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2020
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PREVIEW

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The Fastest Way to Get Smart for
the 2020 Pro Football Season

BY WARREN SHARP

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2020 Football Preview

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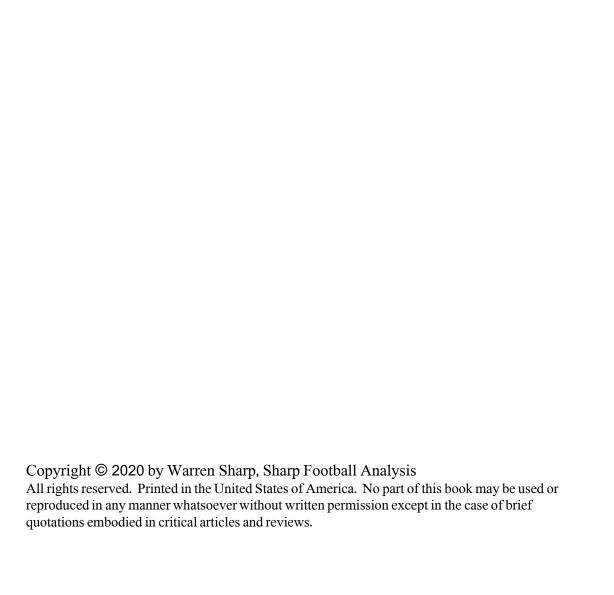SharpFootballStats.com
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Dan Pizzuta
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Also featuring:

Fantasy Analysis from
Sharp Football's Fantasy Expert
Rich Hribar

and

Defensive Analysis from
Dan Pizzuta

COLUMNS

DEDICATION

TO my wife & children, and especially to my daughter who has taught me more about strength and daily perseverance than you'll ever know – I love you all so much

TO the friends I've made in front offices and on coaching staffs – keep chasing efficiency

TO anyone who spreads the word about this book and the special things we're building at Sharp Football Analysis and our loyal fans – thank you, you're incredible

and lastly **TO** the return of football – it feels like it's been forever

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO Dan Pizzuta for editing every word of this book – thank you, you're the real MVP and **TO** Rich Hribar, let's crush 2020 my friend

TEAM CHAPTERS

We've Come A Long Way, But Not Far Enough

By Warren Sharp

Lots of memories come to mind when thinking of how far we've come in our collective thought process about efficiency in the NFL. One that I'll never forget was after the 2013 Super Bowl when **Russell Wilson**, in his second season, won the Super Bowl. After that game, some well-known media voices suggested the NFL was about to copycat the Seahawks and invest in strong defensive players and a punishing ground game. That was only six Super Bowls ago.

At the time, I absolutely hated that take and wrote about it on Sharp Football Analysis. With the league's new rules to protect quarterbacks and receivers over the middle, I knew passing was the future of the league, not rushing. I also knew the massive edge that teams with quarterbacks on their rookie deals had over opponents whose quarterbacks were not on their rookie deals.

Over the last six years, those that once believed running the ball was the "wave of the future" surely have come around to realize how much more efficient passing the football is than running the football.

But we've evolved our thinking in so many other areas as well. We've learned so much about the benefits of early down success, early leads (unless you have **Patrick Mahomes**) and the importance of ball possession and doing what it takes to maintain said possession by not punting.

But the NFL, in general, is still not close to being solved. Not like baseball or basketball. We haven't seen a universal buy-in from most teams. We haven't seen wholesale changes in philosophy from top to bottom. There still is a long way to go. The examples are littered across the recent landscape:

We know to win, you either need a cheap, rookie-deal quarterback playing solid or a veteran quarterback playing at an elite level… and yet we still have teams like the Jaguars drafting a running back fourth overall when Patrick Mahomes and **Deshaun Watson** are on the board and their QB room consisted of **Blake Bortles** and **Chad Henne**. You must find a QB, even if it means drafting one in the top-five even after you did the same thing three years prior.

That leads into the importance of scouting. We know to win, it's not just coaching. You need to have solid players as well… and yet how often are players on a team's own roster, players they

see practice every single day for years, not evaluated properly? And if teams aren't able to properly evaluate players on their own roster that they see daily, do we really think they'll be able to evaluate players on other team's rosters? And yet time and time again, we see teams overspend in free agency on players with high sticker prices that don't translate well to their own roster. Not only do these players eat up valuable cap space for the couple of years they are rostered, but they often result in high amounts of dead cap when they are inevitably cut. This money could be better invested into hiring better coaches, more analytics resources or superior sports science advances.

We know running backs aren't nearly as valuable as they once were thanks to the current rules construct… and yet we saw a team like the Rams give **Todd Gurley** a four-year, $57.5M extension. There have been just four running backs since 2012 to receive veteran contracts that averaged over $10M per year. All four were cut or traded before the end of the deal, including: Todd Gurley (cut after year two), **David Johnson** (cut after year two), **Adrian Peterson** (cut after year two), and **Marshawn Lynch** (traded after year one). We know that the efficiency a particular running back brings to the table is not so significantly larger than another running back that he should be paid 10 to 15 times more per year. And yet even recently, clubs are still making this costly team building mistake, which not only impacts the team during the years of those high cap hits but also with dead cap after he is cut.

We know that the rules favor offense, and in particular, passing offense. And we know that one of the few things that gives a defense an upper hand is when the offense is predictable… and yet we still see massive predictability from teams with quarterbacks that absolutely can't afford to give the defense an upper hand. The team chapters discuss multiple cases of this predictability, but two examples stand out. When Bengals tight end **Tyler Eifert** was on the field, the Bengals were 81% pass, including 90% pass (296 pass plays on 330 snaps) if tight end **CJ Uzomah** was off the field. The Steelers rotated running backs once **James Connor** went down. When **Jaylen Samuels** was on the field, the Steelers went 75% pass. When **Benny Snell** was on the field, the Steelers went 78% run, including 92% run (67 runs on 73 snaps) if wide receiver **Johnny Holton** was also on the field. There is no excuse for any offense to be that predictable, yet in 2019, some were.

We know that there are ways to improve passing efficiency, such as the use of play-action. The numbers over many seasons show the unequivocal improvement it delivers… and yet some teams tremendously underutilize it. We also know that play-action does not need to be set up with the run. We know that first quarter play-action is actually more productive (based on EPA/play) than second or third quarter play-action… and yet league-wide last season, more

play-action passes were thrown in the second and third quarters of games than in the first quarter. The highest rate of play-action came in the third quarter of games.

There are countless other examples of either specific teams or the league in general still failing to fully incorporate analytics into decision making to optimize football. There are unfortunately so many examples of the absolute lowest-hanging fruit that could benefit teams but goes overlooked. Let alone more nuanced, schematic edges which would lead to a faster path to victory.

I see it on a weekly basis when I'm studying teams as a paid consultant. I see it on a weekly basis when I'm handicapping games. Sometimes, coaches are aware of the information but make a calculated decision to try something different. But other times, it's because these teams likely aren't as invested in analytics as they should be. And the patience we all should have with teams that aggressively choose to be less analytically savvy should be wearing thin. There is no excuse in 2020. Teams must ensure they have the best and smartest data at their fingertips and evaluate said data to make educated decisions related to game planning and strategizing.

But most of all, I see it on a season-to-season basis when I spend months every offseason writing this book that you're about to dig into. This year was no different… to an extent. What makes this year's book different is the fact I decided to dive deeper than most years. I dug deeper and personally shared more on each team than in prior editions of this book. I enlisted Rich Hribar, resident Sharp Football fantasy expert, to add more insight into the fantasy analysis, and Dan Pizzuta, our fearless editor, to tackle a section specific to the defensive side of the ball for every team.

This year's book has an abundance of new graphics, including completion percentage by depth vs NFL average. I also spent weeks developing a new heat map technology which is spread throughout each team chapter and which we're excited to share as part of the premium packages we offer at Sharp Football Analysis. We published a page per team dedicated to first half metrics, motion metrics (pre-snap and play-action), efficiencies and tendencies against various box counts, pressure rates and player tracking data. All told, this 2020 Football Preview is the most robust book we've ever brought to market.

After months of work researching and writing this book, I hope you enjoy it and takeaway something new from every chapter. I hope you're better prepared for the 2020 season, whether you're a passionate fan, an avid fantasy player or a sports bettor. There is something here for

everyone. And we at Sharp Football Analysis are always so thankful of you spreading the word each year this book is released.

As usual, I can't wait to hear your feedback and to retweet your comments about the book on Twitter. Hit me up (@SharpFootball) and let me know how you think this year's book turned out, your favorite part of the book or the most interesting thing you learned.

Above all, be safe this summer! And I hope to see you on board soon with a fantasy, betting or all-access package at the best price we'll offer all year so you can play along with us in the fall as we enjoy the 2020 NFL season!

Although we still have a long way to go to optimize football, I'm expecting the 2020 season will be a step in the right direction!

Everyone Uses Numbers, It's Time To Use Better Ones

By Dan Pizzuta

Since the invention of football, the sport has been supported by numbers. As far back as those numbers go, there has been a quest to find better ones. Things we're exploring now aren't exactly new ideas.

