

**NIGHTGHOSTS**

# FANTASY FOOTBALL

**DRAFT GUIDE 2025**



**DRAFT STRATEGIES**

**TRADING STRATEGIES**

**WHO TO BUY & SELL**

**ANALYZING ROOKIES & DRAFT PICKS**

**ROUND BY ROUND TARGETS**

**TEAM BREAKDOWNS**



## DRAFT STRATEGY

*There are many different strategies when planning your fantasy draft. Draft position, scoring settings, number of teams, and league type will all play a part in your plan. Educating yourself about your league is essential. Two of the standout scoring settings that can adjust your draft strategy are points for passing touchdowns (six vs four) and whether or not your league emphasizes tight ends (Tight End Premium or TEP). Roster settings you must know are how many players you are starting by position, and most importantly, if you can start two quarterbacks or one. Be sure to find out if your league is a keeper league and which players will not be available in the draft. These pieces of information are a literal must-know heading into your draft, as well as any other bonuses for scoring or roster settings that you may not be used to. Other league settings to consider include bench spots, IR spots, waiver rules, and the other members of your league, as these will be crucial to your draft position and trading. You don't have to be a fantasy expert to put the minimal time in to learn and know these particulars. Let's break down a few different league types you may be in or looking to join in the future.*

### League Types:

**Dynasty:** Only join dynasty leagues if you're looking for long-term leagues. Dynasty leagues are usually slow drafting leagues that allow you to draft an initial team and then build it up over the years with rookie drafts. You will have one initial draft with all the current players in the NFL, and then each offseason, your league will run a draft for the incoming rookie class. In these leagues, you will have draft picks that can be used to draft the incoming rookies or as trade value for current players. The sleeper fantasy app has become popular with fantasy football, offering public leagues that you can join, which include dynasty leagues. Members are joining these leagues and posting their buy-ins to league safe.

**Redraft:** A redraft league is a league that has a new start-up draft every year. There are no keepers for any team, and each year your league resets its rosters and starts fresh.

**Third Round Reversal:** These leagues are usually dynasty leagues that reverse the draft order every odd round to balance superflex drafts. The first few picks in superflex leagues are very lopsided to the quarterback position, and leagues use third-round reversals to help balance that.

**Best Ball:** In Best Ball, you will draft your team and forget about it. Once you draft your team, the league automatically puts in your best-performing players weekly. You will want to be creative and create unique stacks to gain a competitive edge. The most common sites to play Best Ball are Underdog or DraftKings.

**Keeper Leagues:** Keeper leagues are a balance between redraft and dynasty leagues. Keeper leagues will establish rules on which players can be kept and at what cost. Some leagues will allow you to keep your best players with no draft cost the following year. Some leagues allow you to keep players after a certain round in the draft. Knowing the parameters for keeping players for the following year helps you plan for the present and the future. Know your rules!

## Common League Scoring Systems

**PPR:** This stands for Point Per Reception. Every player who catches a pass will receive one whole point for that reception. This type of league caters more to high-volume receivers than ground-grinding RBs.

**½ PPR:** Same as PPR, but the receiving player receives half a point for their reception.

**Standard:** No points are awarded for a reception in a standard league. Without any points awarded to receiving players, those who thrive on the ground and catch more TDs become more valuable.

**Tight End Premium:** Tight End Premium (TEP) offers increased scoring settings compared to other players. In most instances, the TE receives 1.5 points per reception while the other players receive either one total point or ½ points. This levels the playing field, making TEs more valuable. You will see top tight ends in the league go earlier in the draft, balancing out the rest of the position players available. Being in TEP leagues is crucial to consider when planning your draft strategy.

**Superflex:** In a Superflex league, you will have an extra FLEX position in which you can start a second quarterback in that spot. It is listed with QB/RB/WR/TE and will usually be a different color icon than the FLEX spot to indicate quarterback eligibility. You can start any of the four, but it is in your best interest to start a QB, given that even a low-end QB2 competes with WR2 even in full PPR.

