NFL Fantasy Football Picks

Li Cai Haney

University of Cincinnati

Dr. Huml (SMGT-3050)

September 9, 2021-December 13, 2021

**My Picks for Week 1 (9/9/21)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | G Minshew II | 19.9 | 31st | Away |
| RB | Joe Mixon | 17.3 | 32nd | Home |
| RB | J Robinson | 18.8 | 24th | Away |
| WR | T Lockett | 16.3 | 23rd | Away |
| WR | B Cooks | 16.1 | 22nd | Home |
| WR | B Aiyuk | 15.9 | 31st | Away |
| TE | Eric Ebron | 10.1 | 31st | Away |
| FLEX | T Kelce | 23.7 | 29th | Home |
| DST | Dolphins | 8.8 | 20th | Away |

For drafting my first week of picks, I looked at the OPRK and FFPG for players and sort of considered their history playing home vs away.

I used OPRK to sort of indicate how a player is thought to do against a defense for a particular. I also used the player’s FPPG (fantasy points per game-overall) to indicate how well they did in the past. Because of my criteria, I did not consider any new players which may be ok because some new players may not play. I can consider these new players in future weeks as they start to perform.

When selecting players, I sorted the players by FPPG (high to low). I then looked at their OPRK and tried to balance a better OPRK while maximizing their FPPG and considering their salary. This usually ended up selecting starting at the highest FPPG player and then decreasing in FPPG until I reached a player who had a OPRK >20. I did my best to balance high FFPG and high OPRK (I did >20th for OPRK in the hopes that this would be a good indicator that the players selected would perform to their average FPPG). I did also try to consider salary as well and maximizing FFPG for players’ salaries which is why I chose the Dolphins for DST since they had a FPPG of 8.8, a more medium OPRK of 20th, but a salary of $2900 which was one of the lower salaries for the position).

I did also look at some of the player’s performance based on home vs away games. For example, I saw Joe Mixon performs much better home (where he is this week) vs away (FFPG 26.1 home vs 12.9 away). Some of the players actually had better FFPGs away vs home (ex Tyler Locket who had FFPG 18.1 away vs 14.8 home and he plays away the first week) which made me feel better about picking some of the players.

I do think in the upcoming weeks, some things I may want to look at is what positions I should focus my salary dollars on. This week, I spent the largest salary on T Kelce because I saw he had a high OPRK (29th) and a high FPPG (23.7—25.9 at home which he plays at the first week). T Kelce was one of my first picks, so after him I was a bit more conscious of the salary of my picks for QB and RB. When I looked at some of the QB and RB, a lot of the high FFPG (and high salary) players had low OPRK which had me a bit concerned in picking them, so I settled on picks that had high OPRKs and medium-high FFPGs. In future weeks, I may have better options in these categories or I may learn OPRK is not the best indicator for how well a player should perform against his opponent. I may want to focus my salary more on QB or RB instead of FLEX. I may also want to look more at how teams play home vs away (like I said, I looked at some players’ FPPG history and in some cases, it looked good; some of the players were playing where their home/away FFPG was lower) and the predicted odds of a matchup as well. Since this is my first ever fantasy football draft, I know I have a lot to learn and am looking forward to seeing how other students’ who have more experience/knowledge of football make their selections.

**Week 1 Review and Week 2 Picks (9/18/21)**

***Week 1 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | Avg FPPG | Actual FP for Week 1 | Notes |
| QB | G Minshew II | 19.9 | 0 | Out-announced he was out on 9/12 (Sunday) |
| RB | Joe Mixon | 17.3 | 28.00 | Hot |
| RB | J Robinson | 18.8 | 8.40 | Cold |
| WR | T Lockett | 16.3 | 29.00 | Hot |
| WR | B Cooks | 16.1 | 21.20 | Hot |
| WR | B Aiyuk | 15.9 | 0 | Questionable-Had hamstring injury but did not appear on injury list—announced 9/12 as having hamstring issues) |
| TE | Eric Ebron | 10.1 | 2.90 | Cold  9/16 update—injury report |
| FLEX | T Kelce | 23.7 | 25.60 |  |
| DST | Dolphins | 8.8 | 6.00 |  |
| Total | | | 121.10 |  |

First, when I made my picks on Thursday, neither G Minshew II or B Aiyuk were shown as being out or questionable. For G Minshew, it was announced on Sunday (game day) that he would not be playing (new to team—arrived in Philadelphia in August). B Aiyuk apparently had a hamstring injury but was not on the injury/questionable list at the time I chose him (he was not placed on the injury/questionable list until Sunday as well), and Rotowire did say he did a full practice the Wednesday before the first game. So these two picks were wasted for me. With G Minshew, I think the only way to have avoided that was to have looked at lineups on Sunday (the day the team said he wouldn’t play in the first game) while with B Aiyuk, I now know to look at any possible reports for injury. The lessons I learned here are to wait as long as possible to pick/have teams announce any injuries/players who won’t play and to pay more attention to any history of injury that may prevent a player from playing. Week 1 overall was decent for the remaining players; 3/7 remaining picks were “hot”, 2 were cold (including one player who is now on the injury list—I know not to pick E Ebron for Week 2), and 2 were average for themselves (T Kelce still provided a solid 25.60 points and the Dolphins provided 6.00 points which seems decent for the DST position (a lot of the other people in class’s DST picks got 0 points).

***My Week 2 Picks***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (W1) | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | R Wilson | 27.1 | 31st | Home |
| RB | M Gordon III | 23.8 | 24th | Away |
| RB | C Edmonds | 14.6 | 29th | Home |
| WR | T Lockett | 29.0 | 30th | Home |
| WR | J Chase | 23.9 | 27th | Away |
| WR | M Williams | 22.2 | 24th | Home |
| TE | R Gronkowski | 29.0 | 25th | Home |
| FLEX | Cooper Kupp | 26.8 | 23rd | Away |
| DST | Dolphins | 6.0 | 15th | Home |

I did look at the other students’ picks to have some new ideas for how I want to structure my picks in terms of salary distribution. T Kelce was my most expensive pick ($8300), but with him providing a solid 25.60 points (which is slightly above his historical FPPG), it definitely seems like he was worth the higher cost. What I found interesting was TheoJansen who took a solid first place with 161.38 points went ahead and chose three >$8000 picks and they all provided at least 18 points (two of them were 36+ points), so it definitely seems like the more expensive players are worth it. Then, he chose mainly <$5000 players who played pretty well with three of them performing in the 15-19 point range.

In picking for Week 2, I waited until Saturday to pick based on my experience with G Minshew and B Aiyuk, and I paid a bit more attention to reading players’ status update for any signs of injury during practice. I decided to again go with high OPRK as one of my main variables to consider in choosing players this week as well as the previous week’s performance (points and player analysis provided by DraftKing). I also looked at a couple of websites’ predictions/rankings for week 2.

A decent QB seems important in picking teams as they seem to provide 10+ points to the total (minimum QB points among the QBs picked in the league was 12 points; if my QB had provided at least 10 points I could have had 130+ points which would have boosted me to potentially 4th place), so I paid a bit more attention to my QB pick this week. Based on the previous weeks performance (18/23 completed pass attempts for week 1; analysis saying he should do ok against the Tennessee Titans, NFL Fantasy Projections ranking him 2nd among QB), I picked Russel Wilson.

For RB, I again looked at OPRK and then I looked at the analysis of the players. I went with M Gordon III and C Edmonds because they both had solid performances (23.8 points, 14.6 points) the first week and predictions show them as being solid players for week 2. The DraftKing analysis also mentions C Edmonds in particular will be an unconditional part of the Cardinals’ offense and should be the main RB.

For WR, I looked at the analysis of the players going into Week 2 and their performance from Week 1. I decided to keep T Lockett since he did so well in Week 1 (29 FP) and the analysis says that he (along with his teammates) look to be potent against the Titans in Week 2. I then chose Ja’Marr Chase because of his performance in Week 1 (leader in catches, targets, and receiving yards) and the analysis’s talk about the chemistry he has with Joe Burrow; I’m hoping for his promising start to continue into Week 2 where the Bengals are expected to win against the Cubs. Finally, I chose Mike Williams who again had a strong Week 1 performance (analysis commented on how he was looking spryer), though he had some drops in the third quarter (I see it as room for improvement and the analysis mentioned it was his best contest with Justin Herbert). Analysis predicted he could have another solid game against the Cowboys’ porous defense (where his ability to break out of routes can hopefully be used to his advantage).

For TE, T Kelce who seems to be among the best TE was not included as an option (Thursday game). Based on OPRK and Week 1, I went with Rob Gronkowski who brought all eight of his targets for 90 yards against the Cowboys. The analysis mentioned he was looking as nimble and unencumbered while running as he did in 2020. I’m hoping he will keep up his performance going into Week 2.

For FLEX, Cooper Kupp hauled 7 receptions of 10 receptions and a touchdown. Analysis says he did very well with the Rams’ new QB Matthew Stafford and had 4 more targets than the next heist receiving option (Tyler Higbee). Then for DST, the Dolphins seem to fairly consistently produce (8.8 FPPG in 2020-2021; 6 points Week 1), so for one of the cheaper DST options ($2500), I decided to stick with them.

