

**FANTASY FOOTBALL  
ALMANAC**

**2025**

**UPDATE**

**3**

**August 19th**



## Summary of Rankings Changes and Thoughts

### QB

- No rankings changes this week.

### RB

- Jaylen Wright is letting me down. I don't like it when I'm wrong, but Wright isn't doing much to justify my high opinion to this point. I'm going to drop him in my rankings. His lack of production is going to result in Miami signing another RB to take his job if he doesn't make something happen next week.
- I'm going to inch Ollie Gordon up the rankings as well just because Wright is laying an egg this preseason.
- DJ Giddens looked good and I'm going to move him up.
- I'm inching Nick Chubb up the rankings based on a better game performance.
- I'm shuffling Woody Marks back up the rankings. He did a very nice job this week.
- I have no patience with Arthur Smith's personnel distribution. I'm moving Jaylen Warren up the rankings and Kaleb Johnson down the rankings. As I'll say below, Arthur Smith is the coach that couldn't figure out how to get Bijan Robinson on the field in the red zone.
- Tahj Brooks deserves a boost in rankings after another strong preseason performance.

### WR

- Isaac TeSlaa continues to impress me, so I will move him up in this week's rankings.
- Jamari Thrash is going to receive quite a boost. He is making the most of his opportunities and looks like he'll be the third Browns WR this season.
- Christian Kirk looks like he could be a value pick in PPR formats. I'm moving him up.
- I'm not a big fan of Brandon Aiyuk to begin with, so with his timetable to return to action now week 6, I'm moving him down the rankings and Ricky Pearsall up the rankings.
- Parker Washington is underrated. I'm giving him a boost.
- I'm not going to go crazy with it, but I'm moving Tyrell Shavers up the rankings a bit this week
- Deebo Samuel is going to get a rankings boost this week.

### TE

- Tyler Warren is looking great, but I can't justify moving him above the other guys just yet.

### DST

- Under Robert Saleh, the 49ers defense is starting to look like their old selves.

### K

- No changes this week.

## Preseason Game Notes:

### Tennessee Titans vs Atlanta Falcons

#### Titans

- QBs:
  - Cam Ward's stats didn't look good, but I think he looked fine enough. He's still better than the forgettable combination of QBs the Titans rolled out last season. As I've been saying, the Titans offense will be better just by having Ward playing.
- RBs
  - Kalel Mullings continues to impress me. You never know what will happen with the way future draft picks, coaching changes or free agency will go in the future their coach this season which means we should see system stability. I will also say that Tyjae Spears doesn't look like a favorite among the Titans coaching staff. Further, Pollard is getting older and has a higher salary cap number. This is stacking up well for Mullings to eventually be a starter in Tennessee. He doesn't have a lot of value in the 2025 season, but I love him as a dynasty selection after the obvious rookie backs have been selected.
- WRs:
  - There's not much of note this week other than Elic Ayomanor had the better game among Titan rookie WRs (compared specifically to Chimere Dike (and I'm not counting special teams play for the record)). It was cool to see them playing with Cam Ward early in the game, at least
- TEs:
  - Again, I'm not seeing anything worth noting among Titan TEs this week.

#### Falcons

- QBs
  - Easton Stick got the start and had a very forgettable game. There's nothing to see here.
- RBs
  - Nathan Carter got a chance to show what he can do with the start. He showed good burst. He had one explosive run called back on a hold and then had a second explosive run that did count – a 43 yard TD run. He's not going to play Bijan Robinson or Allgeier of the field, but it's good to know his name if injuries hit.
    - To be fair, the TD was a rush up the middle and Carter didn't have to do much to score. It was also in the third quarter of a game where mostly depth players were playing.
- WRs
  - Chris Blair had another game, but I want to stress that he is buried on the depth chart. There's no need to pay much attention to him. He's played well in the last two preseasons but it's not likely he sees the field in Atlanta. Dylan Drummond is probably the top depth Falcon WR at this point.
- TEs
  - I have nothing of note among Falcon TEs this week.

