

2019

Fantasy Football

Draft Kit

PLAYER PROFILES

		Quarterbacks			
Player	Pg	Player	Pg	Player	Pg
Josh Allen, Buffalo	4	Jared Goff, Rams	15	Philip Rivers, Chargers	26
Tom Brady, Patriots	5	Dwayne Haskins, Redskins	16	Aaron Rodgers, Packers	27
Drew Brees, Saints	6	Lamar Jackson, Ravens	17	Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers	28
Derek Carr, Raiders	8	Andrew Luck, Colts	18	Matt Ryan, Falcons	29
Kirk Cousins, Redskins	9	Patrick Mahomes, Chiefs	20	Matthew Stafford, Lions	30
Andy Dalton, Bengals	10	Eli Manning, Giants	21	Mitch Trubisky, Bears	31
Sam Darnold, Jets	11	Marcus Mariota, Titans	22	Deshaun Watson, Texans	32
Joe Flacco, Ravens	12	Baker Mayfield, Browns	23	Carson Wentz, Eagles	33
Nick Foles, Jaguars	13	Cam Newton, Panthers	24	Russell Wilson, Seahawks	34
Jimmy Garoppolo, 49ers	14	Dak Prescott, Cowboys	25	Jameis Winston, Buccaneers	35
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Player	Pg	Player	Pg	Player	Pg
Kalen Ballage, Dolphins	36	Melvin Gordon, Chargers	70	LeSean McCoy, Bills	103
Peyton Barber, Buccaneers	38	Derrius Guice, Redskins	72	Jerick McKinnon, 49ers	105
Saquon Barkley, Giants	40	Todd Gurley, Rams	74	Sony Michel, Patriots	107
Le'Veon Bell, Jets	42	Darrell Henderson, Rams	76	Lamar Miller, Texans	109
Chris Carson, Seahawks	44	Derrick Henry, Titans	78	Joe Mixon, Bengals	111
Nick Chubb, Browns	46	Jordan Howard, Eagles	80	David Montgomery, Bears	113
Tarik Cohen, Bears	48	Carlos Hyde, Chiefs	133	Latavius Murray, Saints	115
Tevin Coleman, 49ers	50	Mark Ingram, Ravens	82	Rashaad Penny, Seahawks	117
James Conner, Steelers	52	Josh Jacobs, Raiders	84	Adrian Peterson, Redskins	119
Dalvin Cook, Vikings	54	David Johnson, Cardinals	86	Miles Sanders, Eagles	121
Kenyan Drake, Dolphins	56	Kerryon Johnson, Lions	88	Devin Singletary, Bills	123
Austin Ekeler, Chargers	58	Aaron Jones, Packers	90	Ito Smith, Falcons	125
Ezekiel Elliott, Cowboys	60	Ronald Jones, Buccaneers	93	Chris Thompson, Redskins	127
D'Onta Foreman, Texans	62	Alvin Kamara, Saints	95	James White, Patriots	129
Leonard Fournette, Jaguars	64	Phillip Lindsay, Broncos	97	Damien Williams, Chiefs	131
Royce Freeman, Broncos	66	Marlon Mack, Colts	99	Jamaal Williams, Packers	134
Devonta Freeman, Falcons	68	Christian McCaffrey, Panthers	101		

PLAYER PROFILES

		Wide Receivers			
Player	Pg	Player	Pg	Player	Pg
Davante Adams, Packers	136	Kenny Golladay, Lions	184	Paul Richardson, Redskins	232
Keenan Allen, Chargers	138	Marquise Goodwin, 49ers	186	Calvin Ridley, Falcons	234
Geronimo Allison, Packers	140	A.J. Green, Bengals	188	Allen Robinson	236
Robbie Anderson, New York Jets	142	DaeSean Hamilton, Broncos	190	John Ross, Bengals	238
Odell Beckham Jr., Browns	144	N'Keal Harry, Patriots	192	Curtis Samuel, Panthers	240
Tyler Boyd, Bengals	146	Tyreek Hill, Chiefs	194	Deebo Samuel, 49ers	242
A.J. Brown, Ravens	148	T.Y. Hilton, Colts	196	Emmanuel Sanders, Broncos	244
Antonio Brown, Raiders	150	DeAndre Hopkins, Texans	198	Mohamed Sanu, Falcons	246
Marquise Brown, 49ers	152	Adam Humphries, Titans	200	Sterling Shepard, Giants	248
Parris Campbell, Colts	154	DeSean Jackson, Eagles	202	Tre'Quan Smith, Saints	250
Brandin Cooks, Rams	156	Alshon Jeffery, Eagles	204	JuJu Smith-Schuster, Steelers	252
Amari Cooper, Cowboys	158	Julio Jones, Falcons	206	Kenny Stills, Dolphins	254
Keke Coutee, Texans	160	Marvin Jones, Jr., Lions	208	Courtland Sutton, Broncos	256
Jamison Crowder, Jets	162	Zay Jones	210	Golden Tate, Giants	258
Corey Davis, Titans	164	Christian Kirk, Cardinals	212	Adam Thielen, Vikings	260
Stefon Diggs, Vikings	166	Cooper Kupp, Rams	214	Michael Thomas, Saints	262
Josh Doctson, Redskins	168	Jarvis Landry, Browns	216	Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Packers	264
Julian Edelman, Patriots	170	Marqise Lee, Jaguars	218	James Washington, Steelers	266
Quincy Enunwa, Jets	172	Tyler Lockett, Seahawks	220	Sammy Watkins, Chiefs	268
Mike Evans, Buccaneers	174	D.K. Metcalf, Seahawks	222	Dede Westbrook, Jacksonville	270
Robert Foster, Bills	176	Anthony Miller, Bears	224	Mike Williams, Chargers	272
Will Fuller, Texans	178	DJ Moore, Panthers	226	Tyrell Williams, Raiders	274
Devin Funchess, Colts	180	DeVante Parker, Dolphins	228	Robert Woods, Rams	276
Chris Godwin, Buccaneers	182	Dante Pettis, 49ers	230		
		Tight Ends			
Player	Pg	Player	Pg	Player	Pg
Trey Burton, Bears	278	Hunter Henry, Chargers	292	David Njoku, Browns	306
Jared Cook, Saints	280	T.J. Hockenson, Lions	294	Greg Olsen, Panthers	308
Eric Ebron, Colts	282	Austin Hooper, Falcons	296	Jordan Reed, Washington	310
Evan Engram, Giants	284	O.J. Howard, Buccaneers	298	Kyle Rudolph, Vikings	312
Zach Ertz, Eagles	286	Travis Kelce, Chiefs	300	Delanie Walker, Titans	314
Noah Fant, Broncos	288	George Kittle, 49ers	302		
Mike Gesicki, Dolphins	290	Vance McDonald, Steelers	304		

ROOKIE ROUNDUPS

Team	Pg	Team	Pg	Team	Pg
Arizona Cardinals	316	Green Bay Packers	349	New York Giants	372
Atlanta Falcons	320	Houston Texans	351	New York Jets	374
Baltimore Ravens	322	Indianapolis Colts	352	Oakland Raiders	375
Buffalo Bills	326	Jacksonville Jaguars	353	Philadelphia Eagles	378
Carolina Panthers	329	Kansas City Chiefs	356	Pittsburgh Steelers	381
Chicago Bears	332	Los Angeles Chargers	359	San Francisco 49ers	384
Cincinnati Bengals	335	Los Angeles Rams	360	Seattle Seahawks	386
Cleveland Browns	338	Miami Dolphins	362	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	390
Dallas Cowboys	339	Minnesota Vikings	363	Tennessee Titans	391
Denver Broncos	341	New England Patriots	366	Washington Redskins	392
Detroit Lions	345	New Orleans Saints	371		

SLEEPERS, BREAKOUTS, & BUSTS

Team	Pg	Team	Pg	Team	Pg
Arizona Cardinals	396	Green Bay Packers	413	New York Giants	431
Atlanta Falcons	398	Houston Texans	415	New York Jets	433
Baltimore Ravens	400	Indianapolis Colts	416	Oakland Raiders	435
Buffalo Bills	401	Jacksonville Jaguars	417	Philadelphia Eagles	436
Carolina Panthers	402	Kansas City Chiefs	418	Pittsburgh Steelers	437
Chicago Bears	404	Los Angeles Chargers	420	San Francisco 49ers	439
Cincinnati Bengals	406	Los Angeles Rams	421	Seattle Seahawks	441
Cleveland Browns	408	Miami Dolphins	423	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	443
Dallas Cowboys	409	Minnesota Vikings	425	Tennessee Titans	445
Denver Broncos	410	New England Patriots	428	Washington Redskins	446
Detroit Lions	411	New Orleans Saints	429		

AUCTION VALUES CHART: Pg. 447

Quarterbacks

Josh Allen ADP and AAV

PPR: 21st among QBs, 148th overall

Josh Allen Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $3

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	20	208.1	19	17.3
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Josh Allen got most of his fantasy points by running, plus he threw it long a higher % of the time than any other quarterback in 2018. Fantasy fans are hopeful that he shows maturity in his sophomore season and storms his way into QB1 status

Strategy: Our Josh Allen Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Josh Allen is worth a late round flier or a $1 auction lottery ticket...

...

What? Don't give me that look! Fine, I get it, you think that Josh Allen's propensity to go long and smart feet could make him a QB1. You think that Cole Beasley and John Brown joining the team can only help the middle-ish QB2. What did you subscribe to these player profiles to second guess me? Well second guess this:

John Allen had a 52.8 completion percentage, last among QBs. He could develop into a solid fantasy option, but he's not going to turn around a laughably inaccurate arm in one season, just because the team added some veterans who at their peak were mediocre.

Best Case Scenario: Allen moves up from the 20th QB to somewhere around 15th.

Worst Case Scenario: Teams get wise to the easy way to defend Allen: Put a spy on him and ignore Buffalo's laughably bad rushing game. Allen finishes outside of the top 24 QBs

Tom Brady ADP and AAV

Standard: 14th among QBs, 122nd overall

PPR: 14th among QBs, 120th overall

Tom Brady Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $2

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	14	280.4	17	17.5
2017	3	295.9	6	18.5
2016	15	258.4	3	21.5

Overview: Tom Brady will turn 42 on August 3rd, but has no desire to retire anytime soon. 2018 was a down year by fantasy standards, especially after his QB #3 finish in 2017. Brady enters the 2019 season without Rob Gronkowski and Josh Gordon. Julian Edelman will be back, joined by veteran off-season acquisition Demaryius Thomas and first-round draft pick, N'Keal Harry.

Strategy: Football Absurdity's Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

He's the best QB ever. He's the most overrated QB ever. You love him. You hate him. You love to hate him. He's Tom Brady. All opinions aside, Brady has been an eerily consistent fantasy producer for over a decade. He's also been remarkably healthy over that span, only missing four games in 2016. Losing Gronkowski is bigger on paper than it is in reality. The truth is Gronk had been a shell of his former self for the last couple years. The Patriots don't have a power running game, so the offense will once again go through Brady. Lather, rinse, repeat. However, Brady is getting closer and closer to the cliff with each birthday, and no amount of quinoa and avocado can prevent the inevitable. Brady's ADP is right about where it should be. He may be worth a late round pick, or you may feel safer with someone like Big Ben, Philip Rivers, or Mitch Trubisky. I'm probably going to lean Brady, but that's just me.

Best Case Scenario: Brady has discovered the fountain of youth. Age ain't nothing but a number. He gels with his new-look receiving corps and sneaks back into the top 5. Your lottery ticket paid off.

Worst Case Scenario: It's all smoke and mirrors. Brady's body is failing. His TD numbers drop and his INT numbers climb. Luckily, you didn't invest much. You drop him after week 4 and never look back.

Drew Brees ADP and AAV

Standard: 7th among QBs, 78th overall

PPR: 7th among QBs, 86th overall

Drew Brees Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $10

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	9	303.8	8	20.3
2017	9	248.6	11	16.6
2016	3	312.3	4	20.8

Overview: "Should I draft Drew Brees?" The answer to that question is clear.

Drew Brees has been a mainstay in the fantasy QB ranks for over a decade. The pinnacle of consistency, Brees has averaged over 16 points per game and started at least 15 games for the past 13 seasons. He has some amazing weapons in Alvin Kamara and Michael Thomas, and Sean Payton really knows how to maximize Brees' skillset.

Yet the answer to "should I draft Drew Brees" is a resounding "nuh-uh."

Strategy: Football Absurdity's Auction Value ($200 budget): $1

Brees finished as the #8 fantasy QB last year, but season totals paint a deceptive picture. If you look at his game totals, a disturbing trend emerges:

Drew Brees 2018 Fantasy Game Log

Week	Points
1	37
2	21
3	45
4	8
5	32
6	BYE
7	20
8	8
9	38
10	34
11	38
12	28
13	9
14	16
15	6
16	19
17	N/A

Things were going great until Week 13, where his performance fell off a cliff. This wasn't due to an outside factor like a coaching decision to run more, Brees' mechanics deteriorated noticeably. Despite resting week 17 and the wild card week (New Orleans had a bye), Brees just didn't get better. Check out how bad his pass was on the play that ended their playoff run:

Yes, he did have a defender bearing down on him, but this is Drew Brees. He is a Hall of Fame-caliber slinger who should have put some mustard on that throw because *it's overtime in the NFC Championship game!*

This wasn't an aberration, Drew Brees' deep ball game is just gone. His QB rating nosedived from 128 to 96 in weeks 12 and 13. Most importantly he looked bad: Actually watching game tape will give you an edge over owners who try to cheat code all their research by just looking at stats. Watch how off his pass was on this simple screen play:

There is a long trend of top tier quarterbacks being great up until they just fall off a cliff in terms of performance. Peyton Manning and Brett Favre immediately spring to mind as quarterbacks who followed up career-defining years with stinkers. Drew Brees is likely about to put up a stinker of a season. In a game where quarterback play can make or break one's fantasy outcomes, and where there are so many other viable options at this position, the path to avoiding defeat is clear: The answer to "should I draft Drew Brees" is a resounding "NO!"

Derek Carr ADP and AAV

Standard: 24th among QBs, 171st overall

PPR: 24th among QBs, 168th overall

Derek Carr Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	17	215.8	30	13.5
2017	19	206.3	25	13.8
2016	19	206.3	25	13.8

Overview: Carr flirted with MVP status in 2016, before suffering an injury setback that resonated for several seasons. Finally healthy, Carr now has all-world WR Antonio Brown in his stable of WRs. Fantasy optimists think he could break into the top 12 this year.

Strategy: Our Derek Carr Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Ring...

Ring...

Ring...

Hello. The Top 12 Quarterback you are trying to reach is not available right now. The next available representative should be with you in round 10. In the meantime, please enjoy the dulcet on-hold facts of Derek Carr. If this is nausea inducing, please remember: You could have just let him fall to the FA and got him for free.

Derek Carr: LAAAAAAAAA LAAAA LAAA LAAAAA! AHHHHH AHH AHHH AAAAAAAAUGH!! EVEN WHEN I WAS UP FOR MVP I COULDN'T CRACK THE TOP 24 IN FANTASY! LAA LAAAAA!

Best Case Scenario: Derek Carr returns a QB #12 performance for some Pollyanna in your league who still doesn't make the playoffs

Worst Case Scenario: He infects your team with Raider germs

Kirk Cousins ADP and AAV

Standard: 22nd among QBs, 149th overall

PPR: 22nd among QBs, 130th overall

Kirk Cousins Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	13	282.1	16	17.6
2017	6	277.6	8	17.4
2016	5	300.7	6	18.8

Overview: After two top 6 seasons in the death-scented failpit that is the Redskins organization, Cousins brightened fantasy forecasts by signing with the weaponized Vikings offense. However, he failed to manifest the same numbers he did at Washington. Now, with an entire season working with Theilen and Diggs (and 3/4 of a season with Dalvin Cook) Cousins looks to improve.

Strategy: Our Kirk Cousins Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Here's something you rarely see: Our recommended auction value for a QB being higher than the industry AAV. Usually, we're cooler on quarterbacks than a post-game ice bath, but we say you might want to spend an extra buck or a ninth-round pick for Cousins. His floor seems insanely high for his ADP and AAV: Those weapons could make Johnny Football a top 12 fantasy QB. Plus, he was able to be a top-half QB1 with the lukewarm receivers in Washington, his ceiling could be top 3. That said, we don't want to reach for a guy who finished outside of the top 12 despite being on a yoked offense. There are plenty of other QB values around there. Feel free to reach a little for him, but don't stretch out or anything.

Best Case Scenario: Consistent top 5 performances from a veteran who has gotten to know his excellent receivers.

Worst Case Scenario: On their annual mid-summer skiing trip through the warmest part of Minnesota, Cousins and his receivers are trapped in a blizzard and forced to eat their own arms. An armless Cousins still finishes in the top half of the league.

Andy Dalton ADP and AAV

Standard: 29th among QBs, 229th overall

PPR: 29th among QBs, 209th overall

Andy Dalton Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	24	174.5	23	15.9
2017	17	210.7	26	13.2
2016	13	260.6	17	16.3

Overview: Andy Dalton is a veteran with a solid receiving core. While AJ Green might not be in his prime, he still has what it takes to be a top 12 WR. Joe Mixon and Giovani Bernard make defenses have to commit to the run, which makes the field wide open for Dalton to survey the field with his wisened eye.

Strategy: Our Andy Dalton Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Hi! We're so glad you're here. We want you to know that we all love you, care for you, and value your presence in our life. That's why we're doing this. Please sit down...

This is an intervention.

You clicked on "Andy Dalton Player Profile," so you must have at least a flickering interest in putting him on your fantasy team. Despite all the years he filled your head with dreams, then failed to become even a top 12 QB. Andy Dalton will fill you up with dreams, then seconds later leave you desperately chasing another hit. It's ruining your life, it's ruining your family...

It's ruining your fantasy team. Just say no to Andy Dalton, except as a backup in 2-QB leagues.

Best Case Scenario: You don't draft Andy Dalton outside of a backup for a 2-QB league.

Worst Case Scenario: You draft Andy Dalton.

Sam Darnold ADP and AAV

Standard: 26th among QBs, 180th overall

PPR: 26th among QBs, 189th overall

Sam Darnold Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	26th	168.4	35th	13.0
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Sam Darnold is entering his second year after failing to break the QB2 range. With the addition of Le'Veon Bell, Jets fans are hoping the offense can move forward more than they did in 2018, when they were 29th out of 32 in total yards gained. If Darnold can make the leap forward, he might enter into backup fantasy considerations.

Strategy: Our Sam Darnold Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

"Might enter into backup fantasy considerations" is not really someone I want on my team, unless it's a late-round 3rd QB pick in a 2 QB league. The Jets offense frequently derails due to injuries and suspensions, and promising TE Chris Herndon starts the year on a 4-game suspension. Call me when the Jets finally pull it all together.

Best Case Scenario: He finishes as a top 20 QB and is a great bye week fill-in THAT YOU GOT FROM THE WAIVER WIRE

Worst Case Scenario: He finishes as a top 20 QB and is a great bye week fill-in THAT YOU GOT WITH A PRECIOUS DRAFT PICK

Joe Flacco ADP and AAV

Standard: 31st among QBs, 236th overall

PPR: 31st among QBs, 226th overall

Joe Flacco Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	31	137.0	25	15.2
2017	24	184.9	33	11.6
2016	20	242.0	21	15.1

Overview: For the first time in his career, Flacco finds himself on a different NFL team. Starting for the Denver Broncos, Flacco will have a decent receiving core with DaeSean Hamilton, Cortland Sutton, and Emmanuel Sanders, not to mention first-round draft pick TE Noah Fant. Sometimes a fresh scene is the spark that turns an aging QB around.

Strategy: Our Joe Flacco Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

If you're looking at Joe Flacco for fantasy, you might be looking for a backup in a 2-QB league. But, more likely, you are a native Baltimorean who has moved to Colorado. Welcome! You probably find the air a bit thin compared to your native town. That's no problem, just run a car engine in a closed garage or light up a charcoal barbeque in your living room (not too long, though) and you'll soon be reminded of home. Another way to be reminded of home is from the misery-soaked tears you will again cry for spending another homer pick on Flacco. He might magically find renaissance with a new recieving core, but even then we'd be shocked if he hasn't been replaced by 2nd-round rookie/John Elway darling Drew Lock by the time your fantasy playoffs roll around. A nagging back injury has torpedoe'd what little fantasy value Joe Flacco had.

Best Case Scenario: You get half a season of a low end QB2 with a few 3 TD game flashes.

Worst Case Scenario: You wasted a late round pick and an impulsive move away from New England.

Nick Foles ADP and AAV

Standard: 25th among QBs, 209th overall

PPR: 28th among QBs, 184th overall

Nick Foles Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	35	75.2	26	15.0
2017	43	33.8	53	4.8
2016	45	28.0	26	14.0

Overview: Foles is replacing a statue-esque Blake Bortles, and I don't mean that in a good way. In contrast, Foles won a Super Bowl MVP and caught a pass! Jacksonville's vaunted defense should make it easy for Foles to play the field strategically and hopefully ascend to the fantasy equivalent of his football pedigree.

Strategy: Our Nick Foles Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Yo, people, Foles' main argument is that he's not Blake Bortles. You know who else isn't Blake Bortles? Me, you, and 6.999999999 billion other people. Let's give him a year to develop with perhaps the *worst WR core this side of the Miami Dolphins.* He's only worth a pick if you are in a 2-QB/Superflex league and you are desperate for a bench backup.

Best Case Scenario: Jacksonville decides to run the Philly special every game and Foles catches 17 TDs.

Worst Case Scenario: Jacksonville brass decide this is their latest excuse to run a hobbled Leonard Fournette up the middle for one yard on every single first down. Foles isn't even startable in 2-QB leagues.

Jimmy Garoppolo ADP and AAV

Standard: 21st among QBs, 153rd overall

PPR: 21st among QBs, 145th overall

Jimmy Garoppolo Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	40	47.9	22	16.0
2017	35	71.3	22	14.3
2016	40	35.1	46	7.0

Overview: It is a tale of two Jimmies when we talk about Garoppolo. Going into the 2018 NFL season, Jimmy G was being drafted as a top ten fantasy player at quarterback. This year, he is barely a QB2. What really changed for handsome Jimmy, outside of his ACL? If we are being honest, the only thing that has changed is his supporting talent has gotten a lot better? He has a top-three tight end in George Kittle. He has an up-and-coming receiver in Dante Pettis. Jerrick McKinnon and Tevin Coleman in the backfield. The 49ers roster is full of potential. But we still don't know what Jimmy Garoppolo is as a quarterback.

Strategy: Our Jimmy Garoppolo Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Frankly, I love Jimmy Garoppolo at his current ADP. There is zero risk involved. If you draft him at the back end of your draft and he sucks, he was probably your second quarterback anyway. However, if he hits, he could break out big.

Best Case Scenario: If Kyle Shanahan does his usual quarterback-whisperer magic on Jimmy G, you get a top-five fantasy quarterback.

Worst Case Scenario: What will actually happen is Jimmy G will discover that young talent doesn't necessarily mean that talent is good. The 49ers will crater and Jimmy G will not look as quite so handsome to 49er fans.

As we gear up to the start of the NFL season, Football Absurdity is going to bring you a comprehensive breakdown of every notable player that will be available in fantasy football drafts. When you don't see us talking about Christine Michael or Mike Davis, don't get mad at us for neglecting your favorite sleeper. Get mad at yourself for having bad taste in football players.

Jared Goff

Jared Goff ADP and AAV

Standard: 11th among QBs, 92nd overall

PPR: 12th among QBs, 99th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	8th	255.5	10th	17.0
2018	7th	310.3	10th	19.4

Overview: Some of you might be wondering why there is an N/A for Jared Goff's 2016 season when he clearly played as a rookie. I don't consider playing quarterback as a rookie in a Jeff Fisher offense a fair indicator to how he will do, so I didn't include it.

Jared Goff is the Honda Accord of fantasy quarterbacks. Is he flashy? Not really, but he sure is reliable. While I don't have that much faith in Goff, I do have a lot of faith in Sean McVay. He seems to have created an offense that is as dependable in fantasy production as any offense out there. Goff might not be flashy, but he gets the job done.

Strategy: Our Jared Goff Auction Value ($200 Budget): 2

I like Goff at his current ADP. He is the 11th quarterback off the board, but judging from his past two seasons, he will likely outperform his current draft position. I can wait to draft a quarterback and still end up with Jared Goff on my roster, which means I get a QB1 on the cheap while filling up on running backs and wide receivers in the earlier rounds.

Best Case Scenario: The best-case scenario is that Jared Goff makes some real strides in his third year with Sean McVay and ends the season as a top-five fantasy quarterback.

Worst Case Scenario: What will actually end up happening is teams will see what the Patriots did to the Rams in the Super Bowl and be much more effective in stopping the Rams offense. Goff will regress and not finish the year as a QB1.

Dwayne Haskins ADP and AAV

Standard: 27th among QBs, 223rd overall

PPR: 27th among QBs, 221st overall

Dwayne Haskins Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $0

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Haskins was picked by the Washington Redskins in the first round. Of all the rookie quarterbacks, he is expected to be one of the first to get a start, as his competition is Case Keenum and Colt McCoy.

Strategy: Our Dwayne Haskins Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

I'm very high on Dwayne Haskins. A lifetime Ohio State fan, Haskins is easily the most pro-ready quarterback to come out of that system: His decision making and patience in the pocket translated to a great year for the Buckeyes. Watching him was one of my fondest final memories in the last year I spent with my father.

So this should resonate: There's no way I'm picking Dwayne Haskins in any redraft league.

Dynasty? Sure he's worth a gamble. But the Washington Redskins' weapons are Jordan "Glass" Reed and... I can't even name a Redskins receiver. Looks like Josh Doctson is still there, along with Trey Quinn and Terry McLaurin. Looking at those choices I'd have to say the Redskins' best receiving option is running back Chris Thompson. Not even sure I would draft Aaron Rodgers as a QB1 with that cast.

Best Case Scenario: You are clearly a Redskins fan and you get to root for your fantasy team and home team all the way to a bottom end QB2 finish.

Worst Case Scenario: You are a Redskins fan who keeps their fandom secret, thus relieving you from having to publicly deal with one of the worst offenses on the planet.

Lamar Jackson ADP and AAV

Standard: 19th among QBs, 136th overall

PPR: 19th among QBs, 134th overall

Lamar Jackson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	28th	157.8	33rd*	9.9*
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*SEE NOTES UNDER *STRATEGY*

Overview: Lamar Jackson might be the most rushy quarterback of all time and, yes, "rushy" is totally a word. His running skill was turned loose in week 10, gaining 556 yards in his 7 starts. Extrapolating that to 16 games would give him an amazing 1,271 rushing yards, beating Michael Vick's all-time record by 230 yards. With two brand new receivers in play and Joe Flacco out of town, Jackson is one of the most polarizing QBs on 2019 draft boards.

Strategy: Our Lamar Jackson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

NOTE: Jackson's low PPG is because he technically played in all 16 games, being brought in for a few specialized plays. His true stats don't really start until he became the Ravens' permanent QB. After that, he was QB11 in terms of PPG, 0.2 away from 9th.

Jackson falls into that tier of QBs where, if he falls 2 rounds or under $3, he's a steal. But there are other QBs going around the same time as him that have similar upside without the injury risk that comes for a QB who rushes up to TWENTY-SIX TIMES PER GAME. So don't reach, someone will fall to you in the double-digit rounds or under $5.

Best Case Scenario: His 2018 starts are how he performs with 16 games under center in 2019, making him about 8th at QB.

Worst Case Scenario: Teams figure out how to scheme against him, forcing him to pass and he craters harder than the dreams of people who live in Baltimore.

Andrew Luck ADP and AAV

Standard: 2nd among QBs, 47th overall

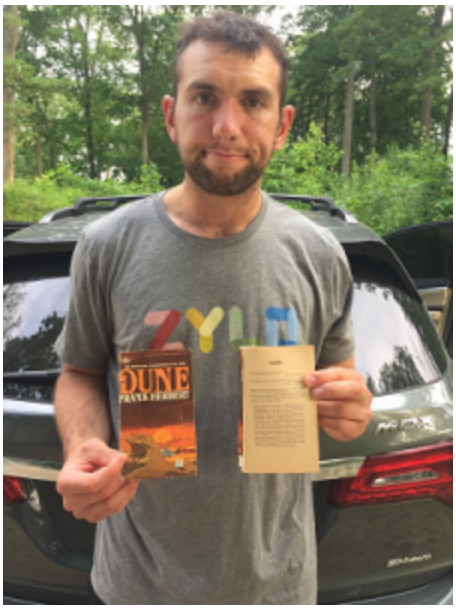
PPR: 2nd among QBs, 46th overall

Andrew luck Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $23

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	5th	327.1	6th	20.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	4th	307.6	5th	20.5

Overview: You ever have a friend or neighbor that screws up more than you do, but somehow ends up in a better situation? That's my relationship with Indianapolis Colts fans. When Peyton Manning got injured in 2011, needing several bolts in his neck and a lightning strike to get reanimated, the Colts went 1-15. They used their #1 draft pick to snag Luck, the best quarterback prospect of the past decade. Having watched my Oakland Raiders spin their 2-14 record to select children's cough syrup addict Jamarcus Russell in 2007, the Colts' shrewdness really stung. I'm also pretty sure Luck is making a play for my wife, as he posted this pic during his 2017 recovery season:



Not only is that my wife's favorite book, she also found her copy in a dumpster, as Luck seems to have done, here. That's too much coincidence to ignore.

Taking that all into account, it should be a monumental endorsement that my answer to the question, "should I draft Andrew Luck?" Is "YES YES YES!"

Strategy: Our Andrew Luck Auction Value ($200 Budget): $15

Last season, fantasy football pundits were understandably nervous about Luck, who had missed an entire season due to injury. He rewarded those bold enough to grab him with a top 5 finish. Now he has a whole year of experience with head coach Frank Reich, a veteran receiver in TY Hilton, and an offensive line that no longer dissolves when you pour water on it. Consistency is key with quarterback, and in 2018 Luck only had two games where he scored fewer than 15 points. Admittedly, one of those games was in the fantasy football semifinals, but I chalk that up to the fact that I had Luck in 2/3 of my leagues and he hates me (but loves my wife). According to USA Today, Luck finished each week as a top 10 QB almost 70% of the time, second to only Patrick Mahomes.

ESPN currently has Luck going for $5 in auction leagues. That's a steal. I have him going for $15 in my auction values chart which, unlike the rest of the industry, isn't made by doing snake draft rankings then applying a useless conversion formula. If Andrew Luck is going for under $13, or if he's there in the 5th round of snake drafts (his ADP has slipped from the fourth to the fifth round in the past month, so it's quite likely he'll continue to fall), grab him and don't look back at the other fantasy owners you will leave in the dust.

Best Case Scenario: Luck continues to grow and finishes as a consistent top 3 QB

Worst Case Scenario: He has a setback and fnishes as a top 8 QB.

Patrick Mahomes ADP and AAV

Standard: 1st among QBs, 26th overall

PPR: 1st among QBs, 25th overall

Patrick Mahomes Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $25

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	1	417.0	1	26.1
2017	N/A	10.4	N/A	10.4
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Mahomes had an all-time top 5 fantasy season, last year. With most of the offense pieces back in play, he is poised to do great things in 2019, however speculation as to how much his 50 TD total will regress makes his evaluation wildly varied.

Strategy: Our Patrick Mahomes Auction Value ($200 Budget): $17

Cool your jets on QBs until at least the 4th round, preferably later. Don't let the extremely inflated values posted across the Internet sway your no-doubt rock solid judgment. They don't know... case in point... FantasyPros.com, a great website that aggregates a lot of the pundits rankings has Mahomes 26th in standard yet 25th in PPR. How!? Imagine you're looking at a sheet of fantasy stat projections. How can increasing the total points for RB and WR but not QB result in the QB getting ranked *higher*? It makes no sense, and I am thankful to FantasyPros for showing how wildly inaccurate many "experts" can be with that simple stat. Just wait. I like Dave Richard's strategy of not drafting a QB until you feel like you are getting an absolute steal. Patrick Mahomes is good in the late 4th or the early $teens, not a moment sooner even if you could guarantee him a top 3 finish in 2019.

Best Case Scenario: The train keeps on rollin' and Mahomes finishes as the top QB.

Worst Case Scenario: His insane TD totals cool off about 25% and you still have yourself a top 5 QB.

Eli Manning **ADP and AAV**

Standard: 29th among QBs, 239th overall

PPR: 29th among QBs, 233rd overall

Eli Manning Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	16th	240.0	26th	15.0
2017	23rd	187.3	29th	12.5
2016	21st	224.1	25th	14.0

Overview: Eli Manning, while never impressive on the fantasy scoreboard, has managed to entrench himself in the back-end of the QB2 rankings. With a surprising 16th-best finish last season, many people are speculating he might be a good backup prospect in fantasy. All of these people are from New York.

Strategy: Our Eli Manning Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

No! Stop looking at Eli Manning's player profile! You have a real problem, but you can solve it right now by closing this window. Make a conscious decision to walk away from ever considering Eli Manning's value, not even as a backup in 2-QB leagues. His ceiling is like middle-QB2, and 6th-overall pick Daniel Jones will definitely get the starting job at some point.

Make the right choice.

Best Case Scenario: You get half a season of a low end QB2 with a few 3 TD game flashes.

Worst Case Scenario: You live with the shame of investing in a bottom 3 QB

Marcus Mariota ADP and AAV

Standard: 28th among QBs, 235th overall

PPR: 27th among QBs, 208th overall

Marcus Mariota Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	23	175.0	27	12.5
2017	18	210.4	24	14.0
2016	12	260.7	13	17.4

Overview: Hoping to boost the performance of sluggish Marcus Mariota, the Tennessee Titans brought in Sweet Georg"A.J" Brown. But will that be enough for an offense to spread the defense on an offense that doesn't have a solid receiving TE? Oh, wait, they have Delanie Walker... what's Mariota's excuse now?

Strategy: Our Marcus Mariota Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Marcus Mariota is a physical speciman, but he's not NFL material. We saw that with the struggles of top-10 pick Corey Davis. We saw that with the failure of great running QB Marcus Mariota- How bad do you have to be to pick up quality yards on the ground and still not crack the top 18 QBs in fantasy for 2 of your 3 years in the NFL? Only draft this guy as a desperation bench plug in 2 QB leagues.

Best Case Scenario: The NFL rules that only college players can play, making Mariota's predictable running style earn QB1 status.

Worst Case Scenario: Mariota continues his trend downward towards being the next Blake Bortles and, best-case-scenario, gets benched, worst-case-scenario gets started for less than fifteen fantasy points per game sending your team into fantasy hell.

Baker Mayfield ADP and AAV

Standard: 5th among QBs, 64th overall

PPR: 5th among QBs, 67th overall

Baker Mayfield Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $18

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	16th	240	22nd	17.1
2017	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
2016	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma

Overview: A lot of speculation went into Baker Mayfield being the first quarterback chosen in the 2018 NFL draft. Many thought either Sam Darnold, Josh Rosen, or even Josh Allen should have been claimed there, instead. However, Mayfield proved he was deserving of the title. Having the best rookie season by far as a pro and in the world of fantasy, Mayfield did his best work after the Browns finally decided they had had enough with Hue Jackson. Mayfield averaged 281.8 yards per game and nearly 2.5 touchdowns and just one interception each contest. His 27 touchdowns broke the all-time mark from rookie quarterbacks.

Strategy: Our Baker Mayfield Auction Value ($200 Budget): $13

Baker Mayfield's ceiling is mountainous. During the offseason the Browns added Odell Beckham, Jr. Mayfield will have last year's interim coach Freddie Kitchens now as full-time head coach. whom Mayfield loved to play for, The young signal caller now has an offense built around Beckham, Jarvis Landry, Nick Chubb, David Njoku, and eventually Kareem Hunt. At this point, Mayfield is going around the fifth quarterback slot or 61st-67th overall. Thats chalk. Anything later should be gravy. I am a little concerned about the Browns defense getting better, as this translates into running the ball more.

Best Case Scenario: Mayfield continues his upward climb as one of the better of the young quarterbacks. To do that he will need to finish in the top-five of QB's. This is in his grasp.

Worst Case Scenario: Mayfield is found to have several weaknesses and his quarterback rating drops like a stone. Anything outside the top-ten will be devastating to his fantasy owners.

Cam Newton ADP and AAV

Standard: 9th among QBs, 89th overall

PPR: 9th among QBs, 90th overall

Cam Newton Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $11

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	14th	282.6	9th	20.2
2017	3rd	299.5	6th	18.7
2016	19th	254.3	17th	17.0

Overview: After undergoing shoulder surgery, team staff claims Cam has learned an all-new throwing style. They say that like it's a good thing, even though his old throwing style was enough to place top 5 in 2017. So we're optimistic but skeptical.

Strategy: Our Cam Newton Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

Newton falls into that tier of QBs where the best strategy is just to wait to see who falls a couple of rounds past their ADP. Which, frankly is what you should be doing with every quarterback, but you can't stop owners from falling in love (you can only advise them to use contraception). Cam's ceiling is a top 3 QB, he's shown it before. But he's had to redo his throwing motion entirely and get in rhythm in just one preseason. Cool your jets: If he goes in the 10th or for under $5 grab him but if not, someone else equally projected will.

Best Case Scenario: His surgery gives him supernatural *Rookie of the Year* powers and he can laser every throw... and still only finishes 3rd-5th at QB

Worst Case Scenario: It's all upper-management hype and Cam finishes as a low-end QB1

Dak Prescott ADP and AAV

Standard: 17th among QBs, 131st overall

PPR: 13th among QBs, 110th overall

Dak Prescott Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	285.7	13th	17.9
2017	10th	260.8	14th	16.3
2016	6th	287.1	10th	17.9

Overview: A top-10 fantasy QB for all three seasons of his career, Dak gets to spend his first full season with breakout Amari Cooper. 2019 will find Prescott heading his most solid Cowboy's offense, with their dynamic center returning after missing all of 2018. All signs point towards Dak being able to top his career highs.

Strategy: Our Dak Prescott Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Prescott might be the most under-valued QB on the board. Going outside the top 12 is unheard of for a QB who has been a QB1 every year and faces no setbacks. We definitely place Dak at the top of our tier 2 of QBs, and would be shocked if he doesn't have flashes of being a QB6 or better

Best Case Scenario: Dak continues to grow and finishes in the top half of the first 12 QBs.

Worst Case Scenario: Dak decides his true passion is raising cattle and leaves the team in week 13. He still finishes as a top 15 QB.

Philip Rivers ADP and AAV

Standard: 14th among QBs, 111th overall

PPR: 14th among QBs, 119th overall

Philip Rivers Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	11th	289.4	14th	17.8
2017	8th	270.5	12th	16.9
2016	14th	259.0	18th	16.2

Overview: Rivers had another QB 1/2 season, the spot where he seems to regularly end up. This year he might have the best weapons ever: Mike Williams is entering his fantasy-happy third year, Hunter Henry might stay healthy, and Melvin Gordon makes the defense's back 7 unable to do pass-heavy looks.

Strategy: Our Philip Rivers Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Rivers is one of our favorite late-round, okay-this-guy-fell-to-me quarterbacks. He has the weapons to give him a high floor, which makes him a safe pick for a superflex/2-QB league, too. As for upside, we have way too many data points indicating he just won't break into the top 6.

Best Case Scenario: Another top 12 finish with the lowest of draft investments.

Worst Case Scenario: Father time strikes him out, and he finishes more around QB #18

Aaron Rodgers ADP and AAV

Standard: 3rd among QBs, 49th overall

PPR: 3rd among QBs, 54th overall

Aaron Rodgers Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $23

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	6th	312.5	7th	19.5
2017	29th	129.5	91st	18.5
2016	1st	380	1st	23.8

Overview: Last year, Rodgers broke free from his injured filled 2017 season. Throwing only two interceptions while having the highest amount of passing yards in his career. Rodgers 12:1 touchdown-to-interception ratio is just obscene. However, 25 touchdowns is his lowest total since he was given the starting nod in 2008, outside of his injury-plagued seasons. His QB7 finish is the lowest he has been outside of those seasons he was hurt. Rodgers did score 20+ points in 10 of 16 games with nearly a brand new receiving corps, and the turmoil with head coach Mike McCarthy was a distraction correlating into a career low completion percentage.

Strategy: Football Absurdity's Auction Value ($200 Budget): $12

Aaron Rodgers is constantly in the top five when he has been healthy since becoming the starting quarterback back in 2008. He is a HOF and will now have major distractions removed as Mcarthy is gone. In his place will be offensive-minded Matt LaFleur. LaFleur was under the tutelage of Sean McVay. Dan Quinn, and Kyle Shanahan. Rodgers' touchdowns should improve and so should the accuracy. However, those interceptions will as well. Right now Rodgers is going as the third quarterback off the board and that should be where you target him. Rodgers won't fall far below this mark, so if you want him, you will have to pull the trigger.

Best Case Scenario: Rodgers continues to be a top-three quarterback

Worst Case Scenario: Rodgers shows his age (35-years) or is injured and is out for a significant amount of time.

Ben Roethlisberger ADP and AAV

Standard: 16th among QBs, 121st overall

PPR: 15th among QBs, 123rd overall

Ben Roethlisberger Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	3rd	341	3rd	21.3
2017	11th	260.6	12th	16.3
2016	18th	252.3	20th	18

Overview: Ben Roethlisberger had perhaps the best season in his 15-year career. He totaled his highest touchdowns (34), the most yards (5129), most attempts (675), and most completions (452). It was also only the fifth time as a pro that he didnt make the playoffs. With the turmoil of Le'Veon Bell not showing up the entire season, and the Antonio Brown fiasco, things finally bubbled over in Steel town. However, Roethlisberger was good enough to finish as the 3rd QB. The Steelers awarded him with a nice two-year $68 million dollar extension, keeping him in Pittsburgh until the 2021 season.

Strategy: Football Absurdity's Auction Value ($200 Budget): $6

Ben Roethlisberger had his best season and got paid; that is the good news. The bad news is that he will need to get used to a change in scenery very quickly. With Bell in New York and Brown in Oakland, Roethlisberger will need to feed the rock to the likes of James Conner and Donte Moncrief. Maybe it will be James Washington? Perhaps, rookie Dionte Johnson, or Ryan Switzer? Look for a fall in production, whoever it is. He is chalk as a mid-tier QB2. He will probably go before then. Roethlisberger played in all 16-games for the first time since 2014. Even though Roethlisberger has a list of injuries, he has been pretty steady: He only missed 24 games in his career.

Best Case Scenario: Ben Roethlisberger gets used to his change in dynamics and gels with his new receivers. He finishes in the top-10 of quarterbacks.

Worst Case Scenario: Roethlisberger struggles with the new look and falls below a QB20.

Matt Ryan ADP and AAV

Standard: 6th among QBs, 69th overall

PPR: 6th among QBs, 76th overall

Matt Ryan Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $14

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	2n	354	2nd	22.1
2017	15th	228.1	20th	14.3
2016	2nd	347.5	2nd	21.7

Overview: Matt Ryan returned to 2017 form under Dirk Koetter. Ryan had his second highest amount of passing yards and second most touchdowns of his career. He even added three rushing touchdowns. Ryan had five total coming into 2018, so it would be surprising to see him match those numbers again. Outside of his 2013 and 2015 seasons, Ryan has finished in the top-10 of quarterbacks since 2010 seven times and has averaged a finish of seventh among signal-callers in that time period. With Ryan's trusted trio of wide receivers in Julio Jones, Muhammad Sanu, and Calvin Ridley, expect similar outcomes as Ryan had in 2018 and 2016.

Strategy: Football Absurdity's Auction Value ($200 Budget): $10
Matt Ryan is constantly passed over mostly due to his horrendous years when he has them: Sprinkled among his top fantasy years, he has QB15, 19, 18, and 14th finishes over his career. Also, over the last four seasons, Ryan has had alternating good and bad seasons, so keep that on your radar. Ryan has only missed two games over his career, both coming in 2009. Pretty remarkable for a quarterback with little mobility. Targeting Ryan should result into a nice ROI for your quarterbacking position.

Best Case Scenario: Ryan continues to be a high-echelon quarterback and finishes in the top-five of all quarterbacks.

Worst Case Scenario: Ryan has one of those miserable seasons finishing in either the middle or late of QB2 rankings.

Matthew Stafford ADP and AAV

Standard: 23rd among QBs, 175th overall

PPR: 25th among QBs, 171st overall

Matthew Stafford Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	19th	212.2	32nd	13.3
2017	7th	273.8	10th	17.1
2016	7th	273.8	10th	17.1

Overview: Stafford fell from grace in 2018 after two solid seasons sans-Calvin Johnson that seemed to show he had the skills. With a second year under new management, Stafford hopes to reclaim his status as a "ehhh, I kinda don't want him but he's good value"-able QB

Strategy: Our Matthew Stafford Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

We're all adults here, so I'm just gonna lay this out for you: Matthew Stafford's coaching sucks. They can't see the genius of Kerryon Johnson, they can't ride the shocking momentum Stafford showed after losing one of the best receivers of all time. Stafford is a decent backup in 2-QB leagues, but there are way too many young QBs going around the same time as him (Josh Allen, Sam Darnold, freaking anyone) to justify reaching.

Best Case Scenario: Stafford starts audibling out his coaching staff's horrible plays and maybe finishes QB18

Worst Case Scenario: Stafford repeats his 32nd-ranked PPG performance from last year

Mitchell Trubisky ADP and AAV

Standard: 19th among QBs, 145th overall

PPR: 19th among QBs, 133rd overall

Mitchell Trubisky Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $4

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	15th	262.9	11th	18.8
2017	29th	127.3	33rd	11.6

Overview: Mitchell Trubisky played a full season in a functional NFL offense. You'd think this would help us get a grasp of what he as an NFL quarterback, but that is not the case. His tape fluctuates from bone-headed to brilliant. The only thing we know for sure about him is:



Mitch is one of the most interesting quarterback prospects this year. When the Bears needed him to make a play, he made it. The problem was when the Bears didn't need him to make a play, he didn't make it, which lead to situations where they needed him to make a play, which he made. Ahhh, it's like a snake eating its own tail!

Trubisky is in year three of an offense that gives its quarterbacks every opportunity to succeed. He is surrounded by a ton of talent. And, by all accounts, all Mitch loves to do is football (and kiss, well, you saw his tweet). That makes Trubisky one of my favorite quarterback plays in 2019 because if he hits, he could hit as a top-three quarterback.

Strategy: Our Mitchell Trubisky Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

My strategy with Trubisky is simple. I will be drafting him along with another high-upside mid-round quarterback. At his current ADP, he is an absolute steal and will allow me to fill up on running backs and wide receivers early.

Best Case Scenario: If Trubisky puts it all together, he goes the route of Patrick Mahomes and takes the NFL by storm.

Worst Case Scenario: Trubisky doesn't clean up his mechanics and keeps sailing passes. Only this season, the defenders actually intercept them.

Deshaun Watson ADP and AAV

Standard: 4th among QBs, 56th overall

PPR: 4th among QBs, 60th overall

Deshaun Watson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $24

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	4th	331.9	4th	20.7
2017	26th	168.8	45th	24.1
2016	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson	Clemson

Overview: Deshaun Watson was able to play all 16 games and he was very good considering that Houston's offensive line was atrocious. Watson's protective shield got him sacked 62 times, a league high. However, the sophomore quarterback was able to throw for 4165 yards and 26 touchdowns with just nine interceptions while completing 68 percent of his passes. Watson also adds value on the ground: His 820 rushing yards over his career and seven touchdowns is an added bonus. This should continue, putting Watson in the 30 total touchdown range.

Strategy: Football Absurdity's Auction Value ($200 Budget): $7

Deshaun Watson should continue to add points through the air and the ground. Also, Houston drafted left tackle Tytus Howard in the first round to help shore up that line. As long as Watson can stay healthy he will finish among the top seven of quarterbacks. He makes a intriguing buy once the first five QBs go off the board. Anything less than that and you're breaking even.

Best Case Scenario: Watson continues to thrive in his third-season and his statistical numbers climb. Watson has just an outside chance of finishing as the number one quarterback. If he gets the blocking up front, I wouldn't be surprised if he does.

Worst Case Scenario: Watson is injured and misses a great amount of time. This is the only way, that I can see him faltering as a low QB1 or QB2.

Carson Wentz ADP and AAV

Standard: 10th among QBs, 94th overall

PPR: 10th among QBs, 94th overall

Carson Wentz Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $10

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	22nd	192.4	18th	17.5
2017	5th	281.7	2nd	21.7
2016	24th	213.0	29th	13.3

Overview: Expectations were lofty for Wentz after a top-5 2017 season that was cut slightly short by injury. But in 2018, he severely underwhelmed, finishing as a low-end QB2. His recovery from a back injury was delayed and still isn't at 100%. The good news is that his back is better than last year which gives him sneaky value, the bad news is that value disappears at anything more than a late-round pick or a couple of auction bucks.

Strategy: Our Carson Wentz Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Wentz is nothing more than a solid backup option at this point. His upside means he's worth a lottery ticket, but he needs another year on the mend before we let our expectations run high.

Best Case Scenario: Magic back technology shoots forward a decade in the next few weeks and Wents is a middle-of-the-pack QB1.

Worst Case Scenario: His vertebrae continue to trouble him and he's barely startable in 2-QB leagues.

Russell Wilson ADP and AAV

Standard: 8th among QBs, 80th overall

PPR: 9th among QBs, 88th overall

Russell Wilson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $14

Stats:

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	341.90	10th	21.3
2017	1st	400.75	1st	25.04
2016	10th	323.25	10th	20.2

Overview: Russell Wilson has been a star since entering the league in 2012, making the Pro-Bowl five times and winning the Super Bowl once. However, he struggled in 2018 after finishing the season ranked as the QB1 in 2017. Wilson had his lowest number of passing yards since 2013, even though he had his most touchdowns throught the air in his career. Interestingly enough, it was the first season he did not score on the ground. He also had his second least amount of rushing yards in his seven years as a pro. A 30% rushing attempt decline from 2017 did not help much and neither did his 23% deduction in passing attempts. However, Wilson finished in the top-ten in fantasy quarterbacks, proving he is resilient.

Strategy: Football Absurdity's Auction Value ($200 Budget): $5

It will be hard pressed to see Wilson duplicate his touchdown numbers, even though there might be a rise in rushing attempts. His passing attempts could remain the same as Seattle is more focused on running the ball: They have two good backs in Chris Carson and Rashad Penny. Focusing on the run will also preserve the health of the aging Wilson. Wilson should finish at the lower end of the top-ten quarterbacks. I wouldn't make a leap for him as 2018 is probably his ceiling. On the other hand, I wouldn't worry about his injury status. He hasnt missed any playing time as a pro, since... ever.

Best Case Scenario: Russell Wilson plays up to his 2017 season and finishes in the top-five.

Worst Case Scenario: Russell Wilson drops even further and falls out of the top-ten for the second time in his career.

Jameis Winston ADP and AAV

Standard: 16th among QBs, 130th overall

PPR: 16th among QBs, 117th overall

Jameis Winston Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	21st	196.0	15th	17.8
2017	22nd	201.8	18th	15.5
2016	16th	256.5	20th	16.0

Overview: Jameis had trouble getting on the field the last season for two reasons: he's a dope and Ryan Fitzpatrick was doing his best Aaron Rodgers impression. Well, Fitzpatrick took his "talents" to South Beach, and, at the time I'm writing this, Jameis is suspension free. Winston does have some decent receiving options, including two very good pass catching tight ends in Cameron Brate and O.J. Howard. After a disappointing run of last place division finishes, the Bucs once again overhauled their coaching staff, bringing in HC Bruce Arians and OC Byron Leftwich. Can they make Jameis famous for football again?

Strategy: Our Jameis Winston Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

It's hard to say what 2019 will bring for Jameis. He's got a reasonably clean slate, and has a chance to resurrect a career that has been trending downward since his Pro Bowl rookie season. His ADP is on the rise, but he hasn't proven himself reliable in the past. Counting on him as your QB1 is a gamble.

Best Case Scenario: Bruce Arians brings some cannon fire to Tampa Bay, Jameis plays loose and puts up a top 10 season.

Worst Case Scenario: We've seen the real Jameis Winston, and a change of coaching staff doesn't make him any better.

Running Backs

Kalen Ballage ADP and AAV

Standard: 59th among RBs, 173rd overall

PPR: 56th among RBs, 171st overall

Kalen Ballage Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	87th	21.7	90th	2.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	86th	37.7	92nd	3.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	36	3.0	44	0.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: There's really not much to say about Kalen Ballage, except it's fun to pronounce his last name like it rhymes with "college." He's the #2 RB, behind a perennially overhyped Kenyan Drake, on an offense with more question marks than The Riddler's closet. Instead of getting into impossible usage prognostication, I give you a study in yards per carry and its illusory implications. Kalen Ballage finished 2018 with 191 yards on 36 carries, giving him a whopping 5.3 YPC. Holy cow! 5.3 YPC!! Feed Ballage! Ehhhh, not so fast. One of Ballage's 36 rushes went for 75 yards. If we simply remove that one monster rush, his YPC drops down to a meager 3.1 (116 yards on 35 carries). And just like that, he goes from a stud to dud. Yes, it's a very small

sample size, but it's just a friendly warning to not take yards per carry at face value. Thank you for your time.

Strategy: Our Kalen Ballage Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

It's pretty clear that Kenyan Drake is the primary rusher in Miami, relegating Ballage to essentially a change of pace/handcuff role. There are some people that believe Ballage has what it takes to grab the RB1 slot. Either way, it's not exactly a great situation, playing behind a combo of Ryan Fitzpatrick and Josh Rosen. Draft at your peril.

Best Case Scenario: Ballage does indeed climb to #1 on the RB depth chart, and leads that vaunted Dolphins offense to maybe a low end fantasy RB2 finish.

Worst Case Scenario: It's the Kenyan Drake show in Miami, but it doesn't matter. The offense is dreadful, and Ballage spends the entire year on your league's waiver wire.

Peyton Barber ADP and AAV

Standard: 42nd among RBs, 108th overall

PPR: 46th among RBs, 124th overall

Peyton Barber Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	26	130.3	38	8.1
2017	52	69.7	65	5.4
2016	78	31.1	89	3.1

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	31	150.3	44	9.4
2017	57	85.7	56	6.6
2016	81	36.1	94	3.6

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	234	14.6	29	1.8
2017	108	6.8	19	1.2
2016	55	3.7	6	0.4

Overview: Barber beat out Ronald Jones II to become the lead back. racking up an impressive 263 touches but a not-so-impressive 3.7 yards per carry. With Tampa Bay's offense poised to become one of the best in the league, there is an opportunity for Barber to improve, provided he can continue to hold off Jones.

Strategy: Our Peyton Barber Auction Value ($200 Budget): $6

Barber is exactly who we want in a flex spot: A high-volume guy that should see a lot of goal-line looks. Many detractors cite the emerging breakout of Ronald Jones II as a detriment, but consider this: Ronald Jones II averaged 1.9 yards per carry. While Barber's average wasn't good, Jones had just barely half that. Jones never gained enough yards in a single game to make it from one end of an NBA court to the other. Not to mention Jones aggravated his hamstring twice in 2018, the second time caused him to miss 4 games. Barber is a steal at his practically non-existent ADP and AAV.

Best Case Scenario: Barber is a serviceable, boring RB2 that you can plug into your flex spot every week for value.

Worst Case Scenario: Ronald Jones just had growing pains, and steals the starts from Barber early in the season.

Saquon Barkley ADP and AAV

Standard: Number 1 among running backs. Number 1 overall.

PPR: Number 1 among running backs. Number 1 overall.

Saquon Barkley Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $60

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	2nd	294.8	4th	18.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	1st	385.8	2	22.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	261	16.3	121	7.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: The good news is Saquon Barkley is the entire New York Giants offense. The bad news is Saquon Barkley is the entire New York Giants offense. Every defense coordinator who faces the Giants will make it their mission to stop Saquon. The problem is, they tried that last year and it didn't work out for them. Losing OBJ might make it easier for defenses to stack boxes against him, but he is also the Giants best and, possibly, their only weapon.

