

THE WOLF'S

2022 INVESTING GUIDE

ROUND-BY-ROUND STRATEGY & PICKS!



PRESEASON
BREAKOUTS

 **TARGETS
& FADES** 
W/ CHEAT SHEET!



TOP 2022
ROOKIES

2022 PROJECTIONS



AUCTION VALUES



2022: RETURN OF THE  

UPDATED ALL SUMMER!

WELCOME

Current / Future Fantasy Wolf,

Just like last year, I need to start with: thank you. If you're reading this, you've paid for my insight and helped Roto Street Journal gain serious yardage towards our next level. Every cent this makes will go towards paying our content creators (not me), developing more tools / an enhanced website, and improving the RSJ experience. It was so humbling to see the support The 2021 Investing Guide received; whether you're back for Round 2 or a newcomer, it means so much. You're helping a special ed teacher of the past 11 years also chase his other dreams, so once again: thank you.

If you go through the guide & projections and don't feel it was worth \$20, I will happily refund it right away, no questions asked. Just DM [@RotoStreetWolf](https://twitter.com/RotoStreetWolf) on Twitter.

Hopefully, though, my 2022 Fantasy Football Investing Guide equips you with the right Targets, Fades, & Game Theory to dominate – whether seasonally, in best ball, or both. Batting 100% is impossible, but last year I pumped Justin Jefferson, Cooper Kupp, Deebo Samuel, James Conner, Tee Higgins, Diontae Johnson hard (please ignore my Allen Robinson & Trey Lance love), while knocking nearly every fade out of the park.

And I feel WAY more on my game this season.

Before Training Camp has kicked off, I've already completed over 200 Best Ball drafts (sick, I know. Don't tell my fiancée). Best Ball is a new lens I will funnel all these takes through & I couldn't recommend playing any higher, particularly on [Underdog Fantasy](#). They have a ton of tournaments, like Best Ball Mania where just \$25 gives you a shot at \$2 Million (& a \$10 Million Prize Pool). Or the \$5 Puppy unlocks \$100K upside. If you're taking the time to read this, you care enough – so join in! And get up to \$100 Match (4 free BBMs or 20 Puppies!) by [clicking this link](#) OR using CODE RSJ when you deposit! (It helps your boy too!) More on how to play (& dominate) Best Ball throughout.

Even if you want to keep it redraft, no problem. Although I'll explain some Best Ball Best Practices throughout, I largely target & fade the same players and follow a similar approach to my seasonal leagues. You'll find out:

How to start Rounds 1 & 2. The next Cooper Kupp & midround crushing. Optimal Rounds for taking each position. Later Round sleepers & Last Round Hail Mary's. This will be your playbook; a "Cheatsheet" on PEDs.

In short, I aim to give you the who, the why, the how. And I try to deliver the necessary substance with minimal wasted motion.

On that note, let's delay no longer and plunge right in:

100%
DEPOSIT MATCH

USE CODE:
RSJ



KEY NOTES

SCORING: I play mostly **Half-PPR**, so does the public. This is also Underdog's default for Best Ball. This guide is written in that vein. Still, the strategy and player recs hold (mostly) true regardless of format: good players are good players, good practice is good practice. My Projections are sortable by scoring too.

Abbreviation Key:

Throughout, I reference & compare:

OVR - My Overall Big Board Ranking / Grade

ADP - Average Draft Position (via FantasyPros)

ECR - Expert Consensus Ranking (via FantasyPros)

UD - Underdog ADP

OVR will tell you how I feel about a player; **ADP** will tell you feelings of the general public; **ECR** will tell you those of the general "Expert Community." **UD** speaks to Best Ball specific ADP.

CONTENTS

UPDATE LOG

OVERARCHING APPROACHES / STRATEGIES

ROUND 1

ROUND 2

ROUNDS 3

ROUNDS 4-5

ROUNDS 6-7

ROUND 8-10

ROUNDS 9-10

ROUNDS 11-15

ROUNDS 16+ FOR DEEPER LEAGUES

CHEATSHEET

NOTE:

The guide is organized into "Draft Stages" using a mix of ADP & ECR -- where you can generally expect players to go.

Still: FantasyPros / Underdog are only two sources. You should reference the expected "prices" wherever you play (Yahoo, Sleeper, Underdog), which can vary greatly by player.

Also know your league trends / fantasy IQ.



EXAMPLE

Example: I have a High Round 4 Big Board Grade on **Gabriel Davis** (35 OVR). However, his ECR is 72 (stupid) & FP ADP 77... but UD ADP = 44, where drafting can be much sharper. He won't go as high as I have him, but he won't go as low as the moronic Round 6-7. So I include him in the Round 4-5 "Draft Stage" -- someone in your league will plunge by 60, and clearly I suggest that be you.. Learn your market, learn my favorites, know your league, adjust as needed. This way you maximize value, while getting the guys you (or I) want.

UPDATE LOG

This Guide is updated all summer-long to get you the most up-to-date, relevant information. I track notes of any major changes to my targets, fades, strategies & projections here:

Saturday, 8/5

Brandon Aiyuk - Now a Target: I originally had Brandon Aiyuk as a fade, but I've always loved the talent so it's easy to buy the "best player in camp" hype. I feel a bit more validated in my George Kittle fade, & Deebo Samuel's numbers took a slight hit. (More in Round 7-8)

Nick Chubb - Now a Fade: With the serious likelihood that we don't see Deshaun Watson in 2022, I'm out on all Browns. No Watson = No Browns. I explain why it's particularly damning for Chubb in Round 2 Fades.

Leonard Fournette - No Longer Fade: While I'm not going out of my way to take Lenny F, he is no longer a fade. I am willing to take him at his price, and certainly when he falls. He's now back to game-shape & many sharp minds, specifically Scott Barrett, have helped sway me.

Alvin Kamara - Now a Round 2 Target: When I first began this guide, Alvin Kamara was falling to Round 3. After his hearing was delayed 60 days & a suspension is looking far less likely for 2022, Kamara is now being drafted in mid-to-late Round 2. I have him as a fringe first-rounder and will gobble him up in Round 2 all day. See: Round 2 RB Targets

Courtland Sutton = Big Target, Jeudy No Longer Fade: With Russell Wilson's delicious passing pie now more concentrated than ever (Tim Patrick ACL Tear), I am no longer fading Jeudy... even though Sutton is the one I am really after. All-in on him. See: Round 3 WR Targets

Philosophical Switch - 3 RBs through Five: When I began the guide, I was lasered-in on RB-RB-RB as the gold-mine strategy. I am straying a tad now - particularly because Alvin Kamara is no longer in Round 3. Still: I see a huge drop-off after the first 19-20 RBs (by Montgomery Round 5), so getting 3 is crucial. That is true, but they don't necessarily have to come in Rounds 1-3. Rather, I rewrote this part to reflect more: 3 RBs in First Five Picks.

Tread more carefully with Cam Akers: The Achilles risk was scary enough. The fact McVay is saying he has "two starters" is doubly concerning. Whereas Akers was once my favorite of the Round 4 RBs, he's now at the bottom for me. Still tons of upside, but I'd go Zeke or Hall first now.

Monday, 8/8:

Is Darrel Williams the invaluable "Conner Handcuff?" While I still have hope for Darrel, beat writer Blake Allen Murphy [speculates Eno Benjamin is the clear-cut No.2](#), while Williams is battling for the No.3 role. I still think Williams is more capable of shouldering the load in a travesty, but won't be going all in like described below unless there's depth chart movement between now and the season.

UPDATE LOG

(CONT)

Thursday, 8/11:

2022 Projections updated to reflect "35 Most Important Training Camp" notes, including changes on: All Browns (Watson), Kamara, Julio Jones, Russell Gage, Broncos Offense, Jalen Tolbert, Irv Smith, Nico Collins, Romeo Doubs, Michael Thomas, Isaiah McKenzie, Wan'Dale Robinson, Brandon Aiyuk & 49ers, George Pickens, Rhamondre Stevenson, Mike Gesicki, Mo Alie-Cox, Hayden Hurst

AJ Brown - Now a Target: Every day, a new report emerges of yet another AJ Brown highlight play. What intrigues me most: the Eagles are absolutely force-feeding him, to the point he's become the centerpiece of the offense. I initially had AJ Brown as a Round 3 Fade due to volume concerns, but if they're going to generate this many YAC opportunities for this run-after-the-catch monster, an adjustment is needed. He's up to 28th overall & now someone I target over Tee Higgins and even Courtland Sutton.

JuJu Smith-Schuster - No Longer a Fade: Originally among my Round 5 WR fades, JuJu has leapt up my Big Board throughout camp. He's moving all over the formation, and been the steadiest target outside of Kelce -- all while looking like the rookie + sophomore sensation who lit the fantasy world ablaze. He's reinvigorated by the QB upgrade & expanded route tree, and JuJu could definitely explode in 2022. After a quiet OTAs, we finally have confirmation that he's taking over this WR room.

Saturday, 8/13

Zach Wilson - Already a Fade, Now Even More: Zach Wilson was already a fade in here, but a preseason meniscus tear & bone bruise will keep him out the next 2-4 weeks. That's valuable time for a raw sophomore who needs every single rep he can get. If there's a silver-lining, **Eli Moore** has been significantly better with **Joe Flacco**. Maybe Flacco steps up in his absence and raises the other ships with him (crazy to even type that)

Wednesday, 8/17 - Preseason Week 1 Takeaways

George Pickens = A Stud: The "Star" of Steelers Camp, Pickens added fuel to his summer hype train with a dominant NFL Preseason Debut: 3 rec (5 tgts) for 43 yards & a beautiful toe-tap TD. Had Pickens not suffered a March 2020 ACL tear, he may have gone Top-15, and he's already looking like he should have. He's already listed as a starter on the Steelers Depth Chart, and with a better all-around game than **Chase Claypool**, don't be shocked if Pickens emerges as the No.2 weapon in this offense. **Claypool has been downgraded to a fade at his price (+50 more picks than Pickens?!),** while I am aggressively targeting Pickens in Round 11 & beyond

Breece Hall - More of an RBBC than expected? Given his insane athleticism & beastly three-down skillset, I expected Hall to walk into a featured back role. It's very early, but at minimum, Preseason Week 1 suggests the Jets could deploy a bit more of a RBBC than I expected. **Michael Carter** started & played 7-of-9 snaps with the starters, with Hall only logging 2. I certainly expect this to flip, but Carter will likely have a far-larger role than my original projections suggested. With the line losing **Mekhi Becton** as well, Hall is no longer a "Target." The Round 3/4 RB pool grows even more shallow. Which prompts philosophical switch No.2:

UPDATE LOG

(CONT)

Wednesday, 8/17 - Preseason Week 1 Takeaways cont

Philosophical Switch No.2: RB-RB = Ideal; 2 RBs through Round 3 = Necessary:

As mentioned, the RB pool continues to get more shallow. Sure, Zeke looks appealing in the late-third. Maybe I can sell myself on Etienne. But with more question marks now surrounding Hall & Akers, I really need 2 early RBs (by Jacobs) to feel confident in my stable. As discussed, I LOVE the Round 4-5 WRs, so RB-RB-WR-WR-WR is more than acceptable, rather than forcing the issue for 3 RBs. Still - an RB-RB-RB start, with Conner or Zeke, is damn appealing too.

Most of the action just confirmed my priors, whether targets or fades, which felt great. Here's a summary of the names who rose or fell:

I was already targeting all the risers besides Pickens, who I will be now. **Brian Robinson** was a nice late round stab, but I really think he takes this role over and feasts. He's now become a MUST-DRAFT for me. We've been here with **D.Pierce!**

Meanwhile, all the lowers besides Hall were already fades. **Gibson** in particular is looking even worse. I wanted to sell myself on **Treyton Burks** & I'm sure glad I didn't after he went deep into the 4th & still failed to shine.



Friday 8/19

Three New Last Round RB Targets Emerge (New Handcuffs): Preseason & Training Camp have made it clear a few under-the-radar RBs have firmer grasps of No.2 roles in valuable offenses: **Dontrell Hilliard**, **Jaylen Warren**, and **Joshua Kelley**. They go largely undrafted, but could all come into serious value with injuries ahead of them (while Hilliard brings some stand alone receiving juice. SEE - ROUND 16-20+ RBs!

Monday, 8/22

General Preseason Week 2 Updates: More good news on the players we've been targeting (and bad for players we're fading): **Gabe Davis** looks unstoppable. **Isaiah McKenzie** the clear slot guy (& looks poised for outside work if either Davis or Diggs miss time). **Dameon Pierce** didn't even play because the team is so sure of him! **Brian Robinson** STARTED over **Antonio Gibson**. **Chase Edmonds**, **Josh Palmer**, and **Nico Collins** all flashed the promise we've been betting on.

The only new changes are: **Kendrick Bourne**, once a "Penny Stock WR" target continues to plummet. Perhaps **Tyquan Thornton's** now 8-week absence (shoulder) will reopen the door to relevancy (Tyquan also no longer a viable Penny Stock), but I'm still skeptical. **Ty Montgomery** is also poised to be a nuisance in the Pats backfield - I still like **Rhamondre Stevenson** and **Damien Harris** at their respective 9th-10th Round prices, but I'm not going out of my way either. **Albert O** played deep into the game. He's no longer on my Round 12 Radar.

UPDATE LOG

(CONT)

Wednesday, 8/24

Isaiah Likely- New "Penny Stock" Tight End Target:

I've grown very intrigued by Ravens' Rookie TE **Isaiah Likely**, who has been a preseason sensation. In roughly 2.5 Quarters of football, he's now hauled in 12 catches for 144 yards & a TD, while earning a 96.9 PFF Grade -- the highest mark they've given out to a TE ever in the preseason since they began grading in 2006. He broke four broken tackles, completed two contested catches in Week 2, and showed a knack for finding the soft spots in the zones-- he just seems like a ball-player to his core. Plus, he's moved all over-- the slot, backfield, and in-line. He's a real joker on a team needing weapons.

The Ravens may lead the NFL in 2-TE sets, opening the door for plenty of immediate relevancy even with stalwart **Mark Andrews** here; in fact, Ravens Beat **Jamison Henley** wrote: "The Ravens are looking for a No.3 target to complement tight end **Mark Andrews** and WR **Rashod Bateman**... Likely has become the leading candidate for that role.

Plus, if Andrews did ever suffer an injury, Likely -- who posted 59 rec, 912 yards, and 12 TDs at Coastal Carolina, would have a legit path to Top-7 TE numbers. He's the rare "TE Handcuff with Benefits."

Ameer Abdullah - the Next James White for McDaniels? KENYAN DRAKE released

A "[camp revelation](#)," Abdullah has been THRIVING in **Josh McDaniels'** "James White Role" -- to the point the Raiders released **Kenyan Drake**. Taking away the Cam Newton fiasco (2020), White's last four years: 86 tgts (16%), 72 tgts (13%), 123 tgts (23%), 95 tgts (17%) and over 4 catches per game.

There's 0% chance Abdullah inherits that many targets while surrounded by Adams, Renfrow, and Waller. Still, he saw more targets than **Joe Mixon** in just 11 games last year and is plenty capable as a pass-catcher. Even ~60 targets would unlock a path to volume & some Best Ball Spike weeks. The team has actually held Abdullah out of there last 2 preseason games, suggesting his importance to the squad. Well-worth a last round PPR Stab.

2022 OVERARCHING STRATEGY & APPROACH

This section doesn't change much from last year: I'm 100% an Upside Chaser. Always have been, always will be, and the great **Scott Barrett** (who I'll reference & link to often) explains [clearly why here](#).

To sum up his research: every fantasy season boils down to a small handful of "League-Winners," and the rest simply don't matter. If you owned Christian McCaffrey in 2019, you had a 48% chance of making your championship, regardless of who you surrounded him with. Last year, you had the same "Advance Rate" with Cooper Kupp, with almost all of the Top-10 "League-Winners" giving you 30%+ chance of advancing:

Player	Position	ADP	Pts Added	Roster	Playoffs
Cooper Kupp	WR	41.9	269	1660	48.2%
Jonathan Taylor	RB	11.8	275	1645	43.0%
Leonard Fournette	RB	115.7	176	1625	37.1%
James Conner	RB	113.5	193	1622	35.7%
Deebo Samuel	WR	71.9	201	1613	33.3%
Cordarrelle Patterson	WR	206.9	167	1622	32.4%
Tom Brady	QB	100.8	249	1604	31.5%
Mike Evans	WR	36.5	176	1599	30.3%
Austin Ekeler	RB	12.0	235	1597	29.4%
Mike Williams	WR	85.0	149	1595	29.2%



IF YOU HAD COOPER KUPP IN 2022, YOU HAD A 48% CHANCE OF ADVANCING TO THE BEST BALL PLAYOFFS

KUPP + TAYLOR = 82% CHANCE TO MAKE PLAYOFFS

2022 OVERARCHING STRATEGY & APPROACH (CONT)

Wilder yet: if you were lucky enough to have drafted Kupp & Taylor, you had a whopping 82% chance of making your Best Ball playoffs. FROM JUST 2 PLAYERS!

While frustrating for “analysts” (addicts) like myself who pour 12+ hours a day researching hundreds of players, perhaps you’ll be comforted knowing your job is unearthing those 2-3 true game-changers.

Thus, every one of your 15-20 “at bats” should be homerun hacks at finding these guys.

If interested in learning the “[Anatomy of League Winners](#),” Barrett dives deep into identifying trends by position. I’ll reference these indicators throughout as I give you the guys who have the upside tilt titles in 2022 & when to hunt them.

COULD KUPP'S NEW TEAMMATE BE A 2022 LEAGUE-WINNER?



YOU’LL BE COMFORTED TO
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THAT’S IT.

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GUYS.



HOW TO START

THE OPTIMAL START TO MAXIMIZING UPSIDE IN 2022 DRAFTS... **RB-RB... RB?!**

Early Round Approach: Find your Bellcow(s): I'll be starting my drafts with an RB (and likely two), besides four exceptions: Cooper Kupp (2 OVR), Justin Jefferson (4 OVR), Ja'Marr Chase (9 OVR), & Travis Kelce (11 OVR). The only reason I'd forego an RB for those 4 names is because those are the only 4 players that I can see becoming true "Cheat Codes" beyond the RB position. And if I pass on an RB in Round 1, I'll damn sure go RB-RB in Rounds 2 & 3.

In 2021, the two top teams in Underdog's Best Ball Mania BOTH went RB-RB to start:

Player	Position	Team	Player	Position	Team
Jonathan Taylor	RB	IND	Ezekiel Elliott	RB	DAL
Aaron Jones	RB	GB	Joe Mixon	RB	CIN
Amari Cooper	WR	DAL	Mike Evans	WR	TB
Ja'Marr Chase	WR	CIN	Ja'Marr Chase	WR	CIN
Josh Allen	QB	BUF	Josh Allen	QB	BUF
Chase Claypool	WR	PIT	Mark Andrews	TE	BAL
Tyler Boyd	WR	CIN	Trey Sermon	RB	SF
Damien Harris	RB	NE	Brandin Cooks	WR	HOU
Noah Fant	TE	DEN	Tyler Higbee	TE	LAR
Cole Beasley	WR	BUF	Corey Davis	WR	NYJ
Justin Fields	QB	CHI	Emmanuel Sanders	WR	BUF
Mike Gesicki	TE	MIA	Gabriel Davis	WR	BUF
Christian Kirk	WR	ARI	Devin Singletary	RB	BUF
Rashaad Penny	RB	SEA	Jakobi Meyers	WR	NE
Amon-Ra St. Brown	WR	DET	Tyrell Williams	WR	
Dyami Brown	WR	WAS	Amon-Ra St. Brown	WR	DET
Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	GB	Jared Goff	QB	DET
Jeff Wilson	RB	SF	K.J. Hamler	WR	DEN

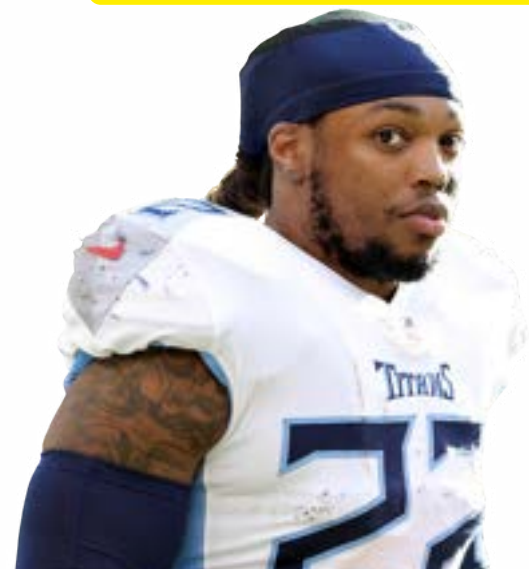
AT LEAST TWO BELLCOWS THROUGH 4 ROUNDS & THREE RBs THROUGH FIVE- MINIMAL EXCEPTIONS! (PPR Scoring like DraftKings Best Ball being one of them)

WHY RBs?

SIMPLE

1) No position is more likely to win your league for you.

2) No position dries up faster.



Look at [Scott Barrett's chart detailing League-Winners](#) (60%+ higher win rates) from the past five years:

Most Common Players on ESPN Playoff Rosters [2017-2021]							
Rnk	Season	Player Name	Team	Pos	Win%	Round	PPR
1	2019	Christian McCaffrey	CAR	RB	78%	1	354.1
2	2017	Alvin Kamara	NO	RB	77%	UDFA	247.0
3	2018	James Conner	PIT	RB	76%	12	267.6
4	2021	Cooper Kupp	LAR	WR	70%	5	335.4
5	2019	Dalvin Cook	MIN	RB	70%	3	209.6
6	2018	Bears D/ST	CHI	D/ST	69%	14	143.0
7	2019	Lamar Jackson	BAL	QB	69%	13	329.0
8	2018	Spencer Ware	KC	RB	68%	UDFA	61.1
9	2020	James Robinson	JAX	RB	67%	UDFA	223.8
10	2017	Greg Zuerlein	LAR	K	66%	UDFA	165.0
11	2018	Tyler Boyd	CIN	WR	66%	UDFA	199.1
12	2017	Todd Gurley II	LAR	RB	65%	2	260.2
13	2019	Patriots D/ST	NE	D/ST	65%	15	191.0
14	2019	Austin Ekeler	LAC	RB	64%	10	234.8
15	2019	Darren Waller	OAK	TE	63%	UDFA	165.2
16	2018	Phillip Lindsay	DEN	RB	63%	UDFA	191.6
17	2021	Cordarrelle Patterson	ATL	RB	62%	UDFA	212.6
18	2019	Michael Thomas	NO	WR	62%	1	274.1
19	2018	Nick Chubb	CLE	RB	61%	13	148.7
20	2021	Jonathan Taylor	IND	RB	61%	2	308.4
21	2020	Travis Kelce	KC	TE	61%	2	239.6
22	2018	Aaron Jones	GB	RB	61%	14	151.0
23	2021	Hunter Renfrow	LVR	WR	60%	UDFA	202.4
24	2020	Alvin Kamara	NO	RB	60%	1	280.8
25	2018	Christian McCaffrey	CAR	RB	60%	2	296.6
26	2019	Chris Godwin	TB	WR	60%	6	242.9
27	2018	George Kittle	SF	TE	59%	14	172.3
28	2019	Travis Kelce	KC	TE	59%	2	184.3
29	2020	Justin Herbert	LAC	QB	59%	UDFA	239.5
30	2018	Patrick Mahomes	KC	QB	59%	12	332.7
31	2019	Mark Andrews	BAL	TE	59%	16	162.3
32	2019	49ers D/ST	SF	D/ST	59%	UDFA	160.0
33	2019	DJ Chark Jr.	JAX	WR	59%	UDFA	198.1
34	2020	Davante Adams	GB	WR	58%	2	262.9
35	2018	Tyreek Hill	KC	WR	58%	4	261.7

NOTE: In the above chart, as outlined in the Methodology breakdown, "Win%" should be read as the percentage of teams making the fantasy playoffs with that particular player on the roster.

Of 20 players, 12 of them are RBs (60%). Compare this to only three wide receivers, one quarterback, one tight end, two defenses, and one kicker.

In that span, 8 of the top-10 highest scoring flex players (non-QBs) were all RBs, with Kupps' 2021 & Adams' 2020 the lone exceptions. Prior to Kupp's record-setting outlier season last year, Best Ball, the five of the six [highest single-season](#) win rates belong to RBs:

Player	Year	Win Rate	ADP
Christian McCaffrey	2019	36.9%	2.4
Todd Gurley	2017	30.8%	20.7
Devonta Freeman	2015	27.8%	87.5
Christian McCaffrey	2018	27.3%	16.7
David Johnson	2016	26.4%	7.5

League-Winning RBs typically come early:

58% in the first two rounds, 63% in the first four.

THE RB-EDGE, PT. 2

[VIA DWAIN MCFARLAND'S RESEARCH]:

PFF's Dwain McFarland further emphasizes the insane ceilings only RBs can provide in his great "[RB-RB-RB Draft Strategy](#)" piece:

Since 2011, 67% of Top-3 Finishers in a given year have been RB in PPR. That bumps up to a whopping 79% in Half-PPR (my preference), and an absurd 91% in Standard:

PPR POINTS TOP FINISHERS BY POSITION

Finish:	<=3	<=5	<=10	<=25	<=50	<=75	<=100	<=150
RB	67%	56%	41%	36%	35%	34%	34%	33%
WR	33%	42%	54%	57%	55%	54%	52%	51%
TE	0%	2%	5%	7%	9%	12%	14%	16%

0.5 PPR POINTS TOP FINISHERS BY POSITION

Finish:	<=3	<=5	<=10	<=25	<=50	<=75	<=100	<=150
RB	79%	67%	53%	44%	42%	37%	36%	35%
WR	21%	31%	43%	50%	50%	51%	52%	50%
TE	0%	2%	5%	6%	9%	11%	12%	16%

STANDARD POINTS TOP FINISHERS BY POSITION

Finish:	<=3	<=5	<=10	<=25	<=50	<=75	<=100	<=150
RB	91%	84%	67%	56%	47%	43%	40%	37%
WR	9%	16%	30%	40%	47%	48%	50%	48%
TE	0%	0%	3%	4%	6%	9%	11%	15%

He goes on to further explain that, since 2011, 34 total players have eclipsed 22 FPPG. Of those, 68% were RBs, while 32% were receivers.

Again: the true league-swingers are most often RBs, and securing multiple RBs who hit big can make your team damn near impossible to beat.

As he always does, Dwain clearly lays out the "profile" of RB that have constituted these game changers. Without stealing all the key info, here's what he determine were the key factors (most are unsurprising):

THE CHEAT CODE RB PROFILE

1) AGE

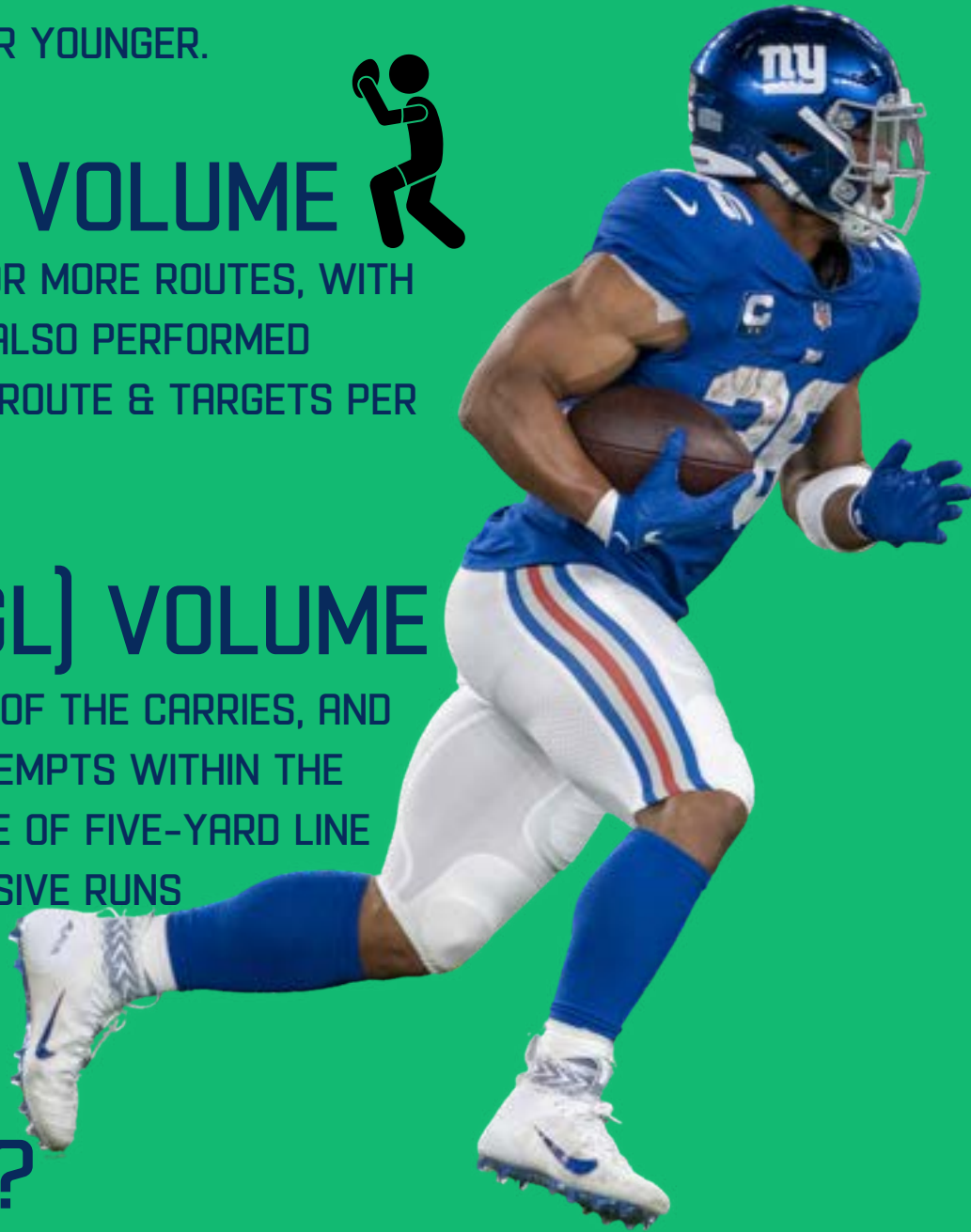
78% WERE 25 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER.

2) RECEIVING VOLUME

89% PARTICIPATED IN 50% OR MORE ROUTES, WITH AN AVERAGE OF 62%. THEY ALSO PERFORMED WELL BASED ON YARDS PER ROUTE & TARGETS PER ROUTE.

3) RUSHING (GL) VOLUME

81% HANDLED AT LEAST 60% OF THE CARRIES, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE ATTEMPTS WITHIN THE FIVE-YARD LINE (81% AVERAGE OF FIVE-YARD LINE ATTEMPTS) & HIT HIGH EXPLOSIVE RUNS



WHO IN 2022?

YOUNG GUYS WHO CATCH PASSES & SEE GOALLINE WORK? VERY RARE. THIS IS AN OUTLIER YEAR WHEN THEY STILL LINGER IN ROUNDS 2 & EVEN 3, SO CAPITALIZE!

NOTE: IN 2022, MOST OF THE ROUND 1-3 RBS DO NOT FIT THESE ALL 3 CRITERIA, ESP. AGE: CMAC, EKELER, COOK, HENRY, MIXON, AJONES, KAMARA, LENNY- ALL 26+

THIS COULD BE A YEAR WE SEE THE TREND BREAK & "OLDER" RBS FILL INTO THE TOP-3, LEAGUE-WINNING TIER

THE RB-EDGE, PT. 3: W.A.R

Wins Above Replacement (WAR) is another emerging stat to measure upside. In a nut-shell, it estimates the amount of matchups a manager likely won due to a single player OVER a replacement player at his position.

