

**FANTASYPROS**

**2018**

# **FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFT KIT**



**Dominate your draft.**

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Rk.	QUARTERBACKS	Bye	Rk.	RUNNING BACKS	Bye	Rk.	WIDE RECEIVERS	Bye	Rk.	WIDE RECEIVERS	Bye	Rk.	TIGHT ENDS	Bye	Rk.	TEAM DEFENSES	Bye
1.	Aaron Rodgers - GB	7	33.	Sony Michel - NE	11	1.	Antonio Brown - PIT	7	68.	Dez Bryant - FA	0	1.	Rob Gronkowski - NE	11	1.	Jacksonville Jaguars	9
2.	Russell Wilson - SEA	7	35.	Jamaal Williams - GB	7	2.	DeAndre Hopkins - HOU	10	69.	Donte Moncrief - JAC	0	2.	Travis Kelce - KC	12	2.	Minnesota Vikings	10
3.	Tom Brady - NE	11	36.	Chris Carson - SEA	7	3.	Odell Beckham Jr. - NYG	9	70.	Danny Amendola - MIA	11	3.	Zach Ertz - PHI	9	3.	Los Angeles Rams	12
4.	Cam Newton - CAR	4	37.	Rashaad Penny - SEA	7	4.	Julio Jones - ATL	8	71.	Ted Ginn - NO	6	4.	Greg Olsen - CAR	4	4.	Philadelphia Eagles	9
5.	Deshawn Watson - HOU	10	38.	Isiah Crowell - NYJ	11	5.	Michael Thomas - NO	6	72.	Ryan Grant - IND	9	5.	Delanie Walker - TEN	8	5.	Los Angeles Chargers	8
6.	Drew Brees - NO	6	39.	Peyton Barber - TB	5	6.	Keenan Allen - LAC	8	73.	Cole Beasley - DAL	8	6.	Jimmy Graham - GB	7	6.	Houston Texans	10
7.	Kirk Cousins - MIN	10	40.	Marlon Mack - IND	9	7.	A.J. Green - CIN	9	74.	Geronimo Allison - GB	7	7.	Evan Engram - NYG	9	7.	Denver Broncos	10
8.	Carson Wentz - PHI	9	41.	James White - NE	11	8.	Davante Adams - GB	7	75.	Quincy Enunwa - NYJ	11	8.	Kyle Rudolph - MIN	10	8.	Baltimore Ravens	10
9.	Andrew Luck - IND	9	42.	Ronald Jones II - TB	5	9.	Mike Evans - TB	5	76.	Mike Wallace - PHI	9	9.	Trey Burton - CHI	5	9.	New Orleans Saints	6
10.	Matthew Stafford - DET	6	43.	Giovani Bernard - CIN	9	10.	T.Y. Hilton - IND	9	77.	Christian Kirk - ARI	9	10.	Jordan Reed - WAS	4	10.	New England Patriots	11
11.	Ben Roethlisberger - PIT	7	44.	Ty Montgomery - GB	7	11.	Larry Fitzgerald - ARI	9	78.	Taywan Taylor - TEN	8	11.	Jack Doyle - IND	9	11.	Pittsburgh Steelers	7
12.	Phil Rivers - LAC	8	45.	Blal Powell - NYJ	11	12.	Stefon Diggs - MIN	10	79.	Courtland Sutton - DEN	10	12.	David Njoku - CLE	11	12.	Carolina Panthers	4
13.	Jimmy Garoppolo - SF	11	46.	Theo Riddick - DET	6	13.	Adam Thielen - MIN	10	80.	Martavis Bryant - OAK	7	13.	George Kittle - SF	11	13.	Chicago Bears	5
14.	Matt Ryan - ATL	8	47.	C.J. Anderson - CAR	4	14.	Doug Baldwin - SEA	7	81.	Corey Coleman - BUF	11	14.	O.J. Howard - TB	5	14.	Seattle Seahawks	7
15.	Patrick Mahomes - KC	12	48.	Aaron Jones - GB	7	15.	Tyreek Hill - KC	12	82.	Brandon Marshall - SEA	7	15.	Charles Clay - BUF	11	15.	Atlanta Falcons	8
16.	Jared Goff - LAR	12	49.	Devontae Booker - DEN	10	16.	Amari Cooper - OAK	7	83.	James Washington - PIT	7	16.	Tyler Ebert - CIN	9	16.	Arizona Cardinals	9
17.	Marcus Mariota - TEN	8	50.	Adrian Peterson - WAS	4	17.	Jarvis Landry - CLE	11	84.	Willie Snead - BAL	10	17.	Eric Ebron - IND	9	17.	Kansas City Chiefs	12
18.	Alex Smith - WAS	4	51.	Corey Clement - PHI	9	18.	Demaryius Thomas - DEN	10	85.	Terrance Williams - DAL	8	18.	Cameron Brate - TB	5	18.	Green Bay Packers	7
19.	Dak Prescott - DAL	8	52.	Nick Chubb - CLE	11	19.	Golden Tate - DET	6	86.	Terrelle Pryor - NYJ	11	19.	Jared Cook - OAK	7	19.	Tennessee Titans	8
20.	Blake Bortles - JAC	9	53.	Matt Breida - SF	11	20.	Allen Robinson - CHI	5	87.	Philip Dorsett - NE	11	20.	Benjamin Watson - NO	6	20.	Cincinnati Bengals	9
21.	Derek Carr - OAK	7	54.	Jordan Wilkins - IND	9	21.	Julju Smith-Schuster - PIT	7	88.	Albert Wilson - MIA	11	21.	Austin Seferian-Jenkins - JAC	9	21.	New York Giants	9
22.	Mitch Trubisky - CHI	5	55.	Austin Ekeler - LAC	8	22.	Brandin Cooks - LAR	12	89.	Jermaine Kearse - NYJ	11	22.	Ricky Seal-Jones - ARI	9	22.	Detroit Lions	6
23.	Eli Manning - NYG	9	56.	Nyheim Hines - IND	9	23.	Marvin Jones - DET	6	90.	Dante Pettis - SF	11	23.	Austin Hooper - ATL	8	23.	Buffalo Bills	11
24.	Andy Dalton - CIN	9	57.	Javorius Allen - BAL	10	24.	Josh Gordon - CLE	11	91.	Trent Taylor - SF	11	24.	Mike Gesicki - MIA	11	24.	Dallas Cowboys	8
25.	Case Keenum - DEN	10	58.	Lataavius Murray - MIN	10	25.	Chris Hogan - NE	11	92.	Tyler Boyd - CIN	9	25.	Vance McDonald - PIT	7	25.	Washington Redskins	4
26.	Jameis Winston - TB	5	59.	Frank Gore - MIA	11	26.	Corey Davis - TEN	8	93.	Jeremy MacIn - FA	0	26.	Hayden Hurst - BAL	10	26.	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	5
27.	Tyrod Taylor - CLE	11	60.	LeGarrette Blount - DET	6	27.	Michael Crabtree - BAL	10	94.	Tavon Austin - SEA	8	27.	Nick Vannett - SEA	7	27.	Cleveland Browns	11
28.	Ryan Tannehill - MIA	11	61.	Samaje Perine - WAS	4	28.	Emmanuel Sanders - DEN	10	95.	Jordan Matthews - FA	0	28.	Jake Butt - DEN	10	28.	San Francisco 49ers	11
29.	Joe Flacco - BAL	10	62.	T.J. Yeldon - JAC	9	29.	Marquise Goodwin - SF	11	96.	Mack Hollins - PHI	9	29.	Tyler Kroft - CIN	9	29.	Miami Dolphins	11
30.	Sam Bradford - ARI	9	63.	Kenneth Dixon - BAL	10	30.	Jamison Crowder - WAS	4	97.	Jaron Brown - SEA	7	30.	Luke Wilson - DET	6	30.	New York Jets	11
31.	Sam Darnold - NYJ	11	64.	Doug Martin - OAK	7	31.	Sammy Watkins - KC	12	98.	Tre'Quan Smith - NO	6	31.	Blake Jarwin - DAL	8	31.	Oakland Raiders	7
32.	Josh Allen - BUF	11	65.	Darren Sproles - PHI	9	32.	Alshon Jeffery - PHI	9	99.	Taylor Gabriel - CHI	5	32.	Antonio Gates - FA	0	32.	Indianapolis Colts	9
			66.	Robert Kelley - WAS	4	33.	Robby Anderson - NYJ	11	100.	Kevin White - CHI	5						
Rk.	RUNNING BACKS	Bye	67.	D'Onta Foreman - HOU	10	34.	Cooper Kupp - LAR	12	101.	Antonio Callaway - CLE	11	Rk.	KICKERS	Bye		NOTES	
1.	Todd Gurley - LAR	12	68.	Spencer Ware - KC	12	35.	Pierre Garcon - SF	11	102.	Zay Jones - BUF	11	1.	Stephen Gostkowski - NE	11			
2.	Le'Veon Bell - PIT	7	69.	Alfred Morris - SF	11	36.	Robert Woods - LAR	12	103.	Brice Butler - ARI	9	2.	Greg Zuerlein - LAR	12			
3.	David Johnson - ARI	9	70.	Chris Ivory - BUF	11	37.	Randall Cobb - GB	7	104.	Chester Rogers - IND	9	3.	Justin Tucker - BAL	10			
4.	Ezekiel Elliott - DAL	8	71.	Jeremy Hill - NE	11	38.	Devin Funchess - CAR	4	105.	J.J. Nelson - ARI	9	4.	Matt Bryant - ATL	8			
5.	Alvin Kamara - NO	6	72.	Wayne Gallman - NYG	9	39.	Julian Edelman - NE	11	106.	Travis Benjamin - LAC	8	5.	Wil Lutz - NO	6			
6.	Saquon Barkley - NYG	9	73.	Kalen Ballage - MIA	11	40.	Nelson Agholor - PHI	9	107.	Keke Coutee - HOU	10	6.	Jake Elliott - PHI	9			
7.	Melvin Gordon - LAC	8	74.	Jonathan Williams - NO	6	41.	Will Fuller - HOU	10	108.	Torrey Smith - CAR	4	7.	Matt Prater - DET	6			
8.	Kareem Hunt - KC	12	75.	Chase Edmonds - ARI	9	42.	Jordy Nelson - OAK	7	109.	Adam Humphries - TB	5	8.	Harrison Butker - KC	12			
9.	Leonard Fournette - JAC	9	76.	James Conner - PIT	7	43.	Kenny Stills - MIA	11	110.	Curtis Samuel - CAR	4	9.	Chris Boswell - PIT	7			
10.	Christian McCaffrey - CAR	4	77.	Christine Michael - IND	9	44.	Sterling Shepard - NYG	9	111.	Cordearrelle Patterson - NE	11	10.	Mason Crosby - GB	7			
11.	Dalvin Cook - MIN	10	78.	Corey Grant - JAC	9	45.	Kelvin Benjamin - BUF	11	112.	Chad Williams - ARI	9	11.	Dan Bailey - DAL	8			
12.	Devonta Freeman - ATL	8	79.	Charles Sims - TB	5	46.	Devante Parker - MIA	11	113.	Kendall Wright - MIN	10	12.	Robbie Gould - SF	11			
13.	Jerick McKinnon - SF	11	80.	C.J. Prosise - SEA	7	47.	Allen Hurns - DAL	8	114.	D.J. Chark - JAC	9	13.	Graham Gano - CAR	4			
14.	Joe Mixon - CIN	9	81.	Ameer Abdullah - DET	6	48.	Keelan Cole - JAC	9	115.	Laquon Treadwell - MIN	10	14.	Adam Vinatieri - IND	9			
15.	Jordan Howard - CHI	5	82.	Alfred Blue - HOU	10	49.	Kenny Golladay - DET	6	116.	Jeremy Kerley - BUF	11	15.	Ryan Succop - TEN	8			
16.	LeSean McCoy - BUF	11	83.	Tavon Austin - DAL	8	50.	Rishard Matthews - TEN	8	117.	Cody Latimer - NYG	9	16.	Brandon McManus - DEN	10			
17.	Kenyan Drake - MIA	11	84.	John Kelly - LAR	12	51.	Tyler Lockett - SEA	7	118.	Jakeem Grant - MIA	11	17.	Josh Lambo - JAC	9			
18.	Alex Collins - BAL	10	85.	Elijah McGuire - NYJ	11	52.	D.J. Moore - CAR	4	119.	Equanimeous St. Brown - GB	7	18.	Daniel Carlson - MIN	10			
19.	Lamar Miller - HOU	10	86.	Rod Smith - DAL	8	53.	Mike Williams - LAC	8	120.	Chris Conley - KC	12	19.	Ka'imi Fairbairn - HOU	10			
20.	Royce Freeman - DEN	10	87.	Kyle Juszczyk - SF	11	54.	Michael Gallup - DAL	8	121.	Kenny Britt - FA	0	20.	Kai Forbath - FA	0			
21.	Jay Ajayi - PHI	9	88.	Jalen Richard - OAK	7	55.	Chris Godwin - TB	5	122.	Bruce Ellington - HOU	10	21.	Caleb Sturgis - LAC	8			
22.	Dion Lewis - TEN	8	89.	Jonathan Stewart - NYG	9	56.	Anthony Miller - CHI	5	123.	J'Mon Moore - GB	7	22.	Dustin Hopkins - WAS	4			
23.	Derrick Henry - TEN	8	90.	DeAndre Washington - OAK	7	57.	Josh Doctson - WAS	4	124.	Amara Darboh - SEA	7	23.	Steven Hauschka - BUF	11			
24.	Mark Ingram - NO	6	91.	Phillip Lindsay - DEN	10	58.	Cameron Meredith - NO	6	125.	Seth Roberts - OAK	7	24.	Cairo Santos - FA	0			
25.	Rex Burkhead - NE	11	92.	Joe Williams - SF	11	59.	John Brown - BAL	10	126.	Dontrelle Inman - FA	0	25.	Phil Dawson - ARI	9			
26.	Chris Thompson - WAS	4	93.	DeAngelo Henderson - DEN	10	60.	Calvin Ridley - ATL	8	127.	DaeSean Hamilton - DEN	10	26.	Cody Parkey - CHI	5			
27.	Marshawn Lynch - OAK	7	94.	Justin Jackson - LAC	8	61.	Dede Westbrook - JAC	9	128.	Demarcus Robinson - KC	12	27.	Blair Walsh - FA	0			
28.	Tevin Coleman - ATL	8	95.	Jacquizz Rodgers - TB	5	62.	Mohamed Sanu - ATL	8	129.	Josh Reynolds - LAR	12	28.	Chandler Catanzaro - TB	5			
29.	Duke Johnson - CLE	11	96.	Mike Gillislee - NE	11	63.	Tyrell Williams - LAC	8	130.	Marquez Valdes-Scantling - GB	7	29.	Sebastian Janikowski - SEA	7			
30.	Carlos Hyde - CLE	11	97.	Travaris Cadet - BUF	11	64.	DeSean Jackson - TB	5	131.	Breshad Perriman - BAL	10	30.	Roberto Aguayo - LAC	8			
31.	Tarik Cohen - CHI	5	98.	Robert Turbin - IND	9	65.	John Ross - CIN	9	132.	Brandon LaFell - FA	0	31.	Zane Gonzalez - CLE	11			
32.	Kerion Johnson - DET	6	99.	Damien Williams - KC	12	66.	Paul Richardson - WAS	4	133.	Chris Moore - BAL	10	32.	Mike Nugent - OAK	7			

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	QUARTERBACKS			\$	Rk.	RUNNING BACKS			\$	Rk.	WIDE RECEIVERS			\$	Rk.	WIDE RECEIVERS			\$	Rk.	TIGHT ENDS			\$	Rk.	TEAM DEFENSES			\$
1.	Aaron Rodgers	- GB (7)	\$ 20	33.	Sony Michel	- NE (11)	\$ 6	1.	Antonio Brown	- PIT (7)	\$ 55	68.	Dez Bryant	- FA (0)	\$ 0	1.	Rob Gronkowski	- NE (7)	\$ 33	1.	Jacksonville Jaguars (9)	\$ 2							
2.	Russell Wilson	- SEA (7)	\$ 15	35.	Jamaal Williams	- GB (7)	\$ 6	2.	DeAndre Hopkins	- HOU (10)	\$ 52	69.	Donte Moncrief	- JAC (9)	\$ 0	2.	Travis Kelce	- KC (10)	\$ 31	2.	Minnesota Vikings (10)	\$ 1							
3.	Tom Brady	- NE (11)	\$ 13	36.	Chris Carson	- SEA (7)	\$ 6	3.	Odell Beckham Jr.	- NYG (9)	\$ 50	70.	Danny Amendola	- MIA (11)	\$ 0	3.	Zach Ertz	- PHI (9)	\$ 25	3.	Los Angeles Rams (12)	\$ 1							
4.	Cam Newton	- CAR (4)	\$ 12	37.	Rashaad Penny	- SEA (7)	\$ 5	4.	Julio Jones	- ATL (8)	\$ 46	71.	Ted Ginn	- NO (6)	\$ 0	4.	Greg Olsen	- CAR (8)	\$ 14	4.	Philadelphia Eagles (9)	\$ 1							
5.	Deshawn Watson	- HOU (10)	\$ 12	38.	Isaiah Crowell	- NYJ (11)	\$ 5	5.	Michael Thomas	- NO (6)	\$ 46	72.	Ryan Grant	- IND (9)	\$ 0	5.	DeLanie Walker	- TEN (6)	\$ 13	5.	Los Angeles Chargers (8)	\$ 1							
6.	Drew Brees	- NO (6)	\$ 11	39.	Peyton Barber	- TB (5)	\$ 5	6.	Keenan Allen	- LAC (8)	\$ 40	73.	Cole Beasley	- DAL (8)	\$ 0	6.	Jimmy Graham	- GB (8)	\$ 13	6.	Houston Texans (10)	\$ 1							
7.	Kirk Cousins	- MIN (10)	\$ 8	40.	Marlon Mack	- IND (9)	\$ 4	7.	A.J. Green	- CIN (9)	\$ 38	74.	Geronimo Allison	- GB (7)	\$ 0	7.	Evan Engram	- NYG (9)	\$ 12	7.	Denver Broncos (10)	\$ 1							
8.	Carson Wentz	- PHI (9)	\$ 8	41.	James White	- NE (11)	\$ 4	8.	Davante Adams	- GB (7)	\$ 37	75.	Quincy Enunwa	- NYJ (11)	\$ 0	8.	Kyle Rudolph	- MIN (7)	\$ 10	8.	Baltimore Ravens (10)	\$ 1							
9.	Andrew Luck	- IND (9)	\$ 6	42.	Ronald Jones II	- TB (5)	\$ 3	9.	Mike Evans	- TB (5)	\$ 35	76.	Mike Wallace	- PHI (9)	\$ 0	9.	Trey Burton	- CHI (5)	\$ 9	9.	New Orleans Saints (6)	\$ 0							
10.	Matthew Stafford	- DET (6)	\$ 6	43.	Giovani Bernard	- CIN (9)	\$ 3	10.	T.Y. Hilton	- IND (9)	\$ 32	77.	Christian Kirk	- ARI (9)	\$ 0	10.	Jordan Reed	- WAS (9)	\$ 7	10.	New England Patriots (11)	\$ 0							
11.	Ben Roethlisberger	- PIT (7)	\$ 5	44.	Ty Montgomery	- GB (7)	\$ 3	11.	Larry Fitzgerald	- ARI (9)	\$ 31	78.	Taywan Taylor	- TEN (8)	\$ 0	11.	Jack Doyle	- IND (9)	\$ 6	11.	Pittsburgh Steelers (7)	\$ 0							
12.	Philip Rivers	- LAC (8)	\$ 5	45.	Blair Powell	- NYJ (11)	\$ 3	12.	Stefon Diggs	- MIN (10)	\$ 31	79.	Courtland Sutton	- DEN (10)	\$ 0	12.	David Njoku	- CLE (10)	\$ 5	12.	Carolina Panthers (4)	\$ 0							
13.	Jimmy Garoppolo	- SF (11)	\$ 5	46.	Theo Riddick	- DET (6)	\$ 2	13.	Adam Thielen	- MIN (10)	\$ 30	80.	Martavis Bryant	- OAK (7)	\$ 0	13.	George Kittle	- SF (10)	\$ 4	13.	Chicago Bears (5)	\$ 0							
14.	Matt Ryan	- ATL (8)	\$ 4	47.	C.J. Anderson	- CAR (4)	\$ 2	14.	Doug Baldwin	- SEA (7)	\$ 29	81.	Corey Coleman	- BUF (11)	\$ 0	14.	O.J. Howard	- TB (7)	\$ 3	14.	Seattle Seahawks (7)	\$ 0							
15.	Patrick Mahomes	- KC (12)	\$ 4	48.	Aaron Jones	- GB (7)	\$ 2	15.	Tyreek Hill	- KC (12)	\$ 30	82.	Brandon Marshall	- SEA (7)	\$ 0	15.	Charles Clay	- BUF (12)	\$ 2	15.	Atlanta Falcons (8)	\$ 0							
16.	Jared Goff	- LAR (12)	\$ 4	49.	Devontae Booker	- DEN (10)	\$ 2	16.	Amari Cooper	- OAK (7)	\$ 26	83.	James Washington	- PIT (7)	\$ 0	16.	Tyler Ebert	- CIN (7)	\$ 2	16.	Arizona Cardinals (9)	\$ 0							
17.	Marcus Mariota	- TEN (8)	\$ 4	50.	Adrian Peterson	- WAS (4)	\$ 2	17.	Jarvis Landry	- CLE (11)	\$ 26	84.	Willie Snead	- BAL (10)	\$ 0	17.	Eric Ebron	- IND (11)	\$ 2	17.	Kansas City Chiefs (12)	\$ 0							
18.	Alex Smith	- WAS (4)	\$ 4	51.	Corey Clement	- PHI (9)	\$ 1	18.	Demaryius Thomas	- DEN (10)	\$ 24	85.	Terrance Williams	- DAL (8)	\$ 0	18.	Cameron Brate	- TB (10)	\$ 2	18.	Green Bay Packers (7)	\$ 0							
19.	Dak Prescott	- DAL (8)	\$ 3	52.	Nick Chubb	- CLE (11)	\$ 2	19.	Golden Tate	- DET (6)	\$ 23	86.	Terrelle Pryor	- NYJ (11)	\$ 0	19.	Jared Cook	- OAK (6)	\$ 2	19.	Tennessee Titans (8)	\$ 0							
20.	Blake Bortles	- JAC (9)	\$ 1	53.	Matt Breida	- SF (11)	\$ 1	20.	Allen Robinson	- CHI (5)	\$ 20	87.	Phillip Dorsett	- NE (11)	\$ 0	20.	Benjamin Watson	- NO (5)	\$ 1	20.	Cincinnati Bengals (9)	\$ 0							
21.	Derek Carr	- OAK (7)	\$ 2	54.	Jordan Wilkins	- IND (9)	\$ 1	21.	Juju Smith-Schuster	- PIT (7)	\$ 20	88.	Albert Wilson	- MIA (11)	\$ 0	21.	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	- JAC (7)	\$ 1	21.	New York Giants (9)	\$ 0							
22.	Mitch Trubisky	- CHI (5)	\$ 1	55.	Austin Ekele	- LAC (8)	\$ 1	22.	Brandin Cooks	- LAR (12)	\$ 20	89.	Jermaine Kearse	- NYJ (11)	\$ 0	22.	Ricky Seals-Jones	- ARI (12)	\$ 1	22.	Detroit Lions (6)	\$ 0							
23.	Eli Manning	- NYG (9)	\$ 1	56.	Nyheim Hines	- IND (9)	\$ 0	23.	Marvin Jones	- DET (6)	\$ 19	90.	Dante Pettis	- SF (11)	\$ 0	23.	Austin Hooper	- ATL (6)	\$ 1	23.	Buffalo Bills (11)	\$ 0							
24.	Andy Dalton	- CIN (9)	\$ 1	57.	Javorius Allen	- BAL (10)	\$ 1	24.	Josh Gordon	- CLE (11)	\$ 17	91.	Trent Taylor	- SF (11)	\$ 0	24.	Mike Gesicki	- MIA (11)	\$ 0	24.	Dallas Cowboys (8)	\$ 0							
25.	Case Keenum	- DEN (10)	\$ 1	58.	Latavius Murray	- MIN (10)	\$ 0	25.	Chris Hogan	- NE (11)	\$ 15	92.	Tyler Boyd	- CIN (9)	\$ 0	25.	Vance McDonald	- PIT (11)	\$ 0	25.	Washington Redskins (4)	\$ 0							
26.	Jameis Winston	- TB (5)	\$ 0	59.	Frank Gore	- MIA (11)	\$ 0	26.	Corey Davis	- TEN (8)	\$ 17	93.	Jeremy Maclin	- FA (0)	\$ 0	26.	Hayden Hurst	- BAL (8)	\$ 0	26.	Tampa Bay Buccaneers (5)	\$ 0							
27.	Tyrod Taylor	- CLE (11)	\$ 0	60.	LeGarrette Blount	- DET (6)	\$ 0	27.	Michael Crabtree	- BAL (10)	\$ 15	94.	Tavon Austin	- DAL (8)	\$ 0	27.	Nick Vannett	- SEA (10)	\$ 0	27.	Cleveland Browns (11)	\$ 0							
28.	Ryan Tannehill	- MIA (11)	\$ 0	61.	Samaje Perine	- WAS (4)	\$ 0	28.	Emmanuel Sanders	- DEN (10)	\$ 14	95.	Jordan Matthews	- FA (0)	\$ 0	28.	Jake Butt	- DEN (10)	\$ 0	28.	San Francisco 49ers (11)	\$ 0							
29.	Joe Flacco	- BAL (10)	\$ 0	62.	T.J. Yeldon	- JAC (9)	\$ 0	29.	Marquise Goodwin	- SF (11)	\$ 14	96.	Mack Hollins	- PHI (9)	\$ 0	29.	Tyler Kroft	- CIN (11)	\$ 0	29.	Miami Dolphins (11)	\$ 0							
30.	Sam Bradford	- ARI (9)	\$ 0	63.	Kenneth Dixon	- BAL (10)	\$ 0	30.	Jamison Crowder	- WAS (4)	\$ 13	97.	Jaron Brown	- SEA (7)	\$ 0	30.	Luke Willson	- DET (4)	\$ 0	30.	New York Jets (11)	\$ 0							
31.	Sam Darnold	- NYJ (11)	\$ 0	64.	Doug Martin	- OAK (7)	\$ 0	31.	Sammy Watkins	- KC (12)	\$ 12	98.	Tre'Quan Smith	- NO (6)	\$ 0	31.	Blake Jarwin	- DAL (12)	\$ 0	31.	Oakland Raiders (7)	\$ 0							
32.	Josh Allen	- BUF (11)	\$ 0	65.	Darren Sproles	- PHI (9)	\$ 0	32.	Alshon Jeffery	- PHI (9)	\$ 12	99.	Taylor Gabriel	- CHI (5)	\$ 0	32.	Antonio Gates	- FA (9)	\$ 0	32.	Indianapolis Colts (9)	\$ 0							
				66.	Robert Kelley	- WAS (4)	\$ 0	33.	Robby Anderson	- NYJ (11)	\$ 12	100.	Kevin White	- CHI (5)	\$ 0														
				67.	D'Onta Foreman	- HOU (10)	\$ 0	34.	Cooper Kupp	- LAR (12)	\$ 11	101.	Antonio Callaway	- CLE (11)	\$ 0														
				68.	Spencer Ware	- KC (12)	\$ 0	35.	Pierre Garcon	- SF (11)	\$ 11	102.	Zay Jones	- BUF (11)	\$ 0														
				69.	Alfred Morris	- SF (11)	\$ 0	36.	Robert Woods	- LAR (12)	\$ 10	103.	Brice Butler	- ARI (9)	\$ 0														
				70.	Chris Ivory	- BUF (11)	\$ 0	37.	Randall Cobb	- GB (7)	\$ 10	104.	Chester Rogers	- IND (9)	\$ 0														
				71.	Jeremy Hill	- NE (11)	\$ 0	38.	Devin Funchess	- CAR (4)	\$ 9	105.	J.J. Nelson	- ARI (9)	\$ 0														
				72.	Wayne Gallman	- NYG (9)	\$ 0	39.	Julian Edelman	- NE (11)	\$ 8	106.	Travis Benjamin	- LAC (8)	\$ 0														
				73.	Kalen Ballage	- MIA (11)	\$ 0	40.	Nelson Agholor	- PHI (9)	\$ 8	107.	Keke Coutee	- HOU (10)	\$ 0														
				74.	Jonathan Williams	- NO (6)	\$ 0	41.	Will Fuller	- HOU (10)	\$ 7	108.	Torrey Smith	- CAR (4)	\$ 0														
				75.	Chase Edmonds	- ARI (9)	\$ 0	42.	Jordy Nelson	- OAK (7)	\$ 6	109.	Adam Humphries	- TB (5)	\$ 0														
				76.	James Conner	- PIT (7)	\$ 0	43.	Kenny Stills	- MIA (11)	\$ 6	110.	Curtis Samuel	- CAR (4)	\$ 0														
				77.	Christine Michael	- IND (9)	\$ 0	44.	Sterling Shepard	- NYG (9)	\$ 6	111.	Cordarrelle Patterson	- NE (11)	\$ 0														
				78.	Corey Grant	- JAC (9)	\$ 0	45.	Kelvin Benjamin	- BUF (11)	\$ 5	112.	Chad Williams	- ARI (9)	\$ 0														
				79.	Charles Sims	- TB (5)	\$ 0	46.	Devante Parker	- MIA (11)	\$ 4	113.	Kendall Wright	- MIN (10)	\$ 0														
				80.	C.J. Prosise	- SEA (7)	\$ 0	47.	Allen Hurns	- DAL (8)	\$ 4	114.	D.J. Chark	- JAC (9)	\$ 0														
				81.	Ameer Abdullah	- DET (6)	\$ 0	48.	Keelan Cole	- JAC (9)	\$ 2	115.	Laquon Treadwell	- MIN (10)	\$ 0														
				82.	Alfred Blue	- HOU (10)	\$ 0	49.	Kenny Golladay	- DET (6)	\$ 3	116.	Jeremy Kerley	- BUF (11)	\$ 0														
				83.	Tavon Austin	- DAL (8)	\$ 0	50.	Rishard Matthews	- TEN (8)	\$ 3	117.	Cody Latimer	- NYG (9)	\$ 0														
				84.	John Kelly	- LAR (12)	\$ 0	51.	Tyler Lockett	- SEA (7)	\$ 3	118.	Jakeem Grant	- MIA (11)	\$ 0														
				85.	Elijah McGuire	- NYJ (11)	\$ 0	52.	D.J. Moore	- CAR (4)	\$ 3	119.	Equanimeous St. Brown	- GB (7)	\$ 0														
				86.	Rod Smith	- DAL (8)	\$ 0	53.	Mike Williams	- LAC (8)	\$ 2	120.	Chris Conley	- KC (12)	\$ 0														
				87.	Kyle Juszczyk	- SF (11)	\$ 0	54.	Michael Gallup	- DAL (8)	\$ 2	121.	Kenny Britt	- FA (0)	\$ 0														
				88.	Jalen Richard	- OAK (7)	\$ 0	55.	Chris Godwin	- TB (5)	\$ 2	122.	Bruce Ellington	- HOU (10)	\$ 0														
				89.	Jonathan Stewart	- NYG (9)	\$ 0	56.	Anthony Miller	- CHI (5)	\$ 2	123.	J'Mon Moore	- GB (7)	\$ 0														
				90.	DeAndre Washington	- OAK (7)	\$ 0	57.	Josh Doctson	- WAS (4)	\$ 2	124.	Amara Darboh	- SEA (7)	\$ 0														
				91.	Phillip Lindsay	- DEN (10)	\$ 0	58.	Cameron Meredith	- NO (6)	\$ 2	125.	Seth Roberts	- OAK (7)	\$ 0														
				92.	Joe Williams	- SF (11)	\$ 0	59.	John Brown	- BAL (10)	\$ 1	126.	Dontrelle Inman	- FA (0)	\$ 0														
				93.	DeAngelo Henderson	- DEN (10)	\$ 0	60.	Calvin Ridley	- ATL (8)	\$ 2	127.	DaeSean Hamilton	- DEN (10)	\$ 0														
				94.	Justin Jackson	- LAC (8)	\$ 0	61.	Dede Westbrook	- JAC (9)	\$ 2	128.	Demarcus Robinson	- KC (12)	\$ 0														
				95.	Jacquizz Rodgers	- TB (5)	\$ 0	62.	Mohamed Sanu	- ATL (8)	\$ 1	129.	Josh Reynolds	- LAR															

## HOW PPR SHOULD CHANGE THE WAY YOU DRAFT

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

There's a lot of questions I receive on a daily basis, but one important factor that most leave out while asking their question is their league settings. You've likely heard analysts tell you to understand the rules for your league, but you probably know if your league is standard or PPR (point per reception). But what I've come to learn is that not many people actually change their strategy based on format. Today, you'll have a better understanding on why you need a different approach, and what approach is best to take.

When doing PPR rankings, most just bump up the players like Jarvis Landry and Julian Edelman, knowing they're going to be more valuable in that format, that's no surprise. What rankings don't tell us is which positions we should be attacking at certain points of our drafts, because positional rankings can only do so much for you when it comes down to deciding whether you should take the No. 18 running back off the board, or the No. 12 wide receiver.

Those who have played fantasy football for a long time likely remember when wide receivers were king in PPR formats, but nowadays, you'll likely see five running backs come off the board before the first receiver. Is that right? Well, even though wide receivers had a down year in 2017, there were just three running backs who scored more fantasy points than the top two wide receivers. This isn't a rare scenario, either, as there've been just 14 running backs to score more than 300 PPR points over the last five years, while 22 wide receivers accomplished that feat in the same span. We'll get more in-depth with PPR formats, but let's start with standard.

### Standard Scoring

I remember this exact article last year, when going by the Zero-RB approach was the cool thing to do. While I wouldn't knock the strategy, because it can work at times, I did come to the conclusion that you should still go running back-heavy at the start of your standard formats based on what history told me. Let's see if all remains status quo this year.

Finish	RB	Finish	WR		Finish	RB	Finish	WR
RB1	296.2	WR1	230.0		RB26	119.8	WR26	129.2
RB2	267.1	WR2	223.0		RB27	117.3	WR27	127.2
RB3	238.8	WR3	210.9		RB28	116.4	WR28	124.1
RB4	228.0	WR4	203.0		RB29	113.9	WR29	122.4
RB5	223.5	WR5	193.6		RB30	112.7	WR30	120.2
RB6	216.4	WR6	190.8		RB31	110.0	WR31	119.1



<b>RB7</b>	203.7	<b>WR7</b>	179.9		<b>RB32</b>	107.8	<b>WR32</b>	117.2
<b>RB8</b>	194.9	<b>WR8</b>	176.0		<b>RB33</b>	104.9	<b>WR33</b>	116.9
<b>RB9</b>	183.6	<b>WR9</b>	170.6		<b>RB34</b>	102.1	<b>WR34</b>	116.3
<b>RB10</b>	180.2	<b>WR10</b>	165.3		<b>RB35</b>	100.7	<b>WR35</b>	113.1
<b>RB11</b>	175.9	<b>WR11</b>	161.8		<b>RB36</b>	100.1	<b>WR36</b>	112.6
<b>RB12</b>	168.0	<b>WR12</b>	160.9		<b>RB37</b>	96.8	<b>WR37</b>	111.3
<b>RB13</b>	166.5	<b>WR13</b>	154.7		<b>RB38</b>	95.2	<b>WR38</b>	109.0
<b>RB14</b>	160.5	<b>WR14</b>	152.8		<b>RB39</b>	93.4	<b>WR39</b>	107.0
<b>RB15</b>	157.5	<b>WR15</b>	147.8		<b>RB40</b>	92.0	<b>WR40</b>	106.3
<b>RB16</b>	151.5	<b>WR16</b>	146.7		<b>RB41</b>	88.7	<b>WR41</b>	104.3
<b>RB17</b>	150.3	<b>WR17</b>	145.0		<b>RB42</b>	86.2	<b>WR42</b>	102.6
<b>RB18</b>	147.5	<b>WR18</b>	141.1		<b>RB43</b>	84.9	<b>WR43</b>	101.5
<b>RB19</b>	142.8	<b>WR19</b>	139.4		<b>RB44</b>	83.7	<b>WR44</b>	100.5
<b>RB20</b>	141.3	<b>WR20</b>	138.1		<b>RB45</b>	82.7	<b>WR45</b>	98.5
<b>RB21</b>	138.8	<b>WR21</b>	136.2		<b>RB46</b>	80.9	<b>WR46</b>	97.4
<b>RB22</b>	132.9	<b>WR22</b>	135.7		<b>RB47</b>	78.8	<b>WR47</b>	96.0
<b>RB23</b>	129.5	<b>WR23</b>	133.1		<b>RB48</b>	77.0	<b>WR48</b>	95.2
<b>RB24</b>	127.1	<b>WR24</b>	131.3		<b>RB49</b>	74.9	<b>WR49</b>	94.5
<b>RB25</b>	123.9	<b>WR25</b>	130.3		<b>RB50</b>	73.8	<b>WR50</b>	91.9

The above numbers are a representation as to what has happened in fantasy football since 2014, using the average of each finish by position. As you can see, running backs should dominate the top of standard drafts. Not only is it harder to find the workhorses later in the draft, but the running back drop-off in points is far significant than the drop-off at wide receiver. This takes names out of the equation and gives you pure results. The running backs average more points per player all the way down to the RB22 and WR22 position, where things finally flip towards the wide receiver. What does this mean? Well, most leagues start three wide receivers at minimum, so you'd assume that the wide receivers come off the board slightly more rapidly, right? Early ADP suggests that the No. 22 running back is coming off the board roughly nine picks before the No. 22 wide receiver, so you can say it's close to where it should be.

The thing you need to know about standard leagues is how to approach your flex spot and whether you use a running back or wide receiver. To do that, we'd have to compare the running backs in the 25-36 range to the wide receivers in the 37-48 range, because that's after the starting requirements have been filled, assuming your league starts two running backs and three wide receivers. If you start just two wide receivers, let me save you the hassle – wide receivers would probably better occupy your flex spot, unless, of

course, you have three running backs inside the top-22. But for those who start three wide receivers, the flex spot should go to running backs. The RB25-36 scoring range is from 100.1-123.9 points, while wide receivers in the 37-48 range score from 95.2-111.3 points. Not only do they average more points, but you're getting guaranteed touches with running backs.

This is not an end-all-be-all scenario where you can't lose if you draft a running back for your flex spot, because as the chart shows, if you can draft the 35th wide receiver off the board or the 35th running back off the board, go with the wide receiver. You can say that we also don't know who is going to finish as the No. 35 running back and who is the No. 35 wide receiver. You're absolutely right, but why do you go by rankings? Because it's how you think it will wind up – this is just a way to put yourself in the best position to win if you do, in fact, pick the right players.

## PPR Scoring

Some don't like the PPR format because they believe it gives 'free' points. I'd argue that it's the most predictable scoring format and why it removes the majority of luck from fantasy, which is what we all strive for. Make your rosters as big as possible and include PPR scoring to increase predictability. Without going on a rant here, let's look at that same chart for PPR formats.

Finish	RB	PPR	WR		Finish	RB	Finish	WR
<b>RB1</b>	369.5	<b>WR1</b>	345.2		<b>RB26</b>	154.9	<b>WR26</b>	195.3
<b>RB2</b>	319.7	<b>WR2</b>	334.1		<b>RB27</b>	150.3	<b>WR27</b>	192.0
<b>RB3</b>	305.4	<b>WR3</b>	313.9		<b>RB28</b>	147.5	<b>WR28</b>	188.8
<b>RB4</b>	282.3	<b>WR4</b>	301.3		<b>RB29</b>	144.4	<b>WR29</b>	188.0
<b>RB5</b>	271.8	<b>WR5</b>	288.7		<b>RB30</b>	142.4	<b>WR30</b>	184.7
<b>RB6</b>	266.5	<b>WR6</b>	280.0		<b>RB31</b>	139.1	<b>WR31</b>	181.8
<b>RB7</b>	244.8	<b>WR7</b>	270.8		<b>RB32</b>	137.7	<b>WR32</b>	180.2
<b>RB8</b>	233.2	<b>WR8</b>	265.1		<b>RB33</b>	135.9	<b>WR33</b>	178.4
<b>RB9</b>	223.7	<b>WR9</b>	258.5		<b>RB34</b>	134.3	<b>WR34</b>	177.2
<b>RB10</b>	218.7	<b>WR10</b>	250.9		<b>RB35</b>	132.2	<b>WR35</b>	174.6
<b>RB11</b>	211.4	<b>WR11</b>	248.9		<b>RB36</b>	129.4	<b>WR36</b>	173.3
<b>RB12</b>	205.2	<b>WR12</b>	245.9		<b>RB37</b>	126.9	<b>WR37</b>	172.1
<b>RB13</b>	200.6	<b>WR13</b>	238.3		<b>RB38</b>	126.5	<b>WR38</b>	169.5
<b>RB14</b>	198.1	<b>WR14</b>	234.3		<b>RB39</b>	123.2	<b>WR39</b>	168.5
<b>RB15</b>	192.9	<b>WR15</b>	230.4		<b>RB40</b>	121.3	<b>WR40</b>	167.7
<b>RB16</b>	190.1	<b>WR16</b>	222.3		<b>RB41</b>	119.1	<b>WR41</b>	162.6

<b>RB17</b>	185.0	<b>WR17</b>	219.9		<b>RB42</b>	115.0	<b>WR42</b>	160.9
<b>RB18</b>	183.5	<b>WR18</b>	215.4		<b>RB43</b>	109.2	<b>WR43</b>	158.1
<b>RB19</b>	180.2	<b>WR19</b>	213.9		<b>RB44</b>	107.1	<b>WR44</b>	157.2
<b>RB20</b>	174.9	<b>WR20</b>	210.0		<b>RB45</b>	105.4	<b>WR45</b>	155.9
<b>RB21</b>	169.8	<b>WR21</b>	207.8		<b>RB46</b>	103.8	<b>WR46</b>	154.3
<b>RB22</b>	165.9	<b>WR22</b>	204.6		<b>RB47</b>	103.0	<b>WR47</b>	151.9
<b>RB23</b>	163.4	<b>WR23</b>	203.3		<b>RB48</b>	101.5	<b>WR48</b>	149.6
<b>RB24</b>	158.9	<b>WR24</b>	200.1		<b>RB49</b>	96.6	<b>WR49</b>	145.0
<b>RB25</b>	156.6	<b>WR25</b>	196.8		<b>RB50</b>	94.5	<b>WR50</b>	142.5

This chart looks a lot different than the standard one, as the changing of the guard occurs at the No. 2 running back and wide receiver, as opposed to the No. 22 spot in the standard rankings where it took the wide receivers a while to catch-up. Here, the No. 22 wide receiver is worth an average of 38.7 points more than the No. 22 running back. It just goes to show that this format is one where you should look to value running backs a bit less. Despite this research, there are 15 running backs coming off the board in the top-25 picks with just nine wide receivers in early ADP.

Similar to the way we did in standard leagues, our job is to find out which players we should have in the flex spots, provided the top-24 running backs are gone, as well as the top-36 wide receivers to fulfill the starting lineups for most leagues. In the PPR format, wide receivers are a much better bet, averaging in between 149.6-172.1 points in the 37-48 range, while running backs in the 25-36 range average anywhere from 129.4-156.6 points. This means that the No. 48 wide receiver scores almost as much as the No. 25 running back. The current ADP for the No. 48 wide receiver is 119th overall, while the No. 25 running back is coming off the board at 59th overall. Needless to say, wide receivers are extremely undervalued in PPR formats.

## What We Learned

Despite everyone changing their strategy by the year, most trends find their way back to where they're supposed to be. Sure, the game is changing as we know it, which is why my study only went over the last four years. For as much as everyone complains that we don't have workhorse running backs anymore, it's kind of a bit overblown, as there were 23 running backs who had at least 200 carries back in 2012, and then we had 18 of them in 2017 (there were 19 in 2016), which is still quite a few. Each year we'll go through this study and adjust, but it's going to be a slow process, as the game doesn't significantly change overnight.

But in general, wide receivers are king in PPR formats, but that doesn't mean you should completely ignore the running back position. In fact, there's plenty of value to be

had later in drafts at wide receiver, as indicated by the 60-player gap between the WR48 and RB25, that produce nearly the same amount of points. Because of that, I would snag one of the top-tier running backs (Todd Gurley, Le'Veon Bell, Ezekiel Elliott, David Johnson, Saquon Barkley) in the first-round if I had the chance, because they're the running backs who are guaranteed 300-plus touches if healthy. Here's the one thing that I want to make clear about PPR leagues: You should be drafting more wide receivers than running backs, and you should be playing wide receivers in your flex spot, unless you have a running back who's projected for a large workload that week.

It's a bit cloudier in standard leagues, because there isn't nearly as much of a gap in between the wide receivers and running backs. So while you're in your draft, you want to pay attention to where you can get value. Looking at the early ADP, you're getting very solid value on running backs in the fifth and sixth round. I'd likely try to get at least one top-12 running back, but then load up on wide receivers in the early rounds. Different than PPR, you'll likely want to start a running back who is guaranteed at least 10 touches in your flex spot. Again, don't be opposed to starting a wide receiver there, just as long as you aren't reaching to fill that spot with one.

## 10 FANTASY FOOTBALL COMMANDMENTS

By: Dan Harris (@danharris80)

If my wife is reading this and judging by her constant eye rolls whenever I talk about fantasy football, she probably isn't; then I can't remember any of the girls I dated before I met her. Seriously, not one. Life was but a blur.

Is she looking? No? Ok, cool.

Yes, it's true, when you get married, you pretty much forget your old flames, and I certainly have. Except for one: Laura (not her real name).

You see, Laura (not her real name) had a bit of a fancy upbringing. And every Sunday, her family would throw this lavish lunch party at their house. The waitstaff wore white gloves and tuxedos, guests wore seersucker suits, and the food was tiny and sounded French. And every Sunday, like the good boyfriend that I was, I attended.

Oh sure, Laura (not her real name) hated those parties herself and knew how much I loved football – both real and fantasy – and she felt awful dragging me to them. But she couldn't bring herself to lie to her parents. She felt like the ol' "Dan really doesn't want to have to wear his college sweatshirt and take the SATs again so he's skipping the lunch party to make sure he doesn't finish last in his fantasy football league" just wouldn't go over well.

One Monday night, I was watching the final football game of the week and was in an insanely close fantasy football matchup. I desperately needed a Reggie Wayne touchdown, and, as the Colts approached the goal-line, I said something silly like, "Please God, let this throw go to Wayne." Laura (not her real name) overheard me, and boom. Every Sunday from then on, she could accurately tell her parents that I was unable to make the Sunday luncheon because I was attending "religious services."

I know what you're thinking – I should have married that girl. I know, but if you met my wife, you'd understand why I didn't. And although I never have a reason to think of any of my other previous relationships, I'll always remember the only non-fantasy player I've ever known to understand that fantasy football could qualify as a religion...unless my wife is reading this. In which case, what were we talking about?

Anyway, in honor of Laura (not her real name) and her understanding of the religious implications of fantasy football, here are our 10 Fantasy Football Commandments for 2018.

