



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.

The Huddle.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
1	Aaron Rodgers	GBP	7
2	Russell Wilson	SEA	7
3	Deshaun Watson	HOU	10
4	Tom Brady	NEP	11
5	Cam Newton	CAR	4
6	Carson Wentz	PHI	9
7	Matthew Stafford	DET	6
8	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	7
9	Drew Brees	NOS	6
10	Philip Rivers	LAC	8
11	Andrew Luck (r) (u)	IND	9
12	Kirk Cousins	MIN	10
13	Jared Goff (u)	LAR	12
14	Matt Ryan	ATL	8
15	Marcus Mariota (u)	TEN	8
16	Patrick Mahomes (u)	KCC	12

Rank	Tight End	Team	Bye
1	Travis Kelce	KCC	12
2	Rob Gronkowski	NEP	11
3	Greg Olsen	CAR	4
4	Zach Ertz	PHI	9
5	Jimmy Graham (u)	GBP	7
6	Trey Burton (u)	CHI	5
7	Evan Engram	NYG	9
8	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	10
9	O.J. Howard (u)	TBB	5
10	David Njoku	CLE	11
11	Delanie Walker (r)	TEN	8
12	Jordan Reed (r)	WAS	4
13	A. Seferian-Jenkins	JAC	9
14	Eric Ebron (u)	IND	9
15	Vance McDonald	PIT	7
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.

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Running Back & Wide Receiver Rankings

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

Rank	Running Back	Team	Bye	Rank	Wide Receiver	Team	Bye
1	Todd Gurley	LAR	12	1	Antonio Brown	PIT	7
2	Le'Veon Bell	PIT	7	2	DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	10
3	Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	8	3	Michael Thomas	NOS	6
4	David Johnson (r) (u)	ARI	9	4	Keenan Allen	LAC	8
5	Alvin Kamara	NOS	6	5	Odell Beckham (r)	NYG	9
6	Kareem Hunt	KCC	12	6	Julio Jones	ATL	8
7	Melvin Gordon	LAC	8	7	A.J. Green	CIN	9
8	Saquon Barkley	NYG	9	8	Davante Adams	GBP	7
9	Dalvin Cook	MIN	10	9	Doug Baldwin (r)	SEA	7
10	Christian McCaffrey	CAR	4	10	Demaryius Thomas	DEN	10
11	Leonard Fournette	JAC	9	11	Tyreek Hill	KCC	12
12	Jerick McKinnon	SFO	11	12	Amari Cooper	OAK	7
13	Alex Collins (u)	BAL	10	13	Golden Tate	DET	6
14	LeSean McCoy (r)	BUF	11	14	Mike Evans	ТВВ	5
15	Devonta Freeman (r) (u)	ATL	8	15	T.Y. Hilton	IND	9
16	Jay Ajayi (u)	PHI	9	16	Adam Thielen	MIN	10
17	Joe Mixon (u)	CIN	9	17	Stefon Diggs	MIN	10
18	Jordan Howard (u)	CHI	5	18	Brandin Cooks	LAR	12
19	Royce Freeman (u)	DEN	10	19	Allen Robinson (u)	CHI	5
20	Mark Ingram	NOS	6	20	Larry Fitzgerald (r)	ARI	9
21	Derrick Henry	TEN	8	21	Marvin Jones	DET	6
22	Tevin Coleman	ATL	8	22	Jarvis Landry	CLE	11
23	Isaiah Crowell	NYJ	11	23	JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	7
24	Kenyan Drake (r) (u)	MIA	11	24	Will Fuller (u)	HOU	10
25	Rashaad Penny	SEA	7	25	Robby Anderson	NYJ	11
26	Sony Michel (u)	NEP	11	26	Cooper Kupp	LAR	12
27	Tarik Cohen (u)	CHI	5	27	Corey Davis (u)	TEN	8
28	Kerryon Johnson (u)	DET	6	28	Tyler Lockett (u)	SEA	7
29	Lamar Miller	HOU	10	29	Marquise Goodwin (u)	SFO	11
30	Dion Lewis	TEN	8	30	Chris Hogan (u)	NEP	11

PRO TIPS: Drafting Running Backs and Wide Receivers





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
1	Jacksonville Jaguars	JAC	9
2	Los Angeles Rams	LAR	12
3	Philadelphia Eagles	PHI	9
4	Houston Texans	HOU	10
5	Minnesota Vikings	MIN	10
6	Baltimore Ravens	BAL	10
7	Los Angeles Chargers	LAC	8
8	Detroit Lions	DET	6
9	New Orleans Saints	NOS	6
10	Chicago Bears	CHI	5
11	Denver Broncos	DEN	10
12	Carolina Panthers	CAR	4
13	Pittsburgh Steelers	PIT	7
14	Kansas City Chiefs	KCC	12
15	Washington Redskins	WAS	4
16	Tennessee Titans	TEN	8

Rank	Kickers	Team	Bye
1	Stephen Gostkowski	NEP	11
2	Greg Zuerlein	LAR	12
3	Jake Elliott	PHI	9
4	Justin Tucker	BAL	10
5	Matt Bryant	ATL	8
6	Chris Boswell	PIT	7
7	Harrison Butker	KCC	12
8	Graham Gano	CAR	4
9	Wil Lutz	NOS	6
10	Josh Lambo	JAC	9
11	Ryan Succop	TEN	8
12	Chandler Catanzaro	TEN	8
13	Phil Dawson	ARI	9
14	Steven Hauschka	BUF	11
15	Aldrick Rosas	NYG	9
16	Ka'imi Fairbairn	HOU	10

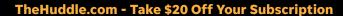
PRO TIPS: Drafting Team Defenses and Kickers

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 like 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.



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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

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 off-field 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.





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