As always, Scott Barrett [outlines perfectly](#) how RBs that hit have been farrrr more valuable than hitting the right WR, particularly early in drafts:

Qualifiers per Season (Since 2015)					
Position	Positive	1.0+ WAR	1.5+ WAR	2.0+ WAR	3.0+ WAR
Quarterbacks	12.9	4.1	2.4	1.3	0.0
Running Backs	27.6	10.4	6.0	3.0	0.6
Wide Receivers	29.6	7.3	2.1	1.0	0.1
Tight Ends	13.4	2.9	1.0	0.3	0.0
Kickers	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Defense	10.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0

Percentage Chance the Player Drafted Yielded 2+ WAR

Round	RB	WR
1	29.2%	4.3%
2	18.2%	5.7%
3	0.0%	3.6%
4	0.0%	0.0%
5	0.0%	3.3%
6	0.0%	0.0%
7	0.0%	3.7%
8	0.0%	3.4%
9	0.0%	0.0%
10	0.0%	0.0%
11	0.0%	0.0%
12	0.0%	0.0%
13	0.0%	0.0%
14	0.0%	0.0%
15	0.0%	0.0%
16	0.0%	0.0%
17	0.0%	0.0%
18	0.0%	0.0%

What these graphs /charts show:

- A) RBs have been far-more likely to offer “carry-your-team” / irreplaceable upside.
- B) These RB profiles come almost exclusively in Rounds 1-2.
- C) “Carry-your-team WRs” can be found in the middle rounds, at almost the same rate as WRs in the early rounds, when the league-winning RB well is completely dried up.

THE RB-EDGE, PT. 4: PLAYOFFS

The last feather in “Early RBs” cap = Fantasy Playoff Production. Once again, Scott Barrett [illustrates it clearly](#):

Since 2016, 56% of the top RBs in the fantasy postseason are from Rounds 1-2. 76% are Rounds 1-5. Only about 1 RB hails from Rounds 8-18, and roughly every-other season an UDFA emerges.

Compare this to WRs: 32% from Round 1-2; 56% from Rounds 1-5. Along with 1.5 per season coming as UDFAs.

When you need it most, Early-Round RBs have been the best bets -- and toughest to replace, or overcome.

THE RISK OF RBS

The rub, of course, is no position busts more frequently than RBs: **David Johnson** in 2017 (ADP: RB1); **Le'Veon Bell** in 2018 (RB2); **Saquon Barkley** in 2020 (RB2); **Christian McCaffrey** the past 2 seasons, despite serving as the No.1 pick both times 2020-2021 (RB1). Usage of early-round RBs is the double-edged sword: it allows them to hit the “Cheat Code” ceiling, but increases the injury risk.

In short: You know the treasure you need, but must navigate more traps to find the right one.

Thus, many owners are siding for “guaranteed” production from a WR, going for “floor” in early rounds. In my mind, this is the equivalent of playing to not lose, instead of playing to win.

As mentioned at the top, the lone exceptions for me are Kupp, Jefferson, Chase, & Kelce. These guys not only come with stable floors, but also bring the ceilings to be the rare exceptions that crack through the RBs' stranglehold and enter the league-winning crowd.



HEAVY WORKLOADS GIVETH... HEAVY WORKLOAD TAKETH

MORE COUNTER-RESEARCH:

While swinging for the RB fences is clearly my preference, I want to at least present other research and options. Many sharp drafters have written about (& more importantly succeeded) with WR-heavy starts.

Last year, NBC Sports Edge's **Pat Kerrane** dug into early round bust rates, and came away convinced that WRs make [far better early round investments](#), unless you're certain of a particular RBs "Legendary Upside." The numbers do stack up, but as he points out -- RBs have far higher "Legendary Rates."

JJ Zachariasson's research in "[Where do League Winners Come From](#)" supports this: WRs are more likely to hit for you, but the RBs who hit bring more game-changing points. If the goal is a championship, you often need the legend of any said season, and he'll most likely be gone by Round 2 for RBs. Meanwhile, as Kupp just showed, WR "Legends" may just be lurking in those early-middle rounds.

To complement his phenomenal RB-RB-RB piece, **Dwain McFarland** then examined the merits of a WR-WR-WR start. Similar to JJ, he deduced: "Wide receivers don't carry the same ceiling as running backs, but they make up a larger portion of the top-50 scorers." AKA - you'll hit at a far-higher %, even if the balls not always leaving the park: 55% of the Top-50 scorers in PPR are WR (comp'd to 35% RBs), and even the Top-10 in Full-PPR is shifting to WRs (54%). In Half PPR, the Top-50 is 42% RBs, 50% WRs.

Mandatory Viewing / Listening: If you want a roadmap to finding the right RBs, look no further than my August 4th interview with Scott Barrett, previewing the Top-20 RBs of 2022. [Video Here](#). [Audio Here](#). He references his [Bellcow Report](#), honestly mandatory reading, frequently in our 2+ hour chat.



WIDE RECEIVERS MAY NOT HAVE THE ELITE CEILING OF RBs, BUT THE HIT-RATE IS FAR-HIGHER... & LEGENDARY CEILINGS ARE STARTING TO EMERGE IN TODAY'S NFL

ROUND 1

Given how important Round 1 is, I'll dive into each of my Top-12 while identifying which RBs I'll target with that in the hunt for a Bellcow League Winner.

Abbreviation Key:

Throughout, I reference & compare:

OVR - My Overall Big Board Ranking / Grade

ADP - Average Draft Position (via FantasyPros)

ECR - Expert Consensus Ranking (via FantasyPros)

UD - Underdog ADP

TGT - Targets

TCH - Touches

REC - Receptions

YFS - Yards from Scrimmage


STD. Standard (no rec. points)

Auction Values:- We ran my projections through our own **Jackson Barrett's** [excellent tool](#) to generate "Wolf Values" on each player. We also compare this to the Average Auction Value on Yahoo to see where I stack up: + \$ on a player means I'd pay more, - means less. Note: this was a good exercise to add objectivity. The Values are strictly based on my projections, so some players (ie Kupp) may be more expensive than those ahead of them.

This is the same with ADP: + means I'd take a player than many more picks higher; - for lower

TIER 1

1) JONATHAN TAYLOR (RB-COLTS)

	RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
	#1 TIER: 1	RB1 TIER: 1	#1 [+0]	#1 [+0]	#1 [+0]	\$65 [-\$8]
	2022 PROJECTION 363 TCH (33 REC), 1973 YFS, 16 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 326 309 293

OUTLOOK

True, **Todd Gurley** is the only RB since 2007 to go back-to-back as THE RB1. True, Taylor's 360 PPR FPs were the lowest of any RB1 across the last 6 years. I don't care. He's an elite runner, behind a Top-5 run-blocking line, on an offense that should be even better in 2022 with **Matt Ryan** here. Taylor also is built like a tank, and has routinely shouldered massive workloads since college without so much of a hiccup. Even if **Nyhiem Hines** is expected to be more involved as a pass-catcher in 2021, Taylor has hauled in 36 & 40 receptions in 2 seasons—a reasonable baseline. Another 1600+ & 15+ TDs on the ground alone should be the floor—and that safety is what makes Taylor, the RB7 & RB1 in his first 2 seasons, my lock for No.1 overall. 25+ TDs could be the ceiling if Ryan hits like I expect.

2] COOPER KUPP [WR-RAMS]



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#2 TIER: 1	WR1 TIER: 1	#3 [+1]	#7 [+5]	#4 [+2]	\$68 (+\$7)
2022 PROJECTION 132 REC (178 TGT), 1751 YFS, 15 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 397 331 265

OUTLOOK

Chasing outliers is rarely a great practice. But Kupp & his 439.5 PPR FPs, the most by a WR ALL-TIME, is an easy exception for me. His chemistry with Matthew Stafford is next-level, as is Kupp's ability to dominate from any alignment, at any layer of the field. He simply can't be taken out of a game, which resulted in an uncanny 88% Top-12 performance (14/16), with over 20 FPs in 13/16 of those games. I love **Allen Robinson** (even projected him for Top-10 WR status!) & still expect Kupp to thrive at similar levels to his record-setting 2021 (48% chance to advance if you had only him! Insane!)

Dangerous thought? Stafford recently suggested [he & the Rams could take it to a whole new level](#): "At this point in the year last season, I think to myself what I knew about this team and this offense, and it's just so small in comparison to what I know and understand now," Stafford said. "So that gives me great comfort in the fact that we can go above and beyond what we did last year...trying out new stuff as well, we're trying out new tempos, new plays, all that kind of stuff. There's plenty to be gained." **Peyton Manning & Tom Brady** recently saw huge jumps in Year 2 with a new team. If Stafford & the Rams are next, Kupp repeating his monstrous 2021 may not be so impossible.

TIER 2

3] AUSTIN EKELER [RB-CHARGERS]




RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#3 TIER: 2	RB2 TIER: 2	#2 [-1]	#3 [+0]	#6 [+3]	\$60 (-\$2)
2022 PROJECTION 279 TCH (81 REC), 1591 YFS, 15 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 330 289 249

OUTLOOK

After **Jonathan Taylor**, no Round 1-2 RB posted a higher advance than the do-it-all Ekeler (29%). In his first year within new OC **Joe Lombardi**, previously of the Saints, Ekeler operated as a souped-up Kamara, leading the NFL in RB targets (94) – par for the course for someone who's ranked Top-3 in targets per game for 3 straight. He also led RBs in total TDs (20), finishing as the RB2 in both half & full PPR. Which is exactly where I have him projected, considering minimal competition has been added (4th Round Spiller... c'mon) & **Justin Herbert** + the Chargers should only get better in Year 2 of the offense, especially behind a bolstered line with mauling guard **Zion Johnson** added in Round 1. I've seen the TD-regression argument everywhere – maybe if he loses the GL work in camp I'll reconsider. But I don't expect this offense to score less (more, in fact), and Ekeler's so elite at punching it in, that in clutch situations, there's no way he's being taken off the field. In this division, those clutch situations will be weekly. To me, the floor & ceiling are both astronomically high for Ekeler, my PPR RB2 & Half-PPR RB3.


4) JUSTIN JEFFERSON [WR-VIKINGS]

	RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
	#4 TIER: 2	WR2 TIER: 2	#6 [+2]	#6 [+2]	#3 [-1]	\$65 (+\$2)
	2022 PROJECTION 119 REC (178 TG), 1825 YFS, 13 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 379 320 261

OUTLOOK

After breaking the rookie-receiving yardage record, Jefferson followed with a smashing debut, as his 3016 yards through 2 years are an NFL record – even though Minnesota has ranked just 27th & 11th in pass attempts in that span. Even so, Jefferson ranked 1st in Air Yards (1996), 4th in targets (167), and 2nd in receiving yards (1616). Now, under new HC Kevin O’Connell, Jefferson will play the “[Cooper Kupp role](#)” in a pass-happier offense, moving around the formation even further (including more slot). [Sharp Football analyzes](#) just how big of an impact this role shift could have on the already uber-productive Jefferson. In short: if any WR besides Kupp will have a Cheat Code season, it’s Jefferson– the more talented WR inheriting the Kupp role. He’s worth a Top-5 pick as Kupp’s top threat for the WR1 crown.

5) CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY [RB- PANTHERS]

	RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
	#5 TIER: 2	RB3 TIER: 1	#5 [+0]	#2 [-3]	#2 [-3]	\$62 (+\$2)
	2022 PROJECTION 354 TCH (81 REC), 1845 YFS, 13 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 343 303 262

OUTLOOK

We all know the mouth-watering upside: In his last full season (2019), McCaffrey posted the second-most FPs of all-time (471.2, 160 more than the next closest RB), became the third 1,000 yard rusher / 1,000 yard receiver in NFL history, broke his own RB reception record (116 rec), led the league in TDs as well as scrimmage yards (2,392) by a whopping 615 yards... and he averaged more FPs in his limited 2020 action (30.1) than the above season.

Yet, count me skeptical after injuries have ruined the back-to-back No.1 pick’s seasons (and burned me both times in the process). Sure, **Baker Mayfield** should be a stark upgrade to the last few QBs, but I am still skeptical this offense is anything above subpar, even if we get a full season of CMac. Plus, the bruising **D’Onta Foreman** has been added & could take on a short-yardage role to relieve McCaffrey of the tough hits.

On the positive end, CMac did score above 24 FPs in 4 of his 5 full games, worked with **Marshall Faulk** on [durability training](#), & is again expected to shoulder the majority of touches. His upside is too great to pass if he somehow falls this far, but most likely someone else will end up with CMac in 2022.

6] DALVIN COOK [RB-VIKINGS]



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#6 TIER: 2	RB4 TIER: 2	#8 [+2]	#4 [-2]	#9 [+3]	\$66 (+\$6)
2022 PROJECTION					PPR HALF STD.
340 TCH (58 REC), 1875 YFS, 16 TDS					341 312 283

OUTLOOK

Not JT. Not McCaffrey. Not Ekeler. **Dalvin Cook** was my No.1 projected RB for 2022. Considering he falls to the end of Round 1 on Underdog, this might seem insane. But just last year, Cook was THE LOCK No.2 pick. He enters 2022 in an even better situation within **Kevin O'Connell's** offense, who comes from the Sean McVay / Kyle Shanahan tree - two of the brightest offensive minds to learn under. When McVay was asked how he'd define the goal of this offense, he boiled it down to "[Marrying the run with the Pass.](#)"

We saw the impact this had on **Todd Gurley**, who went from a middling RB2 in 2016 to the RB1 in 2017 & 2018 thanks to a huge target increase: 87 & 81 targets (15% share), and ultimately 25.8 & 26.7 FPPG – which would've topped JT last year by 3.5+ FPs. And Cook might be even better than Gurley! It wasn't just more dump-offs, but tons of screens and time out-wide – which [Cook has already been doing in early OTAs](#). AND: Cook averaged 9.99 Yards After Catch per Reception, which ranks NUMBER ONE AMONG ALL WRS AND RBS!!!!



The risk is obvious: health. I have no argument there: Cook has never played a full season, missing 2+ games every year. For however many games Dalvin is healthy, I expect 20+ FPPG. If you get 14+, he'll be the steal of drafts before Round 1 even ends.



THE NO.1 RB IN WOLF'S PROJECTIONS....

7) DERRICK HENRY [RB-TITANS]



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#7 TIER: 2	RB5 TIER: 2	#4 [-3]	#5 [-2]	#8 [+1]	\$59 [-\$3]
2022 PROJECTION 384 TCH (31 REC), 1822 YFS, 17 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 307 295 284

OUTLOOK

The No.1 RB in FPPG last year wasn't JT... it was **Derrick Henry** (24.2 FPPG, +2 on JT!). The unbreakable tank finally broke down in 2021, but was en-route to a masterpiece, finishing 9th in rushing yards & 7th in TDs despite missing half the season! (while also posting 3 of the Top-10 RB scores of the season in only 8 games). He may have scored 400+ FPs the way he was rolling, and despite the injury, the Titans have done nothing to suggest Henry's 30+ carries per game will be lightened – letting Foreman walk while adding nearly no one of note (late fourth rounder). Was 2021 a sign of a downfall? Or will Henry pick up where he left off, stay healthy, and finish as THE RB1? A major & fair concern: Henry averaged almost +9 FPs in wins compared to losses. He's one of the very few RBs who could legitimately finish as THE top dog, making Henry well-worth a midround 1st, despite the low receiving ceiling.

8) JA'MARR CHASE [WR-BENGALS]



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#8 TIER: 2	WR3 TIER: 2	#9 [+1]	#10 [+2]	#5 [-3]	\$55 [-\$1]
2022 PROJECTION 92 REC (138 TGT), 1672 YFS, 14 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 343 297 251

OUTLOOK

If it's not Kupp or Jefferson, it'll be Ja'Marr Chase as the WR who breaks fantasy in 2021. He already broke ex-teammate Jefferson's rookie receiving yardage record (1455), finishing 4th among all WRs in yards and TDs in his debut, ultimately finishing as the WR5. Chase also posted the highest-scoring single game among ALL positions (55.6 FPs) in the CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK! We all saw how Jefferson's follow-up went, and Chase has already said he's motivated to continue topping his LSU predecessor, while also noting how he's "more comfortable" in the offense in 2022 – a scary thought, especially combined with fellow-WR Tyler Boyd noting they are all so confident "we might **not even need to huddle** at this point."

Especially dangerous: the Bengals' offensive line improvement:

Joe Burrow ranked No.1 in clean-pocket completion percentage (76.2%) & led all passers in deep-ball accuracy rating. With more time for routes to develop & a cleaner pocket, this offense could be downright unstoppable. Nevermind that Burrow won't be recovering from a torn ACL, which sapped him early on: from Week 4 on, Burrow was the QB3 with 24 FPPG. In short: Chase's astronomical ceiling is only just beginning to be unlocked.

Wolf of Roto Street
@RotoStreetWolf

Bengals 2022 Offensive Line Change (PFF Grade):

LT: Jonah Williams (77.9)
 LG: Quinton Spain (72.3)
 C: Ted Karras (73.0) > Trey Hopkins (51.4)
 RG: Alex Cappa (74.2) > Hakeem Adeniji (48.4)
 RT: La'El Collins (84.0) > Riley Reiff (67.3)

Bottom-10 unit now has Top-5 Upside

1:19 PM · Mar 21, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Even still, the Underdog consensus is a bit higher on Chase than me. He was only a Top-24 WR in 41% of his games, with multiple games outside the Top-45 WRs, including a few week-costing duds. His weekly floor is just a bit too low compared to some of the Bell Cows he goes ahead of (Ekeler, Henry, Cook).

TIER 3

9) JOE MIXON (RB-BENGALS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#9 TIER: 3	RB6 TIER: 3	#10 [-3]	#9 [-2]	#8 [+1]	\$50 [-\$5]
2022 PROJECTION 326 TCH (36 REC), 1593 YFS, 16 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 291 273 255

OUTLOOK

Last year's RB4 now gets a vastly improved line (& best of his career), but often falls to Round 2? I don't know why people want to doubt Mixon, but I won't be one of them. I expect a similar workload to his 3rd most opportunities among RBs, but a major efficiency spike for a very talented runner who too-often was met behind the line of scrimmage in 2021 behind one of the worst offensive lines in football. Although his receiving usage leaves something to be desired (26th in RB targets, 17% of down-and-distance snaps (for **Samaje fuckin' Perine. C'mon!**)), Mixon is plenty capable of three-down domination, averaging 7.5 YPR & scoring 3 times on his 42 receptions. Even if he doesn't get there, Mixon should be a great bet to repeat, if not increase, his 16+ TDs behind a better line & in an offense due for an even greater step forward in 2022. I don't see what's not to love – all the negatives (lack of receiving work, semi-game-script dependent) existed last year and he finished Top-5. With a better line & more positive game-scripts expected, he may even better those numbers in 2022.

10) TRAVIS KELCE (TE-CHIEFS)



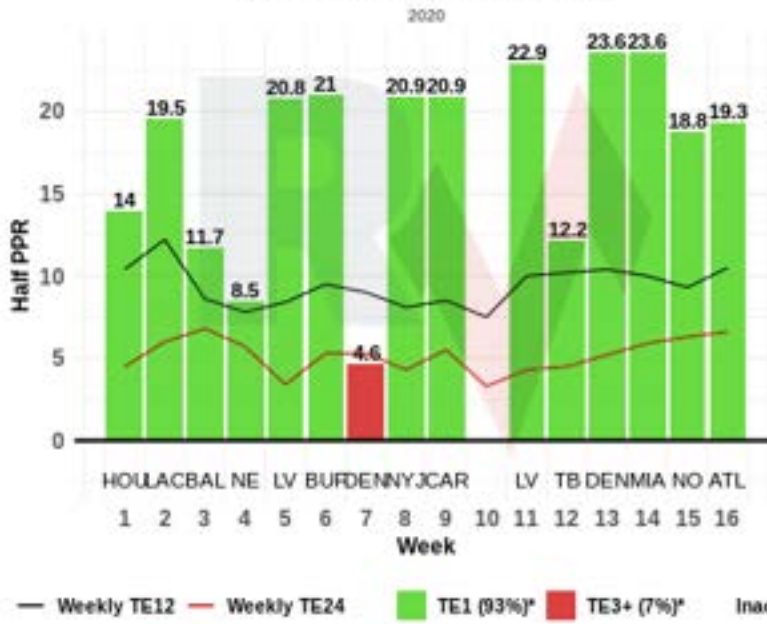
RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#10 TIER: 3	TE1 TIER: 1	#10 [-3]	#9 [-2]	#8 [+1]	\$44 [-\$0]
2022 PROJECTION 95 REC (139 TGT), 1188 YFS, 10 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 275 227 180

OUTLOOK

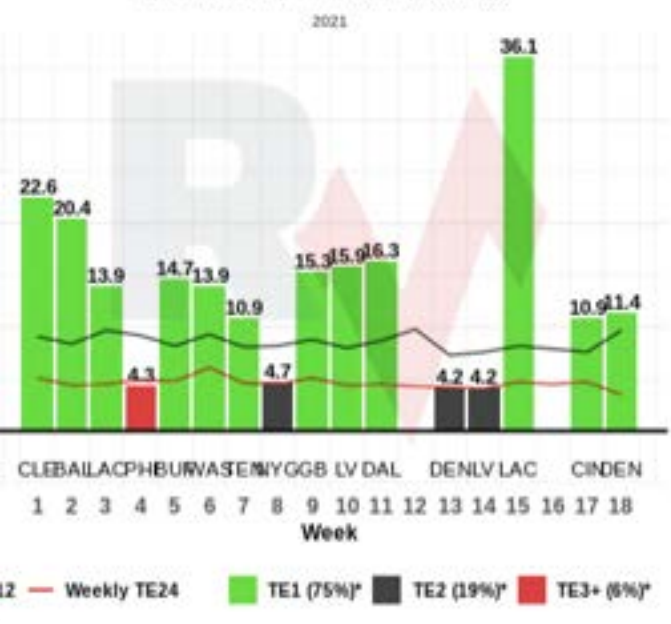
After five straight seasons as the TE1, Kelce finally surrendered the top-spot in 2021 to **Mark Andrews**. Kelce was still phenomenal, finishing as the TE2 with 224 FPs, finishing #1 in TE TDs & #2 in targets, receptions, yards, and fantasy points.

Still, compared to 2021, Kelce's floor felt a little lower, with four games below five half-PPR FP, with only one such dud in 2021 & nearly four half-PPR points less per game:

Travis Kelce: Week 1 2020 Through Week 16 2020
(15 Active Games: 17.5 Half PPR/Game)



Travis Kelce: Week 1 2021 Through Week 18 2021
(16 Active Games: 13.7 Half PPR/Game)



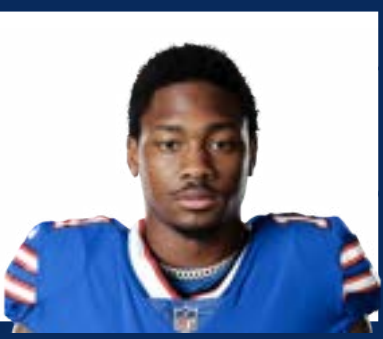
So why is he still a first-rounder & my TE1 above Andrews? The target exodus in Kansas City.

Headlined by Tyreek Hill's departure, the Chiefs vacated the 2nd-most targets (340), 4th-most Air Yards (2748), & 2nd-most targets inside-the-10 (20). They've added some bodies, but none have the rapport and talent of Kelce. He should absolutely be the main vein of this passing attack, which could go one of two ways:

1. Kelce returns to unstoppable, Top-3 WR level of production from your TE spot & is the ultimate ege in fantasy.
2. A year older & now the defensive focal point, Kelce can be taken out of the game & experiences a massive downturn.

Considering my Round 1 grade, I obviously think Kelce's final output lies closer to the ceiling narrative. Still, despite the elevated ceiling, you need to consider the lower floor of Kelce & this overall attack as well.

11) STEFON DIGGS (WR-BILLS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#11 TIER: 3	WR4 TIER: 2	#12 [+1]	#11 [+0]	#7 [-4]	\$32 [-\$16]
2022 PROJECTION					PPR
112 REC (160 TGT), 1344 YFS, 8 TDS					HALF
					STD.
					294
					238
					182

OUTLOOK

Diggs' WR7 finish to 2021 felt a bit underwhelming – he was a Top-12 WR just 24% of the time in Half-PPR, with only a single spike-week above 20 FPs. But don't forget how damn dominant Diggs was in his first season in Buffalo: the WR3 + 1st in targets, receptions, and receiving yards.

The Bills just vacated 1820 Air Yards (10th most), which could facilitate a return to Cheat Code levels in 2022 for Diggs. The No.1 WR for the No.1 Fantasy QB is a pretty damn safe investment with plenty of ceiling, even if the Auction Tools suggests he's severely overpriced right now.

12] NAJEE HARRIS [RB-STEELERS]



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#12 TIER: 3	RB7 TIER: 2	#7 [-5]	#8 [-4]	#11 [-1]	\$42 [-\$15]
2022 PROJECTION					PPR
368 TCH (73 REC), 1559 YFS, 11 TDS					HALF
					STD.
					294
					258
					221

OUTLOOK

Opportunity, opportunity, opportunity! I highlighted Najee as a Round 2 must-draft in last year's Investing Guide due to Tomlin's history of bellcow usage: prior to 2021, Tomlin's lead RBs averaged 24.7 opps (att + tgts) from 2014-2018 – before injuries sapped a clear workhorse. Enter Najee, who finished 1st among RBs in snaps, snap share (84.5%) and opportunities with a whopping 401 combined rushes (307), targets (97), and routes (424, 1st among RBs). Behind a paltry line, Najee wasn't overly efficient with the work, tallying just 3.9 YPC & ranking towards the bottom of the league in "Fantasy Points Over Expectation" (127th). Ultimately, though, the mammoth workload facilitated a PPR-RB3 finish. He's already said, ["I'll get 500 \(touches\) God Damn it..."](#) if this is the way we're winning, I can carry the load. I train to carry loads."

Still, there's some downside here. While the line received some reinforcement, with **Mason Cole** (center) & **James Daniels** (RG) as decent free agent signings, this still projects as a bottom-10 unit. Harris himself wasn't very explosive, and just simply a volume-bet. Who knows if Trubisky or Pickett will checkdown so frequently? The team has mentioned their desire to reduce Harris' snaps and touches, with speculation that Benny Snell could come in for short-yardage and goal-to-go situation. Harris is a fairly safe bet, but lacks the upside of some of the RBs around or after him. Thus, he's not a fade for me, but I am landing him less often than most.

ROUND 1 FADES

Note: Listing any common first-rounder as overpriced / a fad is inherently difficult. Moreover, by far my worst advice in the 2021 Investing Guide came in this section: to fade JT. Common Round 1 picks go early for a reason, so none of these guys are "busts" in my eyes.

Of my Top-12, I'm landing the least of **Ja'Marr Chase & Najee Harris**. I simply like Jefferson or Bell Cows more than Chase, as sharing targets with a 1A like Tee Higgins gives Chase a lower weekly floor than a typical Round 1 WR for me (nearly 60% of his games were outside the Top-30 WRs), even if no one else matches his 50+ FP upside.

Harris was just so damn inefficient on his touches, too. He will likely see similar volume, since it's the Tomlin Way, but the team is considering adding another veteran like Latavius Murray to lessen Harris' load. Mix-in the line concerns, and Harris is my least favorite of the Round 1 Bell Cows (but still worth an end-of-first pick).

One guy going in Round 1 that I have as a Round 2 Fantasy Talent (even though he might be the top player at his position real-life wise):

DAVANTE ADAMS (14 OVR, -4 UD, -3 ADP):

Since 2020, Adams has averaged 23.5 FPPG & ranked as a Top-12 WR in well-over half of his contests, falling below 10 PPR FPs just one single-time and scoring above 30 PPR FPs 12 times. He's been the WR1 & WR2 in these seasons & the pinnacle of consistency.

So why a fade? Well, the obvious: he's not in Green Bay anymore. Here, Adams was fed an insane 10.6 targets a game due to minimal competition, while also benefiting from insane telekinetic chemistry with Aaron Rodgers, the back-to-back MVP. Perhaps Adams & his former college-QB Derek Carr will display comparable levels of synchronicity, but nothing will top the Rodgers-Adams duo from a fantasy lens. Moreover, target competition will be stiffer in new OC Josh McDaniels spread-the-wealth scheme. Darren Waller is a Top-5 TE Talent, while Hunter Renfrow is a premiere slot-weapon, a role that's commanded 20%+ target share in all 12 of McDaniels' seasons in New England. In OTAs, Adams "almost exclusively lined up outside," a year after seeing 106 targets from the slot. He can surely win outside, but removing these mismatch opportunities can't help.

So while Adams remains maybe the best WR talent in the NFL, I expect the downgrade in QB-play and overall target share to bump him out of the Top-5 Fantasy WRs.



**ADAMS MAY BE THE
BEST WR TALENT IN
THE NFL, BUT I EXPECT
THE DOWNGRADE IN
QB-PLAY AND
OVERALL TARGET
SHARE TO BUMP HIM
OUT OF THE TOP-5
FANTASY WRs.**





ROUND 2

PICKS 13 - 24

REMAINING RBIS, QUALITY WRIS, &... ANDREWS?



OVERVIEW:

Most often, I'm going RB-RB to begin 2022 Drafts in the hunt for one, and God Bless me maybe 2 or 3, of the mythical bellcow(s) described earlier. Still, just like with Kupp, Jefferson, Chase & Kelce, I am more comfortable attacking another position earlier in 2022 than ever before, as "The RB Deadzone" seems surprisingly full of life in 2022. (More later, but potentially horses like **Ezekiel Elliott**, **Cam Akers**, and **Breece Hall** are falling to Round 4 & Round 5 (even Round 6!) for **David Montgomery**)

First check: Did **Dalvin Cook** or **Joe Mixon** fall?

ROUND 2 RB TARGETS

ALVIN KAMARA (RB - SAINTS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#13 TIER: 4	RB8 TIER: 2	#19 [+6]	#17 [+4]	#19 [+6]	\$40 (+\$2)
2022 PROJECTION					PPR HALF STD.
270 TCH (65 REC), 1506 YFS, 11 TDS					282 249 216

OUTLOOK

UPDATE 8/5: After his hearing was postponed, Kamara is much less-likely to see a suspension in 2022. While he carries a bit more risk than usual in case a video surfaces or the hearing (and a suspension) is picked up midseason, Kamara's upside is well worth it. He's also now creeping into Round 2, whereas just a few weeks ago you could scoop in Round 3. Damn.

Even if he does get suspended, Mark Ingram is falling to the final two rounds. He's no Kamara, but he posted 18.6 FPPG in his two healthy fill-ins last year, seeing 15.0 carries & 7.5 targets per contest - a trend among Saints RB2s:



ALVIN KAMARA (RB - SAINTS) - CONT.


That was while Ingram averaged the lowest FP per touch in all the league, too. Ingram could absolutely approach 20 FPPG if he improves even slightly on his dead-last efficiency. No guarantee for an old back. And maybe UDFA Abram Smith gets in the mix. Still, there's a very cheap, effective band-aid available for those any weeks should Kamara miss time. He'd then return fresh for the stretch run with Top-5 weekly upside.

But let's assume Kamara isn't suspended & you get him all-year long - which seems most likely.

He averaged 19.9 PPR FPPG with **Jameis Winston** at QB--would've been the RB4 in 2021, even in a trash-can offense that featured **Marquez Callaway** as the next biggest "threat." Besides last year, Kamara has ranked No.1 in FPs per touch in three-of-four seasons (hurt the other one), and these all rank in the Top-15 ALL TIME; AK41 is basically the most efficient RB ever. With **Michael Thomas** cleared & **Chris Olave + Jarvis Landry** added, this offense should be significantly better in 2022, helping Kamara regain his league-winning efficiency. Sure, this creates more target competition, but those were likely to dip anyway without Sean Payton. The efficiency and TD upside this more explosive offense helps facilitate should outweigh the ~10 or so less targets.

So even in a worse case, you have a spare tire to keep the machine chugging for Weeks 1-6. In the best-case, you have a proven Top-5 RB at a Round 3 price. If I don't go Conner, it's usually because I've taken Kamara.

