



# 2021 FANTASY LAW GUIDE

By: Nick Guarisco  
[@FantasyLawGuy](#)

[Fantasy Law Guy Podcast](#) episodes will follow, providing detailed explanations behind each player ranking and an in-depth strategy discussion for each round!

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

- Draft Board – Top-75 .....	2-18
- Draft Board – Rounds 9-12 or Picks 90-150 (Sleepers) .....	18-21
- Draft Board – Rounds 13-17 or Picks 150+ (K, DST, Dart Throws) .....	21-54
- Players to Avoid at/near Cost (Fades) .....	25
- Commissioner’s Corner .....	26-
o Super Flex Sex .....	26-30
o Guarisco Playoff Format .....	31-33
o Other Ways to Improve Your Fantasy Leagues .....	34-36
o Recommended Roster Settings & Scoring .....	37-39
- Expert Transparency – Last Year’s Hits & Misses .....	40-42
- My Fantasy Football League History .....	43-65
- Acknowledgments .....	66

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## KEY:

- The “Fantasy Law Guide” is my Fantasy Football Draft Board and Strategy Guide.
- These are not player rankings.
- Assumes a 10 or 12-Team League with PPR scoring (QB, RB, RB, WR, WR, TE, FLEX, K, DST).
- **ADP** = Average Draft Position. Based on ESPN, Yahoo! and FantasyPros.com.
- **CGS** = Contextualized Gamelog Scoring. My re-calculation of every player’s PPG average when excluding faulty games (such as early exits due to injury/ejection, games played with backup QBs, unpassable weather, etc.) from their sample, while including playoff games. CGS is a more accurate version of PPG. All players are re-scored and re-ranked according to their CGS Pace. For more info, see “*2021 Contextualized Gamelogs*” on the [FantasyLawGuy.com](http://FantasyLawGuy.com) homepage.
- **Red** = Quarterback
- **Blue** = Running Back
- **Green** = Wide Receiver
- **Orange** = Tight End

## Round 1

1. **Christian McCaffrey** (RB1 ... ADP: 1, RB1) – 2020 CGS = 30.13 PPG in 3 Games, RB1 Pace. Recall that in 2019, CMC outscored the RB2 overall by 8 PPG (!) in a prime LaDainian Tomlinson-like season. Consensus No. 1 player in all formats.
2. **Ezekiel Elliot** (RB2 ... ADP: 6, RB6) – 2020 CGS = 14.9 PPG in 15 Games, RB21 Pace. But Zeke was a Top-5 RB in 5 Games with Dak Prescott (First 5 Games: 22.34 PPG, RB4 Pace). Had 1-yard TD called back in Week 2 (Dak had 3 RUTDs Week 2) and again in Week 4. Fed in pass game Weeks 2-4 because DAL trailed big, 2 drops in Week 3. Had ran 46 more pass routes than 2<sup>nd</sup> highest RB through 4 weeks. Due positive TD regression: scored 8 TDs but had 12.7 OTDs, per Mike Clay. Ran behind backup QBs and injured O-Line (LT Smith played 2 games, C Looney DNP 5 games, RG Martin DNP 8 games, RT Collins DNP all year). Dealt with minor calf and hamstring issues down the stretch. Zeke looked slow and fumbled 6 times. Backup Tony Pollard looked more explosive. Yet, Zeke somehow still finished as a Top-12 RB for 5<sup>th</sup> straight season. Has drawn rave reviews from coaches, Prescott, and beat writers for a more dedicated approach and work ethic this offseason, showing up to camp in the best shape of his career. Looks lean, cut, quicker, and motivated on Hard Knocks. Never misses games, and comes with a rare, strong handcuff (Tony Pollard an affordable, reliable insurance policy). Essentially a tie-breaker with Cook at No. 2 comes down to durability.
3. **Dalvin Cook** (RB3 ... ADP: 2, RB2) – 2020 CGS = 24.45 PPG in 13 Games (exc. Wk 5 early 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit + 2 DNPs), RB2 Pace. Became first RB to open with 8 straight games with 5.0+ YPC. However,

it is worth noting that his production declined slightly in the second half of the season. Averaged 30 touches per game Weeks 8-13, but got a little overworked, and production dipped down the stretch. (First 7 Games: 28.7 PPG, RB2 Pace, 144-858-12, 5.9 YPC ... Final 7 Games = 19.5 PPG, RB6 Pace, 168-699-4, 4.16 YPC). In 2019, Cook's 22.63 PPG in 11 Games was also RB2 Pace. 14 games played was a career high. Bell cow RB plays for run-oriented coach in fantasy-friendly zone-blocking scheme that Cook excels in. Durability is a major concern; misses games every season. Alexander Mattison should be considered a required handcuff. I've been drafting Mattison everywhere (regardless if I've taken Cook).

4. **Austin Ekeler** (RB4 ... ADP: 11, RB8) – 2020 CGS = 21.88 PPG in 7 Games (exc. Wk 1 Taylor at QB, Wk 4 early exit), RB5 Pace. This was despite returning from major thigh injury, with Questionable tag and on pitch count for 2 games, wasn't 100% in final 3 games. Stopped inches short of RETD Week 12. Scored 50.1 pts in 2 games (vs. KC/CAR) with Herbert before quad injury. Also averaged 26.75 PPG in 4 games without Melvin Gordon in 2019 (RB2 Pace in '19). Chargers OC Joe Lombardi (former Saints QB coach) compared Ekeler to Alvin Kamara, Reggie Bush, and Darren Sproles. The Saints have utilized their RBs in the passing game more than any team. Underrated player; has shown elite efficiency in several important metrics over the last 3 seasons. All indications point to role expanding; Chargers are putting him in bubble wrap, not playing him at all in the preseason. Ekeler was not trusted at the goal line by the previous coaching staff, but new regime may differ. RBs behind him are underwhelming. Will overcompensate in receptions to make up for possible lack of RUTDs in PPR formats, but Henry and Chubb are better bets in non-PPR settings.
5. **Davante Adams** (WR1 ... ADP: 8, WR1) – 2020 CGS = 26.34 PPG in 15 Games (exc. Wk 2 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit, 2 DNP + 2 Playoff), WR1 Pace. Dominance last year was underappreciated. Averaged about 4 PPG more than WR2 (Hill) in CGS. Target hog in magical season with MVP QB. His insane stretch began in the final 5 games of 2019 (25.4 PPG). Due TD regression (scored 18 TDs on only 9.7 OTDs, according to Mike Clay), but so is Hill. Running it back for one more season with Rodgers. Packers still lack quality receivers.
6. **Derrick Henry** (RB5 ... ADP: 4, RB4) – 2020 CGS = 20.1 PPG in 17 Games (+1 Playoff), RB6 Pace. In 2020, Henry scored 22.5 PPG in 12 games with Ryan Tannehill (RB2 Pace). Losing OC Arthur Smith is not a small deal. I'm expecting TEN to be less efficient, throw more with the addition of Julio Jones. Good O-Line. One dimensional, not used in passing game (31 targets was a career high). Can hurt you in negative gamescripts. Better suited for non-PPR or half-PPR settings. Workload is a concern following 397 and 321 touch seasons, but Henry is a beast who has warranted "exception to the rule" status. Worth noting that production against soft opponents carried the day; 202/341 points came vs. MIN, HOUx2, IND w/o DT Buckner, JAX, and DET. But Henry is no stranger to eruption games and still gets to play IND, HOU, and JAX twice a year. PFF's No. 1 graded RB. Incredible rushing talent who remains the Titans' offensive identity. Top-5 pick in non-PPR formats.
7. **Alvin Kamara** (RB6 ... ADP: 3, RB3) – 2020 CGS = 24.17 PPG in 17 Games (1 DNP + 2 Playoffs), RB3 Pace. Kamara averaged 27.23 PPG (RB2 Pace) in 13 games with Drew Brees; he averaged 14.2 PPG (RB22 Pace) in 4 games with Taysom Hill at QB. Brees retired, but Kamara benefits from absence of Michael Thomas. Kamara averaged 18.25 PPG (RB7 Pace) in 9 games with Michael Thomas, as opposed to 30.82 PPG in games MT didn't play. Sean Payton could "lean heavily" on

Kamara as focal point with the shift and uncertainty at QB following Brees' retirement. TD regression inevitable (21 TDs, 11.9 OTDs per Mike Clay), but Kamara has been prolific TD scorer his entire career. Sean Payton will find creative ways to get him the ball.

8. **Nick Chubb** (RB7 ... ADP: 12, RB9) – 2020 CGS = 18.24 PPG in 13 Games (exc. Wk 4 1<sup>st</sup> Q exit, 4 DNPs + 2 Playoff), RB7 Pace. Impressively overcame sprained MCL last season to finish with 7<sup>th</sup> best PPG mark. Chubb lacks Top-3 upside in PPR formats thanks to the presence of Kareem Hunt siphoning away pass game usage, but Hunt was used less frequently down the stretch (just 9 touches per game in final 6 games, Weeks 14-19), and we should be prioritizing safety in the early rounds, not upside. Argument that Chubb isn't worthy of Round 1 selection in PPR format because he doesn't catch passes assumes all other first rounders will hit. They won't; about 25-40% of first and second round fantasy picks will flop. Chubb likely won't be one of them. K.I.S.S. case: arguably the league's talented runner, running behind arguably the best offensive line in football with an objectively great, run-minded coaching staff (Kevin Stefanski, Bill Callahan, etc.). Gamescript-dependent, but CLE is expected to be a playoff team, which means more positive gamescripts. Top-5 pick in non-PPR formats.
9. **Travis Kelce** (TE1 ... ADP: 13, TE1) – 2020 CGS = 22.09 PPG in 18 Games (1 DNP + 3 Playoff). First 7 Games = 16.87 PPG (TE3 Pace), 56/40-501-5 (16-Pace = 128/91-1145-11). Final 11 Games = 25.42 PPG (TE1 Pace), 129/96-1269-9 (16-Pace = 187/139-1845-13). Unstoppable down the stretch. Provided massive advantage over the weak TE field. Has finished as the TE1 for 5 straight seasons. Pat Mahomes is the QB. Value argument can be made that Kelce should be a Top-5 pick in PPR formats because of the weekly advantage at TE. I buy it, but it's easier said than done in practice. My roster feels more fragile when I take Kelce in Round 1, as opposed to going RB, RB/WR, Waller early in Round 3, for example. Stressing the importance of pairing Kelce with an RB in the first two rounds.
10. **Tyreek Hill** (WR2 ... ADP: 10, WR1) – 2020 CGS = 21.57 PPG in 18 Games (1 DNP + 3 Playoff), WR2 Pace. Likely TD regression (17 TDs, 8.9 OTDs) arguably combatted by missed opportunities for TDs last season: 75-yard TD nullified by holding in Week 5 and 2 missed TDs in Week 13 (one called back by penalty, another caught but ruled incomplete and not challenged). K.I.S.S. case: great, electric receiver attached to the game's best quarterback/player in Pat Mahomes. I have a tough time ranking Hill > Kelce when Kelce averaged more PPG than Hill at a MUCH scarcer position.
11. **Jonathan Taylor** (RB8 ... ADP: 12, RB10) – 2020 CGS = 16.82 PPG in 16 Games (1 DNP + 1 Playoff), RB12 Pace. First 9 Games = 11.9 PPG (RB30 Pace), 113-428-3 (3.78 YPC). Final 7 games, inc. playoff = 23.15 PPG (RB4 Pace), 140-819-8 (5.85 YPC). Worth noting soft stretch of opponents in span: GB, HOUx2, LVR, PIT, JAX, BUF. His impressive 92% catch rate on 39 targets for 299 REYD is likely Philip Rivers' doing; expect fewer dump offs with Wentz. Nyheim Hines will annoy on passing downs, but Taylor will be Colts' identity. HC Frank Reich said Taylor has "earned the right to be the main guy." My bigger concern is scoring opportunities with uncertainty at QB (Wentz injured). Dip in ADP following Wentz injury could provide discount. I believe in the talent.
12. **Stefon Diggs** (WR3 ... ADP: 13, WR3) – 2020 CGS = 20.95 PPG in 18 Games (exc. Wk 17 halftime rest + 3 Playoff), WR3 Pace. Had two 2-yard TDs called back by penalty on same drive in Week 3. Played through torn oblique during two postseason games. Game's best route runner had massive impact on Josh Allen's development. Has been one of the league's best talents at WR for years

but was not showcased in Minnesota (limited volume, lack of deep shots). Not an issue in Buffalo. Prime Antonio Brown-lite.

## Round 2

13. **Aaron Jones** (RB9 ... ADP: 9, RB7) – 2020 CGS = 17.66 PPG in 16 Games (2 DNP + 2 Playoff), RB9 Pace. Had short TD called back in Week 1. Jones remained one of the league's most efficient RBs (5.2 YPC and scored 12 TDs after 19 in 2019). Jamaal Williams departed. Love Jones' game and that he's attached to Rodgers in a great offense, but I'm a little lower than consensus on Jones because I think Green Bay is a little higher than consensus on A.J. Dillon. O-Line downgrades (minus LT Bakhtiari for half the season and C Linsley) and tougher schedule are minor concerns. Will the bigger Dillon be the preferred goal line back? It's not out of the realm of possibility that this is close to a 50/50 split, and while Jones may prove me wrong, I cannot stomach that RBBC possibility in Round 1. Still, receptions and a great offense will keep Jones valuable, particularly in PPR formats. Jones has been a Top-5 RB two straight seasons. But I have a second round grade on him this year.
14. **Antonio Gibson** (RB10 ... ADP: 17, RB11) – 2020 CGS = 14.74 PPG in 14 Games (exc. Wk 13 1<sup>st</sup> Q, 2 DNPs + 1 Playoff), RB21 Pace. First 6 Games = 12.33 PPG (RB29 Pace). 3 Games Post Toe Injury, Weeks 16-18 = 8.2 PPG. 5 Games as bell cow before toe injury, Weeks 7-12 = 21.56 PPG (RB6 Pace), but this stretch of weak opponents included DALx2, DET, CIN, NYG. Scott Turner, son of Norv, has long track record of successful bell cow RBs (CMC most recently). Took a few weeks to be lead back as he was very raw (limited college touches as gadget player / receiver), but he has skill set to finish as a Top-5 back. Will have to overtake J.D. McKissic as pass down back, and his increased involvement as receiver seems like a natural progression. I'm buying; I do not think McKissic will be as big of a factor. Turf toe is a concern. But I like that WFT projects to field a great defense and plays in a weak defensive division. Love his fantasy playoff schedule: @LVR, DAL, @PHI, @DAL, PHI in Weeks 13-17. Admittedly carries more risk and a greater range of outcomes than I'd prefer in Round 2.
15. **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** (RB11 ... ADP: 21, RB14) – 2020 CGS = 12.96 PPG in 15 Games (3 DNP + 2 Playoff), RB28 Pace. First 6 Games Pre- Le'veon Bell Activated = 15.86 PPG (RB18 Pace), 107-505-1 (4.71 YPC), 17.83 carries per game, 3.5 catches per game. Final 9 Games (Post Bell) = 89-309 (3.47 YPC), 9.88 carries per game, 2 catches per game. Painfully inefficient as a rookie who disappointed as a first round pick hand-picked and appearing poised for success in an offense quarterbacked by Pat Mahomes and coached by Andy Reid. Note Reid's outstanding history of successful RB1s (Brian Westbrook, LeSean McCoy, Jamaal Charles). LeSean McCoy went 155-637-4 (4.1 YPC) as a rookie under Reid. James Palmer reported that KC is emphasizing short to intermediate passes to RBs and TEs, noting that Andy Reid and Patrick Mahomes agreed the team needs to make more plays when Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce are covered. Due positive TD regression. Last season, as a rookie with a Covid-shortened offseason, had 6 carries inside the 5-yard line and failed to convert in Week 1, had a 30-yard catch called back by penalty in Week 2, Calais Campbell tipped a screen pass where CEH was set up for at least a 20-30 yard gainer with

blockers in front in Week 3. He had a RETD called back by an illegal pick in Week 5. He had a RUTD negated by penalty in Week 6. He dropped a short RETD in Week 7. Despite all of that, CEH was RB18 on only 1 TD through 6 weeks before Le'Veon Bell was signed. Basically, CEH merely has to be good enough to get opportunities, and he'll pay off simply based on being the lead RB in this offense. He carries a fair amount of risk having not been proven, but he's a major breakout candidate this season.