Strategy: Our Saquon Barkley Auction Value ($200 Budget): $65

The only real strategy here is hoping you get the number one pick here. Or barring that, hitting people with higher draft picks in the head repeatedly so they don't draft Saquon ahead of you. Whether you end up with Saquon because they have brain damage or you go to jail for manslaughter, I'll leave up to you. Regardless, if you end up with Saquon Barkley on your team, you've come out ahead.

Best Case Scenario: The best case scenario is that Saquon Barkley ends up the number one running back in fantasy football, as evident by the fact that you will need to spend the number one pick to get him.

Worst Case Scenario: The worst case scenario is that you knowingly spend the number one overall pick in your fantasy league on somebody who plays for the New York Giants and then somehow you act surprised when he's not good.

LeVeon Bell ADP and AAV

Standard: 7th among RBs, 8th overall

PPR: 7th among RBs, 9th overall

LeVeon Bell Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $41

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	2nd	256.6	3rd	17.1
2016	4th	242.4	2nd	20.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	2nd	341.6	2nd	22.8
2016	3rd	317.4	1st	26.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	321	21.4	106	6.0
2016	261	21.8	94	7.8

Overview: A perennial top-3 RB is on a new offense that's a step down from high-octane Pittsburgh. Still, he is poised to get a majority of the workload, and being in a less disgruntling situation could have desirable results.

Strategy: Our LeVeon Bell Auction Value ($200 Budget): $48

We think his 8-9th overall ADP is a bit high, we'd like one of the other top 7-8 RBs or top 2-3 WRs there. The Jets aren't great and might have to pass the ball deep in the second half of many games. Still, it's hard to argue that Bell doesn't have a high floor, which is why will still like him as a late first-rounder.

In auction, we think the $41 AAV is ridiculously low. No decent league is going to let him go for a price that better fits a high-end RB2. If you have faith in Bell, this season, pay the extra money and go get him. If you don't, no need to bid him up, someone will reach into the $40s for him.

Best Case Scenario: Bell returns to his top 5 offense with a NYJ offense that starts to click.

Worst Case Scenario: New York fails to move the ball and Bell ends up more like a RB12-15 based on excessive volume, alone.

Chris Carson ADP and AAV

Standard: 24th among RBs, 47th overall

PPR: 27th among TEs, 57th overall

Chris Carson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $18

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	14th	181.4	11th	13
2017	84th	32.7	30th	8.2
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	15th	201.4	16th	14.4
2017	86th	39.7	33rd	9.9
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	247	17.6	20	1.4
2017	49	4.3	7	1.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: You ever date someone who kinda checks all the boxes, but there's just not fireworks? Then their true soul mate shows up on the scene, and you realize your days together are numbered because there's some hunky sword of Damocles looming above waiting to swoop down and slay you? That's how I feel about dating/drafting Chris Carson (note: Rashaad Penny is the soul mate here.) Maybe I should get therapy.

Strategy: Our Chris Carson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $9

Carson seemed to come on last year in terms of performance, finishing just inside the gates of RB1. He had 4.7 ypc and double-digit touchdowns. We understand the hype, but looming in the wings is first round pick Rashaad Penny. He averaged 4.9 yards per carry and showed the flashes of lightning that the Seahawks expected when he drafted him. The only thing limiting him was a nagging knee injury.

Best Case Scenario: Penny's knee injury turns out to be chronic, and Carson finishes as a top 10 RB

Worst Case Scenario: Carson quickly loses his job to a prospect that was draft so early the Seahawks just have to give him a shot. Carson isn't even a flex consideration 4 games in.

Nick Chubb ADP and AAV

Standard: 12th among RBs, 19th overall

PPR: 12th among TEs, 21nd overall

Nick Chubb Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $32

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	15th	174.5	18th	10.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	17th	194.5	25th	12.2
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	192	12.0	29	1.8
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Once he finally got the go ahead to start games in his rookie year, Nick Chubb exploded. He ran for a whopping 5.2 yards per carry. With the Browns getting rid of Carlos Hyde and Duke Johnson acting extremely disgruntled, the path is clear for Chubb to take on the workhorse role.

Strategy: Our Nick Chubb Auction Value ($200 Budget): $44

Along with Juju Smith-Schuster, Chubb is the safest 2nd round pick to get you a 1rst round return. Once his workload upped from 3 carries per game to 18 from week 7 on, Chubb was on fire. His numbers during that time would extrapolate to 232.7 points in standard over an entire season, good enough for RB6. With the Browns offense expected to take a step forward, Chubb has a clear path to finishing as a high end top 12 RB.

Let's talk about auction. Right now, Chubb's auction value is going criminally low (as low as $26 on Fantasy Pros). There's a reason why our humble site is one of the most preferred places for auction values, and you can use it to dominate your league. **I'm giving you the key to the mint, here, so listen up:**

When the bigger sites calculate their average auction values, they usually do so by taking their draft rankings and converting them to dollars. This linear conversion does not reflect how auctions usually end up. Big sites tend to assign 9th-13th round players a value between $3-10. However, in real life auctions there are always a huge handful of those players that go for a buck or two. Meanwhile, most sites make up this overestimate by having lower values on the first few rounds, when actually those top-desired players tend to go for above "predicted value." So always be willing to reach for a first- or second-round player in auction, you can easily make up the deficit by value shopping the lower ends of your roster. We'd gladly pay mid-$40s for Nick Chubb.

Best Case Scenario: Chubb grows with the Browns' offense, sees little crowded-box defenses, and cruises to a top 6 finish.

Worst Case Scenario: Chubb has a sophomore slump and gets mid-RB2 values, which is where he is currently being drafted. Get this guy.

Tarik Cohen ADP and AAV

Standard: 29th among RBs, 63rd overall

PPR: 28th among RBs, 59th overall

Tarik Cohen Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $15

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	17th	162.9	23rd	10.2
2017	41st	91.6	57th	5.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	11th	233.9	15th	14.6
2017	30th	144.6	42nd	9.0
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	99	6.2	91	5.7
2017	87	5.4	71	4.4
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: If you were one of many owners (like ME!) who owned both Tarik Cohen and Jordan Howard last year, you know what a nightmare it was trying to predict which runner to start each week. Well worry no more! Howard is an Eagle now, and the backfield is all Cohen's!!! What's that? The Bears drafted a RB? Sigh... Honestly, Cohen at 5' 8"-180 lbs, would never survive as an every-down NFL runner. Rookie David Montgomery looks poised to be the RB1 in Chicago, leading to what we can assume would be similar usage for Cohen in 2019 as he was used in 2018. Among RBs, only Kyle Juszczyk and Austin Ekeler surpassed Cohen in yards per catch in 2018. Here's the... catch. Cohen had more receptions (71) then Juszczyk (30) and Ekeler (39) COMBINED. Cohen is fast and explosive, living up to his nickname: The Human Joystick. Cohen has another nickname, Chicken Salad, for his ability to turn broken plays (chickens***) into something delicious. He's a huge weapon for the Bears, and they'd be insane not finding ways to get the ball into his hands any way they can.

Strategy: Our Tarik Cohen Auction Value ($200 Budget): $22

Cohen is a pretty good value right now. He's hanging around longer in drafts because of the presence of Montgomery. People might be sleeping a bit on Cohen. Don't be afraid to spend your money, or your 4th round pick, on some Chicken Salad.

Best Case Scenario: The Bears prove to be an offensive powerhouse, and Cohen is used as both a runner and receiver. He betters his 2018 receiving totals, and finishes as a very high RB2.

Worst Case Scenario: The Bears offense sputters, grounding and pounding it out with Montgomery. Cohen still gets his looks, but their fewer and farther between. He finishes as a low end RB3.

Tevin Coleman ADP and AAV

Standard: 30th among RBs, 68th overall

PPR: 30th among RBs, 72nd overall

Tevin Coleman Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $15

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	18th	161.6	26th	10.1
2017	22nd	140.9	20th	9.4
2016	17th	160.1	15th	12.3

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	18th	193.6	26th	12.1
2017	22nd	167.9	24th	11.2
2016	19th	191.1	13th	14.7

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	167	10.4	44	2.8
2017	156	10.4	39	2.6
2016	118	9.1	40	3.1

Overview: For the last few years, Tevin Coleman has been the lightning to Devonta Freeman's thunder in Atlanta. Or is it the thunder to Freeman's lightning? Or is it... whatever. He's been splitting touches, ok? With those splits, he's been ridiculously consistent, finishing as a fantasy RB2 for the last three years. Coleman is now in San Francisco, and will likely be part of another touch-splitting committee, primarily losing reps to Jerick McKinnon. All that said, Coleman is expected to be the RB1 there, and should be able to turn in another productive fantasy season.

Strategy: Our Tevin Coleman Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

With competition from both McKinnon and Matt Breida, it's tough to count on Coleman every week. He may be overdrafted if folks are expecting him to get more than 12-15 touches per game. Still, given his talent, he'll be able to do some damage with some of those touches.

Best Case Scenario: Coleman gets close to 15 touches per game, makes a few big splash plays, and pushes into top 20 RB territory.

Worst Case Scenario: McKinnon and Breida show a lot more usefulness, Coleman gets closer to 10 touches per game, and falls to low fantasy RB3 territory.

James Conner ADP and AAV

Standard: 8th among running backs. 10th overall.

PPR: 8th among running backs. 12th overall.

James Conner Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $44

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	7th	225.0	7th	17.3
2017	**DIDN'T DO MUCH**			

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	6th	280.0	7th	21.5
2017	**THAT WAS RELEVANT**			

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	215	16.5	71	5.5
2017	**TO HIS PROJECTIONS**			

Overview: If you owned James Conner last year, you spent a lot of time very happy. He was easily the surprise breakout player of 2018. However, his production dropped in the second half of last season due to injury. The question is can he duplicate his 2018 production. Jeff Krisko pointed out a very interesting stat regarding Conner to me today. Since Mike Tomlin became the head coach of the Steelers, they have had the 2nd most running backs with 20 or more touches in a game. Simply put, Pittsburgh running backs are gonna feast.

Strategy: Our James Conner Auction Value ($200 Budget): $50

We know that the Steelers will lean on their running backs and we know that James Conner is the starter. That means that you want as many shares of James Conner as you can. If anything, he might be undervalued currently.

Best Case Scenario: The best case scenario is that Conner ends the season as a high-end RB1.

Worst Case Scenario: The worst case scenario is that the departure of Antonio Brown means James Conner cannot handle the increased workload and injuries and game planning become more of a concern, limiting his production.

Dalvin Cook ADP and AAV

Standard: 11th among RBs, 18th overall

PPR: 11th among TEs, 19th overall

Dalvin Cook Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	31st	112.0	25th	10.2
2017	65th	54.4	9th	13.6
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	30th	152.0	19th	13.8
2017	72nd	65.4	10th	16.4
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	133	12.1	49	4.4
2017	74	18.5	16	4.0
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: When on the field, Cook has proven he has the explosive power to be an RB1. However, injuries have kept him out for extended stretches in both of his NFL seasons.

Strategy: Our Dalvin Cook Auction Value ($200 Budget): $35

We like Cook if he falls to the 3rd, but he's just too risky in the 2nd, compared to the players who are going around his spot (Nick Chubb, Mike Evans, George Kittle). The optimistic take is that Cook hasn't injured the same place in multiple seasons, but including his college career he's had trouble with a shoulder, a knee, a hamstring, and an ankle. We'll see if he falls, but Dalvin Cook isn't someone we're targeting at his current ADP and AAV.

Best Case Scenario: Cook stays healthy and emerges as a solid RB1.

Worst Case Scenario: Cook is hobbled, but not enough to sit. Owners end up starting him for a slew of horrible statline games.

Kenyan Drake ADP and AAV

Standard: 26th among RBs, 53rd overall

PPR: 25th among RBs, 54th overall

Kenyan Drake Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $20

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	21st	153.2	30th	9.6
2017	34th	110.3	46th	6.9
2016	76th	34.5	97th	2.7

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	14th	206.2	21st	12.9
2017	33rd	142.3	44th	8.9
2016	74th	43.5	101st	3.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	120	7.5	73	4.6
2017	133	8.3	48	3.0
2016	33	2.1	10	0.6

Overview: Drake has had some mild hype the last couple years. Unfounded hype that hasn't come to fruition. He looks like the total package, but just isn't an elite performer. It's like watching a Canadian Madonna, or a Kenyan Drake. His rushing numbers actually dropped last year, but he bolstered his overall value with above average receiving totals (53 rec, 5 rec TDs).

Strategy: Our Kenyan Drake Auction Value ($200 Budget): $15

Goofus is excited that Drake's fantasy point totals are trending upward, and loves how much Drake was used in the passing game last year.

Gallant recognizes that those lofty receiving totals may be hard to duplicate.

Goofus believes now that Adam Gase is gone, Drake will finally get the touches he deserves.

Gallant understands that having Josh Rosen and/or Ryan Fitzpatrich at QB will make it very easy for opposing defenses to focus on stopping the run.

Goofus would pay more than our $15 auction value, and is looking for Drake in the 4th round as a can't miss RB2.

Gallant knows there's much better value out there and passes on Drake altogether.

Don't be a **Goofus**.

Best Case Scenario: Drake turns into Alvin Kamara light (very light), and is used heavily on both running and passing downs, making him a borderline RB1.

Worst Case Scenario: Kalen Ballage takes a much bigger role in the offense, making Drake primarily a change of pace/passing down back. His receiving ability still garners RB4 consideration.

Austin Ekeler ADP and AAV

Standard: 45th among RBs, 110th overall

PPR: 40th among RBs, 103rd overall

Austin Ekeler Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	27th	129.8	33rd	9.3
2017	47th	79.9	47th	5.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	25th	168.8	27th	12.1
2017	45th	106.9	55th	7.6
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	106	7.6	53	3.8
2017	47	2.9	35	2.2
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Ekeler spelled Gordon well last year, totaling almost 1,000 yards and finishing just out of RB2 status. With Gordon potentially holding out, Ekeler might clear 200 touches.

Strategy: Our Austin Ekeler Auction Value ($200 Budget): $6

Ekeler is a great stash, even if Gordon doesn't hold out. Gordon needs to be relieved to prevent injury, so Ekeler should be at least a good flex fill-in. His pass-catching ability gives him a solid floor. We would take him after the tenth or for 6 auction bucks.

Best Case Scenario: Ekeler becomes the starter and a decent RB2.

Worst Case Scenario: Ekeler never gets the start but is still a solid bye week flex option in PPR leagues.

Ezekiel Elliott ADP and AAV

Standard: Number 2 among running backs. Number 2 overall.

PPR: Number 2 among running backs. Number 2 overall.

Ezekiel Elliott Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $60

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	5th	252.2	8th	16.8
2017	10th	163.1	2nd	18.1
2016	2nd	293.4	3rd	19.6

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	5th	329.2	6th	21.9
2017	12th	203.2	3rd	20.3
2016	2nd	325.4	3rd	21.7

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	304	20.3	95	6.3
2017	242	24.2	38	3.8
2016	322	21.5	39	2.6

Overview: Ezekiel Elliott came back in 2018 to lead the NFL in rushing for the second time in three years. And just like after his inaugural season as the NFL rushing champion, Zeke decided to try getting arrested again. While this incident is being dismissed by the Cowboys, the NFL is draconian when it comes to its image. Getting arrested at music festivals in Las Vegas is exactly the type of thing the NFL would suspend someone for, whether they are at fault or not. (Note: Elliott ended up not getting suspended).

I can't think of a better bet to be the number one scorer in fantasy football. As crazy as it sounds, Zeke might have had a down year in 2018. Even though he led the league in rushing, he was only 20th in rushing touchdowns. For his usage, he should have scored a lot more. Numbers two through eleven on the rushing leader list all had more touchdowns than him. Moreover, in 2018 Ezekiel Elliot had more targets in the passing game than his previous two seasons combined.

Strategy: Our Ezekiel Elliott Auction Value ($200 Budget): $67

Elliott is a clear top 2 guy, and is worth a first or second overall pick. In auction, feel free to go over his $60 ADP, making up the difference with some steals at WR or RB 2/3.

Best Case Scenario: Zeke leads the NFL in rushing.

Worst Case Scenario: Elliott has a down year, but still finishes as a top 10 RB due to usage.

D'Onta Foreman ADP and AAV

Standard: 46th among RBs, 120th overall

PPR: 44th among RBs, 121st overall

D'Onta Foreman Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	66	51.0	59	57
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	75	57.0	69	6.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	7	7.0	2	2.0
2017	78	7.8	8	0.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: D'Onta Foreman was supposed to take on a larger role in 2018, but an injury kept him from having to carry the ball toward Houston's offensive line, not unlike how an injury kept fortunate soldiers from carrying rifles into the bullet-ridden jungles of 'Nam. With a year to heal, fans are hoping he can steal the job from Lamar "meh" Miller.

Strategy: Our D'Onta Foreman Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Here's the situation: Miller is going to get crushed because Houston has no offensive line skills. So, eventually, the coaches will have to pretend like it's a player issue and not an utter inability to respect offensive line development from all facets of their front office. So you'll get at least a few starts! Miller had 1K total yards in all three years with the Texans, Foreman should do at least as well.

Best Case Scenario: Foreman steals the job in the preseason, tops 1,000 rushing yards and finishes as a top 15 RB.

Worst Case Scenario: Turns out Foreman is bad/gets annihilated by the defense and is yet again a fantasy non-factor.

Leonard Fournette ADP and AAV

Standard: 14th among RBs, 24th overall

PPR: 14th among RBs, 29th overall

Leonard Fournette Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $33

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	37th	98.4	14th	12.3
2017	8th	194.2	5th	14.9
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	40th	120.4	12th	15.1
2017	9th	230.2	7th	17.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	133	16.6	26	3.3
2017	268	20.6	48	3.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: When he's on the field, Fournette is one of the most powerful RB1s. When he's on the field. However, injuries have plagued Fournette, both in the pros and college (and we wouldn't be surprised if this goes all the way back to his pee wee football days.) Since 2016, he has suffered 7 injuries to his legs and feet, five in the NFL, including one injury because someone "stepped on his foot." With Bortles most likely out in Jacksonville, Fournette's production should improve if he can stay healthy.

Strategy: Our Leonard Fournette Auction Value ($200 Budget): $30

He's going in the 2nd/3rd round and for higher-en RB2 auction money. I won't touch him until the fourth or if he falls to the $low 30s. I've watched Fournette since his college days, and his nagging leg and foot issues make it difficult for him to perform well for stretches of several games. For instance, in 2017 he started the season with 6 solid games, then never went a three-game stretch without having a four-point or less fantasy stinker. In 2018 he had a three-game stretch with 22, 19, and 22 points, but his other totals for the 5 games he played were 5, 3, 3, 5, 12. He's been that guy you hate to have in your lineup because you never can be sure if he's playing injured. Don't reach for him

Best Case Scenario: Fournette actually sits when injured and gives you 10 solid starts.

Worst Case Scenario: Fournette continues his streak of imploding when fantasy owners need him most. Take that in: Fournette going out for the season in week 4 is *not* the worst-case scenario, because it means you won't have to start him for <6 measly points.

Devonta Freeman ADP and AAV

Standard: 15th among RBs, 29th overall

PPR: 15th among TEs, 33rd overall

Devonta Freeman Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $31

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	9.1	N/A	4.6
2017	13th	164.2	11th	11.7
2016	6th	230.1	7th	14.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	11.6	N/A	5.8
2017	13th	200.2	14th	14.3
2016	6th	284.1	7th	17.8

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	14	7.0	7	3.5
2017	196	14.0	47	4.3
2016	227	14.2	65	4.0

Overview: Freeman followed up three straight strong seasons with a 2018 cut dramatically short due to a bone bruise and sports hernia surgery. With Tevin Coleman out of the building, Freeman could get an uptick in touches if he can stay healthy.

Strategy: Our Devonta Freeman Auction Value ($200 Budget): $34

Full disclosure, Football Absurdity co-owner Jeff Krisko is high on Freeman, whereas I am kind of in the middle. It comes down to whether you like to gamble on upside in the third round or get a safe floor. Freeman definitely has a huge upside, Atlanta's offense should be potent and the only one in the backfield who could steal carries is the ho-hum Ito Smith. If that speaks to you, grab Freeman.

However, with my third round RB, I like a nice floor. Give me a boring guy who checks in with 10 points per game and never goes down, and let my two first round picks win the games for me. So I can't use my third round pick on Freeman, who has picked up 7 injuries in the past two seasons. In addition to the hernia surgery, he's had a bruised foot, a bruised knee, two sprained knees, and two concussions. I just can't spend a third round pick or almost 20% of my auction budget on this sixth-year back. Don't get me wrong, if he falls into the 4th round or around 15 % of my budget, I'll snap him up in a heartbeat.

Best Case Scenario: Freeman doesn't get injured and has his best season, yet, finishing as a top end RB1

Worst Case Scenario: Freeman gets dinged up throughout the season, but never misses time, ending up as a RB3 who owners mistakenly start week after week.

Royce Freeman ADP and AAV

Standard: 38th among RBs, 95th overall

PPR: 41st among RBs, 105th overall

Royce Freeman Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	47th	87.3	52nd	6.2
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	47th	101.3	64th	7.2
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	130	9.3	20	2.8
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: "Rolls" Royce Freeman had a pretty good, yet unspectacular 2018, playing mostly behind fellow rookie rusher Phillip Lindsay. Both sophomores are back for more in 2019, and there's expectation that Freeman will be more involved this year. Lindsay is a little undersized to be workhorse back. Freeman, on the other hand, is 6-0, 230, prototypically-sized for short yardage and goal line situations. Freeman is no slouch as a receiver either, racking up 8 rec. for 43 yards in the final game of 2018.

Strategy: Our Royce Freeman Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

While Lindsay still sits atop the depth chart, Freeman isn't going anywhere. He'll be involved just enough to annoy Lindsay owners, and provide some flex value / bye week depth for Freeman owners. He's worth a late draft day grab if he's hanging around too long.

Best Case Scenario: Freeman turns into a TD vulture in Denver, turning in a LeGarrette Blount in New England-type season.

Worst Case Scenario: Only an injury would keep Freeman from being a productive flex play or fantasy RB3.

Melvin Gordon ADP and AAV

Standard: 5th among running backs. 5th overall.

PPR: 5th among running backs. 6th overall.

Melvin Gordon Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $39

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	6th	225.5	2nd	18.8
2017	4th	217.7	6th	14.5
2016	7th	209.6	5th	16.1

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	8th	275.5	5th	23.0
2017	5th	288.1	6th	18.0
2016	7th	250.6	6th	19.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	175	14.6	66	5.5
2017	212	14.1	36	2.4
2016	31	2.8	11	1

Overview: First and foremost, we're not worried about Gordon holding out into the season. Unlike Le'Veon Bell in 2018, Gordon is under contract. That means he'll be fined $40,000 for each day he holds out. Each *day!* That's like $6 million for holding out the whole season.

The talk at the top of 2019 NFL fantasy football drafts centers around the big four. Saquon Barkley, Ezekiel Elliott, Alvin Kamara, and Christian McCaffery. Nobody wants to talk about Gordon in this category, and I don't understand why. Gordon had as many top 12 finishes as both Zeke and Kamara while playing 3 fewer games. The only reason he isn't ranked in the big four is that he missed his last four games.

Strategy: The strategy is simple. If you are drafting in the middle of the first round and he falls to you, draft Melvin Gordon and be happy with the incredible value you received. You have a guy in a power rushing offense that was an RB1 in 9 of 12 starts last year. You can't beat that level of consistency.

Best Case Scenario: The best case scenario is that you get solid RB1 production out of Melvin Gordon and a much better pick on the swing in the second round, all while laughing as half of the sure-fire running backs vastly underperform, just like they always do.

Worst Case Scenario: The worst case scenario is that Melvin Gordon continues to miss a quarter of his games in a season and it turns out he is the dude who vastly underperforms and you both get to miss the playoffs.

Derrius Guice ADP and AAV

Standard: 27th among RBs, 64th overall

PPR: 29th among RBs, 70th overall

Derrius Guice Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $9

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Exciting round 2 draft pick Derrius Guice missed all of 2018 with a torn ACL. Expected to back up the aging Adrian Peterson in 2019, news broke that Guice's appearance in training camp would be delayed by a hamstring injury.

Strategy: Our Derrius Guice Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Guice still could have value, that's why we'll take him for a couple of bucks or a 12th round pick. On the surface, this could be a simple injury and he returns to take the reigns. However, he could have something seriously wrong due to his ACL, perhaps compensation put too much pressure on his hamstring.

Best Case Scenario: Guice mends, and you have the #1 running back... on the Redskins' horrible offense.

Worst Case Scenario: He stays perpetually injured all season.

Todd Gurley ADP and AAV

Standard: 9th among running backs. 11th overall.

PPR: 9th among running backs. 11th overall.

Todd Gurley Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $34

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	1st	313.1	1st	22.4
2017	1st	319.3	1st	21.3
2016	21st	147.5	27th	9.8

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	3rd	372.1	1st	26.6
2017	1st	383.3	1st	25.6
2016	18th	186.5	23rd	12.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	256	18.2	81	5.8
2017	279	18.6	87	5.8
2016	278	17.4	58	3.6

Overview: It is hard to believe that the best running back of the last two years might not even be drafted in the first round. That is what happens when you get out-touched by an overweight CJ Anderson in the Super Bowl. All reports out of Los Angeles are that Todd Gurley will never see a similar snap count again. The drafting of Darrell Henderson in the 3rd round seems to indicate that the Rams believe this also.

Strategy: Strategy: Our Todd Gurley Auction Value ($200 Budget): $35

The strategy here is dependent on how risk-averse you are. Gurley has the ability to win you leagues. Just ask all the Gurley owners from 2017. He also has an arthritic knee. The question is whether Todd Gurley is worth the risk. As the very wise and very drunk Evan Hoovler once told me, your first round pick might not win you your fantasy league, but it can lose it for you. Now get me another beer.

Best Case Scenario: The best case scenario is that these are all just lies bandied about by the uninitiated, who have no idea how brilliant Sean McVay actually is. Sean McVay is playing 12th-dimensional chess and sat Todd Gurley for most of the Super Bowl last year just to trick everyone.

Worst Case Scenario: The worst case scenario is that you spent the entire offseason listening to how Todd Gurley was never going to be the same again. But you thought to yourself,` how can these so-called "experts" know better than I? I have been playing fantasy football for years and I know a little bit about knees, having failed out of veterinary school. I'm getting too great a value here. How can I pass up a player who finished in the top three in the last two years? Oh my God, these fools have no idea what they are doing. They are just giving me the league……..WHAT DO YOU MEAN TODD GURLEY IS HURT?!?!?!?! THIS IS COMING OUT OF NOWHERE!?!?!?!?!?!'

Darrell Henderson ADP and AAV

Standard: 35th among RBs, 80th overall

PPR: 33rd among RBs, 82nd overall

Darrell Henderson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Round 3 pick Darrell Henderson slides into a role backing up Todd Gurley in a potent Rams offense. If he has the skills, an injury to Gurley could make him a very popular fantasy asset, but news about Gurley's nagging knee injury has been all over the place.

Strategy: Our Darrell Henderson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $8

This is easily the handcuff to get in fantasy, and he could have value on his own if Gurley's arthritis continues to plague him. We're not into picking Henderson in single-digit rounds, except in leagues with lots of RB start spots, but we'll gladly scoop him up in the tenth or if he goes for under $10.

Best Case Scenario: Gurley's dunzo, and Henderson returns consistent RB2 value.

Worst Case Scenario: Gurley is okay, and Henderson never musters up any fantasy production.

Derrick Henry ADP and AAV

Standard: 17th among RBs, 33rd overall

PPR: 19th among RBs, 38th overall

Derrick Henry Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	13th	186.3	17th	11.6
2017	25th	124.0	37th	7.8
2016	38th	92.7	52nd	6.6

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	16th	201.3	22nd	12.6
2017	37th	135.0	48th	8.4
2016	44th	105.7	58th	7.6

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	215	13.4	18	1.1
2017	176	11.0	17	1.0
2016	110	7.3	15	1.0

Overview: Henry exploded in the final quarter of the 2018 fantasy season, racking up 585 rushing yards and 7 touchdowns in the last four weeks. His limited production in the rest of the season, however, has owners nervous. The question, of course, is which Derrick Henry will we get in 2019?

Strategy: Our Derrick Henry Auction Value ($200 Budget): $30

We like Henry, even though our auction value is less than AAV. He has a solid line, a QB who can't put the game script on his shoulders, and a powerful running style that can bowl through 8-in-the-box. The limited production over most of 2018 doesn't bother us. What does limit us from paying high-end RB2 money is his ceiling. He doesn't catch passes. His team has trouble moving the ball down the field. There's no real outline for him to finish as a mid-RB1 like there is with similarly ranked backs Aaron Jones and Devonta Freeman. Since he's not going to be a solid RB1, we feel he's worth mid-to-low RB2 money and it's better to see which RB2 drops to a decent value and grab him.

Best Case Scenario: Henry continues to have flashes of brilliance (although expecting him to retain his end-of-season pace is ridiculous) and finishes as a top-12 back.

Worst Case Scenario: Henry's usage and offense continues to stymie owners and he finishes as RB 20-24.

Jordan Howard ADP and AAV

Standard: 34th among RBs, 83rd overall

PPR: 35th among RBs, 87th overall

Jordan Howard Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	20th	160	28th	10.0
2017	10th	176.5	13th	11.0
2016	9th	201.1	9th	13.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	20th	180.0	31st	11.3
2017	14th	199.5	19th	12.5
2016	10th	230.1	9th	15.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	250	15.6	26	1.6
2017	276	17.3	32	2
2016	252	16.8	50	3.3

Overview: After a down season, the Bears decided to get rid of Howard for a late-round pick. Howard seemed to be the future of the Bears' backfield, but took a severe downturn in 2018, averaging only 3.7 yards per carry. Now on Philadelphia, Howard sees a crowded backfield with Darren Sproles, Josh Adams, Cory Clement, Wendell Smallwood, and rookie Miles Sanders.

Strategy: Our Jordan Howard Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

We're not as high on Jordan Howard as others. The Bears were more than willing to part with him for a mediocre offer. We look at his declining yards per carry and targets each year, and wonder if he's just been used up. He's still worth a flier in a late round, in case the Eagles' potent offense is enough to reinvigorate Howard. But keep the bodyguard rule in effect when considering Howard: Never fall in love.

Best Case Scenario: Howard staves off the competition and once again finishes as a high-end RB2.

Worst Case Scenario: Howard brings owners ~4 games of low-end RB2 production before losing his gig to Sanders.

Mark Ingram ADP and AAV

Standard: 22nd among RBs, 46th overall

PPR: 22nd among RBs, 51st overall

Mark Ingram Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $23

Stats:

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	28th	121.5	27th	10.1
2017	6th	214.6	7th	14.3
2016	11th	177	15th	11.8

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	32nd	142.5	28th	11.9
2017	6th	278	8th	17.4
2016	9th	217	16th	14.5

Overview: Now on the Baltimore Ravens, Mark Ingram is so good at smashing through linemen he should change his first name to "Batter!"

I'll give you a moment to figure that one out*

However, he is no longer on the high-octane Saints offense, leaving fantasy players to wonder, "should I draft Mark Ingram?"

The good side is that he is transferring to another run-heavy team with a QB who likes to dump it off. If we extrapolate Ingram's 12-game performance to 16 games (he missed 4 due to suspension) he would have scored 9 TDs and had over 1,300 total yards in 2018. That would have placed him in the middle of the RB2 pack in both standard and PPR. That would be a decent return, this year, for a guy that's currently being drafted as the 23rd RB off the board.

Now the bad news: Mark Ingram is ***TWENTY-NINE YEARS OLD***. However, he hasn't missed a game due to injury in the last three seasons. Baltimore is right there with New Orleans in terms of run-blocking efficiency. Plus, there won't be an Alvin Kamara-level player taking lots of touches away, although Ingram still managed to put up numbers as part of a committee. Not to mention Mark Ingram's greatest strength has never been speed or taking punishing hits, two things that can lead to an older running back quickly becoming a dud. It's his ability to shift at the line that sets him apart, which is mainly locked in the confines of his brain, safely away from the clutches of Father Time:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx2b1heG6ys

Strategy: Our Mark Ingram Auction Value ($200 Budget): $30

I'm all in on Mark Ingram in the fourth round and would bid up to $30 for him in auctions. I fully expect Ingram to give owners at least an even return on their draft value.

*Batter Ingram... as in BatterIng ram. It's this new thing I've invented called a "pun" and it's going to revolutionize the dadjoke industry.

Josh Jacobs ADP and AAV

Standard: 19th among RBs, 36th overall

PPR: 19th among RBs, 37th overall

Josh Jacobbs Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $24

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: All I need to know about Josh Jacobs is that he is a rookie running back drafted in the first round. Over the past six seasons, six of eleven first-round backs have ended the year as RB1's in standard scoring and seven of eleven backs have been RB1's in PPR leagues. What this tells me is that teams that draft running backs in the first round want to get the most out of their investment and do so by running them straight at opposing defenses.

If you take that number and add to it the fact that you have a very physically gifted running back going to a team with very little talent at the running back position, it is hard to imagine him not being incredibly productive as a rookie.

Strategy: Our Josh Jacobs Auction Value ($200 Budget): $23

Considering Jacobs is going in the late-third, early-fourth rounds of drafts, it is hard to not like his value. He has a legitimate shot of ending the year as an RB1. I'm loving his ADP and he is a guy I am targeting at his current value.

Best Case Scenario: Josh Jacobs thrives in Oakland, ending the year as an RB1 and grinding his way to an Offensive Rookie Of The Year award.

Worst Case Scenario: What will actually happen is he will find out why being a Gruden Grinder is not necessarily a good thing. He will be run into the ground and mediocrity as even his talent can't salvage the Oakland roster.

David Johnson ADP and AAV:

Standard: 6th among running backs. 6th overall.

PPR: 6th among running backs. 7th overall.

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $53

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	196.7	13th	12.3
2017	Breaking the hearts of fantasy owners everywhere			
2016	1st	323.4	1st	21.6

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	9th	246.7	11th	15.4
2017	Making fantasy owners stare into the abyss			
2016	1st	400.4	1st	26.7

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	258	16.1	76	4.8
2017	Making many wonder about the existence of a benevolent higher power			
2016	293	18.3	120	7.5

Overview: David Johnson is one of the great question marks of the 2019 fantasy football season. He is, without a doubt, one of the most talented running backs in football. There is also nobody whose talent was being squandered more in 2018. He had the 3rd most rushing attempts in the NFL in 2018, which was the Arizona Cardinal's equivalent of driving a Ferrari repeatedly into a brick wall. Because for some silly reason, Johnson was only 18th in receiving last year, with 50 catches on 76 targets. In comparison, in 2016, he led the NFL in receiving among running backs with 80 catches on 120 targets. This is the main reason the Cardinals are now under new management.

Strategy: Our David Johnson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $53

The strategy here is simple. If you aren't picking in the top five and David Johnson falls to you, you should strongly consider drafting him. His upside is off the charts. The only reason he isn't being talked about in the same breath as Alvin Kamara and Saquon Barkley is because of how terrible the Cardinal's were. We like him and we like him a lot.

Best Case Scenario: David Johnson has the ability to be the best fantasy running back in 2019. All he needs is for the Cardinals to not waste his ability.

Worst Case Scenario: The Arizona Cardinals utilize their ability to completely waste one of the best running backs in football, as evidenced by David Johnson's 2018 season.

Kerryon Johnson ADP and AAV

Standard: 20th among RBs, 38th overall

PPR: 18th among RBs, 36th overall

Kerryon Johnson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $24

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	33th	107.4	19th	10.7
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	34th	139.4	28th	13.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	118	11.8	39	3.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Kerryon had a decent season before missing the last 6 games with a sprained knee. What's criminal is his underuse: Despite averaging over 5 yards per carry, he only got less than a dozen carries per game. If the Lions lean on him more in 2018, which they could due to lack of receiving weapons, Johnson has a reasonable chance of breaking out.

Strategy: Our Kerryon Johnson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $41

He had a spotty injury history in college. That combined with the Lions' mysterious reluctance to give him more carries tempers our expectations. That said, he's definitely worth a low-end RB2 spot on your roster. Johnson is in that group of running backs where we will just wait to see who falls below ADP and AAV and grab them.

7/28/19 UPDATE: THEO RIDDICK HAS BEEN CUT! THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING! HE'S A LOW-END RB1

Best Case Scenario: Johnson breaks out and is a solid RB1

Worst Case Scenario: The Lions limited his carries because there's something wrong with him, something that didn't get fixed, and he ends up outside the top 24.

Aaron Jones ADP and AAV

Standard: 16th among RBs, 32nd overall

PPR: 17th among TEs, 35th overall

Aaron Jones Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $26

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	23rd	145.5	15th	12.1
2017	50th	71.0	42nd	7.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	24th	171.5	17th	14.3
2017	61st	80.0	54th	8.0
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	113	11.1	35	2.9
2017	81	6.8	18	1.5
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Jones showed flashes of RB1 capabilities last year, but was hampered by injuries and an RBBC situation. Unfortunately for Jones-owners, fellow back Jamaal Williams should return to steal touches.

Strategy: Our Aaron Jones Auction Value ($200 Budget): $28

When on the field last year, Aaron Jones was a great fantasy producer. If he had started in all 16 games, Jones end-of-year totals would have made him an RB1. As it was, he finished in the top 24 among backs with only 133 carries. With a whole offseason to recover from a sprained knee, there should be nothing standing in the way of a top 12 finish!

Narrator: But what the author wasn't sharing was a checkered past, riddled with injury. In fact, Aaron Jones suffered three knee sprains between November 2017 and December 2018. Proponents of Jones would write off his injuries as bad luck, and point to a conspiracy by the fantasy media to besmirch Jones' good knees. However, the actions of those who perhaps know him most would paint a much more sordid picture...



This. This is the picture. Check out all the sordidity

A conspiracy doesn't explain why then-coach Mike McCarthy constantly limited Jones carries, even when he was allegedly "healthy" and supposedly "averaging over 9 yards-per-carry for the game." At times, a double of Jones was sent out onto the field, identical in every way except appearance, running style, and name.

The dupe worked... until it didn't. In week 15, time ran out on the gang. Aaron Jones went down with a right MCL sprain, a repeat offense he originally committed back in 2017. He was rounded up and placed in a maximum-security injured reserve. However, just months later, he was walking free. Despite his name being plastered over fantasy draft boards across the nation, he remains at large.

If anyone sees Aaron Jones, you are advised to use caution. He may be armed with a loosely-held football. Do not approach the suspect, bid more than $28 on him at auction, or come within even one round of his current third-round ADP.

Best Case Scenario: Jones blossoms under the new coaches and becomes a solid RB2

Worst Case Scenario: The RBBC continues to be full blown and Jones ends up a RB2/3 with few top 12 RB fantasy performances

Ronald Jones II ADP and AAV

Standard: 40th among RBs, 100th overall

PPR: 37th among RBs, 100th overall

Ronald Jones II Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	100th	13.7	106th	1.7
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	94th	20.7	103rd	2.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	Haha	Hahaha	Haha	Ha
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Ronald Jones II couldn't have gotten off to a worse start to an NFL career. He was a healthy scratch for a good chunk of the season, and when he did play... (fart noise). There's no denying it. Jones II was awful. However, he never really got the chance to get going, having only touched the ball 30 times. On top of that, Peyton Barber proved he was plenty capable of manning the Buccaneers backfield. No one is going to confuse Peyton Barber for Tiki Barber, but he's good enough that the Bucs don't have to force feed Jones II, waiting for something to click. When Bruce Arians came in, he immediately started making big roster moves, but he didn't make any changes to the RB depth chart. It's inevitable that Jones II will get more opportunity in his second season. There's just too little game film to predict how he'll handle it. Can Ronald Jones II outperform his forgettable rookie season? Can he prove himself to his new head coach? Does he have what it takes to knock Peyton Barber off the top of the depth chart? Will the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 get back to the island? All this and more on this season of the NFL!

Strategy: Our Ronald Jones II Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Ronald Jones II costs nothing right now. There's plenty of other RBs in his price range that have a little more appeal (Miles Sanders, Austin Ekeler, Adrian Peterson for god's sake). So, he's lost in a mess of backups with decent potential. The choice is yours. Just don't reach for him or spend too much.

Best Case Scenario: Jones II separates himself in the preseason, takes over the Buccaneers backfield, and blows up to fantasy RB2 status. You paid very little for him, and look like a fantasy genius.

Worst Case Scenario: It's the Peyton Barber show, and Jones II still has trouble getting it going in limited action. Good thing you paid very little for him.

Alvin Kamara ADP and AAV

Standard: 3rd among running backs. 3rd overall.

PPR: 3rd among running backs. 3rd overall.

Alvin Kamara Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $60

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	4th	267.2	5th	17.8
2017	4th	233.46	6th	14.6
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	4th	348.2	4th	23.2
2017	3rd	315.4	4th	19.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	194	12.13	105	6.56
2017	120	8	101	6.73
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Alvin Kamara came out of the gate hot in Mark Ingram's absence, but the return of the back saw a precipitous decline in touches and production for the #4 overall RB in 2019. Now Ingram is a Raven, and Latavius Murray takes his place. Does this signal the Saints giving Kamara the keys to the Saints offense in 2019?

Strategy: Our Alvin Kamara Auction Value ($200 Budget): $65

Take him if you want him. He's a no-doubt, top-four *S Tier* fantasy football running back, alongside Saquon Barkley, Ezekiel Elliott, and Christian McCaffrey. Depending on who you ask, he's the RB1 this season with his multi-talented ability, strong offense, and only Latavius Murray in his way. If you get to pick your position in your draft, and you want one of these four guys, just choose the #4 slot. Any of these four will anchor your fantasy football squad.

Best Case Scenario: We see the Alvin Kamara from the first four games Mark Ingram missed last season, when Kamara was on pace for 2,400+ yards and 24 touchdowns. If you're new to fantasy football, 2,400 yards and 24 touchdowns from a running back classifies as "pretty dang good," and "one of the best fantasy football running back seasons of all-time."

Worst Case Scenario: Alvin Kamara takes his role as team goodwill ambassador seriously, and he spends the off-season touring all the food and drink New Orleans has to offer. The day before training camp opens, he's found passed out on Decatur, with po'boy wrappers and hurricane glasses strewn around him. He weighs 350 pounds, and he still puts up more fantasy football points than Christine Michael.

Phillip Lindsay ADP and AAV

Standard: 23rd among RBs, 42nd overall

PPR: 22nd among RBs, 44th overall

Phillip Lindsay Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $27

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	12th	187.8	12th	12.5
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	13th	22.8	13th	14.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	198	12.8	47	3.2
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: A broken hand ended Phillip Lindsay's season a game early. Fully healed, he is expected to join a Bronco's offense featuring a rookie QB and tight end. Royce Freeman waits in the wings as a competent backup who could steal touches.

Strategy: Our Phillip Lindsay Auction Value ($200 Budget): $35

How is Lindsay falling to the middle/end of the third round? He was a great back last year who left due to an injury that had nothing to do with his running parts. Denver's offense isn't good, but they will have to lean on their running game until Drew Lock catches up with the playbook. I've been getting him in virtually all of my auction leagues, and every league where I pick in the back half. He's a durable rookie who should produce. Sure he might cede touches to Royce Freeman, but last year Lindsay had only 227 touches and finished 12th in standard and 13th in PPR. Get him.

Best Case Scenario: Denver leans on the run and Lindsay becomes a solid RB1.

Worst Case Scenario: Denver goes 50/50 RBBC with an offense that can't move the ball. Lindsay ends up a low-end RB2.

Marlon Mack ADP and AAV

Standard: 17th among RBs, 33rd overall

PPR: 16th among TEs, 34th overall

Marlon Mack Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $40

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	19th	161.1	10th	13.4
2017	46th	82.3	53rd	5.9
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	21st	178.4	14th	14.8
2017	48th	103.3	59th	7.4
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	195	16.3	17	1.4
2017	93	6.6	21	1.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Mack broke out as the go-to back in Indianapolis' fast-moving offense. This propelled him to finish as a middle RB2. The questions about him remain whether the Colts will lean on him more and whether his injury history will catch up with him.

Strategy: Our Marlon Mack Auction Value ($200 Budget): $36

We like Mack if he falls to the 3rd, but he's just too risky to reach for, especially with a lot of high-upside backs going around the same time (Fournette, Lindsay, Freeman, etc.) compared to the players who are going about half a rounjd higher (Nick Chubb, Mike Evans, George Kittle). He also injured the same hamstring twice, last year, which is another element pushing him out of the second round. See if you can get him for ADP or AAV, but if not, just let someone else reach for him and work on another guy with more upside. Mack's ceiling is limited by his upright running style and the Colts' heavy passing game.

Best Case Scenario: Mack stays healthy and emerges as a low-end RB1

Worst Case Scenario: Indianapolis starts spreading the carries around to take the toll off of Mack, he ends up in the RB2/3 zone.

Christian McCaffrey ADP and AAV

Standard: 3rd among running backs. 3rd overall.

PPR: 2nd among running backs. 2nd overall.

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $60

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	3rd	278.5	6th	17.4
2017	14th	143.2	18th	9.5
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	2nd	385.5	2nd	24.1
2017	10th	228.6	13th	14.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	219	13.7	107	6.7
2017	117	7.3	113	7.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: If you are not a fan of Christian McCaffrey, you probably haven't been paying attention. In 2018, he had 7 top five finishes, 12 weeks where he ended up as an RB1, and an additional 3 weeks as an RB2. For context, the only player who performed that consistently was Saquon Barkley. Imagine drafting a guy and not having a down week. That is what you got with Christian McCaffrey last year.

Strategy: Our Christian McCaffrey Auction Value ($200 Budget): $65

My strategy for CMC is simple. Get him on all my teams as fast as possible. He gets 20 looks a game and is a model of consistency.

Best Case Scenario: The best case scenario is the number one running back in football. I mean, there is a reason his ADP is top three.

Worst Case Scenario: The worst case scenario is that Cam is more hurt than we realize and the Panthers, as a whole, suffer. If Cam has health problems, it could hurt McCaffrey's production.

LeSean McCoy ADP and AAV

Standard: 37th among RBs, 90th overall

PPR: 38th among RBs, 98th overall

LeSean McCoy Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $4

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	40th	93.2	48th	6.7
2017	7th	204.6	10th	12.8
2016	3rd	248.3	4th	16.6

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	39th	127.2	44th	9.1
2017	7th	263.6	8th	16.5
2016	4th	299.3	4th	20.0

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	161	11.5	46	3.3
2017	287	17.9	77	4.8
2016	234	15.6	57	3.8

Overview: Father Time caught LeSean McCoy in a leglock last year, then punched him right in the groin. In 2019, him and fellow Biblically-aged teammate Frank Gore will be backup singing to the rookie Devin Singletary.

What do you want me to say? Maybe he'll get 40 targets.

Strategy: Our LeSean McCoy Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

McCoy can serve your fantasy performance well... as one of those guys who takes up a spot on another team's roster. Josh Allen's leading the rushing now, and he's going to want a playmaking youth if he actually has to hand the ball off. We don't even like McCoy as a $1 nominee, because there's a reasonable chance no one will take the bait and he'll clog a spot on your roster.

Best Case Scenario: Fantasy leagues start giving points based on loathsomeness and McCoy returns a first round value.

Worst Case Scenario: He starts a few games after Singletary fails to pan out, and gives desperate owners like 4 points.

Jerick McKinnon ADP and AAV

Standard: 41st among RBs, 105th overall

PPR: 42nd among RBs, 108th overall

Jerick McKinnon Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	24th	127.1	33rd	7.9
2016	32nd	105.4	46th	7.0

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	17th	178.1	26th	11.1
2016	27th	148.4	39th	9.9

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	159	10.6	53	3.5
2016	217	16.7	33	2.5

Overview: After a promising 2017 campaign in Minnesota, Jerick McKinnon joined the 49ers, and was legitimately pushing into round 1 draftability territory. Then, it all came tumbling down when he tore his ACL before the start of the 2018 season. He is now fully healed up and ready to go for 2019, joining Matt Breida and newcomer Tevin Coleman as part of an increasingly crowded San Francisco backfield. There's no way to know how this will all shake out, but we're most likely looking at a bona fide committee, with all three getting regular playing time. McKinnon may lead the team in carries, but he is certain to lose receiving down work to Coleman, as that was his specialty in Atlanta.

Strategy: Our Jerick McKinnon Auction Value ($200 Budget): $5

Jerrick McKinnon looks like a decent value right now, as I expect him to be the 49ers primary rusher. He will lose touches and targets to Coleman and Breida, but should still prove to be a low end RB2, which is much better than his current ADP is projecting.

Best Case Scenario: McKinnon separates himself from the pack in the preseason, and garners the lion's share of the work, only losing some passing down time to Coleman. That should earn him fantasy RB2 numbers.

Worst Case Scenario: The backfield competition is tougher than expected, McKinnon falls down the depth chart, and ends up no better than a fantasy RB4.

Sony Michel ADP and AAV

Standard: 21st among RBs, 40th overall

PPR: 22nd among RBs, 45th overall

Sony Michel Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $20

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	26th	132.1	23rd	10.2
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	35th	139.1	37th	10.7
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	209	16.1	11	0.85
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: With the Patriots expecting to continue their shift to a run-based offense, the touches for Michel should increase. A first-round pick, Michel got a significant 200+ touch workload in 2018. However, there are questions about his lingering knee issues.

Strategy: Our Sony Michel Auction Value ($200 Budget): $20

The good: Michel had 931 yards in 13 games, adding a robust 6 touchdowns. With Gronk gone and Tom Brady's 100th birthday looming, Michel seems set to again top 200 carries.

The bad: Michel had another knee procedure. Leaked x-rays before the draft seemed to show there was no cartilage cushioning his knee bone. In addition, Michel doesn't catch passes. Damien Harris presents a new rider on the Patriots carousel of running backs, which has become a dark carnival for frustrated fantasy owners. So, wait and see if he falls to the 5th round/less than $21 range before pulling the trigger.

Best Case Scenario: Things go to plan, no injuries happen, and Michel finishes as a high end RB2.

Worst Case Scenario: Bill Belichick cackles evilly and rotates RBs seemingly at whim, making it impossible to predict when Michel's good games will transpire.

Lamar Miller ADP and AAV

Standard: 31st among RBs, 70th overall

PPR: 31st among RBs, 73rd overall

Lamar Miller Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $14

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	22nd	147.6	22nd	10.5
2017	14th	157.5	18th	9.8
2016	18	160.1	17th	11.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	23rd	172.6	24th	12.3
2017	16th	193.5	21st	12.1
2016	20th	191.1	18th	13.7

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	210	15.0	35	2.5
2017	238	14.9	45	2.8
2016	268	19.1	39	2.8

Overview: Lamar Miller was a serviceable RB2 in 2018, clearing 1,000 all-purpose yards for the 5th straight year. However, Houston's league-bottom offensive line plus the daunting presence of D'Onta Foreman in the wings has fantasy drafters worried.

Strategy: Our Lamar Miller Auction Value ($200 Budget): $14

Miller is never going to win you a week. He's also potentially going to be replaced by a more athletic back. That's not worth his current 7th round ADP, more like a 9th. In auction leagues, if you can get him in the low teens, he's a nice complement to a stash of rookies/suspended players, as Miller will get you boring RB2 numbers in the early season. Hopefully, by the time he is benched, one your sleepers will have developed.

Best Case Scenario: D'onta Foreman struggles and Miller gets owners ~10 points per game all year.

Worst Case Scenario: Foreman breaks out in the preseason and Miller doesn't get a single start.

Joe Mixon ADP and AAV

Standard: 10th among RBs, 12th overall

PPR: 10th among RBs, 15th overall

Joe Mixon Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $44

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	9th	200.4	9th	14.3
2017	32nd	111.3	32nd	8.0
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	243.4	9th	17.4
2017	34th	141.3	31st	10.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	237	16.9	55	3.9
2017	178	12.7	30	2.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: One of the only risers in an aging offense, Mixon proved he could be an every down back in 2018. He looked to improve these numbers behind an improved offensive line, but a season-ending injury to the Bengals' first round left tackle pick, and an unexpected retirement may have tempered expectations.

Strategy: OurJoe Mixon Auction Value ($200 Budget): $48

Mixon is exactly what we look for in a second round back: Volume with a bit of risk due to his offense's potential to implode or throw to catch up from behind. We'll gladly him a few picks into the second round. We do not like his first round ADP, there's at least 8 RBs, 3 WRs, and a TE who have the same upside on a much more stable offense.

Auction sees some widely divergent values. FantasyFootballPros has him at a measly $36, whereas the far-more realistic FantasyFootballNerd says $44. We are wary to bid into the $50s for a piece of the questionable Bengals offense, but if you're optimistic be prepared to bid up well into the $40s.

Best Case Scenario: Cincy's newer players gel, and the absence of Marvin Lewis creates a refreshing new perspective. Mixon finishes as the 5th-10th RB.

Worst Case Scenario: Mixon just doesn't get enough good work on a struggling offense that often plays from behind and ends up a middle-of-the-road RB2.

David Montgomery ADP and AAV

Standard: 25th among RBs, 50th overall

PPR: 24th among RBs, 51st overall

David Montgomery Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $23

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: The comparison coming out of college for David Montgomery was Kareem Hunt. They have very similar builds and were coached in college by some of the same coaches. It is easy to see why Matt Nagy, having coached Kareem Hunt in Kansas City, would target David Montgomery. The most exciting thing about Montgomery is his pass-catching ability. At Iowa State, he would work on route running with the receivers.

Montgomery's pass-catching ability should significantly impact the Bears offense. Last season, it was very easy to look at Jordan Howard and Tarik Cohen and guess what type of play was being run. Montgomery adds a lot more versatility to the Bears offense, but this is contingent on how quickly he picks things up.

Strategy: Our David Montgomery Auction Value ($200 Budget): $11

Going in the late-fourth/early-fifth rounds, David Montgomery feels like a steal. He has a very legitimate shot of being an RB1. You grab that every time in the middle rounds of a draft.

Best Case Scenario: David Montgomery lives up to the Kareem Hunt comp and ends his rookie season as a top-tier RB1, ending the year as the Offensive Rookie Of The Year.

Worst Case Scenario: What will actually happen is he will end the year with comparable Kareem Hunt domestic abuse allegations, ending the year suspended and suspending all hopes for your fantasy football roster.

Latavius Murray ADP and AAV

Standard: 36th among RBs, 85th overall

PPR: 36th among RBs, 92nd overall

Latavius Murray Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $9

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	32nd	109.9	45th	6.9
2017	20th	142.4	24th	8.9
2016	13th	175.2	12th	12.5

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	38th	131.9	51st	8.2
2017	25th	164.3	34th	9.8
2016	13th	208.2	11th	14.9

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	140	8.8	26	1.6
2017	216	13.5	17	1.0
2016	195	13.9	43	3.1

Overview: Murray's value took a hit when moved from Oakland to Minnesota to backup Dalvin Cook. Now that he is filling the Mark Ingram role in New Orleans, speculation runs rampant as to whether he can produce like the former Saint.

Strategy: Our Latavius Murray Auction Value ($200 Budget): $14

We're a bit higher than average on Murray. New Orleans, already a run-focused team, should lean on the ground game even harder with Drew Brees' arm starting to go. Murray compares favorably to Ingram: He runs a faster 40 even though he is a bit heavier, he's younger, and he's had fewer carries. We don't mind reaching for Murray, especially when that "reach" is just an 8th round pick or 7% of our auction budget.

Best Case Scenario: Murray surpasses Ingram's RB1 2017 season.

Worst Case Scenario: Murray's lackluster-but-offensive opportunities boost him into the top 24 backs.