SAQUON BARKLEY (RB - GIANTS)

	RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO	
	#16 TIER: 4	RB9 TIER: 3	#22 [+6]	#18 [+2]	#15 [-1]	\$32 (-\$2)	
	2022 PROJECTION					PPR	HALF
298 TCH (72 REC), 1437 YFS, 9 TDS					270	234	198

OUTLOOK

Another full year removed from ACL surgery, I'm ready to buy back-in on Saquon The Quad God. Yes, health & the fact that he is ["fully trusting" his knee](#) / feeling himself for the first time in 2 years is important. Moreso, I am encouraged by new HC **Brian Daboll**, the former engineer of the explosive Bills' attack. **JJ Zachariason**, one of the best in the game, explored team-level [regression on a recent podcast](#), determining the Giants were due for the most positive regression in the NFL. Just naturally & based on historic trends, they should be expected to score 14+ more TDs than last year, before factoring in they now have an offensive genius running the show. Or the line should be vastly improved. And they won't be in **Joe Judge** Hell anymore.

Barkley himself is already being used how he should be: [Lining up all over the formation](#) in OTAs, more [involved as receiver](#) - pretty obvious for even the most casual fans after he posted 91 catches for 721 yards under **Pat Shurmur**, a moderate play caller. A return to 2,000+ total yards & 10-12 TDs in this offense, when Barkley finished as THE RB1 as a ROOKIE, isn't impossible. Jones will need to be better & the line, for all its promise, will have to gel. But for a later-second pick, no RB can offer the astronomical ceiling of Barkley *if* (a big if) he can stay healthy.

AARON JONES (RB - PACKERS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO		
#17 TIER: 4	RB10 TIER: 3	#16 [-1]	#16 [-1]	#18 [+1]	\$34 [-\$4]		
2022 PROJECTION					PPR	HALF	STD.
268 TCH (64 REC), 1391 YFS, 10 TDS					273	241	209

OUTLOOK

As an RB2, RB5, & RB11 across his last 3 seasons, **Aaron Jones** was already among the safest bets to finish as an RB1. But with **Davante Adams** gone, Jones has a sneaky shot at the RB1 crown. Just look at his splits with & without Adams, in particular the receiving increase:

Aaron Jones Splits 2019 - 2021

Per Game / Full Season Pace

Statistic	In Split	Out of Split
Games	38	7
PPR	16.48 / 280	25.97 / 441
reRECS	2.95 / 50	5.14 / 87
reTDS	0.18 / 3	0.57 / 10
reTRGS	3.95 / 67	6.71 / 114
reYDS	21.68 / 369	55.43 / 942
ruATTS	13.47 / 229	14.29 / 243
ruTDS	0.61 / 10	0.86 / 15
ruYDS	66.24 / 1126	67.14 / 1141

In Split: Davante Adams played, from week 1 to 18, *out of split evaluates to all games the subject player played that don't meet the in-split criteria.



Wolf of Roto Street @RotoStreetWolf · Mar 22

Aaron Jones' Full Season Pace w/o Davante Adams (7 games):

330 touches (87 rec), 2083 YFS, 25 total TDs

Huge Receiving Boost: 87 rec (114 tgts), 942 reYds, 10 reTDs

Jones has been GB-Kamara w/o Adams - a role he may have all of 2022. And he's going in Round 4.

Of course, maintaining that type of WR1 pace would be highly difficult. But we've seen Kamara finish as the RB1 due to similar workloads, and the Packers' WRs corps is in complete shambles. Jones very-well could lead this team in targets, and he is downright deadly weaving through the defense when he gets in space.

So yes, he'll be in an RBBC with **AJ Dillon**, who will probably see even more rushing work than Jones. But as the Packers' two most dangerous weapons, expect both RBs to be on the field together a ton, with Jones getting an enormous slice of Rodgers' Aerial Pie. There's a real shot these guys are the first 2 RB teammates to finish Top-12 since **Alvin Kamara** and **Mark Ingram**.

ROUND 2 RB FADES

NICK CHUBB (8/5 UPDATE) [41 OVR, -22 ECR, -28 ADP, -16 UD]

With Deshaun Watson increasingly likely to miss all of 2022, I will no longer draft any Browns barring a reversal. **Nick Chubb** included, no matter how elite. I think he might be the No.1 pure-runner in the league. A great fantasy locker-room presence. But I have to fade.

As discussed with Barrett, when Chubb & Kareem Hunt were both fully healthy (Weeks 1-5), Hunt actually was RB4 (18.7 FPPG) & Chubb RB9 (16.6). Hunt outscored Chubb in 6-of-8 games together – largely due to the receiving work and receptions being worth nearly 3x a target.

But most damning: Chubb averages +3.5 FPPG more in wins than losses– dropping him from the RB10 to the RB22 in FPPG through the course of his career. Without Watson & in the **Jacoby Brissett** hell-hole, I don't expect anything better than 4 wins for the Browns. And I just want 0 pieces of this offense. Maybe the most painful fade of all.

ROUND 2 RB CAUTIONS

LEONARD FOURNETTE (21 OVR, -1 ECR, +3 ADP, +0 UD)

Let me preface this by saying: I can never get Fournette right. Whenever I'm in, he blows (like the RB6 last year). Whenever I fade, he blows up. And, per [my man Scott Barrett once again](#), if Lenny begins 2022 how he finished 2021, this fade may kill me:

Player Name	Season	Rushing			Receiving				Total				
		Att	Yds	TD	Tgt	Rec	Yds	TD	YFS	TD	FPG	Snaps	Snap%
Leonard Fournette	2021*	14.5	67.0	0.91	6.5	5.4	36.4	0.18	103.4	1.09	22.2	48.4	71%
Leonard Fournette	2021**	15.5	77.0	1.50	8.0	6.8	38.5	0.50	115.5	2.00	30.3	58.5	84%
Christian McCaffrey	2019	17.9	86.7	0.94	8.9	7.3	62.8	0.25	149.5	1.19	29.3	64.9	93%

* Last 11 games started and finished (postseason included)

** Last 4 games started and finished (postseason included)

Lenny's end-of-season usage & Barrett's "[bear case](#)" is tough to argue against: "Minus a Week 15 game where Fournette exited early due to injury – but, by the way, was on pace for 18 carries and 14 targets – he ended his season hitting an 80% snap share in each of his final three games, averaging a whopping 29.8 FPG over this span. And over his final 10 games, he averaged: 14.7 carries, 6.3 targets, 20.4 XFP, 103.0 YFS, and 21.3 FPG on a snap share of "only" 69%. Extrapolated over the full season, those numbers would have ranked: 15th-, 2nd-, 2nd-, 5th-, and 4th-best (just 0.7 FPG off Jonathan Taylor)."

I'm just worried that usage won't carry over, particularly his Top-3 rank in targets (84). The RB coach **Todd McNair** complained about Fournette & "his habit for ad-libbing, that can get him in trouble. Doing the wrong thing at the wrong time. He ends up in the wrong place a lot." They then drafted the draft's best pass-catching RB **Rachaad White**, who posted PFF's sixth-best receiving grade (90.4) since 2014 alongside **Christian McCaffrey**, **Alvin Kamara**, & **Austin Ekeler**, while his Yards Per Route Run rank fifth.

Of course, OC **Byron Leftwich** mentioned it is "really hard to get him off the field" because of the connection he and Brady have. I was more down on him when he was 260 lbs. But now that he's a "Lean" 240... I can see the narrative. No one has a better role in his price range, & I'm terrified of being "underweight" to him.

D'ANDRE SWIFT (18 OVR, -5 ECR, -3 ADP, -4 UD)

Talent & efficiency are abundant with Swift, who was the RB8 in FPPG as a sophomore & even more impressive as a rookie when he finished with the 4th most FPs per touch of all time! We always stress how a reception is 2.84x more valuable than a carry, and Swift finished Top-5 in target share, receiving yards, and total targets among all RBs. Equally impressive, the Lions boast a Top-3 [projected offensive line](#) according to PFF. Shit, I'm talking myself into Swift the more I type.

I do have 2 main concerns. The first is health, as Swift has missed 3+ games in both seasons, while the team has called him out for not playing through pain. He does look jacked AF in anticipation of a bigger role:



The second is **Dan Campbell** taking over as OC. Previous OC **Anthony Lynn** was fired midseason. He's historically peppered RBs in the passing game, & Swift was no exception. Yet once Campbell took over play-calling & **Amon-Ra St. Brown** started emerging, Swift's role + receiving production drastically changed: Receiving Yards by game: 65, 41, 60, 33, 53, 43, 96, 24; *Playcaller Change* 5, 0, 9, 7, 16.

Under Lynn: 5.9 rec, 51.9 yds per game? Under Campbell: 3.0 rec, 7.4 yds per game & an ill-fitting "grinder role." The team also added Jameson Williams & DJ Chark, creating even more target competition.

Lastly, Swift is pretty abysmal as a runner, particularly along the interior.

Given these weaknesses, the Lions "[believe wholeheartedly in a 1-2 RB](#) approach with D'Andre Swift and Jamaal Williams, which might not be what fantasy managers want to hear if they're looking to Swift for a massive workload."

Receptions, again, are far more valuable. And Swift is so explosive he'll maximize the receiving work he gets. But if that rivals the end of last year, he'll also be the most overrated Round 2 RB. I don't mind if he falls and Jones is gone, but the opposite seems to happen. Hence, I have almost no exposure to Swift.



JAVONTE WILLIAMS (25 OVR, -3 ECR, -10 ADP, -4 UD)

Regardless of how much I love his talent, Broncos RB **Javonte Williams** is quite an overrated pick at his current RB9 price. If the thorn of **Melvin Gordon** was removed from Williams' side, he'd warrant top-5 RB consideration – in fact, Williams led all RBs with 28.1 PPR fantasy points in his one game as the lone dog.

Sadly, Gordon is back. He outscored Javonte in 10 of their 16 games together in 2021, and averaged more PPR FPPG on the season (12.6 vs. 12.2). Yes, Williams has earned the first crack at weekly carries and will likely flip the fantasy production in his favor. Additionally, new OC **Nathaniel Hackett** loves using RBs in the passing-game:



But Gordon is plenty capable on these downs too, as well as in the Red Zone, aka the “money touches,” with 250 career receptions and 10+ TDs in five of seven seasons. The OC has mentioned “pitch counts” regarding his backfield, noting the desire to keep everyone “fresh.” So sure, the backfield should be even more productive with **Russell Wilson** under center, but I’d much rather tap into this resource with Round 9-10 Gordon than with Round 2 Williams. Which sucks, because I love, love, love the player.

🎯 ROUND 2 WR TARGETS

CEEDEE LAMB (WR - COWBOYS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#15 TIER: 4	WR6 TIER: 3	#17 [+2]	#15 [+0]	#13 [-2]	\$31 [-\$8]
2022 PROJECTION					PPR
103 REC (152 TGTS), 1380 YFS, 8 DS					HALF
					STD.
					296
					244
					192

OUTLOOK

As the WR19 & WR22 across his first two seasons, clearly I & the fantasy community are expecting a huge leap from Lamb, my WR6, in Year 3.

It's an easy jump to take, considering the Cowboys were 1st in total yards & TDs in 2022 and have ranked Top-2 in passing yards & Top-5 in passing TDs in both of **Kellen Moore's** two seasons calling plays with a healthy Dak. The pie couldn't be more delicious, and Lamb should be fed a monstrous slice, with **Amari Cooper** gone & **Michael Gallup** a real PUP candidate. Even with Gallup factored “in”, the Cowboys vacated 205 targets (11th most), 1898 Air Yards (9th most), & 16 Inside-the-10 Looks (6th most). He might see 200+ targets in one of the league's best offenses.

Really, the only way Lamb fails would be if he's just not that special. And I think most recognize: he is damn special, both before & after the catch. I still prefer RB-RB starts, but Lamb is the next-man up after The Big 5 WRs

LATER ROUND 2 / EARLY 3RD WRS:

KEENAN ALLEN (WR-CHARGERS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#22 TIER: 5	WR9 TIER: 4	#28 [+8]	#26 [+4]	#15 [-1]	\$32 [-\$2]
2022 PROJECTION					PPR
106 REC (154 TGTS), 1092 YDS, 8 TDS					HALF
					STD.
					263 210 157

OUTLOOK

I have third-year marvels **Justin Herbert & Joe Burrow** contending for the passing crown in 2022, so of course I love his Main Vein in **Keenan Allen**. Yes, I know he's crossing into dangerous 30+ years-old territory. Allen's so damn smooth though I don't think age catches up for at least a few more seasons. He's been the pinnacle of consistency since 2017, finishing as a Top-12 WR in five straight seasons, posting 100+ rec in four-of-five, playing 78/81 games, and topping 1100+ in all but the year he missed two contests. It's not overly sexy, and the TDs aren't too fruitful, but Keenan is so damn reliable, so damn at separating & then picking up yards after the catch, and simply the perfect high-floor, solid ceiling WR1 investment in Round 2... that you can often get in early Round 3

MIKE EVANS (WR-BUCS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#20 TIER: 4	WR8 TIER: 3	#26 [+6]	#23 [+3]	#15 [-1]	\$32 [-\$2]
2022 PROJECTION					PPR
83 REC (127 TGTS), 1145 YDS, 13 TDS					HALF
					STD.
					276 234 192

OUTLOOK

A First Rounder in my ranks just a few weeks ago, Evans had some tough news breaks to begin camp. First: **Julio Jones** will be joining the squad. While he's certainly past prime Julio Days, he's been very active in early camp & it's another mouth to feed. More concerning, however, is **Chris Godwin** avoiding the PUP. While he still has to prove he's fully-back, Godwin is Brady's preferred target when all is normal. Whereas I had Evans approaching 140 targets, I now see him finishing closer to the 109 / 114 he's seen the past two years with Brady. His TD upside also takes a slight hit; Evans has averaged over a TD per-game without Godwin, & I had him going for 16+ TDs. This now falls back in-line with his typical 13-14. Still good for WR7, still a quality second-round investment, but not the first-rounder I had him graded as.

With Godwin avoiding the PUP & Julio Jones now in TB, Evans's ceiling takes a bit of a hit. He's still a monster & well worth a Round 2 investment, but is no longer a fringe first-rounder for me.

But ah, what could've been:

MIKE EVANS CONT.



Mike Evans Splits 2020 - 2021

Per Game / Full Season Pace

Statistic	In Split	Out of Split
Games	26	6
PPR	14.95 / 254	20.3 / 345
reRECS	4.27 / 73	5.67 / 96
reTDS	0.77 / 13	1.17 / 20
reTRGS	6.92 / 118	8 / 136
reYDS	60.23 / 1024	76.33 / 1298



In Split: Chris Godwin played, from week 1 to 18. *out of split evaluates to all games the subject player played that don't meet the in-split criteria.

ROUND 2 WR/TE FADES

IS MARK ANDREWS WORTH THE ROUND 2 PLUNGE? MAYBE...

For the first-time in five-years, **Travis Kelce** was unseated as Fantasy's No.1 TE by none-other than **Mark Andrews**. Unfortunately, regression suggests this was a massive outlier & that we should tread carefully in 2022. After ranking at the bottom of the league with 430 & 440 pass attempts in Lamar Jackson's first two seasons, the Ravens leapt to 9th with 611. Both of their Top-2 RBs suffered season-ending injuries, the defense was absurdly banged up, & the Ravens were forced into more shootouts than ever before.

Don't expect a repeat. **Greg Roman** had never ranked about 29th in pass-attempts, & had been bottom-two in 7-of-9 seasons calling plays. By all reports and all their actions, the Ravens want to return to these smash mouth roots for 2022. So, Andrews is very likely to see 25%+ target share once again. However, just like in 2019 & 2020, this could result in under 100 targets – especially with the team beefing up their TE room to give him more breathers.

I still have Andrews clocking in as my TE2. But the gap between him and Kelce projects to be much, much higher in 2022. I have a hard time foregoing the high-end RB2s & low-end WR1s in this round, no matter how good Andrews is. (Nevermind that he was actually better per-game & had 3 of his Top-4 games in Tyler Huntley's starts):

Mark Andrews Splits 2021 - 2021

Per Game / Full Season Pace

Statistic	In Split	Out of Split
Games	7	10
PPR	19.77 / 336	16.67 / 283
reRECS	7.57 / 129	5.8 / 99
reTDS	0.57 / 10	0.5 / 8
reTRGS	10.43 / 177	8.6 / 146
reYDS	87.71 / 1491	74.7 / 1270

In Split: Tyler Huntley played, from week 1 to 18. *out of split evaluates to all games the subject player played that don't meet the in-split criteria.

If determined to gain an early TE edge, go 1 round sooner on Kelce, or take **Kyle Pitts** Round 3– he's one of my top-targets. If I miss Pitts, I prefer to wait until Round 6/7 (**Dalton Schultz**) and Round 9 (**Dawson Knox** o **Dallas Goedert**), or just completely punt the position with 2-3 late round stabs.

ROUND 2 WR/TE FADES CONT.

TYREEK HILL (26 OVR, -2 ECR, -5 ADP, -4 UD)

No, I don't think Hill is going to lose a step as the most explosive game-wrecker in the league. No, I'm not even super low on **Tua** (although more accurate than Mahoems? STFU, Tyreek!)

Rather, I'm lower on Tyreek because:

A) I'm high on **Jaylen Waddle**.

B) I think the Dolphins will be more run-happy than most seem to be accounting for.

Mike McDaniels comes from a **Kyle Shanahan** background as the run-game coordinator. At its best, this offense is a near perfect balance of run & pass (I have a 53% Pass / 47% Run projection). Thus, there's no way Hill approaches the 161 targets from last-year (I have him at 132). While Hill was able to score 15 TDs on 134 looks just two seasons ago... this is Tua. He could be very good and it still won't be **Patrick Mahomes**-level of efficiency. Already up-and-down (60% of the time outside the Top-25 WRs last year on steadier volume), I think Hill's volatility is even greater but with less-impressive booms.



IN A RUN-HEAVIER SCHEME THAN MOST EXPECT, CONTENDING WITH JAYLEN WADDLE FOR WR1 LOOKS, & A STEEP QB DOWNGRADE, I EXPECT A STEEP DECLINE IN HILL'S EFFICIENCY



ROUND 3

PICKS 25 - 36

SECURE RB2/3, WR1, & CONSIDER JOSH ALLEN EDGE



OVERVIEW:

Round Overview: On the never-ending quest for league-winning bell cows, I've started many-a-draft RB-RB-RB, and typically love the results. But with Alvin Kamara now in Round 2 (still a steal), there's really only one RB I'm loving here.

But three WRs, two with massive QB-upgrades & "Next Kupp" narratives, are ripe for the picking. Also: a QB & TE exist that could be league-winning edges that deserve your strong-consideration. With a deep Round 4 RB talent pool, it's OK to stray here.



ROUND 3 RB TARGET

JAMES CONNER (RB-CARDINALS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#26 TIER: 5	RB14 TIER: 4	#31 [+ 5]	#29 [+3]	#34 [+8]	\$29 (+\$5)
2022 PROJECTION 264 TCH (43 REC), 1248 YFS, 14 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 252 230 208

OUTLOOK

Last year's RB5, **James Conner** might be the single-best RB value in 2022. Yes, his 18 TDs may regress some, but in the Kliff / Kyler era, RBs have consistently been fed. Conner ranked 3rd in carries inside-10 (28) 2nd in carries inside-5 (16); the year prior, Drake ranked 1st & 3rd in each respectively. He'll continue to be a steady source of TDs.

Plus, the real ceiling comes from **Chase Edmonds's** departure & the massive receiving bump Conner sees:

Jake Tribbey @JakeTribbey · May 17
Hard not to love **James Conner** at RB15 on Underdog

In 5 games without **Chase Edmonds**:

- 20.7 half-PPR FPG
- 20.8 touches per game
- 5.4 targets per game
- 100% of backfield goal line carries

Over the full season, those numbers would've ranked: 3rd, 7th, 6th, and 1st

Ian Hartz @ihartz · Jun 16
James Conner:

- 77%, 82%, 82%, 91%, 96%, 61% snaps w/o Edmonds
- PFF's No. 3 graded receiving RB; caught 37 of 39 targets
- PFF's highest graded pass-blocking RB
- 3-year, \$21M contract
- Kliff has given multiple RBs a true workhorse role
- Competition: Day-3 RBs + Darrel for vet min.

He averaged 23 FPPG without Edmonds, more than JONATHAN TAYLOR! He became a true cheat-code in these contests, and there is minimal competition in Conner's way to keep him from maintaining that role.

The only negative I can see is health, which is fair. Just take **Darrel Williams** around Pick 170-180. He proved plenty capable in all-three phases, racking up over 1,000 scrimmage yards & 8 TDs (0 fumbles) across 191 touches (47 rec). DWill would likely put up Conner-lite, three-down stats for any fill-in performance, so I love locking the duo up for a Round 3 & Round 15+ Pick.

Conner is the ideal RB2 or Flex target. A lock for the high-money touches in an explosive system, and thus Top-12 numbers whenever out there.



ROUND 3 WR TARGET

FIRST CHECK FOR KEENAN ALLEN , OFTEN FALLS TO PICK 25-30. IF HE'S GONE, LOOK FOR:

AJ BROWN (WR-EAGLES)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#23 TIER: 5	WR10 TIER: 4	#27 [+4]	#27 [+4]	#27 [+4]	\$20 [-\$3]
2022 PROJECTION 82 REC (130 TGTS), 1148 YDS, 10 TDS					PPR HALF STD. 257 216 175

OUTLOOK

Updated 8/11: AJ Brown (27 OVR, +1 ECR, +1 ADP, +0 UD): I originally considered fading AJ Brown, despite being IN LOVE with his talent. No team was more run-heavy than the Eagles in 2021 (52.7% run 47.3% pass), while hovering close to a 60% run-rate when they started winning. Although HC Nick Sirianni indicated this will remain their backbone, AJ Brown has still emerged as a centerpiece in Training Camp.

They've been absolutely feeding Brown, most often those desirable "lay-up" targets, allowing him to do what he does best: dominate after the catch.

"We've already seen plenty of glimpses of his run-after-the-catch abilities during training camp. Through nine practices, Jalen Hurts has [thrown more passes to Brown](#) than any of his other receivers by a long shot. And many of those passes have been on-time slants and other timing patterns that give Brown an opportunity to run through the catch."

The report went on to say Brown, "In many ways, he looks like a running back once he secures the catch." In short: they may use these high-probability quick-strikes as an extension of the run-game.

The Athletic described Brown's dominant camp as "[a rinse-and-repeat element to continuing to mention Brown](#) highlights in these practice reports, although that should give you an indication of what's happening this summer. He's been everything the Eagles could have wanted."

At this point, it's clear Brown will be the focal point of the passing attack, assuaging any concerns of a run-heavy attack. In fact, beat writer Jimmy Kempfski speculates: "[If camp is any indication, Brown is going to get eleventy billion targets this season.](#)" He's simply too talented to pass in Round 3, particularly with this expected usage bump.

Oh - he also went to Jalen Hurts' kids birthday even before the trade. The pair have been longtime friends. You saw The Breakfast Club come to fruition last year. Could "Kid's Birthday Party" be the next great narrative / key to unlock fantasy greatness? Maybe!

COURTLAND SUTTON [WR-BRONCOS]



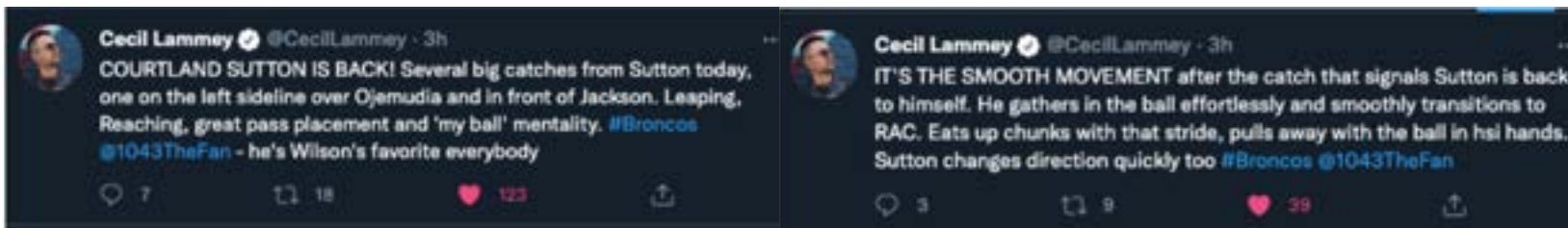
RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO		
#30 TIER: 5	WR12 TIER: 3	#55 [+25]	#43 [+13]	#34 [+4]	\$19 (+\$11)		
2022 PROJECTION 79 REC (127 TGTS), 1185 YDS, 10 TDS					PPR 258	HALF 218	STD. 178

OUTLOOK

UPDATED 8/5 - Tim Patrick Injury: Courtland Sutton (28 OVR, +20 ECR, +32 ADP, +7 UD)

With **Tim Patrick** done for 2022, **Russell Wilson's** delicious Aerial Pie now has one less mouth to feed. We're all hunting for the next "Cooper Kupp" - a WR who greatly benefits from a QB-Talent injection. I expect all Broncos' ships to rise with Wilson, but none more than **Courtland Sutton**.

A year removed from his ACL surgery, Sutton has reportedly looked "back to himself," while emerging as "Wilson's favorite" early in mini-camp:



Russell Wilson's starting WRs (DK & Lockett) have BOTH finished Top-20 in the last 2 seasons, including WR7 & WR8 in 2020, when they let "Russ Cook"... for half the season at least.

Nathaniel Hackett has already pledged to center the offense on his QBs strengths and desires. In fact, when studying Russ' tape to build his attack, he zoned in on the Seahawks' first [five games of 2020](#). AKA the only real time "Russ Cooked."

The Seahawks led the NFL in scoring (33.8 PPG), 1st down pass rate, right at the tops in pace and deep passing rates too. And Russ was on pace to be NFL MVP, and break fantasy. His pace: 5107 yds, 65 TDS, & 32.48 FPPG -- the latter two would be most-ever, by miles.

Of course, Carroll thought: this is working too well, and abandoned it for his old run-heavy ways.

Early camp suggests the Broncos won't be so foolish. Tons of no-huddle and pushing the pace. And now the attack will be heavily-condensed to Sutton, maybe Jeudy, maybe Albert O... yeah, Sutton.

If they truly let him Cook, and Sutton is "the guy," the fantasy stats could be insane. He's a red-zone beast with similar measurables to DK. He saw the same Air Yards share as DK (34%), but scored just 2 TDs as compared to 12. 27% of his targets were deemed uncatchable.

Russ throws among the best deep-balls in the game, and has pinpoint accuracy in the Red Zone. A DK-style of 1300+ yards and 14+TDs isn't impossible for Sutton.

Nick Kosmider
@NickKosmider · Follow

Came across wild stat while researching a story. Of all receivers in 2021 who were targeted at least 50 times, Courtland Sutton was second in air yards per target at 15.4 yards.

Russell Wilson to Sutton: Keep winning those long routes and see what happens.

11:44 PM · Jun 8, 2022



MICHAEL PITTMAN (WR-COLTS)



RANK - OVR	RANK - POS	ADP	ECR	UD	WOLF VALUE VS YAHOO
#31 TIER: 5	WR13 TIER: 4	#36 [+ 5]	#31 [+ 0]	#28 [- 3]	\$19 [-\$2]

2022 PROJECTION
97 REC (141 TGTS), 1203 YDS, 8 TDS

PPR HALF STD.
265 217 168

OUTLOOK

First things first: we may have our next Breakfast Club Narrative:

This could be a complete BS report. Still, we saw Kupp-Stafford explode. Any hints must be considered. And whether sharing pancakes or not, the Ryan-Pittman rapport appears to be real:



Pittman may not be Julio or even Ridley, but Ryan has long-peppered his No.1 WRs. Since 2014, his WR1's Fantasy Finishes & TGTS:

WR6 (163 tgts), WR2 (203), WR6 (129), WR7 (148), WR3 (170), WR3 (156), WR5 (143), 2021 = Ridley Out. Pittman has "hit it off with Matt Ryan right away" as a "budding superstar" that has been Ryan's "No.1 target by far."

Yes, I know: Julio is damn good. But Pittman isn't far off from Ridley, who was WR5 in his lone season as Ryan's top guy. This summer, Pittman "carved up the lions secondary" and has utterly dominated: "catching everything. Crossers, screens, posts down the middle, deep shots on the sideline. He's a problem." A Top-10 target bath & fantasy finish could absolutely be in the cards.

Pittman already was the WR18 with a lesser QB & in the slowest offense in the league in situational-neutral situations. When Reich has the QB he wants, he pushes the pace: fastest team with Andrew Luck & Top-7 during Prime Wentz in Philly. Early signs suggest the pace will be full-throttle under Ryan:

"Matt Ryan, the new quarterback, is moving at warp speed. It's something you notice almost immediately; with the offense, there's no wasted time, no hiccups, no standing around processing plays."

Reich continued: "That's because the quarterback is pushing the tempo. As a play caller, you want to put the players in the best position, but quarterback, he's the field general, so when you've got a guy with Matt's experience, you can kind of say, 'Hey, here is what we want, but trust your instincts. When you see it, call it. Don't hesitate, don't flinch. Do what you've done your entire career.' ... We have never practiced that fast."

"It's a mentality, it's a confidence," Reich said. "[We're dictating the tempo](#), from the huddle to the ball. We're going."

A QB upgrade & faster-paced offense could be all Pittman needs to join the fantasy elite. Beat Writer **Zak Keefe** raved Pittman's "[primed to break out](#)." I agree: he's my favorite potential "Alpha" available in Round 3 & beyond.

STRONGLY CONSIDER:

EDGE 1: JOSH ALLEN

Anyone following me for a while knows I've always been a "Wait on QB" guy. The high supply of quality options & low demand in single-QB leagues have always made filling the "multi-starter" positions (WR/RB) significantly more important. Consequently, even the best QBs haven't been true "League-Winners." Per **Scott Barrett**:

"In 2018, **Patrick Mahomes** scored the most fantasy points by any quarterback in any season in NFL history. In 2019, Lamar Jackson averaged the most FPG of any quarterback in any season in NFL history. Both players accomplished these feats with an ADP in the double-digit rounds. And even so, both ranked quite low overall (in terms of helping you advance into the playoffs). In fact, Mahomes ranked only 10th-overall in Win% (a.k.a. percentage of ESPN playoff teams rostering this player) in 2018.

Justin Herbert was the league's most valuable fantasy QB last season, ranking just 16th among all players in playoff win-rate (50%) with a Round 7 ADP. **Josh Allen** (Round 3, 49%), who scored the 4th-most fantasy points by any QB in NFL history, ranked barely above Matthew Stafford (Round 11, 48%) and Tom Brady (Round 7, 48%)."

Josh Allen presents an interesting counter. And I've taken him in roughly 25% of my Underdog Drafts so far.

Allen has finished as the QB1 with over 400 FPs in back-to-back years. He's the epitome of QB Fantasy Goodness: Deep bombs & rushing.

In a great article "[Is Josh Allen Worth A 1st Round Pick?](#)" **Jeff Henderson** explores the volatility among Top-5 QBs by ADP & actual finishes. He uses the aforementioned **Wins Above Replacement** stat to show Allen was more valuable than all but Kupp, Taylor, Ekeler, Adams, Andrews, and Deebo – [7th via WAR](#).

This was largely due to Allen's consistency. Across two seasons, he has been a QB1 a whopping 61% of the time, finishing with 20+ FPs in 25 of 33 games (76%). He's as sure a bet as any fantasy product, and will very likely top 400 FPs while defending his QB1 Crown admirably. If you have enough confidence in your ability to hit on mid-to-late RBs & WRs (& via this guide, you should!), Allen's edge makes perfect sense. I often will take him and no other QBs in Best Ball, affording me a valuable stab at another home run at the more volatile positions.

All this to say: Round 3/4 Josh Allen is highly viable & someone I will continue to hammer in 2022. I have him projected for **4936 passing yards & 42 TDs, 598 rushing & 7 TDs** for an absurd 490 FPs. **CHEAT CODE**. While I struggle paying up for QBs in an auction, he came out of the model worth a whopping \$50.

EDGE 2: KYLE PITTS

Megatron-level measurables. A massive target share.

Really, the biggest, maybe only, argument I see against Pitts: "He has to play with Marcus Mariota."