**Week 2 Review and Week 3 Picks (9/25/21)**

***Week 2 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (W1) | FP (W2) | Notes |
| QB | R Wilson | 27.1 | 26.32 | Hot |
| RB | M Gordon III | 23.8 | 8.90 | Cold |
| RB | C Edmonds | 14.6 | 12.50 |  |
| WR | T Lockett | 29.0 | 34.80 | Hot |
| WR | J Chase | 23.9 | 13.40 |  |
| WR | M Williams | 22.2 | 22.10 | Hot |
| TE | R Gronkowski | 29.0 | 19.90 | Hot |
| FLEX | Cooper Kupp | 26.8 | 39.80 | Hot |
| DST | Dolphins | 6.0 | 1.00 | Cold |
| Total | | | 178.72 |  |

I did a lot better this week since I didn’t have any players not play this week. I have been trying to pay attention to any major players on teams who are injured or may not be playing for some reason. Two of my selection criteria this week will most likely be no players from the Colts (Wentz’ broken ankles) or the Dolphins (Tua’s broken ribs) because the main QB for those two teams are out for the foreseeable future with injuries—I’m going on the assumption the backup QBs may not have the already established chemistry the main QB has with the team. For week 2, I was able to select 5/9 players who were hot this week according to Draft King. My two positions to improve in terms of selection are RB (Cold player and average player) and DST. The 1.00 points for DST is most likely because the Dolphins’ QB was sacked in the first quarter and he ended up with broken ribs. I’m definitely going to have to put more thought into my DST pick for week 3. I think overall though my strategy of picking players based on OPRK is working out well.

***My Week 3 Picks***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Season) | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | R Wilson | 26.7 | 31st | Away |
| RB | T Williams | 14.9 | 31st | Away |
| RB | C Patterson | 16.3 | 30th | Away |
| WR | T Lockett | 31.9 | 28th | Away |
| WR | C Kupp | 33.3 | 30th | Home |
| WR | Q Cephus | 14.3 | 24th | Home |
| TE | T Hockenson | 23.2 | 32nd | Home |
| FLEX | R Gronkowski | 24.5 | 17th | Away |
| DST | Cardinals | 8.5 | 15th | Away |

R Wilson and T Lockett both had good games in Week 2 and they seem to have a good connection based on the first two games this season. The Seahawks are up against the 0-2 Minnesota Vikings this week, and the Seahawks are favored so I think based on past performance and the matchup, they are both solid picks for Week 3 as well. Analysis also notes that Lockett has been very efficient so far, averaging 23.2 YPC and 17.4 YPT; I noted in Week 2 that T Lockett seems like a solid pick in general, and Week 2 supported this thought.

For RB, in addition to the OPRK, I read more about the Draft King analyses for the players. T Williams rushed 13 times for 77 yards and caught both of his targets in Week 2. He still have rooms to improve (he could have “cashed in on one of those three rushing scores”), but overall, analyses says he is pretty solid. What I liked about T Williams is that the Ravens are against a young, unproven Lions defense, so he may have more room to do well this week. C Patterson seems to be doing a solid job this season even though his team (Falcons) may not be the best. He contributes rushing yards, touchdowns, and was able to recover a fumbled football. The main reasons I picked him is that his matchup this week is favorable against the Giants, he seems to do decent during the game based on the first two weeks, and his salary was only $4700.

I was pleasantly surprised by C Kupp in Week 2. He contributed 163 yards off of 9/11 secured targets and two touchdowns in Week 2. He also had a pretty good first week and he seems to have become one of Matthew Stafford’s main targets which means he should have more opportunities given to contribute to plays and thus Fantasy points. I think as long as he continues to have opportunities to contribute and succeeds in such opportunities, he should continue to do well in Fantasy leagues even if the Rams are not favored to win. Q Cephus started playing due to Tyrell Williams’ concussion and became his primary replacement. He is expected to benefit from heavy snap shares, so I’m sort of going with my thinking process with C Kupp where even if the team doesn’t do great for a given week, if Q Cephus is one of the go to guys, he should have opportunity to earn Fantasy League points.

For FLEX, I was a bit limited on funds in selecting. R Gronkowski has been a solid player in the first two games and he has history with QB Tom Brady. Between his experience with Tom Brady, the TB Bucaneers being slightly favored against the Rams, and the analysis’s note that “with the stingy Rams cornerbacks on the schedule for Week 3, Gronkowski could play a key role as a pass catcher again” which again indicates that he will have more opportunities for Fantasy League points.

Finally, I did some research in DST selections. I did not have much money at this point and the Cardinals are only $3000. Their Home game only earned them 1 point while their Week 2 Away game earned them 16 points. The Cardinals will be away again and other analyses seem to think the Cardinals’ DST can do well against JAX. My hope is that they can have a performance similar to their previous Week 2 away game (16 points) vs their Week 1 home game (1 point).

**Week 3 Review and Week 4 Picks (10/1/21)**

***Week 3 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W3) | Notes |
| QB | R Wilson | 23.3 | 16.62 |  |
| RB | T Williams | 10.6 | 2.20 | Cold |
| RB | C Patterson | 16.3 | 16.20 |  |
| WR | T Lockett | 23.6 | 7.10 | Cold |
| WR | C Kupp | 32.4 | 30.60 | Hot |
| WR | Q Cephus | 10.1 | 1.80 | Cold |
| TE | T Hockenson | 16.40 | 3.00 | Cold |
| FLEX | R Gronkowski | 19.5 | 9.50 | Cold |
| DST | Cardinals |  | 18.00 | Hot |
| Total | | | 105.02 |  |

This week was rough for me. I picked 6/9 players who were cold this week with many of my picks common picks among the class (ex. T Hockenson was picked by 72.7% of the class). T Lockett who has been a strong pick for me the first two weeks still caught all four of his targets on Sunday’s loss to the Vikings, but it sounds like DK Metcalf was the star receiver for Seattle on Sunday. I also want to note that I saw T Lockett has been reported with a hip injury and is questionable, so I will definitely not be picking him for Week 4. I think in terms of quarterback, one thing I should have looked at more is the odds for the Seahawks to beat the Vikings; I saw the Seahawks were only favored by 2 points, which makes the 17-30 loss a bit less surprising; I think the QB position in terms of FP is an important position to choose wisely (R Wilson is QB for Seattle; 16.20 seems sort of low for a QB which I would attribute in part due to the loss—13 point loss seems indicative to me the Seahawks didn’t do great and there weren’t many touchdowns), so I may try looking more closely at the odds for the team my chosen QB is on.

In terms of my other cold players, some people to note is that Q Cephus only received (successfully) one target with K Raymond being the main receiver for the Lions; analysis does think Cephus should be able to step up more in upcoming games as Tyrell William’s replacement, but I won’t be picking him again any time soon until I see that he starts to find his place on the Lions. T Williams failed to catch his only target, so his only points came from rushing 22 yards. T Hockenson caught both his targets for 10 yards, and one of the reasons he didn’t have more opportunities for points is that it sounds like his QB (Goff) didn’t attempt as many passes (30 passes vs 93 the first two weeks). If Goff is able to do more passes, Hockenson seems like he has potential to earn more points. R Gronkowski tied for second on his team with 7 targets (four receptions), but it sounds like he was injured after taking a hard hit to his back that briefly sent him to the locker room which may have also affected his performance (he has been on the injury report/questionable list for his ribs—won’t be picking him Week 4). It was noted he failed to make it to the end zone for the first time this season which would be part of the reason he didn’t perform as well in terms of FPs this week compared to previous weeks. These players had played much better the first two weeks; part of their weaker performance may be due to how players were utilized/not utilized (Cephus, Hockenson), but I think my idea to sort of combine past performance and how they are expected to do against their opponent has merit. It may be better to look at individual game odds as well to pick teams that are expected to earn more points than their opponents.

I think the one bright spot is that my DST pick did a lot better compared to the previous two weeks, actually being one of the only hot picks. I would like to continue to pick good DST picks in the coming weeks. C Patterson was a respectable pick as a $4600 RB, earning 16.20 points and catching 6/7 targets. C Kupp continued on his impressive performance from week 2, recording 9/12 receptions and 2 touchdowns. Analysis does note that while Kupp may not be able to continue his impressive performance, he seems to have developed a rapport with Matthew Stafford and should be able to have another good offensive game in Week 4 against the Cardinals.

So going into Week 4, I want to check the game odds and try to pick a QB on a team who is favored to win that week since it seems like a lot of the points can be from the QB. I’d also like to continue to pick a DST that earns >10 points if possible, though I don’t really like the idea of spending more than $3200 for that position.

***My Week 4 Picks***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Season) | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | R Wilson | 23.3 | 30th | Away |
| RB | C Carson | 15.0 | 30th | Away |
| RB | Mike Davis | 11.5 | 4th | Home |
| WR | C Kupp | 32.4 | 21st | Home |
| WR | DJ Moore | 20.3 | 27th | Away |
| WR | Q Cephus | 10.1 | 26th | Away |
| TE | Noah Fant | 9.7 | 32nd | Home |
| FLEX | C Patterson | 16.3 | 4th | Home |
| DST | Saints | 13.7 | 16th | Home |

First, I looked at CBS Sports prediction model. One of the games it likes is Seattle winning against the 49ers who are also coming off a loss. I’m willing to go with this prediction and choosing R Wilson as the QB because he has been able to produce in previous games (has not thrown an interception, 73.3% completion, 7 TDs in three games—Seattle’s loss in Week 3 is attributed to lack of support by the team according to Draft King’s analysis).