## Draft Strategies

*Several techniques have emerged in the industry over the years through trial and error. I will list a few below and provide a brief description of each. These strategies are examples, not recommendations. You will find a section later in this guide with a draft strategy that you can use.*

**Zero RB:** The theory is to fade the RB position completely. Running backs are the most volatile and scarcest of the top three positions. With this strategy, you would load up at every position, ignoring the RB for the first six rounds of your draft. You should leave this draft with a top QB, WR Corp, & TE. Having elite RBs gives you an edge over the rest of your league, given how difficult the position is to find. The volatility of the position is why they are drafted so high. You are fighting an uphill battle from the get-go if you forgo all the top-tier backs. However, if you hit on your mid-range backs along with some late-round handcuffs, you will soar past the rest of the league and walk away with a juggernaut that no one wants to face in the playoffs. The upside to this strategy is having an elite team all around if you hit on your later RBs. The downside of this strategy is its inherent difficulty in hitting mid-to-late-round RBs. The market has tightened over the years and become very efficient regarding ADP, making it increasingly difficult to hit a zero-RB technique.

**Hero RB:** This includes everything above in the Zero RB Strategy, but you take one RB with your first two picks. Drafting one RB within the first two picks solidifies your RB room with an elite pairing option with your group of long shots. The positives here are that you anchor your team with a stud RB. However, it can go south if that RB either plays poorly or gets hurt. You have all of your eggs in that basket without an elite supporting cast surrounding the position because you took a RB with a premium pick.

**Zero WR:** This is the same as Zero RB but with the WR position.

**Loaded RB:** This strategy is straightforward. The concept is you load up on RB with three of your first four picks. Depending on your league, this can be useful; however, be aware that there will be significant holes elsewhere. You must fade the QB or TE position – or maybe both. You won't have any elite WRs from the start, but your RBs will be towards the top. Ideally, if you do this, you want to load up on WRs from rounds 5 through 8. The best way to determine how to maximize this is by mock drafting. By mock drafting, you can see the offset of taking early WRs against the middle-round WRs and their drop-off. The upside to this strategy is that you will leave your draft with the best RB in the league, full of upside and depth. Your team is stacked if you hit on your late-round QB and TE. However, if you fade TE or QB, the parity in those positions has disappeared. The top QBs and TEs have increasingly separated themselves from the late-round players, making it more difficult to find elite value later in drafts.

**Loaded WR:** This strategy is similar to the no RB strategy, but with WRs. Get your stud WRs early while everyone else is taking RBs.

**QB/TE:** This involves taking the QB and TE positions early to secure the top three to five options at each position. Drafting QB and TE positions early will leave you thinner at the “core” positions of RB & WR. If you decide to pursue this route, I would recommend targeting the TE position immediately. The positive of this strategy is that it gives you a well-rounded roster by week one. You don't have to worry about streaming right from the get-go at those two positions, and you are ahead of your league mates right from the jump. However, the downside is that you will be thinner in the perceived premium positions(RB/WR). Most of the time, the elite QBs and TEs just don't exist in terms of upside on the waiver wire. Lock in your studs and narrow the funnel down to RB and/or WR during the season.

**Best Available:** This option is flexible and leaves room for adjustment. In this strategy, you enter the draft with your board and tiers and select the best players available when the time comes. As the draft progresses, you strictly take the best players available without bias toward each position. The upside to this is that you can find yourself consistently liking the value throughout your draft. You can be creative and open-minded about what positions you target. The downside is that this is a very challenging process to execute. If you go entirely outside of what you're comfortable with and start taking the best players available, you can find yourself in a hole at various positions and struggling to fill those

gaps throughout the year. For example, if you end up loading up at RB with a solid WR group but know that going into this year, that value at QB and TE would be tough to find, you will be putting yourself behind the curve right from the jump. Be cautious with this one; it appears excellent on the surface, but you can uncover multiple flaws if you don't draft perfectly. Knowing how to draft the best available players and still adequately fill every position requires practice and experience. Put the time in through mock drafts and learn from your previous drafts.