Is this so bad? In Delanie Walker's three seasons with 12+ games alongside Mariota, he finished as the TE3, TE5, and TE4 while seeing 133, 102, and 111 targets.

To me, the only argument against a potential WR1 freak at the thinnest position in fantasy would be the opportunity cost. I simply love the three-down horses that fall to Round 3 (AK41 & Conner), or the potential target-hog WRs. I really like the value we can get on Schultz, my projected TE4, in Round 6.

Still, it doesn't get higher-upside than Round 3 Pitts. He's already [building great chemistry with Mariota](#) while looking "completely unstoppable." He just set the rookie TE yardage record while dealing with No.1 CBs and doubles. With Drake London here to relieve some pressure, particularly in the Red Zone, Pitts has a very real 1300+ yard & 10+ TD upside.

**ALREADY THE RUNAWAY DYNASTY TE1....
DON'T BE SHOCKED TO SEE KYLE
PITTS GOING ROUND 1 IN REDRAFT
AS EARLY AS NEXT YEAR**



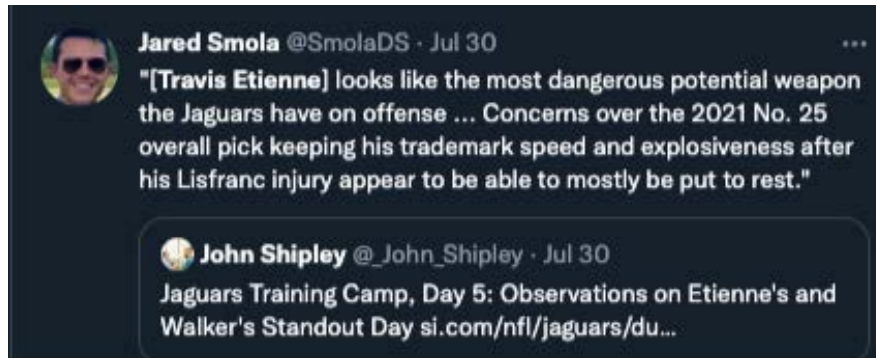
ROUND 3 FADES

Jaylen Waddle (41 OVR, -3 ECR, -2 ADP, -3 UD): Same argument as Tyreek Hill: a run-heavier offense & stiff QB-downgrade. I actually prefer Waddle at his price to Tyreek Hill at his. Still, between massive potential TE & QB edges, or adding a third bellcow, I just can't bring myself to take Tua's No.2.

DJ Moore (52 OVR, -18 ECR, -2 ADP, -21 UD): No other active WR has recorded 1200+ total yards in three straight years...besides Moore. This isn't a talent issue in the least. It's a *surrounding* talent concern, as it always has been. Moore has yet to top four TDs in his NFL career, even with 160 targets, sixth most, in 2021. While a better QB would likely boost those stats, perhaps Moore just isn't a great Red Zone weapon.

Sure, **Baker Mayfield** is the best QB Moore's ever played with. I don't expect the WRs efficiency or scoring to spike dramatically, as Mayfield is not overly steep of an upgrade. 28.4% target share (5th), 162 targets (6th) and 14 FPPG (26th). As the WR27 & WR26 in FPPG during The Rhule error, Moore feels vastly overdrafted considering the other talent available these rounds.

Travis Etienne (43 OVR, -2 ECR, +5 ADP, -8 UD): Another “love the talent, hate the situation” semi-fade for me. I do love that he’s been “[the star of camp](#),” lining up all over while making tons of plays as a runner & receiver. He has that pre-established rapport with **Trevor Lawrence**, when he racked up over 1,500 scrimmage yards & 16 TDs – and Lawrence says ETN is “in better physical shape” than their time together then. Concerns over him regaining his explosiveness after Lisfranc should be erased:



My main concern: new HC **Doug Pederson** LOVES RBBCs. **James Robinson** is on a miraculous recovery timeline from his Achilles tear, avoiding the PUP to begin camp, & Pederson said in the spring the team still views JRob as the top back. The Jaguars also blow, with a subpar line.

Etienne could be explosive enough with enough receiving work to overcome an RBBC. But with proven workhorses like **James Conner** going in the same range, and other potential three-down backs like **Cam Akers** and **Ezekiel Elliott** going after him, I’m landing minimal Etienne right now.

FWIW: So many sharp analysts that I love are going all-in on Etienne, which makes me terrified to fade him. I just love the WRs in this range.



ROUND 4-5

PICKS 37 - 60
WR HEAVEN! + NO MORE “DEAD ZONE?”

OVERVIEW:



Unlike the “Dead Zone” of 2021, Round 4 seems full of potential RB1s. Yes, I often have my 3 RBs by now anyways. But if not, I like to dip into this RB pool & ensure I’ve selected 3 by the end of Round 4 (or latest Round 5 **David Montgomery**). The drop-off is incredibly steep afterwards. **UPDATE:** The pool seems to be thinning. Given how much I love the Round 4-5 WRs, I won't force an RB3 any more with all these new warts

I’m so comfortable going 3 RBs in my first 3 picks because I find plenty of WR1 upside to the Round 4 WRs, equal to many of the guys going in the Round 2-3 range. We’ll discuss my favorites.

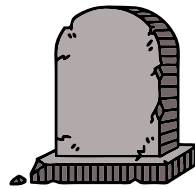
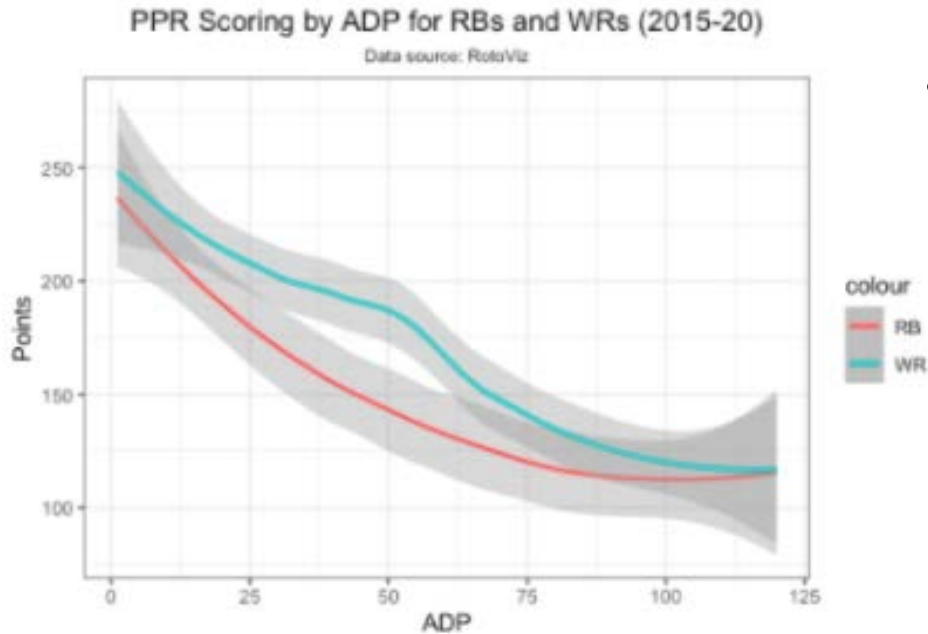
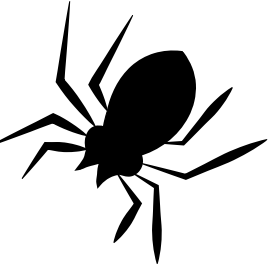
But first, let’s revisit the “RB Deadzone” & see if it still applies in 2022:

THE RB DEAD ZONE

STILL A THING IN 2022?



In 2021, Jack Miller coined "[The RB Deadzone](#)," showing how rapidly RB scoring falls after the first two rounds, especially when compared to WRs:



As this graph shows, WR scoring has held fairly steady through ~5 rounds, and is significantly higher than RB. Later RBs, like round 7-10, often outscored their Round 3-7 counterparts, thus making RBs a terrible selection in this dead zone – their production was replaceable far later, and they were a massive opportunity cost to some elite WR production.

The results couldn't have been stronger in 2021. **Cooper Kupp**, the league-winner of 2021, often went in a similar range to 2021 Dead Zone RBs like **Mike Davis, Miles Sanders, Myles Gaskin, & Trey Sermon**. Yuck.

However, 2022 appears quite different. We're seeing potential three-down horses, with plenty of past-production and/or elite profiles, falling to Round 4 (and even Round 5 with Montgomery)... and I often don't know why.

There is a clear Dead Zone, but this year it seems to come from Round 6-9. The great Graham Barfield shares my sentiment on this strategy:



Graham Barfield
@GrahamBarfield

This is an abnormally great year to take 2-3 RBs in the first 5 rounds and then not take your RB3/4 until Round 12 at the earliest.

The RB dead zone isn't Round 3-6. It's R6-R10.

Update (8/18): As mentioned throughout, the workload / RBBC concerns for both **Cam Akers & Breece Hall** make the Round 4/5 Range a lot spookier than I once thought. There's still lots of upside, but also lower floors than I anticipated.



ROUND 4 RB TARGET

EZEKIEL ELLIOTT (36 OVR, -5 ECR, -6 ADP, +3 UD) = ROUND 4

Elliott just finished as the RB6, his sixth straight Top-10 RB finish of his career... all while playing on a *partially-torn PCL!* That's an absurd feat... and yet he's now falling to Round 4? Yes, please.

Look, I love **Tony Pollard**. I have eyeballs & saw how much more effective he was. But my opinion doesn't matter, and since feeding Zeke that fat contract, the Cowboys have shown zero willingness to lessen his load for Pollard's sake. Zeke's seen 300+ opportunities every single year of his career besides 2017, when he was suspended the first 6 games (he still racked up 280 opps in that span).

Mike McCarthy called Zeke "[a keystone](#)" player. Jerry Jones said Zeke "[has to be the focus](#)" in the run game. He should see 285+ minimum, within an offense that just ranked 1st in total yardage & TD last year. Zeke had some monster games last year, and is reportedly "[completely healthy now](#)" after a gym-rat offseason that saw Zeke hurling weight around & clocking in over 22 MPH on timed runs.

Is this the year he falls off the cliff after such sturdy workloads? Maybe, and I get the "be a year too early than a year too late" mentality. But Zeke's still only 27 with about as juicy of a situation as you could ask for. At that Round 4 price tag, sign me up all day. (Especially with downgrades on the RBs below...)

ROUND 4 RB CAUTIONS



Updated 8/5 (Akers) & 8/18 (Hall): Two RBs I was once hammering have now become CAUTIONS. Both still drip in tremendous upside, but unless I am desperate for RBs, I would not forego the sexier WR Bargains in this range for them. Still, here's the Bull & Bear cases on **Cam Akers & Brecee Hall**.

CAM AKERS (43 OVR, -8 ECR, -10 ADP, -1 UD)

The track record for RBs returning from an Achilles tear & remaining effective is... grim:

Name	Age of Achilles Tear	Year Achilles Tear Happened	Year Returning to Play	Touches in Prior Year to Tear	Touches in Comeback Year
Marlon Mack	24	2020	?	261	?
D'Onta Foreman	22	2018	2020	84	23
Mikel Leshoure	23	2013	NA	249	NA
Isaiah Crowell	25	2018	NA	234	NA
Branden Oliver	25	2016	2017	196	41
Arian Foster	30	2016	NA	85	NA
Beanie Wells	25	2013	NA	255	NA
Andre Brown	24	2010	2012	2	85
Kendall Hunter	24	2012	2013	81	80
Vick Ballard	24	2014	NA	228	NA
Ryan Williams	22	2012	2014	65	0

CAM AKERS CONT.

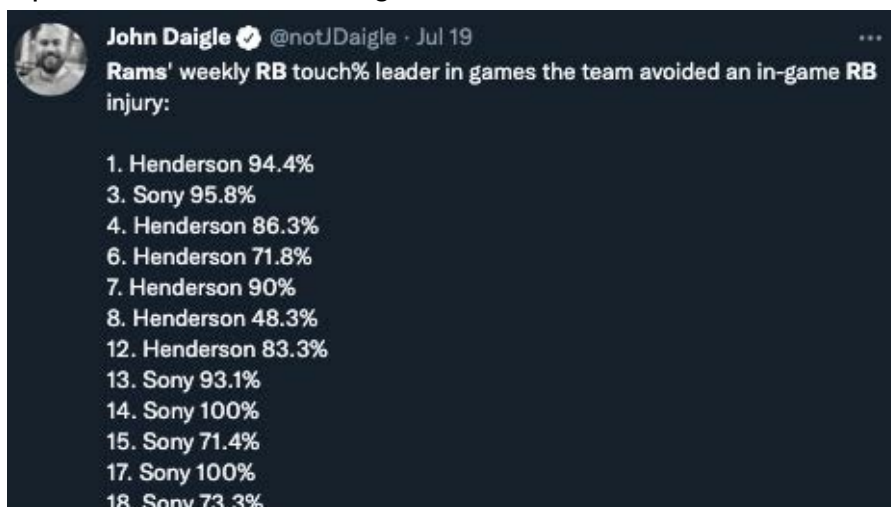
However, with Akers, we must consider that he miraculously returned to the field *in six months!* He's actually taken reps (& hits) again, shook off some rust, had a chance to "regain trust" in his leg, and was even heavily featured during the Rams' playoff run with 19.25 opportunities per game. Sure, he was ineffective with 2.6 YPC, but flashed some explosiveness on a 40 yard reception. He also was facing some stellar run defenses: The Buccaneers (3rd), 49ers (7th), and Bengals (5th) all finished the regular season ranked inside the top 10 against the run.

According to [The Athletic](#), Akers said he's "100%," while also being "[worked into the passing game](#)" at an even higher volume than he was previously."

"Yeah, [100 percent](#)," Akers said, "Whether it's runs, passes, screens, whatever I need to do. Whenever my number's called, whether it's from the slot, the outside receiver to the backfield, I'll be ready, whatever it is."

The last time we saw the No.52 overall pick fully healthy, he was shredding through defenses to close his rookie campaign. 30 touches, 176 total yards, and 1 TD in the playoffs vs. Seattle. Another 96 & score vs. Green Bay. A total of 141 carries, 645 yards & 4 TDs on the ground. He was the next great RB1.

The Rams have shown a preference towards using a workhorse, too:



Whether or not Akers will be fully healthy or effective remains to be seen. But we're staring at an 18-20 touch guy within a Top-5 offense in the league at a 4th Round price. The upside far outweighs the risk at this cost.

UPDATE: In addition to the Achilles risk, McVay referred to his backfield by saying: "I look at it as we've got [two starting \(running\) backs](#)." If this is the case, Henderson would be the much better investment. I don't really buy it— it's not how he's run his offense in the past. But Akers' huge playoff workload did come with injuries around him too (Henderson was out). Henderson also gets dinged up quite regularly, so I'm not fading, I'm just going for Zeke or Breece first now.

BREECE HALL (51 OVR, -15 ECR, -10 ADP, -9 UD)

If you're on team "Fade the Jets," I can't blame you. But consider: A Rookie RB has finished Top-6 in four of the last 5 years, Top-10 in 9/10, and Top-15 in 10 straight.

Beyond historic trends, Breece has the perfect three-down profile, world-class athleticism, dominant production, and now available opportunity. Plus, the line just finished No.11 in PFF's 2021 grades despite playing without first-rounder **Mekhi Becton** all year. If he returns & hits his ceiling, this young, ascending group could hit Top-7. (**UPDATE:** Becton suffered a season-ending knee injury. Whelp. They did replace him with **Duane Brown**, about as best-case a replacement at this point that you could hope for).

The Jets ranked 7th in RB targets (170), which is where Hall thrives. Michael Carter was OK, but Hall won't be ceding those snaps. He's elite in all facets, especially pass-catching.

While I still have sincere doubts around **Zach Wilson**, they won't slow me from taking Hall in the fourth. 285+ touches in an RB-friendly scheme behind a surging line? Hall should eat and continue the Top-10 Rookie RB trend that's hit at 90% rate.

UPDATE 8/17: Maybe Hall *will* be ceding some of those snaps to Carter. While I think Hall is a far better talent & will eventually command the majority of the workload, the early Training Camp signs aren't great. Hall was listed as the No.3 back on the depth chart... which, whatever. It's the first depth chart. But then he logged only 2 snaps with the starters, compared to 7 for Carter. Again - it's one week, let's not go nuts. But I do think this suggests far more of an RBBC than I had anticipated -- Hall's elite three-down profile doesn't matter if he's in a timeshare. I think the upside remains sky-high, but I had to update my projections, going from a 60% rushing & 13% target shares down to 48% rush & 8% respectively. This dropped Hall from a fringe Top-12 guy to outside my Top-20.

ROUND 5 (EVEN 6) RB TARGET

DAVID MONTGOMERY (48 OVR, -11 ECR, -15 ADP, +12 UD):

Montgomery is unsexy, but there's a lot of upside people seem to ignore. To close out last year, Montgomery became a bonafide bell-cow with a serious bump in receiving usage. He averaged 6.3 targets over the last six games, while also ranking 3rd in carries, 1st in targets, 1st in XFP, 1st in XTD, and 2nd in fantasy points scored (averaging 18.5 FPG) on, according to Barrett, 81% of the team's backfield XFP (2nd-most).

Barrett goes even further, diving into Montgomery's last 19 games: 18.2 carries, 4.4 targets, 0.72 XTD, 17.7 XFP (84% backfield XFP%), and 18.6 FPG, on a 76% snap-share.

True. Workhorse. What's not to love?!

True, a new regime could deploy a different scheme and different rotation. Yet, new HC **Matt Eberflus** and new OC Luke Getsy are implementing "[a run-heavy team](#) with the outside zone," citing the (gorgeous) 49ers scheme as a model. Beyond a scheme revamp, the Eberflus stressed utilizing Montgomery [more as a receiver](#):

DAVID MONTGOMERY CONT.

“We’re going to stress those guys and stretch their role, meaning that, can he run the whole gamut of the passing tree? Which, you know, it looks like he can. What kind of routes is he good at? How’s the timing of that? Can he beat guys one-on-one consistently? We feel he has the skill set to do that.” Eberflus said.

“I think the sky’s the limit. We don’t put ceilings on guys. If you do that, that’s not a good way to go. We always leave it open. If the guy can climb all the way and go all the way up, man, go. We encourage you to do that and we’ll keep feeding you, and that’s the whole process of our whole football team,” the new Bears head coach said.

So the scheme could be an upgrade?! Let others worry about reports Montgomery practiced with special teams -- he volunteered to go back there once his RB work was done. Buy into this severely discounted workhorse -- the last of his kind before a major drop off

ROUND 4/5 WR TARGETS

NOTE: MY FAVORITE SINGLE TIER OF VALUE IS THE ROUND 4-5 WRs. I LOVE HAMMERING THEM IN AUCTIONS AND REDRAFT ALIKE. IN UNDERDOG, THESE GUYS TYPICALLY ARE GONE BY ROUND 4. HOWEVER, FANTASYPROS SUGGESTS MANY WILL LINGER INTO ROUND 5, AND POTENTIALLY EVEN ROUND 6:

ALLEN ROBINSON (31 OVR, +27 ECR, +36 ADP, +6 UD):

ARob is currently my highest drafted early-round WR by a mile. Yes, his WR81 finish after an Early Round 3 price was devastating. If you can’t forgive it, I can sympathize.

And more ARob for me, because you’d be making a grave mistake. Last year was an “everything that could go wrong...did” type of situation. ARob clearly quit by midyear. While I hate that, there’s a ton of juice still here that I’ll be squeezing all 2022:

In 3 of his 4 full seasons, ARob has been a Top-10 WR while catching balls from: **Matt McGloin, Christian Hackenberg, Blake Bortles, Mitch Trubisky, Nick Foles, Justin Fields, & Andy Dalton.**

The only time his team was NOT Bottom-20 in passing yards, Robinson went for 80 rec, 1400 yards, & 14 TDs.

He’ll now be joining **Sean McVay**’s Rams, who have ranked Top-5 in passing yards for three of the last 4 seasons, including the second-most passing TDs in their first year of: **Matthew Stafford**. Whether Kupp’s record-setting season, Megatron’s extended dominance, or even **Kenny Golladay**’s lone season of relevance, Stafford has consistently facilitated monster-WR stats from his top-guys.

I could care less that he’s the “No.2 WR.” The Rams have had at least two Top-20 WRs in FPPG in all-but-one season under McVay. Robinson will be seeing secondary corners for the first-time in his career, with a QB who’ll exploit that to the fullest.

He’s already thriving everywhere in camp:



ALLEN ROBINSON CONT.

Robinson is reportedly “[all business](#)” & considers LA “a perfect fit...to leverage the improved surrounding cast to have a career season.”

Austin Gayle @austingayle_ · Jul 30

Talked with Rams QB coach Zac Robinson (and @PFF legend) a lot about Allen Robinson after practice today.

The entire team (players and coaches) are fucking stoked to use him as creatively as possible and really feed him the ball.

The hype is very much real.

With his work ethic / "elite talent" concerns assuaged in a new, perfect home – I'm ready to shove the chips all-in on ARob, who came out as MY WR8 IN PROJECTIONS: **92 rec (135 tgts), 1150 yds, 11 TDs = 270 FPs!**

For Auction Leagues, Robinson came out projected at **\$23** - Compared to his **\$5 Average Auction Value**, that's a whopping **+\$18**. STEAL HIM IN AUCTIONS, SNAKES, EVERYWHERE!



**GO ALL IN ON AROB IN, BY FAR,
THE BEST SITUATION OF HIS
CAREER: 92 REC-1150 YDS-11 TDS!**

GABRIEL DAVIS [33 OVR, +39 ECR, +40 ADP, +11 UD]

Gabriel Davis has been the most polarizing player on Twitter this offseason. You now know where The Wolf stands: ALL-IN.

Last time we saw Davis, he posted 8 receptions, 204 yards, & 4 TDs in the biggest game of his career. I don't care what measurables or detractors you throw at Davis: you need to be special to pull that off.

He's more than just 1 game though. In fact, every-time he plays, he seems to ball. He averaged 13.6 FPPG in his other five starts, which would've ranked as the WR30. Not league-winning, but not some empty "one hit wonder," either. He also ranked among the Top-15% in some key efficiency metrics: Target Rate: 22.2%; Yards Per Route Run: 1.93 His PFF receiving grade also came out an elite 80.0.

He's emerged as the clear No.2 WR in a Top-3 passing attack. Feasting on secondary coverage with a massive spike in volume, Davis could blow-up. He's been a gym-rat, going from [210 up to 227](#) of sheer muscle, all while maintaining strength. As his trainer noted:

"He's bigger, faster, stronger. He's put on muscle. People say that's too big, but he's 23 years old. He's just growing into his natural body. You're going to see a big receiver."

Hype has poured in from the organization, too:

"I HAVE BEEN AROUND A LOT OF GOOD WIDE RECEIVERS. HE IS A PRO BOWL CALIBER PLAYER. I'VE BEEN AROUND ANTONIO BROWN, DEMARIUS THOMAS, AND MICHAEL THOMAS... THIS GUY IS DIFFERENT AND HE'S GONNA BE A DIFFERENCE-MAKER FOR THEM."

-EMMANUEL SANDERS



"GABRIEL, HE'S A STUD, AND I MEAN THAT IN ALL SENSE," BEANE SAID. "HIS HABITS, HE IS SERIOUS ABOUT FOOTBALL... HE'S SO DRIVEN, AND THAT'S NOT FAKE. SOME PEOPLE DO THAT FOR FAKE, THAT'S JUST HIM...I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE TOOK A DAY OFF...EVEN HIS EYES. I MEAN, HE'S GOT THAT LOOK, THE EYE OF THE TIGER. I'LL GO TO WAR WITH GABE DAVIS ANY DAY OF THE WEEK."

-GM BRANDON BEANE

Perhaps the hype-train goes slightly off the rails. But I see a red-zone monster & field-stretching demon who's going to see a massive influx of targets from one of the best slingers in the game. Pass on that at your own risk. Especially with the domination carrying further into camp. During [the team's first 11-on-11 scrimmage](#):

Gabe Davis unguardable

Gabe Davis put on a show in front of the Bills Mafia at Highmark Stadium. Once the team began their 11 on 11 session, Davis was virtually unguardable. He opened with a touchdown reception from Josh Allen. On the first team offense's second series, Allen went to Davis on back-to-back plays including one big gainer. Davis added a second touchdown later in practice with Dane Jackson attempting to cover the receiver. Davis would find the end zone one more time on a two-point conversion from Allen with Kaiir Elam in coverage.

No matter who the Bills lined up on Davis, the receiver seemed to come out on top. -Talbot

DIONTAE JOHNSON (40 OVR, -2 ECR, +3 ADP, +8 ADP)

Last year's WR8 is now falling outside the Top-25 WRs, and I can't make much sense of it. He has inherited the invaluable "move-around" Steelers WR1 role that comes with insane volume: since 2013, the top Steelers WR has seen 160+ targets in all but one season (88%). Sure, **Antonio Brown** was a freak that warranted such voluminous shares. But DJ is an elite-separator. He gets open at will. He'll continue being peppered.

So this narrative "he was a product of Big Ben & their chemistry..." Did we watch the same Ben last year? A fat corpse. **Mitch Trubisky** will be a marked upgrade, as will **Kenny Pickett**. And the always-open Diontae will be their best friend en route to another 150+ targets & a likely Top-15 finish.

Update: Pickens is EATING. I still think this comes more at the expense of Claypool than Diontae, who plays a different role / layer of the field. Still, DJ may lose *some* TD ceiling with another hefty mouth now being fed.



DJ IS AN ELITE-SEPARATOR. HE GETS OPEN AT WILL. HE WILL CONTINUE BEING PEPPERED -- EXPECT ANOTHER 150+ TARGETS & A LIKELY TOP-15 FINISH FROM LAST YEAR'S WR8

PROJ: 94 REC-1043 YDS-7 TDS (242 FPS)

AMON-RA ST. BROWN [44 OVR, +28 ECR, +27 ADP, +14 UD]:

Everyone wants to poke holes into St. Brown's insane rookie-year finish. When, upon becoming a full-time player, St. Brown trailed only **Cooper Kupp** in Fantasy Scoring from Week 13 onward – including the most FPs of any WR in the Fantasy Playoffs. He scored 23+ FPs in five of his final six-games with WR6, WR26, WR6, WR6, WR2 and WR9 finishes, racking up 51 rec. (67 targets), 560 yards, & 5 TDs & 28.3 FPPG in this span. Much of this coming with TIM FUCKING BOYLE at QB!

I simply don't know why it's so hard to accept he's #good. In fact, the list of WRs who have averaged at least 17.5 FPPG over the final six weeks of their rookie season is extremely slim, and largely consists of some of the bests to ever play; 25+ FPPG might just be a sign of the elite:

Min. 17.5 FPG in Final 6 Weeks of Rookie Season										
Rk	Player Name	Pos	Season	Team	G	Tgt	Rec	Yds	TD	FPG
1	Odell Beckham Jr.	WR	2014	NYG	6	82	60	842	9	32.9
2	Randy Moss	WR	1998	MIN	6	67	33	615	10	26.4
3	Amon-Ra St. Brown	WR	2021	DET	6	67	51	560	5	25.2
4	A.J. Brown	WR	2019	TEN	6	39	25	605	5	21.3
5	Michael Thomas	WR	2016	NOR	5	47	36	456	4	21.1
6	Lee Evans	WR	2004	BUF	6	40	29	469	7	20.7
7	Joylen Waddle	WR	2021	MIA	4	40	31	366	2	19.9
8	Ja'Marr Chase	WR	2021	CIN	6	45	32	562	5	19.8
9	Justin Jefferson	WR	2020	MIN	6	66	43	552	3	19.7
10	Juwon Smith-Schuster	WR	2017	PIT	4	28	25	349	2	19.5
11	Anquan Boldin	WR	2003	ARI	6	70	41	501	4	19.4
12	Tyreek Hill	WR	2016	KAN	6	37	25	217	2	18.8
13	Marvin Harrison	WR	1996	IND	6	51	30	448	6	18.5
14	Eddie Kennison	WR	1996	STL	5	40	20	421	5	18.4
15	Julio Jones	WR	2011	ATL	6	44	24	461	6	17.6

If you needed another sign that ASB is actually #good: he posted an 80+ PFF grade as a Round 3 or later pick. This also puts him in some elite company: **Antonio Brown, Doug Baldwin, Keenan Allen, Tyreek Hill, Chris Godwin, Terry McLaurin, *End List***

Enough about lack of elite athleticism, low draft capital, or the “lack of target competition.” This young man showed how special he was, shouldering an entire offense. His most frequent player comp was Cooper Kupp, and ASB thrived in a similar role.

Yes, the additions of **Jameson Williams** and **DJ Chark** could eat into the 33% target share he saw down the stretch. But the attention those speedsters draw will allow ASB to continue dominating the short-to-intermediate ranges & dominate YAC (11th most in 2021 as a part-timer).

I love players getting “lay-up” targets, and ASB is absolutely one of them-- and Goff LOVES throwing them, creating a phenomenal, high-volume synergy. ASB also moves all-over the formation, including the backfield, where he can be a Deebo-lite. He ranked Top-20 vs. man coverage. Just a stud. He continues displaying the work ethic of a champion, [catching 202 balls after every practice](#).

Go get him as your WR2/3 and don't look back. ASB is a stud who'll be going in Rounds 2-3 next year.

BRANDIN COOKS [47 OVR, +0 ECR, +11 ADP, +5 UD]:

Cooks is the epitome of underappreciated consistency. Since 2015, he's finished with 1,000+ yards, at least 220 FPs, and as a Top-20 Fantasy WR in six-of-seven years. Last year, he finished with more Top-24 WR Finishes (56%) than Ja'Marr Chase (41%) or Tee Higgins (42%). He showed a tremendous rapport with **Davis Mills**, who lasered onto his No.1 for nearly 30% target share – Cooks was on pace for 163 targets in games played with Mills. With **John Metchie** unfortunately out for 2021, no real competition has been brought in to eat into this workload. The duo has already [been lighting up camp](#), setting Cooks up for yet another unheralded 1K yard, Top-20 Fantasy season. The team will suck, need to chuck, and Cooks will be there to soak in the fantasy goodness.

CHRIS GODWIN [49 OVR, +17 ECR, +15 ADP, +6 UD]

The WR2, WR15, and WR6 in FPPG across his past-three, is going as the WR29 on Underdog right now. Yes, I know he suffered a January ACL tear & could miss some time early on. This is WAY over-baked into his ADP. Him & Brady forged an even stronger rapport in Year 2, and I'm not worried at all about **Russell Gage** or **Julio Jones** taking over Godwin's role. There's enough Aerial Pie to sustain many mouths, and no one saw steadier volume than Godwin (9+ tgts a game). Especially if I have 2-3 WRs I feel strong about, Godwin is the ultimate stash-and-wait candidate who could give you Top-10 production for 12-13+ games, including the most important weeks.

THE ROUND 4-6 WRS ARE THE SINGLE BEST VALUES IN 2022 FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFTS.

HAMMER IN AUCTION & REDRAFT



STRONGLY CONSIDER:

JUSTIN HERBERT (42 OVR, +0 ECR, -5 ADP, +2 UD)

Similar to Round 3 Josh Allen, **Justin Herbert** is forcing me to reconsider my “Wait-on-QBs” stance. Anytime he’s fallen to Round 5, I have not hesitated on pulling the trigger.

We already know Herbert’s elite passing ceiling. His 9,350 yards across his first two seasons are the most by any QB by a mile – **Andrew Luck** is the next closest with 8,196. His 69 TDs similarly rank most across first two years, and Herbert is the safest bet to lead the NFL in passing yards & TDs in his second year of the offense.

Even scarier? 2022 presents Herbert’s first “real” offseason of full-OTAs and camp, and he feels far more comfortable in the scheme and in his rapport with teammates due to the extended reps.