In Dr. Z's *A Thinking Man's Guide To Pro Football*, there's a chapter on statistics. In it, he talks about the folly of counting total tackles, which can come at all depths of the field and can vary in frequency given the home stadium scorer. He also talked about how passer rating is a jumbled mess that no one understands. That book was first published in 1970 with an updated version released in 1984.

Then there was *The Hidden Game of Football*, published in 1988, which also touched on the limits of traditional NFL statistics and started to introduce things like success rate, which helped shape some modern analysis.

Fast forwarding, Football Outsiders has been writing about why the number of rushing attempts in a game is not the reason for a team winning since the site's first article in 2003. Rather, the best indicator is having a lead late in games, although you wouldn't know it based on the fact that there's still a debate on this topic today.

In 2020, there is more data and better information than we've ever had before. There are so many advanced stats based on play-by-play and now there are even metrics based on player tracking from Next Gen Stats. All of this information can feel overwhelming, like the nerds decided to create a secret language just for themselves. But the good news is you really don't have to be all that deep into math to figure out that so many of these ideas just make sense once you take some time to understand them. I know from experience.

I was a Communications major in college and needed no more than two math classes to graduate. So like a good Communications major, I sought out and satisfied the minimum requirement. After taking a freshman-level math class during my first semester, I took a class called "Digital Mapping," which counted as my second math in the second semester of my freshman year. It was quite literally a class about Google Maps and how similar programs worked. There was little actual math involved. My athletics academic advisor at the time was

even impressed by my ability to find that class and avoid any real math altogether. That was the last official math class I ever took.

All of that is to say that despite my aforementioned extensive math background, I have been able to get a handle on these concepts and statistics and now use them regularly.

What Is EPA?

Why don't we kick things off with Expected Points Added (EPA). One of the common counters to analytics is how it lacks context, but EPA packs just about as much context as possible into one number. Every play has a value and because football has been around for so long, we are able to find historical values of similar plays based on the spot, down and distance, time, and score.

What EPA essentially does is give each situation on the field a value based on what has historically been done at that same spot. For example, we can see what a typical offense has done in the past on a 1st and 10 at its own 40-yard line. Using that as a baseline, we can see how much better or worse a current play was from that same spot on the field.

By using yards, there's no difference between an 8-yard gain on 2nd and 7 or an 8-yard gain on 3rd and 14. The raw difference there is the basis of success rate, one of the first forays into a more advanced football stat, but EPA takes that a few steps further. There's also a difference between a four-yard gain on 3rd and 3 and a 12-yard gain on 3rd and 15. All of this gets accounted for in EPA. The first play obviously helps an offense more despite the second gaining three times as many yards.

Of course, EPA isn't perfect. Despite being based on historical play-by-play, there is not one universal baseline for expected points. That can cause some slight differences based on where specific EPA data comes from, but that's not a massive drawback and nowhere near a good enough reason to discount the value it brings to the table.

Ideally, EPA can be paired with success rate — or rate of plays that produce positive EPA — to give a full look at value and consistency as opposed to a few big plays bumping up total EPA.

Because EPA is based on historical play-by-play and offenses have evolved, the average EPA over a season is not zero. In 2019, the average pass was worth 0.02 EPA and the average run was worth -0.05. That brings us to...

What We've Learned About the Run Game

One of the biggest impacts of analytics over the past decade-plus has been what it revealed about the run game. What we know is that throwing the ball is more efficient than running. The above EPA numbers reflect that, but the advantage is clear even if you take the average yards

gained on such plays. In 2019, the average yards per attempt on a pass was 7.2 while the average run gained 4.3 yards. That's a slight oversimplification, but it helps shape how we've thought about the run game and its impact incorrectly for too long.

The early 2000's saw the first pieces of work revealing there was little difference between teams that "established" the run early in games and those that didn't.[1] It also showed most teams with high run totals weren't running early, rather running late in games after they took the lead. This refutes the type of analysis that says "TEAM X is 8-2 when they run the ball 25 or more times" or something similar with a specific running back. The truth is Team X or Running Back X typically only get to 25 carries if there is already a lead in place.

Last year, the average pas-run ratio across the league was 59-41. In the first half of games when teams are trying to set the tone for the game, it was 60-40. In the fourth quarter with a lead, teams shifted to 34-66.

It's not just the number of carries for a star running that is misconstrued, but even value of that back is not has high as once thought. When predicting the success of a running play, we've learned the specific running back is one of the least important aspects. One of the reasons for this is not that running backs aren't talented players. It's exactly the opposite. There are so many talented players at the position that there's arguably a smaller gap between the top of the position and average at running back than any position on the field.

Few running backs have the ability to overcome deficiencies in other areas and while you think of the "few," it's probably even a smaller number than you think. We know the offensive line matters and we now know the situation in which a back is asked to run matters, too.

Studies have shown that the number of defenders in a box can predict over 80% of a running back's yards per carry.[2] The same studies have shown how a team's offensive personnel is the biggest factor in how a defense decides to stack the box. For example, a defense is more likely to put more defenders in the box when the offense comes out in 12 personnel (one running back, two tight ends, two wide receivers) or 21 personnel (two backs, two tight ends, two wide receivers) than it would against 11 personnel (three receivers) or 10 personnel (four wide receivers).

Those heavier personnel packages make the play look like a run, so the defense is more likely to line up to stop it. Think about how many times a team lines up in a tight heavy formation on a 3rd and 2 and runs into a brick wall because of how many defenders are ready to stop the run attempt. Now, think about the early success Sean McVay had running the ball with a spread out offense or how good the Cardinals' run game was this past season under Kliff Kingsbury.

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[1] Football Outsiders "The Establishment Clause," 2003

[2] "The Secret To The Rams' Blocking Success Isn't The Linemen. It's Sean McVay", Five ThirtyEight, Josh Hermsmeyer, 2019

Teams can give themselves an easier time running the ball by spreading out the defense to open up the box. The biggest advantage goes to teams that can run well from passing looks and pass well from run looks. All of this is a big reason why you're going to read Warren Sharp stress personnel frequencies and tendencies so often in the upcoming team chapters.

Maybe most importantly we've learned how little the success of a run game has to do with the success of play-action. Play-action is an instant upgrade for a passing offense. Last season, passing attempts without play-action averaged 6.79 yards per attempt with a 4.2% touchdown rate and 2.5% interception rate. Play-action passes averaged 8.5 yards per attempt with a 5.3% touchdown rate and 1.8% interception rate.

Research has shown that the number of rushing attempts or the success of a run game had little to do with play-action success.[3] The easiest way to be good at play-action is to use play-action well and much of that involves making the pass look like a run. When you hear coaches like McVay or Kyle Shanahan say how everything is built off the run game, they're talking about the look. Those play-action passes need to look exactly like the runs, regardless of whether those runs have been successful or not. Player tracking data also has shown that linebackers react similarly to play action regardless of when it is called. It's another idea that inherently makes sense. Linebackers are taught to read keys from the moment they learn the position. As long as the run fake is well-executed, it's likely to have the intended result.

Of course, this isn't to say there's no value in the run game. There's value to be had, but it's less on early downs and early in games like the old school mentality would suggest. Two places where runs are more valuable are on third and fourth and short and in the red zone.[4]

New stats to replace your old ones

With so many new metrics coming out, it can be overwhelming to keep track. But there are some simple ways you can upgrade your numbers.

Throughout this book, we will walk through more advanced metrics. You can find definitions of many of those metrics on the page entitled "Team Chapter Layout and Definitions" before the team chapters begin.

But let's walk through a number of guiding principles you should take with you as you study the NFL during the 2020 season and beyond.

- **Stop Using Raw Totals**

Whenever you hear a TV announcer says a team ranks 12th in offense, they're talking about raw yardage totals 99% of the time. Rarely is that a great indicator of team performance, especially if it's used in the middle of a season when teams haven't played the same number of

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[3] "Rushing Success and Play-Action Passing", Football Outsiders, Ben Baldwin, 2018
[4] "2017 Football Preview", Warren Sharp, 2017

games. Even per game numbers can be somewhat misleading. Yards and points do go together, but empty yards at the end of games can help a team's ranking without doing much to help the team win or be a good offense. Instead, you can use per play or per drive metrics. Those give a better indicator of both production and efficiency on each side of the ball.

For example, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were third in total yards on offense in 2019, but they were nowhere near the third-best offense in the league. They were closer to average (15th) in yards per drive. The Buccaneers just had a lot of drives because of the turnovers created by the offense and short fields given to the defense. There was a lot of late-game passing in Tampa Bay games last season.

This is the easiest thing to change and the best first step for a widespread understanding of smarter numbers.

(Everything here can also be said for time of possession)

- **Use Completion Percentage Over Expected (CPOE) rather than Completion Percentage**

Over the past few seasons, completion percentages have risen each year. Before 2015, no quarterback completed over 70% of his passes. In 2019, three did. The rise in completions has coincided with a rise in shorter passes. All that has impacted how we should look at raw completion percentage.