## **1. Thou shalt honor thy superstitions**

It's not a football movie, but I love "Bull Durham." Seriously, I'll watch it whenever it's on. And one of my favorite lines is when Crash Davis (Kevin Costner) is trying to explain a winning streak to Annie Savoy (Susan Sarandon). He says, "If you believe you're playing well because you're getting laid, or because you're not getting laid, or because you're wearing ladies underwear, then you are!"

And you know what? That's accurate. If you think you draft better when you eat asparagus for dinner or wear your hat backwards, then you do. If you think your fantasy football team performs better because you grocery shop and read your kids Horton Hatches the Egg on Sundays (and I do), then it does.

Don't let anyone else tell you that not washing your favorite shirt for four weeks because your fantasy team is on a roll is "unsanitary" and "embarrassing to your children." Respect every streak and superstition. Because if you think it has an impact on your fantasy football performance, then it does.

## **2. Thou shalt mock draft as often as possible**

No matter how much research you do or how much you know about every player, for the most part, it's all for naught if you don't practice with mock drafts. How does your team look when you start with two running backs or draft a tight end early? What's the right move when there's an insane run on wide receivers in the first three rounds?

The only way to prepare yourself to make the necessary split-second decisions is to practice making those split-second decisions over and over again. Truthfully, this should be the first commandment, but I've been looking to get that Bull Durham quote into an article for the last year-and-a-half, so mocking gets bumped to number two.

Note: nearly every fantasy sports website has a tool that allows you to mock draft against other players. If you've done them before, you know they can be time-consuming and often frustrating, when other mock-drafters drop out of the draft after two rounds or think it's funny to take George Kittle first overall. If you find yourself with these same concerns, I'd recommend using the FantasyPros Draft Wizard.

You draft against artificial intelligence that uses individual expert rankings. That means you know that the other drafters know what they're doing, you know everyone will finish the draft, and the entire thing takes about five minutes. You'll also get some post-draft analysis, noting your strengths, weaknesses, etc., and you'll get different results every time you mock, meaning you'll get to explore nearly every draft-day scenario.

This is not a part of the second commandment. Merely a public service announcement.



### **3. Thou shalt know thy league settings and roster positions**

Seems simple, right? Any fantasy football player worth his salt knows that one's strategy can vary greatly depending on whether the league is PPR, has a superflex, or awards points for first downs. And yet probably everyone reading this has that person in their long-standing league who still shows up to the draft room and writes in the chat, "How many wide receivers do we start again?"

Truthfully, the mistake of not knowing your league settings happens to the best of them, as it's not always easy to keep things straight when you play in 10 or more leagues. But put a reminder in your phone on the day before every draft to take five minutes and go to the scoring settings tab in your league page. It's an easy way to avoid that awful feeling midway through your draft when you think you're crushing it only to realize you've got the scoring settings wrong.

### **4. Thou shalt honor thy running backs and wide receivers**

It can be incredibly nerve-wracking to watch other managers draft backup quarterbacks and tight ends when you haven't yet filled your starting spot at those positions. Of course, there comes a point where you reach the end of a tier, even your third or fourth tier, when it's the right time to make a move.

But good teams are built on running back and wide receiver depth. And really, that's all you care about. So help me, if I see a backup kicker on your team...well, there's pretty much nothing I can do about it.

But seriously, don't panic if you're the last one to draft a player at any other position. Hit your running back and wide receiver depth, and hit it hard.

### **5. Thou shalt trash talk appropriately**

There's nothing wrong with a little good old-fashioned trash talk, particularly if it's good-natured. But there's a right way and a wrong way to do it.

Lobbing personal attacks, bringing up results from six seasons ago, or discussing an opponent's real-life favorite football team should all be off limits. It's just a game, guys, so let's keep it civil. In fact, your best trash talk is to not talk down to your opponent at all, and simply have a little fun with it.

My preferred methods? The fake press conference is always my go-to. I've drafted hundreds of fantasy articles at this point, but, in my opinion, the best thing I've ever written was a press conference before my championship match debating whether or not I would start Joe Webb at wide receiver in a Yahoo! league when there were rumors that he would start at quarterback for the Vikings that week.

I have it framed in my office. It would be the first thing I would save in a fire, even though it's still probably available in the Yahoo! archives.

I also enjoy benching your players until just before game time not to allow your opponent to prepare his or her fantasy defense. Mind games like this are critical to getting in your opponent's head. However you do it, just have fun with it and keep it light. Friendships have ended over less than fantasy football smack talk gone wrong.

## **6. Remember thy waiver wire day, and keep it holy**

We all put enormous energy into our draft preparation, but in-season management is just as important. And that's why your waiver wire day, whether it be Tuesday, Wednesday, or whenever, is sacred.

Always, without fail, do your research leading up to that day, use your waiver position or budget effectively, and keep your team as strong as possible. No matter how many leagues you're in, never, for even one week, forget to put in your claims. The little moves you make could be the difference between attaining a championship or not.

And never, ever abuse the waiver wire. Your opponent's tight end is on a bye, and you want to pick up the best one out there to block him? Totally fine.

You want to pick up every available tight end and then immediately drop them so that they're all on waivers and your opponent can't pick up anyone? That's just not cricket.

## **7. Thou shalt play out thy entire season**

There's nothing worse than when your fantasy football team gets off to an awful start and your season is done by Week 7. What once looked like a promising roster turned out to be the worst team in the league, either due to injury, bad luck, or just plain poor drafting.

Scratch that – there is something worse. And that's when you're in a desperate race for the playoffs with another owner, and you realize his or her opponent is starting two players on a bye and one on injured reserve.

Yes, it stinks to have nothing to play for. But you owe it to your league – nay, society as a whole – to play out your entire season and give it your all. The fantasy gods look kindly on those who respect the game.

## **8. Thou shalt not be afraid to use thy waiver priority**

That first waiver claim is a thing of beauty. You can have any player you want at any time. The world is your oyster.

The problem is that most fantasy owners are so reluctant to use their top priority that they just sit on it for weeks. It's like when Frank Costanza gets the good parking spot in front of his house. "Once he gets it, he doesn't go out for weeks [Goal of working a Seinfeld reference into every article remains alive]."

In the meantime, these owners allow holes to fill their rosters and are simply unable to fill them. By the time a player they deem worthy of the top spot comes along, their team has often fallen out of the playoff race.

Yes, it would be nice to have the top waiver spot when that critical running back injury comes. But, for the most part, it's overrated, and your team is much better served when you feel free to pick up players whenever your team needs to plug holes.

## **9. Thou shalt never lose a matchup intentionally**

Remember that talk about those fantasy gods looking kindly on you for playing out a season to the end? Well, they can also be a vengeful lot, too. And there is nothing they hate more than when fantasy owners lose matchups intentionally.

Sure, there are times when it can be a sound strategy to lose a matchup. If it's the opening week, your waiver wire grants priority to the worst team, and there is suddenly a fantastic option available, it's understandable that you might bench some players to finish with the lowest point total of the week. Or you might look to give yourself what you perceive as a better first-round playoff matchup by losing in your final week and getting the second seed instead of the first.

No, do not do this. Do not do any of this. Above all, you must play our beloved game with integrity and honor. Play every game to win (within reason, of course), and your fantasy karma will improve.

## **10. Thou shalt not overreact to any single performance**

Remember when Tarik Cohen had that big game in Week 1 and you blew all your FAAB on him? Cohen was serviceable for a week or two but, for the most part, was unstartable in leagues of all formats for the bulk of the season. Unfortunately, as often happens, a massive performance like that usually buys you a starting spot in fantasy lineups for a few weeks, which only further damaged those who made a move to add Cohen when he produced poorly.

Certainly, early season performances can be indicative of a breakout. Chris Thompson, for example, was incredibly steady and reliable before his season-ending injury, and owners who picked him up after his early success benefited greatly. But for the most part, avoiding going crazy over one or two performances is a much wiser strategy than making a big move based on a single game.

On the other side of the coin, you also don't want to overreact negatively to any performance. The number of spite drops you'll see in a season is remarkable.

It's a long season. Ride it out. Actually, "no spite drops" probably deserved its own commandment. I'll talk to the fantasy gods about it.

## STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE: WIDE RECEIVERS

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

Raise your hand if you've heard that strength of schedule means little-to-nothing over the years? I know I'd raise my hand, because it seems like it's the cool thing that people say. Would those same people tell you that their fantasy football rankings don't matter, especially at the top of the draft? No, because then they wouldn't have jobs.

While other positions can be highly debated, every little piece of information that we can get matters. It may not be 100 percent accurate, but we're playing a game where if you get the correct information more than 60 percent of the time, you're going to have a shot at a fantasy championship. But as for wide receiver...

### *STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE FOR WIDE RECEIVERS ABSOLUTELY MATTERS.*

I never write in all caps, but I felt the need to do it here to drive my point home. Why do we continually have Antonio Brown, Julio Jones, Odell Beckham Jr., Michael Thomas, and Deandre Hopkins atop our rankings? Because they are very good football players. But Mike, this is about strength of schedule and you can't predict how good a team will be in 2018! Correct, but if you can say that those guys are very good football players, why can't we talk about the players they'll be lining up against? Wide receiver and cornerback matchups are not always one-on-one, but we know who the very good cornerbacks are, just like we know who the very good wide receivers are.

So instead of attacking this article like the other strength of schedule articles, I'll do what I did last year where I let you know who is going to face the toughest competition in 2018. Last year, I warned you not to draft Dez Bryant because of this exact method. I also told you to draft Stefon Diggs due to the lack of talent he'd face.

I'll be focusing on top-tier wide receivers in this article, the alpha-dogs, the clear-cut No. 1 receivers on their team, because they are the one's who'll be affected the most. They are the ones who will see the shutdown cornerbacks. As a heads up, slot wide receivers cannot be factored in because they would require a completely different chart. In this study, we're going to focus on teams that have a shutdown cornerback, or at the very least, a defense that severely limits opposing wide receivers. Those teams in 2018 include the Jaguars, Chargers, Cardinals, Vikings, and Rams. There are other teams factored into their overall score, but these are the ones you should want no part of on your wide receiver's schedule.

### **Wide Receivers with a Great Schedule**

#### **Marqise Lee (JAX) Score: 15**

This one wasn't even close, as Lee almost tripled the score of any other wide receiver. There's just one matchup on his schedule that's semi-worrisome, but it's against Josh

Norman, who doesn't even shadow opposing No. 1 wide receivers. Some are still wondering who the Jaguars No. 1 receiver is, but Lee is the one they just paid the most to when they could've let him walk in free agency. His plus-matchups include the Chiefs, Cowboys, Texans, Colts (twice), and Dolphins. If he doesn't produce in 2018, it won't be because of his schedule.

#### **Keenan Allen (LAC) Score: 6**

After remaining healthy for the entire season, Allen dominated over the second half of the season, finishing as the WR3 in fantasy despite scoring just six touchdowns. It's important to note that he does play out of the slot almost half the time, and that typically helps wide receivers evade the tougher cornerbacks in the game. The only shutdown cornerback he'll play against is Patrick Peterson, who he won't see until Week 12, and Peterson doesn't typically travel into the slot. He will play against the Broncos Chris Harris Jr. (who is slot-only) as well, which is in Week 11, right before the Peterson matchup. Outside of those two, it should be smooth sailing for Allen en route to another top-10 finish.

#### **A.J. Green (CIN) Score: 4**

It was maybe the quietest top-10 finish that any wide receiver has ever had, but Green hasn't gone away despite the Bengals nightmare-ish season in 2017. He doesn't have a single top-tier cornerback on his schedule until Week 10, and that's against the young Marshon Lattimore. Outside of him, the Chargers are the only other team I'm worried about, and he does play them in Week 14, the first week of the fantasy playoffs. Hopefully you earn yourself a bye week so you don't have to worry about it because you'll get the Raiders and Browns over the next two weeks.

#### **Wide Receivers with a Bad Schedule**

#### **Tyreek Hill (KC) Score: -24**

If you didn't see the scores of the wide receivers with a good schedule, you should go look now, because it'll give you an idea of just how bad Hill's schedule is. It's similar to Dez Bryant's schedule last year, only Hill won't see the attention that Bryant did because of Sammy Watkins on the other side of the field. Still, he's going to play against shutdown cornerbacks or semi-shutdown teams in seven of his first 14 games of the season. Bryant's number was 9-of-16 last year, so you at least get the idea. Hill was as efficient as they come in 2017, something that won't happen with this schedule in 2018, so if you're drafting him, you're doing so hoping for more volume.

#### **Davante Adams (GB) Score: -19**

Another terrible score for a big-name wide receiver, as Adams is set to face shutdown cornerbacks in four of his first 13 games, including matchups with Xavier Rhodes twice, Marcus Peters (and Aqib Talib), and Patrick Peterson, who happens to be the cornerback that Adams called "the best cornerback in the game." On top of those shutdown cornerbacks, Adams will see Josh Norman and Darius Slay, who are just



outside the shutdown category. It obviously helps that his quarterback is Aaron Rodgers, but it won't be a cakewalk through those matchups.

**Pierre Garcon (SF) Score: -16**

This score could've gone to Marquise Goodwin, as we really don't know who the top receiver will be in San Francisco, but I'm viewing it from the defense's point of view. Garcon would be the one most likely to attract the top cornerback, provided he returns to form after his season-ending injury from 2017. Whatever the case, I'd likely try to avoid drafting both Garcon and Goodwin in drafts, only to acquire them later in the season. Over their first eight games, they will play against six against the Vikings, Chargers, Cardinals (twice), Rams, and Lions, which accounts for all of their bad matchups on the season. After that, things open up quite a bit.

## **STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE: RUNNING BACKS, QUARTERBACKS & TIGHT ENDS**

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

How many times have you heard someone on a podcast or in an article dismiss strength of schedule? The same ones who say that will often publish something on strength of schedule, because there are so many people who are looking to get every edge possible. But it becomes a problem when everyone looks at strength of schedule the same way.

While it's impossible to justify why certain teams have gotten better and apply any measurement as to how it will improve their team's defense in the following year. Sure, they may have drafted a defensive player, but maybe they have him play out of position, maybe he doesn't quite fit the scheme, or maybe he's just a bust. Because of that, we have to throw the idea that we can adjust teams out the window. Instead, let's make the traditional strength of schedule better. Remember when Frank Gore finished the 2016 season as the No. 12 running back? Does that mean he should've been drafted as the 12th running back off the board? Absolutely not, anyone who played fantasy football can tell you that. That method is exactly what most do for strength of schedule. How many total points did a team allow, rank them among others, apply those ranks to next year's schedule, and voila, traditional strength of schedule.

Instead of accepting this as a method, I did exactly what I do for fantasy players with "Boom, Bust, and Everything in Between," where I went through every team and added up how many top-12 performances they allowed (based on the BBEIB method), how many top-24, etc. as to how it relates to each position. What this does is remove an outlier performance where a team may have allowed a massive game to a superstar that influenced the overall numbers more than they should've. Who knows, maybe they were missing a superstar like Luke Kuechly on defense that week. Whatever the case, this method allows us to see each team's consistency as it relates to fantasy football and should better project the strength of schedule for 2018. Here's my list of running backs, quarterbacks, and tight ends with their score in my strength of schedule earned.

### **Running Backs with a Great Schedule**

#### **Dalvin Cook (RB – MIN) Score: 13**

Coming off a torn ACL isn't as bad as it used to be, but Cook's schedule should help him bounce back early in the season. His first three matchups are against bottom-10 teams (SF, GB, BUF) from last season. On top of that, he'll get both the Dolphins and Lions in Weeks 15 and 16, both bottom-six teams from last year. While most running backs have at least two matchups with top-six teams, Cook has just one and it's against the Eagles in Week 5.

**Jordan Howard (RB – CHI) Score: 12**

This should be no surprise, as both Dalvin Cook and Howard play in the same division, but Howard gets a break because one of his matchups against the Vikings is in Week 17, outside of the fantasy playoffs. In fact, the Vikings are the only top-six team he'll play throughout the fantasy season. Meanwhile, he'll get two games against the Packers and Lions, and then match-up with the Bills and Dolphins mid-season.

**Sony Michel (RB – NE) Score: 9**

This is significant because the Patriots are a team who pays attention to their opponent's deficiencies more than most. Michel was drafted to walk into the Dion Lewis role where he should be seeing 18-plus touches in great matchups. While the start to his schedule is tough against the Texans and Jaguars, he'll get the Lions, Dolphins, and Colts immediately after that. There are a few tough matchups in between, but then his fantasy playoff schedule includes the Dolphins in Week 14 and then the Bills in Week 16.

**Bilal Powell (RB – NYJ) Score: 7**

The Jets backfield is just as puzzling as the Ravens backfield was last offseason. After signing Isaiah Crowell, they also went out and snagged Thomas Rawls, but Powell should still be the one seeing the most touches. He's actually got four matchups against top-six teams, but his plus-matchups more than make up for that, as he's got a league-high seven matchups with bottom-six opponents, including two of them in the fantasy playoffs against the Bills and Packers.

**Running Backs with a Bad Schedule****Saquon Barkley (RB – NYG) Score: -10**

Welcome to the NFL, rookie. Not only does Barkley have just one matchup that's should be considered a prime one (which comes against the Colts in Week 16), but he leads the league with five matchups against top-six teams from last year, including three of his first six games that include the Texans, Panthers, and Eagles. Things aren't going to come easy on the ground for Barkley, though his pass-catching skills will be utilized.

**Jay Ajayi (RB – PHI) Score: -9**

This is problematic for someone who is going to be part of a timeshare, especially when he's not a big part of the passing-game with Darren Sproles and Donnel Pumphrey back in the fold. His stretch from Week 4-7 is going to be brutal, as he'll play against the Titans, Vikings, and Panthers, the top three teams according to my method. I was fading Ajayi at his current price before this and this only furthers my hesitation to draft him.

**Ezekiel Elliott (RB – DAL) Score: -8**

Well, this isn't good for a running back who has had the talent around him depleted. There's nothing on the roster that'll force opposing defenses to be honest, so you should expect Elliott to see a lot of loaded defensive fronts. On top of having to play the Eagles twice, he'll have matchups with the Panthers, Texans, and Titans throughout the year. I'm expecting a lot of work for Elliott in the passing-game this year, but even with the best offensive line in the league, it's going to be hard for him this year.

**Derrius Guice (RB – WAS) Score: -5**

It's pretty crazy that the four running backs in the NFC East have the toughest schedules, because there's only one team among them who's considered a top-six run-defense (Eagles). Their schedule is just brutal this year, as they don't get many plus matchups. There is a very important piece of information, though, as Guice will play the Colts in Week 2 and Packers in Week 3 before having a bye in Week 4. This is important because Chris Thompson may be eased back into action early in the season. If you draft Guice, maybe go in with a plan to sell him after Week 3 and maximize your return before he hits the tougher part of his schedule. It's also important to note that he gets the extremely tough Titans in Week 16.

**Quarterbacks with a Great Schedule****Alex Smith (WAS) Score: +6**

Moving over to the NFC East may pay off right away for Smith, as he's got the softest schedule among quarterbacks in 2018. Truth be told, there aren't too many quarterbacks with gleaming schedules, and Smith gets this spot for being the best of the bunch, as he'll play just one top-six team from last year, and it's the Jaguars in Week 15. His season will start with the Cardinals, Colts, and Packers, three teams who were in the bottom-half of the league when it came to quarterback performance. It also doesn't hurt that he gets the Cowboys and Giants twice, two teams that were in the bottom-six in 2017.

**Blake Bortles (JAX) Score: +5**

He's one of just three quarterbacks who doesn't have a single matchup with a top-three team from last year (Kirk Cousins and Joe Flacco are the others), and he has just one matchup with a top-six team. The top-team he'll play is the Bills, who by all accounts have lost a lot of their luster this offseason, and that matchup doesn't even take place until Week 12. It's very possible Bortles gets off to a hot start, as they'll open the season with the Giants, Patriots, Titans, Jets, Chiefs, Cowboys, and Texans. Of those teams, just one (Jets) finished inside the top-20 pass defenses from last year, according to my method. Just don't forget that he's still Blake Bortles, so it's hard to know which version you're getting.

**Jameis Winston (TB) Score: +5**

The Bucs passing game should be clicking on all cylinders this year, as their schedule features just one matchup that I'd consider brutal, which comes all the way in Week 15 against the Ravens. Outside of that game, Winston doesn't have a "stay away" matchup on his calendar. Of the highlights on his schedule, he'll play the Browns in Week 7, the 49ers in Week 12, and then the Cowboys in Week 16. Outside those games, his schedule is pretty neutral, which should allow him to step-up with all of the weapons he's got in his arsenal.

**Quarterbacks with a Bad Schedule****Tom Brady (NE) Score: -7**

Not too many quarterbacks recorded a hugely negative score, as the NFL seems to have a good job with a balanced schedule, but Brady scored almost twice as bad as any other quarterback in my method. He's going to play two games against teams you really want to avoid (Jaguars, Vikings), though neither of them come in the fantasy playoffs. The area that really hurts him is that he gets just one plus-matchup all season, and it comes in Week 1 against a now-healthy Texans defense. There are just three quarterbacks who have just one matchup with a bottom-six team (Tyrod Taylor and Joe Flacco the others), but their schedule doesn't have the lows that Brady's does.

**Josh Allen (BUF) Score: -4**

Let's be real, you aren't drafting a Bills quarterback anyway, but this should put the nail in the coffin. Whoever starts for the Bills is going to have it extremely rough out of the gate, and honestly, it should give them an excuse to start A.J. McCarron over Allen. They will play against the Ravens, Chargers, and Vikings to open the season, three matchups you'd ideally stay away from with most quarterbacks. They have to play the Jaguars in Week 12 as well, but again, stay far away from Bills quarterbacks this year.

**Ben Roethlisberger (PIT) Score: -3**

You see the score of (-3) and it's not so bad, but the part that stinks is that Roethlisberger is likely to have two games where you absolutely have to bench him. He will play the Ravens twice, but I'm only benching him on the road, as he's been horrific over the last five years on the road. He'll also play on the road against the Jaguars in Week 11, so he'll be an avoid there, too. It's never a good feeling to invest in a top-12 quarterback and know that you're going to need to bench him twice by Week 11, so if you're torn between him and someone else, maybe go the alternate route. It's also a good time to let you know that two of his first three games are on the road, and that he'll play two of three fantasy playoff games on the road (at Raiders, at Saints).

## **Tight Ends with a Great Schedule**

### **Stephen Anderson (TE – HOU) Score: 15**

What a waste of the top tight end schedule, eh? We don't really know who will lead this Texans group of tight ends, but I'm expecting it to be Anderson for now, though both Jordan Akins and Ryan Griffin will likely be involved. With the way I scored the strength of schedule, the Texans had a +15 while no other team recorded a score of more than +9. They'll play the Browns and Giants, who both allowed 11 TE1 performances through 15 games (Week 16) and will also play the Broncos who allowed 10 TE1 performances. On top of that, they have just one game against a top-six defense against tight ends, the Jaguars. Something tells me you still don't want to draft Anderson.

### **Austin Seferian-Jenkins (TE – JAX) Score: 8**

He's No. 3 in the strength of schedule, but even better than that is when his plus-matchups come in the season. His final three games (the fantasy playoffs) will come against the Titans, Redskins, and Dolphins, three teams who ranked inside the top-six in terms of TE1 performances allowed. He also gets the Giants to open the season, a team that allowed a league-high seven 15-plus PPR-point performances last year, while no other team allowed more than five. Seferian-Jenkins can get off to a hot start if the Giants didn't fix their problems.

### **Jared Cook (TE – OAK) Score: 8**

Cook is another tight end who is likely to go undrafted in a lot of fantasy leagues, but one with a solid schedule. A big part of that is because he'll play the Broncos twice, including in Week 16, the fantasy championship. The funny part is that the Broncos allowed 10 TE1 performances last year through 15 games, and Cook accounted for two of the times they didn't, so maybe don't count on elite performances out of him. It likely just means that Cook isn't a very good player and is wildly inconsistent.

## **Tight Ends with a Bad Schedule**

### **Austin Hooper (TE – ATL) Score: -8**

Similar to Stephen Anderson, but on the other end, Hooper has the worst schedule among all tight ends and it's not all that close. He'll have five matchups against teams who allowed just three TE1 performances all season, including one in Week 14, the first round of the fantasy playoffs. There's no other tight end in the league who has more than four of those matchups, making Hooper even less appealing than he already was. With Julio Jones, Calvin Ridley, and Mohamed Sanu spread across the field, don't expect him to take a leap this year.

### **David Njoku (TE – CLE) Score: -7**

Not only is the Browns offense now loaded with offensive weapons, but Njoku has one of the toughest schedules among tight ends. In four of the first eight games, he'll play a top-three defense from last year. Granted, his schedule opens up after that, but you'll



likely find him on waiver wires. Not only is his schedule bad and the talent has increased around him, but the Browns are likely to throw a lot less with Carlos Hyde, Nick Chubb, Duke Johnson, and Tyrod Taylor in the backfield.

**Kyle Rudolph (TE – MIN) Score: -7**

Acquiring Kirk Cousins definitely won't hurt Rudolph's stock, but his schedule does him no favors. He's one of just a few tight ends who don't have a matchup with a bottom-three team from last year and he's got just one matchup with a bottom-six team. That one matchup against the Dolphins, who allowed nine TE1 performances last year, is in Week 15, but that's the only great matchup, while he'll have three games against top-three defenses during the fantasy regular season, including two games against the Packers who held him to six catches for 53 scoreless yards in their two meetings combined last year.

**Trey Burton (TE – CHI) Score: -6**

Burton has a similar schedule to that of Rudolph, seeing they're in the same division, but Burton gets a matchup with the Giants, which was virtually a lock for TE1 performance last year (11-of-15). The Packers defense allowed just three TE1 performances last year and now Burton has to play them in both Week 1 and Week 14, though the Packers won't have any tape on how Burton will be featured in the offense for their first meeting, so it's not quite as scary.

## 10 MISTAKES TO AVOID IN YOUR DRAFT

By: Jason Katz (@jasonkatz13)

There are three things certain in life: death, taxes, and looking back on the previous year's fantasy football draft lamenting over how you're an idiot for not seeing Alvin Kamara coming. Okay maybe I made the last one up, but you did that (unless you drafted Kamara, in which case, well done!).

But seriously, we all make mistakes in life, and we all make mistakes during our fantasy football drafts. Things like missing out on a player no one saw coming, at least not to the extent that he arrived, is not something you should beat yourself up over. It's just not the type of mistake you can avoid.

I wouldn't even call it a mistake. Today, you're going to read all about 10 relatively common errors that fantasy owners make in preparing and conducting their drafts that are all avoidable.

### 1. Rookie Mania

In the immediate wake of the NFL Draft, this is one of the most important things to remember. Most rookies will fail. Even more of the rookies will fail to make an impact their first year.

This year's draft class has a ton of talent, but it is foolish to assume that all of the rookies are going to come in and immediately overtake all of the starters. It's not going to happen. Sure, every season will have a Kareem Hunt and an Alvin Kamara.

But every season will also have a John Ross and a Corey Davis. I am not suggesting that you should ignore rookies completely, just merely to exercise caution. Treat rookies like the unknowns that they are.

During your draft, there will be a time to draft for ceiling and a time to draft for floor. Balancing the two is essential. Rookies are mostly ceiling plays. Obviously, Sony Michel has RB1 upside on the Patriots, but he also has a floor of unstartable. Keep that in mind when deciding if you want to take a shot on a rookie.

### 2. Consuming Too Little Information

No one has time to review every game. We can't watch film on every player. We can't study the impact of every metric on future success.

As a result, we have to trust the work of others. However, far too often I see fantasy owners pointing to a handful of stats or a couple of plays to support their opinion on a player. It is imperative to understand that no single stat or metric is indicative of future

success. Stats and metrics are meant to be used in conjunction with each other to help you form your opinion.

On a similar plane, do not blindly trust any single source. There are tons of analysts out there, all of whom are eager to give you their opinion on players. When someone says, “draft this guy,” your reaction should always be: “why?”

The “why” is infinitely more important than the “who.” Learn the why and then take all the information you’ve consumed and form your own opinions.

### **3. Consuming Too Much Information**

Some might say there is no such thing as too much information. But there is. If you spend enough time looking, you will find conflicting opinions on every player. This is why the “why” I mentioned in the previous section is so important. If you blindly follow the views of others without understanding the process that led to those opinions, you are bound to find yourself in a situation where your trusted sources contradict either other.

For example, I am mostly an analytics guy. I don’t readily dismiss the utility of film, but knowing that film is subjective, I will ultimately resolve a conflict between film and metrics in favor of the numbers. If someone tells me that a specific wide receiver is continually getting open, but his target separation metric is weak, my conclusion is that the person sees what they want to see.

But obviously there are things film can show that aren’t reflected in the numbers. When possible, I use the two in tandem with each other to formulate my opinions. If you’re following analysts on both sides of the fence, you are going to run into discrepancies. Decide which sources you trust and stick to those sources.

### **4. Mock Drafting Too Early**

For the majority of my fantasy football career, I didn’t even mock draft. I just kind of did some research and winged it. 10 years ago, that was enough. In the modern era, with the wealth of information available, it is much more difficult to gain an edge over your competitors. Mock drafting is essential to your draft preparation. Just don’t do it in May.

Once the NFL Draft is over, rosters are mostly set. I started doing mock drafts in preparation for my leagues in 2013. I love drafting. Who doesn’t love drafting? So, naturally, in 2014, I wanted to mock draft as much as possible to the point where I was doing a bunch of them as early as June. Not only is it not worth the time, but it’s also detrimental to do them that early.

For starters, mock drafting without knowing your draft position is a waste of time. How does it help you to practice drafting from the three spot only to find out later on that you have the 11th pick? It doesn't.

But even if you know your draft position early on, ADPs will change enough throughout July and August to mess up your plans. For example, when I was mock drafting last July, I was constantly getting Cameron Meredith and Tyrell Williams, two of my prime later round targets, in Rounds 9 and 10. By the time draft season came around (and obviously before Meredith's knee injury), there was no chance I would get either later than round 8.

By mock drafting in July, I had prepared my early round strategy as if I had those two guys in my back pocket in those particular rounds. Once that was no longer possible, I had to rethink everything.

When you mock draft too early, you will also find that your brain establishes a baseline of player valuation that is hard to break. You consistently get your guy in Round 8, but then his ADP jumps to Round 6, and you feel like that's too expensive.

Or, you have a specific target with your late third round pick, and suddenly that guy has a huge preseason and jumps into the early third round. Now, you can't get him, the guy you've been snagging in the third round in every mock draft, and you don't really like anyone else, thus making you reconsider your entire draft plan. Mock drafting is tempting because you have the itch to get the season rolling, but it's just not helpful to seriously plan until at least late July.

## **5. Dismissing Unspectacular Players in Favorable Situations (The Melvin Gordon Corollary)**

I call this the Melvin Gordon Corollary because he is the poster child for this error, an error that I've made far too often in years past and refuse to make again. In its simplest form, this comes down to  $\text{Situation} + \text{Opportunity} > \text{Talent}$ . Time and time again, we've seen incompetent NFL head coaches push lesser talented players over clearly superior bench players. It's happened before, and it will happen again.

In 2016, it was blatantly obvious that Adrian Peterson was done. Cooked. Washed. Yet, for reasons no one could understand, to start the 2017 season, AP was stealing snaps from Alvin Kamara. Eventually, the situation was rectified, but even though Kamara was clearly more talented, he didn't have fantasy value early on because a lesser player was getting more opportunity.

Jarvis Landry is not a more talented player than T.Y. Hilton. But, in 2017, Landry's situation and opportunity share were far greater than Hilton's. Mark Ingram has never

been all that talented, but he's always had a great situation with the Saints and plenty of opportunity.

I do not think Melvin Gordon is all that good at football. He's been incredibly inefficient throughout his entire career. He's not a great pass catcher. He doesn't create yards for himself.

However, he has a fantastic situation in a prolific offense, and he dominates the market share of RB snaps for his team. I have always shied away from Gordon in the late first round because "he's not that good." My pledge for the future is not to let that reality supersede the more important fact that Gordon is going to be the feature back with a 300+ touch workload.

Gordon isn't Paul Perkins (meaning that he's not so horrendous at football that he would fail in any situation). Gordon is good enough to take advantage of a great opportunity. He has done it and will continue to do it. If you know a player is going to see significant volume in a good situation, that's a player you want, regardless of talent (unless he's Paul Perkins bad).

## **6. Paying for Static Content**

This has become less of an issue in more recent times due to the wide variety of fantasy football content available on the internet, but I still hear about the occasional person who wants to know what magazine to buy. The answer, 100% of the time, is "none." Sites like us here at FantasyPros offer dynamic content that is continuously updated throughout the offseason.

This is not a shameless plug for the site I write for – there are dozens of other quality sites out there that offer premium content. I do think it is worth it to pay for premium content as long as that content is updated throughout the offseason. There is nothing more useless than rankings and information published in late July when you're drafting the first week of September.

## **7. Failing to Adequately Plan for Your Draft**

Every year, by the time draft season rolls around, I have a preferred strategy. Whether it's RB heavy, balanced, Zero RB, etc., there is a specific approach to my draft that I would like to take. But that doesn't mean I don't plan for multiple different strategies. Far too often, fantasy owners dial in on one specific approach and are completely caught off guard if the draft room does not allow for it.

Preliminary studies indicate that Zero RB could make a return this year, especially for those picking at the back end. However, if you plan to go WR-WR with your first two picks, but suddenly you look down at pick 8 and Ezekiel Elliott is still there, what do you

do? Maybe you were planning on grabbing two running backs in Rounds 3 and 4, but in this particular draft, RBs are flying off the board, and the WR value is a lot better than you expected. Always be prepared to adjust your draft strategy on the fly in order to maximize value.

## **8. Worrying About What Others Think**

Human beings naturally seek the approval of others. It's hardwired into our DNA. When it comes to fantasy football, no one wants to make a selection that spurs a "horrible pick" response from a fellow owner. You need to override that notion and make the best pick for your team. No one knows how the season will play out.

If you're confident that the WR you are about to select in the fifth round is the best player on your board, even though he has a seventh-round ADP, and you're not certain you can get him with your next pick, take him. Ignore the criticism of others. They're probably just annoyed you beat them to the punch anyway.

## **9. Being a Slave to ADP**

Continuing where the previous one left off, ADP is both a gift and a curse when planning your draft. You know where a player is supposed to go and, therefore, you want to get him around that pick or even later, if possible. But sometimes, you need to get your guy. ADP is an average draft position for a reason. The term inherently implies that sometimes the player goes higher and sometimes the player goes lower. My general rule of thumb on a particular player you really want is if you are not sure you can get him with your next pick, take him now.

Sometimes, there will be players that you just aren't in a great position to draft. This is more of an issue in the earlier rounds. When you pick towards the back end, the players that typically go late second and early third round aren't realistically attainable. The later you get into the draft, the more liberal you can be with where you can justify taking a player. But even if in the earlier rounds, if you think that early third round player is going to out-perform everyone available at your early second round pick, do not be afraid to pull the trigger. Don't pass up on your guy just because some average of millions of other fantasy owners says you shouldn't.

## **10. Taking it too Seriously**

I saved the most important one for last. Remember people; it's a game. It's designed to be fun. Don't take it too seriously.

We've all read or heard of stories where friendships were ruined over fantasy football. If you're playing in a million dollar league and someone colluded to beat you, then it's



probably justified. If you're playing in your \$100 home league with people you've known for years, play the game with integrity.

These are your friends, acquaintances, and colleagues. Even if they're people you met on the internet, treat the game with respect and have fun. Everyone wants to win, but if you're not having fun while trying, you're doing it wrong.

I hope you had fun reading this. We're still quite early in the fantasy offseason, but it will be time to ramp up the preparation before you know it. As you continue through your offseason process, try and remember the things you just read. But most importantly, remember the last one. Have fun!

## SHOULD YOU HANDCUFF YOUR RUNNING BACKS?

By: Eli Weiner (@eweiner\_bball)

Before we dive in, it's important to define what a handcuff is in fantasy football.

Handcuffing is when you draft a player's direct positional back-up as an insurance policy should the starter get injured. Most commonly, it's applied to running backs, and more specifically to top-12 backs. But is drafting a handcuff a viable fantasy football strategy?

In short, no. But like so many things in life, it's complicated. The complete answer is not black or white, rather it exists in the grey area between both ends of the spectrum. That's principally because drafting and in-season management require different manners of decision making.

Many casual fantasy football players treat handcuffing like it's simply a part of the game, especially when it comes to running back strategy. This is probably a reaction to the inherent injury-prone nature of being a running back. But have you ever questioned the legitimacy of handcuffing? It's time you did.

### **Who is the backup?**

When you draft a handcuff, you're assuming you already know who the starter's replacement is going to be in the case of an injury. "Since I picked Jamaal Charles in the first, I'm going to draft Knile Davis in the 13th round as insurance." (Author's note: per Fantasy Football Calculator, Knile Davis actually had a 10th round ADP in 2015. That just gave me the chills). This is one of the biggest flaws associated with handcuffing.

While published depth charts certainly exist, these are fluid lists that serve more as a coaching guideline than a strict rule. Even though the fantasy community often assumes it knows who an injured starter's replacement is going to be, the dynamic nature of coaching and depth charts means we rarely know what will happen in the case of injury.

Last season, promising rookie Dalvin Cook tore his ACL partway through Week 4 against the Detroit Lions. Latavius Murray (who had an 11th-round handcuff ADP, per

Fantasy Football Calculator) came in and saw nine touches, two of which came through the air. Jerick McKinnon, who went largely undrafted, had two carries, one of which resulted in a lost fumble. As a result, everyone and their grandmother were rushing to spend a ton of FAAB and use their coveted waiver claim on Latavius Murray.

The fantasy community's assumption was wrong. The Vikings came out the following week and handed Murray 14 touches; McKinnon received 21. In PPR leagues, McKinnon was the overall RB9 from Week 5 – Week 16. Murray was the RB18. Clearly, investing in Murray didn't hurt you, but that's not the takeaway here. Both backs happened to play in an efficient, run-heavy offense anchored by one of the league's best defenses. The point is: We were wrong about who the handcuff was.

This happens every year, multiple times per year. Why would you waste a draft pick on a handcuff if we constantly fail to identify if that player is actually a handcuff? The correct answer is that you shouldn't.

### **Don't waste a roster spot**

Arguably the most important handcuff situation in fantasy football last year was the Dallas Cowboys backfield. If playing, Ezekiel Elliott was an obvious first-round choice. But due to the murkiness of his legal proceedings, he had slipped to the 1/2 turn, and as a result, Darren McFadden had an ADP in the early sixth round as the 28th running back off the board. If you drafted Zeke early, you felt obligated to use a crucial mid-round selection on McFadden instead of drafting someone with a similar ADP like Stefon Diggs or Russell Wilson.

Not only did drafting McFadden mean you paid the opportunity cost of not picking a Wilson or Diggs, but it meant he wasted a precious roster spot throughout the first two months of the season. By the time you finally cut bait, you'd possibly missed out on picking up a legitimate contributor like Murray or McKinnon. And similar to the discussion above, McFadden wasn't even the right handcuff. This alone should give us major pause. We already knew that Zeke was going to miss time and yet drafting his alleged handcuff did nothing but actively hurt your roster both in the draft and during the season.

If you're lucky enough to actually predict the correct handcuff for a star running back that actually gets hurt (take a second to think about how low the probability is of that happening), you've probably already cut bait with the handcuff by the time you need to use him. You're just wasting a roster spot on something with a very low hit rate.

### **Backup for a reason**

This is obvious but still needs to be stated: A handcuff is a backup for a reason. Most of the time, it's due to a talent gap. Sometimes it's bad coaching, maybe it's off the field issues, or it could be something as simple as the inability to pass protect. Volume will always reign supreme in fantasy football, but talent and efficiency still matter.

Let's come back to the 2017 Dallas backfield. Because we truly didn't know who was going to replace Zeke, Alfred Morris was a sensible midseason pickup. Morris ended up winning the job, and as a result, averaged 17.5 touches per game in the games that Zeke was suspended. In standard leagues, he was the RB23 over that span (RB29 in ppg), and in PPR leagues he was the RB32 (RB40 in ppg). It's very rare that a handcuff will come close to matching the production of the starter in front of him. That's why he was the backup in the first place. Morris was essentially an RB3 as Zeke's replacement, nothing more than bench fodder.

It's true that so far, most of this has been anecdotal evidence. The always great JJ Zachariason from numberFire already dove into the numbers on handcuffs last year. He found that when the starter was injured, handcuffs produced a top-24 performance 34.29% of the time, or basically one-third of the time. They're backups for a reason.

### **Sometimes there is no handcuff**

This is just as important. Often, there is no true handcuff. We already saw this with the Vikings discussion above. Even though Morris was the Cowboys' lead back during Zeke's absence, he only caught seven passes over that six-game span. Instead of giving Morris true bellcow duties, the coaching staff entrusted Rod Smith as the passing down back, and he subsequently caught 17 passes over that same six-game span.

It's easy to forget given Kenyan Drake's explosion late last year, but there was a similar multi-back situation in Miami. After Jay Ajayi was traded to the Philadelphia Eagles, Drake split time with Damien Williams fairly evenly. Per Evan Silva of Rotoworld, "In post-Ajayi Weeks 9-12, Williams out-touched Drake 46 to 44, even as Drake logged a 56% snap rate to Williams' 45%."

While the film and numbers suggest Drake is a far superior back to Williams, it's possible the coaching staff simply trusted Williams more or preferred a similar passing-versus-running game dichotomy to what Dallas deployed. It's even possible the staff didn't truly know which player was better. Either way, we should use these examples to remind ourselves that typically, a coaching staff won't replace a star running back with just one player. It's much more common for a committee to emerge, again rendering a handcuff draft pick a waste of important draft capital.

### **Can I ever handcuff?**

By now you probably agree that handcuffing is not a viable fantasy football strategy. But the answer to "Should I handcuff?" is still complicated because of two important factors. The first has to do with our definition of a handcuff. The second has to do with the difference between draft strategy and in-season roster management.

Above I defined handcuffing as "draft(ing) a player's direct positional back-up as an insurance policy should the starter get injured." Let's focus on the second half of that sentence. As long as a player gets touches and isn't solely an insurance policy, then they aren't a handcuff. It's ok to draft a player's backup as long as they have standalone value.

Drafters understand this intuitively. It's why Tevin Coleman has an ADP in the sixth round this year. In games Devonta Freeman started and went on to finish last year, Coleman averaged 10.17 touches per game and scored four touchdowns. Coleman was the PPR RB23 through Week 9 last year while Freeman was healthy. That's standalone value. Then, when Freeman missed Weeks 10-12, Coleman averaged 21 touches per game, scored four touchdowns and ended up as the RB8 over that span. Coleman is

not a pure handcuff because he has standalone value, and his upside in the case of a Freeman injury is more than baked into his ADP.

Since that's not actually handcuffing, there really is only one situation when handcuffing is acceptable. Once you're past the major bye weeks and you're gearing up for a playoff run, your bench becomes less important as you try and make the best starting lineup possible. This is the one exception where you can use a spot at the end of your bench on an upside handcuff. But don't be too strict with what this means. If you want to handcuff an opponent's star running back, go for it. Just don't confuse this mid-season end-of-bench handcuff strategy with something that's viable during your fantasy draft.

## **Conclusion**

Don't handcuff your running backs, or any position for that matter. Most of the time, the fantasy community is wrong about who is going to replace an injured starter. Most of the time, the starter doesn't get injured until the latter half of the season; by then an owner has already cut bait with the handcuff after first wasting a bench spot on them. Most of the time, these guys are backups because they lack starter-level talent and subsequently elite fantasy upside. Most of the time, there is no true handcuff in the first place. Fantasy football is a game of probability. If all of these things are true most of the time, then you're a fool to bet against them. While your league mates are busy handcuffing, be the owner who zigs and scoops a potential contributor with actual opportunity. You'll be glad you did.

## PLAYERS WHO SHOULD SEE A BOOST & DECLINE IN PPR

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

It seems that many are making the switch over to PPR formats in 2018. Whether it be due to the fact that ESPN made PPR their standard format last season, or that Yahoo has made half-PPR their standard format this season. Whatever the case, we're here to help you with the transition by talking about the players who benefit most by the point per reception scoring setting. We'll also be doing a piece on players who the format hurts, but we'll start on those who benefit.

In standard formats, there's a lot more volatility, as the format relies heavily on touchdowns, whereas the PPR format benefits those who move the chains. While it helps to score touchdowns as well (obviously), it'll make your fantasy season less touchdown dependent than ever before. One tip is to try and avoid players who don't see a lot of targets. For instance, JuJu Smith-Schuster saw just 5.6 targets per game in 2017, which ranked 55th among wide receivers, yet he's being drafted as a top-24 wide receiver in 2018. It's not to say that he's guaranteed to bust, but his situation hasn't changed much, so it's hard to see that jump in targets it seems some are expecting. Oddly enough, his ADP is lower in standard formats. Let's take a look at those who benefited the most and how much higher they finished in the PPR format; and who you should lower down draft boards in PPR and how much lower they finished in the PPR format.

### **BOOST**

#### **Running Backs**

##### **Tarik Cohen (CHI) +11 spots**

There's been some big changes in Chicago this offseason, but knowing that Cohen finished 11 spots higher in PPR while in John Fox's predictable offense, it should give you hope for his outlook in 2018. Some have suggested he'll be used in the Tyreek Hill role under new head coach Matt Nagy, though I believe the offense is going to look a bit different than the Chiefs did. There are plenty of playmakers on the Bears now (that's weird to say), so he's going to be a bit more volatile than you'd like in standard, but you

should get much more predictability in PPR formats. He's also due for some positive touchdown regression, as he caught just one touchdown on 53 receptions, while the league average for running backs is a touchdown for every 25.4 receptions.

### **Theo Riddick (DET) +11 spots**

He was in this article last year, too, as Riddick relies on the passing-down work as much as anyone in the league. The additions of LeGarrette Blount and Kerryon Johnson make things harder than ever to predict in the Lions backfield, because it seems that both Riddick and Ameer Abdullah are competing for the same role. On top of that, Johnson was a really good receiver while at Auburn, so Riddick could lose some luster. Still, he finished as the RB26 in PPR formats last year, so he can still be relevant even if he does take a step back.

### **Duke Johnson (CLE) +10 spots**

There's a lot of question marks surrounding what was Johnson's job with the Browns, as the acquisition of Jarvis Landry is likely to walk in and steal a lot of the work that used to belong to him. But seriously, did you realize that Johnson finished as the RB11 in PPR formats last year? He's averaged 80.3 targets per year with the Browns through three years, and it's not as if Carlos Hyde and Nick Chubb are going to steal much of the passing-down work. Another issue, however, is that Tyrod Taylor wasn't brought in to throw the ball a ton (hasn't ever topped 437 attempts in one year), which likely cuts the overall size of the pie that Landry was already going to eat into. Johnson is worth more in PPR formats without a doubt, but his actual value is way down from where it was last year.

### **James White (NE) +10 spots**

I'm sure most could've guessed that White would be here, as 87.2 percent of his PPR points in 2017 came from the receiving totals he put up. While the Patriots did lose Dion Lewis, they added Sony Michel in the first-round of the NFL Draft, which clouds the picture just a bit. White has totaled at least 40 receptions in each of the last three seasons, including 116 of them over the last two seasons. He's not going to get more than 30-50 carries, so you're relying on that work to be there. This is the type of player who is there for bye weeks and you can play him in matchups where you expect the



Patriots passing game to be doing work. You'll want to bump him up your draft board if moving to a PPR format.

