zone and providing occasional tight end streamer appeal in deep fantasy leagues.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Asiasi struggles to pick up the playbook during a COVID-shortened offseason program, and shares snaps with Izzo and fellow rookie Dalton Keene the entire season.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	32
REC	22
YARDS	216
TD	3

TEAM PREVIEWS NEW ORLEANS SAINTS



ALVIN KAMARA



By Corey Saucier

There are only three constants in life; death, taxes, and New Orleans Saints' skill players putting up gaudy fantasy numbers. With the whole starting crew back at the helm, there's nothing to suggest that we should expect anything different this season. While the Saints haven't been able to turn their fantasy production into much playoff success over the past few seasons, there are some pieces on their roster that you will want to reach for if you want to raise your league's fantasy trophy at the end of the season.

At 41, indeed, QB Drew Brees isn't getting any younger. He may have lost some zip on his deep ball over the past couple of seasons, but he's still one of the most accurate quarterbacks to ever play the game, and he should provide QB1 numbers at a decent value. WR Michael Thomas and RB Alvin Kamara are both currently going within the top-6 overall in most formats - especially PPR. It's hard to oversell either of these guys - as they should both finish as a top-tier player at their respective positions. TE Jared Cook also has a chance to improve on his output from last season with another year's worth of chemistry to tap into. With the addition of a true WR2 in Emmanuel Sanders, this year's offense could be even more explosive than it has in years past. Let's dive into this year's team and gauge how productive they can potentially be.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	13
2020 Projected Wins	10.5
Total Plays	1,091
Total Plays Rank	20
Pass %	60%
Pass % Rank	12
Rush %	40%
Rush % Rank	15
Plays/Gm	68
Plays/Gm Rank	20
Points Per Game	29
PPG Rank	3

QUARTERBACK

DREW BREES

ADP: 79.1, QB7

We all know that last year wasn't a typical season for Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints' offense. Brees missed 5 games due to a torn ligament in his throwing hand, and remarkably the now-departed Teddy Bridgewater won all 5 starts in Brees' absence. While it's true that Brees has lost some zip on his deep ball, he still looks as accurate as ever and is poised to contribute mid to low-end QB1 value for the 2020 season.

Brees arguably boasts as quality a stable of weapons as any QB in the league. Adding Sanders to the wide receiver room will only help to take some pressure off of Thomas and the rest of the Saints' pass-catchers throughout the season. Sanders excels running underneath routes and slants - working outside or in the slot. Brees has proven over the past few seasons that this combination of routes and formations is a successful formula with Thomas, and it's safe to assume that Sanders will fit in nicely with Sean Payton's scheme. Boasting arguably the best offensive line in the NFL, the Saints only allowed Brees to be sacked 9 times in his 11 games played last season. The Saints added an interior offensive lineman (Cesar Ruiz, Michigan) in the 1st round of this year's NFL Draft as well. Brees should have plenty of time in the pocket to go through his progressions and find his open receivers - as he has done so well throughout his entire career.

Brees is one of the oldest QBs in the NFL at 41 years old, but there's nothing that suggests that his abilities will fall off considerably. With a much-improved defense and solid running game, Brees won't be putting up his gaudy fantasy numbers of old. That being said, he is still a probable option to finish as a QB1 and should have no problems returning value on his 8th-round ADP.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Brees stays healthy all year and posts around his career averages for another 4,000 yards and 30 touchdown season, finishing as a mid-level QB1.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Brees misses more time due to injury or just completely falls off a cliff as his passes lack the necessary zip. The Saints rely on Kamara and the defense more than ever, and Brees has a high-end QB2 season.

RUNNING BACK

ALVIN KAMARA

ADP: 4.4, RB4

Let's just go ahead and say it - last season was a disappointment for Alvin Kamara from a fantasy perspective. He missed time due to a high-ankle sprain suffered in Week 6 against Jacksonville (along with knee and back issues) and never quite looked like himself afterward - he gained 100 or more yards from scrimmage in only 4 of his final 11 games. According to Kamara himself, he played most of last year 'at about 75%.' He posted career lows in total yards (1,330), touchdowns (6), and PPR PPG (19.5).

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	528
COMP	386
YARDS	4,112
TD	32
INT	11

Even though Kamara finished with his least productive season from a scoring standpoint, he still ended up as a low-end RB1. He was still able to post a respectable 4.7 YPC (ahead of backs like Saquon Barkley and Aaron Jones) and finished with 81 receptions for the 3rd straight year. Going into this season at 100% healthy, Kamara is a strong bounce-back candidate with RB1 overall upside.

One knock against Kamara's upside is the fact that he will never be a true 'bell cow' running back, and that is true. Sean Payton schemes New Orleans' offense to exploit mismatches, and while Kamara himself is nearly always a mismatch, there are plenty of talented playmakers alongside him who will command touches. Kamara's bread-and-butter has always been his insane efficiency and explosiveness - both of which were hampered by his injuries last year. It stands to reason that Kamara should see positive regression in the touchdown column, both rushing and receiving, which would return him to the fantasy dominance that we are used to.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Kamara finishes with a McCaffrey-esque 1,000+ rushing and receiving yards and nearly 20 touchdowns as he contends for RB1 overall status.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Kamara gets bitten by the injury bug, yet again, and slips into low-end RB1/high-end RB2 territory.

LATAVIUS MURRAY

ADP: 101.9, RB43

In his first season in New Orleans, Latavius Murray showed flashes at times but was ultimately too inconsistent to cement himself as a fixture in most fantasy lineups. In the two games that Kamara missed due to injury (Weeks 7 and 8 vs. Chicago and Arizona respectively), Murray stepped up in a big way - finishing with 32 points against Chicago and 37.7 against Arizona (in PPR formats). In the rest of his 14 regular-season appearances, he failed to break 12.7 PPR points in any of them. Murray averaged 31 touches in the 2 games that Kamara was out last season, and he only averaged 8.4 touches in the 14 games that Kamara also played.

This tells us that we shouldn't expect this backfield to resemble the 1A + 1B punch we saw from Kamara and Mark Ingram in seasons past (I'm looking at you, 2017). This is a true 1-2 backfield dynamic where we can expect Kamara to receive the bulk of the work and Murray to spell Kamara with more of a complementary role. If Kamara were to miss any time in 2020, Murray should be considered a higher-end handcuff - but Murray's standalone value tends to hover around the RB3/flex tier. It's worth noting that Murray earned similar red-zone usage to Kamara in 2019, so Murray may be a threat to poach a touchdown or two away from Kamara in 2020. That being said, there's no reason to believe that Murray will carve out much more of a role for himself in this Saints' offense than we saw last season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Murray receives more work due to more Kamara injuries and finishes as a solid RB2. As Brees slows down, more and more work goes to the running game, and Murray takes advantage.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Murray receives fewer than 10 touches a game and offers little fantasy consideration beyond his handcuff value. He's a wasted roster spot as fantasy managers await an injury that never comes.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	202
YARDS	897
TD	9

RECEIVING

TARGETS	102
REC	83
YARDS	642
TD	7

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	122
YARDS	552
TD	4

RECEIVING

TARGETS	33
REC	23
YARDS	118
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVER

MICHAEL THOMAS

ADP: 6.3, WR1

I have to be honest, it's difficult to find new, exciting ways to express just how dominant Michael Thomas has been throughout his 4-year career - but here's my attempt to do just that. For starters, Thomas had more receptions (149) last season than any player has ever had in any season in NFL history. Yes, that is actually correct. No player in NFL history has had more catches in a season than Thomas did last year. And even with a record-breaking number of catches and an obscene number of targets (186!), Thomas still led the league in True Catch Rate at 94.9% per FantasyData. In layman's terms, this means that Thomas caught 95% of the catchable passes thrown his way - which is just outrageously efficient.

When off-the-charts volume meets off-the-charts efficiency, what do you get? A clear-cut WR1 ADP over all formats, that's what! Now, I'll be the first to say, it would be almost silly to expect Thomas to match last year's productivity or efficiency. Adding Sanders to the mix will almost certainly cut into Thomas' usage - not to mention a 100% healthy Kamara and the rest of New Orleans' playmakers.

One thing is for certain, however - the chemistry between Thomas and Brees has become a force in this league that is nearly impossible to defend. Getting back to Thomas' insane efficiency and production last season - he accomplished these things while averaging only 3.6 yards of cushion per target (tied for 70th) and only 1.36 yards of separation per target (good for 53rd). So while it's fair to say that Thomas was not even close to the best wide receiver at getting separation, it's also clearly fair to say that he was the best at catching the ball regardless.

Thomas is just entering his physical prime at age 27, and while it isn't plausible to expect him to break the receptions record in back-to-back years, it's more than fair to expect him to return value on his ADP and finish near (if not at) the top of the WR rankings at the end of the year. Thomas is possibly the safest pick in 2020 fantasy drafts.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Thomas finishes as the WR1 overall while surpassing 2,000 receiving yards. He finds the end zone more often and finally achieves double-digit TD receptions.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Thomas somehow only catches 100 or so balls and barely breaks 1,000 yards and finishes as a mid to low-end WR1. His relative lack of big play ability hurts him without the insane volume of 2019.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	148
REC	129
YARDS	1,528
TD	11

EMMANUEL SANDERS

ADP: 99.5, WR39

After a respectable output last year as a member of both the Denver Broncos and the San Francisco 49ers, Emmanuel Sanders finds himself in New Orleans - where he's sure to benefit from joining up with one of the most accurate quarterbacks to ever play the game in Brees. Sanders will likely steal some targets from Thomas, as well as inherit the vacated targets from the departed Ted Ginn Jr. It will be interesting to see how (and where) Sean Payton chooses to use Sanders.

There have only been a few seasons where Sanders has lined up primarily at the slot - his first two seasons in the league in Pittsburgh, and his injury-shortened 2018 campaign in Denver. Payton's idea to cultivate Saints' 3rd-year receiver Tre'Quan Smith as their primary slot receiver has been less than fruitful so far. Might Payton elect to try Sanders in the slot to start the season? Will Smith be able to step up and start in the slot to leave Thomas and Sanders with the majority of the outside snaps? It is a situation that will be worth monitoring as we start to hear chatter from training camp.

Wherever Sanders lines up, it's safe to assume that he will be able to produce numbers on par with his past few seasons. He'll have the best quarterback throwing to him since Peyton Manning in 2014, a season Sanders finished with a 101/1404/9 stat line. It would be hard to imagine Sanders being so heavily utilized in this Saints' offense, but somewhere in the neighborhood of 80 targets doesn't seem unreasonable for him.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Sanders finishes as a high to mid-range WR2 as he develops chemistry with Brees almost immediately. A secondary receiving option that was sorely lacking, Sanders blows past 80 targets and puts his injury troubles behind him.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Sanders misses time due to injury and his season ends early. I hate to even mention player injuries at all, but as long as Sanders is healthy, I don't see him having a finishing any lower than a WR3/WR4. He should be able to produce in this system as long as he's on the field.

TRE'QUAN SMITH

ADP: 215, WR95

This could likely be a make-or-break season in New Orleans for 2018 3rd round pick Tre'Quan Smith. He's missed time due to injury in both of his first two seasons and hasn't been able to carve out a role for himself in this offense quite yet. When you have Michael Thomas as an option to throw to, why would you want to throw to anyone else?

Oftentimes a WR will take a few seasons to adjust to the NFL game, and that is perhaps the case with Smith. Smith has amassed only 46 receptions on 69 targets through his two seasons, and he should be afforded more work with the departure of Ted Ginn, Jr. The addition of Emmanuel Sanders won't negatively affect Smith much, so long as he's able to secure the starting slot role. It will also be worth keeping an eye on whether or not Smith has put his ankle injuries behind him fully and can start the season at 100%

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Smith stays healthy, plays the majority of snaps from the slot and progresses, finishing as a WR4/WR5.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Smith performs much like he has the last couple of seasons, making him irrelevant in redraft leagues.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	87
REC	62
YARDS	758
TD	6

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	11
YARDS	88
TD	1

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	48
REC	26
YARDS	218
TD	3

TIGHT END

JARED COOK

ADP: 110.1, TE11

It was a tale of two seasons for Jared Cook in his first year in New Orleans. It seemed as though the injury to Brees was as damaging to Cook's fantasy prospects as anyone else's. Cook failed to find much chemistry with then Saints' backup QB Teddy Bridgewater, but once Brees returned from his injury (and Cook from his own), Cook went on to catch 7 TDs from Brees in the Saints' final 7 games. Cook should only develop more chemistry with Brees throughout the offseason - and while Cook may improve on his 43 catches and 705 yards from last season, it's tough to imagine him finishing with 9 or more TDs again this year.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Cook stays healthy and develops more of a rapport with Brees, finishing as a mid-tier TE1. His touchdowns from 2019 are no fluke, and Brees looks his way a few more times in their second year together.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Cook misses time or cedes work to rookie TE Adam Trautman. Cook regresses on his high touchdown total and gets surpassed by Sanders in the pecking order, finishing as no more than a TE2.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	65
REC	43
YARDS	672
TD	6

TEAM PREVIEWS NEW YORK GIANTS



SAQUON BARKLEY



By Eli Grabanski

The New York Giants have been in clear rebuilding mode over the last three years going 12-36 in that stretch. After the last two seasons of failure, the Giants made the decision to fire Pat Shurmur and his staff and hire Joe Judge to be the newest coach of the team. Despite their poor record in the Shurmur tenure, the Giants have had a few bright spots in that time, the biggest one being star running back Saquon Barkley. Barkley has reeled off two consecutive 1,000 yard rushing seasons and has established himself as one of the best players in fantasy leagues. Rookies Daniel Jones and Darius Slayton also had promising starts to their careers in their rookie years in 2019, and will be key pieces in the Giants rebuild.

The Giants are not positioned to win a Super Bowl this year, but their goal is to see more development from their young stars and hover around a .500 record. Jones will be the starting QB right from the get-go of the season with the retirement of Eli Manning. Slayton, Golden Tate, and Sterling Shepard will be the three starting receivers for the Giants offense. Barkley will be their bell-cow back with some Dion Lewis and Wayne Gallman sprinkled in when Barkley needs a break. Evan Engram is the starting tight end and will have an opportunity to bounce back after a 2019 season where he was a major fantasy bust. There are some good pieces here, and plenty of hope that new offensive coordinator Jason Garrett can keep the offense trending upward.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	4
2020 Projected Wins	6.5
Total Plays	1,085
Total Plays Rank	21
Pass %	64%
Pass % Rank	3
Rush %	36%
Rush % Rank	29
Plays/Gm	68
Plays/Gm Rank	21
Points Per Game	21
PPG Rank	18

QUARTERBACK

DANIEL JONES

ADP: 125, QB15

Daniel Jones was a bit of a mixed bag in 2019. In just 12 starts (13 games) he threw for 3027 yards, rushed 45 times for 279 rushing yards (6.2 YPC), and scored 26 touchdowns (24 passing). However, Jones has some major issues with turnovers. Last season Jones fumbled 18 times (11 lost) which led the NFL. Jones also threw 12 interceptions, which doesn't seem too bad for a rookie. But 6.32% of his pass attempts last year were categorized as interceptable while he only threw interceptions on 2.61% of his pass attempts. He'll need to improve his decision making to reach his ceiling in 2020.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Jones cleans up the turnovers and with his rushing production turns into a better version of Bills QB Josh Allen in 2020. He nearly takes the New York Giants to the playoffs.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Opposing teams capitalize on Jones's risky decision-making and with Jameis Winston as a backup on the New Orleans Saints now, leads the league in turnovers as the Giants stumble to another losing record.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	585
COMP	350
YARDS	3,750
TD	23
INT	18
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	55
YARDS	350
TD	3

RUNNING BACK

SAQUON BARKLEY

ADP: 2.3, RB2

Saquon Barkley has been a generational talent in his first two years in the league with 215+ carries, 1000+ yards rushing, 70+ targets, 50+ receptions, and 400+ receiving yards in each of his first two seasons of his career. While his sophomore year wasn't quite as good as his rookie year, he managed some great numbers despite missing 3 games and dealing with a severe ankle injury. This season, he will once again be the bell-cow for the Giants and should have an improved line with the Giants' decision to draft Andrew Thomas fourth overall.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Saquon has a season for the ages running behind an improved offensive line, breaking the 2000 yard rushing barrier and helping the Giants squeak into the last wild card slot.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The line is banged up and Saquon suffers another injury that nags him all season long, and only ends up with 1300 yards from scrimmage.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	280
YARDS	1,500
TD	10
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	75
REC	55
YARDS	400
TD	3

DION LEWIS

ADP: 233, RB80

Dion Lewis has had an up and down career. He first broke out in 2015 for the New England Patriots where he took 85 touches for 622 yards before suffering an injury after just seven games. Since then he's had another injury-plagued season in 2016, a strong 2017 season where he had over 1100 yards from scrimmage and scored 9 touchdowns, and then two less than stellar years for the Titans in 2018 and 2019. Now a Giant, he'll be the primary change-of-pace back for when Barkley needs a breather.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Lewis is a serviceable change-of-pace back and even steps in for Barkley for a few games, keeping the run game honest and showing flashes of his ability from his days with the New England Patriots.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Lewis plays in a few games early but fails to crack 4.0 YPC, while Gallman plays much better and takes the #2 role.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	35
YARDS	110
TD	0

RECEIVING

TARGETS	30
REC	23
YARDS	140
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVER

STERLING SHEPARD

ADP: 131.2, WR50

Sterling Shepard has been around for a while and he's been consistently solid with 80+ targets, 55+ receptions, and 575+ receiving yards in each of his first four years. A versatile receiver who can be moved around anywhere playing 40.1% of his 92.5% of snaps in the slot in 2019, he has always had the potential to be a 1,000-yard receiver. But last year he struggled with concussions and watched 5th round draft pick Slayton emerge, creating more competition than we would have expected heading into the 2019 season. In 2020, he'll have to prove that he can stay on the field in order to reach his ceiling, while battling with Barkley, Tate, Slayton, and Engram for targets.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Shepard cements himself as Jones's most trustworthy weapon, receiving the most targets and being moved across the formation in a variety of ways. He settles in as a dependable PPR receiver and puts his injury issues behind him.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Shepard's concussion issues flare-up again this season, allowing him to appear in less than 10 games while he is surpassed by healthy options around him.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	110
REC	70
YARDS	850
TD	4

DARIUS SLAYTON

ADP: 102.4, WR41

Darius Slayton enjoyed a strong rookie campaign where he caught 48 passes for 740 receiving yards (5th among WR's in the 2019 draft class) and scored 8 touchdowns (2nd among WR's in the 2019 draft class). The 6'1" receiver is best as the Giants outside receiver, playing only 4.5% of his snaps in the slot (79.4% snap share in general), and will have a real opportunity to emerge as one of the best young receivers in the league in 2020. With Tate and Shepard best utilized in the slot, Slayton has a specific role to fill on the Giants that should keep him on the field often.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Slayton builds off his 2019 campaign and goes for over 1000 receiving yards, establishing himself as Daniel Jones' go-to guy. His big-play ability continues, and he maintains his touchdown scoring ability from his rookie year.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Slayton's production in 2019 was primarily due to time missed by the rest of the receiving corps, and he is the fifth most targeted player on the roster behind Tate, Shepard, Engram, and Barkley. His rookie year looks more like a flash in the pan than a sign of things to come.

GOLDEN TATE

ADP: 154.5, WR58

The primary slot receiver for the Giants is Golden Tate, who played 73.6% of his 90.2% snap share in the slot last season. Tate has been one of the most underrated receivers in the NFL throughout his career, with a four-year stretch from 2014-2017 where he had 90+ receptions and averaged over 1000 receiving yards per season during this time. The last two seasons haven't been quite as good for Tate as he's been on three different teams in that timeframe (Detroit Lions, Philadelphia Eagles, and the New York Giants), but the good news is that this offseason he'll be working with the same quarterback as last season with Jones. While Tate doesn't project as a big-play receiver or a touchdown scorer, he can provide a safe weekly floor late in fantasy drafts for owners that took high-risk wide-outs early in drafts.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Tate is Jones's safety valve in the slot, Shepard struggles with injuries, and the Giants are pass-heavy while playing from behind often in a losing season. Tate catches 90+ passes for over 1000 receiving yards.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Tate's age catches up to him. His play falls off a cliff and he is unable to be a reliable receiving threat for Jones, with a healthy Shepard looking like the superior option. Jones's play falls off, and Tate is off fantasy radars in 2021.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	110
REC	60
YARDS	810
TD	7

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	110
REC	65
YARDS	750
TD	3

TIGHT END

EVAN ENGRAM

ADP: 76.9, TE7

Evan Engram was pegged as the next breakout tight-end last season, but his 2019 season didn't go as planned as he struggled with injury and only appeared in 8 games. The potential has always been there for Engram to be great with 153 career receptions in just 34 games (4.5 receptions per game). Now set to be 26 years old in September, the 6'3" Engram has the physical talent to be the Giants' most dangerous receiving threat, but he'll need to stay healthy and build upon the connection he developed with Jones last season. A true boom/bust option, Engram could finish as a top-three tight end but just as easily suffer through another injury-shortened season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Engram plays well enough to insert himself into the same conversation as Travis Kelce, George Kittle, and Zach Ertz for fantasy purposes, breaking the 1,000 yard receiving mark and playing in all 16 games for the first time in his career.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

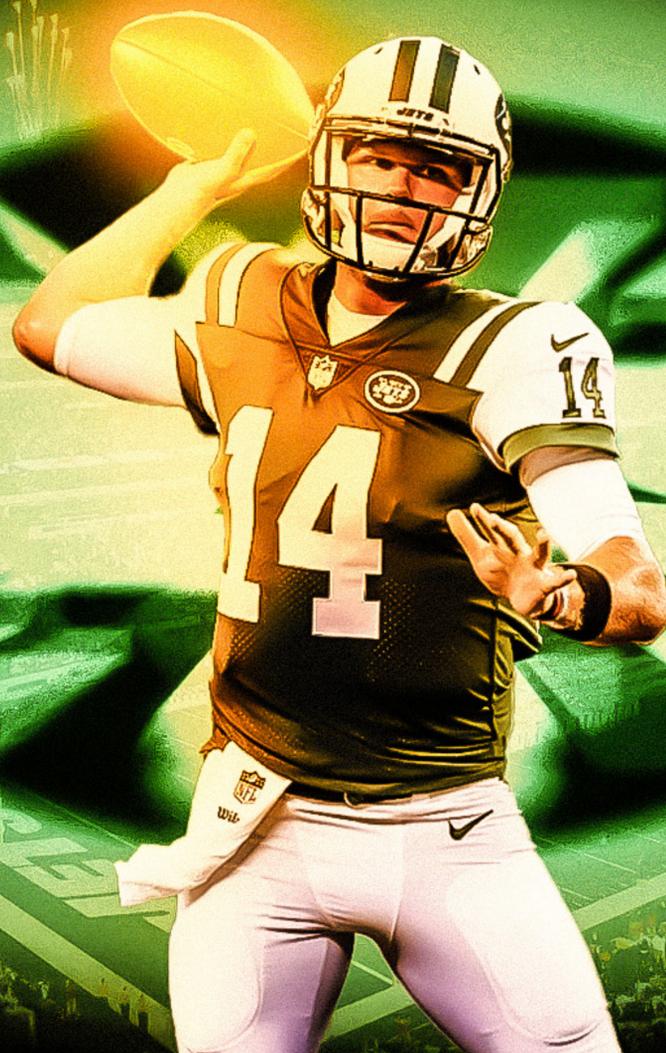
Engram struggles with injuries once again and turns into the next Jordan Reed, a player with all the talent in the world that just can't stay healthy. The Giants miss the playoffs and acquire a more reliable tight-end for the 2021 season.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	105
REC	60
YARDS	625
TD	4

TEAM PREVIEWS NEW YORK JETS



SAM DARNOLD



By Matthew Cava

The 2019 New York Jets were set up anew heading into Week 1; new uniforms, a new head coach, a new defensive coordinator, and even a new general manager. The house was cleaned but dirt quickly resurfaced as the season progressed. From a case of mono that sidelined Sam Darnold for multiple games to the major misuse of Le'Veon Bell, the offense certainly underwhelmed.

You can link the lackluster production to poor offensive line play, or throw the blame directly on Adam Gase, who to this day remains a head-scratching hire. The 'offensive guru' (and I use that term very loosely) saw his offense rank 31st overall & 32nd in total yards. Entering the 2020 season - coronavirus matters aside - Gase and the offense must turn the stigma upside down currently hovering over the team; especially with the AFC East up for grabs. GM Joe Douglas invested heavily in the offensive line both in free agency and the draft. Connor McGovern, Greg Van Roten, George Fant, and Josh Andrews were all signed, and Mekhi Becton was drafted out of Louisville with the 11th overall pick. Revamping the protection in front of Darnold and Bell should allow them both to improve on last seasons' numbers.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	7
2020 Projected Wins	6.5
Total Plays	1,038
Total Plays Rank	28
Pass %	60%
Pass % Rank	12
Rush %	40%
Rush % Rank	15
Plays/Gm	65
Plays/Gm Rank	28
Points Per Game	17
PPG Rank	31

QUARTERBACK

SAM DARNOLD

ADP: 216, QB29

Sam Darnold is entering year three of his NFL career which is notoriously known as a big year for quarterbacks. He has a retooled offensive line he'll have to mesh with despite the current restrictions due to COVID-19 and some new wide receivers to build a rapport with. What's also a caveat for Darnold is, quite frankly, having to excel with Gase's play calling. Offensive coordinator/QB coach (by title only) Dowell Loggains is essentially useless to Darnold's growth. I truly don't believe talent is ever an issue here; it's about his surroundings and his health. Darnold hasn't played a full season to date; he's started 13 games in each of his first two years. Last year though, he did improve in every statistical category; albeit slightly. Kick my bias into overdrive, but I'm willing to bet Darnold can return solid fantasy value more so as a streaming option or even a weekly play in two-QB leagues. But you don't need to draft him as a QB1 in redraft leagues.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Darnold takes the year-three leap and continues to improve in every major category, doing enough to give the Jets a wildcard berth and propelling them back into the playoffs for the first time since the 2010-11 season. He finally plays all 16 games and brings down his interception total into the single digits. Your fantasy ROI makes you happy you drafted him at season's end.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Year three of his NFL career and year two in Gase's system does not bode well for Darnold. Once again he struggles to overcome questionable play-calling and the lack of guidance in the QB room; Joe Flacco is more of a help for him than Loggains. Darnold could potentially not only see another head coach brought in for 2021 - his third in four years - but he could even see his job security questioned with another year lacking positive development.

2020 Projection: 310 completions, 515 attempts, 3,535 yards passing, 25 passing touchdowns, 12 interceptions; 165 yards rushing, 3 rushing touchdowns

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	310
COMP	515
YARDS	3,535
TD	25
INT	12

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	41
YARDS	165
TD	3

RUNNING BACK

LE'VEON BELL

ADP: 31.3, RB19

2019 was extremely frustrating for Le'Veon Bell, both in real life and in fantasy. In his return season after sitting out all of 2018, Bell signed with the Jets in the offseason and was ready to prove his worth. On 245 rushes he had only 789 yards and three touchdowns. Through the air he was targeted just 78 times, catching 66 passes for 655 yards and one score; which came in Week 1. Bell's success in the past has come from a strong offensive line in front of him, which the Jets did not have last year. He was greatly misused, more so in the pass-game where he would have benefited better given the offensive line woes. Bell was also subject to rumors of having a strong in-house disconnect with Gase, but he always debunked that narrative.

Bell is out to prove the naysayers wrong and put the league on notice that he's still one of the NFL's best running backs. With a new line in front of him, just how much can he return to form? Bell may not have the upside that he once had in Pittsburgh, but if he stays in the good graces of Gase he may be able to provide fantasy managers with a low cost, high-volume running back option.

Note: I wouldn't rush to draft Frank Gore, but I can certainly see a scenario where he is given significant touches to the point of being on fantasy rosters later in the season. Think vulture status if you were ever in a bind in a streamer scenario.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

The Bell of old re-emerges in New York, as he posts over 1,000 yards on the ground and amasses 100 catches for the first time in his career. From a fantasy standpoint, he shines as an RB1 on RB2 draft value, and he even chips in a few more touchdowns than last year.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Frank Gore and Lamical Perine eat into Bell's touches because this is just what Gase does. Ironically, we saw it in Miami with Gore & Kenyan Drake most recently in 2018. Tempers flare, Bell becomes frustrated, and he is the subject (yet again) of trade rumors at the deadline.