On his arm alone, Herbert could threaten **Josh Allen**. But he also has some massive, untapped Konami Code rushing upside, with 15% & 13.5% rush shares + 18% of FPs coming from his legs. If this gets utilized more often, Herbert could break fantasy. His athleticism actually beats Allen:



Scott Barrett @ScottBarrettDFB · Aug 1

Justin Herbert has Josh Allen upside. Dat cannon + could see him used more on the ground this year

Josh Allen

- 6-5, 237 lbs
- 4.75 40
- 33.5 vert
- 119 broad
- 6.90 3-cone

Justin Herbert

- 6-6, 236 lbs
- 4.68 40
- 35.5 vert
- 123 broad
- 7.06 3-cone

Even just a slight uptick in rushing work would be astronomical, but it remains unnecessary. Herbert will finish Top-4 on his arm alone. The legs could help him overtake Josh Allen and dominate fantasy. In Late 4th/Early 5th, Herbert is a plunge well-worth taking (especially if I have **Keenan Allen** and/or **Austin Ekeler**).



WE ALL KNOW HERBERT'S CANNON ARM... BUT DID YOU KNOW HE'S A BETTER ATHLETE THAN JOSH ALLEN? WHAT IF HE TAPS INTO HIS LEGS MORE?

ROUND 4/5 FADES

PATRICK MAHOMES (57 OVR, -5 ECR, -21 ADP, -6 UD):

This may sound insane, but Mahomes fell outside my Top-7 QBs in FF projections. His track record is impeccable – QB4, QB2, QB6, QB1 as a starter, 69% of his fantasy finishes in the Top-12 – and so I can't rank him outside my Top-4. Still, I am well below his cost & likely will own no Mahomes.

The reason for my pessimism is obvious: no more **Tyreek Hill**. Sorry, none of **JuJu Smith-Schuster**, **MVS**, or **Skyy Moore** will offset that loss. Removing that threat could change the entire complexion of this offense.

Andy Reid is still a genius and Mahomes remains a generational talent. It's more the opportunity cost for me: give me **Justin Herbert** in the same price range, or **Tom Brady** (who outscored Mahomes last year) 3+ rounds later while I scoop up my final RB or a high-end WR2.

LAMAR JACKSON (72 OVR, -19 ECR, -22 ADP, -22 UD):

Lamar Jackson may be the single-most overrated QB in fantasy. Sure, we saw his ability to break fantasy in 2019, but since then, Jackson has been the QB9 and QB10 in FPPG. His rushing stats have decreased for three straight years. He posted just five Top-12 games in his 12 starts – just 1 more than **Davis Mills**. He just lost **Marquise Brown** and may have the worst WRs corps in the league, and no team projects to run more than the Ravens.

Granted, the run-first philosophy helped facilitate Jackson's Cheat Code season in 2019. The line should be better. I'm encouraged by all the reports that OC **Greg Roman** said "I think it's the best I've ever seen him throw it" after he worked on his mechanics all offseason." Plus he's bulked up, looking stronger both as a runner and passer. And if you take out injuries & include NFL playoffs, he was the QB4 in PPG. Perhaps a return to his Cheat Code self is plausible.

I don't buy it, at least not at his current price-tag. Give me a safer, steadier option 3+ rounds later.

TERRY MCLAURIN (46 OVR, -6 ECR, -3 ADP, -7 UD):

I want **Terry McLaurin** to succeed as much as the next analyst, but he's egregiously overpriced at WR19, 10+ spots higher than **Allen Robinson** and **Amon-Ra St. Brown**. Besides shocking the fantasy world as a rookie (as the WR30...), what exactly has Terry done to warrant his darling status? WR30, WR20 and WR32 finishes in FPPG and just four and five TDs the past two years despite being bathed in 134 and 131 targets?

Yes, I'm aware his QB play has contributed to this inefficiency, but ranking as the WR88 and WR90 in Fantasy Points Over Expectation shouldn't be ignored either. Especially since **Carson Wentz**, who ranked 28th in true completion percentage, is unlikely to play the role of savior. Stir in more target competition from the addition of first-round rookie **Jahan Dotson**, a true college alpha, and the return of **Curtis Samuel**, and McLaurin presents as an easy avoid given the WRs available around and after him.

ROUND 4/5 FADES

CONT.

MARQUISE BROWN (50 OVR, +5 ECR, +10 ADP, -11 UD):

I wanted to love **Marquise Brown** and his reunion with his college-QB **Kyler Murray**. Apparently in FantasyPros ADP/ECR, I sure do.

After ranking 67th in target accuracy, 59th in catchable target rate, and 65th in QB Rating per target, Brown should see the quality of his targets improve dramatically. Since entering the league, Murray consistently ranks among the league's top downfield passers. Per Pro Football Focus, Murray ranked third in passer rating (117.2), yards per attempt (15.8), and finished first in both completion rate (49.3%) and PFF's passing grade (99.3) on deep throws.

There should be an immediate rapport and improved accuracy to really unlock Brown's elite deep game. Especially when **DeAndre Hopkins** is out for the first six weeks.

When he returns, however, this could get messy. Both Murray and Brown have been susceptible to the injury bug, too – Brown is already missing camp time with soft-tissue concerns.

So while I may land him at his price in normal redraft, at Best Ball I can't forego **Allen Robinson**, **Gabriel Davis**, or **Diontae Johnson** – all of whom Brown goes ahead of.

DK METCALF (65 OVR, -16 ECR, -18 ADP, -13 UD):

Despite DK & Lockett's elite talent, this offense may just be *the* worst of 2022. They ran the fewest plays in 2021 @ 56 per game. And in starts without Russell Wilson, the Seahawks ran 49, 50, and 59 plays, with a 51% run-to-pass ratio.

No matter how much I love the player, I hate the situation enough to fade DK almost entirely. I have him seeing 25% target share and this still equaling only 115 looks, with the Seahawks falling over 67 plays below league average. On a shortened workload, coming from **Geno Smith** or **Drew Lock**, DK will face an uphill climb for strong, weekly dependability. Unless they trade for Jimmy G, fade the Seahawks passing game, no matter how talented they are.

GEORGE KITTLE (AT COST) (52 OVR, -6 ECR, -8 ADP, +0 UD):

Kittle may be my favorite player in the entire NFL & definitely my choice for most complete "real-life" TE. He's also been the TE3 for four straight seasons in FPPG, even with SF ranking bottom-two in pass attempts. Fading him is a big risk, but I have concerns for him and all of the San Francisco pass-catchers in what I expect to be an even run-heavier attack with **Trey Lance**.

I also don't want to overreact to a small sample size, but in 1.5 games with Lance, Kittle only hauled in 1 reception (5 targets) for 29 yards, no scores. Lance liked to run it in the Red Zone, and leaned on **Deebo Samuel** heavily in his starts:

Wolf of Roto Street @RotoStreetWolf · Jun 30
 The 3 Fantasy Relevant 49ers Pass-Catchers in 2.5 games w/ **Trey Lance**

Deebo Samuel: 10 rec (22 tgt), 228 yds, 3 TDs
 Brandon Aiyuk: 6 rec (11 tgt), 126 yds
 George Kittle: 1 rec (5 tgt), 29 yds*

*missed 1 game - Ross Dwelley went 2-25 on 2 tgts

Things will of course smooth-out. But I think Lance strongly caps the Top-3 upside, as does **Deebo Samuel** returning and **Brandon Aiyuk** “[the best player in camp](#)” right now. I just like the other players more in his range, and LOVE a Sixth Round TE that I projected even higher than Kittle in PPR formats, but goes 15+ picks later.



ROUND 6-7



PICKS 61 - 84

WR HEAVEN CONTINUED + SCHULTZ + “CHEAT CODE QBs” TO CONSIDER

Rounds 6-7 Overview: By now, you should have 3 RBs & 2 WRs (or vice versa). Or you’ve gained the JA, Herbert, or elite-TE edge. Let’s look at a few great roster options;

RB RB RB WR WR

- Round 1: Dalvin Cook
- Round 2: Alvin Kamara
- Round 3: James Conner
- Round 4: Allen Robinson
- Round 5: Amon-Ra St. Brown

RB RB TE WR WR

- Round 1: Austin Ekeler
- Round 2: Saquon Barkley
- Round 3: Kyle Pitts
- Round 4: Courtland Sutton
- Round 5: Gabe Davis

RB RB WR WR QB

- Round 1: Derrick Henry
- Round 2: Joe Mixon
- Round 3: Keenan Allen
- Round 4: Allen Robinson
- Round 5: Justin Herbert

Every draft ebbs, flows, and is its own organism (ideally orgasm, too) -- so it's never wise to LOCK IN a strategy. But as you can see, these type of constructions are flat out gorgeous.

One reason I don't mind waiting on WRs: I still love many of the pass-catchers in this 6-7 range, far more than the other positional values available here. So I typically secure my RBs and/or QB/TE edges ahead of time, and hammer WRs Round 4, 5, 6, 7 and even 8 if they keep falling.

I list a bunch of my favorites, but truly separating them is tough: go with your gut. I have no problem going WR-WR and finishing Round 7 with 3 RBs & 4 WRs. In fact, I love it.

Meanwhile, RBs seem to drop off a cliff – with this range signaling the beginning of the 2022 Dead Zone in my opinion. Two guys with upside do exist, but I’d much rather hammer 2 WRs in these rounds... or add perhaps the best TE value of 2022: **Dalton Schultz**.

ROUND 6 WRS TARGETS



MICHAEL THOMAS (52 OVR, +10 ECR, +16 ADP, +5 UD)

One of the fastest-risers in ADP & for good reason, Michael Thomas looks fully [ready-to-go for 2022](#):

"If anyone had a notion that Thomas was going to slow down or anything like that in practice, it couldn't be more opposite. He looks tremendous, and there's nothing in his routes, speeds, or demeanor that seems to indicate his ankle is an issue. Once he gets to working in team drills, then it'll be even more evidence that he's completely his old self."

ESPN echoed this, calling Thomas "[fluid with no noticeable braces](#) or wrapping around the left ankle while participating in every portion of practice except for full-team drills."

While it's been two years since we've seen Thomas, the all-time single-season reception leader (149) is easy to forgive. He & new-QB **Jameis Winston** reportedly forged a bond this offseason over their shared missed time, vowing to hit the field and dominate with each other. We've seen Winston produce two Top-10 Fantasy WRs before, and while MT will face stiff target competition from **Chris Olave** and **Jarvis Landry**, Thomas should be considered the Alpha if fully-healthy. He could go down as an absolute steal at his Round 7 price.

UPDATE - MT's back to fully participating, and hauled in 4 TDs on his first 4 receptions. MT's back. He's expected to be "[ready to go](#)" when the season starts. I have him graded as a Round 5 Fantasy Value, and even that might be too cheap.

ADAM THIELEN (55 OVR, +26 ECR, +17 ADP, +13 UD):

A TD-Maven, Thielen has ranked Top-10 in receiving scores in three of the past four years, seeing at least 15 Red Zone targets in each of those (& 20+ targets in two seasons). His chemistry with **Kirk Cousins** inside-the-20 is top-notch. Consequently, Thielen is hyper efficient, ranking 11th, 5th, and 3rd in FPs per target in his last three years.

Now what happens when those targets boom even more?

Everyone keeps talking about how beneficial Kevin O'Connell's scheme will be for Alpha Justin Jefferson. And it will. But it will also benefit Thielen, who can also be moved all over the formation. And the new coaching staff, unsurprisingly, is "[embracing](#)" Thielen in the Red Zone: "But new coach Kevin O'Connell has embraced the ways Thielen can excel in his scheme – in the red zone, in particular."

Expect more TD chances, plus "lay up" /YAC opportunities for Thielen, perhaps boosting his yardage totals while he maintains his impressive TD stats. Even better: "Adam Thielen looks more like his previous self, and his play is [reminiscent of his most productive stretch](#) from 2016 to 2018." He was the WR9 & WR7 these years, and Thielen now has the recipe for return to the Top-15 WRs at a Bottom-30 price!

ROUND 6/7 WRS TARGETS CONT.



DARNELL MOONEY (60 OVR, +2 ECR, +14 ADP, -3 UD)

With **Allen Robinson** gone & trash surrounding him (outside my favorite late-sleeper, Velus!), Mooney will again be force-fed targets. He just saw 140 targets (26.7% share), and the Bears now rank 7th with 45.6% of their Air Yards (1936) up for grabs. Mooney himself has “bulked up” [to 183 lbs](#) after playing “in the low 170s” in hopes of improving his stamina. He’s been the first man-in, last man-out type of guy all offseason (& all his career).

Mooney has special, 98th-percentile 4.38 forty speed with plenty of burst & quickness to dominate the shot-game too. He’s squatting over 400 lbs & tossing up 90-pound dumbbells with ease so he can get off the line. In short: Mooney has all the traits to be a dominant Alpha, including the target share. He just needs Fields, one of college’s most accurate deep-passers, to step up and regain his slinging form (Mooney ranked 84th in target accuracy). Him and Fields have been training and studying all offseason, with their chemistry growing by the day.

Plus, “the Bears plan to make Mooney a moving target, going from outside to the slot, on the ball to off the ball, and sending him in motion before the snap.”

He finished as the WR24 in the same situation ARob couldn’t finish Top-80. Should he continue trending upwards, the Top-15 is a real possibility.

HUNTER RENFROW (66 OVR, +26 ECR, +32 ADP, +18 UD)

Yes, I know **Davante Adams** is here. And that **Darren Waller** still exists. I still think Renfrow absolutely feasts under new HC **Josh McDaniels** due to the monster slot role he’ll fill to perfection.

Prior to 2020, Patriots slot WRs had been on pace for 140+ targets & 24% market share in 12/12 seasons, finishing Top-12 in PPR PPG in 9/12 (75%), and falling outside the Top-20 just once. It’s an absolute goldmine role, for volume and “lay-up” yards.

McDaniels has already acknowledged Renfrow as “[a big part](#) of what we want to do,” subtly comparing him to the great slots he’s molded before: “I have been really blessed to be around some really good slot receivers in my time, and I think coaching him is going to be one of those endeavors where you look back on it and go, ‘This guy was one of those guys.’”

Renfrow’s knowledge of coverages, creativity and ability to ad-lib are huge parts of what makes him so effective, and McDaniels will leverage these strengths to the fullest. He also has great chemistry with **Derek Carr** already, last-year ranking #2 in Catchable Target Rate (87.5%), #1 in Target Accuracy, and #6 in Red Zone Targets (24). Renfrow also ranked #5 in target separation and #9 in yards after the catch, both crucial skills for this role.

So sure, even with some big mouths around him, Renfrow should flourish in this role. I think he has Top-10 upside, yet he falls deep into Round 7. Capitalize and draft him everywhere.

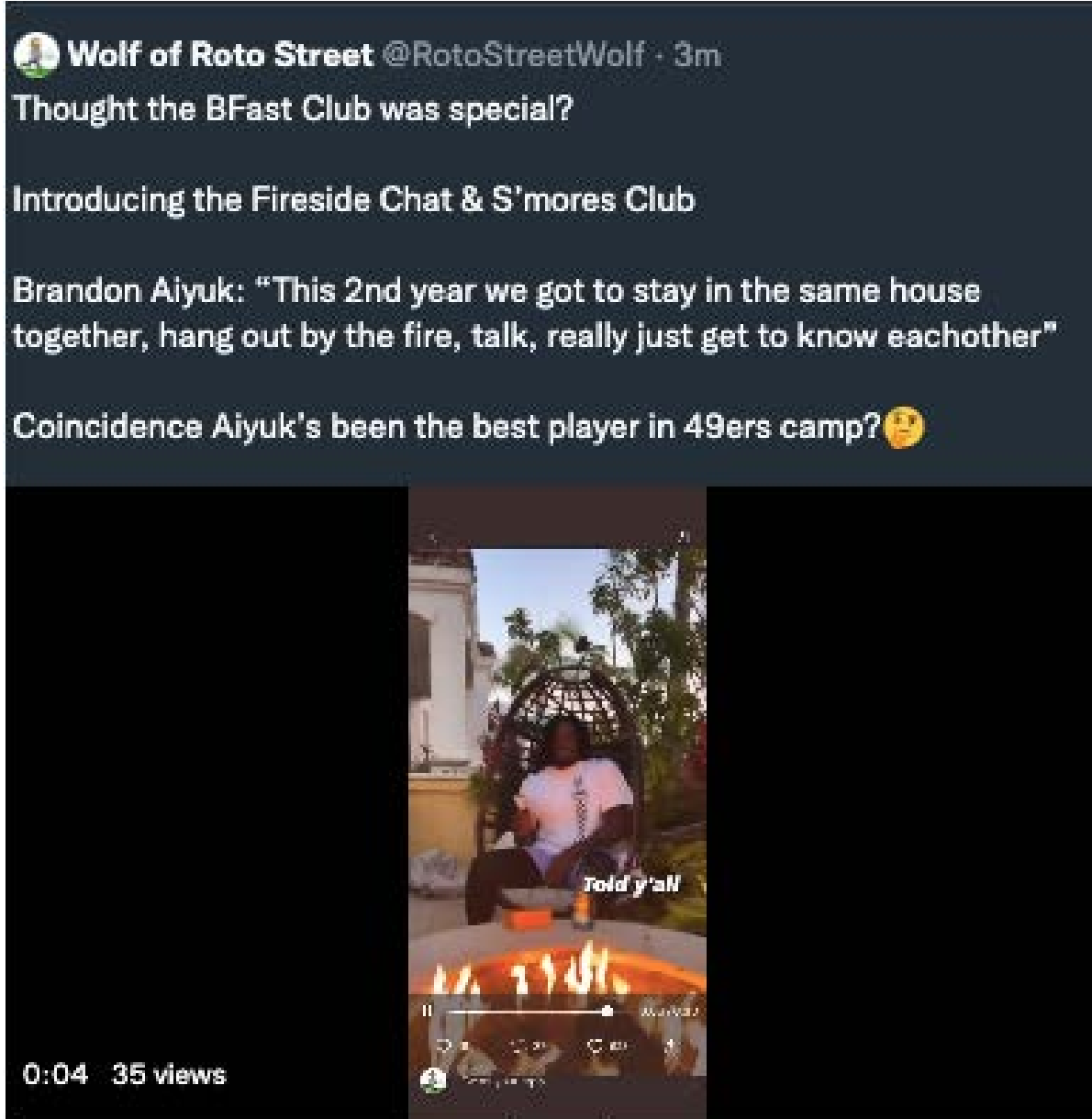
ROUND 6/7 WRS TARGETS CONT.



BRANDON AIYUK (75 OVR, +16 ECR, +23 ADP, +7 UD)

Originally a fade for me, Aiyuk is a player I've come full-circle on-- for one reason, and one reason only:

The Fireside Chat & S'Mores Club.



In another clip, he calls to Aiyuk, saying, "Hey, there's my 'Milkdud.'" ADJUST!

In all seriousness, there is validity to a QB-WR rapport budding off the field. They want to feed their guy. And these two have bonded beyond all belief.

The on-field results have been staggering. Coaches, players, and beats alike report Aiyuk is the star:

"Brandon Aiyuk was [today's clear standout](#). Highlight reel all practice"

"Right now he's having an outstanding camp," Ward said. "I feel like he's having the best camp out of everybody on the team, offense and defense."

BRANDON AIYUK CONT..

Even **Peter King** raved: "Aiyuk has been [the star of camp](#)" citing his "very tight relationship" with Lance.

Yes, the Doghouse was painful to begin 2021. But from Week 9 on, Aiyuk played 90% or more of the snaps. He was the WR21 in fantasy PPG, 13th in yards per route run, and 6th in PFF Grades while out-targeting **Deebo Samuel**. We've seen him shoulder this passing game as a rookie, averaging 20.3 FPPG from Weeks 7-15 when everyone got hurt – only **Davante Adams** and **Tyreek Hill** outscored him for that span.

With a talent like Aiyuk, I'll buy the hype and easily forgive the Dog House. He should hit the ground running and only stands to benefit from Lance's cannon-arm, in addition to being his QB's "Milkdud."

ALLEN LAZARD (70 OVR, +26 ECR, +32 ADP, +4 UD)

The Green Bay WR1 role is wide-open right now. No, whoever emerges atop won't see **Davante Adams'** level of volume (160+ targets). Still, being Rodgers' go-to-guy has long reaped fantasy goodness.

Whether it's beat-writers, or **Aaron Rodgers** himself, **Allen Lazard** has stepped up more than anyone else.

"I really think Allen is ready to make a jump and [be a No. 1 receiver](#)," Rodgers said as training camp opened last week. "And I'm excited about the opportunity to work with him. He's been our dirty-work guy for most of his career here, now he's getting an opportunity to be a No. 1 receiver, so I'm not worried about him at all stepping into that role."

He's not the only teammate who's impressed with Lazard's ascension:

"He can be everything for us," Packers running back **Aaron Jones** said. "He's already the goon in the run game, and then I think he's shown when he gets the opportunity, he could be a dominant receiver. He can go up and get it, he can run across the middle and get it, he can go deep and get it."

Lazard has flashed before. He ranked 5th in Fantasy Points per target last year, while finishing 2021 as the WR8 during the final five-weeks. Now, he'll see more volume by a boatload.

As mentioned earlier, Aaron Jones could lead the team in receiving. But if any WR is to step up, Lazard feels like the best bet. This pricetag feels rich, but if he sees 120+ targets from Rodgers, it'll seem stupid by this time next year. In the Round 7-8 range, that upside is well-worth the cost.

**HAMMERING WRS FROM ROUNDS
4-8 IS A GREAT GAME-PLAN.
MT, AIYUK, RENFROW, THIELEN
LAZARD -- ALL HAVE
TOP-15 UPSIDE**



ROUND 6/7 TE TARGET

DALTON SCHULTZ (54 OVR, +13 ECR, +12 ADP, +17 UD)

Last year's TE3 returns to an even juicier target situation, but now falls outside the first 6-7 rounds? Make it make sense!

Dak Prescott loves Schultz, whether moving the chains or in the Red Zone. He may not be the sexiest specimen, but Schultz is damn reliable, and Dak delivers it perfectly – he had a catchable target rate of 87.5% (#2) and ranked second in target accuracy.

Schultz should again rank Top-5 in routes run at the position in the high-powered Cowboys attack. Even with Gallup factored “in”, the Cowboys vacated 205 targets (11th most), 1898 Air Yards (9th most), & 16 Inside-the-10 Looks (6th most). They also just lost **James Washington** for the first 6-10 weeks. Besides Lamb, who else do they have to throw to?! Schultz remains the lone other standover, and should see monster-volume and production in 2022



SCHULTZ AIN'T A "SEXY" PICK, BUT HE'S AMONG 3-4 TES LOCKED INTO 100+ TARGETS, IN ONE OF THE NFL'S MOST EXPLOSIVE PASSING ATTACKS.

ROUND 6 RBs TO CONSIDER

Note: I very rarely draft RBs in this range – this is where I consider the "2022 Dead Zone." Historically, if an RB breaks free from the Dead Zone, they have youth & talent on their side. As such, if I'm experimenting every now-and-then in Best Ball with a WR-heavy start, here are 2 RBs I actually don't mind when they fall to the Round 6-7 range. Both drip in Top-10 Upside:

JK DOBBINS (55 OVR, -11 ECR, -4 ADP, -3 UD):

The last time we saw Dobbins, he led the NFL in YPC while looking like the next-great young back. He's a perfect fit for **Greg Roman's** blend of zone & power concepts. Finally getting the work to close 2020, Dobbins recorded six-straight Top-20 performances. Unfortunately, he suffered a season-ending knee injury during their final preseason game. He has been lobbying to practice [throughout camp](#), and finally got his wish & has been cleared. As such, his price could skyrocket. Dobbins is ahead of **Gus Edwards**, though, and could be the featured-back as early as Week 1. Returning to their "Smashmouth" run-game of 2019 that yielded a league-high (by nearly 100) 596 carries. The ground pie should be massive, the line is revamped, and if Dobbins is himself, he could be a low-end RB1 going this late. There's a lot of injury risk, but this is a stab worth taking if you need an RB this late or want to have immense bench upside.

AJ DILLON (58 OVR, -4 ECR, -4 ADP, +7 UD)

Dillon and **Aaron Jones** are very likely the two-best weapons this Packers' offense has. Expect to see them on the field together plenty, giving Dillon more of a floor than usual, a year after he led the team in rushing carries (187), yards (803), and TDs (5). Dillon also flashed much more than expected as a WR, catching 34 of his 37 targets while topping Jones' YPR (9.2 vs. 7.5).

Even more impressive? Dillon ranked above Jones in overall *PFF Grade & PFF Run Grade*, finishing 3rd (86.2) and 3rd (89.7), respectively. He also graded very highly as a pass-catcher, while earning 74% of the Packers' expected-TDs over their final 6 games, suggesting the goal line reins may have been handed over

Of course, the real reason you draft Dillon is his Top-5 ceiling should Jones miss time – and Jones has missed 2+ games in all but one year. The ultimate “handcuff-with-benefits” and the ultimate quads, Dillon is among the highest-upside RB3s if you forego the earlier locked-in bell-cows.

Oh, and then there's this:



QBS TO STRONGLY CONSIDER:

WHAT IS THE "KONAMI CODE"

If I'm going QB this early, I need a “Konami Code” style player – aka a QB who gets the added, “Cheat Code” bonus of rushing points.

Again referencing the great Scott Barrett, since 2000, 41 QBs have played 12+ games and averaged 5.5+ rush attempts per game. Of them, 34 finished as Top-12 QBs (83%) and 24 finished Top-6 (59%) in FPPG.

No QB to post 750+ rushing yards has finished lower than ninth in FPs. Just last year, Jalen Hurts was the QB6 despite subpar passing. Lamar Jackson broke fantasy in 2019.



WHAT IS THE "KONAMI CODE" (CONT)

Hell, Tim Tebow was the QB7 in FPPG, ranking 42nd in PAs per start & 38th in passer-rating. Even though 2021 was a "down year" for rushing QBs, the [Konami Code](#) is still real.

Rushing yards are worth 2.5 times as much as passing yards, and rushing touchdowns are worth 1.5 times as much as passing touchdowns. Thus, QBs capable of "leg points" become infinitely more valuable than typical pocket statues.

This is why Josh Allen goes Round 4 – he offers massive "Konami" upside in addition to explosive passing. While not on Allen's level, the following two players do have similar paths to the QB1:

JALEN HURTS (55 OVR, +10 ECR, +10 ADP, +9 UD):

The ultimate "Konami Code" of 2021, Hurts ranked 1st among QBs in rushing yards, carries, and rushing TDs – a whopping 136 FPs (44%) coming from just his legs. He finished as the QB6 in FPPG, finishing with Top-12 performances in 67% of his games while ranking #3 in Air Yards per attempt and #1 in FPs per drop back – all while throwing to largely crap.

Enter **AJ Brown**, perhaps the most explosive WR in the game. Hurts ranked 20th in yards-after-the-catch per target, which is Brown's specialty. All reports in camp suggest Hurts has been playing much faster & with much more control, too. In Preseason Week 1, Hurts effortlessly carved up the defense and drove the ball down the Jets throat for a score. With stable Konami points & an improved passing ceiling, Hurts my QB3.

KYLER MURRAY (56 OVR, +5 ECR, -1 ADP, +4 UD

If you prefer a bit more floor at this price point with a similar ceiling, **Kyler Murray** is your guy. He followed up his QB2 finish in 2020 with an absurdly explosive start to 2021, posting back-to-back 35+ FP performances.

As has become an unfortunate tradition, Murray and **Kliff Kingsbury** fizzled out to finish 2021, perhaps due to **DeAndre Hopkins** absence. Murray will have to overcome that same obstacle for the first-six games of 2022, with DHop suspended for PEDs. Thankfully, they acquired even more firepower by adding speed-demon **Marquise Brown**, Murray's ex-college teammate. If **Rondale Moore** takes another step forward like Kingsbury has suggested, this offense will be plastered with playmakers. Murray just needs to stay healthy and avoid an end-of-year slump – but either way, you'll get at least 6-10 games of 25+ FPs, with a few 35-40+ FP outings as well.



**LIKE STEFON DIGGS DID FOR
JOSH ALLEN, AJ BROWN COULD
UNLOCK THE QB1 OVERALL
CEILING FOR JALEN HURTS**

ROUND 6/7 FADES

ELIJAH MOORE (74 OVR, -3 ECR, +11 ADP, -9 UD):

Jets, Jets, Jets. I love Elijah Moore as a player, but despite that every single one of his biggest games came with other QBs. He simply couldn't get it done with Wilson:

Elijah Moore Splits 2011 - 2021		
Per Game / Full Season Pace		
Statistic	In Split	Out of Split
Games	7	4
PPR	8.1 / 138	20.88 / 355
reRECS	3 / 51	6 / 102
reTDS	0.14 / 2	1 / 17
reTRGS	6.86 / 117	8 / 136
reYDS	28.86 / 491	84 / 1428

In Split: Zach Wilson played, from week 1 to 18, *out of split evaluates to all games the subject player played that don't meet the in-split criteria.

Scott Barrett @ScottBarrettDFB · M
Elijah Moore (2021) - PPR/G by QB

Joe Flacco: 29.6 FPG
Josh Johnson: 27.4 FPG
Mike White: 12.2 FPG
Zach Wilson: 7.4 FPG

6 4

Could Wilson take another step and repair this rapport? Sure, but I won't be passing on more-proven options with better-QBs to find out. Especially with the very-talented Garrett Wilson here now to compete for targets

(UPDATE - **Wilson** will miss 2-4 weeks. This could allow Moore to get off to a hot start with **Joe Flacco** -- and perhaps Flacco plays well enough to hold the job. While I still don't love Moore, I am more likely to click his name at his price.

DEVONTA SMITH (95 OVR, -6 ECR, -4 ADP, -19 UD)

While I love **AJ Brown**, I just don't see how he could be fed "close to eleven billion targets" and still leave worthwhile scraps for **Devonta Smith** in this run-centric attack. I love Smith & thought he flashed some genuine WR1 upside. But with a small aerial pie now being shared with an even bigger mouth, I have a hard time believing Smith sees over 100 targets again, which he turned into the WR30 last year. Stir in **Dallas Goedert's** continued ascension, and Smith may struggle to find week-to-week consistency.

ANTONIO GIBSON (81 OVR, -38 ECR, -46 ADP, -5 UD):

As a Gibson-Stan his first two years, this fade hurts. Another "love the player, hate the situation" fade. It's tough to see it framed this way by the great **Pat Fitzmaurice**:

Pat Fitzmaurice @Fitz_FF · Jul 20

Let's say March 2020 you, sitting at home bored, were told that a 6-2, 220-pound RB with 4.39 speed and proven pass-catching ability was about to enter the NFL, and that he'd score 11 and 10 TDs in his first 2 seasons.

Where would you have guessed he'd be drafted in 2022? Top 3?

27 15 213

ANTONIO GIBSON FADE (CONT)

But unfortunately, a lot is working against Gibson in 2022. For one, they brought back JD McKissic, who routinely monopolizes the receiving work. Then, they drafted Brian Robinson, who is the early-favorite for [short-yardage & goalline work](#).

So where does this leave Gibson? Between-the-20s purgatory. All the highest-value touches will be going elsewhere as Ron Rivera looks to recreate his [three-headed nightmare from Carolina](#). On a gross team, I'll pass.

UPDATE (8/17): Things continue getting worse for Gibson. While his price will likely come down, I doubt I'd ever be comfortable taking him. In fact, I could see Robinson outright outscoring him. Gibson fumbled in Preseason Week 1 and immediately was benched. His coaches ripped him publicly, & he has since been practicing as a punt protector, gunner, and third-string RB. Could this be motivational? Surely. Still, his leash is clearly short -- and even worse, Robinson is simply outplaying him, too. I genuinely think the coaches hate Gibson and want to turn it over to Robinson. I'd much, much rather target Robinson 70-80+ picks later.

MILES SANDERS (112 OVR, -52 ECR, -44 ADP, -32 UD):

After a scoreless & lackluster 2021, **Miles Sanders** is reportedly "motivated to prove his doubters wrong." Woo! Sign me up! No, thanks.

Yes, the Eagles have a phenomenal, Top-5 line. Yes, they'll [remain one of the most run-heavy](#) teams in 2022, even after getting **AJ Brown**. I think it'll be a solid overall offense and run-game.