*Notable mentions: Giovani Bernard (CIN), Jerick McKinnon (SF), Christian McCaffrey (CAR)*

## **Wide Receivers**

### **Jarvis Landry (CLE) +9 spots**

If you read the intro, you understand why he's here. Over the last four years, there hasn't been a better definition of a PPR asset than Landry, who was continually peppered with targets en route to top-15 finishes in the format despite lacking in the touchdown department. We mustn't forget about the other talent on his new team, though, as Josh Gordon, Corey Coleman, David Njoku, and Duke Johnson are no slouches. The Browns are also looking to run the ball a bit more in 2018, which further clouds the picture. Still, Landry is going to be much better in PPR formats and should be adjusted in the ranks.

### **Demaryius Thomas (DEN) +7 spots**

This is becoming a trend with Thomas, who finished three spots higher in PPR formats back in 2016. It's like this because he's not much of a touchdown-scorer anymore, as he's totaled just 16 touchdowns over the last three years combined. The quarterback situation would have played into that, but at this point in his career, he's a possession receiver who is seeing 140 targets on a consistent basis. He's not a sexy pick, but he's one of the safest picks in fantasy football, especially in PPR formats.

### **Golden Tate (DET) +7 spots**

Another slot-heavy wide receiver, Tate has been one of the better PPR assets since arriving in Detroit. His movement was a plus-six in 2016, so to see him finish seven spots higher in 2017 should be no surprise. With Marvin Jones and Kenny Golladay on the perimeter as the big-bodied red zone receivers, and Eric Ebron off to Indianapolis, Tate's role is safe in the offense. Despite scoring just five touchdowns last year, Tate was able to finish as a top-12 wide receiver because of his consistency when it comes

to moving the chains. If you're moving to a PPR format, don't make the mistake of underestimating Tate's potential.

### **Jamison Crowder (WAS) +7 spots**

If you haven't noticed, three of the four receivers on this list are of the slot variety (Thomas only played the slot on 18 percent of his snaps). There's a lot of changing in the scenery around Crowder, but it's all benefitting him. Josh Doctson and Paul Richardson aren't going to command 100-plus targets, and Derrius Guice isn't a big pass-catcher out of the backfield. Crowder is going to become the go-to receiver for Alex Smith, so I'd expect to see him on this list once again next year.

*Notable mentions: Randall Cobb (GB), Larry Fitzgerald (ARI), Sterling Shepard (NYG)*

## **Tight Ends**

### **Jordan Reed (WAS) +7 spots**

While healthy, Reed has been more of a wide receiver than anything. He didn't play much last year, so it's hard to take much from this, but knowing Alex Smith's history with the tight end position, he's likely to continue in that role. Everyone remembers Travis Kelce with Smith, but most have forgotten about Vernon Davis' emergence under Smith. The final full season they played together, Davis finished with 95 targets, 67 receptions, 792 yards, and six touchdowns. Reed's health is always a concern, but he's extremely valuable in PPR leagues when on the field.

### **Delanie Walker (TEN) +3 spots**

This shouldn't shock anyone, as Walker has now seen at least 102 targets in each of the last four seasons. Any time you can lock a tight end in for 80-plus targets, you're going to like what he does for you in PPR formats. Now that Corey Davis is there, you're likely to see Walker's touchdown numbers continue to decline like they did in 2017 (scored just three receiving touchdowns), but you're not as concerned in PPR as you would be in standard, which dropped him all the way to the TE7 despite an 807-yard season.

*Notable mentions: Tyler Higbee (LAR), Jared Cook (OAK)*

## **DECLINE**

### **Running Backs**

#### **Derrick Henry (TEN) -12 spots**

This one should surprise none of you, as we've been warning you about Henry's role all season. Not only was he playing behind now 30-year-old DeMarco Murray in passing-down situations last year, but he now has to battle with newly-signed free agent Dion Lewis, who is one of the best pass-blockers at the running back position in all of football. Henry's numbers are going to suffer in PPR formats where he should be viewed as an RB3.

#### **Alex Collins (BAL) -5 spots**

There should be an asterisk next to Collins' name here, because he started to right the ship in PPR leagues as the year went on. Over the first eight games of the season, Collins totaled just three receptions for 33 yards, but was unleashed after the Ravens bye in Week 10. Over the final seven games, where he totaled 20 receptions for 154 yards, he ranked No. 9 in both standard and PPR formats.

#### **Marshawn Lynch (OAK) -5 spots**

We've all known that Lynch wasn't much of a threat in the receiving game while with the Seahawks and it appears that nothing has changed with the Raiders. He was a bit more involved down the stretch, but the coaching change will reset everything. Not only is Lynch fighting with Doug Martin for carries, he's going to be battling him for receptions, as well as DeAndre Washington and Jalen Richard. You'll want to value him a bit less in PPR formats.

#### **Jordan Howard (CHI) -4 spots**

I would've actually thought Howard was even worse than this in PPR formats, as he's one of the worst pass-catchers at the running back position. During the course of his career, he's now caught just 52-of-82 targets, which amounts to a 63.4 percent catch rate. The average among running backs in 2018 was 74.3 percent, giving you an idea as to how bad Howard has been. Howard is the only person on the Bears roster who can handle 250-plus carries, so he's going to be valuable, but just not nearly as much in PPR formats.

*Notable mentions: Jonathan Stewart (NYG), Corey Clement (PHI), Latavius Murray (MIN), LeGarrette Blount (DET)*

### **Wide Receivers**

#### **Brandin Cooks (LAR) -8 spots**

Yes, Cooks is on a new team, but when it comes to PPR formats, he's always going to be worth a bit less than he is in standard leagues. He's been a big-play guy over the last

three years and it's hard to see that changing with Cooper Kupp, Todd Gurley, and Robert Woods operating underneath the majority of time. The way it works with wide receivers in PPR is that the downfield receivers are usually the ones who suffer the most.

### **Sammy Watkins (KC) -7 spots**

After seeing Cooks on the list, it should come as no shock to see Watkins who has now been labeled as a downfield receiver. That's the way he was used with the Rams last year, but I'm not sure if that'll be the case with the Chiefs, who just ponied up a ton of money to acquire him in free agency. Watkins has averaged over 15.0 yards per reception in every season, but a lot of that had to do with the role he played. Tyreek Hill is the field-stretching type, too, so it's possible that the difference for Watkins in PPR isn't as large in 2018.

### **Marvin Jones (DET) -6 spots**

I've mentioned that the big-play wide receivers are often hurt the most by the PPR format, but Jones gets the double whammy, as he's not only the Lions downfield threat, but he's also their touchdown guy. Touchdowns aren't as valuable in PPR formats even though they are "technically" worth the same. Six points in a standard league is solid, whereas six points in a PPR format is a bust. Jones has averaged 17.5 yards per reception with the Lions and has scored 13 touchdowns, which is the recipe for being worth less in the PPR setting.

### **Alshon Jeffery (PHI) -5 spots**

The reason Jeffery is here, without a doubt, is because of his ultra-low catch percentage last year, as well as his high touchdown rate. His catch rate was just 47.5 percent, which ranked 168th among the 211 wide receivers who registered a target in 2017. He caught a touchdown every 13.3 targets when the NFL average for wide receivers is one every 22.8 targets. You have to catch the ball at a much higher rate to do well in PPR, but Jeffery should be able to develop a bit more chemistry with his quarterback in year-two of the offense.

*Notable mentions: Tyrell Williams (LAC), Amari Cooper (OAK), JuJu Smith-Schuster (PIT), Keelan Cole (JAX), Tyreek Hill (KC)*

## **Tight Ends**

### **Ricky Seals-Jones (ARI) -9 spots**

Some are projecting a breakout year for Seals-Jones, but when you look at the fantasy numbers and where they came from in 2017, you should be a bit skeptical. Three of his 12 receptions were for touchdowns and his catch rate was just 42.9 percent. His 16.8 yards per reception was higher than any other tight end with at least 10 targets. So when you see all of these things together, you literally have the trifecta of negatives in PPR (low catch rate, high yards per reception, high touchdown rate).

**O.J. Howard (TB) -4 spots**

The only tight end with more yards per reception than Howard at the tight end position last year was... Ricky Seals-Jones, the only other player on this list. Howard also caught a touchdown once every 6.5 targets, which was the best ratio in the NFL last year among those who had at least 35 targets. What saved him from falling too far in PPR was his high catch rate of 66.7 percent, which was higher than the average among tight ends (64.2 percent).

*Notable mentions: Tyler Kroft (CIN), Mercedes Lewis (GB)*

## BEST BALL STRATEGY (MFL10 & DRAFT)

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

Throughout this offseason, we've posted articles on best-ball leagues. Whether it be our beginner's guide or articles on which players fare better/worse in the best-ball format. While those may have been helpful to many, there are still many who don't know how many players to select at each position, as well as when to prioritize each position.

While there is no one strategy that will work every time, I've assembled a guide to help you understand which positions to target in your draft and which strategy will work more often than not.

Over the last few years, it's taken roughly 2,500 points to win an MFL10 league. While it would be easy to just build a team to score a set amount of points based on projections, that's impossible with best-ball formats. You need to understand that drafting an MFL10 team is different than redraft. You'll want to take on more risk in best-ball than you would on your season-long teams, simply because the Frank Gore-type players who score exactly 10 PPR points seemingly every game won't make their way into your best-ball lineup 90 percent of the time. That type of player could be useful in season-long, but not nearly as much in best ball.

As mentioned in the beginner's guide, there are certain guidelines that you want to live by when building your roster. You'll almost always fit inside of these boundaries because they are loose enough to veer off in just about any direction the draft takes you. With that being said, here they are:

- *2-3 QUARTERBACKS*
- *4-7 RUNNING BACKS*
- *6-8 WIDE RECEIVERS*
- *2-3 TIGHT ENDS*
- *2-3 D/ST*

Rather than dive into one specific strategy, I'm going to give you a visual explanation of what kind of value you can expect from any position, at any given time, in an MFL10

best-ball draft. There are a lot of factors that will go into which position you'll choose, but this will at least give you a starting point.

ROUND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>QB</b>	–	23.5	23.5	23.5	21.6	21.6	19.9	19.3	18.0	17.1
<b>RB</b>	19.2	14.6	13.2	12.5	11.7	10.7	10.1	9.6	9.0	8.9
<b>WR</b>	21.6	18.1	15.8	14.3	13.0	12.7	12.1	11.5	11.0	10.3
<b>TE</b>	–	15.8	15.8	14.5	13.3	12.8	11.9	11.4	10.9	10.2
<b>DST</b>	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

ROUND	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>QB</b>	16.0	15.4	14.7	14.3	13.1	11.7	10.2	–	–	–
<b>RB</b>	8.6	8.4	6.8	6.5	6.2	–	–	–	–	–
<b>WR</b>	9.7	9.3	8.9	8.5	8.0	–	–	–	–	–
<b>TE</b>	9.8	9.4	8.8	8.1	6.5	5.8	5.3	4.9	4.8	4.8
<b>DST</b>	12.1	11.1	11.1	10.0	9.6	8.8	8.4	7.7	6.9	5.9

The above values represent point per game averages for that particular position, in that particular round, if all players were drafted at/around their ADP (average draft position). While you can never fully predict where every player goes, I can tell you that the 25th running back almost always comes off the board in the fifth round. Over the last four seasons, the 25th running back drafted has finished averaging in between 9.3-11.8 PPR points per game. By going through years of data and creating averages, I was able to give you an approximate value chart.

One of the first things you'll notice is that there are some values missing. The reason for this is that ADP varies greatly once you get outside of the top 50 at running back and wide receiver, leaving some questionable numbers at best. Those are the areas of the draft where you want to aim for upside, players who are just one injury away from being vaulted into fantasy relevance. Now that we have our starting point, we can discuss the positions and how to attack them.

## Quarterbacks

It seems that there's late-round quarterbacks that everyone loves and they're willing to wait for. The issue, of course, is that once everyone goes by the same strategy, it's better to zig while everyone else zags. For instance, Aaron Rodgers going in the fourth- or fifth-round is a travesty and one I've been taking advantage of myself in best-ball leagues this year. Russell Wilson in the sixth-round is another one where the crowd has gone too far. You know that the MFL10 format doesn't have waivers, right? All the projected starting quarterbacks will be owned, so there are some advantages to selecting a quarterback somewhat early (no, I'm not talking about the second- or third-round).

The advantages of getting someone like Rodgers or Wilson (or another quarterback who is extremely safe) is that you only need to grab one quarterback the remainder of the draft. Pair them with someone like Andy Dalton who is in no danger of losing his starting job, and you're set at the position. When you wait to snag your first quarterback until the double-digit rounds, you'd better get three of them, unless Philip Rivers and Matt Ryan fall to you in those rounds, as that pairing gives you a solid floor with a decent ceiling.

Selecting a quarterback in rounds four through eight nets you 19.3-23.5 points, according to our chart, which is history, after all. The drop-off at running back and wide receiver is much more substantial and less predictable, which is why most gravitate towards them. Points per game are great and all, but just how consistent are the top-six quarterbacks when compared to those drafted 7-12, 13-18, etc.?

ADP	Top-5 %	Top-12 %	Boom (26+)	Bust (Under 14)
<b>Top-6</b>	25.1%	49.4%	19.4%	28.6%
<b>7 to 12</b>	18.0%	40.5%	14.3%	33.8%
<b>13 to 18</b>	15.6%	39.5%	11.5%	36.6%
<b>19 to 24</b>	12.3%	29.2%	9.1%	41.9%

This is the reason for the late-round quarterback approach, though there are some flaws. Most believe by mixing and matching three quarterbacks in the 13-18 range that they can get better numbers than those of Rodgers or another early-round quarterback.



Guys, that's three quarterbacks who could all post their top-12 performance on the same week, leaving you in a bad spot considering only one will count. The important part that I want you to take away from this, though, is that drafting a quarterback from 7-12 or from 13-18, there's not that much of a difference.

The dream scenario is to wind up with one of the top-six quarterbacks and another safe quarterback from the 13-18 range. When I say safe, I'm talking about a quarterback who has no shot of losing his starting job. Guys who are included in that range this year are: Patrick Mahomes, Mitch Trubisky, Andy Dalton, and Alex Smith.

## Running Backs

The heart and soul of your best-ball team, right? I mean, we now have running backs being selected with 10 of the top 14 picks, according to early MFL10 ADP. There's plenty of strategies out there on running backs – Zero RB, RB-heavy, Studs-and-Scrubs, etc. In the end, you need to hit on a few players who have high ceilings, no matter where you draft them. According to my study on “How Much Does Team Scoring Matter,” 75 percent of top-six running backs come from top-12 scoring offenses, so it should come as no shock to see guys like Alvin Kamara and Kareem Hunt atop the running back position last year. It's not easy to find them, though, according to where they've been drafted over the years. Similar to quarterbacks, let's take a look at how running backs have performed over the last four years based on where they were drafted.

ADP	RB1%	RB2%	RB3%	Boom (25+)	Bust (Under 8)
<b>Top-6</b>	49.8%	74.9%	88.4%	21.5%	10.6%
<b>7 to 12</b>	34.1%	53.3%	73.5%	12.3%	24.3%
<b>13 to 18</b>	25.9%	51.9%	74.4%	6.3%	23.4%
<b>19 to 24</b>	18.0%	41.4%	61.7%	5.0%	35.6%
<b>25 to 30</b>	13.5%	29.6%	54.6%	3.9%	42.1%
<b>31 to 36</b>	13.8%	34.6%	55.0%	3.4%	42.3%
<b>37 to 42</b>	14.3%	27.9%	45.9%	4.1%	51.7%
<b>43 to 50</b>	12.8%	30.5%	47.0%	3.1%	49.9%

There's a clear break in the numbers here, as landing a top-six running back seems paramount to your success in best-ball leagues. They not only deliver at least RB2

numbers 75 percent of the time, but they only bust 10.6 percent of the time, giving you a solid floor. Meanwhile, those selected in between 7-12 and 13-18 look very similar, though the ones being drafted higher seem to have more “boom” performances. It makes sense, too, as players drafted in this range are those who are considered somewhat safe, but offer the upside of a top-six pick. Still, you’re likely better off going wide receiver over a running back in the 7-12 range, as we’ll find out in the wide receiver section.

All in all, you can see that it’d take at least four running backs drafted in the 25-30 range in order to make up for the amount of RB1 performances that a top-six running back gives you. And even if you were to combine all four running backs, they still wouldn’t have the amount of “boom” performances that your top-six running back did. Long story short, get one of the top-six running backs on your roster whenever possible.

The ideal strategy at running back would be to snag one in the first-round, then snag one of the top-six wide receivers with your next pick. This happens all too often with running back occupying at least 10 of the top 14 picks. Similar to the way it is with quarterback, the more talent you have on top of your roster at the position, the less you absolutely must take later in the draft. But know this – once the top-24 running backs are gone, you can somewhat take your time assembling the rest of your stable, as the remaining numbers for those drafted from RB25-50 are nearly identical, and as a matter of fact, those drafted from 31-36 have outperformed those drafted from 25-30. Keep in mind that this is four years worth of data. You should never leave a draft with fewer than four running backs, and even if you have just four, they better be really good. In most cases, you should end up with five or six of them on your roster.

### **Wide Receivers**

Now that wide receivers had a down year in 2017, most are just waiting at the position, but has it gone too far? As is the case with most things, we’re programmed to accept recency bias as something that’s reality, which just happens to be last year’s fantasy numbers. But in a PPR format (MFL10s), did you know that over the last five years, 22 wide receivers have scored 300 or more points, while there’ve been just 14 running backs to hit that number? Wide receivers have more upside as a whole, though as

talked about in the running back section, there's a significant drop-off from the top-six over the rest of the field. Let's take a look to see if it's like that with wide receivers.

ADP	WR1%	WR2%	WR3%	Boom (25+)	Bust (Under 8)
<b>Top-6</b>	35.1%	55.6%	67.8%	20.8%	17.8%
<b>7 to 12</b>	26.8%	45.9%	59.8%	13.9%	24.6%
<b>13 to 18</b>	23.1%	42.8%	57.5%	10.7%	25.1%
<b>19 to 24</b>	21.6%	38.9%	54.9%	11.3%	30.1%
<b>25 to 30</b>	16.4%	35.4%	52.5%	9.2%	33.1%
<b>31 to 36</b>	13.0%	33.2%	47.7%	5.1%	36.9%
<b>37 to 42</b>	13.0%	28.6%	40.7%	5.0%	44.1%
<b>43 to 50</b>	9.2%	21.2%	33.3%	1.9%	48.9%

As expected, there's a drop-off with wide receivers outside the top six, but not nearly as significant as the one with running backs. But here's the best part – with most selecting the No. 12 running back before the No. 6 wide receiver is off the board, you're typically able to get a top-six wide receiver in the second-round, which should make you feel all giddy inside. Once those top-six wide receivers are gone, though, you can see that those who are selected from 7-24 have a lot in common. There's just over a five percent difference in WR1 output, there "boom" performances are nearly identical, and the bust rates aren't much different, either.

With wide receivers, it's a much more gradual decline you see when looking at this chart, making it easier to pick your spots when selecting them. I mean, even those being selected in the 25-30 range are producing at least WR3 numbers 52.5 percent of the time. Ideally, you get one of the top-six guys, two of those drafted in the 7-24 range, and then fill out your draft as you go from there. This is the one position where it doesn't hurt to grab more, no matter who is atop your depth chart. It's because you start three of them automatically, which gives the guy you drafted in the 18th round a shot to produce if he catches a long touchdown. Running backs drafted that late are only going to matter if there's an injury. You should leave your best-ball draft with a minimum of six wide receivers.

## **Tight Ends**

It's no secret that the tight end position is the most difficult to predict, as it's extremely touchdown-reliant. There are a few tight ends atop the draft who don't need touchdowns as much as others, but are they worth the equity you have to shell out in order to acquire them?

ADP	Top-5 %	Top-12 %	Boom (20+)	Bust (Under 7)
<b>1 to 3</b>	32.3%	65.2%	26.1%	23.6%
<b>4 to 6</b>	17.0%	36.6%	12.4%	42.5%
<b>7 to 9</b>	26.5%	53.0%	12.6%	30.5%
<b>10 to 12</b>	13.5%	39.9%	6.1%	40.5%
<b>13 to 18</b>	12.9%	34.4%	6.8%	43.2%
<b>19 to 24</b>	13.1%	29.1%	8.3%	51.6%

Volatile much? Seriously, that should be on a t-shirt. As you can see, if you don't get one of the top-three tight ends, you might as well close your eyes and pick a couple. I'm kidding, of course, but those drafted from 10-12 over the last four years have outproduced those who were drafted from 4-6 based on TE1 performances. When you pay for a tight end in best-ball, you're paying for their "boom" performances more than anything, which is why those who shy away from Jordan Reed in best-ball aren't too sharp. Any time you can get a tight end outside the top-10 who has hit the "boom" number in 19.2 percent of his career games, you do that. He's a steal in best-ball leagues right now.

Here's a fun stat from the article I referenced at the top about which players are better in best-ball leagues: Rob Gronkowski and Travis Kelce accounted for 11 of the 32 games in which a tight end cracked 20.0 PPR points in 2017. Think about that for a second. A massive 34.4 percent of the best performances for tight ends last year came from two players, who also missed a combined three games. On top of that, they also posted the lowest "bust" rate among tight ends, as just five of their combined 29 games netted you less than 7.0 PPR points.

Those two are seriously in a league of their own and let's say that you snagged a top-six running back in the first-round and then the top-six wide receivers were gone by your

next pick, you should really contemplate taking one of them near the 2/3 turn in your draft. They give you such a weekly advantage at the hardest position to predict in fantasy football. Zach Ertz isn't quite on their level, but he's not too far off them over the last two years, as he's hit 20 or more PPR points in 6-of-29 games (20.7 percent of the time). If you don't get any of those guys, you're going to draft three tight ends. As you can see by the chart, it doesn't make much of a difference where you draft them (outside of Jordan Reed and Trey Burton, of course).

## **D/ST**

You've likely already come to the realization that you shouldn't be drafting a defense early in your MFL10s. When looking at the value chart, you can see that by drafting a defense in the 11th-round round, you're only getting a three-point advantage over those who wait until the 17th round. Meanwhile, you're missing out on every other position. Seriously, if you feel the need to draft a defense in the 11th round, I'd rather you take another quarterback. Just don't do it. There is so much variance year-over-year that you cannot accurately project what a defense and its special teams unit will do. Because of that, draft your defenses from round 15-20. Based on your preference, you can draft either two or three of them.

## **Summing It All Up**

You now know that running backs and wide receivers, particularly those being drafted inside the top-six at their position are the "must-haves" in your best-ball league, but that the wide receiver drafted seventh isn't that far off the wide receiver being drafted 24th. You also know that the late-round quarterback approach isn't the only one that will work. Oh, and tight ends... well, good luck. It's important to remember at each position that the stronger your depth chart is at the top, it's less important to add significant depth at that position later. Instead, add more potential to the positions you're weaker at.

By now, you should be prepared to dominate your MFL10s. The last piece of advice is to have fun. Just because your sheet has one player over another, it doesn't mean that you need to take them. Get your guys when you can, because there is no guarantee you'll have the opportunity on your next pick.

## 7 LATE-ROUND DRAFT TARGETS

By: FantasyPros Staff

The late-round lottery pick is a staple for all fantasy players as we inevitably start thinking about who could be that golden ticket to take us all the way. Obviously picking the right one is harder than it seems, but every year, there are at least a few players who the experts peg as guys you should be taking a flier on. If you were lucky enough to draft Alvin Kamara, chances are you had a decent, if not great season. The same could be said for Deshaun Watson at the start of the year before he got hurt.

As we approach the upcoming season, it's time to start building up your list of upside players and to help out with that, we've asked our featured experts below who they feel is worthy of your final picks in a draft that could return plenty of value.

***Q1. Name one under-the-radar RB that you plan to target in all drafts as a late-round lottery ticket and why?***

### **Kenneth Dixon (RB – BAL)**

"Dixon is a RB who was once hyped up to be the next workhorse back for the Ravens, but a stellar 2017 by Alex Collins has cleared him from everyone's radar. While I think Collins is a fairly safe bet to put up similar numbers this season, there is a chance if he struggles we see Dixon steal more snaps and could runaway with the job. While that scenario is unlikely, he's worth a lotto ticket because in the event Collins misses an extended period of time, Dixon has league-winning potential."

– Sean Koerner (The Action Network)

"Kenneth Dixon is a very interesting name to watch. As much as I like Alex Collins this year, I see the path where Dixon plays his way into the starting role and becoming a fantasy starter. Generally, RBs going that late in drafts need some kind of depth chart injury and then frequently don't have the talent or the team's support to rise to relevance. Dixon is coming off a season lost to injury, a substance abuse suspension, and a PED suspension. That speaks loudly to me about the team's belief that Dixon could still be part of their future."

– Mike Wright (The Fantasy Footballers)

### **Chris Carson (RB – SEA)**

"In best ball leagues, I am all over Justin Jackson and John Kelly, but most standard redraft leagues don't have deep enough benches to warrant selecting a clear-cut backup running back. If I'm going for a lottery back in those leagues, I want someone who may win the job in the preseason. A few players stand out to me from Doug Martin and Matt Breida to Jordan Wilkins and Elijah McGuire, but the top among them all for me is Chris Carson. Pete Carroll has shown in the past that he doesn't care about draft capital or a sunken cost if it is preventing him from winning football games. That means even Rashaad Penny's starting job may be at risk, and there have been glowing reports

this offseason about Carson, who flashed some serious ability last year. I'm happy to add him just in case we find out Carson is the top back in a Russell Wilson offense.”  
– Bobby Sylvester (FantasyPros)

“There are admittedly not many options at RB beyond the 150 overall cutoff, but the main one I'd be looking at is Chris Carson. The Seahawks were terrible on the ground last year and need to figure that part of their offense out and there is no guarantee rookie rusher Rashaad Penny is the answer. That could instead be Carson, who flashed ability as a rookie last year. Pete Carroll has already raved about him this summer, too, so in an open competition, we need to consider him as a viable late-round flier.”  
– Kevin Roberts (Breaking Football)

### **Doug Martin (RB – OAK)**

“His ADP has been creeping up as of late and he'll likely sneak into the top-150 by the time this is published, but I'm going with Doug Martin wherever I can. It's not common to find a running back this late who has not one, but two 1,400-rushing-yard seasons under his belt. Most are automatically assuming that Marshawn Lynch has the job locked up, but reports out of Oakland are that Martin continues to impress. He's 29 years old and playing behind a 32-year-old who has a long history of back issues and a violent play-style. Not only would Martin be a strong handcuff behind one of the best offensive lines in football, but he could turn out to be much more than that.”  
– Mike Tagliere (FantasyPros)

### ***Q2. Name one under-the-radar WR that you plan to target in all drafts as a late-round lottery ticket and why?***

### **Geronimo Allison (WR – GB)**

“Allison isn't being talked about enough. The general buzz in the fantasy world talking about the Packers revolves around Randall Cobb. This isn't an anti-Randall Cobb take. However, Cobb's body has betrayed him for multiple years since his breakout season and he's already banged up again. Allison has flashed enough times that he is interesting as a lotto ticket. It doesn't hurt that he plays for a QB that can easily throw for over forty touchdowns.”  
– Mike Wright (The Fantasy Footballers)

“As things stand right now, Geronimo Allison will be on every single one of my fantasy teams. Why? Because as of now, he's a starting wide receiver for Aaron Rodgers. Many have said that there's no way Allison has the job, but nobody has told me who else will claim it. Yes, the Packers drafted three wide receivers in the 5th-7th rounds, but do you remember that they drafted two in the same exact area of the draft last year? In his two years with the Packers, Allison has played 15 games with Rodgers under center, and in those games, he's totaled 45 targets, 26 receptions, 381 yards, and two touchdowns. This feels like Devin Funchess all over again, yet nobody has learned. Oh, and his quarterback is much better than Funchess's.”

– Mike Tagliere (FantasyPros)

**Michael Gallup (WR – DAL)**

“Gallup sticks out to me as a great late round flier who wasn’t necessarily one of the top WRs in the draft, but ended up in arguably the best situation. With Dez Bryant and Jason Witten gone, the Cowboys depth chart is wide open. Gallup seems destined to be their #2 option in the passing game behind Allen Hurns, but if Gallup adapts to the NFL as quick as I think he can, he’s a serious threat to be the team’s leading receiver.”

– Sean Koerner (The Action Network)

**Mike Williams (WR – LAC)**

“I feel like Michael Gallup is a popular under-the-radar wide receiver in the fantasy football community, so I’ll shift my focus to someone else I’m really excited about, Mike Williams. Injuries bogged down his rookie season last year, but the Clemson product is finally 100% and has the size and ball skills to turn into a beast in L.A.’s system.

Keenan Allen is rightfully the top Bolts wide receiver to draft, but with Hunter Henry going down, this offense promises to feature more 3-wide sets and that opens the door to serious upside for Williams.”

– Kevin Roberts (Breaking Football)

**Ryan Grant (WR – IND)**

“Like running back, there are a handful of late-round wide receivers with substantial upside. Geronimo Allison seems like the obvious choice to me while I also considered Jordan Matthews, Kevin White, Chris Godwin and Terrelle Pryor. The one I am choosing to bring to your attention, however, is Ryan Grant. No, not the old Packers running back, rather the quick wide receiver who happens to be starting in Andrew Luck’s offense. It has been long enough that you might need to be reminded that Luck posted 356 fantasy points in his last healthy season which is a full 50+ points above every QB not named Russell Wilson last year. A full bill of health isn’t certain for Luck, of course, but if he is indeed recovered, those fantasy points will have to go to whoever is on the field.”

– Bobby Sylvester (FantasyPros)



## 12 FANTASY BUSTS FOR 2018

By: FantasyPros Staff

The real fireworks will be here soon enough as with each passing day, we get closer to the football season and more importantly, your fantasy drafts. If you're new to fantasy, congrats on taking the plunge. All summer, we'll be providing advice courtesy of the top experts around the industry so you can get opinions from multiple viewpoints. In this case, perhaps one of the biggest things we hope to help you avoid is wasting an early round pick on a player who is the most likely to disappoint you by season's end.

Unfortunately, it's highly likely one or two players will be "busts" relative to where you draft them. Just because a guy finishes with a decent stat line doesn't mean he can't be a bust still. After all, if Le'Veon Bell or Ezekiel Elliott finished as RB2s, or even worse RB3s, that's clearly a huge disappointment considering they're being drafted with the top 3 picks in many drafts. So with that in mind, we asked our featured experts below to evaluate the current Expert Consensus Rankings (ECR) and name players they feel have bust written all over them. We're setting the bar with players ranked within the top 24 of their positions. Here's who they picked.

### ***Q1. What RB in our consensus top 24 should fantasy owners fear the most as a bust candidate?***

#### **Derrick Henry (TEN)**

"I could understand Henry's ADP landing in the late-third/early-fourth had the Titans cut DeMarco Murray and replaced him with a middle-round rookie in the NFL Draft, but Tennessee signed Dion Lewis to a four-year deal worth \$19.8 million, with \$8.3 million guaranteed. Lewis' deal has the most guaranteed money of any 2018 free agent running back not named Jerick McKinnon. Since 2015, backs that received at least \$6.0 million guaranteed in free agency averaged 14.7 touches per game the ensuing season. Last year, DeMarco Murray handled 14.9 touches per game for the Titans, and that left 11.7 touches per game for Henry. If Lewis sees the aforementioned 14.7-touch average, it's not going to leave much opportunity for Henry's touches to grow. And let's not forget Lewis is good. He's still only 27, has a career 4.8 yards per carry, and is a very capable receiver out of the backfield."

— John Paulsen (4for4)

"The Titans made it all very clear that they are continuing with a tandem by bringing in Dion Lewis. Everybody and their dogs know this, yet Derrick Henry's ADP of RB17 shows the public still want that square peg to fit into a tidy high RB2 hole. I'd like nothing more if things were different. We cannot exclude the possibility that Dion Lewis finishes higher than Henry after the fantasy points are added up. Drafting Henry at this level will only disappoint."

— Richard Savill (Fantasy Six Pack)

"I like Derrick Henry and believe his upside is well within the top-25 running backs this season, but his path there isn't as easy as some because Dion Lewis stands in his way. Lewis is a better three-down back than Henry, which means Henry will most likely need consistent leads to salt away in the fourth quarter to keep Lewis from out-snapping him each game. I'll take Lewis' versatility over Henry's early-down work every draft."

– Chet Gresham (WalterFootball)

### **David Johnson (ARI)**

"There's a lot that could go wrong for David Johnson. He's playing in a new offense with a new QB behind what looks like a leaky offensive line. That's not exactly an ideal situation for a RB. When Johnson led all RBs in fantasy points back in 2016, the Cardinals finished 6th in points and 9th in total yards. I don't expect this year's version of the Cardinals to be nearly as good. Then factor in that Johnson has suffered season-ending injuries the past 2 seasons (sprained MCL, dislocated wrist) and is currently holding out. I'm taking Le'Veon Bell, Todd Gurley, Ezekiel Elliott and Antonio Brown before I consider Johnson."

– Jared Smola (Draft Sharks)

### **Kareem Hunt (KC)**

"I've always been attracted to Andy Reid's running backs and loved Hunt last year, but I'm staying away from him at his current cost. On Twitter the other day, I mentioned that even though Kareem Hunt tallied just one carry in Week 17 (they rested the starters), he finished with 90.7 percent of the team carries in 2017. Just four running backs have cracked the 79 percent mark over the last three years. Not only is Spencer Ware coming back, but the Chiefs also signed third-down specialist Damien Williams in free agency. While I don't think Hunt will be a complete bust, he's extremely unlikely to live up to his current price. Another name I'd be weary of is LeSean McCoy."

– Mike Tagliere (FantasyPros)

### **LeSean McCoy (BUF)**

"McCoy hits his age 30 season and he's surrounded by one of the worst offenses in football. There's no one else on the Bills you're proactively drafting here, and I dare McCoy to somehow make this work. Buffalo did all it could to get Tyrod Taylor out of town, but this year's quarterback play will likely be worse – this organization will take a step or two backward before it moves forward again. If you don't like the overall setup, you can't trust McCoy in Round 2. (I also think Jerick McKinnon's ADP is crazy-expensive; Kyle Shanahan is a heck of a coach, but it's not like he's never wrong on personnel. And McKinnon did ordinary things with a perfect setup in Minnesota last year.)"

– Scott Pianowski (Yahoo! Sports)

### **Jerick McKinnon (SF)**

"McKinnon is facing heavy expectations for a RB who has never been a full-timer and does not have the size and bulk to tolerate a heavy workload. He also won't be a

consistent goal-line runner, and the Niners offense that everyone is gushing about needs time to gel.”

– Scott Engel (RotoExperts)

***Q2. What WR in our consensus top 24 should fantasy owners fear the most as a bust candidate?***

**Mike Evans (TB)**

“Bust is a strong word for Mike Evans, but I don’t think he’s going to return top 10 numbers in 2018. While he did finish No. 3 in 2016, he failed to crack the top 12 in his other three NFL seasons. He might get a lot of targets, but his career catch percentage (53.4%) is the 8th-worst out of the 84 receivers who saw at least 200 total targets from 2014 to 2017. I believe that his targets are under pressure from DeSean Jackson, an improving Chris Godwin and two good tight ends (O.J. Howard and Cameron Brate), and Evans isn’t efficient enough to overcome a drop in usage. Throw in a three-game suspension for Jameis Winston, and things aren’t setting up particularly well for Evans in 2018.”

– John Paulsen (4for4)

**Tyreek Hill (KC)**

“Hill is in for a decline in both efficiency and volume this year. His 11.27 yards per target last year ranked 2nd among 277 WR seasons of 80+ targets since 2013. Hill’s elite speed should continue to make him more efficient than most, but expecting him to repeat THAT level of efficiency isn’t wise. On the volume side, free-agent acquisition Sammy Watkins figures to see a bunch more than the 62 targets #2 WR Albert Wilson garnered last year. Some of those extra looks will come at the expense of Hill. The move to QB Patrick Mahomes only adds more volatility to Hill’s 2018 outlook.”

– Jared Smola (Draft Sharks)

**Adam Thielen (MIN)**

“I’m concerned about Adam Thielen this year, as not many have factored in how big of a loss offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur was to his potential. Once Norv Turner left the Vikings mid-2016, Shurmur made the slot role extremely important, and it was the reason we saw Thielen and Stefon Diggs get so much production while playing there. On top of that, new quarterback Kirk Cousins has never targeted a wide receiver more than 6.9 times per game, which would amount to 110 targets in a season, a far cry from the 143 Thielen saw in 2017. The argument can be (and should be) made that Diggs is the better fantasy asset in 2018. JuJu Smith-Schuster is another one who I’d avoid at his current price, as he ranked 55th in targets per game among wide receivers in 2017.”

– Mike Tagliere (FantasyPros)

**JuJu Smith-Schuster (PIT)**

“Smith-Schuster is someone I’m not going to reach for this season. His numbers were incredible last year, especially his seven touchdowns and 917 yards on just 58

receptions. That's a healthy yards per reception and touchdown ratio to be repeated and I like the addition of James Washington and Vance McDonald enough to believe he's being taken too early this season."

– Chet Gresham (WalterFootball)

### **Allen Robinson (CHI)**

"I have no problem saying no to Allen Robinson at his current ADP. He might as well not even be on my board. He's coming off a torn ACL and he was an inefficient mess in 2016. We haven't seen good football from him in three years. Wideouts changing teams always make me a little nervous, and although I am hopeful the new, modern coaching regime can make some sparks fly with the Bears offense, Robinson is not where I'd place my chips. You're paying for the high end of his range."

– Scott Pianowski (Yahoo! Sports)

### **Marvin Jones (DET)**

"Jones more than doubled his touchdown count in his first season with the Lions, which is hard enough in itself to match, but I'm also wary of Kenny Golladay emerging as the BabyTron we all were expecting in 2017. With a secure WR3 role on the Lions, Golladay might now take his tacit experience to downgrade Jones. As a result, I sense we might be looking at Jones ending outside of the top 30 fantasy wide receivers."

– Richard Savill (Fantasy Six Pack)

### **Amari Cooper (OAK)**

"Cooper is still being overrated based on his pure talent and youth. I have no reason to believe he is suddenly going to become more consistent and dependable other than maybe Jordy Nelson starts showing him the finer points of the game."

– Scott Engel (RotoExperts)

## 2018 ALL UNDRAFTED TEAM

By: Josh Shepardson (@BChad50)

For the second year in a row, I've constructed an "All Undrafted Team" instead of presenting the traditional sleepers/lottery tickets piece. I'm once again going to use the same cut point for including players. All of the following players have a consensus ADP north of 150.

### Quarterback

#### **Mitchell Trubisky (CHI) – Overall: 171.0, QB24**

Stop me if you've heard this one before. A rookie quarterback with a horrible supporting cast and awful coaching staff posts mediocre to bad numbers when forced into duty his first year, and the organization wisely hires a young, offensive-minded head coach while adding weapons to help said quarterback in their second season. Sounds like what the Rams did with Jared Goff, right? Well, the Bears will be hoping for a similar second-year surge from Trubisky after firing John Fox as their head coach and replacing him with former Chiefs offensive coordinator Matt Nagy.

Speaking of Goff, Trubisky's ho-hum rookie season was better than Goff's across the board. When considering the lack of talent around him and bland nature of the offense, Trubisky acquitted himself fairly well, but he'll need to take a Goff-like leap to be a useful signal caller for fantasy teams this year. I'm buying into that possibility.

The Bears were active in free agency adding Allen Robinson to be their No. 1 receiver, signing intriguing, pass-catching specialist tight end Trey Burton, and bringing speedy gadget wideout Taylor Gabriel into the fold. They didn't stop there, though. They also spent the seventh pick in the second round of the NFL Draft (pick 39 overall) on offensive lineman James Daniels and traded up to the 19th pick in the second round (pick 51 overall) to select wide receiver Anthony Miller. Add in the potential of do-it-all, home-run hitter Tarik Cohen thriving with a more creative offensive coaching staff, and Trubisky could have a treasure trove of options to work with in the passing attack.

In standard single-QB formats, I'm a big believer in waiting until late to select a few lottery ticket signal callers. Having said that, if a top-flight QB falls too far, snagging them and then adding Trubisky as a possible breakout candidate who would become a nice trade chip — or open the door for trading your original starting QB — is a viable move, too.

### Running Back

#### **Nyheim Hines (IND) – Overall: 173.5, RB55**

When selecting my running backs for this team, my preference was to highlight a pair of backs who could either have fantasy relevance if the back ahead of them on the depth

chart stays healthy, or outright overtake the starter. In other words, I didn't want to merely suggest handcuffs whose only value would come from an injury to the starter ahead of them. Hines has a chance to carve out a substantial role quickly, and the path to meaningful playing time became clearer with Robert Turbin receiving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing drugs.

After leading the Colts in carries (261) and rushing yards (961) last year, Frank Gore signed with the Dolphins as a free agent. Second-year back Marlon Mack was second on the team in carries (93) and rushing yards (358), and he added 21 receptions for 225 yards receiving, too. He was selected in the fourth round of the 2017 NFL Draft, and he had an underwhelming rookie campaign. Pro Football Focus (PFF) graded him as the 35th best running back, and he posted a negative Defense-adjusted Value Over Average (DVOA), per Football Outsiders (FO).

The Colts spent the fourth pick in the fourth round of this year's NFL Draft on Hines, and the converted wide receiver projects to be used in a variety of roles as part of the Colts running-back-by-committee approach. Hines doesn't necessarily need a bunch of touches to do damage, either. The rookie was the fastest running back at this year's NFL Draft Combine, and his 4.38-second, 40-yard dash was tied for the ninth fastest time overall.

After adjusting his height by one inch in their algorithm, PlayerProfiler.com's closest comparable for Hines is C.J. Spiller. The former Bill had a few fantasy relevant seasons in Buffalo, including a big 2012 season in which he tallied 1,703 yards from scrimmage and eight touchdowns. I don't expect Hines to duplicate Spiller's best season immediately, but I wouldn't rule out 1,000-plus yards from scrimmage from Hines in year one in the NFL.

### **Matt Breida (SF) – Overall: 185.0, RB59**

Let me start by voicing my infatuation with Jerick McKinnon this year. Breida's inclusion in this piece isn't the product of distrusting McKinnon's skills. The second-year back is a physical freak in his own right, though, as you can see checking out his workout metrics and SPARQ-x score [here](#).

The undrafted running back earned an average grade at PFF overall and ranked 38th among qualified backs. Furthermore, out of 47 running backs with a minimum of 100 rushes, Breida ranked 15th in DYAR (87) and fifth in DVOA (13.0%), per FO.

Head coach Kyle Shanahan has produced multiple fantasy contributors in the same backfield before as the offensive coordinator in Atlanta, so Breida doesn't need McKinnon to get hurt or faceplant to earn flex starter status in 2018. Also, San Francisco's offense looks like one that's on the rise with Jimmy Garoppolo leading the show. In Jimmy G's five starts to close out 2017, the 49ers' low for total yards of offense

was 369, they bested 410 yards of offense three times, and they scored 25 or more points in each of their last four games.

## **Wide Receiver**

### **Rishard Matthews (TEN) – Overall: 156.2, WR55**

Tennessee's offense could be one to watch now that they're no longer running Mike Mularkey's "exotic smashmouth," and Matthews is an integral part of the offense. The former Dolphin has established rapport with starting quarterback Marcus Mariota, and he's quietly performed well. Over the last two years, Matthews ranks 30th in targets (195), 31st in receptions (118), 22nd in receiving yards (1,740), 25th in receiving yards per game (58.0), and tied for 12th in touchdown receptions (13) among receivers, according to Pro-Football-Reference's Play Index.

In addition to the solid marks in traditional stats, Matthews ranked 19th out of 86 receivers who caught a minimum of 50 passes in DYAR (173) and DVOA (13.6%). Even if Corey Davis makes substantial strides in his sophomore campaign, Matthews should retain a big enough piece of the pie to outperform his ADP and rank at wide receiver.

### **Michael Gallup (DAL) – Overall: 173.5, WR60**

The Cowboys will need to replace the vacated production of Dez Bryant and Jason Witten, and — apologies to Allen Hurns — they didn't make any big free-agent splashes. Bryant and Witten ranked first and second on the team in targets (132 and 87), receptions (69 and 63), and receiving touchdowns (six and five), respectively, and first and third, respectively, in receiving yards (838 and 560) last season.

Dallas popped Gallup with the 17th pick in the third round (81st overall) of this year's NFL Draft. The rookie was extremely productive in two years at Colorado State, and even if he doesn't open the year as a starter while making the transition from college to the pros, I fully expect him to eventually ascend to the top of the depth chart.

### **Tyler Lockett (SEA) – Overall: 176.2, WR63**

Lockett recently revealed that he wasn't at 100 percent last year in his return from a broken leg suffered on Christmas Eve the year before, and he estimated he played all of last year at "about 75, 80 percent." Chris Wesseling of NFL.com reported that coaches and beat writers "have noted how spry the 2015 third-round pick has looked in offseason practices."

In 2016, the explosive wideout ranked 52nd out of 94 receivers who caught a minimum of 50 passes in DYAR (99) and 39th in DVOA (5.5%). He earned an average overall grade and ranked tied for 48th in player grade among qualified receivers at PFF despite playing at under 100%. Lockett has an opportunity at his biggest role in Seattle's offense in his young career.

Both Jimmy Graham and Paul Richardson signed elsewhere this offseason after combining for 176 targets, 101 receptions, 1,223 receiving yards, and 16 touchdown receptions last season. Lockett will have a chance to serve as second fiddle behind Doug Baldwin in Seattle's passing attack and absorb a sizable chunk of Graham's and Richardson's vacated production.

## **Tight End**

### **Luke Willson (DET) – Overall: 294.5, TE46**

The aforementioned Graham and Richardson are the big departures from Seattle's offense, but Willson also left to sign as Detroit's top tight end. The options among undrafted tight ends are largely unpalatable, but Willson is an interesting change-of-scenery breakout candidate. The 28-year-old has dreamy measurables as you can see [here](#). Those measurables haven't been translated into much on-field production, but Willson has flashed.

The best example of Willson showcasing his skills was down the stretch in 2014 and 2015. In Week 16 of the 2014 season, he torched the Cardinals by converting all three of his targets into receptions for 139 yards and two touchdowns. He followed that up with a far less impressive two receptions for 32 yards on four targets in Week 17, but then he re-emerged in the Divisional Round of the playoffs by catching all four of his targets for 68 yards and a score against the Panthers.

The Lions utilized the tight end more frequently toward the end of last season, and perhaps Matthew Stafford will continue to do so this year. Willson doesn't need to be drafted in most leagues, but I believe he has the potential of playing his way into fringe starter or bye-week fill-in status.



## ROOKIE RUNNING BACKS SET TO MAKE AN IMPACT

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

More than any other position in football, running backs can enjoy high-end production in their rookie seasons. There is no better evidence of this reality than the fact that a first-year runner has won the NFL rushing title in each of the last two seasons. While quarterbacks, wide receivers, and tight ends usually require a little more seasoning, runners are the readiest to make a difference from day one, and that is unlikely to change at all in 2018.

In 2017, freshman running backs turned the NFL upside down. Players like Alvin Kamara, Kareem Hunt, Leonard Fournette, and Christian McCaffrey were all highly productive, while Dalvin Cook, Joe Mixon, Aaron Jones, Jamaal Williams, Chris Carson, and Tarik Cohen all flashed potential for stretches as well. Last year's performance will be a tough act to follow, but 2018's class of rookies is talented enough that they might pull it off.