Rashaad Penny ADP and AAV

Standard: 33rd among RBs, 75th overall

PPR: 34th among RBs, 79th overall

Rashaad Penny Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $9

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	59th	61.4	64th	4.7
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	66th	70.4	82nd	5.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	85	6.1	12	1.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: A first-round pick, Penny underwhelmed due to injury and general rookie-ness. This led fellow back Chris Carson to a solid fantasy performance. With a healthy offseason under his belt, Penny could break out on one of the most run-heavy teams in the league.

Strategy: Our Rashaad Penny Auction Value ($200 Budget): $8

We like Penny: Chris Carson really isn't starter material, and the Seahawks have to try out their first-round pick in the starting role sometime. That said, having not displayed any game-breaking ability besides a 4.9 yards-per-carry average, our expectations for Penny are tempered. We like him in the group of RB3/4s: We just wait for a few to go in the 9th round/under $9.

Best Case Scenario: Penny breaks out and ends the year as a top 20 back.

Worst Case Scenario: Carson holds the job, relegating Penny to fantasy-useless fill-in work.

Adrian Peterson ADP and AAV

Standard: 44th among RBs, 112th overall

PPR: 51st among RBs, 139th overall

Adrian Peterson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	16th	169.0	21st	10.6
2017	54th	67.9	58th	6.8
2016	N/A	6.0	N/A	2.0

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	19th	189.0	29th	11.8
2017	62nd	78.9	57th	7.9
2016	N/A	9.0	N/A	3.0

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	251	15.7	26	1.6
2017	156	15.6	19	1.9
2016	37	12.3	6	2

Overview: Adrian Peterson added another set of arguments towards being a superhuman, or some sort of alien, by coming back to play 16 games and rush for over 1,000 yards despite being well into his 30s. People dismissed him in the offseason, but he signed a two year deal with the Redskins. Their extended interest, combined with Derrius Guice coming down with yet another injury, has owners taking a second look.

Strategy: Our Adrian Peterson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

Right now, Adrian Peterson is great value. He's still low on fantasy football rankings and ADP charts, but only because people haven't fully adjusted. In a month, he'll probably be going for an ADP and AAV that is more debatable, but right now a $4 bid or a 12th round pick for a RB that keeps finding ways to pull an rabbits out of his hat is a great proposition.

Best Case Scenario: He repeats last year, and returns medium RB2 value for a song.

Worst Case Scenario: He gets supplanted by a healed Guice, or time catches up with him. Either way, get him now because he's basically free.

Miles Sanders ADP and AAV

Standard: 32nd among RBs, 76th overall

PPR: 33rd among RBs, 77th overall

Miles Sanders Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: A round 2 pick, Miles Sanders was limited in college due to playing behind Saquon Barkley. Now, he is backing up Jordan Howard, a less intimidating superior. If Sanders can break out, he can become a key part of the Eagles' formidable offense.

Strategy: Our Miles Sanders Auction Value ($200 Budget): $6

Even though we're lower on Sanders than his ADP and AAV, we find ourselves grabbing him in most leagues. This is usually due to a sporadic extreme overvaluation inflating his AAV, probably by Eagles homers. That means if your league has an Eagles fan, let them overreach. If not, then pay attention to swoop up this pick in the 9th/less than $7.

Best Case Scenario: Sanders has a solid RB2 rookie campaign.

Worst Case Scenario: Sanders struggles in his rookie year behind Jordan Howard, and fantasy owners are left to wonder if they should keep him on their bench at all.

Devin Singletary ADP and AAV

Standard: 53rd among RBs, 165th overall

PPR: 53rd among RBs, 159th overall

Devin Singletary Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: The Bills backfield is starting to look like Best Buy on Black Friday. LeSean McCoy (31) is returning for his 11th season, and Frank Gore (36) and T.J. Yeldon (25) were both added via free agency. Then, with over 6,000 career rushing attempts already under contract, the Bills drafted Devin Singletary in the third round of the 2019 draft. Most rookies have a clear one or two step path to becoming a starter, but this group is a conundrum. My best guess is touches get split mostly between McCoy and Gore, keeping all those old knees as fresh as possible. How Yeldon and Singletary get worked in remains to be seen. If all is well health-wise, there just won't be enough meat on the backfield bone for Singletary to do anything significant this season.

Strategy: Our Devin Singletary Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Singletary is worth nothing more than a late round stash, if that, given the derth of experience and pedigree in Buffalo.

Best Case Scenario: Singletary somehow finds his way to the top of the depth chart (which would be bad news for the Bills), and works through his rookie season in a middling offense, ending up as no better than a fantasy RB3.

Worst Case Scenario: He remains RB4 in Buffalo, learning from a couple future Hall of Famers. See ya next year!

Ito Smith ADP and AAV

Standard: 49th among RBs, 132nd overall

PPR: 50th among RBs, 141st overall

Ito Smith Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $4

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	53rd	70.7	60th	5.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	50th	97.7	57th	7.5
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	90	6.4	32	2.3
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Entering his second year, Ito Smith's value hinges entirely on Devonta Freeman's health. A plodding runner, Smith could still see usage in a high-octane Atlanta offense, especially with Tevin Coleman no longer in the backfield.

Strategy: Our Ito Smith Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

He's worth about a 12th round pick, one round higher than the lowest of low lottery ticket fliers. Even with his limited skill set, if Freeman goes down Smith should see work as a low-end RB2. Unfortunately, barring his big injury, Freeman has been of sound body. We'll take Smith if he falls to us for a few bucks, but his limited ceiling is not what we tend to look for in a lottery ticket backup. For that reason, we don't think he's a necessary handcuff for Freeman owners: We'd rather have a couple cheaper RB lottery tickets with better upside.

Best Case Scenario: Freeman goes down, Smith ends up as a top 20 RB.

Worst Case Scenario: Freeman doesn't go down. Smith ends up unstartable for the entire season.

Chris Thompson ADP and AAV

Standard: 60th among RBs, 183rd overall

PPR: 58th among RBs, 201st overall

Chris Thompson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	66th	50.6	79th	5.1
2017	31st	112.4	12th	11.2
2016	37th	98.5	55th	6.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	54th	91.6	44th	9.2
2017	28th	151.4	11st	15.1
2016	28th	147.5	43rd	9.2

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	43	4.3	55	5.5
2017	64	6.4	54	5.4
2016	68	4.3	63	3.9

Overview: Thomspon has had promising seasons cut short by injury. When healthy, the running back might be Washington's only decent receiving option.

Strategy: Our Chris Thompson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

We like Thompson as a late-round bye-week fill-in. Check out 2017, he was an RB1 when he played, thanks to taking passes deep. For an extra buck or a week 12 pick, you have a guy who might be able to solidly flex for your team throughout the bye periods.

Best Case Scenario: Thompson stays healthy and creeps into RB2 status for the whole season.

Worst Case Scenario: Thompson gives you a few good flex weeks before getting hobbled for the rest of the season.

James White ADP and AAV

Standard: 28th among RBs, 60th overall

PPR: 26th among TEs, 55th overall

James White Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $14

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	11th	189.6	7th	11.8
2017	48th	78.0	59th	5.6
2016	35th	101.7	53rd	6.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	7th	171.5	10th	14.3
2017	38th	80.0	38th	8.0
2016	26th	161.7	39th	10.1

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	94	5.9	87	5.8
2017	43	3.0	56	4.0
2016	39	2.5	60	3.8

Overview: James emerged from the "maybe they're good in ppr in a bye week" depths to post a top 12 season. We should all get SUPER EXCITED because it's not like the NE Patriots have a history of playing running back shuffle or a first round RB that can steal all the touches. Oh <clap> wait <clap>

Strategy: Our James White Auction Value ($200 Budget): $10

Whether you are in a draft or an auction, someone will get enamored with White and take him in a top-5 round or a $14+ auction value. Let them, that's the whole point of strategy: Let other people bid on last year's stats, not you. He wasn't a startable flex until last year when Gronk went down and the rookie RB got the usual injuries... that situation doesn't exist anymore. He has value, but not enough value to reach past 9+ other owners.

Best Case Scenario: Somehow White gets 1/2 the volume he got last year and is startable as an RB2.

Worst Case Scenario: You overpay for a niche RB1 from last year and get a bottom-end RB2 because you didn't heed the warning that NE RB's are impossible to predict. Seriously, who even got White in a single digit round, last year? That's not successfully investing in a sleeper. Betting on James White is like betting on red because the roulette wheel came up red last time.

Damien Williams ADP and AAV

Standard: 13th among RBs, 19th overall

PPR: 13th among RBs, 18th overall

Damien Williams Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $40

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	50th	77.6	41st	7.8
2017	75th	39.6	84th	4.0
2016	53rd	72.4	74th	4.8

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	48th	100.6	40th	10.1
2017	73rd	59.6	80th	6.0
2016	50th	95.4	76th	6.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	50	5.0	24	2.4
2017	46	4.6	28	2.8
2016	35	2.2	31	2.0

Overview: Damien Williams came on strong in the last 4 weeks of the season, averaging the second-most fantasy points per game among running backs. This year, he could be factored in even more. He is a durable runner in a great system.

Strategy: Our Damien Willaims Auction Value ($200 Budget): $7

You know what?

I can't do this anymore.

This site's co-owners Jeff Krisko and Waleed Ismail wanted me to write articles that are more structured around statistics and less parodies of true crime documentaries and such. They used thinly-veiled threats, such as "I'm fine with the mixed format, I love what you did," and "I noticed Evan's deviation too, but the articles were too good for me to really care" and "I prefer Hyde to Williams by a large margin." This would be fine if their motives were genuine, but the real reason they want to box me in is to dissolve my undying affection for Carlos Hyde.



You can't Hyde my love away

They're trying to tear my love apart with the newly-acquired Chiefs running back. Meanwhile I'm supposed to swoon for Damien "Allegedly First on the Depth Chart" Williams, who hasn't had more than 50 carries in a season, never stood out in four seasons with the Dolphins, and may or may not be involved in trafficking puppies to work as miners for blood diamonds [*Editor's Note: He isn't.]* Face it, Damien, ya basic! This article is now about Carlos Hyde.

Carlos Hyde Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

Our Carlos Hyde Auction Value ($200 Budget): $9

Check out this "highlight" reel of Williams in 2018. It's all just following his blockers, plodding around, and desperately windmilling to avoid stepping out of bounds:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LPf62BQPzI

Meanwhile, waiting in the rings is a stud from THE Ohio State University, a guy with over 4 times as many carries and yards as Williams (though they entered the NFL in the same year). I fully expect Hyde to burst through the preseason running circles around Williams, and be the Chief's touted starter come week one. This player profile is now about Carlos Hyde. Check out this potent stud:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qCkF05JYSo

That's right, he had a backup role most of the season and still managed to rip out a more impressive reel than Williams. Jeff and Waleed, stuff that in your pipe and clog it!

Draft Carlos Hyde. Don't waste a second-round pick on a second-string back like Damien Williams will become. Instead, use your 9th round pick on Hyde and watch his meteoric rise.

Best Case Scenario: You draft Hyde and get a third-round value out of a mid-round flier.

Worst Case Scenario: You draft Damien Williams, and get a third-round value out of a second-round pick.

Jamaal Williams ADP and AAV

Standard: 55th among RBs, 167th overall

PPR: 62nd among RBs, 206th overall

Jamaal Williams Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	46th	87.4	56th	5.5
2017	29th	117.8	32nd	7.9
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	44th	114.4	60th	10.9
2017	32nd	142.8	39th	9.5
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Carries	Carries Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	121	7.6	41	2.6
2017	153	9.6	34	2.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Jamaal Williams is the #2 in Green Bay, which everyone knew last year except, apparently, their coaches. As such he cut into Aaron Jones' workload to the tune of triple-digit carries. If Aaron Jones goes down, Williams is poised to be the #1 RB on a decent Green Bay offense.

Strategy: Our Jamaal Williams Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

After Jones went down in week 15, Williams took over. In week 16, Williams exploded for 157 total yards and a touchdown. So why weren't we excited? Well, let's look at the other three games Jones missed to injury or suspension: Week 1: 47 total yards, no touchdowns. Week 2: 71 total yards, no touchdowns, Week 3: 30 yards, no touchdowns.

Jamaal Williams is not good. For some reason, the old regime chose to ignore this, but it will be difficult for the new leaders to look at Aaron Jones' 5.5 yards per carry and decide he needs to split carries with old 3.7 YPC Willaims. We're staying away, not even as a Jones handcuff.

Best Case Scenario: Williams continues to wickedly steal from Jones and finishes maybe as an RB3.

Worst Case Scenario: I mean, best case scenario he's a borderline RB3, pick any other scenario and it's the worst-case scenario.

Wide Receivers

Davante Adams ADP and AAV

Standard: 2nd among WRs, 9th overall

PPR: 2nd among WRs, 7th overall

Davante Adams Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $51

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	3rd	218.6	2nd	14.6
2017	13th	148.5	6th	10.6
2016	7th	171.7	10th	10.7

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	2nd	329.6	1st	22.0
2017	14th	222.5	8th	15.9
2016	9th	246.7	11th	15.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	111	7.4	169	11.9
2017	74	5.3	117	8.3
2016	75	4.7	121	7.5

Overview: Adams has been a solid WR1 for three years. With Aaron Rodgers back under center, there aren't a lot of changes between this year and his 2018 top-3 season.

Strategy: Our Davante Adams Auction Value ($200 Budget): $57

We can see an argument for Adams being the first WR off the board. His floor is the highest among the first-round WRs, with Rodgers getting injured less than Hopkins' QB, Deshaun Watson. Feel free to grab him in the middle of the first, it would take a miracle or a serious injury for him not to give you a top 5 return. In auction, he's probably worth about $50, but he won't go for that: Someone else is going to want him, too, so if you're all in on Adams be willing to pay up to mid-$50s.

Best Case Scenario: Adams becomes the #1 overall WR.

Worst Case Scenario: Barring injury, Adams won't sink lower than, say WR7. He's been too consistent and his quarterback is amazing.

Keenan Allen ADP and AAV

Standard: 11th among WRs, 28th overall

PPR: 10th among WRs, 23rd overall

Keenan Allen Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	14th	163.1	17th	10.9
2017	3rd	182.2	4th	11.4
2016	N/A	6.3	N/A	6.3

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	12th	260.1	12th	17.3
2017	3rd	284.2	4th	17.8
2016	N/A	12.3	N/A	12.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	97	6.1	136	8.5
2017	102	6.4	159	9.9
2016	6	6.0	7	7.0

Overview: Allen followed up a season-ending injury with two straight top-15 years. He is expected to continue being a part of the potent Chargers offense as their number one wideout.

Strategy: Our Keenan Allen Auction Value ($200 Budget): $44

We like Allen right where he's going, at the end of the second round. His floor, barring injury, makes him one of the safest WRs at that spot. There is some question as to whether Hunter Henry will show skills and take touches away from Allen, but Keenan's talent should keep him as someone Phillip Rivers frequently looks for. We like reaching into the $40s for himin auction, as he could easily be a cheap WR1 to anchor out a strong running back base.

Best Case Scenario: Allen continues to be a large part of the offense and finishes as a top 6 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: Allen loses a step and finishes as a high-end WR2.

Geronimo Allison ADP and AAV

Standard: 44th among RBs, 117th overall

PPR: 46th among RBs, 130th overall

Geronimo Allison Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $5

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	96th	42.3	32nd	8.5
2017	118th	23.3	120th	1.9
2016	109th	32.2	86th	4.6

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	100th	62.3	30th	12.5
2017	109th	46.3	124th	3.9
2016	114th	44.2	95th	6.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	20	4.0	30	6.0
2017	23	1.5	39	2.6
2016	12	1.2	22	2.2

Overview: Heyyy, Aaron Rodgers is the GOAT, so he gotta have a WR2 right? Just like Randall Cobb was, like 2 of his ~5 years there?

Strategy: Our Geronimo Allison Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

If you truly believe in playing the Aaron Rodgers WR2 lottery like it's actually like the Pittsburgh WR2 (who becomes a WR1) lottery, and not more like the Indianapolis WR2 (who becomes a fantasy afterthought) lottery, then stack Allison and Marquez Valdez-Scantling if they both fall to you in double digits or for less than $8 total. But don't reach for any of this nonsense, acting like a solid QB1 in any way guarantees a good WR2 when the data says otherwise.

Best Case Scenario: Allison gets you mediocre WR2 numbers and some TDs.

Worst Case Scenario: Allison never starts.

Robby Anderson ADP and AAV

Standard: 31st among RBs, 81st overall

PPR: 31st among RBs, 74th overall

Robby Anderson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $20

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	36th	106.4	66th	7.6
2017	16th	137.0	23rd	8.6
2016	66th	72.9	79th	5.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	39th	156.4	43rd	11.2
2017	18th	200.0	24th	12.5
2016	70th	114.9	79th	8.2

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	50	3.6	94	6.7
2017	63	3.9	114	7.1
2016	42	2.6	78	4.9

Overview: Robbie Anderson is the clear #1 on a growing offense. That said, his catch ratio is abysmal. That said, he still manages to make the most out of what he does bring in. That said, he's on the forever-blue New York Jets. That said, we're conflicted.

Strategy: Our Robby Anderson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $5

The best part about being conflicted in drafts and auctions is you can decide not to grab a guy until he falls significantly past ADP and AAV. We're not a fan of his early 7th round ADP nor his whopping $20 AAV.

Look. You paid $10 for these player profiles, so I'll give you a secret the "mainstream" sites don't know.

In auction, there's always a couple WR2's and WR3's who go for significantly less than AAV. By the time team's get all their RBs and their WR1s, they don't have enough in the tank nor strong enough opinions about Robbie Anderson vs Dante Pettis vs Christian Kirk vs whoever. Someone will fall. So spend your money getting the 2 top tier guys you want then spread a wide net to round out your team with the WR2 and WR3 deals. It's the key to the mint.

Best Case Scenario: Anderson finishes as a top 18 WR, again.

Worst Case Scenario: He finishes as a top 30 WR. Honestly, the difference between his floor and ceiling is pleasantly narrow. He'll at least be a strong bye week fill-in.

Odell Beckham ADP and AAV

Standard: 5th among WRs, 15th overall

PPR: 5th among WRs, 15th overall

Odell Beckham Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $41

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	16th	153.4	6th	1.3
2017	80th	4.9	3rd	12.3
2016	4th	195.6	5th	12.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	15th	230.4	8th	190.2
2017	83rd	74.0	3rd	18.5
2016	4th	296.6	6th	18.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	77	6.4	124	10.3
2017	25	6.3	41	10.3
2016	101	6.3	169	10.5

Overview: After a falling out with a flailing Giants offense, Beckham's situation might have gotten better. With a host of weapons and a skilled quarterback, it is time to see if Beckham can return to form, or if his ceiling will be limited by being around too many mouths.

Strategy: Our Odell Beckham Auction Value ($200 Budget): $51

As a second-rounder, we think there's ample room for Beckham to give owners a return in investment. Cleveland's offense is poised to shoot to the top of the league, and there is just too much action for defenders to double-team Beckham. We like him anytime in the second round.

In auction, we'd even pay a first round value for him-

<record scratches, whole saloon looks up aghast>

It may sound unorthodox to have a different valuation in auction than in draft, but that's what we're all about. Don't play the "shopping for value game" with first and second rounders at auction, just get the guys you like and make up the overspending with value on later picks when the owners have filled their spots. If you love Odell Beckham, you aren't going to get him for the AAV of $41, all it takes is one other owner to love Odell Beckham (and there will be) to guarantee that he's going to go for over AAV. So if you really want him, go all the way up to $51 then make up that $10 by value shopping second-and-third slot skill players.

Best Case Scenario: Beckham exceeds his previous bests due to an improvement at QB. He finishes as a top 3 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: There's a crowded backfield and Baker Mayfield has some kinks, Beckham finishes as a low end top-12 WR. Pretty good floor.

Tyler Boyd ADP and AAV

Standard: 27th among RBs, 65th overall

PPR: 27th among RBs, 65th overall

Tyler Boyd Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $18

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	17th	145.1	21st	10.4
2017	N/A	34.5	N/A	3.5
2016	68th	70.1	84th	4.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	17th	221.1	19th	15.8
2017	N/A	56.5	N/A	5.7
2016	64th	124.1	75th	7.8

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	76	5.4	108	7.7
2017	22	2.2	32	3.2
2016	54	3.4	81	5.0

Overview: Boyd was a solid secondary receiver in the Bengals' 2018 squad. He is entering his third year, if you discount his injury-cut-short 2017 season, and might be in line to supplant the Fantasy Royalty that is AJ Green. If only he wasn't on a flaming bus-station-garbage-can of a team.

Strategy: Our Tyler Boyd Auction Value ($200 Budget): $12

We believe in Boyd. He's shown the talent on tape to dominate the side of the field that Andy Dalton looks at when he is not staring down AJ Green. Our only issue is that his ADP is sixth round and his AAV is $18. There are a bunch of great middle-of-the-road WR2s, the savvy owners will know them and wait to see who falls a round later or for $5 less. For the record, our list of decent WR2s whom you should wait on to see who fades is: Julian Edelman, Tyler Boyd, Tyler Lockett, Robert Woods, Brandin Cooks, Kenny Golladay, Calvin Ridley, and Chris Godwin. One of those guys is going to fall to the late 4th/early $teens. If not, it means people are front-loading WR2s, leaving good RB2 value for you to pluck.

UPDATE: We know AJ Green got injured, we still aren't upping Boyd's value on a rapidly dissolving offense

Best Case Scenario: Boyd emerges as the Bengal's lead option and flirts with WR1 status.

Worst Case Scenario: Turns out Boyd isn't that exceptional... and he still repeats his middle-tier WR2 status.

A.J. Brown ADP and AAV

Standard: 72nd among WRs, 4th among wide receivers with the last name Brown, 221st overall

PPR: 67th among WRs, 4th among wide receivers with the last name Brown, 204th overall

A.J. Brown Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $3

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: A.J. Brown was one of the best wide receivers coming out of the NCAA this year, unfortunately for him, and his fantasy football value, he's landing in one of the worst possible situations in the NFL. The Titans passing game manage just a smidge over 400 pass attempts every 16 games for Marcus Mariota, and that was *before* they told everyone in the world that they were committing to Derrick Henry and the run. He'll be fighting for targets in the short middle of the field with the ageless (code for "still good despite being old") Delanie Walker, and the newly-added Adam Humphries. There just aren't enough targets to go around for secondary guys to have much of a fantasy football impact.

Strategy: Our A.J. Brown Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

This one is easy. Make him someone else's problem. While he's an amazing talent, he has significant impediments to production in his rookie season. While some rookie wide receivers are able to make a strong transition to the NFL after acclimating, the Titans offense will preclude A.J. Brown from becoming one of those rookie wide receivers.

Best Case Scenario: Corey Davis, Delanie Walker, and Adam Humphries all cede targets to A.J. Brown, and he gets a 25% market share of Marcus Mariota's 25 targets per game. That's literally just 100 targets. That's his ceiling, so he could be WR30 if everything breaks his way.

Worst Case Scenario: The Marcus Mariota excuse of the season pops up, and Titans fans will continue to make excuses for why their franchise quarterback throws the ball like 400 times a year. Actually, strike that. This is the most likely scenario.

Antonio Brown ADP and AAV

Standard: 8th among WRs, 21st overall

PPR: 7th among WRs, 18th overall

Antonio Brown Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $41

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	2nd	219.7	2nd	14.6
2017	2nd	209.3	1st	15.0
2016	3rd	201.3	1st	13.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	5th	323.7	2nd	21.6
2017	1st	310.3	1st	22.2
2016	1st	307.3	1st	20.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	104	6.9	168	11.2
2017	101	7.2	163	11.6
2016	106	7.1	154	10.2

Overview: Perennial first-WR-off-the-board Brown had a rocky year with Pittsburgh's management, culminating in him being traded to the Raiders. Time will tell if he can click with Derek Carr and fill in the role Amari Cooper never could.

Strategy: Our Antonio Brown Auction Value ($200 Budget): $35

We're not buying it. The Raiders is where wide receivers go to ***DIE!!!*** The emergence of Amari Cooper once he left the Raider's system shows the difficulty a talented WR1 can have. We're happy to let someone else reach or overbid for him.

Best Case Scenario: Derek Carr decides Brown is his new favorite guy and Brown ends up a top 12 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: Brown continues to be disgruntled with management, as the Raiders' is horrible. Brown stops trying and barely creeps into the top 24 WRs.

Marquise Brown ADP and AAV

Standard: 56th among WRs, 161st overall

PPR: 57th among WRs, 166th overall

Marquise Brown Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $3

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Marquise Brown, the speediest and zippiest wide receiver in the 2019 NFL Draft, was the first wide receiver off the board, but that doesn't mean that he's the best 2019 rookie wide receiver to own for fantasy football. Heck, he may not even be the best rookie wide receiver on his team to own in fantasy football this year. Why? That gaddum foot injury. Sure, he's cleared to practice, but the Lisfranc injury is devastating in the season after the player suffers the injury. Guys who make a lot more money than I do already did the hard research. The money sentence (emphasis mine)? "Among NFL players, 83% returned to play, taking 10.0±2.9 months to do so. Overall, NFL players started fewer games 2 and 3 seasons following surgery and showed a significant decline in performance 1 season after return compared with preinjury levels." Avoiding Hollywood Brown in redraft leagues is literally a matter of science. And it's settled science, not like climate change, or heliocentrism, or gravity.

Strategy: Our Marquise Brown Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Best Case Scenario: I'm a big dumb baby and Lamar Jackson connects with Marquise Brown over, and over, turning him into the next Antonio Brown. You get nauseous at the commentators reminding you that he is Antonio Brown's cousin.

Worst Case Scenario: Lamar Jackson makes Marquise Brown the new John Brown, and misses him with passes over, and over. If you don't remember, John Brown went from a 60-catch, 1,068 yards, 7-touchdown place with Joe Flacco, to an 18-catch, 261 yards, 2-touchdown pace with Lamar Jackson last season. If that happens, it'll be the biggest Hollywood flop since *Battlefield: Earth.*

Parris Campbell ADP and AAV

Standard: 54th among RBs, 150th overall

PPR: 52nd among RBs, 143rd overall

Parris Campbell Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: It's the same old story with a new cast: Parris Campbell is the new slotness in Indy, despite Andrew Luck having a spotty record of feeding his WR2. With Devin Funchess across the field from TY Hilton, there should be open space for Campbell, if Luck looks his way.

Strategy: Our Parris Campbell Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Maybe we're being a bit foolish wanting to pay an extra buck or a 13th round pick for Campbell. We've been burned in the past by believing in Luck's secondary wide receivers, like Phillip Dorsett and Donte Moncrief. However, it's only a couple bucks and Campbell was a monster at Ohio State. With Luck returning to fantasy prominence, we think he stands a good chance of being able to work the slot like the veteran QB he has become.

Best Case Scenario: Campbell becomes a top 24 WR and even cracks the top 18 in PPR.

Worst Case Scenario: Yet again we get duped by Colts' wide receiver prospects, hey, it only cost a lottery ticket.

Brandin Cooks ADP and AAV

Standard: #16 WR, #42 overall.

PPR: #15 WR, #39 overall.

Brandin Cooks Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $25

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	13th	163.2	17th	10.9
2017	7th	156.2	9th	9.8
2016	8th	168.3	8th	11.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	13th	243.2	19th	16.2
2017	15th	221.2	17th	13.8
2016	10th	246.3	9th	16.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	117	7.3	80	5.0	68.4%
2017	114	7.1	65	4.1	57.0%
2016	117	7.3	78	4.9	66.7%

Overview: Brandin Cooks has sneakily put together four straight 1,000 yard seasons. What's more impressive is he's played with three different teams over that span. The ability to put up numbers everywhere he goes speaks volumes about his talent. Just like Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp, Cooks' biggest weakness is playing in a Rams offense that is chock full o'playmakers. That said, there's no reason to think Cooks won't be able to continue his 1,000 yard streak in 2019.

Strategy: Our Brandon Cooks Auction Value ($200 Budget): $15

Cooks would be a steal at $15. I'd happily spend a couple more bucks to get him rather than overpay for Robert Woods. Cooks does take a small hit in PPR leagues, as he's never been a real volume/possession guy. His 80 catches last year was the 2nd highest total of his career. Cooks is a borderline WR1, and a rock solid WR2.

Best Case Scenario: Cooks keeps doing what he's doing, and maybe tacks on a couple more TDs, locking him in as a top 12 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: **Applies to all Rams receivers** The Rams throw less in 2019. Targets decrease, along with all other receiving stats, and Cooks drops down a tier.

Amari Cooper ADP and AAV

Standard: 13th among WRs, 34th overall

PPR: 12th among WRs, 29rd overall

Amari Cooper Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	19th	140.4	24th	9.4
2017	3rd	182.2	4th	11.4
2016	12th	148.9	15th	9.3

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	19th	215.4	22nd	14.4
2017	36th	158.4	34th	11.3
2016	14th	230.9	16th	14.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	75	5.0	107	7.2
2017	48	3.4	96	6.8
2016	83	5.2	132	8.3

Overview: Cooper finally showed his well-known talents after ditching a Raiders mess for a smoothly-oiled Cowboys offense, breaking out for 725 yards and 6 touchdowns in 9 games with Dallas.

Strategy: Our Amari Cooper Auction Value ($200 Budget): $34

If we extrapolate Cooper's time with Dallas to a full season, we get 1289 yards, 94 catches, and 11 TDs. That corresponds to 194.9 points in standard, good enough for 6th among WRs, and 288.9 points in PPR, which would place him 9th. That's not a bad return for a guy going 13th in standard and 12th in PPR. We like him around the 2/3 turn and mid-$30s in draft. We'd be a bit higher on him, except there are plenty of similarly-projected pass-catchers going around that time (Evans, Allen, Hilton, Thielen) so there's no need to reach or overbid.

Best Case Scenario: Cooper gets even more used to Dak Prescott and finishes as a mid-level WR1.

Worst Case Scenario: It turns out Cooper's breakout was just a statistical aberration and he regresses to around mid-WR2 levels.

Keke Coutee ADP and AAV

Standard: 52nd among RBs, 139th overall

PPR: 45th among RBs, 112th overall

Keke Coutee Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $9

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	109th	34.7	69th	5.8
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	99th	62.7	47th	10.5
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	28	4.7	41	7.8
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Wanting to supplement the oft-injured Will Fuller, the Texans brought in the oft-injured Keke Coutee. Coutee turned heads with an 11-catch, 109-yard debut game. He struggled to put up half that line in any of his six other healthy games.

Strategy: Our Keke Coutee Auction Value ($200 Budget): $5

Normally we would not want to spend more than $2 or a 13th-round pick on Coutee. However, having Will Fuller V (not to be confused with Fuller IV) on their team means Coutee is one tweaked hammy away from being the WR2 on Houston's offense. We definitely wouldn't spend more than a 12th or $5, because he's injured and either Houston is cursed or they don't know how to take care of their QB and WR core (did we mention Hopkins went on the PUP today, ahead of training camp?)

Best Case Scenario: Coutee stays healthy and is a top-24 PPR option.

Worst Case Scenario: In a wacky mishap, Houston's medical staff replaces his blood with acid and he only plays 3 games.

Jamison Crowder ADP and AAV

Standard: 72nd among WRs, 222nd overall

PPR: 68th among WRs, 203rd overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	83th	53.8	59th	6.0
2017	38th	91.9	45th	6.6
2016	25th	122.9	32nd	8.2

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	87th	82.8	58th	9.2
2017	33rd	154.9	38th	11.1
2016	25th	187.9	32rd	12.5

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	49	5.4	29	3.2	59.2%
2017	103	6.9	66	4.4	64.1%
2016	99	6.2	67	4.2	67.7%

Overview: In 2016, Jamison Crowder was almost a WR2. In 2017, Crowder was almost a WR3. In 2018, he spent most of the season hurt. In 2019, he will be on the New York Jets. The good news is he no longer has to deal with the dysfunction of Washington. The bad news is now he gets to deal with the dysfunction of the Jets in an even bigger media market. Crowder has talent, but the question is can he maximize it? Sam Darnold definitely showed signs of being the answer at quarterback last year.

Strategy: Our Jamison Crowder Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Strategy: At his current ADP, Jamison Crowder is a tremendous value. He has shown that he can be a contributor to a fantasy roster. Moreover, you don't have to invest much draft capital to get him.

Ceiling: If Sam Darnold develops the way the Jets hope he will, Crowder could be a low-end WR2.

Floor: What will actually happen is that the Jets offense will crater and Crowder will get hurt.

Corey Davis ADP and AAV

Standard: 36th among RBs, 92nd overall

PPR: 35th among RBs, 86th overall

Corey Davis Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $14

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	27th	118.6	39th	7.4
2017	100th	35.5	102nd	3.2
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	28th	183.6	38th	11.5
2017	87th	69.5	83rd	6.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	65	4.1	112	7
2017	34	3.1	65	6.0
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Davis broke out in 2018, getting 112 targets, although for only 65 yards (we hate you, Mariota). Tennessee hasn't really flipped up their script, so they'll still have a decent offense and offensive line and horrible quarterback. He's pretty safe.

Strategy: Our Corey Davis Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

"Safe" isn't the magic word for making us reach in draft or open up our auction wallets. Put him in that WR20-36 pool where it's best to just see who falls and take them

Best Case Scenario: Davis is a top 24 WR for reasonably little capital.

Worst Case Scenario: QB troubles in Tennessee cause locker room issues and Moore is just a QB3. Excuse me, WR3, I've just been preoccupied with daydreaming that the Titans have literally anyone else behind the center.

Stefon Diggs ADP and AAV

Standard: 14th among WRs, 36th overall

PPR: 13th among WRs, 31st overall

Stefon Diggs Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $34

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	12th	164.3	16th	11.0
2017	17th	134.2	11th	9.6
2016	42nd	109.3	27th	8.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	266.3	11th	17.8
2017	19th	198.2	13th	14.2
2016	30th	193.3	14th	14.9

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	184	6.5	112	8.6
2017	64	4.6	95	6.7
2016	69	4.3	92	5.8

Overview: Diggs had his first 100 catch and 1,000 yard season in 2018, topped off with 9 touchdowns. Hopefully he can continue to grow with second year quarterback Kirk Cousins.

Strategy: Our Stefon Diggs Auction Value ($200 Budget): $35

Along with fellow Viking Adam Thielen, Diggs feels like a player who could rise up past his current ADP and AAV. He's being drafted outside of the top 12, despite being a WR1 in both standard and PPR. We'd pay a few bucks more than his $34 ADP because of his high floor and upside, although he might fall to the low $30s if you're lucky, so don't jump bid.

Best Case Scenario: Diggs improves his connection with Kirk Cousins and solidifies himself as a back end WR1.

Worst Case Scenario: Kirk Cousins falls apart or Minnesota leans on the run, more, and Diggs ends up a low-end WR2 based heavily on volume.

Josh Doctson ADP and AAV

Standard: 94th among WRs, 307th overall

PPR: 97th among WRs, 298th overall

Josh Doctson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	73rd	65.2	100th	4.4
2017	49th	84.8	49th	5.7
2016	166th	6.6	116th	3.3

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	67th	109.2	90th	7.3
2017	56th	119.8	65th	8
2016	170th	8.6	133rd	4.3

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	79	5.2	44	2.93	55.7
2017	78	5.2	35	2.33	44.9
2016	6	3	2	1	33.3

Overview: This was a test. You failed. Josh Doctson's averaged just 5.2 targets a game for the last two seasons, and the Washington passing game is somehow both (a) worse, and (b) more crowded. The emergence of Trey Quinn and the addition of Terry McLaurin leave little room for Josh Doctson to do much of anything in Washington this year.

Strategy: Our Josh Doctson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Make like the NFL has, and leave him stranded on the side of the road. He will have little to no space to have a breakout campaign. He's a finished product at this point, and Washington already declined his fifth-year option. He's on the expressway to Bustville, and nothing short of a change of scenery can find him an offramp to fantasy football relevance.

Best Case Scenario: The Washington offense reaches the highest heights that it is capable of reaching, and Josh Doctson breaks out for 55 receptions for 600 yards and 3 touchdowns.

Worst Case Scenario: Whatever Josh Doctson actually ends up doing this season.

Julian Edelman ADP and AAV

Standard: 15th among RBs, 39th overall

PPR: 15th among RBs, 39th overall

Julian Edelman Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $29

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	23rd	133.4	15th	11.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	22nd	132.2	28th	8.3

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	20th	207.4	13th	17.3
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	15th	230.3	17th	14.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	74	6.2	92	9.0
2017	98	6.1	159	9.9
2016	61	6.8	88	9.8

Overview: Edelman bounced back from missing the entire 2017 season with a back end top-24 performance in standard, and front end WR2 performance in PPR. With Gronk probably not around, there should be extra targets coming Edelman's way in 2019.

Strategy: Our Julian Edelman Auction Value ($200 Budget): $22

Edelman's a good pick at WR2, he's safe. We don't mind him in the middle of the fourth round, right where the WR2 with the highest floor should go. In auction, however, there's no reed to neach... excuse me, there's no need to reach. There are a slew of WR2s that are of relatively equal quality, one of them will drop at least $5 below AAV, probably more like $10. It's not like owners are foaming at the mouth to outbid each other for a mid-WR2.

Best Case Scenario: Edelman plays 16 games and almost cracks WR1 status.

Worst Case Scenario: If we don't assume injury to Edelman, the only thing stopping him would be Tom Brady falling off the QB cliff that all great QBs seem to dive off of (but, it should be said, we've all been assuming Brady would fall off that cliff for 3 years now, so IDK).

Quincy Enunwa ADP and AAV

Standard: 85th among WRs, 273rd overall

PPR: 86th among WRs, 265th overall

Quincy Enunwa Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	88th	50.9	93rd	4.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	40th	110.9	52nd	6.9

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	83rd	88.9	82nd	8.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	43rd	168.9	52nd	10.6

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	69	6.3	38	3.5	55.10%
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	46	4.2	22	2	55.24%

Overview: Quincy Enunwa just can't stay healthy to save his life, which is unfortunate, because staying healthy is the key to staying alive longer. While that's sage medical advice, that's not why you are here. Enunwa spent the 2017 campaign on the shelf with a neck injury and did well enough before missing games with nagging ankle issues in 2018. The Jets clearly believe in him, inking him to a 4-year, $36 million contract extension. However, they also crowded the offense, adding Jamison Crowder. Crowder is a natural slot receiver, which will bump Enunwa outside. While Enunwa has been the Jets' slot receiver in the past, Adam Gase said he wants to use him outside more. Time will tell if Enunwa can produce in his new role, or if the Jets' passing game limits his upside for 2018 fantasy football.

Strategy: Our Quincy Enunwa Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

You don't have to draft Enunwa unless you have particularly deep benches, however, he's had stretches of production in the past. In his first four games last season, before ankle injuries took him, he averaged a nice 69.5 yards per game with a score. That was an 84 catch, 1,112-yard pace. You can do worse than throwing a dollar at Enunwa in a stars-and-scrubs approach (or BBQ strategy) at auctions, or a deep bench pick. Don't make him a priority, as his realistic ceiling is a high-end WR3.

Best Case Scenario: Quincy Enunwa absorbs the lion's share of targets in the New York passing game, staying healthy all year. He hits his ceiling and catches 95 passes for 1,200 yards and 7-8 touchdowns.

Worst Case Scenario: Chronic Jetsism continues to infect every cell in Enunwa's body, and he can't stay healthy enough to string two games together.

Mike Evans ADP and AAV

Standard: 7th among WRs, 20th overall

PPR: 8th among WRs, 20th overall

Mike Evans Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	6th	198.4	7th	12.4
2017	20th	132.1	19th	8.8
2016	1st	208.1	2nd	13.0

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	9th	284.4	10th	17.8
2017	17th	203.1	20th	13.5
2016	3rd	304.1	2nd	19.0

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	86	5.4	138	8.7
2017	71	4.7	136	9.0
2016	96	6.0	173	10.7

Overview: Evans bounced back from a down season with a WR1 performance in 2018. The talented receiver's fate depends upon the progression of quarterback Jameis Winston, whose progress is always a giant box with a question mark on it.

Strategy: Our Mike Evans Auction Value ($200 Budget): $40

What Mike Evans brings to the table that no other second-round WR does is an insanely high floor. Through the ups-and-downs of Jameis Winston's career, he has finished no worse than middle-of-the-pack WR2 in the past three years. His top 3 performance in 2016 shows his lofty ceiling. Evans is a great addition to a fantasy team looking to have a solid, if not spectacular, weekly score.

Best Case Scenario: Winston figures it out and Evans has another top 3 year.

Worst Case Scenario: Winston is horrible and gets benched and Evans has to scrap to finish in the top 24 among WRs.

Robert Foster ADP and AAV

Standard: 68th among RBs, 198th overall

PPR: 68th among RBs, 198th overall

Robert Foster Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	69th	72.1	53rd	6.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	74th	99.1	58th	9.0
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	27	2.1	44	3.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Foster is going under the radar in most leagues, despite these facts:

- He had 94+ receiving yards in 4 of the Bills' last 7 games
- Most of his catches were deep balls, and Josh Allen, his quarterback, went deep more often than any other QB in the NFL
- I mean, what else do you want? We're talking about a lottery ticket, here.

Strategy: Our Robert Foster Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

If you're drafting early, you're in luck. We fully expect Foster to connect with Josh Allen for several deep bombs in the preseason, giving his ADP and AAV some helium. He's a deep ball specialist with the QB who throws the deep ball more often than any other. Get him for $1 or a 13th round pick, and gain the riches of his bye-week-flex-fill-in magic.

Best Case Scenario: He continue the deep ball pattern established in the last 7 games of the 2018 season, finishing as a WR 2/3.

Worst Case Scenario: It's just a statistical anomaly and he isn't fantasy worthy. Hey, you're out a 13th pick or $1, so what?

Will Fuller ADP and AAV

Standard: 32nd among RBs, 82nd overall

PPR: 32nd among RBs, 80th overall

Will Fuller Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $16

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	64th	74.3	20th	10.6
2017	48th	85.2	24th	8.5
2016	63rd	75.2	75th	5.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	68th	106.3	21st	15.2
2017	61st	113.2	36th	11.3
2016	68th	122.2	74th	8.7

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	32	4.6	45	6.3
2017	28	2.8	50	5.0
2016	47	3.4	92	6.6

Overview: There is a trolley rolling down the track. Up ahead is a switch to another track. One person is tied to the straight track, you can flip the switch and send the trolley toward five other people. What do you do? Addendum: All six people are Will Fuller.

Strategy: Our Will Fuller Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

Will Fuller is great if you get him in a double digit round or under $5. That's what 4 weeks of top 18 WR production is worth, right?

Best Case Scenario: Fuller gets his entire body replaced with a metal exoskeleton. It breaks the fantasy football industry and next year it's just some mech vs mech nonsense.

Worst Case Scenario: You get two top-18 weeks out of Will Fuller.

Michael Gallup ADP and AAV

Standard: 57th among WRs, 162nd overall

PPR: 57th among WRs, 156th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	76th	64.7	97th	4.0
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	76th	97.7	76th	6.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	68	4.3	33	2.1	48.5%
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Michael Gallup is an interesting player to evaluate this year. In his rookie year, he definitely had some production, but he didn't do enough to make you think he was on the path to superstardom. He is definitely someone worth watching in year two.

Strategy: Our Michael Gallup Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Strategy: At his current ADP, he is a guy you want on your roster. He showed flashes as a rookie and wide receivers usually make their biggest improvements from year one to year two.

Best case scenario: Michael Gallup could be a low-end WR2

Worst case scenario: Michael Gallup is cut from your roster by week three.

Chris Godwin ADP and AAV

Standard: 21st among RBs, 53rd overall

PPR: 20th among RBs, 48th overall

Chris Godwin Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $30

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	25th	126.2	34th	7.9
2017	69th	58.5	79th	3.9
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	27th	185.2	25th	11.6
2017	71st	92.5	84th	6.2
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	59	3.7	95	6.0
2017	34	2.1	55	3.5
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Entering his 3rd year, Godwin is poised to break out for Tampa Bay, who led the league in passing yards in 2018. The drawback is his QB is inconsistent, and beasts Mike Evans and OJ Howard are also going to devour targets.

Strategy: Our Chris Godwin Auction Value ($200 Budget): $18

Okay, let's step back for a moment and check out that average auction value: A crazy $30. We're higher than most and we have him for $18. This is why this site has built such a high reputation for being good at auction. Seriously, we're just a small group of friends making this site but, currently, if you google "2019 fantasy football auction values" we are the number one hit. That's because we understand the organic nature of auction, whereas most other sites just take their draft rankings and convert them to dollar values using a strict formula. Sure, we all have Godwin going as a mid-WR2. Sure, that would place him at around $30 if you take your rankings and straight up convert them to auction values. But that's not how auction works. How auction works is that, when most teams have their WR1 and a few have WR2s, there's a strong chance at least one remaining WR2 won't have enough owners lusting after them to go for the auction version of 3rd/4th round. So we just put a bunch of these $30 players at $15-$25, knowing at least one will drop to that value. Chris Godwin is in this category: If you've in love with him, go ahead and bid $30, but if you just want strong WR2 value, then play the waiting game. People aren't going nuts to outbid each other for the WR20.

That said, in draft, we love grabbing Godwin towards the end of the 4th round. As mentioned, Tampa Bay led the league in passing yards, they can support two great WRs and a TE.

Best Case Scenario: Tampa Bay continues to lean heavily on the pass, rather than put the ball in the hands of their horrible running game. Godwin becomes a high-end WR2.

Worst Case Scenario: Tampa Bay has QB problems, Godwin still finishes as a top 24 WR.

Kenny Golladay ADP and AAV

Standard: 17th among WRs, 44th overall

PPR: 17th among WRs, 41st overall

Kenny Golladay Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $30

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	21st	137.1	27th	9.1
2017	64th	66.6	50th	6.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	21st	207.1	25th	13.8
2017	69th	94.6	59th	8.6
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	70	4.7	119	7.9
2017	28	2.5	48	4.4
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Golladay had a strong sophomore season en route to a WR2 finish. With Detroit adding some pieces to its offense, such as TE TJ Hockenson, some are speculating that the Lions offense will take a step forward, boosting Golladay's totals.

Strategy: Our Kenny Golladay Auction Value ($200 Budget): $20

At some point, the expected boost a third-year receiver will get often becomes so baked-into his ADP and AAV that there's no longer an advantage. That's what's happening with Golladay. The understandable hype has boosted this WR, who finished outside the top 24 in PPG for 2018, into the fourth round and $30s. That's too much, especially when you can just wait for one of the many WR2 candidates to drop to the fifth round or the $teens. We love Golladay, but it's time to pump the breaks until the hype cools off.

Best Case Scenario: Golladay blossoms in his third year and becomes a reliable WR2

Worst Case Scenario: Detroit's offense sputters, as it so often does, and Golladay ends up as a disappointing WR2/3

Marquise Goodwin ADP and AAV:

Standard: 60th among WRs, 177th overall

PPR: 67th among WRs, 211th overall

Marquise Goodwin Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	77th	64.4	63rd	5.9
2017	29th	112.6	41st	7.0
2016	81st	61.1	84th	4.4

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	82nd	87.4	74th	7.9
2017	31st	168.6	43rd	10.5
2016	86th	90.1	86th	6.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	43	3.9	23	2.1	53.5%
2017	105	6.6	56	3.5	53.3%
2016	68	4.5	29	1.9	42.6%

Overview: Marquise Goodwin is entering his 8th year in the league, and has only had one 30+ catch season. San Francisco's roster is full of young wideouts, which leaves Goodwin more or less on the outside looking in. He may still have some flashes throughout the season, but it's likely his usage decreases as the season goes on.

Strategy: Our Marquise Goodwin Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Goodwin should go undrafted in most leagues, and may end up spending the entire season on your league's waiver wire.

Best Case Scenario: Goodwin becomes the WR3 in a potent 49ers offense, turning in fantasy WR4 numbers.

Worst Case Scenario: Goodwin loses ground in the wide receiver battle and has zero fantasy relevance.

AJ Green ADP and AAV

Standard: 12th among WRs, 31st overall

PPR: 14th among WRs, 32nd overall

AJ Green Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	37th	103.4	13th	11.6
2017	10th	151.8	13th	9.5
2016	33rd	120.4	6th	12.0

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	44th	149.4	17th	16.6
2017	10th	226.8	12th	14.2
2016	34th	186.4	5th	18.6

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	46	5.1	77	8.6
2017	75	4.7	143	8.9
2016	66	6.6	100	10.0

Overview: After a strong start including a 3-TD game in week 2, AJ Green missed 7 non-continuous games with an injured big toe. Optimists are hoping he can repeat his 2018 WR1 campaign.

Strategy: Our AJ Green Auction Value ($200 Budget): $11 (yeah, you read that right)

I'm the lowest on Green of all the fantasy writers. Look, with a WR, I was to know he's not likely to get injured. Green missed 7 games in 2018 and 6 in 2016. In fact, SportsInjuryPredictor.com lists 9 different injuries that have cost AJ Green time in the last 5 years, including four to his right toe that limited him last season. The receiver will be 31 by the time the preseason games start, and I just can't take the chance his body is unraveling when there are at least 5 other wide receivers going around the same time that don't have an injury history. Let him be someone else's headache.

UPDATE 7/27/19: LOOKS LIKE WE WERE RIGHT

Best Case Scenario: Green manages to stay healthy and ends up a middle WR1. **UPDATE LOOKS LIKE WE WERE RIGHT. YOU CAN TRUST US. WE LOVE YOUR FANTASY TEAM MORE THAN WE HATE GETTING BERATED FOR BEING LITERALLY THE LOWEST FANTASY SOURCE ON AJ GREEN.**

Worst Case Scenario: Green misses no time, but his toe makes him a decoy and gives a goose egg to hopeful owners several times.

DaeSean Hamilton ADP and AAV

Standard: 78th among RBs, 228th overall

PPR: 58th among RBs, 164th overall

DaeSean Hamilton Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	106th	36.3	121st	3.3
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	98th	66.3	90th	6.0
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	30	2.1	45	3.2
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: An afterthought for most of the season, Hamilton broke out week thirteen, catching 7 balls for 47 yards and a touchdown. He continued his production to the end of the season. A big slot receiver, Hamilton makes up for spotty route running with the ability to quickly gain separation.

Strategy: Our DaeSean Hamilton Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

This is one of our favorite PPR semi-sleepers. An owner who rolls into draft day with just a stat sheet will see a measly 243 receiving yards. But the savvy drafter will see a guy going in the mid 14th who had 25 receptions in the last four games. If you extrapolate his 25-182-2 line during that time you get 100-728-8, good enough for 18th in PPR for 2018. In auction, he tends to go a bit more, because it just takes two people to have him as a sleeper for him to go above expected value. You can temper this by nominating fellow Bronco receiver Courtland Sutton first, then swooping up Daesean for less than $5.

Best Case Scenario: Hamilton becomes a go-to guy for a Drew Lock security blanket.

Worst Case Scenario: Denver's offense takes a step back and Hamilton is a fantasy afterthought.

N'Keal Harry ADP and AAV

Standard: 39th among WRs, 101st overall

PPR: 41st among WRs, 105th overall

N'Keal Harry Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Man, N'Keal Harry hasn't done *anything* in the league yet, has he? He's really been lazing around the statistics since he went at #32 overall in the 2019 Draft. You'd think he would have scored at least one fantasy point so far for the Patriots. Weird.

Strategy: Our N'Keal Harry Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Harry was, by all accounts, a top-three wide receiver in the 2019 NFL Draft class, at worst. However, there are reports out of Patriots camp that he needs a lot of technique work. That's not surprising, to me, as he is built in the Dez Bryant mold. Big, strong receiver who wins at the point of attack, despite technical deficiencies. The Patriots don't have a lot outside of Julian Edelman to catch passes, so Harry should get the opportunity to produce this season. Josh Gordon *has* applied for reinstatement, so those four or five games with Gordon before he's gone again could be painful. If you can get him outside the top-115 players or for a buck or two in auctions, he's worth your time. If you can't, try to find him on the waiver wire if he starts off slowly. He's a stud, but rookie wide receivers take some time to get acclimated to the NFL.

Best Case Scenario: Harry replaces Rob Gronkowski as Tom Brady's favorite red zone target and ends the season with double-digit touchdowns.

Worst Case Scenario: Harry goes the route of Ocho Cinco, and he never learns the details of Tom Brady's playbook. He gets cut and spends his days tweeting pictures of cigars, McDonald's, and FIFA match results. A 5'9, 180-pound melanin-challenged slot receiver takes his roster spot.

Tyreek Hill ADP and AAV

Standard: 19th among RBs, 48th overall

PPR: 19th among RBs, 44th overall

Tyreek Hill Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	1st	241.0	1st	15.1
2017	4th	164.2	5th	10.3
2016	15th	138.0	20th	8.6

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	3rd	328.0	4th	20.5
2017	9th	239.2	8th	15.9
2016	25th	199.0	33rd	12.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	87	5.4	137	8.6
2017	75	5.0	105	7.0
2016	61	3.8	83	5.2

Overview: Tyreek Hill led standard leagues despite only having 87 receptions. With Kansas City retaining almost all of their offense, he seems as safe as any receiver to have another strong year. The big concern was a looming suspension, but as of 7/19/19 the NFL reported that this will not happen.

Strategy: Our Tyreek Hill Auction Value ($200 Budget): $55

Because he took a hit due on draft boards to possible suspension Tyreek Hill's current ADP and AAV do not reflect where he will be going. If he falls to the second round, even in PPR, get him. The fourth-year receiver has no obstacles towards another top 5 finish, and is as safe as other receivers going around the same time (Julio Jones, Michael Thomas, Davante Adams).

Best Case Scenario: He gets more work on short route and tops his league-leading fantasy score from last year.

Worst Case Scenario: Kansas City's offense is rolling so hard, we'd be shocked if he finished outside the top 6.

T.Y. Hilton ADP and AAV

Standard: 9th among WRs, 22nd overall

PPR: 11th among WRs, 26th overall

TY Hilton Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	15th	163.0	12th	11.6
2017	24th	118.6	34th	7.4
2016	5th	182.8	7th	11.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	14th	239.0	14th	17.1
2017	27th	175.6	39th	11.0
2016	5th	273.8	7th	17.1

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	76	5.4	120	8.6
2017	57	3.6	109	6.8
2016	91	5.7	155	9.7

Overview: Hilton had the chance to break out last year, with Andrew Luck back and posting a top-5 season. However, he disappointed owners by having a low end WR1/high end WR2 season. With Luck back, Hilton's place on draft boards is up for speculation.

Strategy: Our TY Hilton Auction Value ($200 Budget): $31

We're not picking Hilton in the second round. His floor is great with Luck behind center, but his lackluster performance last year combined with new receivers Parris Campbell and Devin Funchess have us hesitant. For the same reason, we think his $38 AAV is way too high. Wait to see if you get a good deal with Hilton and other WRs around that spot (Edelman, Diggs, Cooper, Woods, Golladay) then spend that extra $5 getting a top-5 player you really like.

Best Case Scenario: Hilton gets back into 2016 form, albeit with less volume, and finishes as a middle/low-end WR1

Worst Case Scenario: Hilton continues his trajectory and ends up in the 15-20 range among WRs.

DeAndre Hopkins ADP and AAV

Standard: 1st among WRs, 7th overall

PPR: 1st among WRs, 5th overall

DeAndre Hopkins Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $57

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	4th	218.5	4th	13.7
2017	1st	213.8	2nd	14.3
2016	35	119.4	35	7.5

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	1st	333.5	3rd	20.8
2017	2nd	309.8	2nd	20.7
2016	26	197.4	26	12.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	115	7.2	163	10.1
2017	96	6.4	174	11.6
2016	78	4.9	151	10.0

Overview: Hopkins entered the discussion for #1 overall WR as soon as he got a decent QB in 2017. With two straight top-5 finishes, he is back in the discussion again in 2019.