16. **Joe Mixon** (RB12 ... ADP: 18, RB12) – 2020 CGS = 16.6 PPG in 6 Games, RB14 Pace (but note 42.1/99.6 pts came in 1 game vs. JAX). Mixon is pleased with the hiring of O-Line coach Frank Pollack, who previously held the same job for Cincinnati in 2018, Mixon's best season (1,464 YFS, 9 TDs, 4.9 YPC in 14 games). Bengals beat believes Mixon will handle "the largest workload" of his career following the departure of passing down back Gio Bernard. OC Callahan wishes that Mixon doesn't "leave the field," though HC Zac Taylor suggested Mixon would share the pass down role. At minimum, I'm expecting an uptick in receptions. Further, the team could rely on Mixon more with Burrow coming off the torn ACL. Talent has never been the issue. Poor O-Line and tough division remain obstacles.
17. **Calvin Ridley** (WR4 ... ADP: 18, WR5) – 2020 CGS = 19.59 PPG in 14 Games (exc. Wk 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Q exit, 1 DNP), WR5 Pace. 5 Full Games with Julio Jones (Wks 1-2, 6-7, 13) = 23.68 PPG, WR2 Pace, 46/29-458-5. 8 Full Games without Julio (Wks 4-5, 12, 14-17) = 17.73 PPG, WR11 Pace. Led the NFL Air Yards by a significant margin last season. Julio Jones has departed. Within Ridley's range of outcomes that he leads the NFL in targets, receiving yards. I'm a little concerned about his injury history and the chance that Matt Ryan may be dust. But Falcons have no defense, no running game, and play indoors, which should lead to plenty of clean, throwing environments in the second half of games.
18. **DeAndre Hopkins** (WR5 ... ADP: 17, WR4) – 2020 CGS = 18.68 PPG in 15 Games (exc. Wk 17 Murray early exit), WR8 Pace. First 9 Games = 19.4 PPG, WR6 Pace. Final 6 Games with Murray = 17.53 PPG, WR11 Pace. Has missed 1 game in his entire career. His 29.4% target share ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2020 despite virtually no offseason to learn new offense and develop chemistry with his QB. Iron man, doesn't miss games; has played 111 out of a possible 112 games in his career (99.1%). One of the safest picks in fantasy football. Worth noting the Cardinals brought in some reinforcements at WR: A.J. Green and rookie Rondale Moore.
19. **Saquon Barkley** (RB13 ... ADP: 6, RB5) – Coming off the torn ACL in Week 2 but could not have surgery until November as he waited for the MCL to heal. Jordan Raanan reported the Giants could limit Barkley's snaps early on. Barkley himself has implied he may be eased in, dodging direct answers to whether he'll be ready Week 1 and suggesting that he wants to be "110%" before he returns. Giants plan to take a "long term" approach with Barkley. "There's a 'chance' he'll be ready for Week 1." The Giants signed pass catching specialist Devontae Booker. It's possible that Barkley misses the first two weeks of the season, it's possible that he plays but is eased in. And it's possible that he's ready to rock and roll in Week 1 (recall, he is a freak of nature). But even assuming he's ready, he's being overrated by the industry experts. Daniel Jones doesn't dump off to RBs like Eli Manning did, so there was already concern his receiving projection was overstated. Jones has been bad. OC Jason Garrett is trash. The offensive line is a dump. There's not a lot to like about this situation other than Barkley's talent. But coming off the ACL, he may not be full strength in that department. Carries too much risk for Round 1; I view him as a second round selection.

20. **Najee Harris** (RB14 ... ADP: 18, RB13) – After abandoning the run midway through last season, the Steelers made it their primary offseason objective to re-establish the run. PIT was locked into Harris throughout draft process; interest was well known around league circles. Steelers seem devoted to giving their prized rookie all he can handle, a la Le'Veon Bell. Steelers GM Kevin Colbert said the team would "be disappointed" if Najee Harris wasn't a three-down back. Mike Tomlin has a history of riding RBs "until the wheels fall off." New OC Matt Canada says Steelers offense resembles what Harris did at Alabama. No real competition for touches. Has size of a bruiser (6'1, 232) who will get goal line work and has nice receiving chops too. Offense may further lean on him with Big Ben declining. Concerns include bad O-Line and inherent risk of drafting an unproven rookie this high.
21. **Justin Jefferson** (WR6 ... ADP: 22, WR7) – 2020 CGS = 18.72 PPG in 14 Games (exc. Wks 1-2 rotational player), WR7 Pace. Final 8 Games = 19.68 PPG, WR5 Pace, 81/54-773-4. Broke receiving yardage record for rookies despite being a rotational player Weeks 1-2. PFF's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest graded WR. Volume concerns in run-first offense with projected improved defense, but it's possible Jefferson is just scratching the surface.
22. **Darren Waller** (TE2 ... ADP: 28, TE2) – 2020 CGS = 17.4 PPG in 16 Games, TE3 Pace. First 11 Games = 13.29 PPG (TE3 Pace), 91/64-542-5. Final 5 Games (1 with Mariota mostly) = 26.48 PPG (TE1 Pace), 55/43-654-4. Dropped wide open 60-yard TD in Week 10. Extremely strong finish for Derek Carr's security blanket. Vegas plays indoors and projects to field one of the league's worst defenses, creating clean opportunities for Waller in garbage time. No-brainer second round pick.
23. **D.K. Metcalf** (WR7 ... ADP: 19, WR6) – 2020 CGS = 17.52 PPG in 17 Games (+1 Playoff), WR12 Pace. First 8 Games = 20.97 PPG, WR3 Pace, 68/43-788-8. Final 9 Games = 14.45 PPG, WR32 Pace, 72/48-632-4. Said opponents "figured out" the Seahawks' offensive formula in 2020, leading to decline in production in second half of season. If Seattle lets Russ cook, this ranking will be too low. But Pete Carroll vowed to get back to establishing the run, which is what resulted in Metcalf's slow second half. There are reasons to tread lightly, despite the freak talent.
24. **A.J. Brown** (WR8 ... ADP: 23, WR7) – 2020 CGS = 17.85 PPG in 15 Games (2 DNP + 1 Playoff), WR10 Pace. Had surgery on both his knees. Titans believed his 2020 season could be done after week 1 knee injury, but played through pain after missing only 2 games. Corey Davis and Jonnu Smith departed, but TEN added Julio Jones and Josh Reynolds. A Top-5 fantasy WR outlook prior to the Julio trade, AJB has been going overlooked since. Automatic in Round 3, as I see a drop off after AJB before the next tier of WRs.

## Round 3

25. **Keenan Allen** (WR9 ... ADP: 27, WR9) – 2020 CGS = 20.35 PPG in 11 Games (exc. Wk 1 with Taylor at QB, Wks 5, 15 early exits, 2 DNPs), WR4 Pace. A target magnet for young Justin Herbert, who locked on to Allen weekly last season. Austin Ekeler, Mike Williams may cut into targets in new offense.

26. **Terry McLaurin** (WR10 ... ADP: 28, WR10) – 2020 CGS = 14.83 PPG, WR29 Pace. First 10 Games (Pre Ankle Injury) = 16.81 PPG, WR16 Pace. Smooth route runner with great deep speed, poised to breakout at some point. Only 32<sup>nd</sup> in aDOT last season, but played with 4 QBs (Alex Smith 6 starts, Dwayne Haskins 6, Kyle Allen 4, and Taylor Heinicke 1). Now gets Ryan Fitzpatrick, much more aggressive QB. Offseason reports indicate WFT focusing on aggressiveness, looking for bigger plays down the field. Lots of untapped potential here considering he played through 2 ankle sprains last season and 4 different QBs; despite this, Scary Terry was WR16 Pace in first 10 games before second ankle sprain.
27. **CeeDee Lamb** (WR11 ... ADP: 32, WR12) – 5 Games with Dak Prescott = 17.12 PPG, WR14 Pace, 40/29-433-2 (Prorated to 16 = 128/92-1385-6). Popular breakout candidate and clear ascending talent. Daily highlight reel in training camp. Cowboys want him to be a star. Tied to Dak Prescott, but a lot of mouths to feed in Dallas.
28. **Patrick Mahomes** (QB1 ... ADP: QB1) – 2020 CGS = 25.0 PPG in 15 Games (exc. 3 Playoffs with 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit Wk 18 and turf toe injury Wks 19-20), QB2 Pace. Had 2 TDs dropped in Week 1, but 2 dropped INTs and 1 FL blown dead by officials vs. NE Week 4. Had a 75-yard TD to Hill nullified to holding in Week 5. Rainfall Week 6, Snowy field Week 7, CEH dropped short TD. 2 TDs nullified vs. DEN week 13, 2 tipped INTs Week 14 but lucky to escape with only 1 turnover Week 16. Overall, several dropped INTs but also several TDs negated. Even though selecting a QB early in 1-QB drafts is suboptimal in terms of fantasy value, a healthy Mahomes seems bust-proof. He's the best player in the NFL, and he's admittedly fun to have on your roster on Sundays. Because QBs score the most points, and because the majority of playoff teams in your fantasy league have good fantasy QBs, I think the value of having strong QB play is underrated. However, it's important to understand the opportunity cost when taking a QB high; several others in your league may also obtain quality QB production much later in drafts, or even in free agency. QB early isn't for everyone, but I rank a trio of QBs here
29. **Kyler Murray** (QB2 ... ADP: QB3) – 2020 CGS = 24.99 PPG in 15 Games (exc. Wk 17 early exit), QB3 Pace. His numbers declined after a shoulder injury vs. MIA in Week 9 (First 9 Games: 29.26 PPG, QB1 Pace ... Final 6 Games: 18.59 PPG, QB16 Pace). The difference was the rushing production, presumably because he was avoiding contact (First 9 Games: 87-604-10 rushing, 13.37 rushing PPG ... Final 6 Games: 44-212-1 rushing, 4.5 rushing PPG). HC Kliff Kingsbury designed a fast-paced, horizontal air raid, presumably because of Murray's struggles to see over the middle due to his lack of height. Adding DeAndre Hopkins helped big time, and this offseason the team drafted YAC stud Rondale Moore in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round and added center Rodney Hudson. Prior to his Week 9 shoulder injury, Murray was on pace to match 2019 Lamar Jackson, the greatest fantasy season of all time. This is going overlooked. Very tempted to rank Murray as QB1, but Mahomes is likely going to be selected prior to this point in drafts, anyway. All points stated about taking a QB early in fantasy drafts in the Patrick Mahomes analysis above apply to Murray, but I'm ultimately comfortable with Murray in Round 3, and I'd LOVE the opportunity to draft him in Round 4.
30. **Chris Carson** (RB15 ... ADP: 30, RB17) – 2020 CGS = 16.5 PPG in 11 Games (exc. Wk 7 2<sup>nd</sup> Q exit, Wk 17 rest 4<sup>th</sup> Q, inc. 1 Playoff), RB15 Pace. First 5 games, Pre-Foot Injury = 19.98 PPG (RB7 Pace). Final 6 Games after returning from foot injury (exc. Wk 17, inc. 1 Playoff) = 81.7 / 6 = 13.16 PPG (RB25 Pace). Seahawks made a "strong bid" for Leonard Fournette before re-signing Carson.

Carson also said that he and Rashaad Penny “can be one of the top rushing duos in the league.” He carries risk that he’ll be the 1-A back in a RBBC. He also carries substantial injury risk. But Carson was scoring at RB7 Pace before his foot injury last season, and Pete Carroll fired OC Brian Schottenheimer for failing to establish the run. Carson an underrated pass catcher tied to good QB. New OC Shane Waldron comes from the Rams.