WIDE RECEIVER

JAMISON CROWDER

ADP: 116.3, WR45

Jamison Crowder enters 2020 as a reliable weapon yet again for Darnold, and fantasy managers will certainly benefit from this. Last year Crowder blew away the rest of the offense by leading the team with 122 targets, and also led the team with 78 receptions and six touchdowns. 833 yards later from the slot, there's no reason why Crowder can't replicate this production again should Darnold opt to (or have to for that matter), get the ball out of his hands quickly. Crowder may not be a high upside option for fantasy football in 2020, but he is a safe bet to prove you with some cheap volume as long as there isn't a major overhaul at the

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	250
YARDS	1,050
TD	6
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	80
REC	62
YARDS	468
TD	3

receiver position.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Crowder has a similar season to his 2019 campaign, or even eclipses his totals. The fantasy value he posts in PPR leagues is a major gift given his ADP. Familiarity plays a big part considering he’s a returning target for Darnold.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Crowder sees his target share dip immensely with new receivers in the fold, not to mention the potential for Bell and tight end Chris Herndon getting in his way in the middle of the field where Crowder excels from the slot. He’s no more than a bye week fill-in.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	128
REC	80
YARDS	855
TD	6

BRESHAD PERRIMAN

ADP: 159.1, WR59

Breshad Perriman is now on his fourth team in four seasons. Albeit a small sample-size breakout, Perriman shined with the Bucs towards the end of the year in 2020. In the final four games, Perriman amassed 20 receptions for 419 yards and five touchdowns as Tampa Bay dealt with injuries at the receiver position. Signing a 1-year deal with the Jets, Perriman has been brought in to replace Robby Anderson, who left in free agency to Carolina. The potential to succeed is there - especially on a prove-it 1-year contract - though time will tell how quickly Darnold and he can build chemistry. In a normal offseason, the hype might be bigger for Perriman, who has the profile to replace Anderson and is a cheap option in fantasy drafts. With this year’s limited practice schedule, however, it may be tough for Perriman to make an impact early on in the season.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	88
REC	54
YARDS	832
TD	5

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Perriman picks up where he left off in 2019 and makes Jets fans ask “Robby who?” Darnold and Perriman quickly find a rapport out the gate and Perriman produces well enough to earn an extension midway through the season. After a slow start to his career, Perriman looks like an NFL starter going forward.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The same inconsistency we’ve seen from Perriman for four years now plays out again as he doesn’t ever get into a true rhythm with Darnold. Not to mention he’s in an Adam Gase offense where we may not see many plays per game opportunities for wide receivers; especially someone like Perriman who’s the outside threat. Perriman disappoints in a similar way as Anderson did during his career in New York.

DENZEL MIMS

ADP: 192, WR81

Round 2 rookie Denzel Mims fell into the Jets’ laps as they ended up trading down and still snagged him as the 59th overall pick. The former Baylor star is just the receiver Darnold and the Jets desperately have lacked in recent years. At 6’3”, 215 lbs, Mims has long-term upside in the offense, and his rookie year should see plenty of red zone opportunities to which he may win the contested catches. Mims’ 2020 appeal is hurt by the usual suspects; the disjointed offseason and the presence of Gase. In redraft leagues, it may take some time for Mims to produce, but his talent makes it worth adding him to your watchlist after the draft. If he

finds himself on the field early and often, Mims may be talented enough to force targets his way. An early hamstring injury in camp certainly won't help Mims in his bid to have a meaningful role Week 1.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Mims is able to build a rapport with Darnold early on and leads all rookie wide receivers in targets. His red zone presence pays huge dividends in an offense where each receiver plays a unique role. By year's end, Mims is the number one receiver in this offense, as Crowder and Perriman take on complementary roles.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The lack of preseason, not to mention a traditional training camp, prevents Mims from ever getting into a rhythm. Some draft evaluators felt like he was a work in progress, and it shows as he struggles to gain separation on the jump balls he dominated in college. The return of Herndon prevents Mims from being a factor in the red zone, and we wait for 2021 to see how Mims looks in a normal offseason.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	72
REC	44
YARDS	545
TD	4

TIGHT END

CHRIS HERNDON

ADP: 286, TE23

2019 was a lost season for Chris Herndon, which was disappointing considering it was supposed to be a breakout year. Derailed by a suspension and lingering injury, Herndon ended up having just one catch. Herndon flashed in his 2018 rookie year, catching 39 passes for 502 yards and four touchdowns, giving us hope for more from the former fourth-round pick. 2020 should be a much better season for the 24-year old tight end if he can stay on the field, and Herndon provides legitimate upside in the late rounds of fantasy drafts. At his current ADP, he's a no-brainer option at the notoriously thin tight end position.

Note: I wouldn't consider Griffin to be draft-eligible by any means with an ADP of 446, making him the TE54, but it won't be surprising to see him steal targets from Herndon, especially if health is an issue for Herndon again.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Herndon picks up where he left off in 2018 and shines as a tight end who not only moves the chains but scores at will. He starts all 16 games as well and remains a safety blanket for Darnold just as he was their rookie year in 2018. Drafters get a weekly starter at the cost of a backup.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Fellow TE Ryan Griffin is the one to pick up where he left off in 2019, where he was the security blanket for Darnold with Herndon out. Griffin steals targets that *should* go to Herndon, and fantasy owners will be frustrated hanging onto Herndon week after week waiting for his breakout.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	71
REC	43
YARDS	530
TD	4

TEAM PREVIEWS PHILADELPHIA EAGLES



MILES SANDERS



By Dan Adams

The 2019 version of the Philadelphia Eagles offense looked to have everything they needed to succeed after offseason moves that brought in Jordan Howard, Miles Sanders, and DeSean Jackson. Sanders and Howard were supposed to form a potent combination out of the backfield to fix what had been a terrible running game the year before, and Jackson returned to Philadelphia to give quarterback Carson Wentz the true deep threat he'd been lacking. With one of the best offensive lines in the league, two great receiving tight ends in Zach Ertz and Dallas Goedert, and a traditional number-one receiver in Alshon Jeffery the Eagles were poised to be one of the better offenses in the league. Unfortunately, injuries derailed their season as Jackson, Jeffery, and Howard all missed significant time and Wentz was forced to work with the weakest receiver group in the league. They lacked explosiveness and relied on running the most plays in the league just to maintain a league-average offense, with Wentz managing to throw for over 4,000 yards despite none of his receivers reaching 500 yards.

The Eagles tried to address their lack of receiving depth in the offseason by trading for Marquise Goodwin, and spending three draft picks on the position, including using their first-round pick on Jalen Reagor out of TCU. Goodwin has already opted out of the 2020 season, while Jeffery is still recovering from surgery and may miss the early part of the season, but otherwise, this receiving group is healthy and much deeper than it was last season. A suddenly crowded receiver room could be a mess for fantasy, but could also lead to one or two names separating from the pack and producing valuable fantasy seasons. All-Pro offensive guard Brandon Brooks will be missing from what was an elite offensive line due to season-ending injury, but former All-Pro Jason Peters will move over from left tackle to guard and 2019 first-round pick Andre Dillard will move to tackle so Philadelphia is still a team expected to have a strong offense and contend for a playoff spot.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	9
2020 Projected Wins	9.5
Total Plays	1,186
Total Plays Rank	2
Pass %	59%
Pass % Rank	19
Rush %	41%
Rush % Rank	13
Plays/Gm	74
Plays/Gm Rank	2
Points Per Game	24
PPG Rank	12

QUARTERBACK

CARSON WENTZ

ADP: 106, QB12

Carson Wentz is coming off a third straight year where his season was ended by injury, this time a concussion suffered in the first round off the playoffs. They've all been different injuries, so it doesn't seem Wentz is injury prone so much as his tendency to hold the ball and extend plays leads to him taking a lot of hits. Some will also point to the Eagles spending a second-round pick on quarterback dual-threat Jalen Hurts out of Oklahoma as an indicator that the team is concerned about Wentz's health, but that seems more like a case of the team valuing depth at their most important position, especially in an offseason as uncertain as this one. A healthy Wentz with a reloaded receiving group should be a safe low-end QB1 for fantasy purposes. In theory, his upside would be a return to his 2017 form when he was a leading MVP candidate, but his fantasy production that season was inflated by an unsustainably-high 7.5% touchdown rate. Assuming he throws touchdowns at a rate more in line his career average of 4.7% Wentz probably has a lower ceiling than other quarterbacks being drafted around him, as he adds very little with his legs and hasn't given us any reason to expect him to take a large step forward heading into year five. He's a fine option if he falls in drafts but isn't someone I would prioritize.

2020 PROJ.	
PASSING	
PASS ATT	600
COMP	390
YARDS	4,200
TD	27
INT	11
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	56
YARDS	224
TD	1

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Wentz and his receivers stay healthy, the Eagles maintain a high-volume approach to their offense while also increasing their efficiency, and he returns to his MVP-caliber form to make Philadelphia one of the strongest teams in the NFC.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The players around him, or Wentz himself, struggle to stay healthy and the new receivers fail to develop chemistry with him after a very limited offseason. The Eagles struggle and the coaching staff finds itself on the hot seat entering next season.

RUNNING BACK

MILES SANDERS

ADP: 11.4, RB10

Miles Sanders spent most of his rookie season battling Darren Sproles and Jordan Howard for snaps, but after both of the veterans went down with injuries Sanders was able to break out to end the season. From Week 12 on, Sanders saw at least 19 touches in every game, aside from the last game of the season where he touched the ball 12 times before getting knocked out of the game with an injury in the second quarter. A good athlete with the prototypical size and receiving skills to be a true workhorse running back, there's a lot to like about Sanders heading into his second season.

The upside for Sanders is becoming the go-to option for a strong offense that has a strong offensive line, even after losing Brandon Brooks, but the downside isn't being priced into his ADP right now. Eagles coach Doug Pederson is known

for favoring a committee approach with his running backs, and where Sanders is being drafted if he falls closer to the 12-15 touch range of just one option in a crowded backfield rather than the 18-20 touch range of an established lead guy he's likely a bust. It's possible that Sanders, who seems to be the most talented running back Pederson has worked with during his tenure with the Eagles, has the requisite talent and complete skill set to force his way onto the field.

His primary competition right now is Boston Scott, a former sixth-round pick who profiles as more of a change-of-pace back than a threat to take over an early-down role. Sanders should be able to handle the majority of the early-down snaps and snaps around the goal line, and he's probably too talented as a pass catcher to completely cede that role to Scott. As Philadelphia's best offensive weapon, Sanders is one of the few running backs with a clear path to being the overall fantasy RB1 by the end of the season as long as he gets the work.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Sanders is handed as many touches as he can handle and emerges as one of the best all-around running backs in the league. He finishes near the top of the league in yards from scrimmage, scores double-digit touchdowns on the ground, and becomes the engine that powers the Eagles offense.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Pederson falls back on his history of turning his backfield into a committee and Sanders loses passing-down and red zone work either to Scott or a running back not currently on the team. Sanders has a few nice games but ultimately struggles to find any consistent upside and proves to be one of the biggest fantasy busts of the early rounds.

BOSTON SCOTT

ADP: 123.6, RB51

As much upside as Sanders has this season Boston Scott may turn this backfield into a true timeshare situation, which makes Scott an excellent value where he's being drafted. From Week 13 on, which coincides with Sanders' breakout stretch, Scott saw at least six targets in every game. Both running backs probably benefited from the complete lack of depth at wide receiver for the Eagles during that stretch but it isn't hard to see Scott sliding right into the pass-catching role Sproles used to occupy. Scott doesn't have the size to be an every-down back, but he has the speed, agility, and receiving skills to carve out a nice role in this offense.

Scott can return value even if Sanders has a break-out season, but if Scott can earn any red-zone work he could turn into an absolute steal at his current draft price. When Sanders went down with an injury in Week 17 last year, Scott stepped in and scored three touchdowns. So while the Eagles would probably add another running back if Sanders were to miss any extended time, Scott also probably holds value as a handcuff to Sanders. A backup running back who gets passing work and plays on a good offense is exactly the type of player to invest in late in a fantasy draft, which makes Scott one of my preferred late-round targets.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Scott plays the majority of clear passing downs and steals away some red-zone work from Sanders, turning this into more of a 1A and 1B situation, while using his speed and quickness to be very efficient with his touches and emerges as a

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	248
YARDS	1,104
TD	9
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	76
REC	61
YARDS	547
TD	4

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	72
YARDS	299
TD	2
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	48
REC	41
YARDS	326
TD	1

quality RB2 in PPR leagues.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Scott plays more like a former sixth-round pick and shows that his stretch to end the season in 2019 was just a flash in the pan. Someone else emerges as the primary backup to Sanders, and Scott is relegated to only kick and punt return duties.

WIDE RECEIVER

ALSHON JEFFERY

ADP: 165, WR65

Alshon Jeffery is currently recovering from surgery, and the last update provided on him offered no timetable for his return to the football field. He suffered a Lisfranc injury last season, which is an injury that can have lingering effects even after a player has returned to action. Given Jeffery's injury history, this makes him a significant risk to never get to full speed this season.

If Jeffery can return to form this season he should be well-positioned to succeed. The Eagles added several receivers this offseason, but all of them are better suited to function as deep threats rather than as the possession receiver role that Jeffery would occupy. One of the better contested-catch receivers when healthy, Jeffery would figure to rack up red-zone targets and would have more room to operate in the intermediate parts of the field with all of the speed guys able to take the top off the defense. At his current price, Jeffery is too much of an injury risk to justify taking unless there is unexpected good news about his recovery. He doesn't seem like the type of player worth stashing on the bench if he is set to miss games to open the season, and he could miss up to six games if he starts the season on the PUP list. Jeffery is more likely to have an impact on the rest of the offense rather than having any consistent fantasy value himself in 2020.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Jeffery is fully healthy, plays a full season, and reasserts himself as the number one receiver in this offense. His chemistry with Wentz and a more complete offense around him leads to a 1,000-yard season and close to double-digit touchdowns.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Aside from the possibility that Jeffery loses the whole season to injury, the worst case is that he shows lasting effects from his surgery and continues his career-long battle with soft tissue injuries. In and out of the lineup, Jeffery is almost a complete non-factor for the season and becomes impossible to start because he's always a game-time decision.

DESEAN JACKSON

ADP: 130.5, WR50

DeSean Jackson was great in his first game back with the Eagles last season, torching Washington for 8 receptions, 154 yards, and two deep touchdowns in Week 1. Unfortunately, he would leave Week 2 with an injury very early in the game and not return until Week 9, in which he recorded one catch for five yards before reinjuring himself and missing the rest of the season. A 33-year old speed

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	60
REC	33
YARDS	355
TD	3

receiver, it seems likely that Jackson will struggle with injuries for the remainder of his career.

When healthy he's still one of the premier deep threats in the NFL and a perfect fit for both Philadelphia's offense and quarterback Carson Wentz's strengths. Jackson can blow past defenders, which allows Wentz to showcase his arm strength, but that speed also causes defenses to give Jackson a huge cushion that opens up easy completions underneath. Losing Jackson last season was a major blow to the Eagle's offense and was probably the catalyst to the team adding several similarly fast receivers in the offseason. None of them are as talented as Jackson though, and for the games that he is healthy, he should be very productive. At his current ADP, Jackson is a cheap receiver that you can comfortably start every week he's healthy, just be aware that you got a discount on his production level simply because he's unlikely to hold up for a whole season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Jackson's health holds up and we get a season's worth of games similar to, although not quite as explosive as, his Week 1 performance from last season. His presence is also a huge boost to the efficiency of the rest of the offense due to the attention he demands, and he acts as a rising tide that lifts the fantasy ships of most of his teammates.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Jackson continues to struggle with injury and becomes a weekly threat to leave his game early with various nagging injuries. Those injuries sap some of his elite speed and by the end of the season, Jackson has lost his job to one of the other speedy receivers on the roster.

JALEN REAGOR

ADP: 121.1, WR47

It was one of the worst-kept secrets in the NFL this offseason that the Eagles were looking to draft a receiver early in the NFL Draft. That pick turned out to be Jalen Reagor, an impressive athlete out of TCU that saw his college production suffer due to poor quarterback play. Reagor has a ton of pressure on him from a Philadelphia fan base that has been searching for several seasons for an elite receiver to cheer for, especially given how loaded this draft was with receiving talent. Reagor had a few drops on his college tape, but he has all the tools to live up to his lofty expectations. He's probably faster than the 4.47 40-yard dash time he ran at the combine and his other athletic tests and breakout age paint him as a strong prospect and great fit for this offense.

The Eagles have said Reagor will begin learning the same role Jackson currently plays in the offense, and with how limited this offseason is likely to be I wouldn't expect Reagor to be as involved in the offense as he would be in a normal season. He also seems unlikely to slide into the role that Jeffery would vacate if he misses time with injury. That said, Reagor is too talented to ride the bench and the Eagles should be able to get him involved on screens and running plays to at least put the ball in his hands and let him contribute. I'm hesitant to trust any rookie receivers, especially this year, but the combination of Reagor's talent and the lack of consistently healthy receivers in front of him makes him a solid value late in fantasy drafts.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	56
REC	36
YARDS	601
TD	3

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	64
REC	38
YARDS	480
TD	2

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	10
YARDS	38
TD	0

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Reagor proves to be a quick study of the offense and gets involved early and often. He emerges as the number one receiver and doesn't let the veterans reclaim that role from him en route to having the best season of any rookie receiver this year.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Reagor's drops in college prove to be more than just a product of bad quarterback play and he struggles to find a role in the offense after a tough offseason. He never gets going and spends most of the season as a disappointment, not unlike the next receiver on this list did last season.

J.J. ARCEGA-WHITESIDE

ADP: 298, WR142

J.J. Arcega-Whiteside was drafted in the second round in 2019 and was expected to be the heir-apparent to the possession receiver role that Jeffery filled. After Jeffery and Jackson went down to injury, Arcega-Whiteside was given every opportunity to step in and prove he was worth that draft capital but unfortunately he struggled and managed just 10 receptions as a rookie. A contested-catch specialist in college, he was unable to create separation in the NFL and hadn't gained the trust of Wentz to earn many jump ball opportunities, especially when he did a poor job of fighting for the ball early in the season.

The best case for Arcega-Whiteside's fantasy value for this season is that he is probably next in line to fill Jeffery's spot in the starting lineup should Jeffery miss time, and now that he's in his second year he could take a huge step forward. There's nowhere to go but up for him, and as a former second-round pick the team is invested in him turning into a successful player. He'll get chances to prove he deserves the ball, and if he takes advantage of those chances and gets some touchdown luck to go his way he would be a valuable fantasy asset based on where he's being drafted now.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Arcega-Whiteside takes advantage of Jeffery missing some time and shows why the Eagles spent a high draft pick on him. His contested catch ability finally translates to success in the NFL and he emerges as a physically imposing receiver that demands targets around the goal line. A few deep catches on 50-50 balls and a high conversion rate on those goal-line targets lead to a breakout fantasy season.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

It turns out that relying on contested catches in college is an indicator that Arcega-Whiteside is unable to separate against NFL-level athletes, and he struggles to earn both playing time and Wentz's trust in the offense. Arcega-Whiteside becomes the odd man out among the young receivers on the team and enters the 2021 season on the roster bubble.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	56
REC	31
YARDS	462
TD	3

TIGHT END

ZACH ERTZ

ADP: 51.9, TE4

With a limited offseason for players to develop chemistry, players that already have a connection should be more valuable than ever, and there is no denying that Zach Ertz and Carson Wentz have a strong connection. Ertz has been Wentz's favorite target since the quarterback entered the league and has enjoyed the fantasy success that comes with leading the team in targets. Last year it appeared there would be more competition for targets, but after the injuries to their receivers piled up the Eagles once again relied heavily on Ertz to be a reliable option to pick up first downs in the passing game. Ertz has now recorded five straight seasons of over 100 targets and at least 800 receiving yards, an almost unbelievable level of consistency for a tight end in recent seasons.

The additions the team made at wide receiver should eat into his target share a little bit but not enough to be a cause for concern. The Eagles also figure to lead the league in two-tight end sets again after running that formation the most in the league last year, which should keep Ertz's production steady even as backup tight end Dallas Goedert pushes for more work after an impressive 2019 season. Ertz may lack a clear path to the same upside that other top tight end options have but his weekly floor should be one of the highest at the position in 2020.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Ertz continues to command a high target share while also increasing his efficiency thanks to the running game and speed receivers drawing more defensive attention than they have in recent seasons. He goes over 1,000 receiving yards for the second time in his career and, with a little touchdown luck, finishes as the overall TE1.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Age starts to catch up with Ertz, who turns 30 this season, and Goedert takes a larger role in the offense than anticipated. The targets in this offense get distributed more evenly and without a high volume of targets, Ertz doesn't have the efficiency to remain a top fantasy option.

DALLAS GOEDERT

ADP: 157, TE18

Dallas Goedert is the only backup tight end that has any fantasy relevance heading into this season, and drafting him is more about his upside than it is about his projection. Goedert broke out last year after the Eagles ran out of receivers and showed why they felt justified drafting him in the second round of the NFL draft with Ertz already on the roster. Ertz is no-doubt a better route runner than Goedert, but Goedert is bigger, more athletic, a better blocker, and more explosive after the catch.

Goedert, entering his third NFL season, should see the field plenty even if Ertz remains ahead of him on the depth chart as the Eagles figure to be near the top of the league in two-tight end sets. Goedert would also become a top-three fantasy tight end if Ertz were to miss any time, and that combination of floor and upside is very difficult to find among tight ends late in the draft. After Ertz, Goedert

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	104
REC	70
YARDS	702
TD	5

is probably the second-best pass catcher on the team and should get plenty of opportunities to prove it this season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Goedert closes the gap between himself and Ertz in target share and improves on his efficiency as the rest of the offense improves around him. He continues to be a featured target around the goal line and adds a high touchdown total to a receiving yards total that places him among the top tight ends in the league.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Ertz dominates the tight end snaps and the Eagles don't rely on two-tight end sets as much as they look to get all of their new receivers more involved in the offense. Goedert sees some of his red zone opportunities go towards Jeffery or Arcega-Whiteside and turns into more of a role player and less of someone fantasy owners can rely on every week.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	76
REC	49
YARDS	543
TD	5

TEAM PREVIEWS PITTSBURGH STEELERS

JUJU SMITH-SCHUSTER



By Frank Costanzo

Last season was a grind for the Pittsburgh Steelers. They finished one spot out of the playoffs (would have made it under the new CBA) but it was a fight every week to even get there. Ben Roethlisberger tore a ligament in his elbow and played a total of one and a half games, forcing the Steelers to see what backup quarterbacks Mason Rudolph and Delvin Hodges had. The answer was pretty much nothing (but we will get to that in a bit). Rudolph and Hodges completely tanked the Steelers offense and made it essentially useless for fantasy.

The Steelers did learn in 2019 that they have arguably the best defense in the NFL. Once the Dolphins traded Minkah Fitzpatrick over to the Steelers, the defense became dominant. Mike Tomlin led his defense to a number one overall finish in defensive DVOA and third-place finishes in both rushing and passing defensive DVOA. It is extremely impressive that the defense played this well with the terrible situations that the offense put them in.

The Steelers' success this season rides on Roethlisberger's throwing elbow. If he is back to being completely healthy, the Steelers are strong Super Bowl contenders. Without a healthy Roethlisberger, the Steelers would be lucky to make the seventh seed in the playoffs this year after deciding to stay put at backup quarterback (still one of the more perplexing decisions of the offseason). Similarly, the fantasy output for this offense rides on Roethlisberger's throwing elbow. Without it, you will be looking at a similar season to last year. With a healthy elbow, these players could be the best targets in the draft due to the discount baked into their ADPs.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	8
2020 Projected Wins	9
Total Plays	1,029
Total Plays Rank	30
Pass %	58%
Pass % Rank	21
Rush %	42%
Rush % Rank	11
Plays/Gm	64
Plays/Gm Rank	30
Points Per Game	18
PPG Rank	27

QUARTERBACK

BEN ROETHLISBERGER

ADP: 127.2, QB17

Without a 2019 season to review and use to help project for this year, let's compare how this passing offense fared with Ben Roethlisberger in 2018 to the combo of Rudolph (eight games) and Hodges (six games) in 2019. In 2018, the Steelers were first in overall pass frequency and first in passing on early downs, first in passing when trailing (81.5% of plays when trailing), and first in passing when within one score (66.4%). Last year, the Steelers dropped down to 25th in overall pass frequency and 24th in passing on early downs. The Steelers threw for 313 passing yards per game in 2018 (Roethlisberger also led the NFL in passing yards) which dropped to 186.3 passing yards per game in 2019. That was the largest decline in NFL history! Don't worry it keeps getting worse. The Steelers ranked 6th in offensive DVOA with Roethlisberger in 2018 and dead last in 2019. Roethlisberger was 4th in QBR and 8th in passing DVOA, while Rudolph was dead last in QBR (Hodges didn't qualify) and 33rd in DVOA (Hodges would have been 31st if he qualified).

I can throw more statistics at you to prove the point, but the Steelers offense was dreadful without Big Ben. But if Roethlisberger is healthy, the Steelers have a ceiling of an elite offense which is extremely tempting for fantasy. It is also terrifying because few offenses have as low of a floor. To gently tip the scale towards the ceiling, I will point out that Sharp Football Stats has the Steelers' passing offense facing the 3rd easiest schedule of opposing pass defenses. Therefore drafting Roethlisberger this season is a worthwhile bet at his QB17 ADP (like a lot of late-round quarterbacks). If Roethlisberger is fully healthy, he will destroy that ADP. If he's not healthy, then you didn't waste a high pick on him and you can move on to streaming with little issue. Win-win.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Roethlisberger is fully healthy and participates in all of training camp. He brings the Steelers offense back to 2018 levels, takes advantage of the easy schedule, and ends as a top-5 QB in fantasy.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Roethlisberger starts the season for the Steelers but doesn't look right for the first few games putting up duds along the way. Eventually, the Steelers and Roethlisberger agree to shut him down for the rest of the year due to his elbow and other injuries. Rudolph starts again for the rest of the season, cratering the offense.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	580
COMP	371
YARDS	4,340
TD	28
INT	13
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	
YARDS	42
TD	1

RUNNING BACK

JAMES CONNER

ADP: 26.5, RB16

James Conner and the Steelers' running game was also affected by the loss of Roethlisberger in 2019. The Steelers dropped to 30th in rushing efficiency last year, and the argument can and should be made that the lack of any passing threat allowed defenses to stack the box against the run. But I don't want to let the line and Conner off easy. The Steelers' offensive line ranked 30th in adjusted line yards per Football Outsiders. This measures how much an offensive line contributes to rushing yardage. All of the Steelers running backs combined for 26th in both second-level yards and open field yards (both per Football Outsiders). Essentially this means that once any of the Steelers' backs got past the defensive line, they never capitalized and didn't create much extra yardage for themselves. Conner also ranked last in EPA per rush.

Now, Conner also sustained five separate injuries last season and that clearly affected him. But the injury concern isn't going away. Conner has been injury-prone most of his collegiate and professional career, unfortunately, possibly due to his battle with cancer. PlayerProfiler has Conner ranked as the number one injury risk for 2020. So, while the injuries look past him and dampen his production from last season, it's not something we can completely ignore going into this year.

To end this section on a positive note, Conner was extremely impressive in the passing game in 2019. Conner's yards per route run was 1.99, which was sixth among all running backs last year. Conner is not known for his receiving prowess but proved last season that it is a strength of his overall game. Additionally, with all the issues the Steelers had passing the ball, the Steelers only had seven rushing touchdowns. This will likely regress to the normal passing to rushing touchdown rates. My final nugget for Conner is the Steelers face the 18th hardest schedule for rushing defenses per Sharp Football Analysis, which shouldn't scare anyone away.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Roethlisberger's return is the rising tide to lift all boats, including Conner's. Conner also puts the injuries behind him and takes a stranglehold on the Steelers backfield after proving his receiving ability last season. Conner beats his current RB16 ADP (per FantasyData) and ends as an RB1.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Roethlisberger is never 100% and opposing defenses again stack the box against the Steelers. The Steelers' offensive line doesn't improve much from last year and Conner can't make up for their struggles. Eventually, Conner gets banged up and put on IR, ending his season.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	210
YARDS	880
TD	7

RECEIVING

TARGETS	45
REC	35
YARDS	300
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVER

JUJU SMITH-SCHUSTER

ADP: 34.7, WR11

Let's continue the Steelers offensive trend of injuries and subpar quarterback play with JuJu Smith-Schuster. Entering draft season last year, Smith-Schuster was seen as a top-five wide receiver after coming off a historic sophomore campaign. Smith-Schuster was fourth in the NFL in targets and gained the sixth-most receiving yards all-time for a player's first two seasons. Without Antonio Brown to compete for targets and after developing fantastic chemistry with Roethlisberger, Smith-Schuster was seen as an easy selection in fantasy drafts.