Strategy: Our DeAndre Hopkins Auction Value ($200 Budget): $56

If the top 4 RBs have all gone in your league, we definitely would consider Hopkins. Our pick is Davante Adams, but we're not going to snub our nose at anyone who goes Hopkins, instead. His durability exceeds that of Adams: Hopkins missed only one game in the past 5 seasons, compared to Adams who missed 6 in that same span. That's not a huge difference, really, we're just playing devil's advocate by stating any small points that ding Adams over Hopkins. The truth is, if you want a high floor and high ceiling, Hopkins is a great choice in the middle of round 1.

Naturally, that means you're going to really have to decide if you love Hopkins in auction. He could go for his mid-$50s AAV, but all it takes is one other player to love him and he'll go closer to $60. So before you get in a bidding war over Hopkins, decide which of the first-round receivers you love most (Hopkins, Adams, Tyreek Hill, Julio Jones, Michael Thomas) and just spend the extra $ to get that exact guy.

Best Case Scenario: Adams remains a top 3 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: The other Texans WRs actually stay healthy, crowding the receiving corps. Hopkins' volume decreases and he finishes as a low-end WR1

Adam Humphries ADP and AAV

Standard: 76th among WRs, 226th overall

PPR: 70th among WRs, 210th overall

Adam Humphries Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	29th	112.7	45th	7.0
2017	60th	67.7	76th	4.2
2016	64th	76	81st	5.1

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	24th	188.7	34th	11.8
2017	51st	128.7	64th	8
2016	59th	131	74th	8.7

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	104	6.5	76	4.8	73.1%
2017	83	5.2	61	3.8	73.5%
2016	83	5.5	55	3.7	66.3%

Overview: Adam Humphries had what might have been the quietest top-30 season of all time. He wasn't particularly exciting in any regard, he just finally topped the 100-target threshold for the first time in his career. That, combined with health, saw him as a WR2 in PPR last season. He now moves on to a much more anemic passing game than Ryan Fitzpatrick and Jameis Winston playing "Touchdown or Pick?" every play. Marcus Mariota averages just a hair over 25 passes per game for his career, which doesn't create a lot of opportunities for one player to shine in fantasy football. While this may have been a good move for his career, Adam Humphries going to Tennessee craters his fantasy football value.

Strategy: Our Adam Humphries Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Don't bother. We *like* A.J. Brown and we think that he could be a roster clog this season thanks to the best efforts of Marcus Mariota to hand the ball off at every given opportunity. It's not like Humphries is bad, it's just that the passing offense would have to increase by ten passes a game just to hit a pedestrian 560 pass attempts on the season. There isn't room for Humphries, and A.J. Brown, and Corey Davis, and Delanie Walker, and the targets for Dion Lewis for Humphries to carve out a relevant fantasy football niche.

Best Case Scenario: He somehow tops 100 targets again and ends the season in the WR25-30 range, defying all expectations.

Worst Case Scenario: Marcus Mariota figures out a way for Adam Humphries to pine for *Ryan Fitzpatrick and Jameis Winston*, of all people.

DeSean Jackson ADP and AAV

Standard: 51st among WRs, 131st overall

PPR: 50th among WRs, 129th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	32nd	110.3	26th	9.2
2017	42nd	88.6	49th	6.3
2016	26th	121.1	21st	8.7

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	42nd	151.3	30th	12.6
2017	41st	138.6	50th	9.9
2016	37th	175.1	32nd	12.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	74	6.2	41	3.4	55.4%
2017	90	6.4	50	3.6	55.6%
2016	100	6.7	56	3.7	56.0%

Overview: DeSean Jackson is the definition of a boom/bust player. In 2016 through 2018, he was a WR1 four times, a WR2 ten times, and a WR3 six times. That means in twenty starts, he gave you reasonable fantasy production. Unfortunately, he played 41 games in that stretch, which makes him incredibly unreliable.

Strategy: Our DeSean Jackson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Strategy: At his current ADP, I still have no interest in drafting him, because there is a 50/50 chance he will screw over my line up. Only draft him in best-ball leagues.

Best case scenario: You will draft DeSean Jackson and you will properly guess the weeks he will be productive and start him in those weeks, winning your fantasy football league.

Worst case scenario: You will bench DeSean Jackson when he has a big week, then rush to start him, chasing those points you missed. But once you start him, he will tank your lineup and you will find yourself in a never-ending cycle of misery as DeSean Jackson torpedoes your fantasy season.

Alshon Jeffery ADP and AAV

Standard: 29th among RBs, 73rd overall

PPR: 29th among RBs, 67th overall

Alshon Jeffery Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $20

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	26th	120.3	25th	9.3
2017	15th	138.9	21st	8.7
2016	51st	94.1	35th	7.8

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	26th	185.3	26th	14.3
2017	20th	195.9	20th	12.2
2016	55th	146.1	39th	12.2

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	65	5.0	92	7.1
2017	57	3.6	120	7.5
2016	52	4.3	94	7.8

Overview: About to enter his third year with Philadelphia, Jeffery made a big step foward in 2018 by increasing his ~52% catch rate with the Eagles to 71%. That's all he really needed, the six-foot-three receiver has been able to get the touchdowns and big plays. He missed a few games at the start of the season with a shoulder injury, and the Eagles revealed he played the last games of the year with broken ribs. Provided all these bumps have healed up, Jeffery looks like a promising part of the Eagles' steady offense.

Strategy: Our Alshon Jeffery Auction Value ($200 Budget): $9

We think Jeffery is poised to have a career year. His only full year with Carson Wentz made him a trustworthy WR2. We don't mind filling up at other positions then grabbing him as our second receiver in the seventh. In auction, however, he's not worth $20 unless you're absolutely in love with him: Although he will probably return production equal to that value, there are always a few decent WR2s who fall to about $5-$15, those are the guys we aim for so we can spend the difference getting a few top-tier guys.

Best Case Scenario: His dynamic with Wentz continues to grow, Jeffrey finishes as a top-15 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: He's not fully healthy and turns in 3/4 a season like last year. Still good as a WR3 bye week fill-in.

Julio Jones ADP and AAV

Standard: Number 3 among wide receivers. Number 11 overall.

PPR: Number 4 among wide receivers. Number 11 overall.

Julio Jones Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $50

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	5th	212.8	5th	13.3
2017	5th	155.9	7th	10.4
2016	7th	161.3	5th	12.4

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	4th	325.8	5th	20.4
2017	7th	238.9	7th	15.9
2016	8th	237.3	6th	18.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	170	10.6	113	7.1	66.5%
2017	148	9.3	88	5.5	59.5%
2016	129	9.2	83	5.9	64.3%

Overview: I'm not sure why Julio Jones is not always considered the number one receiver in football, but I have a theory. In 2018, Julio was 1st in targets, 4th in receptions and 1st in yards. However, he was only 13th in touchdowns. For some reason, over the last couple years, Julio Jones has seen a serious dip in his touchdowns. That doesn't change the fact that he is the most dangerous receiver in football and his touchdowns are due to go up drastically. It weird to say that a first rounder is being undervalued, but Julio definitely is. He is arguably the best receiver in football.

Strategy: Our Julio Jones Auction Value ($200 Budget): $55

The strategy is simple. At his current ADP and AAV, you need to be jumping on him as quickly as possible.

Best Case Scenario: Julio Jones continues to dominate in yards and targets, but he finally leads the NFL in receiving touchdowns and ends the year as the WR1.

Worst Case Scenario: The worst case scenario is that Julio goes all of 2019 without a single touchdown and his touchdown drought continues.

Marvin Jones, Jr. ADP and AAV

Standard: 37th among RBs, 97th overall

PPR: 37th among RBs, 94th overall

Marvin Jones, Jr. Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $11

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	56th	80.8	28th	9.0
2017	5th	164.1	7th	10.3
2016	36th	117.3	40th	7.8

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	62nd	115.8	28th	12.9
2017	12th	225.1	15th	14.1
2016	43rd	172.3	46th	11.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	35	3.9	62	6.9
2017	61	3.8	107	6.7
2016	55	3.7	103	6.9

Overview: When Golden Tate was shipped out of town, fans and fantasy pundits expected Marvin Jones to take a step up. He definitely stepped up by having a mediocre game then getting a knee injury that placed him on IR. His role in the Lions' 2019 offense is... questionable.

Strategy: Our Marvin Jones, Jr. Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Yet again, a borderline WR3 is going for double digit auction values, thanks to the faulty conversion formula used by most rankings sites. Just get him for, like 3, or let another owner reach for him in the 11th round or sooner. Stafford is questionable, Jones hasn't been electric since he showed top 5 skills two years ago, and there are trade rumors. Even if there weren't, after that Tate trade, no Detroit WR should feel safe.

Best Case Scenario: Jones plays 16 games and gets enough volume to end up a top 24 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: Jones continues his decline with an organization that makes odd choices, and is useless in fantasy.

Zay Jones ADP and AAV:

Standard: 67th among WRs, 207th overall

PPR: 74th among WRs, 222nd overall

Zay Jones Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $2

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	36th	107.2	51st	6.7
2017	88th	43.6	110th	3.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	35th	163.2	55th	10.2
2017	85th	70.6	112th	5
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	102	6.4	56	3.5	54.9%
2017	74	5.3	27	1.9	36.5%
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Zay Jones has some of the absolute worst hands in the NFL, and he's paired with one of the least accurate quarterbacks in the league. It's like mixing matter and anti-matter, except Josh Allen is doing it, so they'll never actually mix. Zay Jones might have quietly had the most useless 100 targets in the history of the NFL last year. He purports to be a deep threat, but he catches so few passes that his yards per target last season (6.4, 109th in the league) was below guys like Kenyan Drake, Jordan Reed, and Ian Thomas. It was not a good look for a guy who supposedly made hay being a deep ball threat. For reference, per NFL Next-Gen Statistics, Zay had the 27th-highest average depth of target. That massive discrepancy, along with the addition of John Brown to the Bills, tells you all you need to know for 2019.

Strategy: Our Zay Jones Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Zay Jones likely doesn't belong on any 12-team rosters outside of Best Ball leagues. There are suddenly three deep threat wide receiver speedsters in Buffalo, and Zay is easily the worst of the three. He's definitely someone you want on a Best Ball league for his boom games, but unless you can predict them in weeks two, seven, eleven, twelve, and fifteen, he will be far too frustrating to own in roster management leagues. In regular leagues, make like Josh Allen and miss Zay Jones with a hard pass.

Best Case Scenario: Josh Allen and Zay Jones actually click, and he becomes the league's premier deep threat. This allows those who ignored his numbers to sprint to a fantasy football title.

Worst Case Scenario: Josh Allen and Zay Jones continue to be Josh Allen and Zay Jones... a frustrating duo that exists only for people who stand up and get excited when a QB uncorks a deep ball, only to loudly moan when they don't connect, telling their friends, "they were this close! They'll connect next time for sure!"

Christian Kirk ADP and AAV

Standard: 33rd among RBs, 88th overall

PPR: 34th among RBs, 81st overall

Christian Kirk Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $14

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	57th	80.5	50th	6.7
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	57th	123.5	53rd	10.3
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	43	3.6	68	5.7
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: The hype for Christian Kirk certainly isn't based on NFL stats. Before exiting in December with a broken foot, Kirk had 43 receptions for 590 yards and 3 touchdowns. But Kirk ticks all the boxes that prognosticators value: Hands, separation, quarterback who actually wants to be there, air-focused offensive change. Most of the industry expects Kirk to establish himself as a primary WR for Kyler Murray in 2019.

Strategy: Our Christian Kirk Auction Value ($200 Budget): $6

Here's the deal: We live in a digital age. Case closed.

Well, actually, maybe that requires some explanation. In an age where media is spread to everyone like a mosquito-born disease, often times sleepers become common knowledge in the offseason. As such, their value decreases as their ADP and AAV rises. Kirk is one of those guys. Yes, he's a great player who should come into his own in terms of fantasy value in 2019. But many people say, "hey, I never thought about Kirk until I saw his amazing stats, now I'm convinced" then look at his 7th round ADP and $14 AAV and conclude he's worth more. He's not, those values are an accurate reflection of how the industry has come around on Christian Kirk. But if you grab him at those values, you're gambling on a guy who hasn't broken out, left last year with a broken foot, and had his broken quarterback replaced by a rookie. Grab him in the tenth or for $6, or just pass and grab a guy with more upside and a higher floor.

Best Case Scenario: Kirk breaks out and grabs a bunch of passes that aren't being hogged by David Johnson. Top 24 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: Air Raid offense takes a bit of adjustment and Kirk is merely a top-36 receiver.

Cooper Kupp ADP and AAV:

Standard: 21st WR, 52nd overall.

PPR: 21st WR, 50th overall.

Cooper Kupp Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $24

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	47th	95.1	10th	11.9
2017	27th	114.9	33rd	7.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	51st	135.1	15th	16.9
2017	25th	176.9	29th	11.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	55	6.9	40	5.0	72.7%
2017	94	6.3	62	4.1	66.0%
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Just like teammates Brandin Cooks and Robert Woods, Cooper Kupp also has consecutive Os in his name. It just so happens that his Os show up in his first name. Double O… James Bond… License to kill… There's a joke in there somewhere. Kupp has more than just Double O status. He has something that neither Woods or Cooks will ever have: consecutive Ps! What do all these digraphs mean? Maybe nothing. It's probably just a coincidence. Or, is that just what they want you to believe… There *are* three letters related to Kupp that *do* have some fantasy relevance. Kupp tore his ACL last November, missing the last six games of the regular season, and the Rams' Super Bowl run. Nonetheless, he is expected to be ready to go come Week 1.

Strategy: Our Cooper Kupp Auction Value ($200 Budget): $11

Kupp has a high floor and low ceiling. He is what he is. A highly capable third receiver on one of the league's better offenses. Don't expect him to approach anything near elite status, but a high volume year could make him a very valuable PPR play.

Best Case Scenario: Kupp has no setbacks in his ACL recovery and reels in 80+ passes, making him a very nice fantasy WR2.

Worst Case Scenario: **Applies to all Rams receivers** The Rams throw less in 2019. Targets decrease, along with all other receiving stats, and Kupp becomes just flex worthy.

Jarvis Landry ADP and AAV

Standard: 28th among RBs, 69th overall

PPR: 26th among RBs, 64th overall

Jarvis Landry Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $16

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	22nd	136.1	31st	8.5
2017	14th	148.0	17th	9.3
2016	16th	137.5	21st	8.6

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	18th	217.1	27th	13.6
2017	5th	260.0	5th	16.3
2016	13th	231.5	15th	14.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	81	5.1	149	9.3
2017	112	7.0	161	10.1
2016	94	5.9	131	8.2

Overview: After four studly years as Miami's short-pass catcher, Landry was traded to Cleveland. There, his performance took a hit, but he still managed to catch 81 balls and almost top 1,000 yards. With Cleveland's offense poised to take a step forward in 2019, the main question is if Jarvis Landry will move with it.

Strategy: Our Jarvis Landry Auction Value ($200 Budget): $10

Jarvis was a PPR stud in Miami, but seemed to fall out of favor once Baker Mayfield took the field. Big plays still boosted his fantasy stock into a borderline WR2, but Landry only saw more than 5 catches in his last 7 games. As such we like him with a gamble pick or bid, the 8th round or $10. Otherwise, it's better to not reach for him and see what other borderline top-24 WR falls to there.

Best Case Scenario: Mayfield trusts him and the Browns' offense explodes. Landry finishes as a top-15 receiver, although his boom or bust status hurts fantasy owners.

Worst Case Scenario: Mayfield continues to not work it to Landry, and Odell Beckham steals more catches. Landry is only useful in best ball leagues.

Marqise Lee ADP and AAV

Standard: 80th among WRs, 234th overall

PPR: 87th among RBs, 260th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	39th	919	39th	7.1
2016	45th	100.8	54th	6.7

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	37th	147.9	33rd	11.4
2016	42nd	157.8	50th	10.5

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	96	6.9	56	4.0	58.3%
2016	105	6.7	63	3.9	60.0%

Overview: There is no better case for out of sight, out of mind, then Marqise Lee. After tearing his ACL in 2018, he has been forgotten by the fantasy football community for 2019. What makes this curious is that he might be the best wide receiver on the Jacksonville Jaguars. Granted, that can be considered damning with faint praise. In his last two seasons, he was targeted almost seven times a game. If Nick Foles is any kind of improvement on Blake Bortles, (and how could he not be) Marqise Lee could end up one of the biggest steals of 2019 fantasy football drafts.

Strategy: Our Marqise Lee Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Strategy: At his current ADP, Marqise Lee is downright highway robbery. His current ADP makes zero sense and the minute he plays in a preseason game, I expect that number to skyrocket.

Best case scenario: Marqise Lee ends the year as a high-end WR3 on an improved Jacksonville Jaguars offense.

Worst case scenario: Marqise Lee has complications due to his recovery for his ACL surgery and doesn't play a down in 2019.

Tyler Lockett ADP and AAV:

Standard: 22nd among WRs, 50th overall

PPR: 22nd among WRs, 53rd overall

Tyler Lockett Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $24

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	11th	165.4	22nd	10.3
2017	56th	73.3	71st	4.6
2016	57th	83.1	71st	5.5

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	16th	222	24th	14
2017	57th	118	68th	7.4
2016	65th	124.1	74th	8.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	70	4.4	57	3.6	81.4%
2017	71	4.4	45	2.8	63.4%
2016	66	4.4	41	2.7	62.1%

Overview: The tables above speak for themselves. 2018 was a breakout year for Tyler Lockett. He more than doubled his production from 2017, but fell just shy of the 1,000 yard mark. What he did do, is score a whopping 10 TDs on 57 receptions. Lockett is a speedy, deep threat, and only had six red zone targets all of 2018. In other words, Lockett's TD rate is probably not repeatable. He could very well score 10+ TDs in 2019, but he's going to need more than 57 catches to do it. The most shocking number above is the 81.4% catch rate! That was good for 4th among all WRs. If 2018 wasn't a fluke, and showed some developmental progression for Lockett, he will continue to be a consistent weapon in the Seahawks offense.

Strategy: Our Tyler Lockett Auction Value ($200 Budget): $25

Don't go all in on Tyler Lockett. It will be very difficult for him to maintain those reception and TD rates. You should look for him in the 4th or 5th round. He takes a hit in PPR leagues, especially after the Seahawks had the fewest pass attempts in the NFL last year.

Best Case Scenario: Russell Wilson starts throwing 40+ times per game, targeting Lockett 7-8 times, and he turns in a 1,200 yard, 8 TD season.

Worst Case Scenario: Lockett's floor is pretty high. Worst case is a repeat of last years catch and yardage totals with half the TDs.

DK Metcalf ADP and AAV

Standard: 43rd among RBs, 109th overall

PPR: 47th among RBs, 119th overall

DK Metcalf Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Rookie WR DK Metcalf revealing his hot, ripped body to Pete Carroll elevated his stock.

Strategy: Our DK Metcalf Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

You all know the sitch by now: DK Metcalf is an insane physical speci-MAN, but his rout-running needs a lot of work. If you think he can straighten it out... errr. stop running so straight, buy in... it's only $2 or a 12th round pick. But don't reach on an inflexible rookie.

Best Case Scenario: You get a top 24 WR based on a few 2TD games.

Worst Case Scenario: Reality intervenes and it turns out it takes 2 or 3 years for a physically talented WR to adjust to the speed of the NFL. Great for dynasty, useless for redraft.

Anthony Miller ADP and AAV

Standard: 56th among RBs, 157th overall

PPR: 54th among RBs, 146th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	52nd	87.2	62nd	5.8
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	60th	120.2	60th	8.0
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	54	3.6	33	2.2	61.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: I will start with the caveat that I am a Chicago Bears fan, so if you think I am a little overboard in my praise, that is probably the reason. Having said that, if you don't have Anthony Miller on your radar, you need to seriously question how you evaluate talent. Last year, I was banging on the Kenny Golladay drum. This year, I will be harping on about Anthony Miller This is the kind of mid-round pick that can win your leagues. He is one of my favorite year-two players to break out.

Strategy: Our Anthony Miller Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Strategy: At his current ADP, he is seriously undervalued. Frankly, if he falls past into double-digit rounds, he won't make it to his ADP I also suspect that once preseason starts, his ADP is going to skyrocket. Make sure to track this.

Best case scenario: His ceiling is probably a WR2 this year, but this assumes the Chicago Bears offense only makes limited improvements in their second year. And as all Bears fans know, limited improvement to a Bears offense would probably require a miracle.

Worst case scenario: What will actually happen is that the Chicago Bears offense will continue to be a Chicago Bears offense and crush the spirits of players and fantasy owners alike.

D.J. Moore ADP and AAV

Standard: 26th among WRs, 66th overall

PPR: 24th among WRs, 61st overall

D.J. Moore Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $22

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	38th	102.0	54th	6.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	36th	157.0	54th	9.8
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	55	3.4	82	5.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Moore had a decent outing in 2018, considering it was his rookie year and Cam Newton had throwing issues/not being able to play issues. With a season under his belt, the talented, top-12 pick could blast off

Strategy: Our D.J. Moore Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

We like Moore for a 12th-round pick or a few dollars more. He's got high upside and a solid place in the offense, which puts him above most lottery tickets. Still, it's not worth reaching when there are so many high-upside WRs in the top 36 of rankings.

Best Case Scenario: Moore enters the top 24.

Worst Case Scenario: More fizzles, and is an ADP darling no more.

DeVante Parker ADP and AAV

Standard: 69th among WRs, 193rd overall

PPR: 63rd among RBs, 185th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $2

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	106th	36.9	104th	3.4
2017	58th	66.6	56th	5.6
2016	52nd	93.9	54th	6.7

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	105th	60.9	105th	5.5
2017	53rd	117.6	51st	9.8
2016	50th	144.9	52nd	10.4

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	47	4.3	24	2.2	51.1%
2017	96	7.4	57	4.4	59.4%
2016	87	5.8	56	3.7	64.4%

Overview: The question here isn't if DeVante Parker has finally figured it out, it is whether you have finally figured it out. And by "it," I mean have you figured out that DeVante Parker will always disappoint you. Parker is entering his fifth season in the NFL and he has never been fantasy relevant. Unless you consider crushing the hopes of fantasy owners relevant. The word is he is in the best shape of his life, but what you should be considering is what shape your fantasy roster will be in if you draft him. The answer is "your roster will be in a round shape" because he'll be putting up big, fat zeros.

Strategy: Our DeVante Parker Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

At his current ADP, I can say that everyone has figured out you cannot trust DeVante Parker. And even with the great value, I still wouldn't draft him.

Best-case scenario: Someone else drafts him and he ruins their season.

Worst-case scenario: You draft him and he ruins your season.

Dante Pettis ADP and AAV

Standard: 34th among RBs, 84th overall

PPR: 33rd among RBs, 78th overall

Dante Pettis Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $10

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	61st	76.5	64th	6.4
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	70th	103.5	69th	8.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	27th	2.3	45th	3.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Despite spotty quarterback play, Pettis came on strong last year, gaining 359 receiving yards in his last 5 games. That alone would be a small sample size, but when you factor in his two games with James Garoppolo, where he averaged 48 yards and half a touchdown, it seems like the rookie has found his game as a deep ball NFL specialist.

Strategy: Our Dante Pettis Auction Value ($200 Budget): $6

The problem with deep ball specialists is that they are boom or bust. Pettis never had more than 5 receptions in a game. Because of that, we advise seeing if he drops into double digit rounds or single-digit auction values. If not, don't reach for him when a few more consistent players on the upswing will inevitably drop down to below ADP and AAV.

Best Case Scenario: He breaks out and becomes a WR24 with a few weeks as a top 5 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: His spectacular performances are mirrored with just as many bad weeks, leaving owners wondering if starting him every week is hurting their team.

Paul Richardson ADP and AAV

Standard: 95th among WRs, 294th overall

PPR: 88th among WRs, 278th overall

Paul Richardson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $0

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	104th	39.1	71st	5.6
2017	35th	106.3	45th	6.6
2016	107th	35.3	123rd	3.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	111th	59.1	77th	8.4
2017	39th	150.3	55th	9.4
2016	106th	56.3	121st	5.1

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	35	5	20	2.86	57.1%
2017	80	5	44	2.75	55%
2016	36	3.27	21	1.91	58.3%

Overview: With Paul Richardson going from Seattle to Washington, he is essentially trading in Russell Wilson for some combination of Dwayne Haskins, Case Keenum, Colt McCoy and half of Alex Smith. You might think this would affect his fantasy stock, but I can honestly tell you that this downgrade in quarterback will have no bearing on Richardson's fantasy value. Drafting Richardson is like buying the stock in a company that has already gone bankrupt. You don't have to worry about its value going down. Richardson might be the best wide receiver on Washington and if that isn't damning with faint praise, I don't know what is.

Strategy: Our Paul Richardson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

My strategy for Paul Richardson is the same for any player on Washington. Let someone else draft them.

Best Case Scenario: Paul Richardson ends the year as the WR1 on Washington and has a couple of really good games that make you think he could be viable, but not enough to be reliable.

Worst Case Scenario: Paul Richardson ends the year as the WR1 on Washington, but doesn't have a single fantasy game of relevance.

Calvin Ridley ADP and AAV

Standard: 22nd among RBs, 57th overall

PPR: 23rd among RBs, 56th overall

Calvin Ridley Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $23

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	18th	142.8	29th	8.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	22nd	206.8	28th	12.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	64	4.0	92	5.8
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Calvin Ridley was one of the most sought-after WRs in the 2018 draft class. After a rookie season that saw him as a back-end WR2, he is expected to grow with the re-blossoming Atlanta Falcons offense.

Strategy: Our Calvin Ridley Auction Value ($200 Budget): $15

Calvin Ridley is as good a 5th-round WR as you are going to get. He's got the skills, offense, and quarterback to provide owners with a top-18 season. In auction, he's going a bit high at $23: There are a bunch of middle WR2s, at least one of whom is going to fall in the mid teens, so be opportunistic

Best Case Scenario: Ridley erupts and becomes a top-15 WR with several top 5 weeks based on touchdowns.

Worst Case Scenario: Frankly, his floor is high. It's hard to imagine a top 24 WR with an improved, high-intensity offense not returning 5th round value. Barring an injury to him or QB Matt Ryan, Ridley's worst case scenario is WR24.

Allen Robinson ADP and AAV

Standard: 30th among WRs, 77th overall

PPR: 30th among RBs, 71st overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $24

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	41st	98.3	36th	7.6
2017	All Torn Up Inside About Not Being Able To Help His Team			
2016	29th	118.1	35th	7.9

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	40th	153.3	34th	11.8
2017	Like Literally All Torn Up Inside. His Knee Was Shredded			
2016	28th	186.1	36th	12.4

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	94	7.2	55	4.2	58.5%
2017	I mean, he caught the one pass that was thrown to him, but does it matter?				
2016	151	9.4	73	4.6	48.3%

Overview: Over his last two seasons, Allen Robinson has been a consistent WR3. In his first season with the Chicago Bears, he showed flashes that he can be more. Allen Robinson's success will be tied to Mitchell Trubisky's accuracy. If Trubisky can take the next step in his quarterback evolution, Allen Robinson could have sneaky value.

Strategy: Our Allen Robinson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $5

Strategy: At his current ADP, Allen Robinson is going in the late-sixth/early-seventh round. This is a reasonable spot for him since he is a consistent WR3 and there are legitimate concerns if he will ever be anything more than that.

Best case scenario: Allen Robinson delivers on the promise he showed in 2015 and ends the year as a WR1.

Worst case scenario: Allen Robinson delivers a heaping platter of disappointment and doesn't grow as a wide receiver, barely being flex-worthy the entire season.

John Ross ADP and AAV

Standard: 96th among WRs, 298th overall

PPR: 85th among WRs, 266th overall

John Ross Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	76th	63.9	85th	4.9
2017	N/A	-0.8	N/A	-0.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	86th	84.9	102nd	6.5
2017	N/A	-0.8	N/A	-0.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	58	4.5	21	1.6	36.2%
2017	2	0.7	0	0	0
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: As a rookie, John Ross did nothing of value in the three games he played in, rushing just once for 12 yards. In his second year, he had 21 catches for 210 yards. He averaged one touchdown every three catches, which is completely unsustainable. The biggest argument in his favor is that with AJ Green injured, he is the de facto number two receiver in Cincinnati. The biggest argument against him is that if history has taught us anything, he will soon be joining AJ Green on the injury report.

Strategy: Our John Ross Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

At his current ADP, John Ross has value. He is a big-play receiver on an offense with some talent at their skill positions. If you draft him late and he stays healthy, he could end up being a flex-worthy player. You just have to trust him to stay healthy, which I don't. So let someone else draft him.

Best case scenario: You get WR3 numbers from him before he ends up on injured reserve.

Worst case scenario: He ends up on injured reserve before he does anything to help your fantasy roster.

Curtis Samuel ADP and AAV

Standard: 50th among WRs, 126th overall

PPR: 43rd among WRs, 113th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $9

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	42nd	87.8	37th	7.5
2017	125th	17.9	123rd	2.2
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	49th	136.8	46th	10.5
2017	125th	32.9	117th	4.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	65	5.0	39	3.0	60.0%
2017	26	2.9	15	1.7	57.7%
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Curtis Samuel made some serious strides in his second season. The question is how much will he improve in his third season. Truth be told, Samuel didn't really make a fantasy impact in year two. While he had five finishes of WR3 or better, Samuel didn't produce consistently enough where you could trust him. And there are the questions about Cam's shoulder. If Cam isn't healthy, Samuel looks a lot less appealing.

Strategy: Our Curtis Samuel Auction Value ($200 Budget): $4

Strategy: At his current ADP, Curtis Samuel has some real value. He is the type of player I love to grab in the double-digit rounds. He is going into his third year, he improved a lot from year one to year two, and he has a great quarterback throwing him the football (If he is healthy.) He is definitely worth taking a flyer on.

Best case scenario: Curtis Samuel makes a similar leap in year three and ends the year as a WR2

Worst case scenario: Cam Newton ends up being more hurt than we believed and Curtis Samuel is stuck with Will Grier throwing him the football and your fantasy roster is stuck with a deep play receiver who has a noodle-armed quarterback.

Deebo Samuel ADP and AAV:

Standard: 64th among WRs, 198 overall

PPR: 68th among WRs, 205 overall

Deebo Samuel Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $4

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: The San Francisco 49ers took Deebo Samuel with the fourth pick of the second round, and many fantasy football prognosticators saw him stealing touches from Dante Pettis, for no real reason. Current reports out of San Francisco are that he and Marquise Goodwin are battling for the "Z" role in Kyle Shanahan's offense.

Strategy: Our Deebo Samuel Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

In reality, it's going to take an injury to Dante Pettis for Deebo Samuel to do anything this year. On paper, he's battling for the Z role, but in practice, that role is going to go to Marquise Goodwin. Shanahan likes having a deep threat on the field, basically at all times, which would put Goodwin in the driver's seat to start over Deebo. If Samuel goes down, Deebo should immediately slot into a Pierre Garcon-esque role, snatching up passes over the middle. Without a Pettis injury, even if he beats out Goodwin, there's too much happening close to the line of scrimmage (Pettis, Trent Taylor, George Kittle, the running backs) for him to muscle out targets in his preferred area. Keep him in your fantasy football Rolodex, but don't make him the first number you call.

Best Case Scenario: Deebo is as-advertised as a Pierre Garcon-type, and goes 100/1,000/7, leading his touts to fantasy football glory.

Worst Case Scenario: He gets fired on his day off.

Emmanuel Sanders ADP and AAV

Standard: 45th among RBs, 115th overall

PPR: 48th among RBs, 122nd overall

Emmanuel Sanders Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $2

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	24th	127.2	19th	10.6
2017	61st	67.5	68th	5.6
2016	21st	133.6	18th	8.9

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	23rd	198.2	18th	16.5
2017	60th	114.5	52nd	9.5
2016	20th	212.6	18th	14.2

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	71	5.9	98	8.2
2017	47	3.9	92	7.7
2016	79	4.9	137	8.6

Overview: The 32-year-old receiver suffered a severe torn Achilles in December of 2018. That's his 18th injury in 9 seasons. With the Broncos developing two young pass-catchers, there might not be room for Sanders to see significant time.

Strategy: Our Emmanuel Sanders Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Don't draft Sanders. Not even for a buck or a 20th round pick. When you do these dollar players, you want high upside. A tenth-year receiver who will miss the preseason due to an injury suffered in Decembe r does not have high upside. Spend a little more money on Broncos receivers Courtland Sutton or DaeSean Hamilton.

Best Case Scenario: Sanders gets his body replaced by a cyborg and robocops his way to a week 1 WR1 finish, then is unable to get down the stairs out of the stadium.

Worst Case Scenario: Sanders is dunzo.

Mohamed Sanu ADP and AAV:

Standard: 67th among WRs, 202nd overall

PPR: 71st among WRs, 211th overall

Mohamed Sanu Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $3

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	30th	112.2	45th	7.0
2017	37th	101.3	43rd	6.8
2016	57th	87.8	67th	5.9

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	31st	178.2	45th	11.1
2017	30th	168.3	36th	11.2
2016	53rd	146.8	62nd	9.8

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	94	5.9	66	4.1	70.2%
2017	96	6.4	67	4.4	69.8%
2016	81	5.4	59	3.9	72.8%

Overview: A solid real-life WR2, Mohamed Sanu has always sat on the precipice of becoming something more in fantasy football, without actualizing that potential. Now, he sits as the third-best wide receiver in Atlanta and is in danger of ending the season with the fifth-most targets on the team.

Strategy: Our Mohamed Sanu Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Mohamed Sanu is the quintessential "better in real life than he is in fantasy football" player. He's solid, and a great weapon for Matt Ryan. He's averaged 5.6 targets per game in his time in Atlanta, but the emergence of Austin Hooper and Calvin Ridley will leave him wanting for targets. You can't produce in fantasy football without targets, and the 3-4 he's likely to get per game just won't cut it. If you need a depth piece that you can get cheap, you could do worse than Sanu, but you'd be better off letting someone else clog up their roster.

Best Case Scenario: Tragedy befalls either Calvin Ridley or Julio Jones, and Sanu strolls back into 90 targets and a WR40 finish.

Worst Case Scenario: Mohamed Sanu spends so much time on the sidelines that he literally forgets how to run routes and is bounced from the NFL.

Sterling Shepard ADP and AAV

Standard: 35th among RBs, 91st overall

PPR: 36th among RBs, 88th overall

Sterling Shepard Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $11

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	29th	116.5	40th	7.3
2017	47th	85.5	31st	7.8
2016	35th	119.4	43rd	7.5

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	30th	182.5	39th	11.4
2017	42nd	144.5	26th	13.1
2016	36th	184.4	45th	11.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	66	4.1	107	6.7
2017	59	5.4	84	7.8
2016	65	4.1	105	6.6

Overview: Sterling Shepard is definitely the WR1 for the Giants. However, that doesn't guarantee a good season. Last year he started all 16 games but barely averaged more than 4 receptions. With Daniel Jones set to take the reigns at a TBD time, perhaps Shepard can get more looks in his fourth season.

Strategy: Our Sterling Shepard Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Shepard is averaging a middle-of-the-eighth round pick and $11 auction value. The middle of the eighth we can understand, there's always some uninformed owner or a Giants homer who thinks taking a WR1 on a horrible offense is a good idea. But $11 at auction? That means not one but *two* owners had to have taken a look at Sterling, who hasn't cracked the top 24 in fantasy, and said "hey, let's argue into the double digits about which one of us gets him." We'll take him in round 11 or for $3, but there are much better people than a guy whose best feature is "the only good WR on his team left."

Best Case Scenario: Shepard becomes a low-end top 24 WR based on volume alone.

Worst Case Scenario: For the fourth straight year Shepard ends up riding a fantasy team's bench all season.

Tre'Quan Smith ADP and AAV:

Standard: 58th among WRs, 170th overall

PPR: 60th among WRs, 178th overall

Tre'Quan Smith Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	66th	72.7	68th	5.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	72nd	100.7	77th	7.7
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	44	2.9	28	1.9	63.6%
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: In his rookie season in New Orleans, Tre'Quan Smith put up some decent totals, including two 100 yard games. The problem was starting him was a boom or bust proposition. For example:

- Week 8: 3 targets, 2 catches, 23 yards, 1 TD
- Week 9: 0 targets
- Week 10: 13 targets, 10 catches, 157 yards, 1 TD
- Week 11: 1 target
- Week 12: 1 target

It's clear he's got some skills, but up and down performances like that are not worth fantasy frustration. And this year is no different with too many mouths to feed in NOLA.

Strategy: Our Tre'Quan Smith Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Tre'Quan Smith is not worth drafting until very late, if at all.

Best Case Scenario: Smith climbs the depth chart up to WR2 behind Michael Thomas, and becomes a weekly fantasy WR2 later in the season.

Worst Case Scenario: Smith has a repeat of last season's booms and busts.

Juju Smith-Schuster ADP and AAV

Standard: 6th among WRs, 17th overall

PPR: 6th among WRs, 16th overall

Juju Smith-Schuster Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $44

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	9th	185.9	11th	11.6
2017	18th	133.7	12th	9.6
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	8th	296.9	9th	18.6
2017	23rd	191.7	18th	13.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	111	6.9	166	10.3
2017	58	4.1	79	5.6
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Schuster seems poised to take the reigns as yet another Pittsburgh Steeler top fantasy receiving option. His WR1 numbers are expected to get a boost from the targets that now-departed Antonio Brown took away.

Strategy: Our Juju Smith-Schuster Auction Value ($200 Budget): $46

We like his value in the second round ADP and mid $40s AAV, here. If Juju finished in the top 5 WRs in 2019, would anyone really be surprised? Yet he is going a round later and $10-$15 less than the other guys with top 5 potential, just because Schuster has never done it before and pundits are afraid Antonio Brown's departure will cause double coverage on Juju. Those points are both unfounded, Juju has only been in the league two years, and seems poised for that classic 3rd-year breakout in terms of both mental game and opportunity. Sure he'll see more coverage, but veteran Ben Roethlisberger knows how to call the plays that beat the defense for his WR1, and Pittsburgh never seems to have trouble getting a WR2 out there to absorb defensive coverage. He might be the safest value in the second round.

Best Case Scenario: Schuster improves as expected and is a middle-of-the-first round fantasy pick in 2020.

Worst Case Scenario: Schuster takes half a season to adjust to the increased defensive pressure, then helps owners to a championship in the back end on the way to a low-end top 12 WR finish.

Kenny Stills ADP and AAV

Standard: 62nd among WRs, 194th overall

PPR: 62nd among WRs, 180th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	45th	97.4	51st	6.5
2017	26th	113.3	33rd	7.6
2016	31st	116.5	38th	7.8

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	52nd	134.4	61st	9.0
2017	26th	168.3	37th	11.2
2016	46th	154.4	55th	10.3

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	64	4.3	37	2.5	57.8%
2017	105	6.6	58	3.6	55.2%
2016	81	5.1	42	2.6	51.9%

Overview: Kenny Stills is a player who seems to be very talented and just had the misfortune of playing on some truly terrible Miami Dolphins offenses. The question is whether the changes in their coaching staff and quarterback will actually lead to some improvement for him. All you have to do is convince yourself that the Miami Dolphins are capable of fixing their problems on offense and you can get their best receiver in the later rounds. So just how good are you at lying to yourself?

Strategy: Our Kenny Stills Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

At his current ADP, Kenny Still is a reasonable flyer. At this point in the draft, you are throwing darts anyway.

Best case scenario: One of Ryan Fitzpatrick or Josh Rosen fix the Dolphins and Kenny Stills ends up a WR3.

Worst case scenario: What will actually happen is that the Dolphins will continue to be the Dolphins and Kenny Stills will continue to not be fantasy relevant.

Courtland Sutton ADP and AAV

Standard: 40th among RBs, 102nd overall

PPR: 39th among RBs, 96th overall

Courtland Sutton Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	48th	94.3	53rd	5.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	50th	136.3	69th	8.5
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	42	2.6	84	5.25
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Playing in a crowded secondary alongside Emmanuel Sanders and DaeSean Hamilton, Sutton still managed to end his rookie year with over 700 receiving yards. With Sanders hobbled from a torn Achilles in December (his 18th career injury), Sutton should see many more looks.

Strategy: Our Courtland Sutton Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

We like Sutton. Denver's receiving core has never been their problem. However, we don't need to spend $8 or a 9th-round pick on a player based solely on upside. That's not because we don't believe in him, we do, but because a high-upside sophomore will almost always fall to later rounds and lesser auction values. Just know which ones you want and play the waiting game.

Best Case Scenario: Sutton becomes a regular starter and finishes top 24.

Worst Case Scenario: Sutton fails to connect with either Joe Flacco or Drew Lock and is of little fantasy use.

Golden Tate ADP and AAV

Standard: 41st among WRs, 107th overall

PPR: 40th among WRs, 101st overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	34th	108.9	43rd	7.3
2017	24th	114.1	33rd	7.6
2016	30th	117.7	30th	7.8

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	29th	182.9	32nd	12.2
2017	15th	199.1	20th	13.3
2016	18th	202.7	22nd	13.5

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	113	7.5	74	4.9	65.5%
2017	120	7.5	92	5.8	76.6%
2016	135	8.4	91	5.7	67.4%

Overview: What a difference a year makes. Last year, Golden Tate was getting a lot of love, but 2018 saw a pretty significant dip in his production. However, it isn't really fair to put that all on Tate. The Detroit Lions offense was a dumpster fire, with Matthew Stafford having his worst season in years, despite having more weapons than he ever has had before. Then, Tate was traded to the Eagles, which seriously impacted his production. The question now is what do we expect from Golden Tate?

Strategy: Our Golden Tate Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Strategy: At his current ADP, Golden Tate is a perfectly reasonable selection. Hell, he actually has tremendous value, so long as you are comfortable having shares on the New York Giants offense. He should be the clear-cut number one wide receiver, and there is a very good chance the Giants spend a lot of time playing from behind. But if you can select a guy who has been a WR2 or WR3 the last three years in the 10th round, you probably need to take it.

UPDATE: This guy got suspended 4 games, take him for no more than a buck or a 13th-round pick

Best case scenario: Golden Tate ends the year as a WR2 and you get tremendous value out of selecting him.

Worst case scenario: Golden Tate struggles to salvage what is looking like a miserable New York Giants offense.

Adam Thielen ADP and AAV

Standard: 10th among WRs, 24th overall

PPR: 9th among WRs, 24th overall

Adam Thielen Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $36

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	7th	194.3	8th	12.1
2017	12th	148.8	16th	9.3
2016	29th	126.2	26th	7.9

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	7th	307.3	7th	19.2
2017	8th	239.8	11th	15.0
2016	29th	195.2	7th	12.2

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	113	7.1	153	9.5
2017	91	5.7	142	8.8
2016	69	4.3	92	5.8

Overview: Thielen made a jump for the third straight year, finishing 7th in both standard and PPR. The 6th-year receiver has never missed a game and hopes to improve rapport in his second year with quarterback Kirk Cousins

Strategy: Our Adam Thielen Auction Value ($200 Budget): $38

Thielen at the end of the second, his current ADP, is a bit lower than where we'd take him. He is a bargain WR that has top-12 upside, and has a high chance of improving now that he's worked with Kirk Cousins for an entire season. He has zero injury history, which makes him as safe as any other top 12 WRs. In auction, we'd reach a bit further for Thielen, as he's a solid #1 WR for a price that will free up a lot of capital for you to land solid running backs.

Best Case Scenario: Thielen improves for the 4th straight year and ends up in the top 6 among receivers.

Worst Case Scenario: Cook steals some looks from Thielen, who finishes around WR12.

Michael Thomas ADP and AAV:

Standard: 4th among wide receivers. 14th overall.

PPR: 3rd among wide receivers. 10th overall.

Michael Thomas Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $46

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	8th	190.5	9th	11.9
2017	10th	145.1	11th	9.7
2016	11th	142.1	13th	10.2

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	6th	315.5	6th	19.7
2017	5th	243.1	6th	16.2
2016	11th	224.1	10	16

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	147	9.2	125	7.8	85.0%
2017	149	9.3	104	6.5	69.8%
2016	121	8.1	92	6.1	76.0%

Overview: Since Michael Thomas has entered the league, he has been top ten in catches and yards. Thomas has never not been a WR1 at the end of the year. Michael Thomas is a model of consistency across a season. However, within the season, his numbers are more erratic. Last year, he had 5 games where he ended up top five. But Thomas also had 5 games where he didn't even finish as a WR3. Moreover, there are concerns about the inevitable decline of Drew Brees, as evidenced by his player profile.

Strategy: Our Michael Thomas Auction Value ($200 Budget): $52

Despite my concerns about Thomas, there is no denying his talent and his ability. He caught an astounding 85% of his targets. He is undoubtedly one of the best receivers in the NFL and you want that on your team. While Michael Thomas has been a WR1, he has yet to finish top three. This could very well be the year.

Best Case Scenario: Michael Thomas ends the year as a top-three receiver.

Worst Case Scenario: The decline of Drew Brees we've all been waiting for happens in 2019 and he takes Michael Thomas down with him.

Marquez Valdes-Scantling ADP and AAV

Standard: 48th among RBs, 127th overall

PPR: 49th among RBs, 127th overall

Marquez Valdes-Scantling Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $4

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	65th	73.0	65th	4.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	65th	111.0	92nd	6.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	38	2.4	73	4.6
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Get Green Bay's #2 WR, you could benefit like you did with... I don't know, Randall Cobb that one year? Point is, Aaron Rodgers is a GOAT candidate because he spreads it around.

Strategy: Our Marques Valdez-Scantling Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Don't fall in love with the idea of Green Bay getting a devoted WR2, they never do. Just wait and see if you can get MVS or Geronimo Allison for under $4 at auction or Round 11 in draft. If not, there will be many more sophomore WR candidates with high upside that fall to you.

Best Case Scenario: You get a top 24 WR for a cheap pick.

Worst Case Scenario: You don't get a top 24 WR for a cheap pick, because you reached for a prospect instead of spreading around your late picks on decent lottery tickets.

James Washington ADP and AAV

Standard: 47th among WRs, 123rd overall

PPR: 44th among WRs, 114th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	124th	27.2	140th	2.0
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	124th	43.7	139th	3.1
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	38th	2.7	16th	1.1	42.1%
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: There is a narrative in the fantasy football community that James Washington will step up in year two in a similar fashion to how Juju Smith-Schuster did in his second year. The problem with this idea is that it is bat-guano insane. Juju Smith-Schuster had 58 catches for 917 yards and 7 touchdowns his rookie season. He showed teams early that he was going to be a force in the NFL. In comparison, James Washington had 16 catches for 217 yards and 1 touchdown. And he produced those numbers in a year when Ben Roethlisberger couldn't wait to chuck the ball, throwing for over 5000 yards for the first time in his career.

The only reason people like James Washington is because he is a wide receiver drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, who have a reputation of developing elite talent at that position. Washington has shown no evidence he will be the next great Steelers receiver. I'd much rather draft Diontae Johnson if I want a young Steelers receiver. I can get him way later and the only reason he was non-existent last year was that he wasn't in the NFL.

Strategy: Our James Washington Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Strategy: At his current ADP, he is just a dart throw, but there are way better dart throws to take in this spot. Curtis Samuel, Anthony Miller, and Michael Gallup have all shown way more potential.

Best case scenario: I am wrong and James Washington ends the year as a WR2, proving that the Steelers can just plug in any wide receiver and make them great.

Worst case scenario: I am right and James Washington is just a guy, wasting a spot on your roster until his inevitable dismissal to the waiver wire.

Sammy Watkins ADP and AAV

Standard: 25th among RBs, 62nd overall

PPR: 25th among RBs, 62nd overall

Sammy Watkins Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $14

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	62nd	75.1	38th	7.5
2017	32nd	107.3	38th	7.2
2016	85th	55.0	49th	6.9

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	63rd	115.1	39th	11.5
2017	41st	146.3	50th	9.8
2016	91st	83.0	55th	10.4

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	40	4.0	55	5.5
2017	39	3.5	70	4.7
2016	28	3.5	52	4.0

Overview:

Fact: 6th-year veteran Sammy Watkins turned only 26th in June.

Fact: Sammy Watkins hasn't played a full season since his rookie year.

Fact: Sammy Watkins believes himself to be a reptilian solar being.

It's been injuries that have kept Watkins from being an automatic top-20 WR, as he's already logged thirteen different injuries that landed him on official injury reports in the NFL. If he plays a full season with the explosive Kansas City Chiefs, he could hit top-15 WR status.

Strategy: Our Sammy Watkins Auction Value ($200 Budget): $9

$20 AAV for Sammy Watkins is some Pollyanna nonsense. He played for Kansas City in their record-setting 2018 campaign but wasn't even top-36 in PPG. We'll take him if he falls to the 8th or for under $10, but we can't get our hopes up for a guy who had a monstrous opportunity but still couldn't perform. Who knew reptilian solar beings had performance issues?

Best Case Scenario: He stays healthy, makes big plays, and finishes a top-15 WR.

Worst Case Scenario: He's not fully healthy all year and is not a fantasy-relevant commodity, except in best-ball leagues like on Draft.com (promo code: absurdity, for free entry into the $3.5 million Best Ball Main Event)

Dede Westbrook ADP and AAV

Standard: 42nd among WRs, 106th overall

PPR: 41st among WRs, 104th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $2

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	35th	107.6	48th	6.7
2017	91st	39	46th	6.5
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	33rd	173.6	33rd	10.9
2017	87th	65	42nd	10.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	101	6.3	66	4.1	65.3%
2017	51	7.2	27	3.9	52.9%
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Dede Westbrook is a very interesting wide receiver to analyze. With Marqise Lee injured for all of 2018, Dede Westbrook established himself as the number one receiver in the Jacksonville offense, and he is certainly talented enough to improve on his sophomore campaign. The problem is that Marqise Lee is coming back and we don't really know what the Jacksonville Jaguars new offense will look like.

Strategy: Our Dede Westbrook Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Strategy: At his current ADP, I think there are better options. Geronimo Allison and Keke Coutee are both being drafted in similar spots, but they have the advantage of having star NFL quarterbacks throwing to them, which greatly helps their upside.

Best case scenario: If Nick Foles plays like Super Bowl Nick Foles, Dede Westbrook has the ability to be a low-end WR2.

Worst case scenario: Nick Foles looks more like 2017 Blake Bortles and Westbrook isn't able to recover.

Mike Williams ADP and AAV

Standard: 24th among RBs, 59th overall

PPR: 28th among RBs, 66th overall

Mike Williams Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $23

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	20th	137.2	30th	8.6
2017	N/A	9.5	N/A	1.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	32nd	180.2	42nd	11.3
2017	N/A	20.5	N/A	2.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	43	2.7	66	4.1
2017	11	1.1	23	2.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: With former teammate, Tyrell Williams sent up the river (to Oakland), Mike Williams is the clear WR2 on a potent San Diego offense. He finished 2018 with 10 receiving touchdowns and should make more progress between the 20's in 2019.

Strategy: Our Mike Williams Auction Value ($200 Budget): $8

Mike Williams is great. Philip Rivers clearly likes to toss it to him in the end zone (tied for sixth-most WR ten zone targets in 2018), and LA's receiving corps got thinner in the offseason. Still, his sixth-round ADP seems a bit high for someone who had 664 receiving yards last year. That's not to say he won't return sixth-round value, but with these guys on the rise, we want to grab one who falls. Same for auction: $23 is too much to pay when at least one of these potential breakouts is going to fall to under $10 once rosters start filling up.

Best Case Scenario: Williams bursts on the scene and becomes a top-15 receiver.

Worst Case Scenario: Williams finishes as a low-end WR2. Not bad, but definitely not worth a 6th round pick or over $20.

Tyrell Williams ADP and AAV

Standard: 52nd among WRs, 146th overall

PPR: 53rd among WRs, 143rd overall

Tyrell Williams Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $2

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	46th	96.8	53rd	6.5
2017	39th	94.8	54th	5.9
2016	13th	147.9	16th	9.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	48th	137.8	60th	9.2
2017	45th	137.8	60th	9.2
2016	28th	216.9	22nd	13.6

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	65	4.1	41	2.6	58.0%
2017	69	4.3	43	2.7	62.3%
2016	119	7.4	69	4.3	63.1%

Overview: A solid WR2 in 2016, Williams slipped into fantasy irrelevance once Mike Williams took the stage. However, a trade to the Raiders means Tyrell is no longer behind Keenan Allen and Williams... he's now behind Antonio Brown.

Strategy: Our Tyrell Williams Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

He has the skill to produce in fantasy, but his ceiling is low due to the Raiders' intent to lean heavily on the run. He will probably be a bye-week fill-in, but you want to get low-ceiling fill-ins off the waiver wire, and save those lottery ticket picks for players with high upside.

Best Case Scenario: Oakland's offense clicks and Williams is a low end WR2.

Worst Case Scenario: Antonio Brown gobbles up any fantasy production and Williams languishes on the waiver wire all 2019.

Robert Woods ADP and AAV

Standard: 18th among WRs, 45th overall

PPR: 17th among WRs, 41st overall.

Robert Woods Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $34

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	179.6	14th	11.2
2017	33rd	107.3	18th	8.9
2016	70th	67.9	81st	5.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	11th	265.6	16th	16.6
2017	32nd	163.3	33rd	13.6
2016	67th	118.9	76th	9.1

FANTASY USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	130	8.1	86	5.4	66.2%
2017	85	5.3	56	4.7	65.9%
2016	76	5.8	51	3.9	67.1%

Overview: In his first 4 years in the league, Woods put up consistently mediocre stats on the consistently less than mediocre Buffalo Bills. Woods joined the Rams in 2017, and I have to say the West Coast has been much kinder to him. 2018 was a breakout year for the 27 year old,

where he recorded career bests in targets, receptions, yards, TDs, and even rushing stats (19 car, 157 yds, 1 TD)! There are two things stopping Robert Woods from being a no brainer WR1: Brandin Cooks and Cooper Kupp. The Rams have so much receiving talent, that it's difficult for one receiver to take a huge step forward.

Strategy: Our Robert Woods Auction Value ($200 Budget): $25

Woods will certainly get his, but he probably won't have much room to improve on his 2018 coming out party. As noted above, playing in the Rams offense is a blessing and a curse. Woods' potential is hindered by the presence of Cooks and Kupp. After all, there's only so many targets to go around.

Best Case Scenario: Woods remains a top 10 WR in 2019, improving his 2018 numbers by squeezing a few more targets out of Jared Goff.

Worst Case Scenario: Jared Goff's right arm falls off mid-season. Undaunted, he learns to throw left handed, but it's just not the same. Woods falls to low end WR #2 territory.

Tight Ends

Trey Burton ADP and AAV

Standard: 13th among TEs, 133rd overall

PPR: 12th among TEs, 129th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $7

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	6th	93.1	12th	5.8
2017	26th	54.8	19th	5.0
2016	39th	38.7	52nd	2.8

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	8th	147.1	13th	9.2
2017	30th	77.8	24th	7.1
2016	34th	75.7	46th	5.4

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	76	4.8	54	3.4	71.1%
2017	31	2.0	23	1.5	74.2%
2016	60	4.0	37	2.5	61.7%

Overview: So if you look at guys like Jared Cook, David Njoku, Evan Engram, and Austin Hooper, you see a bunch of tight ends who finished 2018 at roughly the same position as Trey Burton. They are all mid-range tight ends with arguments for upside. With Trey Burton, you can draft him anywhere from two to six rounds later. Moreover, outside of Hooper, he might be in the best offense of the bunch.

Strategy: Our Trey Burton Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Strategy: At his current ADP, he is seriously undervalued. Burton and Rudolph are two of my favorite late-round tight end flyers this year. They both have higher floors than a lot of guys going before them and are in a position to break out if the offenses they are a part of suddenly take off. I'm all in on Burton at his current ADP.

Best case scenario: He recovers from his injury and hits his ceiling. His ceiling is probably just cracking the top five as a tight end, but quite a few things will have to go right for this to happen.

Worst case scenario: Adam Shaheen will inexplicably be the tight end to own in Chicago, which nobody saw coming. Especially Adam Shaheen.