31. **Darrell Henderson** (RB16 ... ADP: 44, RB21) – HC Sean McVay believes Henderson is “an every down back” but emphasized “needing to make sure he can stay durable.” Jordan Rodrigue said the Rams will deploy a backfield “committee of sorts” to “alleviate” Darrell Henderson of a full workload. Was PFF’s No. 1 rated back when he sustained mid-season ankle injury in 2020. Also flashed ability and production in 2019. Rams don’t have much behind him (Xavier Jones, Jake Funk), but could sign veteran RB closer to season. McVay loves running inside 10-yard line, and Henderson is a good pass catcher. Cam Akers’ ADP was mid-round 2 despite the presence of Henderson. Now, Henderson has no competition. Henderson’s ability to catch passes and playing in a potent offense gives him a nice shot to be a legitimate RB2.
32. **Josh Allen** (QB3 ... ADP: QB2) – 2020 CGS = 24.48 PPG in 19 Games (Inc. Wk 17 halftime exit + 3 Playoff), QB4 Pace. MVP-like start Weeks 1-4. Missed Beasley and Brown for TDs but also had 3-4 dropped INTs Week 1. Some ugly showings Weeks 5-8 with inaccuracy, bad weather in Week 8 vs. NE. Cooked SEA Week 9 but nearly threw 5 INTs Week 10 and missed wide open opportunities. Played well down the stretch, great weeks 15-18. OC Brian Daboll spread out defenses (95% of pass attempts had at least 3 WRs on the field, by far the highest percentage in the NFL) and pass often (Buffalo ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in neutral pass rate). Allen was QB1 down the stretch in 2018 and had a QB6 finish in 2019, then finished as the QB1 last season. His rushing floor is substantial. I do think he’s more likely to have a decline in last year’s production than better it.
33. **Julio Jones** (WR12 ... ADP: 42, WR17) – 2020 CGS = 19 PPG in 7 Games (exc. Wks 4, 11 early exits), WR6 Pace. Was not 100% going into the season (hamstring). Played really well 7 full games (WR6 Pace). An elite talent being under-drafted. Should be much closer to A.J. Brown in ADP.
34. **George Kittle** (TE3 ... ADP: 34, TE3) – 2020 CGS = 18.31 PPG in 6 Games (exc. Wk 1 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit and Wk 8 early 4<sup>th</sup> Q exit), TE2 Pace. 54/42-551-2 in 6 Full Games (with 40.1 pts vs. PHI, but Jimmy G immobile/benched vs. MIA in blowout loss, 2 games with Beathard, 2.5 games with Garappolo, 1 with Mullens, Samuel played DNP 2/6, Aiyuk DNP 1/6). Kittle actually averaged more PPG than Darren Waller (TE2) in his 6 healthy games despite playing with 3 different QBs. Still one of the best players in the NFL but has battled injuries the last two seasons. Would be ranked neck-and-neck with Waller if not for volume concerns. Raheem Mostert, Deebo Samuel, and Brandon Aiyuk all healthy now for a team that wants to run the ball 500 times this season. Trey Lance rushing will also eat into Kittle’s production. Probably a better real-life than fantasy player this season, but it’s tough to pass on Kittle at the end of Round 3. He’s automatic in Round 4.
35. **Mike Evans** (WR13 ... ADP: 36, WR13) – 2020 CGS = 14.96 PPG in 19 Games (exc. Wk 17 2<sup>nd</sup> Q exit + 4 Playoff), WR27 Pace. First 8 Games, without Antonio Brown = 13.66 PPG (WR39 Pace). Final 9 Full Games with AB and Godwin (exc. Wk 17 Evans 2<sup>nd</sup> Q exit, Wk 19 AB 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit, Wk 20 AB DNP) = 17.07 PPG, WR15 Pace, 70/44-737-6. Evans played through a nagging hamstring injury at various times last season, and wasn’t fully healthy going into last season. Consistently produces every year. Seven straight seasons with 1,000+ REYD. Produced at WR15 Pace in final 9 games

with AB and Godwin, a far better pace than them. Was a mid-2<sup>nd</sup> round pick last season in the same situation. Being Brady's top target provides level of safety.

36. **J.K. Dobbins** (RB17 ... ADP: 28, RB15) – 2020 CGS = 15.83 PPG in Final 8 Games (inc. 2 Playoffs, after Mark Ingram phased out), RB18 Pace. 96-580-7 (6.04 YPC) but only 7-79-0 receiving, but missed 2<sup>nd</sup> half vs. NYG. OC Greg Roman said the team has a “running group by committee,” stressing the importance of using a backfield rotation because of the expanded 17-game season. “We’re going to use all of them. We’re not a one-trick pony at running back.” He included Justice Hill in that mix. OC Greg Roman says he wants to throw the ball down the field more after being too predictable and stale on offense in 2020. Roman’s history of constantly running the ball has been well-documented for years, spanning across several teams. Baltimore has run the ball more than any team in the each of the past two seasons (though Lamar Jackson accounts for a lot of that). Ravens beat Jeff Zrebiec said the Ravens coaches believe Dobbins is “capable of more and would like to get him more involved in the passing game.” Both HC John Harbaugh and OC Greg Roman have stated that they want their RBs to see more targets in 2021. Harbaugh noted that Dobbins has made strides as a pass catcher this offseason. Lamar Jackson rarely ever checks down to RBs because of his elite rushing ability, so this would have to be manufactured. Luckily, Gus Edwards does not pose a threat as a receiver. BAL upgraded the O-Line this season by signing OG Kevin Zeitler and now has 4/5 quality starters (All-pro LT Ronnie Stanley returns after a season-ending ankle injury in Week 8).

## Round 4

37. **David Montgomery** (RB18 ... ADP: 28, RB16) – 2020 CGS = 16.74 PPG in 16 Games (1 DNP + 1 Playoff), RB13 Pace. First 9 Games = 12.66 PPG (RB29 Pace), 131-432-1 (3.2 YPC). Final 7 games, inc. playoff after BYE = 157.5 / 7 = 22.5 PPG (RB4 Pace), 128-629-7 (4.9 YPC). Ran the second most pass routes among RBs in 2020 after ranking 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2019. This was due to Tarik Cohen tearing his ACL in Week 3. The Bears signed Damien Williams from the Chiefs (opted out last season). Williams knows Matt Nagy’s scheme from his time in KC and may be an upgrade over Cohen.
38. **Amari Cooper** (WR14 ... ADP: 39, WR14) – 5 Games with Dak Prescott = 17.84 PPG, WR11 Pace, 55/39-424-1. Cooper did not participate in minicamp because he was recovering from a clean-up procedure on his ankle. Opened the season on PUP, missing start of Training Camp. Expected to be ready for the start of last season. Cooper was way better than most realize last season, particularly with Dak.
39. **Allen Robinson** (WR15 ... ADP: 30, WR11) – 2020 CGS = 16.14 PPG in 17 Games (+1 Playoff), WR18 Pace. Has produced with bad QB play before. Safe floor with not much competition for targets. The Bears’ clear-cut No. 2 option, Darnell Mooney, is not a high-volume player, and it remains to be seen who will step up as the third option (possibly TE Cole Kmet).
40. **Kyle Pitts** (TE4 ... ADP: 66, TE6) – Drafting Pitts this high is admittedly betting on him to be an outlier. Historically, rookie TEs lack fantasy production. The best fantasy season for a rookie TE in NFL history was Jeremy Shockey (74-894-2) and Evan Engram (64-722-6). Yet, Pitts was drafted

(4<sup>th</sup> overall pick) higher than any TE in NFL history. HC Arthur Smith makes use of TEs. The Titans led the NFL last season in 12 personnel – 1 RB and 2 TEs – by a wide margin, so Pitts and even TE Hayden Hurst will be on the field often. Falcons beat D. Orlando Ledbetter reported this spring that the Falcons were “force feeding” Pitts at the team’s minicamp. Ridley was sidelined after undergoing foot surgery, but Jeff Schultz reported that “Pitts didn’t look like a tight end.” Think of Pitts as a WR (6’6, 245 with 4.44 speed and 98<sup>th</sup> percentile wingspan). The Falcons have no defense and an unproven running game and should be trailing in games, leading to throwing. I love the situation here; I’m betting on the outlier and am willing to reach for Pitts in the mid-rounds. TE3 is in his range of outcomes.

41. **Lamar Jackson (QB4 ... ADP: QB5)** – 2020 CGS = 22.34 PPG in 16 Games (1 DNP + 1 Playoff, exc. Wk 19 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit), QB8 Pace. Finished strongly (Final 6 Games after a Covid-19 DNP: 26.68 PPG, QB2 Pace). Only averaged 58 SPG Weeks 1-4. Had not reached 250 PAYD in a game Weeks 2-11 because of predictable play-calling, poor supporting cast (big drops, including 30-yard TD by Andrews Week 3, and possible long TDs to Brown Weeks 14, 17), WRs not getting open, worse pass protection (Ronnie Stanley DNP weeks 9-19), and missed throws by Jackson, who was not as accurate as he was in 2020, missing several TDs (Week 3 to Brown, Week 11 to Brown and Andrews). Had 2 RUTDs taken off the board in Weeks 8, 15. Strong finish but mostly against soft opponents. Baltimore under run-oriented OC Greg Roman established the run last season, but Jackson was frustrated with the offense’s predictability, so Roman vowed to open up the playbook and focus on more downfield throwing this offseason. The Ravens signed WR Sammy Watkins and then drafted WRs Rashod Bateman and Tylan Wallace in Rounds 1 and 4, respectively. They will enter the fold with speedy Marquise Brown and athletic TE Mark Andrews. The Ravens also improved their pass protection by signing OG Kevin Zeitler, and they will get All-Pro LT Ronnie Stanley back from a season-ending ankle injury in Week 8. This is a Top-5 O-Line.
42. **Chris Godwin (WR16 ... ADP: 41, WR16)** – 2020 CGS = 14.76 PPG in 16 Games (4 DNP + 4 Playoff), WR30 Pace. Final 9 Full Games with Antonio Brown and Mike Evans (exc. Wk 17 Evans 2<sup>nd</sup> Q exit, Wk 19 AB early 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit, Wk 20 AB DNP) = 13.06 PPG, WR43 Pace, 64/42-516-4.
43. **Robert Woods (WR17 ... ADP: 39, WR15)** – 2020 CGS = 15.83 PPG in 15 Games (exc. Wk 17 Goff DNP, 2 Playoff with Goff hurt), WR21 Pace. No Cam Akers may create more pass volume and ground volume (Woods adds sneaky rushing value each year).

## Round 5

44. **Tyler Lockett (WR18 ... ADP: 48, WR20)** – 2020 CGS = 15.98 PPG in 17 Games (+1 Playoff), WR19 Pace. First 6 Games = 23.53 PPG (WR2 Pace), 58/45-498-7. Final 11 Games = 11.77 PPG (WR48 Pace), 78/57-555-3. Annually underrated. Expect a roller coaster with week-winning games mixed in with some duds. Numbers are always outstanding when he’s healthy, but he’s had cold stretches the last two seasons where he’s battled knee injuries but played at not 100%.
45. **Josh Jacobs (RB19 ... ADP: 38, RB20)** – 2020 CGS = 15.4 PPG in 15 Games, RB19 Pace. Jacobs was inconsistent but solid for fantasy last season, but he did not make any major strides in the

passing game, and his efficiency dropped as he dealt with nagging injuries. The team utilized Devontae Booker often in their 2-minute offense and on obvious passing downs. He walked in free agency, but Vegas felt the need to sign Kenyan Drake, who, if healthy, poses a risk to Jacobs' workload, and at minimum lowers his fantasy ceiling. Jacobs was arrested for a DUI in January and may face a short suspension at some point.

46. **D'Andre Swift** (RB20 ... ADP: 33, RB18) – 2020 CGS = 16.46 PPG in Final 9 Games after BYE, RB16 Pace. Final 5 Starts (Wks 10, 14-17) = 17.62 PPG (RB9 Pace). Earlier in the offseason, Lynn called Swift a three-down back with the caveat that the Lions needed to find someone else to go with Swift, stressing the importance of balance. The team signed Jamaal Williams. Although Swift is clearly more talented than Jamaal Williams, OC Anthony Lynn could plan to use Jamaal Williams and Swift like he did Melvin Gordon and Austin Ekeler while he was coaching LAC. Lynn referred to Williams as “a classic ‘A’ back.” “My ‘A’ backs are normally my bigger backs. They can run between the tackles, block probably a little better than a ‘B’ back, they can also run the perimeter. I can leave those guys in there for all three downs.” Lynn labeled Swift as a “speed-space back.” Lions reporter Tim Twentyman stated that Swift and Jared Goff are “building a nice rapport, especially on option routes.” The Lions’ starting WRs are Breshad Perriman and Tyrell Williams; so we can expect a lot of passes to RBs and TEs. Furthermore, the Lions are not expected to be winning often, so negative gamescripts in the second halves could lead to a safe floor of receptions for both Swift and Williams in PPR formats. Lions HC Dan Campbell said he wants to use Swift as a slot receiver, getting him in space against linebackers.
47. **Miles Sanders** (RB21 ... ADP: 34, RB19) – 2020 CGS = 14.2 PPG in 12 Games, RB22 Pace. 3 Games with Jalen Hurts, Weeks 14-16 = 19.33 PPG (RB7 Pace). 9 Games with Carson Wentz = 12.48 PPG (RB30 Pace). Efficient on the ground, overcoming injury-plagued O-Line ( ) that certainly will be healthier in 2021. New HC Nick Sirianni was part of a staff that favored committee backfields in Indy. The team signed Kerryon Johnson and drafted pass-catching specialist RB Kenny Gainwell in the 5<sup>th</sup> round. Jordan Howard and pass-catcher Boston Scott are also on the roster. RT Lane Johnson said there seems to be “more emphasis on the screen game,” which checks out seeing as Sirianni is from Indy. Eagles RB coach Jamel Singleton downplayed the idea of an “every down” RB, instead suggesting you need different RBs for different roles. I’m buying that Sanders will be primary runner, but I do not think he’ll be used much in receiving game.
48. **T.J. Hockenson** (TE5 ... ADP: 61, TE5) – 2020 CGS = 10.95 PPG in 16 Games, TE9 Pace. First 13 Games = 12.43 PPG, TE5 Pace. Lions reporter Tim Twentyman said it would not be the least bit surprising for Hockenson to lead the team in “targets, catches, receiving yards, and receiving touchdowns this season.” Another Lions beat predicted Hockenson was “Headed for a big season.” He noted that Hockenson and Jared Goff have already developed chemistry in the red zone. The Lions’ starting WRs are Breshad Perriman and Tyrell Williams; so we can expect a lot of passes to RBs and TEs. The Lions are not expected to be good, so negative gamescripts could work in Hockenson’s favor. Hockenson was the 8<sup>th</sup> overall pick in the NFL Draft, so talent is not at issue. On the other hand, O.J. Howard and Evan Engram were similarly hyped three seasons ago. Mid-round TEs have historically underwhelmed. And there’s inherent risk in drafting a player on what could be a bad team with a bad QB.
49. **Mark Andrews** (TE6 ... ADP: 60, TE4) – 2020 CGS = 11.56 PPG in 16 Games (2 DNP + 2 Playoff), TE6 Pace. First 8 Games = 85.7 / 8 = 10.71 PPG (TE11 Pace), 44/26-297-5. Final 8 Games = 99.3 /

8 = 12.41 PPG (TE5 Pace), 61/40-473-2. Struggled with drops last season (including a 30-yard TD vs. KC and another dropped TD vs. NYG in Week 16) and was inconsistent. Volume is low in a run-first offense with Lamar Jackson at QB, but Andrews is an efficient player with a nose for the end zone. The Ravens brought in WR Sammy Watkins and drafted Rashod Bateman in Round 1, but a mini post-hype breakout should not surprise.