Regrettably, that was not the case. Smith-Schuster saw a decrease in efficiency and output across the board. He battled a toe injury from week one throughout the whole season. In week 11, Smith-Schuster suffered both a concussion and knee sprain which kept him out until week 16. He also never was on the same page with Rudolph or Hodges. His dropped catches percentage more than doubled without Roethlisberger, going from 5.1% to 10.6%. His yards per route run dropped to 1.68 (61st among wide receivers per FantasyData). Most of the numbers are bad for Smith-Schuster, but just go back and read the Roethlisberger portion to remember why that is.

The hope with Smith-Schuster is the same with both Conner and Roethlisberger. Roethlisberger's full return would surge the offense and the Steelers' schedule of pass defenses is 3rd easiest per Sharp Football Analysis. Also, the rise of Diontae Johnson, James Washington, and rookie Chase Claypool allow Smith-Schuster more time in his preferred position in the slot this season. But is it smart to draft Smith-Schuster as your number one wide receiver? This is a question of risk-taking. Are you willing to gamble on Roethlisberger's elbow and Smith-Schuster's prior historic pace? I generally am because the discount of last year is already baked into the ADP and Smith-Schuster's target upside is immense. In fantasy, the goal is to beat 10-14 other teams. The odds are not in your favor, so you need to take calculated risks to get there and I believe Smith-Schuster is a smart one.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Smith-Schuster is reunited with Roethlisberger and it is just like old times. Roethlisberger peppers Smith-Schuster with targets and the easy schedule lets him do plenty of damage. Smith-Schuster soars up with wide receiver rankings and finishes as a top-five receiver in fantasy.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Smith-Schuster's decline in efficiency was not only due to Rudolph and Hodges. Roethlisberger isn't able to resuscitate Smith-Schuster and Johnson becomes the primary target in the offense. Smith-Schuster finishes as a borderline WR3.

DIONTAE JOHNSON

ADP: 87.7, WR36

2019 was a strong year for rookie wide receivers. A.J. Brown, D.K. Metcalf, Darius Slayton, Deebo Samuel, and Terry McLaurin all produced right away and were fantasy contributors. Most people forget Diontae Johnson though, who quietly led all rookies in receptions. He also led the entire NFL in target

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	133
REC	84
YARDS	1,175
TD	7

separation with 2.39 yards of separation per target per FantasyData. The second-best receiver was Demarcus Robinson with a 2.03. Robinson was actually closer to the 18th ranked receiver than he was to Johnson. This speaks to Johnson's natural route-running ability. To dominate this statistic as a rookie is incredibly impressive, especially for a receiver out of Toledo. Johnson's yards per route run was 1.96, good for 39th among receivers. Oh yeah, all those terrible numbers from Rudolph and Hodges apply to Johnson's season, but he was able to still show that he belongs in the NFL.

Johnson is a breakout choice for fantasy analysts all over the community and it's easy to see why. Looking at his impressive rookie numbers and the idea of a healthy Roethlisberger paint a pretty picture. But I am starting to hate his current price, as Johnson is currently being drafted as the WR36. He is going ahead of players like Will Fuller IV and Marvin Jones, which I cannot get behind as much as I respect Johnson's ability. If Johnson's ADP starts to drop as the draft season progresses, I will be drafting him everywhere. But right now he's a bit too rich for my blood.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Johnson has a true sophomore breakout season following in Smith-Schuster's footsteps. Roethlisberger plays well enough to support both of them as top fantasy receivers. Johnson becomes one of the best draft picks for the 2020 season and is a fantasy league-winner.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Smith-Schuster and Roethlisberger's return to health push Johnson to the outside of the Steelers' offense. Johnson ends up third on the receiver depth chart battling with Washington. Drafting Johnson ends up burning a lot of fantasy owners due to his steadily rising ADP by the time of most fantasy drafts.

JAMES WASHINGTON

ADP: 179, WR71

If I asked you who led the Steelers in receiving yards last year, would you have guessed James Washington? Probably not, unless you are a degenerate like me or a die-hard Steelers fan. But it is true, Washington had 735 receiving yards in 2019 (which is crazy low for a team leader, but I digress). He also led the team in yards per route run with 2.1 (31st among receivers per FantasyData). It wasn't an overly strong season for Washington, but after his rough rookie season, it was a welcome sight. Washington leaned on his experience with Rudolph (college teammates) to keep himself in the Steelers' plans for at least another season.

Washington hasn't been much more than a deep threat so far in his career and will need to improve the other areas of his game to stay on the field. Even though he was the most productive receiver last year, Smith-Schuster missed time, Johnson was a rookie (and had a much better rookie year than Washington), and the Steelers just drafted Chase Claypool at a similar spot to Washington. Washington is far from guaranteed a large role in the offense and will need to earn the trust of Roethlisberger to see the field. If you are looking for a cheap option for a share of the Steelers' offense later in drafts, Washington is a decent flier with his current ADP at WR71, but I would not expect a massive return on that price.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	115
REC	72
YARDS	835
TD	6

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	64
REC	36
YARDS	530
TD	2

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Washington beats out Claypool to be the third receiver in three wideout sets. He is able to earn Roethlisberger’s trust which results in some spike weeks when the deep targets connect. Washington is able to break into the WR3/Flex territory.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Claypool immediately comes into camp and outplays Washington. Roethlisberger doesn’t want him on the field much and renders Washington out of the offense. Washington stays on the majority of waiver-wires for the season.

TIGHT END

ERIC EBRON

ADP: 159.4, TE20

Eric Ebron was the biggest addition to the Steelers this offseason. This signing to me is as much about Ebron as it is about Vance McDonald. Even with the terrible quarterback situation, McDonald proved he could not be a lead tight end. McDonald’s yards per route run was 0.86 (34th among tight ends). But not only was he 34th, but he was also a distant 34th. Ryan Griffin, who was 33rd, was closer to Greg Olsen, 18th, than he was to McDonald. Meanwhile, Ebron was eighth with 2.19 yards per route run. Ebron was also third among tight ends in target separation with 2 yards of separation per target (per Fantasy Data).

Ebron has come around a bit as a player, but the stigma is still attached. That is partially due to the fact that his touchdowns significantly reduced (14 to three last season) and he can’t shake his drops issue. Ebron dropped 9.6% of his targets, which was the third-highest among tight ends (coincidentally McDonald was fourth). But Ebron will see an improvement in quarterback play as well, coming over from Indianapolis with Jacoby Brissett. Ebron currently has an ADP of TE20, which is right in a range of younger and more exciting options. But it would not shock me if he was able to see more targets than many are projecting. Roethlisberger likes throwing to tight ends (that was basically all of McDonald’s appeal last year) and Ebron is one of the more talented that Roethlisberger has had recently. I likely will fall for the other exciting options as well, but I would keep him on your watchlist early on.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	63
REC	42
YARDS	495
TD	4

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Ebron is able to beat out McDonald as the starting tight end. He ends up having a similar season to 2018 when he was paired with Andrew Luck. Ebron dominates the red zone targets on his way to double-digit touchdowns.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Ebron becomes the next McDonald for the Steelers, another athletic tight end who drops too many passes and never puts it all together. Neither option distinguishes himself in the offense and they both cannibalize each other’s opportunity.



TEAM PREVIEWS
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

GEORGE KITTLE



By Marc Salazar

The San Francisco 49ers came excruciatingly close to a Super Bowl victory in 2019, only to lose to a super-human performance by the Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes. A missed deep connection in the final moments from Jimmy Garoppolo to Emmanuel Sanders reopened questions about the upside of Jimmy G, especially after some dominant rushing performances in the playoffs where the 49ers seemed to barely need a quarterback. After some possible flirtations around bringing in free-agent quarterback Tom Brady, the 49ers made the logical choice and stuck with the core that nearly won a Super Bowl.

From a fantasy perspective, the 2019 49ers were led by star tight end George Kittle, but otherwise, they were more or less a rotating cast of role players. The greatness of head coach Kyle Shanahan's playcalling makes this an offense worth pursuing, but at times his hot hand approach to the offense can make things a bit difficult for our fantasy football decision making.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	13
2020 Projected Wins	10.5
Total Plays	1094
Total Plays Rank	18
Pass %	51%
Pass % Rank	30
Rush %	49%
Rush % Rank	2
Plays/Gm	68
Plays/Gm Rank	18
Points Per Game	25
PPG Rank	9

QUARTERBACK

JIMMY GAROPPOLO

ADP: 155.8, QB22

At the beginning of the offseason, I anticipated making Jimmy Garoppolo a frequent late-round quarterback target of mine. Garoppolo returned from ACL surgery to post an overall impressive 2019 with 3,978 passing yards, 27 touchdowns, and 13 interceptions. While the 49ers won some games with their defense and running game alone, Garoppolo had his share of breakout performances, including a Week 14 thriller in New Orleans where he passed for 349 yards and four touchdowns while completing 74% of his passes. The thought was in his second-year recovered from the injury with a bolstered receiving corps, one of the leagues best play-callers, and potentially a slightly less dominant defense, Garoppolo might put together a higher volume season in 2020 that would vault him up the quarterback rankings. And yet, as the offseason progresses, I simply am not drafting Garoppolo in any of my leagues.

The depth of the 49ers receiving corps is the first red flag, as Deebo Samuel fractured his foot in the offseason. While he is holding out hope for a Week 1 return, this is a less than ideal development for the 49ers presumptive number one receiver. San Francisco drafted Brandon Aiyuk in the first round of the NFL Draft to replace the departed Emmanuel Sanders, and while his YAC ability in a Shanahan offense is mouth-watering, this significantly reduced offseason throws questions into his early-season usage. With intriguing second-year receiver Jalen Hurd lost to an ACL injury, this 49ers receiving corps is already on life support before the first game begins. Combined with Garoppolo's lack of rushing ability, and it is just hard to find much upside in the quarterback. He's a great later round option in superflex leagues, but in most single quarterback leagues I would much rather take the shot on quarterbacks with greater upside.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

The 49ers defense takes a step back, forcing Garoppolo to sling the ball around more often than last year. He's fully recovered from his ACL injury and feels more comfortable overall. Samuel returns quickly from injury and continues his development, while Aiyuk provides a big-play threat on yards after the catch. Kittle ascends to true elite status and brings the rest of the offense along with him, and Garoppolo throws a ton of touchdowns in an efficient year, vaulting into the back half of QB1 territory.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The pass catchers not named Kittle struggle with health and consistency, and the 49ers are more than happy to lean on the ground game and defense on their way to the playoffs. Garoppolo fades into a low volume passer, much the way that Kirk Cousins' fantasy career has gone, and he is no more than a streamer in one quarterback leagues.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	480
COMP	323
YARDS	4,010
TD	24
INT	15
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	30
YARDS	70
TD	1

RUNNING BACK

RAHEEM MOSTERT

ADP: 51.7, RB26

After a brief offseason holdout scare, Raheem Mostert and the 49ers came to terms on a pay raise, lining Mostert up to be the “lead back” in San Francisco. I put lead back in quotes because of head coach Kyle Shanahan’s propensity to ride the hot hand at running back, as evidenced during Mostert’s breakout down the stretch last year. Mostert and Tevin Coleman each received 137 carries during the regular season, while departed Matt Breida saw 123 of his own. Mostert’s breakout down the stretch of 2019 was mainly aided by touchdowns, as he scored a rushing touchdown in each of his last six games for a total of eight touchdowns over that span. After a 19 carry, 146-yard performance against Baltimore in Week 13, Mostert only saw 10, 14, 11, and 10 carries in each of his final four regular-season games. With 22 targets total on the year, Mostert really needs that rushing volume and touchdown role to break out in 2020.

Mostert’s yards per carry and athleticism make him an understandably intriguing option, especially in this offensive setting. But he is typically the type of player that I pass on. A 28-year-old running back yet to produce a 1,000-yard season through five seasons, undrafted out of college, and lacking any bell cow or pass-catching upside. Maybe his efficiency and red zone roles blow those concerns out of the water, and with the way running backs are flying off the board this year I wouldn’t fault you for chasing the cheaper options like Mostert. But I don’t anticipate rostering him often this year, and I expect him to be a weekly headache for fantasy managers when setting their lineups.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Mostert is clearly the most explosive running back on the team and gets consistent usage as the lead back in a 60-40 split. Mostert tops 1,000 yards on the ground, scores double-digit touchdowns, and even chips in some in the passing game. He provides backend RB1 value at a lowered ADP.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Injuries pop up again for Mostert, and Coleman, McKinnon, and others provide consistent competition all season long. Mostert finishes with a year similar to 2019 only without the excellent touchdown production and is no more than a boom/bust flex option most weeks.

TEVIN COLEMAN

ADP: 86.9, RB38

Tevin Coleman is far from an exciting running back to draft, as he has yet to surpass 800 yards rushing over his first five seasons in the league, and his passing game explosion in 2016 (421 receiving yards on 40 targets) seems like a distant memory at this point. Coleman missed time early in 2019 only to be featured on the ground from Weeks 5 to 9, topping double-digit carries each week. Then Mostert began to take over, and Coleman was an afterthought down the stretch, receiving five carries or less over the final five weeks of the season. But Shanahan gave us a reminder in the playoffs for his love of the hot hand approach just as Mostert had seemingly won the lead back job, with Coleman

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	190
YARDS	893
TD	6

RECEIVING

TARGETS	30
REC	23
YARDS	200
TD	1

breaking out for 105 yards rushing and two touchdowns over 22 carries in the first round of the playoffs, while Mostert received 12 carries for 58 yards. Naturally, Coleman received just 11 carries over the next two weeks combined, while Mostert apparently became the hot hand again.

While Mostert is the more explosive player, Coleman is significantly cheaper in drafts, and with the departure of Breida to Miami, finds himself with less established competition than last year. Coleman won't win you your league, but you could find a few weeks (maybe with a Mostert injury or COVID-19 situation) where Coleman is an intriguing option in a high-powered running game. Don't reach for Coleman, but if he drops late, snatch him up on your running back needy teams, as you might be getting a fairly similar player to Mostert at a steep discount.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

None of the new options are able to replace the departed Breida, and Coleman sees a more consistent weekly role sharing the backfield with Mostert. Mostert is dinged up at times and misses enough games to give Coleman stretches of significant relevance. Throw in some touchdown luck and Coleman is a surprisingly solid RB2/flex play for large portions of the year.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Mostert is the better player, McKinnon and the undrafted rookies have more juice, and Coleman posts a relatively useless 800 total yards distributed evenly across 16 games.

JERICK MCKINNON

ADP: 159.5, RB63

Jerrick McKinnon was squarely off my radar after having not played since 2017 due to an ACL tear and a setback but has been drawing rave reviews in camp as he makes a comeback bid. While it is a great story, I can't get too excited for fantasy purposes. It seems nearly impossible that the 49ers give him a heavy role on the ground this year as he works his way back from two years out of the league. At 28 years old he's yet to reach 600 yards on the ground in a single season, so any fantasy upside seems tied to his passing game work. McKinnon has shown flashes in the past (68 targets, 51 receptions, 421 yards in 2017), but it seems unlikely that he receives enough targets to be fantasy relevant on a 49ers team that targeted their running backs only 89 times total last season. I don't see much upside beyond a Nyheim Hines type role, which means he is left out of my draft plans in all but the deepest leagues. I would much rather keep my eye on the undrafted rookies JaMycal Hasty or Salvon Ahmed, though they likely won't factor in to your drafts either.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

McKinnon grabs the third-down role from the start and commands four or more targets a game. He consistently chips in a decent floor in PPR leagues, adds some touchdowns on big plays, and is a nearly free RB3/flex play on teams that started wide receiver heavy.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

He never fully recovers his burst and is surpassed by Hasty and/or Ahmed. McKinnon struggles to stay on the field and fades down the stretch.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	180
YARDS	792
TD	5

RECEIVING

TARGETS	28
REC	19
YARDS	175
TD	1

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	45
YARDS	202
TD	1

RECEIVING

TARGETS	40
REC	30
YARDS	250
TD	2

WIDE RECEIVER

DEEBO SAMUEL

ADP: 89.2, WR37

As far as rookie seasons from a wide receiver go, Deebo Samuel blew away almost all expectations in 2019. The second-round pick ended up playing 15 games and totaling 802 receiving yards on 57 receptions, impressive numbers on just 81 targets, leaving fantasy drafters hoping for more in year two. Samuel had a sneaky good rushing role down the stretch as well, as he consistently made big plays on the ground on end-arounds and jet sweeps. Over the final five weeks of the regular season, Samuel rushed for 122 yards total on nine carries and chipped in two rushing touchdowns. That trend continued into the playoffs, where he rushed 6 times for 102 yards across three games, including 53 yards on the ground in the Super Bowl. Samuel looked primed for a bigger role in 2020 with the departure of Emmanuel Sanders, but an offseason injury may have stalled those thoughts.

After suffering a Jones fracture in his foot while training, Samuel is in the middle of a fairly serious injury recovery. All progress is positive at the moment, and he hopes to be ready for Week 1 of the NFL season. But it is fair to wonder if this will stall any development for the second-year pro, and whether it will take a few weeks into the regular season before he regains his full snap share. Will he get that rushing work if he is being eased in off a foot injury? Will he have enough reps with Garoppolo to become that true number one receiver that we want for fantasy purposes? There's certainly upside here, but I think it is fair to avoid a receiver with just three 100-yard receiving games under his belt while rehabbing a foot injury. You may find yourself in some drafts where Samuel plummets down the board, however, and that is when you should strike on the talented do-it-all receiver.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Samuel shakes off his injury in time for the season and continues his maturation into the 49ers alpha wide receiver. While he may lack the deep-threat ability or massive volume of some receivers, his rushing ability gives him a sneaky edge, and he performs like a poor man's Robert Woods, easily paying off on his injury-lowered ADP.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

He misses time with the foot injury and takes a while to get up to speed. The 49ers are winning and don't need to rush him, and he plays a reduced snap share early on. Even when he is back to full health, Samuel isn't a difference-maker and is a fairly replaceable WR3 type.

BRANDON AIYUK

ADP: 136.5, WR53

In a normal offseason, Brandon Aiyuk hype might be growing by the day. An injury to Deebo Samuel on an already wide receiver-needy team might have allowed a huge opportunity for the first-round pick to establish chemistry with Garoppolo and earn a steady Week 1 role. It still could happen, but now we are left to decipher coach-speak and padless-practice highlights as opposed

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	85
REC	52
YARDS	675
TD	3

to preseason games running with the first-team offense. A yards after catch specialist out of Arizona State, Aiyuk could be a deadly weapon in the hands of Shanahan. At 6'0" tall and 205 pounds, Aiyuk vaulted up draft boards with a 4.5 40-yard dash and a 40 inch vertical. He's likely not your prototypical number one receiver, but in the modern NFL in a creative offense, he could be an explosive playmaker from day one. There are plenty of promising rookie pass-catchers this year so it is easy for Aiyuk to get lost in the shuffle. If you are looking for a high upside dart throw late in drafts, and don't feel like paying up for the first rookies off the board, Aiyuk is an excellent target.

There are certainly some other receivers worth talking about on the 49ers; Kendrick Bourne could have a surprisingly big role early on with Samuel returning from injury, Trent Taylor could demand a decent PPR role from the slot, and rookie Jauan Jennings has his fair share of admirers. But Aiyuk is the only one with the upside to draft in your typical 12 team home league. Just keep an eye on Bourne early on, especially from a DFS or deep league perspective.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Samuel is slow to return from injury and Aiyuk takes over the receiver position. He puts up a season similar to Deebo's rookie season, only with more big plays with his yards after the catch ability, and is a solid WR3 in the second half of the season.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Aiyuk is more of a gadget player as Shanahan plays the veterans that know the offense. Garoppolo spreads the ball around, and Aiyuk can never really be trusted as a fantasy starter despite flashing on some athletic plays.

TIGHT END

GEORGE KITTLE

ADP: 23.8, TE2

There's a chance that, as good as George Kittle is, the talented 49ers' tight end hasn't even hit his prime yet. At just 26-years old, Kittle has reached 85 receptions and topped 1,000 yards receiving in each of his past two seasons. Tight end is a notoriously hard position for young players to learn, which should make Kittle's 2,945 receiving yards over his first three years in the league even more impressive. A little better luck in the touchdown department (just 12 touchdowns on 302 career targets) would have likely vaulted Kittle up to the TE1 over Travis Kelce by now, as Kittle's athleticism and tackle-breaking ability has few rivals. We could be looking at Kittle's best season of his career in 2020, and if San Francisco is forced to lean on him more with Samuel injured and the lack of weapons at the wide receiver position, look out. I typically don't draft tight ends early, but Kittle is an exception this year. He has real blowup potential, and after you pass the top-end running backs and elite of the elite receivers in fantasy drafts, Kittle makes an excellent late second or early third-round pick.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

San Francisco is forced to lean on Kittle, and he produces a monster fantasy season. Something like his 88 catch, 1,377-yard 2018 season, only with double-digit touchdowns.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	85
REC	67
YARDS	795
TD	4

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	128
REC	92
YARDS	1175
TD	7

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Outside of injury, it is hard to find much downside in Kittle. If Garoppolo took a major step back after an up and down Super Bowl, we might see Kittle used even more as a blocker and lose some downfield targets. But it is hard to envision a healthy Kittle finishing outside of the top four tight ends in fantasy leagues.

TEAM PREVIEWS SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

RUSSELL WILSON



By Ryan Kruse

The Seahawks had an impressive 11-5 regular season and made it to the NFC Divisional Round, where they lost to the Packers by only five points. Over the offseason, Seattle has been making moves like a team that believes they are a contender this year. They spent most of the 2020 offseason adding crucial pieces they believe can help get them to the Super Bowl. Players such as Jamal Adams, Carlos Hyde, Greg Olsen, Phillip Dorsett, and Quinton Dunbar were acquired to fill areas of weakness, but it's anyone's guess as to how well these guys pan out. In 2020, the Seahawks will need to make their mark quickly in a tough division that's getting more talented by the year.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	11
2020 Projected Wins	9.5
Total Plays	1,139
Total Plays Rank	6
Pass %	54%
Pass % Rank	26
Rush %	46%
Rush % Rank	5
Plays/Gm	71
Plays/Gm Rank	6
Points Per Game	30
PPG Rank	2

QUARTERBACK

RUSSELL WILSON

ADP: 57, QB3

While everyone was freaking out about Lamar Jackson in 2019, Russell Wilson quietly had himself another great year as the overall QB3. Wilson was also top three in passing touchdowns and fewest interceptions among qualified passers in 2019. He protected the ball quite well, sporting a league-best average of only 0.6 interceptable passes per game, per FantasyData.

When it comes to his run game, it could be said that Russell has taken plenty of chances over the years. In fairness, those runs were usually (and still are) necessary because the Seahawks' offensive line tends to fold like a cheap suit. The Huddle gave Seattle the second-worst offensive line ranking in the league heading into 2020, even with the three new starters taken into account.

At 31-years-old, Russ isn't getting any younger. The Seahawks may be trying to ensure that he doesn't run himself into the ground before he's 35. Wilson's run game has helped him in some of his best seasons, but Russ ran for the second-fewest yards of his career in 2019 and the third-fewest in 2018. He had the fewest rushing attempts of his career in 2018 and the third-fewest attempts in 2019.

Be that as it may, Russell has been one of the most consistent NFL players over the past eight years. Wilson has not missed a game since September 2012 and is currently seventh on the all-time consecutive starts list. He's a safe pick at a fantasy position that can be tough to pin down from year to year.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Wilson plays another 16 games and has another top-three fantasy quarterback finish, something he's accomplished four times in his first eight seasons.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Fewer rushing attempts finally begin to affect Wilson's overall fantasy points. Though, in fairness, he still finished 2019 as the QB3 with the third-fewest rushing attempts of his career. Even Wilson's worst case scenario is solid, barring injury.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	530
COMP	355
YARDS	4,200
TD	33
INT	5

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	65
YARDS	300
TD	1

RUNNING BACK

CHRIS CARSON

ADP: 31.2, RB19

Over the past two years, Chris Carson has been a pretty sturdy back. Admittedly, he suffered a season-ending hip fracture last year, but it was in Week 16. Carson finished 2019 as the overall RB12, outperforming his ADP by two slots. He's not much of a PPR guy, but his targets and receptions have been slowly trending upward during his first couple seasons. From PPR to standard scoring, Carson gets a pretty significant jump from RB21 up to RB14. Still, for a guy who finished PPR RB12 in 2019, his ADP makes him an enticing pick.

Carson is capable of putting up a dud here and there, but I'm a big fan of Carson in all fantasy formats. He averaged 15.5 PPR fantasy points per game in 2019, and anything similar in 2020 would be a welcome return given his current ADP. If

he looks fully recovered from his hip injury, Carson will be a value for those that missed out on the early running back wave. We know that Seattle wants to run the ball often, and Carson is the best bet to lead the way.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Chris plays 16 games and puts up another 1200+ yard season. His hip injury is a thing of the past and he looks to be at full speed. Penny is delayed to start the season, Hyde is an afterthought, and Carson dominates one of the heaviest volume rushing attacks in the league.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

This becomes a crowded backfield, and Carson loses some work. He takes time getting back from his hip injury, allowing an opportunity that Hyde seizes. Penny returns from his own injury, and we have a three-headed backfield that vultures from each other's ceilings.

RASHAAD PENNY

ADP: 253, RB89

Rashaad Penny hasn't been a fantasy difference-maker thus far in his career. If everyone stays healthy in the Seahawks' backfield, he typically only has two or three respectable fantasy weeks throughout the year. But Penny has proven to be a pretty reliable handcuff/backup if you're the type of fantasy player that likes insurance on their running backs.

Last year Rashaad tore his ACL in Week 14 and required further surgery to "clean up" the affected area (whatever that means). Long story short, the consensus is that Penny should be returning from ACL rehab just before the season and could even miss some time during the preseason.

I'm usually pretty high on this backfield and love when I can lock it down at a low cost. Seattle has been top three in rushing attempts per game over the past two years, and Carson and Penny have proven they are an efficient one-two punch. It's a safe bet that if one back goes down, the next man up will get plenty of work. Unfortunately, the timing of Penny's recovery paired with Carlos Hyde's presence could make it difficult to secure the Seahawks' backfield in fantasy drafts. It's still August though, so things could change quite a bit in a few weeks.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Penny rehabs and recovers in time to retain his position as the RB2 in this backfield. He strings together more consistency and steals more work from Carson than he had in the past. Penny is a flex option, with blowup potential in the event of a Carson injury.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Rehabilitation setbacks push Rashaad into the RB3 role in Seattle. He looks like he's lost a step, and the reliable veteran Hyde allows Seattle to play it safe with Penny, leaving him with limited touches for much of the season.

CARLOS HYDE

ADP: 150.7, RB58

After Penny went down last year, the Seahawks were in a bit of a bind with their running backs. They eventually had to bring Marshawn Lynch out of retirement

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	280
YARDS	1,200
TD	8
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	55
REC	42
YARDS	280
TD	2

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	90
YARDS	450
TD	3
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	17
REC	11
YARDS	100
TD	1

to shore up some depth. Carlos Hyde is Seattle's running back depth insurance for 2020 so they can avoid scrambling for a running back if the worst-case scenario happens again. Granted, Hyde's injury history is pretty extensive. Fortunately, the Seahawks don't need Hyde to be a three-down bell-cow back.

As far as insurance plans go, Seattle could do much worse than the 29-year-old veteran. Hyde started in 14 games for Houston last year and surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the first time in his career. Carlos played well enough that he could even compete for Penny's job if the latter isn't back to 100% by the time the 2020 season begins. Penny could miss the preseason as well, so Hyde may have a chance to earn the RB2 spot in Seattle.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Hyde impresses enough during his first training camp as a Seahawk that he earns the RB2 spot and gets some snaps from week to week, similar to Penny last year.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Carlos is nothing more than an insurance plan for the Seahawks and rides the bench most of the year.

2020 PROJ.	
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	65
YARDS	350
TD	2
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	10
REC	6
YARDS	20
TD	0

WIDE RECEIVER

DK METCALF

ADP: 45.7, WR19

DK Metcalf had a stellar rookie season last year, and I can't wait to see what the guy is capable of accomplishing in year two. At 6'4" and 230 pounds, he came into the league "NFL ready" and looks like a fantastic deep threat if you go back and watch his rookie highlights. He did have eight drops last year, but that's to be expected from a rookie wide receiver getting as much work as Metcalf did.