Take Quarterback A who completed 16-of-25 attempts but threw his average pass 6.5 yards beyond the line of scrimmage to wide open receivers. Then take Quarterback B who completed 13-of-25 passes but his average throw traveled 14.5 yards past the line of scrimmage into tightly covered receivers. Which quarterback had the more impressive performance?

Those numbers were real Week 12 statlines from Jacoby Brissett (Quarterback A) and Russell Wilson (Quarterback B). Next Gen Stats uses player tracking to monitor things like depth of target, time to throw, and receiver separation to create a CPOE metric. On this example, Brissett completed 64% of his passes but was expected to complete 72% given the situation (-8%). Meanwhile, Wilson only completed 52% of his passes but was expected to complete just 49.9% (+2.1%).

CPOE is easily available on the Next Gen Stats site and is also available in multiple other places. There will be CPOE graphs included in the team chapters in this book.

- **Don't be afraid of QBR**

When ESPN came out with QBR as an alternative to passer rating, its effectiveness was questioned. But through the years, it has proven to be one of the better publicly available single-number metrics for quarterback performance.

Why the Professionals Use & Trust Warren Sharp

He is among the top minds in football not working full time for a team. In fact, when you talk to people inside the league, some think he might be the top mind, period.

    - Kevin Clark, The Ringer

When I was told about and introduced to Warren Sharp I was beyond skeptical.   After working with some of the most successful syndicate groups for 15+ years I knew the NFL was practically unbeatable. After all, I worked 60+ hour work weeks breaking down and analyzing lines and looked forward to my Sunday's off. Needless to say that's not the way it is anymore on Sundays due to Warren. His NFL and especially his totals are second to none. Also, nobody can break down a NFL game like Warren and I don't know how anyone bets without his analysis and selections. I am now proud to say he is now one of my best friends and I do not fail to mention him when I am a guest on a radio or tv show. I also give him a live podcast each and every Sunday live from Las Vegas which is available free to his customers. He has proved to me and the gambling public that you CAN beat the NFL.

    - Bill Krackomberger, winning professional gambler

Analytics plays a bigger role in sports betting than ever before. Information travels at a speed nobody would have thought possible a decade ago. With so many analytical options available to both the bettor and the odds maker the choices we make for analytics have never been more important. When it comes to the NFL there is no one I trust and use more than Warren Sharp. Warren has an amazing grasp of the analytics that matter in the sports betting world and how to implement those in a practical and easy to read format. I would highly recommend that anyone involved in the sports betting industry try implementing Warren's analyses into their NFL work.

    - Matthew Holt, President of U.S. Integrity, LLC

I can't speak highly enough about Warren to give him the credit he deserves. He's the hardest working guy I know in the business, more importantly, his attention to detail is unparalleled. I don't think we've ever had a phone conversation less than an hour due to the amazing wealth of knowledge he rolls off with ease. I hold him in great regard. I appreciate his dedication and talent.

    - Las Vegas Cris - winning professional gambler

Been at this for 38 years in print, and have enjoyed every minute, win or lose. The NFL has given me problems forever. A few games over .500, a few games under .500, nothing exceptional, and mostly paying my guy every week. Until last season when one of the most INFLUENTIAL whales in the wagering world put me on to Warren Sharp. Read Sharp's 2016 Football Preview from cover to cover, and wound up posting a Ridiculous 137-110-8 record picking every game in the NFL. And even tastier, 12-3-1 in my weekly best bets Coincidence? NAH. It was Sharp's amazing angles and deep dives into stats I didn't even know existed. And when you see his records, it's STRAIGHT UP HONEST. How do I know? I had access to Sharp's picks every week, and his percentages tickled and exceeded the 60% range. As most know who have read my columns for the past 37 years, I have NEVER recommended any handicapper. Most are SCAMDICAPPERS that get you to pay for recycled GARBAGE. Sharp's stats, amazing graphics and advanced metrics are FREAKIN' GROUND BREAKING. Get Sharp, stay Sharp, live Sharp. You will be AMAZED!!!

    - Benjamin Eckstein, Americas Line nationally syndicated sportswriter in the New York Daily News and part of Ecks & Bacon

Warren's synopsis on game totals is vastly superior utilizing his mathematical formulas, to any preview I have ever seen.   His success is two-fold, beating the closing number by up to 3 pts and winning at a clip needed to secure a hefty profit. Getting in early ensures some fantastic middling opportunities.

    - Richie Baccellieri, former Director of Race and Sports in Las Vegas at Caesars Palace, MGM Grand and The Palms

The best way to view QBR for single games is as a de facto win probability metric and it's much easier to understand that way. The 1-100 scale shows the percentage of games a team is expected to win with the quarterback's performance. A 99.8 QBR doesn't necessarily represent one of the best quarterback games ever played, but rather that a team with that type of play at the position would be expected to win 99.8% of the time — there's a huge difference and the latter is significantly more useful.

QBR can overweight rushing on a seasonal level, but the metric will still give one of the better looks we have at quarterback play.

- **Focus on QB hits instead of sacks**

Sacks have long been the standard for pass rushers. But they happen so infrequently, we're usually judging full seasons of pass rushing on just a handful of plays. Pressure rates are the best way to figure out a pass rusher's production but the problem is pressure isn't an official stat and can range from outlet to outlet. But for a better boxscore stat, take a look at quarterback hits.

Getting to the quarterback is a skill but taking him down for a sack takes a lot more luck than just being in the right place. A quarterback who gets the ball out quickly can run a low sack rate because he's not giving the defense an opportunity to get a sack (this is also why sack rates should be considered more of a quarterback stat than one for the offensive line).

Quarterback hits are still counted when the defender gets to the quarterback but the ball comes out. A hit is good process of doing what needed to be done to get to the quarterback regardless of whether or not a sack was recorded. A high number of hits can also suggest sacks are coming soon. I've previously done work on how sacks per quarterback hit can fluctuate from year-to-year and how a player with a high hit total and low sack numbers is a good bet to increase those the next year.

Embrace Imperfection Using Variety and Context

There are no perfect stats. As mentioned in the EPA section above, we don't have one number that can succinctly encapsulate everything happening on the field. But also, that fact should not cancel out all of the progress that has been made to better reflect what does happen each Sunday, and Monday, and Thursday, and sometimes Saturday.

As much as possible, you should use a variety of statistics to evaluate performance. This is why, for example, in when analyzing each player's performance by personnel grouping in the

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team chapters, Warren shares three metrics: EPA/play, success rate, and yards/play. All three in concert will provide a far clearer picture as to the performance this player delivered than any of these metrics would deliver individually.

Our most powerful tool in football analysis is knowing what we don't know. Football is a small sample size sport, which is why context must be applied to all metrics in order to determine if the relevant conclusion to be drawn could be valid. It's almost as much an art as it is a science.

Keep Getting Smarter

There are a number of other metrics we could have explored (and I encourage you to do so). The game of football is consistently evolving and so is the analysis that surrounds it. The game doesn't look like it did in 1997, so we should stop talking about it the same way we once did. We're getting smarter about how we talk about football and the best thing about that is you don't even have to be that smart to understand it. Trust me, take it from a Communications major.

The Three Guiding Principles Surrounding the 2020 Fantasy Season

by Rich Hribar

Every year we do the same thing. Whether through projections or rankings, we naturally fit what just recently transpired a year ago in how we approach fantasy drafts for the upcoming season. Every offseason, a few things from the season prior cast a shadow on how we approach things.

Entering the 2020 season, here are what I believe are three main principles surrounding how the 2019 season played out that are shaping how I am approaching drafts this upcoming season.

Expect the Margin of the top Scorers to be Significantly Reduced in 2020

The 2019 season was arguably the most top-heavy season we have ever had in terms of individual performances holding an advantage over the field of their respective positions. Not just having one player absolutely smash the field at their positions, but at every fantasy position. And if you stacked any of them, you likely lifted a trophy.

Lamar Jackson posted the second-highest scoring fantasy season for a quarterback in an individual season just one year after **Patrick Mahomes** set the record. Jackson sat out the final week of the season, giving him the most points per game (27.7) for a quarterback in a year. Even sitting out that week, Jackson still held more of a positional advantage over the next highest scoring quarterback for the season (**Dak Prescott**) than Mahomes did in 2018. With Prescott scoring just 81.3% of the points that Jackson did, it was the largest scoring edge the QB1 has had over the QB2 since the 2007 season, when **Tom Brady** was the first quarterback was the first ever passer to throw 50 touchdowns in a season, and the fifth-largest gap since the NFL merger in 1970.

Christian McCaffrey is coming off the second-best fantasy season ever for any player, posting the third ever 1,000-yard rushing and 1,000-yard receiving season in league history. His 2019 fantasy season trailed only LaDainian Tomlinson's 2006 season (483.1 points). But even in that 2006 season, Steven Jackson tallied over 400 fantasy points, which made up 86.8% of Tomlinson's total, and Larry Johnson posted 374.9 points (77.6%). This season, the PPR RB2 (**Aaron Jones**) provided just 66.8% of McCaffrey's point total. That percentage was the largest gap in scoring by the RB1 to the RB2 in a single season since the 1970 merger.