For RB, I haven’t done the greatest at picking them. I decided to go with two sort of different methods with picking RBs. Mike Davis and C Carson are projected to do well in their Week 4 games and have been very consistent in the first three games of the season with their average FPs being within 1-2 points away and home (Mike Davis—14 for 17 in catching targets, no fumbles with room for improvement given he has 0 TDs; C Carson has had 3 TDs, 5 for 5 in catching his targets, and is averaging a solid 15.0 points). However, C Carson has the higher (better) OPRK rank (30th vs 4th), so I wanted to take a chance this week and see if OPRK is really a good indicator for predicting how well a player may do or if past performance and consistency should be focused on.

For WR, I went with C Kupp again due to his past performance and analysis saying he should continue to make a positive impact on the offensive side on Week 4. DJ Moore has been playing pretty consistently and well and was being targeted frequently in Week 3 and has been putting up at least 75 yards. For my last WR pick, I had to try to conserve money so I decided to go with Q Cephus again ($4000) in the hopes that he will be utilized more this week in the game against Chicago (away) as he continues to fill in the role of Tyrell Williams who is out with a concussion; his other away game this season saw him earning 16.3 points and he has gone 8 for 14 in receiving targets so hopefully he can be used more and have a similar performance as his other away game.

For TE, I did some research and one player who is expected to do decently is Noah Fant (again, I took into great consideration price—he was $4300; in an ideal world with more money, my TE pick would be T Kelce who is expected to continue to do well averaging 24.3 points but is $8100). He is 12 for 17 in receiving targets, and he did not do great last week (Week 3-3.5 points) because he was not a large part of the Broncos’ cruise to victory against the Jets, but it was mentioned that the Broncos WR KJ Hamler had a knee injury last week in addition to missing Jerry Jeudy, so his part on the team is expected to go up. In the other two games of the season, he averaged 12.8 points which is respectable enough.

For DST, I once again did some research into the teams and the Saints were predicted to do well at home against the Giants. The Saints have done better at home thus far (15 points vs 13 point average), so I decided to pick them for this week.

I was then left with $5000 for a FLEX. I knew I wouldn’t be able to get some of the better, more consistent players with that amount (T Kelce, D Henry), so I took the list of FLEX players and sorted by average FP for the season. C Patterson ($4900) stood out to me, averaging 16.3 points. The odds are against the Cardinals favor vs Washington by only 1.5 points, so I see this game as possibly being able to go either way leaving room for C Patterson to do well. He is the other RB with Mike Davis for the Cardinals and actually leads the team in receiving yards and is second in receptions and targets. I saw choosing him as a good opportunity to continue my RB test for whether OPRK is a good indicator for performance (C Patterson’s OPRK is 4th as well) with the hope that between Mike Davis and C Patterson, I may have one decent RB (>10 points) from the Cardinals.

**Week 4 Review and Week 5 Picks (10/10/21)**

***Week 4 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W4) | Notes |
| QB | R Wilson | 20.5 | 22.56 |  |
| RB | C Carson | 12.3 | 4.10 | Cold |
| RB | Mike Davis | 11.3 | 10.60 |  |
| WR | C Kupp | 25.0 | 11.40 | Cold |
| WR | DJ Moore | 23.9 | 34.90 | Hot |
| WR | Q Cephus | 10.7 | 12.30 |  |
| TE | Noah Fant | 11.4 | 16.60 | Hot |
| FLEX | C Patterson | 20.9 | 34.60 | Hot |
| DST | Saints | 10.8 | 2.00 | Cold |
| Total | | | 149.06 |  |

For my QB, R Wilson did not do great in terms of points despite the Seahawk’s 28-21 win against the 49ers (I was picking based on past performance and being on the team that is likely to win). It sounds like part of the reason is that the analysis notes that Wilson’s “efficiency and explosiveness are as high as ever though one month, but the Seahawks are not running as many plays…” which limits the number of points he will earn. I know for Week 5, I will not be picking Wilson again based on the fact the Seahawks’ style of play does not seem great for him to earn points and he was injured and will be out dur to his ruptured finger tendon.

In terms of the other players, I went 3 and 3 for hot and cold players this week.

C Kupp was one of these cold disappointments based on his performance in the first three weeks; part of this reason sounds like it’s because the Rams lost 37-20 against the Cardinals and him only catching 5/13 targets. Thursday night’s game against the Seahawks saw only 16.2 points with 7/10 completed targets. It does sound like his other teammates are starting to be more successful so C Kupp may be an asterisk in terms of future weeks (wait to see if he can get back up to the level he was playing at in the first three weeks).

The Saints’ DST did terrible; like I mentioned, the Saints’ DST was predicted to do well but they didn’t seem to live up to their expected performance. I still have some ways to go to predicting my DST team.

I think in terms of RB, I didn’t do bad. Mike Davis and C Carson were my “consistent and expected to do well” picks while C Patterson was my FLEX position who had been doing well. I was testing OPRK with my RB picks with Davis and C Patterson being my low OPRK picks (4th) while Carson was my high OPRK (30th). C Patterson and Davis are both RBs for Atlanta so it makes sense both of them weren’t in the “hot” category since there are only so many plays on a given team, but based on previous my previous RB picks Mike Davis was still a decent pick bringing in 10.6 points which is just under his average 11.3 points/game (consistent). C Patterson seemed to have done really great this game, carrying the ball 6 times for 34 yards and catching 5/6 targets for 82 yards and 3 touchdowns despite the 34-30 loss. Draft Kings analysis seems to think C Patterson is poised for another good game against the Jets, and for $4900 for a 20.9 point average RB, I think he may be a good choice for a RB in Week 5. In contrast, Carson was cold this week, only earning 4.1 points due to a low workload (14 touches). Again, the Seahawks don’t seem to be running many plays this season, and the analysis says backup runner Alexis Collins saw more touches this game. On Tuesday, it was noted Carson wasn’t practicing due to a neck injury that he didn’t seem to indicate in the game, but this may have been the reason for his lack of use. Due to Carson’s lack of usage, I don’t want to say for sure OPRK ranking isn’t a great predictor of performance, but Mike Davis and C Carson’s performance with a OPRK rank of 4th does make me think twice about picking solely based on OPRK.

In terms of WR, Q Cephus seems to be emerging as a utilized player, catching 4/5 targets for 83 yards; it was noted Jared Goff wasn’t able to find him open on at least 2 occasions (indicating he could have been used even more), but Q Cephus may be a player to watch in the upcoming weeks that could start to be a decent $4000 pick that could earn double digit points. Finally, DJ Moore did great in terms of fantasy points with 8/12 successful receptions for 113 yards and 2 touchdowns despite the 36-28 loss for the Panthers. DJ Moore may also be a player to keep in mind for future picks averaging 23.9 points and having almost 400 receiving yards through Week 4.

For Week 5, I want to look a little less at OPRK (still consider it) and possibly more at season’s performance in terms of FP averages, consistency, and projections for the week.

***My Week 5 Picks***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Season) | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | Jalen Hurts | 26.8 | 9th | Away |
| RB | Kareem Hunt | 16.9 | 18th | Away |
| RB | J Robinson | 16.0 | 14th | Home |
| WR | D Samuel | 25.2 | 21st | Away |
| WR | D Johnson | 20.4 | 15th | Home |
| WR | H Renfrow | 14.7 | 28th | Home |
| TE | D Schultz | 14.5 | 25th | Home |
| FLEX | Tee Higgins | 16.4 | 5th | Home |
| DST | Raiders | 4.3 | 25th | Home |

For QB this week, I decided to see if despite a low OPRK and the opponent expected to win, high consistency may overcome these predictions and lead in a decent game for a QB. Jalen Hurts’ Eagles are expected to lose to the Carolina Panthers (OPRK 9th), but he seems to be well, averaging 26.5 points at home, 27.2 points away (he is away this week), and putting up 31.2 FPs last week with 32/48 completed passes for 387 yards, two touchdowns and 8 carries despite a 42-30 loss. I would like to see if for QB, a higher number of plays results in more points for QB despite a loss.

For DST, I picked the Raiders mainly due to their high OPRK and high projected points from Fantasy Projections.

For WR, I picked D Samuel due to his high season average of 25.2 with a decent OPRK of 21st against Arizona. He is projected to continue to do well as he caught 8/12 targest for 156 yards and two touchdowns even with the team’s backup QB last week. He also averages slightly higher FP away vs home (26.0 vs 64.5). D Johnson missed Week 3’s game with a knee injury but then did a full practice before Week 4’s game where he completed 9/13 targets along with a touchdown. He has had double digit targets in his three games thus far, so based on his past performance, I decided to go with him as he is not listed as Questionable or Out from his previous knee injury and he is still listed as one of the Steelers’ first WR. I also picked H Renfrow due to his $4900 salary and his fairly consistent performance of 14.7 FPPG (15.9 home where he is, 13.6 away); he caught 6/8 targets and had one touchdown last week and is described as a “security blanket for Derek Carr, consistently helping the Raiders move the sticks.”

For RB, I picked Kareem Hunt due to his solid average of 16.9 FPPG thus far (both at home and away). Last week, he brought in 2/4 target and had one touchdown. I also picked James Robinson due to his solid performance thus far (average 16.0 points; home 17.4 where he is; away 14.5 points). Last week, he was able to bring in ½ targets, had two touchdowns, and carried 18 times

For TE, I picked D Schultz. He has a pretty high average FP for a TE at 14.5 points with an average of 21.9 points at home (where he is this week). He recorded 6/8 receptions last week with at least 7 ragets in ¾ games this season, so I am picking him on the assumption that he should be a decent TE pick.