*These are some of the more common strategies. Doing mock drafts is the best way to find out what works for you and who you are targeting. Put in the time. Draft from each slot so you can prepare for what is to come. Know who could be there and who could be a late-round steal. You could find you have value later in the draft, which is a pivot from where everyone else is looking in the middle rounds. I can't emphasize enough how vital mock drafting is, even if it's against a computer.*

## **Mock Draft**

Another pivotal part of preparing for a draft is mock drafting. Fantasy sites usually offer a way for you to mock draft against other live users or an algorithm with computer users. Some sites will even allow you to input your league's settings and scoring to better project the picks around you. Mock drafting will enable you to gain an idea of where players you like are going, where different positions may start to trend, and open you up to new strategies, seeing who may still be available that you didn't expect to be. Anything can happen once you're in the draft, but mock drafting provides better preparation on what not to expect, allowing you to adjust your strategy accordingly.

You may not always know your draft position heading into the draft, but if you do, you will have a much better advantage in mock drafting.

## **Develop A Plan**

Before your draft arrives, you need to have a plan in place. It will be rare for your draft to go according to plan. Mock drafting multiple times helps you develop backup plans for what goes wrong. You will develop strategies and pivots that you can adjust to better once the live draft occurs. Each time you finish a mock draft, you will either have that draft saved in your logs or an email with the draft results sent to you. Use those as references when you create your actual draft. Preparation is key.

## **Narrow Your Analysts**

Gathering information and knowledge is essential to progressing as a fantasy player. However, gathering as much information and knowledge as possible can also lead to sensory overload. The best strategy you can learn is to learn from YOUR mistakes first. Look at your previous history of drafting and know where you made mistakes or were weak. If this is your first time drafting, then understand what information you are lacking. You will always have bad drafts over the years. Injuries, bad performances, and bad luck all happen. Use your analysts to help make you a better player. Don't use them as your end-all, be-all.



# DRAFT STRATEGIES

No one analyst is 100% right. Figure out each analyst's strengths and use those analysts to help make your weaknesses better. Do you lack knowledge on depth charts, player roles, coaching strategies, injury history, handcuffs etc? Find analysts who are strong in those areas and compare them, but make the final decision yourself. Use that information and your draft recap from the previous year to identify areas where you need to improve.

## Have Fun

One thing that gets constantly lost in the shuffle of fantasy football is having fun. Sure, we are playing for money, bragging rights, etc., but you can't forget why you started in the first place. We enjoy football and want to elevate it to the next level. Fantasy Football is supposed to be fun, but it can be quickly lost when you over-analyze every position and strategy. Sometimes, you must step back, gather your team, and move forward. This is your team at the end of the day, so do what makes you happy and build on that to have a fun and profitable Fantasy Football Season!



# ANALYZING ROOKIES AND DRAFT PICKS

*Rookie value differs by league type and team needs. There is no set value of ranking rookies, but there are many ways to utilize rookies' value to your team. Here is how I recommend utilizing these rookies.*

## QUARTERBACKS:

**Jaxson Dart**- Jaxson Dart has the most value in this draft, going in the second round. Dart will take a year or two to make a fantasy impact, so he's a perfect stash on a superflex team that has two mid-aging quarterbacks. If you missed out on Drake Maye, Bo Nix, or even Michael Penix last year, aim to take Dart here early in the second. This draft class does not have the coveted immediate impact QB like Jayden Daniels from last season, but it is loaded at every other position your team may need. You don't need to use your top 4-5 pick on Cam Ward when you can take one of the more impactful offensive position players and can take Dart early in the second.

**Will Howard**- Will Howard is a 4th/5th round stash and my preferred target over most of the other quarterbacks in this draft. The depth chart has Aaron Rodgers and Mason Rudolph in front of him, giving Howard the best backseat position behind Jaxson Dart. Howard is a calm and mature prospect coming off a National Championship at Ohio State. The lack of pressure on Howard right now will be everything he needs to take over this offense in 1-2 years. In addition to drafting Howard, the Pittsburgh Steelers also drafted Jack Sawyer out of Ohio State, giving Howard a familiar face and friend in the locker room. The Steelers are poised to be a well-balanced team both offensively and defensively, providing Howard with upside in superflex leagues. Draft him and stash him on your taxi squad in any keeper or dynasty league. He should not have any value in redraft leagues this year.