Michael Thomas did not have a top-two scoring season all-time at his position like Jackson and McCaffrey did (his 2019 season ranks ninth among all wideouts ever), but the WR2 in 2019 (**Chris Godwin**) only matched 73.7% of Thomas's scoring output for the season, the lowest rate for a WR2 compared to the WR1 in any season since that same 1970 merger previously mentioned. It was the first time since the 1987 season in which the WR2 produced fewer than 80% of the WR1's fantasy total. The previous all-time low was set all the way back in 1974 when there were just two 1,000-yard wide receivers. Godwin's 276.1 PPR points were the fewest in a season for a WR2 since 1992.

Despite leading the position in overall scoring over the past four seasons, the 2019 season was the largest edge **Travis Kelce** provided over the tight end field in any of those seasons, with the TE2 (**George Kittle**) producing 87.5% of Kelce's seasonal output. Kelce did not have an all-time advantage in the manner in which Jackson, McCaffrey, and Thomas paced their positions, but it was the largest TE1 advantage over the TE2 for a full season over the past five years.

To have one of these seasons would be a standalone anomaly, but to have all four line up together was extra fluky. Even if all four players pace their positions once again in 2020, anticipate the advantage they provide over the field to be much tighter than a year ago.

Expect WR1s to Rebound…but not quite reach 2018 levels

Outside of Michael Thomas, the top of the WR position was lackluster in 2019. As a collective whole, the WR position scored 52 fewer touchdowns than they did in 2018, but also 21 fewer than 2016 and 39 fewer than in 2015. Just two wideouts scored double-digit touchdowns (tied for the fewest since 1990) and **Kenny Golladay's** 11 receiving scores were the fewest to pace the league since 1982, when the NFL played just nine games due to a players strike.

Top fantasy wideouts (WR1-12) accounted for their second-lowest share of wide receiver points (18.5%) over the past 10 seasons and combined to score their second-lowest number of touchdowns over the past 15 years. The top-12 wideouts in preseason ADP combined to miss 23 games. As a byproduct, just four wide receivers had at least 25% of their team targets in 2019, the fewest total over the previous decade.

WR1s produced their lowest percentage of total points (92.5%) compared to their RB1 counterparts in a season since 2006. We are definitely due some rebounding at the top of the position, but there are still warning signs that we should not expect a full reversion to the 2018 season, either.

Last season WR2s produced 83.3% of the WR1 output and WR3 options produced 70.6%. In 2018, those marks were at 65.4% and 58.7%. But those were far and away the lowest points of the past decade. From the same sample, over the eight seasons prior to 2018, WR2s were at 77.1% of the WR1 tier and 64.5% at WR3 level. So there was a spike in 2019 that recalibrated over that mean, but the 2018 season is still the largest outlier over the past decade in WR1 scoring advantage.

While RB1s Are Still What Matters Most

Over the past 10 seasons, the RB2 fantasy group on average has only produced 69.4 percent of the scoring output generated by the RB1 group in PPR formats. In each of the past four seasons, that number has been significantly lowered, with the secondary group producing just 63.6 percent of the RB1 scoring a year ago.

Compare that to the wide receiver position, which we just laid out has been at 77% and 65% for the WR2 and WR3 groupings of the position on a seasonal level even prior to the 2018 season. Baseline fantasy play from a wide receiver is just more functional than average running back play for fantasy purposes, which gives top running backs such an edge in gaining actual scoring leverage.
RB1s have outscored WR1s in three of the past four seasons, but where you can take advantage of wideouts over running backs is on the secondary levels. Getting an elite running back is largely a pay to play endeavor. Over the past decade, there have been 31 different 300-point PPR RB seasons. 27 of those have come from top-24 RBs in ADP with 25 of those coming for top-12 RBs. RB1s also have had a 34% bust rate (finishing 12 or more spots below positional ADP) compared to 40% for WR1s over the past decade. But you can take advantage of the secondary levels where WR2 selections had a 35% bust rate and WR3 a 49% compared to 53% for RB2 selections and 51% at RB3 levels. Load up on as many premier RB1 backs as possible to open and then hammer pass catchers.

Join me in 2020

I've been thankful to so many of you for making my article, "The Worksheet", become one of the most recognized and anticipated articles in the NFL fantasy landscape.

Exclusively available to Sharp Football Analysis clients, The Worksheet will be back, better than ever, for the 2020 season. In addition, we're adding more interactive fantasy tools to the 2020 fantasy offering this season. In fact, there are so many new services we're offering in 2020, check out the following page to see a full description of everything.

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Fantasy Football Interactive Tools

•**Receiver vs Defense Heat Maps**: Understand where specific players are generating their targets using advanced heat map technology to compare where the opposing defenses have the most and least success defending. *New for 2020*
•**Expected Fantasy Points per Target**: Analyzing how players have converted the types of targets they are receiving into fantasy points versus the rest of the league. *New for 2020*
•**Expected Fantasy Points per Pass Attempt**: Analyzing how passers are converting their pass attempts into fantasy points compared to the rest of the league. *New for 2020*
•**And more to come…**

"There are very few writers and very few pieces that professional DFS players feel are must-read before playing a particular card. Rich Hribar is one of those writers, and "The Worksheet" is one of those pieces. His analysis is not to be missed, and the private, personal access to him is unheard of." – **Warren Sharp**

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- Toxicity
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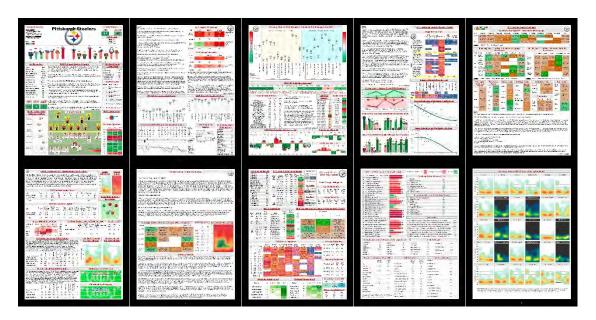
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TEAM CHAPTER LAYOUT AND DEFINITIONS

PAGE 1: Schedule strength based on opponent Vegas win totals // asterisk next to draft indicates comp pick // Lineup & Cap Hits lists projected starting roster shaded based on cap to analyze where cap $ is being spent // Key players lost if null shows unsigned players to date

PAGE 2: Advanced stats including EPA (Expected Points Added, which is a metric that looks at the Expected Points (EP) of the down, distance, and field position situation at the start of a play and contrasting it with the situation at the end of the play. Thus, the difference, or "added" points are considered EPA, and could be positive or negative) and Success Rate are calculated on a per-play basis. Success rate is defined as frequency a play gains required yardage to stay ahead of sticks, and is a rate stat // EDSR is a custom metric Warren created to measure early down success and measures efficiency on early downs and ability to bypass third down offensively or force opponents into third downs defensively // INT = interceptions, FUM = fumbles // Weekly EDSR chart bottom left looks at whether team won the EDSR battle (comparing both sides of the ball vs opponent) each week, green bar = EDSR win, red bar = EDSR loss

PAGE 3: logo in Strength of Schedule graphic is the 2020 forecast, the shaded target is 2019 actual based on 2019 season through week 17 // Schedule Variance analyzes ease in schedule as compared to the rest of teams. Red and 1 indicates hardest jumps in difficulty, Green and 32 indicates easiest shift in schedule // Health by unit based on Adjusted Games Lost from Football Outsiders // Weekly betting lines are accurate as of date of publication

PAGE 4: Usage Rate by Score examines percentage of a team's total plays in that given score margin which are given (via rush attempt or target) to that player // Share of Offensive Plays by Type looks at total rushes or passes each player received // Completion Percentage by Depth shows completion depth (aDOT aka average depth of target) along x-axis and completion rate along y-axis. Grey dashed line and dots are league averages based on select downs (early = first and second, or third pulled out separately) // Rank of Defensive Pass or Rush efficiency by week looks at prior-yr final rankings of current-yr opponents to get a sense of pockets of easy or tough schedules – prior yr ranks typically show mild but not strong correlation to current yr expectations, and rushing is more closely correlated yr over yr.