While the incoming crop is incredibly deep, there is a definitive group of standouts, or the "big eight," as I like to call them. These young men have the potential to become immediate contributors in year one and return big-time dividends for your fantasy squad. While some of them face obstacles to a starting role, every one of them has the potential to flourish should things unfold in their favor.

In assessing the big eight, we're going to take a look at each man's respective situation, and what needs to happen for him to find success early. Included is every player's FantasyPros Consensus Average Draft Position (ADP) as a means of referencing what potential value they might offer in re-draft leagues. All data presented applies to standard formats. So let's start out with the man that many considered the best player in this year's draft.

### **Saquon Barkley (NYG) Current ADP: 7th overall, RB6**

Make no mistake about it, on this particular list, Barkley is in a tier all his own. One of the best running back prospects in years, Barkley was scooped up by the Giants with the second overall pick of the 2018 NFL Draft, and his combination of talent and projected workload is second to none among his peers. Immediately, he will step in and become a focal point of an offense that also features Odell Beckham Jr., Sterling Shepard, and Evan Engram.

While there isn't a whole lot of value to be had in drafting a rookie with the seventh overall selection of your fantasy draft, Barkley is as close to a slam-dunk proposition as they come. An incredible size-speed specimen with elite pass-catching prowess, he can do virtually anything he's asked to.

There isn't much more to say here. If you get the chance to land this generational talent with an all-but-guaranteed high-volume role, sit back and watch him accumulate fantasy points. A David Johnson-like impact is not out of the question.

**Rashaad Penny (SEA) Current ADP 39th overall, RB22**

Whether you agree with it philosophically or not, the Seahawks have shown a revived commitment to the running game this offseason, and bringing in offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer only further proves this point. Penny should be a primary beneficiary of the team's reinvigorated interest in building a successful ground game. Yes, he may have been one of the more surprising selections of the first round, but make no mistake about it; he possesses incredible talent.

Indeed, the second runner off the board on draft day led the nation with 2,248 rushing yards and finished second in rushing touchdowns with 23, while averaging an impressive 7.8 yards per carry during the 2017 college season. His production and athletic profile impressed the Seahawks' brass enough that John Schneider spent a first-round pick on a running back for the very first time during his tenure as general manager. In the aftermath of the selection, word emerged that the franchise views Penny as a potential three-down back, which is unsurprising considering the investment, but still notable.

Incumbent starter Chris Carson has been the talk of the team's offseason so far, but I still like the youngster's chances of overtaking him prior to Week 1. A big back with impressive speed and a physical running style, the 'Hawks likely view Penny as the closest they've come to a Marshawn Lynch replacement since the veteran's (initial) 2016 retirement. While his offensive line is iffy and he needs to improve in pass-protection, he will almost certainly be a volume play from day one. The RB21 cost isn't exactly a premium value, but Penny has all the tools to make good on his lofty ADP.

**Derrius Guice (WAS) Current ADP: 44th overall, RB19**

In terms of pure running ability, Guice may have been the best back in the class, but he tumbled down draft boards because of unsubstantiated character concerns, and Washington landed him with the 59th overall pick. During the pre-draft process, Guice was the number two back on most rank lists, but ended up being the seventh runner off the board. That's highway robbery for a talent of his caliber.

The only downside with the former LSU standout is potential workload concerns. Head coach Jay Gruden's assessment of him as a "first-, second-down banger" early in his career tends to make that pretty clear. And while the rookie has reportedly displayed impressive pass-catching ability in OTAs, the presence of Chris "Slick Hands" Thompson means Guice still likely won't see much of a third-down role as a rookie.

However, he should quickly surpass Samaje Perine and Rob Kelley on the depth chart as the team's top runner and earn himself the bulk of the early-down carries in the

process. While his value does take a reasonable ding in PPR formats, there is little doubt that his ability between the tackles will make him a fantasy asset right out of the gate.

### **Sony Michel (NE) Current ADP: 57th overall, RB27**

There's a narrative that New England is a terrible place to find fantasy runners because they often utilize a committee approach to the position, but that's not true. In fact, some of the most productive running back play has come from Foxborough in recent years. LeGarrette Blount was the overall RB7 in 2016, while Dion Lewis was the overall RB12 a year later. That's RB1-caliber production from such an alleged fantasy wasteland.

Enter Michel, the first running back the Pats have drafted in the first round since Laurence Maroney back in 2006. Does anyone truly believe that head coach Bill Belichick would invest such draft capital into a player he didn't intend to utilize early and often?

Now that Lewis has moved onto Tennessee, there's a thought process that Michel could slide directly into his role. That might be a slight oversimplification, but the fact is, he should be significantly involved from day one.

The Patriots are annually one of the NFL's best offenses. If Michel can avoid hold onto the football (Belichick hates fumlbers), he should enjoy a sizable workload and will likely be presented with plenty of scoring opportunities as long as Tom Brady remains under center. Oh, and you can scoop him up with a late fifth-round pick. What's not to like?

### **Ronald Jones II (TB) Current ADP: 61st overall, RB28**

As the summer rolls along, I think people are sleeping on Jones a little bit. For a highlight-reel player coming out of a major college program, there seems to be some skepticism about his early-career NFL workload and impact. But there shouldn't be.

For starters, Doug Martin is out of town, and he's taken 147 running back touches with him. Only Peyton Barber, Charles Sims, and Jacquizz Rodgers remain in the mix.

Barber flashed some ability down the stretch in 2017, but still failed to exceed four yards per carry, Sims has been primarily utilized as a receiving back and has had his share of durability issues, and Rodgers has mixed in as a veteran utility player. I can assure you, the Buccaneers didn't spend the 38th overall pick on Jones to have him sit behind this trio. The former USC Trojan was drafted to be the team's top back for years into the future and can be a home-run hitter for this offense in a way that none of his competitors can.

The three-game suspension recently handed down to quarterback Jameis Winston means the Bucs will likely need to rely on the running game early in the season, allowing the rookie to see a heavier workload than initially expected. When Winston

returns, the Bucs could be a terrific offense, which is even better for Jones' prospects. There are a lot of rookie runners who find themselves with veteran competition, but Jones might have the easiest path to a starting role of any of them. There's value to be had here.

**Royce Freeman (DEN) Current ADP: 83rd overall, RB26**

Sleeper alert. Freeman was underrated as a prospect coming out of college, and as the lowest-drafted man on this list (selected in the third round), he's going slightly overlooked based upon his ADP. While there's a lot to like about Freeman, how's this for a starting point? Per Player Profiler, his closest NFL comparable is Steven Jackson. That will do nicely.

In Denver, Freeman's main competition for the starting role will be Devontae Booker and De'Angelo Henderson. Booker struggled over the first two years of his career, and was often outplayed by C.J. Anderson, while Henderson is a former sixth-round pick with seven NFL carries to his name. Head coach Vance Joseph has already stated that Freeman could "absolutely" emerge as the team's lead back, as well. There is a little concern about the incredibly high-volume workload he shouldered at Oregon (1,026 total touches), but if anything, he's proved that he can handle being a featured runner.

A third-round pick with a strong resume landing on a team with a somewhat unproven incumbent starter? I'm not saying Freeman is Kareem Hunt 2.0, but he could similarly surprise people. Don't let him sneak up on you. At his current ADP, he could be a potential league winner.

**Kerryon Johnson (DET) Current ADP: 84th overall, RB37**

The Lions have been the worst running team in football for years now. If you've heard that they haven't had a 100-yard day from a tailback since 2013 one time, you've likely heard it a hundred others.

But what about Johnson? Can he be the answer to the team's long-time rushing woes? Perhaps.

Admittedly, it's looking like a crowded house in the team's backfield. Receiving specialist Theo Riddick remains in the mix, the franchise signed veteran runner LeGarrette Blount in free agency, and Ameer Abdullah could still see some action here and there. A rookie tailback in a true committee on the league's worst rushing attack doesn't sound too appealing.

But there's a lot more to this story. The Lions have invested an incredible amount of resources into improving the offensive line in recent years, signing big-money free agents like T.J. Lang and Rick Wagner, while spending first-round selections on Taylor Decker and Frank Ragnow. This unit has been the top priority during Bob Quinn's

tenure as general manager, and this is finally the season where it could all come together.

Furthermore, keeping up with the running theme of draft capital, the Lions gave up their own second and fourth-round picks to move up eight slots and select Johnson with the 43rd overall pick of the draft. The team assigned quite a bit of value to the 2017 SEC Offensive Player of the Year. In short, he's going to see a lot of touches. It may take some time, but I expect Johnson to be the leader of this committee, and his patient running style could be just what this offense has been lacking.

**Nick Chubb (CLE) Current ADP 111th overall, RB41**

As a running back prospect, Chubb is as talented as almost anyone on this list, but he didn't land in the ideal situation from a fantasy perspective. The Browns signed Carlos Hyde in free agency and recently locked up pass-catching stud Duke Johnson for years to come. As such, Chubb will fight for running back snaps on an offense that also includes quality passing game options like Josh Gordon, Jarvis Landry, David Njoku, and Corey Coleman. For Chubb, it's not a question of ability, but merely opportunity.

But does this mean he can't make an impact during his first season? Of course not. Recent reports indicate that Chubb has a legitimate chance to lead this backfield in early-down carries, which would be huge for his fantasy prospects.

The Browns could be one of the league's most improved offenses in 2018, and a role as the team's lead back could prove to be much more valuable than in years past. If this comes to fruition, Chubb would be a quality contributor and an incredible steal on draft day. Keep an eye on his ADP, however, because it has nowhere to go but up.

## IMPACT DYNASTY ROOKIES

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

Most of the questions I get throughout the offseason are often focused on dynasty leagues, but more specifically, which players to target in rookie drafts. While I did release my top-50 dynasty rookie, it's really a loaded question.

When going into a rookie draft, you have to understand your roster and be honest with yourself about it. You can't always just take the best player available, just like your favorite NFL team can't always take best player available. You have to understand the holes on your roster and attack them heavily in the draft. It could make the difference between winning a championship and simply having depth on your roster.

With that being said, there are some of you out there who will be competing for a dynasty championship in 2018 and want to know the players who can help you immediately. While it's impossible to grab just anyone (because your draft slot may not allow you to get them), I'm going to list some players who should be considered immediate contributors in fantasy.

### **Saquon Barkley (RB – NYG)**

This one is literally too obvious, but I'd get yelled at if he wasn't on this list. He's going to walk in and be given over 300 touches in his rookie year. Playing alongside Odell Beckham Jr., Sterling Shepard, and Evan Engram will have its benefits, as it's going to be hard for defenses to load the box just to stop him. If you can get him on your roster, it immediately becomes better.

### **Ronald Jones (RB – TB)**

While I think he's worthy of the 1.03 pick in rookie drafts, you might want to consider him at 1.02 if you're playing for a championship this year. Similar to Barkley, he'll walk into an offense that's filled with playmakers on the field. Jones may not have been used much in the receiving game at USC, but it doesn't mean he won't with the Bucs. As of now, he should walk into 15-plus touches a game and be an immediate contributor.

### **Sony Michel (RB – NE)**

I have Michel as my No. 2 running back in my dynasty rankings, though he comes with slightly more risk than Ronald Jones does. Why? Well, he plays for the Patriots, who has historically been tougher to predict than most teams. He has also had fumbling issues in the past, something Bill Belichick doesn't stand for. Still, the Patriots have finished as a top-three scoring offense every year since 2010 and you don't use a first-round pick on a running back unless you're planning to use him.

### **Derrius Guice (RB – WAS)**

He's going to have more value out of the box than most think, as it's possible that Chris Thompson may not be ready by Week 1 as he recovers from his broken leg. Even if he

is, the Redskins may choose to ease him back into action. Guice is someone who many say comes with baggage (though we aren't sure what that means). Whatever the case, you don't take someone with baggage unless you reap the rewards, which is where his fantasy points will come from.

### **Rashaad Penny (RB – SEA)**

I almost didn't put Penny on this list because I think his value for 2018 is pretty static to his average ranking, but if you need someone to plug into an RB2 slot, he can absolutely do that. The Seahawks are trending in the wrong direction, but as a fantasy owner, you just want touches, something Penny should be given plenty of considering his draft slot at No. 27 overall.

### **Royce Freeman (RB – DEN)**

Some will be concerned about Devontae Booker starting for the Broncos, but you shouldn't be one of them. The only question is how much third-down work will Booker get? Freeman reminds me of Jordan Howard, as someone who is a no-nonsense runner and one who'll get every yard possible. While the Broncos offensive line could use some help, Freeman should fill C.J. Anderson's shoes very nicely as a low-end RB2/high-end RB3, at minimum.

### **Calvin Ridley (WR – ATL)**

Dubbed as the most pro-ready wide receiver to come out of the draft, Ridley will be starting opposite Julio Jones in his rookie season. Jones hasn't been the picture of perfect health over his career, but even without an injury, we saw a much less talented Taylor Gabriel succeed in this offense not long ago. He's not going to be an every week starter, but if you play in a deep league that starts 3 WR and 2 flex spots, he can definitely make an impact.

### **D.J. Moore (WR – CAR)**

Walking on to a team like the Panthers who lack wide receiver depth will surely benefit Moore, and though he's likely to be a tad inconsistent because of his quarterback play, he's going to be a contributor in year one. As of now, it's hard not to project him for at least 70 targets in the Panthers offense, which is enough to put him in the WR4/5 conversation most weeks.

### **Michael Gallup (WR – DAL)**

This is one to pay attention to through training camp, as Gallup can very well earn a starting spot in 2WR sets for the Cowboys, provided they actually give him a chance to do so. He's more talented than any other wide receiver on the roster, including Allen Hurns, though that's who he'd start alongside. If Gallup earns that spot, he's likely to finish as the top-scoring rookie wide receiver.

**James Washington (WR – PIT)**

Had the Steelers not traded away Martavis Bryant, Washington wouldn't be on this list. The fact that his competition is Darrius Heyward-Bey and Justin Hunter is very noteworthy, because he may start from day one. If that's the case, he's someone who can make a fantasy impact with just 4-5 targets per game, as he's one of the best deep-ball trackers in the game.

**Anthony Miller (WR – CHI)**

It's clear the Bears are doing everything they can to provide Mitch Trubisky with weapons, and they traded away a second-round pick next year in order to move up and take Miller in this year's draft. He's going to be the No. 2 receiver behind Allen Robinson, but we saw Trubisky develop a relationship with Kendall Wright over the middle of the field late last year.

**Tre'Quan Smith (WR – NO)**

After trading up in the first-round to select an edge-rusher, the Saints have told you they are in-it-to-win-it in 2018. They followed that pick up by selecting Smith in the third-round, a 6-foot-2 receiver who is known to be able to go up and over cornerbacks to snag the ball. While I'm not projecting him to be a long-term difference-maker, the Saints clearly believe he can help them right now.

**Hayden Hurst (TE – BAL)**

It kind of hurt his projection when the Ravens took Mark Andrews in the third-round, but you don't select a 25-year-old tight end in the first-round if you aren't planning on using him immediately. He was the most pro-ready tight end in the draft and will walk into an offense that has targeted the tight end position 285 times over the last two years – and that was with Dennis Pitta and Ben Watson.



## DYANSTY START-UP STRATEGY

By: Jody Smith (@JodySmithNFL)

Much like each NFL Draft differs in quality and approach, drafting a successful dynasty fantasy football roster can vary wildly from year-to-year. While the primary principals of targeting long term value over an immediate return-on-investment remain the same in all dynasty leagues, there are still different approaches each owner can take to build what they feel is the most competitive dynasty squad.

Evaluation of 2018 dynasty ADP shows us how veteran dynasty players are approaching early dynasty drafts this season. It also opens the door for people who are about to kick off a start-up dynasty league to take advantage of these trends in the market.

Tired and true redraft fantasy draft strategies like being flexible, taking advantage of tiers, and avoiding position runs are all sound advice in any draft and can be useful tools in dynasty start-ups as well. If you're new to dynasty or are looking for tips to field a strong roster in the inaugural year of your league, here are some tips and strategies that might give you the edge in 2018.

### Draft to Win Now

Too often people get fixated on building a team for tomorrow and acquiring tons of prospects and future draft capital. That doesn't always end up working out for the inner Sashi Brown in all of us. While planning on tomorrow, many drafters miss out on the opportunity to win now.

Of course, you want to take the future into account. I love Larry Fitzgerald, but if I'm almost as high on Allen Robinson and both are on the board, clearly taking Robinson is the play. But when owners start disregarding established stars still in their prime or continue to trade down for future picks, they might be doing more harm than good.

I understand that joining a dynasty is supposed to be a dozen or more committed owners who are in it for the long haul, but most of the time, you'll see annual turnover. Usually by the third year, half of the league is new owners. It's hard to focus on building a future Patriots dynasty if you can't keep a league at full strength from season-to-season.

There's a thin line between targeting youth and making sensible choices. If you're in a situation where seasoned veterans keep falling into your lap, be able to scoop them up, change your approach, and build the inaugural championship roster. Not only will you have bragging rights and possibly even be able to pay for your next few entry fees, if you're a regular FantasyPros reader, you're going to have access to the best resources out there that will more than help you prepare to defend that title for years to come.

## **Don't Rush the Draft**

Established dynasty leagues typically have a draft consisting of incoming rookies or veteran players that weren't even good enough to be on any roster at the conclusion of the previous season. It's entirely acceptable to get excited at the end of the NFL Draft and hurry to kick off a four-round draft as soon as possible.

But as we all know, lots can happen in OTAs and the preseason and the rookies that are red-hot commodities in May can have trouble adjusting to the pro game and get buried on a depth chart. That's all part of the strategy for veteran dynasty drafters, but in a start-up, avoiding these traps can quickly sink a roster and lead to owners new to this type of league to lose interest, which isn't good for anybody.

Holding off on your initial draft can change the strategy for each owner, but will undoubtedly lead to a much different draft than one that took place too early. Later drafts can also pay off massively for informed owners willing to take a chance on players that they value in the long term but have seemingly slipped or gotten injured in the preseason.

## **Avoid the Rookie Hype**

Saquon Barkley is considered a generational talent, so there's no fault with taking him in the first round of any draft, especially a first-year dynasty. But after Barkley, there's not a consensus of who should be next, other than attacking the young running backs is a solid strategy.

Sony Michel could be a monster when you consider the landing spot and the fact that Bill Belichick spent a first-rounder on a running back. But what kind of role with Michel have with Rex Burkhead and James White also in the mix? Also, could Michel find himself riding the pine after his first fumble?

Seattle's Rashad Penny looks like a good bet to pay off, but what about the Seahawks offensive line and Penny's three-down ability? Nick Chubb did not land in an ideal spot, Ronald Jones is expected to split time, and Derrius Guice is unlikely to have much of a role in the passing game.

Rookie wide receivers are notoriously slow starters, and tight ends generally take two to three years to adjust to the NFL. Calvin Ridley, D.J. Moore, Mike Gesicki, Courtland Sutton, and many other pass-catchers are great additions to any dynasty roster, but if you're trying to win right out of the gate, their current cost is likely higher than you're targeting.

It's entirely fine to covet the admittedly intriguing 2018 class of rookies. Just don't reach for an unproven commodity simply because rookies are all that you hear about in the spring when quality veterans are forgotten about in drafts. As rookies and draft picks go hand in hand, being cautious of the inflated rookie ADP coincides with our next point...

### **Don't Overvalue Future Draft Picks**

The most significant struggle for dynasty newcomers is placing an appropriate value on future draft picks. This is often exasperated by other owners that are constantly driving up the cost of those picks by proposing an outlandish price for future draft compensation.

Like I mentioned earlier, Saquon Barkley is a generational talent, and there's little chance that 2019 will offer up a player that's anywhere near his stature, even though it appears to be another solid draft class. Another factor that hurts is that we had Kareem Hunt lead the NFL in rushing and Alvin Kamara was fantastic in his first season. Deshaun Watson put on a clinic in his six starts, Juju Smith-Schuster exceeded all expectations, and we even had a rookie tight end, Evan Engram, be an immediate factor as a rookie.

All of these performances are fresh in everyone's minds and helping drive up the cost of the 2018 rookie class and also future draft capital. Don't disregard 2019 picks, but expecting a repeat of last year's freshman performances is a risky proposition.

### **Running Backs Control the Strategy**

Kareem Hunt and Alvin Kamara are also now firmly in the conversation for first-round dynasty consideration, along with Todd Gurley, Ezekiel Elliott, Le'Veon Bell, David Johnson, and Saquon Barkley. The re-emergence of dynamic young running backs has a two-fold effect on assembling a dynasty roster.

First, running backs go much faster than they customarily do in re-draft leagues and that means the pool of dependable runners dries up quickly. In many of the dynasty drafts and mocks I've participated in, 15 or more running backs are off the board by the end of the third round, and the drop-off to the next tier is harsh. Miss the boat and you could be trotting out a starting lineup of Derrick Henry and Jay Ajayi — fine players, but neither are good bets to get enough touches or have enough involvement as pass-catchers to finish as top-20 PPR backs.

Conversely, that "zig when your opponent's zag" strategy dictates those wide receivers, who typically are much safer bets from a health and PPR standpoint, are going to slide in drafts. It's quite easy, and tempting, to begin a draft WR/WR or even to take three wideouts right out of the gate when a proven player like Amari Cooper — -who is only six months older than Calvin Ridley — is staring you in the face as a fantastic WR3.

Just know that hoarding wideouts is likely to cost you at running back, which might not be a deterrent if you feel confident in landing pass-catching specialists like Duke Johnson and Tarik Cohen later on. In short, pay close attention to tiers and know when it's the right time to pull the trigger on a position of depleting quality, or know when it's time to take advantage of amazing, unexpected value.

### **Grab an Elite Veteran QB**

By the time the NFL Draft wrapped up, I'd finished writing stat projections for every skill position player in football. Not everybody is insane patient enough to do that, but I walked away feeling pretty confident that I could probably field a competitive weekly lineup with some 25 NFL signal-callers.

It's an embarrassment of riches and one that is only looking deeper with the looming arrival of young guns like Jimmy Garoppolo, Patrick Mahomes, and Mitchell Trubisky. Not to mention a 2018 draft class that boasts five incoming first-round passers.

What that means is there's plenty of quality quarterbacks to go around, and they're likely to slide in a start-up. That makes the opportunity to lock up an elite, top-five quarterback an intriguing one in the fourth or fifth round of a start-up, and even later if you're willing to target a Drew Brees or Tom Brady.

Aaron Rodgers can regularly be nabbed in the mid-to-late fourth round and should have plenty of QB1 years remaining. Cam Newton just turned 29 and was the QB2 last season. Matthew Stafford and Kirk Cousins are still in their prime and are overlooked every year.

Targeting young throwers like Deshaun Watson and Carson Wentz is ideal, but don't be afraid to nab a proven starter that likely has more years left than players of yesteryear did. Philip Rivers, Drew Brees, and Tom Brady are defying those odds by continuing to produce at an elite level, even into their 40s. Pairing a trusty veteran with one of the growing group of talented young passers is an excellent strategy for giving your dynasty squad an edge now and one that can last well into the next decade.

### **Bookmark the FantasyPros Dynasty Trade Value Chart**

Trading is part of the fun of fantasy football, but ask 12 owners to evaluate a player's value, and you might get 12 completely different answers. It can be frustrating and difficult for a team in "win now" mode to complete a trade with an owner who overvalues future draft pick compensation.

Fortunately, our very own Mike Tagliere has come to the rescue by creating a thorough dynasty trade value chart that helps owners compare and contrast the value of dynasty

draft pick compensation against the current and future value of established veterans. This is a tremendous tool that can be used to give you an edge in trade negotiations and to help assure that both parties walk away from a fair deal, hopefully strengthening both teams and the league.

## 15 UNDERVALUED DYNASTY PLAYERS

By: FantasyPros Staff

With the news circling that Hunter Henry has torn his ACL at the Chargers OTAs on Tuesday, he has become the first in what will (unfortunately) likely be several fantasy relevant players facing season-ending injuries before ever getting to play a down in the upcoming season. We're sadly used to seeing the same string of offseason or preseason injuries each year, and it's undoubtedly the bane of all dynasty owners' existence.

Whether you've already drafted and are a Henry owner or are getting ready for your dynasty draft, we asked experts in the industry to point out some undervalued players you should consider adding to your team.

### ***Q1. Which running back is currently the most undervalued in our latest dynasty rankings?***

#### **Sony Michel (NE)**

"While I usually pass on rookies in startup dynasty leagues, the running back position continues to go younger and younger. Because of that, it's a crime to see Sony Michel down at No. 20 in the running back rankings. He's a young, three-down back who will play from day one because of how well he can pass-block. He's essentially stepping into the old Dion Lewis role in a top-three scoring offense. Running backs drafted in the first-round carry a ton of value, especially ones who are as well-rounded as Michel is. He's currently my No. 13 running back in dynasty formats."

– Mike Tagliere (FantasyPros)

#### **Aaron Jones (GB)**

"Jones sitting outside the top 30 running backs might end up looking pretty foolish if he goes on to win the starting job in Green Bay. Prior to his knee injury, Jones appeared to be on the verge of a rookie breakout, posting two 100-yard outings and giving the Packers a new dynamic in their rushing attack. Jones averaged nearly two yards more than teammate Jamaal Williams on a per carry basis and is the far superior athlete, despite being taken a round later in the 2017 NFL Draft. We can't overlook the possibility that Mike McCarthy's staff decides to trot out Williams as the lead back, or turns the backfield into a timeshare, but Jones is the only Packers runner with the potential to be a league-winning RB1 in fantasy."

– Justin Boone (theScore)

#### **Alex Collins (BAL)**

"He didn't even receive double-digit carries until Week 5, but Alex Collins still finished as the RB15 in standard scoring leagues last season (RB19 in PPR) and is just 23 years old. Collins isn't the best pass catcher out of the backfield but still managed to haul in 23

receptions and should be the focal point of the Baltimore offense. He's an excellent value all the way down at RB35."

– Jody Smith (FantasyPros)

### **Corey Clement (PHI)**

"Clement appears to have carved out a decent role for himself with the Eagles. His role in Philadelphia's Super Bowl win also shows the trust that the Eagles' coaching staff appear to have in him. His current rank of 63rd among running backs puts him below Marshawn Lynch, who is near the end of his career, DeMarco Murray, who is unsigned as of this article, and Mike Davis, who is buried on Seattle's depth chart. Clement's role has the potential to grow in the coming seasons, and he is a very solid sleeper pick in dynasty leagues."

– The FFGhost (Dynasty League Football)

### **Joe Mixon (CIN)**

"He may have had character concerns going into last year's draft, but there was never any denying this kid's talent. With Jeremy Hill out of the picture, this explosive young talent is headed for a huge role and potentially years of a feature back role. He only flashed his elite ability as a rookie, but the upside is mouth-watering."

– Kevin Roberts (Breaking Football)

## ***Q2. Which wide receiver is currently the most undervalued in our latest dynasty rankings?***

### **Doug Baldwin (SEA)**

"It's often hard to find wide receivers who are undervalued in dynasty, but one who stood out to me was Doug Baldwin, who has now finished as a top-13 receiver in each of the last three seasons, while Jimmy Graham was a big part of the offense for all of them. He still scored 29 touchdowns in those seasons, which ranks second to only Antonio Brown among wide receivers. Sure, he's getting older, but he's a smaller receiver whose body doesn't take the toll that some of the bigger wide receivers deal with. As the 22nd wide receiver off the board, you aren't getting a more sure thing than Baldwin."

– Mike Tagliere (FantasyPros)

### **Kenny Stills (MIA)**

"Stills is insanely undervalued in both dynasty and redraft right now. A big part of that is the never-ending love for DeVante Parker's potential. But at some point we need to question whether the former first-rounder is ever going to deliver. With all eyes on Parker, Stills has flown under the radar following back-to-back seasons as a top-30 fantasy receiver. The 26-year-old has seen his numbers rise each season in Miami, and the departure of Jarvis Landry and his 161 targets should help Stills continue that trend. He's a player you should be trying to acquire in every league heading into 2018."

– Justin Boone (theScore)

**Devin Funchess (CAR)**

“Funchess just turned 24 years old and has only gotten better each season in the NFL. Now entering his prime as Carolina’s undisputed No. 1 wideout, Funchess has a top-20 season already under his belt, yet is going after the overrated DeVante Parker in dynasty drafts and only one spot ahead of washed-up Dez Bryant.”

– Jody Smith (FantasyPros)

**Allen Hurns (DAL)**

“With the departure of Dez Bryant, Allen Hurns could see a solid boost in his fantasy value. Yes, the Cowboys drafted Michael Gallup and Cedrick Wilson to help address that loss, but Hurns has shown he can post impressive numbers with solid quarterback play in the past. I really do love the upside potential here.”

– The FFGhost (Dynasty League Football)

**Adam Thielen (MIN)**

“I’m not sure what this guy needs to do to get everyone’s respect. He’s an explosive talent that can also rack up receptions, making him a viable threat in all formats. The season he had in 2017 with Case Keenum (91-1,276-4) was special, but just think of his upside with a QB upgrade in Kirk Cousins.”

– Kevin Roberts (Breaking Football)

***Q3. Which quarterback is currently the most undervalued in our latest dynasty rankings?*****Baker Mayfield (CLE) | Mitch Trubisky (CHI)**

“I’d like to call this one a tie, as both Baker Mayfield and Mitch Trubisky are being undervalued big time. I have Mayfield ranked higher, but the pending coaching change will determine a lot, as most underestimate the effect that a coach can have on a quarterback’s career. The Browns and Bears both completely revamped their pass-catching corps, as you can argue that both teams have a top-five group when you combine the wide receivers, tight ends, and running backs. Trubisky’s group might be a tad better because they’re all under contract for a long time and he’s got one what’s supposed to be one of the best offensive minds in the game with Matt Nagy.”

– Mike Tagliere (FantasyPros)

**Matthew Stafford (DET)**

“Stafford has finished as a fantasy QB1 in seven consecutive seasons, so it’s a little surprising to see someone with that kind of consistency ranked outside the top 12. Dynasty owners might be concerned Stafford is past his prime, entering his 10th NFL season, but the 30-year-old is younger than most quarterbacks with his tenure. With a strong receiving corps that features Marvin Jones, Golden Tate, and promising sophomore Kenny Golladay, Stafford should have several seasons as a quality fantasy starter still in front of him.”



– Justin Boone (theScore)

### **Dak Prescott (DAL)**

“Prescott is almost two full years younger than Jimmy Garoppolo and has started his career with two consecutive top-10 fantasy seasons, yet Prescott is currently being taken seven spots behind Jimmy G in dynasty drafts.”

– Jody Smith (FantasyPros)

### **Andy Dalton (CIN)**

“Look, am I saying Dalton will be the league MVP? No. However, this is a very solid fantasy quarterback who people love to hate on for a variety of reasons. He is ranked behind Eli Manning, who fantasy owners love to put down, and Ryan Tannehill, who is coming off a severe knee injury and lost his best receiving target. He’s also ranked behind Tyrod Taylor, who is not only in Cleveland, but also has a very tenuous hold on his starting position with the addition of Baker Mayfield. I think I’d take my chances on Dalton’s worst season in any given year over many of the best seasons of several quarterbacks ranked higher than him.”

– The FFGhost (Dynasty League Football)

### **Derek Carr (OAK)**

“If you’re thinking about 2018 and the future, how is Carr the 14th best option? Carr has proven to be a true gamer when healthy, and he’s got a star-studded cast around him with Amari Cooper and Martavis Bryant leading the way. The arrival of Jon Gruden has been met with skepticism, but this is still a guy that helped Rich Gannon and Brad Johnson to career years.”

– Kevin Roberts (Breaking Football)

### ***Bonus Pick:***

#### **Michael Gallup (WR – DAL)**

“When is it too soon to consider a rookie, who has yet to play a snap in the NFL, undervalued in dynasty? Less than a month after the draft is probably a fair answer, sure, but I can’t help but get excited when I see that Michael Gallup is ranked as a low-end dynasty WR4. Now, some may consider this opinion a product of “rookie fever” or “recency bias,” and I get that, but how can one not value immediate opportunity on top of baked-in dynasty potential? Dez Bryant is gone, Jason Witten is gone, Terrance Williams was recently arrested, and Allen Hurns is a deep threat for Dak Prescott, the 27th ranked quarterback in deep throw percentage last season. To me, even before the Williams news, Gallup was already primed to be Prescott’s primary beneficiary. He’s quick off the snap and can work the middle of the field, an area that Dallas must exploit to maintain Ezekiel Elliott’s and Prescott’s run game effectiveness. Gallup should lead all Dallas receivers in yards this year and maintain a useful role on the offense for seasons to come. Put all of these pieces together, and it paints a relatively clear fantasy WR2 picture, not WR4.”

– Robert Waziak (Pyromaniac)

## FINDING DYNASTY VALUE FROM 2017'S ROOKIES

By: Mike Tagliere (@MikeTagliereNFL)

Each and every year, dynasty owners get hyped up about that one guy who they're going to steal in the third-round of their rookie draft. News flash: that often doesn't work out. But still, everyone loves shiny new toys, until they aren't new anymore.

But we aren't the type that needs shiny new toys to play with. We're the crowd that just wants our toys to work when we want to use them. Because of that, we're going to go back in time to the 2017 rookie class, find those once shiny new toys and bring them back to life, only much cheaper.

These are players who have found themselves onto the waiver wire in some leagues, or at the bottom of the bench in others. They can be acquired for pennies on the dollar from where they were last year and might not even take very long to produce on your fantasy team. These players are the ones who build a foundation for your bench.

### **John Ross (WR – CIN)**

Did you know that Ross was drafted as high as 1.06 in rookie drafts last year? He was a consensus top-12 pick, only now he can be had for as little as a third-round pick in rookie drafts. Don't believe me? I just did it in one of my leagues. It's never ideal when a player gets benched for a fumble in his rookie year, but if Marvin Lewis doesn't get the most out of their top-10 draft pick, he's going to be shown the door. Ross' ceiling is of the T.Y. Hilton variety. Yes, I'm serious.

### **Carlos Henderson (WR – DEN)**

I took a peek at startup dynasty ADP the other day and saw Henderson outside the top 100 wide receivers. This blew my mind, as he was considered a top-20 player in the draft last year. While some may have lowered him due to the Broncos pick of Courtland Sutton this year, you shouldn't be one of them. They play completely different positions and it's only going to help when Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders are no longer with the team in 2019. They both carry extremely high salaries and can be released for a minimal cap hit. Henderson is likely to start in 3WR sets this year, and we all know how much Case Keenum loved Adam Thielen out of the slot while in Minnesota.

### **Taywan Taylor (WR – TEN)**

While everyone looks over at Corey Davis for a sophomore breakout, Taylor is a player who is going to see a massive increase in his workload in 2018. With Eric Decker gone, Taylor will be a full-time player out of the slot for the Titans. Not just that, but Rishard Matthews is also slated to be a free agent after the 2018 season, meaning Taylor's route to 80-plus targets is very possible. That's rare to say about someone who isn't among the top 80 wide receivers drafted in startups.

**ArDarius Stewart and Chad Hansen (WR – NYJ)**

Stewart is a do-it-all wide receiver who was stuck in a limited role last year, while Hansen played roughly 100 more snaps than him. With Robby Anderson continually in trouble with the law, he's facing a suspension from the commissioner, and Jermaine Kearse will be a free agent after this season (he can actually be a cap casualty if they choose – no cap hit). If you watched Terrelle Pryor last year, you're not worried about him, which leaves Quincy Enunwa, Stewart, and Hansen as the ones who'll be there once Sam Darnold takes over. Taking a flier on them wouldn't be the worst idea.

**Jake Butt (TE – DEN)**

There are a lot of people out there wondering what the Broncos are going to do at tight end after they didn't take one of the top names in the NFL Draft. Well, that's likely because they're going to be relying on Butt bouncing back from his ACL injury that he suffered last year. Had he not torn his ACL, Butt would have been in the conversation to be selected in the first two rounds of the draft. He's someone who I compared to Jason Witten coming out of Michigan, though obviously not as polished. Tight end often takes time to develop, so you could wait longer to buy him, but he doesn't have to beat out much talent to get to the top of the depth chart.

**Joe Williams (RB – SF)**

Let me begin by saying that I never thought Williams was a threat to Carlos Hyde's starting job. I don't even love the player, but knowing that he was selected with such capital in the draft (fourth-round), he shouldn't simply be dismissed. Jerick McKinnon has struggled throughout his career on first- and second-down, and Matt Breida is just a guy by all accounts. Opportunity is everything to running backs and it's possible that Williams winds up getting more carries than anyone wants to admit in what should be a high-scoring offense with Jimmy Garoppolo under center.

**Chad Williams (WR – ARI)**

After losing both John Brown and Jaron Brown in free agency, the Cardinals didn't go out and snag any big-name wide receivers, only Brice Butler. Then the NFL Draft came, and they did take a wide receiver with a high pick (Christian Kirk), only he plays out of the slot the majority of time. This leaves Butler and J.J. Nelson as the only competition for the Cardinals former third-round pick. On top of the lack of competition for targets, Williams will have Josh Rosen throwing to him before long.

PLAYER	NOTES
Todd Gurley (RB - LAR)	After a historical campaign where he scored 21.3 standard points per game (most since Chris Johnson's magical 2009 season), Gurley sits atop the draft rankings. The Rams did go out and acquire Brandin Cooks, but they also re-built their entire defense, which should only lead to more rushing attempts for Gurley. He's as safe as they come atop the draft.
Le'Veon Bell (RB - PIT)	Despite having a less-successful year than his 2016 campaign, Bell still finished No. 2 among fantasy running backs. His contract dispute is not going away any time soon, which moves him down under Todd Gurley due to safety. We fully expect Bell to suit-up when the lights come on in Week 1, but there's always a chance he doesn't. Another added risk is that he'll have a new offensive coordinator in 2018, though Randy Fichtner doesn't appear to be shy running a fast-paced offense.
Saquon Barkley (RB - NYG)	When a team selects a running back with the No. 2 overall pick in today's game, they're going to use him, a lot. Last year in Pat Shurmur's offense, then-rookie Dalvin Cook totaled 71 touches in the team's first three games before getting hurt in Week 4. His pace was 379 total touches, which would have ranked No. 2 behind only Todd Gurley. Unlike Ezekiel Elliott, Barkley won't even be the opponent's biggest fear as long as Odell Beckham Jr. is on the field. With Barkley suffering a slight hamstring strain, it's unlikely we see him for much more of the preseason.
Ezekiel Elliott (RB - DAL)	The good news is that the Cowboys offensive line has been replenished in both free agency and the draft. The bad news is that there's little talent surrounding Elliott, which could prove to make life difficult on him. While Dez Bryant and Jason Witten weren't in their primes, they demanded attention from opposing defensive coordinators. Unfortunately, Terrance Williams and Allen Hurns don't. Elliott will get all the work he can handle, which is important but just how efficient can he be?
David Johnson (RB - ARI)	Some have Johnson as high as No. 1 in our consensus rankings, but I'd urge against drafting him with a top-three pick. Did you know that 73.3 percent (22-of-30) of top-six running backs over the last six years have come from top-12 scoring offenses? I'd argue that the Cardinals would likely be a bottom-10 scoring offense in 2018, and there's been just three running backs who have overcome that to become a top-six running back over the last six years. Johnson scored 20 touchdowns in his magical 2016 season, something that's not repeatable. It's also worth noting that since Week 6 of 2016, he's averaged just 3.63 yards per carry on 191 carries. The offensive line wasn't great to begin with and they just lost their starting center for the season. He's still worth a mid-first-round pick, but I'd take someone in a better offense over him.
Antonio Brown (WR - PIT)	My overall ranking might be too low on the No. 1 wide receiver who has now finished inside the top-three at his position in each of the last four years, but passing on a volume running back is hard to do. Brown is as consistent as they come, as he's now posted at least WR2 numbers in 57 of his last 77 games, which amounts to 74 percent of the time. The only wide receivers who were able to accomplish that in just one year (2017) were Deandre Hopkins and Michael Thomas. He's the No. 1 wide receiver and it's not even debatable at this point. He's like a fine wine that gets better with age. If you want to take him as the third player off the board, there's no issue with that.

Alvin Kamara (RB - NO)	Did you know that Kamara scored more fantasy points on just his receiving totals than Amari Cooper, Sammy Watkins, and Jordy Nelson did in 2017? His 826 yards and five touchdowns would've ranked 24th among wide receivers. We're talking about a running back. Even if we dial back some of his efficiency, the suspension of Mark Ingram can give him some touches to help compensate. It's only natural that a player going into year two would receive more touches, anyway. The over/under for his touch total should be around 250 this year.
Leonard Fournette (RB - JAC)	If we could guarantee that Fournette would stay on the field for all 16 games, he'd be worthy of a top-five pick, but his foot troubles are a concern. Not only did Blake Bortles start to play competently toward the end of the season, but the Jaguars added Andrew Norwell in free agency, who is one of the best offensive guards in football. Fournette should see some lighter fronts en route to another top-10 finish.
Julio Jones (WR - ATL)	If you're fortunate to land Jones late in the first, consider yourself one lucky person. While some have said he's inconsistent, the numbers tell a different story. He's finished with WR1 numbers in 40.4 percent of his career games, which ranks second to only Odell Beckham Jr. since 2001. If you think he's too "boom or bust," the only players who have posted a higher WR3 percentage than his (73.4 percent) are Beckham Jr., Antonio Brown, A.J. Green, and Michael Thomas. He's a stud who is due for some positive touchdown regression. He might be the only one who can compete with Brown for the top wide receiver spot. While some will say Calvin Ridley could steal some targets, he will also put safeties away from Jones at times.
Melvin Gordon (RB - LAC)	After a disappointing rookie campaign, Gordon has been among the most consistent running backs in fantasy football the last two years, posting RB2 or better numbers in 24-of-29 games. His durability is a concern, though, as he missed five games over his first two years, and parts of others in 2017. The Chargers figure to be a high-scoring team once again in 2018, which bodes well for his chances of finishing as a top-12 running back for the third straight season. He's never discussed among the elites at his position, but he belongs in the tier with Leonard Fournette and Alvin Kamara.
Odell Beckham Jr. (WR - NYG)	It's now a 47-game sample size, so we have plenty of data to analyze him against. Beckham Jr. has posted WR1 numbers in 48.9 percent of those games, which is simply ridiculous. Just how ridiculous? Well, the closest wide receiver to his totals over the last 15 years is Julio Jones, who has hit the WR1 mark in 40.4 percent of his games. The addition of Saquon Barkley is likely to take away some of his massive potential, but he's still a generational talent that is going to be heavily involved. Don't overthink it, he's good.
Dalvin Cook (RB - MIN)	After totaling 71 touches over the first three games, Cook didn't get to show us much of a sample size, though what we did see looked promising. One downfall is that Pat Shurmur is no longer calling plays for the Vikings, though some are excited to see what Joe DiFilippo can do in that role. Still, the defense is as good as ever, which is only good news for Cook's projected attempts. After analyzing the strength of schedule in our own way, Cook had the best schedule among all running backs. While Latavius Murray will get some work, there's little reason to believe that Cook isn't the workhorse who gets 65-70 percent of the touches.

Kareem Hunt (RB - KC)	<p>Last offseason, I was telling fantasy players to draft both Spencer Ware and Kareem Hunt (when they were both going outside the top seven rounds) because you were guaranteed RB1 production out of one of them. When Ware went down, I pounded the table for Hunt as a late second-round pick under Andy Reid. He ran with the job, so he's the clear-cut starter for them in 2018, and it's a team who packs some serious offensive firepower, provided Pat Mahomes is the real deal. There's tons of mouths to feed between Hunt, Sammy Watkins, Tyreek Hill, and Travis Kelce, but I'll remind you that you want Reid's starting running back no matter who it is. Hunt just happened to show you that he's an above average running back last year, breaking an NFL-high 19 runs of more than 15 yards. They accounted for 521 yards, or 39.3 percent of his season total. With the defense crumbling in Kansas City, the pass attempts are likely to rise, which means the rush attempts could fall. Hunt is still likely to finish as an RB1, but don't expect him to finish top-five.</p>
DeAndre Hopkins (WR - HOU)	<p>There are a lot of fantasy football owners going gaga over Hopkins in 2018, but I'd warn you to proceed with caution. Not only did the Texans throw a lot more than they wanted to in 2017 because of all the injuries on the defensive side of the ball, but the 9.3 percent touchdown rate by Deshaun Watson is completely inflated. While Hopkins remains one of the safest wide receivers due to his volume, you don't want to pay for last year's performance. Don't forget that he finished as the WR36 in 2016 while seeing 151 targets. I get it, Watson is better than what he's had, but temper those expectations. There were an incredible 10 games where Hopkins saw 11 or more targets in 2017, while no other wide receiver totaled more than eight of those games.</p>
Michael Thomas (WR - NO)	<p>What Thomas lacked in upside in 2017, he made up for with consistency, as he was finished with WR2 or better numbers 75 percent of the time, which ranked second to only Deandre Hopkins. Should some of Alvin Kamara's regression go Thomas' way, you'll be getting a steal in the second-round, as he'll finish as a top-five wide receiver. Most don't realize that he finished top-eight last year despite scoring just five times. As long as Drew Brees is his quarterback, Thomas is worth a top-20 pick in any format. Since 2011, Thomas' 80.6 percent rate of finishing as a WR3 or better is the best in football, with Antonio Brown right behind him at 79.2 percent.</p>
Davante Adams (WR - GB)	<p>After many wrote him off after his first two seasons, Adams has top-three wide receiver in his range of possibilities in 2018. I mean, the guy finished as a top-12 wide receiver with Brett Hundley starting the majority of the season. He'll now be the No. 1 wide receiver for Aaron Rodgers, which makes him as safe as they come at the position. He's scored 17 touchdowns in his last 22 games with Rodgers under center. The chemistry they've built cannot be understated, while Rodgers doesn't have much familiarity on the rest of the roster. Adams will see No. 1 cornerbacks seemingly every week now, but he'll still return WR1 value.</p>
Keenan Allen (WR - LAC)	<p>After starting out the season extremely slow (595 yards, one touchdown through the first nine games), Allen exploded over the final seven games of the season, posting 798 yards and five touchdowns. His emergence came as the team started to move away from Antonio Gates, who is no longer with the team in 2018. The concern with him is that Mike Williams (who they drafted in the top-10 last year) will see much more playing time and is a real red zone threat, though the loss of Hunter Henry definitely clears up some targets. Allen has been a fantasy asset when he's on the field, so there's little reason to doubt him now. The lone problem is that Mike Williams is going to be "a thing" in the red zone, potentially limiting Allen's touchdown ceiling.</p>
A.J. Green (WR - CIN)	<p>Over Green's career, he's posted WR3 or better numbers in 76.2 percent of his games. The only wide receivers who have better numbers over their careers are Michael Thomas and Odell Beckham Jr. Despite the Bengals offense being extremely underwhelming in 2017, Green still somehow managed to finish top-10 for the fourth time in the last six years. He may never make it to the top-three, but he's consistent enough to warrant a second-round pick. The fact that John Ross is now across from him should open things up underneath.</p>

Devonta Freeman (RB - ATL)	Freeman has lost some of his luster with Tevin Coleman becoming more and more involved, but he's still a fantasy producer. The reason to be pessimistic about him, though, is that he received 12 or fewer carries in eight of his final 10 games in 2017. That's going to make it tough to produce as the top-10 running back that he is, though his work in the receiving game helps. He doesn't have top-three upside as long as Coleman is healthy, but he'll likely produce as an RB2 or better the majority of time, something that's hard to find later in drafts.
Joe Mixon (RB - CIN)	Most have somehow forgotten how highly-touted Mixon was coming out of Oklahoma. He's a true three-down workhorse running back that can handle 20-plus touches per game if they want him to, and that's exactly how they treated him once Jeremy Hill went down last year, as he averaged 17.6 touches per game from Week 8-12 before he hurt his ankle in Week 13. Those 17.6 touches per game would've ranked as the 13th most among running backs last year. If the Bengals can become a competent offense once again after rebuilding the offensive line, Mixon has top-five upside. In the preseason opener, Mixon was all over the field, including lining up at wide receiver where he caught a touchdown.
Jordan Howard (RB - CHI)	In standard formats, feel free to draft Howard in the second-round, as he's going to be the workhorse on first- and second-down for new head coach Matt Nagy, who comes from Andy Reid's tutelage. Howard has been one of the most reliable runners in football the last two years, averaging 4.61 yards per carry while the defense knew exactly what they were doing, with no other real threat on the field for a majority of those games. His lack of passing-down work limits his upside, but he's extremely safe in standard because there isn't another running back on the roster who can net 200-plus carries. He's essentially the Demaryius Thomas of running backs where he won't win you your league, but won't lose it.
Mike Evans (WR - TB)	Anyone who drafted Evans last year has a bad taste in their mouth, though we've always said that touchdowns are the hardest thing to predict, even when you're 6-foot-5 and 231 pounds. Evans now has two 12 touchdown seasons under his belt, but the other two netted a combined eight touchdowns. Still, he's now produced 1,000 yards in each of his four seasons, which is something you need to value. If Jameis Winston takes a step forward in his career, Evans could be right back in the first-round conversation next year. The suspension to Winston for the first three weeks might turn out to be okay, because if you recall, Ryan Fitzpatrick produced two top-20 wide receivers with the Jets just a couple years ago in Brandon Marshall and Eric Decker.
Christian McCaffrey (RB - CAR)	The signing of C.J. Anderson most definitely hurt McCaffrey's upside in the Panthers offense, but they weren't going to give him 200 carries regardless of that (yes, I know what Norv Turner said about 25-30 touches per game - he's nuts). McCaffrey's not designed to handle that type of work and Ron Rivera has acknowledged that after Week 1 of last season, so I'm not sure where this is coming from. It also doesn't help that Greg Olsen is back to soak up a lot of targets (averaged 125 targets/year prior to getting hurt in 2017), as is newly-drafted D.J. Moore. While they won't erase what McCaffrey has done for this offense, it's unlikely he sees 113 targets again. Think of him as an Alvin Kamara-lite version whose ceiling may be around the RB10 range in standard formats because Cam Newton is likely the best goal-line back in the NFL.
LeSean McCoy (RB - BUF)	I'm not completely sold on drafting McCoy as a top-12 running back, but it's hard to pass on the volume he'll receive this year. Playing on a team with what's likely to have a rookie under center, behind a now-poor offensive line (lost three starters this offseason), in what's almost guaranteed to be a low-scoring offense? Did I mention that he's going to be 30 years old when the season starts? You can't pass up this type of volume in the second-round, but I wouldn't blame you if you took a wide receiver over him where he's being drafted. As an update, you might be wise pushing McCoy out into the eighth-round, as there could be a looming suspension for some off-the-field acquisitions. You simply cannot risk taking him in the first few rounds with those question marks. He does, however, become a decent option in the third- or fourth-round.