### Kansas City Chiefs vs Seattle Seahawks

#### Chiefs

- QBs

- I've said this a few times, but I think of Gardner Minshew as the current day Ryan Fitzpatrick. He's fun to watch. He can go .500 with the right team, but he's not someone you want to depend on when games count.
- RBs
  - Carson Steele still looks ahead of Elijah Mitchell on the depth chart. I think Steele played better in the 2024 preseason, but this RB depth chart looks set to me. It's all about Pacheco and Hunt.
  - Brashard Smith played better this week. He may be starting to overtake Elijah Mitchell as well. I think we'll know more next week.
    - I did think Brashard Smith had a nice drive in the third quarter. I think it was the Chiefs' first drive of the half. One run in particular showcased his ability because he turned a broken play into a 5-10 yard first down run.
- WRs
  - I continue to be impressed with Tyquan Thornton. I don't think he's going to make an impact in fantasy this season, but he could be worth a waiver claim depending on how injuries shake out. It looks to me like he's going to earn a roster spot. He's a good fit for this offense. He looks like he can play the kind of role that Demarcus Robinson played a few years ago for the Chiefs.
    - For the record, I think Thornton looks better than Smith-Schuster. I know the Chiefs trust JuJu, so I don't know how cuts and playing time will work out, but I think Thornton is the better player at this point.
  - For what it's worth, Skyy Moore's 88 yard punt return in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter confirms to me that he will not be factor for the Chiefs passing game. Ever. If you're returning points in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of a preseason game when the starters aren't playing, then you're fighting for your job.
- TEs:
  - Robert Tonyan has shown up for KC multiple weeks. He's contributing enough to make the team to this point, but I think he'll be the third TE at best in KC.

## Seahawks

- QBs
  - If you're a Seahawks fan, you should be enthused by Darnold's performance. They kept the passes short.
- RBs
  - We didn't see Kenneth Walker, but Charbonnet looked great this week. No surprise there though.
  - Damien Martinez still looks firmly behind George Holani on the depth chart, but he did have a much better second week of action.
    - The entire Seahawks running attack looks like it's in midseason form.
  - Take the Seahawks dominating rushing performance with a grain of salt too. I don't think they'd push the Chiefs D around so easily in the regular season.
- WRs
  - Jake Bobo sighting! He had a TD this week. I liked Bobo, but it's clear Tory Horton is the emerging WR in Seattle.
    - I think Horton will eventually start over Bobo, but I really do think Bobo is a good enough player to start in Seattle. I think both Bobo and Horton are better than Marquez Valdes-Scantling.
  - Speaking of, Horton did play, but didn't look as strong as he did in week 1. It felt like the Seahawks were trying to get him the ball in week 1. This week, it looked more like they were taking what the defense was giving them.

- Don't be surprised (or discouraged) if Horton starts the year on the bench for the Seahawks.
- TEs
  - We saw Elijah Arroyo working with the first team offense this week. I wouldn't say he looked amazing, but it's good to see him working with the first unit. Dynasty players can take note. Though it was still AJ Barner who caught a pass before the rookie.

## Miami Dolphins vs Detroit Lions

### Dolphins

- QBs
  - Zach Wilson's stats looked a bit better on paper than in action, but at least Quinn Ewers improved on his stinker of a debut
- RBs
  - I hate to say it, but Jaylen Wright is looking bad. He had a nice 2024 preseason and then just hasn't looked good since then. He should still see some opportunity in the 2025 season and I wouldn't sell on him just yet in dynasty formats, but I would say there's a better chance of him fading into obscurity than jumping into stardom.
  - Ollie Gordon's stats were much better on paper, but here's how I see this backfield... Both Gordon and Wright stunk it up in the first half. Miami's running attack couldn't get anything going. Miami took Wright out and let Gordon play into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Gordon started piling stats on deeper in the game. Gordon is putting together a better preseason, no doubt about it. But if I'm the Dolphins front office, I'd be kicking the tires on free agent running backs at this point. Neither Gordon, nor Wright, is earning the backup RB job through 2 weeks of preseason action.
- WRs
  - Dee Eskridge looked solid, but the Dolphins were clearly playing their depth players. I don't think he has a chance to make an impact this season, nor do I think any of the other Dolphin WRs we saw this week will see the field much in 2025.
- TEs
  - Nothing of note for Dolphin TEs this week.

### Lions

- QBs
  - Kyle Allen was dealing this week. I believe this was the first time a backup Lions QB has looked solid in training camp. Allen looks like he's far ahead of Hooker in the race for the Lions backup QB job.
- RBs
  - Craig Reynolds looked lively again, though his 6 carry/13 yard stat line stunk. I still see him well ahead of Sione Vaki on the RB depth chart.
  - Vaki looked better this week, but he's not developing as quickly as the Lions would have hoped.
- WRs
  - I continue to be impressed by Isaac TeSlaa. I'm not saying he's Puka Nacua, but his preseason reminds me of the preseason Nacua had during his rookie season. This Lions offense probably won't cater to the third Lions WR, which is where TeSlaa's ceiling is, but he continues to play well.
  - For the record, undrafted FA Jackson Meeks looks further ahead of draftee, Dominic Lovett. Neither will have much impact this season, but Meeks looked as good as his stat line. Of course, take all of htis with a grain of salt. We're talking about guys battling for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> spots on the depth chart.

- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Lions TEs this week.

## Green Bay Packers vs Indianapolis Colts

### Packers

- QBs
  - I had the impression while watching that Malik Willis was developing a bit as a passer, but then I see he ended up with a 6/14, 83 yard day passing and wonder what I was thinking. I must have been in a good mood while watching the game. Willis will still need to use his legs to move the ball for the Packers if called upon this year.
- RBs
  - We finally(!) got a look at MarShawn Lloyd. If you didn't watch and saw his 6 carry/15 yard performance, don't be too put off. The blocking wasn't great and I thought he actually found more yardage on his carries than what was there. Specifically, he turned what should have been negative plays into positive yardage.
    - The Packers also threw the ball to him a lot and he displayed good hands. He almost grabbed a touchdown.
    - Unfortunately, Lloyd hurt his hamstring. He's going to be out a while. That likely means we won't see or hear from him again for a couple of months.
  - With Lloyd out, Chris Brooks looks like he's the definite backup to Josh Jacobs. Emanuel Wilson will probably be RB#3 until Lloyd can get himself healthy.
- WRs
  - I don't think there's much to note among Packer WRs this week.
- TEs
  - The Packer TEs didn't leave an impression with me this week either. We saw a lot of depth players this week across the NFL.

### Colts

- QBs
  - Daniel Jones got the start and I continue to maintain he looks like he can execute an NFL offense with more consistency. He went 7 for 11 with 101 yards. I don't think it'd be wise for the Colts to start Richardson, but I'm guessing the Colts won't tip their hand until later in their first week of practice.
  - I have been critical of Anthony Richardson, but I will say he looks like he's getting a bit better passing the ball. The Colts are keeping passes short, but he does throw an accurate deep ball. His skills are tantalizing, but as I said, he's not consistent enough as a passer to be an every down NFL QB. He's better suited as a runner/thrower in short yardage and red zone situations.
- RBs
  - DJ Giddens handled running duties after Jonathan Taylor left the game and I thought he played well. He was able to move the pile forward and finished with 4.7 ypc on the day. If Taylor got hurt, I believe we'd see a committee between Giddens (primary ball carrier) and Goodson (third down back).
  - Goodson played sparingly. I'll be interested to see if either (or both) play next week to see what the carry distribution is here.
- WRs

- I'll continue to say that if Jones is indeed the starter, Pittman and Downs will have more value. Things are still up in the air, so I'm leaving rankings unchanged.
- TEs
  - I'm still loving what I'm seeing from Tyler Warren. TEs aren't as hard to come by in fantasy football as they used to be.

## New England Patriots vs Minnesota Vikings

### Patriots

- QBs
  - Drake Maye isn't impressing me so far during preseason, but I'm not criticizing. He's not using his legs to extend plays yet either. The Patriots aren't showing their hand and they are generally keeping passes short. Things will be different when Stefon Diggs begins to play.
- RBs
  - TreVeyon Henderson looks great so please let that be your takeaway from this paragraph. But I was a little disappointed we didn't see him in more first and second down situations in week 2. With Rhamondre Stevenson out, I thought the Patriots may give him more traditional early down work, but that went over to Antonio Gibson, who looked average in that role. This is confirming my suspicions that the Patriots are pigeonholing Henderson into a receiving back role. He'll have more value in PPR formats, obviously.
    - I did think Henderson did a nice job in pass blocking, which is now a crucial skillset for him to have fantasy value this season.
- WRs
  - It looks like Kyle Williams was concussed, but he was looking good and getting early work with the offense. Though he hasn't been catching passes from Drake Maye to this point, so there is still work to do for him to climb the depth chart. Consider him a backup this year. I would only consider him in dynasty formats.
  - Nice game, Efton Chism III. He's probably fighting for a spot on the practice squad though, so no need to pay too much attention.
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Patriot TEs this week.

### Vikings

- QBs
  - Sam Howell looked sharp in week 1, but we saw the snap back in week 2. He reminded everyone why he shouldn't be a weekly NFL starter. He's not someone I would pick up from waivers if McCarthy were injured – even with this coaching staff and with these skill players.
- RBs
  - Speaking of losing ground in preseason week 2, Zavier Scott was unable to build on his week 1 preseason performance. Ty Chandler is still the 3<sup>rd</sup> back in this offense.
- WRs
  - The Vikings largely played 3<sup>rd</sup> stringers this week. Tai Felton caught a couple of passes, but the key takeaway for me is that if you were playing for the Vikings at a skill position in preseason week 2, the Vikings are hoping they don't need to play you in the regular season.
- TEs

- Nothing of note among Viking TEs.