PAGE 5: Success by Play Type and Personnel Grouping: the first number in the grouping is the # of RBs, the second is the number of TEs. WRs are listed in parenthesis. Thus, 12 = 1 RB, 2 TEs and 2 WRs. Success rate and EPA/play are listed, along with # of plays from that grouping // Receiving Success: each cell shows success rate and targets on the first line, with yards per attempt (YPA) and EPA/target (described above) // Rushing Success: first line is success rate and attempts, second line is YPC and EPA/rush // Other passing metrics below look at QB performance

PAGE 6: Passing yardage consists of air yardage (distance ball travels measured per play from line of scrimmage to target) and yards after catch (YAC, distance receiver travels before he is tackled). YIA is (Yards In Air of pass, aka another abbreviation for Air Yardage) // Missed YPA yardage on unsuccessful plays which fell short of required cutoff for the play to have been graded "successful" // YAS yardage above successful, yardage gained in excess of cutoff, and measures explosiveness of player

PAGE 7: Number of DBs vs Personnel: rates of DBs used by the team's defense when they face various offensive personnel groupings, and the efficiency of those opponent passes based on success rate and EPA/att // Defensive Tendencies show rate and rank of base, nickel and dime vs NFL average, and this table also shows defensive rush and blitz tendencies

PAGE 8: Most metrics are self-explanatory

PAGE 9: Top 63 metrics are numbered to allow for easier call-out in chapter narrative. Metrics 4-13 look only at first half. Metrics 14-21 look at pre-snap motion (PSM) usage and improvement in quarters 1-3 only. Metrics 22-25 look at play action (PA) on early downs in quarters 1-3. Metrics 27-34 study offensive performance and tendency based on number of defenders in the box pre-snap // Fumble Luck: FROE (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation), on offense or defense, and rankings 1-32 // Field Goal luck analyzes own and opposing FG conversion rate vs average // Player Tracking Data: stats are defined below section. 2018 ranks are listed for QBs with enough 2018 attempts to qualify, to use for comparing year to year performance

PAGE 10: Offensive Passing Tendencies: these heat maps show where QBs target their receivers in each situation outlined. Red = heavily targeted, light green = light targeted, white = no targets. This is a vertical view of the football field, with the line of scrimmage at the "0" line of the y-axis, and the QB faces north on the page while looking to pass. Graphics depicting success (in black) show light yellow for most successful targets, green for moderate and dark blue for least successful.

Arizona Cardinals

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Kliff Kingsbury (Calls plays) (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
Tom Clements (GB OC) (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Vance Joseph (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
7.5	#4
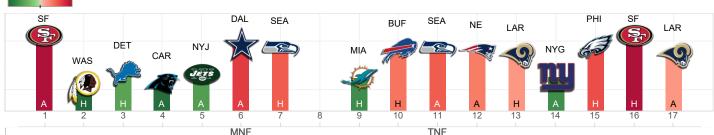
Past Records

2019: 5-11
2018: 3-13
2017: 7-8-1

Schedule:

Wk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	SF	WAS	DET	CAR	NYJ	DAL	SEA		MIA	BUF	SEA	NE	LAR	NYG	PHI	SF	LAR
H/A	A	H	H	A	A	A	H		H	H	A	A	H	A	H	H	A

MNF   TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Cassius Marsh (43DE)	Jaguars
Damiere Byrd (WR)	Patriots
David Johnson (RB)	Texans
Joe Walker (ILB)	49ers
Pharoh Cooper (WR)	Panthers
Rodney Gunter (34DE)	Jaguars
Zach Kerr (34DT)	Panthers
A.Q. Shipley (C)	Null
Andre Chachere (CB)	Null
Brandon Williams (CB)	Null
Brooks Reed (34OLB)	Null
Caraun Reid (43DT)	Null
Charles Clay (TE)	Null
Clinton McDonald (43DT)	Null
Jordan Mills (RT)	Null
Josh Shaw (S)	Null
Keishawn Bierria (ILB)	Null
William Sweet (RT)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
1.8	5	11

2020 Arizona Cardinals Overview

Kliff Kingsbury stood on the stage Week 1 against the Lions and called his first play. Backed up on his own 10-yard line, Kingsbury trotted out 10 personnel. Three wide receivers were split out to rookie quarterback **Kyler Murray**'s left and **KeeSean Johnson** was isolated to Murray's right. Murray called for the snap without clapping his hands and targeted the sixth-round rookie Johnson on a vertical 9 route and overthrew him. Two plays later, the Cardinals punted the ball, an inauspicious three-and-out to start the Kingsbury tenure.

But several things were at play in that first offensive snap that differed greatly from the preseason. Kingsbury's aggressive Air Raid system originated with Hal Mumme, and Kingsbury himself learned from his own coach, Mike Leach. But rest assured, when his tutors practiced, they practiced using the 10 personnel packages synonymous with the Air Raid. Kingsbury, however, tried his best to keep the offense under wraps until Week 1. So over 237 offensive plays in the preseason, the Cardinals used 10 personnel precisely one time on a garbage third-and-17. One time.

The other thing the preseason featured was tremendous controversy over the uptempo snaps the Cardinals offense was running. Specifically, Murray's clapping to call for the ball. There were allegations it was illegal, and would be flagged during the season.

The secretive offense that used 82% 11 personnel and 16% 12 personnel in the preseason along with a clapping rookie QB unveiled 10 personnel with a non-clapping rookie QB on the first play of the regular season. And a pass that targeted a sixth-round rookie WR who was phased out of the offense by Week 7.

Such was the life of a young coach trying to instill an infrequently used offense in the NFL with a very young roster. As if it was hard enough trying to hide his offense in the preseason, Kingsbury was trying to evaluate a young offensive corps

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
DeAndre Hopkins (WR)	Trade
Jordan Phillips (43DT)	$10
Devon Kennard (43OLB)	$6.70
De'Vondre Campbell (43O..	$6
Trevon Coley (43DT)	$0.80
Dylan Cantrell (WR)	$0.69

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	8	LB - Isaiah Simmons (Clemson)
3	72	OT - Josh Jones (Houston)
4	114	DT - Leki Fotu (Utah)
4	131	DT - Rashard Lawrence (LSU)
6	202	ILB - Evan Weaver (California)
7	222	RB - Eno Benjamin (Arizona State)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	7.5
2019 Wins	5
Forecast 2019 Wins	5
2018 Wins	3
2017 Wins	8
2016 Wins	7

Lineup & Cap Hits

Defense:
FS J.Thompson 34
LB J.Hicks 58
LB I.Simmons Rookie 48
SS B.Baker 36
RCB R.Alford 23
SLOTCB B.Murphy 33
OLB C.Jones* 55
DL J.Phillips NEW 97
DL C.Peters* 98
OLB D.Campbell NEW 59
LCB P.Peterson* 21

Offense:
LWR D.Hopkins NEW 10
SLOTWR L.Fitzgerald* 11
LT D.Humphries 74
LG J.Pugh 67
C M.Cole 64
RG J.Sweezy* 64
RT M.Gilbert* 76
TE M.Williams 87
RWR C.Kirk 13
QB K.Murray 1
RB K.Drake 41

WR2 H.Butler 17
WR3 A.Isabella 89
RB2 C.Edmonds 29
QB2 B.Hundley 7

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	17	$101.48M	26
QB	23	$10.19M	26
OL	17	$39.54M	14
RB	10	$11.39M	4
WR	7	$34.23M	18
TE	26	$6.12M	28
All DEF	7	$117.78M	28
DL	23	$36.69M	29
LB	2	$47.26M	6
CB	5	$27.81M	18
S	32	$6.02M	32

and handle all the duties any head coach would handle. It must have been a brutal summer in Arizona for Kingsbury.

The first four games saw the Cardinals usage of 10 personnel decrease from 67% Week 1 to 59% in Week 2 to 56% in Week 3 to 53% by Week 4. KeeSean Johnson saw his snaps drop immediately after Week 1, from 68 down to 19. No. 3 WR **Damiere Byrd** was injured in Week 3 and missed two games. In Week 4, already without Byrd, No. 2 WR **Christian Kirk** went down.

Kingsbury was forced to reinsert Johnson and increase snaps for undrafted second-year WR **Trent Sherfield**. But Kingsbury adapted. He increased the snaps for TEs **Maxx Williams** (24% snap rate the first two weeks) and **Charles Clay** (21% snap rate the first two weeks) and both began playing approximately 50% of snaps.

The first game without both starting wide receivers Kirk and Byrd was Week 5 in Cincinnati. Kingsbury trotted out 12 personnel (1 RB and 2 TEs) on 30% of the Cardinals' offensive snaps after using it on just 19 total snaps across the first three weeks (8% of all snaps). They used just 10 personnel on just 18% of snaps against the Bengals (down from over 50%).

And what did the winless Air Raid Cardinals do in 12 personnel? They ran for 6.9 YPC, 124 rushing yards on 18 attempts, and Arizona's only two touchdowns of the day. In an ironic twist of fate, Mumme and Leach's young Air Raid protégé earned his first NFL win without a touchdown from 10 personnel (zero TEs) and with 266 rushing yards at 7.0 YPC, generated primarily from 2-TE 12 personnel.

I view this not as a humorous anecdote, but rather an observation as to Kingsbury's caliber as a coach. He was able to do what too many coaches refuse: adapt. And quickly.

Kingsbury had to adapt his offense to a young corps of receivers. He had to use the regular season as a testing ground to see which of these receivers could stick, because he valued tactics and information so much he refused to run his offense in the preseason. He then had to adapt to countless injuries. And ultimately, he adapted his core offensive philosophy, one which operates without a single tight end to using two at the same time. That is extremely commendable and a great sign for a coach in year one.