50. **Ja'Marr Chase** (WR19 ... ADP: 59, WR24) – Competing with Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd for targets. HC Zac Taylor said the team would not force targets to any one WR. OC Brian Callahan said “the idea is for each of the three starting receivers to end up with about the same number of targets and catches.” Joe Burrow ranked averaged the second most pass attempts per game in his 9 starts, but the team may try to decrease that seeing as he’s coming off the torn ACL. An elite athlete, Chase (6’3, 201) produced 84-1,780-20 as a 19-year-old sophomore with Joe Burrow at QB. It’s hard to believe that Chase was *better* than Justin Jefferson at LSU, knowing we’ve seen Jefferson break NFL rookie records. Yet, on the other hand, Jefferson’s emergence could be driving up the price and setting unrealistic expectations for Chase, who enters a less friendly fantasy environment than Jefferson as a rookie.
51. **Tee Higgins** (WR20 ... ADP: 60, WR25) – 2020 CGS = 15.63 PPG in 8 Full Games with Joe Burrow (exc. Wk 1 only 15 snaps, Wk 11 Burrow exited 3<sup>rd</sup> Q), WR23 Pace, 61/40-603-4. Competing with Ja’Marr Chase and Tyler Boyd for targets. HC Zac Taylor said the team would not force targets to any one WR. OC Brian Callahan said “the idea is for each of the three starting receivers to end up with about the same number of targets and catches.” Joe Burrow averaged the second most pass attempts per game in his 9 starts, but the team may try to decrease that seeing as he’s coming off the torn ACL. OC Callahan said Higgins is “going to play a huge role,” “looks much more explosive,” and the team is “counting on a big leap.” Higgins put in a lot of work in the offseason, which was noted by Joe Burrow.
52. **Brandon Aiyuk** (WR21 ... ADP: 58, WR23) – 2020 CGS = 15.37 PPG in 12 Games, WR25 Pace. 6 Games without George Kittle (Wks 2-3, 10, 13-15) = 18.2 PPG, WR10 Pace. 6 Games with Kittle (Wks 4-8, 16, Deebo Samuel DNP 2/6) = 12.48 PPG, WR43 Pace. 5 Games with Samuel and Kittle = 10.36 PPG, WR56 Pace. Love the talent. Low volume concerns in run-first offense with rookie QB who likes to run, healthy Deebo Samuel and George Kittle (for now).
53. **Diontae Johnson** (WR22 ... ADP: 48, WR21) – 2020 CGS = 18.55 PPG in 13 Games (exc. Wks 3, 5, 8 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Q exits, 1 DNP + 1 Playoff), WR9. Better than people realize on per game basis, despite a case of the drowsies. Knows how to get open. PIT won’t be as pass-happy (1<sup>st</sup> in neutral pass rate in 2020 after completely abandoning the run). Competing for targets with JuJu Smith-Schuster, Chase Claypool, Eric Ebron, and now Najee Harris.
54. **Cooper Kupp** (WR23 ... ADP: 47, WR19) – 2020 CGS = 13.91 PPG in 15 Games (DNP Wk 17, exc. Wks 18-19 Playoffs Goff injured), WR36 Pace. Due positive TD regression (only 3 scores last season). No Cam Akers should help Kupp in the red zone. Knee seems fragile.
55. **Adam Thielen** (WR24 ... ADP: 49, WR22) – 2020 CGS = 16.93 PPG in 15 Games. First 6 Games = 19.83 PPG, WR5 Pace, 49/32-415-7, then 2 games vs. DET/GB where MIN ran Cook, didn’t throw, followed by Final 7 Games = 17.64 PPG, WR12 Pace, 50/37-445-7. Averaged 12.35 PPG in Final 4 Games (21/19-204-2), compared to Justin Jefferson’s Final 4 Games = 16.27 PPG on 41/27-361-0. Good player but may be over-drafted in 2021. 31 years old and possibly enormous TD regression looming. Usage scaled back with the emergence of Justin Jefferson.

## Rounds 6-8 (Picks 60-90)

56. **Kenny Golladay** (WR25 ... ADP: 61, WR26) – 2020 CGS = 16.45 PPG in 4 Full Games (exc. Wk 8 halftime exit), WR16 Pace, but goose egg vs. IND Week 8 before exiting. Tough to get on board considering the QB downgrade to Daniel Jones, the negative offseason reports, including a lack of chemistry with Jones and a minor hamstring issue. But we've seen what Golladay can do. His ADP was late second round last season. Much more affordable this season. A bet-on-talent situation.
57. **Chase Claypool** (WR26 ... ADP: 71, WR30) – 2020 CGS = 14.99 PPG in 14 Games (exc. Wks 1-3 rotational role + 1 Playoff), WR26 Pace. 11 Games after BYE where snaps not scaled back (exc. Wks 13-15 decrease in snaps) = 17.43 PPG, WR13 Pace on 12 TDs. "Diva quotient increased consistently over the course of his rookie season." Hit a rookie wall last season. PIT won't be as pass-happy (1<sup>st</sup> in neutral pass rate in 2020 after completely abandoning the run). Claypool is athletically comparable to D.K. Metcalf and had a better rookie season than Metcalf. There's a feast-or-famine nature to his game, but I like betting on players with high ceilings in the mid-rounds. He's the most affordable Steeler WR.
58. **Javonte Williams** (RB22 ... ADP: 69, RB27) – Denver traded up a few spots to acquire Williams early in Round 2. Vic Fangio said the team would "utilize all three" of their RBs, Melvin Gordon, Williams, and Mike Boone. NFL Insider Ben Allbright dismissed the notion of Gordon getting cut, suggesting that the plan was for Melvin Gordon to start this season and Williams take over next season. However, Ryan O'Halloran believes Williams will start in Week 1. Williams will open the season in a committee as the 1-B back behind Gordon. But based on what Williams show-cased in college, and the Broncos investment in Williams, it's hard to see a scenario where he's not earning starts by the end of the season. He may not help your season initially, but he should be prioritized as a closer by competitive managers in leagues with large playoff fields.
59. **D.J. Moore** (WR27 ... ADP: 44, WR18) – 2020 CGS = 13.21 PPG in 16 Games, WR41 Pace. Final 10 Games (Post BYE after Samuel more involved) = 13.11 PPG, WR43 Pace. Final 6 Games = 15.75 PPG, WR24 Pace, 56/31-553-1. Has been due positive TD regression for years (good player, but does he have the skill set to be a TD scorer?). Curtis Samuel departed but the team drafted Terrace Marshall, who would have been a first round pick if not for medical red flags. There's reason for optimism on Moore, because he's talented, but at the end of the day, I'm lower than consensus on him because of a crowded group of pass catchers (CMC may catch 85+ passes, Robby Anderson has played with Darnold before, and Terrace Marshall is a first round talent) all being supported by Sam Darnold at QB.
60. **Jerry Jeudy** (WR28 ... ADP: 82, WR35) – 2020 CGS = 10.56 PPG in 15 Games (exc. Wk 12 no QBs Covid), WR55 Pace. Rookie season was a disappointment that included a 5-drop game vs. Buffalo as a low point. Tim Patrick (11.04 PPG) averaged more PPG than Jeudy. Both players dealt with poor QB play. But Jeudy has had a strong offseason that has resulted him getting open at will during practices. Was reportedly "Teddy Bridgewater's most frequent target" at OTAs. Meanwhile, Courtland Sutton is still limited, still recovering from ACL surgery. It seems like both Drew Lock and Teddy Bridgewater will make starts for Denver, but I'm betting on a bounce back

season for Jeudy, who was widely regarded as the best WR in one of the best WR draft classes of all time last April.

61. **Aaron Rodgers (QB5 ... ADP: QB7)** – 2020 CGS = 23.71 PPG in 18 Games (+2 Playoff), QB5 Pace. MVS dropped a 50+ yard TD Weeks 1 and Week 17. Dominated several soft opponents who were short-handed defensively (MINx2, DETx2, AFC South, SF, PHI). Surgical all year: 48-5 TD/INT ratio. Crushed every opponent except 2 games. O-Line a slight concern (Bakhtiari coming off torn ACL, C Lindsey, RT Wagner gone). Career high 9.1% TD rate due to regress, as is 80% of red zone trips ending in TD.
62. **Tom Brady (QB6 ... ADP: QB9)** – 2020 CGS = 21.02 PPG in 20 Games (+4 Playoff), QB12 Pace. Got better as the season progressed, 8 INTs over 4 games prior to Week 13 BYE, finishing strongly: Last 7 Games: 23.74 PPG, QB5 Pace, 21-4 TD/INT, despite 12 drops by pass catchers in the postseason, rested second half vs. DET Week 16, Evans dropped TD, tackled on 1 and 6-yard lines Week 15. Played through partially torn MCL in 2020. Great offensive line (but health regression coming). QBs historically struggle in year 1 of Bruce Arians' offense. Brady was no different, but he picked up his play in the final 7 games (QB5 Pace). Now with a full offseason and his amazing WR trio (Evans, Godwin, AB) healthy, with the addition of pass-catching RB Gio Bernard, Brady could pick up where he left off. A very safe QB selection despite no rushing upside (besides QB sneaks).
63. **Dak Prescott (QB7 ... ADP: QB5)** – 2020 CGS = 27.12 PPG in 5 Games, QB1 Pace. Tackled at the 1 in Week 1. First QB in history to throw for 450+ PAYD in 3 straight games, Weeks 2-4. Lots of garbage time. Finished as QB2 in 2019. Finished as Top-12 QB every year in his career. Coming off a broken fibula. Sustained minor shoulder strain in training camp, holding him out. Upside in this offense is enormous (could be the QB1) with the WR talent at his disposal, especially considering Dallas's lack of defense. However, I'm projecting a big year for Zeke on the ground, and I'm mildly concerned that Prescott could be less willing to run coming off the broken leg. I admittedly may be too low here, but he could rise on my board if he proves 100% before the season.
64. **Justin Herbert (QB8 ... ADP: QB8)** – 2020 CGS = 22.18 PPG in 15 Games (DNP Wk 1), QB10 Pace. Started fast before hitting a rookie wall of sorts (First 9 Games: 24.29 PPG, QB5 Pace ... Final 6 Games: 19.03 PPG, QB16 Pace). Played some early season games missing his starting C, RG, RT, and Ekeler. Williams dropped contested TD Week 9, Ekeler inches short on RETD before a Kelley RUTD Week 12. Slumped Weeks 9-13 but rebounded in Weeks 14-17 despite Allen and Henry not playing Weeks 16-17. New OC Joe Lombardi (former Saints QB coach) spoke about playing fast and building the offense around Herbert's strengths. Anthony Lynn's offense was vanilla, run-centered and lacked creativity. Massive O-Line upgrades. Big-bodied QB also a threat for rushing TDs, particularly because the team has not shown to trust Austin Ekeler near the goal line, and it does not appear as though a good short yardage RB is on the roster. This could lead to Herbert accounting for a large percentage of this team's offensive TDs, similar to the way Josh Allen does for Buffalo.
65. **Russell Wilson (QB9 ... ADP: QB6)** – 2020 CGS = 22.22 PPG in 17 Games (+1 Playoff), QB9 Pace. Tale of two seasons (First 7 Games: 29.4 PPG, QB1 Pace, 307.2 PAYD/G, 26-6 TD/INT ... Final 10 Games = 17.17 PPG, QB23 Pace, 223.5 PAYD/G, 16-12 TD/INT). "Let Russ Cook" movement was in full force (1<sup>st</sup> in neutral pass rate through 9 weeks) before a midseason INT binge shook his confidence (4 TOs Week 9 vs. BUF was a turning point), leading to Pete Carroll tightening the

reigns and reverting the offense back to conservative ways. After firing OC Brian Schottenheimer, Pete Carroll said the team would look to further establish the run in 2021. That was his goal for 2021. It will be interesting to see how new OC Shane Waldron (from LAR) and Carroll work together. I'm guessing Wilson will remain inconsistent during the season, having massive spiked weeks mixed in with a few low-volume games where the Seahawks frustratingly don't let him cook, but he'll finish as a Top-10 QB, per usual.

66. **Trey Lance** (QB10 ... ADP: QB24) – Terrific arm strength and rushing ability (28-0 TD/INT ratio, 1,110 RUYD and 14 RUTD as a freshman for North Dakota State, his lone season as a starter). Skill set similar to Josh Allen. Kyle Shanahan masterful scheme, plus he's surrounded by great supporting cast: strong O-Line, Deebo Samuel, Brandon Aiyuk, and George Kittle. 49ers will benefit from easiest projected schedule in NFL. Shanahan coordinated Washington offense during RG3's rookie year. I believe Lance will start Week 1. If not, the leash will not be long for Jimmy Garoppolo. ADP will soar once he's named the starter. I recommend beating the market to the punch, aggressively reaching for Lance. Should be considered one of the poster boys of the Fantasy Law Guide; I've drafted him in every league so far.
67. **Jalen Hurts** (QB11 ... ADP: QB12) – 2020 CGS = 22.99 PPG in 4 Games (inc. Wk 17 early 4<sup>th</sup> Q exit), QB7 Pace. Job security is not 100%. Eagles have not shown to be fully committed to Hurts this offseason. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, HC Nick Sirianni said that there's no timetable to name a starting QB. The Eagles have been rumored to be interested in trading for DeShaun Watson. It's possible the Eagles start losing games, embrace the tank, and stupidly bench Hurts for Flacco. If and until that happens, Hurts possesses a strong rushing floor and an aggressive throwing mindset to be a strong fantasy QB. I love the idea of pairing Hurts and Trey Lance or Justin Fields on back-to-back picks around Rounds 8-10.
68. **Raheem Mostert** (RB24 ... ADP: 84, RB30) – Mostert took the league by storm in the final 8 games of 2019, helping the 49ers get to the Super Bowl, and helping fantasy managers win championships. Mostert averaged 19.77 PPG in that stretch, RB6 Pace. He followed that up by scoring 25.1 points in Week 1, then 18.7 points in one half of Week 2 before he injured his ankle. He couldn't shake the injury bug for the rest of the season and disappointed thereafter. One of the league's fastest players, Mostert has thrived in Kyle Shanahan's fantasy-friendly running scheme when healthy. This year, he'll be competing with Trey Sermon in an RBBC. I'm expecting Mostert to be a nice value as the lead runner early in the season, even as the 49ers limit his touches to preserve his health. However, it's tough not to project Sermon being the 1A back by season's end. Still, Mostert is likely being under-drafted based on his ability when healthy and proven success in this system. The 49ers have the league's easiest schedule. He could be a league winner if Sermon gets hurt or flops.
69. **Jarvis Landry** (WR29 ... ADP: 106, WR42) – 2020 CGS = 13.12 PPG in 17 Games (1 DNP + 2 Playoff), WR42 Pace. First 10 Games = 9.2 PPG (WR60 Pace), 57/38-471-0. Final 7 Games, inc. Playoffs = 18.73 PPG, WR7 Pace, 62/46-481-5. One of the most underappreciated players in fantasy football. Landry came into last season not fully healthy, recovering from surgery. He was supposed to be eased in, and he and his QB were slow to form learning the new offense. Landry and Baker hit their stride late in the season; Landry paced as the WR7 in the final 7 games, yet is going as WR42 in drafts! Yes, Odell Beckham is returning, but he's coming off a torn ACL. But most importantly, Landry has consistently finished at or around WR24 seemingly every year in his

career because of his ability to rack up receptions. Part of that is because he has missed one game in his career. I concede Landry is a low-ceiling pick, but he's a near lock to out-perform his WR42 ADP. I think he'll finish closer to WR24. I view him as a strong WR3 in PPR formats.