**Jalen Milroe**- Jalen Milroe won't be a target of mine unless he falls to the fourth round in rookie-only drafts, or he is one of the only quarterbacks left in start-up leagues. Sam Darnold just signed in Seattle for three years, and D.K. Metcalf and Tyler Lockett are now elsewhere, revamping the receiving corps to Jaxon Smith-Njigba and Cooper Kupp. What Jalen Milroe walks into if and when he gets his shot will be an unknown, and even when he does, his skill set will be limited. I would compare Milroe to a Justin Fields in Chicago, where his rushing abilities will carry the weight of his success. Milroe's passing skills will be limited, and his ADP in rookie drafts makes him less appealing to me than guys like Kyle Williams, Jack Bech, Tyler Shough, and Kyle Monangai.

**Tyler Shough**- I am passing on Milroe for Shough. Shough should have a much faster impact in fantasy with Derek Carr's retirement. Shough has a lengthy college experience and injury history, but has the opportunity to become a top QB right away due to this. Give Shough some time to develop, because if he can overcome some mental immaturity and learn to lead and take the game into his hands, he can become the best quarterback in this class. Tyler Shough would easily be the best QB prospect in this draft if he had Will Howard's poise in the pocket and toughness.

**Shedeur Sanders**- Sanders is a wild card. Originally projected to go second overall, he fell

to the fifth round in one of, if not the worst, draft falls ever. Nobody likes his attitude, and his skills are questionable. Even since being drafted, he has been pulled over twice for speeding. The son of Deion Sanders, these two are nothing but a headache. Cleveland is a good landing spot for him, but the Browns had already drafted Dillon Gabriel ahead of him. One of these two should be the Browns' starter within the year, and with a third-round or later draft capital, he's not the worst player you can take a flier on. Sanders' fantasy impact and professional impact will be limited until he grows up.

**Cam Ward**- What I like most about Cam Ward is the benefit he will bring to Calvin Ridley. Even if I'm lacking a QB in superflex leagues, I'm using this pick on Jeanty, Hampton, McMillan, or Henderson. The 2026 and 2027 draft classes will be loaded with quarterbacks. If your pick is high enough to select Cam Ward in a superflex league, then your team likely needs more help than Cam Ward can provide. Pass on him this year and stack the rest of your team. You can focus on QB in 2026/2027 or look to take Jaxson Dart early in the second round. I am avoiding Ward just about everywhere. Justin Fields and Dak Prescott are better short-term options at the current ADP than Ward. Cam Ward's available options are weak around him, and I do not see the fantasy impact of Ward being worth his ADP.

**Quinn Ewers**- Ewers is going undrafted in most rookie drafts and should be an immediate add once waivers are open. Tua is more than likely to miss time this year, and frankly, it's incredible that he is still playing with his concussion history. When Tua goes down, the ball will be passed to Zack Wilson. Zack Wilson won't have much of a leash with his history, leaving Ewers to get a chance behind center much sooner than anticipated. Do not draft Ewers expecting to save your quarterback position, but pick him up as an extra option on your bench if the stars align for him.

## RUNNING BACKS:

**Ashton Jeanty**- The consensus number one overall pick in rookie drafts. Jeanty has gone as high as round one in dynasty start-ups. The league I am drafting in will determine how I draft him. In rookie leagues, I am taking him first overall, unless I receive a trade offer that includes a combination of Tetairoa McMillan and Treyveyon Henderson, which is unlikely. Jeanty will make an immediate impact for the Las Vegas Raiders and comes in as the immediate number one back. Jeanty expects to be a franchise running back for the years to come. Jeanty is 5'8", 211 lbs, but I am not ready to take him in the first round of dynasty or redraft leagues, not having played a snap in the league. A miss in the first round in dynasty leagues could cripple your team for years to come.

**Omarion Hampton**- The consensus number two running back in the class, where I draft Hampton, is dependent on my team build. Hampton will have Najee Harris ahead of him for his first year as a one-two punch. The Chargers rebuilt JK Dobbins last season, rushing for 905 yards over 13 games with nine touchdowns, but are still a pass-heavy team. While the ceiling is high for Hampton, I am considering taking Tetairoa McMillan over Hampton. The Chargers drafted Tre Harris in the second round and have emerging stud, Ladd McConkey, ahead of him, making the passing game with quarterback Justin Herbert even more



# ANALYZING ROOKIES AND DRAFT PICKS

prevalent. I am more likely to take Hampton in start-up and redraft leagues if I am picking early. Hampton's ADP makes him more obtainable in startup drafts, and I am more likely to draft him than Ashton Jeanty there.