Jared Cook ADP and AAV

Standard: 8th among TEs, 70th overall

PPR: 8th among TEs, 77th overall

Jared Cook Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $12

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	5th	125.6	6th	7.9
2017	15th	78.7	18th	4.9
2016	36th	41.7	33rd	4.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	5th	193.6	5th	12.1
2017	12th	132.7	15th	8.3
2016	36th	71.7	31st	7.2

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	68	4.3	101	6.3
2017	54	3.4	86	5.3
2016	30	3.0	51	5.1

Overview: Jared Cook had a career-defining season last year. Unfortunately, he's Jared Cook, so that season amounted to 900 yards and 6 touchdowns. This was enough for fifth among tight ends, but not enough to shake the specter of the nine mediocre seasons before 2018. Now he's on New Orleans, which has a lot of fans hyped for his potential.

Strategy: Our Jared Cook Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

Evan Hoovler: Jared Cook seems to be coming up, and New Orleans' offense is way better than his previous team's. This is exciting!

<flashback several years>

Evan Hoovler: Josh Hill seems to have developed a rapport with Drew Brees, and New Orleans' offense is back on top! This is exciting! His long-term prospects are almost as certain as the long-term success of fidget spinners!

<flashback several more years>

Evan Hoovler: Coby Fleener seems to be coming up, and New Orleans's offense is even better than his previous team's! This is almost as exciting as the surefire success of the upcoming film, *Warcraft!*

<flashforward to now>

Yeah, we're not buying it. Hey, it could happen, but it's not worth a reach when there is a huge pack of TE2s. Just wait until a tight end falls 2+ rounds below ADP or goes for just a few bucks at auction. It'll happen.

Best Case Scenario: Cook somehow found skills in his tenth season and ends up an upper-half TE1, rewarding those who waited until later rounds to get him and not rewarding people who spent a 6th or 7th rounder on him

Worst Case Scenario: Brees does what he always does: recognizes inferior TE talent and ignores him. He doesn't even end up a TE1.

Eric Ebron

Standard: 7th among TEs, 65th overall

PPR: 7th among TEs, 74th overall

Average Auction Value ($200 Budget): $7

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	4th	156.2	4th	9.8
2017	13th	79.4	16th	5.0
2016	15th	83.2	16th	6.4

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	4th	222.2	4th	13.9
2017	13th	132.4	16th	8.3
2016	14th	144.2	13th	11.1

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	66	4.1	110	6.9
2017	53	3.3	86	5.4
2016	61	4.7	85	6.5

Overview: Ebron finally had the breakout season the Lions were counting on... the only problem for them was he did it as a Colt. He scored a whopping 14 touchdowns to go with 750 receiving yards. Touchdowns traditionally are an inconsistent area among all positions, and his numbers could certainly regress. However with Andrew Luck throwing him the rock and tight-end focused Frank Reich calling plays, Ebron is definitely in the top-five tight end discussion.

Strategy: Our Auction Value ($200 Budget): $15

The big argument against Ebron is touchdown regression, with Jack Doyle healed, and Parris Cambell joining the team. Of Andrew Luck's 100 red zone passes in 2018, 21 were thrown at Ebron. This was the second-highest total for red zone passes in the league; only Patrick Mahomes had more. Ebron's 21% share was fourth among tight ends, with only Zach Ertz, Travis Kelce, and George Kittle getting a higher share. T.Y. Hilton had the next highest percentage of red zone targets on the Colts with 16%, and Nyheim Hines was third with just under 10%. So, Ebron is a clear favorite of Luck's in the red zone (which we kind of already knew from his huge touchdown totals.) With the offense getting even better, it's likely that they could be in the red zone even more times, and Ebron should benefit. I'm not saying he's going to equal his 2018 totals, but he seems far safer than Evan Engram or O.J. Howard, who both have injury concerns. Ebron hasn't missed a game in the past two seasons. I think he's clearly all by himself in Tier 2 of tight ends and is worth a few extra bucks or a 6th round pick.

Best Case Scenario: Ebron increases his rapport with Luck and starts getting more work between the 20s, causing him to enter the Tier 1 Tight End tier with the big boys.

Worst Case Scenario: Wakes up, looks in the mirror, and remembers that he's Eric Ebron, returns to his perennial disappointment ways.

Evan Engram ADP and AAV

Standard: 5th among TEs, 60th overall

PPR: 5th among TEs, 59th overall

Average Auction Value ($200 Budget): $14

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	13th	81.3	7th	7.4
2017	5th	109.6	4th	7.3
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	13th	126.3	7th	11.5
2017	5th	173.6	4th	11.6
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	45	4.0	64	5.9
2017	64	4.3	115	7.7
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Engram cemented himself as a TE1 after a strong rookie year, and looked on pace to repeat in 2018 until several injuries caused him to miss five total games. Wikipedia tells me he plays for the "New York Giants," but I'm having trouble finding a second source to back this up as no one wants to admit watching that team after their curiously eccentric offseason.

Strategy: Our Auction Value ($200 Budget): $10

The main knock on Engram is a slew of slight injuries. Since entering the league in 2017, he's missed games with two concussions, a rib bruise, a hamstring pull, and a knee sprain. Though these injuries have caused him to miss only 6 total games in his career, it's definitely something to consider if having a guaranteed floor is important to you in a tight end. Of the other 9 top-10 ranked tight ends this year, 7 played in all 16 games in 2018.

The upside is the greatest argument for Engram. He seems to be the team's main target-getter, and the potential substitution of Daniel Jones for Eli Manning would probably work in his favor. For tight end, we're advocating a staunch "if you don't get a top-3 guy (Zach Ertz, Travis Kelce, George Kittle) then just wait for one of the top-12 to fall 2+ rounds or $5 below their expected value.

Best Case Scenario: Engram plays 16 games and enters that elite top tier of TEs.

Worst Case Scenario: Engram's injuries catch up with him and he goes out for the season in the first half of the year.

Zach Ertz ADP and AAV:

Standard: 2nd among TEs, 26th overall

PPR: 2nd among TEs, 22nd overall

Zach Ertz Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $38

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	3rd	164.3	3rd	10.3
2017	3rd	128.4	3rd	9.2
2016	8th	105.6	11th	7.5

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	2nd	280.3	2nd	17.5
2017	3rd	202.4	3rd	14.5
2016	6th	183.6	3rd	13.1

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	116	7.3	156	9.8
2017	74	5.3	110	7.9
2016	78	5.6	106	7.5

Overview: Ertz has been a standard inclusion into the shortlist of top-tier tight ends for years. Last season he set a positional record with an incredible 116 receptions. He's a favorite of Carson Wentz in the red zone, leading to his eight touchdowns in each of the last two seasons.

Strategy: Our Zach Ertz Auction Value ($200 Budget): $35

We love Zach Ertz and definitely rank him top 3 among tight ends, but we need to pump the brakes a little. We can't see him repeating his insane 116 catch season, as he averaged 76 receptions in the two seasons prior to 2018. We aren't the biggest fans of his second-round ADP or his near-$40 AAV. We'll grab him in the beginning of the third or in the mid-$30s, but if another owner wants him more we'll be more than happy to get a WR or RB at the end of second round or the beginning of the third round.

Best Case Scenario: Ertz somehow repeats his record-setting season catch total, a feat, we must emphasize, that only earned him the #2 tight end rank last season.

Worst Case Scenario: Philadelphia leans more on their run game and emerging tight end Dallas Goedert, siphoning usage from Ertz. His owners get a top 5 finish for their troubles, but could have gotten an upstart tight end with about the same stats 5+ rounds later or $30 cheaper.

Noah Fant ADP and AAV

Standard: 20th among TEs, 160th overall

PPR: 17th among TEs, 149th overall

Noah Fant Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $0

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Fant was a first-round pick for the Denver Broncos. He's now on a team looking to promote receiving pieces to make up for the departed Demayrius Thomas and the recovering-from-a-devastating-injury Emmanuel Sanders, so there is ample hype about the Iowa star. With all that, is Noah Fant worth it in your fantasy football drafts?

Strategy: Our Noah Fant Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

If no top-ten tight end falls for an amazing value, we'd rather take a flier on Fant. Here's why: he's the top tight end on an offense that is looking to give some safe throws to Joe Flacco, or rookie Drew Lock, who apparently has not gotten enough XP to evolve into Quarterback yet. Their new offensive coordinator is Rich Scangarello, who spent the last two years working with tight ends on the San Francisco 49ers (anyone heard of George Kittle?) The floor is scary low, which is why we'd never reach for him, but as a last pick or dollar player to round out your team, we'd go for it.

Best Case Scenario: Scangarello works his magic and Fant ends up as a middle TE1.

Worst Case Scenario: Fant needs room to grow and ends up in your league's free agency pool after a month.

Mike Gesicki ADP and AAV:

Standard: 27th among TEs, 160th overall

PPR: 26th among TEs, 227th overall

Mike Gesicki Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $0

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	61st	18.2	82	1.3
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	51st	40.2	67	2.9
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	22	1.4	32	2
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: The Penn State record holder for most receptions by a tight end had a middling rookie year in Miami. Gesicki played in a promising 400 snaps but was often physically dominated. This season he has added almost 15 pounds and looks to work his way into more gameplans.

Strategy: Our Mike Gesicki Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

We don't have a lot of tight ends in player profiles because, frankly, we don't expect much from the tight ends ranked 15+. But we are bullish on Gesicki, and here are the reasons why: Tight End is historically difficult for rookies, it's common for it to take a season to get used to the speed and power of NFL-level play. The Dolphins receiving corps is one of the barest in the league, and quarterback Josh Rosen/Ryan Fitzpatrick will need someone skilled to dump it off to. Gesicki might have had the best combine for a tight end in history. He tied the record for the 40-yard-dash by a TE, posting a faster time than Antonio Brown did in his combine. He did a whopping 22 reps on the bench press (more than Donald Penn), so his being physically dominated is likely to end with just some weight and technique change. Also, he's almost six-and-a-half feet tall. We're not saying reach for Gesicki, most likely you won't have to. Think of him as a high-upside lottery ticket with your final draft pick or auction dollar.

Best Case Scenario: Gesicki discovers how to use his natural skills and emerges as a middle-of-the-pack TE1 with a high floor due to the Dolphins having no other good receiving options.

Worst Case Scenario: He still needs another year and you get to dump a player you spent the barest resources on.

Hunter Henry ADP and AAV:

Standard: 6th among TEs, 62nd overall

PPR: 6th among TEs, 66th overall

Average Auction Value ($200 Budget): $10

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	12th	81.9	14th	6.8
2016	11th	94.2	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	14th	124.4	8th	7.2
2016	18th	130.2	17th	10.0

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	0	0	0	0
2017	45	3.2	62	4.8
2016	36	2.4	53	3.5

Overview: With Antonio Gates out of the picture, Henry was expected to gain more ground into the field of top-12 tight ends for 2018. However, a knee injury in the early preseason forced him out for the year. Now, fully recovered, Henry is poised to be one of Phillip Rivers' favorite options.

Strategy: Our Auction Value ($200 Budget): $5

Henry is definitely fully healed, and he even had limited run in the Chargers' playoff games last January. The Chargers offense is potent, and Henry could be in the upper half of TE1s. However, there are a lot of evenly-forecasted TEs ranked between four and ten, so we're staunchly advocating that you just wait until one of those guys goes two rounds lower than ADP or $5 lower than AAV.

Best Case Scenario: Henry blossoms into a huge weapon and ends the year with top-four tight end stats.

Worst Case Scenario: Barring another injury, his floor is pretty high. It's hard to imagine a scenario where he starts at least a dozen games but isn't a top-ten tight end.

TJ Hockenson ADP and AAV:

Standard: 14th among TEs, 126th overall

PPR: 13th among TEs, 132nd overall

TJ Hockenson Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $0

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Hockenson was one of the most coveted tight ends in the 2019 draft. He landed in weapon-light Detroit, which seems to be one of the best possible landing spots for the Hawkeye. Detroit did struggle to make Eric Ebron relevant, though.

Strategy: Our TJ Hockenson Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

We think he's worth a buck. Not a dollar more, but Evan Engram showed that a tight can emerge as the main weapon for a veteran quarterback who needs a short-range weapon. If the top ten tight ends all get snapped up for more than they're worth, we like rolling the dice on Hock. We wouldn't take him for more than 2+ rounds lower than his ADP, which means one of the last few rounds. There are just too many mediocre tight ends to worry about reaching.

Best Case Scenario: He clicks with Stafford and becomes a middle-range TE1.

Worst Case Scenario: He needs more time to work out his kinks and finishes as the 12th-14th tight end.

Austin Hooper ADP and AAV:

Standard: 11th among TEs, 122nd overall

PPR: 11th among TEs, 108th overall

Austin Hooper Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $3

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	7th	92.0	13th	5.8
2017	18th	70.6	21st	4.4
2016	35th	45.2	36th	3.8

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	6	163.0	5	10.2
2017	17	119.6	21	7.5
2016	38	64.1	51	5.3

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	71	4.4	88	5.5
2017	49	3.1	65	4.0
2016	19	1.4	27	1.9

Overview: Hooper continued with the growth he saw in 2016 and 2017 with a TE7 season for 2018. He is one of the most efficient tight ends, posting an 80% catch rate last year. Atlanta's offense might take a step forward in 2018, and he should be an integral part of this revamped offense.

Strategy: Our Austin Hooper Auction Value ($200 Budget): $2

Hooper's great if you want a cheap piece of an Atlanta offense that some expect to approach their 2016 production. He has a high floor, missing only two games in the past three seasons, and he is a favorite of Matt Ryan due to Hooper's ability to suck a ball in like a lottery number choosing machine. However, his ceiling may border on TE5. As with all tight ends ranked 4+, we advise you wait until one of them goes 2+ rounds after their ADP or goes for a few bucks at auction because all the tight end interested owners have already filled their slots.

Best Case Scenario: Probably TE5, Matt Ryan just doesn't lean on his tight end and there are plenty of mouths to feed in Atlanta.

Worst Case Scenario: Honestly, we'd be surprised if he isn't injured yet finishes outside of the top-eight. There's a narrow range for Hooper, which is why he's a good buy at an AAV of $2.

OJ Howard ADP and AAV

Standard: 4 among TEs, 50 overall

PPR: 4 among TEs, 61 overall

Average Auction Value ($200 Budget): 16

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	86.5	5th	8.7
2017	17th	75.2	11th	5.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	14th	120.5	5th	12.1
2017	21st	101.2	19th	7.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	34	3.4	48	4.8
2017	26	1.3	39	2.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview:

“The mind of the subject will desperately struggle to create [decent tight end prospects] where none exist...”

— R. Lutece, Bioshock Infinite

You know how when you shake a bag of potato chips, the good ones rise to the top? Well, that's like this year's tight end pool, except a car ran over the bag of potato chips so that there are only 3 good ones left. Sure a few others are rising to the top, but they are all noticeably broken. We want there to some decent mid-round tight ends, but there just aren't in a pool where 2-3 of the top 5 TEs end up being late-round fliers. This has inflated OJ Howard's cost on draft boards and auction lists. Yes, he's definitely a solid contender for the top 5 prospects, this year. This inflation ignores the canyon-esque gap between the top 3 TEs (Zach Ertz, Travis Kelce, and George Kittle) and everyone else.

Strategy:

Our Auction Value ($200 Budget): $12

It's just not worth a 4th or 5th round pick to gamble on a guy who has such a small sample size and landed on IR with an ankle injury both seasons in the league. Like all tight ends that aren't the big three, it's best to just wait on a guy to fall 2 rounds below ADP after most other owners reach for a mediocre bet. We'd snap up Howard in the 7th round, but there are great players at all the other positions we'd rather have who are going in round 6

Best Case Scenario: Howard has a top-three upside. When he plays, he's been a top-five guy.

Worst Case Scenario: Howard's compounding leg and ankle injuries keep him either hobbled or land him on the injury list.

Travis Kelce ADP and AAV

Standard: 1st among TEs, 16th overall

PPR: 1st among TEs, 17th overall

Travis Kelce Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $39

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	1st	191.6	1st	12
2017	2nd	150.5	2nd	10.0
2016	1st	138.01	1st	8.6

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	1st	294.6	1st	18.4
2017	1st	233.5	2nd	15.6
2016	1st	223.0	2nd	13.9

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	103	6.4	150	9.3
2017	83	5.5	122	8.1
2016	85	5.3	117	7.3

Overview: For the last three years, Kelce has ended the year as the league's top fantasy football tight end, and his stats in the last two seasons would have made him a WR1. There were questions about Tyreek Hill's unavailability that could have changed his outlook, but it's all systems go for the league's best tight end.

Strategy: Our Auction Value ($200 Budget): $43

The gap between the top-three tight ends and the rest of the pack is black hole sized. Kelce remains the top tier tight with the highest floor in the potent Chiefs offense. He hasn't suffered any major injuries in recent history, and he's established himself as the go-to target for the highest-producing fantasy quarterback. We expect him to creep into the end of the first round ADPs come August, and we'll gladly take him at the start of the second. We'd pay more than Travis Kelce's AAV, as top tight ends are scarce and well-worth the positional advantage they grant.

Best Case Scenario: Travis Kelce and the Chiefs offense picks right up where it left off, leaving a path of devastation in their wake. He re-breaks the tight end yardage record that he held for an hour in the 2018 season.

Worst Case Scenario: Kelce finishes, like, third among tight ends? It's rare that a tight end gets so close to first-round ADP, and this is why.

George Kittle ADP and AAV

Standard: 3rd among TEs, 30th overall

PPR: 3rd among TEs, 27th overall

George Kittle Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $31

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	2nd	170.7	2nd	10.7
2017	21st	63.5	26st	4.2
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	3th	258.7	3th	17.5
2017	19th	106.5	22nd	7.1
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	88	5.5	136	8.5
2017	43	2.9	63	4.2
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Kittle hit the top tight end tier last year with an impressive breakout season. Now in his third year and with QB Jimmy Garropolo returning to the lineup, Kittle looks to expand on a 2018 season that saw him garner an insane 857 yards after the catch on the season.

Strategy: Our George Kittle Auction Value ($200 Budget): $37

One of the tools of a winning fantasy football team is to catch a rising player for a value that reflects last season, but not the next. In terms of George Kittle's current ADP and AAV, he is that player. While Kittle probably won't equal his insane 1,300+ receiving yards from 2018, it's important to note that he had this monster season with garbage at quarterback. Now that Jimmy Garropolo is back under center, we could see Kittle racing past Travis Kelce to become the top fantasy football tight end. We'll gladly take him in the third round or the mid $30s.

Best Case Scenario: Kittle becomes the top tight end and once again sets records.

Worst Case Scenario: Somehow, Jimmy G hates awesome tight ends and Kittle ends up around TE6.

Vance McDonald ADP and AAV

Standard: 9th among TEs, 87th overall

PPR: 10th among TEs, 93rd overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $8

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	12th	83.0	15th	5.5
2017	51st	24.8	42nd	2.5
2016	31st	50.6	31st	3.6

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	10th	133.0	17th	8.9
2017	52nd	38.8	44th	3.9
2016	30th	80.6	32nd	5.8

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	72	4.8	50	3.3	69.4%
2017	24	2.4	14	1.4	58.3%
2016	45	4.1	24	2.2	53.3%

Overview: Vance McDonald had the best season of his career last year and now the fantasy community has lost its mind. Players entering their 7th season rarely make significant strides, yet that is exactly what his ADP expects him to do. By ADP, he is the 9th ranked tight end in standard and the 10th ranked tight end in PPR leagues, which is crazy because he only finished 12th and 10th respectively in those types of leagues last season. And that completely ignores that on a per-game basis, those numbers dip hard.

Why doesn't anyone look at 2017 Vance McDonald on the Steelers when evaluating him, in a season when he finished behind the likes of fantasy behemoths like Luke Wilson and AJ Derby. Greg Olsen only played in seven games in 2017 and still finished with more points than Vance McDonald. I don't think I could put it any better than Football Absurdity's own Jeff Krisko when I say YOUR SLEEPER SUCKS!

Strategy: Our Vance McDonald Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Strategy: At his current ADP, Vance McDonald is being drafted in the same rounds as Dante Pettis, Christian Kirk, and Latavius Murray. If you take Vance McDonald before any of those players, I want you to know that I hate you.

Best case scenario: His best-case scenario is that all the best tight ends die before the season starts. Even then, he probably only finishes as the TE15.

Worst case scenario: WVance McDonald will go back to being Vance Mcdonald... A.K.A. having no fantasy football relevance. And we never shut up about it.

David Njoku ADP and AAV:

Standard: 10th among TEs, 82nd overall

PPR: 9th among TEs, 84th overall

Average Auction Value ($200 Budget): $5

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	8th	87.9	11th	5.9
2017	22nd	62.7	32nd	3.9
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	9th	143.9	12th	9.6
2017	24th	94.7	31st	5.9
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	56	3.5	88	5.5
2017	32	2	60	3.8
2016	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Overview: Njoku had a top-ten finish in 2018 and looks healthy to build even more rapport with his second-year QB

Strategy: Our Auction Value ($200 Budget): $3

The argument for Njoku is lengthy. He's never missed a game in two seasons, he's on a potent and growing offense, and he is physically gifted. The argument against him is that Odell Beckham is now on the team and needs to carve out a chunk of targets from somewhere. So, this is yet another reason why we advocate you wait on a tight end until one falls 2 rounds below ADP or about 40% below AAV.

Best Case Scenario: Njoku grows with the offense and finishes as a top-five tight end

Worst Case Scenario: Mayfield becomes obsessed with his new Beckham toy and Njoku finishes in the back half of TE1s

Greg Olsen ADP and AAV:

Standard: 16th among TEs, 150th overall

PPR: 16th among TEs, 150th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	23rd	53.1	11th	5.9
2017	51st	25.1	34th	3.6
2016	4th	125.3	8th	7.8

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	25th	80.1	17th	8.9
2017	50th	42.1	30th	6.0
2016	3rd	205.3	5th	12.8

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	38	4.2	27	3.0	71.1%
2017	38	5.4	17	2.4	44.7%
2016	129	8.1	80	5	62.0%

Overview: All you really need to know about Greg Olsen is that in the last two seasons, he has started one season's worth of games. And if you combined those two seasons into a single season, he'd still be wildly mediocre, failing to be a startable fantasy football tight end. It's sad to say because he was always one of my favorite players, but Greg Olsen's best years are behind him.

Strategy: Our Greg Olsen Auction Value ($200 Budget): $0

Strategy: At his current ADP, he is a mirage of foregone years. He has name recognition, but once the onset CTE kicks in, he might not even have that. Do not draft this broken shell of a man.

Best case scenario: He plays all 16 games, but still isn't fantasy relevant.

Worst case scenario: He misses a bunch of games, but still isn't fantasy relevant.

Jordan Reed ADP and AAV

Standard: 19th among TEs, 162nd overall

PPR: 20th among TEs, 163rd overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $1

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	17th	65.8	19th	5.1
2017	43rd	33.1	12th	5.5
2016	9th	104.6	2nd	8.7

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	15th	119.8	13th	9.2
2017	36th	60.1	9th	10.0
2016	9th	170.6	1st	14.2

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	84	6.5	54	4.2	64.3%
2017	35	5.8	27	4.5	77.1%
2016	89	7.4	66	5.5	74.2%

Overview: People have a hard time letting go, and there is no better example of this than Jordan Reed. For some reason, he is still appearing on tight end fantasy boards, despite having missed 17 games in the past three years. Not only does he hardly play, but in the past two seasons, he is only producing 60% of the points per game that he used to. It's time to face facts – Jordan Reed is not the player you once knew.

Strategy: Our Jordan Reed Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Strategy: At his current ADP, I'd rather just skip the draft pick. I expect equal production from an empty roster spot and Jordan Reed.

Best case scenario: He performs as a TE1 for the six games that he is healthy.

Worst case scenario: He gets hurt walking onto the field before game one of the preseason and doesn't play a down in 2019.

Kyle Rudolph ADP and AAV

Standard: 14th among TEs, 143rd overall

PPR: 14th among RBs, 138th overall

Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $5

FANTASY SCORING -- STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	9th	87.4	15th	5.5
2017	7th	101.2	8th	6.3
2016	3rd	126.0	7th	7.9

FANTASY SCORING -- PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	7th	151.4	12th	9.5
2017	8th	158.2	10th	9.9
2016	2nd	209.0	3rd	13.1

PLAYER USAGE

	Targets	Targets Per Game	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Catch Rate
2018	82	5.1	64	4.0	78.0%
2017	81	5.1	57	3.5	70.4%
2016	132	8.3	83	5.2	62.9%

Overview: I assumed that Kyle Rudolph was pretty mediocre in fantasy last year, but he finished as a TE1 in both standard and PPR. Turns out being the TE9 in standard, the TE7 in PPR and mediocre are eerily similar. Kyle Rudolph wasn't the only part of Minnesota that was inconsistent, as their offense overall struggled. If you believe the Vikings offense is poised to bounce back, Kyle Rudolph has some very sneaky value.

Strategy: Our Kyle Rudolph Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

Strategy: At his current ADP, he is seriously undervalued. He is the 14th TE overall, but if the last three seasons are any indicator, he will outperform that value. If Kirk Cousins has a bounce back year, Rudolph is poised to seriously outperform his ADP. If he is available late, he is someone I would take a flyer on.

Best case scenario: If the Vikings improve in their second year with Kirk Cousins, Kyle Rudolph can easily finish the year as a top-five tight end

Worst case scenario: What will actually happen is that the Vikings will continue to collapse with Kirk Cousins at the helm and Rudolph the Red Zone Reindeer will never see the end zone, despite his red no

Delanie Walker ADP and AAV

Standard: 12th among TEs, 122nd overall

PPR: 12th among TEs, 124th overall

Delanie Walker Average Auction Value (AAV) $200 Budget: $3

FANTASY SCORING — STANDARD

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	7th	100.5	7th	6.3
2016	5th	123.1	5th	8.2

FANTASY SCORING — PPR

	Rank	Total Points	PPG Rank	PPG
2018	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2017	4th	174.5	6th	10.9
2016	5th	188.1	6th	12.5

PLAYER USAGE

	Receptions	Receptions Per Game	Targets	Targets Per Game
2018	4	4.0	7	7.0
2017	74	4.6	111	7.4
2016	65	4.3	102	6.8

Overview: Walker followed up four straight 100+ target seasons by going one-and-done for games in the 2018 due to a fractured and dislocated ankle. Owners will have to weigh his consistent production against his age and injury.

Strategy: Delanie Walker Auction Value ($200 Budget): $1

If we can't nab a mid-top-ten tight end for a few bucks or a seventh-round pick, we're happy to just wait and take a late-round pick or a $1 flier on Walker. Sure he shattered his ankle, but before then he was the pinnacle of consistency for four years in Tennessee. Worth a gamble rather than reaching for a higher-end tight end with the same fantasy football prospects, but with more glitz.

Best Case Scenario: He gives you a middling TE1 value for practically zero investment.

Worst Case Scenario: He's done and you're out a 14th round pick or an auction buck.

Rookie Roundups

Arizona Cardinals Rookie Roundups

We start off, as always, with the NFC West, and as always, with the first team, alphabetically. This year, coincidentally, the Arizona Cardinals also had the first pick in the draft and took Kyler Murray, QB, out of Oklahoma. They chipped in three wide receivers and a tight end, for a league-leading five fantasy football eligible prospects for 2019.

Round 1, Pick 1 – Kyler Murray, Quarterback, Oklahoma

There wasn't a more polarizing quarterback going into the 2019 NFL Draft than Kyler Murray. Murray, who scouts pegged as a "second- or third-round talent" ended up going first overall to his long-time suitor, Kliff Kingsbury. Whatever you think of the rookie quarterback, you have to admit that his fantasy football prospects are promising for 2019, for two reasons. First, he is a running QB. He turned in a quality running back fantasy season last year as he rushed for 1,000 yards and 12 touchdowns *as a quarterback*. Two rushing touchdowns are worth as many fantasy points as three passing TDs, and 50 yards passing is the same as 20 yards rushing. That puts into perspective the bonus points gained by leaning into a running QB's skills.

Second, the overhaul of the Cardinals offense that was among the most anemic in the league last year. Kliff Kingsbury is an offense-first coach, and the Cardinals added Andy Isabella and Hakeem Butler, two upper-tier rookie WR talents, to a corps that already included Larry Fitzgerald, Christian Kirk, and most importantly, David Johnson. Even Murray's inconsistent ball placement won't be an issue with weapons like that.

The offensive line still sucks, and there's no getting around that. However, time and again we've seen dual-threat QBs get around a deficient line by keeping teams honest with his legs. Kliff Kingsbury knows best how to deploy Kyler Murray, and maximize his fantasy football potential. He's been trying to get Murray onto his team since Kyler was a zygote, so I think he might have a gameplan for him. You can draft-and-stash Murray, or you can trawl the waiver wire waiting to pounce, but I doubt Murray opens up on fire. For 2019, I don't expect Murray to be a quality QB right away, but he could pull in some huge games in the second half, like former dual-threat rookie QBs Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen.

Oh wait he played baseball, uh, I need a baseball reference here... he could be a real home run!

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Round 2, Pick 62 overall – Andy Isabella, Wide Receiver, UMass

Isabella is a real gym rat. He's sneaky athletic. A real lunch pail mentality; first one in, last one out. Is that all of the clichés we slap on small, white slot receivers?

There are a lot of fantasy football prognosticators who see Andy Isabella becoming a thing in the NFL. Some even see it happening as early as 2019. Personally, I don't see that happening in 2019. He's a small dude, but we've seen small dudes work before. The problem is that he is a slot receiver, and Christian Kirk & Larry Fitzgerald played 85.8% of the team's offensive snaps in the slot last year.

Granted, Larry Fitz spent most of his time outside prior to Bruce Arians, but his late-career resurgence is partly owed to his time in the slot. Kirk can also kick outside but is also, ideally, a slot receiver. It doesn't make a whole lot of sense for Isabella to be A Thing in fantasy football his rookie year due to roster construction. Isabella is the fourth receiving option at best this year and isn't even the best WR the Cardinals drafted in Nashville. He runs a 4.31 40-yard dash, and has great body control to go back to poorly-thrown balls (see above).

For 2019? I don't see this unit turning into one that can support Andy Isabella. He's small and fast but has all the downsides of being small and fast (weak and pushed off his spot a lot). He could develop into a nü-slot type like a Wes Welker, but he will need a lot more after the catch to make that true. I don't see that happening in 2019, especially not with this cast of characters around him.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Round 4, Pick 103 overall – Hakeem Butler, Wide Receiver, Iowa State

If the Arizona Cardinals had just swapped the Andy Isabella and Hakeem Butler pick, their 2019 NFL Draft would have looked a lot better than it did. It's wild how our brains work, but I'm not a psychologist. Butler is by far the better player than Andy Isabella and works a lot better with Kyler Murray than Isabella. The biggest bugaboo I found with Kyler Murray in the NFL is not

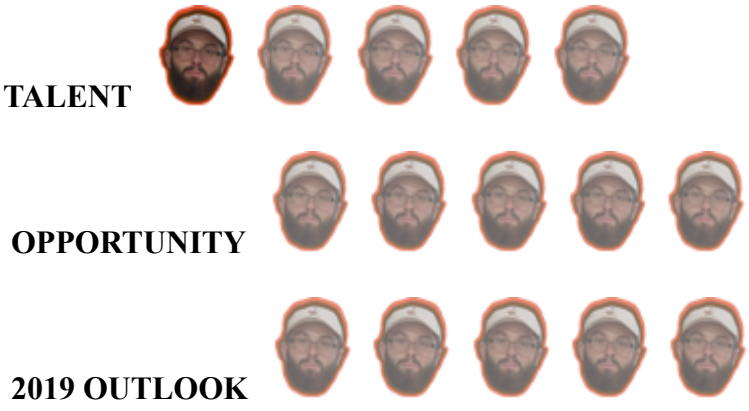
his height, but his extremely iffy ball placement. Isabella does a good job of adjusting to the ball, but Butler is the *master* of the impossible catch.

At 6'5", 227 pounds, Butler is a bully at every part of the route, routinely getting separation the same way someone running away from a charging bull gives the bull separation. While Butler is somewhat temporally advanced for his rookie campaign (that's code for "old"), he's ready to contribute right away for the Cardinals. The only problem is that he falls far down the pecking order, behind Larry Fitzgerald, Christian Kirk, and David Johnson. That having been said, he provides an intriguing option in TD-only leagues or for DFS as he is the biggest guy the Cardinals have ("actually capable of catching passes"-division). There's definitely a scenario where he emerges as the de facto #1 target for Kyler and helps you win your fantasy league, but it's not the most likely outcome.



Round 6, Pick 174 overall – KeeSean Johnson, Wide Receiver, Fresno State

How does the old saying go? Three's a crowd? Well, this is a crowd of rookie wide receivers with one clear outcast. KeeSean Johnson doesn't pop on film, isn't overwhelmingly athletic, has a ton of focus drops, has bad adjustments to balls, isn't overwhelmingly strong, big, or fast, and has bad separation. Other than that though, he's great.



Round 7, Pick 254 overall – Caleb Wilson, TE, UCLA

When you watch Usain Bolt get out of the starting block at the Olympics, you get a great idea of what an otherworldly athlete he is. His burst, his get off, the rapid pace at which he gets up to speed. Caleb Wilson invokes the exact opposite of that feeling when you watch him lumber out of his three-point stance. A decent-enough pass catcher and weapon, 2019's Mr. Irrelevant is aptly named for your 2019 fantasy football drafts. He runs good enough routes, and he has arms that would make Mr. Fantastic jealous, but he will serve more to help Kyler Murray out than your fantasy football squads… if he makes the team.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Atlanta Falcons Rookie Roundup

The Atlanta Falcons boast one of the most prolific offenses in the NFL, and as such, they offer top-flight fantasy football options. Atlanta lost Tevin Coleman and replaced him through the draft. They also bolstered their already-deep wide receiver corps the same way, but what does this mean for your 2019 fantasy football redraft squads?

Round 5, Pick 152 Overall – Qadree Ollison, Running Back, Pitt

Qadree Ollison offers a very specific profile: he's a beefy, fast enough back, who does very little in the passing game. He's almost a throwback to running backs of old, at a monstrous 6'2", 230 pounds. His combine results were not great, and his 4.58 40-yard dash shows that he can get up and go, but he isn't blasting past anyone. However, Ollison sheds tacklers with ease and has great contact balance. He has a second gear you wouldn't expect for someone his size, just don't ask him to try to cut back or change directions. However, he simply does not catch passes, which limits his fantasy football upside in 2019.

Ollison provides an intriguing fantasy football outlook for 2019, should Ito Smith show that he doesn't have it in him to be a change-of-pace back for Devonta Freeman. The Falcons have used their running backs as extensions of the passing game, with 17% of their targets going to the position over the last three years. Should Ollison take over for Ito, he can't contribute in that respect. He's becoming a trendy sleeper candidate among fantasy football circles, but unless Freeman gets hurt, there's limited upside on the platoon's short end. However, if Freeman gets hurt, he could provide a suitable replacement for the bruising part of Freeman's game, just without the vision, shiftiness, or hands.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 203 Overall – Marcus Green, Wide Receiver, Louisiana-Monroe

This is my second year doing this rookie roundup, and there are certain mile markers along the way that tell me if a player is probably not going to be worth my time. One such marker is a lack of breakdowns on YouTube. I was able to watch one (1) of Marcus Green's games on YouTube, versus Louisiana. Here's what I found: he adjusts to passes well, and is extremely fast. However, he gets tackled extraordinarily easy, and he had multiple hits I would describe as "getting destroyed."

There are also mile markers in how teams talk about the player. The news surrounding Marcus Green calls him a return man. He'll likely be a great return man. However, great return men do not make for great fantasy football production. Even if he was a diamond in the rough, he's buried behind Julio Jones, Calvin Ridley, and Mo Sanu on the depth chart. He'll likely pop up here and there as a field stretcher, but don't expect consistent production out of him in 2019.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Baltimore Ravens Rookie Roundup

The Baltimore Ravens took a long, hard look in the mirror and decided they needed a lot more offensive weaponry for 2019. They went out and snagged Mark Ingram in free agency before spending four picks on new toys for Lamar Jackson and the Ravens offense, including two in the first three rounds. Are any of these guys worth it for your fantasy football drafts?

Round 1, Pick 25 overall – Marquise Brown, Wide Receiver, Oklahoma

The Ravens took Hollywood Brown near the end of the first round of the NFL Draft. I know two things for certain about Brown: (1) he immediately becomes the best wide receiver on the roster, and (2) he probably won't do much of value for fantasy football in 2019, and it may be considered a lost year. It's not hard for the first point to be true, as the Ravens receiving room before Brown was one of the worst in the NFL (led by Willie Snead).

As for #2… it's hard to know where to start. First, Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore offense. They're run-first, through and through. Jackson proved that last season when the game plan was to hand the ball off with one second on the clock as many times as possible. If you want to doubt this, let me tell you the tale of John Brown. Before Lamar Jackson took over, John Brown, the 2018 Baltimore Ravens speedster, was on pace for a 56 catch, 998-yard (let's call it 1,000 yards) season, with six scores. After Jackson took over, he failed to top 27 yards once and ate three games with single-digit yard games. That's much worse than before if you are keeping track at home, and not something you want for fantasy football.

Second, the Lisfranc injury is extraordinarily concerning for his rookie campaign, and it is *absolutely insane* that the ESPN broadcast acted like it was a question of him "being ready for training camp." Lisfranc injuries are notoriously awful injuries, especially in the season following the injury. I won't bore you with the details of the research, but "[a]lthough professional NFL athletes return to play at a high rate (83%) following Lisfranc injury, their league participation and performance is significantly decreased on return." Nope. I don't like that.

Third, he is a little guy. At 5'9", 166 pounds, the Ravens could have gotten the next DeSean Jackson, or they could have snagged the next Tavon Austin. He doesn't have the greatest hands and was frequently blown up by *college* safeties. Thank God for Brown's sake that new Ravens safety Earl Thomas won't be able to tee off on him. However, he has great moves and can take a crosser to the house with his next-level speed and jukes.

The Ravens hope Marquise Brown becomes Lamar Jackson's preferred deep threat target for years to come. However, as of publishing, they *hope* he will be ready for pre-season camp. That does not bode well for him starting the season as a quality fantasy football asset, though he may develop into one as the season progresses and he gets his rapport with Jackson. Or it could be a lost season. Ignore him in redraft, but if you're in a bind late in a best ball league, you could do worse.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY (if uninjured)



OPPORTUNITY (due to injury)



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 3, Pick 93 overall – Miles Boykin, Wide Receiver, Notre Dame

I'm a big fan of what I saw of Miles Boykin on tape when he was given the opportunity to actually catch the dang football. Too much of his film is marred by various Notre Dame quarterbacks laying him out to dry or giving him impossible sideline balls to catch. However, he definitely popped on tape, and given that he gave a historic combine performance at 6'4" and 220 pounds, he is a name you should definitely learn going into the 2019 season, especially considering he's already garnered praise-laden comparisons to Detroit's Kenny Golladay.

While Hollywood Brown has the higher ceiling, he also has the lower floor. It would not be at all shocking to me if come 2020, Boykin, and not Brown, is the wide receiver to own in Baltimore. He's a massive, athletic guy, with great hands (though focus is an issue) who can take the punishment not just along the route, but at the catch point. I love what I saw from Boykin on tape, and he has the size to match.

What should we do with Boykin for 2019 fantasy football drafts? I would say he is an afterthought at this point, but someone who should be on your short list in case he pops. With Brown potentially on the shelf until October, the WR1 could be Boykin's to start the season. If that happens, snag him with a late pick in your fantasy football drafts. If it doesn't, wait and see. He's a big bodied receiver with a my ball mentality, and he is already *Miles* ahead of the rest of the receiving room not named Marquise Brown.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY ***(pending Marquise Brown's foot injury)***



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 4, Pick 133 overall – Justice Hill, Running Back, Oklahoma State

Justice Hill is a lot of fun to watch on tape. He plays like his hair is on fire, always bouncing off of guys and hitting massive home runs. He's just a smidge undersized at 5'10" and 198 pounds, but he has a lot of giddy up in his game. Haters might say that he runs with a too frenetic pace that doesn't allow for things to open up ahead of him, and that his feet are faster than his head. They'll also say that he has no second gear, and that he has trouble changing direction.

However, Hill can take a sliver of space and crack that hole wide open, and his propensity for hitting home runs will do great for Lamar Jackson and the Ravens to take a little dumpoff 50 or 60 yards to the house. The only question is if his home run hitting prediliction will translate into the NFL, or if he will get smacked down trying to run for 50 yards every play instead of 5. He's a talented back, but he's also behind two other talented backs in Mark Ingram and Gus Edwards. Edwards doesn't particularly concern me, especially considering Hill's ideal role is as a change of pace, pass catching player.

Justice Hill is going to be extremely frustrating to own in 2019 fantasy football leagues, so let someone else play that lottery ticket. Trying to slot him into your lineup will be like trying to play a game of Battleship, but with your annoying little brother who keeps moving the ships around when you aren't looking. It'll be insanely difficult for you to hit on him, and you're likely to eat a bunch of zeroes until he hits, given that he will likely not surpass five touches in a game without some sort of injuries ahead of him. However, much like Hollywood Brown, he offers some intriguing value as a late pick in a best ball league.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 197 overall – Trace McSorley, Quarterback, Penn State

The first thing I do when I'm checking out these rookies for the roundup is go to Rotoworld to make sure I don't get a big ol' head of steam about someone who tore their ACL in training camp. I went to Trace McSorley's Rotoworld page and learned that he is 23, 6'0", a converted safety, and the Ravens are trying him out on punt returns. There's not a chance in the world I am going to waste my time learning about this Taysom Hill knockoff for fantasy football.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Buffalo Bills Rookie Roundup

The Buffalo Bills, in theory, should produce a ton of fantasy football points this season. They have Josh Allen running and gunning from behind center, and a massive stable of running backs to spread touches through. Unfortunately, it's a big question mark if any of the players on the Buffalo Bills are actually good, and if they will produce big in fantasy football this season. Josh Allen should, but who does he throw it to, and who gets the lion's share of the touches this season? Who knows! Here are the three fantasy football eligible rookies that they drafted in the 2019 NFL Draft. You can stop reading after one... maybe two.

Round 3, Pick 74 overall – Devin Singletary, Running Back, Florida Atlantic

Devin Singletary landed in the most hilarious possible location, given some of the preseason comparisons of him. Some people said baby LeSean McCoy, and others said a shiftier young Frank Gore (in his ability to disappear into a pile and come flying out of it at 500 miles per hour). In a twist of ironic fate, it appears as though he will have his rookie season fantasy football potential stymied by splitting reps with both of those guys.

That having been said, I am a fan of Devin Singletary's potential once he sheds the dead weight of two guys whose ages combine to qualify for 15% off at Carrabba's, and also T.J. Yeldon. He bounces off of everyone and is nearly impossible to bring down (second-most missed tackles per attempt among the rookie class last year). He's a little guy—5'8" and 203 pounds—but he runs much bigger than that. He has a great stiff arm, and good vision and contact balance. He's a home run hitter who runs smart. He's always looking to get extra yards and can turn something dead into 25 yards. He did not test well at the combine, but his situation is one where the game tape and the combine numbers don't flesh. I'm going with the game tape on this one.

For fantasy football, you could do a lot worse than grabbing Devin Singletary with a double-digit round pick to see what happens. Don't forget a running back who was behind two more established veterans was a league winner two seasons ago. I'm not saying that Singletary is Alvin Kamara, (not even close) but I am saying that the guys ahead of him have almost no tread left on their tires, and it would be him and Yeldon to pick up the pieces. You might just need to be patient with him.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 3, Pick 96 overall – Dawson Knox, Tight End, Ole Miss

Dawson Knox had some of the most boring tape to watch while trying to suss out any sort of fantasy football value for the young man. He blocked on nearly every single play, but there were some intriguing things to see on tape. Ole Miss lined Knox up nearly everywhere to block, which shows he has that swiss army knife skillset, something that a lot of TEs entering the NFL lack. That'll help him stay on the field, which means more targets for him.

Unfortunately, that target ceiling might be a bit capped with Cole Beasley clogging up the middle for the Bills, and their preferred method of matriculating the ball is 40 yards at a time, to a streaking Robert Foster. There's nothing that pops off the tape about Knox, and most of his fantasy football potential appeal comes in a dump off role in PPR leagues, should Cole Beasley cease to exist on the roster for whatever reason (alien abduction, becoming an Iron Chef, etc). For now, leave him on the waiver wire in your redraft fantasy football leagues.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 7, Pick 234 overall – Tommy Sweeney, Tight End, Boston College

He's a seventh-round blocking tight end, and not even the best blocking tight end the Bills drafted this year. I told you to not even bother reading this one.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Carolina Panthers Rookie Roundup

The Carolina Panthers spent 2018 turning the page on their disastrous formula of throwing the ball up to big, beefy boys and diverted those passes to slippery speedsters. D.J. Moore, Christian McCaffrey, and Curtis Samuel all broke out last year, with only Cam Newton's ailing shoulder to slow their fantasy football production. The Panthers took three fantasy football eligible guys in the 2019 NFL Draft, but none are top-flight fantasy football options for 2019, or even beyond. They shored up their depth, but depth comes for us all, and so we must be prepared for it. No, wait. That's death.

Round 3, Pick 100 Overall – Will Grier, Quarterback, West Virginia

Will Grier looks a lot like the best quarterback in junior high or freshman football. He's tall and skinny. While that's useful in the eighth grade, it's not what you're looking for in a fantasy football quarterback. Other than the size (and the throwing motion, but we'll get to that), Grier looks a lot like an NFL QB. He has good progressions through reads and a good pocket presence. Grier plays smart and is accurate with a good deep ball.

The problem? Grier has such a loopy throwing motion that it looks like he is doing rhythmic gymnastics, and it has some truly awful consequences for his game. His passes take forever and frequently find his receivers waiting for the ball to arrive, even on short passes. On deep passes? Forget it. The ball appears to hang in the air as if time itself stopped to allow us all to admire how high the ball went. He's like button-fly jeans on his passes: no zip.

There's a non-zero chance that the Panthers end up starting Will Grier at some point this season, given Cam's innate ability to miss games each season. He won't be a great fantasy football option for you, so don't rush out and get him in one QB leagues if Cam goes down, but the good news is that he won't crush your fantasy football prospects for other Panthers.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



(God willing)

2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 5, Pick 154 – Jordan Scarlett, Running Back, Florida

In preparation for this article, I watched Jordan Scarlett play against LSU and I wondered what kind of diamond in the rough the Panthers found in the fifth round. He was an amazing bowling ball, who took multiple hits to go down while weaving through defenders. He followed his blockers well and even turned a zero-yard run into a ten-yard run all on his own. Why, then, did he slip so far? Wait, this is from 2016. The only other video was from 2018. What happened?

He missed all of 2017 because of massive credit card fraud. ***Oh. That'll do it***. Incredible knuckleheadery/massive criminal actions aside, he also fell off the face of the earth, tape-wise, in 2018. That's not surprising, given that he literally did not play for a whole year. His 2018 tape showed some of his worst traits: his patience tips into indecision, and his ability to get YAC turned into someone turning upfield before he had the ball in his hands, muffing the catch. In short: he was R U S T Y in 2018.

If Scarlett can keep his head on straight, and return to 2016 form, then the Panthers have a fully capable backup if Christian McCaffrey goes down. If that happens, Scarlett is a 25% of your fantasy football FAAB sort of guy: he'll be good, and contribute, but keep something in your back pocket, just in case.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 7, Pick 237 – Terry Godwin, Wide Receiver, Georgia

Godwin is the type of player that the new-look Carolina Panthers are looking for: fast, skinny, and shifty. He also has some good hands and shows great deep ball tracking. This was all on display when he was the 2018 Shrine Game Offensive MVP. When you watch him, he looks like an NFL player. Godwin is precisely the guy you take a flier on in the seventh round. While he couldn't get enough separation to dominate targets in college, he could learn technique and develop into a guy with a good, long NFL career. Unfortunately for his 2019 fantasy football prospects, "could be a good NFL player with some work" doesn't bode well for those hoping to use him in redraft leagues.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Chicago Bears Rookie Roundup

Let's make like Jon Snow and turn our attention to The North. The NFC North, that is, and the Chicago Bears. The Chicago Bears had some great fantasy football production last season, with Jordan Howard and Tarik Cohen as top-twenty backs, Trey Burton as a top-twelve tight end, and Mitchell Trubisky turning in the highest three-week fantasy football scoring stretch of 2018. They jettisoned Jordan Howard, replaced him through the draft, and shored up the receiving corps as well. The Chicago Bears took three fantasy football position players in the 2019 NFL Draft, but what can you expect from them in the 2019 fantasy football season?

Round 3, Pick 73 Overall – David Montgomery, Running Back, Iowa State

There isn't a fantasy football rookie getting more buzz in the community than David Montgomery in... *checks notes* ...shorts and helmets season. Anyway, not a whole lot of this has to do with David Montgomery. It has everything to do with the, "well someone is going to do it!" theory of fantasy football analysis. Jordan Howard vacated a ton of touches and someone has to fill that hole in the Bears offense. And it's not going to be Mike Davis.

This is the same theory that got us Torrey Smith as a fantasy football sleeper with Chip Kelly, and Paul "Smash Jackson" Perkins in 2017. That situation was so egregiously terrible that the Giants spent a top-five pick on Saquon Barkley to make us all forget. We thought that position was going to be a fantasy football goldmine because... hey, someone has to do it, right? That's kind of where we stand with David Montgomery as a sleeper in 2019.

That having been said, worse players could end up in this position. Montgomery's college tape shows a player who isn't the most elegant of players, but he is a dude who loves bashing through contact. Montgomery makes something out of nothing a lot, and a lot of it has to do with being good in space with a violent running style. Watching him reminded me of a poor man's Marshawn Lynch or an *extremely rich* man's Chris Carson. Good speed, without a lot of burst. I saw Saquon comparisons about his style, but I'm not quite there yet.

The short: he's good, and the narrative surrounding him has lured us into much worse players for much stupider reasons in the past. And his only competition for Jordan Howard's evacuated touches is *Mike Freaking Davis.*

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 4, Pick 126 Overall – Riley Ridley, Wide Receiver, Georgia

Ridley is the brother of Falcons sophomore wide receiver, Calvin Ridley. Because of this, and because we are dumb creatures who like to find patterns where there are none, some people like to put Calvin's skillset onto Riley. That's not exactly the smartest thing to do here. Riley Ridley fits better not as a deep threat, but as a technician working underneath.

If you love watching great route runners, then you should draw the curtains, get a drink, turn on some Marvin Gaye and watch some Riley Ridley tape. He is a monster, regularly leaving players in the dust. He also, curiously, spends plays running straight at the CB for a reason I can't quite figure out.

He's not the fastest guy out there, as his combine scores can indicate (4.58 40-yard dash), but his amazing route running and his good ability to get something after the catch would indicate that he should have a good career ahead of him with the Bears.

Ahead of him is the key phrase there. Like, at some point. Somewhere in the future. Unfortunately for 2019, there are just too many mouths to feed in Chicago to expect anything in fantasy football out of someone who isn't a dynamic athlete. He could have some value as a chain mover in Chicago if a couple of the big names go down, but he's buried behind Allen Robinson, Anthony Miller, and Taylor Gabriel.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 7, Pick 222 – Kerrith Whyte Jr., Running Back, Florida Atlantic

Kerrith Whyte is good at one thing that could be fantasy football relevant, and that's bouncing the ball outside and zooming for a touchdown. Luckily for the Bears, he's really good at that one thing. He doesn't have the best vision, or hands. He loves hitting walls at the line of scrimmage before trying to bounce it outside.

The Bears will likely use him like one would a Percy Harvin or Cordarelle Patterson-type player. Which is odd, since the Bears literally have Cordarelle Patterson. He'll have some fun highlights, but I'm not counting on him in 2019. He is someone you can safely ignore in 2019 in redraft unless something drastic happenings. However, his home run hitting ability gives him some intriguing upside as a last-round pick in a best ball league, since he could take one carry for 60 yards and a score in any given week.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Cincinnati Bengals Rookie Roundup

The Cincinnati Bengals have a new head coach for the first time since before the United States invaded Iraq (the second time). The long-time fecklessness of Marvin Lewis is gone, and the renewed optimism of snagging a coach off the young-but-hopefully-fruitful Sean McVay coaching tree with Zac Taylor. The Bengals offense has some limitations: namely, their offensive line, and their quarterback. They added four guys to their offensive weaponry, but what role will they play in your 2019 fantasy football leagues?

Round 2, Pick 52 overall – Drew Sample, Tight End, Washington

After spending a first round pick on a (now injured) left tackle, the Bengals spent their second pick on a blocking-first tight end. He ran extremely few routes in college and had just 25 catchable targets last season. It's noteworthy that he caught them all, but he came off as a rather lumbering brute when running with the football. He tested well at the combine, but he's set up to be Tyler Eifert's backup going into the season. Eifert's backup is an extraordinarily lucrative fantasy football position to mine, however. The Bengals have traditionally used the tight end as a primary end zone weapon, and we've seen Eifert, Tyler Kroft and C.J. Uzomah have fantasy appeal without being exceptional talents.

However, this is a new offense, so luckily we can see how they will use Eifert for two or three games before he goes out for the season and they switch to Sample. If the Bengals use tight ends as they have in the past, and not as Sean McVay does (read: not at all), then Sample has some traits that show that he could be worthy of consideration if/when (let's be clear... when) Eifert goes down as a TD-dependent desperation play. Don't count on him being any sort of league winner, as he is reliant on carving a chunk out of a limited upside offense with two ball-dominant players (A.J. Green and Joe Mixon).

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 4, Pick 104 overall – Ryan Finley, Quarterback, N.C. State

Ryan Finley has decent touch and accuracy when the pocket is clean, and he doesn't have to worry about free rushers. The moment that changes, everything goes to pot. He has a solid, but unspectacular arm that provides decent zip on short passes but loses everything when he uncorks a deep one. However, he makes some truly boneheaded decisions with the football. Should he clean those up, his upside is a lankier Kirk Cousins, and he isn't anything worth worrying about in fantasy football. He has one Rotoworld update since the draft, from The Athletic's Paul Dehner, after watching Finley in mini-camp. "[He] looks bad."

Well then.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 182 overall – Trayveon Williams, Running Back, Texas A&M

That noise you heard was Giovani Bernard looking into moving services as he realizes that his time with the Bengals is coming to an end. He received a stay of execution due to Mark Walton's chronic knuckleheadedness that got him kicked off the team, but Trayveon Williams will be younger and cheaper, but mostly the same back as Giovani Bernard, if a bit rough around the edges. He's a well-rounded back with slightly below average size (but a good build), who blasts through holes but has a limited top gear.

Williams has limited upside in 2019 due to a crowded backfield behind Joe Mixon and Giovani Bernard, but he is worth a stash in deeper keeper leagues and dynasty leagues as he likely takes over the Bernard role in 2020 and beyond. It's *possible* that he gets some run at the end of the season so the coaches can see what they have in him, but that doesn't make him draftable in fantasy football leagues.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 211 overall – Rodney Anderson, Running Back, Oklahoma

Anderson is coming off a torn ACL, so I don't anticipate him hitting the active roster at any time this season. However, before tearing his ACL he was solid, with some great chunk plays on his college résumé. According to Pro Football Focus, one-of-five carries went for 8+ yards in 2018. That is some amazing consistency, but I doubt he makes an impact in 2019 due to the Bengals having the luxury of letting him hit the IR and ride it out until 2020. Before the ACL injury, he was better than Trayveon Williams, so this should make for an interesting camp battle next year. For fantasy football, however, we wait.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Cleveland Browns Rookie Roundup

The Cleveland Browns did not draft any skill positions relevant to fantasy

Dallas Cowboys Rookie Roundup

The Dallas Cowboys are set up to be one of the better fantasy football options in 2019. With Ezekiel Elliott, Amari Cooper, and Dak Prescott, they could have three top-ten players at their positions. Throw in Jason Witten… actually, wait, strike that. Throw in Michael Gallup, and you even have a breakout candidate on your hands. The Cowboys took two running backs in the 2019 NFL Draft and no other fantasy football position players. Unless you think Zeke is going to get hurt or take a huge loss in touches, you can probably stop reading now. We already got your click and ad revenue, so really, it's up to you at this point.