70. **DeVonta Smith** (WR30 ... ADP: 86, WR36) – Undersized (6'0, 166) Heisman-winning WR will open season as Eagles' top receiving weapon.
71. **Trey Sermon** (RB23 ... ADP: 93, RB39) – One of my favorite “closers” (RBs who won't have a big impact on your fantasy team early on, but could finish strongly) for managers who expect to make the fantasy playoffs. The 49ers project to be one of the most run-heavy teams in the NFL and have the league's easiest schedule. Trey Lance should open up running lanes with the read-option. Sermon is reportedly “ahead of the curve” and made “strong first impression” at OTAs, where Raheem Mostert was limited for precautionary reasons, and Jeff Wilson sidelined for 4-6 months (knee). Sermon was given a lot of first-team reps. Kyle Shanahan outside zone scheme historically extremely friendly to fantasy RBs (son of Mike Shanahan, SF backfield averaged 3<sup>rd</sup> most fantasy points despite major RB and defensive injuries). Sermon ran in similar offense at OSU. Will compete with Raheem Mostert and Wayne Gallman. Niners beat said team wants to run the ball 500 times in 2021. Niners beat David Lombardi expects Sermon to play the role Tevin Coleman previously had, starting games to soften defenses, but splitting with Raheem Mostert, who will act as a closer, using his speed to take advantage of worn down defenses. Ultimately, I'm guessing Mostert opens the year as the starter, but Sermon finishes the year as the starter.
72. **Damien Harris** (RB25 ... ADP: 76, RB29) – 2020 CGS = 9.13 PPG in 10 Games, RB34 Pace. Harris took over Sony Michel's role as the early down runner when he was healthy, Weeks 4-13. James White will remain the team's pass-catching specialist, and Harris is not utilized at all as a receiver, crippling his upside in PPR formats. NE drafted big back Rhamondre Stevenson (comped to LeGarrette Blount) in the 4<sup>th</sup> Round, and he'll likely force Sony Michel off the roster. Very strong O-Line on run-first team. Mac Jones starting could be a positive for Harris's fantasy value, as Cam Newton would not steal goal line TDs (unless Belichick continues to deploy him inside the 10). HC Bill Belichick has been impressed with Harris: "Damien was a player who improved a lot from year one to year two... Now he has an opportunity to really compete for the lead spot... I've been impressed with the commitment that he's shown." Harris being a zero in the receiving game cripples his outlook in full PPR formats, but he should be prioritized as a mid-round RB in non-PPR leagues.
73. **A.J. Dillon** (RB26 ... ADP: 103, RB40) – Team is expected to lean on A.J. Dillon more following the departure of Jamaal Williams. Last April, Green Bay bypassed a wide receiver (a position that everyone and their mothers expected Green Bay to take) in order to grab their third running back in the second round. Dillon is an enormous (6'0, 247), highly productive college back who demonstrated uber athletic traits at the NFL Combine. According to Scott Barrett (@ScottBarrettDFB) of FantasyPoints.com, Dillon ranked in the 95th percentile of weight adjusted forty time, the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile in the vertical leap, and the 99th percentile in the broad jump, among all combine RBs since 2000, and those are the three most predictive NFL Combine numbers for a fantasy RB. Barrett also found in his research that Dillon ranked 5th in rushing yards per game among all “Power 5” conferences (min. 24 games played) in the last 20 years. Only Jonathan Taylor, LaMichael James, Adrian Peterson, and Ray Rice averaged more RUYD/G than Dillon's 125.2. Dillon is a 247-pound bruiser back with 97th percentile Adjusted SPARQ athleticism. He

didn't have much of a rookie season as the third string RB behind Aaron Jones and Jamaal Williams, but he averaged 5.3 YPC and show-cased his ability in a 21-124-2 bruising effort in the snow vs. TEN in Week 16. I think Dillon will earn a 40/60 timeshare with Aaron Jones early on. Possesses league-winning upside as the RB1 in an elite Packers offense IF Jones were to miss time.

74. **Ryan Tannehill** (QB12 ... ADP: QB10) – 2020 CGS = 20.76 PPG in 17 Games (+ 1 Playoff), QB14 Pace. Top-5 QB in Final 8 Games of 2019. Now adds Julio Jones, who had a big impact on Matt Ryan's box scores. Losing OC Arthur Smith is concerning, however. Derrick Henry's presence will cap his upside, but Tannehill has a sneaky rushing floor, and the Titans have a weak defense.
75. **Tyler Boyd** (WR31 ... ADP: 82, WR34) – 2020 CGS = 16.24 PPG in 10 Games with Joe Burrow, WR17 Pace, 87/69-710-3. Competing with Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins for targets. Joe Burrow ranked averaged the third most pass attempts per game in his 9 starts, but the team may try to decrease that seeing as he's coming off the torn ACL. HC Zac Taylor said the team would not force targets to any one WR. OC Brian Callahan said "the idea is for each of the three starting receivers to end up with about the same number of targets and catches." A nice value pick in PPR leagues as the most affordable Bengals WR, but doesn't have the ceiling of Ja'Marr Chase or Tee Higgins.

## Rounds 9-12 (Picks 90-150)

### Quarterbacks (Draft 1, even as a backup QB, after Pick 100):

- **Trey Lance** (QB10 ... ADP: QB24) – See analysis above. Aggressively reaching several rounds ahead of ADP to secure Lance. I want (and have) Lance on all my teams. More than comfortable waiting on QB and selecting Lance as my QB1 and pairing with someone with a cupcake opening schedule like Kirk Cousins, just in case. Trigger point: draft Lance after the last team in your league takes his or her QB1 - probably right after Jalen Hurts, Ryan Tannehill, Matt Stafford, and/or Joe Burrow is drafted. Another cool combination is pairing Jalen Hurts with Trey Lance in back-to-back rounds.
- **Justin Fields** (QB14 ... ADP: QB22) – After the Bears inevitably bench Andy Dalton, Fields possesses a fantasy-friendly skillset with his rushing ability. Certainly a chance for him to be a Top-12 QB in PPG. Less comfortable with Fields as my QB1, but love him as a QB2, regardless of who my starter is. Trigger point: draft Fields after Trey Lance is selected.

### Wide Receiver Sleepers (Draft 2-3):

- **Jaylen Waddle** (ADP: 129, WR46) – One of my favorite sleepers this season. The 5'9, 180 explosive playmaker reunites with Tua. Surprising lack of buzz for the 6<sup>th</sup> overall pick, being overshadowed by Will Fuller. Fuller dealt with undisclosed training camp injury (and is suspended for Week 1), and DeVante Parker opened on Reserve PUP List, leaving Waddle assuming more

reps. The Dolphins have prioritized throwing downfield more this offseason. Basically, this is a situation where I think Waddle's draft capital doesn't match up with his fantasy ADP (JaMarr Chase was selected 1 pick before Waddle, and he's going 70 spots higher in drafts; and both rookies have competition for targets). From following the NFL Draft process, I know that teams were EXTREMELY high on Waddle. They loved him. NFL evaluators don't get everything right, but I think the possibility exists that NFL teams are seeing something that fantasy experts and the public are not.

- **Corey Davis** (ADP: 105, WR41) – 2020 CGS = 13.67 PPG in 14 Games (2 DNP, exc. Wk 18 Playoff 2<sup>nd</sup> Q exit), WR38 Pace. It's not a sexy pick, but Davis broke out last season opposite of A.J. Brown and actually out-produced Brown for a stretch of last season. Recall Davis was the 6<sup>th</sup> overall pick in the NFL Draft four years ago. Even though the Jets have a crowded WR corp (Davis, Keelan Cole, Elijah Moore, Jamison Crowder), I think the Jets are more likely to rotate Cole, Moore, and Crowder, and leave Davis out wide full-time. The Jets have no running game and should be trailing in games, leading to pass volume. And I like that Zack Wilson is an aggressive passer. Drafting Davis certainly isn't fool-proof, but there's upside if he solidifies himself as Wilson's top target.
- **Michael Thomas** (ADP: 100, WR40) – I think he's worth taking a flyer on under 2 conditions: first, your league must have at least 1 I.R. spot (preferably more than 1), and second, you must be annually competitive or in a league where a large percentage of teams make the postseason (for example, 6 of 12 get in), and you expect to make it. Under those circumstances, Thomas is going late enough to where you can stash him in an I.R. spot, and he can help your team down the stretch. 2020 CGS = 11.35 PPG in 9 Games (+2 Playoff), WR51 Pace. 4 Full Games with Brees (3 vs. TB) = 8.27 PPG, WR60+ Pace. 4 Games with Taysom Hill = 16.1 PPG, WR19 Pace, 37/30-343-0. Had surgery to repair ankle ligaments in June -- a procedure with a four-month recovery timeline, according to Rapoport. That would put him at October 4<sup>th</sup>. Saints play WFT Week 5 on 10/7/21 but have a Week 6 BYE, meaning we may not see MT until Week 7. We may not see him suit up for the Saints at all this season. That's in the range of outcomes.
- **Mike Williams** (ADP: 133, WR48) – 2020 CGS = 11.55 PPG in 12 Games (exc. Wk 1 Taylor at QB, Wk 14 early exit, Wk 15 half snaps injured, 1 DNP), WR50 Pace. Contract year. Williams is expected to play the "X" receiver spot in OC Joe Lombardi's offense, which was Michael Thomas's spot. This should mean more targets. Without Hunter Henry, there is no longer a legitimate third option behind Keenan Allen and Williams, unless you consider Jared Cook a threat, which I do not. If Williams can stay healthy (big ask), I think this could be the year.
- **Henry Ruggs** (ADP: 130, WR47) – Freak athlete was primarily used as a clear-out decoy as a rookie despite first-round billing, making him irrelevant for fantasy football. Gruden's offensive playbook is notoriously difficult for rookies to grasp. Nelson Agholor, trusted more by conservative QB Derek Carr, had the season that everyone wanted Ruggs to have. Agholor is gone, but the team signed veteran speedster John Brown and Bryan Edwards is healthier. I buy the narrative that Jon Gruden will put Ruggs in better position to succeed knowing that he's catching heat for this pick from critics. Gruden has already begun by hyping him up this offseason. The Raiders are projected to finish last in a competitive AFC West and lack a defense, which should lead to pass volume. There's some sleeper appeal here.
- **Marquise Brown** (ADP: 127, WR45) – 2020 CGS = 11.97 PPG in 18 Games. First 10 Games = 8.72 PPG, WR60+ Pace, 59/32-431-2. Final 8 Games, inc. Playoffs = 16.03 PPG, WR19 Pace, 57/37-

534-6. Busted last season, but now is far more affordable. Run-heavy offense that added WRs Sammy Watkins and Rashod Bateman, but Brown is still a first round talent who finished strongly in his final 9 games (WR19 pace). Could be a post-hype sleeper.

- **Darnell Mooney** (ADP: 151, WR53) – 2020 CGS = 12.05 PPG in Final 6 Games, WR45 Pace, 42/28-280-2. HC Matt Nagy compared Mooney to Tyreek Hill and DeSean Jackson, heaping praise on Mooney earlier this offseason. He was “amazed at his mental ability” and offers a “rare element of speed combined with route running, hands, and passion.” Mooney could mesh well with Justin Fields, who throws a nice deep ball. There’s a lack of competition for targets outside of Allen Robinson, and the team is high on Mooney. Could actually be a more affordable Marquise Brown.

### Running Back Sleepers (Draft 1-2):

- **Zack Moss** (RB28 ... ADP: 90, RB37) – 2020 CGS = 7.8 PPG in 13 Games, RB36 Pace. Moss’s rookie season was marred by a nagging turf toe injury he sustained in Week 2. The fact that the Bills were reportedly in on Travis Etienne at pick 30 is not exactly a ringing endorsement for Moss and Devin Singletary. Moss is the team’s preferred goal line back, but Josh Allen has averaged 8-9 RUTDs per season. I’m not all in on Moss, but I do think the price is right for the potential that he becomes the primary back in Buffalo, though it won’t translate to much in a pass-first offense with Allen stealing short-yardage scores.
- **Gio Bernard** (ADP: 157, RB52) – My favorite sleeper RB in PPR formats considering the cost. Poised to play the James White role for Tom Brady, who was visibly frustrated with Leonard Fournette and Ronald Jones in the passing game last season (10+ combined drops). Only for PPR formats, I think Gio could easily be this year’s Nyheim Hines or J.D. McKissic (as in: stay healthy and catch enough passes to quietly finish as a Top-16 RB).

### Late Round Tight Ends (Draft 1):

- **Noah Fant** (TE7 ... ADP: TE7) – 2020 CGS = 11.97 PPG in 11 Games (1 DNP, exc. Wk 4 Rypien QB + 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit, Wk 7 snowy and limping, Wk 12 no active QBs Covid, Wk 14 1<sup>st</sup> Q exit), TE5 Pace. Averaged 15.46 PPG (TE4 Pace) in first 3 games before injuring ankle. Averaged 12.95 PPG (TE4 Pace) in final 4 games, perhaps when he was over ankle injury. Dealt with erratic QB play and nagging injuries all season, but he was good when healthy. He has the talent and is in his prime, but the problem is QB play and competition for targets (Courtland Sutton returns, Jerry Jeudy and K.J. Hamler are nice). My TE7, but you can wait a few rounds after Andrews/Pitts/Hockenson trio.
- **Logan Thomas** (TE8 ... ADP: TE9) – 2020 CGS = 11.11 PPG in 17 Games, TE8 Pace. First 5 Games = 6.12 PPG (TE25 Pace). Final 7 Games = 15.71 PPG (TE4 Pace), 63/47-436-3, but McLaurin first appeared on injury report w/ ankle, Q, Gibson hurt and DNP 3, McLaurin DNP 1. 3 Games without Gibson, Weeks 13-15 = 19.4 PPG (TE2 Pace) including his best 2 games and only games over 16 points. Two schools of thought: Thomas either got better as the season progressed as a raw athlete who converted to TE recently and his strong finish shows he’s on the verge of bigger and better things to come, OR Thomas’s production later in the season was based primarily on Antonio Gibson and Terry McLaurin injuries. WFT signed Curtis Samuel and Adam Humphries, which hurts his opportunities. I’m only selecting Thomas if he falls far.

- **Irv Smith Jr. (TE9 ... ADP: TE13)** – My favorite late-round TE target if you punt the position. Final 4 Games (without Kyle Rudolph) = 12.82 PPG, TE4 Pace. 20/15-183-3 but only 28 snaps Week 15 (55+ SPG in other 3). Tyler Conklin in those games: 22/15-168-1 (9.95 PPG). OC Klint Kubiak said Smith is “going to have more opportunities” this season. HC Mike Zimmer downplayed this notion, talking about Tyler Conklin’s role. Smith reported to OTAs in “phenomenal shape.” The Vikings will deploy multiple TEs, but Smith should get the biggest statistical bump following Kyle Rudolph’s departure. I’m concerned about Conklin throwing a wrench into a potential breakout campaign, but I think Smith will finish as a Top-12 TE.
- **Jonnu Smith (ADP: TE14)** – 2020 CGS = 9.54 PPG in 15 Games (1 DNP, exc. Wk 6 3<sup>rd</sup> Q exit, + 1 Playoff), TE14 Pace. First 4 Games (Pre-Ankle Injury) = 17.52 PPG (TE3 Pace), 27/18-221-5. Final 11 Games (Post Injury, + 1 Playoff) = 6.42 PPG (TE24 Pace), 39/24-223-3. Was well on his way to a breakout season until he injured his ankle in Week 6. Prior to that he was TE3. Smith moves like a wide receiver, similar to Darren Waller. The first move Bill Belichick made in free agency this offseason was sign Smith to big money. He should be moved around as a chess piece.