**Treyveyon Henderson**- Treyveyon Henderson is a personal favorite coming into this draft class. Ohio State had two running backs entering the draft with Henderson and Quinshon Judkins. Henderson (38) went two picks after Judkins (36), and it was a disappointing landing spot for him as a fan and in terms of history. It has been nearly 10 years since a New England running back finished in the top ten at the position. Mike Vrabel is the new head coach in New England, and that could change everything. Vrabel's first stint as a head coach in Tennessee saw their rushing attack rank tenth, first, first, and third from 2019 to 2022. Vrabel influenced their offensive play calling, but did not call the play. With Josh McDaniels calling the plays, the running game should become more prevalent. Rhamondre Stevenson and Antonio Gibson still occupy the backfield, so Henderson's not a clear number one yet, but he will be. Henderson is the better of the two backs between him and Judkins and will be the best back in New England as well. Henderson will be a three-down back, utilizing his pass-catching abilities to help rebuild the New England team led by Drake Maye.

**Quinshon Judkins/Dylan Sampson** - If you're looking for a running back who may be a two-down bruising back, Judkins is your guy. He's the lesser athletic of the two Ohio State backs in this draft and heads to a disastrous Cleveland offense that also selected Dylan Sampson in 2025. Judkins will not offer any pass-catching incentives, so if you are presented with the opportunity to choose between Henderson and Judkins, the pick is Henderson. If Henderson is off the board at this time and you are dead set on running back, you can take Judkins or move back for one of the preferred remaining RBs and pick up additional capital. I do not see Judkins reaching Nick Chubb's previous potential and fantasy ceiling, but he will be a surefire bruiser and a fan favorite. Dylan Sampson is a guy to target late in the second or third round of rookie-only drafts and can be a flier in late-round keeper and startup leagues. Sampson will become the third down and passing back, and good to stash for his draft spot.

**RJ Harvey**- RJ Harvey is being ignored because of Omarion Hampton. Hampton's landing spot with Greg Roman calling the plays for the Chargers has made him the top prospect behind Jeanty. Harvey is in the same situation with play calling under Sean Payton. If you have two first-round picks in your dynasty drafts, I would target McMillan over Hampton and select Harvey. If Harvey is there in the second half of the first round, I am taking him ahead of Judkins as well. Don't undervalue Harvey here because he's on the Broncos.

**Kaleb Johnson** - I am hesitant to take Johnson based on how the Steelers wasted James Conner and Najee Harris, especially with Aaron Rodgers at quarterback now. The ceiling is limited this year with Johnson, but his value will rise when Will Howard takes over at QB.



# ANALYZING ROOKIES AND DRAFT PICKS

**Jayden Blue**- Don't overdraft Blue before the names listed above, but if he falls to you in the second round, he's worth the pick. The Cowboys' running back room has been a mess for a few years, but Javonte Williams and Jayden Blue can change that. Blue will need time to take over as the lead back and may not see much production this season, but there is some upside for where he is going in rookie drafts. I would have a hard time taking him over Harris and Williams in start-up leagues, and he's a late handcuff in redraft leagues.

**Cam Skattebo**- Skattebo immediately became a fan favorite after getting the call from the Giants on draft day. He has a lot of work to do and will be a work in progress, but if he's falling to me in the second round or late in start-up drafts, I am stashing him and hoping he pans out. He's not a RB1 by any means, but if and when he wins the starting job for the revamping Giants, he will be a nice RB2 or depth piece to your team. Don't overpay for him.

**Bhayshul Tuten**- Late in drafts, he's worth stashing as a potential better Etienne. Etienne and the Jaguars' running back room is very volatile, so know there may be no value here.

**Kyle Monangai**- Kyle Monangai can prove to be the absolute steal of the draft. Originally going undrafted, Monangai is going as high as round three in some drafts. Ben Johnson is the new head coach in Chicago and loves to utilize his running backs (See Montgomery/Gibbs). Monangai broke out in 2023 at Rutgers with 1,200+ yards and eight touchdowns on a 6-6 Rutgers team. Monangai improved again in 2024 with nearly 1300 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns. Monangai was the brightest spot on Rutgers' rushing for 200 yards once and 100 yards six times, finishing with no fewer than 73 yards. D'Andre Swift is the number one in Chicago right now, signing with his third team in three years, rushing for 1,000 yards once in his career. Monangai was an explosive power runner at Rutgers and is turning heads in mini-camp at the moment. With a backfield that is entirely up in the air, Monangai may become the number one back for the foreseeable future in an offense run by a coach who loves exploiting his backs. Grab Monangai everywhere you can, starting from round three or later.