My last pick was my FLEX pick where I only had $5400 remaining. I went with Tee Higgins who is coming back from a shoulder injury (off for two weeks), having gone through a full Friday practice where he was said to be looking good. Before the injury, Higgins completed 10/15 targets and had two touchdowns, averaging 16.4 FPPG. Adding Higgins back in on the Bengals’ rosters along with Chase is expected to provide a much needed boost to the Bengals’ aerial game which could help. Based on last season’s performance and the first two games he played, Higgins should be utilized this week given he was taken of the injured list and was doing a full practice on Friday.

**Week 5 Review and Week 6 Picks (10/16/21)**

***Week 5 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W5) | Notes |
| QB | Jalen Hurts | 26.2 | 23.92 | Hot |
| RB | Kareem Hunt | 18.7 | 25.90 | Hot |
| RB | J Robinson | 17.7 | 24.70 | Hot |
| WR | D Samuel | 23.4 | 16.10 |  |
| WR | D Johnson | 14.1 | 11.60 |  |
| WR | H Renfrow | 19.1 | 15.20 |  |
| TE | D Schultz | 14.4 | 13.90 |  |
| FLEX | Tee Higgins | 14.3 | 10.20 |  |
| DST | Raiders | 4.0 | 3.00 | Cold |
| Total | | |  |  |

Overall, I would say this was an average week for my picks (3 hots, 1 cold, 5 “normal” that are slightly below average). The good news is that my RB picks seem to be doing well (2 for 2 on selecting “hot” players). One point to note is that Kareem Hunt is on the questionable list this week for his wrist and knee; he is expected to play since Chubbs in out with a calf injury, but because of his injuries, I will not be picking him again this week. For QB, Hurts did pretty good for a $7000 QB pick, completing 12/26 passes for 115 yards, one TD, and one interception. Analysis says he couldn’t find a consistent passing rhythm but he is still able to make plays, so he still has room to improve. My WRs did respectable, contributing to earn >10 FPs but they didn’t have any standout performances; the most disappointing pick for me would probably be D Samuel who was my most expensive pick ($7100) yet only had 16.10 FP. Then, considering Schultz is a $4000 TE who secured 6/8 targets, he did fine with his 13.9 FP contribution to my team. Tee Higgins also did fine in the Bengal’s loss considering it was his first game since Week 2; he had a drop in 4th quarter but still placed second on the Bengals for receiving. The Bengals do go up against the 0-5 Lions this week where they are favored to win; I think a Bengals WR or two may be a good choice for Week 6 picks. Finally, my DST Raiders pick did not do as well as I thought they would.

I think for this week, one lesson learned is that OPRK may not be the best criterion to select players given J Hurts had an OPRK of 9th yet seemed to have a better game overall compared to D Samuel (21st).

On a side note, Q Cephus whom I had been using as an inexpensive WR pick in the past is out for the season with a broken collarbone.

***My Picks for Week 6***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | L Jackson | 29.2 | 9th | Home |
| RB | D Henderson Jr | 16.6 | 30th | Away |
| RB | J Taylor | 18.1 | 12th | Home |
| WR | J Chase | 20.9 | 11th | Away |
| WR | Tee Higgins | 14.3 | 11th | Away |
| WR | H Renfrow | 14.1 | 16th | Away |
| TE | M Andrews | 18.2 | 30th | Home |
| FLEX | S Shapard | 16.1 | 26th | Home |
| DST | Vikings | 6.6 | 21st | Away |

For QB, I looked at the QBs that seems to be performing well whose salaries are <$8000 so I don’t have to pick (hopefully) a lot more “average” salary players (I think based on last week, “average” salary (<$5500) end up performing sort of average—my goal is to save some money to be able to pick players that have slightly higher salaries if possible). Two names that jumped out are L Jackson and J Herbert whose Ravens and Chargers are playing (both 4-1). Based on the fact that L Jackson has a higher FP average and the Ravens are slightly favored (-2.5), so I went with L Jackson.

For DST, I went with the Vikings since they seem to be having a decent FP season averaging 6.6 FPPG with a $2900 salary and have a decent OPRK of 21st.

Upon looking at the best performing RBs, a lot of the top RBs are either questionable and/or on the injury list. While I did well last week with my RB picks, I have noticed it seems like WRs can contribute ore points, so I do not want to use more of my salary on good RBs that are >$7000 if they a really good RB performance can bring in 25 points like last week vs 30+ points some of my WR picks have in the past. D Henderson Jr has had a decent season (FPPG 16.6) while looking explosive on several runs last week (17 rushes, 82 yards, 1 touchdown). Again, J Taylor is doing well this season with back to back scoring the last two games; the Colts have a favorable matchup against the Texans, so I went with J Taylor.

For TE, I went with M Andrews who had an excellent game last week with 11/13 catches, 147 yards, and two TDs. He has the second most FPPG for TEs this year behind T Kelce and his salary is only $5200. The 30th OPRK also indicates this is a favorable matchup for him. Hopefully he can carry his success on to his matchup against the Chargers.

For WRs, like I mentioned, the Bengals’ WRs have a promising game against the Lions coming up. Chase has been doing so well this season so I decided to pick him as well as Higgins due to decent start after being out since Week 2. I am going on the assumption Chase will continue his great season thus far and Higgins will start to be used more as he now has experience after his break. I also decided to draft H Renfrow again due to his $4900 salary and his all around decent performance with a FPPG of 14.9 (I say as long as he can score double digit FP, he is fulfilling his role on my draft team).

For FLEX, I only had $5000. I sorted my choices by FPPG and the first pick was S Shepard who had been out for 2 weeks with a hamstring injury; he has been removed from the injury designation list. While he didn’t make it back up to full practice by Wednesday, he said he is ready to play (and he sort of needs to be with two teammates, Golladay and Saquon, sidelined due to injury. It sounds like he has a couple of teammates who are questionable, so he should have opportunity to play and do decent this week (hopefully).

**Week 6 Review and Week 7 Picks (10/22/21)**

***Week 6 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W6) | Notes |
| QB | L Jackson | 26.6 | 13.78 | Cold |
| RB | D Henderson Jr | 20.4 | 31.80 | Hot |
| RB | J Taylor | 18.2 | 24.70 | Hot |
| WR | J Chase | 12.9 | 6.60 | Cold |
| WR | Tee Higgins | 19.7 | 13.70 |  |
| WR | H Renfrow | 12.6 | 7.40 | Cold |
| TE | M Andrews | 18.1 | 17.80 |  |
| FLEX | S Shapard | 16.5 | 17.60 |  |
| DST | Vikings | 7.0 | 9.00 |  |
| Total | | | 142.38 |  |

Once again, I would say my best pick(s) were my RBs who were my only two “hot” players. It seems like my process of picking RBs who are not questionable or out and have been performing consistently well in terms of FPs seems to be working.

This was a low scoring week for the class’s fantasy football picks given I came in second with only 142.38 points. For my picks in particular, L Jackson was a disappointment this week with only 1 TD and 167 yards (average for season overall is 281 yards. The Ravens did beat the Chargers 6-34, but it seems like Jackson himself did not play as well as he had previously. H Renfrow also did not play as well as he normally does; he averages almost 13 FPPG, which is really nice for a <$5000 player, but this week he only had 3/5 targets caught and 36 yards which is a season low; QB Derek Carr did only attempt 27 passes since the Raiders had a substantial lead for the much of the second half which would contribute to Renfrow not having as many opportunities to earn FPs.

J Chase and Tee Higgins also did not play as well as they normally do in terms of FPs. Higgins secured 3/6 targets for 44 yards, and Chase secured 4/6 targets for 97 yards. It sounds like one reason for their lower numbers is that Joe Burrow distributed the ball to 8 catchers which would limit how many receptions a WR can receive. Chase continued to lead the Bengals in reception yards, and he is expected to be a receiving target in the game against the Ravens. But it does sound like part of the reason for Chase and Higgins relatively low numbers is Joe Burrow using more catchers rather than focusing on one player.

My other picks (Andrews, Shapard, and Vikings) player about where their season average was within 1-2 points. Overall, I think with it being Week 6 and players starting to become more settled with their position in the teams, I think average FPPG is a decent indicator for how well a player should do. There are some exceptions if a QB decides not to distribute the ball as much or distribute to more players, but I would say overall, I don’t mind using their average performance to indicate how well a player should do the next week while considering how the player may do against his opponent that week.

***My Picks for Week 7 (10/16/21)***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | M Stafford | 24.2 | 5th | Home |
| RB | C Patterson | 20.4 | 27th | Away |
| RB | L Fournette | 16.3 | 8th | Home |
| WR | J Chase | 19.7 | 6th | Away |
| WR | M Brown | 19.5 | 11th | Home |
| WR | B Cooks | 16.8 | 25th | Away |
| TE | H Henry | 10.7 | 23rd | Home |
| FLEX | H Refrow | 12.9 | 5th | Home |
| DST | Cardinals | 10.0 | 30th | Home |

Matthew Stafford had a good season, averaging 9 yards/attempt and having his fifth multi-touchdown game this season in Week 6 and is averaging 16:3 TD:INT ratio overall. The Rams are highly favored in the home matchup against the Lions (ESPN has them at an 86.4%), so based on how Stafford has been having a good season thus far and being in a highly favored matchup in Week 7, I picked him as my QB.