### Lottery Ticket Handcuff Running Backs (Draft 1):

- **Alexander Mattison (ADP: 133, RB49)** – Possesses Top-12 upside if Dalvin Cook were to get injured after Minnesota let Mike Boone walk in free agency. Dalvin Cook gets injured often, so I’m prioritizing Mattison late in drafts as a stash. Odds are this will be a lottery ticket we can cash at some point. If I’ve drafted Dalvin Cook, handcuffing him with Mattison is a necessity.
- **Tony Pollard (ADP: 134, RB50)** – Has the makings of a league-winner if something were to happen to Ezekiel Elliot. Of course, unlike Cook, Zeke has been a pinnacle of health in the league. But that shouldn’t stop us from taking a flyer at this point in the draft. At minimum, he’s a cheap insurance policy for Zeke drafters.

## Rounds 12-15 (Picks 150+)

### Favorite Kickers (Draft 1):

- **Justin Tucker (K1 ... ADP: K1)** – Best kicker in the game attached to a strong Ravens team. Provides rare consistency at the position as an annual Top-10 option and has leg strength and accuracy to provide 15+ point weeks.
- **Harrison Butker (K2 ... ADP: K2)** – Attached to best QB/offense in the NFL. Will disappoint some games with XPs instead of FGs, but AFC-favorite Chiefs are in scoring position so often that Butker rarely flops.
- **Ryan Succop (K3 ... ADP: K7)** – Moronically ranked as K17 on ESPN. Tom Brady’s kickers have always fantasy producers, dating back to the Adam Vinatieri and Stephen Gostkowski eras. The Super Bowl champs will be favorites in almost every game, meaning constant positive gamescripts and plenty of scoring opportunities.

- **Tyler Bass** (K4 ... ADP: K10) – Finished as K4 last season as a rookie kicking for a breakout Bills offense. Averaged 11.6 PPG (K1 Pace) in his final 10 games.
  - o *Missed out on a top kicker?*
    - *Wait until the last round, and scroll down for Week 1 Streaming Options below.*

### **Favorite Defenses (Draft 1):**

- **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** (ADP: DST1) – [Opens vs. DAL, ATL, @LAR, @NE]. Room for positive TD regression (only 1 DTD last season). Super Bowl Champs are talented and deep, will have constant positive scripts with Brady at QB.
- **Washington Football Team** (ADP: DST4) – [Opens vs. LAC, NYG, @BUF, @ATL, NO]. Already boasting a strong D-Line, the Football Team under Ron Rivera seems ready to take the next step into elite territory with upgrades to the secondary, at linebacker this offseason.
- **Baltimore Ravens** (ADP: DST3) – [Opens @LVR, KC, @DET, @DEN, IND]. Seemingly a Top-10 option every year. Run-oriented offense and slow pace keeps games low-scoring.
- **Denver Broncos** (ADP: DST9) – [Opens @NYG, @JAX, vs. NYJ]. Extremely soft opening schedule for a defense that is quietly loaded on paper.
- **New England Patriots** (ADP: DST8) – [Opens vs. MIA, @NYJ, vs. NO]. Belichick-led unit returns a few key Covid-19 opt-outs and added several free agents to re-patch the DST1 in 2019. Like Denver, New England has a very favorable opening slate.
  - o *Missed out on a top defense?*
    - *Wait until the last round and scroll down for Week 1 Streaming Options below.*

### **Favorite Backup QBs (Draft 1 if Hurts, Lance, or Fields is your QB1):**

- **Kirk Cousins** (QB15 ... ADP: QB18) – 2020 CGS = 19.13 PPG in 16 Games, QB16 Pace. Horrible start but finished like a low-end QB1 in the final 10 games (First 6 Games: 15.41 PPG, QB29 Pace, 11-11 TD/TO ... Final 10 Games = 21.37 PPG, QB11 Pace, 24-7 TD/TO). The Vikings were prepared to draft Justin Fields in Round 1 if he fell to them at pick 14. The team selected Kellen Mond in Round 2. If the Vikings underwhelm for whatever reason, Cousins' job security is not 100%. Opens the season with CIN, ARI, SEA, CLE, DET, CAR, DAL. Soft opening schedule makes him an ideal pairing with Trey Lance or Justin Fields.
- **Baker Mayfield** (QB16 ... ADP: QB19) – 2020 CGS = 15.68 PPG in 18 Games, QB29 Pace. But he was slow to excel learning a new system, played in a Week 7 game vs. PIT with injured ribs and dealt with 2-3 bad weather games where the Browns couldn't throw. Once he felt more comfortable with the offense and got through a windy portion of the season, Mayfield finished strongly (Final 8 Games: 19.6 PPG, QB16 Pace, 16-2 TD/INT). Only 28<sup>th</sup> in pass attempts last season, but finished strongly. The Browns are expected to put more on Mayfield's plate this season. All 11 starters return on offense, including an elite O-Line. Odell Beckham returns, and Jarvis Landry should be healthier. Austin Hooper and Kareem Hunt provide nice receiving options, and Nick Chubb should keep moving the chains. Kevin Stefanski provided a heavy dosage of play-action (where his YPA was 3.0 yards higher) and deep passing (2<sup>nd</sup> in percentage of passes traveling 15+ air yards).

- **Taysom Hill** (ADP: QB30) – I think Jameis Winston will be the opening day starter, but odds are Hill will start games for the Saints this season. Hill’s rushing makes him valuable. His 21.06 PPG in 4 starts last season ranked as QB11 (ahead of Tom Brady) in CGS. Worth a flyer in the last round of drafts if your starting QB has a late BYE week.

## Running Back & Wide Receiver Dart Throws (Draft 1-2):

- **Emmanuel Sanders** (ADP: 171, WR67) – 2020 CGS = 11.11 PPG in 16 Games (2 DNPs + 2 Playoff), WR52 Pace. 11 Full Games with Brees (Thomas played 4/11) = 12.88 PPG, WR44 Pace. 34-year-old is stepping into John Brown’s role in a pass-happy offense. According to Bills beat Joe Buscaglia, Bills GM Brandon Beane has long pursued Sanders and was aggressive in signing him in March. He could be a nice fit for this offense because Josh Allen’s arm strength and the routes he’ll be asked to run suit his skill set.
- **Sterling Shepard** (ADP: 167, WR62) – 2020 CGS = 15.88 PPG in 9 Games (exc. Wk 2 early exit, Wks 13, 15 McCoy started at QB), WR20 Pace, 73/59-554-3. Was way better than you think last season, when he and Daniel Jones were healthy. Very quietly a Top-20 WR in CGS. Valuable short possession target for Daniel Jones. Underrated WR in reality. Despite the Giants upgrading weaponry (Kenny Golladay, Kardarius Toney, Saquon Barkley returning), Shepard could be a valuable Flex option in full PPR formats once injuries and BYE weeks set in.
- **Mecole Hardman** (ADP: 159, WR54) – Takes over the de facto No. 2 WR role opposite of Tyreek Hill in the Mahomes-led offense now that Sammy Watkins has departed. Has made “sizable improvements” according to KC beat and team captain Tyrann Mathieu. Will be inconsistent week-to-week as deep threat, but potential to pay off in a major way if either Travis Kelce or Tyreek Hill go down.
- **Jakobi Meyers** (ADP: 159, WR59) – 2020 CGS = 12.8 PPG in 11 Games, WR43 Pace. Despite signings of Nelson Agholor, Kendrick Bourne, Pats beat writers have predicted Meyers will be the leading wide receiver for New England. Cam Newton developed a bond with Meyers in the second half of last season, and Meyers was talented enough to make the most of a broken passing game, finishing with 81/59-729-0 in 11 games as a starter. This was WR43 Pace, but it was on zero RETDs.
- **Malcolm Brown** (ADP: 158, RB56) – The team is high on Brown, a coach’s pet, who may get the starting nod in Week 1, which should include the majority of the early down work, and most of the goal line carries in Miami. His upside is limited because he’s simply not good, and the Dolphins’ O-Line stinks, but he should provide value at his ADP based on his projected volume, at the expense of Myles Gaskin drafters.
- **Elijah Moore** (ADP: 165, WR60) – Undersized (5’9, 178) but highly productive in college. He can play. Offseason hype early on: “the most impressive player at OTAs and it’s not really close,” and “uncoverable near the goal line.” HC Robert Saleh was been impressed with his versatility and work ethic. The Jets may utilize a 4-man rotation at WR (Moore, Corey Davis, Jamison Crowder, and Keelan Cole), but Moore could have a strong second half as the Jets start to focus on player development.
- **Terrace Marshall Jr.** (ADP: 200+, WR65+) – First round talent that fell in the NFL Draft due to medical red flags. Will be placed in the Curtis Samuel role from last season, reuniting with OC

Joe Brady from his days at LSU. The narrative would be different if the Panthers had selected Marshall in the first round of the draft. In the range of outcomes that he posts similar numbers to D.J. Moore and/or Robby Anderson.

- **Marquez Callaway** (ADP: 200+, WR65+) – Relevant because of Michael Thomas’s surgery recovery that should sideline him through Week 7. Callaway has reportedly been the best WR in Saints training camp. Was an undrafted free agent but has some positive traits. I like him better than his competition, Tre’Quan Smith, Lil Jordan Humphrey, and Deonte Harris (who may be suspended for the first 2 weeks of the season). For what it’s worth, I think Harris is worth monitoring. He flashed in the playoff game against Chicago and produced on limited snaps.

### Last-Round Kickers (Draft 1 if you missed out on above kickers):

- **Matt Gay** (ADP: K7) – Week 1 vs. CHI. Averaged 9.5 PPG (K5 Pace) in 7 games with the Rams last season. Strong offense with improved QB play, winning team.
- **Mason Crosby** (ADP: K19) – Week 1 @ NO. The elite Packers offense is bound for touchdown regression (more FGs).
- **Robbie Gould** (ADP: K20) – Week 1 @ DET. The 49ers have the easiest schedule in NFL.

### Last-Round Defenses (Draft 1 if you missed out above defenses):

- **Los Angeles Chargers** (ADP: DST15) – Week 1 @ WFT. HC Brandon Staley was the defensive coordinator for the Rams last season, totally revitalizing the unit. The Chargers have a lot of talent but were decimated by injuries last season.
- **Seattle Seahawks** (ADP: DST18) – Week 1 @ IND (without Carson Wentz?). Seattle’s defense picked up its play in the second half of last season.

### Tight End Dart Throws (Optional, League-Dependent):

- **Tyler Higbee** (ADP: TE15) – Post-hype sleeper potential as the clear-cut option who is no longer going to be rotating with fellow TE Gerald Everett. Higbee showed his potential in the final 5 games of 2019, recorded receiving lines of 7-107-1, 7-116-0, 12-111-0, 9-104-0, and 8-84-1 in true Travis Kelce fashion. Gets a QB upgrade from Jared Goff to Matt Stafford. Could become established third receiving option behind Robert Woods and Cooper Kupp in Sean McVay’s offense.
- **Austin Hooper** (ADP: TE20) – 2020 CGS = 8.97 PPG in 15 Games (3 DNP + 2 Playoff), TE21 Pace. But Final 5 Games, including playoffs = 12.8 PPG (TE5), 40/25-210-3, but note other WRs DNP vs. NYJ due to Covid, and Beckham is returning.
- **Gerald Everett** (ADP: TE22) – Gifted receiver with plus athletic traits. Rotated with Tyler Higbee last season but followed new OC Shane Waldron from the Rams. Everett will be familiar with offense, has no TE in front of him, and gets a QB upgrade in Russ Wilson. Pete Carroll hyped him up in the offseason, calling Everett “a real threat in the throwing game... He’s like a wide receiver.” Nice sleeper if you punt the position.

# PLAYERS TO **AVOID** AT/NEAR COST

Coming Soon!

# PLAYERS TO **AVOID** AT/NEAR COST

Players NOT on my Draft Board and the reasons for fading them will be discussed in detail on a future episode of the [Fantasy Law Guy Podcast](#), to be aired early next week.

The spark notes of that discussion will be posted in this section of the Fantasy Law Guide shortly after.

# COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

## Super Flex Sex

*The Argument for Why Super Flex Formats Should (and Will) Be Implemented in Fantasy Football Leagues.*

Fantasy football is stupid.

We play a game where players like Nyheim Hines, J.D. McKissic, Breshad Perriman are all somehow seen as MORE VALUABLE than quality quarterbacks like Kirk Cousins, Baker Mayfield, Matt Ryan, and Derek Carr – some of NFL's most important players in reality.

Most of you who are taking the time to read this know that the reason Hines, McKissic, and Perriman are typically selected before Cousins, Mayfield, Ryan, and Carr in fantasy drafts is a matter of supply and demand.

As fantasy experts throughout the industry will explain: drafting the game's best QBs - Pat Mahomes, Aaron Rodgers, Tom Brady, and Russell Wilson - in Round 1 is a rookie move. They'll tell you it's a smarter strategy to spend early draft picks on more valuable and scarcer positions like running back or wide receiver. And because there are PLENTY of quarterbacks who put up quality numbers, experts advise you to wait before addressing the position.

That's why Myles Gaskin, Mike Davis, and Brandin Cooks are all being drafted ahead of Tom Brady and Aaron Rodgers in fantasy drafts this summer.

Now stop what you're doing. Reread that last sentence, and take a moment to think about what you just read. If you're a seasoned fantasy football veteran, taking quarterbacks late probably seems totally normal to you.

Should it, though?

Imagine telling an NFL GM that you would rather focus on acquiring your second and third running back instead of Pat Mahomes in Round 4. That 89 players should go before Tom Brady (currently ranked 90<sup>th</sup> overall on ESPN). Think about the perplexed look on his face when you tell him, "you see, you can find quality quarterbacks later in the draft or even in free agency. There's a surplus of quality QBs in the league, so the quarterback position doesn't really matter that much." You'd be laughed out of the room.

Look, there comes a time when you have to put things in perspective. And that perspective comes quickly for anyone who has ever tried to explain fantasy football strategy to someone who has never played fantasy football before. For instance, try explaining to any non-fantasy football playing NFL fan that Myles Gaskin is a MORE VALUABLE ASSETS THAN AARON RODGERS AND TOM BRADY. Their likely immediate reaction would be to think this game of fantasy football is STUPID and makes ZERO sense.

And they would be right.

Mainstream fantasy football roster constructions are currently lagging behind the times.