## Cleveland Browns vs Philadelphia Eagles

### Browns

- QBs
  - Predictably, the Browns named Flacco their starter this week.
  - It was nice to see Dillon Gabriel play. He showed quality accuracy and was able to scoot around the pocket as well. His INT wasn't an awful one either. It was a nice debut for the rookie.
- RBs
  - Pierre Strong had good stats, but that isn't surprising. The Browns always run the ball well. I actually took more notice of Ahmani Marshall during the game. However....
  - ...the fact that Dylan Sampson didn't play should tell us something. This indicates the Browns have carved out a regular season role for the rookie.
  - It's worth noting that Quinshon Judkins won't face chargers for his domestic abuse incident though he can still be suspended by the NFL. He is still unsigned, but the odds of the Browns signing him this season have increased. Your guess on a timeline is as good as mine.
- WRs
  - Jamari Thrash is quietly putting up a strong presason. I liked what I saw from him last training camp as well. Multiple depth chart sources have Thrash as the #3 Browns receiver, ahead of Diontae Johnson.
- TEs
  - With respect to TEs Blake Whiteheart, Sal Cannella and Brandon Bates, none of these guys will be factors in the regular season. But I loved how the Browns were involving the TE position this week and I've already written about the Flacco/Njoku connection. I like the TE position for the Browns this year.

### Eagles

- QBs
  - McCord didn't impress, but he's a developmental QB making his first NFL start. He'll probably be the emergency QB for the Eagles this season.
- RBs
  - Will Shipley got a rest and AJ Dillon had a forgettable night. The Eagles didn't get anything going in the running game. You can forget about anyone who played this week.
- WRs
  - The Eagles acquired John Metchie III who I believe is instantly the 3<sup>rd</sup> best WR on the team (better than Jahan Dotson). Johnny Wilson has a unique skill set. This makes me wonder about the future of Aini Smith, who came down with a TD this week.
- TEs
  - It's Goedert or bust among Eagle TEs. You can ignore the rest.

## Carolina Panthers vs Houston Texans

### Panthers

- QBs
  - Bryce Young had a forgettable day, but he's largely been better so I'm not going to hammer him too hard.
- RBs
  - Neither Chuba Hubbard nor Rico Dowdle impressed me this week. Maybe the Texans were just too good in preseason week 2, but the Panthers had trouble getting anything going.
    - All said, Hubbard will definitely be the lead back and Dowdle will definitely be the second back. Trevor Etienne isn't doing enough with his opportunities to demand regular season playing time.
- WRs
  - McMillan didn't catch either of his targets, but he is looking very good. He's creating a lot of separation. I am liking what I'm seeing. There's no question he has elite WR potential. The question is now whether Young can get him enough passes. And I think he can.
  - I'm not a fan of Legette. I'm leaning more towards McMillan and Thielen among Panther WRs this year.
- TEs
  - Ja'Tavion Sanders got the start and a target. I like his NFL potential, but he's not in a great offense for fantasy football production. Keep that in mind on draft day.

#### Texans

- QBs
  - C.J. Stroud looked sharp in his debut. It didn't take long for he and Nico Collins to find the end zone. That'll probably be the last time we see Stroud this preseason, but Texans fans can feel good about his performance this week.
- RBs
  - Nick Chubb looked strong this week. Really, the entire Texans team looked good against Carolina. Chubb is arguably a better runner than Joe Mixon is, so this backfield could be an evolving situation in 2025.
  - Woody Marks looked WAY better this week. He displayed the skillset that had scouts praising him during the draft process. He's a bit buried on the depth chart, but he's also playing behind two running backs that get hurt a lot.
- WRs
  - I didn't see enough of Jayden Higgins to move him up the rankings this week, but his impact on the Texan offense is apparent.
  - John Metchie III will continue his career with the Philadelphia Eagles. The additions of Kirk and Higgins this offseason really hurt the depth players of the Texans
  - Speaking of Christian Kirk, he looked very good in the limited time he played with Stroud. I like the look of this new Texans offense already.
- TEs
  - Texan TEs aren't doing much for me this offseason. This is feeling like an offense that will route their entire passing game through WRs in 2025.