Jerick McKinnon (RB - SF)	No matter how you feel about McKinnon's talent, the 49ers have told you everything you need to know when they paid him \$30 million over four years. You should know that the 49ers could get out of the contract after one year with just a \$1.5 million cap hit in 2019, but that's not why you sign someone like him. They also passed on a lot of running backs in the draft, showing confidence in the guys on the roster. He's never been great on first- and second-down, but unless you believe Matt Breida or Joe Williams is going to walk into 15 carries per game, you need to rank McKinnon aggressively. He figures to be the Devonta Freeman of Kyle Shanahan's offense, which we know is extremely valuable. With the news coming out that he's dealing with a calf strain, it should make you a bit hesitant to select him with a top-two round pick like some have been doing. The signing of Alfred Morris could be nothing, but it could be something considering the history between him and Shanahan.
Doug Baldwin (WR - SEA)	While everyone seems to be foaming at the mouth to draft Rashaad Penny, it's Baldwin who is the most valuable asset on the Seahawks roster. It's rare to find a wide receiver who is as underappreciated as Baldwin, who has now finished as a top-13 wide receiver in each of the last three seasons. Not only has he averaged 1,062.7 yards in that span, but he's scored 29 touchdowns, and that was with Jimmy Graham on the roster. I shouldn't have to remind you that Graham is gone, and the Seahawks didn't add a wide receiver of significance to replace Paul Richardson. Baldwin is a low-end WR1 with upside. You should know that Baldwin suffered some sort of knee injury at the start of training camp and is expected to miss the preseason games. While he doesn't necessarily need the work as a veteran, it's added risk to his fantasy appeal.
Rob Gronkowski (TE - NE)	It's not a clear-cut situation anymore with Gronkowski atop the tight end board, though I've kept him there myself. While the Patriots got rid of Brandin Cooks, the Chiefs and Travis Kelce added Sammy Watkins to further cloudy the target situation. Gronkowski is one of the few tight ends you can put down in marker that he'll see 100-plus targets if healthy, and he just happens to play with one of the greatest quarterbacks of all-time. He gives you an advantage at the most unpredictable position in fantasy. He's finished as a top-12 option in 70.6 percent of his career games, while Travis Kelce's sits at 57.1 percent.
Alex Collins (RB - BAL)	A lot of people talk about how good Kenyan Drake was to close out the season, but did you know that Collins was the RB8 in standard formats from Week 8 through Week 17? He was better for a longer stretch, and the offense improved significantly around him this offseason. The only concern you'd have is Kenneth Dixon, who was supposed to be the team's workhorse, but it's possible that they're going to simply move on from him. That built-in risk lowers him on my board just a tad, but I don't think the Ravens would've re-signed him if that were the case. An update on Dixon is that he's been missing camp with a soft tissue injury, which should give you more confidence in Collins as the team's clear-cut workhorse.
T.Y. Hilton (WR - IND)	The first time seeing Andrew Luck in action was a good one in 2018, making me a bit more optimistic about Hilton. During the years he's played with Luck, Hilton finished in-between the WR5 and WR24 range every season. He's not someone you draft for consistency, however, as he's posted WR2 or better numbers in just 42.6 percent of his career games.
Travis Kelce (TE - KC)	While some will try to make the argument for Kelce over Rob Gronkowski, I won't be one of them, simply because the Chiefs now have an abundance of offensive weapons that are going to need touches. They signed Sammy Watkins for nearly \$50 million, which tells you how much they wanted him, and Tyreek Hill has remained as efficient as ever, so it's hard to argue that you should take targets away from him. Ultimately, I still love Kelce as an asset, but he's lost some of the upside he presented in 2017, which still had him finish eight points behind Gronkowski... and he played one more game than Gronkowski did, too. The change in quarterback may not be a downgrade, but don't call it an upgrade.



Aaron Rodgers (QB - GB)	The best in the game, period. By ranking him in the 30-40 range overall, I know that he's unlikely to fall to me in drafts, but that's because of how replaceable the position really is. The dip from Rodgers to someone like Matthew Stafford is typically four points per game, which is a much larger gap from someone like Melvin Gordon down to someone like Giovani Bernard. If Rodgers falls to the end of the third-round, that's when I'd start to consider him due to the consistency he provides at a very inconsistent position. Did you know that just five quarterbacks produced top-12 numbers in more than 50 percent of your starts? Rodgers has averaged 63.4 percent for his career.
Stefon Diggs (WR - MIN)	The addition of Kirk Cousins has everyone excited, though the one who should be most excited is Diggs, who might see more targets float his way. After playing with Case Keenum, who was more of a game manager, Diggs should be more of a field stretcher for Cousins, as he can create separation at every level of the field. Meanwhile, Adam Thielen had a boost in production under Pat Shurmur, who is now gone. As of now, Thielen is going earlier than Diggs in drafts, but it really should be the other way around. Take the discount on Diggs and pass on Thielen, you'll be happy you did.
Tyreek Hill (WR - KC)	It's clear that Tyreek Hill is among the most efficient wide receivers in the game, as his 11.3 yards per target in 2017 ranked first in the league among those with 70 or more targets. Not just that, but the closest player to him was Marvin Jones at 10.3 YPT (a whopping 9 percent difference). That number came up quite a bit from his 2016 total that was at 7.1 yards per target, so you might want to dial back those large expectations. The addition of Sammy Watkins isn't going to help him gain a higher target share, either, as they paid Watkins a generous \$50 million. As high as you might be on Pat Mahomes, it's going to be incredibly hard for him to top Alex Smith's MVP-caliber 2017 season. There's regression coming for Hill, but his price does not reflect that. If you can snag him in the fourth-round, that's when you should feel okay with the risk.
Amari Cooper (WR - OAK)	After posting back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons to open his career, Cooper hit some speed bumps in 2017, as he finished with just 680 yards in 14 games. It was even worse than that, though, as he accumulated 30.9 percent of his yardage in just one game. We do know that his ankle caused him to miss nearly two full games, but it's rare to see a wide receiver struggle the way he did when coming off two impressive seasons. It may not have helped that Derek Carr was dealing with a back injury as well, so we'll chalk that season up to an outlier in what's been a great start to a career. The Raiders cut Michael Crabtree, which helps, but then brought in both Jordy Nelson and Martavis Bryant to replenish the weaponry. Still, Cooper is the only one who has rapport with his quarterback, so I'd expect him to bounce back to WR2 status in 2018. Another fun fact: Gruden has produced at least one 1,000-yard receiver in each of his 11 years as a coach.
Lamar Miller (RB - HOU)	There were rumors that the Texans may cut Miller this offseason, but nothing ever came to fruition, as it's possible that D'Onta Foreman starts the season on the PUP list after his Achilles injury last year. If that's the case, Miller should move up even further on my list, as he's one of the few running backs who've consistently seen 250-plus touches over the last four years. If Deshaun Watson can be even half the quarterback he was last year, Miller is going to find himself going against a lot of light defensive fronts, which could be the reason he averaged 14.9 PPR points per game with Watson, compared to just 9.9 PPR points per game with Tom Savage. The reports are that Miller showed up in great shape to training camp and looks like the back he was back in Miami. If that's the case, he's a steal in the RB20-25 range.

Mark Ingram (RB - NO)	He's suspended for the first four games of the season, sure, but getting him for 12 games will be more valuable than someone like Derrick Henry, who will be touchdown-reliant in all 16 games. It's clear that the Saints don't want to shift more of the early-down work to Alvin Kamara, as Sean Payton said they don't want to change his workload much, even during the first four weeks while Ingram is out. Ingram is also due for some positive regression in the touchdown department, as he caught 58 passes last year without a single touchdown. The league average among running backs is one every 25.6 receptions. Even with his suspension, Ingram is worthy of a top-20 running back selection.
Derrick Henry (RB - TEN)	After sharing a backfield with DeMarco Murray the last two years, Henry seemed to have the backfield all to himself once they released Murray this offseason. Instead, they upgraded Murray when they snagged Dion Lewis, who is one of the best pass-blockers in the game and one they paid \$20 million to over four years. It's clear that they want Henry to remain in the role he was last year, which netted him 11.7 touches per game (ranked just 42nd among RBs). While I suspect he'll get a small bump, he's not likely to get into the 15-16-touch range, which is what's often required to finish as a top-15 running back. He's going to be touchdown-dependent, something that isn't ideal for someone who costs a third-round pick. He's likely to finish as a top-20 running back, but know that the ride will be somewhat bumpy.
Sony Michel (RB - NE)	One of the interesting stats I've come across through my offseason research was that rookie running backs who were drafted in the first-round over the last six years finish as a RB1 80 percent of the time. While it's a very small sample size, it just goes to show that when a team invests a first-round pick on a running back, you shouldn't be afraid to roster him. On top of that, he plays for a team that's finished top-three in scoring in every season since 2010. Seriously, that's ridiculous. There are only two things that could get in Michel's way: Fumbles, so please, protect the ball. The other is injury, which no one is immune to. Michel actually needed a small procedure on his knee that knocked him out of training camp for two weeks, so he may be in somewhat of a timeshare to start the season.
Kenyan Drake (RB - MIA)	The stretch that Drake had at the end of 2017 was nothing short of impressive. He was playing on a bad team, but finished as the RB8 during Weeks 13-17. We mustn't forget that Damien Williams was also hurt during most of that time, so it allowed him to receive more touches than usual. Williams is gone, but the Dolphins brought in Frank Gore, who didn't come to collect dust, and drafted Kalen Ballage, a receiving specialist. There's reasons to like Drake, but there are equally as many reasons not to. The first depth chart out of Miami had Drake and Gore listed as co-starters, though Drake is expected to receive the majority of touches. There's more risk than there should be considering the finish he had to last season, but I'd expect talent to win in the end.
Allen Robinson (WR - CHI)	It typically takes some time for a wide receiver to learn a new offense, which puts him behind where the rest of the wide receiver group is, but Robinson doesn't have to worry about that, as they are all learning a new offense. In fact, the starting trio of wide receivers and tight end will all be new faces for Mitch Trubisky. You don't bring in someone like Robinson in free agency if you aren't going to feature him. I'm expecting a minimum of 120 targets, which essentially locks him in as a top-25 wide receiver, as there were no wide receivers with more than 109 targets who finished outside the top-25 in standard formats. He's practicing in full and will be playing in the preseason, so it appears he's over the ACL injury that ruined his 2017 season.
Demaryius Thomas (WR - DEN)	It's become the cool thing to avoid Thomas in drafts, and there's good reason for that. He's been trending in the wrong direction since Peyton Manning retired, finishing as the WR13, WR19, and then the WR23 in 2017. The impressive part is his consistency, despite the inconsistency from the quarterback position. The addition of Case Keenum will help more than it'll hurt, so find it in your heart to welcome Thomas into your WR2 slot, as he offers more safety than most taken in this range. Just make sure to attack upside with your WR3 pick.

Chris Hogan (WR - NE)	Despite playing in just nine games in 2017, Hogan managed to finish tied for 25th in red zone targets, and actually had the same amount that Brandin Cooks (12) did, despite Cooks playing all 16 games. It goes to show the confidence Tom Brady has developed with him, so by taking Hogan where he's currently going in drafts, you're getting WR1 upside at WR4 cost.
Royce Freeman (RB - DEN)	Another rookie running back? Yep. While there are some who are worried about Devontae Booker, you shouldn't be one of them. He legitimately played behind the running back they just cut (C.J. Anderson), so what makes you think he'd start in front of a guy they just spent a high third-round pick on? Freeman may not be elite at anything, but he's really good at everything. He's a no-nonsense runner who knows how to follow his blocks, similar to Jordan Howard. In an offense that likely takes a step forward, Freeman should finish as a top-24 running back in his first season. His touchdown run in the first preseason game looked mightily similar to the many touchdown runs at Oregon.
Brandin Cooks (WR - LAR)	While many continue to prop Cooks up as a low-end WR1, I urge you to stay away from that territory when it comes to him. The Sean McVay offense doesn't cater to one wide receiver, and it's unlikely they take targets away from Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp, who were both extremely efficient last season. We saw Sammy Watkins finish with 70 targets in this exact role last year, and that was despite them giving up a second-round pick to acquire him. While I'd expect Cooks to see more than that with a full offseason to work with the offense, it'd be a stretch to see him finish with anything more than 100 targets. There were just three wide receivers who finished top-24 last year with less than 100 targets, so while it's doable, it's not a given.
Russell Wilson (QB - SEA)	Once you get down to around the No. 50 overall pick, the sure things are gone, so why not take one of the elite players at his position? Wilson has now finished as a top-three quarterback in three of the last four seasons and has never fallen out of the top-12 quarterbacks in any of his six seasons. His defense is as bad as its ever been, which should force him to partake in some shootouts that never seemed to happen before. Despite the elite defense that was being played, Wilson has posted QB1 numbers in 47.9 percent of his games, including a career-high 68.8 percent of games in 2017. He offers safety and upside, which is rare at the position.
JuJu Smith-Schuster (WR - PIT)	Fun fact: Smith-Schuster ranked 55th among wide receivers in targets per game. His 5.6 targets per game ranked behind guys like Kendall Wright and Danny Amendola. His 11.6 yards per target was the best among wide receivers with at least 25 targets, and in fact, it was the best in the last five years. He's going to regress there and the offense didn't change drastically from last year to this year, so seeing his targets make a huge jump is unlikely. We've seen the upside he presents, but that was his absolute ceiling given the opportunities he's capped at. You can't draft a wide receiver who ranked 55th in targets per game in the top-four rounds of your fantasy draft, you just can't. His highlight touchdown catch in the first preseason game is likely to bump him into the top four rounds, making him overvalued.
Zach Ertz (TE - PHI)	If Ertz can stay on the field for all 16 games, he's could be right there in the tier with Gronk and Kelce, but he's dealt with some nagging injuries the last two seasons that have caused him to miss four games. Still, his consistency is something, as he's not finished with 74-78 catches and 816-853 yards in each of the last three seasons, though he doubled his touchdown output in 2017. It wasn't a bad thing to see Trey Burton leave, but the Eagles immediately replaced him with Dallas Goedert, who is a massive red zone threat. Because of that, I'll keep Ertz in the tier below the alpha dogs, but he's not far behind. The fact that Alshon Jeffery may start the season on the PUP list only increases the hype for Ertz.

Jay Ajayi (RB - PHI)	I know that by ranking Ajayi outside the top-24 running backs, he won't wind up on any of my teams, and that's something I'm okay with. Doug Pederson has shown us that he wants to use a committee approach in his offense. He topped 34 snaps just once during his time with the Eagles, with none of the final four games netting any more than 30 snaps. When you're playing that many snaps, your upside goes out the window and you'll be extremely touchdown dependent. With Darren Sproles returning and Corey Clement showing off late in the season, there's no reason to expect it to change. He's going to be frustrating to own, even if he is a top-24 running back at year's end.
Rex Burkhead (RB - NE)	It seemed things were looking up for Burkhead after the Patriots let Dion Lewis walk and then signed the plodding Jeremy Hill to replace him. That didn't last long, as the Patriots snagged three-down running back Sony Michel at the end of the first-round, showing just how much they felt it was a need. Burkhead is likely to stay in the role he had last year, though the production should dip, as he scored a touchdown on a league-leading 8.5 percent of his touches. By comparison, the NFL average for running backs is 2.85 percent. Still, Burkhead makes for a solid flex-option who has RB2 potential if Michel doesn't pan out. The fact that Michel is missing part of training camp with a knee issue bodes well for Burkhead, who should start the year as a top-20 play at the running back position.
Ronald Jones II (RB - TB)	Not only have I been bullish on rookie running backs, but I'm bullish on the Bucs offense as a whole. When you have the firepower of Mike Evans, Deshaun Jackson, Chris Godwin, O.J. Howard, and Cameron Brate in front of you, it's not likely that a defense will ever make it their priority to stop the running back. Those who are concerned about Peyton Barber shouldn't be, as the Bucs would've just snagged one of the free agent running backs available to pair with him. Instead, they used a high second-round pick on the running back who has a similar style to Jamaal Charles. Playing in what could be a top-five scoring offense is never a bad thing, though being stuck behind Peyton Barber on the depth chart is. Dirk Koetter has said that nothing has been decided, so I'd still expect Jones to lead the team in touches.
Larry Fitzgerald (WR - ARI)	I'm done trying to predict when father time will catch up with Fitzgerald, as it seemed like he was on his way out in 2014, only he has since posted WR11, WR17, and WR9 seasons (in standard formats). The quarterback position arguably upgraded with Sam Bradford and Josh Rosen this offseason, though the offense is going to look different under head coach Steve Wilks. There's still not another player on this team who sniffs Fitzgerald's level of talent at wide receiver, so I'd fully expect another top-24 season out of him. The change in coaching staff is the lone concern for me, as Fitzgerald saw 11 or more targets in six games last year, something that this staff may find excessive, especially with David Johnson back.
Adam Thielen (WR - MIN)	Most don't realize how much of an effect that Pat Shurmur had on Thielen's career, as he catapulted him into a household fantasy name. He was 26 years old when he broke out, something that doesn't happen all that often. The move to John DeFilippo will change some things, as will the move to Kirk Cousins, who has taken more chances down the field than game-manager Case Keenum did. That would play more into Stefon Diggs' skill-set rather than Thielen's. I do expect him to be a reliable fantasy producer, but he's not going to finish with 143 targets again. While doing research for Boom, Bust, and Everything in Between, Thielen finished as a WR3 or better just 56.3 percent of the time despite all those targets. Even if he scores more touchdowns, his lost targets are going to hurt.

Marvin Jones (WR - DET)	After seeing 107 targets in 2017, Jones' incredible touchdown rate propped him all the way up to the WR5 in standard leagues. He caught a touchdown once every 11.9 targets, which is almost double the average rate for wide receivers, which stands at one every 22.8 targets. After scoring just four touchdowns the prior season in the same offense, you have to wonder just how sustainable his touchdown total is. On top of that, the Lions continue to hype up Kenny Golladay, who is another big-bodied wide receiver to take away some of those looks. Jones is a solid fantasy asset, but don't pay for last year's numbers. He averaged just 5.3 targets per game with Golladay in the lineup, but 9.8 targets per game when he was held out. He's going to have some big games, but he'll likely have to share the stage with Golladay at times.
Dion Lewis (RB - TEN)	You should be expecting Lewis to walk right into the old DeMarco Murray role of the offense, as you don't go out and sign a running back in free agency for \$20 million for no reason. It's possible that new offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur simply didn't want Derrick Henry to be "the guy" of the offense, as he's not a great pass-catcher. If LaFleur installs an offense similar to the one Sean McVay used in L.A., then Lewis could turn out to be a steal at his current cost, though they have said Henry is the "starter." Lewis will be worth more in games when the Titans are down, while Henry will have his way in games they're winning, so it really comes down to how good their team is in 2018.
Golden Tate (WR - DET)	I get it, Tate isn't a sexy pick that'll win you your fantasy league, but he's now finished as a top-34 receiver in each of the last six seasons, including a WR19 finish last year while Marvin Jones had a miraculous season. With the exit of Eric Ebron, some targets may open up over the middle of the field, while Jones now has to fight for perimeter targets with Kenny Golladay. Tate's role in the offense is safe, as he's now seen at least 120 targets in each of the last four seasons. Fun fact: Tate totaled WR3 or better numbers in 61.5 percent of games in 2017, while Adam Thielen was at just 56.3 percent, yet Thielen is going multiple rounds earlier.
Sammy Watkins (WR - KC)	It wouldn't shock me to see Watkins finish as the best Chiefs wide receiver, as I believe he's the most talented one. The issue is that he's learning his third offense in three years, which can cripple a wide receiver in year-one. Because of that, Tyreek Hill is the preferred option in 2018. Still, the Chiefs didn't pay Watkins \$50 million to see 60-80 targets, so I'd expect him to be a WR3 more often than not. With Pat Mahomes under center and a bad defense, the recipe is there for increased pass attempts. Knowing each of their costs, Watkins is the better fantasy pick.
Josh Gordon (WR - CLE)	It didn't seem like Gordon missed a beat upon his return last year, though the quarterback play was less than ideal. 39 percent of his targets were over 20 yards, though just 5-of-16 were catchable. It goes to show that the Browns want to use him down the field, though there's bound to be some changes with Todd Haley taking over as coordinator. The reason I'm down on Gordon, though, is that they brought in Tyrod Taylor, Carlos Hyde, Nick Chubb, and Jarvis Landry this offseason. That screams, "we want to run a ball-control style offense." There's only so many targets to go around, so by drafting Gordon as a top-24 receiver, you're essentially saying that Landry is likely to cap out around 100 targets. On top of the target risk, Gordon is now away from the team for training camp, which cannot bode well for him learning the new offense and developing chemistry with his new quarterbacks. A rumor is that Gordon wanted to keep away from the Hard Knocks cameras. If that's the case, Gordon's fall in drafts could turn out to be beneficial.
Cam Newton (QB - CAR)	After the failed experiment of trying to dial back Newton's rushing attempts in 2016, it was good to see them unleash him again in 2017. If you take away Newton's ability to run, he wouldn't be a quarterback in this league very long. Fortunately, it seems the Panthers figured that out, making Newton an elite fantasy option once again, rushing for a career-high 754 yards. The upgraded weaponry around him doesn't hurt, but the weakened offensive line does, as they lost Andrew Norwell this offseason, their best lineman. Newton is likely to finish as a top-five quarterback, but he's too expensive in early ADP.

Tom Brady (QB - NE)	It's really only a matter of time before Brady starts the inevitable downturn to his Hall of Fame career, and we may have already started to witness the beginning of the end. After throwing 26 touchdowns and just three interceptions in the first 11 games, Brady threw just six touchdowns with five interceptions over the final five games, and failed to top 15 fantasy points in any of them. He still gets the benefit of the doubt, but I wouldn't go out of my way to draft him. Did you know that Brady was a top-12 performer just 50 percent of the time last year? Another year onto his age and subtracting Brandin Cooks surely doesn't help.
Jarvis Landry (WR - CLE)	Going from 140-plus targets to one where he will have a tough time seeing 110 targets is a very big deal for someone like Landry. I believe he's a better football player than what the Dolphins used him as, and the Browns seem to agree, lining him up all over the field. The fact that the Browns traded away Corey Coleman and that Josh Gordon has been away from the team makes me much more optimistic in Landry's expected usage. Put me down for someone who believes he'll be a consistent WR3 with upside for more should Gordon miss any time.
Kerryon Johnson (RB - DET)	While I'm typically pretty aggressive in my pursuit of high-round rookie running backs, Johnson has the toughest backfield to project. Not only did the Lions draft Johnson in the second-round, but they also snagged LeGarrette Blount in free agency. If there's one thing Blount does well, it's handle early-down work. If there's anything Theo Riddick does, it's handle third-down work. Do you see where this is going? Johnson is probably the best all-around running back on the roster, but they aren't benching Blount or Riddick, so he'll be left to battle for touches. Oh, and don't completely write-off Ameer Abdullah, who still has the possibility of being traded. The asking price for Johnson is surely about to go up based on how he looked in their first preseason game, where he showed his versatility in every facet of the game.
Michael Crabtree (WR - BAL)	After seeing 291 targets over a two year period with the Raiders, Crabtree saw that number drop to just 101 targets in 2017. Fortunately for him, he was released and wound up as the No. 1 receiver on another team that should get him somewhere in the range of 110-120 targets. Some will say more than that, but Joe Flacco doesn't heavily target any one receiver. During his 10 years in the league, he's yet to target one more than 137 times, and that includes two seasons with 610-plus attempts. With all the additions to the Ravens pass-catching corps, you have to wonder what Crabtree's ceiling is at this point. He's a low-upside WR3.
Corey Davis (WR - TEN)	Davis is someone I compared to Brandon Marshall during last year's draft process, and after watching him throughout the 2017 season, my expectations haven't changed. He didn't develop any chemistry with Marcus Mariota until playoff time, where he caught nine passes for 98 yards and two touchdowns in their two games. He's still yet to "prove it," so you don't want to go all-in, but the potential is there for a top-15 season. Him going in and out of camp with all these little injuries are worrisome, but every time he's on the field, we hear about how him and Mariota are "on the same page."
Marquise Goodwin (WR - SF)	Goodwin is one of the tougher players to project this season, as the 49ers will be welcoming Pierre Garcon back to the lineup, they added Jerick McKinnon in free agency, and they traded up in the second-round to snag Dante Pettis. Still, Goodwin was the alpha-dog for Jimmy Garoppolo last year, totaling 51 targets, 34 receptions, 545 yards, and two touchdowns over the final seven games of the season. You have to wonder if that chemistry carries over into this season, or was it more of a "there's really no one else to throw to" scenario? There's risk with drafting him as a top-30 wide receiver, but if you get him around the WR35-40 range, you can afford to take that risk. He's looking like he is Jimmy Garoppolo's favorite target in training camp, with some suggesting WR1 potential.

Delanie Walker (TE - TEN)	There's not enough love for the tight end who has now finished top-12 in each of the last five years, including two top-five finishes. While many are expecting Corey Davis to have his breakout season, Walker is the safer choice to rely on for production, even if he doesn't offer extreme upside. Any time you can get 800-plus yards out of a tight end, he's worth consideration as a top-five player at the position. He's kind of like the Demaryius Thomas of tight ends, as he might be boring, but you aren't going to lose your fantasy league because of him. The Titans extending him prior to the season suggest that they know his eventual replacement, Jonnu Smith, isn't quite ready to take his snaps.
Drew Brees (QB - NO)	Since 2008, Brees' touchdown rate had been 5.0 percent or higher, which was the reason he threw for at least 32 touchdowns in each of those seasons. In 2017, however, that number dipped to 4.3 percent. Was it Brees slipping? Well, when you look at his record-setting completion percentage (72.0 percent), highest yards per attempt since 2011 (8.1), and lowest interception rate in his entire career (1.5 percent), my answer would be an emphatic "no." The touchdowns will come back, as will the pass attempts, and Brees will likely be one of the steals in fantasy drafts. If he falls to you in the late sixth- or seventh-round, snag him.
Deshaun Watson (QB - HOU)	Just how unrepeatable was Watson's 2017 season? Well, since 2000, just four other quarterbacks have thrown a touchdown on more than 7.9 percent of their passes. We're talking about the entire careers of Peyton Manning, Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees, Ben Roethlisberger, and Philip Rivers. Watson's rate was 9.3 percent in 2017. Looking at all quarterbacks in 2017, only he and Carson Wentz threw a touchdown on more than 6.7 percent of their attempts, which should give you all you need to know. In fact, you should expect his touchdown percentage to be cut in half (and it'd still be good). He's still among the top quarterbacks because of his rushing ability, but don't pay for last year's production, which was still just essentially five games worth.
Carson Wentz (QB - PHI)	To give you an idea as to how unrepeatable Wentz's 2017 season was from a touchdown standpoint, let's compare him to Aaron Rodgers. Wentz's touchdown rate was 7.5 percent last year, a number that Rodgers has hit just once in his career. Remember, we are talking about the guy who I'd consider the best of all-time. If we dialed back his touchdown rate to 6.0 percent, which is still elite, he would've thrown seven less touchdowns, which would drop him from the QB5 to QB12. Coming off an ACL tear may limit his mobility at the start of the season, which further impacts his fantasy performance. I'd avoid him as a top-five quarterback off the board, especially knowing that he's unlikely to play in any preseason games. It's now a question as to whether or not he plays in Week 1, which is not what you want to see when taking a quarterback in the first eight rounds. Pass.
Ben Roethlisberger (QB - PIT)	Did you know that Roethlisberger has been a top-8 fantasy quarterback just twice during his 14-year career? Missed games play into that a lot, but he's never been one of the "elites" in fantasy football. With that being said, he's finished top-10 in two of the last four seasons and may now have the best wide receiver group he's ever had in Antonio Brown, JuJu Smith-Schuster, and James Washington. The Steelers defense is in somewhat of a rebuild mode, so it shouldn't be shocking to see him in more shootouts like the one against the Jaguars in the playoffs. He's not going to be an every-week starter, but he's going to win you some weeks.
Alshon Jeffery (WR - PHI)	Did you realize that Jeffery had just a 47.5 percent catch rate in 2017? That ranked 168th of the 211 wide receivers who saw at least one target in 2018. To know that he finished as the WR15 despite that is pretty amazing. The chemistry between him and Carson Wentz should grow as time goes on, though his touchdown rate will likely go down with Wentz's. Still, Jeffery is the clear-cut No. 1 receiver in an offense with a creative play-caller and franchise quarterback. His injury-riddled past is factored in, as he'd be higher on my list if he hadn't missed 11 games in the past three years with a lot of soft tissue injuries. News has been leaked recently that has him potentially remaining on the PUP list to start the season. If that's the case, he'll become nothing more than a late-round bench stash. As of now, it appears that he's likely to at least miss a few games.

Jamison Crowder (WR - WAS)	After Washington traded for Alex Smith, I knew I'd be high on Crowder. My interest only grew fonder when they brought in Paul Richardson, who should help stretch the field and open things underneath for Crowder. Smith doesn't like throwing into tight windows, as evidenced by NFL's NextGenStats that show a league-low 12 percent of his throws went to a wide receiver with one or less yard of separation. While Richardson and Josh Doctson were mediocre at separating, Crowder averaged 3.2 yards of separation, which ranked eight among wide receivers in 2017. Reports out of camp are that the Smith/Crowder connection has been apparent in the red zone.
Marshawn Lynch (RB - OAK)	The signing of Doug Martin makes little sense, but the fact that they held onto Lynch tells you what you need to know - he's going to play. He seemed to get better as the year went on in 2017, finishing as the No. 11 running back from Week 9 through Week 17. Apparently Jon Gruden wants to run the ball a lot, and even though his history says different, he has the personnel to do just that. Lynch is the new version of Frank Gore with more touchdown upside. When watching him run in the first preseason game, it appears he might be in better shape than he was last year.
Robert Woods (WR - LAR)	As it turns out, coaching does, in fact, matter more than most care to admit. After failing to finish as a top-40 wide receiver in any of his first four seasons, Woods finished as the WR33 in 2017 despite missing four games! His 85 targets over 12 games would extrapolate to 113.3 over a full 16-game season, though we can't automatically pencil him in for that with the arrival of Brandin Cooks. With the way their defense improved, it's unlikely that they'll be throwing any more in 2018, so you have to keep your expectations at bay with Woods. He's likely to be on the WR3/WR4 border most weeks and offers little upside with all the playmakers on that offense. You'd likely be better off selecting someone like Marquise Goodwin in his range.
Kyle Rudolph (TE - MIN)	It came out not long ago that Rudolph had offseason ankle surgery, which is now his eighth surgery in the last 10 years. It hasn't affected him much over the last two years, though, as he ranks third in receptions, sixth in yards, and second in touchdowns among tight ends. He'll get an upgrade at quarterback with Kirk Cousins, though the Offensive Coordinator has also changed. You want to say that he's one of the safer TE1's in fantasy football, but it's only a matter of time before the injuries start to catch up, right? He's a mid-tier TE1.
Randall Cobb (WR - GB)	I get it, Cobb's career has gone downhill the past few years, but that shouldn't force you to run from him completely. The last I checked, his quarterback is still Aaron Rodgers, which means 10 touchdowns is well within reach. Even with Jordy Nelson in town last year, Cobb saw 92 targets in 15 games, showing how much he still means to the offense. While there were rumors of him being cut due to his large salary cap number, they decided to hold on for another season, and you should, too. His ankle that required surgery this offseason is a real concern, but let's not pretend that you get wide receivers with his upside this late without some sort of risk.
Jordan Reed (TE - WAS)	He's not for those who are risk-adverse, as he's never played all 16 games. In fact, he has averaged just 10.4 games played over his five-year career, with a career-low of six games last year. Still, when on the field, he's been one of the top-five tight ends in the game, and the arrival of Alex Smith doesn't hurt at all, as he's produced a couple top-five tight ends in his time. Reports out of Washington suggest that Reed looks better than he has in years.
Robby Anderson (WR - NYJ)	This is a ranking that can move, as Anderson could potentially be suspended by the commissioner. He's had off-the-field issues multiple times, but the most recent arrest has some really bad details, particularly when he said things to a police officer about what he'd do to his wife. He may escape legal trouble, but the NFL is sure to investigate. It could be an Ezekiel Elliott situation where we don't even know when the season begins, so you have to build that risk into his draft price. He belongs in the WR4 range because of it. If Sam Darnold starts, it could actually hurt his stock because of the rapport Anderson's built with Josh McCown.



Sterling Shepard (WR - NYG)	Over the first two years of his career, Shepard has shown the ability to step-up and be the focal point of a passing attack, though he doesn't need to be with Odell Beckham Jr. on the field. To know that he has that ability is a bonus, though, as Beckham Jr. has dealt with injuries throughout his career. Pat Shurmur did wonders for Adam Thielen's career while working out of the slot, which is where Shepard has played over 80 percent of his snaps the last two years. He's going to give you WR4 production regardless, but has upside for much more.
Tevin Coleman (RB - ATL)	Unless there's an injury to Devonta Freeman, it's hard to see Coleman playing a consistent role in fantasy. In games where Freeman's played all four quarters, Coleman topped 11 carries just once last season. When seeing in between 6-11 carries per game, it makes it difficult to produce massive numbers unless you're consistently scoring touchdowns at an unsustainable rate, which Coleman has. The reason you draft him is because he can give you flex-type production with Freeman, but turns into a must-start RB1 without Freeman.
Carlos Hyde (RB - CLE)	He's someone I was targeting in best-ball leagues as a low-end RB2 prior to the NFL Draft, as I do believe the Browns are going to be run-heavy in 2018. While that's still going to be the case, them drafting Nick Chubb in the second-round was the worst-case scenario for Hyde (outside of them taking Saquon Barkley). Chubb is essentially a younger version of Hyde, but faster. I still believe Hyde gets the bulk of the workload on what is essentially a one-year deal, but there's risk that Chubb takes over at some point.
Cooper Kupp (WR - LAR)	Despite missing Week 17, Kupp finished as the No. 27 wide receiver in his rookie season, something that's not common in today's game. He did benefit from Robert Woods missing four games, and it now doesn't help that Brandin Cooks has been added to the mix. The part you can hang your hat on is that Kupp plays an entirely different role in the Rams offense than Cooks will, so it shouldn't affect his role too much. With Cooks, Woods, and Todd Gurley on the roster, it's going to be tough for Kupp to outperform last year's numbers without an injury. If there's one really good stat to support Kupp's continued success is his 23 red zone targets, which were more than double any other receiver on the team in 2017.
Devante Parker (WR - MIA)	There are a lot of fantasy players who are bailing on Parker at this point in his career, and while I get why they'd want to do that, it's a mistake. He's a former first-round pick who is 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds, who has produced when he's been healthy. There've been 25 games in which he's seen at least five targets, and in those games he's averaged 68.2 yards and 0.3 touchdowns, which is low-end WR2 numbers. He did that with Jarvis Landry on the team, who is now a Cleveland Browns receiver. It's rare to find a player this late in drafts who has 120-target potential, but Parker does. If he stays healthy, he's likely going to finish as a top-30 wide receiver with upside for more. Update: Parker is going to miss multiple weeks with a broken finger, which should temper expectations, though he's still undervalued.
Greg Olsen (TE - CAR)	While I do believe that Olsen is on the down-slope of his career, he didn't actually fall off a cliff. Prior to getting hurt in 2017, he'd seen at least 104 targets in each season dating back to 2012. This is where I remind you that there were just six tight ends who topped 95 targets in 2017. You want to chase targets at the most volatile position in fantasy, so even though he may not have top-three upside anymore, he's still a top-eight tight end. One stat that doesn't show so well for Olsen and Christian McCaffrey is that no RB/TE duo produced more than 185 targets in 2017.
Evan Engram (TE - NYG)	Everything that could have went Engram's way last year in terms of targets, did. Both Odell Beckham Jr. and Brandon Marshall were place on I.R. early in the season, while Sterling Shepard was in and out of the lineup with injuries. Not only are Beckham Jr. and Shepard back to full health, but the Giants just spent the No. 2 pick on Saquon Barkley, who is essentially another receiver. Engram is still likely to be a TE1, but I'm not touching him where he's being drafted. In the four games where he saw less than seven targets in 2017, he averaged just 1.5 receptions for 16.3 yards and no touchdowns.

Marlon Mack (RB - IND)	It's a bit difficult to know how the Colts value Marlon Mack, as they didn't attack any of the big-name running backs in free agency, but did draft two running backs in the first five rounds. He apparently played through a shoulder injury that required surgery all of last season, so it's possible that we haven't seen the best of Mack. The Colts offense could be a juggernaut if Andrew Luck is, in fact, healthy once again. This is one backfield to pay attention to in the preseason. Mack injured his hamstring during the first game, which is likely going to cost him a lot of practice reps in the new offense. He's among the riskiest RB3 picks in drafts.
Jimmy Graham (TE - GB)	This is an interesting case, because we just saw the Packers sign a big-name free agent last year who was a massive letdown, but things have changed since that time. The biggest boost for Graham is the fact that Jordy Nelson is gone, as he was Aaron Rodgers' go-to target in the red zone, a job that can quickly become Graham's. He's not going to be the tight end who racks up 50-plus yards per game like Gronk, Kelce, or Ertz, but his touchdown numbers should be right in line with theirs. The concern with Graham is that he's going to turn 32 years old this year and showed signs of decline with an elite quarterback last year, as he failed to record more than 72 yards in any one game. He's going to be incredibly touchdown-dependent.
Kirk Cousins (QB - MIN)	Many are assuming that just because the talent around Cousins got better, that he'll produce more than he did with the Redskins. I'd hit the brakes on that assessment, as his efficiency was among the best in the game while there, and he was among the top-10 in pass attempts every season. Going to the Vikings (who threw the ball just 526 times in 2017) is going to change that, as their defense is top-three in the league, which doesn't allow shootouts. They also just lost their offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur, so it'll take some time for everyone to sync up. While Cousins should be a bit more consistent, I don't think he comes with the upside to warrant a top-eight quarterback selection. Even though he finished as a top-eight quarterback in each of the last three seasons, he's posted less than 14 fantasy points in 18-of-48 games in those seasons, which is an abnormally high bust-rate.
Andrew Luck (QB - IND)	Let's be real about this - nobody outside of Andrew Luck knows whether or not he can return to form. What I can tell you about his preseason performance is that he looked fantastic. He'll now be playing behind the best offensive line of his career and in an offense that'll likely be much more creative than the ones he's been in to this point. Ideally, he'd have better options to throw to, but as he's shown in the past, he can make it work if healthy.
Matt Ryan (QB - ATL)	The addition of Calvin Ridley bumped Ryan's stock up just a bit, enough to move him ahead of guys like Jared Goff and Jimmy Garoppolo. Ryan isn't going to be the top fantasy quarterback that he was in 2016, but he's someone you should be happy to roster if you're waiting until the late rounds to draft your quarterback, just don't reach for him.
Jamaal Williams (RB - GB)	Part of the reason analysts are predicting that Aaron Jones will win the job is because of Williams' inability to create big plays. He had just one run of more than 15 yards (25 yards) on 153 carries, the worst big-play rate in the NFL. He did show the ability to carry the ball 20-plus times per game and the offensive line was a bit dinged up, so don't simply dismiss him, either. Taking him outside the top-30 running backs isn't bad, as there's legitimate top-10 upside with any starting running back in the Packers offense. Just know that he's got very-high bust potential as well. It's a bonus that Jones is suspended for the first two games of the season, but when you see that the Packers play the Bears and Vikings over the first two weeks, it's not the greatest start to the schedule and could very well make him look bad. He's someone to think about pairing with Mark Ingram, who is dealing with a four-game suspension.

Nelson Agholor (WR - PHI)	For someone who ranked 50th in targets per game among wide receivers last year, Agholor is getting a lot of love in early drafts. Knowing that, tied in with the fact that Carson Wentz will regress in the touchdown department, and you have yourself a recipe for disaster when taking him as a top-35 wide receiver (as he's currently being drafted). If Alshon Jeffery should wind up on the PUP list to start the season, Agholor will move up the ranks.
Duke Johnson (RB - CLE)	There's a big debate going on between the experts and the public, but it feels like the public has adjusted better than the experts on this one. He had his most efficient season to date in 2017, yet Hue Jackson never gave him more than 10 carries. With all the weapons surrounding him in the passing-game now, it's extremely unlikely he even gets close to the 80.3 target average he has the last three years. And then they added both Carlos Hyde and Nick Chubb to handle the rushing attack, leaving little appeal to the third-down back. If you think you're being sneaky by landing him as your RB3, you're likely getting what you pay for.
Pierre Garcon (WR - SF)	After seemingly walking into 140 targets with the 49ers when he signed in free agency, Garcon all of a sudden has plenty of competition for targets. From Marquise Goodwin, to George Kittle, to Jerick McKinnon, and now recently-drafted Dante Pettis. He totaled 67 targets over the first eight games last year which would have put him on pace for 134, though you shouldn't be expecting more than 110 this season, and possibly less. He's a very boring option in an area of the draft where you should be looking for potential league-winners.
Devin Funchess (WR - CAR)	It seems that everyone is forgetting how much Greg Olsen means to this offense and why Funchess got the volume he did last year. While he did a solid job, the Panthers felt the need to draft a wide receiver with their first-round pick, and one who'll play the underneath possession-style role, eliminating Funchess' volume. He's going to be a lesser version of Kelvin Benjamin going forward. While I propped him up as a sleeper last year, he's going to be considered a bust in 2018.
Rashaad Penny (RB - SEA)	After seeing the Seahawks invest a first-round pick on Penny, we all thought he was guaranteed to start. Well, here we are, months later and there are three legitimate beat writers who say that Chris Carson is going to start for this team. While I don't think Carson winds up with more points at the end of the year, it's clear that Penny isn't going to be worth his price of admission to start the season. He's not someone you'll want to be starting until we have a clearer picture of what's going on. Update: Penny had to have surgery on his finger that will reportedly knock him out for 3-4 weeks, though they're expecting on him back by Week 1 of the regular season. It's going to be a mess of a backfield to predict at the start of the season, though we're starting to think Chris Carson has the job for now.
C.J. Anderson (RB - CAR)	Most thought it was a terrible landing spot for Anderson in Carolina, but it was likely the best-case scenario. Most don't realize that Jonathan Stewart totaled 198 carries last year, which ranked inside the top-20 at the position. Anderson has always been one of the most efficient runners on first- and second-down while playing behind a mediocre offensive line. If he reaches the same amount of carries that Stewart did, he's going to finish as a top-24 running back. The best part is that you don't have to spend even a top-30 running back pick on him. He is someone who loses a lot of appeal in PPR formats, as he's unlikely to catch more than 10 passes this year.
Alex Smith (QB - WAS)	Most people say that 2017 was an outlier year for Smith, and while it's hard to disagree that it was better than the rest, he's been doing this for a while now. Since 2011, Smith has thrown 132 touchdowns compared to just 43 interceptions. In that period, there are just two quarterbacks who have a better TD:INT ratio than him: Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. You don't do that over a seven-year period if you're a mediocre quarterback. With Jay Gruden's history with Kirk Cousins, it's very possible that we're underestimating Smith's fantasy potential. If you're the type to grab two quarterbacks in a draft, Smith would make an excellent No. 2 who has top-10 upside.