That first win snowballed into a little win streak, as the Cardinals, still without Christian Kirk, reeled off three straight wins using very little 10 personnel.
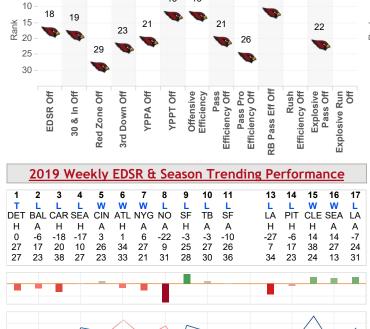
The offense did several other things to adapt along the way and benefit the team's odds of winning. In Weeks 1-5, the Cardinals used play-action only 17% of the time in the first three quarters, with no individual game reaching 22% play-action. From Week 6 onward, they used play-action 32% of the time, nearly double the rate.

Despite the return of Kirk from Week 8 onward and Byrd for seven of their final 10

2019 Passing Performance
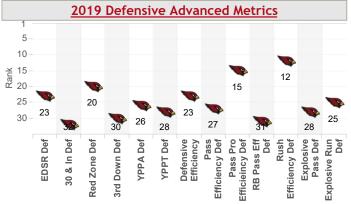
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Kyler Murray	49% 6.4 88.6	45% 8.0 92.6	32% 6.1 85.0	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	52%	59%	82%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
ARI	50% 5.5	45% 4.5	54% 4.3	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	48%	41%	18%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

games, the Cardinals never exceeded a 20% usage of 10 personnel in any game save for one (a 34-7 loss to the Rams in Week 13). Kingsbury abandoned his initial plan of using 10 personnel on 55% to 70% of snaps and instead adapted to his personnel.

In addition to juggling wide receivers, Kingsbury evaluated and then rejected the use of highly-paid running back **David Johnson** and No. 2 back **Chase Edmonds**. Edmonds killed the Giants in Week 7, but Kingsbury voiced his concerns over the backs on the roster. He convinced the team to acquire **Kenyan Drake** in a trade with the Miami Dolphins. Drake quickly became the Cardinals' starting running and appeared in at least 75% of the team's snaps from Week 11 onward.

One of the major benefits of Kingsbury's offense was the Cardinals' avoidance of runs into stacked boxes. On early downs through the third quarter, despite not having the roster to use 10 personnel as much as desired, the *(cont'd - see)*

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	T	L	L	L	W	W	W	L	L	L	L		L	L	W	W	L
OPP	DET	BAL	CAR	SEA	CIN	ATL	NYG	NO	SF	TB	SF		LA	PIT	CLE	SEA	LA
SITE	H	A	H	H	A	H	A	A	H	A	A		H	H	H	A	A
MARGIN	0	-6	-18	-17	3	1	6	-22	-3	-3	-10		-27	-6	14	14	-7
PTS	27	17	20	10	26	34	27	9	25	27	26		7	17	38	27	24
OPP PTS	27	23	38	27	23	33	21	31	28	30	36		34	23	24	13	31

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records
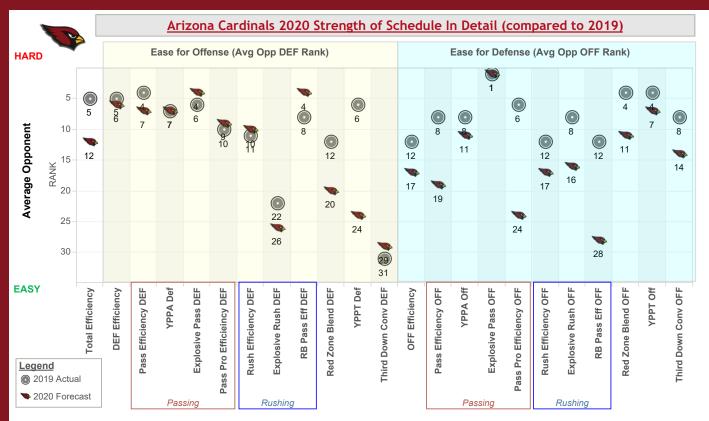
All 2019 Wins: **5**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **40% (#5)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-5**
1 Score Games Win %: **38% (#23)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **60% (#12)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-1
TO Given	18
INT Given	12
FUM Given	6
TO Taken	17
INT Taken	7
FUM Taken	10
Sack Margin	-10
Sacks	40
Sacks Allow	50
Return TD Margin	-5
Ret TDs	0
Ret TDs Allow	5
Penalty Margin	-7
Penalties	121
Opponent Penalties	114

Arizona Cardinals 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Average Opponent RANK

EASY

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

X-axis categories (Ease for Offense): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

(Passing / Rushing)

X-axis categories (Ease for Defense): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

(Passing / Rushing)

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
23	18	10	14	30	26	22	27

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	5.4	7.4	1.9
Average O/U line	47.5	42.1	42.7
Straight Up Record	5-10	3-13	8-8
Against the Spread Record	10-6	7-8	6-9
Over/Under Record	9-7	7-9	6-10
ATS as Favorite	0-1	0-2	2-3
ATS as Underdog	10-5	7-6	4-6
Straight Up Home	2-5	1-7	5-3
ATS Home	4-4	3-5	4-3
Over/Under Home	5-3	2-6	3-5
ATS as Home Favorite	0-1	0-2	1-1
ATS as a Home Dog	4-3	3-3	3-2
Straight Up Away	3-5	2-6	3-4
ATS Away	6-2	4-3	2-5
Over/Under Away	4-4	5-3	3-4
ATS Away Favorite	0-0	0-0	1-2
ATS Away Dog	6-2	4-3	1-3
Six Point Teaser Record	12-4	8-7	10-6
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-4	9-7	10-6
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-3	10-6	13-3

ARI-3

Cardinals ran the ball into 8+man boxes on only 13% of all run plays, which was the second-lowest rate in the NFL behind only the Chiefs.

While Kingsbury had to make an adjustment to the passing and running games over the course of the season, the one anchor he had all season long was Kyler Murray's wheels. With the lone exception of quarterback sneaks, no run is more successful or efficient than a designed quarterback run. Designed QB runs are not only far and away the best in terms of Expected Points Added per Attempt (EPA/A) and Positive Percentage (Positive%, or percent of plays with positive EPA), but also are the only common run type that results in a positive EPA on average.

Before the season, Kingsbury called Murray one of the best dual threat players ever. Sure enough in his rookie season, Murray gained 7.3 YPC and recorded a 63% success rate on his 35 designed QB runs. Compare that to other two run types the Cardinals used at least 25 times on the season: inside zone (3.7 YPC, 47% success) and outside zone (4.7 YPC, 56% success). *(cont'd - see ARI-4)*

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	-3
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	-8
Week 9 Edge	7
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	3
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	22
2018 Rk	23
2019 v 2018 Rk	11
Off Rk	20
Def Rk	19
QB Rk	15
RB Rk	13
WR Rk	11
TE Rk	7
Oline Rk	32
Dline Rk	27
LB Rk	10
DB Rk	21

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SF	WAS	DET	CAR	NYJ	DAL	SEA	MIA	BUF	SEA	NE	LAR	NYG	PHI	SF	LAR
7.5	-6.5	-3	-1	1	7	2.5	-4.5	1	7	6	1	1	-1	5.5	6

Avg = 1.8

Home Lines

2	3	7	9	10	13	15	16
-6.5 WAS	-3 DET	2.5 SEA	-4.5 MIA	1 BUF	1 LAR	- PHI	5.5

Avg = -0.6

Road Lines

1	4	5	6	11	12	14	17
7.5 SF	-1 CAR	1 NYJ	7 DAL	7 SEA	6 NE	1 NYG	6 LAR

Avg = 4.3

26

Murray also recorded 9.7 YPC and a 77% success rate when scrambling due to pressure.

The Cardinals should look to use Murray's legs even more in year 2. In a study published on Sharp Football Analysis and conducted by Sports Info Solutions, designed runs rank as the least dangerous event for a quarterback as compared to traditional scrambles, knockdowns after throwing the ball, or sacks. Quarterbacks are far more likely to be injured when they are not able to brace for the hit. Murray, specifically, has a near-superhuman awareness of the closest defender to him in the open field.

And as it correlated to 2019 success, Murray ran the ball six or more times in every single win, and ran the ball eight or more times in four of the five Cardinals wins. Using Murray as a rusher, rather than handing the ball off to an Arizona running back, is a +EV move that should be utilized more often. Murray is one of only six rookie QBs in NFL history to run for at least 525 yards.

To illustrate what an extremely special and underappreciated year it was for Murray even further is this example: as a passer, there were only two other rookie QBs in NFL history to throw for at least 3,500 yards with a 60%+ completions and 20+ touchdowns like Kyler Murray. Neither of them even hit 300 rushing yards, while Murray recorded 544.

Beyond just rookie QBs, there were 229 total QBs in NFL history to record those passing statistics in a single season, but only two of those 229 QBs recorded at least 500 rushing yards like Murray did (Russell Wilson and Deshaun Watson).

That's extraordinary.

This past offseason, the Cardinals took a few major steps to craft the offense in Kingsbury's image. First, they dumped David Johnson. It's not just Johnson the player, it was Johnson the $11.2 million cap hit. Johnson averaged 3.6 YPC and 3.7 YPC each of the last two years, and yet will count for $20.2 million on the cap over the next two years. They dumped that commitment on the Houston Texans and traded for **DeAndre Hopkins**, one of the NFL's best wide receivers, who has a cap hit the next two years of only $26 million.