In all honesty, it's tough to find things I don't like about DK, he's a great all-around receiver. I would, however, like to see some improvement in his footwork near the sidelines. Also, his route tree is a bit shallow. Most of his receptions last year were from fly routes and inside slants. Still, I'm expecting a great year from Metcalf and a big step forward. Although Seattle projects to be a low-volume passing offense, there is very little competition outside of Lockett for the passing game work, so Metcalf should be fed targets from the start. An injury to Lockett, or a more pass-heavy Seattle offense, could lead to a massive year for Metcalf in 2020.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Metcalf steps up in his sophomore year and becomes the most important receiver in Seattle. Lockett struggles again with injuries, Seattle passes more than they did in 2019, and Metcalf is a WR1 for fantasy purposes in just his second year.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

DK puts up similar or worse numbers compared to his 2019 season, as Lockett steps up and stays healthy. Seattle is able to stick with the run, and Metcalf is a boom-bust option for your fantasy team.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	135
REC	85
YARDS	1,050
TD	9

TYLER LOCKETT

ADP: 53.5, WR22

Tyler Lockett finished the 2019 season as the overall WR13. The points were welcome, but Lockett's main issue last year was inconsistent fantasy production from week to week. Tyler had six weeks where he scored somewhere between zero and 9.1 fantasy points in 2019. But it's not like every week was a dud. Lockett's best weeks saw him score 40.2, 32.4, and 26 points. Although he may not be very predictable from week to week, Lockett has proven to be consistent from a season-long perspective over the past two years, scoring more than 222 fantasy points each season.

There's a bit of a discrepancy between Tyler's 2020 ADP and his 2019 finish. One could argue Lockett is a bit undervalued, but I think it's pretty fair considering we don't yet know how essential Dorsett will be to this offense. If Dorsett is firmly in the mix and DK gets more work, the targets are likely to shrink somewhere. However, if Lockett and Metcalf remain the primary targets, Lockett could have an even better 2020 season if he can stay on the field and healthy.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Lockett is still an essential part of Seattle's offense and has more consistent fantasy production from week to week. He stays healthy and holds on to the WR1 role in Seattle, giving us that breakout season that we have always hoped for from Lockett.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Lockett's target share shrinks and his fantasy relevance takes a hit. Metcalf is the real deal, leaving Lockett as the WR2. When he hits a big play or scores a touchdown he is relevant, but otherwise disappears too often to pay off his ADP.

PHILLIP DORSETT II

ADP: 197, WR84

It's going to be tough to pin down Phillip Dorsett's production in his first year with Seattle. For a guy who is consistently called a "deep threat" in the league, Phillip has never topped more than 528 yards in an entire season. Over the past three years with the Patriots, Dorsett averaged 71.6 PPR fantasy points per season. My first thought was that Dorsett could be another WR3 on this team, but I think the Seahawks may have bigger plans for him.

PFF recently ranked Russell Wilson as the best deep-ball QB in the league, and I imagine the Seahawks fully intend to use Dorsett's speed. If Phillip can connect with Wilson early and often, I could see Dorsett having the best statistical season of his career. It wouldn't surprise me one bit to see the Seahawks going deep with Metcalf and Dorsett running fly routes out wide. Part of me wants to slightly downgrade Dorsett with the lack of a normal offseason. It could take a few weeks for Phillip to get on the same page with his new QB. But I'm intrigued by his upside this late in the draft, as Wilson may be good enough to bring out a career year.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Dorsett quickly becomes a trusted deep threat in Seattle's offense and puts up the best statistical season of his career. Lockett comes down with an injury, and suddenly Dorsett is the WR2 in a Wilson-led offense.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Dorsett doesn't do enough to earn a meaningful target share in 2020 and is trapped behind Metcalf, Lockett, and the running game fighting for scraps.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	100
REC	75
YARDS	990
TD	7
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	11
YARDS	88
TD	1

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	65
REC	40
YARDS	600
TD	5

TIGHT END

GREG OLSEN

ADP: 273, TE21

One could make the argument that Wilson will be the best quarterback to ever throw the ball to Greg Olsen, but I would be much more excited about the latter's move to Seattle if this was five years ago. Now Olsen is 35-years-old and doesn't exactly have history on his side.

Since the 1970 merger, only six tight ends aged 35 or older have reached 100 PPR points. For reference, 100 PPR points would have ranked TE22 in 2019 (behind Jimmy Graham). In fairness, Greg racked up 123 fantasy points last year, but does anybody truly believe Olsen still has what it takes to be an elite tight end in 2020? Greg had a five-year stretch where he didn't miss a game, but at this point, he hasn't played a full season since 2016. He may come into Seattle looking like a new man, but I'm having trouble getting excited about this move.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Olsen becomes the seventh tight end 35 years or older (in the modern era) to accrue more than 100 PPR fantasy points and returns to his elite TE status.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Greg can't stay healthy for yet another season and the Seahawks realize they gave him way too much money.

WILL DISSLY

ADP: 411, TE49

Will Dissly was on his way to an impressive 2019 campaign when he suffered a grade 3 Pedal Achilles tear in Week 6. He would have been the PPR TE6 in 2019 if you extrapolate his six games over an entire 16-game season. That would have put him just behind Mark Andrews with 196.8 fantasy points. I realize that's quite a bit of time to extrapolate upon, but it at least serves to explain why Seahawks fans have such high expectations for Dissly. I imagine most fans are keeping faith in Dissly's potential while tempering expectations for Olsen's production.

On the injury front, Will isn't perfect either, and I suspect that's why the Seahawks chose to shore up the position with a proven vet. Seattle may try to give both Olsen and Dissly a similar workload throughout the season in an effort to keep both healthy. Plus, both of these guys on the field for two tight end sets could be a deadly combo.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Even with Olsen in the mix, Dissly puts up respectable fantasy numbers and plays the entire season. He's fully recovered from his injury, and finishes the season as a back-end TE1 or weekly streaming option.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Will gets left behind on the depth chart as Olsen shows he has plenty left in the tank and returns to elite form. Dissly never looks the same coming back from injury and is an afterthought in fantasy leagues.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	80
REC	60
YARDS	615
TD	7

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	55
REC	47
YARDS	525
TD	6



TEAM PREVIEWS
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

CHRIS GODWIN



By Rich Holman

Last year, the Buccaneers offense lived and died on the arm of Jameis Winston. Winston managed to lead the league in passing yards (5,109) and attempts (626), and was second to only Lamar Jackson in touchdowns thrown (33). Winston also led the league in interceptions thrown (30), pick-sixes (7), and was just one sack away from being tied for the league lead (46). While this took Bucs fans on a roller coaster ride every Sunday en route to a 7-9 record, it was certainly fun for fantasy purposes as Winston finished as the QB5 and Chris Godwin and Mike Evans were fantasy monsters. This offseason saw the Bucs decide to be out with the old and in with the, well, old as they swapped out Winston for 43-year old Tom Brady. With Brady at the helm, will the Bucs continue their pass-happy ways or will they lean on a more balanced attack?

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	7
2020 Projected Wins	9.5
Total Plays	1,167
Total Plays Rank	3
Pass %	62%
Pass % Rank	7
Rush %	38%
Rush % Rank	23
Plays/Gm	73
Plays/Gm Rank	3
Points Per Game	29
PPG Rank	3

QUARTERBACK

TOM BRADY

ADP: 89.1, QB9

After 74,571 passing yards, 541 touchdowns, and 219 career victories (including 6 Super Bowls) in 20 seasons in New England, the Patriots decided to move on from The Golden Boy. The Bucs swooped in and signed Tom Brady to a 2 year, \$50 million dollar contract. Brady finished the 2019 season as the QB12 for fantasy purposes with arguably the worst collective of weapons around him in his career. Brady's completion percentage fell to 60.8%, a six-year low, and he threw just 24 touchdowns, his lowest amount since 2006. In terms of advanced stats, Brady ranked 30th in True Completion Percentage and 32nd in Clean Pocket Completion Percentage. Of his 373 completions, 172 receptions went to Julien Edelman and James White, while no other player caught more than 29 passes. That's the bad news. The good news is in Tampa Bay, where Brady will be equipped with the best weapons he's had since the Randy Moss/Wes Welker days. With Mike Evans, Chris Godwin, and Rob Gronkowski in the passing game, Brady will look to turn around his down year in 2019. Brady's been coming off the board as the QB9 in the eighth-round of 12-team drafts, which is a little too rich for my blood when there are guys like Aaron Rodgers, and Carson Wentz still on the board.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

While Brady took his shots downfield sparingly in 2019, he did manage the 9th best completion percentage on deep balls. With a new core of upgraded weapons at his side, we could see a revived 43-year old Brady. If the Bucs continue to lean on the passing game to the degree that they did in 2019 and the offensive line holds up, we could get all of the fantasy production we got out of Winston without the turnovers. Winston finished as the QB5 last year with an eye-popping 35 combined interceptions and fumbles lost, so if Brady can match his 33 passing touchdowns we could see a top 5 finish in 2020.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Remember the whole "ranked 30th in True Completion Percentage"? What if the decline has finally begun and he's unable to get the ball to his shiny new toys? Another negative alternative would be if the Bucs have a more balanced attack and don't lean on the arm of Brady. The 99th percentile worst-case scenario sees the tarnishing of Brady's legacy and a fantasy season that's disappointing for everyone.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	594
COMP	386
YARDS	4,478
TD	27
INT	9
RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	25
YARDS	30
TD	2

RUNNING BACK

RONALD JONES II

ADP: 59.5, RB29

2019 was a year of one step forward, two steps back for Ronald Jones II. Every time he looked like he started to have a grip on the starting job, he ended up back in HC Bruce Arians' dog house for missing a block or putting the ball on the ground. The second-year back turned in 1,033 all-purpose yards and scored 6 touchdowns despite seeing just over 50% of the running back snaps. The Bucs spent an early 2018 second-round pick on Jones, but unless his pass blocking progresses, he may never turn into the workhorse back that the Bucs thought they were getting. With more competition nipping at his heels, 2020 is put up or shut up time for Jones. He will likely begin as the Tampa Bay starting running back, but Brady seems destined to have the final say on who ultimately sees the most snaps in this backfield.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

If he improves his pass blocking, Jones could be the lead back in an offense that is going to be very, very good. Ke'Shawn Vaughn having some rookie struggles due to a limited training camp would help Jones' case as well.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

If the pass blocking doesn't improve, Jones will most likely find his way to the bench and it will be Ke'Shawn Vaughn season. Jones is a part of the backfield mix, but doesn't have a clearly defined role and doesn't have much appeal outside of best ball leagues.

KE'SHAWN VAUGHN

ADP: 107.2, RB45

Tampa Bay used a 3rd round pick to bring in the running back out of Vanderbilt, Ke'Shawn Vaughn. Over his last two years at Vanderbilt, Vaughn racked up over 2,700 yards and 24 touchdowns. Vaughn has good vision and is a good north-south runner, but the area he provides an upgrade in over Jones is pass protection. Don't get me wrong, Vaughn isn't a standout pass blocker, but he does appear to be ahead of Jones in that department. He also has good hands out of the backfield. Dare Ogunbowale appears to be the team's primary pass-catching back, so the amount of opportunities that Vaughn will receive in the passing game depends a little on Ogunbowale. The only reason Ogunbowale has a roster spot is due to his work in the passing game, so I wouldn't expect the team to just immediately fade him from the offense. That being said, if Vaughn can prove he has the tools to keep Brady upright more often than Jones, that may be the open door he needs to take the lead back job and run with it.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Vaughn succeeds in pass protection while Jones continues to struggle, leading to Vaughn taking over the lead-back job. There's the potential for a next-level of production if Vaughn can prove his role in the passing game and take some of the targets from Ogunbowale. In what should be a high-powered offense, Vaughn's upside is a top-end fantasy running back.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Vaughn's downside may have more to do with Jones than it does with him. If Jones proves that he's worked on his pass blocking and can keep Brady upright, Vaughn may never get an opportunity to prove he can carry the load this year. If Ogunbowale continues to carry his weight in the passing game, Vaughn's target share will remain on the low end, and he will be left without a clear role.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	197
YARDS	870
TD	8

RECEIVING

TARGETS	33
REC	25
YARDS	220
TD	1

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	100
YARDS	397
TD	3

RECEIVING

TARGETS	35
REC	29
YARDS	235
TD	1

LESEAN MCCOY

ADP: 140.1, RB55

LeSean McCoy was a late addition to the Bucs, being signed in mid-August. McCoy brings a veteran presence to this backfield. Hopefully, he can help Jones learn to pick up the blitz. I'm not sure there's a lot here for fantasy purposes, however. HC Bruce Arians said of McCoy, "He's a heck of a receiver." Granted, there's not a lot to go off, but it could mean Ogunbowale's role would be in jeopardy.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

McCoy steals a couple of goal-line touches and receptions to be flex relevant three mystery weeks this year.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

"Worst-Case" from a fantasy perspective is that McCoy is a teacher in this backfield, coaching up Jones and Vaughn. What's "worst-case" from a fantasy perspective though, may be "best-case" from a real-life perspective.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	70
YARDS	299
TD	2

RECEIVING

TARGETS	25
REC	20
YARDS	140
TD	0

DARE OGUNBOWALE

ADP: 253, RB89

Dare Ogunbowale took the pass-catching back role in Week 1, catching four balls on five targets. For the year, Ogunbowale saw a 7% target share while seeing 31% of the running back snaps. His role in the offense really depended on game-script as there was a significant dropoff in his workload in games that the Bucs were in control of the game. That being said, if the Bucs offense is more efficient and they're not in catch-up mode as much as they were last year, Ogunbowale's role may be reduced. Ogunbowale isn't being drafted for fantasy purposes, but keep an eye on his role to see if Jones' or Vaughn's workload could be expanded.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Ogunbowale retains his role as the pass-catching back and sees a "James White-esque" workload.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Ogunbowale loses his pass-catching role to Jones or Vaughn. There also has to be some concern that if the Bucs aren't playing from behind as often as they were last year, that his role would be minimized regardless.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	24
YARDS	77
TD	0

RECEIVING

TARGETS	28
REC	20
YARDS	209
TD	1

WIDE RECEIVER

MIKE EVANS

ADP: 27.9, WR8

Mike Evans was on his way to potentially finish as the #2 wide receiver in fantasy scoring when he suffered a hamstring injury on a 61-yard touchdown reception. He still managed to finish as the WR5, thanks to catching 67 balls for 1,157 yards and 8 touchdowns on a 23.8% target share. Despite missing the final three games of the season, as well as the majority of the game he left with an injury, Evans saw the second-most end zone targets (15) in the league.

Evans has benefited from playing his entire career with Winston, who's short-memory, no-conscious, gunslinger play has led to Evans having a high aDOT every year. Among players who received at least 90 targets last year, Evans' 15.3 aDOT ranked second only to Mike Williams. The question coming into this year is will Evans' productivity be affected by the switch from the gunslinger Winston to Brady. There is a ray of hope in Brady's deep ball completion percentage, but if the Bucs offense becomes more efficient via reducing their turnovers, the passing volume should end up being reduced. Evans has been coming off draft boards towards the end of the 2nd round to the beginning of the 3rd round. He's in a cluster of third-tier wideouts like Kenny Golladay, D.J.Moore, Allen Robinson, and Odell Beckham.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

The Bucs continue their pass-happy ways, utilizing Evans on both deep balls and end zone throws. Even if they don't end up having the passing volume they had with Winston at the helm, Evans should benefit from the offense being more efficient by finding the end zone more often.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

The Bucs offense becomes more balanced and while I'd expect Evans to keep his 20+% target share, it would be of a much smaller pie. Touchdowns can be flukey and with his targets, catches, yards, and touchdowns reduced, it would be difficult to pay off his high draft price.

CHRIS GODWIN

ADP: 21, WR6

In 2019, Chris Godwin broke out in a big way. Godwin caught 86 balls for 1,333 yards and nine touchdowns to finish as the WR2 in fantasy leagues. While Evans saw a majority of his production on balls down the field, Godwin stood out in yards after the catch. His 574 YAC was best in the league. In New England, Brady loved to get rid of the ball quickly, which should benefit Godwin who had an aDOT of 10.8. Godwin had a true catch rate of 91.5%, which ranked him as fifth in the league. His catchable target rate was just 79.0%, so if Brady manages to be more accurate than Winston was in 2019, Godwin could maintain his high level of productivity even if his targets drop slightly. Godwin has surpassed Evans and has been going as the WR6 for fantasy purposes in the 2nd round. Depending on which tier you have him in, Godwin either ends the second tier of receivers (Michael Thomas is in a tier of his own) or begins the third tier.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

A repeat of 2019. Godwin quickly becomes Brady's favorite target and becomes essentially what Julian Edelman was in New England, only with elite run after the catch ability. Godwin puts up his second-straight dominant fantasy season and challenges for the WR1 spot in 2021 drafts.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Godwin has a very high ceiling. However, if the Bucs lean more towards a balanced offense, he could see his targets drop off some. Barring injury, I view the downside as a backend WR1.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	133
REC	89
YARDS	1,361
TD	8

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	126
REC	92
YARDS	1,313
TD	8

TYLER JOHNSON

ADP: 361, WR169

The rookie receiver out of Minnesota has been one of the most productive college receivers over the last two years. In his Junior and Senior seasons, Tyler Johnson caught 164 balls for 2,487 yards and 25 touchdowns. His college dominator of 57.2% places him in the 98th percentile. Johnson is a good route runner and has great ball skills, but his size and speed might be what keeps him down in the NFL. He projects as a slot receiver, but he'll need to continue to hone his craft to get the chance to produce at the NFL level.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

His route running and ball skills land him a role as the slot receiver to start the year. With so many mouths to feed, his ceiling is certainly capped, but a 12-15% target share out of the slot should make him plenty productive in what should be a high powered offense.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Given that the Bucs will most likely be using two tight end sets often, this could be a developmental year for Johnson as he fights to see the field among the alternative slot options in Tampa Bay.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	11
REC	7
YARDS	75
TD	1

TIGHT END

ROB GRONKOWSKI

ADP: 70.7, TE6

Gronk returns to the football field after one year of retirement coming after three injury-riddled seasons. Rob Gronkowski missed 13 games with a myriad of injuries - multiple back injuries, concussion, hamstring, chest/lung bruise, and thigh bruise. The back is the most concerning one because it could be reaggravated, but hopefully, a full year of rest and recovery (and WWE appearances) was just what the doctor ordered.

Gronkowski takes his talents to Tampa Bay and pairs back up with the quarterback who has found him in the endzone 78 times in his career. That ranks fifth all-time in touchdown pass combos. However, the questions remain. How much gas does the 31-year old tight end have left in the tank? With two capable tight ends already on the roster, how does Gronk fit in? And with so many mouths to feed, will there be enough work to make any of the three tight ends fantasy-relevant? Gronkowski has been coming off the board as the TE6 in the sixth round for fantasy purposes just before Evan Engram, Tyler Higbee, and Hunter Henry. Personally, I'd rather have any of that trio ahead of Gronk.

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

For fantasy purposes, the best-case scenario involves Gronk being used primarily as a pass catcher and not as a blocker. That should help keep the wear and tear down. The Bucs use plenty of "12" formations with Howard or Brate taking care of the pass blocking, which allows Gronk to focus on catching balls from his bestie. Gronk plays a major role in the red zone and finishes as a top 4 tight end depending on how many times he finds pay dirt.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	85
REC	60
YARDS	778
TD	6

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

He's not in football shape. The year off healed his body, but he's also one extra year older and lost another step. The worst-case scenario is the Bucs realize Brate is outplaying Gronk.

O.J. HOWARD

ADP: 363, TE40

Fantasy owners were not happy with O.J. Howard last year and for good reason. While he saw his targets increase slightly, his role in the offense seemed depleted. He finished the year with 34 catches for 459 yards and one touchdown. After scoring 11 touchdowns in his previous two seasons, finding the end zone just once was a big disappointment. However, in real life, Howard was doing exactly what his coach asked of him. HC Bruce Arians made it Howard's job to stay in and help the offensive line out and that's just what he did. With Gronkowski added to the mix, the road for Howard to get back to being primarily a pass catcher just got more treacherous. Howard hasn't been regularly drafted for fantasy purposes, but his role is one to keep an eye on.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	32
REC	23
YARDS	243
TD	2

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

Brady convinces Arians to make Howard a priority in the passing game a la Gronk/Hernandez. While Howard won't get all of the tight end targets, if he maintains the uptick in targets and finds the endzone more often, he would regain his TE1 status.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Gronk and Brate take the majority of the tight end targets, while Howard remains in the doghouse. He never establishes a consistent rapport with Brady and is playing for a new team in 2021.

CAMERON BRATE

ADP: 488, TE65

Despite seeing the field nearly half the time as Howard, Cameron Brate managed to see two more targets (55), catch two more balls (36), and score three more touchdowns (4). We have to assume that Gronkowski's presence reduces Brate's role in the passing game some, as Howard showed he could be a reliable blocker last year.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	14
REC	10
YARDS	97
TD	1

BEST-CASE SCENARIO

It would probably take an injury or a significant dropoff from Gronk in order to see Brate get a full workload. But if Brate finds a consistent role in the tight end rotation, and Brady leans on the position as a whole, Brate could have some fantasy-relevant weeks.

WORST-CASE SCENARIO

Gronk returns to the field completely healthy and the Bucs remember how to get O.J. Howard the ball, which could see Brate phased out of the offense. He's third in the rotation as the Bucs favor the more athletic options.

TEAM PREVIEWS TENNESSEE TITANS

DERRICK HENRY



By Bryan Sweet

The 2019 Tennessee Titans exceeded the expectations of even the most optimistic fans despite finishing at 9-7 for the fourth consecutive season. The Titans traveled to Gillette Stadium and knocked off the reigning Super Bowl Champions New England Patriots in the Wild Card Round of the NFL playoffs, and then did the unimaginable and bullied the #1 seed Baltimore Ravens to reach the AFC Championship Game. Ultimately their Cinderella run ended at the hands of the eventual Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs, but the Titans were a dominant team down the stretch.

The Titans fielded the 12th-best offense in 2019 (5,805 total yards), bolstered by Derrick Henry's NFL-leading 1,540 yards on the ground. Perhaps surprisingly, Tennessee also led the NFL in yards per pass attempt (8.8 YPA), likely due to the fact that Baltimore was the only team to pass less than the Titans in 2019. Rookie WR A.J. Brown was a pleasant surprise for the team and fantasy players alike, leading the team in receptions (52), receiving yards (1,051), and receiving TDs (8). Ryan Tannehill rejuvenated his career in Tennessee, leading the NFL in yards per attempt (9.6), passer rating (117.5), and yards per completion (13.6) over his 10 regular-season starts.

The Titans underwent a myriad of personnel changes throughout the 2019 season, but the offensive unit that advanced to the AFC Championship Game remains primarily intact. The biggest change comes along the offensive line as former first-round pick Jack Conklin will now be manning one of the tackle spots in Cleveland. Currently, Dennis Smith is projected to start in the spot vacated by Conklin, but the Titans did draft Isaiah Wilson in the first round, a highly-touted tackle out of the University of Georgia. There is a chance he steps into the starting role sooner rather than later. Tannehill remains under center and Henry remains the stalwart at running back. Brown, Corey Davis, and Adam Humphries will be the primary receiving options along with some combination of Jonnu Smith and Anthony Firkser at tight end. Offensive depth at the skill positions is a concern as the Titans have no notable depth at QB, RB, or WR beyond those mentioned earlier.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	7
2020 Projected Wins	9.5
Total Plays	1,167
Total Plays Rank	3
Pass %	62%
Pass % Rank	7
Rush %	38%
Rush % Rank	23
Plays/Gm	73
Plays/Gm Rank	3
Points Per Game	29
PPG Rank	3

QUARTERBACK

RYAN TANNEHILL

ADP: 153, QB21

Ryan Tannehill's resurgence was so dramatic he was awarded the NFL Comeback Player of the Year award; the only time I can remember when the award was not given to a player returning from injury. Tannehill took over for the struggling Marcus Mariota during the team's week six shutout loss to the Denver Broncos and never relinquished the starting role. If we project Tannehill's performance from the 10+ full games he played over a 16-game season, Tannehill would have set career highs in yardage (4,387), passing touchdowns (35) and passer rating (117.5) against just 9 interceptions. Tannehill also chipped in 185 rushing yards and four rushing touchdowns to further bolster his fantasy numbers.

However (isn't there always a however), Tannehill's numbers over the Titans three playoff games tells a different story. Tannehill attempted just 60 passes in three full games, completing 36 for a paltry 369 yards and five touchdowns. Those numbers, projected to a full 16-game season, would be 1,968 yards and 26 TDs. The big question is, "Which Ryan Tannehill will we get in 2020?"

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Tannehill continues the torrid pace he set in the regular season and approaches or exceeds 4,000 yards and 30 TDs. The Titans finally breakthrough for double-digit wins under Mike Vrabel and host a playoff game as AFC South champions.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The coaching staff tries to replicate the success Tennessee had in the 2019 playoffs and goes almost exclusively to a run-oriented offense. Tannehill puts up numbers reminiscent of his last two seasons in Miami and struggles to find a home on fantasy rosters.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING

PASS ATT	440
COMP	290
YARDS	3,610
TD	24
INT	11

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	40
YARDS	180
TD	2

RUNNING BACK

DERRICK HENRY

ADP: 8, RB7

It is confounding how it took four seasons for someone to finally discover, “Hey, this Derrick Henry guy is pretty good. Let’s see how he does with a full workload.” That resulted in Henry leading the league in rushing yards (1,540), carries (303), and rushing touchdowns (16 - tied with Aaron Jones), and he was the primary driving force behind Tennessee’s run to the AFC Championship Game. Henry joined Ezekiel Elliott as the only member of the 300-carry club in 2019 - a number that has drawn concern from fantasy players over the years.

Generally speaking, running backs see a decline in fantasy production the year following 300 carries either due to workload limitations, injury, or just wear and tear on the human body. Fortunately, we have a recent example in Elliott. In 2018, Elliott had 304 carries but only saw a small decrease in total yardage (226 total yards) but increased his TD output (5 more TDs in 2019). Henry’s case is very similar to Elliott’s heading into his post-300 carry season; limited threat to his touches, a run-focused attack, and youth (Henry will be 26 when the 2020 season begins, Elliott was 24 at the start of last season).

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Henry maintains a high-volume workload and gets worked into the passing game even more, leading the NFL in total yards and finishing as the RB1 in fantasy.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Henry sees a dip in production following the largest workload of his career and continues to be phased out of the passing game in favor of rookie Darrynton Evans. Henry maintains RB1 status but does not live up to his draft position as an elite RB.

DARRYNTON EVANS

ADP: 163, RB66

When Mike Vrabel took over head coaching duties for the Titans in 2018, Dion Lewis joined the team to pair with Henry in what many thought would be a “Thunder and Lightning” attack reminiscent of Tiki Barber and Ron Dayne with the New York Giants. However, Lewis never really found his groove in Tennessee and he was cut following the 2019 season.

Heading into the 2020 NFL Draft, many expected the Titans to acquire an RB to offset the loss of Lewis but it was mildly shocking when Tennessee used a third-round pick on Darrynton Evans from Appalachian State. Evans profiles as the perfect complement to Henry in Tennessee’s offense as he is a competent receiver out of the backfield and had an excellent performance at the NFL Combine (4.41-second 40-yard dash, 37-inch Vertical, 20 Bench Press reps), reinforcing the explosiveness he displayed in college.

Evans should immediately slot in as the team’s primary receiving back and may even handle some kick and punt return duties during his rookie season. Evans can handle some early-down work to give Henry some breathers, but his size (5’ 10”, 203 pounds) may hinder his effectiveness on carries between the tackles.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Evans immediately steps into the third-down running back role and some early-down work and lives up to his third-round draft stock. He provides a spark on special teams and significantly outperforms the numbers Dion Lewis put up in a similar role in 2019.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Evans is overwhelmed by the level of competition in the NFL after three years in the Sun Belt Conference and never grows comfortable with his role. His output is no better than what Lewis was able to accomplish, casting doubt on his selection as a day two pick in the NFL Draft.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	297
YARDS	1,396
TD	12

RECEIVING

TARGETS	29
REC	23
YARDS	189
TD	1

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	82
YARDS	361
TD	2

RECEIVING

TARGETS	37
REC	22
YARDS	173
TD	1

WIDE RECEIVER

A.J. BROWN

ADP: 43.2, WR18

Despite being on an offense that attempted the fewest number of passes outside of Baltimore, A.J. Brown became the first player in nearly 50 years to accumulate at least 1,000 receiving yards AND average 20+ yards per reception. Brown was targeted 84 times last season, but his target share between Marcus Mariota and Tannehill is telling. Brown saw 23 of Mariota's 160 attempts (14.3%) and 61 of Tannehill's (21.3%), showing Tannehill's confidence in Brown as the season wore on. Brown was also a load to bring down, racking up the sixth-most yards after the catch among wide receivers with 465 yards and tied for fourth among receivers with eight touchdowns. Brown also chipped in a rushing touchdown along with 60 rushing yards for good measure.