San Francisco 49ers vs Las Vegas Raiders  
49ers

- QBs
  - I thought Purdy played well. He was moving around in the pocket a lot. But what really strikes me is how well this offensive system is built. The 49ers will be better with Aiyuk and Jennings back in the lineup, but they don't need those guys to succeed.
- RBs
  - I usually say something like "all 49er running backs look good", but this is the first time I can recall where they stunk from top to bottom. The good news is that Christian McCaffrey will be just fine to begin the year. Isaac Guerendo will also be back in the lineup soon enough.
- WRs
  - There's no question Ricky Pearsall is going to be a strong play while Jennings and Aiyuk are away. I do think his productivity will degrade with those players back in the lineup, however. You may consider trading him before Aiyuk returns from injury.
- TEs
  - It's Kittle or bust. Am I the only one who finds it interesting that the 49ers have been unable to develop a 2<sup>nd</sup> tight end for ages? How do you not have an answer for such an important person in your lineup for so many years?

#### Raiders

- QBs
  - Geno Smith finished 6/8, but he left plays on the field. He's a bit rusty, but he will get this offense moving. The Raiders are going to be tough to play.
- RBs
  - I wasn't impressed with Ashton Jeanty. That is to say, I wasn't impressed with him *last* week. He looked ever bit the first round selection this week. And it's not about the stats or the TD or the press after the game. With these rookie RBs, you're really looking to see if 1) they are decisive with their fist cut, 2) if they have enough vision to move veer off the path of the play if your assigned hole is covered, 3) if when the defense makes contact with you, you can fall forward for that extra 1-2 yards. Jeanty passed the test. This is a great offense for him and he is undoubtedly the top rookie selection.
- WRs
  - It's safe to say Tre Tucker has won the slot receiving role and Jack Bech will be his backup.
  - Donte Thornton Jr. Narrowly missed making two huge catches. The opportunity is there for the rookie to make a big impact. He could have production similar to the early years of Tyler Lockett in this system.
- TEs
  - My analysis is the same. Bowers is awesome and Mayer would be great if he had to start (or gets an opportunity on another team).

#### Baltimore Ravens vs Dallas Cowboys

##### Ravens

- QBs
  - I thought Cooper Rush looked substandard once again. I think it has to do with growing pains with a new team because I've seen him play better.
- RBs

- After watching the game, I was surprised to see Rasheen Ali only had 3.3 yards per carry. It looked like he had more pop than where his stats ended up.
- Ali is a developmental running back, but he'd better step it up because D'Ernest Johnson produces everywhere he goes. His 11 carries for 61 yards and a TD was no fluke. That said, he's 4<sup>th</sup> string at best.
- Henry and Hill were never going to play, but the Ravens held out Keaton Mitchell. due to a hamstring injury. I'd be surprised if Mitchell sees the field again this preseason. I'm looking forward to watching him in the regular season.
- WRs
  - Devontez Walker finally demanded some attention. Good for him. I'll keep an eye on him next week.
  - I'm not impressed with Anthony Miller. He's closer to out of the NFL than making a game day roster in my opinion.
- TEs
  - Charlie Kolar was involved, but there's no threat to Andrews and Likely at this point.

### Cowboys

- QBs
  - I gotta say, Joe Milton is looking a little worse every time I see him. He's young and developing, but the Ravens had his number in week 2.
- RBs
  - After plenty of training camp buzz, I was looking forward to seeing Miles Sanders in action. He rewarded me with 7 carries for 15 yards. I'm not falling into this trap. I'm staying away from Sanders and suggest you do the same.
  - Deuce Vaughn should not be on the active roster. Period. If his father wasn't affiliated with the organization, Phil Mafah would already be ahead of him on the depth chart. But his dad *is* with Dallas and Jerry Jones is very loyal. It's looking like Vaughn will be RB4 this year for Dallas and Mafah may be a practice squad player depending on whether he can contribute on special teams.
- WRs
  - I'm hoping we get to see the starters next week. I'm completely out on Jonathan Mingo. Tolbert and Fournoy aren't developing for Dallas. I want to see Lamb and Pickens play, but honestly it probably wouldn't impact my rankings anyway.
- TEs
  - Ferguson or bust. There's nothing else of note for Dallas this week.

### Los Angeles Chargers vs Los Angeles Rams

#### Chargers

- QBs
  - I heard the announcers saying Trey Lance was having an amazing preseason. He had a very good opening game. Practices aside, he hasn't looked good beyond the Hall of Fame game...
  - ...Though Taylor Heinicke isn't looking good either.
- RBs
  - Jeanty is definitely ahead of Hampton in terms of rookie RBs at this point. It's not about the individual talent, but how the offenses will use the players. Jeanty will have more carries (running

share) than Hampton. Thus, Jeanty is the better pick. I actually prefer Hampton's skillset but it is what it is.