Like I mentioned before, it seems like picking RBs who have been playing consistently well has been working out for me. C Patterson has been playing very consistently, averaging 20.6 and 20.1 points at home and on the road respectively. The Falcons are also coming off a bye week so he should be coming off a week of rest and will hopefully be fresh this week. Analysis has noted Patterson has solidified a significant role in the Falcons’ offense as a receiver and rusher, so I like him as one of my RB choices. For my second RB, I went with Fournette who has been developing as a RB for the Buccaneers in the last couple of weeks. In last week’s game, he rushed 22 times for 81 yards and two touchdowns, bringing in all 6 targets. Over the last three games, he has logged in 16 targets and is starting to become used more in the Buccaneers’ offense; I know I have been using consistency for my RB picks, but for Fournette who averages 14.5 points at home, 18.0 points on the road, but had a 30.7 point game last week, I decided to pick him to see if “hot streaks” are ok to use as a guide.

For WR, I went with J Chase again because he does seem to be the Bengal’s leader in catcher yardage which isn’t expected to change in the upcoming game against the Ravens and he has been doing well all seasons. My hope is that Joe Burrow will rely more on the regular players in the road game against the Ravens instead of using 8 different catchers as he did in Week 6 which is why I think Chase and Higgins had relatively low numbers. Because the Bengal’s play the Ravens and it is expected to be a big game, I decided to have my bases covered this week and pick the Raven’s apparent star WR M Brown who caught 4/5 targets in the Chargers game (low passing game) and was noted to have caught “nearly everything thrown his way with an efficient clip.” The Ravens are playing at home and he is averaging 23.4 FP at home.

For TE, I wanted to save my salary for the other players, so I went with the cheapest player who averages in double digit FP which was H Henry ($4100) who was noted to be catching multiple passes in every game and is establishing himself as Jones’ favorite red zone option.

For DST, I went with the Cardinals because they have been averaging 10.0 FP (again, with 6 week of data I think average FP is a decent indicator of how well they are doing) and their salary is on the cheaper side of $3100 which gives me more room for players.

For my last WR, I went with B Cooks who averages 16.7 points at home and 16.8 points away which indicates consistency. It sounds like the Texans may be losing by quite a bit and then pepper Cooks with targets once the game goes out of hand, giving Cooks “garbage time fantasy points” which works for me since his averages indicate that those garbage points are consistent at least.

For FLEX, I had only $5000 left. My two best options seemed to be H Renfrow or Tee Higgins. I went with Refrow because he averages 14.4 FP at home where the Raiders are playing (vs 11.3 FP away) while Higgins is away where he has been averaging 12.2 points vs 13.0 points at home.

**Week 7 Review and Week 8 Picks (10/29/21)**

***Week 7 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W7) | Notes |
| QB | M Stafford | 25.0 | 30.16 | Hot |
| RB | C Patterson | 19.3 | 14.10 |  |
| RB | L Fournette | 16.4 | 17.00 |  |
| WR | J Chase | 22.2 | 37.10 | Hot |
| WR | M Brown | 19.4 | 19.00 |  |
| WR | B Cooks | 15.4 | 7.10 | Cold |
| TE | H Henry | 10.6 | 10.30 |  |
| FLEX | H Refrow | 12.8 | 12.80 |  |
| DST | Cardinals | 10.1 | 11.00 | Hot |
| Total | | | 158.56 |  |

I would say overall, my picks for Week 7 were good. The only disappointment in my opinion was Brown who caught 5/7 targets for only 21 yards; the Texans did lose 31-5 which did not help the general Texan Fantasy scores I would think. I did not know this, but it sounds like the Texans’ have a rookie QB (Davis Mills) who has been struggling which also does not help the rest of the Texans’ roster. I know now to possibly try to avoid the Texans.

The Bengals did very well this week beating the Ravens 41-17; again, I sort of hedged my bets with WR since it seemed like both teams have good WR teams. Analysis did note Lamar Jackson peppered Brown with targets, so my idea of picking him just in terms of QB targets since last week my WR were not utilized individually as much was correct. Chase seemed to have a great week though, catching 8/10 targets for 201 yards and a TD. Chase seems to be having a great rookie season and Burrow does seem to like to utilize him for the most part.

Stafford was also solid this week, averaging 8.2 yards per attempt, completing 28/41 pass attempts for 334 yards, and 3 TDs. Patterson did a bit less than average (14.10 vs 19.3 FP), but it wasn’t for lack of use—he rushed 14 times for 60 yards and a TD, caught 2/5 targets for 1 yard, and returned 2 kickoffs for 43 yards; analysis did note “he had a more muted day than usual through the air” which could be the difference between Week 7’s performance vs his season average. I would say Patterson overall is definitely at least a player who is utilized and should be able to produce FPs.

Beyond the names I specifically called out, my picks tended to perform about their season average. I am sort of feeling like season averages and utilization thus far (player needs to be a target for the ball to be able to produce FPs) may be good indicators for performance.

***My Picks for Week 8 (10/16/21)***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | Joe Burrow | 21.5 | 14th | Away |
| RB | C Patterson | 19.3 | 1st | Home |
| RB | E Mitchell | 13.7 | 10th | Away |
| WR | J Chase | 22.2 | 3rd | Away |
| WR | D Johnson | 19.0 | 26th | Away |
| WR | E Sanders | 15.0 | 30th | Home |
| TE | CJ Uzomah | 10.4 | 26th | Away |
| FLEX | H Henry | 10.6 | 30th | Away |
| DST | Bengals | 5.9 | 32nd | Away |

The Bengals are playing the Jets this week. After their big 41-17 victory against Lamar Jackson’s Ravens and the Jets averaging 13.4 points per game and 24.2 opponent points per game, I think the Bengals’ success should be able to continue into Week 8. Another note is that the Jets’ QB Zach Wilson is out with a PCL injury so Mike White will be starting which is put the Jets at a disadvantage against the Bengals who are coming off of back to back road wins. I went ahead and chose Joe Burrow and J Chase as these two had standout performances in Week 7 which they can hopefully continue (plus I’ve heard Sanjay talk about his approach to the draft where he picks QB and WR on the same team so a successful pass to a WR earns him points for both players which makes sense). Again, since Mike White has been announced as the Jets’ QB (and he has only played one game this season), I don’t think the Jets offense will be great so I also picked the Bengals for DST as well.

For RB, C Patterson seems to be consistently used and consistently produces double digit FPs so I picked him as a RB. I also ent with Eli Mitchell who has seemed to become a solid player in terms of usage among the 49ers (18 rushes for 107 yards and a TD last week). Analysis notes that he has a favorable matchup this week against the Bears who allow 122.1 rushing yards per game. He is also $5400 in draft salary which will allow me to have more flexibility in directing that money to WR, TE, and FLEX picks; if he can produce his season average of 13.7, I will be happy.

For TE, I did notice Gronkowski is back from his Week 3 rib injury and practiced in full on Thursday. I don’t want to pick him right off his return until his performance post rib injury can be better assessed, but he is definitely someone to watch this week since he is a $4800 TE who can produce decent FP production (his two home games average is 24.5 FP). I went ahead and picked Uzomah who is $3700 and averages 10.4 points. His first 5 games did not really stand out, but the last two games saw 90 plus yards and two scores. He also receives at least 71% of offensive snaps in all games, so from at least a consistent usage standpoint, he is a ok pick.

Coming off a bye week, I selected Diontae Johnson who looks to be very consistent (average 18.8 FP at home, 19.4 away, 19.0 overall) and with JuJu Smith-Schuster on the IR with a shoulder injury, he is expected to continue to see usage. I also picked E Sanders who has topped 75 yards in 3 of his last 4 games. He also seems to do a bit better at home (16.2 FP vs 13.8 Away) where the Bills are this week.

For my FLEX, I had $4400 left. In terms of season average, H Henry was the highest average FP scorer (10.6 FP). I was ok with him because analysis noted that he may have a bump in volume with fellow TE Jonnu Smith exiting early in Week 7 with a shoulder injury. Smith was seen at practice but with the number of players that are on the injury/out list this season, the Patriots may want to allow Smith a slightly lighter load to give him a bit more time/less stress to get better.

I do have four Bengals picks this week relying on the fact the Bengals seem to be on a hot streak and are up against a 1 game QB for a team who was already 1-5. I would probably not have picked so many of my players from the same team if not for the Bengals’ apparent hot streak and the Jets’ seemingly bad season.

**Week 8 Review and Week 9 Picks (11/6/21)**

***Week 8 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W8) | Notes |
| QB | Joe Burrow | 21.5 | 21.26 |  |
| RB | C Patterson | 19.2 | 18.20 |  |
| RB | E Mitchell | 15.5 | 22.70 | Hot |
| WR | J Chase | 21.0 | 13.10 | Cold |
| WR | D Johnson | 18.5 | 15.80 |  |
| WR | E Sanders | 12.9 | 0 | Cold |
| TE | CJ Uzomah | 10.0 | 7.30 |  |
| FLEX | H Henry | 9.8 | 4.30 | Cold |
| DST | Bengals | 6.0 | 7.00 |  |
| Total | | | 109.66 |  |

First, the Bengals lost to the Jets 31-34 which sort of ruined my thought process in picking the players I did. The 34 points the Jets had this game was 20 points higher than their previous season average of 13.4 points. Burrow did well with 21/34 completed passes for 259 yards, three TDs, and an interception and performed about his season average of 21.5 points (so he didn’t have the standout performance I was hoping he may have had but he also didn’t have a terrible game either). Chase struggled this week unfortunately; he only caught 3/7 targets for 32 yards (first game this season he was kept <50 yards) and one TD. DraftKing analysis notes he has done most of his scoring from a distance (so being kept under 50 yards did not allow him to do the distance scoring as much), though he did have one 2 yard TD. Uzomah did catch all four of his targest and contributed 33 yards so I can’t be too mad about him. The Bengals’ DST did slightly better than their season average of 6 points; I was really hoping the Jets terrible season point record meant the Bengals DST would have an easier time and thus be able to earn more points. I think this sort of shows I’m not great at guessing match outcomes. I’d like to think my reasoning for picking Bengal players was decent, but their performance just left quite a bit to be desired; I am wondering if it being their third or fourth week in a row on the road was just starting to get to them and that is why the Jets were able to beat them.