## WIDE RECEIVERS

**Tetairoa McMillan** - McMillan is the only player I am considering taking over Omarion Hampton. Bryce Young had a rough start to his career with an extremely weak offense around him. Young had one multi-td game before Week 16, before finishing the season with three straight games of two touchdowns or more and zero interceptions. McMillan has a clear path to the number one receiver role in Carolina and should become a reliable receiving option. McMillan could produce numbers like Brian Thomas and Ladd McConkey did last season, and Hampton could take a year or two before becoming that top 10-12 running back if he ever does. Carolina will not be a good team again this season, but with Chuba Hubbard in the backfield, their offense should see significant improvement. McMillan will have veteran Adam Thielen there to learn from and should be a viable WR option for years to come.



# ROUND BY ROUND TARGETS

*Round by round targets are very different depending on your draft type. Make sure you read the opening pages of this guide to understand the differences in league types and to ensure you know the draft type you are entering. In these coming pages, I will break down my targets by round in dynasty drafts and redraft leagues separately, while also breaking down different keepers to target in keeper leagues.*

## **Dynasty Drafts: How to prepare**

Draft position is significant to your draft strategy. Drafting in the first four spots of superflex leagues will be much different than drafting in the first four draft spots in non-superflex leagues. Having a preference and plan for where you want to draft and how you want to draft can determine the leagues you enter. Most leagues will randomize the draft order, eliminating any edge you may have in picking your draft spot and planning draft strategy. Prepare your draft strategy by mock drafting from all different draft positions.

\*In the Sleeper app, once you join your intended league, you can mock draft based on the scoring and roster settings of that league. Use this as much as you can!

Once you're in your league, spend some time communicating with your league mates. Knowing your league mates can give you a tremendous edge in drafts. When you know your league mates in drafts, you gain an advantage in understanding their tendencies, favorite players, and willingness to engage in trade talks. Recognizing these tendencies will prove highly beneficial to your overall outcome. You will notice three to four different types of players in your league. The four types are as follows: trade heavy, trade absent, win now, and prepare for the future. You will learn in round one how to separate half of these players, and trading is an underutilized tool in start-up drafts.

When preparing for Dynasty Drafts, securing a top-four pick is huge for your quarterback position in superflex leagues. Acquiring a top-four pick is very difficult, but the minute a quarterback like Joe Burrow slips to the sixth spot of the first round, the traders will appear.

The players who do not want Burrow may engage in talks to move their pick back and acquire additional capital in the first four rounds, while teams that want to obtain that elite quarterback, who are in the back half of the first round, will begin asking everyone for a price for a top quarterback. Whether a trade happens or not, take notice of those teams engaging in the group chat and use it to your advantage later in the draft.

Trade Absent teams are teams that make 0-1 trades in all drafts. These teams are easy to weed out. The first three to four rounds are the most expensive trades to make. Teams are either willing to pay or they're not. Rounds five through eight will usually see more trades than the first four between the players who were actively trying to trade in the earlier rounds. The teams that do not respond to trade offers, engage in your group conversation, or look to move up or down are a waste of time to engage with. Focus your energy elsewhere, as these teams typically have a well-defined strategy and stick to it. These teams cannot also engage in fair negotiations and will struggle to reach a deal; they expect to win every trade by a landslide and will not consider reasonable compromises. There's



# ROUND BY ROUND TARGETS

nothing wrong with these managers, and you should not chastise them for their strategy. I recommend simply not wasting your time and the league's time while you're on the clock.