I just don't want Sanders. Despite seeing the most Red Zone & GL touches on the team, he converted zero. **Kenneth Gainwell** has been [mixing in with the ones](#). Sanders has missed 4+ games the past two seasons. And I just don't like him, he feels kind of like a bitch. A bad fantasy locker-room presence. He already told us to "not draft him." I didn't need extra encouragement to avoid, but sure. Thanks, Miles. Hard. Pass.

JOSH JACOBS (85 OVR, -32 ECR, -38 ADP, -14 ON UD)

Oh my good God. I was already fading him to Hell. Then he goes and plays two full series in the Hall of Fame game?!?! That tells you all you need to know about the Raiders' view of Jacobs. They declined his fifth year option and drafted his successor, **Zamir White**. Reports suggest White is already more impressive in camp. Oh, it's also **Josh McDaniels**, the king of the RBBC, calling the plays. I do actually really like the player, but I hate the role, and his team apparently does too. EASY FADE!



ROUND 6/7 = THE REAL RB DEADZONE.

GET YOUR RBs EARLY TO AVOID THIS HELL-HOLE!



AMARI COOPER (92 OVR, -27 ECR, -24 ADP, -22 UD) - 8/18 UPDATE

Update 8/18: Sure, having Watson for the stretch-run is *somewhat* nice. Cooper will still deal with incompetent QB play for 3/4ths of the season. **Jacoby Brissett** has seen extended time in 3 seasons. Here are his WR1s season-long paces based on their totals playing with him:

57 rec (109 tgts), 966 yds, 4 TDs, 11.1 (WR39)

76 rec (117 tgt), 852 yds, 8 TDs, 12.5 PPG (WR35)

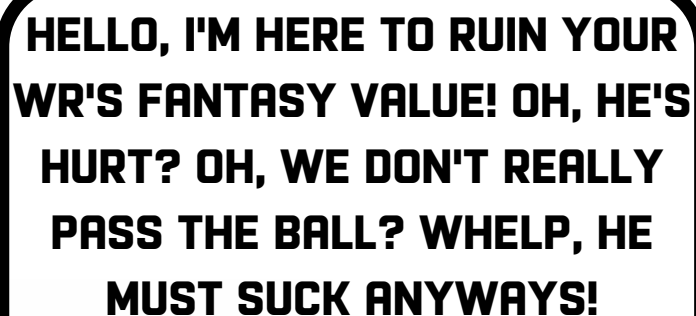
99 rec (142 tgt), 890 yds, 0 TDs, 11.1 PPG (WR45)

These were quality, Top-20+ WRs with normal QB play.

Even removing the disgusting QB situation, Cooper comes with plenty of his own warts. He's missed a ton of time in nearly every year of his career with a variety of lower-body ailments, including foot, ankle, knee, hamstring, and quad issues.

Kevin Stefanski's offense has also ranked 28th in total pass attempts since taking over, with no pass-catcher topping 900 yards or averaging over 56 yards per game.

Bad QB for 75% of the season. Low-volume role. And injury concerns? EASY FADE, especially given the sexy WRs he's going before (Aiyuk, Renfrow, even Thielen?!)



**HELLO, I'M HERE TO RUIN YOUR
WR'S FANTASY VALUE! OH, HE'S
HURT? OH, WE DON'T REALLY
PASS THE BALL? WHELP, HE
MUST SUCK ANYWAYS!**



SORRY. I NEEDED A WAY TO TAKE UP SPACE. LOL



ROUND 8-10

PICKS 85 - 120



ONESIE TIME- QB1, TE1, ANY FALLING DEPTH (INTRIGUING RBS AGAIN)

Rounds 8-10 Overview: By now, I typically have some variation of 3 RB - 4 WR (most common), or 3 RB - 3 WR - 1 TE. This is THE Perfect time to lock up a Top-12 QB & Top-12 TE if you haven't done so already.

Two of my favorite analysts, the oft-mentioned **Scott Barrett** & OG Late-Round QB enthusiast **JJ Zacharison** concluded: the QB8-12 range has been the "sweet spot" the past two seasons, a trend they both see carrying on in 2022.

In his brilliant "[Anatomy of a League Winner \(2022\)](#)," Barrett perfectly summarizes the reasoning why, despite the "surge" in huge-QB performances, they still aren't an enormous edge: "a highest-end QB doesn't provide anywhere near as much value relative to your league's worst starting QB (or the best QB available on waivers) as would a highest-end RB, WR, or TE. And that effect becomes more exaggerated when you factor in ADP, and thus opportunity cost."

He then uses VORP (Value Over Replacement Player) to illustrate this more clearly: Yes, QBs are scoring more FPs than ever before. But cheaper peers are scoring points similarly high – up to a certain point: the low-end QB1s. There's a steep dropoff after the QB12-ish range, but before that is the "Golden Zone":

Pos	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
QB1	+6.8	+7.5	+10.9	+12.6	+7.3	+9.7	+6.7	+6.8	+7.0	+6.8	+8.5	+11.1	+7.4	+8.7
QB2	+5.8	+5.9	+5.5	+11.0	+6.5	+7.4	+6.2	+3.8	+5.0	+6.6	+4.2	+5.5	+7.4	+7.5
QB3	+5.3	+4.2	+3.5	+9.8	+6.3	+6.5	+4.7	+3.4	+4.6	+4.4	+4.2	+5.2	+6.5	+6.9
QB4	+5.3	+4.1	+3.4	+9.3	+6.0	+2.9	+4.2	+2.9	+4.6	+4.1	+4.0	+4.8	+6.3	+6.4
QB5	+4.9	+4.0	+2.9	+8.1	+5.5	+2.9	+3.7	+2.8	+4.2	+3.8	+3.0	+4.5	+5.6	+6.2
QB6	+4.0	+3.7	+2.7	+4.7	+4.6	+2.7	+3.4	+2.3	+2.4	+3.4	+2.9	+4.0	+5.4	+5.6
QB7	+3.6	+3.3	+2.4	+4.2	+4.4	+2.3	+2.4	+1.9	+1.8	+2.7	+2.7	+3.9	+4.9	+5.3
QB8	+3.6	+3.3	+1.7	+3.5	+3.8	+2.1	+2.3	+1.7	+1.4	+2.5	+2.3	+3.9	+4.9	+5.2
QB9	+3.5	+3.1	+1.6	+3.5	+3.2	+2.1	+2.1	+1.5	+1.3	+2.1	+2.2	+3.8	+4.0	+4.8
QB10	+3.4	+3.0	+1.4	+2.8	+2.9	+1.5	+1.9	+1.2	+1.2	+1.9	+1.8	+2.0	+3.9	+4.7
QB11	+3.1	+1.5	+1.4	+2.8	+2.8	+0.9	+1.9	+1.2	+1.1	+1.9	+1.3	+1.8	+2.9	+4.6
QB12	+2.7	+0.9	+1.3	+2.4	+2.4	+0.9	+1.7	+0.9	+1.0	+1.5	+1.3	+1.7	+2.0	+3.4
QB13	+1.5	+0.9	+1.0	+2.1	+2.3	+0.8	+1.4	+0.8	+1.0	+1.3	+1.1	+1.6	+1.0	+2.0
QB14	+1.2	+0.4	+0.8	+2.0	+1.2	+0.7	+1.4	+0.7	+0.8	+1.0	+0.8	+1.6	+0.5	+1.4
QB15	+0.9	+0.2	+0.8	+1.0	+1.1	+0.5	+0.9	+0.6	+0.8	+0.9	+0.7	+0.7	+0.4	+0.8
QB16	+0.2	+0.2	+0.6	+1.0	+0.7	+0.4	+0.7	+0.5	+0.4	+0.8	+0.4	+0.7	+0.1	+0.1
QB17	+0.2	+0.1	+0.3	+0.8	+0.4	+0.3	+0.2	+0.3	+0.4	+0.7	+0.2	+0.1	0.0	+0.1
QB18	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Thus, we're in that "Sweet Spot," which is forming quite similarly to 2022. I truly like all the QBs in the Top-14, so I'll make quick bull cases for all the ones going in this 85-120 range (so no **Joe Burrow**) in the order I have them ranked:

NOTE: These guys are all in the same tier for me. I give preference to stacking if I have a WR (i.e. Dak if I have Lamb, Brady if I have Evans, etc.)

ROUND 8-10 QB1 TARGETS

RUSSELL WILSON (74 OVR, +14 ECR, +0 ADP, +4 UD):

As mentioned in **Courtland Sutton's** outlook, new HC **Nathaniel Hackett** is crafting his offense around Wilson's strengths; specifically, what he saw during the first-five games of 2020, when the Seahawks led NFL in scoring (33.8 PPG), 1st down pass rate, tops in pace & deep passing... and Russ was going for records:

Over those five games, Wilson was on pace for 5107 yds, 65 TDS, & 32.48 FPPG -- the latter two would be most-ever, by miles.

"Phew," Hackett said after diving into the tape, "we'll be throwing that thing down the field."

All camp reports suggest Russ is straight-up crushing & the HC/QB combo have great chemistry already. In a division that will showcase shootouts & surrounded by quality deep threats, fire Russ up with zero hesitation.

DAK PRESCOTT (76 OVR, +9 ECR, +0 ADP, +13 UD)

Dak Prescott has been healthy for two seasons with **Kellen Moore** as his OC. In those years, the Cowboys ranked: 1st & 1st in total yards; 6th & 1st in total points; 2nd & 2nd in passing yards; 5th & 3rd in passing TDs & Dak has ranked 2nd & 6th in Fantasy points.

Indeed, the weapons cabinet is more barren with **Amari Cooper** traded for peanuts. If impressive rookie **Jalen Tolbert** can step up (all reports suggest he has) & once **Michael Gallup** is healthy, there will be plenty of firepower (plus, **Will Fuller** rumors are abuzz!). Even more intriguing is Prescott's underrated Konami Upside, which may be tapped into more [frequently in 2022](#): "Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy said he hopes QB Dak Prescott will have more designed runs/scrambles/movement throws in 2022, now that he's a full season removed from ankle injury. "We tried to be smart when we used him" last year. He has impressed in the spring."

Prescott himself said "I'm in the best shape I've ever been in", and is ready for a greater rushing load after hiring a full-time personal trainer and hitting the offseason harder than ever-before. The floor & ceiling are so stable.

TOM BRADY (86 OVR, -3 ECR, -5 ADP, +0 UD):

45 years old? No problem, let's lead the league in pass attempts (714), completions (485), yards (5316), and TDs (43) while finishing as the QB3 in fantasy. The man is a machine without limits.

His weapons cabinet will be slightly reduced in 2021, with no **Rob Gronkowski** or **Antonio Brown**. Yet, **Chris Godwin** is already practicing and seems likely to debut closer to sooner in the season than later. **Russell Gage** has been unguardable in camp out of the slot. **Julio Jones**, a future HOFer, has also arrived. If he has anything left in the tank, surely Brady will squeeze it out. Considering Brady's heroics when guys like **Jabar Gaffney** were his WR1s, he should have no problem approaching 5K yards & 40 TDs once again.

The only real concern is the interior of the line, which lost standout center **Ryan Jensen** in camp, **Alex Cappa** to Free Agency, and **Ali Marpet** to retirement. Brady has always struggled with interior pressure. A reunion with **Shaq Mason** will help, and they drafted a well-regarded second-round guard in **Luke Goedeke**. Still, there's definite question marks. (**UPDATE 8/18**: Especially with this mystery absence from camp. What if the GOAT just... walks away? Reports are he was miserable. He *should* be fine. But it's enough to drop him.)



TREY LANCE -- THE 2022 CHEAT CODE?

✓ **KONAMI RUSHING**

✓ **EXCELLENT SCHEME**

✓ **ROCKET ARM**

✓ **A+ PLAYCALLER**

TREY LANCE [75 OVR, +13 ECR, +14 ADP, -10 UD]

While I (slightly) prefer the certainty of the first two names, **Trey Lance's** League-Winning upside is undeniable -- because he has the ULTIMATE [Konami Code](#) upside in **Kyle Shanahan's attack**.

During his senior year, Lance racked up 1100 yards & 14 TDs on the ground as a north-south bruiser. He saw 7, 16, & 8 carries in the three contests he played over a half, topping 21 FPs in two of 3 contests (while 1 yard away from topping 21 in all three). He averaged an insane .75 FPs on his 86 dropbacks, which approaches some record-setting QB Numbers.

Plus, the kid can sling. Last preseason, his first TD throw went for 80 yards. Already this Preseason, he's connected on a deep bomb. He's Shanahan's hand-picked guy, with an unreal surrounding cast of **Deebo Samuel, George Kittle, Brandon Aiyuk**, and perhaps even rookie burner **Danny Gray**, who caught the deep TD to kick off the 49ers Preseason and has been a training camp highlight reel.

Remember: **RGIII** was the QB5 under Shanahan with far less firepower than Lance has at his disposal. Top-5, or even *the QB1*, is well-within Lance's range of outcomes. The rushing creates a near lock for Top-10 numbers, and if the passing clicks, he could very well mimic 2019 Lamar Jackson.

Rocket arm, premier rushing ability, amazing scheme, and even better surrounding cast? All the ingredients for a truly league-swinging season..

MATTHEW STAFFORD [87 OVR, +4 ECR, -4 ADP, +12 UD]

While I (slightly) prefer the certainty of the first two names, **Trey Lance's** League-Winning upside is undeniable -- because he has the ULTIMATE [Konami Code](#) upside in **Kyle Shanahan's attack**.

I've had to bump Stafford down just slightly with this lingering elbow tendinitis. **Sean McVay** called it "abnormal for a QB" and a "tricky deal." He has hurled over 6200 career passes... but for someone who's played every game in 10 of the last 11 seasons, my worries aren't major; more a deciding-point if I'm staring at him and, say, Brady.

Still, Stafford's "high-floor" seems to be regularly discussed, but what about his ceiling? He's already noted his "better understanding" of the Rams offense, and how they "can go above and beyond what we did last year...trying out new stuff as well, we're trying out new tempos, new plays, all that kind of stuff. There's plenty to be gained." **Allen Robinson** is a monster and gives Stafford his best WR-duo to date. Stafford could realistically hurl 5200 yards & 45-50 TDs with this offense.

The elbow needs to be monitored, but with his price slipping in drafts now, I'd capitalize -- even as a QB2.

BEST BALL VS. REDRAFT: QB STRATEGY NOTE

In Redraft, I usually don't draft a back-up QB if I snare a high-end guy first. However, Best Ball research suggests locking up a second Top-14 QB can be a huge advantage. I'll often go Q2 QBs within Rounds 8-10, particularly if I can pair up two of the above guys.

If not, here are some QB2 targets I LOVE in this 8-10 Range. After this, really only **Matt Ryan** and a last-round **Davis Mills** mildly intrigue me. But I have a potential 5k & 40 TD target that I LOVE:

ROUND 8-10 QB2 TARGETS

KIRK COUSINS (101 OVR, +11 ECR, +11 ADP, +14 UD):

Perhaps no projection was more shocking than Cousins, who came out in my TOP-5 QBS! My first draft may have been a bit bullish with 5K yards & 40 TDs, but with these weapons and a revamped scheme, the ceiling is there.

I'm extremely high on new HC **Kevin O'Connell** & the McVay-inspired scheme he'll be implementing. All reports suggest it will feature more 3-WR sets & overall passing, which is great news for Cousins: any time he has attempted 450+ attempts, he's finished Top-12 in fantasy. In fact, just once in his career as a starter has he not been a QB1. He also has 30+ TDs in three of his last four seasons.

Thus, the floor is so sturdy. The ceiling is underrated. Cousins is the ideal Round 10-11 QB2 target, particularly if you swing for the fences with Lance and want a surefire backup.

DEREK CARR (106 OVR, +2 ECR, -4 ADP, +2 UD)

Most have Carr above Cousins, and I can see why: **Davante Adams**, **Hunter Renfrow**, and **Darren Waller** make up one of the most dangerous receiving trios in the league. **Josh McDaniels** knows a thing or two about scheming dominant pass games, so Carr's ceiling is higher than it ever has been.

Still, Carr has hit 30+ TDs just once in his career, and that was six years ago. I do think he crosses it with ease in 2021, but I still prefer Cousins, who has a similarly impressive cast. Yet, in a division stacked with shootouts, I expect Carr to be a sturdy source of passing goodness.



WOLF'S KIRK COUSIN PROJECTION UNDER NEW OC KEVIN O'CONNELL:

**418 COMP, 5058 YDS, 40 TDS
411.3 FPS, QB7**

ROUND 8-10 RB TARGETS



CHASE EDMONDS (78 OVR, -5 ECR, +13 ADP, +14 UD):

Mike McDaniels, the former 49ers run-game coordinator, will bring both the joys & pains of the brilliant run-scheme to Miami. The pain? A likely-committee approach with Emonds, **Raheem Mostert**, and **Sony Michel** all seeing work.

The joys: zone-blocking brilliance that paves paths a mack truck could drive through. Plus a high RB-target share. Two things Edmonds should feast off of.

I have Edmonds cracking my Top-20 RBs with just 35% rushing share, because I think he'll catch 50-60+ balls. He's always been highly efficient, just last year ranking fifth in Next Gen Stats' efficiency metric (which measures a player running north and south without unnecessary added motion), while also ranking 8th in rushing yards "over expected." 23% of Edmonds' carries in 2021 reached 15 plus mph, which was first among NFL running backs with 100 carries. He's gone for 5.1, 4.6, and 5.1 YPC the past three years, while also going 7.2 yards on his 43 receptions in 2021 (Gaskin averaged 4.8 YPR), with 96 catches, 713 yards, and 4 TDs across his past two. Per PFF, Edmonds has "[graded out higher in zone than gap schemes](#)" whis whole career.

Edmonds is already loving his early involvement: "[The running back here does a lot](#)," Edmonds said. "It's primarily why I came here. I believe in (Coach Mike) McDaniel, especially in the backfield because I feel like I can utilize my special abilities coming out of the backfield, my route running, and mismatches on backers."

In short: Edmonds has been an incredibly efficient back. Surrounded by speed, he should see light boxes and ample opportunities to knife through defenses, as a runner and passer. I think he has a career year and is a steal in this Round 8-10 range.

DEVIN SINGLETARY (82 OVR, -1 ECR, -6 ADP, +19 UD) & JAMES COOK (108 OVR, -2 ECR, +0 ADP, -4 UD)

A big part of me thinks the Bills' backfield contains the skeleton key to fantasy leagues, similar to the Bucs last year (Fournette emerging as the RB5 as a Round 10 pick). This is an explosive offense with oodles of scoring chances and light boxes, and targets up for grabs.

Devin Singletary went bananas down the stretch, scoring the second-most FPs in the fantasy playoffs, finishing as the RB7, RB10, RB5, and RB3 over the final four weeks, scoring 6 TDs & averaging 20.9 PPR FPPG on 82%, 95%, 71%, and 81% of the snaps. He carried this over into the NFL Playoffs with 24.4 FPs, 15.1 FPs, and 3 more TDs.

Unfortunately, he has a new backfield mate in **James Cook**. An explosive, pass-catching dynamo, Cook has been "opening eyes" with his receiving ability in camp so far. The Bills went hard after McKissic before losing out to the Commanders, and clearly want this element added to their offense. He's the higher-upside target.

While this backfield oozes upside, one dreaded scenario is recently emerging: plodder **Zack Moss** as the Red Zone back.

BILLS RBS, CONT.

Although he's been hurt & useless most of his career, Moss has reportedly shown well in camp, particularly in the Red Zone. In 11-on-11 scrimmage, "Zack Moss received most of the work in the red zone on the offense's first drive."

It's early & one camp practice, but this report suggests a 3-headed nightmare, which would make the backfield of the sexiest of offenses one to avoid:

"All three Bills running backs looked good on Friday. **Devin Singletary** started things off with a big run early in the scrimmage that went for about 30 yards. The run stood out because of how quickly Singletary found the hole and accelerated through it. **Zack Moss** received most of the work in the red zone on the offense's first drive. He found it hard to operate at times but was running hard. The best play of his night came on a short pass from Allen. He took it in stride and turned it up a notch to get to the second level. Moss looked explosive again and continues to remain healthy. **James Cook** did most of his work on the second team, but he had his moments. Singletary still seems to have a lock on the starting job, but Moss is hot on his heels. There is likely going to be a short leash for any of the backs who prove to be ineffective with the talent that's been accumulated in the room. - Parrino"

RHAMONDRE STEVENSON (80 OVR, -1 ECR, +15 ADP, +8 UD)

Stevenson is a flat-out stud. Normally, I avoid Pats RBs. However, with **James White** retiring, there's a real chance NE deploys a two-RB system. And currently, a slimmed-down Stevenson is playing the James White role in 2 minute / no-huddle situations. **Pierre Strong** may have been drafted for the role, but he's struggling in pass protection. **Ty Montgomery** has also been active, but Belichick uncharacteristically heaped praise on Stevenson, saying "he has done a real good job improving his pass game skills."

Even a slice of the White role would be huge & the upside will make any man's blood flow. Taking away the **Cam Newton** fiasco (2020), White's last four years: 86 tgts (16%), 72 tgts (13%), 123 tgts (23%), 95 tgts (17%).

If Stevenson sees even 60+ targets & 10% share, he'd be an absolute steal. He also would also drip in "handcuff" upside should Harris miss any time -- in Stevenson's first start without Harris in 2021, he posted an absurd 24 touches (4 rec), 114 yds, 2 TDs & 27.4 FPs. He underwhelmed versus the Colts after the Pats fell into a terrible hole and Stevenson fell a victim to game-flow... which wouldn't be the case if he has this role on lockdown.

Whether increased receiving usage or as a handcuff, Stevenson comes with a ton of "outs" to payoff his Round 9+ price tag. Stir in the fact that **Damien Harris** could be traded, which would send Stevenson to Round 2-3... and he's a hammer pick at his price.

MELVIN GORDON (104 OVR, -19 ECR, -11 ADP, +5 UD):

As mentioned, Gordon actually scored more FPPG than Javonte while seeing dead-even carries. MGIII was the higher-scoring RB in 10 out of the 16 of their weeks together. He's great as a receiver & TD-scorer, which allows him to eat into JW's workload in the most valuable downs-and-distances. Early camps have ranged from a 70/30 to a 54/46 prognosis, the latter more in-line with last year. In that scenario, Gordon would hold real value, particularly at the 7-8 Round discount.

Sure, Gordon himself admitted "they want Javonte to be the guy." I expect a 60ish/40ish lean his way.

But Gordon isn't going to disappear, so in a juicier offense, ~40ish% may be all he needs to approach his Top-20 RB finish of last year.

Plus, if something does ever happen to Javonte, the upside is absolutely astronomical. Gordon makes a lot of sense at his price tag, even if Williams has a true breakout

ROUND 8-10 TE TARGETS

DAWSON KNOX (91 OVR, +12 ECR, +1 ADP, +13 UD):

I love Knox, and not just because he's an avid Settlers of Catan player. In his third-year and first as a full-time player, Knox proved to be an absolute TD maven, finishing 2nd among TEs in scores last year. I know, TDs aren't always sticky. But with this offense's propensity to be in the Red Zone + Allen's eyes for Knox and his 6'5" frame, I would expect 9+ as an annual tradition.

Plus, why can't his role expand? He's a plus-athlete, and the Bills vacated 1820 Air Yards (10th) & 199 targets (12th). I'm not worried about **OJ Howard** in the least – if anything, he allows Knox to split out wide more (plus Howard "has not looked dynamic" in minicamp, as "his movement skills are well below what KNox brings to the table.")

Earlier this offseason, The Athletic speculated Knox "may have only scratched the surface." They illustrated why with a great Player A vs. Player B comparison:

2021 Dawson Knox vs. ?

	AIR YARDS PER TARGET	RECEPTION RATE	YAC AVERAGE	YARDS PER CATCH
Player A	7.58	70.0%	5.29	12.23
Player B	7.43	71.4%	6.17	12.38

Player A = Knox. Player B? **Travis Kelce**. This leads Buscaglia to believe there's "a lot of meat on the bone as Knox's role grows." Last year's TE9 could approach the Top-5 if the target share does indeed grow.

DALLAS GOEDERT (82 OVR, +2 ECR, -5 ADP, +5 UD):

The drop off after the Knox-Goedert-maybe Ertz tier is steep. Granted, this is a small pie as last-year's run-heaviest team. And now a massive mouth has been added in **AJ Brown**. Still, the TE has long been a featured role in Philly, and Hurts-to-Goedert has been a common occurrence throughout camp. No surprise: Goedert produced the third-highest QB rating per target in the NFL at 126.5 last year. In 10 games without Ertz, Goedert was on pace for 73 rec (100 tgts), 1044 yards compared to just 61 rec (75 tgts) & 734 – a substantial bump. He's a big athlete & will get minimal defensive attention, making him a prime scoring candidate in 2022.

He also ran a route on 100% of Hurst's Preseason Week 1 dropbacks, and on his lone target caught a 22-yard TD. This connection could be flat-out deadly in 2022, and Goedert is my favorite TE target if I miss on Round 3 Pitts & Round 6/7 Schultz.

After him and Knox are gone, the drop off is horrendous and I just punt with 2-3 last round TEs (**Hayden Hurst, Austin Hooper**).

ROUND 8-10 WR TARGETS... ANY?

As mentioned - I normally have 4 WRs by now and prefer to avoid the position unless a Round 7 talent slips. I much prefer the QBs, then RBs, then TEs in this range. That being said, the only one I even consider:

ROBERT WOODS, (90 OVR, +10 ECR, +10 ADP, +8 UD):

One thing the Titans don't lack: passing game opportunity. They rank 1st in vacated targets (351), target share (67.1%), Air Yards (2914), Air Yards Share (74.6%), & Inside-10 tgts (22 - 64.7%). Or, every meaningful vacated opportunity metric

Robert Woods is a solid bet to fill it. He's already shed his brace and proven to be the reliable, smooth WR he's always been as Tannehill's go-to-guy in early camp: "He and Ryan Tannehill [have already been building chemistry](#), and it would take a setback for Woods to be anything but full go by Week 1." 80-90+ receptions is very possible in such a wide-open passing game.

Given **Treyton Burks** is running deep into Preseason Week 1 with the 3rd & 4th string (plus is banged-up), Woods has a clear path to Alpha-Hog targets & stats... at a WR4-5 price.

ROUND 8-10 FADES

CLYDE EDWARDS-HELAIRE (85 OVR, -17 ECR, -24 ADP, +0 UD):

Admittedly, Helaire has risen a bit in my rankings this preseason (almost +20 spots). Concerns **Ronald Jones** will steal TDs should be erased, since RoJo is unlikely to even make the team. If a 7th Round Rookie is Helaire's caddy, CEH may be in good shape for a feature back role, in one of the top offenses. He did play 7- of the first 7 snaps with Mahomes. He also reportedly played around 160 lbs last year after a gall-bladder surgery no one reported. And is the prime "breakout age" for RBs.

Still, at least at his "home league" ADP, I struggle to buy-in. **Jerick McKinnon** will siphon receiving work. Pacheco is working with the ones and very impressive. CEH has constantly been dinged up. The upside is real in UD, but going around stud WR2s in FantasyPros & Yahoo ADP, I consider him a Dead Zone RB Pass.

TJ HOCKENSON (91 OVR, -14 ECR, -29 ADP, -3 UD):

TJ "Beethoven" Hockenson looked unstoppable to begin 2021, with 25 & 20.6 FPs in his first two games. Injuries & inconsistencies soon bit, and while he finished as the TE6 in PPG, Hockenson had a chance to be "the main vein" of the attack.. And blew it. **Amon-Ra St Brown** has since exploded, **DJ Chark** and **Jameson Williams** added, while **D'Andre Swift** looks to take a step into the elite. Hockenson might go from No.1 option to No.4 option, quickly. For a guy who's already struggled to score TDs, I'll pass for Goedert or Knox.

KENNY GOLLADAY (203 OVR, -72 ECR, -57 ADP, -80 UD)

The fakest Alpha that has ever lived, the nickname "Babytron" is an insult to **Calvin Johnson**. I don't really have an argument besides: Golladay sucks. Daniel Jones sucks. The Giants suck. Even though I like **Brian Daboll**, he's acquired pieces like **Wan'Dale Robinson**, suggesting a quick-strike, YAC style offense that would also benefit **Kadarius Toney**. Both have been making far more plays than Golladay, who has "struggled to connect" with Jones in camp. Behind **Saquon Barkley** as well, Golladay might not rank higher than 4th on an ugly target totem pole. There's not a round I'd consider drafting him.

AARON RODGERS (122 OVR, -24 ECR, -28 ADP, -11 UD):

Oddly, Rodgers has averaged MORE FPPG in games WITHOUT **Davante Adams** than with him. This anomaly will surely correct itself in 2022, and I'm very worried about this pass-catching corps. My guess? The Packers will lean much more heavily on their backfield, with an even run-heavier offense than 2019, when Rodgers finished as the QB14 in FPPG. I don't know. He always proves me wrong. I just don't want him. That's all. Fantasy Locker-Room cancer.



SIRI - SHOW ME THE "FAKEST ALPHA" THAT'S EVER EXISTED

TYLER BOYD (126 OVR, -5 ECR, -0 ADP, -16 UD)

If any team No.3 WR is going to have a meaningful year, it'd be **Tyler Boyd**. I just struggle to see any kind of ceiling barring an injury to either top-guy. Maybe if the Bengals do pick up the pace, as suggested. But, if anything, I think the improved line benefits the field-stretchers in Chase & Higgins, meaning the shorter targets could go down & Boyd was just 39th in looks last year. There are worse floors for sure, but I'd rather shoot for a more "boom" potential / unknown upside like **Jahan Dotson** or **Joshua Palmer** 3-4 Rounds Later.

GARRETT WILSON (124 OVR, -8 ECR, -5 ADP, -14 UD)

As explained with **Elijah Moore**, I have 0 faith in **Zach Wilson**. And if I don't like the WR who "[seems to have firmly established himself](#)" as the No.1 receiver, I sure as hell don't like the No.2 (at best). I love the talent & profile coming out, but despise the landing spot. Between **Moore, Wilson, Corey Davis, Braxton Berrios, Breece Hall** + the new TEs – that's a lot of mouths for an unstable QB spot. Passing on Jets outside of Hall.

UPDATE: **Joe Flacco** disgustingly presents an upgrade here. That's all you need to know about why you should avoid... but Wilson could come out hot. He's even on record himself saying, "There's definitely a difference...Flacco does a good job of making the passes receiver-friendly. That's the best way I can put it into words." Clearly, Wilson & Wilson weren't off to a scorching start, and this rapport seems downright icy for whenever the No.2 Pick returns.

**HI I'M ZACH AND I AM GOOD
AT TWO THINGS: FUCKING
YOUR MOM & FUCKING OVER
YOUR FANTASY WRS**





ROUND 11-15



PICKS 121 - 170

BUILD THAT BENCH! SWING FOR THE FENCES

Rounds 11-15 Overview: Congrats! Our starting lineup should be 100% full, and now it's time for some fun: "Late Round Breakout Hunting" time. Let's revisit some plausible builds by now (at least in redraft)

Round 1: Dalvin Cook

Round 2: Alvin Kamara

Round 3: James Conner

Round 4: Allen Robinson

Round 5: Amon-Ra St. Brown

Round 6: Adam Thielen

Round 7: Dalton Schultz

Round 8: Hunter Renfrow

Round 9: Devin Singletary

Round 10: Trey Lance

Round 1: Austin Ekeler

Round 2: Saquon Barkley

Round 3: Kyle Pitts

Round 4: Courtland Sutton

Round 5: Gabe Davis

Round 6: AJ Dillon

Round 7: Brandon Aiyuk

Round 8: Chase Edmonds

Round 9: Dak Prescott

Round 10: Robert Woods

Round 1: Derrick Henry

Round 2: Joe Mixon

Round 3: Keenan Allen

Round 4: Allen Robinson

Round 5: Justin Herbert

Round 6: Adam Thielen

Round 7: Brandon Aiyuk

Round 8: Chase Edmonds

Round 9: Dawson Knox

Round 10: Kirk Cousins

Tons of studies have been done on "Breakout Trends," & my favorite analysis is by JJ Zachariason in his [Late Round Draft Guide](#).