The only two receivers on roster to receive at least 50 targets last year were Christian Kirk (103) and **Larry Fitzgerald** (96). Their third most targeted player was David Johnson with 47 targets.
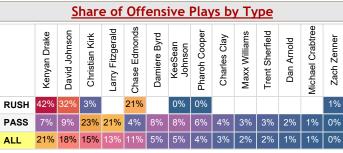
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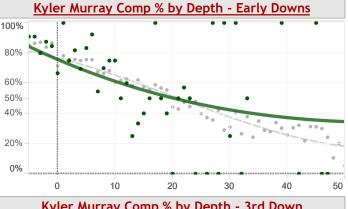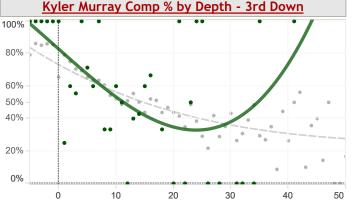
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Kenyan Drake	14%	7%	61%	13%	5%
	David Johnson	21%	7%	68%	2%	1%
	Christian Kirk	50%	10%	30%	10%	
	Chase Edmonds	5%	3%	75%	10%	7%
	KeeSean Johnson			100%		
	Pharoh Cooper			100%		
	Zach Zenner	50%		50%		
	Alfred Morris	100%				
	Total	16%	7%	65%	9%	4%
PASS	Kenyan Drake	15%	15%	56%	15%	
	David Johnson	38%	10%	51%		
	Christian Kirk	21%	14%	61%	4%	
	Larry Fitzgerald	23%	14%	61%	2%	
	Chase Edmonds	5%	5%	84%	5%	
	Damiere Byrd	24%	13%	61%		3%
	KeeSean Johnson	22%	5%	68%	3%	3%
	Pharoh Cooper	21%	7%	64%	4%	4%
	Charles Clay	15%	20%	65%		
	Maxx Williams	7%	14%	79%		
	Trent Sherfield	17%	8%	75%		
	Dan Arnold		22%	44%	33%	
	Michael Crabtree		40%	60%		
	Zach Zenner	100%				
	Total	21%	13%	62%	4%	1%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Kenyan Drake	David Johnson	Christian Kirk	Larry Fitzgerald	Chase Edmonds	Damiere Byrd	KeeSean Johnson	Pharoh Cooper	Charles Clay	Maxx Williams	Trent Sherfield	Dan Arnold	Michael Crabtree	Zach Zenner
RUSH	42%	32%	3%		21%		0%	0%						1%
PASS	7%	9%	23%	21%	4%	8%	8%	6%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	0%
ALL	21%	18%	15%	13%	11%	5%	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%

Kyler Murray Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Kyler Murray Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-0 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	45%, 0.01 (228)	42%, -0.02 (236)	40%, -0.02 (85)	56%, 0.34 (16)	50%, -0.74 (8)	33%, -0.10 (3)	25%, -0.06 (8)	14%, -0.78 (7)	50%, 0.58 (2)	80%, 0.50 (5)	43%, -0.01 (598)
RUSH	49%, 0.05 (134)	45%, 0.03 (74)	51%, 0.08 (147)	63%, 0.17 (8)	45%, -0.07 (11)	29%, -0.33 (14)	100%, 2.55 (2)	0%, -0.29 (1)	25%, -0.38 (4)		48%, 0.05 (395)
All	46%, 0.02 (362)	43%, -0.01 (310)	47%, 0.04 (232)	58%, 0.29 (24)	47%, -0.35 (19)	29%, -0.29 (17)	40%, 0.46 (10)	13%, -0.72 (8)	33%, -0.06 (6)	80%, 0.50 (5)	45%, 0.01 (993)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-0 [4WR]	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	David Johnson	41% (22) 6.7, 0.20	69% (16) 8.7, -0.04	33% (3) 9.3, 0.04	100% (1) 17.0, 1.56	52% (42) 7.9, 0.13
	Kenyan Drake	0% (6) 1.3, -0.53	53% (17) 6.3, 0.24	43% (7) 4.7, -0.06	50% (2) 1.0, -0.56	41% (32) 4.7, -0.02
TE	Charles Clay		75% (12) 10.5, 0.95	29% (7) 9.9, 0.24	0% (1) 0.0, -5.10	55% (20) 9.8, 0.40
WR	Christian Kirk	55% (55) 7.4, 0.26	53% (34) 5.5, 0.06	55% (11) 7.7, 0.34	50% (2) 7.5, 0.21	54% (102) 6.8, 0.20
	Larry Fitzgerald	48% (42) 7.4, 0.06	49% (45) 8.6, 0.19	64% (14) 4.2, 0.36		50% (101) 7.5, 0.16
	Damiere Byrd	52% (23) 7.1, 0.23	58% (12) 9.5, 0.20	25% (8) 3.0, -0.30		49% (43) 7.0, 0.12

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Drake Kenyan	55% (66) 6.2, 0.22	53% (36) 4.3, -0.01	0% (2) 2.5, -0.43	100% (1) 3.0, 0.94	53% (105) 5.4, 0.13
Murray Kyler	50% (30) 6.2, -0.01	52% (31) 5.6, 0.04	0% (1) -1.0, -0.73	0% (3) -1.0, -0.82	48% (65) 5.5, -0.03
Johnson David	48% (25) 3.7, -0.12	34% (32) 3.4, -0.11	67% (3) 4.0, -0.12		42% (60) 3.6, -0.11
Edmonds Chase	33% (12) 5.1, 0.00	48% (29) 6.0, 0.26	33% (3) 3.0, -0.02		43% (44) 5.5, 0.17

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	54% (228) 8.9, 0.31
M2M	43% (119) 6.0, 0.04
Screen	50% (98) 5.2, 0.03

Passing by Route

Screen	55% (100) 5.3, 0.05
Curl	57% (77) 6.3, 0.09
Out	60% (43) 5.7, 0.28
Slant	62% (34) 8.8, 0.55
Dig	42% (26) 4.5, -0.13
Flat	41% (22) 5.9, 0.20

Throw Types

Level 1	52% (376) 6.2, 0.16
Level 2	46% (71) 9.0, -0.02
Level 3	37% (51) 12.7, 0.44
Sidearm	46% (13) 8.5, 0.43
Shovel	43% (7) 3.4, -0.51

QB Drop Types

3 Step	46% (238) 7.2, 0.13
0/1 Step	58% (143) 7.2, 0.22
5 Step	32% (34) 9.4, 0.16
Designed Rollout Right	44% (27) 6.1, 0.13
Basic Screen	36% (25) 4.6, -0.26
7 Step	57% (7) 13.1, 0.61

QB State at Pass

Planted	51% (408) 7.3, 0.16
Moving	33% (87) 4.6, -0.15
Shuffling	44% (54) 7.6, 0.19

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	31% (29) 6.0, -0.33	27% (11) 3.6, 0.20
Shotgun	49% (132) 8.8, 0.11	43% (429) 6.4, -0.04
ALL	46% (161) 8.3, 0.03	42% (440) 6.3, -0.03

Run Types

Inside Zone	47% (78) 3.7, 0.00
Outside Zone	56% (45) 4.7, 0.07
Stretch	52% (23) 4.6, 0.05
Pitch	36% (22) 5.0, 0.06
Power	53% (19) 12.1, 0.60
Lead	50% (2) 1.0, -0.50

ARI-5

I expect two receivers with 50+ targets to at least double in 2020. The addition of Hopkins will do wonders to this passing attack. Kenyan Drake and his 80% catch rate will also be a massive improvement over David Johnson and Chase Edmonds (with his 57% catch rate). Hopkins gives the Cardinals' passing attack three viable WRs to use in either 10 or 11 personnel, something which was severely lacking in 2019. We know how Kingsbury was extremely willing to adapt his 10 personnel desire to fit his talent, and even so the Cardinals used 3+ WRs on 42% of passing plays, the most in the NFL. Will Kingsbury skew 10-heavy in 2020 or will he continue to incorporate 11 and some 12 into the mix? Tight end Maxx Williams was the highest rated TE run blocker per PFF.

Still, there are concerns that need to be fixed for the Arizona offense in 2020. In addition to struggling on early downs (they ranked an NFL-worst in EDSR), the Cardinals ranked 29th in the red zone. In part, this was because they ran 25% of their plays from 10 personnel (something the rest of the NFL did only 1% of the time). This despite not having solid 10 personnel. The Cardinals produced a mere 22% success on such plays, as compared to 53% success from 11 personnel. Much like the rest of the offense, however, Kingsbury adapted. After using 10 personnel in the red zone more than any other grouping through five weeks and recording a mere 22% success rate on 23 plays, he used 10 personnel on just 13 plays in the final 11 games, just 15% of their total red zone plays.