Win-now teams in dynasty drafts differ from redraft leagues because you are planning for the future as well. The best players at each position will not be selected in the order of their fantasy production, because in these drafts, teams are also planning for the future. Last year, Saquon Barkley and Derrick Henry finished as the top two fantasy scoring running backs, with Jhamyr Gibbs and Bijan Robinson finishing third and fourth. In dynasty drafts, you will see Gibbs and Robinson and now Ashton Jeanty get drafted before Saquon Barkley, and additionally see Jonathan Taylor, Breece Hall, Devon Achane, Josh Jacobs, Bucky Irving, and Omarion Hampton all more than likely get drafted before Derrick Henry. The reason is their age. In redraft leagues, Barkley and Henry will be two of the top five running backs drafted, with Christian McCaffrey now entering the mix as a top-five running back drafted. Win-now teams in dynasty leagues will have a mix of these older top-tier players mixed with some younger, already established players in their second to fifth years in the league.

Win later- Win later players are usually teams that didn't get the draft position they wanted, or their primary targets all got sniped before their turn. These teams will draft less experienced players and begin trading down in drafts while also accumulating future draft picks. Target these teams if you want to win now.

Decide the player you want to be entering the draft, and build your draft from there. Trading is a significant asset to win now while also creating a young team, and will always be my preferred draft style.

## **Entering round one of Superflex Leagues:**

### **Draft Position 1-3:**

Not only do you need to know whether you are joining a dynasty league or redraft league for your draft strategy, but you also need to know if your league is a superflex league or not. Draft position and strategy are *crucial* in superflex leagues. If you are in a superflex league and have a top pick, there is almost no excuse for not using that pick on the top four elite quarterbacks in the league: Josh Allen, Lamar Jackson, and Jayden Daniels. Two other elite quarterbacks in Jalen Hurts and Joe Burrow will get drafted in the first half of round one as well. Allen, Jackson, and Daniels are the clear-cut number three quarterbacks who are a must pick with one of those top three picks. You do not draft a position player here, and if for any reason you do not want to draft any of these quarterbacks, try to trade the pick to someone who does and gain an edge in round two or three. I do not recommend this, but the choice is yours.

### **Draft Position 4-7:**

We are in a transitional period in the NFL for fantasy drafting, where I no longer want a top four to seven pick in dynasty leagues. I am looking to join leagues where you can either



# ROUND BY ROUND TARGETS

secure a top-three QB, as mentioned above, or wait until the ninth through twelfth spot for the earlier comeback pick, especially in third-round reversal leagues. Jalen Hurts and Joe Burrow may get snagged in the top three in some leagues, pushing one of those other quarterbacks to you at four or five. I am no longer confident in Jalen Hurts being an elite quarterback and will avoid drafting any Eagles players in start-up drafts. If I land a pick 4-7, I'm looking for another league member who's eager to grab one of the two and maximize a return. I am not accepting a trade here for anything less than a few spot trade down in the first or early second round, AND a move up from round three or four to two, or a first-round draft pick. Be sure to read the trading section to build your trading skills.

Outside of Joe Burrow and Jalen Hurts, Ashton Jeanty has been going in this spot in some leagues, with Bijan Robinson not far behind. The two most likely to go in these spots with Hurts and Burrow are Ja'Marr Chase and Justin Jefferson. Two safe picks production-wise, IF they are healthy. The Burrow and Chase tandem both rely on Joe Burrow, who has only played 10 games twice in his five-year career. I have won leagues without either Bengals player, finished in the top three in my leagues last season without either player, and only one championship team in my leagues last year won with Chase on it - none with Burrow.

Each of the championship teams or the runners-up had a share of Lamar or Allen, or neither. My point? You can win without Joe Burrow, and it's worth exploring your options.

## **Draft Position 8-12:**

The first seven picks will determine strategy at this point in the first round. The WR position is much deeper than the running back position, making Jeanty and Robinson more appealing to some. This part of the first round is particularly important in Tight End Premium (TEP) leagues. If you can take Bowers in the 8-12 spot, you should, and I would look to pair him with a top WR on the comeback. If you're not getting a top QB in the first round, I am waiting until round three to look at one. This spot is too early to take a QB other than Allen, Jackson, or Daniels, but if Burrow falls here somehow, you can look at him. Malik

Nabers could still be on the board here, and pairing him with Bowers would be a phenomenal start. The back end of round one spills over into round two, and I am doing what I can to try to add an extra pick this round if I can.

## **Round 2-3:**