Round 4, Pick 128 – Tony Pollard, Running Back, Memphis

Tony Pollard has that running back size (6'0", 210 pounds), but the problem comes when you try to figure out where to use him. He was a running back and wide receiver at Memphis and wasn't eye-popping at either position. He made an amazing touchdown catch against Georgia State, but he was mostly invisible against UCF. Memphis used him a lot in wildcat sets with Darrell Henderson and usually stuck him in the slot to clear out for other guys against UCF. He was a running back without handoffs and a wide receiver without targets.

He will flash here and there, and he's already gotten the dreaded Tavon Austin Curse of being hyped to get 30 touches a game (note, nobody gets 30 touches a game anymore. No, not even the guy you're thinking to look up on Pro Football Reference). He'll be the new Lance Dunbar, soaking up some carries and targets when Zeke gets a breather, and he'll probably be the return guy ~~if~~ when Randall Cobb gets hurt in week three.

TALENT



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2019 OUTLOOK



Round Seven, Pick 128 – Mike Weber, Running Back, Ohio State

As a pure running back, I like Mike Weber more than Tony Pollard, and frankly, I'm astonished that the Cowboys were able to draft Pollard in the seventh round. He's a quintessential backup running back. He's not astounding at anything, but he's pretty dang good at everything. He is great in space, he's fast, but not "shot out of a cannon" fast. Weber has good patience but lacks that extra burst. His speed lacks a top gear. He has good contact balance but isn't a Marshawn Lynchian specimen. He's good, there's no doubting that, but is he good enough? Probably not, at least to be anything but a backup running back in the NFL. With Ezekiel Elliott *potentially* facing a suspension from his extra-curricular activities for the second-straight offseason, he might be a necessary handcuff come draft season. He should be a last-round pick in best ball leagues, just in case. He's the kinda guy that will go for over 50% of your FAAB budget if Zeke goes down for the year.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Denver Broncos Rookie Roundup

The Broncos spent three picks on fantasy football eligible players in the draft, including two in the top two rounds. Let's take a look at their fantasy football prospects for 2019, shall we?

Round 1, Pick 20 overall – Noah Fant, Tight End, Iowa

The latest draft prospect out of "Tight End U," went eleven picks after his running mate, T.J. Hockenson. Hockenson went off to the Lions, but Fant went to the Broncos and greener 2018 fantasy football prospects… or did he? Let's get this out of the way first. Noah Fant is a freak of nature. His worst rating on playerprofiler.com's NFL Combine score metrics was his 96th percentile agility. Fant isn't just a workout warrior too, he's a beast in the seam, has an amazing catch radius, great hands, and better body control. There's nothing to not like about Noah Fant as far as Noah Fant is concerned. The issue comes when fantasy football prognosticators will tell you about what he will do in 2019.

The overwhelming odds are that Noah Fant will not be a fantasy football commodity in 2019. That has nothing to do with him, and everything to do with the fact that despite his pedigree, he is destined to struggle in his rookie year.

Over the last ten seasons, 155 tight ends have at least one catch on their record, so about fifteen per season. Their production does not paint a pretty picture. The highwater mark for targets was Evan Engram's 115; the second-most rookie targets? 83, by Jermaine Gresham. Yikes. While the best rookie target season would have been #4 in targets last year, the second-best would have been tenth. On average, the rookie with the most targets each season gets 65 targets. Remove Evan Engram's outlier 115, and it's 59 targets per season for the top target-getting tight end. 65 targets would have been the sixteenth-most targets, and 59 would have been the seventeenth-most targets last year.

Instead of going stat-by-stat, let's pretend that Noah Fant is the #1 fantasy football rookie tight end this year, over the course of the last decade, what does that look like? Let's start by taking the top fantasy football scoring rookie tight end from each of the last ten seasons:

Player	Year
Brandon Pettigrew	2009
Rob Gronkowski	2010
Kyle Rudolph	2011
Coby Fleener	2012
Tim Wright	2013
Jace Amaro	2014
Will Tye	2015
Hunter Henry	2016
Evan Engram	2017
Chris Herndon	2018

From there, let's average out what each tight end did with their rookie campaign. This should answer the question, what does the average fantasy football season look like for the league's best rookie tight end? Do you really want to know? I don't think you do. It ain't pretty. The average top-scoring tight end from the last decade had 62 targets, 40 receptions, 450 yards, and 5 touchdowns. That's 72.04/91.89/111.74 fantasy points over the course of the season in standard/half-PPR/PPR. Last year that would have been good for fantasy football's TE17, TE16, and TE17 in those respective formats. *Wildly enough, these are the season-ending rankings of Ravens 2018 rookie tight end Mark Andrews*. I probably could have taken a short cut and not wasted all that effort, huh?

That's that for Noah Fant. He's exceptionally talented, but he would need an all-time outlier top rookie tight end season to even turn in usable numbers. Will he have great fantasy football weeks? Yes, that's tight end. Will he have terrible fantasy football weeks? Yes, that's tight end. He's an amazing player, but one you should not go out of your way to get on your roster in 2019 fantasy football leagues... at least in the beginning. He's likely to pull an Ian Thomas and flash down the stretch. Let someone else pull the trigger on him on draft day.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 2, Pick 42 overall – Drew Lock, Quarterback, Missouri

Now that we've taken an extensive, stat-based deep dive into Noah Fant's fantasy football prospects, it's time to get back into some good, old fashion eye test with Drew Lock. Long story short, he's good! Short story long, Lock has some issues to sort out, but there isn't a lot about his college tape to get overwhelmingly upset about other than inconsistency.

The first game I watched was his outing against Alabama in 2018, and hoo boy, that was a doozy. His first five passes were: pick six, an amazing rocket, an awful pass at his receiver's feet, a batted pass, and a laser. I knew I was in for a ride with Lock from there. He gets through his reads well enough and has a strong arm. He needs to learn to put some touch and arc on his passes, lest he break some fingers, but this all can come in time. "In time" is the question at hand in Denver. When does Drew Lock show up?

The Broncos traded for Joe Flacco and quietly let the Case Keenum Experiment end with a trade to Washington. They were rumored to like Lock in the first round, at ten, but ended up getting him a full round later. Did that buy Joe Flacco some time? Hopefully, for Lock's development, he doesn't play this season, which would mean zero fantasy football points. In reality, he will likely dip his toes in the water sometime after Denver's week ten bye. At that point, we will know what Flacco has to offer Denver, and the coaching staff will want to get their second rounder some reps. I don't expect much for him in 2019 fantasy football leagues… though two-quarterback leagues make anyone with a pulse valuable. Given that he likely isn't going to get run until the bye weeks are almost done, you likely won't have Lock on your fantasy football teams in 2019.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 186 overall – Juwann Winfree, Wide Receiver, Colorado

If there's one thing you want to look for in fantasy football wide receiver production, it's *x.* Fill in *x* with whatever you want, and it won't apply to Juwann Winfree. He was kicked out of Maryland for chronic knuckleheadedness. He runs messy, rounded routes, and just has good enough hands. He was always hurt and was an overwhelming dud on tape. He didn't produce, either. He posted 28 catches for 324 yards and two scores in eight games last season. If he just brings that level of production to the NFL, that's an overwhelming 5.55 fantasy football points per game. Pass.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Detroit Lions Rookie Roundup

The Detroit Lions spent last season nurturing partial fantasy football breakouts from rookie Kerryon Johnson, and sophomore Kenny Golladay. That was all before they blew it all up, and inexplicably traded Golden Tate, cratering their season, and fantasy football hopes & dreams in the process. To give you an idea of how mad Golladay owners should be: the Lions averaged 24.6 points per game with Golden Tate last season, and after they traded him, they failed to reach 24 points in a single game until week seventeen, averaging just 17.4 points between weeks nine and seventeen.

However, much like your messy cousin who is still in college, it's time for these Detroit Lions to pull a "New Year, New You" move. They did this by… failing to address their major weaknesses on offense through the draft while spending a top-eight pick on a player unlikely to help fantasy football teams in 2019. So, declaring a major change without doing a whole lot. Sounds about right for that messy cousin.

Round 1, Pick 8 – T.J. Hockenson, Tight End, Iowa

T.J. Hockenson is set up in the perfect spot to kick one of the "Big Three" fantasy football tight ends out of their spots (Travis Kelce, Zach Ertz, and George Kittle). Hockenson will contribute right away to the Lions success, but I am bearish on him returning fantasy football value in 2019.

T.J. Hockenson is a complete tight end. He runs tight, fluid routes. Hockenson can come back to a ball and pluck it out of the air like a much smaller man. However, at 6'5" 251, he still comes off as skinny, somehow. He's also a great blocker, who should spring Kerryon Johnson and C.J. Anderson for some long runs this season. Unfortunately for you, that doesn't help much for 2019 fantasy football production.

Hockenson is amazing, and I am not going to deny that. I would also be stupid to deny history, especially since I spent four years and tens of thousands of dollars to get a piece of paper to say I am good at history. Wait, I graduated with honors. It says I'm *really* good at history. Either way, I would be stupid to deny it, and the history for rookie tight end fantasy football production is… well, I would say mixed, but that would imply that it isn't straight trash outside of some outliers. It's bad.

In the last ten seasons, there have been three rookie tight ends to turn in top-twelve fantasy football seasons in half-PPR leagues: 2009 Zach Miller, 2010 Rob Gronkowski, and 2017 Evan Engram. With just three guys, we can figure out to the formula to rookie tight end production: targets. Lots of targets, just like the rest of the tight ends. Evan Engram and Zach Miller both had a target market share of over 18.5. Gronk had a market share under 12 but (1) he's Gronk, and (2) the 2010 Patriots averaged over 32 points per game.

So, it's either a massive load of targets or a high-powered offense that will lead Hockenson to fantasy football glory his rookie campaign. Well, the first one isn't likely to come to pass because HC Matt Patricia and OC Darrell Bevell's recent records show that their game plan is to run a below-average number of plays, which obviously leads to fewer pass opportunities, which limits

the ability for a high-powered offense (unless you have Patrick Mahomes). That knocks the Gronk path to rookie fantasy football production off the board. What, then, of the Evan Engram and Zach Miller method? With 1n 18% target share?

The Detroit Lions don't throw to the tight end on an especially high basis, with just 15% of Matthew Stafford's passes over the last three seasons headed towards a tight end. There's also the small issue where, unfortunately for fantasy football owners, the Lions also brought in Jesse James on a four-year deal this offseason. Let's give Hockenson two-thirds of those passes, which will put him somewhere around 56 targets.

How about we get nutty, and call it 20% of passes going to the tight ends, with Hockenson getting two-thirds of *those* passes? That's 70 targets. Only four tight ends have been top-ten in fantasy football with fewer than 70 targets in the last decade, and three of those guys had double-digit touchdowns. The only rookie? Gronk. If you think Hockenson is Gronk, take the plunge, but even if Hockenson is Gronk, Matt Stafford is not Tom Brady, and the 2018 Detroit Lions are not the 2010 New England Patriots. Temper your fantasy football expectations, accordingly.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 184 Overall – Travis Fulgham, Wide Receiver, Old Dominion

Last season, I called Michael Gallup a Xerox of Anquan Boldin. A strong, beefy guy over the middle who wins at the point of attack, so it doesn't matter much that he can't get open. Remember *Multiplicity*? The Michael Keaton vehicle that involved making copies of Michael Keaton, presumably for hijinx purposes? Well, that movie warned that like a Xerox if you make a copy of a copy of a person, the quality degrades. With that in mind, Travis Fulgham is the Xerox of the Xerox of Anquan Boldin. He has amazing hands, and can make circus catches... but he's never open. He gets swallowed up by press coverage and bails himself out with those tremendous plays.

Generally, guys who can't get open in college don't suddenly figure out how to do that when they start playing against the best cornerbacks in the world. I am not up on Fulgham for 2019, especially when considering that he is likely behind Kenny Golladay, Marvin Jones, Danny Amendola, Kerryon Johnson, Theo Riddick, Jesse James, and T.J. Hockenson for targets. He'll make some wild highlight catches if he gets on the field, but don't expect much from him in 2019.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 186 Overall – Ty Johnson, Running Back, Maryland

For years, the Lions had a perennial fantasy football breakout candidate in Ameer Abdullah. He would inevitably make a huge preseason play that would send his draft stock through the roof. In the end, the current Viking is a niche player. Abdullah is just a home run hitter who can't run the ball up the middle but was able to bounce it outside and make a long run if he gets a ton of space. Let's just say... the Lions got their new Ameer Abdullah.

Johnson is set to finish far behind the other Lions backs in touches, which is something the previous iterations of the Lions weren't smart enough to do.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 7, 224 Overall – Isaac Nauta, Tight End, Georgia

Did you read the stuff about T.J. Hockenson up above? Well, roll that up into a guy who was a second-percentile SPARQ athlete. Now, ask yourself if you should worry about him for your 2019 fantasy football teams.

TALENT



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2019 OUTLOOK



Green Bay Packers Rookie Roundup

The Green Bay Packers had a disappointing 2018 season by regular football standards. Aaron Rodgers injured his knee in week one, and the team never really got right. They ended up 6-9-1, and missed the playoffs for the second-straight year. For fantasy football.. things could have been worse. Aaron Rodgers was a disappointment, but still a QB1. Aaron Jones was an RB2, and Davante Adams was *the* #2 wide receiver. Jimmy Graham was serviceable, and Geronimo Allison was on pace to be the #13 WR before he died in week five. The Packers added two fantasy football talents in the draft, but should you add these rookies in your fantasy football drafts?

Round 3, Pick 75 – Jace Sternberger, Tight End, Texas A&M

I have already pre-emptively put dibs on writing a 2020 Jace Sternberger fantasy football breakout piece. I love the kid's talent. He does a great job of getting open, and his body control and hands are amazing. Everything he does on the field looks so fluid and natural. His performance is almost too perfect, like watching a video game cutscene. Everything is *too* perfect.

That having been said, I've already outlined the issues surrounding rookie tight ends. Unfortunately, the transition to the NFL chews up and spits out most tight ends. While I love Sternberger, I don't see him as the type of transcendent talent that breaks the rookie tight end mold. That's even without including the fact that there are a ton of mouths to feed in Green Bay, including incumbent Jimmy Graham (who garnered 91 targets last year). Sternberger is immensely talented but has the deck stacked against him his rookie year. Don't expect much from him in fantasy football this year, but keep an eye on him for 2020.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 194 – Dexter Williams, Running Back, Notre Dame

He's fine. That's what I take away from Dexter Williams's college film. He's fine. He doesn't have a glaring weakness other than a need to bounce it outside on every single possible run. He has good vision at the line of scrimmage and if you want someone to run behind the league's best offensive line, he's your man. The downside is that he needs to get up a head of steam to prevent getting tackled by someone's pinky nail. While he usually falls forward, he usually falls. His contact balance is not great.

Williams isn't overwhelmingly fast, or strong, or agile. But he's not like a big old steamboat out there: big, slow, and hard to turn. He's *fine*. And we've seen players who are just fine athletically turn in quality fantasy football production in the past in the right situations. Unfortunately, this isn't the right situation. Dexter Williams sits firmly behind Aaron Jones and Jamaal Williams in the pecking order. When one or both of these guys get hurt (Jones hasn't played more than 12 games in a season yet), Williams can jump into a bigger role and guess what? He's playing with Aaron Rodgers. He'll be *fine*.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Houston Texans Rookie Roundup

The Houston Texans have one of the more prolific offenses for fantasy football, but they still haven't quite put it together at tight end. They drafted a guy in Jordan Thomas last season, who was raw and athletic, but still didn't pop in his rookie season. The Texans hope the guy they took in the third round can help fix that problem.

Round 3, Pick 86 overall – Kahale Warring, Tight End, San Diego State

Warring has all the talent and attributes you are looking for in a quality pass-catching tight end. He has soft hands, good body control, and had a high usage rate in college. He knows what he is doing with the football, and does a great job of ensuring he gets it. Unfortunately, there's the Rookie Tight End Curse to contend with, so his year one ceiling is limited. That issue is compounded by the fact that he is still learning the game, after playing just one year in high school and walking on at San Diego State. Still, he is extremely athletic and looks to have a long, fruitful career ahead of him.

For now, though, keep digging. There's nothing to see here in 2019.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Indianapolis Colts Rookie Roundup

The Indianapolis Colts are suddenly filled to the brim with offensive weaponry and talent. For years, it was the Andrew Luck and T.Y. Hilton Show, but now Marlon Mack leads a packed running back room, and Devin Funchess joins Parris Campbell with Hilton, Eric Ebron, and Jack Doyle as pass catchers. Everything is set up for the Colts to have, at worst, a top-three offense in the league, but will their rookie fantasy football eligible draftee reap the rewards?

Round 2, Pick 59 overall – Parris Campbell, Wide Receiver, Ohio State

I really like what I saw from Parris Campbell. He profiles as a faster and shiftier Golden Tate. Think a Golden Tate who can use 4.31 40-yard dash speed to sprint away from the defense after he rips the football away from a hapless defensive back. That's Parris Campbell. He was schemed open a lot in college, but he took advantage of his opportunity, leading the B1G in yards per route run in 2018. Lance Zierlein calls him a "catch-and-run specialist," and there's the best description of his talent. He feasts underneath but doesn't have the moves to get open further downfield. Once he gets the ball in his hands, however, he can make magic happen.

Early indications, however, are that we will all have to wait patiently for Parris Campbell to matter in fantasy football. There are simply too many mouths to feed in Indy, and without an injury, Campbell will be left wanting for targets. The best case scenario currently being bandied about is that Campbell gets enough targets to eat into Nyheim Hines's production, but not enough for him to have fantasy football relevance. If Hilton or Funchess go down (especially Funchess), or Funchess loses the job then go snag Campbell. Campbell is a beefier Curtis Samuel, and Funchess already lost a job to real Curtis Samuel. He's intriguing in draft-and-holds, but lacks the top-end production potential for best ball leagues, unless Indy comes to their senses about Devin Funchess.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Jacksonville Jaguars Rookie Roundup

The Jacksonville Jaguars took a huge step backward in 2018, and it cost Blake Bortles and Offensive Coordinator Todd Monken their jobs. In for 2019 are Nick Foles and John DeFilippo, who spent 2018 coordinating the Vikings offense. The Jaguars took three offensive depth pieces in the 2019 NFL Draft, so it's unlikely these guys will contribute to the offense immediately. Still, at least one of them presents an intriguing option for 2019 and beyond.

Round 3, Pick 69 overall – Josh Oliver, Tight End, San Jose State University

Oliver is the only guy of these three who has a definite path to fantasy football relevance in 2019. Unfortunately for us, rookie tight end is the hardest position to squeeze out drops of fantasy football usefulness. However. Oliver is certainly talented. He has a good adjustment to passes, and is fast for a tight end and ran great routes. He was a slot tight end in college, and profiles as a longer Hayden Hurst. For reference, Hurst spent last season getting drafted over, and producing less than, Mark Andrews.

I like Josh Oliver as an option to do the late-season Ian Thomas move from last year, where he squares away the transition to the NFL and provides fantasy football value down the stretch. There's no true number one in Jacksonville, so it's a wide-open competition for targets with a new QB and a new OC in town. He could work his way into that rotation by season's end and could be that roster spark you need in Week 14, 15 and 16.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 5, Pick 140 overall – Ryquell Armstead, Running Back, Temple

I didn't have high hopes for Armstead, as before I watched his tape, I saw that his general consensus upside is "low-end starter." Yeesh. Well, I have some good news! His tape looked better than that. He runs with decent speed and power, and good vision. He runs with a frenetic pace that puts his feet ahead of his eyes sometimes, but that's something Jags coaches can reign in. He's a good player and is definitely worth a roster spot in a dynasty league. He has a potentially long career ahead of him somewhere between the Lamar Miller and Latavius Murray profiles.

For 2019 fantasy football redraft leagues, however, he isn't going to be worth a look. The lead back, Leonard Fournette, is injury-prone, but they are nagging injuries. He'll have potential spot usefulness here-and-there if he can climb ahead of Alfred Blue, Benny Cunningham, and Thomas Rawls. His injury history is a big impediment to getting enough reps to climb the depth chart. The big kicker? He's already hurt, nursing a hamstring until training camp.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 178 overall – Gardner Minshew, Quarterback, Washington State

He's not good! He's not overwhelmingly bad, either! Gardner Minshew will have a long career in this league as a backup, picking up the clipboard from guys like Shaun Hill, Mike Glennon, and Charlie Whitehurst. He had good enough accuracy, and makes quick decisions, but has a pea shooter for an arm. He has limited upside, and that upside is "not vomiting all over himself." He bounced around college and wasn't even a solid starter for multiple seasons there. He's a fantasy football junk bond, and he's unlikely to beat out Chase Daniel in 2019. That last part is probably all you needed to know.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Kansas City Chiefs Rookie Roundup

The 2018 edition of the Kansas City Chiefs blew the doors off the hinges for fantasy football. Patrick Mahomes burst onto the scene and supported big fantasy football production from Sammy Watkins, Tyreek Hill, Travis Kelce, Kareem Hunt, and Damien Williams. Tyreek Hill is now facing a suspension for "chronic idiocy and maybe breaking his child's arm," which means the Chiefs absolutely reached to fill that role in their offense in the 2019 NFL Draft. They also have a mighty mite that they snatched up in the sixth round that is getting a lot of fantasy football buzz, but what do these two guys mean for your 2019 fantasy football drafts?

Round 2, Pick 56 overall – Mecole Hardman, Wide Receiver, Georgia

Okay, I'll admit it. I don't get it. I don't understand the Mecole Hardman hype. He's set to potentially take over the Tyreek Hill role for part of the season, and as of typing this, *he is a top-100 fantasy football pick*. I understand watching to snatch up a section of that Chiefs offense, but has science gone too far?

First, to determine if Hardman is worth one of those precious top-100 picks, let's look at a few things. First, Tyreek Hill is an absolute freak of nature. Everyone thought he couldn't continue to produce at a high level after his monstrous rookie year because of his insane efficiency. He was fifth in the league in fantasy points per target last year. This is the kind of fantasy football efficiency we are talking here, the elite of the elite. The tippy top of elite efficient producers. Why do we think that a rookie, any rookie, is worth banking on being Tyreek Hill? Or a portion of Tyreek Hill? A poor man's Tyreek Hill is Randall Cobb, who had to have an absolutely dominant amount of touches to produce with Aaron Rodgers. Call me skeptical that Hardman, or any rookie matching his profile, would do that in his rookie season.

As for Hardman's tape... I'm even more confused. He plays well enough and has good speed (4.33 40-yard dash), but there was nothing that popped off the tape about him. He was good for a great contested catch a game, but with Riley Ridley opposite him, and that blazing speed, it begs the question: why were his catches so contested? He does decently well with his YAC and wasn't overwhelmed out there, but I didn't see a guy who deserved to go in the second round. And that second-round selection is driving his price on fantasy football draft day. Don't pull a Chiefs and overdraft him in your eighth or ninth round, let someone else jump on that bomb, and be okay being wrong if he blows up (but like... blows up, in a good way).

TALENT



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 **or** 

2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK

 ***in games without Tyreek Hill***

Round 6, Pick 214 overall – Darwin Thompson, Running Back, Utah State

Darwin Thompson is a tale of two tapes for his college production. His highlight reel sizzles, with him bouncing off of defenders and dragging would-be tacklers into the endzone. Then you watch his film cut-ups and you get a completely different story. His production is... sparse. He split touches at Utah State almost 50/50 with Gerold Bright. If you ask me, Bright has better pop plays. The problem with evaluating Thompson on his college production is that his highlights if you look closely, are full of bad defenders defending poorly. He sheds ankle tackles and bounces off guys who aren't in a position to tackle him.

There is some spicy talk that he will take over as the RB1 in Kansas City at some point this season, but I'm not buying it. Damien Williams and Carlos Hyde will get enough production between them to bounce the job back and forth until one of them gets hurt. Thompson has some upside in PPR fantasy football leagues as a destitute man's version of Tarik Cohen his rookie year. He is a small guy, and I don't see him holding up to any role other than that. His college tape bore that out as well, as he moved everything outside. However, he did invite contact once he was outside. Unfortunately, DT will quickly learn that inviting contact in the NFL is much different than doing it in the Mountain West.

I don't expect much out of Darwin Thompson in 2019 outside of some deeper PPR value if one of Williams or Hyde gets hurt. Otherwise, go ahead and ignore him in your fantasy football drafts in redraft leagues.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Los Angeles Chargers Rookie Roundup

The Los Angeles Chargers took one fantasy football eligible player in the 2019 NFL Draft… a fifth-round quarterback. You can stop reading now, he's not going to do anything in fantasy football this season unless things go disastrously for the Chargers (more disastrous than their move to LA, even).

Round 5, Pick 166 overall – Easton Stick, Quarterback, North Dakota State

Philip Rivers is ageless, and his backup, Tyrod Taylor, is better than Easton Stick in every single way (damning Tyrod with faint praise). There's not a feasible reason to care about Easton Stick this year in fantasy football, or given his likely ceiling, ever, at all, in fantasy football. He plays a decent enough college game, succeeding thanks to the read option and the wide open fields of the narrow hash marks in college.

However, Easton suffers mightily from chronic noodlearmitis. The dude has a super soaker in a league full of cannons. Because of this, he has to really crank up to throw the ball deep; everything going more than 20 yards looks like it's a 60-yard hail mary the way he gets ready to heave it. It's truly an awful sight to try to watch and something NFL DBs will salivate when they see happen. That having been said, his shorter passes have some real zip on them, and he has some good legs to get out of jams. He'll have a decent career as a backup and will be entertaining this fall in the third quarter of some preseason games, but don't even bother with him in any sort of fantasy football leagues anytime before the next presidential election.

TALENT



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2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Los Angeles Rams Rookie Roundup

We've already reviewed the Arizona Cardinals, the team with the most fantasy football-eligible rookies drafted, with five. To make life simpler this time around, the Los Angeles Rams took one fantasy football eligible pla—oh, what's that? I'm getting word that this is 100% not simpler this time around. The Los Angeles Rams drafted a running back in the third round. This threw a gigantic monkey wrench in what once was one of the best running back fantasy football situations in the NFL.

Round 3, Pick 70 Overall – Darrell Henderson, Running Back, Memphis

Five running backs went off the board in the third round of the draft, with Henderson going first. While Henderson is intriguing in his own right, the ripple effect this sends through the fantasy football landscape is far more important for 2019. This indicates a huge issue with Todd Gurley and his arthritic knee.

I don't want to say that I have much in common with Todd Gurley, but I was born with an arthritic knee. It will be fine one minute, then be completely unusable for a few minutes, or a few hours, then suddenly get better. I don't bring this up to garner sympathy or try to compare myself to Gurley, but it is indicative of a huge issue for Gurley in 2019: randomness. There's nothing in particular that sets off an arthritic knee, and nothing, in particular, can fix it. This fleshes with his insistence that he was fine, and his inability to play a lot on gameday.

Gurley could play 16 games and it could be no issue, or he could only get significant snaps in 4 or 5 games this year. It bakes in a ton of risk for Gurley. How does this relate to the Darrell Henderson pick?

The Rams are scared of this, and you should be, too.

Gurley is completely hands-off for me in 2019 in the first two rounds of fantasy football drafts, which means I will have zero shares. Someone else can jump on that grenade and potentially ride him to the title. Fortune favors the bold, in that case. Or the foolish.

Well, what about Darrell Henderson for fantasy football in 2019? He's a must-have for all Todd Gurley owners, and an incredibly smart stash in best ball leagues and any and all deep bench leagues. He was my second-favorite RB coming out of the 2019 NFL Draft. He reminds me a lot of Tevin Coleman or Jerick McKinnon; a smaller guy who excels in space. Per Pro Football Focus, he had 27 20+ yard runs in 2018, and the second-highest guy had *seventeen*.

Henderson is the undisputed king of the chunk play for this class. He took advantage of great blocking, but that's what you want out of a running back. He's versatile, elusive, and always keeps moving forward. He's extremely talented and needs to end up on your fantasy football rosters, *just in case*.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY

 or 

2019 OUTLOOK

 or 

Miami Dolphins Rookie Roundup

There is one thing for certain about the Miami Dolphins in 2019, and that is uncertainty. The roster has no true #1 wide receiver or quarterback. The running back situation *should* play out with Kenyan Drake starting and Kalen Ballage in a support role. We have no idea how things are going to play out because the head coach is a defensive guy and the OC was a wide receivers coach for the last decade. Into this situation steps one 2019 NFL Draftee who will be fantasy football eligible. Is he worth your time and effort?

Round 7, Pick 234 overall – Myles Gaskin, Running Back, Washington

No.

Myles Gaskin did nothing to impress on tape, other than have decent speed. He turns patience into indecisiveness, and he has serious trouble catching balls in traffic. Gaskin also failed hard at the combine. His only pedigree is getting the ball a ton, and being in college for four years. Because of this, he is the only Pac 12 guy to ever post four seasons of 1,000+ rushing yards. All-in-all, he's an underwhelming running back prospect in this class of underwhelming running back prospects. If you're wondering about him in fantasy football, and that wasn't enough to deter you, then consider the depth chart. There's zero chance he gets run over either Kenyan Drake or Kalen Ballage. Should Drake go down, Gaskin hits his rookie ceiling as a part-time third down specialist to Kalen Ballage's banger role. Don't worry about owning him anywhere in 2019.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Minnesota Vikings Rookie Roundup

The Minnesota Vikings have one of the deepest fantasy football talent pools in the league. Kirk Cousins, Dalvin Cook, Adam Thielen, Stefon Diggs, and Kyle Rudolph all made their way onto fantasy football rosters last year. It's curious, then, that they took four different guys at fantasy football positions. I watched their tape, so you don't have to, in order to square away their 2019 fantasy football prospects. Skol!

Round 2, Pick 50 – Irv Smith, Jr., Tight End, Alabama

Poor Irv. No rookie tight end has seen his 2019 fantasy football prospects crash harder than Irv Smith's did this week. The scuttlebutt was that Kyle Rudolph was on his way out of town, and Irv was ready to step into the starting tight end role for the Vikes. That's a nice role to have, as Rudolph has the third-most tight end targets since 2015. Unfortunately, Kyle Rudolph is now the fourth-highest paid tight end in the league, as he signed a four-year, $36 million extension this week. Oh well, we didn't need Irv Smith around anyway, I suppose.

As for Irv Smith's talents? The dude is extremely athletic in a straight line but has trouble with change of direction. He doesn't really cut upfield as much as he curves his running angle to go towards the end zone. However, he makes up for that with excellent hands and natural catch-and-go instinct. Irv is nowhere near Noah Fant or T.J. Hockenson, but he should turn into a quality move tight end in this league. He's not even 21 years old yet, which means he has plenty of room to grow. Unfortunately, he won't grow into a valuable 2019 fantasy football prospect. Maybe next year, or the year after, or the year after.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 3, Pick 102 – Alexander Mattison, Running Back, Boise State

In theory, Alexander Mattison won't get enough run this season to matter at all for fantasy football. After all, the Vikings have third-year phenom Dalvin Cook to take the lion—er, Viking's share of carries. In reality, Cook's missed more games than he's played so far in his career, and drafting him and acting like that won't happen again would be an extremely fool hearty move. Fantasy football owners, like the Vikings, have to gear up for that eventuality.

That having been said, **Alexander Mattison is what people are hoping Darrell Henderson will be**. The kind of guy you empty your fantasy football FAAB for, the guy who takes over, and dominates, touches after the incumbent goes down for a span of time. At some point this season, there is a definite chance that Mattison is the type of guy that fantasy football prognosticators are recommending you empty your FAAB to ensure you get on your squad. He is a great runner who loves to absorb contact. His balance off these hits is superb, and the only thing I didn't like when I watched his college tape was the ugly blue Boise State field. Everything else was great, *except* he lacks a top gear. He gets good enough speed up to get a chunk, but he won't break anything 30+ yards before getting tackled from behind. He's a grinder, and I like grinders. I like him so much I'm willing to overlook his lack of top-end speed.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 7, Pick 239 overall – Dillon Mitchell, Wide Receiver, Oregon

A lot of times, people talk about how a player is an *athlete*. This is usually a positive trait; someone is an Adonis and a master of their craft, performing in the highest percentile. Unfortunately for Dillon Mitchell, that descriptor describes someone who has always been among the strongest, fastest, and quickest. He seems to have coasted on that in Oregon, with the prevalent descriptor being "he doesn't get it."

His tape is fine enough. He runs frenetically and has the air of a backyard football player. He doesn't seem to have gotten any refinement in college, despite his high-volume in 2018. Mitchell is the type of guy that will flash here and there in preseason and get someone all hot and bothered, but that shouldn't be you, smart fantasy football player.

Mitchell is buried in a deep pass catcher corps, so even if he puts his head on right, there's little chance for 2019 fantasy football viability. You can safely ignore him everywhere… he may be out of the league this time next year.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 7, Pick 247 overall – Olabisi Johnson, Wide Receiver, Colorado State

I watched three games worth of footage for Johnson. I wrote down one word in my notes that entire time, "BORING!" He's a depth guy, an ideal fourth or fifth wide receiver. Johnson is not going to hurt you at any point, but he's unlikely to pop and do anything amazing for you. He's the type of guy that flashes in fantasy football in PPR on some talent-bereft team (a la 2017 Jermaine Kearse on the Jets). He's not worth worrying about this year, as he's extremely far down in the pecking order.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



New England Patriots Rookie Roundup

The New England Patriots and their interminable dynasty continued their relentless standoff to see if the end of Tom Brady's career or the heat death of the universe comes first. They drafted three fantasy football eligible players in the 2019 NFL Draft, but should you add pieces of a perennial powerhouse to your roster? Gee, I wonder?

Round 1, Pick 32 overall – N'Keal Harry, Wide Receiver, Arizona State

Harry was my favorite wide receiver this year going into the draft, and going to one of the greatest teams of all time, who just lost one of the greatest receiving threats of all time, obviously did nothing to stem my enthusiasm for the kid. There's one major bugaboo from Harry's college tape, and that it's that his separation isn't great. Here's the thing… *it doesn't matter*. Much like Dez Bryant, who was open even when he wasn't (and he rarely was *really* open).

For 2019, it's hard to say what we should expect out of Harry. At first blush, the potential Patriots wide receiver room looks stacked. Julian Edelman, Harry, Demaryius Thomas, Josh Gordon, and Phillip Dorsett. Then you remember… Demaryius Thomas sucked last year before blowing out his Achilles (for the second time). Josh Gordon voluntarily walked away from the game before getting popped with another suspension and hasn't played a full sixteen games since the first Obama administration was wrapping up. Philip Dorsett is a bust. That quickly leaves Edelman, Harry, and guys like Dontrelle Inman. Long story short: I'm not worried.

Here's the rub with Harry: the fantasy football ADP. He's currently going as the #38 wide receiver off the board, alongside guys like Christian Kirk and Dante Pettis. If one of those guys are still on the board, I'd lean their way. However, I would still take him ahead of guys like Mecole Hardman and D.K. Metcalf. His ADP is set to skyrocket in the draft season, so be wary of taking him at cost. Right now, it's a solid price for his upside, but that could change.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 3, Pick 87 overall – Damien Harris, Running Back, Alabama

Damien Harris is easily a top-three running back in the 2019 draft class. He probably wouldn't be top-five in 2018, and from the looks of it, he wouldn't be top-seven in the 2020 draft class. He looks better by comparison, given that the 2019 NFL Draft class is wide on who would normally be second and third-tier talents. He's a really good second-tier running back, so he shines among the turds this year.

Still, there's a lot to like about Harris. He has good hands, and he's great in the open field. At 5'10" and 216 pounds, he has the size to take on would-be tacklers, as is his preferred style. He racks up a ton of solid yards after contact (not cheapie BS where a flailing NT gets three fingertips on his ankle). He is a truly good back and should produce in fantasy football if given an opportunity.

<deep sigh>

The opportunity. The Patriots already have a young running back in Sony Michel, but he doesn't catch passes. Also, Michel is currently hurt. The Patriots also have an incredible pass-catching back in James White… but, he doesn't catch passes. Rex Burkhead has the allure of untapped potential but he's going to be 29 when the season starts and hasn't surpassed 94 touches in a season yet (Rex G.O.A.T.head jokes aside). Damien Harris is already the most complete running back on the team, but he isn't the best at anything of any of the backs on the roster. He's a jack of all trades and a master of none.

If Harris was on the Raiders or the Buccaneers, he might be the #1 rookie running back in fantasy drafts this year. At this point, it's hoping you can cut through Belichicanery to find his valuable fantasy football weeks.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



OR



MAYBE



OR



MAYBE



OR



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK

(see opportunity)

Round 4, Pick 133 overall – Jarrett Stidham, Quarterback, Auburn

Let's get this out of the way: if Stidham plays, the Patriots are already screwed. It means Tom Brady had a devastating season-ending injury and they cut Brian Hoyer, who actually knows what he's doing. He likely won't be a fantasy football option. With that in mind, let's take a look at Jarrett Stidham!

He's just okay! Stidham has some nice zip on his balls but he desperately needs to learn at the feet of someone like Tom Brady. He was absolutely oblivious to rushes and missed desperately needed pre-snap reads. He also zeroed in on his receiver and was a mess beyond five yards or so. These traits led to a lot of picks and almost-picks in college, and are things he needs to clean up at the next level if he is going to succeed. Don't bother with learning his name this season.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



New Orleans Saints Rookie Roundup

The New Orleans Saints boasted three top-ten fantasy football players in 2018, with Alvin Kamara, Michael Thomas, and Drew Brees turning in valuable seasons. Unfortunately, the loss of Mark Ingram left the Saints somewhat thin for fantasy football propositions behind those big three guys. They went out and snagged Jared Cook, and took a tight end in the 2019 NFL Draft. While many thing Cook can turn in a top-ten season at tight end, the only fantasy football eligible player the Saints took in the draft could steal just enough away to make Cook return to his normal self (not useful for fantasy football).

Round 7, Pick 231 Overall – Alizé Mack, Tight End, Notre Dame

On tape, Mack looks more like a Devin Funchess-esque large wide receiver than a tight end. Unfortunately for those trying to stick him in-line, he blocks like a small wide receiver, often jumping out of the way of blocking assignments. Fortunately for fantasy football players, you don't get points for springing Alvin Kamara for a long run or for picking up a blitz to keep Drew Brees upright. That having been said, he is certainly talented as a receiver, as he is shifter than you would expect (but not top-tier athleticism at tight end). He's mostly a straight-line runner and has trouble after the catch.

If you're looking towards Mack for 2019 fantasy football output, you've already lost. He'll be good enough to siphon targets and production away from Jared Cook, as a best-case scenario. You can safely ignore him in all leagues unless something incredibly wild happens in New Orleans. There's a possibility that he could end the season higher on the depth chart than Jared Cook, but it's Jared Cook, so that's not exactly a huge feat.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



New York Giants Rookie Roundup

If only the New York Giants hadn't traded Odell Beckham, Jr. If only they hadn't wasted the picks they got from trading him. Maybe if they hadn't taken a QB at #6 overall, there would be more to talk about here. Or, if their only other pick wasn't a fifth-round wide receiver. Ultimately, like the Cowboys, there isn't much to be had here for fantasy football. Daniel Jones isn't worth a draft pick to start the season, and because there will be a mishmash of Jones and Eli "Eli Manning Face" Manning all year, the wide receiver they took won't be the effort, either.

Round 1, Pick 6 – Daniel Jones, Quarterback, Duke

Long story short: Daniel Jones is a *much* less athletic Colin Kaepernick, change my mind.

Allusions to an astounding moron aside, that gives you all you really need to know about Jones's talents. He doesn't progress through reads, and everything is a bullet. He has a big arm and can make some big plays, but his accuracy can be somewhat scattershot. Jones can stand in a pocket better than Kaepernick, but still sees ghosts and thinks he can get out of it with his legs. He can, sometimes, but not as often as you would like for a guy who has that for instincts. Jones also seemingly throws everything a half-second too late. Too many times would receivers be coming back and hesitating, waiting for Jones to deliver his pass.

For fantasy football? This season is going to be an absolute mess for the Giants quarterback position, given their unusual allegiance to Eli Manning and their insistence that Daniel Jones won't play. If everything goes according to plan, he's a non-factor for fantasy football. If everything falls apart, he probably still isn't a factor for 2019 fantasy football. Stay away from Daniel Jones this year, unless things change drastically in the second half.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 5, Pick 171 – Darius Slayton, Wide Receiver, West Virginia

I know that I poo-pooed the "fifth-round wide receiver" above, but Slayton probably would have gone higher if he had a better quarterback throwing him the ball. He possesses all the traits of a productive fantasy football talent. He's fast, he has amazing body control and hands to die for. Slayton crushes at the line of scrimmage and should do a ton to assist Eli Manning. But for fantasy football? Don't expect much from him. The Giants are going to be a mess at quarterback this year, which means that Slayton will likely have the same impediment to the production he had in college. Keep an eye on him in 2020 as a potential Victor Cruz 2.0 for the Giants.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



New York Jets Rookie Roundup

TALENT These aren't your daddy's New York Jets. They might actually have something going on offense, with the second year of Sam Darnold combining forces with Le'Veon Bell and the established receiving corps. The Jets added just one fantasy football eligible player in the 2019 NFL Draft to add to this group of players. Is he someone you should think about in your fantasy football drafts?

Round 4, Pick 121 overall – Trevon Wesco, Tight End, West Virginia

There's a saying among baseball circles, that if you play multiple positions, that you don't play any of them particularly well. That holds true for Wesco, who is a fullback/tight end hybrid. He isn't great at either outside of blocking. I don't want to downplay how good he is at blocking. He is *amazing* as a blocker.

I am not concerned with the blocking coming out of a tight end for fantasy football. He's the textbook definition of a guy who will be in the league for ten years without putting together ten sets of multiple consecutive useful fantasy football games.

Even if he was a quality pass-catching tight end, there are three huge issues with him being worthy of roster consideration in 2019 fantasy football leagues. First, off the top, the Rookie Tight End Curse. Second, there's Chris Herndon. The Jets already have a very good incumbent who led all rookie tight ends in targets, receptions, and touchdowns, and who was second in yards last season. He's a quality option for the Jets. Third, Adam Gase does not have a history of quality production from his tight ends. Outside of two years with him letting Peyton Manning run the show, his average TE1 finishes as tight end *30.2*. Yikes.

I'm not sure who this is for. People who wanted hot, hot Trevon Wesco takes? In that case, thank you for reading, Mrs. Wesco. Your son should be a quality NFL player, just not in fantasy football.



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Oakland Raiders Rookie Roundup

Jon Gruden and the Oakland Raiders spent 2018 tearing down what already existed there in Oakland, with an eye towards rebuilding it in Gruden's vision. Khalil Mack and Amari Cooper were out, and Gruden reportedly came close to doing the same with QB Derek Carr. Carr persists, and Gruden & new GM Mike Mayock snagged Carr three new fantasy football eligible assets to play with in the offense, but are they worth your time in your fantasy leagues?

Round 1, Pick 24 overall – Josh Jacobs, Running Back, Alabama

I already took a look at Josh Jacobs and the Raiders in our NFL Draft Round One review. I'll give the Reader's Digest version here. There's no real competition for touches in Oakland, and if you say Doug Martin, just close the website right now. I watched three games in preparation for the draft, and Jacobs had one negative run in those three games. Dude *churns out yards*. There are concerns about the offensive line in Oakland, but starting with that profile, the line doesn't bother me too much. He's fast enough, he's extremely shifty, and he will make his own blocking.

Josh Jacobs will end up a back-end RB2 this year through sheer volume alone, but people are already taking him at his upside, as he is the #19 running back off the board in fantasy football drafts. I am bullish on Jacobs, but that price might prove too high, as none of the risks are baked in. He has upside as an ideal RB2 (a rich man's Lamar Miller), but if you have to pull the trigger on him in the third round of your fantasy football drafts, that doesn't adequately account for the risks associated with Jacobs.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 4, Pick 137 overall – Foster Moreau, Tight End, LSU

If you want to watch a lot of a slightly undersized tight end expending maximum effort on blocks, then Foster Moreau is the tight end for you. He averaged just 1.9 receptions a game in his 24 games as a starter, turning those into a blistering 623 yards and 5 scores across two seasons. There's some buzz around Moreau because of his SPARQ score that landed him at #3 this season behind wunderkind TEs T.J. Hockenson and Noah Fant.

However, if the Raiders turn Foster Moreau into a relevant fantasy football option in 2019, they have to both buck the tight end trend, and drastically change his profile. He's a blocker, and turning him into a pass catcher would fly in the face of what he does. If the Raiders do go that route, he does have some soft hands and good contact balance but lacks the technical aspects of playing tight end. His best-case fantasy scenario is a poor man's Austin Hooper. Best Case. He's more likely to be a Logan Paulsen type guy, who some dumb-dumb in your fantasy football league picks up after he has a two-touchdown game out of nowhere before Moreau gets six targets over the next four weeks.

There is a thread to pull on if you want to believe in Moreau for fantasy football: Jared Cook vacated over 100 tight end targets last season, with mainly Moreau and Luke Willson to replace him. If you want to believe in Moreau, that's the path you can take. I can't stress this enough though. Top-10% outcome is a poor man's Austin Hooper.

TALENT



(pass catching only)

OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 5, Pick 139 overall – Hunter Renfrow, Wide Receiver, Clemson

Renfrow is a little guy, at 5'10" and 184 pounds, he needs speed and agility that he doesn't have to win in the NFL. He also boasts extraordinarily short arms. He worked well enough in college, taking advantage of wide-open fields, but he'll need to show more at the next level to really pop. Renfrow isn't without talent, but he can't practice his way into longer arms or a bigger frame. Should Jon Gruden turn the Raiders into a high-powered offense, then Renfrow could have some fantasy football value, in a deep league bye week PPR Danny-Amendola-when-healthy-on-the-Patriots sort of way. Don't expect much out of him, but if your league is deep and your prospects are dire, and the Raiders are the talk of the town, he could surprise you in the second half of 2019.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Philadelphia Eagles Rookie Roundup

The 2018 Philadelphia Eagles recognized that they had a weaponry problem outside of Alshon Jeffery, Zach Ertz, and *maybe* Dallas Goedert. They remedied that this offseason, bringing their prodigal son, DeSean Jackson, back from Tampa Bay. The Eagles front office also drafted three fantasy football eligible players in the 2019 NFL Draft, with a running back and a wide receiver going within the first 60 picks. There is also a third guy, a quarterback, who exists, as well! We will break down all three players and their 2019 fantasy football prospects below.

Round 2, Pick 53 – Miles Sanders, Running Back, Penn State

The takeaway I had from Miles Sanders in college was that he wants to be Saquon Barkley so badly, but he just doesn't quite have the talent to make it there. Don't run out and get Sanders in fantasy football thinking he will be Barkley. The comparison makes sense (I would think that, since I made it)… Sanders sat behind Barkley in 2017 and learned at his feet. Sanders has some of Barkley's traits that are bad in someone with lesser talent (his propensity to try to take everything for a home run), but he has a lot of great Barkley traits, as well. He has a lot of nice moves on the outside, and he happily receives contact from defenders. He's 5'11", 211 pounds, so I am not worried about him absorbing some hits.

He has some downsides, namely, he doesn't have a lot of speed out of cuts, and he fumbled five times last year. The biggest problem for him in 2019 fantasy football, however, is Jordan Howard, and Doug Pederson's inability to give one running back a good amount of work. In his three seasons in Philadelphia, no running back crossed the 173 carry threshold, and the backup running back received an average of 85 carries. It'll be a committee in Philadelphia, despite what I want to happen. Should Pederson get his act together, Sanders can have a lot of fantasy football upside for 2019, but recent reports are that he will not be doing that anytime soon. Sanders is the #31 running back off the board in fantasy football drafts right now. That might be a bit rich for your blood, but I will stash him on the chance that Pederson recognizes that Jordan Howard stinks out loud and gives Sanders the touches he deserves.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 2, Pick 57 – J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, Wide Receiver, Stanford

I love J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, at 6'2" and 225 pounds, he has great size and even better strength to be a red-zone weapon for a long time. He reminds me a lot of Eric Decker, a big, beefy guy who can high point the ball and is a jump ball wizard. He has strong hands and amazing body control and literally catches footballs with guys committing blatant defensive pass interference. The tape wasn't a small sample size either, he led all draft-eligible wide receivers in contested catches last season with nineteen, two more than Kelvin Harmon, N'Keal Harry, and Hakeem Butler.

JJAW is already the second-best wide receiver on the Eagles, but he needs to sweep away the flotsam and jetsam like Nelson Agholor and Mack Hollins to get the #3 receiver role behind Alshon Jeffery and DeSean Jackson. Should he do so, he will be great for fantasy football in 2019. He's not likely someone who you draft in your fantasy football drafts but should be a great mid-season replacement option if and when Alshon Jeffery and/or Nelson Agholor take an injury dive. He's WR79 right now, but given his touchdown upside, he has almost no chance at ending that low at season's end.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Round 5, Pick 167 – Clayton Thorson, Quarterback, Northwestern

Outside of sounding like he should be the head stickman on his lacrosse team (or whatever the positions are called), Clayton Thorson looks exactly how you would think with a name like *Clayton Thorson*. Thorson is one of those guys that old school football experts fall in love with because he's big (6'4", 222) and, "he stands tall in the pocket." The problem is that he's not *good*, he just has *good traits*. This is QB coach code for "I have enough hubris to think that I can fix this patently bad player." Fantasy football is lousy with quarterbacks, and unless you are in a 2 QB league, you can pass on worrying about Carson Wentz's backup's backup.

If you *are* in a 2QB fantasy football league, here's some info on Thorson: he's inaccurate. He gets through his reads fast enough but then fails to execute the throw. He's all over the place; too high, too low, too wide. There's no consistency to how bad he is. Sure, the Eagles are smart and can scheme around this, but this isn't the profile of someone you want to look at in your fantasy football leagues if you can help it. Besides, call me crazy, or ignoring literally every piece of data from Carson Wentz's career, but I think that Wentz plays sixteen this season, rendering Thorson literally useless in all fantasy football leagues.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 OUTLOOK



Pittsburgh Steelers Rookie Roundup

The 2018 Pittsburgh Steelers were nothing but drama. From Le'Veon Bell to Antonio Brown, and Big Ben Roethlisberger. The whole thing was a mess. Still, they were able to get quality fantasy football contributions from Ben, AB84, James Conner, Vance McDonald, and (in one very short spurt) Jaylen Samuels. Now Brown & Bell are gone, and the Steelers hope for calmer waters ahead. They took three guys at fantasy football eligible positions in the 2019 NFL Draft, but should you take any of them in your 2019 drafts?

Round 3, Pick 66 overall – Diontae Johnson, Wide Receiver, Toledo

The thing that popped off tape most about Diontae Johnson in college is *wow, his quarterback is terrible*. That probably hindered his college production somewhat, even though Johnson did his best to overcome the talent limitations surrounding him. He's drawn favorable comparisons to Emmanuel Sanders, and honestly, it's very apt. He has a lot of deep routes, but his best, most dangerous usage is getting a ball in space and making opposing DBs look like morons as he struts into the end zone.

The only question, and it's a question with the entirety of the 2019 Pittsburgh Steelers 2019 receiving corps outside of JuJu Smith-Schuster: will he get the targets? There's last year's second-round pick, and the big money free agency pickup to contend with (James Washington and Donte Moncrief, respectively). There's also the inevitable decrease in targets after a league-leading number of passes thrown by Big Ben that was over 100 more than his career average. He's currently the #99 wide receiver off the board according to FantasyPros. If you want to take a hack at him with your last round pick in a very deep league… sure. Otherwise, leave him on the fantasy football waiver wire for 2019.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 4, Pick 122 overall – Benny Snell, Running Back, Kentucky

He stinks. Don't listen to the Benny Snell truthers. He's bad. Sure, he might have a lot of fantasy football production, but that will all come from falling forward into the end zone from the one yard line. He's a straight line runner with little wiggle and even less burst. At 5'10" and 224 pounds, you would think he would be a battering ram, but instead, he put up a sixteenth-percentile bench press score. He's a big boy, but that doesn't make him strong.

A lot of people want to say that Snell and/or Samuels will rip the RB1 job from James Conner. That ain't gonna happen, as there is literally zero evidence of Mike Tomlin utilizing a committee approach. Do not listen to the people calling him a fantasy football sleeper, it's wish-crafting, and flies in the face of history and common sense. Even if Conner loses the job, it's going to Samuels. Snell will continue his role of being the biggest guy in the room and being wound up to go in a straight line.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 5, Pick 141 overall – Zach Gentry, Tight End, Michigan

Gentry is classified as a tight end, but that's only because "tiny offensive lineman" isn't a position. He has the height of an OL at 6'8", but is too light to play the role (262 pounds). He's a blocking tight end in the truest blocking sense: he needs to get bigger and just stay on the OL. He ran an awful 4.90 40-yard dash and an even worse 7.40 three-cone drill. Despite all this size at tight end, he needs to get stronger. He's a skinny guy, who is weak for his size and slow for his position. He's decent enough with the ball in his hands, but he's going to top out in a part-time role. He has zero fantasy football appeal for 2019.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



San Francisco 49ers Rookie Roundup

Now that we've gotten the worst team and the best team in the NFC West out of the way, it's time to continue, alphabetically to the third team in the NFC West. Many hope that the return of Jimmy Garoppolo and Jerick McKinnon, the additions of Jordan Matthews and Tevin Coleman, and growth from Dante Pettis and Matt Breida will push the San Francisco 49ers into the fantasy football stratosphere. What of their three fantasy football eligible players they took in the draft? Below we explore three pass catchers the 49ers took in the 2019 NFL Draft.

Round 2, Pick 36 Overall – Deebo Samuel, Wide Receiver, South Carolina

When I watch Deebo Samuel play, I see a young, athletic version of Pierre Garcon. Deebo gives an inch to Garcon but packs an additional five pounds into his 5'11" frame. Their games, however, are extremely similar, and that means Deebo could fill an important role in the Kyle Shanahan offense. When Shanahan joined the 49ers, everyone marveled at his "Pierre Garcon" role, previously filled by Pierre Garcon, among others.

Andrew Hawkins, a former NFL wide receiver who played under Shanahan, underscored the Shanahan archetypes here.

That means the "Pierre Garcon" tough underneath guy is a serious PPR consideration in fantasy football, and Samuel fills that role perfectly. He has great hands, he's amazing in traffic, and while he doesn't have Odell Beckham speed, he has the ability to take a slant a long way. Unfortunately, he doesn't take them to the house, as he is routinely tracked down from behind. That's okay since Deebo will likely peak as a PPR bye week flex in deeper fantasy football leagues his rookie year. Don't expect a ton from him, but he could be a desperation plug-and-play later in the season. There's little expectation that he will leapfrog Dante Pettis or George Kittle, but he could be a valuable third pass catcher for the Niners.

Down the road, however, he has the talent and role to be a perennial 120-target guy, which will be great for deeper fantasy football PPR leagues. If only I could say that about their third-round pick.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Round 3, Pick 67 Overall – Jalen Hurd, Wide Receiver, Baylor

Is he a wide receiver though? Against Texas, he ran some decent enough routes, but he honestly looked better as a running back in the few carries I saw of him. At 6'5", 226 pounds, the phrase "prototypical running back" unfortunately don't spring to mind so he will remain a wide receiver. A project wide receiver. A project wide receiver with an entire WR corps ahead of him on the depth chart.