Tarik Cohen (RB - CHI)	Another team that didn't add a running back in the draft was the Bears, who will be riding the shoulders of Jordan Howard and Cohen. While they did add quite a bit of receiving talent to the roster, Cohen is a movable chess piece that Matt Nagy can have some fun with. Cohen was able to finish as the RB30 last year despite having the vanilla John Fox as his head coach. Beat reporters are saying that he should be listed as a RB/WR with the way Nagy has moved him around the formation.
Jimmy Garoppolo (QB - SF)	There's a lot of hype surrounding Garoppolo, who finished the season with a bang. His 8.8 yards per attempt ranks as third-best of any quarterback who's thrown the ball at least 100 times in the last five years. With that being said, he did finish with just 7 touchdowns and 5 interceptions in five starts, so it wasn't all coming together just yet. He lacks a true No. 1 receiver, which may hurt his overall touchdown numbers, and he doesn't offer any rushing upside, as he's rushed for just 17 yards in his seven NFL starts. There's definitely a chance that he gets into QB1 territory, but you shouldn't pay for that just yet. His current cost is inside the top-eight quarterbacks, which is just too much.
Matthew Stafford (QB - DET)	It seems like Stafford is the same quarterback every year, as he's now finished in-between the QB5 and QB11 in six of the last seven seasons. Both him and Matt Ryan are the borderline QB1's that you don't LOVE drafting, but they're usually the safest picks on the board, though Stafford usually goes a bit earlier. While his overall numbers put him in the top-12, he's been outside the top-12 in each of the last four seasons when it comes to QB1 performance percentage, as he's typically around the 37.5 percent mark. You're just as well-off streaming the position.
Philip Rivers (QB - LAC)	Facts are facts and Rivers has now finished as a top-12 quarterback in eight of the last 10 seasons. He's got one of the better offensive lines in football and his weapons have never been better than they are right now. There's not enough love for the boring low-end QB1, though his stock took a slight hit when Hunter Henry went down with a torn ACL. Here's to hoping Mike Williams can be a solid red-zone threat. Rivers is someone you'll be okay with if you wait until double-digit rounds to draft a quarterback.
Emmanuel Sanders (WR - DEN)	It's very possible that Sanders outperforms my ranking of him, but he's now 31 years old and has started to show signs of slowing down, whether it be age or injuries. His yards per target has declined each of the last three seasons, bottoming out at 6.0 yards in 2017. The upgrade in quarterback should help, though, as he was still averaging 7.7 targets per game, which ranked 17th among wide receivers. He should be considered a solid WR4 with some upside, though Courtland Sutton and DaeSean Hamilton have garnered a lot of praise through the offseason workouts, which could eat into his target share.
Kenny Stills (WR - MIA)	Without looking, where do you think Stills would rank among wide receivers in yards and touchdowns over the last two years? I bet you didn't think he was 32nd in yards and 9th in touchdowns. Even though I thought Devante Parker could have a career-year, there's plenty of targets to go around, as the Dolphins were one of just three teams who had three receivers with more than 80 targets, and they were the only team with three wide receivers who had 96 or more targets. With Jarvis Landry out, Stills' target ceiling is likely around 115, which could break him into the top-30 wide receivers, especially if Parker's broken finger causes him to miss time.
Marqise Lee (WR - JAC)	Most don't seem to know that despite missing two games in 2017 that Lee ranks 27th in targets among wide receivers over the last two years. Keep in mind that Allen Robinson was healthy and played the entire 2016 season, so this is noteworthy. The Jaguars let Robinson walk, but retained Lee on a four-year, \$34 million contract, which wasn't far off what Robinson got with the Bears. If he stays healthy, he's locked into 100-plus targets, which is why he should be considered a borderline WR3 with some upside if Blake Bortles continues to improve like he did towards the end of last year.

Trey Burton (TE - CHI)	Going from Doug Pederson's offense to Matt Nagy's is going to be a treat for Burton who already knows 95 percent of the playbook. Over the last three years, the Andy Reid/Pederson/Nagy offenses have averaged 156.6 targets to tight ends. That number would've ranked as the fourth-most in the NFL last year and the Bears wasted no time acquiring him in free agency. While it's hard to trust a tight end who's never played in a full-time capacity, Burton is on the TE1 radar and is oozing with upside.
Mohamed Sanu (WR - ATL)	While I've got Calvin Ridley higher in my rankings, Sanu is the safer draft pick. He's a proven veteran who knows the offense, and posted WR3 numbers in 67 percent of his games last year, which ranked 13th among wide receivers. He doesn't have much upside, but if you're looking for a safe, high-floor type producer, Sanu is your guy. The best part is that he almost always goes undrafted in standard leagues, so you can take him with one of your final picks.
Kelvin Benjamin (WR - BUF)	Let me be clear - I'm not a fan of Benjamin the player, but I am a fan of the targets he'll see with a lack of receiving options in Buffalo. It was the reason he saw 115-plus targets in Carolina, and the quarterback situation wasn't much better (from an accuracy standpoint), but he was able to finish as a top-24 receiver multiple times. Targets first, talent second in fantasy football. As long as Benjamin shows he's healthy when drafts start taking place, he's worthy of a top-40 wide receiver pick. The addition of Corey Coleman lowered his ceiling, but Coleman has just a month to grasp a new offense, so he shouldn't be a massive threat in 2018.
Chris Thompson (RB - WAS)	Coming back from a broken leg is never going to be easy to do, as you' rather tear an ACL at this point in time. It's a shame, too, because Thompson just had a historic season. While most talk about Alvin Kamara's ridiculous efficiency, they looked over how impressive Thompson was while averaging 7.81 yards per touch, which was more than Kamara who averaged 7.73 yards per touch. It wasn't just yardage, either, as there've been 265 running backs over the last five years who've totaled at least 100 touches, and Thompson's 1.47 PPR fantasy points per touch ranked second to only Kamara in that span. Now knowing that Derrius Guice is out for the season, Thompson's workload that he had last year is there for him, though he's apparently not going to be 100 percent until November. It's fair to expect some regression in efficiency, but he should still be a flex-play most weeks.
Chris Carson (RB - SEA)	If the Seahawks really believed in Carson as much as they say they do, why did they use a first-round pick on Rashaad Penny? There are now three beat reporters who are saying that Carson is absolutely the starter, but that Penny will have a role. This is clearly a mess of a backfield that's behind one of the worst run-blocking units in football. Carson is a very risky pick, but one that costs a lot less than Penny, who is now slated to miss 3-4 weeks with a broken finger. If you're looking for an early-season running back, Carson is likely to fill that role.
Josh Doctson (WR - WAS)	It's possible that Doctson moves up my draft board as the season nears, as I want to see how he and new quarterback Alex Smith gel in the preseason. Smith has traditionally been a quarterback who doesn't throw into tight coverage, and Doctson was among the worst in the league last year when it came to yards of separation at target. He was followed by some top-tier cornerbacks last year, so it's possible that will influence the numbers, but Smith's style seems to fit Jamison Crowder's and Jordan Reed's skill-set a bit more than Doctson's. He's got some potential, but the situation just doesn't seem to be ideal.
Jack Doyle (TE - IND)	The addition of Eric Ebron to the roster does cloudy the picture to clear targets for Doyle, but not enough to move him out of the TE1 conversation. If you recall, Doyle's breakout season took place when most thought Dwayne Allen was on the roster and most thought he was the one to own. Doyle has chemistry with Andrew Luck and even showed the ability to produce with Jacoby Brissett last year, which gives an added level of comfort. Luck has targeted tight ends much more than most during his career, and with the addition of Frank Reich, who comes out from Doug Pederson's tight-end-heavy offense shouldn't change that. Doyle should be considered a high-end TE2 until proven not to be.

Aaron Jones (RB - GB)	As of right now, Jones might be the rare case of getting the starting running back in a top-six scoring offense outside of the top-100. Most are torn on which running back to take out of Green Bay, but there've been rumors that Jones earned the job last year. Whatever the case, he's going to score some touchdowns, even if he's involved in a timeshare. I'd rather take the upside of Jones than someone who may have more guaranteed touches, like Bilal Powell. If you do draft him, don't forget that he's suspended for the first two weeks of the season, though he misses the Bears and Vikings, two tough matchups.
Will Fuller (WR - HOU)	Fuller caught a touchdown pass once every 7.1 targets in 2017, which led the NFL with ease, as the next closest with at least three touchdowns was Sammy Watkins, who caught one every 8.8 targets. After that, it was JuJu Smith-Schuster at 11.3 targets. Do you get my drift here? The players who were in his territory in 2016 were Donte Moncrief, Taylor Gabriel, and Kenny Stills. The addition of Keke Coutee in the draft definitely doesn't help get him more targets. He's going to be very boom-or-bust, though his boom weeks are going to be bigger than most in the WR4 conversation.
Jordy Nelson (WR - OAK)	Let's be clear - when you go from Aaron Rodgers to Derek Carr, there's going to be a massive efficiency decline. One positive from the move to the Raiders is that it appears they'll be using him in the slot, similarly to the way that the Cardinals use Larry Fitzgerald. Nelson isn't as physically imposing as Fitzgerald, and he's also got to compete with Amari Cooper and Martavis Bryant for targets. While Nelson will be usable as a safe WR4 play most weeks, he doesn't offer you much upside.
Mike Williams (WR - LAC)	Once word came out about Hunter Henry tearing his ACL, most wanted to look at which tight end would take his place. Truth be told, Williams is the one who's likely to see the biggest increase in targets because of Henry's injury. He was drafted inside the top-10 to become a red zone presence for Philip Rivers, though his back injury limited his playing time in 2017. Having an injury-free offseason would be big for him to develop some chemistry with Rivers and work his way into the offense. It seems like it'll be him, Keenan Allen, and Tyrell Williams in 3WR sets, meaning he should see a minimum of 50 targets this season. He's someone you can draft and you'll likely know what you have within the first week or two. It shouldn't shock you to see Williams with eight-plus touchdowns at year's end.
Rishard Matthews (WR - TEN)	Despite Marcus Mariota getting hurt in 2016 and struggling through much of 2017, Matthews remained consistent in his production, hauling in 61 percent of his passes for 14.5 and 15.0 yards per reception in each year. The area his production dipped, though, was targets and touchdowns. With Corey Davis slated for a bigger role in 2018, you should expect that decline to continue, though Matthews won't go away, as he's been extremely efficient with his targets. He's comparable to the Titans version of DeSean Jackson.
Patrick Mahomes (QB - KC)	Despite starting just one NFL game in Week 17, there are some who are willing to invest a top-12 quarterback pick on Mahomes. Don't count me as one of them, though. Sure, he's got a cannon for an arm, but so did Jay Cutler. He's got some mobility, but when you have Kareem Hunt, plays aren't going to be designed for him to rush for 50 yards per game. Bottom line, there's massive potential here, but he's essentially a rookie. At the quarterback position, there's no reason you need to take unnecessary risks when there are so many safe options. If Mahomes falls out of the top-15, that's when you should start considering him.
Marcus Mariota (QB - TEN)	After what was a stellar start to his NFL career where he threw 45 touchdowns to just 19 interceptions, Mariota took a giant step back in 2017, despite being given better options to throw to. The good news is that he didn't stop running the ball, as he ran for five touchdowns, easily a career-high. He also just inherited Matt LaFleur as his offensive coordinator, someone who has been tutored by Sean McVay. With the weaponry that he has, there's no reason to think that Mariota can't finish as a top-12 quarterback, but his performance in 2017 left a bad taste in your mouth. When drafting him around the QB18 range, you're taking very little risk, but major upside if he returns to his pre-2017 form.

Bilal Powell (RB - NYJ)	It's not an ideal situation in New York, but if you really think they'll lean on Isaiah Crowell more than they did Matt Forte, you're going about this the wrong way. Powell should at least have the same role he had last year, if not more. He finished as the RB26, less than double his current cost. He's not someone who will win you your fantasy league, but he can most definitely play a role. Knowing that he played the snaps with the first-team offense in their preseason game, it should give you a bit more confidence in drafting him.
Robert Kelley (RB - WAS)	It was said that Kelley had lost weight this offseason in anticipation of competing for the starting job, though it seemed that dream was dead when Washington drafted Derrius Guice. That dream is now back alive after Guice tore his ACL, so it's possible that Kelley finds his way back into fantasy relevance. If he wins the starting job over Samaje Perine, he should be drafted in the RB3 range.
Devontae Booker (RB - DEN)	I love Royce Freeman's game, which is why I don't view Booker as a threat to him. With that being said, NFL teams sometimes do some weird things and make rookies "earn their stripes." Booker is someone who played behind C.J. Anderson the last few years, and the Broncos cut Anderson this offseason. Then they drafted Freeman in the third-round. What does that tell you about Booker? He's just a handcuff and not one that you should go out of your way to draft, as we've seen him in a workhorse role before back in 2016. It wasn't pretty.
George Kittle (TE - SF)	We saw the chemistry starting to develop between Kittle and Jimmy Garoppolo towards the end of the season, where Kittle hauled in 11 passes for 194 yards and a touchdown over the final three games. Knowing that the starting wide receivers are Pierre Garcon, Marquise Goodwin, and Trent Taylor, who are all 6-foot or shorter, Garoppolo is going to need a big red zone threat. When it comes to tight ends, you're going to need those touchdowns, and Kittle just might deliver. It's a bummer to hear that he separated his shoulder in the first preseason game, which could limit his potential early in the season should the injury linger.
O.J. Howard (TE - TB)	The fact that Howard missed two games and saw more than four targets just twice all season, but was able to finish as the TE17 in his rookie season should tell you how high his potential can be. The fact that the Bucs extended Cameron Brate is concerning, as he caps the target potential for Howard, but as the year went on, he started seeing more work than Brate. He is a risky pick, but what tight end outside the top-10 isn't?
Calvin Ridley (WR - ATL)	I banged the drum for Ridley all offseason, saying he was the most pro-ready receiver in the draft. When he was taken by the Falcons, it was tough to love the landing spot, as Julio Jones demands a lot of targets. With that, Ridley will see a lot of No. 2 cornerbacks in man coverage, meaning he's going to have some big weeks. Think about Taylor Gabriel's effect he had on the Falcons offense in his first year there and that's likely what you'll get out of Ridley in 2018. He's just a WR4/5, but he's going to have some massive weeks.
DeSean Jackson (WR - TB)	When you watch as much football as I do, you see some things that some people may have missed. When it comes to Jackson, he and Jameis Winston were just a touch off on connecting for multiple 40-plus yard touchdowns, which would have dramatically changed how fantasy players valued him this offseason. There were four passes that I can recall right now that were within a yard or two of his hands that might turn into long touchdowns this year. Even in what was a "down year" for him, he produced WR3 numbers 50 percent of the time, which ranked 33rd among wide receivers. The lone thing that could get in the way of those numbers is Chris Godwin, who is someone who might start opposite Mike Evans in 2WR sets, and that would cripple Jackson's value. You need to pay attention to the depth chart as the preseason rolls along.

Ryan Grant (WR - IND)	I'm not sure why so many are writing Grant off in fantasy leagues after he forced his way into the Redskins starting lineup despite many leaving him for dead. Once in the lineup, he produced with the targets he was given, posting 573 yards and four touchdowns on just 65 targets. During Andrew Luck's career, his No. 2 receiver has never finished with fewer than 56 targets, and there's no one competing with Grant for that spot. He comes with risk because we don't know what to expect out of Luck, but he also comes with upside much better than where his ADP is.
T.J. Yeldon (RB - JAC)	Coming out of college, I was a huge Yeldon supporter, but he just looked over-matched his first two NFL seasons. Not that he was awful, just not special. It's possible that the Jaguars drafting Leonard Fournette was the best thing for him, as he looked sharp, fast, and spry last season while playing in a backup role, though it carried more responsibility than most due to Fournette's lingering ankle problems. Because of that, Yeldon should be considered as one of the best backups in football who can also contribute as a flex player in a pinch with how often they use him in the passing-game.
Giovani Bernard (RB - CIN)	It's clear that the Bengals didn't ever view Bernard as a three-down back, as they've now drafted three running backs with high equity. Still, he's had a role with a team throughout the whole time, so it's unrealistic to think that ends now. He's never finished outside the top 45 running backs during his five-year career, and that's despite scoring just two rushing touchdowns in each of the last three seasons. He's a safe-floor, though low-upside option.
Anthony Miller (WR - CHI)	The more you hear about Miller, the more you want to believe. The Bears liked him so much, they moved their second-round pick next year as well as their fourth-round this year to move up and select him. He's going to start immediately, and it doesn't hurt that he's got Allen Robinson to help take away extra attention. The way I see it, Miller will likely play the slot role more often than not, and that's an area of the field that Mitch Trubisky fell in love with last year, as Kendall Wright became a fantasy viable option late in the year. He may not have top-20 upside in his rookie season, but he could become a 2017 Nelson Agholor-type contributor.
Julian Edelman (WR - NE)	Don't just automatically assume that just because Edelman is returning to the field, that he's going to be the same player. He's now 32 years old and coming off a torn ACL last preseason. It's not to say he can't return and produce, but he finished as the WR22 while playing all 16 games in his age-30 season. A lot of the targets have evaporated in the Patriots offense and you have to figure that Edelman will still get every opportunity to succeed, so you don't want to write him off completely. He's obviously someone who would benefit in a PPR format. He's now been suspended for the first four games, so it's going to be difficult to hang on to him because the first month is the most important time to acquire waiver wire players. He shouldn't be drafted as a top-50 wide receiver at this point.
Jared Goff (QB - LAR)	The Rams became a better football team this offseason, though that will actually hurt Goff who may see his attempts decline in 2018. His ridiculous efficiency should come down a tad as well, now that there's a full year of tape on the Rams offense under Sean McVay. It's not that Goff is a bad fantasy quarterback, but he's overpriced right now for what he's going to offer.
Mitch Trubisky (QB - CHI)	If I'm being honest, I tempered expectations when doing Trubisky's projections, which made me think I'd be lower than the consensus. It's clear that not enough people have taken notice to the effect that a young offensive-minded head coach can do for a quarterback. Trubisky has been surrounded by a ton of weapons and has extremely underrated mobility, something that fantasy footballers should covet.



Allen Hurns (WR - DAL)	As of right now, Hurns is the No. 1 receiver for the Cowboys, though you shouldn't expect him to carry that role for very long with Michael Gallup in the picture. Still, there's value for a wide receiver who will see anywhere from 5-8 targets from Dak Prescott. Hurns did produce quite a few fantasy relevant weeks with Blake Bortles, so it's possible he turns out to be better than most expect.
John Ross (WR - CIN)	After being benched for a fumble in his rookie season, Ross never had a chance to make an impact. It doesn't help that he missed time in the preseason due to injury, but if he stays healthy, he has a chance to change people's minds about him. Ross isn't just a speedster, but someone who can run routes and get defenders spun around when chasing him. If Marvin Lewis figures out how to incorporate him into the offense, he could be someone who makes a splash with one of your late-round picks. The fact that the Bengals cut Brandon LaFell says they're going forward with Ross as a starter, so he could prove to be a late-round steal.
Nick Chubb (RB - CLE)	It's very possible that Chubb moves up my board as the offseason goes on, but it's unrealistic to think that he walks in and takes the starting job from Carlos Hyde, the veteran they hand-selected early in free agency. While Chubb is their running back of the future, it's hard to love him with Hyde and Duke Johnson in town, as they have early-down work covered, as well as third-down work, though Chubb doesn't contribute much in the passing-game. He's simply a high-upside stash right now who is likely to see 5-10 carries per game early in the season.
Kenny Golladay (WR - DET)	It seems that the Lions are trying to make Golladay a thing in 2018, though I'm not seeing it without taking away targets from Golden Tate and Marvin Jones. Outside of those two, the leading receiver on the Lions last year was T.J. Jones with 49 targets. With Matt Patricia coming to town, you have to figure they lean more on the run, especially when you factor in the additions of both LeGarrette Blount and Kerryon Johnson. Without injury, Golladay is going to be a spot-starter, at best.
Dak Prescott (QB - DAL)	If you would've asked me a month ago, I would've told you that Prescott was being undervalued. A lot has changed since then, as the Cowboys released Dez Bryant, didn't draft a wide receiver in the first-round, and then had Jason Witten retire mid-draft. The Cowboys are going to rely on Ezekiel Elliott more than ever.
Andy Dalton (QB - CIN)	Most find it fun to dog Dalton after his lackluster 2017 campaign, but did you know that he's still yet to finish outside the top-18 fantasy quarterbacks? It's because he's typically healthy, has a solid cast of wide receivers, and has no threat of getting benched. It was his yardage that took the biggest hit in 2017, because his touchdown (25) to interception (12) ratio was actually solid. The Bengals need to inject some youth into the offense, so expect to see Joe Mixon and John Ross a lot more involved in year-two, which could revive Dalton's fantasy status. He's a solid No. 2 quarterback in 2QB leagues.
Isaiah Crowell (RB - NYJ)	After playing behind one of the best offensive lines in football last year, Crowell will head to the Jets, whose running backs had a hard time finding many holes last year. He'll compete with Bilal Powell for touches and he no longer has Hue Jackson playing favoritism. Crowell is a plodder who struggles to create his own yardage, something that he'll really need to do while in New York. Let someone else remain hopeful, even with the injury to sophomore Elijah McGuire. Crowell played behind Bilal Powell in the preseason opener and then suffered a concussion in that game.
Tyler Eifert (TE - CIN)	Prior to the disaster that was his 2017 season, Eifert was being selected as a top-six tight end. What's happened since then? Well, his back issues are a real problem, and it's very reminiscent to Jordan Reed's foot problems. The reason Eifert isn't worth as much as Reed, though, is because he's always relied heavily on touchdowns for his production. Despite having more touchdowns than any other tight end from 2015-2016, Eifert ranked 16th in yardage and 20th in receptions, so he was likely due for some natural regression. He is someone you'll likely want to draft a second tight end with him on your roster.

Paul Richardson (WR - WAS)	The landing spot was an odd one for Richardson, as he might be the fifth option on the depth chart behind Jamison Crowder, Jordan Reed, Chris Thompson, and maybe even Josh Doctson. They apparently brought him in to be the downfield threat in the offense, but Richardson wasn't much of a separator last year with the Seahawks, but did rack up nine plays of more than 20 yards. Alex Smith was the best deep passer in the NFL last year, though it probably helps to have Tyreek Hill scooting down the field. Richardson is likely to be a very boom-or-bust fantasy option, making him just a high-upside bye week filler.
D.J. Moore (WR - CAR)	It was shocking to see the Panthers snag Moore with Calvin Ridley still on the board, but they obviously had him higher on their board. He's going to have to compete with Devin Funchess, Greg Olsen, and Christian McCaffrey for targets, which is less than ideal considering that Cam Newton isn't what we'd call an accurate quarterback. Moore might turn out to be the most productive wide receiver in Carolina, but that might not be saying much. Be prepared for a roller coaster in fantasy.
Matt Breida (RB - SF)	He's potentially one of the more undervalued backup running backs, but that may have something to do with Joe Williams returning from injury. Truth be told, Breida beat out Williams last year in training camp. Knowing how much Jerick McKinnon has struggled on first- and second-down over the course of his career, it's possible that Breida has value as more than just a handcuff in Kyle Shanahan's two-back offense. Him separating his shoulder in the preseason opener will cost him the entire preseason, but he's expected back for Week 1.
Doug Martin (RB - OAK)	It seems like his ADP may move up sooner than I'd hoped, but Martin is one of my favorite late-round sleepers. Word has come out that he looks phenomenal at OTAs. Battling a 32-year-old Marshawn Lynch who has a history of back problems? Playing behind a top-five offensive line? Sign me up. It's rare to find a running back being draft so late who has multiple 1,400-yard rushing seasons on his resume. While it's Lynch's job, it seems like Jon Gruden has a clear role for Martin in the offense.
Jacksonville Jaguars (DST - JAC)	It's not often that I'd support the idea of drafting a defense before the final round, but the Jaguars are a slightly different animal. They are one of the most dominant defenses we've seen in their lifetime, they haven't lost any of their important pieces, and they're extremely young.
Darren Sproles (RB - PHI)	He's going to be 35 years old this season, so there's plenty of reason to worry about his production, but whenever he's been on the field, he's done a fine job. In the first year of Doug Pederson's offense, he totaled 146 touches for 865 yards and four touchdowns. Many are chasing Jay Ajayi, but he was playing less than 30 snaps per game down the stretch in 2017. Prior to getting hurt, Sproles played 34 and 50 snaps in the first two weeks of 2018. By bringing him back, he'll be part of the gameplan, but he may take on a lesser role with Corey Clement emerging. Sproles remains the only running back to have played more than 43 snaps under Pederson, and he did it four times in 17 games. Rumors from training camp suggest that he looks like the same player he's always been, which would mean he'll make the 53-man roster.
Latavius Murray (RB - MIN)	There are some who are expecting the Vikings backfield to be split similar to the way it was last year with Jerick McKinnon and Murray, but I'm not one of them. Dalvin Cook had a stranglehold on the job prior to tearing his ACL, as he averaged 23.7 touches per game in his first three full games. With his injury coming so early in the year, he'll be back for Week 1, which would have Murray return to a 6-10 touch role, which is unusable for fantasy, making him a high-end backup running back.
David Njoku (TE - CLE)	I've always been a fan of Njoku the player, but was really concerned about his 2018 outlook until recently. Targets were going to be hard to come by, that was until Corey Coleman was traded, Josh Gordon went away from the team, and Antonio Callaway might have more off-the-field issues. After an impressive preseason opener, it seems that Todd Haley is going to make it a point to use the freakishly athletic tight end in more ways than Hue Jackson did last year.

Austin Seferian-Jenkins (TE - JAC)	The Jaguars have enough threats on the team to take attention away from Seferian-Jenkins, who is likely to score at least six touchdowns if he stays healthy. If Marcedes Lewis can finish as the TE20 in this offense, so can Seferian-Jenkins. Just know that if he doesn't score, you're likely to be left feeling disappointed, because despite seeing 74 targets in 14 games last year, he topped 46 yards just one time.
Cameron Brate (TE - TB)	Why the panic on Brate? I know he just got a contract extension with the Bucs, but these are the splits we have to go off: In his first seven games last year, he averaged 6.3 targets, 4.4 receptions, 57.9 yards, and 0.57 touchdowns. In his final nine games, he averaged 3.7 targets, 1.9 receptions, 20.7 yards, and 0.22 touchdowns. Some have said it had to do with the injuries on the offensive line and that he was kept in to block, but that's not true. He's a risky proposition with O.J. Howard on the upward slope of his career.
Eli Manning (QB - NYG)	When you've got analysts everywhere saying that Odell Beckham is a top-three wide receiver, Evan Engram is a top-five tight end, and Saquon Barkley is a top-six running back, why is Manning so low on lists? It's a fact that they cannot all produce like that if Manning is outside the top-24 quarterbacks. Prior to the 2017 season, Manning had averaged 4,290 yards and 30.3 touchdowns in the previous three seasons. Those numbers would have made him a top-10 quarterback in 2017. With Pat Shurmur coming to town, you should expect Manning to take a step forward and be better than most expect. He's someone who is ideal for 2QB leagues, but will be able to be streamed in 1QB leagues.
Todd Gurley (RB - LAR)	After a historical campaign where he scored 21.3 standard points per game (most since Chris Johnson's magical 2009 season), Gurley sits atop the draft rankings. The Rams did go out and acquire Brandin Cooks, but they also re-built their entire defense, which should only lead to more rushing attempts for Gurley. He's as safe as they come atop the draft.
Le'Veon Bell (RB - PIT)	Despite having a less-successful year than his 2016 campaign, Bell still finished No. 2 among fantasy running backs. His contract dispute is not going away any time soon, which moves him down under Todd Gurley due to safety. We fully expect Bell to suit-up when the lights come on in Week 1, but there's always a chance he doesn't. Another added risk is that he'll have a new offensive coordinator in 2018, though Randy Fichtner doesn't appear to be shy running a fast-paced offense.
Saquon Barkley (RB - NYG)	When a team selects a running back with the No. 2 overall pick in today's game, they're going to use him, a lot. Last year in Pat Shurmur's offense, then-rookie Dalvin Cook totaled 71 touches in the team's first three games before getting hurt in Week 4. His pace was 379 total touches, which would have ranked No. 2 behind only Todd Gurley. Unlike Ezekiel Elliott, Barkley won't even be the opponent's biggest fear as long as Odell Beckham Jr. is on the field. With Barkley suffering a slight hamstring strain, it's unlikely we see him for much more of the preseason.
David Johnson (RB - ARI)	Some have Johnson as high as No. 1 in our consensus rankings, but I'd urge against drafting him with a top-three pick. Did you know that 73.3 percent (22-of-30) of top-six running backs over the last six years have come from top-12 scoring offenses? I'd argue that the Cardinals would likely be a bottom-10 scoring offense in 2018, and there's been just three running backs who have overcome that to become a top-six running back over the last six years. Johnson scored 20 touchdowns in his magical 2016 season, something that's not repeatable. It's also worth noting that since Week 6 of 2016, he's averaged just 3.63 yards per carry on 191 carries. The offensive line wasn't great to begin with and they just lost their starting center for the season. He's still worth a mid-first-round pick, but I'd take someone in a better offense over him.

Ezekiel Elliott (RB - DAL)	The good news is that the Cowboys offensive line has been replenished in both free agency and the draft. The bad news is that there's little talent surrounding Elliott, which could prove to make life difficult on him. While Dez Bryant and Jason Witten weren't in their primes, they demanded attention from opposing defensive coordinators. Unfortunately, Terrance Williams and Allen Hurns don't. Elliott will get all the work he can handle, which is important but just how efficient can he be?
Antonio Brown (WR - PIT)	My overall ranking might be too low on the No. 1 wide receiver who has now finished inside the top-three at his position in each of the last four years, but passing on a volume running back is hard to do. Brown is as consistent as they come, as he's now posted at least WR2 numbers in 57 of his last 77 games, which amounts to 74 percent of the time. The only wide receivers who were able to accomplish that in just one year (2017) were Deandre Hopkins and Michael Thomas. He's the No. 1 wide receiver and it's not even debatable at this point. He's like a fine wine that gets better with age. If you want to take him as the third player off the board, there's no issue with that.
Alvin Kamara (RB - NO)	Did you know that Kamara scored more fantasy points on just his receiving totals than Amari Cooper, Sammy Watkins, and Jordy Nelson did in 2017? His 826 yards and five touchdowns would've ranked 24th among wide receivers. We're talking about a running back. Even if we dial back some of his efficiency, the suspension of Mark Ingram can give him some touches to help compensate. It's only natural that a player going into year two would receive more touches, anyway. The over/under for his touch total should be around 250 this year.
Leonard Fournette (RB - JAC)	If we could guarantee that Fournette would stay on the field for all 16 games, he'd be worthy of a top-five pick, but his foot troubles are a concern. Not only did Blake Bortles start to play competently toward the end of the season, but the Jaguars added Andrew Norwell in free agency, who is one of the best offensive guards in football. Fournette should see some lighter fronts en route to another top-10 finish.
Julio Jones (WR - ATL)	If you're fortunate to land Jones late in the first, consider yourself one lucky person. While some have said he's inconsistent, the numbers tell a different story. He's finished with WR1 numbers in 40.4 percent of his career games, which ranks second to only Odell Beckham Jr. since 2001. If you think he's too "boom or bust," the only players who have posted a higher WR3 percentage than his (73.4 percent) are Beckham Jr., Antonio Brown, A.J. Green, and Michael Thomas. He's a stud who is due for some positive touchdown regression. He might be the only one who can compete with Brown for the top wide receiver spot. While some will say Calvin Ridley could steal some targets, he will also put safeties away from Jones at times.
Melvin Gordon (RB - LAC)	After a disappointing rookie campaign, Gordon has been among the most consistent running backs in fantasy football the last two years, posting RB2 or better numbers in 24-of-29 games. His durability is a concern, though, as he missed five games over his first two years, and parts of others in 2017. The Chargers figure to be a high-scoring team once again in 2018, which bodes well for his chances of finishing as a top-12 running back for the third straight season. He's never discussed among the elites at his position, but he belongs in the tier with Leonard Fournette and Alvin Kamara.
Odell Beckham Jr. (WR - NYG)	It's now a 47-game sample size, so we have plenty of data to analyze him against. Beckham Jr. has posted WR1 numbers in 48.9 percent of those games, which is simply ridiculous. Just how ridiculous? Well, the closest wide receiver to his totals over the last 15 years is Julio Jones, who has hit the WR1 mark in 40.4 percent of his games. The addition of Saquon Barkley is likely to take away some of his massive potential, but he's still a generational talent that is going to be heavily involved. Don't overthink it, he's good.

Kareem Hunt (RB - KC)	<p>Last offseason, I was telling fantasy players to draft both Spencer Ware and Kareem Hunt (when they were both going outside the top seven rounds) because you were guaranteed RB1 production out of one of them. When Ware went down, I pounded the table for Hunt as a late second-round pick under Andy Reid. He ran with the job, so he's the clear-cut starter for them in 2018, and it's a team who packs some serious offensive firepower, provided Pat Mahomes is the real deal. There's tons of mouths to feed between Hunt, Sammy Watkins, Tyreek Hill, and Travis Kelce, but I'll remind you that you want Reid's starting running back no matter who it is. Hunt just happened to show you that he's an above average running back last year, breaking an NFL-high 19 runs of more than 15 yards. They accounted for 521 yards, or 39.3 percent of his season total. With the defense crumbling in Kansas City, the pass attempts are likely to rise, which means the rush attempts could fall. Hunt is still likely to finish as an RB1, but don't expect him to finish top-five.</p>
Dalvin Cook (RB - MIN)	<p>After totaling 71 touches over the first three games, Cook didn't get to show us much of a sample size, though what we did see looked promising. One downfall is that Pat Shurmur is no longer calling plays for the Vikings, though some are excited to see what Joe DiFilippo can do in that role. Still, the defense is as good as ever, which is only good news for Cook's projected attempts. After analyzing the strength of schedule in our own way, Cook had the best schedule among all running backs. While Latavius Murray will get some work, there's little reason to believe that Cook isn't the workhorse who gets 65-70 percent of the touches.</p>
DeAndre Hopkins (WR - HOU)	<p>There are a lot of fantasy football owners going gaga over Hopkins in 2018, but I'd warn you to proceed with caution. Not only did the Texans throw a lot more than they wanted to in 2017 because of all the injuries on the defensive side of the ball, but the 9.3 percent touchdown rate by Deshaun Watson is completely inflated. While Hopkins remains one of the safest wide receivers due to his volume, you don't want to pay for last year's performance. Don't forget that he finished as the WR36 in 2016 while seeing 151 targets. I get it, Watson is better than what he's had, but temper those expectations. There were an incredible 10 games where Hopkins saw 11 or more targets in 2017, while no other wide receiver totaled more than eight of those games.</p>
Michael Thomas (WR - NO)	<p>What Thomas lacked in upside in 2017, he made up for with consistency, as he was finished with WR2 or better numbers 75 percent of the time, which ranked second to only Deandre Hopkins. Should some of Alvin Kamara's regression go Thomas' way, you'll be getting a steal in the second-round, as he'll finish as a top-five wide receiver. Most don't realize that he finished top-eight last year despite scoring just five times. As long as Drew Brees is his quarterback, Thomas is worth a top-20 pick in any format. Since 2011, Thomas' 80.6 percent rate of finishing as a WR3 or better is the best in football, with Antonio Brown right behind him at 79.2 percent.</p>
Davante Adams (WR - GB)	<p>After many wrote him off after his first two seasons, Adams has top-three wide receiver in his range of possibilities in 2018. I mean, the guy finished as a top-12 wide receiver with Brett Hundley starting the majority of the season. He'll now be the No. 1 wide receiver for Aaron Rodgers, which makes him as safe as they come at the position. He's scored 17 touchdowns in his last 22 games with Rodgers under center. The chemistry they've built cannot be understated, while Rodgers doesn't have much familiarity on the rest of the roster. Adams will see No. 1 cornerbacks seemingly every week now, but he'll still return WR1 value.</p>
Keenan Allen (WR - LAC)	<p>After starting out the season extremely slow (595 yards, one touchdown through the first nine games), Allen exploded over the final seven games of the season, posting 798 yards and five touchdowns. His emergence came as the team started to move away from Antonio Gates, who is no longer with the team in 2018. The concern with him is that Mike Williams (who they drafted in the top-10 last year) will see much more playing time and is a real red zone threat, though the loss of Hunter Henry definitely clears up some targets. Allen has been a fantasy asset when he's on the field, so there's little reason to doubt him now. The lone problem is that Mike Williams is going to be "a thing" in the red zone, potentially limiting Allen's touchdown ceiling.</p>

A.J. Green (WR - CIN)	Over Green's career, he's posted WR3 or better numbers in 76.2 percent of his games. The only wide receivers who have better numbers over their careers are Michael Thomas and Odell Beckham Jr. Despite the Bengals offense being extremely underwhelming in 2017, Green still somehow managed to finish top-10 for the fourth time in the last six years. He may never make it to the top-three, but he's consistent enough to warrant a second-round pick. The fact that John Ross is now across from him should open things up underneath.
Joe Mixon (RB - CIN)	Most have somehow forgotten how highly-touted Mixon was coming out of Oklahoma. He's a true three-down workhorse running back that can handle 20-plus touches per game if they want him to, and that's exactly how they treated him once Jeremy Hill went down last year, as he averaged 17.6 touches per game from Week 8-12 before he hurt his ankle in Week 13. Those 17.6 touches per game would've ranked as the 13th most among running backs last year. If the Bengals can become a competent offense once again after rebuilding the offensive line, Mixon has top-five upside. In the preseason opener, Mixon was all over the field, including lining up at wide receiver where he caught a touchdown.
Christian McCaffrey (RB - CAR)	The signing of C.J. Anderson most definitely hurt McCaffrey's upside in the Panthers offense, but it appears as if the Panthers want to use McCaffrey in a workhorse role. His build is likely not designed to handle that type of work and it's something Ron Rivera acknowledged that after Week 1 of last season, so I'm not sure where this is coming from. But still, we have to assume he's getting 15-20 touches per week, which is among the elite, so he's most definitely on the RB1 radar. You should approach with caution, however, as Cam Newton is the best goal-line back in the game, which is why you never see their running backs score many rushing touchdowns. Most don't want to admit it, but McCaffrey's ceiling is capped.
Devonta Freeman (RB - ATL)	Freeman has lost some of his luster with Tevin Coleman becoming more and more involved, but he's still a fantasy producer. The reason to be pessimistic about him, though, is that he received 12 or fewer carries in eight of his final 10 games in 2017. That's going to make it tough to produce as the top-10 running back that he is, though his work in the receiving game helps. He doesn't have top-three upside as long as Coleman is healthy, but he'll likely produce as an RB2 or better the majority of time, something that's hard to find later in drafts.
Mike Evans (WR - TB)	Anyone who drafted Evans last year has a bad taste in their mouth, though we've always said that touchdowns are the hardest thing to predict, even when you're 6-foot-5 and 231 pounds. Evans now has two 12 touchdown seasons under his belt, but the other two netted a combined eight touchdowns. Still, he's now produced 1,000 yards in each of his four seasons, which is something you need to value. If Jameis Winston takes a step forward in his career, Evans could be right back in the first-round conversation next year. The suspension to Winston for the first three weeks might turn out to be okay, because if you recall, Ryan Fitzpatrick produced two top-20 wide receivers with the Jets just a couple years ago in Brandon Marshall and Eric Decker.
Jordan Howard (RB - CHI)	In standard formats, feel free to draft Howard in the second-round, as he's going to be the workhorse on first- and second-down for new head coach Matt Nagy, who comes from Andy Reid's tutelage. Howard has been one of the most reliable runners in football the last two years, averaging 4.61 yards per carry while the defense knew exactly what they were doing, with no other real threat on the field for a majority of those games. His lack of passing-down work limits his upside, but he's extremely safe in standard because there isn't another running back on the roster who can net 200-plus carries. He's essentially the Demaryius Thomas of running backs where he won't win you your league, but won't lose it.

LeSean McCoy (RB - BUF)	I'm not completely sold on drafting McCoy as a top-12 running back, but it's hard to pass on the volume he'll receive this year. Playing on a team with what's likely to have a rookie under center, behind a now-poor offensive line (lost three starters this offseason), in what's almost guaranteed to be a low-scoring offense? Did I mention that he's going to be 30 years old when the season starts? You can't pass up this type of volume in the second-round, but I wouldn't blame you if you took a wide receiver over him where he's being drafted. As an update, you might be wise pushing McCoy out into the eighth-round, as there could be a looming suspension for some off-the-field acquisitions. You simply cannot risk taking him in the first few rounds with those question marks. He does, however, become a decent option in the third- or fourth-round.
Jerick McKinnon (RB - SF)	No matter how you feel about McKinnon's talent, the 49ers have told you everything you need to know when they paid him \$30 million over four years. You should know that the 49ers could get out of the contract after one year with just a \$1.5 million cap hit in 2019, but that's not why you sign someone like him. They also passed on a lot of running backs in the draft, showing confidence in the guys on the roster. He's never been great on first- and second-down, but unless you believe Matt Breida or Joe Williams is going to walk into 15 carries per game, you need to rank McKinnon aggressively. He figures to be the Devonta Freeman of Kyle Shanahan's offense, which we know is extremely valuable. With the news coming out that he's dealing with a calf strain, it should make you a bit hesitant to select him with a top-two round pick like some have been doing. The signing of Alfred Morris could be nothing, but it could be something considering the history between him and Shanahan.
Doug Baldwin (WR - SEA)	While everyone seems to be foaming at the mouth to draft Rashaad Penny, it's Baldwin who is the most valuable asset on the Seahawks roster. It's rare to find a wide receiver who is as underappreciated as Baldwin, who has now finished as a top-13 wide receiver in each of the last three seasons. Not only has he averaged 1,062.7 yards in that span, but he's scored 29 touchdowns, and that was with Jimmy Graham on the roster. I shouldn't have to remind you that Graham is gone, and the Seahawks didn't add a wide receiver of significance to replace Paul Richardson. Baldwin is a low-end WR1 with upside. You should know that Baldwin suffered some sort of knee injury at the start of training camp and is expected to miss the preseason games. While he doesn't necessarily need the work as a veteran, it's added risk to his fantasy appeal.
Rob Gronkowski (TE - NE)	It's not a clear-cut situation anymore with Gronkowski atop the tight end board, though I've kept him there myself. While the Patriots got rid of Brandin Cooks, the Chiefs and Travis Kelce added Sammy Watkins to further cloudy the target situation. Gronkowski is one of the few tight ends you can put down in marker that he'll see 100-plus targets if healthy, and he just happens to play with one of the greatest quarterbacks of all-time. He gives you an advantage at the most unpredictable position in fantasy. He's finished as a top-12 option in 70.6 percent of his career games, while Travis Kelce's sits at 57.1 percent.
Alex Collins (RB - BAL)	A lot of people talk about how good Kenyan Drake was to close out the season, but did you know that Collins was the RB8 in standard formats from Week 8 through Week 17? He was better for a longer stretch, and the offense improved significantly around him this offseason. The only concern you'd have is Kenneth Dixon, who was supposed to be the team's workhorse, but it's possible that they're going to simply move on from him. That built-in risk lowers him on my board just a tad, but I don't think the Ravens would've re-signed him if that were the case. An update on Dixon is that he's been missing camp with a soft tissue injury, which should give you more confidence in Collins as the team's clear-cut workhorse.

Stefon Diggs (WR - MIN)	The addition of Kirk Cousins has everyone excited, though the one who should be most excited is Diggs, who might see more targets float his way. After playing with Case Keenum, who was more of a game manager, Diggs should be more of a field stretcher for Cousins, as he can create separation at every level of the field. Meanwhile, Adam Thielen had a boost in production under Pat Shurmur, who is now gone. As of now, Thielen is going earlier than Diggs in drafts, but it really should be the other way around. Take the discount on Diggs and pass on Thielen, you'll be happy you did.
Travis Kelce (TE - KC)	While some will try to make the argument for Kelce over Rob Gronkowski, I won't be one of them, simply because the Chiefs now have an abundance of offensive weapons that are going to need touches. They signed Sammy Watkins for nearly \$50 million, which tells you how much they wanted him, and Tyreek Hill has remained as efficient as ever, so it's hard to argue that you should take targets away from him. Ultimately, I still love Kelce as an asset, but he's lost some of the upside he presented in 2017, which still had him finish eight points behind Gronkowski... and he played one more game than Gronkowski did, too. The change in quarterback may not be a downgrade, but don't call it an upgrade.
Aaron Rodgers (QB - GB)	The best in the game, period. By ranking him in the 30-40 range overall, I know that he's unlikely to fall to me in drafts, but that's because of how replaceable the position really is. The dip from Rodgers to someone like Matthew Stafford is typically four points per game, which is a much larger gap from someone like Melvin Gordon down to someone like Giovani Bernard. If Rodgers falls to the end of the third-round, that's when I'd start to consider him due to the consistency he provides at a very inconsistent position. Did you know that just five quarterbacks produced top-12 numbers in more than 50 percent of your starts? Rodgers has averaged 63.4 percent for his career.
Tyreek Hill (WR - KC)	It's clear that Tyreek Hill is among the most efficient wide receivers in the game, as his 11.3 yards per target in 2017 ranked first in the league among those with 70 or more targets. Not just that, but the closest player to him was Marvin Jones at 10.3 YPT (a whopping 9 percent difference). That number came up quite a bit from his 2016 total that was at 7.1 yards per target, so you might want to dial back those large expectations. The addition of Sammy Watkins isn't going to help him gain a higher target share, either, as they paid Watkins a generous \$50 million. As high as you might be on Pat Mahomes, it's going to be incredibly hard for him to top Alex Smith's MVP-caliber 2017 season. There's regression coming for Hill, but his price does not reflect that. If you can snag him in the fourth-round, that's when you should feel okay with the risk.
T.Y. Hilton (WR - IND)	The first time seeing Andrew Luck in action was a good one in 2018, making me a bit more optimistic about Hilton. During the years he's played with Luck, Hilton finished in-between the WR5 and WR24 range every season. He's not someone you draft for consistency, however, as he's posted WR2 or better numbers in just 42.6 percent of his career games.
Amari Cooper (WR - OAK)	After posting back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons to open his career, Cooper hit some speed bumps in 2017, as he finished with just 680 yards in 14 games. It was even worse than that, though, as he accumulated 30.9 percent of his yardage in just one game. We do know that his ankle caused him to miss nearly two full games, but it's rare to see a wide receiver struggle the way he did when coming off two impressive seasons. It may not have helped that Derek Carr was dealing with a back injury as well, so we'll chalk that season up to an outlier in what's been a great start to a career. The Raiders cut Michael Crabtree, which helps, but then brought in both Jordy Nelson and Martavis Bryant to replenish the weaponry. Still, Cooper is the only one who has rapport with his quarterback, so I'd expect him to bounce back to WR2 status in 2018. Another fun fact: Gruden has produced at least one 1,000-yard receiver in each of his 11 years as a coach.