In real football, the game has become MORE dependent on strong QB play, and running backs have become devalued to role players who split the workload and are largely dependent on their surroundings (scheme, O-Line, game flow, their QB, etc.). But oddly enough, this pass-oriented evolution of the NFL has OPPOSITE EFFECT in fantasy football.

The mass-pass-heavy hysteria has created so many good statistical QBs that they are now a lot LESS valuable in fantasy football due to increased supply of available stats, even though quarterbacks have never been more valuable in REALITY.

Quarterback is without a doubt the most important position in all of sports, but yet quarterback sits right above kicker in terms of fantasy football value.

This is clearly a messed up and backward system that we've just learned to blindly accept as fact.

And don't hear what I'm not saying: it's not the fantasy experts' fault that in their rankings and mock drafts a whopping 54 other players are ranked and selected ahead of Pat Mahomes (currently ranked 55<sup>th</sup> overall by ESPN), the best and most valuable player in the NFL. The SYSTEM is what's at issue. The SYSTEM IS BROKEN.

In fantasy football, we have backup quarterbacks who throw for 4,000 yards and 25 TDs riding our benches all year or even sitting in free agency because we can only start one QB. Conversely, in our flex spots each week, we are usually HOPING our 3rd or 4th RB, who often sees fewer than 50% of snaps on his own team, is going to get 10 touches in his game. Apparently, we would rather be playing a game that prioritizes valuing this type of role player than legitimate starting quarterbacks in the NFL.

It's idiotic. Quarterbacks are way more entertaining to watch than a team's third receiver or second string running back. What are we doing to have these good QBs

just sit and rot on our benches and in free agency all year? Why would we not want quarterbacks like Kirk Cousins and Derek Carr in starting fantasy lineups each week instead of Nyheim Hines or J.D. McKissic?

Fantasy football is about statistics, so it's curious why in a league with so few bell cow RBs, where 62% of plays are pass plays, and over 80% of total yardage coming through the air, and at least 24 QBs putting up very respectable passing stats each year, that this game nevertheless continues to require you to start at least 3 RBs, but only 1 QB.

It's absolutely senseless, specially based on the way the NFL is played today.

I mean come on: early Average Draft Positions in expert leagues have guys like Russell Gage, Adam Trautman, Tarik Cohen, Tyrell Williams, and Malcolm Brown being selected before Top-24 real-life QBs like Baker Mayfield, Kirk Cousins, Derek Carr, and potential up-and-coming superstars like Justin Fields, and Trey Lance... I'm not kidding. And it's simply because your 6th string RB is clearly more important in this fake football game than your backup QB, or sometimes even your starting QB.

It sounds so ridiculous when you say it out loud. It's time to stop sitting back and accepting this as normal.

While the NFL has evolved in the last 20 years, fantasy football is still using Dial-Up Internet Connection, wearing Cargo Shorts and listening to Backstreet Boys on their Walk-Mans.

At some point, fantasy football has to grow up. Take a look in the mirror, and stop answering "this is way it's always been done," when someone questions why quarterbacks are so devalued in fantasy football yet so important in reality.

Instead, we should be asking: "How can we improve? How can make fantasy football better?"

## **SUPER FLEX IS THE ANSWER!**

Super Flex formats are fantasy football leagues with an extra flex position (designated as an "offensive player" utility position) that allows managers to start any offensive position, including quarterback. There are several excellent reasons to convert your league to a Super Flex league.

First, the Super Flex format allows for much more lineup FLEXIBILITY and CREATIVITY. If you've already selected Pat Mahomes in Round 2, and Russell Wilson is the best player available when you're on the clock in the next round, you can take him and start two great quarterbacks. League members aren't constrained

in the draft to oblige by one archaic strategy that everyone is robotically following. And to that effect, Super Flex formats make fantasy drafts more INTERESTING AND UNPREDICTABLE.

Second, quarterbacks are more fun to watch and evaluate than most running backs and wide receivers. Even casual fans know quarterbacks, like to root for certain quarterbacks, and focus on quarterbacks because of their value in the real game. Thus, there's a certain increase in the level of entertainment you get from your fantasy league because you are starting 2 QBs and having your opponent start 2 QBs against you. In other words, it's more fun to watch Joe Burrow and Trevor Lawrence play and score meaningful points than a 2nd flex option of Philip Lindsay or Jamaal Williams.

What are the drawbacks of Super Flex lineups? There are two popular criticisms.

“Everyone would want to use a second Quarterback in the Super Flex spot because QBs score the most points. This makes them too valuable.”

My response to that ridiculous critique is... GOOD! Quarterbacks are in fact the most valuable players in the NFL the most important position in all of sports. So yeah, them being more valuable in fantasy football... that's kind of the point.

The second main criticism of Super Flex leagues is that “there aren't enough starting QBs – in other words, if everyone in a 12-team league drafts 3 QBs now (1 starter, 1 possible super flex starter, and 1 backup), then it adds up to 36 QBs... yet there are only 32 starting QBs in the NFL. The Math doesn't seem to add up...”

This of course is not an issue in 10-Team formats, and while there is some validity to this concern in 12-Team formats, it's not as big of an issue as perceived. Consider that this is a Super Flex position, NOT a second quarterback. Teams can still start a RB, WR, or TE in the Super Flex position if they miss out on QBs, their QBs get hurt, or have BYE weeks. All it does is increase the value of quarterbacks, as we should. Furthermore, it's easy to place a ROSTER LIMIT (MAXIMUM) of 3 Quarterbacks per team to prevent teams from hoarding QBs.

And if that math STILL concerns you, consider this math:

There are 32 starting QBs, but only 10 or 12 of them matter in your fantasy football league each week. Again, that's absurd, foolish, and it quite frankly goes against everything the NFL stands for nowadays.

Now, if you play in a 14 or 16-team league, then yes, I can admit that implementing Super Flex positions in those leagues would be more of a challenge. But if you're in a 10-team league, or even 12, Super Flex is a no-brainer.

Again, if adding a Super Flex means that everyone in your draft needs to draft quarterbacks higher so they can make sure they get 2-3 viable starters, then GREAT! That makes your league better, not worse. Don't be afraid to change the status quo, especially when the change makes too much sense. Don't be stubborn and stuck in your ways. Evolve with the NFL.

Fantasy Football needs to catch up with the times. It's a pass-first league, and QBs should be more valuable. Super Flex leagues are progressive, and whether you like them or not, they are the future of fantasy football.

The fantasy football industry is rightfully trending toward Super Flex formats (it's about time). Super Flex leagues are becoming more widespread and popular among expert leagues. In fact, I predict Super Flex formats will be mainstream (as in adopted as the DEFAULT setting by big time host sites like ESPN, Yahoo!, NFL.com, etc.) within the next three years. The major platforms could begin shifting as early as next season.

If you're serious about fantasy football like I am, you want to be ahead of the curve, not slow to adapt. You also want the best experience possible in your fantasy football leagues. Super Flex leagues carry both benefits, and so much more.

I STRONGLY urge you to add a Super Flex position to your fantasy football league THIS SEASON! Not only will you never look back, but in a decade, you'll laugh at the very thought of single-quarterback leagues!

Super Flex leagues are the way fantasy football should be played.

- For my best pitch on Super Flex leagues, listen to the first 15 minutes of the *Fantasy Law Guy Podcast*, Episode (17): "Matthew Berry's Draft Day Manifesto (Full Breakdown); Super Flex Sex."

# Guarisco Playoff Format (GPF)

*Improve Your Fantasy Football Playoffs by Implementing the “Guarisco Playoff Format” (GPF).*

- The vast majority of fantasy football playoff formats are garbage. Think about it...
- Single elimination playoffs in fantasy football are terrible.
- Single elimination playoffs that have their Championships decided in Week 18 are even worse.
- Two-week matchups don't fix the problem because often times, the LOSER from the 1 vs. 4 matchup outscores the WINNER of the 2 vs. 3 matchup, meaning the team that scored fewer points than another playoff team over a span of two weeks in the same round is advancing to the Championship nonetheless.
- There's no home field advantage for being a higher seed or better team.
- Fantasy playoff seeding and BYE weeks are determined by final standings and not points (when points are the strongest indicator of the best teams).
- Two-week matchups are also 4 weeks long. If you want to avoid Week 18, you have to start your playoffs in Week 14. But FOUR teams have BYE weeks in Week 14 this year (thanks, NFL)!
- A playoff format that lasts 4 weeks long instead of 3 weeks takes away a week of fun and competition for everyone else.
- Ideally, the fantasy playoffs should be 3 weeks long, either in Weeks 15-17 in order to avoid the pitfalls of Week 14 (BYE weeks) and Week 18 (rest) OR Weeks 15-17, with somehow making it so Championships are not solely decided by Week 17 matchups.
- Moreover, the rigid structures of one and two-week matchups force either 4, 6, or 8 teams to make the postseason. But in 12-team leagues, 4 teams (33% playoff rate) is too few, and 6 teams (50% playoff rate) is too many!

*What can we do to fix all of these massive problems?!*

*Does a fantasy football playoff format that avoids these problems even exist???*

**Yes! The “Guarisco Playoff Format” (GPF) fixes all of these problems.**

- In the GPF, each playoff team accumulates a win/loss result against all other playoff teams for Weeks 15, 16, and 17.
- Every team plays every team each week.
- The team with the best overall win/loss record during the postseason wins the league.

- Allow me to demonstrate: let's say I make the postseason with three other teams. And in Week 15, I score 120 points and outscore the other three playoff teams. Well, that means I go 3-0 in Week 15. Now, Week 16 rolls around and my team doesn't play as well. I outscore only one team, but two teams score more points than I do in Week 16. That means I went 1-2 in Week 16, and now my record stands at 4-2 overall. Finally, in Week 17, let's pretend my team totally lays an egg. Every playoff team scores more points than my sorry team in Week 17, so I'm 0-3 for that week, which makes me 4-5 overall. Now let's assume that the other three playoff teams went 7-2, 5-4, and 2-7 in their respective "9-game mini-series" against each other and myself. That means my 4-5 overall record is good enough for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The team that went 7-2 in Weeks 15-17 wins the league and is declared the League Champion.
- In the GPF, if multiple teams end with the same postseason record (two teams finish 6-3, for example), the tie-breaker goes to the team with the most total points in the regular season + playoffs. This allows the best teams throughout the year to have a tie-breaking "home field advantage" of sorts.
- The Guarisco Style Playoff System helps ensure that a good team throughout the season that also finishes strongly will win your league as opposed to fluky luck-centered outcomes of single-elimination matchups.
- The GPF also ensures that your playoff fate is not determined by matchup "seeding," where you can get screwed by playing the highest scoring team, while you outscored the both teams, including the winner, in the other matchup in the same round but still get eliminated.
- If you're one of those people who argues that including Week 18 is a good idea (perhaps because it adds an extra week of fun and competition, and that Week 18 requires new challenges like any other week, and adjusting to what's happening in the NFL is the name of the game), the GPF gives you the option of still involving Week 18 in order to maximize the weeks in the regular season for everyone to play while decreasing the importance of that final week. When other leagues that play through Week 18 would have their championship solely determined by Week 18, the GPF would minimize the impact of Week 18 because it's just 1/3 of playoffs for all teams. Weeks 16 and 17 are more important than Week 18 in the GPF, as they should be. But by not eliminating Week 18 completely, the GPF strikes a fair balance, again, if you're one of those rare commissioners who likes playing through Week 18.
- You can even further decrease the impact of Week 18, while keeping it somewhat relevant, by starting your playoffs in Week 15. This would make it a 4-week playoff (Weeks 15, 16, 17, and 18) instead of a 3-week playoff (Weeks 16-18).
- Of course, the GPF is flexible enough to where if you want to exclude Week 18 completely because some teams rest starters, then you can use the GPF for Weeks 15-17 and still avoid Week 14 (when two teams have BYE weeks).
- The GPF also allows you the flexibility to put an odd-number of teams in your playoffs. If you think 4/12 playoff teams is too few and 6/12 is too many... why

not have 5? The only difference between 4 teams, or 5 teams, or even 6 teams, in the GPF is the number of games each team plays each week. Instead of a “mini-series” that consists of 9 total games like does in the 4-team GPF example above, there’s a “12-game mini-series” for a 5-team GPF.

- The GPF allows you to put as many playoff teams as you want for as many weeks as you want without altering the system!
- Make a 5<sup>th</sup> playoff team a wildcard team solely determined by points, and now we’re starting to cook with gas. The GPF gives you the flexibility to do great things like this.
- Most importantly, in the GPF, NO ONE complains that the League Champ got “lucky,” and no one claims that the playoffs were a “fluke,” because in the GPF, each team had 9 or more matchups against every other team spanning over three or four weeks to determine the winner.
- All things considered, the GPF is far and away the best fantasy football playoff system.
- I’ve been using this system in all leagues I commission for the last 11 years and we have NEVER had a single complaint.
- In fact, people say the GPF is the best thing about my fantasy leagues.
- People say the GPF is the best thing about ME. As a person.
- So get rid of your inherently unfair and outdated playoff system and implement the Guarisco Playoff Format in your league TODAY!
- *Listen to the [Fantasy Law Guy Podcast, Episode \(12\): “Best FFB Playoff Format”](#) for more details on the [Guarisco Playoff Format](#).*

# Other Ways to Improve Your Fantasy Football League

## Increase Your Starting Lineup by Adding an Extra Flex Position

- In general, your fantasy football league probably has too many bench spots.
- Having 6-7 bench spots in a standard league with 9 starters is pointless.
- Convert one of those bench spots into an extra flex position in the starting lineup.
- Ideally, in 10-12 team leagues, you should have **two** Flex positions and one Super Flex position in your starting lineup, as followed: [QB RB RB WR WR TE FLEX FLEX SUPER FLEX K DST].
- The more players on the field, the more fun it is to play and watch.
- More players in your starting lineup also decreases variance i.e. the impact of a first quarter injury is lessened because more starters are scored.

## Use Decimal Scoring

- Every yard matters. It's a game of inches.
- Decimal scoring helps prevent ties, and nobody likes ties.

## Move to a Free Agent Auction Bidding (FAAB) Waiver System

- This allows teams to bid fake ("FAAB") money out of a \$100-\$200 team salary cap each year to acquire players.
- FAAB is the most fair and fun waiver system by far.
- I recommend one weekly auction on Wednesday morning of each week, and then having free agency be open (free-for-all, first-come-first-serve) for the rest of the week.
- Although valid arguments can be made for the fairness of "Continuous" FAAB systems (having an auction every morning), I believe continuous, daily auctions limit roster flexibility on game days. And as a commissioner, this problem heavily outweighs the "virtual race to the player" when breaking news occurs.
- There are differing opinions on which style of FAAB to incorporate, but one thing is clear: any FAAB system is better than the alternative waiver systems.
- The classic inverse order of standings or rolling waivers is some real stone age stuff.
- Make sure you set the **MINIMUM BID at \$0**, and NOT \$1.
- If the minimum bid is \$1, then people who have run out of FAAB money cannot make free agent acquisitions. As a commissioner, you want to encourage free agency activity from every team all season long.