He has big, freakish arms and an ability to pluck the ball out of the air. Unfortunately, he has inconsistent focus and bad drops. He's good at the breakpoint for routes, but not great. His long legs make him more of a strider than someone who can win in short areas, so he's definitely limited. For fantasy football in 2019, he has nearly zero ceiling. He also might have that in the NFL in general.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Round 6, Pick 176 Overall – Kaden Smith, Tight End, Stanford

Kaden Smith is a tight end prospect that desperately needs to hit a weight room. He gets blown off his routes by LBs and has trouble getting any drive in his blocking. He's hard to tackle, and he has good hands, but he's slow and week, and he doesn't get open. Oh, and he has a lot of focus drops. Get this guy into deadlifting for 2019 and let's check back in on him in 2020. Completely ignore him in fantasy football. Even if George Kittle goes down.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Seattle Seahawks Rookie Roundup

The Seattle Seahawks spent 2018 vociferously establishing the run, then drafted three wide receivers in the 2019 NFL draft. They also drafted a running back with an exceptionally apt name. What, then, of their fantasy football prospects in 2019? Does Doug Baldwin leave a surprising opening in the target ratio? Does hyperathletic freak D.K. Metcalf win at the next level? Will he get popped for the least surprising PED suspension of all time? There are a lot of questions with the 2019 Seattle Seahawks rookies, and we'll break them all down below.

Round 2, Pick 64 Overall – D.K. Metcalf, Wide Receiver, Ole Miss

There isn't a more divisive fantasy football rookie than D.K. Metcalf. He popped up after the college season looking like someone had attached a hose to him and pumped up his muscles. Or maybe he has one of those plugs like in a kiddie pool. Either way, he showed up completely jacked out of his mind at the combine. Fortunately for him, his game isn't built on agility or change-of-direction, or else the momentum of trying to put a keg's worth of muscle weight on a tendon when changing directions would lead to countless knee injuries.

That having been said, he's the opposite of what you would picture with that characterization. "Lumbering" doesn't come close to describing his speed, as his 4.33-40 yard dash pops out on film. His tape shows mostly go routes, with a curl thrown in here and there for good measure. He runs straight behind the defense most of the time, which is good enough to have some usefulness in the NFL. He's a physical marvel but needs a lot of work on being a football player.

Unfortunately, he finds himself on the Seattle Seahawks, who spent 2018 redefining "establishing the run" under Offensive Coordinator Brian Schottenheimer. Throw in that the Seattle Seahawks already have a guy who loves to run in long, straight lines (Tyler Lockett) and you have a recipe for Metcalf not doing much in 2019 (though the inevitable Dion Lewis/Derrick Henry photo but with Metcalf and Lockett will be great). He will likely pop up here and there, but the offense and his skill set do not scream "immediately helping your fantasy team." No Seattle rookie WR is likely to be a useful fantasy commodity in his rookie year, but if anyone would, it's probably the next guy.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Round 4, Pick 120 Overall – Gary Jennings Jr, Wide Receiver, West Virginia

Gary Jennings, alongside Tyler Lockett, D.K. Metcalf, and Seahawks sixth-round pick Travis Homer represents a change to the Seattle offense. While they will still likely establish the run, or die trying, they seem set up to take bigger home run plays. That makes someone like Gary Jennings intriguing as a late flier in best ball leagues, though I would not lean on him in any season-long fantasy football leagues.

Gary Jennings Jr. has some incredibly, wildly inconsistent tape. He looks like a crazy different player not only from game to game, but half to half. He alternates between *a lot* of routes that' don't really go anywhere. Fake bubble screens, lazy curls, squirting out into the flat while the play develops on the other side. Just a whole lot of garbage on screen. Then, all of a sudden, West Virginia would remember he exists, and he blasts three amazing plays where he would destroy his man at the line, run past the safety, and make a massive play. He's also great at finding the soft spot in a zone, which will help bolster his fantasy football numbers in PPR leagues.

I expect Gary Jennings to have a bit of a learning curve, and given that he will be the third fiddle in a passing offense that is more underutilized than D.K. Metcalf's shirts at pre-draft meetings, it's unlikely he will have a ton of fantasy football upside. *Unless, of course, they change everything.* The loss of Doug Baldwin (and his replacement with Metcalf and Jennings), the re-signing of Russell Wilson and the suddenly strong offensive line point to the Seahawks potentially moving towards a big play offense. If that's the case, expect Gary Jennings name to start popping up in midseason pickup pieces. I'm not overly confident that'll happen with Brian "curls" Schottenheimer, but it's certainly possible.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Round 6, Pick 204 – Travis Homer, Running Back, Miami

Oh man, requiescat in pace to J.D. McKissic and C.J. Prosise. The two oft-injured Seahawks will likely be no more with the acquisition of yet another small, fast third down back. Homer didn't get a lot of passes in college, but he was smooth in both catching them and immediately knowing what to do with the ball. Swing passes to Homer, and other methods of getting him the ball in space are the best bet for him scoring any fantasy football points this year. He's not good between the tackles. At 5'10", 201 pounds, it's probably best that he doesn't bounce between them, given that he can't really shed a tackle to save his life.

Where does Homer make his hay? In the open field. He is absolutely electric when it's him and a gang of guys trying to catch up to him. He's hard to tackle in the open field, and he's always churning for more yards. He's a shifty, open runner, and if you want to know his running style, call it the opposite of Chris Carson. He doesn't want that heat in the open field, but he's talented enough to get around the guy trying to lay the wood.

He's useless for fantasy football, in the same way, that McKissic and Prosise have been mostly useless. He's third on the depth chart and doesn't have a great profile to take over as the lead back in the case of Carson and Rashaad Penny going down with injuries. His role is unlikely to change in year one, so you can safely ignore him in fantasy football drafts, though he may make it into a DFS lineup or two.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Round 7, Pick 236 – John Ursua, Wide Receiver, Hawaii

I'll be short with this. He's short. I'll be light with my words. He's light. At 5'9" 178, he had a profile that could thrive in college, but not in the pros. He plays like he's a bigger guy, and if he was Julio Jones sized, he probably would have gone in the third or fourth round. He doesn't have the skillset for his height and weight in the NFL, as a shifty speedster. He's shifty, but not overly athletic. He's also likely at his NFL ceiling, given that he's already 25 years old. That's older than Amari Cooper, JuJu Smith-Schuster, and Tyreek Hill. Don't count on him ever becoming a fantasy football asset.

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 OUTLOOK 

Tampa Bay Buccaneers Rookie Roundup

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers drafted just one fantasy football eligible commodity in the 2019 NFL Draft. They lost Adam Humphries and DeSean Jackson to free agency, and replaced them with… Scott Miller? Okay, sure, what does Scott Miller have in store for us for fantasy football teams in 2019?

Round 6, Pick 208 Overall – Scott Miller, Wide Receiver, Bowling Green

Nothing.

Okay, the long answer. His physical profile is one that only Bill Belichick could love. At 5'9" and 174 pounds, he is a little guy. There isn't a huge track record of recent success for guys at his size not named DeSean Jackson. The best fantasy football season for someone his size (non-DJax division) is 9.17 PPR fantasy points per game. Let's start there as his fantasy football ceiling on his career.

For the player himself, he's a fast guy, but he's small. He plays like a much bigger wide receiver, inviting hits and taking on tacklers. If Scott Miller had another four inches and 30 pounds (that's what she said), he could really do something in the NFL. But, alas, he's stuck as the next in a long line of guys who were prolific in the NCAA but were too small to work in the NFL. Even if he bucked the trend of his height, he's going to be behind Mike Evans, Chris Godwin, O.J. Howard, and Cameron Brate for targets.

Oh, and I forgot to get this part in: he's a real scrappy gym rat, and he's sneaky athletic. A real gritty, high motor gamer. Just a 9-to-5 lunch pail kinda guy. The sort of player you'd want your daughter to date. I think I got most of them there.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Tennessee Titans Rookie Roundup

The Tennessee Titans are an offense without a direction and a team with too many mouths to feed and no definite plan on how to feed them to rely on anyone in Tennessee for quality fantasy football production. In a move that made me meltdown on air (around 42:30), the Titans jammed another passing weapon into a limited passing offense. I promise not to melt down twice about this.

Round 2, Pick 51 overall – A.J. Brown, Wide Receiver, Ole Miss

First, the feelgoods about A.J. Brown. He was my second-favorite wide receiver in this draft class, and he had some real, solid quality destinations that would have made his fantasy football draft stock fly through the roof. He popped off the tape, with effortless speed and tight moves on his routes. He blasted off against press, and he was just a joy to watch. He was like a greased pick to would-be tacklers and was just a frenetic force. More than being the second-best wide receiver in the class behind N'Keal Harry, he was the most fun to watch out of all the guys taken. That's what makes his destination, in Tennessee, so unacceptable.

The Titans threw the ball 437 times last year (31st), 496 times in 2017 (28th), and 504 times in 2016 (28th). They are consistently one of the lowest pass-volume teams in the league, and they currently look ready to chop off nearly 30% of those targets for Corey Davis. That leaves about 330-350 targets to divide up between a returning Delanie Walker, a newcomer in Adam Humphries, and last season's pass-catching running back addition in Dion Lewis. Then, on top of that, they need to make room for A.J. Brown, as well. They purport that they will be able to do all this while trying to build the offense around Derrick Henry. The math just doesn't work, and it's going to hurt everyone around for fantasy football. It's an awful situation, and I'm sick of it, and it is going to tank A.J. Brown's value, likely, until 2021.

Top line, back of napkin stuff for you here, if all that didn't convince you: the Titans have not supported two top-36 wide receivers in the same season since 2013 (Nate Washington and Kendall Wright). Why will this be the first year to do that in over half a decade? What gives you that confidence?

TALENT 

OPPORTUNITY 

2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK 

Washington Redskins Rookie Roundup

Washington is an absolute dumpster fire in all regards. As a franchise, they cannot keep players healthy. As a source of fantasy football prognostication and value, they have a bunch of guys who are just okay, and their best players are either coming off of injury (Derrius Guice) or perpetually injured (Jordan Reed). They hope to remedy this with the four fantasy football eligible players they took in the 2019 NFL Draft. They started out with one of the better signal callers in the draft… and then muddied the waters even further with their other skill position players.

Round 1, Pick 6 (oh… that's unfortunate) Overall – Dwayne Haskins, Jr., Quarterback, Ohio State

I like Dwayne Haskins a lot, and at this point, I've written up all three round one quarterbacks in the draft, and I can say that as a classic QB, Haskins has the position down pat. Murray is the better all-around athlete and fantasy football contributor, but Haskins has the talents that make most QB coaches wet themselves with joy. He has a great release, which gives him good touch and accuracy and short and intermediate passes. The downside to his passing is that his deep ball accuracy can be a little scattershot. This goes part and parcel with his inability to really put some power behind his deep throws, as Terry McLaurin and Parris Campbell frequently did their best disgruntled Sonic the Hedgehog impression waiting for the ball to arrive.

That having been said, he just needs some seasoning to get better. He's a one-year starter, and that is what gives people a lot of hesitation. Luckily, Washington has a $30 million QB coach in-house with a recovering Alex Smith. Smith has acted as a mentor to Colin Kaepernick and Patrick Mahomes in the past, and given that his contract not getting voided is basically contingent on him being in and around Washington's facility and showing his face wherever possible, he should get some great mentoring in to help Haskins grow.

As for 2019 fantasy football, Haskins is probably going to end up starting more than half the games, with only Case Keenum and Colt McCoy ahead of him for snaps. I would stay away from starting Haskins his rookie year in fantasy football, his deficiencies are mostly decision-making based at this point, which means that it is going to be a steep learning curve for the rookie in any starts that he makes. That isn't to say that his future isn't bright, but his present is just a little messy.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 3, Pick 76 Overall – Terry McLaurin, Wide Receiver, Ohio State

Washington's next fantasy football eligible player they took in the draft gives Dwayne Haskins a familiar face to throw to, one he played with at Ohio State. McLaurin is an extremely fast player (4.35 40-yard dash) who flashed good hands and body control, though consistency in that arena seems to be an issue. A strong showing at the Senior Bowl boosted his draft stock with Washington, though I'm not confident that he's even the best wide receiver they took in this draft. In short: he's a speedster, who needs refinement. He's going to be a better real-life asset than fantasy football asset. I'm honestly not sure why he went in the top-100, NFL.com puts a third-round grade on him and the breakdown is that he's fast, but not good.

Not quite sure what Washington was thinking with that one! I do, however, know what to think about him for 2019 fantasy football. Even if he becomes the best version of himself, that best version of himself does not emerge from the morass of wide receivers in Washington as the preferred target of Keenum, McCoy, or Haskins. The best version of himself is an inconsistent deep shot threat who will probably flash a 175 yard and two touchdown week, surrounded by games with three targets, zero catches, and an average depth of target north of 20. He's boom-bust, and I am going to stay as far away from him as possible in my 2019 redraft fantasy football leagues.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 4, Pick 122 Overall – Bryce Love, Running Back, Stanford

It's hard to know what to think about Bryce Love headed into the 2019 season. He was fantastic in 2017, coming in second to Baker Mayfield in Heisman Trophy voting. He fell apart in 2018, battling injuries before finally tearing his ACL in Stanford's finale. He's an incredible talent when he's on, but he was off for all of 2018. Love's 2017 tape is fantastic, with him inviting (and discarding) contact at will, and turning on the afterburners when necessary. He showed extreme talent, but it's hard to know how much of that talent remains in him after his injuries.

It's hard to get excited for his 2019 fantasy football prospects in Washington, given that I'm not 100% uncertain that Washington doesn't just give him 2019 to recover and let Chris Thompson, Derrius Guice, and Adrian Peterson tote the load behind their demolished offensive line. If he does make the 53-man roster, it'll be extraordinarily crowded, with Washington trying to work two rookie running backs in after Guice's lost 2019. Stay away from him in redraft fantasy football leagues.

TALENT



OR



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Round 6, Pick 206 – Kelvin Harmon, Wide Receiver, North Carolina State

Despite going over 100 picks later than Terry McLaurin, Harmon is the better of the 2019 Washington rookie wide receivers. His only problem is that he has a relatively low ceiling. Harmon doesn't do a lot to clear out space, but he has decent enough moves to succeed. His career best-case scenario is Michael Crabtree. He has that classic "my ball" mentality, and his hands more than makeup for his inability to get open. Harmon has just enough speed to keep DBs honest but won't blast past anyone.

For fantasy football, don't expect Harmon to pop in 2019, just like Bryce Love. The talent pool is wide and shallow in Washington, and Harmon contributes to that wide, shallow pool. Washington is going to be an absolute mess for 2019 fantasy football production, and Harmon won't escape that suck down into the depths of fantasy football uselessness.

TALENT



OPPORTUNITY



2019 FANTASY FOOTBALL OUTLOOK



Sleepers, Breakouts, and Busts

Arizona Cardinals Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Kyler Murray, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB16, 107 Overall)

This isn't the deepest sleeper (that would be Andy Isabella), but Kliff Kingsbury and Kyler are a match made in heaven, as Kingsbury's fast-paced, wide open Air Raid offense meshes perfectly with Kyler Murray's skill set. Kingsbury ran it to perfection in college with three former first-round picks: Baker Mayfield, Johnny Manziel, and Patrick Mahomes. These three quarterbacks are all slingers who love to run the ball all over the field, and with the exception of Mahomes, they are all little guys. Do you know who else is a little guy? Kyler Murray. Do you know who else loves to run the ball all over the field, and sling it as much as possible? Kyler Murray. Or at least, his 4,300+ yards, 42 touchdowns, and 1001 rushing yards *and 12 rushing touchdowns* in his 2018 Heisman Trophy-winning campaign say he loves to do all that stuff.

What, then, of his transition to the NFL? Well, he keeps something in his back pocket that gives him a nice floor. Okay, technically, it's under his back pocket. Well, the upper part of his sneaky value is under his pocket. His legs. I mean his legs. His rushing ability will give Kyler a nice fantasy football points cushion to make up for his transition to the NFL. We saw that last season down the stretch with Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen, two quarterbacks who aren't as good as Kyler Murray. Kyler's upside is Josh Allen's torrid end-of-season pace, where he was a top-five fantasy football quarterback in five of the last six weeks without topping 250 passing yards once. Kyler's rank at QB16 is his floor (though he's drafted as QB12), and he has plenty of room to move upward. He's could be a league-winner at #105 overall.

Breakout – Christian Kirk, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR36, 85 Overall)

I've been on the Christian Kirk bandwagon since February. Since then, he's become a trendy fantasy football sleeper among the community. I went through the reasons why Kingsbury and Kirk kould… sorry… could work together in Arizona. This was back before we knew that Kyler would be tossing him the ball, a connection that helped Kirk go for 80 receptions, 1,009 receiving yards, and 7 touchdowns back in 2015. Just those numbers alone would give him ranked as WR22, just behind Kenny Golladay last season.

Christian Kirk didn't have the best rookie season, but when a rookie season ends with a complete housecleaning and a new QB, you can't really hold that against the wide receiver. He still landed with the fourth-most receiving yards among rookie wide receivers, and he did it with just 68 targets. Should he get a bigger share of the targets in Arizona, merely scaling up his production will put him among the top-24 at the position

Bust – Larry Fitzgerald, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR41, 98 Overall)

Death comes for us all. Larry Fitzgerald included. While it's hard to call the WR41 a bust, this is to express caution in upside expectations for Fitzgerald. For lack of better options in Arizona, he's been a steadfast force in PPR fantasy football leagues to rack up top-36 seasons in his career, and top-ten in three of his last four seasons. Unfortunately, market share will prove to be the death knell of Fitz's career.

He's had fewer than 135 targets just four times in his career, and he ended as WR24, 30, 31, and 52 in those seasons, with his rank buoyed mostly on the back of outsized touchdown totals. While the Kliff Kingsbury offense will put together a more fruitful season than last year, Larry Fitzgerald will be 36 this year, and the receiver room is suddenly crowded with talent, with the additions of Christian Kirk, Andy Isabella, and Hakeem Butler in the last two seasons. This might be the end of the line for Larry Fitzgerald's usefulness in fantasy football leagues. Or he's a cyborg and will play for another thirty years. Who knows?

Sleeper – Qadree Ollison, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB110, 398 overall)

This is one of the deepest sleepers in this whole series, and it will take a very specific set of events for Ollison to return on this value, but he does represent a big upside play in the Falcons offense. First, who is Qadree Ollison? Ollison is a fifth-round rookie running back out of PItt. He isn't exactly agile, and at 6'2", 230 pounds he profiles more as a guy who runs through defenders than runs around defenders. Also, he doesn't catch the ball. At all.

How will he be a sleeper? One of two ways. First, and the more likely way, is an injury to Devonta Freeman. Despite Freeman's injury-prone label, outside of last season, he's been remarkably durable since coming to prominence in the NFL. We've already seen what Ito Smith does with the football, and it isn't exactly the prettiest thing in the world. If Freeman goes down, they likely turn to a committee with Ollison and Smith making up the one-two punch, with Ollison handling the first and second-down duties and Smith coming in on passing situations. The other path to production for Ollison is an injury or ineffectiveness from Ito. Ollison isn't the kind of guy you draft in most fantasy football leagues, but if you're in a deep draft, fire away.

Breakout – Austin Hooper, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE11, 116 overall)

With Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley streaking out wide, someone needs to be the underneath target for Matt Ryan in 2019. That guy will be Austin Hooper, and the Falcons showed down the stretch last season that they wanted to lean on him more than your average tight end. In week ten last season, the Falcons figured out that they really liked what happened when they threw the ball to Hooper, so they did it a lot. From weeks ten through seventeen last season, Hooper ranked sixth among tight end targets. He ranked as TE7 in half-PPR during this stretch.

We like targets, a lot. Some philosophers say that a man without targets, is a man without catches, and a man without catches, is a man without fantasy football points. I think that was in *Art of WR*.

Do you know what's also a lot of fun? Red zone targets, and more specifically, ten zone targets. Austin Hooper tied for third last season among tight ends with ten such targets, with only Jared Cook and Travis Kelce ahead of him. In fact, Hooper tied for the eighth-most ten zone targets last season, with T.Y. Hilton and Zach Ertz. The target volume Hooper received after week ten, and the ten zone targets he had all season make him a shoo-in to return better-than-value production as TE11. Hey, he could even be this season's Eric Ebron; a guy who gets a ton of touchdowns through luck and volume. Except, unlike Ebron, instead of Luck, it'll be Ryan. Matt Ryan, like, how Eric Ebron had Andrew Luck. You get it. You get what I mean.

Bust – Ito Smith, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB41, 117 overall)

Like several guys in the bust category in this series, this represents a pushback against a breakout narrative for Ito Smith. I can do it in three words: he's not good.

I can do it in more words if you want, but you already got everything you need right there. Peak Ito Smith last season happened from weeks four through nine last season (they had a bye week in here, so it's only five games). In this timeframe, Ito had Peak Ito Time, wherein he was a barely useful flex, coming in as RB33 in this span. He had four touchdowns, which buoyed his value greatly. While the bye week definitely dragged down his value, it's worth noting that he finished inside the top-24 twice (RB23 in week four, and RB16 in week nine). This was Ito's big break to become the Tevin Coleman to Tevin Coleman's... Devonta Freeman. Yeah, that sentence tracks. He bombed it, averaging just 3.6 yards per carry (his futility hitting Ronald Jonesian levels at a robust 2.05 yards per carry in weeks four, five and six) and getting most of his value off fluky touchdowns.

The kicker? Qadree Ollison is now nipping at his heels. It's more likely that it's a committee back approach behind Freeman than it is the normal Devonta Freeman/Tevin Coleman split we've come to know and love in Atlanta. He's not a guy I'm interested in having on any of my rosters, since he will be a destitute man's Tevin Coleman unless Freeman gets hurt, and even then, he doesn't have the upside appeal of a Tevin Coleman if Freeman goes down.

Baltimore Ravens Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Miles Boykin, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR114, 338 overall)

Here's my biggest rookie hot take of them all: the best wide receiver the Ravens drafted this year came in the third round (Boykin) and not the first (Hollywood Brown). I loved Boykin in college despite the fact that trash quarterback play at Notre Dame cost him a ton of pop and buzz because his numbers weren't there. They constantly left him out to dry on errant, or ill-advised pass attempts. However, at 6'4" and 220 pounds, he put up ridiculous combine measurements that left sharps giving him positive Kenny Golladay comparisons.

The Baltimore wide receiver room is also wide open: Marquise Brown (hurt), Willie Snead (remember him?), Chris Moore (okay…) and Michael Floyd (lol) are the only ones battling Boykin for wide receiver targets. That's really all you need to know about his fantasy football opportunity in 2019, and he's free in drafts.

Breakout – Lamar Jackson, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB17, 112 overall)

There are two things that were definitely true of Lamar Jackson down the stretch last season: (1) he was not great as a quarterback, and (2) he was amazing as a fantasy football quarterback. Yes, Virginia, there is a path to make both those things true at once. In seven starts, Jackson threw only five touchdowns, and tossed three picks, while averaging just 159 passing yards per contest. How, then, was he the #5 fantasy football quarterback down the stretch last year? 119 rush attempts for 556 yards, and four touchdowns in that span. The ol' Fantasy Football Konami Code. The Ravens rode Jackson's legs to great success last season. Now, the Ravens have Colin Kaepernick Whisperer Greg Roman at OC, and that can push Lamar Jackson to even greater heights. Imagine if he grows as a passer? That would give Jackson top-three fantasy football upside, at bottom-three backup quarterback rank.

Bust – Marquise Brown, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR75, 188 overall)

I don't want to mince words here, and I want to put this in no uncertain terms: Marquise Brown is completely undraftable in 2019 fantasy football redraft leagues. There are zero reasons why he should have an ownership percentage. Zero, zip, zilch, nada.

First, Lamar Jackson doesn't throw the deep ball with any sort of regularity or accuracy. Before Lamar Jackson took over, John Brown, the 2018 Baltimore Ravens speedster, was on pace for a 56 catch, 998-yard (let's call it 1,000 yards) season, with six scores. After Jackson took over, he failed to top 27 yards once and ate three games with single-digit yard games. That's much worse than before if you are keeping track at home, and not something you want for fantasy football.

Second, Marquise Brown is currently recovering from a Lisfranc injury. Lisfranc injuries are notoriously awful injuries, especially in the season following the injury. I won't bore you with the details of the research, but "[a]lthough professional NFL athletes return to play at a high rate (83%) following Lisfranc injury, their league participation and performance is significantly decreased on return." Nope. I don't like that.

Buffalo Bills Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Devin Singletary, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB62, 191 overall)

I listed out all the reasons I like Singletary as a player here. He's multifaceted, multitalented, and drew favorable comparisons to LeSean McCoy and Frank Gore in college. Here's the short for 2019 fantasy football. He's free in fantasy football drafts and just has to beat out two guys who qualify for AARP and a career change-of-pace back. Sound familiar? It was the formula that Alvin Kamara had to beat a couple of years ago. I'm not saying that Singletary is Alvin Kamara, (not even close) but I am saying that the guys ahead of him have almost no tread left on their tires, and it would be him and Yeldon to pick up the pieces. You might just need to be patient with him.

Breakout – Josh Allen, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB19, 119 overall)

Josh Allen was absolutely bonkers down the stretch last year, posting top-five numbers in four-of-five weeks, and ending that stretch as the QB1. A lot point out that his insane statistics cannot be duplicated this year, and they're correct. Josh Allen won't be the fantasy football QB1 this year, and he won't run for 1,200+ yards and 13 touchdowns. You got 'em. Good stuff everyone.

What if he keeps his rush attempts, pass attempts, and looks more like a normal quarterback? Let's start at that stretch last year, up his yards per pass attempt by a half yard, halve his rushing TD rate, and halve his yards per rush. Everything else stays the same. He *craters* down to 19.51 fantasy points per game. That would have been QB8 last year in an all-time fantasy football quarterback season. Why we think we should be taking him at QB19, I have no idea.

Bust – LeSean McCoy, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB36, 91 overall)

LeSean McCoy is an all-time talent, and there's no denying that. Unfortunately for LeSean McCoy, that doesn't get you fantasy football points. Why, then, is he the RB36? There's certainly some way you can cut up McCoy's 2018 production in a way that gives you some sort of hope for 2019. Let's see. Maybe that's where he ended last season? Nope, RB39. He was only inside the top-20 three times, and outside the top-40 in 6 of 14 games. Hm, nope. Maybe the opportunity was there? Hm… 195 touches? Nope, not that. Oh, maybe he's the only game in town? What's that, they added three running backs this offseason? Okay. On second thought, maybe his ADP makes zero sense, at all.

Carolina Panthers Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Breakout – Curtis Samuel, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR39, 94 overall)

The simplest, base-level reason to believe in a Curtis Samuel breakout is the well-worn third-year wide receiver breakout canard we all like to trot out when we run out of reasons why we like a wide receiver. Well, I trotted it out first, so you can't accuse me of doing it because I was out of ideas.

The real reason I like Curtis Samuel: a partial-season sample size, oh yeah! In the last five games of Carolina's season, Samuel wrested the WR2 position away from human trash fire Devin Funchess and averaged 8 targets a game en route to a 64-catch, 954-yard, three touchdown pace. While the touchdowns are questionable, it's mostly a question of endpoints: he had 8 touchdowns on the season.

Give Samuel the pace yardage and catches and the season-long touchdown total, and you're looking at a projection of 11.0 fantasy points per game (good enough for WR16 in 2018). He also dominated air yards in that span, turning in a 32% market share, which was more than Amari Cooper and JuJu Smith-Schuster in the same timeframe, and well ahead of his teammate, D.J. Moore (22% market share). Everything is in place for Curtis Samuel to make a huge leap forward, and he is one of my favorite fantasy football sleeper candidates for 2019.

Sleeper – Ian Thomas, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE28, 256 overall)

Bust – Greg Olsen, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE18, 152 overall)

Ian Thomas and Greg Olsen go together in this preview because, well, their fantasy football fortunes go together this season. Greg Olsen will be coming off two seasons where he missed a combined sixteen games with foot maladies, and he's 34 years old. Generally, aging 255-pound men don't have their foot problems get better as time progresses. Here's the kicker... even outside the foot problems stealing games from Olsen, he hasn't been good for two years. He has five top-twelve tight end games in the last two seasons, out of sixteen games. If you combine his last sixteen games and make it a season, Greg Olsen turns in a 44-catch, 482-yard, five touchdown campaign. If that was one season, it would have been 100.2 points in half-PPR. Guys who have scored between 99 and 101 fantasy points in a season, on average, finish as TE17. No thank you.

And ready for the hot take? Greg Olsen has, at most, five games left before he reinjures himself and that's that on a long, storied career. In steps Ian Thomas, who filled-in for Greg Olsen last season when—surprise—Greg Olsen was injured. Thomas struggled early when filling in for Olsen, and disappeared entirely when Olsen was available, but once he had his chance to shine, he turned in a masterful performance. Once Thomas slotted back in as the starting tight end for the Panthers in week thirteen, he sucked up Greg Olsen's targets. He turned in a crazy eights pro-rated sixteen-game performance in that stretch: 108 targets, 80 catches, 800 yards, 8 touchdowns.

Now, I'm not a superstitious man, but I do know two things: (1) the Chinese traditionally believe 8, not 7, to be the lucky number and that is a lot of 8s, and (2) he was TE5 in that span. Thomas is free, so if you have a roster spot to spare, maybe look his way this draft season, as Greg Olsen isn't long for a football field.

Chicago Bears Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Anthony Miller, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR55, 158 overall)

Anthony Miller was a hot fantasy football sleeper candidate before last season, but a week three shoulder injury (that eventually led to surgery) sapped his true potential from him in his rookie year. He still managed seven touchdowns on just 54 targets (more on that later), but he never formed any sort of consistent production. That should all change this year, with just a step forward in target volume and having two functional shoulders. Let's build us a top-36 fantasy football wide receiver, shall we?

First off, swap Anthony Miller's target share with Taylor Gabriel's. That gives Miller 18% of the targets, and Gabriel just 11%. With the projected passing volume from Mitchell Trubisky, that puts Miller at 100 targets square on the nose. Normally surehanded and athletic, the shoulder injury sapped much from Anthony Miller, so let's turn his pedestrian 12.8 yards per catch to a more respectable 13.8, and up his catch rate from 61% to 65%. That gives him 911 yards on 66 catches.

Miller had a touchdown rate more unsustainable than the current United States economic and environmental policies, so let's drop that down a bit. League average is 4.1%, but he gets a boost for catching all those touchdowns with on arm. Give him a 5.5% TD rate (10% above average), and that's 66 catches, 891 yards, and five touchdowns. Good enough for WR32 in my ranks this year, and that would have been WR36 last year. At WR55, that's a steal.

Breakout – David Montgomery, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB25, 50 overall)

Here's the short of it. We all remember Jordan Howard being kind of disappointing last year, right? He had just 3.7 yards per carry, and just 20 receptions. Still, his volume was just good enough to see him as RB20 in half-PPR fantasy football leagues, and RB18 in standard scoring. He was *actively bad* and still turned in a top-20 fantasy football season. The Bears traded him to Philadelphia, and they got anything they could for him in return. Not having him was their real reward. And that guy got 250 carries last year!

I won't get into the details but David Montgomery is infinitely better than Jordan Howard, and Howard evacuates 276 targets + rushes from the Bears system. Call me crazy, but I don't think that Mike Davis is a huge threat to get a massive chunk of these. The Bears used a top-75 pick on Montgomery, and he's received nothing but glowing praise.

Bust – Allen Robinson, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR31, 80 overall)

Allen Robinson is only going to be 26 years old when the season kicks off, so it's too early to give up on him at this point. With that in mind, Allen Robinson already has more lost seasons than he has actively good seasons. Since his massive 2015 campaign, Robinson not only missed an entire season, but he's played on an actively decreased pace. His per-sixteen game pace since that unsustainable blowup: 882 yards, and five touchdowns. That's good enough for a top-36 wide receiver, but many think that Robinson is due for a step forward in fantasy football. I don't see it, especially given the likely growing target shares for guys like Anthony Miller and Tarik Cohen and the addition of guys like Riley Ridley and David Montgomery.

Cincinnati Bengals Sleeper, Breakout & Bust

Sleeper – John Ross, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR79, 202 overall)

There's no doubting that John Ross had an abysmal rookie campaign, especially from a fantasy football perspective. He started off his career with 12 yards on one touch… and a fumble. There was the talk of switching him to DB. Then, he quietly scored seven touchdowns on just 58 targets. He caught 21 of those targets and scored every third target. No, your math isn't wrong. He caught just 36.2% of his passes. And there's the problem.

I don't want to handwave away John Ross's bad hands. They're bad. They're very… not good. That having been said, Jeff Driskel did him no favors last season, routinely throwing him impossible passes. What about with Andy Dalton? With Dalton, Ross was a top-50 wide receiver in all formats and was on pace to be the #37 wide receiver at 5.91 fantasy points per game in standard scoring. He wasn't a world killer, but he was a fantasy football commodity in those weeks.

Let's assume Ross doesn't fall apart every time the ball goes his way, and that he chews up a bigger portion of the receiving game now that Zac Taylor (he of the Sean McVay coaching tree) is in tow as Taylor's Brandin Cooks option. It wouldn't be surprising to turn around and find that Ross has an 800 yard, eight touchdown season in him. He's free in every draft and is worth a shot at that price.

Breakout – Andy Dalton, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB26, 172 overall)

This one is more for two-quarterback fantasy football leagues. As we discussed above, Zac Taylor made his way to Cincinnati to overhaul a moribund franchise that had the living embodiment of poi as head coach for eleventy billion years. Last season was the worst fantasy football finish of his career, wherein he ended up as QB26. That's his expert consensus rank this year… his worst final rank ever, and he missed five games to earn himself that honor.

Prior to last season, Dalton finished, on average, as QB14. And that was with the aforementioned bland, lumpy paste leading the squad. Now, he gets a young, upstart offensive-minded head coach and a corps full of targets to, well.. target. Here's another way to put it: even if he doesn't get any better than his career average before last year, that's 14.7 fantasy points per game. That's QB18, and at a QB26 price, you can bank your QB2 in a two-quarterback league on the cheap.

Bust – Tyler Boyd, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR29, 68 overall)

This is easy… the math doesn't work here for Tyler Boyd to return his fantasy football draft value this offseason. He was WR20 last season in half-PPR, and that was with him getting 20% of the targets. That was thanks to A.J. Green getting hurt and not garnering the 29% market share of targets that he received in 2017. What cut of the targets did Boyd get in 2017? Just 7%. In 2016, it was 15%. Coincidentally, Green was hurt in 2016, as well. For Boyd to return value, you're betting on an A.J. Green injury, and the same trickle-down of targets that's happened in the past. With a sixth-round price tag on Boyd, that is not a bet worth making.

[UPDATE: July 29 - Well, well, well. A.J. Green went and did A.J. Green things. He tore a ligament in his ankle, and is pegged to be out for 6-8 weeks at this point. That turns Tyler Boyd into a great early-season weapon. Once Green is back to form, the above applies. If Green looks bad in his first couple of games, flip Boyd in a trade before Green returns to form and Boyd returns to the background.]

Cleveland Browns Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Antonio Callaway, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR73, 179 overall)

The question with Antonio Callaway's draft stock was never a matter of talent, but rather a matter of him being, "a gosh-darned knucklehead." Callaway didn't end the season particularly high overall, but he was more productive than many rookies who are getting buzz this season as fantasy football sleepers, or breakouts. He was fourth in targets among rookies, and fifth in receiving yards (both above Marquez Valdes-Scantling). He was, wildly, third in rookie WR touchdowns, tied with Dante Pettis. Callaway ended the season as the #4 rookie wide receiver, but he isn't going in that range. I understand there is the question of Odell Beckham, Jr and the targets that he commands. I get that this puts a huge damper on a potential Antonio Callaway breakout. Through five seasons, Beckham has played a full sixteen games just once and missed an average of 4.2 games per season. That sounds like plenty of room for Callaway to make his mark on the Browns and your fantasy football team.

Breakout – David Njoku, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE9, 92 overall)

Again, the same caveat applies. Yes, I understand Odell Beckham exists. I run a fantasy football website, just assume I understand that, okay? That having been said, Njoku was great after Baker Mayfield took over last season. He was TE8 in standard and half-PPR, and TE9 in PPR with Mayfield. If he was exactly as good as he was last season, he comes at a value. However, he is *young*, with a capital Y. He turned 23 on July 10 and is just shy of being a year older than rookie phenom T.J. Hockenson, but with two seasons under his belt. Njoku is good and will be in a powerful offense. He's going at the end of the TE4-10 range, and that's the guy you want to snatch up if you believe in snatching a value TE without punting the position. He promises to be a great end zone option for Baker Mayfield: only 15 tight ends have more touchdowns in their first two years in the last couple of decades.

Bust – Jarvis Landry, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR30, 69 overall)

Jarvis Landry was pretty much next-level bad last season at everything, yet he's still going as fantasy football WR30 in a more crowded receiving corps. His first season in Cleveland revealed that he had been a volume darling the whole time in Miami. His average separation was just 3.3 yards, which is in the ballpark of tight ends, mostly (Vance McDonald, Jeff Heuerman, Dallas Goedert, and Jordan Reed all averaged 3.3 yards of separation). The problem? Landry just pretty much fell over after he caught the ball. All those tight ends named, *including—and I cannot stress this enough—Jeff Heuerman*, had more yards after the catch than Landry did last season. Landry's paltry 3.8 yards after the catch was not great. Even worse? His yards after contact per catch was one of the worst in the NFL last season among qualified players. He has great hands, but with a bevy of targets headed Odell Beckham Jr.'s way, and growth for David Njoku and Antonio Callaway, that PPR monster we enjoyed for years is gone forever.

Dallas Cowboys Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Michael Gallup, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR46, 113 overall)

Michael Gallup was one of my favorite wide receivers for fantasy football when he came out of the 2018 NFL Draft. Unfortunately for me, and my pride, he never really materialized as a viable option. However! July is the time for doubling-down on your previous predictions and ensuring that when you are mildly correct, you can lord it over everyone else. Alright, let's see how I can do this: Michael Gallup is the WR2 on a team with an annual top-ten QB. Opposing defenses will key in on Amari Cooper and Ezekiel Elliott, and allow Michael Gallup to chew them up underneath.

Strange, but true, fact: Michael Gallup led Amari Cooper in air yards in half of the eight games they played together last year. That'll work. And if I'm wrong, I'll see you right back here next year!

Breakout – Dak Prescott, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB14, 100 overall)

QB6. QB9. QB10. Those are the three fantasy football finishes for Dak Prescott over his three seasons in the NFL. Since he's entered the league, he has more top-ten seasons than Cam Newton, Russell Wilson, Matt Ryan, and Drew Brees. And yet, he's going after all of these guys in drafts. He also turned into an absolute monster once the Cowboys added Amari Cooper to their wide receiver corps. Before Cooper, he threw for 202 yards and about 1.1 touchdowns per game. With Cooper, he went up to 274 yards per game and 1.6 touchdowns per contest. He was unstartable without Cooper (QB19 in the first six weeks), he turned on the afterburners after Dak arrived, vaulting up to QB9 from weeks 8 through 17. And for his troubles, he's a backup fantasy football quarterback in drafts. If you're in Team #WaitOnQB, then Dak is your man.

Bust – Jason Witten, Disgraced Former ESPN Analyst (Expert Consensus Rank: TE31, 284 overall)

Not really a bust at TE31, but everyone on this squad who should be drafted is being drafted. I just wanted to remind all of you of when he broke a trophy at the Pro Bowl as his last act of being a professional broadcaster. Hilarious.

Denver Broncos Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – DaeSean Hamilton, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR55, 140 overall)

After everything fell apart in Denver last season, Hamilton rose from the ashes. In the last four games of the seasons, Hamilton averaged a monstrous 9.5 targets per game and turned in a stretch that put him on pace for a 100-catch season. Not much has changed in the pass catchers, other than the fact that a hobbled Manny Sanders might be coming back at the beginning of the season, and that the Broncos added a rookie tight end (more on that below). Hamilton's short routes and good hands lend him well to being Joe Flacco's preferred pressure valve release, a la his old school use of Steve Smith and Anquan Boldin. He doesn't have a ton of touchdown upside in standard leagues, but he was the #21 PPR wide receiver in the last four games last season.

Breakout – Courtland Sutton, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR34, 84 overall)

If Flacco's 2019 Anquan Boldin is DaeSean Hamilton, then Sutton is his Torrey Smith. Many pegged Sutton as a massive first-season break out candidate last year, and when he didn't return on that expectation, we crumpled him up and tossed him aside. The sting was doubly painful because he did not go on a massive tear after Denver traded Demaryius Thomas to Houston.

Here's the thing about Sutton: if he hadn't already burned us, many would have him set up for a huge step forward in 2019 for fantasy football. Sutton led all rookie wide receivers in air yards market share and was third in targets market share. He only hauled in half of his catches, but with a deep shot artist like Joe Flacco at the helm, Sutton could be a massive value at his fantasy football ADP.

Bust – Noah Fant, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE23, 194 overall)

It's tough to call the #23 tight end off the board a bust, but it's more of a cautionary tale of what hucksters and hopefuls will tell you. I already ran down all the reasons that going with Fant this year in fantasy football isn't a good idea in the rookie roundup. Here's the long and the short of it: he's a rookie tight end, and rookie tight ends, outside of the Evan Engram outlier, average best rookie tight end over the last decade was absolutely dreadful for fantasy football. He posted just 40 receptions for 450 yards and five scores, on 62 targets. That comes out to roughly the TE17 in all formats. That's his upside play unless you are banking on a huge outlier season.

If you want to say that a talent-deficient team around him and his amazing SPARQ scores will lead to that outlier fantasy football season, then I have some news for you.

Detroit Lions Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Matthew Stafford, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB24, 170 overall)

Matthew Stafford doesn't really fit the mold of a "sleeper," but given that he's a legitimate afterthought in most fantasy football leagues… he belongs here. He's ranked as the #24 quarterback off the board, when he's turned in a season worse than that only twice, in 2009 and 2010, when injuries cost him 19 games in his first two seasons. Since then, he's been fantasy football QB 5, 10, 6, 17, 9, 7, 6, 20. The 17th-ranked season saw the Lions replace their OC with Jim Bob Cooter, so we can't put that at Stafford's feet.

Last season, however, he ended as QB20, but can you blame him? Well, let's take a look at what happened around him. From weeks one through eight, he threw multiple touchdowns six times in seven games (he didn't in a weird, wild week one game against the Jets). Outside of his aberration week one performance, he had only two interceptions in those games. Then, the Lions traded Golden Tate without any sort of Plan B. Stafford threw for two touchdowns and two picks in his next two games. Things looked bleak.

Then, Marvin Jones, Jr went out for the season. With guys like Bruce Ellington catching passes behind Kenny Golladay, Matthew Stafford absolutely cratered. In the last seven games, Stafford threw for just five touchdowns, with two coming in a meaningless week seventeen game. He threw just three picks in the same timeframe, to his credit.

Now, the offense is rebuilt. Kenny Golladay returns as the surefire #1, Marvin Jones is back, and the additions of C.J. Anderson and T.J. Hockenson will bolster Matthew Stafford's fantasy football value. He doesn't offer top-five upside, so he might just be a bye week plug-in in one QB leagues, but he could be an absolute steal in 2QB fantasy football leagues.

Breakout – Kerryon Johnson, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB20, 38 overall)

Man, oh, man, was 2018 a rough year for Kerryon Johnson Truthers (like myself). He started slowly, getting worked in behind JAG LeGarrette Blount. Through his first five games, he garnered only 44% of the carries and 7.7% of the targets and turned in 70.8 yards per game. We were all waiting with bated breath for Kerryon Johnson to breakout for fantasy football. Over the next five games, he jumped up to 60% of the carries and 12.4% of the carries. He had 500 total yards in those five games and three touchdowns. That's a 1,600 yard (#math) and 9.6 touchdown pace, exactly what his supporters imagined.

Then, disaster struck. Kerryon suffered a grade 1 knee strain and missed the rest of the season. Now, healed, and with only C.J. Anderson (and the corpses of Zach Zenner and Theo Riddick) to challenge him for carries, Kerryon Johnson is set to become the fantasy football RB1 all of us who love him have always imagined.

[UPDATE: July 29 - THEO RIDDICK HAS BEEN THEO RID FROM THE ROSTER, AND THAT'S THEO RIDDICK-ULOUS FOR KERRYON JOHNSON. Just redistributing 50% of Riddick's projected targets to Kerryon boost Kerryon to RB1 status. Go get him everywhere, he's the best bet to be this year's Christian McCaffrey].

Bust – T.J. Hockenson, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE14, 137 overall)

Blah blah blah rookie tight end blah blah blah fantasy football black hole blah blah blah

Green Bay Packers Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR52, 136 overall)

MVS was the definition of "started from the bottom now we here." He started last season as a gunner and the WR4, and now he's getting a ton of off-season hype as the presumptive #2 wide receiver alongside Davante Adams. MVS plays one role exceptionally well, and it's a role that will have the Packers offense humming in 2019: the deep ball.

MVS's advanced statistics profile shows up as a guy who, if he can get his drops under control, is set for a huge step forward. First, he had the third-best separation rate of all wide receivers last season (70.3%) according to pro-football-focus. That means he had at least one step on his defender on over two-thirds of his routes run last season. He also led all rookies with 311 "deep receiving yards," so what does that mean? Well, he can get open, and he can get open deep. That perfectly suits what Aaron Rodgers needs out of MVS in 2019, and leaves plenty of room and space for someone else to do his thing in the slot…

Breakout – Geronimo Allison, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR47, 121 overall)

I went on a weird, *Wrath of Khan*-themed tangent about Geronimo Allison for some reason last year, but the facts remain the same. In fact, they've gotten even better. I'll upgrade this year's random reference to be *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home.* A lot of people are hyping MVS *or* Geronimo Allison this season, but the truth of the matter is, they play very different roles. Much like in *The Voyage Home*, Kirk & company didn't need George *or* Gracie, they needed George *and* Gracie.

What does this have to do with Geronimo Allison as a 2019 fantasy football breakout? Well, it's because a step forward from both MVS *and* Allison is necessary and possible in this offense. MVS takes the top off the defenses, while Allison works underneath as a possession receiver. Allison had just four healthy games last season and played on a 1,156 and 8 touchdown pace until he was hurt in week five. Alas, stolen from us before he could fully break out. If you think you have to choose between MVS & Geronimo, you don't! Take them both, and see who pulls it off. Or else, double dumbass on you!

Bust – Aaron Jones, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB17, 31 overall)

Okay, so this one is what I like to call a "soft bust" candidate. I do think that Aaron Jones will be good this year, but I also think that the new look Packers offense might leave the guy in the dust in terms of quality, consistent fantasy football production. I am going to run some numbers on Jones, and I am going to do it in *the most charitable way possible* to show that there's something rotten in Denmark, and it's not just the surströmming.

Aaron Jones started off the season with a two-game suspension last year and ended it getting bounced with two carries in week fifteen. Let's toss that week fifteen game, and give him a pass on his first game back from suspension. Rusty legs and whatnot. If you take just those games, he had an 87.9 yard per game average. That's extremely good! I am not discounting that. The reason

for the Aaron Jones season, however, is that outsized touchdown number that you see with those touches. Aaron Jones scored on 5.66% of his touches last season, which was #10 in the league among guys with at least 50 carries last year.

The problem? Aaron Jones had just *eight* touches within the ten. Of all the guys ahead of him in touchdown per touch, only Jay Ajayi had as few touches as Aaron Jones. And Ajayi did it in four games! The average top-ten touchdown rate guy (which Aaron Jones is one of) is 20.4. If you make it guys with at least 100 touches, it's *22.5* ten-zone touches. This is banking on big plays for Aaron Jones to return his touchdown rate from 2018, and I don't know about you, but I'm not going to bank on big plays for 2019 fantasy football value.

Houston Texans Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Jordan Thomas, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE38, 325 overall)

Jordan Thomas is an athletic freak, and this offense gave C.J. Fiedorowicz a whole year of fantasy football relevancy. The Texans drafted a whole mess of TEs the last couple of years with Thomas, his fellow Jordan (Akins), and Kahale Warring in the last two drafts. Thomas wasn't used frequently last year but returned top-18 TE weeks in three-of-four games with more than two targets. He's currently running with the first-team offense in OTAs and seems to have the inside edge on the other tight ends on the roster. It's a crowded receiving room with DeAndre Hopkins, Keke Coutee, and Will Fuller fighting Thomas for targets, but it's a thin line between crowded and robust, and robust leaves plenty of room for Thomas to operate. He's completely free in fantasy football drafts and is more of a player to keep an eye on as the season develops.

Breakout – Keke Coutee, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR44, 109 overall)

Coutee had a sneak preview of what we could expect for 2019, before getting hurt. He played only three full games last season, but in those three games, he mustered 28 catches, 287 yards, and a touchdown. He turned in two top-20 weeks, and a top-thirty week in those games. Unfortunately, his nagging hamstrings stole him from us after those great performances, and could be a problem moving forward, and leave us always wondering with Coutee. However, anyone who can get as many targets as Coutee did in his healthy games in 2018 is well-worth watching out for. Plus, his name is so much fun to say.

Bust – D'Onta Foreman, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB46, 125 overall)

It's simple: there is no evidence of running backs returning to form after tearing their Achilles. We are wading into unknown waters here with Foreman, and I'm okay with him being on someone else's roster if he breaks the trend. However, his limited run last season began and ended with seven carries for -1 yard and a lost fumble. Not exactly a great audition for the rebuilt Foreman. There's also the issue of Lamar Miller, who is solid, but unspectacular… but has also been a fantasy football RB2 his entire time in Houston. Foreman could provide limited fantasy upside this season in a part-time role while mostly just making headaches for fantasy football owners.

Indianapolis Colts Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Parris Campbell, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR67, 169 overall)

I like a lot about Parris Campbell, but he does have some limited upside in his rookie campaign. He feasts underneath, but doesn't do great in routes that send him downfield. However, with the ball in his hand, he is a dynamic athlete who gives opposing defenses fits. He'll hang out in the middle of the field as Andrew Luck's safety blanket, getting yards four-or-five at a time, with some occasional home runs thrown in there. It's a crowded target market in Indy, so he may not have the opportunity to break out, but if he gets the targets, then he should have a huge 2019 campaign.

Breakout – Nyheim Hines, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB48, 133 overall)

Hines was a victim of the running back mess that we all experienced in Indy before Marlon Mack came back and put a stranglehold on the position. However, Mack doesn't catch passes at all, which is where Nyheim Hines comes into play. Hines is the dedicated pass-catching back in Indianapolis, averaging five targets a game, and getting 5+ targets in nine-of-sixteen games last year. He's a little under-the-radar, since he failed miserably in his limited run as a real running back last season, but in PPR leagues, he's a massive boon because of his guaranteed target load.

Bust – Devin Funchess, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR47, 124 overall)

Funchess isn't good. In fact, he's bad. He's below-average at pretty much everything, and being Andrew Luck's fourth-or-fifth passing option, depending on formation, won't do much to make him worthwhile. Funchess isn't good, and is buried too deep in a crowded wide receiver & tight end room. We saw what happened when superior talent surrounded Funchess down the stretch last season. After he missed week twelve, he became the forgotten man in Carolina, getting just 12 targets in the last four games combined. Expect more of the same out in Indianapolis.

Jacksonville Jaguars Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Marqise Lee, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR66, 168 overall)

We all forgot about Marqise Lee after he tore his ACL at the end of the 2017 season, and new hotnesses like Dede Westbrook, the now-departed Donte Moncrief, and Keelan Cole popped up last season. He's still recovering, which explains his bargain-basement prices, but he performed exceptionally well in the last two seasons with the Jags. If you pro-rate his games played in 2016 and 2017 into a sixteen-game season, it comes out to 63 catches for 828 yards, on 107 targets. The only downside was his three touchdowns, which greatly stunted his value in 2016 and 2017. It's a wide-open receiver room with a new QB in Nick Foles, a new OC in John DeFilippo, and no true number one. He's behind the 8-ball right now with his injury, but there's no clear cut option there, and he's extraordinarily cheap in drafts.

Breakout – Dede Westbrook, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR41, 98 overall)

If it isn't going to be Marqise Lee, then it'll be Dede Westbrook taking over the WR1 duties in Jacksonville (or maybe Keelan Cole, or maybe D.J. Chark). The third-year receiver led the Jags in targets and receiving yards last season, and was second to Moncrief in air yards. He doesn't present the same value that Marqise Lee does, going within the top-100, but given that he is the best wide receiver remaining from the 2018 iteration of the Jags, that makes sense. It's a crowded receiving room, but he and Lee will rise to the top as the #1 and #2 guys for Foles, and that has been a good position to be in as a wide receiver. Over the last two seasons, the WR1 and WR2 for Nick Foles both finished within the top-36 at the position.

Bust – Leonard Fournette, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB16, 31 overall)

Leonard Fournette is the king of opportunity in Jacksonville in his first two seasons, and he has also been the king of lower-body injuries, playing in only 21-of-32 possible games due to various lower body maladies. He's been good on a per-game basis with the Jags for fantasy football, averaging 1,498 yards and 8 touchdowns per-sixteen games in his career. Here's the rub: he hasn't been good on a per-play basis, averaging 21.875 touches per game in his career to get his production. His yards per carry is second-lowest among running backs with at least 350 carries over the last couple of seasons, and his yards per target sit below bad pass-catcher, Derrick Henry. He's a one-dimensional back, and he's not even particularly good at that one dimension. He's going in the third round, he is inefficient as all get out, and is a huge injury liability. That's not someone I'm investing in at his price in fantasy football drafts.

Kansas Chiefs Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Mecole Hardman, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR43, 110 overall)

This is a pre-emptive assumption that his fantasy football ADP will drop with the revelations that Tyreek Hill won't miss a significant number of games due to being an absolutely abhorrent individual. Hardman is currently the WR43, on expectations that Hill would be missing up to half the season. Here's the reason why I believe in Mecole Hardman: Sammy Watkins.

Sammy Watkins has played sixteen games just once in his career, back in 2014. Since then, he averages 11 games a season, which leads to a lot of opportunity for whoever backs up Watkins. In the case of 2019, that is Mecole Hardman, who the Chiefs traded up in the second round to draft in April.

Breakout – Carlos Hyde, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB43, 108 overall)

Bust – Damien Williams, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB13, 22 overall)

These two guys go together because they'll be fighting for the RB1 position in Kansas City, and whoever gets that job will have the inside edge on being one of the best fantasy football running backs in the entire NFL. To get an idea as to why I am so down on Williams and up on Hyde, let's take the Wayback Machine to what we were all saying about Damien Williams right after the Chiefs gave Hunt the boot.

Pro Football Focus – "Spencer Ware … should still be a lock for 10-15 carries and a handful of targets. On the league's most efficient offense, that would still make him one of the top values of the slate." Damien Williams is an afterthought.

FantasyPros – Damien Williams not listed as even a fantasy football stash.

Heavy.com – "[Spencer] Ware is the Chiefs running back to own in fantasy until proven otherwise. At this point, Williams is only worth a waiver wire add in dynasty leagues or season-long formats with deep rosters. If you are playing in a standard redraft league, Williams is not worth adding at this time unless you have a roster spot to burn."

DynastyLeagueFootball.com – "Ware has already been announced as the starter and we've seen him succeed in this system before... Ware should be locked into all lineups as we head towards the fantasy playoffs. … [Damien] Williams has no long-term dynasty value but should be added in any league with more than 23 roster spots per team."

Here's the takeaway from the analysis surrounding the Hunt-cutting situation: go get the lead back, and the lead back isn't Damien Williams. He was good enough to wrest the job away from Spencer Ware. Oh, what's that? He didn't wrest the job away from JAG Spencer Ware? The #4 running back on the Colts for 2019 Spencer War? Ware got hurt, so Williams got a bigger share of the available fantasy football production? And they split what was available before Ware went down with an injury? You don't say?