Brown has become the clear-cut #1 wide receiver on the team and should remain a viable part of the offense in 2020. Despite the low-volume passing game, Brown projects to see enough targets to remain in the WR1 conversation for fantasy this season.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Brown improves on his rookie numbers with a full season of Tannehill at quarterback. Brown soaks up 100+ targets and secures double-digit touchdowns en route to a second consecutive Pro Bowl selection.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Brown remains the focal point of the passing game, but the volume isn't there to support him as a consistent fantasy producer. The extra attention from defenses limits his upside as he fails to reach the lofty expectations set following his rookie season.

COREY DAVIS

ADP: 183, WR74

Corey Davis has been a bit of a disappointment over his first three seasons given he was the #5 overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft. Davis has been unable to find the endzone consistently (six career touchdowns) and has only a 57% catch rate thus far for his NFL career. After being the de facto #1 wide receiver on the team, Davis lost that role as a result of the emergence of A.J. Brown. Unfortunately for Davis, this also resulted in a drop in production from 2018.

Davis will still start opposite Brown in 2020 and is an excellent downfield blocker, so there doesn't appear to be any reason for the team to exclude him from the weekly gameplan. Unfortunately for Davis, Tennessee employs a run-heavy approach which will lessen his opportunities even more. This looks like a make-or-break year for Davis and his future with the team. Davis finds himself on the PUP list to begin camp as he recovers from offseason toe surgery but is expected to be ready for Week 1.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Davis takes advantage of the attention Brown demands and displays the traits that made him a top-five pick in 2017. Davis sets career highs in yardage and TDs

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	108
REC	71
YARDS	1,089
TD	8

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	3
YARDS	36
TD	0

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	64
REC	37
YARDS	514
TD	3

and lands as a solid WR2 in fantasy with some WR1 weeks sprinkled in.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Davis is slow to recover from surgery and sees his opportunities in the passing game reach a new low. The Titans part ways with Davis following the season.

ADAM HUMPHRIES

ADP: 191, WR81

The Titans paid handsomely for the services of Adam Humphries before the 2019 season (4 years, \$36 million), a seemingly high price for a slot WR. Humphries did exactly what was asked of him, however, catching better than 78% of his targets and converting first downs on 54% of his receptions. This made Humphries a much better NFL player than a fantasy player and a late-season injury led to the lowest output of Humphries' career.

No one can predict injuries, so a fully healthy season from Humphries should translate to better production. But Tennessee's offense is so dependent on the run that it's hard to rely on Humphries as a fantasy option barring something happening to either Davis or Brown.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Humphries sees an uptick in targets with a fully healthy season and the departure of veteran TE Delanie Walker. Humphries parlays the extra opportunities into a solid if unspectacular season and helps the Titans to the playoffs for a second straight year.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Humphries continues to see nothing more than short or intermediate opportunities to gain first downs and grind the clock. Humphries is an asset to the Titans but can't be trusted by fantasy players as anything other than an emergency option.

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	62
REC	47
YARDS	474
TD	2

TIGHT END

JONNU SMITH

ADP: 155.2, TE17

Jonnu Smith has improved in every statistical receiving category over his first three years in the league and there are reasons for optimism for another bump in production heading into 2020. First, Tennessee cut veteran tight end Delanie Walker following the 2019 season after two injury-shortened seasons. Second, Smith saw a nice uptick in targets per game once Tannehill took over as the team's starting quarterback (1.33 targets/game with Mariota vs. 3.46 with Tannehill). Finally, he is in a contract year and is scheduled to become an unrestricted free agent heading into the 2021 season.

Smith is also an athletic specimen, measuring in at 6'3" and 248 pounds and was clocked at 4.62 seconds in the 40-yard dash at the 2017 NFL Combine. The team views Smith as a legitimate receiving threat as well, splitting him off the line to get a better matchup for him at times throughout each game.

Unfortunately, Smith is stuck in a low-volume offense which limits his upside. Even a 10% increase in production would likely keep Smith out of the TE1 ranks.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Smith sees his target share grow again absent Delanie Walker and Tajae Sharpe, pushing his opportunities up for a fourth straight season. Smith capitalizes on his increased chances and has his best season to date, making him a weekly TE1.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Smith sees a marginal uptick in opportunity and turns in another quality season but one void of serious fantasy consideration. Smith is a streaming option at the position for fantasy players, but can't be trusted on a week-to-week basis.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	64
REC	47
YARDS	603
TD	5

TEAM PREVIEWS WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM



TERRY MCLAURIN



By Marc Salazar

The 2019 Washington Football Team began the season 0-5 and remained downhill from there. While they managed to earn three wins, all of them came after Jay Gruden was fired in Week 6. Their best player, Trent Williams, held out the entire season and was traded to the 49ers in the off-season. The team's top draft pick, quarterback Dwayne Haskins, took over as the full-time starter and had the typical rookie ups and downs. Scary Terry McLaurin was a bright spot though and the tandem gives fans something to look forward to. Head coach Ron Rivera takes over and will look to make his presence felt on a team that is in transition but whether or not fantasy owners can benefit remains to be seen.

TEAM STATS

STAT	NUMBER
2019 Team Wins	3
2020 Projected Wins	5.5
Total Plays	963
Total Plays Rank	32
Pass %	60%
Pass % Rank	12
Rush %	40%
Rush % Rank	15
Plays/Gm	60
Plays/Gm Rank	32
Points Per Game	17
PPG Rank	32

QUARTERBACK

DWAYNE HASKINS

ADP: 238, QB31

Washington used their first-round pick in 2019, number 15 overall, on Dwayne Haskins out of Ohio State. By Week 9 he was starting for a team that was circling the drain and did not have much help for him to succeed. Still, Haskins managed two wins in seven starts (nine appearances). Haskins spent much of his time in the pocket avoiding pressure, taking more than three sacks per game in his starts, and the team did address the holes in the offensive line in the off-season. Haskins is a player that needs to take a big step in his second-year if the team wants to move forward. Reports have been positive for Haskins, who worked hard on his diet and nutrition, and worked hard to become a more vocal leader on the team. Haskins is being overlooked in all but the deepest leagues but he could be a player that takes a big leap forward. Owners should be ready to acquire him quickly should he come out of the gate strong.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Haskins plays a full 16-games, easily cementing himself as the starter moving forward. Haskins tops 3,500 yards and 20 touchdown passes but he also struggles with interceptions.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Haskins passes for just 150-yards per game and tosses more interceptions than touchdowns. Haskins is benched late in the year, and the team gives clear signs of drafting another quarterback in 2021.

2020 PROJ.

PASSING	
PASS ATT	390
COMP	237
YARDS	3,125
TD	16
INT	15

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	20
YARDS	76
TD	1

RUNNING BACK

ADRIAN PETERSON

ADP: 109.2, RB46

Washington running back Adrian Peterson has been fortunate in his time with the team. In 2018 an injury forced Peterson into the lineup and he took advantage by rushing for 1000-yards at age 33. Injury again gave him an opportunity in 2019, and he led the team in carries and yards at age 34. This season, circumstances have vaulted him atop the depth chart, but for how long will be the biggest question. Peterson is likely to start as the early-down back until another option presents himself. Whether that lasts just a few games or most of the season will be the fantasy question owners want to be answered. For now, Peterson is a good target to start the season and can be acquired for a late-round pick. However, Peterson offers little to no upside which could turn off owners.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Peterson leads the team in carries and yards for the third straight year, topping 225 carries and 1,000-yards as the primary early-down and goalline back.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Peterson begins as the starter but is quickly overtaken as the lead back and has the least productive season of his storied career.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING	
RUSH ATT	167
YARDS	682
TD	5

RECEIVING	
TARGETS	22
REC	13
YARDS	122
TD	1

ANTONIO GIBSON

ADP: 83.1, RB36

Antonio Gibson has flown up the draft boards since news broke about the Washington backfield. Gibson is an athletic monster, with a speed score (a measure of speed at a given weight) that is in the 99 percentile, an extraordinary metric for a running back. But is he a running back? At Memphis, in his two-year career, Gibson touched the ball just 77 times, but from a variety of positions. Washington invested a high third-round pick, number 66 overall, mostly because Gibson was electric with those 77 touches averaging 15.6 yards per touch and scoring 14 touchdowns. Some owners see a player with unlimited upside, while others see a gadget player without a true position. Which side is correct could decide fantasy championships. Gibson is worth a pick anytime after the 10th but if his price continues to rise he creeps in the fantasy starter range, which is too rich.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Gibson begins the year making explosive plays and coaches cannot keep him off the field. Gibson assumes the lead back role and tops 1,200 total yards from scrimmage. Gibson finishes inside the Top 20 fantasy running backs.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Gibson flashes his explosive playmaking ability, but mostly in the return game, and fails to carve out a consistent role in the offense. With very little experience, Gibson learns on the job but sets himself up for a breakout year two.

BRYCE LOVE

ADP: 145, RB55

The forgotten player competing for carries in the crowded Washington backfield is Bryce Love, the team's fourth-round draft pick in 2019. Love was unbelievably productive in college at Wake Forest, with more than four thousand yards from scrimmage including 2,118 yards rushing his junior season. Love tore his ACL midway through his senior year and sat out his rookie NFL season while recovering. Love is not the athletic marvel that Gibson is, but he has the experience and production being a bell-cow in college. Often those skills will outweigh athletic traits in the NFL. Love is going as an afterthought in drafts and the savvy drafter will want to add Love as the late-round flyer, who could earn the starting role.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Love earns the starting role during the first month of the season and tops 800 yards as the primary early-down back.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Love takes just a handful of carries, frustrating fantasy owners without a consistent every-week role.

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	244
YARDS	221
TD	2

RECEIVING

TARGETS	56
REC	33
YARDS	223
TD	2

2020 PROJ.

RUSHING

RUSH ATT	110
YARDS	474
TD	3

RECEIVING

TARGETS	27
REC	17
YARDS	171
TD	1

WIDE RECEIVER

TERRY MCLAURIN

ADP: 54, WR23

The bright spot of the 2019 season was the emergence of wide receiver Terry McLaurin. Scary Terry started the year off with a bang, scoring 17+ points in his first three games. McLaurin struggled through a long stretch in the middle of the season but he scored ten or more points in 8 of 14 games. That was good enough for a WR29 finish, and an ideal flex starter. McLaurin's price is currently a fantasy starter and a top 24 finish is certainly possible. McLaurin works within a limited offense which will limit his upside, and it might be tough for him to finish inside the Top 12. If he continues to score touchdowns at a high rate, however, he could continue to overperform from a fantasy perspective.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

McLaurin finishes inside the Top 20 receivers and is a consistent fantasy starter. McLaurin has his first thousand-yard receiving season and is a red zone monster.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

McLaurin is such a talented receiver, it is hard seeing him finish outside the top thirty fantasy pass catchers. While owners expected more, he remains an ideal flex option.

STEVEN SIMS

ADP: 189, WR79

Steven Sims closed out the 2019 season on a hot streak, with 230 yards and four touchdowns in the final four games. However, most of Sims' damage came from the slot, which is not an ideal role for fantasy owners looking for consistency. Sims is a player that should not be drafted but is a top option as a matchup streamer.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Sims earns snaps on the outside and receives the second-most targets on the team. He is a player that can be used as a flex play in nearly any week.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Sims does not earn a consistent role outside of the slot and frustrates owners week to week. Outside of a handful of startable weeks, Sims is not a fantasy asset that should be owned.

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	107
REC	66
YARDS	1,073
TD	6

2020 PROJ.

RECEIVING

TARGETS	69
REC	45
YARDS	478
TD	3

TIGHT ENDS

LOGAN THOMAS

ADP: 353, TE36

Projecting who will be the primary tight end in Washington is an exercise in futility. Logan Thomas, Jeremy Sprinkle, and rookie Thaddeus Moss are battling for the role. Thomas is coming off the draft board as the TE36, highest among the available players but owners should look elsewhere when looking for a late-round breakout. This season, the late-round options at tight end are abundant but Washington does not have many promising options.

BEST CASE SCENARIO

Thomas has a career year, but all that means is he tops 200 yards receiving.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

Thomas is cut in pre-season and other options emerge for Washington.

2020 Projection: 35 targets, 22 receptions, 266 receiving yards, 2 touchdowns

2020 PROJ.	
RECEIVING	
TARGETS	35
REC	22
YARDS	266
TD	2

FANTASY 101



FANTASY 101

HOW TO SPOT EARLY-ROUND BUSTS



By Ryan Heath

FANTASY 101: HOW TO SPOT EARLY-ROUND BUSTS

Your goal in the first few rounds of a fantasy draft should not be to win your league, but to avoid losing it. Drafting a player who does not live up to expectations early on can leave massive holes in your roster and cripple your fantasy team before the waiver-wire and trading activity even begins. If you want to be competitive, it's much more important to avoid drafting bad values than it is to hit on incredible ones. Luckily, there are a few things to look out for when identifying players that carry more risk than the average fantasy gamer might realize.

For the purposes of this analysis, "bust" will refer to a player that does not live up to his average draft position. In other words, they end up falling significantly short of their preseason projection, due to injury, underperformance, or otherwise. The other players drafted around them would have offered greater fantasy production at the same draft cost.

A player drafted as the RB5 is not a bust if he finishes as the RB7, since he probably still produced just as well or better than the players drafted near him. There are later-round breakouts and surprises that vault into the top scorers every year, so this can naturally push players down a few slots. However, a player drafted as the RB5 who finishes as the RB25 likely was a bust, since you probably could have secured better production from the other players drafted right after him.

With all this in mind, there are two big red flags we can look for when attempting to identify potential early-round busts. Not all busts will meet these criteria, but these are the most common factors that the average drafter tends to overlook, leading to riskier players being selected higher than they ought to be. Every player has a price where the risk becomes worth it, but these two factors are often not fully "priced in," making players that carry them ones to avoid at their ADPs.

RED FLAG #1: TOUCHDOWN REGRESSION

Touchdowns account for a significant portion of the fantasy points that players score, especially at the RB, WR, and TE positions. For example, even in the PPR format, touchdowns accounted for 21.4% of Austin Ekeler's fantasy points in 2019.

However, touchdown totals can swing wildly from year to year. Melvin Gordon was the leading rusher for the Chargers in both 2015 and 2016. In 2015, he scored no touchdowns and finished outside the top-30 fantasy running backs. In 2016, he scored 12 total touchdowns and vaulted into the top tier at the position. Of course, his carries and yardage also went up, but not enough to entirely explain a 12-touchdown jump.

Now that we've established both the importance and volatility of touchdowns, the next logical question to ask is "Well, what players got lucky and scored more touchdowns than they should have last year?" If we're looking for potential busts, players who are valued highly due to unsustainable touchdown production are a good place to start. If a player scored many more touchdowns than an average player would have given the same amount of total yardage last year, there's a good chance they're being overvalued by the fantasy community.

I calculated the number of expected touchdowns that each of the top-15 RBs and WRs by early ADP should have scored last year, based on their yardage totals and league-wide touchdown rates over the last five years. I then compared that number to their actual number of touchdowns scored last season. Players who scored many more touchdowns than this simple model would have expected are at risk of disappointing fantasy managers this year if their touchdown rates fall back toward the historical averages.

Here are the top five luckiest running backs in the sample, along with the number of additional touchdowns they scored over the expectation:

PLAYER	TDs Scored Over Expected in 2019
Aaron Jones	7.94
Todd Gurley	6.37
Derrick Henry	5.39
Christian McCaffrey	2.21
Kenyan Drake (Arizona production only)	2.17

...and here are the top five luckiest wide receivers at risk for regression:

PLAYER	TDs Scored Over Expected in 2019
Adam Thielen	4.19
Kenny Golladay	3.11
Cooper Kupp	2.3
Tyreek Hill	1.3
Mike Evans	0.33

Now, it's important to give these numbers some context. A player appearing on one of these lists does not necessarily mean they will be a bust in 2020. It is entirely possible for players to maintain touchdown rates higher than the league average due to talent, scheme fit, high usage near the goal line, and overall efficient offenses. It's when these factors aren't in place, or when they may not continue to be in place, that we really need to worry about the potential for these players to bust.

I'm not particularly worried about any of the wide receivers on this list, for example. While Adam Thielen scored over 4 more touchdowns than expected last year, Stefon Diggs being traded to the Bills opens up 94 targets in the Vikings' offense. Though Thielen will obviously not absorb every single one of those targets, he will be the undisputed number one option in that passing game, and could accordingly see a bump in targets and yardage that would offset some of the potential losses from touchdown regression. In addition, Thielen was hurt for much of last year, so it's not as if those extra touchdowns led to a monster season that's inflating his ADP. Much the same logic goes for Cooper Kupp, who is now in a passing game without Brandin Cooks and Todd Gurley.

While Kenny Golladay scored three more touchdowns than expected last year, he was also without starting QB Matthew Stafford for the home stretch of the season and remains the top red zone threat on the Lions offense due to his superior size and athleticism. He's not a lock to score double-digit touchdowns again, but his role in the offense is secure. While not exactly a screaming value, he'd be a fine pick in the third round.

This list of running backs, on the other hand, does contain some worrisome characters. Aaron Jones scored a touchdown for every 67.75 rushing yards, a rate just over double the league average from the last five years. While talented, Jones still has Jamaal Williams stealing touches in the backfield and is on a Packers team that ranked just below league average in total offense last year. Jones is now also joined by second-round NFL Draft pick A.J. Dillon, a bigger back who the Packers may begin deploying in the red zone. These factors in combination with Jones' incredible touchdown luck last year could be setting him up to disappoint fantasy gamers who draft him in the second round.

Similarly, Derrick Henry was also rather lucky in the touchdown department last year. The Titans also added a running back in the draft, third-round pick Darrynton Evans. As an offense, the Titans blew out the rest of the league in red zone efficiency last season, scoring a touchdown on over 77% of their red zone visits. For context, the Packers ranked second last year at nearly 68%, and no other team besides the 2019 Titans have managed to crack 73.5% over the last 10 seasons. It is exceedingly unlikely for both the Titans and Henry to match their remarkable

rates of touchdown production going into this year. Henry scored a touchdown last year on every 96.25 rushing yards, compared to the league average of one touchdown on every 136 rushing yards.

By analyzing expected touchdowns using other context with regards to these players and offenses, we can identify players who carry inflated public perceptions, making it more likely for them to bust at their respective ADPs. They aren't guaranteed to completely regress, and this type of analysis is not a great way to build projections for the coming season. However, it can give us a more unbiased window into what is driving the draft prices of these players, letting us act accordingly.

RED FLAG #2: CHANGING SITUATIONS

We've already discussed how changing situations at running back can contribute to touchdown regression. What about a change of scenery when considered on its own, though? Are players on new teams more likely to bust?

The sample size of course can't be nearly as large or robust here, but I analyzed the ADPs and end-of-season finishes of every wide receiver from the last five years being drafted inside the top 50 overall players that was on a new team at the beginning of a season. What a mouthful! Here were the results:

PLAYER	POSITIONAL ADP	POSITIONAL FINISH (PPR SCORING)	DIFFERENCE
Odell Beckham (2019)	WR5	WR25	-20
Antonio Brown (2019)	WR7	WR150	-143
Jarvis Landry (2018)	WR18	WR18	0
Brandin Cooks (2018)	WR19	WR13	6
Brandin Cooks (2017)	WR9	WR15	-6
Terrelle Pryor (2017)	WR16	WR105	-89
Alshon Jeffery (2017)	WR17	WR20	-3
Andre Johnson (2015)	WR18	WR58	-40
Jeremy Maclin (2015)	WR19	WR15	4

Right away, we can see that most of these results aren't pretty. There are plenty of big names and talented receivers here that significantly underperformed their ADPs after moving to a new team. It seems that the public often runs out to the best-case scenario for these top players, as they grab headlines when making waves in free agency. Only two of the nine outperformed their ADP after changing teams, and these players on average finished 32 spots lower in the positional ranks than where they were drafted.

I didn't include players who were traded mid-season, like 2018 Amari Cooper, since they were mostly drafted with the expectation they would be on their original team. It's arguable whether Antonio Brown ought to be included, since he was immediately released by the Raiders and signed by the Patriots after many had drafted, along with the insanity of his entire situation. Without Brown included, the average finish was 18.5 positional slots lower than ADP.

This isn't necessarily a hard-and-fast rule that will always apply, but when there are other players available that have not changed teams, already have playbook knowledge, and have established chemistry with their quarterbacks, it seems riskier to select the guys playing in new venues. Recent history seems to back up this way of thinking.

This year, this concern mostly applies to DeAndre Hopkins. With an ADP of WR3 often seeing him selected near the end of the first round or start of the second, Hopkins represents a great risk to fantasy drafters. Though supremely talented, Hopkins will be hard-pressed to once again maintain his typical gargantuan target share of over 30%, given that he must now build trust and timing with his new quarterback. He has ranked outside the top-50 in target separation in each of the past two years, suggesting his game relies heavily on his quarterback trusting him to make contested catches closer to defensive backs. Indeed, Hopkins has averaged nearly 35 contested targets over the last two seasons. He won't necessarily be useless, but the team-switch gives him a lot of downside at a position where others have already struggled to separate themselves into an elite tier. The Odell Beckham Jr. experience last year should make drafters wary of selecting Hopkins within the first two rounds.

On a more general note, drafters should also take into account any quarterback changes that occur on the teams of top players. Even if these appear to be upgrades or side-grades, a new signal-caller widens the range of outcomes for any player, increasing bust risk. Christian McCaffrey, Austin Ekeler, Joe Mixon, Chris Godwin, and Mike Evans all fall into this category in the first two rounds of ADP. You can close your eyes and imagine a scenario in which each of them underperforms expectations due to their new quarterbacks; Teddy Bridgewater and Tyrod Taylor could utilize their respective satellite backs less than their predecessors, rookie Joe Burrow could flop in spectacular fashion and make the Cincinnati offense even more inhospitable, and Tom Brady could choose one of his all-pro receivers as his favorite and begin ignoring the other one. These scenarios aren't all necessarily likely to happen, but it's important to take in all of the information affecting a player's situation.

If you can keep these two red flags in mind, you'll have a much greater chance of avoiding the landmines scattered around the first few rounds of your draft. The processes I've outlined here can be used to argue against players other than the ones I've chosen and can be applied year after year. This approach will leave you free to chase upside in the later rounds, rather than trying to dig yourself out of the holes left in your roster from risky picks early on.



FANTASY 101

PERSONNEL PACKAGES

WR

WR

LT

LG

C

RG

RT

TE

WR

QB

HB

By Ryan Kruse

FANTASY 101: PERSONNEL PACKAGES

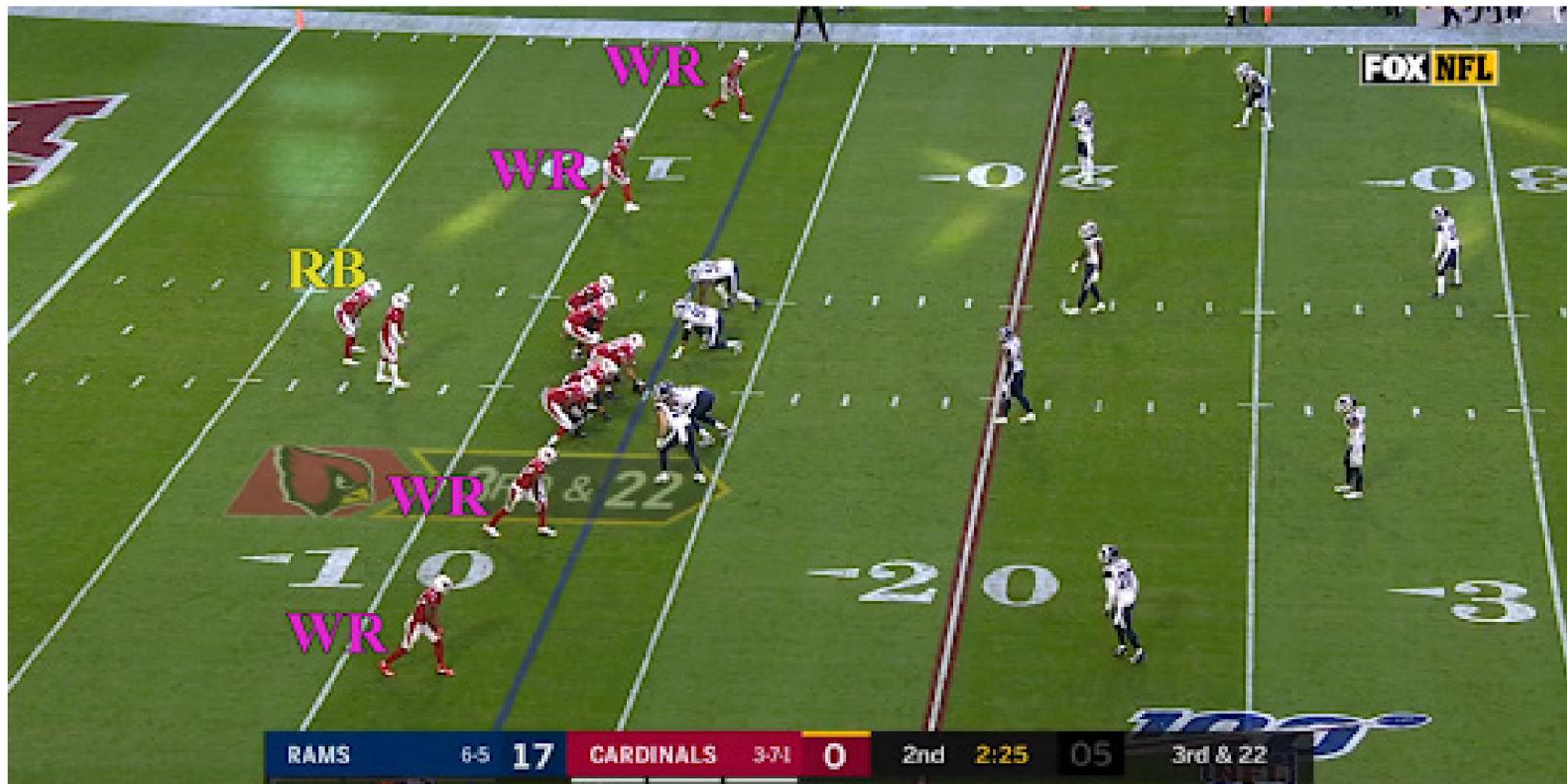
Personnel packages are the best. You know those old cheesy movies where the nerdy protagonist uses their brains and research skills to bone up on a sport before the big game? Personnel packages are like a real-life version of that Hollywood cheat code. All you need to do is learn the basic personnel packages, and people will look at you like you are Tony Romo in the announcer's booth.

It's actually quite simple. Just remember the alphabetical order for non-quarterback skill positions: Backs, Tight Ends, and Wide Receivers. These three slots will always add up to five. Personnel packages are only two numbers because the last slot (WR) is implied. Still with me? If you ever get confused, don't be afraid to reference our handy graphics below.

10 PERSONNEL (4WR)

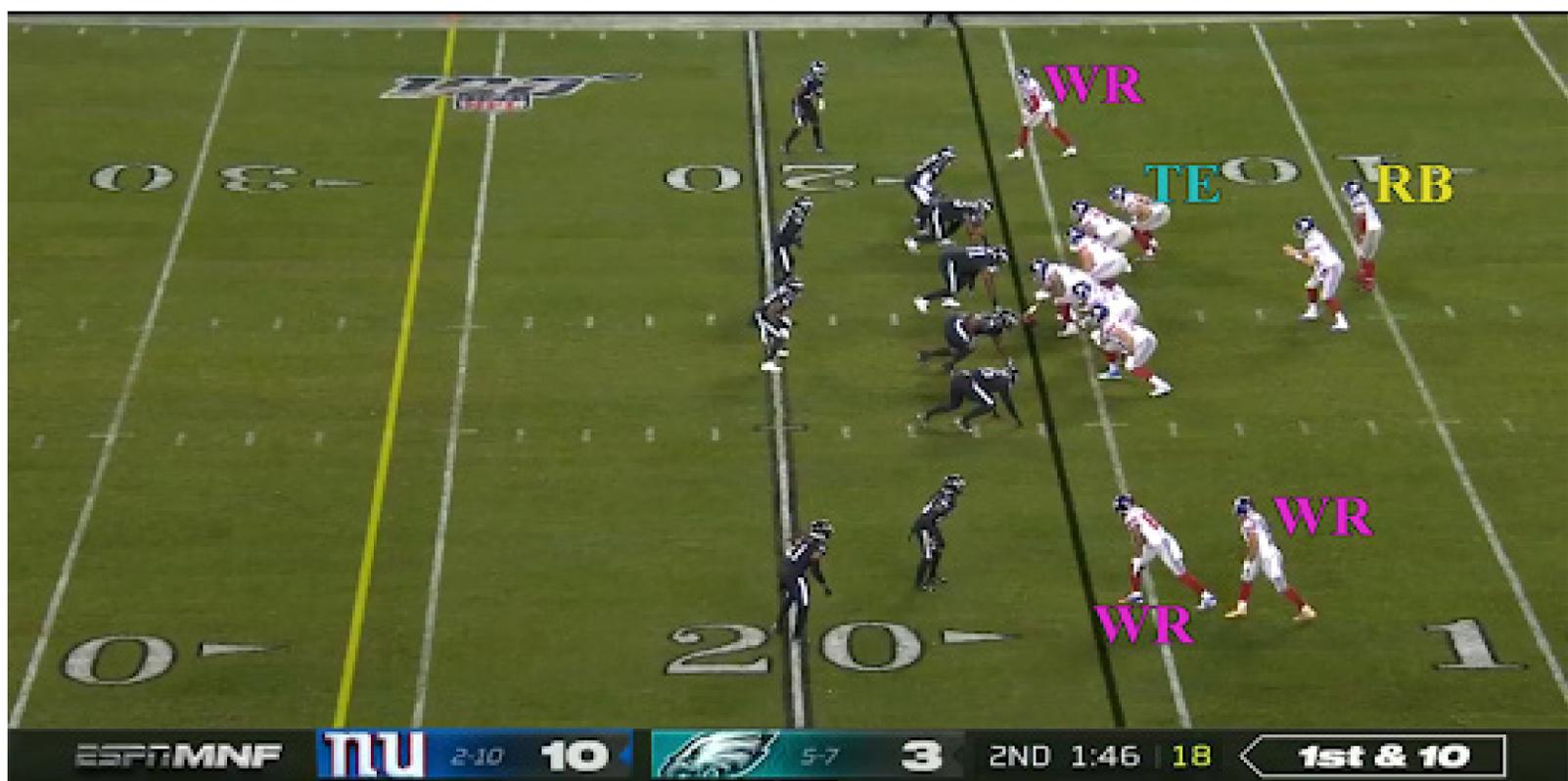
The 10 personnel package is sometimes called the "four-wide set" obviously referring to the four wide receivers in this package. Note that there is one running back in this set that can be used in several ways. Teams can line up their running back in the slot to effectively have five receivers running routes, or even drop the back next to the QB for pass-blocking or a run.