There's no way to summarize his near-200 pages of research, and no-two breakouts are ever identical. But a few general rules of thumb if sifting between two potential picks:

1. Prioritize youth (most common breakout seasons = Years 2-3)
2. Prioritize high-powered offenses – OR ones due for a massive turnaround (i.e. Giants, Jags)
3. Embrace ambiguous situations, particular if 1 & 2 apply ^

With this in mind: I love finalizing my RB5-6 in this range, with some very-high upside rookies – some that are strictly sexy-handcuffs (**Rachaad White**), others that might have some immediate usability (**Dameon Pierce**). There are other teams that have RB2s with a ton of juice as well (**Kenny Gainwell**), making this a good range to button-up the RB position and focus on hammering WRs late.

Plenty of quality WRs & TEs do exist with upside in this range as well. Similar to the RB position, it's a mix of high-upside rookies, & young No.2s or No.3s in explosive attacks.

If you've waited this long for a QB, there's at least one guy who could be your savior. But you better act fast.

Note: these ADPs swing wildly over the summer, so I didn't include them here in the guide. Just stay on top of my ranking & the prices using my 2022 Fantasy Football

ROUND 11-15 RB TARGETS

DAMEON PIERCE:

UPDATE - YOU MAY NEED TO LOOK AT PIERCE IN ROUND 9-10 RANGE NOW. HIS PRICE IS SOARING (DESERVEDLY SO)

If you're needing more immediate usability, **Dameon Pierce** could be your guy. No, this doesn't fit the "talented offense" mold. But look who Pierce needs to ascend: **Marlon Mack. Rex Burkhead**. Not a terrifying list.

Pierce may be an MJD-esque 5'9", 218 bull, but he's often compared to Kamara because of his elite efficiency, yet mind-numbing lack of college-usage (never saw more than 28% of Florida's attempts). Pierce is 4th in **Graham Barfield's** yards created metric in this class. But even more impressive, since 2014, he ranks 4th best among all Power-5 RB in missed tackles forced by touch & 3rd best by attempt, all while averaging a TD once every 7.4 touches in 2021, which ranks behind only **Percy Harvin**. By efficiency, he's an elite prospect. He's just never gotten the right volume.

The Texans may have no choice. By all accounts, he's the best RB in camp: vision, footwork, explosiveness. He's been a trusted outlet in the receiving game in early full-team work, catching "several checkdowns" while showing well in protection.. He has great contact balance & a feel between the tackles.

While the Texans are gross, **Davis Mills** may have been the most impressive rookie QB outside of **Mac Jones**. Pep Hamilton has crafted some nice offenses in his days, and the path to 220+ touches is very open.

UPDATE (8/17): Everything mentioned above: forcing missed tackles, bursting through contact, high-efficiency? It was full on display in Preseason Week 1. Pierce is PFF's Highest Graded RB so far (90.0), with 9.8 YPC, 86% yards after contact & 2 forced miss tackles on just 5 carries. This also now has him as a "favorite" to start the year (which he should've been anyways). His price is sky-rocketing and I'm still buying.

RACHAAD WHITE

White is undoubtedly the best pass-catching RB in his class, and one of the tops in the last decade. In fact, he posted the 6th best PFF RB Receiving grade of all time in 2021, ranking alongside **Christian McCaffrey, Alvin Kamara, and Austin Ekeler**. His yards per route run rank him 5th all time behind: CMac, Travis Etienne, Joe Mixon, Curtis Samuel. Find a receiving retric, & he's elite.

This is significant. The Bucs RBs coach complained of **Leonard Fournette** "ad-libbing" his routes and not being where he was supposed to be. I doubt it matters, as Brady gets what Brady wants, and he wants Lenny. But Fournette has missed 3+ games in four of the last five seasons. If the door opens, this could be a GOLD MINE handcuff. Lenny F has ranked top-two in expected-fantasy points per game as the Bucs starter, and it's obvious why: tons of receiving & tons of scoring chances. I think White's the better player and would go on a **David Johnson** style tear -- the GM praised White as a "three down back" when selecting him.

The perfect stash-and-seeespeciallyly since Lenny Fournette has missed 3+ games in 4 of 5 seasons.

ROUND 11-15 RB TARGETS CONT.



BRIAN ROBINSON

Robinson is a 225-lbs absolute bull. On our show, Mike Tannenbaum called him [this year's Eli Mitchell](#) as a surprise late-round breakout rookie RB. The Athletic notes Robinsons "is expected to handle [short-yardage work](#)," which Rivera supported: "He's a big, strong, powerful downhill runner, more so than anything else," Rivera said of Robinson. "Antonio [Gibson] is a little more elusive guy more off the edge, where with Brian, we can take it inside, or we can take it off the edge."

Gibson handled the 6th most Red Zone (43) & Inside-10 (25) carries last year, while tying for 7th for inside-the-5 (12). This was on a team led by Taylor Heinicke; Carson Wentz sucks, but the Commanders should still score more points. If Robinson locks down this role, 8-10+ TDs aren't impossible. Plus, Gibson has dealt with his fair share of nagging injuries (including a hamstring early in camp), giving Robinson some real "handcuff-with-benefits" appeal here. He's even "[pleasantly surprised](#)" as a pass-catcher in camp, too:

"That's one of the exciting things like a big guy like him out in space: You get him in 1-on-1, you make a cut and the next thing you know you're into the second level and now you have corners and smaller DBs having to tackle him," Rivera said following practice Monday. "That's a pretty good matchup for us."

UPDATE (8/18): Gibson, who's struggled with fumbles his whole career and especially in Training Camp, fumbled in Preseason Week 1. Since then, Gibson has been playing special teams as a gunner, protector, and kick returner, in addition to running behind Robinson as the third-string RB. Robinson could very-well enter the season as the early-down starter, with immense TD upside & sneaky receiving usage as well. He hovers around pick 150+ right now, and I will hammer him at that price.

KENNETH GAINWELL:

Even with **AJ Brown's** addition, the Eagles still project to be one of the NFL's run-heaviest offenses. They have a Top-5 line. This should be one of the better run-games in the NFL.

And yet, **Miles Sanders** remains atop the depth chart, but has been largely unimpressive & hurt the past two seasons –not scoring a single TD in 2021.

Meanwhile, Gainwell, a "raw" rookie, had more Top-12 & Top-24 weeks. He saw 20 red zone touches (scoring 6 TDs), in addition to 50 targets - a sturdy 11% share, ranking 12th in Yards per Rec & 6th in yards per route. Gainwell gets the "Money Touches."

Based on his camp usage, beat writers already ""penciled in" Gainwell "for [high-leverage situations](#) like third downs, the hurry-up offense, and goal-line work."

He could see more work on earlier down & distances, too. Gainwell's mixing into the first-team offense early in camp. There's a non-zero chance he beats out the disgruntled Sanders. Either way: Gainwell is only ascending, has the money touches, and could get even more scoring chances on a better Eagles team in 2022. Hammer him at his price tag.

ROUND 11-15 RB TARGETS CONT.



NYHEIM HINES (USABLE):

Just a year-ago (JT's rookie season), Hines was the PPR RB15. He was third in RB receptions & targets, while earning PFF's highest receiving grade among RBs. Though he fell amidst Taylor's true breakout last season, Reich seems to be scheming a far-greater role with Matt Ryan's arrival. In fact, he said during OTAs: "If I was a fantasy owner, I'd consider drafting Nyheim Hines." Reich also likened Ryan's usage of his RBs as receivers to Rivers, again emphasizing Hines' "bigger role." Ryan targeted the backfield 25% of the time in 2021, compared to just 9% rate for Wentz. In camp, the Colts are "finding creative ways" to use Hines, getting him & Taylor on the field together far more often.

Especially in PPR leagues, Hines brings immense usability to these late rounds.

ROUND 11-15 WR TARGETS



JALEN TOLBERT (WR-DAL):

To repeat some numbers: In the two seasons **Dak Prescott** has been healthy with **Kellen Moore** as his play caller, the Cowboys ranked: 1st & 1st in total yards; 6th & 1st in total points; 2nd & 2nd in passing yards; 5th & 3rd in passing TDs & Dak has ranked 2nd & 6th in Fantasy points.

To repeat more numbers: the Cowboys vacated 205 targets (11th most), 1898 Air Yards (9th most), & 16 Inside-the-10 Looks (6th most). They also just lost James Washington for the first 6-10 weeks.

In short: one of the juiciest offenses, has one of the juiciest openings, and until **Michael Gallup** is healthy (mid-October the early speculation), has very few people to fill it.

Enter **Jalen Tolbert**.

He's 6'1" with solid 4.49 speed, drawing **Adam Thielen** comparables. [Per PlayerProfiler](#), Tolbert shouldered a massive 33.4% college target while posting a 51.2% college dominator rating. In short: he can handle the load. Tolbert performed best in his toughest spots (TEN), with polished, smooth routes and violent change of direction. NFL.com scout **Lance Zierlin** wrote: "His traits, talent and production should push him up the board, and dialing up the competitive spirit could turn him into a top-flight WR2." That competitive-spirit-dial has been ratcheted up to 100, with no other choice or options at this point.

The Cowboys seem likely to add bodies (**Will Fuller?**), but Jerry Jones said, "[There's no urgency to get a veteran receiver.](#)" That's because of Tolbert's fast, encouraging development.

Target high-usage, athletic profiles in top-five offenses. Especially when they go after Pick 100.

ROUND 11-15 WR TARGETS CONT.

RONDALE MOORE (WR-ARI)

After a 24.4 FP blow-up in Week 2, **Rondale Moore** looked on the fast-track to a rookie-season breakout. Unfortunately, he produced 1 useful statline the rest of the year (11 catches, 51 yards...lol), with minimal usage outside of the occasional screen.

Still, the 5'7" dynamo flashed [glimpses of his explosive profile](#): 4.37 forty (95th percentile), 135.3 Bust Score (97th), 10.78 agility score (93rd). The key will be improved usage & a bigger role. Talk is just talk, but Kingsbury has been hyping Moore up HARD all offseason:



Jamey Eisenberg
@JameyEisenberg

Kingsbury on Rondale Moore: A bigger role, there's no doubt. Last year, just with the numbers with Christian, A.J. Green, Hop, he kind of got lost in the shuffle more than he should have. He's a dynamic playmaker. With Christian leaving, we expect him to fill that role.

11:06 PM - Mar 29, 2022 - Twitter Web App



Paul Calvisi
@PaulCalvisi

Kingsbury asked for a young player who has flashed: "Rondale (Moore) is gonna play a lot more. He's taken real strides this off-season."

2:44 PM - Jun 14, 2022 - Twitter for Android



Beat Writers Of The NFL
@NFL_beatwriters

On Rondale Moore - "He feels like he can step into Christian's role and play at a really high level inside there and we do too." Kingsbury said.



90.7 Arizona Sports
@AZSports - Jun 2

"I just think the confidence is high right now and he knows he's got a big opportunity coming up."

More from @TidakeSports on Cardinals WR Rondale Moore:
[arizonasports.com/story/3163486/...](https://arizonasports.com/story/3163486/)

7:26 PM - Jun 2, 2022 - Twitter for Android



Johnny Venerable
@JohnnyVenerable

"Rondale Moore is gonna have a huge role with Christian (Kirk) leaving." -Kingsbury

3:52 PM - Jul 26, 2022 - Twitter for iPhone

So far in camp, Kingsbury has stayed true to his word. According to [ESPN Beat Josh Weinfuss](#): "Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury has said all camp that second-year wide receiver Rondale Moore will have a larger role in Arizona's offense. Moore showed why on Thursday. He repeatedly beat defenders either off the line or in a foot race for deep balls. His speed will be a major component of the Cardinals' scheme in 2022 in all areas, from behind the line of scrimmage to downfield.

The Cardinals have a crowded target totem pole, with **DeAndre Hopkins**, **Marquise Brown**, **AJ Green**, **Zach Ertz**, and **James Conner** as well as the RBs. Still, with Hopkins out for the first six weeks, Moore will have every chance to prove he belongs. If this audition goes well, expect a dynamic, **Christian Kirk / Deebo Samuel**-lite role blend, meaning tons of creative usage both at the line and deep downfield.

Young, explosive weapons with ascending roles in explosive offenses are always good bets, especially at this cheap price tag.

ROUND 11-15 WR TARGETS CONT.

JAHAN DOTSON (WR-WAS)

Standing an unimposing 5-foot-11 and slender 180 lbs, Dotson won't "wow" anyone with his measurables even with a solid 4.43 forty (86th %ile) & 36-inch vertical. Yet, for what he lacks in "sizzle," Dotson more than makes up for in "steak."

He's a "football player" in every sense of the word, winning nearly all his routes thanks to impressive lower-body suddenness, and hauling in almost everything thrown his way, even and especially at the catch-point: Dane Brugler said Dotson has "maybe the largest catch radius of any sub 5-foot-11 receiver I have ever scouted."

A true "target vacuum," Dotson shouldered a 32.5% college target share, ranking in the 95th percentile while increasing his production each season despite subpar QB play his entire career. Dotson plays all over the formation and has that "it" factor with intangibles, captured by his "my-ball" mentality: "I approach that (ball) as a million dollars. It's a million dollars in the air. If you want it, you go get it."

And that's why he'll thrive in Washington, who spent the 16th pick on Dotson. In fact, the coaches & GM immediately cited Dotson's ability to perform with subpar QB play as a major strength. He's done nothing but impress since arriving, being labeled as "electric" while "the traits that enticed Washington to draft him -- specifically his route-running and hands."

He had a chance to forge a strong rapport with Wentz while **Terry McLaurin** held out, and Wentz was effusive in his praise: "He's awesome," Carson Wentz said. "He's a quiet kid, young kid, but he's a hard worker. He's smart, he's instinctual. He catches the football as natural as anybody I've been around, just how natural he plucks it out of the air."

This is a team that should suck & need to chuck. Dotson may be behind McLaurin, but after that, targets are wide-open. He's dominated with poor-QB play again, so betting on Dotson's talent & volume is easy to do.

Preseason Update: Dotson ran 100% of the snaps with the starters, even ahead of **Curtis Samuel** already. He's been a routine force, including on big plays and Red Zone drills, while ["buzz has been building"](#) all summer. He's Pro-Ready & could make a huge Year 1 splash.

KJ OSBORN (WR-MIN)

Osborn is among my favorite WR targets in the 130-150 range, maybe my favorite. He thrived whenever used as a rookie; Osborn saw 6+ targets in 8 games. In those contests, he:

- Topped 14+ FPs in 7/8 (87.5%)
- Finished as a Top-24 WR & sored a TD in 6/8 (75%)
- Averaged 15.75 FPPG.

In case you're interested in the actual game-logs:

7 rec (9 tgt), 76 yds= 14.6 FPs, WR34
5 rec (6 tgt), 91 yds, 1 TD= 20.1, WR14
3 rec (7 tgt), 26 yds= 5.6, WR69
6 rec (7 tgt), 78 yds, 1 TD= 19.8, WR13
4 rec (7 tgt), 47 yds, 1 TD= 14.7, WR21
3 rec (9 tgt), 83 yds, 1 TD = 17.3, WR18
5 rec (7 tgt), 68 yds, 1 TD = 17.8, WR16
3 rec (6 tgt), 50 yds, 1 TD = 14, WR26

As the locked-in WR3 in **Kevin O'Connell's** more aerial-bound attack, Osborn should see plenty of 6+ target days, regardless of the dominant starters ahead of him. And should an injury strike, Osborn would drip in high-end WR2 upside.

He's already flashing his upside in early camp, making "a variety of plays in camp that reflect the versatile ways he could be deployed in O'Connell's playbook, which is expected to lean on three-receiver formations." He's been the "primary" slot guy, which could create more "lay-up" targets than last year, but is also moving around to all three WR spots. His run-blocking prowess only ensures a massive snap increase, too.

"He's been really, really good," O'Connell said of Osborn. "There's no other way to describe it early on in camp."

Cousins has reportedly been lobbying the coaching staff for more Osborn playing time. With seemingly all the important people on his side, a history of production when called upon, and an expected spike in usage, Osborn has the ultimate "WR Handcuff with benefits" appeal.

JOSHUA PALMER (WR-LAC):

Similar to Osborn, Palmer has "WR Handcuff with benefits" vibes, but on an even more explosive Aerial Attack – one I project to lead the NFL in yardage and passing scores.

He's been "[running away](#)" with the WR3 spot in camp, including days as **Justin Herbert's** "[favorite target](#)." Palmer is the last WR to leave the field each day, working with Herbert on the duo's timing, before hitting the jugs for even more practice. He displays that intangible drive for greatness, and very well could be on the precipice of it.

As the clear-cut WR3 in this offense, Palmer offers plenty of spike-week upside. Should injury befall the aging **Keenan Allen** or the physical **Mike Williams**, Palmer would thrive. As a low-usage rookie, he saw one start without Allen and ultimately hauled in 5-of-7 targets for 66 yards & a TD.

Like Osborn, Palmer thrived whenever he was used. He saw 6+ targets just three times, but his statlines are very promising:

- 5 rec (7 tgts), 66 yards, 1 TD = 17.6 FPs, WR16
- 5 rec (6 tgts), 43 yards, 1 TD = 15.3 FPs, WR22
- 4 rec (8 tgts), 45 yds, 1 TD = 14.5 FPs, WR32

The case is pretty much the same here, but with an even higher ceiling due to the QB & overall offense upgrade. Hammer Palmer as an ideal WR4-5 for a RB-centric squad.

ROUND 11-15 WR TARGETS CONT.

NICO COLLINS (WR-HOU)

Collins seemed like a lock for the Texans WR2 role even when **John Metchie** was drafted. Now that Metchie will unfortunately miss 2022 due to leukemia, Collins will be needed even more – on a team that should suck & need to chuck.

Thus far, Collins has completely stepped up to the plate, and more. He's been the "[clear](#)" [No.2](#), "making plays" with regularity to the point QB **Davis Mills** commented: "I don't think there's many people out there who can stop him." He's using his 6'4" frame to outmuscle corners, bursting downfield for huge gainers, all while displaying a "[good grasp of the offense](#)" according to Mills. Unsurprising for a prospect with a 95th percentile catch radius (& 90th percentile speed score); Collins credits his history playing hoops for his "my ball" mentality and high-pointing skills.

All-in-all, Collins "has also [refined his route running skills](#) since his rookie year. Creating mismatches has become a routine occurrence for Collins." HC Lovie Smith is well-aware, noting, "That's tough duty for a defensive back...But when you're 6-foot-4, most corners are around six feet, that's a pretty good matchup for us. Nico Collins is an excellent football player. We expect him to make plays like that."

Mills heaped on similar praise, gushing about their rapport: "Nico has put in a ton of work all last year and through this offseason...It shows what he's been doing out here in practice. I think we've definitely developed chemistry, and he's going to be dangerous."

Stir in the fact OC Pep Hamilton called plays for Collins at Michigan, and we've got the recipe for a bonafide breakout, particularly in the Red-Zone, where Collins "has been a constant threat... he's become much more convincing at selling his patterns."

There's a very real 8-10+ TD upside, with enough Aerial Pie to approach 1,000 yards. I LOVE Collins.

ISAIAH MCKENZIE (WR-BUF) - UPDATE 8/19 - BUMPED UP A SECTION

Originally in the Round 16+ Range, McKenzie's price continues to soar, so I bumped him into this section. Where I will happily still hammer maybe my top choice for a late-round league-winner.

Running ahead of **Jamison Crowder** for the invaluable Bills' slot role – **Cole Beasley** averaged 108 targets & 77 receptions in his three years in Buffalo. Every single day a new report emerges on how McKenzie is "[standout](#)" & "top target" as he makes play after play. Any Pats fan like myself knows: McKenzie can eat when given the work. In his last 2 starts, McKenzie went:

11 rec (12 tgts), 125 yds, 1 TD (29.4, WR3)
6 rec (9 tgts), 65 yds, 2 TDs (30.5 FPs, WR7)

He's the cheapest meaningful piece of the NFL's best attack. I'm willing to reach hard to ensure I land McKenzie, my top choice to be a genuine league-winner in 2022.

ROUND 11-15 WR TARGETS

CONT.

GEORGE PICKENS (WR-PIT)

The ["Star" of Steelers Camp](#), Pickens added fuel to his summer hype train with a dominant NFL Preseason Debut: 3 rec (5 tgts) for 43 yards & a beautiful toe-tap TD. Had Pickens not suffered a March 2020 ACL tear, he may have gone Top-15, and he's already looking like he should have. He's already listed as a starter on the Steelers Depth Chart, and with a better all-around game than Chase Claypool, don't be shocked if Pickens emerges as the No.2 weapon in this offense.

Per **Matt Harmon**, Pickens "has more experience lining up at X-receiver" while displaying a 73.2% success vs. the press (86th percentile) and 75% contested catch rate.

Even with Claypool and Diontae back in practice, Pickens is lining up as the starting Z WR while moving around.

Simply put: THE No.1 Rookie WR is within Pickens' range of outcomes for 2022. No organization drafts better at WR than the Steelers, and they aren't playing any games by making the rookie wallow on the depth chart before finally handing it over. They know what they have and are letting the young man shine.

He was **Greg Cossell's** number 1 receiver in this class, and plays like a grown-ass man. I wouldn't be shocked to see 900+ yards and 8+ TDs as he overtakes Claypool immediately.



**HI I'M GEORGE. I'M A
"GROWN-ASS" MAN WHO
WILL TAKE CLAYPOOL'S
NO.2 ROLE.**

ROUND 11-15 TE TARGETS



PAT FREIERMUTH:

Already a TD-maven, Freiermuth finished 6th in scores (7) despite splitting time with Eric Ebron (62% of snaps), playing the hardest position to transition to as a rookie, all while catching passes from a corpse. He led the NFL in Red Zone targets (20), as a part-time player. This number should spike, and Freiermuth should approach 10+ TDs with that 6'5" frame.

Ebron has since departed, giving Freiermuth a clear-path for a true breakout. He never topped 58 yards in a game, which could go up big-time in Year 2 – Freiermuth himself says he expects [800-900 yards](#), calling his rookie-average of 8.3 yards per catch “atrocious.” This would vault him towards elite company, and even on just his steady-TD volume, Freiermuth is a very worthy TE-target.

UPDATE: While I do still like Freiermuth, **George Pickens'** continued explosion could put a real dent in his target share. He's a slight downgrade, but still drips in double-digit TD upside.

GERALD EVERETT

In his [Breakout TE Podcast](#), **JJ Zachariason** emphasized one of the key factors to a TE-Breakout was offensive (specifically QB) quality. Obviously, it doesn't get much more potent than the Chargers. This will be a ripe environment for scores, and Everett (6'3", 239 lbs, [94th percentile burst](#), 86th percentile catch radius) could capitalize. The Athletic noted Everett will be used “[in a variety of ways](#), from screens to flat routes to jet sweeps.”

My one concern? **Donald Parham** is also a beast, and could be the preferred Red Zone target at a whopping 6'8". Parham has also been “featured in the downfield passing attack,” which could create a dreaded TE-committee. But **UPDATE:** Parham is now week-to-week, & has struggled to stay on the field. This TE1 role could be Everett's alone & attaching your fantasy fortunes to the Chargers is a strong bet. Everett should have plenty of space to operate while surrounded by elite weaponry.



EVERETT CHECKS MANY OF THE BREAKOUT TE BOXES [ELITE QB, HIGH-END ATHLETICISM]

BEING USED "IN A VARIETY OF WAYS" [SCREENS, SWEEPS, FLAT] - HE COULD SEE MEANINGFUL VOLUME IN NFL'S TOP ATTACK

IF YOU STILL NEED A QB2...

OR GOD HELP YOU A QB1

MATT RYAN

Ryan surprisingly came out in my Top-15 QBs for my projections, and he's far-and-away the last QB1 I could possibly accept – I much prefer him as a high-floor QB2 option to a riskier, high-ceiling investment like **Trey Lance**.

Ryan has done nothing but impress since arriving in Indy. **Frank Reich**, one of the brighter minds in football, could not stop gushing: "Matt was unbelievable ... Really, A-Z, he did everything right. Just great leadership, great play... I mean, I forgot how much I love this, how much we need this. We got so much done. It's amazing that you can play a season without doing this. So many details are covered."

The one word you keep reading about: pace.

Ryan has been operating this offense at lightspeed. The way Reich gushes about Ryan and his speed / ability to operate without huddling – he hasn't spoken about his offense like this since **Andrew Luck**. That year, the Colts ranked 1st in overall pace & neutral-situation pass rate, while Luck finished as the QB5, chucking it for nearly 4600 yards and 39 TDs. Ryan isn't Luck, but he is a former MVP capable of gaudy passing stats. Reich's scheme will be his best since Shanahan.

And it's not like Ryan has been atrocious. Across his last 4 years, he's finished as the QB17, QB12, QB11, QB2. Prior to losing **Calvin Ridley**, Ryan was averaging 22.2 FPPG, which would've ranked ahead of **Joe Burrow**, **Jalen Hurts**, and **Patrick Mahomes**. He's older, but far from done.

I would not be shocked at all to see Ryan finish inside the Top-10 QBs, making him the ideal late-round, high-floor, sneaky-ceiling QB target.

JUSTIN FIELDS FOR KONAMI UPSIDE

I don't love Fields, or this Bears new coaching staff. I especially hate the offensive line.

But if **Tim Tebow** can finish in the Top-10 QBs on his legs alone, so can Fields. No QB who rushed for 750+ yards has finished outside the Top-12, and Fields absolutely has that upside in a run-heavy attack that'll maximize his mobility. He's already been on the move far more often – designed runs, roll-outs & bootlegs – compared with the statue-role Nagy tried to force Fields into.

The OSU product entered the NFL with some intriguing skills: he trailed only **Mac Jones** in deep accuracy from this class, and only **Joe Burrow** and Jones among QBs in the last 5 years. Yet, he also ran the third fastest forty time of *all time* among QBs, behind only Mike Vick and RGIII.

The weapons are abysmal, which could be Fields' undoing. But at least **Darnell Mooney** and **Velus Jones** both bring Top-10% speed. If new HC **Luke Getsy** builds around Fields' mobility, arm-strength, and WR-speed, Fields could be **Trey Lance**-lite... at a 5+ round discount. I still prefer the floor-ceiling combination of Ryan, but as a QB2, shooting for the moon makes sense if you've got Brady, Dak, or another locked-in passer.

ROUND 11-15 FADES

WRS:

Honestly, I like most guys in this range – I just prefer the names explored above. Still, guys like Mecole Hardman and DJ Chark could serve big-play roles, with Hardman's especially intriguing as it comes tied to Patrick Mahomes' arm. Two guys I never land though:

COREY DAVIS

If I'm out on the No.1 and No.2 WR, both of whom bring more athleticism and upside to the table, how could I even consider their No.3 WR in **Corey Davis**?

Davis has largely been a massive-bust since being drafted at No.4 overall, never finishing higher than the WR29 even when featured extensively, nor ever topping 5 TDs or hitting 1,000 yards.

Now, he'll likely be the third, possibly fourth, option for a fairly disgusting Aerial Pie in **Zach Wilson**. I do like this scheme, but I have zero faith in the signal-caller. Willson has all the traits, but not the intangibles, and I don't see any of these WRs – especially the WR3 – providing steady value.

VAN JEFFERSON

It was fading Jefferson before the knee surgery, so I certainly won't be targeting him now – especially because his price has remained largely the same. I'm so high on Allen Robinson that I don't expect much beyond scraps to be left for Jefferson / the other WRs. Stir in the fact that Odell Beckham is still being connected to the Rams, and "both Tutu Atwell and Ben Skowronek have taken advantage of Van's absence with really solid summers entering their second season," and I'd much rather invest in KJ Osborn / Josh Palmer at a similar price tag.

TYRION DAVIS-PRICE (RB-SF)

Any RB that could fall into Shanny Zone Scheme work should carry value. However, **Tyrion Davis-Price** has struggled to impress all during minicamp and Training Camp, and is currently behind **Jeff Wilson, Ja'Mychal Hasty, AND Trey Sermon** – but goes 50+ picks before any of them (if they're even drafted). Given his physicality, TDP could gain ground with solid preseason game performances. For now, he's significantly overdrafted in the same range as some monster-upside WRs (Osborn, Collins, Palmer)

NOAH FANT (TE-SEA):

If I'm fading **DK Metcalf** over concerns with this offense – slow pace, run-obsessed, terrible QB play for an already small pie – then I'm certainly not taking Fant. This late, I prioritize TEs in high-scoring attacks, even if they are the 4th option (**Hayden Hurst, Kyle Rudolph, even Mo Alie-Cox**). Fant won't see the volume, or the TD-upside, to be viable.

MIKE GESICKI

Despite back-to-back Top-10 TE Finishes (TE8 & TE7), I'm fading the uber-athletic Gesicki. He's been a volume whore, seeing the 4th most tgts & 5th most rec in 2021 while operating largely as a "big slot" (yet still ranking 141st in FPs Over Expectation - AKA useless with the volume).

Now, in **Mike McDaniels'** new offense, Gesicki is being asked to "revamp his blocking" and play in-line more... and predictably struggling. It's not his game, and Gesicki may outright lose his job. Even if not, he'll face competition from **Tyreek Hill, Jaylen Waddle, Cedrick Wilson** & the revamped RB room. Pass.

ROUND 16-20+

PICKS 171-240+

UPSIDE = ALL THAT MATTERS!

Rounds 16-20+ Overview: WRs, WRs, WRs. They have the best hit rate this late, alongside TEs in high-octane offenses. Typically, RBs blow in this range, and there are very few I like – but it's not completely barren.

Still, I often find myself hammering 3-4 WRs, the occasional TE, and maybe one upside RB. I'll got through the names to consider in these rounds as a sort of "Late Round Cheat Sheet," in order of how much I like them.

Additionally, if you miss out on an Early TE Edge, or fail to secure Schultz, Goedert, or Knox, it often makes sense to straight up punt the position & shoot for big-bodies, with solid QBs, in offenses that can put up points (in Best Ball, 3 straight TEs to end the draft make sense). This would've yielded **Rob Gronkowski & Dawson Knox** in 2021. 2022 presents plenty of candidates with similar breakout profiles (at least to Knox)

ROUND 16-20+ WR TARGETS

KJ HAMLER (WR-DEN):

Few can burn faster than Hamler's 4.32 forty (99th %ile). Unfortunately, injuries & ineffective QB-play have kept Hamler from shining

However, after **Tim Patrick's** devastating ACL tear, Hamler has a clean path to the WR3 role in a **Russell Wilson** offense. Anyone with eyes can tell you that Wilson throws one of the prettiest deep balls – but if you needed the data to back-it-up, he's ranked Top-10 in NFL Next Gen Stats & PFF's deep passer rating.

In fact, when the Seahawks let "Russ Cook" for half a season in 2020, he led the league with 13 deep TDs. Remember: these are the games Hackett wants to build around. Hamler's upside is enormous, particularly in Best Ball when you don't need to guess the blow-up week right. In a division full of shoot-outs, I imagine those blow-ups will come more often than many expect.

WAN'DALE ROBINSON (WR-NYG)

"The star" of the Giants offense throughout camp, Robinson has been "playing a lot of different roles," all with the first team offense. The slot. [The backfield](#). He's showing extreme burst & shiftiness wherever he's lined up while also making catches deep down the field.

So I don't care that he's a miniscule 5'8" & 180 lbs. This didn't stop Robinson from commanding a 39.3% college target share in his first year as true WR. Yes, he's a converted RB, which makes him perfect for this Deebo Samuel-lite role. He still posted the highest PFF grade among SEC WRs (91.33).

Hand-picked by offensive guru **Brian Daboll**, the engineer to Buffalo's beastly attack, Robinson looks like a Day 1 monster.

ROUND 16-20+ WR_{CONT.}

ALEC PIERCE (WR-IND) & PARRIS CAMPBELL (WR-IND)

As explored with **Matt Ryan**, I expect the Colts to push the pace and rack up yardage, both on the ground and through the air. **Michael Pittman** is the clear Alpha, but there should be more than enough pie to sustain another mouth or two.