Lamar Miller (RB - HOU)	There were rumors that the Texans may cut Miller this offseason, but nothing ever came to fruition, as it's possible that D'Onta Foreman starts the season on the PUP list after his Achilles injury last year. If that's the case, Miller should move up even further on my list, as he's one of the few running backs who've consistently seen 250-plus touches over the last four years. If Deshaun Watson can be even half the quarterback he was last year, Miller is going to find himself going against a lot of light defensive fronts, which could be the reason he averaged 14.9 PPR points per game with Watson, compared to just 9.9 PPR points per game with Tom Savage. The reports are that Miller showed up in great shape to training camp and looks like the back he was back in Miami. If that's the case, he's a steal in the RB20-25 range.
Kenyan Drake (RB - MIA)	The stretch that Drake had at the end of 2017 was nothing short of impressive. He was playing on a bad team, but finished as the RB8 during Weeks 13-17. We mustn't forget that Damien Williams was also hurt during most of that time, so it allowed him to receive more touches than usual. Williams is gone, but the Dolphins brought in Frank Gore, who didn't come to collect dust, and drafted Kalen Ballage, a receiving specialist. There's reasons to like Drake, but there are equally as many reasons not to. The first depth chart out of Miami had Drake and Gore listed as co-starters, though Drake is expected to receive the majority of touches. There's more risk than there should be considering the finish he had to last season, but I'd expect talent to win in the end.
Mark Ingram (RB - NO)	He's suspended for the first four games of the season, sure, but getting him for 12 games will be more valuable than someone like Derrick Henry, who will be touchdown-reliant in all 16 games. It's clear that the Saints don't want to shift more of the early-down work to Alvin Kamara, as Sean Payton said they don't want to change his workload much, even during the first four weeks while Ingram is out. Ingram is also due for some positive regression in the touchdown department, as he caught 58 passes last year without a single touchdown. The league average among running backs is one every 25.6 receptions. Even with his suspension, Ingram is worthy of a top-20 running back selection.
Derrick Henry (RB - TEN)	After sharing a backfield with DeMarco Murray the last two years, Henry seemed to have the backfield all to himself once they released Murray this offseason. Instead, they upgraded Murray when they snagged Dion Lewis, who is one of the best pass-blockers in the game and one they paid \$20 million to over four years. It's clear that they want Henry to remain in the role he was last year, which netted him 11.7 touches per game (ranked just 42nd among RBs). While I suspect he'll get a small bump, he's not likely to get into the 15-16-touch range, which is what's often required to finish as a top-15 running back. He's going to be touchdown-dependent, something that isn't ideal for someone who costs a third-round pick. He's likely to finish as a top-20 running back, but know that the ride will be somewhat bumpy.
Sony Michel (RB - NE)	One of the interesting stats I've come across through my offseason research was that rookie running backs who were drafted in the first-round over the last six years finish as a RB1 80 percent of the time. While it's a very small sample size, it just goes to show that when a team invests a first-round pick on a running back, you shouldn't be afraid to roster him. On top of that, he plays for a team that's finished top-three in scoring in every season since 2010. Seriously, that's ridiculous. There are only two things that could get in Michel's way: Fumbles, so please, protect the ball. The other is injury, which no one is immune to. Michel actually needed a small procedure on his knee that knocked him out of training camp for two weeks, so he may be in somewhat of a timeshare to start the season. He needs to move down boards if we hear that his absence will extend into the regular season.

Larry Fitzgerald (WR - ARI)	I'm done trying to predict when father time will catch up with Fitzgerald, as it seemed like he was on his way out in 2014, only he has since posted WR11, WR17, and WR9 seasons (in standard formats). The quarterback position arguably upgraded with Sam Bradford and Josh Rosen this offseason, though the offense is going to look different under head coach Steve Wilks. There's still not another player on this team who sniffs Fitzgerald's level of talent at wide receiver, so I'd fully expect another top-24 season out of him. The change in coaching staff is the lone concern for me, as Fitzgerald saw 11 or more targets in six games last year, something that this staff may find excessive, especially with David Johnson back.
Chris Hogan (WR - NE)	Despite playing in just nine games in 2017, Hogan managed to finish tied for 25th in red zone targets, and actually had the same amount that Brandin Cooks (12) did, despite Cooks playing all 16 games. It goes to show the confidence Tom Brady has developed with him, so by taking Hogan where he's currently going in drafts, you're getting WR1 upside at WR4 cost.
Allen Robinson (WR - CHI)	It typically takes some time for a wide receiver to learn a new offense, which puts him behind where the rest of the wide receiver group is, but Robinson doesn't have to worry about that, as they are all learning a new offense. In fact, the starting trio of wide receivers and tight end will all be new faces for Mitch Trubisky. You don't bring in someone like Robinson in free agency if you aren't going to feature him. I'm expecting a minimum of 120 targets, which essentially locks him in as a top-25 wide receiver, as there were no wide receivers with more than 109 targets who finished outside the top-25 in standard formats. He's practicing in full and will be playing in the preseason, so it appears he's over the ACL injury that ruined his 2017 season.
Marshawn Lynch (RB - OAK)	The signing of Doug Martin makes little sense, but the fact that they held onto Lynch tells you what you need to know - he's going to play. He seemed to get better as the year went on in 2017, finishing as the No. 11 running back from Week 9 through Week 17. Apparently Jon Gruden wants to run the ball a lot, and even though his history says different, he has the personnel to do just that. Lynch is the new version of Frank Gore with more touchdown upside. When watching him run in the first preseason game, it appears he might be in better shape than he was last year.
Adam Thielen (WR - MIN)	Most don't realize how much of an effect that Pat Shurmur had on Thielen's career, as he catapulted him into a household fantasy name. He was 26 years old when he broke out, something that doesn't happen all that often. The move to John DiFilippo will change some things, as will the move to Kirk Cousins, who has taken more chances down the field than game-manager Case Keenum did. That would play more into Stefon Diggs' skill-set rather than Thielen's. I do expect him to be a reliable fantasy producer, but he's not going to finish with 143 targets again. While doing research for Boom, Bust, and Everything in Between, Thielen finished as a WR3 or better just 56.3 percent of the time despite all those targets. Even if he scores more touchdowns, his lost targets are going to hurt.
Russell Wilson (QB - SEA)	Once you get down to around the No. 50 overall pick, the sure things are gone, so why not take one of the elite players at his position? Wilson has now finished as a top-three quarterback in three of the last four seasons and has never fallen out of the top-12 quarterbacks in any of his six seasons. His defense is as bad as its ever been, which should force him to partake in some shootouts that never seemed to happen before. Despite the elite defense that was being played, Wilson has posted QB1 numbers in 47.9 percent of his games, including a career-high 68.8 percent of games in 2017. He offers safety and upside, which is rare at the position.

Josh Gordon (WR - CLE)	It didn't seem like Gordon missed a beat upon his return last year, though the quarterback play was less than ideal. 39 percent of his targets were over 20 yards, though just 5-of-16 were catchable. It goes to show that the Browns want to use him down the field, though there's bound to be some changes with Todd Haley taking over as coordinator. The reason I'm down on Gordon, though, is that they brought in Tyrod Taylor, Carlos Hyde, Nick Chubb, and Jarvis Landry this offseason. That screams, "we want to run a ball-control style offense." There's only so many targets to go around, so by drafting Gordon as a top-24 receiver, you're essentially saying that Landry is likely to cap out around 100 targets. On top of the target risk, Gordon is now away from the team for training camp, which cannot bode well for him learning the new offense and developing chemistry with his new quarterbacks. A rumor is that Gordon wanted to keep away from the Hard Knocks cameras. If that's the case, Gordon's fall in drafts could turn out to be beneficial.
Zach Ertz (TE - PHI)	If Ertz can stay on the field for all 16 games, he's could be right there in the tier with Gronk and Kelce, but he's dealt with some nagging injuries the last two seasons that have caused him to miss four games. Still, his consistency is something, as he's not finished with 74-78 catches and 816-853 yards in each of the last three seasons, though he doubled his touchdown output in 2017. It wasn't a bad thing to see Trey Burton leave, but the Eagles immediately replaced him with Dallas Goedert, who is a massive red zone threat. Because of that, I'll keep Ertz in the tier below the alpha dogs, but he's not far behind. The fact that Alshon Jeffery may start the season on the PUP list only increases the hype for Ertz.
Jay Ajayi (RB - PHI)	I know that by ranking Ajayi outside the top-24 running backs, he won't wind up on any of my teams, and that's something I'm okay with. Doug Pederson has shown us that he wants to use a committee approach in his offense. He topped 34 snaps just once during his time with the Eagles, with none of the final four games netting any more than 30 snaps. When you're playing that many snaps, your upside goes out the window and you'll be extremely touchdown dependent. With Darren Sproles returning and Corey Clement showing off late in the season, there's no reason to expect it to change. He's going to be frustrating to own, even if he is a top-24 running back at year's end.
Carlos Hyde (RB - CLE)	He's someone I was targeting in best-ball leagues as a low-end RB2 prior to the NFL Draft, as I do believe the Browns are going to be run-heavy in 2018. While that's still going to be the case, them drafting Nick Chubb in the second-round was the worst-case scenario for Hyde (outside of them taking Saquon Barkley). Chubb is essentially a younger version of Hyde, but faster. I still believe Hyde gets the bulk of the workload on what is essentially a one-year deal, but there's risk that Chubb takes over at some point. Update: With the way the Browns have used Hyde in Weeks 2 and 3 of the preseason, it's clear that he's the starter as we head into the season. Chubb will always be threatening his role, but it might be enough to keep Hyde trucking along.
Rex Burkhead (RB - NE)	It seemed things were looking up for Burkhead after the Patriots let Dion Lewis walked and then signed the plodding Jeremy Hill to replace him. That didn't last long, as the Patriots snagged three-down running back Sony Michel at the end of the first-round, showing just how much they felt it was a need. Burkhead is likely to stay in the role he had last year, though the production should dip, as he scored a touchdown on a league-leading 8.5 percent of his touches. By comparison, the NFL average for running backs is 2.85 percent. Still, Burkhead makes for a solid flex-option who has RB2 potential if Michel doesn't pan out. The fact that Michel is missing part of training camp with a knee issue bodes well for Burkhead, who should start the year as a top-20 play at the running back position. Update: Burkhead is reportedly dealing with an ongoing knee injury, but one that he'll apparently play through. This most definitely adds risk to his draft stock, though he's still inside the top 30 running backs.

Demaryius Thomas (WR - DEN)	It's become the cool thing to avoid Thomas in drafts, and there's good reason for that. He's been trending in the wrong direction since Peyton Manning retired, finishing as the WR13, WR19, and then the WR23 in 2017. The impressive part is his consistency, despite the inconsistency from the quarterback position. The addition of Case Keenum will help more than it'll hurt, so find it in your heart to welcome Thomas into your WR2 slot, as he offers more safety than most taken in this range. Just make sure to attack upside with your WR3 pick. Update: With Courtland Sutton working his way into the starting lineup, it's going to continue to limit Thomas' upside, as Sutton is a big body who is likely a better red zone threat at this point in his career. Thomas is a low-upside, low-end WR2.
Brandin Cooks (WR - LAR)	While many continue to prop Cooks up as a low-end WR1, I urge you to stay away from that territory when it comes to him. The Sean McVay offense doesn't cater to one wide receiver, and it's unlikely they take targets away from Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp, who were both extremely efficient last season. We saw Sammy Watkins finish with 70 targets in this exact role last year, and that was despite them giving up a second-round pick to acquire him. While I'd expect Cooks to see more than that with a full offseason to work with the offense, it'd be a stretch to see him finish with anything more than 100 targets. There were just three wide receivers who finished top-24 last year with less than 100 targets, so while it's doable, it's not a given.
JuJu Smith-Schuster (WR - PIT)	Fun fact: Smith-Schuster ranked 55th among wide receivers in targets per game. His 5.6 targets per game ranked behind guys like Kendall Wright and Danny Amendola. His 11.6 yards per target was the best among wide receivers with at least 25 targets, and in fact, it was the best in the last five years. He's going to regress there and the offense didn't change drastically from last year to this year, so seeing his targets make a huge jump is unlikely. We've seen the upside he presents, but that was his absolute ceiling given the opportunities he's capped at. You can't draft a wide receiver who ranked 55th in targets per game in the top-four rounds of your fantasy draft, you just can't. His highlight touchdown catch in the first preseason game is likely to bump him into the top four rounds, making him overvalued.
Royce Freeman (RB - DEN)	There are some who are worried about Devontae Booker, but in the long run, you shouldn't be one of them. He legitimately played behind the running back they just cut (C.J. Anderson), and they felt the need to spend a third-round pick on Freeman this year. This doesn't scream confidence. Freeman may not be elite at anything, but he's really good at everything. He's a no-nonsense runner who knows how to follow his blocks, similar to Jordan Howard. In an offense that likely takes a step forward, Freeman should finish as a top-24 running back in his first season. His touchdown runs in the preseason looked mightily similar to the many touchdown runs at Oregon. Most of us expected common sense to prevail after a strong preseason, but it appears that Vance Joseph is going with Booker to start in Week 1, which lowers our confidence in the entire coaching staff. Freeman will take over the job, it's just a matter of when.
Marvin Jones (WR - DET)	After seeing 107 targets in 2017, Jones' incredible touchdown rate propped him all the way up to the WR5 in standard leagues. He caught a touchdown once every 11.9 targets, which is almost double the average rate for wide receivers, which stands at one every 22.8 targets. After scoring just four touchdowns the prior season in the same offense, you have to wonder just how sustainable his touchdown total is. On top of that, the Lions continue to hype up Kenny Golladay, who is another big-bodied wide receiver to take away some of those looks. Jones is a solid fantasy asset, but don't pay for last year's numbers. He averaged just 5.3 targets per game with Golladay in the lineup, but 9.8 targets per game when he was held out. He's going to have some big games, but he'll likely have to share the stage with Golladay at times.

Golden Tate (WR - DET)	I get it, Tate isn't a sexy pick that'll win you your fantasy league, but he's now finished as a top-34 receiver in each of the last six seasons, including a WR19 finish last year while Marvin Jones had a miraculous season. With the exit of Eric Ebron, some targets may open up over the middle of the field, while Jones now has to fight for perimeter targets with Kenny Golladay. Tate's role in the offense is safe, as he's now seen at least 120 targets in each of the last four seasons. Fun fact: Tate totaled WR3 or better numbers in 61.5 percent of games in 2017, while Adam Thielen was at just 56.3 percent, yet Thielen is going multiple rounds earlier.
Jarvis Landry (WR - CLE)	Going from 140-plus targets to one where he will have a tough time seeing 110 targets is a very big deal for someone like Landry. I believe he's a better football player than what the Dolphins used him as, and the Browns seem to agree, lining him up all over the field. The fact that the Browns traded away Corey Coleman and that Josh Gordon has been away from the team makes me much more optimistic in Landry's expected usage. Put me down for someone who believes he'll be a consistent WR3 with upside for more should Gordon miss any time.
Cam Newton (QB - CAR)	After the failed experiment of trying to dial back Newton's rushing attempts in 2016, it was good to see them unleash him again in 2017. If you take away Newton's ability to run, he wouldn't be a quarterback in this league very long. Fortunately, it seems the Panthers figured that out, making Newton an elite fantasy option once again, rushing for a career-high 754 yards. The upgraded weaponry around him doesn't hurt, but the weakened offensive line does, as they lost Andrew Norwell this offseason, their best lineman. Newton is likely to finish as a top-five quarterback, but he's too expensive in early ADP.
Drew Brees (QB - NO)	Since 2008, Brees' touchdown rate had been 5.0 percent or higher, which was the reason he threw for at least 32 touchdowns in each of those seasons. In 2017, however, that number dipped to 4.3 percent. Was it Brees slipping? Well, when you look at his record-setting completion percentage (72.0 percent), highest yards per attempt since 2011 (8.1), and lowest interception rate in his entire career (1.5 percent), my answer would be an emphatic "no." The touchdowns will come back, as will the pass attempts, and Brees will likely be one of the steals in fantasy drafts. If he falls to you in the late sixth- or seventh-round, snag him.
Corey Davis (WR - TEN)	Davis is someone I compared to Brandon Marshall during last year's draft process, and after watching him throughout the 2017 season, my expectations haven't changed. He didn't develop any chemistry with Marcus Mariota until playoff time, where he caught nine passes for 98 yards and two touchdowns in their two games. He's still yet to "prove it," so you don't want to go all-in, but the potential is there for a top-15 season. Him going in and out of camp with all these little injuries are worrisome, but every time he's on the field, we hear about how him and Mariota are "on the same page."
Dion Lewis (RB - TEN)	You should be expecting Lewis to walk right into the old DeMarco Murray role of the offense, as you don't go out and sign a running back in free agency for \$20 million for no reason. It's possible that new offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur simply didn't want Derrick Henry to be "the guy" of the offense, as he's not a great pass-catcher. If LaFleur installs an offense similar to the one Sean McVay used in L.A., then Lewis could turn out to be a steal at his current cost, though they have said Henry is the "starter." Lewis will be worth more in games when the Titans are down, while Henry will have his way in games they're winning, so it really comes down to how good their team is in 2018.
Michael Crabtree (WR - BAL)	After seeing 291 targets over a two year period with the Raiders, Crabtree saw that number drop to just 101 targets in 2017. Fortunately for him, he was released and wound up as the No. 1 receiver on another team that should get him somewhere in the range of 110-120 targets. Some will say more than that, but Joe Flacco doesn't heavily target any one receiver. During his 10 years in the league, he's yet to target one more than 137 times, and that includes two seasons with 610-plus attempts. With all the additions to the Ravens pass-catching corps, you have to wonder what Crabtree's ceiling is at this point. He's a low-upside WR3.

Marquise Goodwin (WR - SF)	Goodwin is one of the tougher players to project this season, as the 49ers will be welcoming Pierre Garcon back to the lineup, they added Jerick McKinnon in free agency, and they traded up in the second-round to snag Dante Pettis. Still, Goodwin was the alpha-dog for Jimmy Garoppolo last year, totaling 51 targets, 34 receptions, 545 yards, and two touchdowns over the final seven games of the season. You have to wonder if that chemistry carries over into this season, or was it more of a "there's really no one else to throw to" scenario? There's risk with drafting him as a top-30 wide receiver, but if you get him around the WR35-40 range, you can afford to take that risk. He's looking like he is Jimmy Garoppolo's favorite target in training camp, with some suggesting WR1 potential.
Sammy Watkins (WR - KC)	It wouldn't shock me to see Watkins finish as the best Chiefs wide receiver, as I believe he's the most talented one. The issue is that he's learning his third offense in three years, which can cripple a wide receiver in year-one. Because of that, Tyreek Hill is the preferred option in 2018. Still, the Chiefs didn't pay Watkins \$50 million to see 60-80 targets, so I'd expect him to be a WR3 more often than not. With Pat Mahomes under center and a bad defense, the recipe is there for increased pass attempts. Knowing each of their costs, Watkins is the better fantasy pick.
Delanie Walker (TE - TEN)	There's not enough love for the tight end who has now finished top-12 in each of the last five years, including two top-five finishes. While many are expecting Corey Davis to have his breakout season, Walker is the safer choice to rely on for production, even if he doesn't offer extreme upside. Any time you can get 800-plus yards out of a tight end, he's worth consideration as a top-five player at the position. He's kind of like the Demaryius Thomas of tight ends, as he might be boring, but you aren't going to lose your fantasy league because of him. The Titans extending him prior to the season suggest that they know his eventual replacement, Jonnu Smith, isn't quite ready to take his snaps.
Deshaun Watson (QB - HOU)	Just how unrepeatable was Watson's 2017 season? Well, since 2000, just four other quarterbacks have thrown a touchdown on more than 7.9 percent of their passes. We're talking about the entire careers of Peyton Manning, Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees, Ben Roethlisberger, and Philip Rivers. Watson's rate was 9.3 percent in 2017. Looking at all quarterbacks in 2017, only he and Carson Wentz threw a touchdown on more than 6.7 percent of their attempts, which should give you all you need to know. In fact, you should expect his touchdown percentage to be cut in half (and it'd still be good). He's still among the top quarterbacks because of his rushing ability, but don't pay for last year's production, which was still just essentially five games worth.
Tom Brady (QB - NE)	It's really only a matter of time before Brady starts the inevitable downturn to his Hall of Fame career, and we may have already started to witness the beginning of the end. After throwing 26 touchdowns and just three interceptions in the first 11 games, Brady threw just six touchdowns with five interceptions over the final five games, and failed to top 15 fantasy points in any of them. He still gets the benefit of the doubt, but I wouldn't go out of my way to draft him. Did you know that Brady was a top-12 performer just 50 percent of the time last year? Another year onto his age and subtracting Brandin Cooks surely doesn't help.
Ben Roethlisberger (QB - PIT)	Did you know that Roethlisberger has been a top-8 fantasy quarterback just twice during his 14-year career? Missed games play into that a lot, but he's never been one of the "elites" in fantasy football. With that being said, he's finished top-10 in two of the last four seasons and may now have the best wide receiver group he's ever had in Antonio Brown, JuJu Smith-Schuster, and James Washington. The Steelers defense is in somewhat of a rebuild mode, so it shouldn't be shocking to see him in more shootouts like the one against the Jaguars in the playoffs. He's not going to be an every-week starter, but he's going to win you some weeks.

Andrew Luck (QB - IND)	Let's be real about this - nobody outside of Andrew Luck knows whether or not he can return to form. What I can tell you about his preseason performance is that he looked fantastic. He'll now be playing behind the best offensive line of his career and in an offense that'll likely be much more creative than the ones he's been in to this point. Ideally, he'd have better options to throw to, but as he's shown in the past, he can make it work if healthy.
Jamison Crowder (WR - WAS)	After Washington traded for Alex Smith, I knew I'd be high on Crowder. My interest only grew fonder when they brought in Paul Richardson, who should help stretch the field and open things underneath for Crowder. Smith doesn't like throwing into tight windows, as evidenced by NFL's NextGenStats that show a league-low 12 percent of his throws went to a wide receiver with one or less yard of separation. While Richardson and Josh Doctson were mediocre at separating, Crowder averaged 3.2 yards of separation, which ranked eight among wide receivers in 2017. Reports out of camp are that the Smith/Crowder connection has been apparent in the red zone.
Sterling Shepard (WR - NYG)	Over the first two years of his career, Shepard has shown the ability to step-up and be the focal point of a passing attack, though he doesn't need to be with Odell Beckham Jr. on the field. To know that he has that ability is a bonus, though, as Beckham Jr. has dealt with injuries throughout his career. Pat Shurmur did wonders for Adam Thielen's career while working out of the slot, which is where Shepard has played over 80 percent of his snaps the last two years. He's going to give you WR4 production regardless, but has upside for much more. If someone tells you he's not a WR3, ask them what the difference is between someone like him and Juju Smith-Schuster. While the latter may have a better quarterback, Shepard may see more targets.
Jamaal Williams (RB - GB)	Part of the reason analysts are predicting that Aaron Jones will win the job is because of Williams' inability to create big plays. He had just one run of more than 15 yards (25 yards) on 153 carries, the worst big-play rate in the NFL. He did show the ability to carry the ball 20-plus times per game and the offensive line was a bit dinged up, so don't simply dismiss him, either. Taking him outside the top-30 running backs isn't bad, as there's legitimate top-10 upside with any starting running back in the Packers offense. Just know that he's got very-high bust potential as well. It's a bonus that Jones is suspended for the first two games of the season, but when you see that the Packers play the Bears and Vikings over the first two weeks, it's not the greatest start to the schedule and could very well make him look bad. He's someone to think about pairing with Mark Ingram, who is dealing with a four-game suspension.
Emmanuel Sanders (WR - DEN)	It's very possible that Sanders outperforms my ranking of him, but he's now 31 years old and has started to show signs of slowing down, whether it be age or injuries. His yards per target has declined each of the last three seasons, bottoming out at 6.0 yards in 2017. The upgrade in quarterback should help, though, as he was still averaging 7.7 targets per game, which ranked 17th among wide receivers. He should be considered a solid WR3 with some upside, though Courtland Sutton and Demaryius Thomas aren't going to just go away. If the preseason has been a sign of things to come, Sanders might just be Case Keenum's favorite target.
Jordan Reed (TE - WAS)	He's not for those who are risk-adverse, as he's never played all 16 games. In fact, he has averaged just 10.4 games played over his five-year career, with a career-low of six games last year. Still, when on the field, he's been one of the top-five tight ends in the game, and the arrival of Alex Smith doesn't hurt at all, as he's produced a couple top-five tight ends in his time. Reports out of Washington suggest that Reed looks better than he has in years.

Alshon Jeffery (WR - PHI)	Did you realize that Jeffery had just a 47.5 percent catch rate in 2017? That ranked 168th of the 211 wide receivers who saw at least one target in 2018. To know that he finished as the WR15 despite that is pretty amazing. The chemistry between him and Carson Wentz should grow as time goes on, though his touchdown rate will likely go down with Wentz's. Still, Jeffery is the clear-cut No. 1 receiver in an offense with a creative play-caller and franchise quarterback. His injury-riddled past is factored in, as he'd be higher on my list if he hadn't missed 11 games in the past three years with a lot of soft tissue injuries. News has been leaked recently that has him potentially remaining on the PUP list to start the season. If that's the case, he'll become nothing more than a late-round bench stash. As of now, it appears that he's likely to at least miss a few games.
Trey Burton (TE - CHI)	Going from Doug Pederson's offense to Matt Nagy's is going to be a treat for Burton who already knows 95 percent of the playbook. Over the last three years, the Andy Reid/Pederson/Nagy offenses have averaged 156.6 targets to tight ends. That number would've ranked as the fourth-most in the NFL last year and the Bears wasted no time acquiring him in free agency. While it's hard to trust a tight end who's never played in a full-time capacity, Burton is on the TE1 radar and is oozing with upside.
Randall Cobb (WR - GB)	I get it, Cobb's career has gone downhill the past few years, but that shouldn't force you to run from him completely. The last I checked, his quarterback is still Aaron Rodgers, which means 10 touchdowns is well within reach. Even with Jordy Nelson in town last year, Cobb saw 92 targets in 15 games, showing how much he still means to the offense. While there were rumors of him being cut due to his large salary cap number, they decided to hold on for another season, and you should, too. His ankle that required surgery this offseason is a real concern, but let's not pretend that you get wide receivers with his upside this late without some sort of risk.
Cooper Kupp (WR - LAR)	Despite missing Week 17, Kupp finished as the No. 27 wide receiver in his rookie season, something that's not common in today's game. He did benefit from Robert Woods missing four games, and it now doesn't help that Brandin Cooks has been added to the mix. The part you can hang your hat on is that Kupp plays an entirely different role in the Rams offense than Cooks will, so it shouldn't affect his role too much. With Cooks, Woods, and Todd Gurley on the roster, it's going to be tough for Kupp to outperform last year's numbers without an injury. If there's one really good stat to support Kupp's continued success is his 23 red zone targets, which were more than double any other receiver on the team in 2017.
Kerryon Johnson (RB - DET)	While I'm typically pretty aggressive in my pursuit of high-round rookie running backs, Johnson has the toughest backfield to project. Not only did the Lions draft Johnson in the second-round, but they also snagged LeGarrette Blount in free agency. If there's one thing Blount does well, it's handle early-down work. If there's anything Theo Riddick does, it's handle third-down work. Do you see where this is going? Johnson is probably the best all-around running back on the roster, but they aren't benching Blount or Riddick, so he'll be left to battle for touches. Oh, and don't completely write-off Ameer Abdullah, who still has the possibility of being traded. The asking price for Johnson is surely about to go up based on how he looked in their first preseason game, where he showed his versatility in every facet of the game.
Ronald Jones II (RB - TB)	Not only have I been bullish on rookie running backs, but I'm bullish on the Bucs offense as a whole. When you have the firepower of Mike Evans, Deshaun Jackson, Chris Godwin, O.J. Howard, and Cameron Brate in front of you, it's not likely that a defense will ever make it their priority to stop the running back. It appears as-if Peyton Barber will open the year as the starter, though I'm still betting on talent winning out in the end. Barber has been on the roster the last two years, so the Bucs likely already know what they have, which is what led to them spending a high second-round pick on Jones. You'll deal with some growing pains, but I believe he'll have top-30 numbers at year's end.



Robby Anderson (WR - NYJ)	This is a ranking that can move, as Anderson could potentially be suspended by the commissioner. He's had off -the-field issues multiple times, but the most recent arrest has some really bad details, particularly when he said things to a police officer about what he'd do to his wife. He may escape legal trouble, but the NFL is sure to investigate. It could be an Ezekiel Elliott situation where we don't even know when the season begins, so you have to build that risk into his draft price. He belongs in the WR4 range because of it. If Sam Darnold starts, it could actually hurt his stock because of the rapport Anderson's built with Josh McCown.
Robert Woods (WR - LAR)	As it turns out, coaching does, in fact, matter more than most care to admit. After failing to finish as a top-40 wide receiver in any of his first four seasons, Woods finished as the WR33 in 2017 despite missing four games! His 85 targets over 12 games would extrapolate to 113.3 over a full 16-game season, though we can't automatically pencil him in for that with the arrival of Brandin Cooks. With the way their defense improved, it's unlikely that they'll be throwing any more in 2018, so you have to keep your expectations at bay with Woods. He's likely to be on the WR3/WR4 border most weeks and offers little upside with all the playmakers on that offense. You'd likely be better off selecting someone like Marquise Goodwin in his range.
Jimmy Graham (TE - GB)	This is an interesting case, because we just saw the Packers sign a big-name free agent last year who was a massive letdown, but things have changed since that time. The biggest boost for Graham is the fact that Jordy Nelson is gone, as he was Aaron Rodgers' go-to target in the red zone, a job that can quickly become Graham's. He's not going to be the tight end who racks up 50-plus yards per game like Gronk, Kelce, or Ertz, but his touchdown numbers should be right in line with theirs. The concern with Graham is that he's going to turn 32 years old this year and showed signs of decline with an elite quarterback last year, as he failed to record more than 72 yards in any one game. He's going to be incredibly touchdown-dependent.
Evan Engram (TE - NYG)	Everything that could have went Engram's way last year in terms of targets, did. Both Odell Beckham Jr. and Brandon Marshall were place on I.R. early in the season, while Sterling Shepard was in and out of the lineup with injuries. Not only are Beckham Jr. and Shepard back to full health, but the Giants just spent the No. 2 pick on Saquon Barkley, who is essentially another receiver. Engram is still likely to be a TE1, but I'm not touching him where he's being drafted. In the four games where he saw less than seven targets in 2017, he averaged just 1.5 receptions for 16.3 yards and no touchdowns.
Tevin Coleman (RB - ATL)	Unless there's an injury to Devonta Freeman, it's hard to see Coleman playing a consistent role in fantasy. In games where Freeman's played all four quarters, Coleman topped 11 carries just once last season. When seeing in between 6-11 carries per game, it makes it difficult to produce massive numbers unless you're consistently scoring touchdowns at an unsustainable rate, which Coleman has. The reason you draft him is because he can give you flex-type production with Freeman, but turns into a must-start RB1 without Freeman.
Greg Olsen (TE - CAR)	While I do believe that Olsen is on the down-slope of his career, he didn't actually fall off a cliff. Prior to getting hurt in 2017, he'd seen at least 104 targets in each season dating back to 2012. This is where I remind you that there were just six tight ends who topped 95 targets in 2017. You want to chase targets at the most volatile position in fantasy, so even though he may not have top-three upside anymore, he's still a top-eight tight end. One stat that doesn't show so well for Olsen and Christian McCaffrey is that no RB/TE duo produced more than 185 targets in 2016 or 2017.

Kirk Cousins (QB - MIN)	Many are assuming that just because the talent around Cousins got better, that he'll produce more than he did with the Redskins. I'd hit the brakes on that assessment, as his efficiency was among the best in the game while there, and he was among the top-10 in pass attempts every season. Going to the Vikings (who threw the ball just 526 times in 2017) is going to change that, as their defense is top-three in the league, which doesn't allow shootouts. They also just lost their offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur, so it'll take some time for everyone to sync up. While Cousins should be a bit more consistent, I don't think he comes with the upside to warrant a top-eight quarterback selection. Even though he finished as a top-eight quarterback in each of the last three seasons, he's posted less than 14 fantasy points in 18-of-48 games in those seasons, which is an abnormally high bust-rate.
Carson Wentz (QB - PHI)	To give you an idea as to how unrepeatable Wentz's 2017 season was from a touchdown standpoint, let's compare him to Aaron Rodgers. Wentz's touchdown rate was 7.5 percent last year, a number that Rodgers has hit just once in his career. Remember, we are talking about the guy who I'd consider the best of all-time. If we dialed back his touchdown rate to 6.0 percent, which is still elite, he would've thrown seven less touchdowns, which would drop him from the QB5 to QB12. Coming off an ACL tear may limit his mobility at the start of the season, which further impacts his fantasy performance. I'd avoid him as a top-five quarterback off the board, especially knowing that he's unlikely to play in any preseason games. It's now a question as to whether or not he plays in Week 1, which is not what you want to see when taking a quarterback in the first eight rounds. Pass.
Matt Ryan (QB - ATL)	The addition of Calvin Ridley bumped Ryan's stock up just a bit, enough to move him ahead of guys like Jared Goff and Jimmy Garoppolo. Ryan isn't going to be the top fantasy quarterback that he was in 2016, but he's someone you should be happy to roster if you're waiting until the late rounds to draft your quarterback, just don't reach for him.
Duke Johnson (RB - CLE)	There's a big debate going on between the experts and the public, but it feels like the public has adjusted better than the experts on this one. He had his most efficient season to date in 2017, yet Hue Jackson never gave him more than 10 carries. With all the weapons surrounding him in the passing-game now, it's extremely unlikely he even gets close to the 80.3 target average he has the last three years. And then they added both Carlos Hyde and Nick Chubb to handle the rushing attack, leaving little appeal to the third-down back. If you think you're being sneaky by landing him as your RB3, you're likely getting what you pay for.
Devante Parker (WR - MIA)	There are a lot of fantasy players who are bailing on Parker at this point in his career, and while I get why they'd want to do that, it's a mistake. He's a former first-round pick who is 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds, who has produced when he's been healthy. There've been 25 games in which he's seen at least five targets, and in those games he's averaged 68.2 yards and 0.3 touchdowns, which is low-end WR2 numbers. He did that with Jarvis Landry on the team, who is now a Cleveland Browns receiver. It's rare to find a player this late in drafts who has 120-target potential, but Parker does. If he stays healthy, he's likely going to finish as a top-30 wide receiver with upside for more. Update: Parker is going to miss multiple weeks with a broken finger, which should temper expectations, though he's still undervalued.
Marlon Mack (RB - IND)	It's a bit difficult to know how the Colts value Marlon Mack, as they didn't attack any of the big-name running backs in free agency, but did draft two running backs in the first five rounds. He apparently played through a shoulder injury that required surgery all of last season, so it's possible that we haven't seen the best of Mack. The Colts offense could be a juggernaut if Andrew Luck is, in fact, healthy once again. This is one backfield to pay attention to in the preseason. Mack injured his hamstring during the first game, which is likely going to cost him a lot of practice reps in the new offense. He's among the riskiest RB3 picks in drafts.

Nelson Agholor (WR - PHI)	For someone who ranked 50th in targets per game among wide receivers last year, Agholor is getting a lot of love in early drafts. Knowing that, tied in with the fact that Carson Wentz will regress in the touchdown department, and you have yourself a recipe for disaster when taking him as a top-35 wide receiver (as he's currently being drafted). If Alshon Jeffery should wind up on the PUP list to start the season, Agholor will move up the ranks.
Kelvin Benjamin (WR - BUF)	Let me be clear - I'm not a fan of Benjamin the player, but I am a fan of the targets he'll see with a lack of receiving options in Buffalo. It was the reason he saw 115-plus targets in Carolina, and the quarterback situation wasn't much better (from an accuracy standpoint), but he was able to finish as a top-24 receiver multiple times. Targets first, talent second in fantasy football. As long as Benjamin shows he's healthy when drafts start taking place, he's worthy of a top-40 wide receiver pick. The addition of Corey Coleman lowered his ceiling, but Coleman has just a month to grasp a new offense, so he shouldn't be a massive threat in 2018.
Rashaad Penny (RB - SEA)	After seeing the Seahawks invest a first-round pick on Penny, we all thought he was guaranteed to start. Well, here we are, months later and there are three legitimate beat writers who say that Chris Carson is going to start for this team. While I don't think Carson winds up with more points at the end of the year, it's clear that Penny isn't going to be worth his price of admission to start the season. He's not someone you'll want to be starting until we have a clearer picture of what's going on. Update: Penny had to have surgery on his finger that will reportedly knock him out for 3-4 weeks, though they're expecting on him back by Week 1 of the regular season. It's going to be a mess of a backfield to predict at the start of the season, though we're starting to think Chris Carson has the job for now.
Adrian Peterson (RB - WAS)	The Derrius Guice injury had a trickle-down effect on the rest of the depth chart, though it's odd to see them sign Peterson. He's a two-down back who has a skill-set similar to Rob Kelley and Samaje Perine. There was a time where it wouldn't have mattered who was on the depth chart, but that time is long gone, as Peterson has totaled just 601 yards on his last 193 carries, which amounts to just 3.12 yards per carry. He does walk onto a team with a solid offensive line, something that wouldn't have been said about Arizona's last year. In his preseason debut, Peterson looked spry, totaling 56 yards on 11 carries. While it's just one game, he was the clear-cut starter running with the first-team offense, giving him RB3/flex value in fantasy leagues.
Jimmy Garoppolo (QB - SF)	There's a lot of hype surrounding Garoppolo, who finished the season with a bang. His 8.8 yards per attempt ranks as third-best of any quarterback who's thrown the ball at least 100 times in the last five years. With that being said, he did finish with just 7 touchdowns and 5 interceptions in five starts, so it wasn't all coming together just yet. He lacks a true No. 1 receiver, which may hurt his overall touchdown numbers, and he doesn't offer any rushing upside, as he's rushed for just 17 yards in his seven NFL starts. There's definitely a chance that he gets into QB1 territory, but you shouldn't pay for that just yet. His current cost is inside the top-eight quarterbacks, which is just too much.
Chris Thompson (RB - WAS)	Coming back from a broken leg is never going to be easy to do, as you're rather tear an ACL at this point in time. It's a shame, too, because Thompson just had a historic season. While most talk about Alvin Kamara's ridiculous efficiency, they looked over how impressive Thompson was while averaging 7.81 yards per touch, which was more than Kamara who averaged 7.73 yards per touch. It wasn't just yardage, either, as there've been 265 running backs over the last five years who've totaled at least 100 touches, and Thompson's 1.47 PPR fantasy points per touch ranked second to only Kamara in that span. Now knowing that Derrius Guice is out for the season, Thompson's workload that he had last year is there for him, though he's apparently not going to be 100 percent until November. It's fair to expect some regression in efficiency, but he should still be a flex-play most weeks.

Alex Smith (QB - WAS)	Most people say that 2017 was an outlier year for Smith, and while it's hard to disagree that it was better than the rest, he's been doing this for a while now. Since 2011, Smith has thrown 132 touchdowns compared to just 43 interceptions. In that period, there are just two quarterbacks who have a better TD:INT ratio than him: Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. You don't do that over a seven-year period if you're a mediocre quarterback. With Jay Gruden's history with Kirk Cousins, it's very possible that we're underestimating Smith's fantasy potential. If you're the type to grab two quarterbacks in a draft, Smith would make an excellent No. 2 who has top-10 upside.
Matthew Stafford (QB - DET)	It seems like Stafford is the same quarterback every year, as he's now finished in-between the QB5 and QB11 in six of the last seven seasons. Both him and Matt Ryan are the borderline QB1's that you don't LOVE drafting, but they're usually the safest picks on the board, though Stafford usually goes a bit earlier. While his overall numbers put him in the top-12, he's been outside the top-12 in each of the last four seasons when it comes to QB1 performance percentage, as he's typically around the 37.5 percent mark. You're just as well-off streaming the position.
Philip Rivers (QB - LAC)	Facts are facts and Rivers has now finished as a top-12 quarterback in eight of the last 10 seasons. He's got one of the better offensive lines in football and his weapons have never been better than they are right now. There's not enough love for the boring low-end QB1, though his stock took a slight hit when Hunter Henry went down with a torn ACL. Here's to hoping Mike Williams can be a solid red-zone threat. Rivers is someone you'll be okay with if you wait until double-digit rounds to draft a quarterback.
Pierre Garcon (WR - SF)	After seemingly walking into 140 targets with the 49ers when he signed in free agency, Garcon all of a sudden has plenty of competition for targets. From Marquise Goodwin, to George Kittle, to Jerick McKinnon, and now recently-drafted Dante Pettis. He totaled 67 targets over the first eight games last year which would have put him on pace for 134, though you shouldn't be expecting more than 110 this season, and possibly less. He's a very boring option in an area of the draft where you should be looking for potential league-winners.
Kenny Stills (WR - MIA)	Without looking, where do you think Stills would rank among wide receivers in yards and touchdowns over the last two years? I bet you didn't think he was 32nd in yards and 9th in touchdowns. Even though I thought Devante Parker could have a career-year, there's plenty of targets to go around, as the Dolphins were one of just three teams who had three receivers with more than 80 targets, and they were the only team with three wide receivers who had 96 or more targets. With Jarvis Landry out, Stills' target ceiling is likely around 115, which could break him into the top-30 wide receivers, especially if Parker's broken finger causes him to miss time.
Devin Funchess (WR - CAR)	It seems that everyone is forgetting how much Greg Olsen means to this offense and why Funchess got the volume he did last year. While he did a solid job, the Panthers felt the need to draft a wide receiver with their first-round pick, and one who'll play the underneath possession-style role, eliminating Funchess' volume. He's going to be a lesser version of Kelvin Benjamin going forward. While I propped him up as a sleeper last year, he's going to be considered a bust in 2018.
Kyle Rudolph (TE - MIN)	It came out not long ago that Rudolph had offseason ankle surgery, which is now his eight surgery in the last 10 years. It hasn't affected him much over the last two years, though, as he ranks third in receptions, sixth in yards, and second in touchdowns among tight ends. He'll get an upgrade at quarterback with Kirk Cousins, though the Offensive Coordinator has also changed. You want to say that he's one of the safer TE1's in fantasy football, but it's only a matter of time before the injuries start to catch up, right? He's a mid-tier TE1.

Will Fuller (WR - HOU)	Fuller caught a touchdown pass once every 7.1 targets in 2017, which led the NFL with ease, as the next closest with at least three touchdowns was Sammy Watkins, who caught one every 8.8 targets. After that, it was JuJu Smith-Schuster at 11.3 targets. Do you get my drift here? The players who were in his territory in 2016 were Donte Moncrief, Taylor Gabriel, and Kenny Stills. The addition of Keke Coutee in the draft definitely doesn't help get him more targets. He's going to be very boom-or-bust, though his boom weeks are going to be bigger than most in the WR4 conversation.
Chris Carson (RB - SEA)	If the Seahawks really believed in Carson as much as they say they do, why did they use a first-round pick on Rashaad Penny? There are now three beat reporters who are saying that Carson is absolutely the starter, but that Penny will have a role. This is clearly a mess of a backfield that's behind one of the worst run-blocking units in football. Carson is a very risky pick, but one that costs a lot less than Penny, who is now slated to miss 3-4 weeks with a broken finger. If you're looking for an early-season running back, Carson is likely to fill that role.
Peyton Barber (RB - TB)	When the Bucs draft a running back at the top of the second-round, call me skeptical on just how long Barber holds the starting job. Whether or not you like it, draft stock matters. Barber is a formerly undrafted free agent who the Bucs let sit on the bench while Doug Martin and Charles Sims combined for 1,071 yards on 354 carries over the last two years. That amounts to just 3.03 yards per carry. While Barber played better, they obviously felt the need to invest in Ronald Jones. It seems that Barber will start with the bigger workload, but Jones is still the back I want to own, as talent wins in the end. Still, it's likely to be somewhat of a timeshare between the two all season.
Keelan Cole (WR - JAC)	The Jaguars offense is going to be extremely difficult to project outside of Leonard Fournette, though with the injury to Marqise Lee, it gets a bit clearer. Many want to love Cole, as he looked solid late in the season, but it didn't stop the Jaguars from going out and spending \$10 million on Donte Moncrief or drafting D.J. Chark in the second-round. There's likely going to be some fantasy relevant performances, but I have trouble believing they're consistent, making him a WR4.
Jack Doyle (TE - IND)	The addition of Eric Ebron to the roster does cloudy the picture to clear targets for Doyle, but not enough to move him out of the TE1 conversation. If you recall, Doyle's breakout season took place when most thought Dwayne Allen was on the roster and most thought he was the one to own. Doyle has chemistry with Andrew Luck and even showed the ability to produce with Jacoby Brissett last year, which gives an added level of comfort. Luck has targeted tight ends much more than most during his career, and with the addition of Frank Reich, who comes out from Doug Pederson's tight-end-heavy offense shouldn't change that. Doyle should be considered a high-end TE2 until proven not to be.
Tarik Cohen (RB - CHI)	Another team that didn't add a running back in the draft was the Bears, who will be riding the shoulders of Jordan Howard and Cohen. While they did add quite a bit of receiving talent to the roster, Cohen is a movable chess piece that Matt Nagy can have some fun with. Cohen was able to finish as the RB30 last year despite having the vanilla John Fox as his head coach. Beat reporters are saying that he should be listed as a RB/WR with the way Nagy has moved him around the formation.
Allen Hurns (WR - DAL)	As of right now, Hurns is the No. 1 receiver for the Cowboys, though you shouldn't expect him to carry that role for very long with Michael Gallup in the picture. Still, there's value for a wide receiver who will see anywhere from 5-8 targets from Dak Prescott. Hurns did produce quite a few fantasy relevant weeks with Blake Bortles, so it's possible he turns out to be better than most expect.

Jordy Nelson (WR - OAK)	Let's be clear - when you go from Aaron Rodgers to Derek Carr, there's going to be a massive efficiency decline. One positive from the move to the Raiders is that it appears they'll be using him in the slot, similarly to the way that the Cardinals use Larry Fitzgerald. Nelson isn't as physically imposing as Fitzgerald, and he's also got to compete with Amari Cooper and Martavis Bryant for targets. While Nelson will be usable as a safe WR4 play most weeks, he doesn't offer you much upside.
Mike Williams (WR - LAC)	Once word came out about Hunter Henry tearing his ACL, most wanted to look at which tight end would take his place. Truth be told, Williams is the one who's likely to see the biggest increase in targets because of Henry's injury. He was drafted inside the top-10 to become a red zone presence for Philip Rivers, though his back injury limited his playing time in 2017. Having an injury-free offseason would be big for him to develop some chemistry with Rivers and work his way into the offense. It seems like it'll be him, Keenan Allen, and Tyrell Williams in 3WR sets, meaning he should see a minimum of 50 targets this season. He's someone you can draft and you'll likely know what you have within the first week or two. It shouldn't shock you to see Williams with eight-plus touchdowns at year's end.
Josh Doctson (WR - WAS)	It's possible that Doctson moves up my draft board as the season nears, as I want to see how he and new quarterback Alex Smith gel in the preseason. Smith has traditionally been a quarterback who doesn't throw into tight coverage, and Doctson was among the worst in the league last year when it came to yards of separation at target. He was followed by some top-tier cornerbacks last year, so it's possible that will influence the numbers, but Smith's style seems to fit Jamison Crowder's and Jordan Reed's skill-set a bit more than Doctson's. He's got some potential, but the situation just doesn't seem to be ideal.
Patrick Mahomes (QB - KC)	Despite starting just one NFL game in Week 17, there are some who are willing to invest a top-12 quarterback pick on Mahomes. Don't count me as one of them, though. Sure, he's got a cannon for an arm, but so did Jay Cutler. He's got some mobility, but when you have Kareem Hunt, plays aren't going to be designed for him to rush for 50 yards per game. Bottom line, there's massive potential here, but he's essentially a rookie. At the quarterback position, there's no reason you need to take unnecessary risks when there are so many safe options. If Mahomes falls out of the top-15, that's when you should start considering him.
Marcus Mariota (QB - TEN)	After what was a stellar start to his NFL career where he threw 45 touchdowns to just 19 interceptions, Mariota took a giant step back in 2017, despite being given better options to throw to. The good news is that he didn't stop running the ball, as he ran for five touchdowns, easily a career-high. He also just inherited Matt LaFleur as his offensive coordinator, someone who has been tutored by Sean McVay. With the weaponry that he has, there's no reason to think that Mariota can't finish as a top-12 quarterback, but his performance in 2017 left a bad taste in your mouth. When drafting him around the QB18 range, you're taking very little risk, but major upside if he returns to his pre-2017 form.
James White (RB - NE)	White has finished as a top-50 running back in each of the last three seasons, but never better than the RB35 in standard leagues. He's someone who will hurt you more than often because he simply doesn't get enough weekly touches to be consistent, meaning he'll need to score a touchdown to not completely bust. With Sony Michel and Rex Burkhead on the field, it's not likely that White earns any more work in 2018. He's just a spot-starter and one who'll be incredibly difficult to predict, though he should have more value over the first four weeks with Julian Edelman suspended.
Bilal Powell (RB - NYJ)	It's not an ideal situation in New York, but if you really think they'll lean on Isaiah Crowell more than they did Matt Forte, you're going about this the wrong way. Powell should at least have the same role he had last year, if not more. He finished as the RB26, less than double his current cost. He's not someone who will win you your fantasy league, but he can most definitely play a role. Knowing that he played the snaps with the first-team offense in their preseason game, it should give you a bit more confidence in drafting him.