It also did not help that E Sanders failed to catch any of his four targets, giving him 0 points; 45.5% of the class did pick him, so I guess I don’t feel as bad picking him. H Henry also did not play to his season average in part it sounds like because even though he logged 50/77 snaps on offense and caught 1/3 targets for 33 yards, he had to share TE time with Jonnu Smith who had 49 snaps and caught both of his targets; Henry sort of ran into the same “splitting” the position’s work that a lot of my picks from two weeks ago ran into.

The good news was my Mitchell pick turned out well with 18 rushes for 137 yards; he was expected to have cemented himself as the 49ers lead RB going forward, but he was reported questionable and had limited practice this week with a rib injury so he is not a smart pick for me this week.

My other two picks (Patterson and Johnson) did fine, performing around their average.

DraftKings Analysis did mention Burrow is the only QB in the league with multiple TD passes in every game this season and the Bengals are returning home after three or four consecutive games on the road, so I think he may be a decent pick for Week 9. I don’t think I will be picking so many players from a single team again though.

***My Picks for Week 9***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | Joe Burrow | 21.5 | 21st | Home |
| RB | C Patterson | 19.2 | 1st | Away |
| RB | D Harris | 13.8 | 3rd | Away |
| WR | J Chase | 21.0 | 22nd | Home |
| WR | M Brown | 19.4 | 26th | Home |
| WR | C Kirk | 13.4 | 9th | Away |
| TE | M Gesicki | 13.1 | 29th | Home |
| FLEX | H Renfrow | 12.8 | 20th | Away |
| DST | Vikings | 7.1 | 17th | Away |

I decided to pick Joe Burrow this week since it sounds like the Bengals are ready to bounce back after the Jets loss and their return home based on some interviews some of the players have given; there is pressure for the Bengals to do well, having dropped down to the second seed in the AFC North. Joe Burrow has been doing well in terms of QB with multiple TD passes in every game and averaging 21.4 points at home. I also like him because he seems like a pretty good Fantasy QB in terms of consistently scoring >20 FP while having a salary <$7000. It sounds like the Browns also have a lot of injured/questionable players which may help the Bengals. From what I’m reading about the matchup, one of the keys to the Bengals’ success is slowing down Chubbs. I have read a couple of articles that said they are expecting the Bengals to try to play the Browns in the air, so I decided to go ahead and go with Chase as well since it sounds like he has more success with distance scoring and I’m sure he will be one of the players who will really want to come back this week after his underwhelming performance against the Jets. That is all I will be picking from the Bengals based on how picking four players from the team backfired a bit on me last week.

The Ravens are playing again after a bye week against the Viking and their 41-17 loss to the Bengals. They will also be looking to come back stronger and they are playing at home. I decided to go with M Brown as a WR who is averaging 19.4 points for the season with a higher average at home (22.3 FP). He has 37 catches for 566 yards and 6 TDs this season, and it sounds like Jackson will turn to him when the Ravens go into playing in the air. I will say I am choosing the Vikings DST because they do seem to do slightly better on the road (8.7 vs 6.0 FPs) and they have a $2200 salary.

For RB, I have had pretty good luck with C Patterson who is described as being a versatile player in the passing game and is thus able to garner more looks despite sharing touches with Mike Davis. He has been a pretty solid player, averaging 19.2 FPPG with 20.0 FPPG at home and 18.1 FPPG away (where the Falcons will be). He was responsible for the Falcons’ only TD drive last week, so he seems to be able to produce even if the rest of the team struggles (Falcons lost 19-13 last week). Analysis also notes he could continue to see strong play this week particularly if top WR Calvin Ridley remains away from the team, and it sounds like Ridley will be out for at least three more games for mental health reasons. I also went with D Harris for my other RB. He seems to be a fairly solid player with an overall average of 13.8 FPPG and 517 yards overall. I’m hoping he can just continue to score double digits this week as well.

For TE, I went with M Gesicki; he has been averaging 13.1 FPPG, but a couple of the main attractions of him is that DraftKings analysis notes that he is a talented TE and the Texans’ (Dolphins opponent) Cover-2 scheme gives up a fair amount of production to TEs. He seems to do a decent job, receiving 40/55 targets for a total of 475 yards.

I was left with $10200 for a WR and FLEX. For WR, I went with $5300 C Kirk who averages 13.4 FPPG. The Cardinals are playing the 49ers in San Francisco, and Kirk actually seems to do better on the road vs home (16.1 FPPG vs 10.8 FPPG). He has had at least 4 grabs in the last 4 games and is expected to continue to produce in his steady complementary role as the No. 3 wideout behind D. Hopkins and AJ Green. I’m hoping he can continue to be a steady producer. Finally, for FLEX, I went with H Renfrow who does decent (double digit average) as a <$5000 player. He has received 38/51 targets this season for 399 yards. He is described as a rock stolid PPR option to begin this season.

**Week 9 Review and Week 10 Picks (11/12/21)**

***Week 9 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W9) | Notes |
| QB | Joe Burrow | 20.1 | 9.38 | Cold |
| RB | C Patterson | 19.6 | 22.60 | Hot |
| RB | D Harris | 13.4 | 10.30 | Cold |
| WR | J Chase | 19.8 | 9.90 |  |
| WR | M Brown | 18.8 | 23.60 | Hot |
| WR | C Kirk | 13.8 | 16.42 |  |
| TE | M Gesicki | 11.4 | 9.40 |  |
| FLEX | H Renfrow | 13.5 | 17.90 | Hot |
| DST | Vikings | 7.8 | 12.00 | Hot |
| Total | | | 131.50 |  |

First things first, Joe Burrow and M Brown both had bad weeks; the big disappointment was Joe Burrow who had multiple TD passes in the previous games and was consistently earning 20+ FPs each week. He completed 28 of 40 passes for 282 yards, but he also had 2 interceptions and no TD passes. J Chase also had issues this week, catching 6/13 targets for 49 yards and a lost fumble. Burrow’s poor performance may have contributed to some of Chase’s struggles this week. This is the drawback on choosing WR and QB on the same team; if the QB struggles, it’s hard to the WR to receive passes. My Bengals picks do not seem great in general so I will probably not be picking them again for a bit (they have an off week) unless it sounds like they may be back on the upswing.

D Harris was also cold, only earning 10.3 FP in large part because he had to exit during the game with a head injury that resulted in him being on the injury/questionable list with a concussion. I would say my pick of him wasn’t terrible since I couldn’t predict he would be forced out with a head injury and he did earn double digits (unlike a couple of other picks). One disappointment to me was Gesicki who earned <10 FP and failed to bring any of his seven targets in. He only earned 9.4 FP which is close to double digits and this was his first week to not bring in any targets.

Some highlights though for me was picking 4/9 players who were hot. I really like C Patterson as a RB; he is consistent in terms of FP performance and is only $6300 which seems to be on the cheaper side for double digit RBs. I also had good luck with my DST pick this week with the Vikings earning 12 FP. The other notable exciting thing is that H Renfrow had a great week, earning 17.90 (7 receptions on 9 targets, 49 yards, and a TD). It is nice to see him do well this past week, especially as a $4800 WR (he actually did better than J Chase this week). He was limited on practice with an ankle injury this week, though he did practice fully on Thursday. I like him in terms of a sort of “underdog” pick (<$5000 but usually is able to produce double digit FPs).

Overall, I think beyond Harris having to leave early due to a head injury and the off performances of Burrow and Chase (part of the performance may be due to the pressure on the Bengals to do well after their Jets loss), picking players based on averages seems to work ok; besides those three players, everyone else earned about their seasonal average with 4 of the guys performing hot.

***My Picks for Week 10***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | D Prescott | 23.6 | 16th | Home |
| RB | C Patterson | 19.6 | 10th | Away |
| RB | J Howard | 15.4 | 9th | Away |
| WR | D Johnson | 17.5 | 12th | Home |
| WR | M Pittman Jr | 17.0 | 30th | Home |
| WR | Mike Williams | 17.3 | 28th | Home |
| TE | Noah Fant | 10.9 | 32nd | Home |
| FLEX | AJ Green | 12.0 | 6th | Home |
| DST | Cowboys | 8.0 | 25th | Home |

For QB, I went with D Prescott who has had success (overall average 23.6 FP; he struggles last week against the Broncos, but he is back home this week and the 6-2 Cowboys are against the 4-4 Falcolns; the Falcons are averaging 21.1 points per game and 27.9 opponent points per game while the Cowboys are averaging 32.1 points per game and 23.1 opponent points per game. I don’t mind those odds combined with Prescott’s general success this season (23.6 FPPG).

