
$t$


FO
 $\qquad$ powered by DTHEHUDDLE

Top Rankings by Position | Pro Tips | Sleepers | And More!



Are you ready? Lace up your cleats and dust off your helmet: Its fantasy football season!
Across North America, nearly 60 million men, women and children will enjoy their fantasy football drafts during the coming weeks. Many have joked the NFL stands for Not For Long, and that holds very true in the world of fantasy football, too.

A lot has changed since last year. A. Lot.
How up-to-speed are you on the hot rookie targets for 2018? How about sleepers and under-valued players? Do you know about all of the off-season player moves? Or, what about injuries - lingering from last year and newly acquired this summer?

Is your head spinning yet? Don't sweat it. That's what we, at TheHuddle.com, are here for - to do all of the heavy lifting so you don't have to. You enjoy what's left of summer.

We'll tell you who to pick, who to start and which players to pick up during the regular season.

TheHuddle.com has been creating fantasy football champions for 21 years. Now it's your turn.

Customizable player rankings? Check! Sleepers? Check! Player news around the clock? Check! Award winning analysis is what we're known for. It's time we help your fantasy football team take home a trophy, too.

Let's warm you up for the season with this fantasy football primer before you hit the field; we don't need you pulling a hamstring after all.

# Quarterback \& Tight End Rankings 

Point-per-reception (PPR) scoring | (r) - Player carries risk(s) | (u) - Player has upside

| Rank | Quarterback | Team | Bye | Rank | Tight End | Team | Bye |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Aaron Rodgers | GBP | 7 | 1 | Travis Kelce | KCC | 12 |
| 2 | Russell Wilson | SEA | 7 | 2 | Rob Gronkowski | NEP | 11 |
| 3 | Deshaun Watson | HOU | 10 | 3 | Greg Olsen | CAR | 4 |
| 4 | Tom Brady | NEP | 11 | 4 | Zach Ertz | PHI | 9 |
| 5 | Cam Newton | CAR | 4 | 5 | Jimmy Graham (u) | GBP | 7 |
| 6 | Carson Wentz | PHI | 9 | 6 | Trey Burton (u) | CHI | 5 |
| 7 | Matthew Stafford | DET | 6 | 7 | Evan Engram | NYG | 9 |
| 8 | Ben Roethlisberger | PIT | 7 | 8 | Kyle Rudolph | MIN | 10 |
| 9 | Drew Brees | NOS | 6 | 9 | O.J. Howard (u) | TBB | 5 |
| 10 | Philip Rivers | LAC | 8 | 10 | David Njoku | CLE | 11 |
| 11 | Andrew Luck (r) (u) | IND | 9 | 11 | Delanie Walker (r) | TEN | 8 |
| 12 | Kirk Cousins | MIN | 10 | 12 | Jordan Reed (r) | WAS | 4 |
| 13 | Jared Goff (u) | LAR | 12 | 13 | A. Seferian-Jenkins | JAC | 9 |
| 14 | Matt Ryan | ATL | 8 | 14 | Eric Ebron (u) | IND | 9 |
| 15 | Marcus Mariota (u) | TEN | 8 | 15 | Vance McDonald | PIT | 7 |
| 16 | Patrick Mahomes (u) | KCC | 12 | 16 | Charles Clay | BUF | 11 |

## PRO TIPS: Drafting Quarterbacks and Tight Ends

QB is a very deep position this year; rather than invest in the position early, use those valuable draft spots to build your RBs and WRs. You can generally find great value at the QB position around the eighth round.

Having a high-upside backup QB isn't a bad idea if your starter succumbs to injury or poor play, but don't be afraid to enter the year with just one on roster if you have a tier-one QB. You can always dip into the free-agent pool for a bye-week filler. Use that spot for a sleeper at RB or WR, giving you more time to evaluate the player's opportunity.

We've seen streaming (picking up and playing a different one each week based off the matchup) QBs play out well at times, too. TheHuddle.com's in-season player rankings and projections have your back if that's your strategy.

If you want an upper-tier TE, it is going to cost you. Rob Gronkowski is generally off the board in the late second round and Travis Kelce, who we like slightly better, is going in drafts generally in the third. While you can wait on the position until the early middle rounds, don't wait too long or you'll miss out on more reliable options.