- I wanted Kimani Vidal to play better, but it's just not happenign for him. Raheim Sanders didn't do much with his opporutnity either.
- WRs
  - Hi Tre Harris, nice stats. But why are you playing so late into the preseason game? Is this a sign that I'm right and Tre Harris' skillset might not immediately pay dividends for the Chargers, or were they just getting reps and targets for their youngster? I want to see another game to decide completely.
  - The nasty head injury to Quentin Johnston makes KeAndre Lambert-Smith a much more interesting fantasy prospect in my view.
- TEs
  - I'm souring on the TE position in this offense. The Charger receivers are deeper now than they were last year. Tyler Conklin will be a roster-worthy player, but he's not going to make a heavy impact on your team. There are a lot of other places to look for TE value this year.

## Rams

- QBs
  - The Rams let Stetson Bennett play the entire game. 70% completion percentage, 324 yards, 3 TDs and a pick. Not bad for a 3<sup>rd</sup> stringer.
- RBs
  - Blake Corum looks comfortably ahead of Jarquez Hunter on the depth chart. More importantly, Corum is playing well enough to warrant more workshare this season. We'll see if Sean McVay agrees.
- WRs
  - Konata Mumpfield continues to be a nice story. He caught a TD this week and it's looking like he'll win a roster spot. But don't be fooled. The Rams aren't playing their top 4 WRs in preseason action.
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Ram TEs this week.

## New York Jets vs New York Giants

### Jets

- QBs
  - I'll give Adrian Martinez credit. His completion percetnage wasn't great and he had a pick, but I thought he played pretty well in relief of Justin Fields.
  - Speaking of Fields, it wasn't a great game for him, but I'm not put off by it. The Jets are going to let him run more in the regular season so we haven't seen the best of him yet.
- RBs
  - Breece Hall is looking better to me as a fantasy prospect, but so is Braelon Allen. Both players played well with Allen having the better statistical day. Though Breece Hall had more carries early in the game, which is more important.
- WRs
  - Rookie Arian Smith hasn't developed as fast as I'd have liked. I was expecting him to be having a training camp similar to Dont'e Thornton Jr's, but Smith looks far behind other receivers on the depth chart at this point.

- TEs
  - I love that Taylor caught the first pass of the game. We didn't see much, but it's a good sign to see him in action so early.

## Giants

- QBs
  - Good for Jaxson Dart – he's looked good in two preseason games. Russell Wilson will begin the season as the starter, but if and when the season goes south for the Giants, they can feel good about going to the youngster.
- RBs
  - Tyrone Tracy continues to look a bit better than he did last year, though he did cede a touchdown to Devin Singletary in the first quarter. I imagine that'll be fairly common, especially when Cam Skattebo is back in action.
  - Dante Miller didn't look as good as he did last year, but still looked solid. I think he's a good bet to make the roster. It wouldn't surprise me to see him eventually overtake Devin Singletary on the depth chart.
- WRs
  - The Giants had a huge passing day, but it was spread among a ton of pass catchers. I wouldn't say anyone jumped out to me... especially when considering how Malik Nabers will eventually impact the targeting of players. Beyond Nabers, Wan'Dale Robinson and potentially Darius Slayton, I wouldn't pay attention to any of these other players.
- TEs
  - Is this my first TE note of the week? Theo Johnson continues to look good. But I think Malik Nabers will take some of his potential away because Nabers is so dominant over the middle of the field.

## Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs Pittsburgh Steelers

### Buccaneers

- QBs
  - Teddy Bridgewater was up and down, but he did lead two scoring drives. The Bucs have impressive talent on the roster, especially at the skill positions.
  - I gave Kyle Trask a compliment last week, but I'm taking it back. He looked bad again.
- RBs
  - Bucky didn't look great as a runner, but I don't care at all. The Steelers defense has been good against the run in preseason thus far. There is no need to worry. Plus, he added a receiving TD.
  - I'm continuing to wonder whether Sean Tucker will overtake Rachaad White as the backup RB/3<sup>rd</sup> down back. White is an exceptional blocker and has great hands, so that's something that is easier said than done. Especially for a team, like Tampa, who is looking to make a deep playoff run this year.
- WRs
  - Every Tampa receiver that hits the field looks good. But the true starters (Mike Evans and Chris Godwin) haven't been playing. I still think Egbuka is the third WR in this offense and Jalen McMillan is an excellent fourth option.
- TEs
  - I don't have anything of note other than Cade Otton was targeted twice. Remember, Tampa has a new play caller. It's possible Otton gets an uplift