For RB, I have had success with C Patterson who just seems very consistent and is a versatile player, able to run and receive. I also wanted to try something this week. J Howard for the Eagles has played in two games so far, earning 17.7 and 13.1 FP so far and he was signed off the practice squad. His salary is only $4900 (save the salary for other positions/more expensive QB than what I have been picking) and the analysis says the Eagles have prioritized their running game after losing lead back Miles Sanders with an ankle injury. Howard has contributed to the team, already racking up 3 TDs in 3 games. The analysis notes that he is not likely to see many targets if any, but he is supposed to be the new favorite to lead the Eagles in carries. I’m going to go ahead and take a risk on him—I’m hoping he can continue his streak of >10+ FP this week which would be nice for a <$5000 player. I have been choosing Renfrow for the same reasons, and he has done pretty well with a great performance this week, so I’m hoping Howard can prove to be a decent <$5000 pick.

I skipped to DST to know how much I have for WR, TE, and FLEX. I sort of like the Cowboys in that they are averaging 8.0 FPPG (fifth overall), they are at home, and they are against the 21.1 points per game Eagles.

For TE, I went with Noah Fant of the Broncos who is returning from COVID pause and playing at home where he tends to do better (11.9 FPPG average vs 9.9 FPPG average away). I’m hoping the COVID pause won’t hinder him as he has caught 37/53 targets for 320 yards and 3 TDs in his 8 games this season. He is also only $4300 in salary which is nice for WR picks.

For WR, first I picked D Johnson who is averaging 17.5 FPPG; a lot of the WRs who are averaging higher than Johnson are out, questionable, or have recently suffered an injury. The Steelers at home against the Lions this week and are favored, so I like him. I also went with M Pittman Jr. who is averaging 17.0 FPPG. He also seems consistent, averaging 16.6 FPPG at home, 17.4 FPPG away, and earning 17.4 FP last week. Analysis notes his “burgeoning red zone role is encouraging and could pay dividends in a Week 10 matchup against the vulnerable Jaguars secondary…”. Finally, I picked Mike Williams who had been doing well up to last week (7.8 FP, 2/5 targets caught); overall, he is still averaging 17.3 FPPG and I would like to think he can bounce back and get back to the level he had been playing at as the Chargers take on the Vikings.

These picks left me with $4600. In terms of points, Dawson Knox had the highest average FPPG, but he is coming back from a fractured hand from Week 6. The next best average FPPG player is AJ Green, a WR for the Cardinals. He is coming back from being sick/taken off the COVID list and analysis says he can have a big role with fellow WR DeAndre Hopkins and Rondale Moore unable to play due to injury. He will be at home and can hopefully live up to his double digit FP average.

**Week 10 Review and Week 11 Picks (11/20/21)**

***Week 10 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W10) | Notes |
| QB | D Prescott | 24.0 | 26.34 | Hot |
| RB | C Patterson | 18.0 | 4.90 | Cold |
| RB | J Howard | 13.0 | 8.30 |  |
| WR | D Johnson | 17.1 | 14.30 |  |
| WR | M Pittman Jr | 16.5 | 12.10 |  |
| WR | Mike Williams | 16.2 | 7.30 | Cold |
| TE | Noah Fant | 10.9 | 10.90 |  |
| FLEX | AJ Green | 10.8 | 1.40 | Cold |
| DST | Cowboys | 9.7 | 23.00 | Hot |
| Total | | | 108.54 |  |

This was not a great week for me. First, Williams who had been doing well the first six weeks only contributed 4/6 targets for 33 yards (21 targets for 137 yards the last 4 weeks) and contributed half his average FPs. Then, Patterson who has been a constant 15+ FP player had a rare dud week with 25 yards and 1 reception for 14 yards during the Falcon’s’ 43-3 loss; the score of 3 for the Falcons to me means the offense in general was not great this week. He also sprained his ankle during the game and is out this week. AJ Green also had a poor performance with 1/5 targets for 4 yards. He seemed to have had an off week. Of the remaining players, the non-hot or cold players in general scored below their season averages in terms of FPs as well (3-5 point difference). The good news is that my QB did well and my DST did amazing (to me) with 23 FP. I have been struggling a bit with picking DST, but it seems like this week my pick actually did very well.

This week I am hoping to get back on track a bit with not having as many single digit FP players. I think one contributor to my performance the past two weeks is that I seem to be picking players who end up injured during the game. Obviously, I’m going to have to rethink my RB picks; Patterson is going to be a questionable pick for me for the last two weeks of Fantasy picks with his ankle and there hasn’t really been another RB that I’ve noticed be consistent. I did look at Will Fitt’s picks since he seems to do consistently well. One thing I noticed about him this week is that he tends to pick cheaper (<$5000) RB, TE, FLEX and focuses more of his money on WR. I may try focusing more salary on WR this week vs RB with Patterson out.

***My Picks for Week 11***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | D Prescott | 24.0 | 31st | Away |
| RB | M Ingram II | 8.4 | 25th | Away |
| RB | T Pollard | 10.8 | 13th | Away |
| WR | J Chase | 19.8 | 6th | Away |
| WR | B Cook | 15.5 | 32nd | Away |
| WR | DJ Moore | 15.4 | 31st | Home |
| TE | D Knox | 12.5 | 27th | Home |
| FLEX | J Conner | 14.8 | 31st | Away |
| DST | Browns | 5.4 | 26th | Home |

For QB, I have had luck last week with Prescott who is going on the road to the Chiefs. The Chiefs are favored to win at home slightly, but it sounds like the Cowboys are able to bring back his “receiving weapons” who were on the injured list (Gallop and Lamb), so I don’t mind picking him with his decent 24.0 FPPG average for the season and the Cowboys at a 7-2 record for the season. The NFL website also notes the Chiefs have allowed the second most FPPG to QBs this season (21.52).

For DST, I went with the Browns who average 5.4 FPPG, but they are against the 0-8-1 Lions at home.

For RB, Alvin Kamara is out with a knee injury so Mark Ingram II is stepping in to cover for him. He handled 14/21 of the team’s rushing attempts last week, and while he wasn’t great on the ground, he did well as a pass catcher, earning 20.8 FP last week. He is the Saints’ all time leading rusher who has had a fairly long career and is looking forward to having the opportunity to get back in the game with Kamara out; part of his 8.4 FPPG average seems to have to do with Kamara being the star RB, leaving Ingram with not as many opportunities; I also like the $5400 salary for Ingram which is less than the ~$6500 I have been spending per RB based on what I mentioned above. The second RB I went with is $4700 Pollard for the Cowboys who does have to play behind E Elliott; while he doesn’t seem to be used much in the red zone, he seems like he can be a fairly consistent player who could contribute close to double digit FP (I would be happy with 9 for him). He doe seem to be utilized by the Cowboys, averaging 49.4 yards/game, but again, he’s not used as much in the red zone for TDs.

For WR, the Bengals had an off week and have hopefully regrouped after their rough consecutive back to back losses. Chase before the Bengals’ last game two weeks ago was very consistent and needs to be back on top of his game for the Bengals to come out on top. As one of the better WR this season, I went ahead and picked him with the hope that the off week has been a good break for the struggling Bengals. Another note the NFL website gives for Week 11 NFL matchups is that the Titans’ defense gives up 46.1 FPPG to WRs (the most in the NFL) and Washington gives up the second most points to WRs. Washington is also without Chase Young this week. For my other points, I decided to go with a WR from each of these teams’ opponents. I decided on B Cooks of Houston who has the most targets from Tyrod Taylor and averages 15.5 FPPG; overall he seems very consistent and his matchup against the Titans could be a breakout week for him. I also went with DJ Moore of the Cardinals (at home against Washington). His performance has not been great in terms of yards, but he is seeing at least 7 targets a game which he could really take advantage of with the Washington’s defense and Cam Newton returning as center. DJ Moore will also be at home this week which will also hopefully help him. I’ve looked at a couple of articles who seem to think this could be a big week for Cook and Moore who while consistent, have not been able to play to their full potential.

For TE, I went with D Knox of the Bills. I found an article that talked about how the Bills don’t waste time trying to establish the run, throwing early and often and their opponents (the Colts) have allowed the second most receptions (58) in the NFL, 595 yards, and 6 TDs to TEs in 10 games this season. He is also only $4000 which is nice.

The nice thing is that this week, I had $6500 for my FLEX instead of <$5000. I sorted the FLEX players based on FPPG, and the highest scoring player who wasn’t questionable or out I could afford was M Pittman Jr for the Colts who are playing a suffocating Bills secondary. I sort of liked RB J Conner of the 8-2 Cardinals who averages 14.8 FPPG who seems to do better on the road (18.5 FPPG vs 11.1 FPPG) and is expected to lead the backfield charge no matter who is throwing the ball with fellow tailback Chase Edmonds placed on injury reserve.

If you notice here, I went with a couple of players who are expected to step up with some of the main/fellow players injured. I figured since having the players I have been choosing being injured during the game and resulting in single digit performances, I could do the sort of opposite and choose players who will be playing because the normal high performance players are out.