## Eliminate League-Vote Trades.

- Evaluating trades should be the commissioner’s job.
- League votes during the season are riddled with bias and ruin leagues.
- Trades should be accepted and pushed through by commissioners unless there are signs of collusion or the proposed trade is patently unfair and obviously cripples the competitive balance of the league (for instance, an extremely one-sided, shocking “what the heck!?” give-up trade from a non-playoff team to a playoff team right before the postseason).
- Do not be the commissioner that rejects trades from two accepting league members simply because a trade advantages one side. That’s overstepping your boundaries.

### **Incorporate Double Matchups in Competitive (\$\$\$) Leagues**

- If you are in a competitive league with a decent amount of money on the line, consider adopting a concept called Double Matchups (or “Double Headers”), where one game each week will be determined by your head-to-head result against your scheduled opponent as usual, and the other game will depend on whether you’re a Top-Half scorer or Bottom-Half scorer that week (if you outscore half of your league that week, you get a win, and if not, you get a loss).
- In this system, teams go 2-0, 1-1, or 0-2 each week, resulting in 28 games (not 14) by regular season’s end.
- Double Matchups decrease the impact of random scheduling luck (something fantasy players have absolutely no control over) and rewards teams that are consistently scoring well each week (and not just benefiting from easy matchups), all the while preserving the fun of head-to-head matchups.
- Basically, if you score 130 points one week but happen to play the one team that scores 150 points, you won’t be completely S.O.L. Instead, you’ll go 1-1 in this scenario under a Double Matchups system because you’ll get a loss for losing your head-to-head matchup but a win for out-scoring half the other teams in your league.
- Double Matchups are a great way to balance fairness and fun, and I strongly recommend this system for any non-casual league with a buy-in, especially high stakes (\$\$\$) leagues.

### **Last Place Pays Double Buy-In for Competitive (\$\$\$) Leagues**

- The best way to make sure eliminated teams at the bottom of the standings are setting their lineup each week is to give them an incentive to keep trying to maximize their point totals each week.
- Positive reinforcements such as weekly high-scoring bonuses or awarding the consolation tournament winner with an early draft pick next season are largely ineffective for a number of reasons.
- In my experience, a stick is more appropriate than a carrot for this particular circumstance. Nothing makes league members respond more than a rule that threatens to take their money.

- Create a league policy where the team that finishes last in points and the team that finishes last in standings has to pay half of the buy-in again at the end of the season.
- If a team finishes last in BOTH points and standings, that manager has to pay double the buy-in (i.e. pay the buy-in again if it's already been distributed).
- Not only does this rule prevent inactivity, it also adds extra money to the pot.
- The added money can be used to pay the winner in points for the regular season, or it can go to whoever had the strongest second half as compared to their first half of the season (i.e. the greatest positive difference between Weeks 1-7 and Weeks 8-14). This is another creative way to prevent inactivity.

### **Lock All Non-Playoff Teams' Rosters During the Playoffs**

- There's no need for a consolation tournament in fantasy football.
- Teams have 14 weeks to qualify for the fantasy playoffs.
- Allowing activity from non-playoff teams once the postseason begins only serves to disrupt the postseason and cause unneeded controversies.
- Make a rule preventing non-playoff teams from making moves during the fantasy postseason to ensure a fair competition among the teams that matter.

# My Recommended Roster Settings and Scoring

## 10-12 TEAM LEAGUES

### ROSTER:

Starting Lineup:

QB (3 max per roster)  
RB  
RB  
WR  
WR  
WR  
TE  
FLEX (any Running Back or Wide Receiver or Tight End)  
FLEX (any Running Back or Wide Receiver or Tight End)  
OP (Super Flex / Any Offensive Player, including QB)  
Kicker  
DST

6 Bench Spots

3 I.R. Spots

### SCORING:

#### Passing:

1 PAYD = 0.04 (Decimal Scoring!)

PATD = 4

INT = -2

2pt PA Conv = 1

#### Rushing/Receiving:

1 RUYD/REYD YD = .1

RUTD/RETD = 6

2 pt RU/RE Conv = 2

100+ RUYD/REYD Bonus = +2.5

200+ RUYD/REYD Bonus = +5

Non-PPR, but...

Every 5 Catches Bonus = +2.5

Kicking:

PAT Made = 1  
PAT Missed = -1  
FG 30-39 = 3  
FG 40-49 = 4  
FG 50+ = 5  
FG 60+ = 5

DST:

Sack = 1  
All Return & Defensive TDs = 4  
Blocked Kick/Punt = 2  
FR = 2  
Safety = 2  
1-pt Safety = 1  
2pt Return = 2  
INT = 2  
0 PA = 7  
1-6 PA = 5  
7-13 PA = 4  
14-17 PA = 2  
18-21 PA = 0  
22-27 PA = -1  
28-34 PA = -2  
35+ PA = -4  
46+ PA = -4  
YA<100 = 7  
YA100-199 = 5  
YA200-299 = 3  
YA300-349 = 1  
YA350-399 = 0  
YA400-449 = -1  
YA450-499 = -2  
YA>500 = -4  
YA>550+ = -4

All Misc. TDs = 4

All FL = -2

**TEAMS & DIVISION:**

- NO Divisions (divisions only cause controversy, no reason for them in FF)

## TRANSACTIONS:

- NO Season Acquisition Limit
- Waiver Period for Cut Players = 1 Day
- **Free Agent Auction Bidding (FAAB) Waiver System (Non-Continuous)**
  - One weekly auction on Wednesday morning each week
  - \$150 FAAB Budget
  - Minimum Bid = \$0
- Trade Limit = 10
- **Trade Deadline = November 23, 2020**
- Trade Review Period = 3 Days
- **League Manager Only Veto (NO Trade Voting!)**

## SCHEDULE:

- Regular Season Matchups = 14
- Matchup Tie-Breaker = Bench Points (Decimal Scoring Helps Prevent Ties!)
- Playoffs = Weeks 15-17
- **Playoff System = “Guarisco Playoff Format”**
  - See above and/or listen to the *Fantasy Law Guy Podcast, Episode (12): “Best FFB Playoff Format”* for details!

# Expert Transparency

*“My #1 piece of advice to FF players: learn to sift through the accounts you follow. Taking advice from the wrong people can destroy your team. Just because someone has a platform does not mean they are good at this, nor that they can help you win. Some financial investors can make you rich, others can lead you to bankruptcy. It is your responsibility to determine which advice is worth following. That being said, nobody is ever correct 100% of the time, but some are right a lot more often than others. It takes many years to learn this. By choosing to pay a subscription, you are hiring a consultant. Don’t be afraid to ask someone what their track record is, ask to see some of their teams and results in industry leagues. You wouldn’t pay for fitness/nutrition advice from someone who is morbidly obese, and you wouldn’t pay for financial advice from someone who is homeless. This isn’t any different. It’s a performance-based industry and participation ribbons don’t count. Winning does, and experts that help you put your team in position to win year in and year out should be the standard. Don’t be afraid to question someone’s credibility. If they are really good, they will be proud to show their work...”*

– Unknown Author on Twitter

## 2020 Fantasy Law Guide Results

### Greatest Hits

- *Players I wisely ranked significantly higher than ADP and/or aggressively advised targeting them in drafts. These are some players that you likely ended up with if you followed my Draft Guide:*
  - Alvin Kamara
  - Derrick Henry
  - Davante Adams (ahead of consensus WR1 Michael Thomas)
  - Adam Thielen
  - Calvin Ridley
  - D.K. Metcalf
  - Tyler Lockett
  - Kyler Murray
  - Russell Wilson
  - Will Fuller
  - Antonio Gibson
  - Josh Allen
  - Jonathan Taylor
  - David Montgomery

- Diontae Johnson
- J.K. Dobbins
- Ryan Tannehill
- Nyheim Hines
- Curtis Samuel
- Corey Davis
- Colts DST
- Buccaneers DST.

## Biggest Whiffs

- *Players I stupidly ranked significantly higher than ADP and/or aggressively advised targeting them in drafts, hurting your teams:*
  - Clyde Edwards-Helaire
  - Joe Mixon
  - James Conner
  - George Kittle (ahead of consensus TE1 Travis Kelce)
  - Marquise Brown
  - Matt Ryan
  - Jared Goff
  - Tyler Higbee
  - Jared Cook
  - Irv Smith Jr.
  - Anthony Miller
  - DeSean Jackson
  - Christian Kirk
  - Zack Moss
  - Bills DST

## Best Fades

- *Players inside the Top 100 that I correctly ranked below ADP to the point where you managed to avoid these pitfalls if you followed my Draft Guide:*
  - Michael Thomas
  - Ezekiel Elliot
  - Miles Sanders
  - Lamar Jackson (behind consensus QB2 Pat Mahomes)
  - Kenny Golladay
  - Chris Godwin
  - JuJu Smith-Schuster
  - D.J. Moore
  - Todd Gurley
  - Leonard Fournette
  - Courtland Sutton
  - Michael Gallup
  - Le'Veon Bell

- Mark Ingram
- Devin Singletary
- Tarik Cohen
- Phillip Lindsay
- Deebo Samuel
- Raheem Mostert
- Cam Akers
- Cooper Kupp.

## **Worst Fades**

- *Players inside the Top 100 that I unwisely recommended fading or avoiding based on ADP that ended up having great seasons:*
  - Dalvin Cook
  - Tyreek Hill
  - DeAndre Hopkins
  - Travis Kelce (ranked behind consensus TE2 George Kittle).

# My Fantasy Football League History

## Recent History / League Breakdown (Last 6 Seasons)

<u>League</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Points Finish</u>
<b>2020:</b>			
SPS (Low Stakes)	10-4*	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 12	1 <sup>st</sup>
Hood (Competitive)	9-5*	1 <sup>st</sup> / 12	1 <sup>st</sup>
DDD (Competitive)	9-5*	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 12	2 <sup>nd</sup>
BBL (High Stakes)	7-7	7 <sup>th</sup> / 12	7 <sup>th</sup>
LULA (Competitive)	8-6*	1 <sup>st</sup> / 14	4 <sup>th</sup>
Experts (High Stakes)	9-4*	5 <sup>th</sup> / 12	5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52-31</b>	<b>(5/6 Playoff Teams)</b>	

<u>League</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Points Finish</u>
<b>2019:</b>			
SPS (Low Stakes)	9-5*	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 12	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Hood (Competitive)	12-2*	1 <sup>st</sup> / 12	1 <sup>st</sup>
DDD (Competitive)	12-2*	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 12	1 <sup>st</sup>
BBL (High Stakes)	8-5*	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 10	3 <sup>rd</sup>
LULA (Competitive)	10-4*	4 <sup>th</sup> / 14	3 <sup>rd</sup>
B.E.S.T. Ball Tourney (1) Best Ball		1 <sup>st</sup> / 50	1 <sup>st</sup> / 50
B.E.S.T. Ball Tourney (2) Best Ball		3 <sup>rd</sup> / 50	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 50
<b>Total</b>	<b>51-18</b>	<b>(5/5 Playoff Teams)</b>	

<u>League</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Points Finish</u>
<b>2018:</b>			
SPS (Low Stakes)	13-1*	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 12	1 <sup>st</sup>
Hood (Competitive)	5-9	9 <sup>th</sup> / 12	7 <sup>th</sup>
Experts (High Stakes)	7-7	7 <sup>th</sup> / 16	7 <sup>th</sup>
BBL (High Stakes)	6-8	7 <sup>th</sup> / 10	3 <sup>rd</sup>
LULA (Competitive)	10-4*	1 <sup>st</sup> / 14	2 <sup>nd</sup>
G.I.F.F.T. Tournament	Best Ball	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 50	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 50
<b>Total</b>	<b>41-29</b>	<b>(2/5 Playoff Teams)</b>	

<u>League</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Points Finish</u>
<b>2017:</b>			
SPS (Low Stakes)	12-2*	3 <sup>rd</sup> / 12	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Hood (Competitive)	13-1*	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 12	1 <sup>st</sup>
Miami (High Stakes)	9-4*	1 <sup>st</sup> / 16	5 <sup>th</sup>
BBL (Low Stakes)	10-3*	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 10	1 <sup>st</sup>
LULA (Competitive)	12-2*	1 <sup>st</sup> / 14	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56-12</b>	<b>(5/5 Playoff Teams)</b>	

<b><u>League</u></b>	<b><u>Record</u></b>	<b><u>Finish</u></b>	<b><u>Points Finish</u></b>
<b>2016:</b>			
SPS (Low Stakes)	12-2*	1st / 12	1st
Hood (Competitive)	10-4*	1st / 12	1st
DDD (Competitive)	7-7*	4th / 12	5th
OGFL (Competitive)	9-5*	1st / 12	1st
Miami (High Stakes)	8-6*	3rd / 16	3rd
BBL (High Stakes)	8-5*	3rd / 10	3rd
GLL (High Stakes)	12-2*	1st / 12	1st
<b>Total</b>	<b>66-31</b>	<b>(7/7 Playoff Teams)</b>	

<b><u>League</u></b>	<b><u>Record</u></b>	<b><u>Finish</u></b>	<b><u>Points Finish</u></b>
<b>2015:</b>			
Experts (High Stakes)	11-3*	1st / 12	2nd
SPS (Low Stakes)	10-4*	2nd / 12	2nd
Hood (Competitive)	9-5*	1st / 12	1st
DDD (Competitive)	11-3*	1st / 12	2nd
OGFL (Competitive)	11-3*	4th / 12	4th
BBL (High Stakes)	9-5*	2nd / 10	2nd
Miami (High Stakes)	10-4*	1st / 16	1st
<b>Total</b>	<b>71-27</b>	<b>(7/7 Playoff Teams)</b>	

*\*= Made Postseason*

## Recent Totals - Since 2015 (Last 6 Years):

- Total Leagues:
  - 35
- Regular Season Record:
  - 337-148 (.6948)
- Playoff Appearances:
  - 31/35 leagues (88.5%)
- Standings Finishes:
  - 15 firsts, 7 seconds, 8 thirds, 3 fourths, 1 fifths, 3 sevenths, 1 ninth
- Points Finishes:
  - 15 firsts, 8 seconds, 7 thirds, 2 fourths, 3 fifths, 3 sevenths

## Overall Totals - Since 2009 (Last 12 Years):

- Total Leagues:
  - 65
- Regular Season Record:
  - 596-301 (.6644)
- Playoff Appearances:
  - 53/65 leagues (81.5%)
- Standings Finishes (Last 12 Years):
  - 26 firsts, 13 seconds, 6 thirds, 5 fourths, 6 fifths, 5 sevenths, 2 eighths, 1 ninth, 1 twelfth☺
- Points Finishes (Last 12 Years):
  - 30 firsts, 14 seconds, 7 thirds, 3 fourths, 6 fifths, 3 sevenths, 2 eighths

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GOOD LUCK this season, even to my competitors.

**By: Nick Guarisco**  
**[@FantasyLawGuy](#)**