## Steelers

- QBs
  - Mason Rudolph will be your backup, but Skylar Thompson is looking better through two games (against inferior competition, to be fair)
- RBs
  - Really Arthur Smith? Kenneth Gainwell is ahead of Kaleb Johnson on the depth chart? That's what we're doing?
    - I'm not surprised and I wrote about this in the book. Arthur Smith couldn't figure out how to get Bijan Robinson on the field in the red zone so I have don't have a lot of faith he's going to warm up to Kaleb Johnson this year.
    - Kaleb Johnson looked better as a runner, but he showed issues with respect to pass blocking and I think that is a key reason he's not higher on the depth chart. Buckle up Kaleb Johnson fans, it could be a weird season.
    - Also if we're talking about Kaleb Johnson vs Kenneth Gainwell, this certainly points to Jaylen Warren having higher value.
- WRs
  - I'm not going to shift the rankings, but I continue to like what I'm seeing from Roman Wilson as a receiver. I think the first two games are confirming the book's take that Wilson is probably the better receiver, but Robert Woods is going to open the season as the starter. I'm sticking with Metcalf and Austin as the best of the Steeler receivers, but Wilson does intrigue me. If you play in a deeper dynasty league, he is worth a chance, but it may take a year or two for him to pay dividends.
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Steeler TEs this week.

## Arizona Cardinals vs Denver Broncos

### Cardinals

- QBs
  - I thought Brissett looked good. It occurred to me as I was watching the game that the receivers would probably benefit more from Brissett playing than Murray. Murray is so good with his legs that he limits the passing game's ceiling. He also generally throws to either McBride or Harrison. Briissett would more likely distribute the ball to other receivers (like Michael Wilson).
- RBs
  - I like Michael Carter, but he looked awful this week. Put a fork in him, he's done.
  - Emari Demercado didn't look much better, but he should wind up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cardinal running back this season.
- WRs
  - The Cardinals played their depth WRs and nobody is standing out, especially when you also consider the lack of fantasy productivity among receivers in Ariaona.
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Cardinal TEs.

### Broncos

- QBs

- Stidham was dropping some dimes. He's not going to challenge Bo Nix for a starting job, but he has locked up the backup QB role.
- RBs
  - I really liked what I saw from RJ Harvey this week. From an ability point of view, he's going to be excellent in the NFL. I even like where he's at with his pass blocking. But I noticed the core Bronco players didn't play this week and that included JK Dobbins. This is going to be a committee running back situation.
- WRs
  - Both Pat Bryant and Troy Franklin are looking good. Sean Payton had nice things to say about Franklin specifically. Just remember these guys are playing because they are *not* starting for Denver in the regular season. It still looks like Sutton, Mims and Vele are ahead of Bryant and Franklin on the depth chart. And keeping in mind how wide the distribution of targets is among Denver receivers, I don't think like the idea of drafting either of these guys in a one year format. I want to see how they perform when the entire Bronco offense is playing.
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Bronco TEs this week.

## Jacksonville Jaguars vs New Orleans Saints

### Jaguars

- QBs
  - Maybe it's confirmation bias, but I love how the Jaguars offense is looking. This is a good offensive system for Trevor Lawrence. Even Nick Mullens went 14/17 this week (with a pick).
- RBs
  - There's a lot of positive press about Travis Etienne, but I still think Tank Bigsby looks a little better. These two will both be prominently involved for the Jaguars this season.
  - I'm not down on Bhayshul Tuten, but he didn't impress me this week. I'm going to leave his ranking where it is, but I'm watching him closely.
  - Fellow rookie LaQuint Allen Jr. looked solid. He's nobody you'll need to consider, but he's worth monitoring (from afar) in dynasty leagues.
- WRs
  - Travis Hunter didn't play and that gave Parker Washington more chances. He looked great on the first drive with Trevor Lawrence.
- TEs
  - Brenton Strange is an excellent TE to take in the late rounds of your draft. He has the ability to be a very good player. My only question is whether he will get enough targets on what is a very underrated Jaguar offense.