TheHuddle.com - Take \$20 Off Your Subscription Exclusive for Insider Members only: Use promo code PRIMER18 at checkout to save more than $\mathbf{5 0 \%}$ off your order

## Running Back \& Wide Receiver Rankings

 Point-per-reception (PPR) scoring | (r) - Player carries risk(s) | (u) - Player has upside| Rank | Running Back | Team | Bye |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Todd Gurley | LAR | 12 |
| 2 | Le'Veon Bell | PIT | 7 |
| 3 | Ezekiel Elliott | DAL | 8 |
| 4 | David Johnson (r) (u) | ARI | 9 |
| 5 | Alvin Kamara | NOS | 6 |
| 6 | Kareem Hunt | KCC | 12 |
| 7 | Melvin Gordon | LAC | 8 |
| 8 | Saquon Barkley | NYG | 9 |
| 9 | Dalvin Cook | MIN | 10 |
| 10 | Christian McCaffrey | CAR | 4 |
| 11 | Leonard Fournette | JAC | 9 |
| 12 | Jerick McKinnon | SFO | 11 |
| 13 | Alex Collins (u) | BAL | 10 |
| 14 | LeSean McCoy (r) | BUF | 11 |
| 15 | Devonta Freeman (r) (u) | ATL | 8 |
| 16 | Jay Ajayi (u) | PHI | 9 |
| 17 | Joe Mixon (u) | CIN | 9 |
| 18 | Jordan Howard (u) | CHI | 5 |
| 19 | Royce Freeman (u) | DEN | 10 |
| 20 | Mark Ingram | NOS | 6 |
| 21 | Derrick Henry | TEN | 8 |
| 22 | Tevin Coleman | ATL | 8 |
| 23 | Isaiah Crowell | NYJ | 11 |
| 24 | Kenyan Drake (r) (u) | MIA | 11 |
| 25 | Rashaad Penny | SEA | 7 |
| 26 | Sony Michel (u) | NEP | 11 |
| 27 | Tarik Cohen (u) | CHI | 5 |
| 28 | Kerryon Johnson (u) | DET | 6 |
| 29 | Lamar Miller | HOU | 10 |
| 30 | Dion Lewis | $\text { TEN }<8$ |  |


| Rank | Wide Receiver | Team | Bye |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | Antonio Brown | PIT | 7 |
| 2 | DeAndre Hopkins | HOU | 10 |
| 3 | Michael Thomas | NOS | 6 |
| 4 | Keenan Allen | LAC | 8 |
| 5 | Odell Beckham (r) | NYG | 9 |
| 6 | Julio Jones | ATL | 8 |
| 7 | A.J. Green | CIN | 9 |
| 8 | Davante Adams | GBP | 7 |
| 9 | Doug Baldwin (r) | SEA | 7 |
| 10 | Demaryius Thomas | DEN | 10 |
| 11 | Tyreek Hill | KCC | 12 |
| 12 | Amari Cooper | OAK | 7 |
| 13 | Golden Tate | DET | 6 |
| 14 | Mike Evans | TBB | 5 |
| 15 | T.Y. Hilton | IND | 9 |
| 16 | Adam Thielen | MIN | 10 |
| 17 | Stefon Diggs | MIN | 10 |
| 18 | Brandin Cooks | LAR | 12 |
| 19 | Allen Robinson (u) | CHI | 5 |
| 20 | Larry Fitzgerald (r) | ARI | 9 |
| 21 | Marvin Jones | DET | 6 |
| 22 | Jarvis Landry | CLE | 11 |
| 23 | JuJu Smith-Schuster | PIT | 7 |
| 24 | Will Fuller (u) | HOU | 10 |
| 25 | Robby Anderson | NYJ | 11 |
| 26 | Cooper Kupp | LAR | 12 |
| 27 | Corey Davis (u) | TEN | 8 |
| 28 | Tyler Lockett (u) | SEA | 7 |
| 29 | Marquise Goodwin (u) | SFO | 11 |
| 30 | Chris Hogan (u) | NEP | 11 |
| 10 |  |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |  |

[^0]RBs are dominating the first round. Outside of WRs Antonio Brown and DeAndre Hopkins, RBs generally consume the top-10 selections in most league drafts - it balances out a bit between the two positions in the second round and WRs start to take control in the third as the RB positon settles down.

By the end of the fourth round, ideally you'll have at least two RBs - and we wouldn't argue with a third for depth/flex play. Due to committees and specialty roles, the position dries up quickly. You can find value in middle-round sleepers.

Receivers are deep, but you should still focus on landing at least one upper-tier player in early rounds.

# Defense \& Kickers Rankings 

Point-per-reception (PPR) scoring | (r) - Player carries risk(s) | (u) - Player has upside