Many football fans will talk about this personnel package ad nauseam likely for good reason: it's exciting. Having at least four people lined up to receive a pass almost always means the team is trying to gain some significant yardage. In reality, teams only used 10 personnel for 3% of all NFL plays in 2019. If your favorite team isn't the Arizona Cardinals, then your team ran 10 personnel between zero and 8% of the time. Fun fact: the Cards ran the four-wide set nearly once every three plays in 2019! That's because head coach Kliff Kingsbury loves his air raid offense and clearly adapted his NCAA technique to the NFL. Here's a shot of the 2019 Cardinals. Note the one running back and the four receivers lined up for the pass.



11 PERSONNEL (3WR)

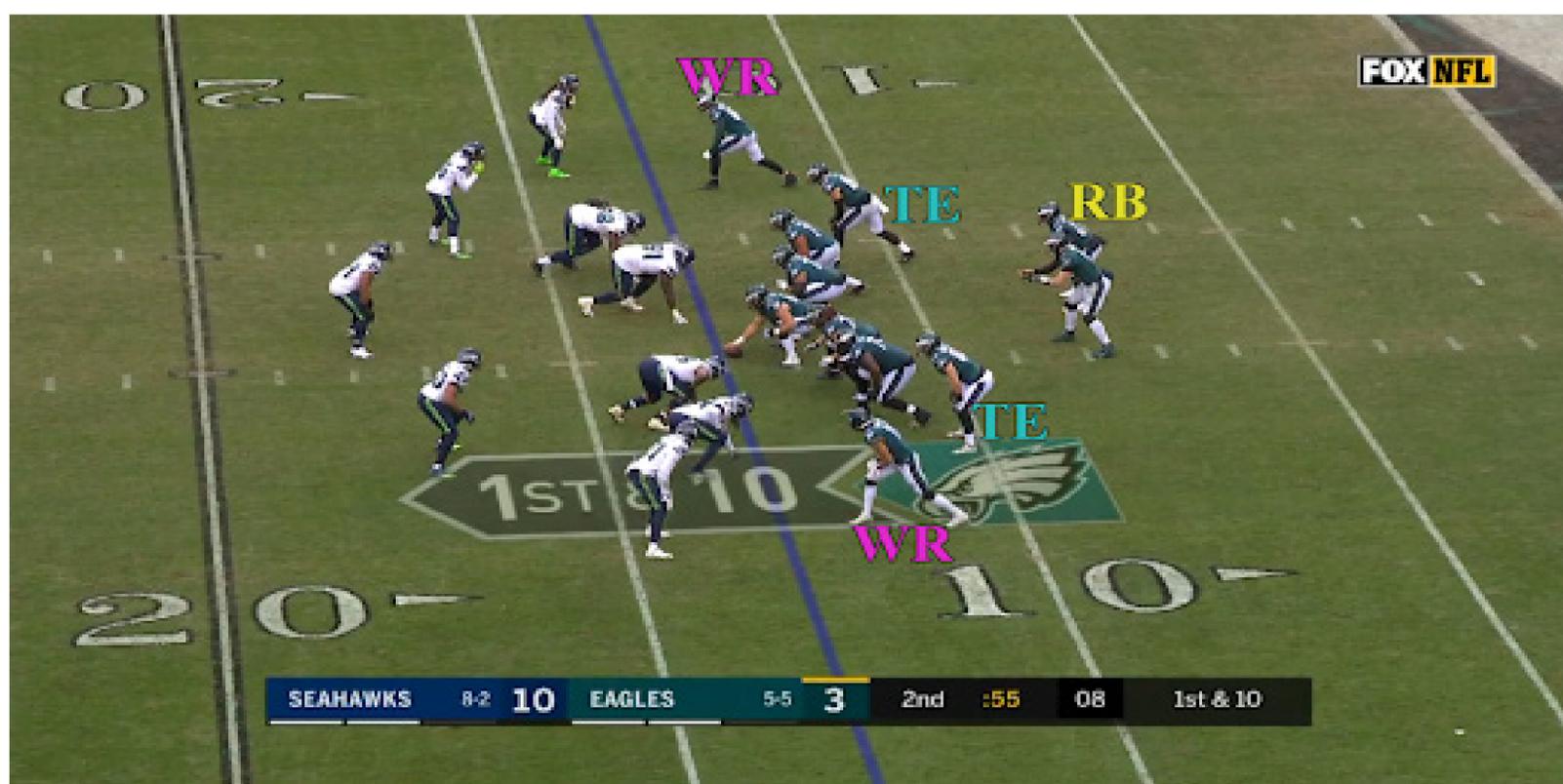
The 11 package is an easy one to remember. It's just one RB, one TE, and three wide receivers. 11 personnel is almost every NFL team's bread and butter. Only five teams employed the 11 personnel package for less than 50% of their snaps in 2019. The main reason 11 packages are so popular in the NFL is because of their versatility. If the quarterback can see the defense in a nickel package, he can choose to go for a pass. Conversely, if the QB sees plenty of extra defenders dropped back and expecting a pass, he can hand the ball off to his running back. In 2019, 67% of 11 packages resulted in passes while 33% were run plays. In this shot of the Giants' 11 personnel package you can clearly see the tight end set on top and just behind the line, the three receivers on the outsides, and the running back next to the QB.



12 PERSONNEL (2WR)

The 12 personnel package is another popular grouping around the NFL. It was used in 20% of all snaps in 2019, which makes it comfortably the second most popular personnel package in the NFL. Still, the rate at which teams choose to use this package can vary quite a bit. Some teams run 12 personnel as little as 8% of the time, while others use it for more than 50% of their plays. This grouping is pretty balanced and often used by teams with capable tight ends. 21 packages allow the offense to go for a power run or have their tight ends stretch the field and make a play in the passing game.

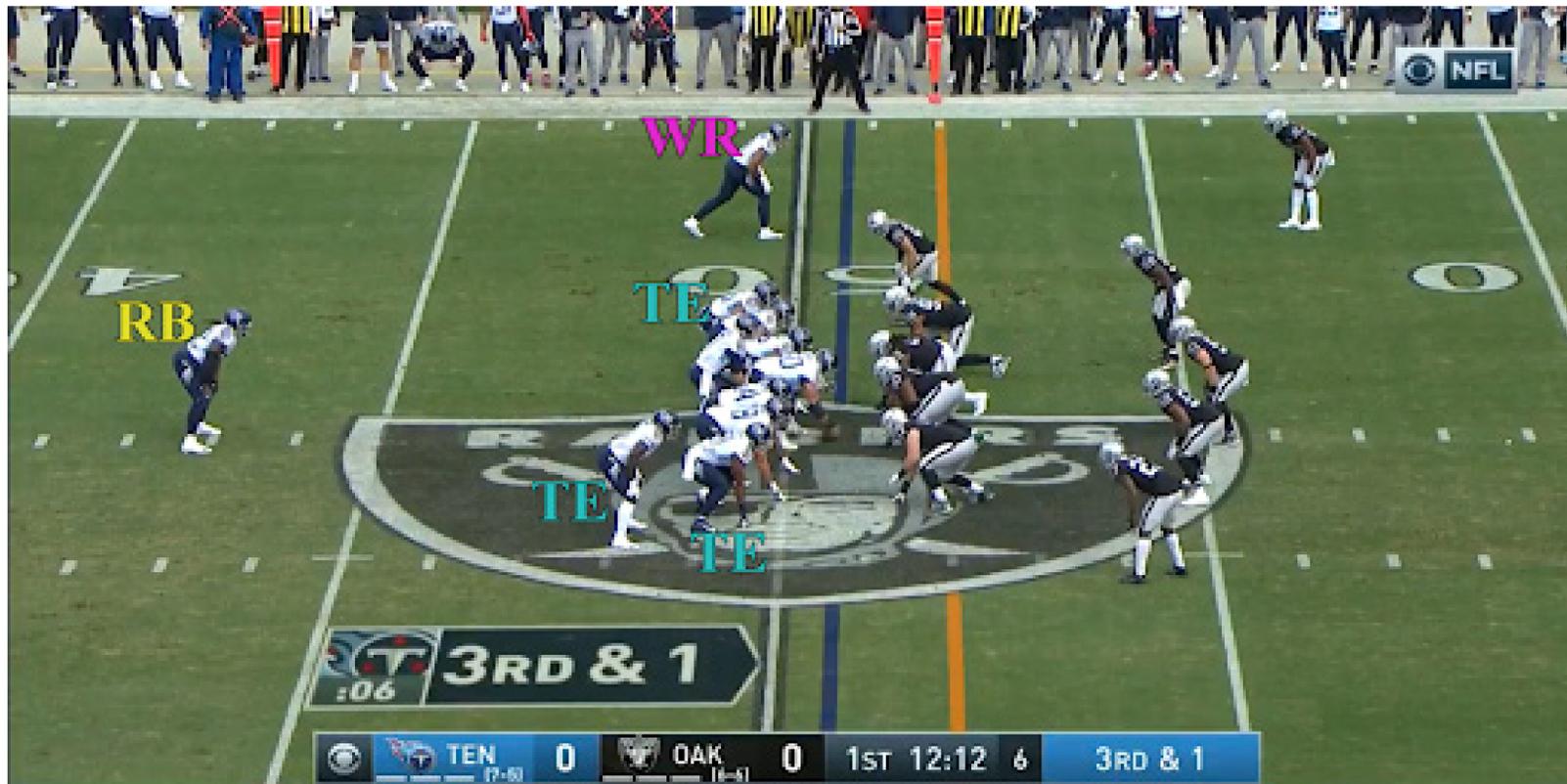
Here we have the Eagles running a 12 personnel package against the Seahawks. It's a bit tight, but this is still a pretty good example. The receivers are lined up in the slots while the tight ends are close to the line and set back a bit. The tight end on the top looks like he's ready to go straight out for a pass while our tight end below looks like he may be prepared to pass block or chip block. Meanwhile, the running back is set next to Carson Wentz.



13 PERSONNEL (1WR)

The 13 package isn't used often, and if you aren't counting the bodies on the line it can be easy to miss. That's because, with three tight ends crammed around the offensive line, it can be tough to notice where everyone is stationed. Also, it's not uncommon to see the back motion out wide, making the package seem more like a 03 and less like a 13. This package is typically used in short-yardage situations and results in a run play about 64% of the time. One of the advantages to the 13 personnel package is that the defense usually plays their hand when lining up against it. Seeing so many guys on the line, the defense is more likely to show a blitz if one is coming. If the QB sees something he doesn't like, he can change up the play and tell his skill positions to go out for a pass.

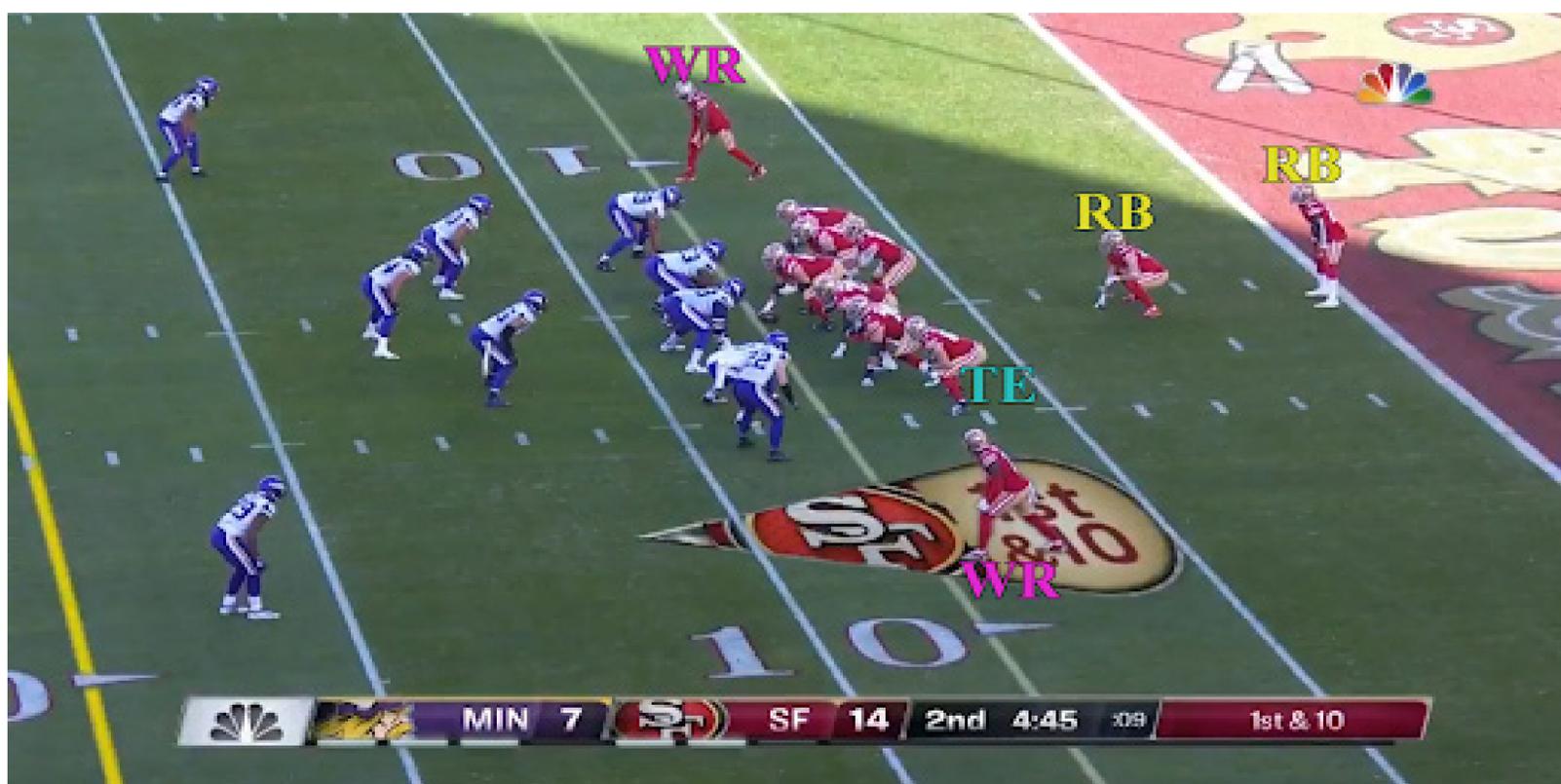
Here we have the Titans running their 13 personnel package against the Raiders. One tight end can be seen on the top of the line while the other two are situated at the bottom. There's also one receiver lined out wide and one running back behind the QB.



21 PERSONNEL (2WR)

This is the standard I-Formation you hear so much about. We see plenty of the 21 personnel packages in NCAA football, but it's become less popular in the NFL over the years. Be that as it may, 21 personnel packages were still used in 8% of all NFL snaps last year, making it the third-most-popular in 2019.

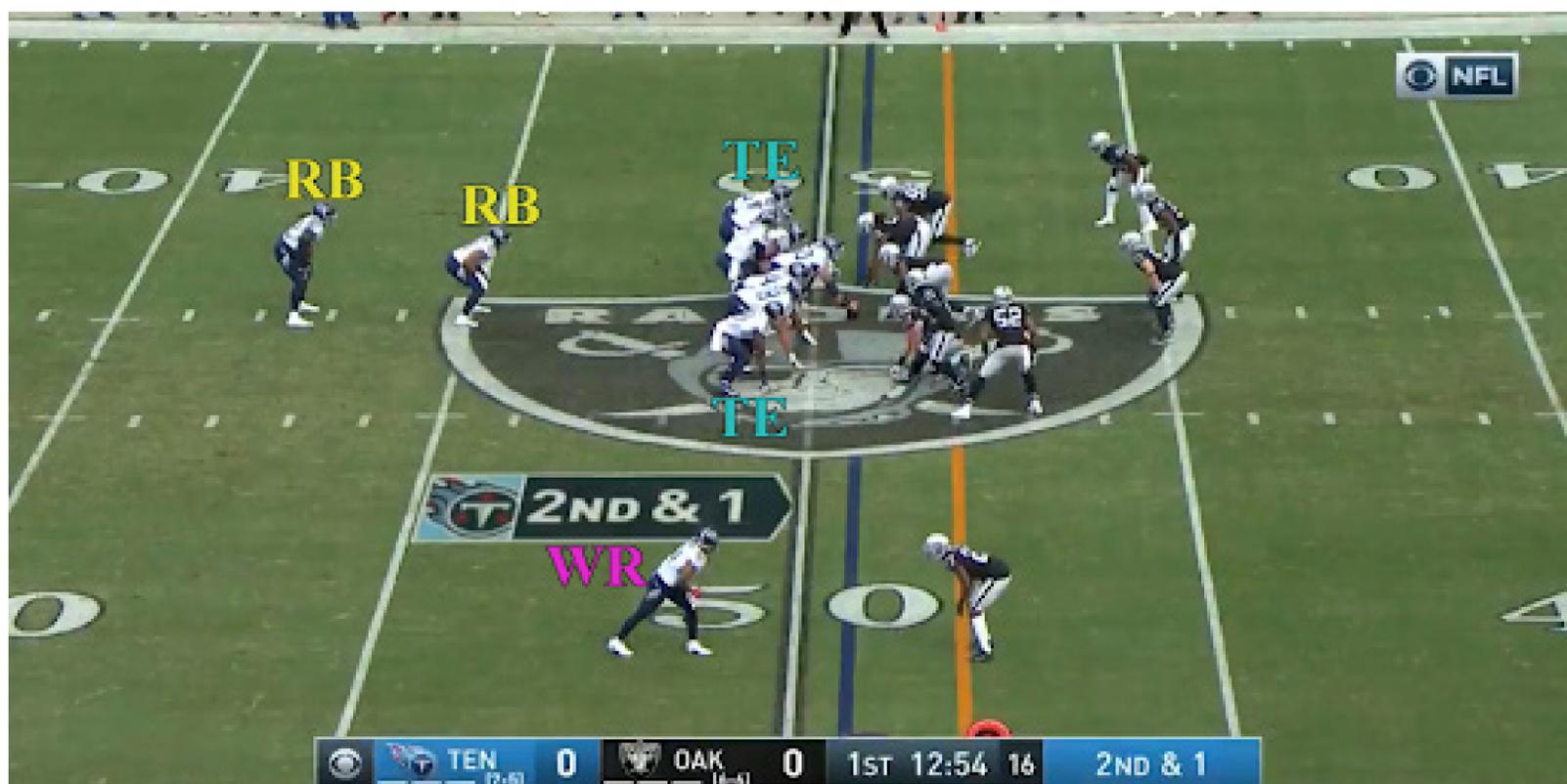
The 49ers love employing the 21 package because they have multiple backs with a wealth of varying skill sets and a tier-one tight end that is capable of blocking, catching, and anything in between. In this image, we can see a receiver on each side and tight end George Kittle set next to the bottom of the line. Jimmy Garoppolo is lined up under center with Kyle Juszczyk immediately behind him at fullback and Tevin Coleman behind everyone at halfback.



22 PERSONNEL (1WR)

Another I-formation, the 22 package is used about half as much as the 21, making up roughly 4% of snaps in 2019. Better suited to the run game, 22 personnel packages became run plays 80% of the time. This one is quite common in short-yardage situations. Below we can see the two backs lined up behind the quarterback, one receiver out wide, and a tight end on either side of the line.

There are plenty more personnel packages in football, but the rest of them combined only accounted for about one percent of all NFL plays in 2019. Some examples include 00, 01, 02, 03, 20, 23, 30, and 31 packages. These personnel packages should be self-explanatory to you by now. Just remember the alphabetical order of positions.





FANTASY 101

SNAKE DRAFT STRATEGIES



By Marc Salazar

FANTASY 101: SNAKE DRAFT STRATEGIES

Fantasy draft season is upon us, a time when owners get a chance to draft a new team in hopes of taking home the league championship. Like most fantasy footballers, this is the best time of the season when we all walk away happy with our teams, feeling unstoppable and ready for the kickoff of Week 1. With endless fantasy content available in your hand it's easy to go astray from a plan and panic when “your guy” goes off the board or you're caught on the wrong side of a position run. QB List is here to give you a simple list of tips to keep you focused on crushing your draft.

ORGANIZE YOUR DRAFT LISTS INTO TIERS

Breaking your draft rankings list into tiers is perhaps the most important thing you can do before a snake draft. The key to winning championships is drafting players who can and do outperform their draft position. Tiers are helpful because they quantify the difference in draft round value against each other. Group all skill positions into position tiers, and cross out names as you go. If you are in Round 4 and you have just one RB left in your second tier but several remain in your highest remaining WR tier then the choice becomes easy. This also keeps you from reaching for any single-player because you should expect each tier to perform similarly.

BE PREPARED TO CHANGE YOUR DRAFT STRATEGY

Zero RB, Late Round QB, Robust RB, Stud TE. Whatever this year's most popular strategy, your league isn't won on Draft Day alone. It takes weekly attention, trades, waiver wire, smart lineup choices, and luck to win. For every owner that I've met who's won a league with ‘strategy of the year’ you will find ten others who've lost with it. Pick two strategies based solely on your league's rules, scoring, and tendencies of the other owners. Be willing to adjust if the strategy isn't going your way, and don't reach. If you built a proper board of tiers your strategy will present itself.

TRACK OTHER OWNERS PICKS

Make a habit of tracking the players and positions that other owners have already drafted. Tracking the draft board is an important part of getting ahead of your next pick. As the draft moves on you will begin to see where your opponents are strong, what positions they have selected, and what positions have left to fill, allowing you to anticipate their picks. For instance, you are picking 9th in a 12-team league and it is your pick in the 7th round. You see owners 10, 11, and 12 have a starting QB and it's unlikely they will draft a second so early. You can comfortably pass on a QB in the 7th and take the best remaining RB/WR. As expected the next 6 picks are all RBs/WRs and the QB falls into your lap in the 8th. Some draft sites are now making color-coded draft boards available in the draft portal. Taking frequent looks at the draft board will give you an idea of who will be available at your next pick.

AVOID COMMON DRAFT TRAPS

Bye Weeks: It stinks to have your studs with the same bye week but it's much easier to figure out in-season than to pass on the value on draft day. Don't let it be the deciding factor on who you draft. Pay little attention to this and worry about it later.

Strength of Schedule: On draft day you may look at a player's "fantasy playoff" schedule and salivate, but truly there isn't a single person who knows what December football may look like (especially this year). Making a choice on a player based on his Week 13-16 schedule seldom works. You have to get there first. This could be a tie-breaker but should not be a strategy.

RB Handcuffs: Handcuffing is a decades-old strategy that made sense a decade ago. At that time teams were relying heavily on a feature back who never came off the field and his backup could replace the starter should he go down. Handcuffs were clear and easy to identify. Nowadays, with the rise of running back by committee and specialist backs, identifying a direct replacement is difficult. Don't waste a pick on an unproductive backfield just because you are worried about injury replacement. Instead, identify the situations where there is a direct replacement and opportunity to produce, even if the players aren't on the same team.

Teammates: Big time QBs or efficient/high volume offenses can support multiple fantasy studs. In the past few seasons, we've had deadly combos that have finished in the Top 5 at their positions. In 2018, Kansas City finished with a Top 5 player at QB, RB, WR, and TE in scoring. Rodgers, Brady, Brees, and Mahomes have multiple seasons supporting Top 10 guys at multiple skill positions. Don't be afraid to draft two stud WR/RB/TE from a great offense. This helps to even out your weekly scoring as it is unlikely both top guys will be held down in the same week, thus giving you a consistent point total each week.

LEAVE YOUR HEART AT THE DOOR

I think we all love our favorite team but be cautious not to reach for a player simply because you will be cheering for him on Sunday. This is why using tiers and building a draft board are so important. Trust your board, which should have similar players grouped into a similar range of outcomes. If you miss out on your favorite player, you will have comfort in knowing that the name right next to him will be just as productive.



FANTASY 101

WAITING ON QUARTERBACK



By Brandon Miller

FANTASY 101: WAITING ON QUARTERBACK

KNOW YOUR LEAGUE SETTINGS

The strategy of waiting on drafting a quarterback is not “one size fits all.” This advice pertains to leagues with the more traditional structure of one QB roster slot, four points per pass TD, and one point per 25 passing yards. To truly maximize the potential of your fantasy roster, it’s crucial to tailor it to your specific league settings. We would not advise waiting on a quarterback in leagues with two QB slots, a Super-Flex slot, and/or leagues that reward six points per pass TD. These leagues all place more of a premium on the position, and taking at least one of the “elite” quarterbacks early in the draft can provide a nice weekly advantage over your opponent. In short, this strategy assumes you are participating in a league with the more traditional roster and scoring settings.

LOOK FOR VALUE AT ALL TIMES

Just because we hear it dozens of times during draft prep season doesn’t make it any less true: deciding when to draft a player or position all comes down to value. When it comes to quarterbacks, it’s much easier to find value late in the draft or on the waiver wire throughout the season. Those of us who have had to find a running back, wide receiver, or tight end replacement or streaming option on waivers on a given week know that it’s a roll of the dice whether or not they provide meaningful production. Save yourself the headache and let your league draft their starting quarterback while you load up on much-less-replaceable running backs and wide receivers.

Once you feel comfortable with your depth at the skill positions, then start looking ahead at quarterback bargains you like for your next pick(s). If your draft prep includes assigning tiers to each position, the question you should ask is “if I don’t take [RB/WR/TE] now, what options are likely to be there for my next pick?” Most of the time, the top tiers at those positions dry up quickly and the value diminishes with each passing round. There is no set-in-stone time to draft a quarterback, but the sentiment here is feeling good about the depth that will make up the majority of your lineup/bench before moving on to the quarterback slot.

KNOW THE PLAYER, KNOW THE TEAM, CHECK THE SCHEDULE

At this point, all or most of your league has now drafted their starting QB (we'll say 11-12 QBs are now off the board). Don't panic; this is where it all starts to come together. Fantasy managers tend to gravitate toward the shiny new toys, the previous year's breakouts, and the quarterbacks who play for their favorite team first, typically leaving a clump of boring but reliable veteran options and young, unproven signal callers at the back of the pack. This is the hand-me-down car you got in high school that isn't flashy and sputters sometimes, but it gets the job done. Nobody in the draft room will react much when you select these types of players, but these are the guys who can lead you to the promised land. If you can't bear to see this player's name at the top of your lineup every week, balance out that out by pairing it with one of the young, unproven options with upside. Those who took late upside players like Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson in recent years are glad they did.

Although late draft picks can produce excellent value at quarterback, there is a caveat. You don't want to pick just anyone. Other things to consider include their supporting cast (pass-catchers, offensive line), their team's offensive scheme (play-caller philosophy), rushing ability, and schedule (how do those first few matchups look on paper?). It's not worth drafting a quarterback if they have nobody to throw to or no time to throw, if their team rarely passes (and the QB rarely runs), or if they have to go through a gauntlet of brutal secondaries to start the season. A fantasy football regular season breaks down to a series of one-week matchups, so focus on schedule early on while making sure your QB has some playmakers to throw to. Other teams that drafted two quarterbacks are usually quick to shed one once they get excited by something on the waiver wire, and most teams will put their waiver claims in for non-quarterback early-season breakouts, opening the door for a "one person's trash is another person's treasure" acquisition.