### Saints

- QBs
  - Though Spencer Rattler had a better game this week, I don't see how Tyler Shough won't be the opening day starter. The rookie is playing well.
- RBs
  - Kendre Miller will be involved this year, but he continues to look average. He's leaving the door open for Devin Neal (who is recovering from a hamstring injury)

- Velus Jones intrigued me at RB in training camp last year for the Bears. He's someone I'm keeping an eye on. The Saints, like the Dolphins, need a backup RB to keep their starter fresh and healthy. Nobody has stepped up for New Orleans to this point.
- WRs
  - I thought Rashid Shaheed looked good and I was happy to see Olave targeted as much as he was.
  - Mason Tipton was mentioned in a couple of my waiver wire columns last season. He looked good in the second half. The Saints need more skill players to step up and Tipton could have just earned an opportunity for early game reps next week.
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Saint TEs this week.

## Buffalo Bills vs Chicago Bears

### Bills

- QBs
  - Nothing of note for Bills QBs this week. Buffalo very clearly does not care about winning preseason games. You'd like to see their depth players play better, but this is not a team that is trying to perform to this point. Perhaps we'll see a series from their top players next week, but I wouldn't count on it. Nor would I be concerned if they don't perform well.
- RBs
  - Ray Davis continues to underwhelm me.
  - Frank Gore has now looked good in both preseason games. He's making a case for a roster spot.
    - Gore won't be a starter this year, but I can see a future for him in Buffalo, especially if Ray Davis can't ramp up his productivity
- WRs
  - OK, I'll admit it. Tyrell Shavers is looking good. But again, this is preseason. He's making a case for a roster spot, not a starting role for a Super Bowl contender. Remember his name. If Buffalo receivers are injured and he gets a chance, he could be worth a waiver pickup later this year.
    - He certainly looks better to this point than rookie Kaden Prather, who I thought looked good coming out of college.
    - I also think Shavers is outplaying Elijah Moore
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Buffalo TEs

### Bears

- QBs
  - Caleb looked much more in control this week
  - Tyson Bagent fits well into this scheme. He's no threat to Caleb Williams, but the productivity gap between the two QBs isn't as large as some may think.
- RBs
  - Deion Hankins got the start, but I don't consider him a factor
  - Good for Ian Wheeler. He was one I rooted for in Hard Knocks last year, but then blew his knee out. He had a very strong performance and may have earned a practice squad opportunity
  - Nice game for Brittain Brown as well. It looks like he and Hankins are duking it out for the last RB position on the roster.

- WRs
  - I had the realization this week that I haven't mentioned Rome Odunze once this offseason. That's concerning to me. He's an excellent player, but I am wondering whether this scheme is the best fit for him.
  - Luther Burden III is coming along very well, but he is currently behind Olamide Zaccheaus on the depth chart. Zaccheaus is playing well, so Burden may take a bit longer to crack the starting lineup.
- TEs
  - I thought Colston Loveland looked very good this week, though I still think he's behind Warren among rookie TEs. Cole Kmet was also used in the first drive. This Bears offense will be a fun one to watch this year.

## Cincinnati Bengals vs Washington Commanders

### Bengals

- QBs
  - Burrow played three series. He looks good. This Bengals offense will have no problems scoring, thanks for sure. I know the Bengals are trying to set an early tone and Burrow is being a leader, but it's the preseason. Get him out of the game!
- RBs
  - Chase Brown continues to look like a tougher running back. I love his fantasy value this season.
  - Tajh Brooks is making his presence known. It looks like he's earning the early down backup position.
- WRs
  - Chase and Higgins are awesome. Nobody else matters at this point.
- TEs
  - No updates among Bengal TEs.

### Commanders

- QBs
  - Jayden Daniels... nice run, but it's the preseason dude. Get him out of the game!
  - Sam Hartman looked awful. I don't think he'll make the roster and might not warrant a practice squad spot either.
- RBs
  - I'm happy that my "Croskey-Merritt could start this season" take is looking better, but don't sleep on Chris Rodriguez. Rodriguez got a start, but both backs rotated in. This running attack is going to be good regardless of who is handling the ball. Rodriguez was actually drafted by the Rivera coaching staff in Washington. I thought he may get cut last year, but he's held on.
  - Brian Robinson Jr. is a serviceable back, but he's not a definite starter. I don't know if Washington will succeed in trading him, but they could use that \$3m of cap space towards a McLaurin extension and I think that's what will happen.
  - Oh, and don't forget Austin Ekeler is probably the best overall RB on the roster today.
- WRs
  - Deebo looked good with his run to open the game. Samuel has a lot of value given McLaurin's holdout. Even if (and when) McLaurin returns, he's missed enough time now that he will be a major injury risk. Samuel's value is increasing in my opinion.

- Jaylin Lane and K.J. Osborne are my favorite depth receivers in Washington to this point, but I wouldn't spend a draft pick on either (including a dynasty pick on Lane)
- TEs
  - Nothing of note among Washington TEs.