| Rank | Defense | Team | Bye | Rank | Kickers | Team | Bye |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Jacksonville Jaguars | JAC | 9 | 1 | Stephen Gostkowski | NEP | 11 |
| 2 | Los Angeles Rams | LAR | 12 | 2 | Greg Zuerlein | LAR | 12 |
| 3 | Philadelphia Eagles | PHI | 9 | 3 | Jake Elliott | PHI | 9 |
| 4 | Houston Texans | HOU | 10 | 4 | Justin Tucker | BAL | 10 |
| 5 | Minnesota Vikings | MIN | 10 | 5 | Matt Bryant | ATL | 8 |
| 6 | Baltimore Ravens | BAL | 10 | 6 | Chris Boswell | PIT | 7 |
| 7 | Los Angeles Chargers | LAC | 8 | 7 | Harrison Butker | KCC | 12 |
| 8 | Detroit Lions | DET | 6 | 8 | Graham Gano | CAR | 4 |
| 9 | New Orleans Saints | NOS | 6 | 9 | Wil Lutz | NOS | 6 |
| 10 | Chicago Bears | CHI | 5 | 10 | Josh Lambo | JAC | 9 |
| 11 | Denver Broncos | DEN | 10 | 11 | Ryan Succop | TEN | 8 |
| 12 | Carolina Panthers | CAR | 4 | 12 | Chandler Catanzaro | TEN | 8 |
| 13 | Pittsburgh Steelers | PIT | 7 | 13 | Phil Dawson | ARI | 9 |
| 14 | Kansas City Chiefs | KCC | 12 | 14 | Steven Hauschka | BUF | 11 |
| 15 | Washington Redskins | WAS | 4 | 15 | Aldrick Rosas | NYG | 9 |
| 16 | Tennessee Titans | TEN | 8 | 16 | Ka'imi Fairbairn | HOU | 10 |

## PRO TIPS: Drafting Team Defenses and Kickers

Don't be that drafter who calls out a defense or kicker in the first 12 rounds. Just. Don't. Do. It.

And, unless you're in a very deep league, do not carry more than one at each position on roster - save those spots for skill position players.

While defensive teams fike Jaguars and Rams should still be the cream of the crop, you can find value in the position later in the draft. Don't be afraid to stream weekly by playing the matchups and using the waiver wire to acquire one-week plays.

Kickers are generally a dime a dozen. Like defenses, you can stream them weekly in season and not miss a beat.

TheHuddle.com - Take $\mathbf{\$ 2 0}$ Off Your Subscription Exclusive for Insider Members only: Use promo code PRIMER18 at checkout to save more than $\mathbf{5 0 \%}$ off your order

# Sleepers \& Undervalued Players 

## QUARTERBACKS

Patrick Mahomes, Kansas City Chiefs - Not worth a fantasy start out of the gate. Is worth being the first fantasy backup. Pure upside, and Mahomes is everything that Alex Smith wasn't. Plus he has Travis Kelce, Tyreek Hill and Sammy Watkins. Definitely should be on your watch list.

Blake Bortles, Jacksonville Jaguars - In the last three years, Bortles never worse than \#13. Has an NFL high six "this guy may be good" receivers. Could flirt with starting stats as he does every year while being largely ignored.

## Eli Manning, New York Giants -

As a deep backup, not a bad pick. Not only has all receivers back, but also upgraded blocking and 'gasp' maybe an actually productive backfield.

## RUNNING BACKS

## Jordan Howard, Chicago Bears -

Production fell a bit last year as the CHI offense imploded but still had 1,247 total yards and 9 TDs. New offense wants to rely on him and should feature an actual passing offense this year. Howard also gets one of the best schedules too. Would consider him as a low-end RB1.

Alex Collins, Baltimore Ravens - Already had 212-973-6 last year and started the season with fewer carries. Clear BAL RB1 now with not much challenge from Javorious Allen or Kenneth Dixon. One-year contract means he needs a big year.

Royce Freeman, Denver Broncos - Another top rookie RB landing on a team ripe for someone to finally matter in the backfield. Devontae Booker? Probably not. New QB could re-energize the offense and Freeman is a dual threat.

## WIDE RECEIVERS

Chris Hogan, New England Patriots - Julian Edelman is suspended and Jordan Matthews (already released) crashed and burned. Hogan is looking better all the time -- if only by attrition. Missed half of last year with a shoulder injury, but started 2017 with five TDs over first five weeks. Bottom of the WR3 barrel but has upside.

Robby Anderson, New York Jets - Turned in 63-941-7 in his second season and may get an upgrade at QB if Sam Darnold earns it. The Jets are going to have to throw and Anderson is the clearly best target. His decision making offfield has not been stellar but he's due for another step up. Jets have a better schedule this year.

Marquise Goodwin, San Francisco 49ers - On the small side but expected to be the No. 1 WR after mixing well with QB Jimmy Garappolo last year. Goodwin almost broke 1,000 yards receiving and should have no problem topping the mark for 2018.

Tyler Lockett, Seattle Seahawks - Love this deeper pick. Doug Baldwin is banged up already and only Brandon Marshall and Jaron Brown compete for work. Locket said he played injured all year in 2017. He could take the next step up with TE Jimmy Graham gone (now with Green Bay) and Baldwin hurt.


Looking for more sleepers, analysis and help guiding you to a championship? This is just a snapshot of what's available to TheHuddle.com premium subscribers.
insider
Exclusive offer just for Insider members:
Take \$20 Off Your Subscription with promo code: PRIMER18



[^0]:    PRO TIPS: Drafting Running Backs and Wide Receivers