Don't wait for the sake of waiting; if a quarterback falls below their Average Draft Position or you feel good about the options that should be available to add depth at other positions in the next round, by all means, take your shot. But it hurts looking back at the draft results and seeing the players you could have had if you didn't spring for a quarterback early.



FANTASY 101

WHAT STATS MATTER



By Kenny Hyttenhove

FANTASY 101: WHAT STATS MATTER

Fantasy football is a growing pastime. Year in and year out more and more fans start playing the game within the game. As a result, year after year the competition gets tougher and tougher. In order to best your opponents, you need to be able to sift through the seemingly endless amounts of information out there. Team previews, opinion pieces, and stats on stats on stats. It can be difficult for newcomers and even the most experienced players to figure out what is signal and what is noise.

This article tries to help you cut through that wall of information by isolating the statistics that most strongly correlate to points per reception (PPR) fantasy points. Stats do not have bias or opinions, but they should be critical in the formation of them. Before you agree or disagree with a “hot take” or go to pick up that player off the waiver wire, make sure to use these statistics to help you drive your decisions.

In our process, we will be measuring the strength of the relationship between two different statistics. In our case, one of the statistics (or variables) will always be PPR fantasy points. We will then try to correlate the PPR points with one of the other statistics you may see attributed to one of your fantasy players. We will be pulling our data from players that have accumulated fantasy points over the last three NFL seasons (2017-2019).

An example would be if we want to see how strong of a relationship there is between passing touchdowns and PPR fantasy points for players at the quarterback position. We know that touchdowns are important in fantasy, but this work can quantify, or put a number to, just how important passing touchdowns are to scoring PPR fantasy points. By running the correlation for all the quarterbacks in the last three years, we get a number of .881 or about 88%. The closer to 1 or 100% the number is, the stronger the relationship between the two statistics. If you intuit this, it makes sense that passing touchdowns would have a strong relationship with fantasy points because when looking at scoring for most leagues, passing touchdowns are worth a lot of points. Also, the players that throw them the most tend to be the players with more PPR fantasy points. If you want to learn more about what we are using (which is called the Correlation Coefficient, or r) you can go [here](#).

For now, here are the general rules of thumb for defining the strength of the relationships between two statistics:

CORRELATION COEFFICIENT DESCRIPTORS

Range of Correlations Coefficients (%)	DESCRIPTION OF CORRELATION STRENGTH
70%+	Very Strong
69% – 40%	Strong
39% – 30%	Moderate
29% – 20%	Weak
19% – 1%	Negligible
0%	No Correlation

Here is a complete breakdown of statistics per skill position and their correlation to PPR fantasy points. The majority of the following statistics can be found on our partner’s website, FantasyData. Adjusted Yards Per Attempt (AY/A) and Adjusted Net Yards Per Attempt (ANY/A) were found on pro-football-reference.com.

QUARTERBACK STATISTICS TO PPR FANTASY POINTS

QB Stat	Correlation to Fantasy Points	STRENGTH	QB Stat Cont.	Correlation to Fantasy Points Cont.	STRENGTH Cont.
pTD	88%	VERY STRONG	rTD	37%	MODERATE
pYDS	82%	VERY STRONG	APACR	36%	MODERATE
COMPLETED AY	80%	VERY STRONG	CMP%	34%	MODERATE
RZ ATTEMPTS	74%	VERY STRONG	DROPPED PASSES	30%	MODERATE
TOTAL AY	73%	VERY STRONG	ANY/A	30%	MODERATE
DEEP BALL ATT	71%	VERY STRONG	RZ CMP%	23%	WEAK
pATT	67%	STRONG	DEEP BALL DIST/ATT	18%	NEGLIGIBLE
MONEY THROWS	63%	STRONG	PACR	16%	NEGLIGIBLE
TRUE PASSER RATING	54%	STRONG	ADOT	16%	NEGLIGIBLE
PTD %	54%	STRONG	INTERCEPTABLE TOTAL	15%	NEGLIGIBLE
QB RATING	46%	STRONG	PRESSURE CMP%	14%	NEGLIGIBLE
AY/A	42%	STRONG	PROTECTION RATE	9%	NEGLIGIBLE
rYDS	42%	STRONG	ACCURACY RATING	4%	NEGLIGIBLE
AY/G	41%	STRONG	INT	2%	NEGLIGIBLE
CPOE	40%	STRONG	AGE	1%	NEGLIGIBLE
DEEP BALL CMP%	40%	STRONG	TARGET SEPARATION	-1%	NEGLIGIBLE
PLAY ACTION CMP%	37%	MODERATE	INTERCEPTABLE/GAME	-25%	WEAK
AY/ATT	37%	MODERATE			

RUNNING BACK STATISTICS TO PPR FANTASY POINTS

RB Stat	Correlation to Fantasy Poin	STRENGTH	RB Stat Cont.	Correlation to Fantasy Points Cont	STRENGTH Cont.
SNAPS	93%	VERY STRONG	DROPS	40%	STRONG
TOUCHES	92%	VERY STRONG	BREAKAWAY %	38%	MODERATE
IMPLIED TOUCHES	92%	VERY STRONG	GZ REC	38%	MODERATE
rYDS	91%	VERY STRONG	GZ rcYDS	37%	MODERATE
SNAP %	89%	VERY STRONG	GZ rcTD	35%	MODERATE
REC	88%	VERY STRONG	GZ YPC	33%	MODERATE
rcYDS	88%	VERY STRONG	UTIL %	32%	MODERATE
rATT	86%	VERY STRONG	TOUCH %	32%	MODERATE
rTD	86%	VERY STRONG	YDS CREATED/ATT	31%	MODERATE
SNAPS/GM	85%	VERY STRONG	JUKE %	30%	MODERATE
TGTS	84%	VERY STRONG	CNTR YPC	29%	WEAK
GZ rATT	81%	VERY STRONG	RUSH %	24%	WEAK
GZ rTD	78%	VERY STRONG	GZ FUM	23%	WEAK
OPPORTUNITY SHARE	72%	VERY STRONG	SHTGN YPC	22%	WEAK
GZ rYDS	70%	VERY STRONG	TGT %	20%	WEAK
rcTD	69%	STRONG	GZ LST	19%	NEGLIGIBLE
YDS CREATED	67%	STRONG	BASE D %	15%	NEGLIGIBLE
BREAKAWAYS	66%	STRONG	CNTR %	14%	NEGLIGIBLE
FUM	62%	STRONG	AVG IN BOX	10%	NEGLIGIBLE
LST	61%	STRONG	LIGHT D %	3%	NEGLIGIBLE
YDS CREATED/GM	60%	STRONG	STACKED BOX %	-6%	NEGLIGIBLE
YPC	48%	STRONG	SHTGN %	-10%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ TGTS	45%	STRONG	DROP %	-13%	NEGLIGIBLE

WIDE RECEIVER STATISTICS TO PPR FANTASY POINTS

WR STAT	CORRELATION TO FANTASY POINTS	STRENGTH	WR STAT Cont.	CORRELATION TO FANTASY POINTS Cont	STRENGTH Cont.
rcYDS	96%	VERY STRONG	Y/T	30%	MODERATE
TGTS	95%	VERY STRONG	CTCH %	29%	MODERATE
REC	94%	VERY STRONG	DROPS	27%	WEAK
Total AY	91%	VERY STRONG	CAY/REC	27%	WEAK
SNAPS	89%	VERY STRONG	TGT %	26%	WEAK
ROUTES RUN	88%	VERY STRONG	Y/RC	26%	MODERATE
YAC	88%	VERY STRONG	rATT	24%	WEAK
rcTD	87%	VERY STRONG	Y/RR	23%	WEAK
TGT SHARE	86%	VERY STRONG	rYDS	23%	WEAK
WOPR	83%	VERY STRONG	UTIL %	21%	WEAK
SNAP %	83%	VERY STRONG	YPC	21%	WEAK
TAY/G	82%	VERY STRONG	FUM	20%	WEAK
COMPLETED AY	81%	VERY STRONG	LST	19%	WEAK
SNAPS/GM	80%	VERY STRONG	TOUCH %	17%	NEGLIGIBLE
AY MS	78%	VERY STRONG	rTD	15%	NEGLIGIBLE
CAY/G	74%	VERY STRONG	CON. TGT %	15%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ TGTS	67%	STRONG	TRUE CTCH %	13%	NEGLIGIBLE
RZ TGTS	62%	STRONG	RACR	10%	NEGLIGIBLE
CON. TGT	60%	STRONG	GZ rATT	8%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ FPTS	59%	STRONG	RZ TGT %	7%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ REC	58%	STRONG	GZ YPC	7%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ rcTD	58%	STRONG	GZ rYDS	7%	NEGLIGIBLE
CON. REC	56%	STRONG	EZ TGT %	6%	NEGLIGIBLE
HOG % (TGT/SNAP)	54%	STRONG	CON. CTH %	6%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ rcYDS	53%	STRONG	GZ rTD	4%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ PPG	50%	STRONG	TGT SEP	3%	NEGLIGIBLE
TGT ACC	48%	STRONG	GZ TGT %	3%	NEGLIGIBLE
EZ TGTS	47%	STRONG	GZ FUM	0%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ Y/R	44%	STRONG	ADOT	-2%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ CTCH %	43%	STRONG	GZ LST	-2%	NEGLIGIBLE
FPTS/100 SNAPS	38%	MODERATE	IAY/TGT	-3%	NEGLIGIBLE
CAY/TGT	35%	MODERATE	IAY/REC	-13%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ Y/T	35%	MODERATE	CUSHION	-14%	NEGLIGIBLE
FP/TGT	34%	MODERATE	DROP%	-21%	WEAK

TIGHT END STATISTICS TO PPR FANTASY POINTS

TIGHT END STAT	CORRELATION TO FANTASY POINTS	STRENGTH	TIGHT END STAT Cor	CORRELATION TO FANTASY POINTS Cor	STRENGTH Cor
rcYDS	99%	VERY STRONG	FPTS/100 SNAPS	52%	STRONG
REC	98%	VERY STRONG	GZ CTCH %	47%	STRONG
TGTS	98%	VERY STRONG	GZ Y/T	44%	STRONG
TOTAL AY	94%	VERY STRONG	DROPS	40%	STRONG
ROUTES RUN	91%	VERY STRONG	CAY/REC	32%	MODERATE
YAC	91%	VERY STRONG	Y/RC	32%	MODERATE
COMPLETED AY	90%	VERY STRONG	FP/TGT	31%	MODERATE
rcTD	88%	VERY STRONG	CUSHION	28%	WEAK
WOPR	88%	VERY STRONG	Y/RR	27%	WEAK
TGT SHARE	87%	VERY STRONG	GZ rTD	27%	WEAK
TAY/G	87%	VERY STRONG	GZ rATT	24%	WEAK
SNAPS	84%	VERY STRONG	rTD	21%	WEAK
AY MS	83%	VERY STRONG	CAY/TGT	20%	WEAK
CAY/G	82%	VERY STRONG	rYDS	13%	NEGLIGIBLE
SNAP %	81%	VERY STRONG	Y/T	13%	NEGLIGIBLE
RZ TGTS	80%	VERY STRONG	TAY/TGT	12%	NEGLIGIBLE
SNAPS/GM	78%	VERY STRONG	TRUE CTCH %	12%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ TGTS	70%	VERY STRONG	tAY/REC	9%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ FPTS	68%	STRONG	GZ YPC	9%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ REC	67%	STRONG	GZ rYDS	8%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ rcTD	65%	STRONG	ADOT	8%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ rcYDS	65%	STRONG	CTCH %	6%	NEGLIGIBLE
CON. TGT	64%	STRONG	% TGT EZ	1%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ PPG	62%	STRONG	RACR	1%	NEGLIGIBLE
TGT %	59%	STRONG	% TGT RZ	1%	NEGLIGIBLE
EZ TGTS	58%	STRONG	TGT SEP	-2%	NEGLIGIBLE
UTIL %	58%	STRONG	% TGT Con	-3%	NEGLIGIBLE
TOUCH %	56%	STRONG	% TGT GZ	-7%	NEGLIGIBLE
GZ Y/R	54%	STRONG	CON. CTH %	-9%	NEGLIGIBLE
HOG % (TGT/SNAP)	54%	STRONG	TGT ACC	-13%	NEGLIGIBLE
CON. REC	53%	STRONG	DROP%	-14%	NEGLIGIBLE

RULES OF THUMB

There are two general takeaways that can be made from a quick glance over these tables before we dive into some specific stats at each skill position.

RULE 1 - LEAGUE SCORING CORRELATES

Stats that are already built into your league scoring are going to have a high correlation to fantasy points. This may seem obvious, but the tables prove it. Statistics like passing touchdowns, rushing yards, and receptions are a part of the scoring setting for most leagues, therefore it makes sense that when you are looking at players, you should be looking at players that are performing well in those areas. However, all fantasy players are going to be doing that, so you aren't earning yourself much of an edge by only looking at those statistics.

RULE 2 - BUY IN BULK

If you have read anything about fantasy football, you have more than likely run across the phrase "Volume is King." This means you want your fantasy players with the ball in their hands as much as possible. Football statistics can essentially be broken into two different categories, volume stats, and efficiency stats. Volume stats focus on the total performance or role the player plays in the game. This can be measured by how often the ball is thrown to him (targets), how often he catches the ball (receptions), how many times he rushes with the ball (rush attempt), and etc. Efficiency stats measure how well the player does with those opportunities. They are usually expressed as rates (%) or using the term "per". While it is important to be good with the ball in your hand, it does not really matter if you never get the opportunity to have the ball in the first place (volume).

STATS THAT MATTER

In the following sections, I will take a closer look at specific stats to consider at the skill positions (quarterback, running back, wide receiver, and tight end). These stats are described as either “Very Strong” or “Strong” as measured by their correlation coefficients. I will tell you what the statistic measures, why you should use it, where you can find it, and the top three performers at the stat over the last years and where they finished in the PPR ranks. Let’s take a look.

QUARTERBACK

Completed Air Yards (CAY)

80% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

Completed Receiver Air Yards measures the number of yards the ball travels in the air from the point of the quarterback’s release to the point of the catch by a receiver or tight end. The yards after the receiver catches the ball is not included in the total. The counting stops as soon as the receiver or tight end completes the catch. This stat may help you identify quarterbacks that are throwing the ball and completing the ball at a high rate. In order to tally up a high total of CAY, a quarterback is more likely to be completing passes further downfield which means more fantasy points for you. It could also mean that the quarterback is completing many short, high percentage passes as well. This is also a good thing because it means you have a player with a lot of volume/opportunity (pass attempts) to score you points and the shorter passes lower the risk of negative points for interceptions.

Where to find it: FantasyData - Advanced Metrics and PlayerProfiler

TOP PERFORMERS - QUARTERBACKS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Jameis Winston	QB1	QB5
2019	Dak Prescott	QB2	QB2
2019	Matt Ryan	QB3	QB11
2018	Matt Ryan	QB1	QB2
2018	Andrew Luck	QB2	QB5
2018	Jared Goff	QB3	QB7
2017	Tom Brady	QB1	QB3
2017	Russell Wilson	QB2	QB1
2017	Ben Roethlisberger	QB3	QB10

Red Zone Attempts (RZ Att)

74% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

The Red Zone is the area of the field from the opponent's 20-yard line to the endzone. This area is called the Red Zone because the team is getting closer to the endzone and an opportunity to score points. Over the last five seasons, quarterbacks could expect to throw a touchdown pass on 23.4% of their passing attempts or about every 4.3 attempts from within the Red Zone. That rate drops considerably to every 1.6% of throws or every 62.1 pass attempts between the opponents 21-yard line and the team's own 1. That is a huge discrepancy and you want the quarterbacks that are visiting this area of the field most often to capitalize on your opportunity of scoring touchdowns.

Where to find it: FantasyData - Red Zone Data

TOP PERFORMERS - QUARTERBACKS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Tom Brady	QB1	QB12
2019	Russell Wilson	QB2	QB7
2019	Matt Ryan	QB3	QB5
2018	Patrick Mahomes	QB1	QB1
2018	Jared Goff	QB2	QB7
2018	Andrew Luck	QB3	QB5
2017	Tom Brady	QB1	QB3
2017	Ben Roethlisberger	QB2	QB10
2017	Drew Brees	T-QB3	QB9
2017	Jared Goff	T-QB3	QB12

RUNNING BACK

Snaps

93% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

Snaps are the quintessential opportunity statistic. It literally tells you how many snaps the player was on the field over the course of the season. The reason this is such an important stat for the running back position is the proliferation of the running back by committee. More and more teams are using multiple running backs instead of a single player on every down. As a fantasy owner, you want to keep an eye on how often your running back is seeing the field because your player cannot score you points from the sidelines.

Where to find it: FantasyData - Snap Count Data

TOP PERFORMERS - RUNNING BACKS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Christian McCaffrey	RB1	RB1
2019	Ezekiel Elliot	RB2	RB3
2019	Leonard Fournette	RB3	RB7
2018	Christian McCaffrey	RB1	RB2
2018	Ezekiel Elliot	RB2	RB5
2018	Saquon Barkley	RB3	RB1
2017	LeVeon Bell	RB1	RB2
2017	Todd Gurley	RB2	RB1
2017	Carlos Hyde	RB3	RB8

Implied Touches

92% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

Implied touches and touches are equally correlated to PPR fantasy points on the chart above. However, the stat implied touches are preferred because it also captures an offenses intent in the statistic. While touches is a measure of how many receptions and rushing attempts the running back has implied touches replaces receptions with targets. Targets will encompass both complete and incomplete passes that were intended for the running back, hence how often the offense truly wanted to get the ball to the back, not just how often they were successful in doing so. Measuring touches through an offense's attempts to go to the back, whether successful or not, is looking at touches through a volume-based lens instead of only counting the touch if the ball is caught. This puts an efficiency rate in play because it will be dependent on the running back's catch rate.

TOP PERFORMERS - RUNNING BACKS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Christian McCaffrey	RB1	RB1
2019	Ezekiel Elliot	RB2	RB3
2019	Leonard Fournette	RB3	RB7
2018	Ezekiel Elliot	RB1	RB5
2018	Saquon Barkley	RB2	RB1
2018	Christian McCaffrey	RB3	RB2
2017	LeVeon Bell	RB1	RB2
2017	Melvin Gordon	RB2	RB5
2017	Todd Gurley	RB3	RB1

Where to find it: Self-Generated (Targets+Rush Attempts), Found in my weekly Opportunity Report

Green Zone Attempts

81% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

Most people know the Red Zone, but if not read the quarterbacks section above. Not as many people know about the Green Zone, but if you are a fantasy player, you should. The Green Zone is the area between the opponent's 5-yard line and the endzone. Jeff Ratcliffe, now of Fade The Noise, wrote at Pro Football Focus about how much greater a player's chances are of scoring are once they enter the Green Zone. Over the last five years, running backs have scored touchdowns on about 42% of their touches within the Green Zone. That is astronomical! The next highest rate is from the opponent's 6-10 yard line where backs score on about every 13.1% of their rushing attempts. That in itself is a good percentage but pales in comparison to the Green Zone. Monitor the backs that are getting the most volume or opportunities from within their opponent's 5-yard line.

Where to find it: FantasyData - Red Zone Data

TOP PERFORMERS - RUNNING BACKS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Dalvin Cook	RB1	RB6
2019	Christian McCaffrey	RB2	RB1
2019	Ezekiel Elliot	RB3	RB3
2018	Todd Gurley	RB1	RB3
2018	Saquon Barkley	RB2	RB1
2018	Derrick Henry	RB3	RB16
2017	Todd Gurley	RB1	RB1
2017	Carlos Hyde	RB2	RB8
2017	Mark Ingram	RB3	RB6

WIDE RECEIVER

Targets

95% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

Targets are when a pass is intended for a receiver. The receiver could be a tight end, wide receiver, running back, or any other legal receiver on the play. The intended receiver is credited with a target whether they catch the ball or not. Why do you care if they get the ball thrown at them if they do not catch it? It is because targets shine a spotlight on the intent of the offense. What the coaches and quarterback want to do is attack the defense. It gives you insight into who the team thinks is it's best players or matchups because intuitively you get the ball to your best guys. You want to get players that get targets.

Where to find it: FantasyData - Fantasy Stats - Wide Receiver/Tight End

Top Performers (Player: Overall Stat Rank/PPR Points Overall Rank)

TOP PERFORMERS - WIDE RECEIVERS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Michael Thomas	WR1	WR1
2019	Julio Jones	WR2	WR3
2019	Allen Robinson	WR3	WR8
2018	Julio Jones	WR1	WR5
2018	Davante Adams	WR2	WR3
2018	Antonio Brown	WR3	WR2
2017	DeAndre Hopkins	WR1	WR2
2017	Antonio Brown	WR2	WR1
2017	Larry Fitzgerald	T-WR3	WR3
2017	Jarvis Landry	T-WR3	WR4

Total Air Yards

91% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

Total Air Yards encompasses the total picture of the passing game. Total air yards measure the distance the ball travels from the line of scrimmage (where the ball is snapped) to where the ball is caught (see completed air yards above) or where the ball fell incomplete. Air yards do not include any yards after the catch. Instead, imagine the play is whistled dead at the point of the catch. Although complete air yards are important, the incomplete air yards are more important. The incomplete air yards is hidden information that gives you full insight into the offense's intent, just as targets do, except not only does it tell you who the offense wants to get the ball to, but also how far down the field the offense is trying to complete passes to the player. You will begin to develop an idea of whether the team has the receiver running short, intermediate, deep, or a mixture of these route types. This is extremely valuable information. It can also inform you as to the receivers that are important to a team's gameplan. Chances are, the team will continue to implement their gameplan and that player will be successful in time and convert those incomplete air yards to complete air yards. You want to be there to get the points that game.

Where to find it: Airyards.com

TOP PERFORMERS - WIDE RECEIVERS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Julio Jones	WR1	WR3
2019	Mike Evans	WR2	WR15
2019	Odell Beckham Jr.	WR3	WR25
2018	Julio Jones	WR1	WR5
2018	Mike Evans	WR2	WR6
2018	DeAndre Hopkins	WR3	WR4
2017	DeAndre Hopkins	WR1	WR2
2017	Antonio Brown	WR2	WR1
2017	Julio Jones	WR3	WR3

Weighted Opportunity Rating (WOPR)

83% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

WOPR is a fun mix of the two important stats that we discussed above. The stat takes the opportunity statistics of target share (what percentage of the team's total targets does the player account for) and air yards market share (what percentage of the team's total air yards does the player account for) and combines them in a weighted formula. The weights are used to make sure that the statistics are calculated at their proper values. It ensures that the target share is a little more than twice as important as air yards market share. WOPR is represented as a decimal (or percentage) with elite receivers typically scoring .70+. The other amazing aspect of this statistic is that it tends to be predictive of future fantasy success because of the two statistics that it's composed of help to identify intent within the offense. If a player has a good WOPR score but has yet to produce in fantasy, that is a player worth adding on the waiver wire.

Where to find it: Airyards.com

TOP PERFORMERS - WIDE RECEIVERS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Michael Thomas	WR1	WR1
2019	DeAndre Hopkins	WR2	WR5
2019	Davante Adams	T-WR3	WR22
2018	Allen Robinson	T-WR3	WR8
2018	DeAndre Hopkins	WR1	WR4
2018	Julio Jones	WR2	WR5
2017	Odell Beckham Jr.	WR3	WR16
2017	DeAndre Hopkins	WR1	WR2
2017	Antonio Brown	WR2	WR1
2017	A.J. Green	WR3	WR10

TIGHT END

The majority of tight end statistics, while ranked differently, were similar to those in the wide receiver chart. There was one statistic that ranked very highly that I felt needed to be discussed, although it can be difficult to find.

Routes Run

91% Correlation to PPR Fantasy Points

This stat is exactly what it sounds like. It measures how many passing routes a tight end ran over a span of time. This is important to this position because tight ends have two major roles within an NFL offense (way oversimplifies, I know) pass catch and block. You only get points for one of those in fantasy. Similar to snaps, your tight end can only catch a pass if he is on the field and he isn't blocking. Routes run is something to pay close attention to.

Where to find it: PFF (Paywall)

TOP PERFORMERS - TIGHT ENDS

YEAR	PLAYER	OVERALL STAT RANK	PPR POINTS OVERALL RANK
2019	Travis Kelce	TE1	TE1
2019	Zach Ertz	TE2	TE4
2019	Mike Gesicki	TE3	TE12
2018	Travis Kelce	TE1	TE1
2018	Zach Ertz	TE2	TE2
2018	Jimmy Graham	TE3	TE12
2017	Jimmy Graham	TE1	TE6
2017	Rob Gronkowski	TE2	TE2
2017	Travis Kelce	TE3	TE1



FANTASY 101

INTRO IN DYNASTY FANTASY FOOTBALL



By Mike Miklius

FANTASY 101: INTRO TO DYNASTY

Every year, there are new explorers in the fantasy football waters. Each new season, someone is playing for the first time. For those more experienced players, you might be itching for something new. Maybe it's an auction league or a keeper league. We are here today to discuss your first dynasty league. Dynasty leagues come in all shapes and sizes, but here are the major differences from a typical redraft league:

Deeper rosters

Keep all/ most players from year to year

More trading

Startup draft and subsequent rookie drafts

In dynasty leagues, your roster is perpetual. Let's say you take Saquon Barkley at the 1.01 in a startup this year. He is now yours until you dump him or trade him. You get Barkley forever if you want him. Rosters are also deeper. In my first dynasty league, each team drafted 25 players and we kept every one. In a more recent startup, we went 30 rounds deep. You are going to have deep rosters, and this means you need an eye towards the future. You will take some players who probably won't play this year, but could be big next year if their situation breaks the right way. So, a dynasty startup requires you to think for the present as well as for the next 2-3 years.

In a league where each team has 25-30 players, you can imagine how bare waivers are. This means that the primary way to acquire new talent is the yearly rookie draft. As the league begins, you still do your normal startup draft. Everyone takes their players and then you play season one. After that season, the only new talent coming in is the rookie class. Teams draft in the rookie draft based on how the last season finished (worst team picks first like in the NFL draft). This is one of your primary ways to plan for the future. The other is trading.

Like in the NFL, every asset on a dynasty team is tradeable--players, rookie picks, and even your FAAB budget. This is important; in a league of 12 managers, it's doubtful everyone is contending year-to-year. Managers are generally aware of this, and you will see trades where someone picks up talent at the cost of future currency. Say I have a chance to win it all in 2020. Julio Jones (31 years old) is valuable to me as he's currently going in the first or second round of redraft startups. He could be the reason I finish with the trophy. However, say my team sucks--Julio is all but worthless to me at his advancing age, and I would much rather have a rookie pick or two instead of someone who may be washed up by the time I need him again. Unlike redraft leagues, dynasty creates a market for teams to sell this year in exchange for more value next year.

APPROACHING THE DRAFT

So, how does the draft change? Here are some important factors to consider:

Favor younger players in your startup. If your team flops this year, will you still like it in another year? Does your team have the chance to get better, or is it going to get worse with each passing season? A core of young guys will allow you to start strong for at least the first few years. If things go wrong, they are easy to move and rebuild with.

Pick a team that has room to improve. The more your guys can improve, the more inherent value your team can have. This also helps with trading later on. AJ Brown, Terry McLaurin, Christian Kirk, and Curtis Samuel are examples of WR going in different rounds who have room to jump a tier or more. A couple of running back examples would be David Montgomery, Ronald Jones, and Alexander Mattison.

Grab at least one stud running back. It's hard to get more running backs once the draft is over. Each manager inevitably looks at this team and sees a hole here. Leaving the draft with at least one young stud (CMC, Barkley, Zeke, Kamara, Cook, Mixon are my top six) makes life much easier later on.

Embrace trading. Unlike a startup, dynasty drafts are built for trading. Everyone has a bevy of value and wants to leave the draft with certain names. This means you should be ready to move up or down as value dictates. Let's say you want a wide receiver and the next five guys are all roughly equal in your mind. Why not move back 4-5 spots if you could? Pick up more value later and still get one of your guys.

Don't 'reach' early. We all have our favorite players. I was a big-time Peyton Manning fan, but I almost never had him on my teams. Why not? He was overpriced. I loved him in real life, but he wasn't worth the cost in fantasy. I've seen guys reach multiple rounds to grab their guy and it always hurts. Let's say you badly want Patrick Mahomes and so you grab him at 1.12--just to be sure. In most drafts, he goes around 3.01. So, you just wasted 12+ draft spots worth of value. That value loss (12 spots early on) is roughly equivalent to giving away Kareem Hunt, Russell Wilson, or Hunter Henry for nothing.