Aaron Jones (RB - GB)	As of right now, Jones might be the rare case of getting the starting running back in a top-six scoring offense outside of the top-100. Most are torn on which running back to take out of Green Bay, but there've been rumors that Jones earned the job last year. Whatever the case, he's going to score some touchdowns, even if he's involved in a timeshare. I'd rather take the upside of Jones than someone who may have more guaranteed touches, like Bilal Powell. If you do draft him, don't forget that he's suspended for the first two weeks of the season, though he misses the Bears and Vikings, two tough matchups.
David Njoku (TE - CLE)	I've always been a fan of Njoku the player, but was really concerned about his 2018 outlook until recently. Targets were going to be hard to come by, that was until Corey Coleman was traded, Josh Gordon went away from the team, and Antonio Callaway might have more off-the-field issues. After an impressive preseason opener, it seems that Todd Haley is going to make it a point to use the freakishly athletic tight end in more ways than Hue Jackson did last year.
George Kittle (TE - SF)	We saw the chemistry starting to develop between Kittle and Jimmy Garoppolo towards the end of the season, where Kittle hauled in 11 passes for 194 yards and a touchdown over the final three games. Knowing that the starting wide receivers are Pierre Garcon, Marquise Goodwin, and Trent Taylor, who are all 6-foot or shorter, Garoppolo is going to need a big red zone threat. When it comes to tight ends, you're going to need those touchdowns, and Kittle just might deliver. It's a bummer to hear that he separated his shoulder in the first preseason game, which could limit his potential early in the season should the injury linger.
Calvin Ridley (WR - ATL)	I banged the drum for Ridley all offseason, saying he was the most pro-ready receiver in the draft. When he was taken by the Falcons, it was tough to love the landing spot, as Julio Jones demands a lot of targets. With that, Ridley will see a lot of No. 2 cornerbacks in man coverage, meaning he's going to have some big weeks. Think about Taylor Gabriel's effect he had on the Falcons offense in his first year there and that's likely what you'll get out of Ridley in 2018. He's just a WR4/5, but he's going to have some massive weeks.
Anthony Miller (WR - CHI)	The more you hear about Miller, the more you want to believe. The Bears liked him so much, they moved their second-round pick next year as well as their fourth-round this year to move up and select him. He's going to start immediately, and it doesn't hurt that he's got Allen Robinson to help take away extra attention. The way I see it, Miller will likely play the slot role more often than not, and that's an area of the field that Mitch Trubisky fell in love with last year, as Kendall Wright became a fantasy viable option late in the year. He may not have top-20 upside in his rookie season, but he could become a 2017 Nelson Agholor-type contributor.
Rishard Matthews (WR - TEN)	Despite Marcus Mariota getting hurt in 2016 and struggling through much of 2017, Matthews remained consistent in his production, hauling in 61 percent of his passes for 14.5 and 15.0 yards per reception in each year. The area his production dipped, though, was targets and touchdowns. With Corey Davis slated for a bigger role in 2018, you should expect that decline to continue, though Matthews won't go away, as he's been extremely efficient with his targets. He's comparable to the Titans version of DeSean Jackson.
C.J. Anderson (RB - CAR)	Most thought it was a terrible landing spot for Anderson in Carolina, but it was likely the best-case scenario. Most don't realize that Jonathan Stewart totaled 198 carries last year, which ranked inside the top-20 at the position. Anderson has always been one of the most efficient runners on first- and second-down while playing behind a mediocre offensive line. If he reaches the same amount of carries that Stewart did, he's going to finish as a top-24 running back. The best part is that you don't have to spend even a top-30 running back pick on him. He is someone who loses a lot of appeal in PPR formats, as he's unlikely to catch more than 10 passes this year. Update: The Panthers have given Christian McCaffrey nearly every first-team snap in the preseason, so maybe they are planning on using Anderson in a change-of-pace role, though it doesn't quite suit his skill-set. He's just a handcuff at this point.

Isaiah Crowell (RB - NYJ)	After playing behind one of the best offensive lines in football last year, Crowell will head to the Jets, whose running backs had a hard time finding many holes last year. He'll compete with Bilal Powell for touches and he no longer has Hue Jackson playing favoritism. Crowell is a plodder who struggles to create his own yardage, something that he'll really need to do while in New York. Let someone else remain hopeful, even with the injury to sophomore Elijah McGuire. Crowell played behind Bilal Powell in the preseason opener and then suffered a concussion in that game.
Mohamed Sanu (WR - ATL)	While I've got Calvin Ridley higher in my rankings, Sanu is the safer draft pick. He's a proven veteran who knows the offense, and posted WR3 numbers in 67 percent of his games last year, which ranked 13th among wide receivers. He doesn't have much upside, but if you're looking for a safe, high-floor type producer, Sanu is your guy. The best part is that he almost always goes undrafted in standard leagues, so you can take him with one of your final picks.
Julian Edelman (WR - NE)	Don't just automatically assume that just because Edelman is returning to the field, that he's going to be the same player. He's now 32 years old and coming off a torn ACL last preseason. It's not to say he can't return and produce, but he finished as the WR22 while playing all 16 games in his age-30 season. A lot of the targets have evaporated in the Patriots offense and you have to figure that Edelman will still get every opportunity to succeed, so you don't want to write him off completely. He's obviously someone who would benefit in a PPR format. He's now been suspended for the first four games, so it's going to be difficult to hang on to him because the first month is the most important time to acquire waiver wire players. He shouldn't be drafted as a top-50 wide receiver at this point.
Jared Goff (QB - LAR)	The Rams became a better football team this offseason, though that will actually hurt Goff who may see his attempts decline in 2018. His ridiculous efficiency should come down a tad as well, now that there's a full year of tape on the Rams offense under Sean McVay. It's not that Goff is a bad fantasy quarterback, but he's overpriced right now for what he's going to offer.
Mitch Trubisky (QB - CHI)	If I'm being honest, I tempered expectations when doing Trubisky's projections, which made me think I'd be lower than the consensus. It's clear that not enough people have taken notice to the effect that a young offensive-minded head coach can do for a quarterback. Trubisky has been surrounded by a ton of weapons and has extremely underrated mobility, something that fantasy footballers should covet.
Geronimo Allison (WR - GB)	Possibly fantasy football's best kept secret to this point, as you have the chance to get one of Aaron Rodgers' starting wide receivers essentially for free. With Randall Cobb playing the slot almost exclusively, Allison would start opposite Davante Adams in 2WR sets. Did everyone forget that James Jones caught 14 touchdowns from Aaron Rodgers a handful of years ago, only to retire a few years later? Allison has played 15 total games with Rodgers under center, and in those games he's totaled 45 targets, 26 receptions, 381 yards, and two touchdowns. That's some pretty good point-per-target production, and despite them drafting a few wide receivers, he's the only one who has experience in the offense, chemistry with Rodgers, and production to show he's capable. If for some reason, he's not the No. 3 receiver, we're going to simply replace him in the rankings with the player who is.
Chris Godwin (WR - TB)	Even though DeSean Jackson is the better asset, it doesn't mean that Godwin can't give you value himself. Earlier this offseason, offensive coordinator Todd Monken said that Godwin has earned the opportunity to be a starting wide receiver. This will kick Adam Humphries off the field and create quite the nasty threesome of Godwin, Jackson, and Mike Evans. Over the final four games of 2017, Godwin was able to haul in at least 68 yards in three of them, including 111 yards and a touchdown in Week 17.



Giovani Bernard (RB - CIN)	It's clear that the Bengals didn't ever view Bernard as a three-down back, as they've now drafted three running backs with high equity. Still, he's had a role with a team throughout the whole time, so it's unrealistic to think that ends now. He's never finished outside the top 45 running backs during his five-year career, and that's despite scoring just two rushing touchdowns in each of the last three seasons. He's a safe-floor, though low-upside option.
Ryan Grant (WR - IND)	I'm not sure why so many are writing Grant off in fantasy leagues after he forced his way into the Redskins starting lineup despite many leaving him for dead. Once in the lineup, he produced with the targets he was given, posting 573 yards and four touchdowns on just 65 targets. During Andrew Luck's career, his No. 2 receiver has never finished with fewer than 56 targets, and there's no one competing with Grant for that spot. He comes with risk because we don't know what to expect out of Luck, but he also comes with upside much better than where his ADP is.
Dak Prescott (QB - DAL)	If you would've asked me a month ago, I would've told you that Prescott was being undervalued. A lot has changed since then, as the Cowboys released Dez Bryant, didn't draft a wide receiver in the first-round, and then had Jason Witten retire mid-draft. The Cowboys are going to rely on Ezekiel Elliott more than ever.
Andy Dalton (QB - CIN)	Most find it fun to dog Dalton after his lackluster 2017 campaign, but did you know that he's still yet to finish outside the top-18 fantasy quarterbacks? It's because he's typically healthy, has a solid cast of wide receivers, and has no threat of getting benched. It was his yardage that took the biggest hit in 2017, because his touchdown (25) to interception (12) ratio was actually solid. The Bengals need to inject some youth into the offense, so expect to see Joe Mixon and John Ross a lot more involved in year-two, which could revive Dalton's fantasy status. He's a solid No. 2 quarterback in 2QB leagues.
T.J. Yeldon (RB - JAC)	Coming out of college, I was a huge Yeldon supporter, but he just looked over-matched his first two NFL seasons. Not that he was awful, just not special. It's possible that the Jaguars drafting Leonard Fournette was the best thing for him, as he looked sharp, fast, and spry last season while playing in a backup role, though it carried more responsibility than most due to Fournette's lingering ankle problems. Because of that, Yeldon should be considered as one of the best backups in football who can also contribute as a flex player in a pinch with how often they use him in the passing-game.
O.J. Howard (TE - TB)	The fact that Howard missed two games and saw more than four targets just twice all season, but was able to finish as the TE17 in his rookie season should tell you how high his potential can be. The fact that the Bucs extended Cameron Brate is concerning, as he caps the target potential for Howard, but as the year went on, he started seeing more work than Brate. He is a risky pick, but what tight end outside the top-10 isn't?
John Brown (WR - BAL)	It seemed like targets were going to be a bit easy for Brown to get when he signed with the Ravens at the start of free agency, but as the offseason went on, things got much more cloudy. Not only did they go out and sign Michael Crabtree after he was dumped by the Raiders, but they also signed Willie Snead late in free agency. Then the draft came and they not only added two tight ends in the first three rounds, but they also grabbed two wide receivers in the top five rounds. Needless to say, targets will be hard to come by and that's not to mention his health problems he's dealt with over the last few years. All reports out of camp are that Brown/Flacco have shown more chemistry than any of the other pass-catchers.

John Ross (WR - CIN)	After being benched for a fumble in his rookie season, Ross never had a chance to make an impact. It doesn't help that he missed time in the preseason due to injury, but if he stays healthy, he has a chance to change people's minds about him. Ross isn't just a speedster, but someone who can run routes and get defenders spun around when chasing him. If Marvin Lewis figures out how to incorporate him into the offense, he could be someone who makes a splash with one of your late-round picks. The fact that the Bengals cut Brandon LaFell says they're going forward with Ross as a starter, so he could prove to be a late-round steal.
Devontae Booker (RB - DEN)	I love Royce Freeman's game, which is why I don't view Booker as a threat to him. With that being said, NFL teams sometimes do some weird things and make rookies "earn their stripes." Booker is someone who played behind C.J. Anderson the last few years, and the Broncos cut Anderson this offseason. Then they drafted Freeman in the third-round. What does that tell you about Booker? He's just a handcuff and not one that you should go out of your way to draft, as we've seen him in a workhorse role before back in 2016. It wasn't pretty.
Matt Breida (RB - SF)	He's potentially one of the more undervalued backup running backs, but that may have something to do with Joe Williams returning from injury. Truth be told, Breida beat out Williams last year in training camp. Knowing how much Jerick McKinnon has struggled on first- and second-down over the course of his career, it's possible that Breida has value as more than just a handcuff in Kyle Shanahan's two-back offense. Him separating his shoulder in the preseason opener will cost him the entire preseason, but he's expected back for Week 1.
Jacksonville Jaguars (DST - JAC)	It's not often that I'd support the idea of drafting a defense before the final round, but the Jaguars are a slightly different animal. They are one of the most dominant defenses we've seen in their lifetime, they haven't lost any of their important pieces, and they're extremely young.
Ty Montgomery (RB - GB)	After being given the starting job to start 2017, Montgomery lost that role when he injured his ribs early in the season. From that point, both Jamaal Williams and Aaron Jones shined in their roles, making it easier for the Packers to give Montgomery less work as the year went on. It seems he may play more of a hybrid RB/WR role this year, and that may be the ideal case for him. He may end up as a Theo Riddick-type player, though Aaron Rodgers has never checked down that much.
Latavius Murray (RB - MIN)	There are some who are expecting the Vikings backfield to be split similar to the way it was last year with Jerick McKinnon and Murray, but I'm not one of them. Dalvin Cook had a stranglehold on the job prior to tearing his ACL, as he averaged 23.7 touches per game in his first three full games. With his injury coming so early in the year, he'll be back for Week 1, which would have Murray return to a 6-10 touch role, which is unusable for fantasy, making him a high-end backup running back.
Tyler Eifert (TE - CIN)	Prior to the disaster that was his 2017 season, Eifert was being selected as a top-six tight end. What's happened since then? Well, his back issues are a real problem, and it's very reminiscent to Jordan Reed's foot problems. The reason Eifert isn't worth as much as Reed, though, is because he's always relied heavily on touchdowns for his production. Despite having more touchdowns than any other tight end from 2015-2016, Eifert ranked 16th in yardage and 20th in receptions, so he was likely due for some natural regression. He is someone you'll likely want to draft a second tight end with him on your roster.
Austin Seferian-Jenkins (TE - JAC)	The Jaguars have enough threats on the team to take attention away from Seferian-Jenkins, who is likely to score at least six touchdowns if he stays healthy. If Marcedes Lewis can finish as the TE20 in this offense, so can Seferian-Jenkins. Just know that if he doesn't score, you're likely to be left feeling disappointed, because despite seeing 74 targets in 14 games last year, he topped 46 yards just one time.

Cameron Brate (TE - TB)	Why the panic on Brate? I know he just got a contract extension with the Bucs, but these are the splits we have to go off: In his first seven games last year, he averaged 6.3 targets, 4.4 receptions, 57.9 yards, and 0.57 touchdowns. In his final nine games, he averaged 3.7 targets, 1.9 receptions, 20.7 yards, and 0.22 touchdowns. Some have said it had to do with the injuries on the offensive line and that he was kept in to block, but that's not true. He's a risky proposition with O.J. Howard on the upward slope of his career.
Tyrod Taylor (QB - CLE)	I'm usually a big proponent of drafting Taylor in fantasy football, but this has more to do with him potentially losing the job to Baker Mayfield at some point. If you could guarantee he'd start the entire season, he'd probably rank inside my top 15 quarterbacks. As of now, I'm projecting Mayfield to take over for the final six games, which really hurts Taylor's overall projection. But if you're one to stream the quarterback position, you can snag Taylor and pair him with Jameis Winston, who returns in Week 4.
Eli Manning (QB - NYG)	When you've got analysts everywhere saying that Odell Beckham is a top-three wide receiver, Evan Engram is a top-five tight end, and Saquon Barkley is a top-six running back, why is Manning so low on lists? It's a fact that they cannot all produce like that if Manning is outside the top-24 quarterbacks. Prior to the 2017 season, Manning had averaged 4,290 yards and 30.3 touchdowns in the previous three seasons. Those numbers would have made him a top-10 quarterback in 2017. With Pat Shurmur coming to town, you should expect Manning to take a step forward and be better than most expect. He's someone who is ideal for 2QB leagues, but will be able to be streamed in 1QB leagues.
Hayden Hurst (TE - BAL)	While I'm typically against drafting rookie tight ends, Hurst may be an exception to the rule. He's already 25 years old, so it's unlikely the Ravens want to waste his prime athletically. Next, it's not an offense that favors the wide receivers. In fact, it's one that favors the tight end position, which is likely why the Ravens also added Mark Andrews in the third-round. Ravens tight ends have accounted for 285 targets, 214 receptions, 1,740 yards, and 10 touchdowns over the last two seasons, and that was with Dennis Pitta (who hadn't played football in years) and 37-year-old Ben Watson as the featured players. Hurst's ball-tracking is on a different level than most rookies, so don't be shocked to see him walk into 80-plus targets in year-one.
Vance McDonald (TE - PIT)	Let's say you miss out on your top tight end targets and start to panic. McDonald can be someone you pair with Austin Seferian-Jenkins (or someone in that range) to produce competent numbers at the tight end position. Getting traded to the Steelers on short notice last year, McDonald had just one full week to try and catch up on the offense, something he apparently struggled with. He did close out the year with two 52-yard performances in the last four games, and the Steelers have said he's going to be much more involved this season. He's an extremely athletic tight end who averaged 16.3 yards per reception when he was given a bigger role with the 49ers in 2016. If Ben Roethlisberger can make Heath Miller and Jesse James fantasy relevant a few weeks a year, he can do the same for McDonald.
Doug Martin (RB - OAK)	It seems like his ADP may move up sooner than I'd hoped, but Martin is one of my favorite late-round sleepers. Word has come out that he looks phenomenal at OTAs. Battling a 32-year-old Marshawn Lynch who has a history of back problems? Playing behind a top-five offensive line? Sign me up. It's rare to find a running back being draft so late who has multiple 1,400-yard rushing seasons on his resume. While it's Lynch's job, it seems like Jon Gruden has a clear role for Martin in the offense.
Nick Chubb (RB - CLE)	It's very possible that Chubb moves up my board as the offseason goes on, but it's unrealistic to think that he walks in and takes the starting job from Carlos Hyde, the veteran they hand-selected early in free agency. While Chubb is their running back of the future, it's hard to love him with Hyde and Duke Johnson in town, as they have early-down work covered, as well as third-down work, though Chubb doesn't contribute much in the passing-game. He's simply a high-upside stash right now who is likely to see 5-10 carries per game early in the season.

Los Angeles Chargers (DST - LAC)	If you're looking for a defense who could become the next Jaguars, here you are. Most don't realize that the Chargers actually allowed the fewest points per game in 2017, not the Jaguars. It hurts to see top cornerback Jason Verrett go down for the year, but they were without him in 2017 and they just added strong safety Derwin James in the first-round to the rotation. They're one of the safest defensive picks around.
Benjamin Watson (TE - NO)	I don't know if everyone forgot about Watson's 2015 season with Drew Brees, but this is your friendly reminder that he caught 74 passes for 825 yards and six touchdowns that season. Sure, he's older now and there's better talent on the team, but that doesn't mean he should be non-existent. They didn't draft a tight end which kind of tells you all you need to know.
Jordan Wilkins (RB - IND)	One of the deep sleepers in 2018 drafts, Wilkins is arguably the most well-rounded running back in the Colts backfield. He's built to handle a big workload, too, which is good if Marlon Mack continues to deal with shoulder issues that forced him to have surgery this offseason. It now appears that Mack is going to miss time with a hamstring injury, which is going to give Wilkins an opportunity to run with the job late in the preseason.
DeSean Jackson (WR - TB)	When you watch as much football as I do, you see some things that some people may have missed. When it comes to Jackson, he and Jameis Winston were just a touch off on connecting for multiple 40-plus yard touchdowns, which would have dramatically changed how fantasy players valued him this offseason. There were four passes that I can recall right now that were within a yard or two of his hands that might turn into long touchdowns this year. Even in what was a "down year" for him, he produced WR3 numbers 50 percent of the time, which ranked 33rd among wide receivers. The lone thing that could get in the way of those numbers is Chris Godwin, who is someone who might start opposite Mike Evans in 2WR sets, and that would cripple Jackson's value. You need to pay attention to the depth chart as the preseason rolls along.
Michael Gallup (WR - DAL)	I just do not believe that Allen Hurns, Deonte Thompson, and Cole Beasley are going to be the Cowboys starting wide receivers for long. Gallup is the one wide receiver on that team with the ability to potentially be a top-30 wide receiver in this league and it's not going to happen sitting on the bench behind the B-squad. Even if he doesn't start Week 1, it's only a matter of time before they start giving him reps, and he'll quickly become Dak Prescott's go-to receiver, giving you multiple usable fantasy weeks in the process.
Kenny Golladay (WR - DET)	It seems that the Lions are trying to make Golladay a thing in 2018, though I'm not seeing it without taking away targets from Golden Tate and Marvin Jones. Outside of those two, the leading receiver on the Lions last year was T.J. Jones with 49 targets. With Matt Patricia coming to town, you have to figure they lean more on the run, especially when you factor in the additions of both LeGarrette Blount and Kerryon Johnson. Without injury, Golladay is going to be a spot-starter, at best.
Dede Westbrook (WR - JAC)	There were some questions about whether or not Westbrook would be starting for the Jaguars, but it seems like he's made his way there with the Marqise Lee injury. He's likely to start opposite Donte Moncrief in 3WR sets, though second-round pick D.J. Chark has apparently turned some heads this preseason. It's tough to imagine more than one wide receiver from this offense being relevant, as they have an elite defense and are extremely run-heavy. Westbrook will be the type of player you start when you have others on bye weeks, but not much else.
Paul Richardson (WR - WAS)	The landing spot was an odd one for Richardson, as he might be the fifth option on the depth chart behind Jamison Crowder, Jordan Reed, Chris Thompson, and maybe even Josh Doctson. They apparently brought him in to be the downfield threat in the offense, but Richardson wasn't much of a separator last year with the Seahawks, but did rack up nine plays of more than 20 yards. Alex Smith was the best deep passer in the NFL last year, though it probably helps to have Tyreek Hill scooting down the field. Richardson is likely to be a very boom-or-bust fantasy option, making him just a high-upside bye week filler.

Cameron Meredith (WR - NO)	It was a knee injury that looked like it could be a career-ender, but Meredith latched on with the Saints this offseason and will now be catching passes from Drew Brees. Shortly after snagging him, the Saints cut ties with Willie Snead, opening up the slot role that Meredith played so well while with the Bears. Meredith's sample size is relatively small, but when you rack up 888 yards and four touchdowns from Brian Hoyer and Matt Barkley, there's plenty of optimism. The issue is that Michael Thomas, Alvin Kamara, Ted Ginn, and maybe even Ben Watson are ahead of him in the pecking order. He's likely to have some big weeks, but I wouldn't expect a weekly contributor.
Jared Cook (TE - OAK)	Cook was someone who was bound to see a lot of targets before all of the offseason acquisitions happened. After signing Jordy Nelson, it seemed like it was still going to be Seth Roberts fighting for targets with Cook over the middle of the field, but once they traded for Martavis Bryant, it all made sense. Nelson will move to the slot, while Amari Cooper and Bryant play on the perimeter, meaning Cook just got a whole lot better competition for targets, hence him being down towards the low-end TE2 part of my rankings.
Charles Clay (TE - BUF)	He finished as the TE19 last year despite missing three games, but you could see his role diminish as the season went on. After totaling 51.6 yards per game with two touchdowns over the first five games, Clay failed to top 37 yards in five of his last eight games, and didn't score a single touchdown in them. The quarterback situation is a mess and it's unlikely they're in a position to score a whole lot of touchdowns, making him a low-upside TE2.
D.J. Moore (WR - CAR)	It was shocking to see the Panthers snag Moore with Calvin Ridley still on the board, but they obviously had him higher on their board. He's going to have to compete with Devin Funchess, Greg Olsen, and Christian McCaffrey for targets, which is less than ideal considering that Cam Newton isn't what we'd call an accurate quarterback. Moore might turn out to be the most productive wide receiver in Carolina, but that might not be saying much. Be prepared for a roller coaster in fantasy.
Darren Sproles (RB - PHI)	He's going to be 35 years old this season, so there's plenty of reason to worry about his production, but whenever he's been on the field, he's done a fine job. In the first year of Doug Pederson's offense, he totaled 146 touches for 865 yards and four touchdowns. Many are chasing Jay Ajayi, but he was playing less than 30 snaps per game down the stretch in 2017. Prior to getting hurt, Sproles played 34 and 50 snaps in the first two weeks of 2018. By bringing him back, he'll be part of the gameplan, but he may take on a lesser role with Corey Clement emerging. Sproles remains the only running back to have played more than 43 snaps under Pederson, and he did it four times in 17 games. Rumors from training camp suggest that he looks like the same player he's always been, which would mean he'll make the 53-man roster.
James Washington (WR - PIT)	It's almost as if everyone forgot that Martavis Bryant was traded and that Washington is going to start immediately, unless the Steelers drafted him to sit behind Darrius Heyward-Bey (they didn't). Yeah, he's a rookie, as was his teammate JuJu Smith-Schuster last year. Did we also forget about Bryant's 549 yards and eight touchdowns as a rookie, too? Washington's best attribute is adjusting, separating, and hauling in the deep ball, something Ben Roethlisberger is known for. He may not be an every-week fantasy starter, but he's going to have some big weeks.
Tyler Lockett (WR - SEA)	Some are scared of Brandon Marshall signing, but you shouldn't be one of them, as I don't even think he's a lock to make the roster. Lockett isn't someone I'd chase in drafts, but he plays with Russell Wilson, has flashed before, and the touchdowns have to go somewhere. His price doesn't reflect any of that.

Robert Kelley (RB - WAS)	It was said that Kelley had lost weight this offseason in anticipation of competing for the starting job, though it seemed that dream was dead when Washington drafted Derrius Guice. That dream is now back alive after Guice tore his ACL, so it's possible that Kelley finds his way back into fantasy relevance. If he wins the starting job over Samaje Perine, he should be drafted in the RB3 range.
Frank Gore (RB - MIA)	You want to say that Gore wouldn't have gone to the Dolphins to just sit on the bench in his final year, but it's hard seeing him receive many touches with youngsters Kenyan Drake and Kalen Ballage on the roster. But still, why would the Dolphins sign him if they weren't planning on at least using him in a 8-10 touch per game role? It's an odd situation for sure, but knowing that Gore has averaged just 3.8 yards per carry over the last three years makes your life easier. His best days are behind him and he's playing behind what will be one of the worst offensive lines in his career. You're better off looking for someone who presents actual upside late in drafts.
Samaje Perine (RB - WAS)	After being selected in the fourth-round of last year's draft, the Redskins apparently saw all they needed to see last year. Perine plodded his way to just 3.4 yards per carry and scoring one touchdown on 175 carries. Both he and Rob Kelley failed to distance themselves from each other, even when Chris Thompson went down with a season-ending injury. Because of that, the Redskins drafted Derrius Guice in the second-round in this year's draft. Once Guice went down with a torn ACL, it seems there will be a competition between Perine and Kelley, though I'd expect Perine to get the first shot at the job, considering what they spent a fourth-round pick on him just a year ago.
Courtland Sutton (WR - DEN)	After impressing the entire Broncos coaching staff this offseason, Sutton has reportedly earned a starting role in 3WR sets. It's going to be nearly impossible for him to be a weekly contributor with Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders healthy, but he's going to score some touchdowns, something the other two have had issues with.
Ted Ginn (WR - NO)	Another year with Drew Brees, yet his cost is down? Well, to be fair, Ginn is now 33 years old and the Saints have added a lot of new pieces around him. Cameron Meredith was a pretty solid signing, as was drafting Tre'Quan Smith, who is known as a downfield receiver. We also cannot forget the addition of Ben Watson, who is sure to see more targets than Coby Fleener did the last two seasons. There were just five games where Ginn saw more than five targets last year, meaning his fantasy production is going to be sporadic. He also caught a ridiculous 76 percent of passes, which was far more than his previous career-high of 58 percent, so you're looking at some regression. He's a guy you plug in for bye weeks and hope you get one of his better performances.
Donte Moncrief (WR - JAC)	After failing to make it work with Andrew Luck for the duration of his contract, it's unlikely that we see Moncrief take the leap that most expected him to while with Blake Bortles. The Jaguars only signed him to a one-year deal, though it was worth \$10 million, but then drafted D.J. Chark in the second-round. In a run-heavy offense, avoid pass-catchers who don't have a crystal clear path to targets.
Theo Riddick (RB - DET)	Possibly one of the hardest players to predict in fantasy football, as Riddick has been one of the more consistent RB3/RB4's in the game the last few years, but the scenery has changed quite a bit in Detroit.
Spencer Ware (RB - KC)	Ware is one of the running backs you should stick at the end of your roster. He's essentially free right now and if Kareem Hunt should miss some time, we've seen Ware perform as an RB1 on plenty of occasions. When taking a running back this late, take someone like Ware who would be a must-start if the starter went down. Not someone like Isaiah Crowell, who is absurdly going multiple rounds higher.

Corey Clement (RB - PHI)	It seemed that Clement started to pick up steam in his pursuit for more snaps as the year went on, but he never topped 28 snaps. Keep in mind that's with Darren Sproles missing essentially the entire season, and he's been brought back in 2018. Between Sproles, Jay Ajayi, and Clement, this is going to be a wildly inconsistent backfield for fantasy purposes. He's nothing more than a bench-stash who has value should something happen to Ajayi or Sproles.
Blake Bortles (QB - JAC)	While many spend a fortune to acquire Deshaun Watson, many are overlooking the fact that Bortles had "almost" as good of a stretch that Watson did. From Week 13-16 (four games), Bortles threw for 321.3 yards and 2.3 touchdowns per game. During Watson's five-game stretch, he averaged 294.4 yards and 3.6 touchdowns per game. The reason people think Watson could be the real-deal is because that's really one of the only sample size we have on him, whereas most "know what they are getting" with Bortles. Is that fair, though, considering he was a top-10 quarterback twice? Bottom line is that Bortles has been really streaky and has shown more bad than good, but the hate on him has gone a bit too far this offseason. With him rushing for at least 310 yards in every season, it's possible that we see him finish inside the top-15 this year, though you don't want to pay for those up-and-downs in his performances.
Tyrell Williams (WR - LAC)	He's on just a one-year deal with the Chargers now, so it's only natural to expect them to try and get last year's first-round draft pick Mike Williams more involved, though Tyrell will still be on the field a ton, as they run a lot of 3WR sets. With the Hunter Henry injury, it also opens up quite a bit of work, so Williams is likely to deliver a few big weeks, similar to the way he did last year.
Derek Carr (QB - OAK)	After trending upward his first couple seasons, Carr hit a bump in the road in 2017 when he finished as the QB19. He did gain both Jordy Nelson and Martavis Bryant this offseason, but he also lost his trusted red zone target in Michael Crabtree. New head coach John Gruden has talked about running the ball a lot more, which would obviously have a negative impact on Carr's overall potential. Did you know that in 9-of-15 games in 2017, Carr finished with fewer than 14.0 fantasy points? That's not great. He's a streamer and one who I can't see a whole lot of upside with.
Jameis Winston (QB - TB)	Did you know that if you combined Winston's and Ryan Fitzpatrick's passing yardage last year, it would've led the NFL? Their combined 4,607 yards were more than Tom Brady's 4,577, though their touchdowns (26) were somewhat lacking. Touchdowns are the hardest thing to predict, but seeing Winston's yardage with the weapons around him, big things are going to happen for him. The three-game suspension that he received definitely threw some water on the fire, but you should be able to snag Winston with the final pick in your draft and you should have a top-12 quarterback on a points-per-game basis.
Rod Smith (RB - DAL)	Smith is someone who is likely too low on everyone's board. While you can't project him as a top-50 running back, his value is greater than that as Ezekiel Elliott's backup. We saw him succeed behind a lesser offensive last year, totaling 232 yards and four touchdowns on just 55 carries, including another 202 yards and touchdown on 19 receptions. If anything were to happen to Elliott, Smith would become the waiver wire add of the year.
John Kelly (RB - LAR)	I was waiting to see who the Rams added to be Todd Gurley's backup, as Malcolm Butler is just a guy. Outside of Saquon Barkley, Kelly was the best pass-catching running back in this year's class and can handle some work on first- and second-down. In fact, he reminds me of Duke Johnson. If anything were to happen to Gurley, Kelly would shoot up into the top-20 conversation every week.
Kenneth Dixon (RB - BAL)	Don't forget about the guy that the Ravens were extremely high on coming into last year before he suffered a season-ending injury. While I expected him to compete for the starting job, Dixon was dealing with an injury during training camp and is reportedly on the roster bubble. He's just a backup at this point in time.

Austin Ekeler (RB - LAC)	It seemed that while the Chargers used Ekeler in an extended role while Melvin Gordon was dinged up last year, they wanted to upgrade their depth chart. While some will see that they didn't draft a running back until the seventh-round and think Ekeler is fine, you have to know that Justin Jackson (that pick) would've gone earlier if he didn't have so much mileage on his body. He was best-suited for a backup role, while Ekeler is likely the new Branden Oliver.
Eric Ebron (TE - IND)	It's very possible that Ebron ends up higher in my final rankings, provided Andrew Luck is looking like the old Andrew Luck in the preseason. He targets the tight end position an awful lot, so despite Ebron's lack of development, he can be a player on a team that has serious wide receiver problems.
Houston Texans (DST - HOU)	Getting J.J. Watt back on the defense should prove to be massive, though he's far from a sure thing after essentially missing two years of football. On top of those question marks, their secondary was among the worst in football last year. They shouldn't be considered one of the elite defenses with all these question marks, but they're still likely a top-10 unit with Watt, Clowney, and company.
Denver Broncos (DST - DEN)	The Broncos defense was a massive letdown for many fantasy enthusiasts last year, but it doesn't mean you write them off for good. I mean, there's a lot of the talent still on the roster who was there when the Broncos were taken as the No. 1 defense last year in fantasy drafts. Sure, they lost Aqib Talib, but they added defensive end Bradley Chubb in the first-round, who will have more of an impact on their defense than Talib did.
Nyheim Hines (RB - IND)	It appears as if Hines was drafted to take over the Darren Sproles role in Frank Reich's offense, which is a version of Doug Pederson's. He's a do-it-all utility player who may not come oozing with upside, but he should be able to contribute immediately, especially if they don't trust Marlon Mack in passing-down situations. Hines is a player to watch in preseason, because he may have a bigger role than most think.
Ryan Tannehill (QB - MIA)	In a league with so many options at quarterback, Tannehill is falling by the wayside in the rankings, and rightfully so. He hasn't played a full season since 2015, and hasn't played a game since Week 14 of 2016. With that being said, he finished as the QB17, QB8, and QB16 in the last three full seasons he did play. The big question mark is how he'll adjust to losing his safety blanket Jarvis Landry, as that was a big part of his success. The other concern is his legs, as they accounted for a lot of his success as well, rushing for more than 225 yards per season in his first four years in the league. With the position being as deep as it is, there's no reason to risk a draft pick on Tannehill, outside of 2QB formats.
Case Keenum (QB - DEN)	This should be interesting, as Keenum was essentially left for dead in the NFL before joining Pat Shurmur's offense as a backup to Sam Bradford. Over the 15 games he played, Keenum over 3,500 yards and 22 touchdowns while throwing just seven interceptions. The question becomes - was it the offense, or was Keenum just set-up to fail under Jeff Fisher while in Los Angeles? Heading to Denver, the talent surrounding him hasn't decreased, though the offensive line may not be as strong. Bill Musgrave's offense hasn't been what you'd call potent in recent years and that's what's got me slightly concerned. Still, it wouldn't shock me if Keenum posts solid QB2-type numbers in 2018.
Jeremy Hill (RB - NE)	After lighting the fantasy world on fire his rookie season, Hill has never been able to recapture that magic that won fantasy titles. He's averaged just 3.63 yards per carry since that time, but has been good around the goal-line (outside of 2017), scoring 29 touchdowns in his first three seasons. The Patriots obviously know his limitations in the passing-game and will likely have him and Mike Gillislee compete for the same roster spot. With Sony Michel and Rex Burkhead out for the preseason opener and portions of training camp, it's Hill who has been running with the first-team offense.



Martavis Bryant (WR - OAK)	So, Bryant went from competing with Antonio Brown and JuJu Smith-Schuster for targets, to now competing with Amari Cooper and Jordy Nelson for targets. I don't think this will end well, considering the quality of the targets will also go down. The positive is that Derek Carr has plenty of arm strength to get the ball downfield to Bryant, but Cooper and Nelson should dominate the work underneath, making him a very boom-or-bust fantasy option. He's apparently been running with the second-team offense and struggling to grasp the playbook, making him undraftable in most leagues.
Quincy Enunwa (WR - NYJ)	Returning from a neck injury is never an easy thing to project, as Enunwa was shut-down for the season once the injury occurred. He's reportedly doing well and participating in most activities, but the wide receiver landscape has changed a lot since he was injured. Both Robby Anderson and Jermaine Kearse eclipsed 100 targets last year, and then the Jets also went out and snagged Terrelle Pryor this offseason. That's not to mention the draft picks they used last offseason to acquire ArDarius Stewart and Chad Hansen. They have a crowded wide receiver room as of now, so it wouldn't be shocking to see someone of significance cut. His path to targets isn't all that easy anymore.
Taywan Taylor (WR - TEN)	If you're looking to hedge against the Corey Davis breakout that everyone is expecting, Taylor is someone that should entice you. He was one of my favorites coming out of the draft last year as someone who reminded me of Kendall Wright, but could play on the perimeter. He didn't get many opportunities with Eric Decker there last year, but Taylor did well with the 28 targets he did see, totaling 231 yards and a touchdown. He's going to be on the field in all 3WR sets
Dante Pettis (WR - SF)	While I wasn't a huge Pettis fan coming into the NFL Draft, I must re-evaluate how I value you him considering the 49ers felt it necessary to trade up in the second-round to acquire him. He may not have a very significant passing role in 2018, but it shouldn't surprise you if they try to work him in a lot more as the season goes on.
Mike Wallace (WR - PHI)	Why do I feel like every time I see Mike Wallace's name, I think of the song "End of the Road"? It's been such a long career for Wallace at a high-level of production, but starting over with another new team at the age of 32? It feels like he's a slight upgrade over Torrey Smith's role on the team last year, leaving him off the fantasy radar. If something should happen to Alshon Jeffery, though, Wallace would be an immediate waiver wire add.
Albert Wilson (WR - MIA)	Wilson is becoming a difficult player to project, as it seems that the Dolphins may start Danny Amendola in the slot, which would leave Wilson as the No. 4 receiver on the depth chart. It would be extremely odd, which is why I'm not buying into that story. You don't pay Wilson \$24 million in free agency (nearly \$15 million guaranteed) to have him play in 4WR sets. He could very well be the lead candidate to take a lot of Jarvis Landry's lost targets, and that would give him fantasy viability right away. He's someone you may want to take with your last pick and you'll know what you have right after the first game of the season.
Cole Beasley (WR - DAL)	After posting at least 41 yards in 13-of-16 games in 2016, Beasley hit that mark just one time in 2017 and finished with a measly 314 yards. The Cowboys offense was a mess in 2017 and it's likely to be again in 2018, but the loss of Dez Bryant and Jason Witten could provide Beasley with more targets. Still, he's a low-upside target late in drafts, but one you can use if you're in a pinch.
Cleveland Browns (DST - CLE)	This is one of the youngest up-and-coming defenses in the game and don't write them off just because they're the Browns. In terms of pure talent on the defensive side of the ball, they may be in the top-five teams in the league, though their coaching limits the potential. Still, with Myles Garrett anchoring the team and Jabril Peppers now moved to strong safety, this team could surprise.

New England Patriots (DST - NE)	You typically see a well-coached team in New England, though last year didn't quite hold up to the reputation, finishing as the No. 11 DST in fantasy football. There were a lot of subtractions/additions this offseason, but most of them were for the better of the team overall. They're not going to be elite, but they'll be playable most weeks.
Baltimore Ravens (DST - BAL)	I think everyone was sleeping last year when the Ravens finished as the No. 2 fantasy defense. What about when they finished No. 9 in 2016? It's very possible that everyone is just overlooking a team with a lot of talent on the defensive side of the ball, as they've been the reason this team is a playoff contender every year. They may not get the "oohs" and "ahhs" in your draft room, but they're a semi-safe pick in drafts. Oh, and they are at home against the Bills in Week 1 - you're welcome.
Tennessee Titans (DST - TEN)	After losing inside linebacker Avery Williamson in free agency, the Titans snagged Rashaan Evans and Harold Landry in the NFL Draft, though it's likely a downgrade for the immediate term. They also added Malcolm Butler and Bennie Logan, which are huge additions to the ones they already made in 2017. All in all, the Titans defense can surprise if their linebackers can step-up, as there are no other huge holes on the defense.
Mike Gesicki (TE - MIA)	He's an athletic freak who can do things most human beings cannot, though we mustn't forget that he's still a rookie tight end and he's got a lot to learn. The reason for some optimism, however, is that the Dolphins don't really have another tight end on the roster who is a clear-cut starter to force Gesicki out of the lineup. On top of that, the exit of Jarvis Landry and Julius Thomas frees up over 220 targets in the passing attack. There's reason for optimism, but history tells us to be weary of rookie tight ends.
Austin Hooper (TE - ATL)	Hooper got his chance to shine last year and failed miserably. From Week 4 to Week 10, he saw at least six targets in all but one game, yet he failed to crack 50 yards in any game. Once the Falcons realized that he wasn't doing much with his targets, they dialed them back and he failed to see more than five the remainder of the season, including just two targets in a few games. Then acquiring Calvin Ridley in the draft definitely didn't give him any clearer path to targets, either. Hooper will be touchdown-or-bust, meaning he's just a streaming option.
D'Onta Foreman (RB - HOU)	It was a shame to see Foreman go down with a devastating Achilles injury last year, as he was starting to cut into Lamar Miller's workload. In fact, there were rumors that the Texans may have cut Miller if Foreman would be guaranteed healthy by Week 1. Unfortunately, we don't know if he will be, and there are rumors that he could start the year on the PUP list, which would put him out the first six weeks. He's someone to keep an eye on throughout the offseason, as his fantasy stock depends on how healthy he is. His final 44 carries netted him 213 yards (4.84 YPC) and two touchdowns.
Elijah McGuire (RB - NYJ)	It seemed that the retirement of Matt Forte would open some doors for McGuire, but the Jets have crowded their running back room, now having Bilal Powell, McGuire, Isaiah Crowell, and Thomas Rawls competing for touches. It's not going to be a high-scoring offense, so selecting McGuire even at the chance he gets as many touches as he did last year makes for an unexciting fantasy pick. The update on McGuire is that he broke his foot and will miss the start of the season, making him undraftable at this point.
Jonathan Williams (RB - NO)	It appears as if Williams will be playing alongside Alvin Kamara for the four weeks that Mark Ingram is out, which makes him a worthwhile pick in the double-digit rounds. If you knew that you could find a running back who would get you at least four flex-worthy performances, he'd be a hot commodity on the waiver wire, so don't let him get there.

Joe Flacco (QB - BAL)	If there was ever one thing that Flacco had going for him, it was job stability. You knew that by drafting him as your No. 2 quarterback in a 2QB league, he wasn't going to get benched. Now that the Ravens have drafted Lamar Jackson, those days are over. Flacco did get some increased weaponry in Michael Crabtree, John Brown, Hayden Hurst, Mark Andrews, and Willie Snead, but is it too little, too late? He's now finished as the QB20 or worse in three straight seasons and it's hard to trust him as anything more than a streaming QB2.
Javorius Allen (RB - BAL)	It's unlikely that Allen sees the field a whole lot in 2018, unless the Ravens have completely moved on from Kenneth Dixon. Going back to the 2016 season, Allen touched the ball just 12 times. The Danny Woodhead injury at the start of 2017 definitely meant he needed to get more involved, but there are no guarantees this season. He's just a bench stash at this point.
Kalen Ballage (RB - MIA)	When you see Ballage, you'll say to yourself, "he's a running back?" He's a massive young man (6-2, 228) who excels in the passing-game, though he struggles in-between the tackles. Similar things were said about David Johnson when he came into the league, but Johnson has shown to be an effective runner. Ballage has to compete with Kenyan Drake and Frank Gore for touches, but he should get 4-6 touches per game out of the gate. If he impresses, he could earn more work.
LeGarrette Blount (RB - DET)	Potentially the worst landing spot for someone with his skill-set, as players who don't participate in the passing-game don't stay on the field under Jim Bob Cooter. It's possible that new head coach Matt Patricia wanted Blount from his days in New England, but when they drafted Kerryon Johnson in the second-round, it pretty much buried the hope for Blount. He may score from time-to-time, but you're better off letting someone else draft him.
Ricky Seals-Jones (TE - ARI)	It seems that Seals-Jones will have a shot to steal the job right out from under Jermaine Gresham, as the veteran suffered an Achilles injury in Week 17 of last year, who is unlikely to be ready by Week 1. Seals-Jones did flash towards the end of 2017, totaling at least 44 yards in three straight contests from Week 11 through Week 13. He's an incredible athlete, which makes him intriguing, but I've still got concerns about the efficiency of the overall offense.
Gerald Everett (TE - LAR)	While everyone else debates which Rams wide receiver you want to own, it's very possible that Sean McVay overhauls his process and includes Everett much more in his second season. He was a second-round pick last year, so it's clear they loved his skill-set, though he topped four targets just once in 2017 and that was in Week 17 when they were resting starters. You don't want to bet on him being more involved, but being attached to a high-scoring offense isn't a bad thing for a former second-round pick. He's one of the higher upside tight ends going outside the top-20 at his position.
Nick Vannett (TE - SEA)	There are a lot of fantasy analysts overlooking Vannett, who was drafted in the third-round a couple years ago waiting in the wings behind both Jimmy Graham and Luke Willson, who are both with new teams in 2018. Yes, the Seahawks did bring in Ed Dickson, but he's not someone who should eliminate Vannett from the starting conversation. He's a big, athletic tight end who could develop into one of Russell Wilson's go-to targets in the red zone.
Blake Jarwin (TE - DAL)	It appears that Jarwin has won the starting tight end job for the Cowboys, though it'll likely be somewhat of a timeshare. You also shouldn't expect him to automatically walk into the 80-100 targets that Jason Witten received over the last few years. He's made his way onto the fantasy radar, but it's unlikely he's anything more than a streaming option.

Pittsburgh Steelers (DST - PIT)	There's a lot of moving parts on the Steelers defense, as they have a brand new starting safety duo and the loss of Ryan Shazier is still felt throughout the defense. Last year, Mike Hilton stepped-up as a top-tier slot cornerback, but can Joe Haden continue to redeem himself? The Steelers started slipping as the year went on, though there's reason for optimism with the injection of youth. They're likely a streaming-type defense you can snag off the waivers most weeks.
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