Campbell has gotten the early praise – running alongside Pittman in two WRs sets, “[featured extensively](#)” by Ryan, who he’s had a “strong connection with” as Campbell destroys the middle of the field from the slot (“[Matt’s bread & butter.](#)”)

This isn’t the first time Campbell, who’s [4.31 forty](#), 117.2 speed score, & 135.5 Burst Score all rank 97th percentile or higher, has flashed. The key has always been health, which Campbell has never been able to sustain – he’s already missing time with a hamstring injury.

Whether sooner or later, the door will likely open for impressive rookie **Alec Pierce** - my favorite bet of the Colts' secondary WRs.

Though not quite on Campbell’s level in terms of speed, Pierce does [rank 90th percentile](#) for forty time (4.41), 95th for speed score (113), and 94th for Burst (133.4), in addition to a 96th percentile catch radius. He’s a plus athlete with phenomenal tape and production, and he’s being thrust right into the fire “[with the starters](#) from Day 1.” Pierce has been reportedly seeking out Gilmore for one-on-one practice – and while he doesn’t often win, this is the type of mentality and competition that should help him thrive.

He’s been so impressive in his “[rate of growth](#)” that the coaching staff has not felt the need to sign a veteran receiver. Big-name analysts like **Louis Riddick** have predicted Pierce will contend for the Rookie of the Year award. While that’s lofty, he could be a high-impact player on a team desperate for a clear No.2-- and only an injury-prone vet in front of him. By midyear, if not sooner, expect some serious noise from Pierce.

ROMEO DOUBS (WR-GB)

If not McKenzie, Romeo Doubs may be the highest-steamed hype train of any player – and his price is soaring alongside it. (Up to 150 in UD after hovering in the 200s all offseason).

But what if the hype is real?

Greg Cossell, one of my favorite film-experts, comped Doubs to none other than... Davante Adams. With Adams gone, the Packers boast a WIDE OPEN target totem pole. Lazard has been flourishing, but Doubs has been the clear No.2, especially with fellow-rookie Christian Watson (and the always-injured Sammy Watkins) laid up. Doubs is starting, and dominating – both in full-team drills and one-on-ones, even against the top-notch Packers’ secondary – deep down the field, contested grabs, after the catch. He’s doing it all.

Particularly noteworthy, Doubs has drawn effusive praise from Aaron Rodgers:

“It’s never been too big for him. I really like the approach,” Rodgers recently said of the rookie, via Packers Wire. “He’s had a lot of opportunities, which has been great. With Sammy not practicing a couple of days, and Christian being out, a lot of opportunities for him, and he’s made the most of it.”

ROMEO DOUBS (CONT.) & RANDALL COBB

Rodgers continued: "Every single day, there's been at least one 'wow' play. And that's rare for a young guy like that. We've had some guys over the years do that, but they are all in the top 10 of Packers receiving history. Good start for him."

HC **Matt LaFleur** is also singing Doubs' praises, gushing how "Romeo is the first one in the building" and constantly working to improve his craft, body, and mind.

Ultimately, Doubs has a clear-path to heavy volume from the reigning MVP. His price is skyrocketing, but still feels more-than appropriate as a high-end talent with a QB absolutely capable of squeezing all the juice here.

Yet, that QB could also be his downfall. Rodgers has been notoriously distrustful of rookies. While Doubs has made a strong first impression, he'll need to walk on egg-shells all season. Rodgers is reportedly on record as wanting **Allen Lazard, Randall Cobb** and **Sammy Watkins** [as his starting WRs](#).

This makes the GB Veterans, particular Cobb at his "free" price, plenty appealing.

Cobb is Rodgers' ost-trusted, longest-tenured WR. He only hauled in 28 passes, but 21 went for first-downs (many on third down situations), emphasizing Rodgers' trust in his move-all-over weapon.

Plus, he was a TD Maven. Look at his stats in games with 5 or more targets last year:



It's not sexy, but Cobb should spike for some usable weeks in 2022 as a trusted Red Zone weapon & chain-mover. Particularly if Doubs' hype-train loses steam or he makes any costly errors.

DANNY GRAY (WR-49ERS) & TYQUAN THORNTON (WR-NE) -

UPDATE: Thornton suffered a shoulder injury & will be out 8+ weeks. He's no longer a late round target. I lump these two possible last-round dart throws together since they fill the same fantasy role: freakish speedsters (in offenses that are ready to uncork. It might be inconsistent, but both guys promise a handful of Best Ball spike weeks for your last round dollar.

Danny Gray (4.33 forty, 98th %ile) hauled in a 76 yard TD in his first NFL action. He's continued his scorching the field in joint practices versus the Vikings, hauling in another Lance Moon Bomb.

Tyquan Thornton (4.33 forty, 100th %ile), has similarly impressed, being labeled "the biggest surprise" of Patriots camp – and not just for his other-worldly, top-NFL straight line speed. Beat Writer **Tom Curran** noted: "Not just a straight-line blur, he's outstanding at changing speeds and setting up sudden breaks which a lot of fast backs struggle with...He's shown physicality and toughness despite being shaped like a Q-tip. He's got excellent body control. He's mature. I'm excited to watch him." Both are solid big-play, last-round darts.

VELUS JONES (WR-CHI)

Among my highest-owned players on Underdog, Jones is one of my last-round-locks whenever I have no needs left. He brings significant playmaking ability to a team desperate for any kind of spark.

Dynasty-leaguers love to shit on Jones for his age – at 25 years old, he is older than Mooney, afterall.

Still, for redraft, I couldn't give a shit. Jones blazed a 4.31 forty (99th %ile), and his speed translates on the field, which is why the Bears "reached" to get him.

Daniel Jeremiah compared Jones to "[the most Deebo-like player](#)" of this draft, gushing "he's not the same talent, but is kind of that guy that's really, really sturdy and strong and explosive, like real, real, real fast, somebody on jet sweeps...Just get him the ball and let him go."

The Bears early comments suggest similar usage, with their GM Poles raving:

"He's special. There's something about him ... there is just an aura about him." "I'm not going to compare him to Deebo, but he has that flexibility where you can put him anywhere: Backfield. Slot. Outside..There are so many different things that he can do."

His OC similarly noted how "the speed just jumped at you on the tape – "When that guy gets the ball in his hands, he looks like 4.3 on the field. Not many guys can do that." He's been constantly working with Fields since being drafted, brings his own whiteboard to take notes in meetings, and is the consummate pro.

Behind Mooney, this pass-catching corps is barren – emphasized by early-camp injuries to **Byron Pringle** and newly-acquired **N'Keal Harry**. The door is wide-open for Jones to seize a massive role; with his speed, monster fantasy outings could follow.

ROUND 16-20+ TE TARGETS



AUSTIN HOOPER (TE-TEN)

No TE in Hooper's price-range has his target upside. Remember: the Titans rank 1st in vacated targets (351), target share (67.1%), Air Yards (2914), Air Yards Share (74.6%), & Inside-10 tgts (22 - 64.7%). Hooper has "already surfaced as one of [Ryan] Tannehill's [preferred targets](#) in the passing game." Throughout camp, he's been active all over the field, in particular scoring situations. Keep in mind: Tannehill has targeted tight-ends 24% of the time since becoming the starter in Tennessee, while throwing 25 of his 76 TDs to the position.

ESPN reported: "Hooper has [made it his personal mission](#) to develop chemistry with Ryan Tannehill since joining the team. The two have put in extra work during downtime in practice. They are in constant communication after reps during team and 7-on-7 periods. Tannehill complimented Hooper's savvy route-running ability and quickness that helps him get open."

Yes, Hooper struggled to post any relevant stats the past two seasons while trapped in a TE-committee with the run-centric Browns. Yet, he was the TE4 in FPPG the year before, while also finishing TE6 just before that. He absolutely can be a relevant, dependable passing-game safety valve on a team with minimal reliable mouths. At a last round cost, Hooper is well-worth a stab.

ROUND 16-20+ TE TARGETS CONT.

HAYDEN HURST (TE-CIN)

As mentioned, the majority of top late-round breakout TEs come from high-powered attacks. The logic is simple: big-bodies, inside the Red Zone often, usually with QBs that can put the ball where they want it.

Hayden Hurst could absolutely be that guy for the Bengals. Don't forget: **CJ Uzomah** had multiple weeks as THE TE1, making plays deep down the seam and scoring multiple times in multiple games. Hurst is even more athletic, and he's drawn rave reviews as one of the "early winners" of Training Camp.



The defenders have noticed it as well:

"He can really move for his size," Mike Hilton told Geoff Hobson of Bengals.com. "He gives the quarterback a big frame to go across the middle. I feel like he'll be a mismatch in our offense."

Indeed, at 6'5", 250 lbs, Hurst's 4.67 speed is highly-impressive (79th %ile). He's made impressive catches while "getting a ton of targets early." You'll draft Hurst for the 8-10+ TD upside, but you may just get some real yardage bonuses as defenses key in on **Ja'Marr Chase & Tee Higgins**. He's a great final stab at the position.

MO ALIE-COX (TE-IND):

From **Zach Ertz** to **Antonio Gates**, to lesser talents like **Eric Ebron** (13 TDs?!) & **Jack Doyle**, many tight ends have thrived for career years under **Frank Reich**. The TE is steadily a big part of the offense, and right now **Mo Alie-Cox** looks like the clear No.1

The team did draft the more-athletic **Jelani Woods**, but The Athletic reports Woods "is probably coming along a little slower than the team would like. He's looked lost at times." Meanwhile, **Kylen Granson** has struggled with drops and hasn't flashed at all in camp. As such, **Mo Alie-Cox** "looks set to operate as the Colts' No.1 tight end."

Cox stands a whopping 6'4", 262 lbs, making him a potential Red Zone terror. He also saw some deep-love down the seam last year, as his average depth of target (aDot) ranked 4th among all TEs. In a faster-paced Ryan-led attack, Cox has some real upside for a meaningful fantasy role.

KYLE RUDOLPH (TE-TB)

See Hurst, Hayden: Huge TD upside. Slightly less athleticism. Similar target competition. 8-10 scores = likely.

Brady recruited Rudolph, emphasizing to the TE how bad the Bucs needed him. He should immediately step in & offer a phenomenal Red Zone target at 6'5". The ceiling may be capped beyond scores, but this late, Rudolph is as good of an option as you could hope for.

DONALD PARHAM (TE-LAC)

UPDATE 8/9: Unfortunately, Parham is week-to-week with a hamstring injury. This likely stalls any draftability. Still, here's the case so I can say "told you so" after he hits 6-8 TDs:

Should he recover quickly enough, Parham could be a last-round TE steal. **Gerald Everett** is indeed the No.1, but Parham has been using his 6'8" frame to DOMINATE camp so far. Beyond scoring situations, Parham had emerged as "[a prominent piece](#) in the Chargers' downfield passing attack."

Any weapon with a meaningful role in Herbert's Attack carries relevance, especially if they offer scoring & big-play upside. Parham's health now becomes crucial to track – for his own fantasy relevancy, but also Everett's, who's TD-ceiling is significantly higher if Parham is removed.



LATE ROUND TE FORMULA

**BIG BODY + HIGH-SCORING OFFENSE
+ PINPOINT PASSER = 6-10 TDS**



ROUND 16-20+ RB TARGETS



CARDINALS RB2 - IS IT DARREL WILLIAMS OR ENO BENJAMIN?

Update (8/8): While I still have hope for Darrel, beat writer **Blake Allen Murphy** [speculates Eno Benjamin is the clear-cut No.2](#), while Williams is battling for the No.3 role. I still think Williams is more capable of shouldering the load in a travesty, but won't be going all in like described below unless there's depth chart movement between now and the season.

On **Patrick Mahomes'** recommendation, Williams landed in the most valuable handcuff spot in all of fantasy. And, depending what platform you draft on, you can likely wait til Round 16 & beyond to snare him.

The math is simple here: **James Conner** is among the most injury-prone backs in the NFL, and this scheme is among the most RB-friendly, particularly when the RB1 goes down.

[Scott Barrett](#) examines how, whenever the RB1 went down, the back-up received "Christian McCaffrey-like volume, typically to great fantasy success." Like, 90% or higher snap share, 25+ carries, 4+ targets. Ultimate Bell Cows.

Meanwhile, Williams may not be sexy, but he's dependable and proven on all three-downs. In CEH's absence last year, Williams racked up over 1,000 scrimmage yards & 8 TDs (0 fumbles) across 191 touches (47 rec). He averaged 17.5 FPPG in games without Helaire last-year, which would've been fringe-RB1 numbers, including three 24+ FP efforts:

RotoViz

Darrel Williams Splits 2021 - 2021
Per Game / Full Season Pace

Statistic	In Split	Out of Split
Games	10	7
PPR	7.46 / 127	17.49 / 297
reRECS	1.8 / 31	4.29 / 73
reTDS	0.1 / 2	0.14 / 2
reTRGS	2.6 / 44	4.86 / 83
reYDS	17.7 / 301	39.29 / 668
ruATTS	5.6 / 95	13.29 / 226
ruTDS	0.2 / 3	0.57 / 10
ruYDS	20.9 / 355	49.86 / 848

In Split: Clyde Edwards-Helaire played, from week 1 to 18. *out of split evaluates to all times the subject player played that don't meet the in-split criteria.

Conner is among the most likely backs to miss time. On the volume he'll see, Williams would approach or top 20+ FPPG whenever those hit. The only risk? **Eno Benjamin** is showing well in early camp. There's speculation he could win the No.2 RB role. Still, Benjamin has been an absolute nobody while Williams is a proven workman. I'll side with him all-day for now, and adjust if truly needed. Whether I have Conner or not, I am targeting Williams and/or now Benjamin.

Update 2: Darrel rested in Preseason Week 1, while Benjamin started... and failed to impress... per usual. I am still betting on Darrel if it's one or the other, but I want to leave drafts with at least one.



A GRIMACING JAMES CONNER = A FAMILIAR SIGHT, UNFORTUNATELY

THE CARDINALS RB2 ROLE HAS BEEN HUGELY VALUABLE. I'M BETTING ON DARREL WILLIAMS & HIS RELIABILITY

ISIAH PACHECO [RB-KC] & JERICK MCKINNON [RB-KC]:

Update (8/18): Pacheco won't be eligible for the Round 16+ range much longer. In fact, in Underdog ADP, he's already going in the 150s. And it might not be insane. He was the No.2. RB into Preseason Week 1 action, well-ahead of **Ronald Jones**, and seeing three snaps with **Patrick Mahomes** (logging 1 target & 1 carry)

Pacheco is a sturdy 5'11", 215 lbs, with a 99th percentile 4.37 forty – the fastest weight-adjusted forty time of this class. The speed has been on full display, with MMQB's **Albert Breer** noting Pacheco was "[lighting up](#)" camp & even comparing him to **Kareem Hunt**. Every day since, a new tweet seems to emerge: Pacheco's [running with the 1s](#) and thriving – as a runner, protector, and pass-catcher (while even [playing in the slot](#)).

CEH has struggled to stay healthy. Within an **Andy Reid** scheme, lesser prospects but freakish athletes like **Damien Williams** have been league-winners. According to **Albert Breer**, Pacheco "lit up camp" to the point he drew [Kareem Hunt comparisons](#).

At minimum, Pacheco has locked-down the kick-returner role, so you know he's making the squad. How involved he'll be in the backfield remains to be seen, but the climb isn't exactly impossible. By far the highest-upside RB you can take in these rounds.

But don't forget **Jerick McKinnon**, either.

By the end of last year, McKinnon proved to be the best-fitting back in KC, largely due to his pass-catching prowess. He averaged 17.1 FPPG in the NFL Playoffs, and was outproducing + outsnapping Helaire, seeing 107 snaps & 33 touches compared to 36 snaps & 17 touches for Helaire.

I prefer Pacheco on sheer upside, but unless he forces McKinnon off the roster, don't discount the lead pass-catching RB here, either.

JD MCKISSIC (USABILITY)

McKissic isn't sexy, & I certainly prefer **Brian Robinson's** upside. Rather, if you've taken a light RB approach and need someone who's guaranteed to produce some positive weeks, McKissic's your guy; he is the rare, actually usable RB available in the final rounds.

McKissic has been the PPR RB18 & RB37 the past two seasons, actually leading all RBs in targets in 2020 while finishing 2nd in receiving yardage. He's 100% game-script dependent, but thankfully Washington continues to blow on defense, giving positive passing-game narratives. Since arriving in 2020, McKissic has finished as a Top-24 RB in 48% of his games, with a whopping 26% finishing in the Top-12. He has real spike-week upside, and makes an excellent last-round Best Ball stab for a thin RBs corps.

**PACHECO HYPE TRAIN =
FULL STEAM AHEAD. ADP = 152 [+50]**



RAHEEM MOSTERT & SONY MICHEL (RB-MIA)

This is another bet on scheme, as the 49ers routinely churned out late-round RB gems with new-HC **Mike McDaniels** as their run-game coordinator. Raheem Mostert followed his coach over, and we've seen his explosive abilities in this scheme – Mostert has two of the Top-four fastest speeds recorded by Next Gen Stats since 2016. Although his 2021 was limited to two carries, Mostert was rated as PFF's sixth-best running back in 2019 and 14th-best in 2020.

"This guy is just absolutely insane in the open field, extremely explosive," Pro Bowl fullback Kyle Juszczyk told the Fantasy Footballers podcast last April. "Nobody can catch him. It's ridiculous. Like, the angles these safeties try to take on him, and he still will leave them in the dust."

When healthy, we already know Mostert has been a glove-like fit for this scheme, with uncanny explosiveness and acceleration to complement his phenomenal vision. Hell, he even ripped off 220 yards, 4 TDs on 29 carries in the 2020 playoffs! It's just a matter of health & role, but Mostert is a fine bet in the later rounds.

And sometimes, availability can be the best trait. Both Mostert and Edmonds have durability question marks, and it seems likely **Sony Michel** could make some starts in this RB-friendly scheme in 2022. Hell, he might command short-yardage & goalline work from Day 1! Though unexplosive, Michel is capable on all-three downs (especially in protection). Injuries paved a path to Top-5 stretch run numbers for Michel last year, and while the Dolphins aren't the Rams, this offense drips in explosive upside. It's a rare three-headed attack that I actually will buy into at all the respective prices.

JAYLEN WARREN (RB-STEELERS)

An underwhelming athlete, **Jaylen Warren** nonetheless produces. He brings a three-down skillset, racking up 1441 YFS & 11 TDs on 281 touches (25 rec) in college -- sturdy, reliable traits he's shown throughout camp and the Preseason.

Even prior to Week 1 Action, ESPN's **Brooke Pryor** said the UDFA had "real staying power...he isn't just a flash in the pan." He then ripped off 34 yards on six carries while hauling in 4 receptions for 30 yards & a score in his first NFL action. The next Monday? Warren [saw first-team snaps](#) and "appears" [to have supplanted Benny Snell](#) for the No.2 role.

This could be potentially huge. As mentioned with Najee, the "Tomlin Workhorse" role has been among the most valuable in all of fantasy, feeding RBs well-over 20 opps (carries & tgts) a game. Even backups like **DeAngelo Williams** performed as Top-3 RBs on the sheer volume, and Warren appears to have the skills to see 15-20 touches in the absence of Harris. He's an excellent last-round Best Ball stab and redraft bench stash who would go for all the FAAB should anything happen to Harris. One of the most valuable, yet cheapest, handcuffs in the game.

JOSHUA KELLEY (RB-CHARGERS)

Less appetizing because we've already "seen it," **Joshua Kelley** nonetheless finds himself ["firmly"](#) in the invaluable RB2 role for the Chargers, at least for now. He's showing more burst this preseason, recently ripping 44 YFS on six touches (3 rec) in an effort that "distanced himself" in the backup competition.

In his lone start last year, **Justin Jackson** 72% of snaps, 19 touches (8 rec, 9 tgts), 162 total yards, 2 TDs – good for 34.2 PPR FPs & RB1 of Week 16. It's among the sexiest handcuff roles, again for free – if he can hold off Spiller. I do think that's a big if, but Spiller has underwhelmed while Kelley shines. Take the discount.

DONTRELL HILLIARD (RB-TITANS)

Whenever used, Hilliard seems to produce. Splitting time with **D'Onta Foreman** in **Derrick Henry's** absence, Hilliard ended up posting the second highest YPC in the NFL last year, ripping off three 16+ FP efforts in 7 total games despite playing second-fiddle for much of it. He showed some real big-play ability while shredding the Pats for 131 yards & a score.

He's carried momentum to 2022 Training Camp, where he's "[regularly made plays](#)" in camp, to the point the team felt comfortable cutting **Jordan Wilkins**, his competition for the third-down role. Hilliard reportedly score three TDs during joint practices, including two receptions from Ryan Tannehill, "leaving no doubt" he'll be the team's top third-down option.

Remember, no team vacated more targets, Air Yards, or receiving scores. Hilliard could be a real factor, with some big handcuff upside-- he reportedly "[impressed while carrying a heavy workload](#)" during OTAs as well.

Some real standalone third-down value makes Hilliard a true handcuff-with-benefits.

JEFF WILSON (RB-SF)

Ugh, here we go again.

Perhaps I'm stuck in 2020, when Wilson led the 49ers in rushing yards (604) & TDs (10 total) while finishing as the Half-PPR RB21. He was an absolute monster whenever used, spiking for Top-12 numbers four times in 11 games (36%), including 4/6 times he saw 12+ carries.

Last year, he proceeded to suck in all-but-one game. Wilson looked like a far-cry from the explosive runner we saw in 2020 after undergoing an early-season meniscus surgery. He's reportedly "[looked much healthier](#)" during the offseason program, as well as "the 49ers best route-runner out of the backfield."

He's also running as the No.2 right now after "[putting together the best case](#) to share work with Mitchell" after showing "[added speed and wiggle](#)" this offseason. Given Mitchell missed six games with about 10 different ailments, there's a real chance Wilson makes some starts – situations he thrived in when healthy in 2020. He's well-worth a late round stab.

UNEXPECTED HANDCUFFS



BOSTON SCOTT (RB-PHI)

A rare last-round RB with some actual usability, Scott is a sneaky TD Maven. He hides behind his blockers so well & has surprising power packed into his small frame, making him a great scoring threat. He also started ahead of **Kenny Gainwell** in Preseason Week 2 while Sanders was out hurt, suggesting Scott might force more of an RBBC if (when) Sanders misses time. He looked juicy too – taking 11 touches for 44 YFS & a TD.

Scott actually had as many Top-12 & Top-24 weeks as Sanders (4 total each), but goes largely undrafted. He'd be tough to trust without an injury, but Sanders has missed time every year. This is also just another reason to be cautious with Sanders, too.

AMEER ABDULLAH (RB-LV)

A "[camp revelation](#)," Abdullah has been THRIVING in **Josh McDaniels'** "James White Role" – to the point the Raiders released **Kenyan Drake**. Taking away the Cam Newton fiasco (2020), White's last four years: 86 tgts (16%), 72 tgts (13%), 123 tgts (23%), 95 tgts (17%) and over 4 catches per game.

There's 0% chance Abdullah inherits that many targets while surrounded by Adams, Renfrow, and Waller. Still, he saw more targets than **Joe Mixon** in just 11 games last year and is plenty capable as a pass-catcher. Even ~60 targets would unlock a path to volume & some Best Ball Spike weeks. The team has actually held Abdullah out of there last 2 preseason games, suggesting his importance to the squad. Well-worth a last round PPR Stab.

ROUND 16-20+ QB TARGET



*NOTE: In Redraft, I'd rarely, if ever, consider a QB this late -- the Waiver Wire will have similar talent. But in Best Ball, if I've foregone my usual "2 guys in Rounds 8-10" (i.e. I have **Josh Allen** & need a last-round QB2), there's one guy I'm zooming in on*

DAVIS MILLS (QB-HOU)

He'll likely go undrafted in most redraft leagues. However, in Best Ball, Mills could be an ideal QB2 or QB3 (on 20 spot rosters OR if you punt the position). He had four 300+ yard days & Top-12 Fantasy Performances (just 1 less than **Lamar Jackson**) in only 12 starts as a rookie. Mills just may have been the most impressive rookie QB outside of **Mac Jones**.

Thus far, Mills has reportedly "taken control over the offense" while showing "vast improvements" over last [year's shortcomings](#). He linked up with teammates all offseason to build chemistry, and is showing real leadership while gaining complete trust from his weapons. He's "playing faster" and processing defenses at a [much higher clip](#).

Most importantly: the Texans will blow. As will most of that division. Mills will need to pile up yards and scores to keep the Texans mildly competitive in 2022. As such, Mills has an outside shot at Top-15 Fantasy Numbers on their need to chuck it alone.

I also really like **Pep Hamilton**, who's engineered some high-powered, fast-paced Aerial Attacks in his days. Underrated scheme, underrated QB -- I think this duo could be sneaky high upside.



**AS THE OLD SAYING GOES:
BIG NECK =
BIG FANTASY UPSIDE**

Draft Day Cheat Sheet: Targets / Value + Fades By Round

👉 = Top Targets

Based on Underdog Price

Round 1 (1-12):

GOAL: Bellcow or Target Hog (Kupp, JJeff, maybeeee Jamar only acceptable WRs)

- **Target:** Any Bellcow (esp. Mid-Austin Ekeler & Late Dalvin Cook👉) or Cooper Kupp👉, Justin Jefferson
- **Fade:** Lower on: Davante Adams, Najee Harris

Round 2 (13-24):

GOAL: Secure 1st or 2nd Bellcow - Can't leave Rounds 1 & 2 without at least 1 RB

First check for: Dalvin Cook & Joe Mixon Falling out of Round 1

- **RB Target:** Bellcow Pt 2: Joe Mixon, Alvin Kamara👉, Saquon Barkley, Aaron Jones
- **WR Target:** CeeDee Lamb, Mike Evans, Keenan Allen
- **TE Target:** If Travis Kelce falls, hammer it
- **Fade:** Nick Chubb, Tyreek Hill
- **Caution:** Leonard Fournette, D'Andre Swift, Javonte Williams, Mark Andrews

Round 3 (25-36): Last RBs before "Dead Zone" & Last WR1s

GOAL: Ideally 2-3 RBs secured by Round 3. Consider Josh Allen Edge

- **RB Target:** James Conner👉
- **WR Target:** Keenan Allen👉, AJ Brown, Michael Pittman, Cortland Sutton (love this group)
- **STONGLY CONSIDER:** The Kyle Pitts👉 & Josh Allen Edges
- **Fade:** Jaylen Waddle, DJ Moore, Travis Etienne
- **Caution:** Tee Higgins at cost

Rounds 4-5 (37-60) = Ideal RB2/RB3s & Huge Upside WRs

"RB Deadzone" = Later in 2022

GOAL BUILD = 3 RB & 2 WR OR you have Pitts & only 2 RBs. HUGE RB Drop Off after David Montgomery. LOVE the Round 4-5 WRs (as well as Round 6-7)

- **WR Target:** Allen Robinson👉, Gabriel Davis👉, Diontae Johnson, Amon-Ra St. Brown👉, Brandin Cooks, Chris Godwin
- **RB Target:** Ezekiel Elliott... maybe David Montgomery (big drop off)
- **QBs to Consider:** Justin Herbert
- **Fade:** Patrick Mahomes, Lamar Jackson, DK Metcalf, Terry McLaurin, Marquise Brown
- **Caution:** George Kittle (at cost) UPDATE - Breece Hall, Cam Akers

Rounds 6-7 (61-784) = WR HEAVEN + Cheat Code QBs + Schultz

First check for any of the above ^^ RBs or WRs.

Keep building WR Depth. RB Dead Zone starts here - so hopefully you have 3 by Montgomery.

Could consider "Cheat Code" QB like Hurts LOVE Round 6 Schultz

- **WR Target:** Michael Thomas, Adam Thielen, Darnell Mooney, Hunter Renfrow, Drake London, Brandon Aiyuk, Allen Lazard
- **TE Target:** Dalton Schultz
- **RB Options:** JK Dobbins, AJ Dillon
- **QBs to Consider:** Jalen Hurts, Kyler Murray
- **Fades:** Josh Jacobs, Antonio Gibson, Miles Sanders, Eli Moore, Devonta Smith, Amari Cooper

Rounds 8-10 (85-120) - Onesie Time (QB1, TE1, & Falling Depth)

Lock up a Huge Upside QB1 (Possibly QB2 in Best Ball) + Add Upside Depth (RBs Intriguing Again) - Unless Round 7 WR Targets Fall (Renfrow, Aiyuk), WR depth sucks here

QB Targets - ALL! Russell Wilson, Tom Brady, Dak Prescott, Trey Lance, Matthew Stafford
For Best Ball - 2 of these guys = huge advantage. Otherwise, consider: Kirk Cousins, Derek Carr

TE Target(s): Dallas Goedert, Dawson Knox

RB Targets: Chase Edmonds, Rhamondre Stevenson, Devin Singletary & James Cook, Melvin Gordon

If Need WR: Titans - Robert Woods; Chris Olave

Fades: Clyde Edwards-Helaire, Miles Sanders (again), KENNY GOLLADAY, TJ Hockenson, Aaron Rodgers, Tyler Boyd, Garrett Wilson

Round 11-15 (121-170)

Build that bench! SWING FOR THE FENCES

Should have all starters by now: 1-2 QBs, 3-4 RBs, 3-4 WRs, 1-2 TEs - NOW ADD UPSIDE

GOAL: Add a mix of "Upside / Ceiling" vs. "Usability / Floor" at all positions

Typical Roster Builds (18 total) = 2 QB, 6 RB, 8 WR, 2 TE

**NOTE: RBs drop off HUGE after these rounds, whereas lots of WRs w/ upside exist from Rounds 16-20.

Round 11-15 RB Targets:

Rookie RBs TARGETS: Rachaad White, Dameon Pierce, Brian Robinson, Kenneth Gainwell, Nyheim Hines (usable)

Round 11-15 WR Targets: Jalen Tolbert, Rondale Moore, Jahan Dotson, KJ Osborn, Joshua Palmer (Handcuff w/ Benefits), Nico Collins, George Pickens

Upside TE2 (or last acceptable TE1s): Pat Freirmuth, Gerald Everett, Albert O

If need a QB2: Matt Ryan, Justin Fields for Konami Upside

Round 11-15 Fades:

Corey Davis, Van Jefferson, Sammy Watkins, Devante Parker, Tyler Allgeier, Tyrion Davis-Price, Noah Fant, Mike Gesicki, Zach Wilson

ROUNDS 16-20

REALLY, REALLY HACK FOR THE FENCES

Minimal Usability in this range, just go for the home run!

****NOTE: Many more WRs I love in this range - I often end with 2-3 WRs**

WR Targets: KJ Hamler, Wan'Dale Robinson, Romeo Doubs, Alec Pierce & Parris Campbell, Velus Jones Jr, Randall Cobb, Tyquan Thornton, Danny Gray

RB Targets: Darrel Williams & Eno Benjamin, Isaiah Pacheco & Jerick McKinnon, JD McKissic (Usability); Raheem Mostert & Sony Michel, Dontrell Hilliard, Jaylen Warren, Jeff Wilson, Josh Kelley

TE Targets: Austin Hooper, Hayden Hurst, Evan Engram, Kyle Rudolph, Mo Alie-Cox

QB Targets (BB): Davis Mills, Jared Goff

FAREWELL

Fantasy Wolf,

Whether you just skimmed through the cheat-sheet, or dove into every word on all 100 pages here, I again want to say: thank you. I hope you feel far more prepared -- with the right strategies & player targets -- then you were before reading.

For those who are returning from 2021: I also hope you found this 2022 Investing Guide & Projections to be a vast improvement. I took the feedback we received to heart & tried to make a more visually engaging, better-laid-out guide. It took a lot of time, but I'm very proud of how it came out & hope you felt it was well-worth your money.

Whether that's the case or not, I would again love to hear from you. Whether you want to send me a direct DM [@RotoStreetWolf](#), or fill in this [Feedback Form](#), any insight on what worked well and what could be improved would be so appreciated!

Thank you once again -- your support means the world & will greatly help us on our mission to reach the Fantasy Moon! Best of luck in 2022 -- be sure to tune into the streams & bookmark rotostreetjournal.com to make sure you dominate your 2022 Fantasy Football League with the best in-season advice in the game!

Much love,
Wolf