DO 'reach' late. Early on, we can all agree on ADP for the most part. It's not too hard to predict the first five picks in a draft, and usually the first twelve. Once you leave the third round, though, it's the wild west. There are guys I could see going as early as the fourth and as late as the seventh. What that means, then, is you need to get your guys. Sure, don't take Mitch Trubisky early--that's dumb. However, don't worry about when someone else might take DJ Chark if you love him; just go get him. Once you have your core of 3-4 guys, go get the ones you love. Then you can still be excited about your roster moving forward.

ROOKIES

I think the biggest mistake everyone makes with rookies is getting too caught up in the hype. We see the highlights on a few running backs and suddenly convince ourselves that 8 guys are can't miss. Don't even get me started on all the beastly receivers destined to take over the league. Here is the simple truth: rookies are more likely to flop than excel. More than 50% of receivers drafted in the first round of the NFL draft will NEVER put up a 1,000-yard season. That's abysmal! You should not be expecting rookies to come in and be a surefire hit. It's just not the case. This doesn't mean rookie picks are worthless; on the contrary, they are highly valued in most leagues. So what should our approach be here?

Move rookie picks for startup picks. During a recent startup draft, I made a deal to send all of my 2020 and 2021 rookie picks (4 picks in each year) in exchange for the 1.02 in the startup. This meant that my team started year one with an extra "Saquon Barkley" worth of value. Sure, I won't get better for the next two years. However, that's because the other teams are catching up. Startup picks are always worth more than rookie picks because you don't have to wait 1-2 years for the impact. I would probably value a rookie first as roughly equal to a sixth-round startup pick.

Move rookie picks for impact players. Let's say an owner with Julio Jones is doing poorly and offers you Jones for your rookie first and second. Is it worth it? If your team is a contender, then of course it is! Jones could be the reason you hoist the trophy. You win the championship and who cares what it cost. What about a rookie first for McLaurin or Chark? Both are young receivers with a year of 'proof'. I'd gladly take either over Jerry Jeudy, CeeDee Lamb, or anyone else from the rookie receivers.

Add rookie picks for 'hot' players. Each week, another Tevin Coleman or Chase Edmonds goes out and has a huge week. You have two choices: buy into it and hold or sell while you can. Most of the time, the flash-in-the-pan player doesn't follow through. However, someone in your league is usually a believer. Try to sell in these cases for future value before the player fades away again.

Sell off if you are eliminated. If you are fading fast in your season, don't be afraid to sell. Those older players may be the perfect piece for someone else. Trade older talent for potential. You can always still sell your rookie picks later to get 'your guy'.

When drafting, bet on talent--not situation. This happens all the time. Someone drafts the hot situation instead of excellent talent. They get stars in their eyes for someone who could start right away behind an excellent offensive line. Here's the thing: a bad talent is bound to get replaced. Situations change quickly. The only constant is a player's ability. Sure, situation has an impact. It is much less important than ability, though.

FINAL THOUGHTS

While I said not to fall in love, I understand that some of us have our guys. Maybe you badly want Lamar Jackson or George Kittle on your roster. I get it. If you have to have that one dude, then get him. Above all, this is supposed to be fun. Maybe you want a studs and duds roster--4-5 elite dudes and then a mish-mash behind them. Perhaps you sell your early picks for depth and youth so that you can compete for a long time. You could trade for more rookie picks or trade them all away. Whatever you do, always think about the team you have and how the next move will impact it. Each and every move should be building towards something. Here are some last notes to wrap up:

Be ready for a much longer draft--do your research.

As always, wait on QB and TE (except for SF/ TE premium leagues)

Take falling value early (at least rounds 1-3)

Go and get your guys later on (starting round 4 or 5)

Trade when you need to during the draft (move up for the last guy in a tier or move back when there is depth)

Have a plan for the rookie draft--whether trading away picks or stockpiling



FANTASY 101

WHAT IS FANTASY FOOTBALL?



By Marc Salazar

FANTASY 101: WHAT IS FANTASY FOOTBALL

What is Fantasy Football & How is it Played

Fantasy football is a game in which you, as the owner, create your own team of players from real players in the National Football League (NFL). You compete against other owners in your league to score points based on the performance of your players in real NFL football games.

If you are new to fantasy football allow me to welcome you to a hobby that is simple in concept but endlessly complex in application. That is one of the things that makes playing fantasy football so fun and engaging. Our team at QB List is excited to introduce you to the game in our Fantasy 101 series. You will learn the basics of how it is played, from scoring and league settings to in-season management. We will also dive deep into more advanced stuff like draft strategies or different fantasy formats. We want to help you master fantasy football. In this article, we will talk about the ins and out of fantasy football: what it is, how it is played, and some of the different types of leagues and options.

What types of Fantasy Football are played?

There are two main types of game types: season-long and daily fantasy. Further, there are sub-categories within these. In season-long, you commonly have re-draft and dynasty leagues. In Daily Fantasy, referred to as DFS, you have Cash and Tournament. Best Ball is a newer type of league and gaining popularity. It is a season-long league but you are only competing to score the most fantasy points in your league during the NFL regular season. QB List will have articles breaking down each of these types of fantasy games.

How do I play Fantasy Football?

For this article, we will focus on the traditional format of play, Head To Head (H2H). To begin, owners will select players from a pool of available NFL players. Your team will generally be broken down into positions such as Quarterbacks, Running Backs, Wide Receivers, and Tight Ends. We call these the “skill” positions and the vast majority of league owners will only select from these positions. Some leagues add placekickers, team defenses, or even individual defensive players.

These groups of players then compete against each other to determine a winner. At the end of the week, if your team has the most points, you win the matchup. Standings are calculated just like a traditional sports league where you are competing for a playoff entry based on standings. When the playoffs begin, the teams left in the dance compete head to head, this time in a tournament format, to determine the league winner.

All of this activity takes place within the 16-game NFL season. The fantasy regular season is typically the first 13 or 14 weeks of the NFL season. The fantasy playoffs usually take place between Weeks 13 and 17, with most leagues opting to forgo a matchup in Week 17 because the players that matter usually sit the week out.

How does scoring work?

In head to head, you compete against a single opponent and the team with the most points wins the matchup. Your skill position will earn points for stats they accumulated during the game. Quarterbacks will get points for throwing a touchdown, yardage totals, or possibly earn negative points for interceptions. Some leagues add everything from completions to sacks taken. Running backs will earn points for each yard gained via a rush, as well as touchdowns scored. Likewise, a receiver, be it backs, wideout or tight end, will earn similar amounts for catching passes. Points per reception have become the industry standard, which is just a point earned for catching a pass. This change helped to bring receiving scoring more in line with rushing, which historically dominated fantasy football. At the end of the week, the team with the most points gets a victory. The variety of fantasy scoring settings has exploded over the years and you can find leagues to play that give you points for nearly anything in a stat sheet but for the new owner, it's best to start with accepted standards and build from there.

League Size and Roster Settings

A typical league is 10 or 12 team managers, with a 16-man roster with anywhere from 160 to 192 players being rostered at any given time. You will generally be starting nine players: a single QB, two RBs and WRs, a single TE and a kicker and a team defense, and you may have a flex position where you can play anyone except a QB. In recent years, and as the availability of good quarterbacks has exploded, leagues have begun to allow a quarterback in the flex spot or require that two QBs start each week. Leagues can add more starters to present more of a challenge to owners, or remove some of the requirements to make the league flexible.

From here leagues can vary in size and scope, with leagues that roster 20, 30, or even 40 players or leagues that add team owners. Both expand the number of players that are rostered, which increases the amount of fantasy-relevant players you can keep track of. If you are confident in your football knowledge, a deeper league may be the challenge you are looking for.

How do I acquire players?

There are two types of drafts to acquire your initial roster: snake style and auction.

Snake drafts organize teams into a specific spot in the order, from first to last. The league takes turns drafting players one after the other for a single round. Then the round reverses and the owner that picked last in the previous round goes first in the next, and so on until the draft concludes. This is called a snake style draft and is a straightforward way to draft teams but there are endless strategies to success. This is where new players should begin.

An auction draft is just what you would expect from the name. Managers are each given the same amount of virtual cash to bid on players to fill their roster. Managers take turns nominating players to put on the auction board, and the highest bid wins. Bids continue to rise as long as an owner ups the ante. The strategy comes in managing your bankroll, how and when you nominate players, and knowing where your fellow drafters stand. This is an advanced type of league but something every fantasy player should experience.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW DURING THE SEASON?

Setting your weekly lineup

You will have a matchup each week of the NFL season in H2H leagues. The week will run from Thursday to Monday, then reset for the following week. Each week will follow a similar schedule until you get into the playoffs weeks later in the year.

Prior to the kickoff of the first game of the week, owners will set a lineup of players to activate for the week. As discussed previously, owners will generally start a specified number of players at each position. All remaining players will be on your bench. Only the players in your starting lineup will earn you points, and players left on the bench will not earn points in your matchup. You are allowed to swap players in and out prior to kickoff of a particular game, but once the official kickoff happens that roster spot is locked in. Football is a game of attrition and player injuries play a big role in a week to week decision making. Injury reports come out one and a half hours prior to the game's kickoff time. Savvy owners will want to pay attention to television reporters or Twitter feeds to see which players are healthy and active and which players may be sitting the game out.

The most important factor in setting your weekly lineup is player matchups. Football is a chess match, with coaches and players doing all they can to exploit a matchup weakness they studied in the opponent. Some teams will have a hard time defending receivers, in which case you will want to start any receivers you have playing against that team. Many times it is a gut feeling you get. Drew Brees playing in a dome or Tyreek Hill on turf are situations where you can see your player blowing up for the week.

Acquiring Free Agents

There are two primary types of systems used for acquiring players: priority waivers and blind bidding.

In a waivers system, all available free agents are in a pool of available players. The team with the worst record in the league gets first priority in acquiring any player in the pool. If they are successful in acquiring the player they go to the back of the queue and the second-worst team gets the priority selection. This can happen multiple times in the same waiver run and gives the worst-performing teams priority in acquiring the best available players.

In a blind bid system, all teams will use their blind bid cash allocation budget to bid on players. Similar to an auction, each player will enter a bid for a player but the bid amount is secret until waivers run. At that time, whoever bids the most cash is awarded the player. This is typically called Free Agent Acquisition Budget or FAAB.

Each system could then allow players to freely pick up any player in the free-agent pool, and this is called Free-for-All waivers. It is almost always on a first come first served basis but often you can build rules such as priority waivers in. It is important to understand the way your league acquires free agents because much of your success in the league will depend on acquiring free agents.

Trading Players

One of the best parts of fantasy football is swinging the big trade. You can be sure the other owners in your league will be cursing or praising you when they see the deal come across their feeds. Just like in real life, you can negotiate trades with your fellow owners, you are the GM after all. Once both parties have agreed, the players will swap teams and they will be eligible to play in the next eligible game.

Wrapping Up

So now that you know the basics of the game, now is the time to join a league. There are countless websites that run free-to-play leagues, but some of the more popular sites are ESPN, Yahoo, or CBS Sportsline. If you are searching for more in-depth information check out the rest of our Fantasy Football 101 content. Be sure to check out QB List for the best player analysis, guidance, and advice.

CHEAT SHEET

2020 CHEAT SHEET

12-TEAM, ONE-QUARTERBACK, PPR SETTINGS

QUARTERBACKS

1. Patrick Mahomes, KC
2. Lamar Jackson, BAL
3. Deshaun Watson, HOU
4. Russell Wilson, SEA
5. Kyler Murray, ARI
6. Dak Prescott, DAL
7. Drew Brees, NO
8. Aaron Rodgers, GB
9. Matt Ryan, ATL
10. Josh Allen, BUF
11. Matthew Stafford, DET
12. Tom Brady, TB
13. Carson Wentz, PHI
14. Baker Mayfield, CLE
15. Cam Newton, NE
16. Jared Goff, LAR
17. Ben Roethlisberger, PIT
18. Daniel Jones, NYG
19. Ryan Tannehill, NYJ
20. Gardner Minshew, JAC
21. Teddy Bridgewater, CAR
22. Philip Rivers, IND
23. Derek Carr, LV
24. Jimmy Garoppolo
25. Drew Lock, DEN

RUNNING BACKS

1. Christian McCaffrey, CAR
2. Saquon Barkley, NYG
3. Ezekiel Elliott, DAL
4. Alvin Kamara, NO
5. Dalvin Cook, MIN
6. Derrick Henry, TEN
7. Kenyan Drake, ARI
8. Clyde Edwards-Helaire, KC
9. Joe Mixon, CIN
10. Miles Sanders, PHI
11. Aaron Jones, GB
12. Josh Jacobs, LV
13. Nick Chubb, CLE
14. Austin Ekeler, LAC
15. Leonard Fournette, JAC
16. Chris Carson, SEA
17. James Conner, PIT
18. Jonathan Taylor, IND
19. Melvin Gordon, DEN
20. Todd Gurley, ATL
21. Cam Akers, LAR
22. Mark Ingram II, BAL
23. David Johnson, HOU
24. Le'Veon Bell, NYJ
25. Kareem Hunt, CLE
26. J.K. Dobbins, BAL
27. David Montgomery, CHI
28. Raheem Mostert, SF
29. D'Andre Swift, DET
30. Devin Singletary, BUF
31. Ronald Jones II, TB
32. Zack Moss, BUF
33. James White, NE
34. Matt Breida, MIA
35. Tarik Cohen, CHI
36. Jordan Howard, MIA
37. Phillip Lindsay, DEN
38. Kerryon Johnson, DET
39. Tevin Coleman, SF
40. Darrell Henderson, LAR
41. Marlon Mack, IND
42. Antonio Gibson, WAS
43. Duke Johnson, HOU
44. Boston Scott, PHI
45. Chase Edmonds, ARI
46. Nyheim Hines, IND
47. A.J. Dillon, GB
48. Justin Jackson, LAC
49. Latavius Murray, NO
50. Alexander Mattison, MIN
51. Tony Pollard, DAL
52. Adrian Peterson, WAS
53. DeAndre Washington, KC
54. Joshua Kelley, LAC
55. Ke'Shawn Vaughn, TB
56. Carlos Hyde, SEA
57. Anthony McFarland Jr., PIT
58. Sony Michel, NE
59. Darrynton Evans, TEN
60. Damien Harris, NE
61. Bryce Love, WAS
62. Corey Clement, PHI
63. Ito Smith, ATL
64. Jerick McKinnon, SF
65. Dare Ogunbowale, TB
66. Chris Thompson, JAC
67. Giovani Bernard, CIN
68. Malcolm Brown, LAR
69. Ryquell Armstead, JAC
70. Brian Hill, ATL
71. Darrel Williams, KC
72. Jamaal Williams, GB
73. Eno Benjamin, ARI
74. Benny Snell Jr., PIT
75. Jaylen Samuels, PIT
76. Darwin Thompson, KC
77. Rex Burkhead, NE
78. Devine Ozigbo, JAC
79. Lynn Bowden Jr., LV
80. JaMycal Hasty, SF

TIGHT ENDS

1. Travis Kelce, KC
2. George Kittle, SF
3. Mark Andrews, BAL
4. Zach Ertz, PHI
5. Evan Engram, NYG
6. Darren Waller, LV
7. Rob Gronkowski, TB
8. Jared Cook, NO
9. Hunter Henry, LAC
10. Hayden Hurst, ATL
11. Tyler Higbee, LAR
12. Austin Hooper, CLE
13. Noah Fant, DEN
14. Mike Gesicki, MIA
15. TJ Hockenson, DET
16. Jonnu Smith, TEN
17. Chris Herndon, NYJ
18. Dallas Goedert, PHI
19. Eric Ebron, PIT
20. OJ Howard, TB
21. Blake Jarwin, DAL
22. Ian Thomas, CAR

WIDE RECEIVERS

1. Michael Thomas, NO
2. Davante Adams, GB
3. Julio Jones, ATL
4. Tyreek Hill, KC
5. DeAndre Hopkins, ARI
6. Chris Godwin, TB
7. Allen Robinson, CHI
8. Kenny Golladay, DET
9. Juju Smith-Schuster, PIT
10. Mike Evans, TB
11. Adam Thielen, MIN
12. Amari Cooper, DAL
13. Odell Beckham Jr., CLE
14. D.J. Moore, CAR
15. Robert Woods, LAR
16. Cooper Kupp, LAR
17. Calvin Ridley, ATL
18. A.J. Brown, TEN
19. Tyler Lockett, SEA
20. Keenan Allen, LAC
21. D.J. Chark, JAC
22. Terry McLaurin, WAS
23. DeVante Parker, MIA
24. D.K. Metcalf, SEA
25. Courtland Sutton, DEN
26. Stefon Diggs, BUF
27. Tyler Boyd, CIN
28. Jarvis Landry, CLE
29. T.Y. Hilton, IND
30. Marquise Brown, BAL
31. Julian Edelman, NE
32. A.J. Green, CIN
33. Michael Gallup, DAL
34. Will Fuller, HOU
35. Brandin cooks, HOU
36. Jamison Crowder, NYJ
37. Marvin Jones, DET
38. Christian Kirk, ARI
39. Sterling Shepard, NYG
40. Diontae Johnson, PIT
41. John Brown, BUF
42. Emmanuel Sanders, NO
43. Mike Williams, LAC
44. Preston Williams, MIA
45. Darius Slayton, NYG
46. Anthony Miller, CHI
47. Deebo Samuel, SF
48. Golden Tate, NYG
49. Mecole Hardman, KC
50. N’Keal Harry, NE
51. Breshad Perriman, NYJ
52. Curtis Samuel, CAR
53. DeSean Jackson, PHI
54. Dede Westbrook, JAC
55. Allen Lazard, GB
56. Alshon Jeffery, PHI
57. Parris Campbell, IND
58. Sammy Watkins, KC
59. Robby Anderson, CAR
60. Henry Ruggs III, LV
61. CeeDee Lamb, DAL
62. Jalen Reagor, PHI
63. Justin Jefferson, MIN
64. Jerry Jeudy, DEN
65. Brandon Aiyuk, SF
66. Michael Pittman Jr., IND
67. Denzel Mims, NYJ
68. Hunter Renfrow, LV
69. Larry Fitzgerald, ARI
70. Randall Cobb, HOU
71. Cole Beasley, BUF
72. James Washington, PIT
73. Corey Davis, TEN
74. John Ross, CIN
75. Danny Amendola, DET
76. Miles Boykin, BAL
77. Josh Reynolds, LAR
78. Tyrell Williams, LV
79. Kenny Stills, HOU
80. Steven Sims, WAS
81. Russell Gage, ATL
82. Laviska Shenault Jr., JAC

KICKERS

1. Justin Tucker, BAL
2. Will Lutz, NO
3. Harrison Butker, KC
4. Greg Zuerlein, DAL
5. Younghoe Koo, ATL
6. Matt Gay, TB
7. Matt Prater, DET
8. Robbie Gould, SF
9. Michael Badgley, LAC
10. Ka’imi Fairbairn, HOU
11. Jake Elliott, PHI
12. Zane Gonzalez, ARI
13. Chris Boswell, PIT
14. Brandon McManus, DEN
15. Dan Bailey, MIN
16. Joey Slye, CAR
17. Jason Myers, SEA
18. Mason Crosby, GB
19. Austin Seibert, CLE
20. Chase McLaughlin, IND
21. Josh Lambo
22. Graham Gano

DEFENSES

1. Baltimore Ravens
2. Pittsburgh Steelers
3. Los Angeles Chargers
4. New England Patriots
5. San Francisco 49ers
6. Buffalo Bills
7. New Orleans Saints
8. Minnesota Vikings
9. Seattle Seahawks
10. Tennessee Titans
11. Kansas City Chiefs
12. Los Angeles Rams
13. Chicago Bears
14. Dallas Cowboys
15. Green Bay Packers
16. Philadelphia Eagles
17. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
18. Indianapolis Colts
19. Denver Broncos
20. Jacksonville Jaguars
21. Cleveland Browns
22. Houston Texans
23. Oakland Raiders
24. Washington
25. Carolina Panthers

ERIK SMITH'S TOP 200 PLAYERS

12-TEAM, ONE-QUARTERBACK, PPR SETTINGS

1. Christian McCaffrey, CAR, RB
2. Saquon Barkley, NYG, RB
3. Ezekiel Elliott, DAL, RB
4. Alvin Kamara, NO, RB
5. Dalvin Cook, MIN, RB
6. Derrick Henry, TEN, RB
7. Michael Thomas, NO, WR
8. Kenyan Drake, ARI, RB
9. Clyde Edwards-Helaire, KC, RB
10. Joe Mixon, CIN, RB
11. Miles Sanders, PHI, RB
12. Davante Adams, GB, WR
13. Julio Jones, ATL, WR
14. Tyreek Hill, KC, WR
15. Aaron Jones, GB, RB
16. Josh Jacobs, LV, RB
17. Nick Chubb, CLE, RB
18. Austin Ekeler, LAC, RB
19. DeAndre Hopkins, ARI, WR
20. Travis Kelce, KC, TE
21. George Kittle, SF, TE
22. Chris Godwin, TB, WR
23. Allen Robinson, CHI, WR
24. Kenny Golladay, DET, WR
25. JuJu Smith-Schuster, PIT, WR
26. Mike Evans, TB, WR
27. Adam Thielen, MIN, WR
28. Patrick Mahomes, KC, QB
29. Amari Cooper, DAL, WR
30. Odell Beckham Jr., CLE, WR
31. D.J. Moore, CAR, WR
32. Robert Woods, LAR, WR
33. Cooper Kupp, LAR, WR
34. Calvin Ridley, ATL, WR
35. A.J. Brown, TEN, WR
36. Lamar Jackson, BAL, QB
37. Leonard Fournette, JAC, RB
38. Chris Carson, SEA, RB
39. James Conner, PIT, RB
40. Mark Andrews, BAL, TE
41. Tyler Lockett, SEA, WR
42. Jonathan Taylor, IND, RB
43. Keenan Allen, LAC, WR
44. D.J. Chark, JAC, WR
45. Terry McLaurin, WAS, WR
46. DeVante Parker, MIA, WR
47. D.K. Metcalf, SEA, WR
48. Melvin Gordon, DEN, RB
49. Todd Gurley, ATL, RB
50. Cam Akers, LAR, RB
51. Mark Ingram II, BAL, RB
52. Zach Ertz, PHI, TE
53. Courtland Sutton, DEN, WR
54. Stefon Diggs, BUF, WR
55. Tyler Boyd, CIN, WR
56. David Johnson, HOU, RB
57. Le'Veon Bell, NYJ, RB
58. Kareem Hunt, CLE, RB
59. Jarvis Landry, CLE, WR
60. T.Y. Hilton, IND, WR
61. Marquise Brown, BAL, WR
62. Deshaun Watson, HOU, QB
63. Russell Wilson, SEA, QB
64. Kyler Murray, ARI, QB
65. Dak Prescott, DAL, QB
66. Julian Edelman, NE, WR
67. A.J. Green, CIN, WR
68. Michael Gallup, DAL, WR
69. J.K. Dobbins, BAL, RB
70. David Montgomery, CHI, RB
71. Will Fuller, HOU, WR
72. Brandin Cooks, HOU, WR
73. Jamison Crowder, NYJ, WR
74. Marvin Jones, DET, WR
75. Christian Kirk, ARI, WR
76. Sterling Shepard, NYG, WR
77. Evan Engram, NYG, TE
78. Darren Waller, LV, TE
79. Raheem Mostert, SF, RB
80. D'Andre Swift, DET, RB
81. Devin Singletary, BUF, RB
82. Ronald Jones II, TB, RB
83. Zack Moss, BUF, RB
84. Diontae Johnson, PIT, WR
85. John Brown, BUF, WR
86. Emmanuel Sanders, NO, WR
87. Mike Williams, LAC, WR
88. Preston Williams, MIA, WR
89. James White, NE, RB
90. Matt Breida, MIA, RB
91. Darius Slayton, NYG, WR
92. Tarik Cohen, CHI, RB
93. Jordan Howard, MIA, RB
94. Phillip Lindsay, DEN, RB
95. Anthony Miller, CHI, WR
96. Drew Brees, NO, QB
97. Aaron Rodgers, GB, QB
98. Matt Ryan, ATL, QB
99. Josh Allen, BUF, QB
100. Rob Gronkowski, TB, TE
101. Deebo Samuel, SF, WR
102. Golden Tate, NYG, WR
103. Kerryon Johnson, DET, RB
104. Tevin Coleman, SF, RB
105. Darrell Henderson, LAR, RB
106. Marlon Mack, IND, RB
107. Antonio Gibson, WAS, RB
108. Mecole Hardman, KC, WR

CHEAT SHEET - ERIK SMITH'S TOP 200 PLAYERS

109. N'Keal Harry, NE, WR
110. Breshad Perriman, NYJ, WR
111. Curtis Samuel, CAR, WR
112. DeSean Jackson, PHI, WR
113. Dede Westbrook, JAC, WR
114. Allen Lazard, GB, WR
115. Alshon Jeffery, PHI, WR
116. Parris Campbell, IND, WR
117. Sammy Watkins, KC, WR
118. Robby Anderson, CAR, WR
119. Henry Ruggs III, LV, WR
120. CeeDee Lamb, DAL, WR
121. Jalen Reagor, PHI, WR
122. Justin Jefferson, MIN, WR
123. Jerry Jeudy, DEN, WR
124. Brandon Aiyuk, SF, WR
125. Michael Pittman Jr., IND, WR
126. Jared Cook, NO, TE
127. Hunter Henry, LAC, TE
128. Hayden Hurst, ATL, TE
129. Tyler Higbee, LAR, TE
130. Duke Johnson, HOU, RB
131. Boston Scott, PHI, RB
132. Chase Edmonds, ARI, RB
133. Austin Hooper, CLE, TE
134. Matthew Stafford, DET, QB
135. Tom Brady, TB, QB
136. Carson Wentz, PHI, QB
137. Nyheim Hines, IND, RB
138. A.J. Dillon, GB, RB
139. Justin Jackson, LAC, RB
140. Latavius Murray, NO, RB
141. Alexander Mattison, MIN, RB
142. Tony Pollard, DAL, RB
143. Noah Fant, DEN, TE
144. Mike Gesicki, MIA, TE
145. Denzel Mims, NYJ, WR
146. Hunter Renfrow, LV, WR
147. Larry Fitzgerald, ARI, WR
148. Randall Cobb, HOU, WR
149. Adrian Peterson, WAS, RB
150. DeAndre Washington, KC, RB
151. Joshua Kelley, LAC, RB
152. Ke'Shawn Vaughn, TB, RB
153. T.J. Hockenson, DET, TE
154. Carlos Hyde, SEA, RB
155. Anthony McFarland Jr., PIT, RB
156. Jonnu Smith, TEN, TE
157. Chris Herndon IV, NYJ, TE
158. Baker Mayfield, CLE, QB
159. Cam Newton, NE, QB
160. Dallas Goedert, PHI, TE
161. Sony Michel, NE, RB
162. Darrynton Evans, TEN, RB
163. Damien Harris, NE, RB
164. Bryce Love, WAS, RB
165. Corey Clement, PHI, RB
166. Jared Goff, LAR, QB
167. Daniel Jones, NYG, QB
168. Ben Roethlisberger, PIT, QB
169. Ryan Tannehill, TEN, QB
170. Gardner Minshew II, JAC, QB
171. Teddy Bridgewater, CAR, QB
172. Philip Rivers, IND, QB
173. Derek Carr, LV, QB
174. Jimmy Garoppolo, SF, QB
175. Drew Lock, DEN, QB
176. Joe Burrow, CIN, QB
177. Baltimore Ravens, BAL, DST
178. Pittsburgh Steelers, PIT, DST
179. Eric Ebron, PIT, TE
180. O.J. Howard, TB, TE
181. Blake Jarwin, DAL, TE
182. Ian Thomas, CAR, TE
183. Jack Doyle, IND, TE
184. Greg Olsen, SEA, TE
185. Irv Smith Jr., MIN, TE
186. Cole Beasley, BUF, WR
187. James Washington, PIT, WR
188. Corey Davis, TEN, WR
189. John Ross, CIN, WR
190. Danny Amendola, DET, WR
191. Miles Boykin, BAL, WR
192. Josh Reynolds, LAR, WR
193. Tyrell Williams, LV, WR
194. Kenny Stills, HOU, WR
195. Steven Sims, WAS, WR
196. Justin Tucker, BAL, K
197. Wil Lutz, NO, K
198. Harrison Butker, KC, K
199. Los Angeles Chargers, LAC, DST
200. New England Patriots, NE, DST

QB **QBLIST**