As for Carlos Hyde, he entered two situations last season that ended up with two offensive coordinators getting canned, so I am willing to give him the benefit of the doubt. He was a top-twenty fantasy football running back in both seasons he was the starter in San Francisco and has a 71% career catch rate. It's not as cut as dry as people make it out to be, so take the cheaper guy instead of investing your second-round pick on Damien Williams.

Los Angeles Chargers Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Author's Note: I wrote this before Melvin Gordon turned into Le'Veon Bell 2.0 and demanded a contract or a trade. He doesn't have the same leverage as Lev Bell. If he sits out, he doesn't become a free agent. He will get paid. He won't get traded. With that in mind, enjoy. And remember what Kawhi Leonard taught us: Gord Man Gets Paid. If I'm wrong, get Justin Jackson, not Austin Ekeler. You'll see why…

Sleeper – Dylan Cantrell, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR176, 501 overall)

The Chargers showed what they thought of Dylan Cantrell late last season, promoting him to their active roster late last season to prevent another team from poaching him from the squad. He represents an extremely deep fantasy football sleeper candidate, and it has more to do with a lack of faith that Travis Benjamin turns out than anything else than a deep shot artist. Cantrell was a SPARQ freak at the combine, and he's an absolute brick house (6'4" 225 pounds). The thought here is that Mike Williams takes over deeper routes, Keenan Allen remains the #1, and Cantrell works underneath. He represents an extremely deep fantasy football sleeper option, but he's the best option that the Chargers have.

Breakout – Mike Williams, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: Mike Williams, WR28, 62 overall)

Yeah, along with everyone else. Mike Williams had a mini-breakout at the end of last season, catching five touchdowns in six games to wrap up the season, on a 720 yard, thirteen touchdown pace. He finally started to return on his top-ten pick pedigree, and then the season ended. Now, Tyrell Williams is out, and 65 targets went with him. If Williams gets about half of those, it puts him on track to get 100 targets next year, which should be enough for 65 catches, 1,000 yards, and seven-or-eight touchdowns. That would put him right on track as a top-24 fantasy football wide receiver.

Bust – Austin Ekeler, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB39, 112 overall)

Ekeler showed his ceiling last season as an electric, gadgety, change-of-pace guy last season. Melvin Gordon missed four games last year, and the man that was supposed to be a hyper-powerful fantasy football handcuff repeatedly fell on his face. Well, not literally. However, he showed that he has a definite fantasy football ceiling as a change-of-pace guy. Without Gordon, Ekeler had 20 carries + targets, and with Gordon, he had 9. With Gordon, Ekeler averaged 10.80 fantasy football points in half-PPR. Without Gordon, he averaged… 10.83. He is a great player to plug in on a fantasy football desperation bye week situation but temper your expectations for him as a fantasy football handcuff.

Los Angeles Rams Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Darrell Henderson, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB49, 140 overall)

I already got into the reasons why I like Darrell Henderson as a 2019 fantasy football sleeper in the rookie roundup from a month ago. Henderson led the draftees in 20+ yard runs, and by a wide margin (he had 27 last season, #2 had 17). He was my second-favorite running back coming out of the draft, and he landed in an ideal spot to be a massive sleeper candidate.

Arthritic knees are scary, and the discussions of Todd Gurley's load management are even scarier. There's a possibility that Gurley ends up shut down with flareups a few times during the season, and Henderson in your back pocket could win you those weeks, whether you're a Gurley owner or not.

Breakout – Jared Goff, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB12, 97 overall)

The math is all there for Jared Goff to be a top-three fantasy football quarterback in the Matt Ryan "throw throw throw" mold. Gurley needs to take fewer hits this season, and Goff has three top-flight wide receivers at his disposal. He ended 2018 as the QB7 in four-point passing touchdown leagues, and he became a fringe starting fantasy football QB for his troubles. The issue at hand is that Goff stumbled and fell down the stretch.

Jared Goff had a stark drop off in production following the Chiefs game last season. Up to, and including that game, he threw multiple touchdowns in eight-of-eleven games. Following that Chiefs game, he threw just two touchdowns in the final four weeks of the fantasy football season. He saved his season-long totals with a meaningless four-touchdown game in week seventeen against San Francisco. That's the Jared Goff we remember, not the one who was the #2 fantasy football quarterback from weeks one through eleven. At QB12, he represents a tremendous value and upside for those who don't want to reach for their starting fantasy football quarterback. I'm excited enough about him to stop making "Jared Goff doesn't know which way the sun rises" jokes.

Bust – Todd Gurley, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB11, 18 overall)

See above, with Darrell Henderson. There's just too much risk here with the uncertainty with his knee. While the expert consensus rank would put him in the middle of the second round, his average draft position has him as a fringe first-round pick (13th overall by average draft position). While the rank bakes in his knee concerns, somewhat, his draft position does not. Gurley represents an incredible upside play, and could end up a top-five running back at season's end. For me, however, his downside has not been properly accounted-for.

Gurley will most definitely have three-touchdown games, but in a league where we hold our breath every time a player doesn't get up right away, Gurley already represents an elevated threat level to say, Leonard Fournette. Fournette and Gurley have similar downsides, in that their floors are taking an awkward hit week one and never coming back. Gurley, however, represents a significantly higher upside than Fournette. This is a quibble, as his risk is better suited a half-round later than his fantasy football ADP, but his risk is real, and many want to downplay it. Then again, I called him a bust before his massive season two years ago, so who knows?

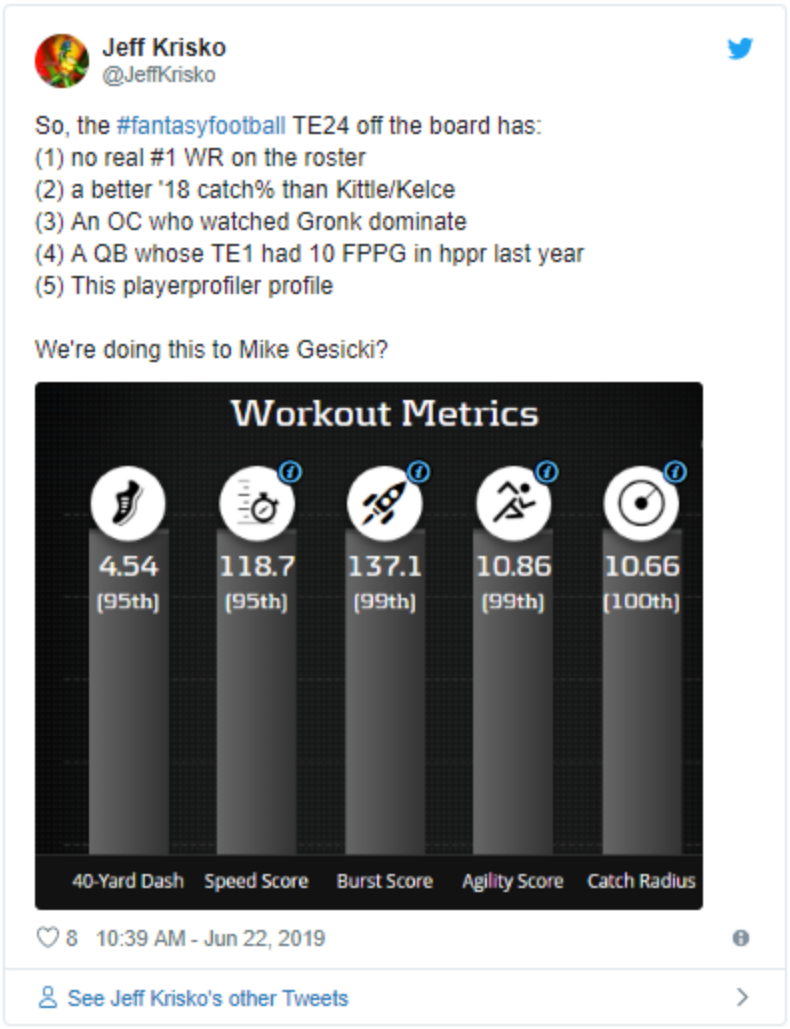
Miami Dolphins Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Mike Gesicki, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE24, 196 overall)

Here are the receiving options on the Dolphins who aren't Mike Gesicki: DeVante Parker, Kenny Stills, Albert Wilson, Brice Butler, Jakeem Grant, and Isaiah Ford. Yikes. None of these guys present a particularly exciting fantasy football profile, as none have any of the real traits a true WR1 would have. Into this talent vacuum steps Mike Gesicki.

Gesicki fell victim to The Tight End Curse, garnering just 32 targets on 400 snaps. He's bulked up, which will help him not get blown off routes any longer, and is in a position to get beaucoup targets in a depleted receiving corps.

Anyway, here's a really smart and handsome guy's twitter thread about it:



Breakout – Kenyan Drake, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB25, 52 overall)

The only thing holding Kenyan Drake back from being a viable fantasy football asset at this point in his career is his opportunity. Through 286 career carries, Drake boasts a robust 4.7 yards per carry. While YPC isn't everything, it does give you a decent idea of his value over a large enough sample size. He also boasts a catch rate north of 70%, and his yards per target over the last three seasons are in the same ballpark of guys like Saquon Barkley, Le'Veon Bell, and Christian McCaffrey. There isn't a lot around Kenyan Drake in Miami, so the Dolphins can't play their usual game of denying him targets. He is going as RB25, but should he get a full workload, he could vault into the RB1 ranks.

[UPDATE: July 29 - Don't buy the Kalen Ballage hype circulating around Twitter. It's nonsense. Even if Ballage steals touches, Drake was a high-end RB2 with Frank Gore and Kalen Ballage getting 213 touches.]

Bust – DeVante Parker, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR62, 158 overall)

Don't listen to those who are hyping Devante Parker as a sleeper. Do not fall for it, not again. He came into the league with a ton of promise, but all he promises to do in 2019 is to get your fantasy football hopes up and then crush them as you drop him in week five, yet again. There's not a lot of promise there, even on a per-target basis: of all WRs with at least 45 targets last year, he was 77th-of-93 wide receivers in yards per target, and he has nine touchdowns in 280 career targets. Having ink spilled on you every June does not a fantasy football option make.

Minnesota Vikings Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Alexander Mattison, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB72, 234 overall)

Since entering the league, Vikings running back Dalvin Cook has been one of the most efficient and explosive running backs in the NFL… when healthy. Over the last two seasons, Dalvin Cook has missed eighteen games (or over half the games). That makes his backup an extremely valuable fantasy football commodity. The Vikings agreed with the sentiment that he needed a quality backup and spent a third-round pick on Mattison in the draft after Latavius Murray ended up in New Orleans in free agency. I already talked about Mattison's profile here, but his usage is another question.

Mattison is unlikely to have much independent value outside of vulturing touchdowns here-and-there, as the Vikings *commit* to a healthy Dalvin Cook. Cook had at least 19 targets + rushes in four-of-five games down the stretch when he returned from injury. Murray never topped 15 in the same stretch and was under seven combined targets and rushes in three of the five games. The Vikes want to lean on Cook if they can, which means that for fantasy football purposes, Mattison is a high-end handcuff. However, he's a handcuff for a guy who has already missed more than half his games in the NFL, so he has a large chance of contributing this season for fantasy football.

Breakout – Kirk Cousins, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB20, 121 overall)

This isn't really a breakout, it's more of a "look guys please cool it on the insane Kirk Cousins slander." Kirk Cousins is QB20 off the board, and if you add up his rankings in his two lowest-ranked seasons over the last four years (2015, and 2018), and then ranked him at *that* number, then he'd be QB21. His worst performance over the last four seasons is QB11, and he has two wide receivers going in the top-fifteen in fantasy football drafts his year. Where is this coming from? I have no idea. He threw for 4,298 yards, 30 touchdowns, and just 10 interceptions last year, and it's not like it was unsustainable. His TD rate was a TD on 5% of his passes, and his career average is 4.8%.

Last season was just Kirk Cousins doing Kirk Cousins things, and a universal decision that the Vikings will somehow give Cook & Mattison enough runs to crater Captain Kirk's value is just wishcrafting. Michelle Magdziuk of the Ball Blast Podcast did an amazing job of breaking down why people think the Vikes went more run-heavy with their new OC, and why that may not be exactly, 100%, accurate:

Michelle Magdziuk
@BallBlastEm

Did the Vikings truly start running the ball more in the 2nd half of the season? Or can numbers lie? Let's dig in a little deeper....

At first glance:
Games 1-8: 70.04% pass - 29.96% run
Games 9-16: 62.04% pass - 37.96% run

Looks like a HUGE difference, right? But hold on...

Game	Drop Backs	Rushing Attempts	Total plays	Pass Play %	Rush Play %
1	43	28	71	60.56%	39.44%
2	52	16	68	76.47%	23.53%
3	60	5	65	92.31%	7.69%
4	56	15	71	78.87%	21.13%
5	41	22	63	65.08%	34.92%
6	39	31	70	55.71%	44.29%
7	43	24	67	64.18%	35.82%
8	45	22	67	67.16%	32.84%
Total	379	163	542		
Avg	47.375	20.375	67.75	70.04%	29.96%
Game	Drop Backs	Rushing Attempts	Total plays	Pass Play %	Rush Play %
9	23	23	46	50.00%	50.00%
10	49	13	62	79.03%	20.97%
11	43	26	69	62.32%	37.68%
12	46	13	59	77.97%	22.03%
13	36	21	57	63.16%	36.84%
14	25	39	64	39.06%	60.94%
15	30	28	58	51.72%	48.28%
16	38	14	52	73.08%	26.92%
Total	290	177	467		
Avg	36.25	22.125	58.375	62.04%	37.96%

♡ 23 8:02 AM - Jul 7, 2019

See Michelle Magdziuk's other Tweets

Bust – Kyle Rudolph, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE19, 153 overall)

It's nearing the end of the line for Kyle Rudolph, as things are starting to trend downward for the reliable fantasy football asset. His fantasy points have trended downward each of the last three seasons, and it's been good enough for him to stay inside the top-ten at tight end. He peaked in 2016, garnering 132 targets, before the breakouts of Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen.

In 2016, and 2017, Kyle Rudolph finished as a top-twelve tight end nineteen times, and top-five nine times. 59% of the time, you could slot him into your lineup and he would be a startable asset that you could rely on for fantasy football production. Last season, those numbers flipped. He was outside the top-twelve eleven times, 69% of the time. In fact, he wasn't just bad, he was an active detriment to your squad more times than he was useful. Rudolph ended up twentieth or worse in eight-of-sixteen games last season. This came with a corresponding drop in ten-zone targets, with Rudolph receiving just eight targets within the ten-yard line last year. He's been muscled out of the offense, and as such, his role as a valuable fantasy football tight end is coming to an end.

New England Patriots Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Damien Harris, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB58, 178 overall)

I went through all the reasons to like, and not like, Damien Harris in the 2019 Fantasy Football Rookie Roundup for the New England Patriots. Here's the short of why I like Harris as a sleeper: James White telegraphs a role, Sony Michel telegraphs a role. Rex Burkhead doesn't telegraph a role but can't stay on the field. Damien Harris is a well-rounded fantasy football asset who only needs some touches to break out. Imagine if he had ended up in Oakland, instead of Josh Jacobs? We would be picking him in the 20s, like Josh Jacobs. At RB50, he is a high-upside bench stash in all fantasy football leagues.

Breakout – N'Keal Harry, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR51, 128 overall)

Much like Damien Harris, I went through the reasons I like N'Keal Harry in the rookie roundup. Scratch that. I went through the reasons I *love* N'Keal Harry in that rookie roundup. He was my #1 wide receiver going into the draft, and he's a certainty to shed the dead weight of the Patriots receiving corps (corpse?) around him who aren't Julian Edelman to snatch up a combo WR2/Gronk role in this offense. Rob Gronkowski, Josh Gordon, Chris Hogan, and Cordarrelle Patterson cleared out an astonishing 223 targets.

Call me crazy, but I think N'Keal Harry will take priority for these targets over the remains of Demaryius Thomas and whatever a "Matt LaCosse" might be. He's going at a crazy value and promises to return as a fantasy football WR3 this season. Snatch him up and reap the rewards of being the biggest viable receiver on the team by about 5 inches (touchdowns... lots of touchdowns).

Bust – Sony Michel, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB20, 43 overall)

This has nothing to do with Sony Michel's off-season arthroscopic knee surgery, though that certainly doesn't help. This has more to do with an extraordinarily crowded running back corps and a running back going RB21, at the beginning of the fourth round. That bad boy has bust written all over it. See the Damien Harris sleeper discussion above for the reasoning why a fourth-round pick on a run-only guy in a multi-way timeshare would be best left on someone else's fantasy football squad. Did I mention that he was RB25 last season in standard scoring, his best format? And that they added a running back to the mix? We'll always have those playoff touchdowns but make him someone else's headache at his ADP.

New Orleans Saints Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Ted Ginn, Jr., Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR78, 196 overall)

The trendy pick here for the Saints is to have Tre'Quan Smith as the sleeper candidate for the Saints, but the Saints tipped their hands the last two seasons by leaning on Ginn. Ginn hit the IR with a knee injury last season after just three healthy games. Before his injury, Ginn was a quality fantasy football option for his owners. In the eighteen games he's played with the Saints, his per-sixteen game pace has been 58 catches, 820 yards, and five touchdowns. That's 8.8 fantasy points per game during his healthy time with the Saints, and those 141 fantasy points over the course of the season come out to WR33 in 2018, and WR29 in 2017. Ginn is free in most drafts and is as worthy of a late-round flier as anybody.

Breakout – Latavius Murray, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB31, 72 overall)

While the overall is a little rich for my blood, Latavius Murray is a shoo-in to smash his RB31 consensus in New Orleans. First off, the offense is ridiculous for running backs: since 2006, the Saints have been the #1, #2, or #3 running back scoring offense for eleven of the thirteen seasons. That's an amazing baseline for production that Latavius can just mosey right on into.

Second, Murray's career pace is a lot better than people want to give him credit for. In his five seasons, he's been productive overall, even though he's never truly broke out. He's averaged 150.6 fantasy points per season over his career, which would have been RB24 last year. This was most in shared roles in Oakland and Minnesota. Now, he steps into a mostly shared role, a situation he is familiar with, but on a great offense, a situation he isn't familiar with. If he steps right into the role Mark Ingram vacated, he's going to be a set-and-forget weekly starter for your fantasy football squad.

Bust – Jared Cook, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE7, 85 overall)

How many seasons in a row are we going to do this with New Orleans tight ends who aren't Jimmy Graham, and, more importantly, how many years in a row are we going to do this with Jared Cook? Fantasy football prognosticators, as sure as the sun sets in the west, have pegged Jared Cook for something greater than he truly is. Through ten seasons in the NFL, we know what Jared Cook is, but everyone thinks he should be something more than that. He isn't.

First, the New Orleans tight end situation, non-Jimmy Graham edition. Excepting having one of the best tight ends in the NFL, the average tight end finish under Sean Payton has been TE24. Remember the hype of Jeremy Shockey with Brees? And Coby Fleener? How is this any different? Brees and a TE1 do not mix due to his propensity to mix the ball around to all of his targets. Outside of Jimmy Graham, Brees's TE1 on the Saints averages just 54.1 targets per season. Remember that 54.1 number.

What, then, of Jared Cook? Did he break out last season, or did he just get a metric boatload of targets? Let's look at some key rate stats, shall we? First, catch rate. Prior to his 67.3% rate last season, he caught just 58.5% of his passes, so that's a huge increase, which is a truly amazing

(borderline unsustainable) drop. What about his yards per target? 13.2 last season, compared to 12.9 for his career. Not a notable change, to say the least. His touchdown rate almost doubled last season, going from 3.11% touchdown rate to a 5.9% rate. There's your big kahuna increase, really. He caught a touchdown at nearly twice the rate that he ever has, which led to his big "breakout."

Let's do this… 54.1 targets per season. Let's bump that up 20%, just to be generous: 65 targets. For fun, I'll throw him his rank-defining 13.2 yards per reception, and career-high catch rate and TD rate from last year. What is his final line, assuming that Cook ranks among one of Drew Brees's favorite TE targets? 44 catches, 577 yards, and 4 touchdowns. And he's ranked, on average, as TE7. Sure.

New York Giants Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

July and August are the best time of the year for fantasy football. We all start to formulate strategies, plant our flags, and decide who we will yell at on TV for the rest of the year. That's right, it's fantasy football draft season! One key to winning your leagues is zeroing in on the right talent who will outperform their draft stock. Avoiding busts is equally, if not more important. With that in mind, and as a quick hitter, we here at Football Absurdity would like to prime you with the players to target, and the players to avoid, in your fantasy football drafts, team-by-team. What's the difference between a sleeper and a breakout, you ask? I don't know, why don't you tell me, tough guy? You seem to have all the answers.

Bust – Eli Manning, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB30, 232 overall)

Sleeper – Daniel Jones, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB36, 342 overall)

The quarterback situation here pertains mostly to two-quarterback fantasy football leagues. Outside of Eli Manning being the current presumptive starter, there is no reason for Eli Manning to go above Daniel Jones. Maybe the name value? Daniel Jones does have an extremely tertiary friend of the protagonist sounding name, so maybe that's it. Anyway, Daniel Jones is Eli Manning, but if he could run around a bit. Jones certainly wasn't worthy of the #6 pick, but he's definitely better than Eli Manning. That is damning with faint praise.

Do like I did in the Scott Fish Bowl (humblebrag) and snag Daniel Jones in your two-quarterback leagues. One of two things will happen this year: Eli Manning will suck out loud and never be a player that you should start in your fantasy football leagues, despite never touching the bench, or Eli Manning gets benched for Daniel Jones, and you can get his 13 or 14 fantasy points a week along with a few more for his rushing totals. Neither of these guys is great, but at least Daniel Jones can run the ball, a la Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen last season.

Breakout - Sterling Shepard, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR37, 87 overall)

After three seasons of being in and out of being under Odell Beckham's shadow as the more talented of the two players consistently nursed injuries, Shepard now enters the season as the WR1 in New York. Forget that he has Eli Manning as his quarterback; that's the only quarterback he's ever known (outside of the weird idea that Geno Smith should start a game… what a punch in the mouth to Eli). There's an easy path to seeing fantasy football production that far outweighs what he's already done: what he's already done.

Without Odell Beckham, Jr., Shepard garnered a sixteen-game pace of 137 targets. With these 137 targets, he turned in 68 receiving yards a game (but a paltry 3-touchdown per sixteen game pace). That having been said, those 68 yards turn out to be 1,088 receiving yards over the course of a season. Call it 80 catches, 1,088 receiving yards and… 6 touchdowns, and that's 12.25 fantasy points per game for 2019. That would have been WR22 in 2018, and that is an incredible value for the #37 wide receiver coming off the board.

[UPDATE: July 29 - Sterling Shepard broke his left thumb on Thursday, July 25, putting his availability for the season opener in doubt. Buy the dip, as the bitcoin boys say. He's going to come back and be the #1 target for the Giants. Let his broken thumb be a value for you, as there won't be much to "work back" from and a broken bone means he's unlikely to miss more than the first 2-3 weeks of the season.]

New York Jets Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Chris Herndon, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE14, 133 overall)

[Author's Note: This was written before he ate a four-game suspension for his DUI. I no longer recommend drafting Chris Herndon outside of the deepest of leagues, but I do still believe he will be a sleeper for 2019].

I'm a huge Chris Herndon fan, and if it weren't for the stink of carrying him for multiple weeks while he sits out his suspension, he would be on all of my rosters. The word is that Herndon is a facing a twofer on the suspension for a DUI dating back to before the 2018 season. If you had Herndon down the stretch of the fantasy football season last year, then congrats, he did a bit of work for you for free. Also, congrats to me for putting him on every weekly tight end sleeper list last year down the stretch. Kudos, all around!

From weeks 12 through 16 last year, when you needed him most, Herndon was TE9, mostly on the back of his massive reception totals. In two games in this stretch, he had 13 combined receptions. He topped it all off with an amazing 6 catch, 82 yards, and a touchdown game in the fantasy football championships. He's going outside the starting tight ends, but he's a great guy to pair with an injury-prone guy (*cough* Jordan Reed *cough*) to ensure you get fantasy football TE1 production throughout the year without having to scour your waiver wire.

Breakout – Robby Anderson, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR28, 63 overall)

At the same time that Chris Herndon was having a mini-breakout, Robby Anderson was fully introducing himself into the NFL. He was the belle of the ball in the same stretch as Chris Herndon. Anderson posted a per-game pace from weeks 12 through 16 that would equate to 83 catches, 1,222 yards, and 10 touchdowns over the course of a sixteen-game season. He was WR10 and given he was wallowing on the waiver wire, he was a fantasy football league winner alongside Chris Herndon last year.

Bust – Le'Veon Bell, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB7, 9 overall)

There's some good news and some bad news with Le'Veon Bell. The good news? He's a shoo-in to score more fantasy points than he did last season. The bad news? Someone in your league is going to draft Le'Veon Bell expecting Pittsburgh Steelers Le'Veon Bell, the guy who averaged a ton of targets in a high-powered offense that flowed through him and Antonio Brown. Just to get this out of the way: this is, once again, a soft bust. A "temper your expectations" bust. A "there isn't anyone better to choose" bust.

The good news is that if you aren't *that guy*, you can still get good value out of Le'Veon Bell. He's going a little high for my taste as a late first-rounder, and I would like him better as an early second-round pick. Reports are that Adam Gase did not want Le'Veon, which caused a huge power struggle between Gase and the front office. A power struggle that Gase won. That tells me that he is more likely to shy away from hammering Bell into the ground and go with a more balanced attack. Just look towards last season when Gase inexplicably gave a 500-year old Frank Gore 156 carries, and a much better, and younger Kenyan Drake just 120. He divvies up his running back touches now, despite what he did with Peyton Manning and Matt Forte.

One last nugget for potential Le'Veon Bell drafters: he was running behind Pittsburgh's offensive line in 2017, which has been one of the best offensive lines in recent seasons. Now he runs behind a Jets offensive line that ranked 25th in 2018 and 30th in 2017 (per Pro Football Focus). That should give you a little pause with Lev Bell at his ADP.

Oakland Raiders Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Darren Waller, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE50, 376 overall)

Jared Cook's departure leaves 101 vacated targets for the Oakland Raiders. While I am confident that Foster Moreau will snatch those up in time, I am equally as confident that he won't break the Rookie Tight End Curse. Waller is a relative unknown, but if you question his receiving chops, then you don't know Darren Waller. He literally entered the league as a big wide receiver before succumbing to the siren call of lowered expectations at tight end. He's a pass catcher first, and a blocker second. And he's a beast of a man, 6'6" and 255 pounds. With the substance abuse problem that cost him all of 2017 seemingly in the rear-view mirror and no competition to speak of for tight end targets in Oakland, Waller is due for a big breakout fantasy football campaign in 2019.

Breakout – Derek Carr, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB23, 166 overall)

Antonio Brown and Tyrell Williams provide a massive boost in talent for the Oakland Raiders, who inexplicably traded Amari Cooper last season, thoroughly kneecapping their receiving corps. It's no shock that Carr cratered for fantasy football last season. A lack of good receiving options caused him to have his fewest career touchdowns, at just 19, despite throwing for the most yards of his career.

The math is simple for a Derek Carr breakout campaign: he throws the ball at his career average rate: 580 times a season, but he maintains his yards per attempt of last season. That gives him 4,234 passing yards. Let's also give him his career TD rate before last year, as well as his career INT rate. His final line: 4,234 passing yards, 27 touchdowns, and 11 interceptions. That is good for 16 fantasy points a contest. That baseline is just considering a return to normal passing volume with a normal passing attack. Add in that the Raiders added three explosive playmakers (Josh Jacobs, Brown, and Williams), and Derek Carr could be in for a big step forward in 2019.

Bust – Josh Jacobs, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB19, 37 overall)

I am not saying that I full-throatedly believe that Josh Jacobs is going to be Ronald Jones II 2.0. There are things to like in Oakland for Jacobs's fantasy football potential in 2019. The Raiders will give him plenty of opportunities to produce, as no other back on the roster comes close to his skill level. The concerns are mostly based around a transition from the run game to the passing game in 2019 for the Raiders, who added Antonio Brown (heard of him?) and Tyrell Williams to their receiving corps. The Raiders dreadful offensive line could also fail to be drastically improved by their addition of Trent Brown. All the downsides exist for Jacobs, who could have a dud of a rookie campaign for fantasy football. As I said, I don't full-throatedly believe in this outcome, but he's the most likely player to bust out in 2019.

Philadelphia Eagles Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – J.J. Arcega-Whiteside, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR94, 254 overall)

I'm a huge fan of Arcega-Whiteside from his college tape. He has the biggest "my ball" mentality out of any player taken in this draft, and he's a lot of fun to watch because of it. He's currently going completely off the board, but he could pop up as a fantasy football value in the second half of the season if/when (let's be clear here, when) Alshon Jeffery goes down with an injury. Arcega-Whiteside will have a couple of two-TD games out of nowhere but he's buried for targets on a depth chart that includes Alshon, Zach Ertz, Dallas Goedert, Nelson Agholor, and DeSean Jackson. Without someone clearing out in front of him, he won't have much fantasy football value, but he could be just the guy that saves your bacon in week ten and beyond as he starts earning more red-zone looks.

Breakout – Miles Sanders, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB39, 109 overall)

I'm not buying the Jordan Howard experiment keeping Miles Sanders on the bench in Philly for more than five or six games. Sanders is a well-rounded back, something that the Eagles haven't had in a long time. They thought they had it with Josh Adams, but he fell apart. They thought they had it with Jay Ajayi, but he literally broke. Now, they spent a high pick (second round, #53 overall), and expressed relief that they finally had a complete back, and he's going outside the top-36 at running back? Because of Jordan Howard? He's a fantasy football draft-and-stash, but Sanders is going to be this year's Nick Chubb. Once he is free of Howard, he will run roughshod over the league, and your fantasy football team will reap all the rewards.

Bust – Alshon Jeffery, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR23, 56 overall)

Alshon has one season over 13 games played since 2015. He's also surpassed 94 targets just once in that same timespan. He'll be five seasons removed from his last 1,000-yard campaign and has 21 touchdowns in just four years. The Eagles added two pass-catching threats and two talented running backs this offseason, further muddying the waters for Alshon. Call me crazy, but I am not going to put a guy who can't stay on the field and who plays in an increasingly messy offense a #2 fantasy football receiver. He'll probably end up in the WR30 range. Not the worst bust, but not someone you should slot into your second WR slot in your drafts.

Pittsburgh Steelers Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Donte Moncrief, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR58, 144 overall)

The man we all loved as a sleeper solely for being the #2 wide receiver in Indianapolis and the cheapie touchdowns that came within is now back from fantasy football Siberia (Jags WR corps). He spent a year desperately trying to haul in errant throws from Blake Bortles, catching balls at a 54% rate compared to his career 59% rate.

Let's assume had a much better quarterback last season, and he caught his same targets at his career-average rate, leading to a career-average touchdown rate. What would that look like? He'd haul in 52 catches, for 730 receiving yards on the season, and six touchdowns. In half-PPR, that would have come out to 135 fantasy points on the season, which would have been good enough for WR35 last season. That's *just if Donte Moncrief moved to a functional offense and performed at his career rates*. Do I have some news for you… he's headed to a functional offense with JuJu Smith-Schuster as the WR1, a bunch of question marks around him at receiver, and a future Hall of Fame QB. Sounds a lot like T.Y. Hilton, the cast of jokes in Indy, and Andrew Luck, doesn't it?

Breakout – James Washington, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR53, 131 overall)

Okay, so maybe Donte Moncrief doesn't fit your bucket for a fantasy football sleeper/breakout. Can I offer you a young man, in James Washington? James Washington is a second-year wide receiver for Ben Roethlisberger, who is set for a big bump in targets after his quiet rookie campaign. What happens when a second-year Big Ben wide receiver gets big targets? Good things. Good things happen. Since Ben Roethlisberger has been in the NFL, he has had six second-year wide receivers get more than 69 targets. Nice. Their average finish? WR26, including two top-ten WR seasons and additional two top-24 seasons. James Washington and Donte Moncrief are the top candidates to divvy up the 168 targets vacated by Antonio Brown's departure, despite people wanting to heap targets on the next guy...

Bust – Vance McDonald, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE10, 103 overall)

I'll admit, I have a huge beef with regards to Vance McDonald. I watched balls clang off his frying pan hands for years in San Francisco. Some will tell you that quarterback play plays a role in drop rate. I watched him bobble two easy catches into interceptions *in the same quarter*. Many see Vance McDonald as a great fantasy football breakout candidate, but he has a definite ceiling that he will firmly and solidly bang up against in 2019.

First, injuries. Vance has eleven different injuries that have cost him some or all of games in his six-year career. Repeated foot and shoulder injuries show that these aren't fluky one-offs. Second, target volume. Everyone who boosts McDonald wants to talk about Ben Roethlisberger's vacated target volume, ignoring that he passed the ball a career-high 675 times last season. Before last season, he *averaged* 519 pass attempts per 16 games for his career and threw more than 585 passes in a season once. Why, then, do we think that Ben will automatically fill those vacated targets? Why, then, do we think that they will go Vance McDonald's way? Hint: with Donte Moncrief, Diontae Johnson, James Washington, and Jaylen Samuels all set to horn in on a diminished passing volume: they won't. Vance McDonald will live in the back-half of TE1s this season, mostly based on touchdowns, and those who reached to ensure they obtained his upside will be left kicking themselves. Don't be that guy. Not when you can get Austin Hooper a full round later, Mark Andrews five rounds later, or Mike Gesicki off the waiver wire.

San Francisco 49ers Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Marquise Goodwin, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR57, 144 overall)

The NFL's fastest man has quickly become the forgotten man in San Francisco, with Dante Pettis and George Kittle getting all the fantasy football hubbub this offseason, thanks to Goodwin's bad 2018 season. Let's peel back the curtain on Goodwin's 2018 season, shall we?

Up until week ten, Marquise Goodwin was The Guy at wide receiver for the Niners. He then missed two games with a personal issue and then injured his leg down the stretch. That "personal issue" turned out to be that his twin sons were stillborn in November, less than a year after he lost another child shortly after birth. I am going to be a human here and say that Goodwin's heart was not in it after he returned from his personal issue.

Before his personal issue, Goodwin was quality last season. Certainly not in "forgotten man" territory like he is this fantasy football draft season. Goodwin tweaked his quad early in week one, and did not return until week three. From week three until week ten, he played on a 775 yard, nine touchdown pace. He would have ended up with 151 fantasy points on the dot over the course of a sixteen-game season, good for fantasy football WR28 in 2018. While injuries are a concern, as outlined above, he's essentially free and could pop off as the receiver to own in this Niners offense this season.

Breakout – Dante Pettis, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR34, 80 overall)

I was up on the Dante Pettis tip from early in the offseason. I watched him crush down the stretch on the field, and for my fantasy football squads, so I knew. Now, Pettis is atop the trendy fantasy football sleepers lists, and folks: I've doubled-down on my nonsense. I currently have Dante ranked as a top-twenty wide receiver in half-PPR leagues, and I feel very good about that.

With a total JAG at quarterback last season due to Jimmy Garoppolo's knee injury, Pettis feasted down the stretch. From the 49ers' week eleven bye through the fantasy football finals, Pettis was the #9 wide receiver in half-PPR, posting 359 yards and four scores across five games. That's a 64 catch, 1,149 yard, 13 touchdown pace. While the thirteen touchdowns aren't likely to happen, 1,150 yards and 8 touchdowns on 64 catches gets you 195 fantasy points, which would have been WR15 on the year last year in total half-PPR points. Not bad for a guy going as a WR3, though at his price, he's quickly pricing himself out of sleeper/breakout range.

Bust – Jerick McKinnon, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB37, 99 overall)

This one was going to be whichever of the Santa Clara Cerberus had the highest rank, and ADP. Jerick McKinnon, Tevin Coleman, and Matt Breida together ensure that someone is going to end up overdrafted, and I was going to take the coward's way out and going with the highest-ranked guy. But that's when I remembered: we've seen Jerick McKinnon before… he's *not good*.

The reason we are all up on McKinnon in fantasy football this year is that we were up on McKinnon last year. And why pray tell, were we up on McKinnon last season? Well, he was going to be the clear #1 back in a Kyle Shanahan system. We've seen him get over 150 carries twice, and he managed to turn those combined 309 carries until just 1,109 rushing yards and five scores. Gross. But, because we can't remember the reason why we liked someone (see also: Damien Williams), fantasy football prognosticators want to hype McKinnon as some sort of break out again, when the only reason we liked him was the opportunity.

And the opportunity was there last season… the 49ers had the third-most running back rushing yards in 2018 despite being one of the worst teams in the league, and needing to chuck it deep at every given opportunity. Unfortunately for McKinnon, those touches are going to go Coleman's way.

With the early reports saying the Tevin Coleman is running away with this backfield, I am not confident that McKinnon will do enough to wrest significant work away from Coleman. McKinnon is working his way back from a leg injury, and while Matt Breida is also hurt, Breida suffered a pectoral injury. If weighing two running back injuries, I'll lean towards the guy without the destroyed leg. There's not going to be a lot left for Jerick McKinnon to be a viable fantasy football asset in San Francisco, no matter how hard we want it to be true.

Seattle Seahawks Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – D.K. Metcalf, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR59, 151 overall)

By this point, we've all seen the dang D.K. Metcalf shirtless pictures. We've even seen the one where Pete Carroll went shirtless to honor D.K. Metcalf. What I'm saying is we've already seen a lot of sexy things about the Metcalf/Seattle pairing, but could the sexiest part be yet to come?

Before we get into that, I want to ask: have you ever bought citrus trees online? We did, we bought a Meyer lemon tree a couple of years ago. What came looked like a stick in a pot. It was extremely underdeveloped and we've spent two years trying to get that bad boy up and running as a real tree. Anyway, pretend that Meyer lemon tree is D.K. Metcalf's route tree. It's extremely underdeveloped and mostly just a straight line and this point. That means there is one path to fantasy football relevance for D.K. Metcalf in 2019: the deep ball.

Luckily for D.K. Metcalf, he has the second-best deep ball quarterback of 2018 throwing him the ball this season.

https://twitter.com/PFF/status/1088093005460979715

This is going to be a match made in heaven for Metcalf and his 2019 fantasy football value. The Seahawks will not throw the ball a lot, as they prefer to ceaselessly Establish the Run. But, as the graphic shows, when they do throw the ball, it's at the third-highest rate in the league. With Doug Baldwin no longer running around in Seattle, that leaves Tyler Lockett as the main receiver underneath, with Metcalf taking the top off the defense. He's going as a team's fifth wide receiver, so you can plop him on your bench and see what happens. Worst case scenario is that you cut him, and he finds out, and he comes to your house and rips his shirt off.

Breakout – Rashaad Penny, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB31, 75 overall)

Bust – Chris Carson, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB24, 51 overall)

This breakout and this bust sort of go together, like peanut butter and bananas, or chocolate and rutabagas. Even if a team wants to run the ball as much as the Seahawks do, sheer physics dictate that only one of them can run the ball at a time. For my money, that becomes Penny over Carson as the season progresses. Yes, Penny did not have the best rookie year. However, he has one thing in his back pocket that will win him his job, and maybe your fantasy football league: Pete Carroll's ceaseless dedication to reminding his team that draft stock and contracts don't matter. Ironically, this competition cost him the job last season.

Penny got off to a grinding start like someone had jammed his namesake into his gears. He had just 43 rushing yards on 20 carries in the first three games. After that, he churned out his next 65 rush attempts at a 5.78 yard per carry clip, with several large plays under his belt and a 100-yard rushing day thrown in for good measure. People want to act like Penny was bad last year, but in reality, he just didn't get touches. To be fair to Chris Carson, he did not do anything to lose his job, churning out 100+ yard games in his last three weeks, including 116 yards and two touchdowns in the fantasy football finals. There's nothing to speak of in Seattle to replace Mike Davis's 112 carries… except for Rashaad Penny.

Why is Chris Carson a bust, you might ask? The Seahawks have repeatedly stated that they are going to go with the "hot hand" approach at running back, with the best player getting more touches. Rashaad Penny is the better player, and nearly everything bears that out on a per-touch basis. Once Penny can prove himself, the Seahawks will have no problem letting Carson cede way to Penny, and Penny will reap all the fantasy football points on your behalf.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Peyton Barber, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB47, 134 overall)

See Ronald Jones, below for why Ronald Jones isn't taking this spot from Barber. I'm going to start this off as clearly as I can: I don't think Peyton Barber is particularly talented, or a next-level back, but he is good enough to produce, given sufficient touches. Barber had the most carries of his career last season, and his worst yards per carry (unsurprisingly). However, he's the kind of roster-filler that you need at running back, and he's coming at a massive discount thanks to inflation surrounding both Ronald Jones's size and draft stock.

Barber didn't really boom, and he didn't really bust too hard. He was just sort of… there. He got over 15 carries in half the games last season, which is a great baseline to bank on in deeper leagues. In these games, he finished, on average, as RB28. Not astounding, but still usable as a flex running back in a pinch. This season, he's coming at a deep discount, and with Bruce Arians in tow, that points per game should only go up.

Breakout – Jameis Winston, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB11, 91 overall)

Well, here we are. We stand at a fork in the road of Jameis Winston's career. He's in the last year of his rookie contract, and he's had his share of "off-field issues" (code for being a reprehensible person). He hasn't done enough in his career to warrant the Buccaneers locking him up long-term, but he hasn't been so abhorrent on the field that they don't keep trotting him out there. Now, he gets Bruce Arians to run the offense to give him one last burst of productivity as he makes his way to NFL free agency.

Jameis Winston is big, mobile (not fast), with a cannon, and lecherous off-field concerns. Bruce Arians coached his big brother, Ben Roethlisberger, for five seasons in Pittsburgh. From 2007 – 2011, Big Ben had trouble staying on the field, but when he did play, he played on a 500 pass attempt, 3,958 yards, 25 touchdowns and 12 interception pace. We'll take that as a baseline for Jameis, as once he fully cast aside Ryan Fitzpatrick, he played on a 4,139 yards, 30 touchdowns, 9 interception pace (from weeks 11 through 17).

Can Bruce Arians reign in Jameis? Probably not, he couldn't reign in Big Ben. Can he take what he learned from five years of coaching Ben, a year of coaching Andrew Luck (big, mobile, cannon arm), and pour it into Jameis? Absolutely. Does Jameis have top-five potential? Probably not. Top-seven? Absolutely. At the most fungible position in a one-QB league, take a shot on Jameis to see if you can hit gold.

Bust – Ronald Jones II, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB39, 107 overall)

After hitting the inactive list in game one, RoJo spent last season not getting his act together and somehow having a worse rookie campaign from a Buccaneers second-round pick than *Roberto freaking Aguayo*. He only got into nine games last year, and boy howdy did he stink out loud. The Bucs tried to go to Jones in his NFL debut, giving him eleven touches en route to his still-standing career-high of 28 yards. For reference, 28 yards is 84 feet. A regulation NBA court

is 94 feet, so he's still over 3 yards short of running the length of an NBA court in a game. His final 2019 yards per carry? 1.91. Only five guys have had more than 20 carries and a YPC south of 2 since *1985*. Baron Batch, Michael Cox, Ciatrick Fason, Mike Davis, and Ronald Jones. Not exactly a murderers row.

RoJo is getting fantasy football buzz this offseason because he's ticking the boxes on all the dumb offseason tropes. He's looking great in unpadded practices. Jitterbug speedsters always look great when you aren't allowed to tackle them. Understanding this fact is NFL Offseason Pablum 101. Second, he's put on a ton of weight. According to Pro Football Talk, it's 13 pounds of muscle. *This is not good*. Ronald Jones is a speedster back, and not a bruiser. Adding weight to his frame is going to lead to him trying to move the additional weight with the same speed and agility as a lesser weight, and will lead to injury.

Some are banking on the upside of RoJo 2 this season. Without a Peyton Barber injury, and a complete turnaround from his NFL career so far, his "upside" is taking enough touches away from Peyton Barber to annoy Peyton Barber fantasy football owners. Pass.

Tennessee Titans Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Ryan Tannehill, Quarterback (Expert Consensus Rank: QB35, 312 overall)

Tannehill had some tumultuous final years in Miami, as he tore his ACL immediately prior to the 2017 season, and injured his shoulder, missing five games, in 2018. Prior to injuries completely destroying him, he wasn't the worst quarterback in the world. In the four seasons prior to him tearing his ACL, he played on a 4,000-yard, 25-touchdowns, 14-interception pace. That's some solid middling quarterback play if I've ever seen it. That's also quarterbacking that Marcus Mariota would love to reach, as he averages 3,430 yards, 20 touchdowns, and 12 picks per sixteen games. Mariota's also missed an average of two games per year, meaning that Tannehill will get his opportunity. I'm of the firm belief that this is Mariota's last stand, and the Titans are built for the playoffs. That, paired with Mariota's propensity to get hurt, mean that it's entirely possible that Tannehill and Mariota start the same number of games in Tennessee this year. He's a great grab-and-stash in 2QB leagues if your starters are a bit weaker.

Breakout – Delanie Walker, Tight End (Expert Consensus Rank: TE13, 126 overall)

Before last season, Walker averaged finishing as the TE6 on the season, and if you look just at his three years prior to 2018, that finish jumps up to TE4. Over the last four seasons, he's averaged 119 targets, 78 catches, 940 yards, and five touchdowns per sixteen games. He's been Marcus Mariota's preferred target over his time in Tennessee, and it's highly likely he returns to that role in 2019. Walker is a high-quality option at a bargain-basement price, and the perfect guy to target if you don't want to spend up for your tight end in your fantasy football drafts.

Bust – Corey Davis, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR35, 83 overall)

Corey Davis is a singularly worthwhile talent, but he plays in such a rancid passing attack of an offense that it's hard to see a route to any significant upside this season. Last year, he had the seventh-highest market share for targets and the ninth-highest air yard market share. He had opportunities paralleled only by the likes of T.Y. Hilton, Antonio Brown, Adam Thielen, and the like. He had all the opportunity to be a massive fantasy football success, and what did he do with it? 65 receptions, 891 yards, and four touchdowns. He finished as WR27 and was a massive disappointment for his fantasy football owners. Now, Delanie Walker and his 107.6 targets per season return to the fold, as do the additions of A.J. Brown and Adam Humphries to the passing attack. That's a lot of targets to try to square away in an offense that only throws the ball about 29 times per game. Davis is an extremely talented wide receiver shackled to an offense that isn't interested in throwing the football. It's a bad situation for the guy and an even worse situation for people trying to get fantasy football value out of him in 2019.

Washington Redskins, Sleeper, Breakout, and Bust

Sleeper – Terry McLaurin, Wide Receiver (Expert Consensus Rank: WR115, 336 overall)

This is an extraordinarily deep sleeper, and you can get away with not even drafting him if you don't want to. He's currently ranked as the #336 player overall, and the mega-draft that is the Scott Fish Bowl only goes to 264 players. There aren't a lot of valuable wide receivers who can end up doing something in Washington, and he's unlikely to start the year doing anything. Strong endorsement so far? Alright, fine, I'll hype him a bit. Washington has very few receiving weapons that garner any sort of positive feelings. Josh Doctson is a bust, Jordan Reed can't stay on the field, and Paul Richardson is the classic "guy who flames out on his second contract" (he's still recovering from shoulder surgery and caught just twenty passes in seven games last season). McLaurin, however, has the inside edge on all of these guys if Dwayne Haskins gets the starting job over Case Keenum. Why? Well, Haskins2McLaurin was a potent force last year, as the combination accounted for 701 yards and 11 touchdowns at Ohio State.

Breakout – Chris Thompson, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB58, 181 overall)

If only Chris Thompson could stay healthy, or get a bigger chunk of the role in Washington's backfield. What's that? He's coming dangerously close to being the last man standing? And the other two guys, Adrian Peterson, and Samaje Perine don't catch passes? Oh, so that means that Chris Thompson must be in line for more production, right?

Well, if you take just his career production per game in half-PPR (8.48 fantasy points per game), and assume that he gets a full sixteen games, then you have something on your hands. Since 2000, seven running backs have averaged between 8.3 and 8.5 fantasy points per game over a full sixteen-game season. That was an average rank of RB29 at the end of the season. While that's not good enough to be a set-and-forget starter in every single fantasy football league, it's definitely an asset you want to roster for bye weeks, and such. Since 2015, he's been top-36 in 26 of 49 games, so you have an over 50% chance of him being a good flex option in a deep league on any given week.

Bust – Derrius Guice, Running Back (Expert Consensus Rank: RB28, 65 overall)

A hyperextended knee. A torn ACL. Now, an injured hamstring. These are all injuries that have plagued Derrius Guice before he's touched a football in an NFL game. This latest one, the hamstring, threatens his training camp availability. His ADP is likely to plummet, but don't take the bait on a Guice breakout this season. Let him be someone else's problem. Players who start their careers like this aren't the kind of guys you stake your claim on before they show you something of value. Let him be someone else's problem.

2019 Auction Values Chart

					Quarterbacks					
Rank		$$		Rank		$$		Rank		$$$
1	Patrick Mahomes, Chiefs	17		8	Russell Wilson, Seahawks	5		15	Carson Wentz, Eagles	1
2	Andrew Luck, Colts	15		9	Cam Newton, Panthers	4		16	Drew Brees, Saints	1
3	Baker Mayfield, Browns	13		10	Dak Prescott, Cowboys	4		17	Philip Rivers, Chargers	1
4	Aaron Rodgers, Packers	12		11	Jameis Winston, Buccaneers	3		18	Tom Brady, Patriots	1
5	Matt Ryan, Falcons	10		12	Jared Goff, Rams	2		19	Jimmy Garoppolo, 49ers	1
6	Deshaun Watson, Texans	7		13	Lamar Jackson, Ravens	2		20	Josh Allen, Bills	1
7	Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers	6		14	Kirk Cousins, Vikings	2				
					Running Backs					
Rank		$$		Rank		$$		Rank		$$
1	Ezekiel Elliott, Cowboys	67		23	Sony Michel, Patriots	20		45	D'Onta Foreman, Texans	3
2	Saquon Barkley, Giants	66		24	Kenyan Drake, Dolphins	15		46	Royce Freeman, Broncos	3
3	Alvin Kamara, Saints	65		25	Lamar Miller, Texans	14		47	Derrius Guice, Redskins	2
4	Christian McCaffrey, Panthers	65		26	Latavius Murray, Saints	14		48	Malcolm Brown, Rams	2
5	David Johnson, Cardinals	53		27	David Montgomery, Bears	11		49	Kalen Ballage, Dolphins	2
6	James Conner, Steelers	52		28	James White, Patriots	10		50	Kareem Hunt, Browns	2
7	Melvin Gordon, Chargers	51		29	Carlos Hyde, Chiefs	9		51	LeSean McCoy, Bills	2
8	Le'Veon Bell, Jets	50		30	Chris Carson, Seahawks	9		52	Matt Breida, 49ers	2
9	Joe Mixon, Bengals	48		31	Darrell Henderson, Rams	8		53	Nyheim Hines, Colts	1
10	Kerryon Johnson, Lions	41		32	Rashaad Penny, Seahawks	8		54	Dion Lewis, Titans	1
11	Nick Chubb, Browns	38		33	Damien Williams, Chiefs	7		55	Giovani Bernard, Bengals	1
12	Marlon Mack, Colts	36		34	Peyton Barber, Buccaneers	6		56	Theo Riddick, Lions	1
13	Todd Gurley, Rams	35		35	Miles Sanders, Eagles	6		57	Devin Singletary, Bills	1
14	Dalvin Cook, Vikings	35		36	Austin Ekeler, Chargers	6		58	Duke Johnson, Browns	1
15	Phillip Lindsay, Broncos	31		37	Jerick McKinnon, 49ers	5		59	Jaylen Samuels, Steelers	1
16	Leonard Fournette, Jaguars	30		38	Tevin Coleman, 49ers	4		60	Damien Harris, Patriots	1
17	Mark Ingram, Ravens	30		39	Chris Thompson, Redskins	4		61	Rex Burkhead, Patriots	1
18	Derrick Henry, Titans	30		40	Adrian Peterson, Redskins	4		62	Gus Edwards, Ravens	1
19	Devonta Freeman, Falcons	29		41	Ito Smith, Falcons	3		63	T.J. Yeldon, Bills	1
20	Aaron Jones, Packers	28		42	Jordan Howard, Eagles	3		64	Alexander Mattison, Vikings	1
21	Josh Jacobs, Raiders	25		43	Jamaal Williams, Packers	3				
22	Tarik Cohen, Bears	22		44	Ronald Jones, Buccaneers	3				

					Wide Receivers					
Rank		$$		Rank		$$		Rank		$$
1	Davante Adams, Packers	57		22	Tyler Boyd, Bengals	16		43	Larry Fitzgerald, Cardinals	3
2	DeAndre Hopkins, Texans	56		23	A.J. Green, Bengals	11		44	Marqise Lee, Jaguars	3
3	Julio Jones, Falcons	55		24	Cooper Kupp, Rams	11		45	James Washington, Steelers	3
4	Tyreek Hill, Chiefs	55		25	Jarvis Landry, Browns	10		46	Geronimo Allison, Packers	3
5	Michael Thomas, Saints	52		26	Alshon Jeffery, Eagles	9		47	Michael Gallup, Cowboys	3
6	Odell Beckham Jr., Browns	51		27	Sammy Watkins, Chiefs	9		48	DaeSean Hamilton, Broncos	3
7	JuJu Smith-Schuster, Steelers	50		28	Christian Kirk, Cardinals	9		49	Parris Campbell, Colts	2
8	Keenan Allen, Chargers	44		29	Sterling Shepard, Giants	8		50	Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Packers	2
9	Mike Evans, Buccaneers	40		30	Mike Williams, Chargers	8		51	Dede Westbrook, Jaguars	2
10	Adam Thielen, Vikings	38		31	Dante Pettis, 49ers	7		52	Kenny Stills, Dolphins	2
11	Stefon Diggs, Vikings	37		32	Allen Robinson, Bears	5		53	DeSean Jackson, Eagles	2
12	Antonio Brown, Raiders	35		33	Golden Tate, Giants	5		54	John Brown, Bills	2
13	Amari Cooper, Cowboys	34		34	Courtland Sutton, Broncos	5		55	D.K. Metcalf, Seahawks	2
14	T.Y. Hilton, Colts	31		35	Keke Coutee, Texans	5		56	DeVante Parker, Dolphins	2
15	Tyler Lockett, Seahawks	25		36	Robbie Anderson, New York Jets	5		57	N'Keal Harry, Patriots	2
16	Robert Woods, Rams	25		37	Curtis Samuel, Panthers	4		58	Jamison Crowder, Jets	2
17	Julian Edelman, Patriots	22		38	D.J. Moore, Panthers	4		59	Tyrell Williams, Raiders	2
18	Kenny Golladay, Lions	20		39	Corey Davis, Titans	4		60	Robert Foster, Bills	1
19	Chris Godwin, Buccaneers	18		40	Will Fuller, Texans	4		61	Deebo Samuel, 49ers	1
20	Brandin Cooks, Rams	18		41	Mohamed Sanu, Falcons	4		62	Anthony Miller, Bears	1
21	Calvin Ridley, Falcons	17		42	Marvin Jones, Lions	3				
					Tight ends					
Rank		$$		Rank		$$		Rank		$$
1	Travis Kelce, Chiefs	42		6	Eric Ebron, Colts	2		11	T.J. Hockenson, Lions	2
2	George Kittle, 49ers	38		7	Hunter Henry, Chargers	2		12	Delanie Walker, Titans	1
3	Zach Ertz, Eagles	35		8	David Njoku, Browns	2		13	Noah Fant, Broncos	1
4	O.J. Howard, Buccaneers	12		9	Jared Cook, Saints	2		14	Mike Gesicki, Dolphins	1
5	Evan Engram, Giants	10		10	Austin Hooper, Falcons	2				