**Week 11 Review and Week 12 Picks (11/26/21)**

***Week 11 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W11) | Notes |
| QB | D Prescott | 22.60 | 5.64 | Cold |
| RB | M Ingram II | 9.1 | 16.30 |  |
| RB | T Pollard | 11.2 | 9.00 |  |
| WR | J Chase | 19.1 | 13.00 | Cold |
| WR | B Cook | 14.3 | 3.80 | Cold |
| WR | DJ Moore | 15.4 | 16.00 |  |
| TE | D Knox | 13.3 | 14.00 |  |
| FLEX | J Conner | 15.3 | 20.90 |  |
| DST | Browns | 5.6 | 8.00 |  |
| Total | | | 106.64 |  |

This is the third time I tried to base my picks partially off of the actual matchups (Week 6 and Week 8 previously) and I feel like I don’t do as well when I make individual picks based on game matchups. First, Dak Prescott did terrible with 5 YPA, 28/43 completions for 216 yards, two interceptions, and five sacks. It sounds like the offensive line wasn’t doing great protecting him and he lost his top two targets when Lamb was knocked out of the game with a concussion. It sounds like the Thanksgiving game he had, the offensive line was still disjointed with those two players still missing, but he was able to start targeting two other guys, so all hope is not lost for the Cowboys. It looked like half the class picked Dak this week, so at least I wasn’t the only one who had high hopes for him.

Ingram actually did well, earning 16.3 FP as he took over for Alvin Kamara—he rushed 16 times for 88 yards, had 6/8 targets for 25 yards, and had a fumble. However, it sounds like his knee was injured and he is out for the next game. Pollard carried the ball 7 times for 50 yards and caught both his targets for 20 yards. He actually led the Cowboys in rushing yards and it sounds like he was given a larger role in the Cowboys’ Thanksgiving game. I also realized picking QB and RB/WR on the same team can be risky because if the QB has a bad game, the RB/WR is limited in the FP production they can have (as seen here and in the Week 8 Bengals-Jets mishap I had).

Chase saw only 6 targets (fewest since Week 3), and caught 3/6 for 32 yards and a TD. He also had two carries for 8 rushing yards. He is getting closer to 1000 receiving yards, and it sounds like he did well against the Steelers defense earlier this year when he had 2 TDs. The question I have for that is since the Steelers know Chase is a threat, will they try to guard him more this next game? Again, when I have tried to apply matchup analysis, I haven’t had the best of luck. Chase does seem to do well overall (at least double digits), so he may still be worth the risk.

Cooks finished third on the team for targets due to the Texans run heavy offense and rain which caused Taylor to struggle to push the ball down the field. Cooks only had two 8 and 10 yard catches which is the worst he has done (and only 3.9 points). DraftKing analysis seems to think the Texans can move the ball better with the Jets which could benefit Cooks. DJ Moore did decent with 5/7 catches for 50 yards and a TD. It sounds like he has to compete with Christian McCaffrey for targets, but he is starting to establish a rapport with Cam Newton which could see him becoming targeted more.

Knox caught 6/10 targets for 80 yards; the 14.00 FP he earned isn’t bad considering the Bills lost 41-15 to the Colts. His Thanksgiving game also saw him being used more, earning 18.2 FP on 3/3 targets and 2 TD.

It was my FLEX pick J Conner that performed the best for me, running for 62 yards and 1 TD on 21 carries and catching 5/6 passes for 37 yards. It sounds like Conner will be a big part of the Cardinals’ game with Edmonds’ injury and his more recent performance.

Finally, the Browns did decent with 2 interceptions and performing above average (8 FP vs 5.6 FPPG average).

***My Picks for Week 12***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FPPG | OPRK | Home/Away |
| QB | Joe Burrow | 19.1 | 30th | Home |
| RB | Joe Mixon | 18.9 | 17th | Home |
| RB | M Gordon III | 13.2 | 24th | Home |
| WR | DJ Moore | 15.4 | 31st | Away |
| WR | C Godwin | 18.6 | 27th | Away |
| WR | B Cooks | 14.3 | 23rd | Home |
| TE | D Goedert | 9.7 | 18th | Away |
| FLEX | M Valdes-Scantling | 9.0 | 18th | Home |
| DST | Titans | 6.9 | 15th | Away |

Based on Week 11’s 32-13 victory at the Raiders’ stadium, it sounds like the Bengals’ off week worked out well for the Bengals. He had the lowest yardage this season and lost a fumble, but it sounds like Joe Mixon did great this last week. The Bengals face the Steelers at Cincinnati, and they have already beaten them 24-10 at Pittsburg, so I would like to think they can do well this week. Again, Burrow does seem to be in a bit of a slump, but Joe Mixon seems to be doing very well recently, reaching the end zone in 7 consecutive contests and sort of willing the Bengals to victory last week. Like I said, I seem to have better luck with consistent players, and Joe Mixon seems to be consistent now, so I picked him as one RB. For my other QB, I went with M Gordon III who has been splitting backfield touches with Javonte Williams, but it is Gordon who has been better at getting in the red zone, scoring in 4 straight games for 5 TDs. His $5300 salary will also help offset Mixon’s $7500 salary for the RB picks.

I did also read the Steelers’ defense may be able to handle Mixon. Because I would like to think positively towards the Bengals, I think if they can’t run the ball with Mixon, they will be throwing it. The question then becomes whether to pick Burrow or Chase as the person to earn throwing/catching points from. Again, picking a QB and WR on the same team has hurt me before, so I want to only pick one. I’m going with Burrow for this week since his salary is among the cheaper of the 15+ FPPG QBs at $6200, which will give me more room for WRs.

For my DST, I went with the Titans who are away this week; they average 6.9 FPPG, but for their 5 away games, they average 9.2 FPPG; they are against the favored Patriots, but as long as they can perform around their average, I’m ok with it. For TE, I went with Goedert who is averaging almost double digits without costing more than $5000. He hasn’t scored since Week 4, but he is still having multiple receptions in each game. DraftKing also argues that he is Jalen Hurts’ most trusted short/intermediate target. For me, as long as he can stay close to the double digit performance, I will be happy with him.

For one WR, I went with DJ Moore again whose production has dropped since the beginning of the season, but it sounds like he is a comfortable target for Cam Newton who will be starting QB for his third game. He also seems to perform slightly better on the road (17.6 FPPG vs 13.6 FPPG) which is where the Panthers will be. I also went with C Godwin who has been used more recently with Brown missing for the 5th straight game. The Colts whom TB will be facing allows 170.2 passing yards per game and 18 TDs to WRs in 11 games this season, so I think Godwin has the opportunity to do well this week. Finally, I went with Cooks again. He had been consistent before last week when it sounds like there were other contributing factors to his struggle, but the Texans will be against the Jets this week at home, so hopefully he can get back on his normal, double digit performance.

For my FLEX, I only had $4300. Allen Lazzard is questionable for the Packers with a shoulder injury, and $4100 Valdes-Scantling stepped up last week for 4/10 receptions for 123 yards and a TD. I went ahead and picked him since Lazzard is still questionable and VS seems to be doing ok when he does start, so I’m taking a chance with him and picking him.

***Week 12 Review***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Player | FP (Average) | FP (W11) | Notes |
| QB | Joe Burrow | 19.00 | 17.40 |  |
| RB | M Gordon III | 12.9 | 9.80 |  |
| RB | Joe Mixon | 20.4 | 35.30 |  |
| WR | C Godwin | 17.4 | 5.70 | Cold |
| WR | DJ Moore | 15.6 | 17.30 |  |
| WR | B Cooks | 14.3 | 13.50 |  |
| TE | D Goedert | 8.9 | 1.00 | Cold |
| FLEX | M Valdes-Scantling | 9.0 | 9.00 |  |
| DST | Titans | 6.2 | -2.00 | Cold |
| Total | | | 107.00 |  |

There was not too much improvement from Week 11 in all honesty. The Titans earning -2 points definitely did not help. C Godwin also did not help my score, earning almost 12 FP less than his average. D Goedert also did not do well, catching only 1/3 tarets and no yards. It sounds like the Giants’ defensive plan was to shut down the Eagles’ top two pass catcher, with Goedert being one of those two, and the plan was successful. He brought in 4/5 targets for 24 yards and lost a fumble, so he did not have a productive day unfortunately. Burrow seems to be coming back, completing 20/24 pass attempts for 190 yards, a TD, and an interception. The Bengals did indeed do well against the Steelers, with a final score of 41-10. Joe Mixon also seems to be doing very well, having multiple TDs for the fourth game in a row. Everyone else performed at about their average. I would like to give the Bengals the benefit of the doubt and think they are back on their way to doing better and they might have just had a two or three week slump.

I would say the big thing this week is I just really miss picked my DST this week. If they could have earned even 1 FP, I would have been at 110 FPs

***Overall Thoughts***

Overall, I would say I did decent for someone who has no interest in the NFL. I at least earned more than 100 FP each week and I even came in first place on Week 2 as well as a second place finish Week 6. I started out a bit rough with two or three picks not actually playing Week 1 (I didn’t really understand looking at lineups), but overall, I was able to perform sort of middle of the pack which I’m happy with.

Some personal takeaways for me are stacking QB and WR/RB is risky if the QB has an off day and I do not have much luck picking players based on matchups. I think I was able to learn how to pick at least somewhat decent Fantasy teams on my own without consulting any websites, though I won’t be entering any contests any time soon. I think what I’ve had the most luck is picking players who consistently perform well and who are favored targets for the QB. These players can have their off weeks, but they do usually come through. Sadly, I seemed to perform the worst when I tried to pick players based on game matchups/favorites (I’m going to mention my Bengals-Jets week). I also think picking players as close to game day as possible can be important since it seems like players can suddenly shift to the injury list.

One thing I noticed is that there did seem to be a lot of injuries in the RB category this season; I noticed a lot of the top scoring RBs have been on the injury list for many weeks.