Defensively, the Cardinals added linebacker **Isaiah Simmons** at No. 8 overall to fill a major hole. He's positionless, which scared off some suitors, but he's so versatile he helps do what the Cardinals couldn't in 2019: cover running backs and tight ends. The Cardinals defense allowed 9.0 YPA and a 59% success rate to opposing tight ends, both worst in the NFL, and 7.0 YPA and a 55% success rate (31st) to opposing running backs. On early down targets to either TEs or RBs with 10 or fewer yards to go, the Cardinals defense ranked bottom-5 in both YPA and success rate allowed to TEs.

Because we know the 2019 Cardinals, behind a rookie head coach, rookie quarterback, and new offense, held their cards close to the vest, the team started off out of sync and with four straight losses. Things should be very different in 2020. Their first five weeks, they face the 49ers and then four teams projected to finish with worse than 7-9 records on the season (Redskins, Lions, Panthers, and Jets). Arizona has the NFL's easiest schedule over those first five weeks of the season. Unfortunately for the Cardinals, from Week 6 onward they face the NFL's second-toughest schedule. Nine of their 11 opponents are projected to have winning records in 2020. In 2019, the Cardinals faced eight defenses that ranked top-11 and they went 0-8 in those games. Unfortunately, in 2020 they face the sixth-toughest schedule of opposing defenses, identical to what they faced in 2019, and they play another eight defenses forecast to rank top-11. They close the season with five top-12 defenses in their final six games.

Hopefully the Cardinals will start fast to take advantage of their early schedule and gets some wins in the bank because they won't be so fortunate after that. In order to shock some teams this year, they will have to do much better than 0-8 vs the top defenses that litter their schedule, particularly late. But with a coach who has shown eagerness to adapt his scheme, and a quarterback that should only get better with more NFL reps and a new WR1, the Cardinals could surprise. They easily are the best-projected No. 4 seed in any NFL division, and it wouldn't shock me if they exceeded that oddsmaker prediction.

Arizona Cardinals 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook
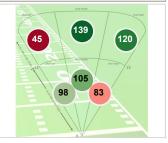
With a rookie quarterback in his first season as an NFL head coach, Kliff Kingsbury's system did not exactly raid the air. Arizona was 21st in the league in EPA via their passing offense and 21st in success rate per play (43%) in the passing game. With a limited supporting cast, facing the fourth-hardest schedule of opposing pass defenses in passing efficiency, and taking a league-high 48 sacks, No. 1 overall pick **Kyler Murray** completed 64.4% of his passes with 20 touchdown passes to 12 interceptions. Where Arizona and Murray will need to improve in year two is in yards per pass attempt. Murray's 6.9 yards per attempt ranked 26th in the league, while his 7.2 Y/A from a clean pocket ranked 23rd. The additions of **DeAndre Hopkins** and rookie offensive lineman **Josh Jones** fill two need positions in aiding Murray and allowing the passing game to take a step forward in 2020.

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Kyler Murray	349	544	64%	3,705	6.8	20	12	46	87	28
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

Kyler Murray Rating Early Downs

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Kyler Murray	44%	47%	47	9.0%	20	4.0%	5.4	5.3	27	5%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	2.6%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
6 - 9	0.0%	3.5%	2.1%		2.7%
10 - 14	0.5%	4.3%	0.0%		1.3%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%	100.0%	4.3%
Total	0.4%	3.6%	1.3%	15.4%	2.0%
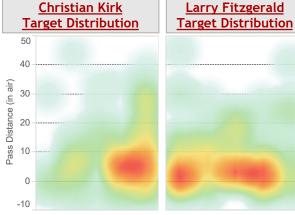
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Kyler Murray	8.9	5.3	-3.7	76%	34
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
49%	51%	33
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Air Raid scheme is predicated on wide receiver play and that's where Arizona struggled in 2019. The Cardinals used four wideouts on a league-high 33% of their pass plays in 2019 and targeted their wideouts a league-high 70% of the time. But they ranked just 22nd in success rate targeting their receivers (49%) while their wide receivers averaged 7.0 yards per target, which ranked 29th in the league. Going out and trading for DeAndre Hopkins, Arizona has added a bonafide alpha wide receiver in his prime to anchor this unit, joining **Christian Kirk** and **Larry Fitzgerald** as the top three receivers on the depth chart. Outside of receiver play in 2019, Arizona was above the league rate in success rate targeting their TEs (55%) and RBs (46%).

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Larry Fitzgerald	109	69%	7.4	87.1	50%	75	68	87	72	4
Christian Kirk	108	63%	6.6	87.3	53%	57	73	90	37	3

Christian Kirk Target Distribution

Larry Fitzgerald Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Arizona run game was more effective than their passing game, ranking 10th in the league in yards rushing (1,990). On the efficiency front, the Cardinals were 13th in the league in success rate rushing (49%). Ranking second in yards per carry (5.0), Arizona ended up third in the league in Expected Points Added via their rushing attempts. Kyler Murray's added 544 yards rushing elevated those totals, but the midseason acquisition of **Kenyan Drake** was a major spike. Drake ended up 11th among all running backs in successful play rate rushing (54%) with the Cardinals while David Johnson (43%) and **Chase Edmonds** (40%) ranked below league average. After joining Arizona in Week 9, Drake was sixth in the NFL in rushing yardage (652 yards) and third in yards per carry (5.2 YPC) among 23 backs with 100-plus carries over that span.

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Kenyan Drake	171	5.2	54%	15	42	80	3	54%	13	8
David Johnson	94	3.7	43%	63	39	55	63	41%	68	2
Kyler Murray	93	5.8	48%	40	63	79	4	49%	31	4
Chase Edmonds	60	5.1	40%	71	64	64	41	39%	72	4

Is Kenyan Drake Finally an RB1?

Drake averaged 18.9 touches for 101.8 yards from scrimmage per game over his eight games after joining Arizona while playing 79.3% of the offensive snaps. From a weekly perspective, Drake was the RB21 or higher in six of his eight games with the Cardinals with three top-five scoring weeks over that span. All we have ever wanted is for a team to actually commit to Drake for a full season, something that is set up to happen in 2020. In the 34 career games in which Drake has played at least 50% of his team snaps, he has averaged 14.5 PPR points per game. That mark would have been good for a sturdy RB18 a year ago. In the 30 career games in which he has reached double-digit touches, he has averaged 16.1 points per game, a mark that would have been on the scoring line of RB11 a year ago in points per game.

Can Kyler Murray join the elite tier of fantasy QBs?

As a rookie, Murray was the QB8 overall and the QB12 in points per game (17.8). He did that with a limited supporting cast, a bottom-rung schedule (fourth-hardest), and a league-high 48 sacks taken. With the added component of his rushing ability — Murray finished fifth in rushing points per game (4.9) — he can make a seismic jump should his passing stats all rise in year two.

We have yet to see Murray's passing upside yet. As a rookie, Murray ranked 26th in yards per pass attempt (6.9), 26h in average depth of target (7.4 yards), 25th in fantasy points per game (12.8), and 30th in fantasy passing points per attempt (.378). With the addition of DeAndre Hopkins, Murray is set up to take a second-year leap in the passing game. Since entering the league in 2013, Hopkins ranks third in receptions and receiving yardage behind only Julio Jones and Antonio Brown while trailing only Brown in receiving touchdowns over that span. To tack on, Arizona also is due for passing touchdown regression to mean after ranking 30th in passing touchdown split (52.6%) a year ago while the league average was 65%. Recent year two explosions form Patrick Mahomes and Lamar Jackson may have fantasy expectations for Murray exaggerated to a degree, but he is set up to progress in year two.

WRs Changing teams has yielded poor fantasy results

DeAndre Hopkins is coming off a season that did not quite match the lofty expectations he has set for himself. In 2019, Hopkins still caught 104 passes for 1,165 yards, but he also set career-lows in yards per reception (11.2) and yards per target (7.8). Living off immense volume once again, Hopkins received 28.0% of the Houston targets and averaged 10.0 targets per game. Wide receivers changing teams have been a mixed bag. Over the past 10 years, we have had 34 different wide receivers with ADP among the top-36 wideouts that offseason on new teams that season. Of that group, just 12 scored more PPR fantasy points per game than the year prior for their new clubs. Just 10 of those receivers finished the season higher than their respective ADP among the position heading into the season. The sample is small for elite wideouts changing teams, with just six of those players having top-12 ADP, but five of those six had a scoring drop in their first season with their new team and only one (Brandon Marshall in 2012) finished the season as fantasy WR1. Hopkins is heading to the most WR-centric offense in the NFL, so his opportunities should still be rich and put this to the test.

Arizona Cardinals Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	39 plays (10%) Success: 38% EPA: -0.20	347 plays (87%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.07	14 plays (4%) Success: 29% EPA: -0.26	400 plays (100%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.04
1-2 [2WR]	58 plays (62%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.41	34 plays (37%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.35	1 plays (1%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.61	93 plays (100%) Success: 58% EPA: 0.38
2-1 [2WR]	43 plays (88%) Success: 72% EPA: 0.53	6 plays (12%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.61		49 plays (100%) Success: 71% EPA: 0.54
2-2 [1WR]	8 plays (100%) Success: 63% EPA: 0.65			8 plays (100%) Success: 63% EPA: 0.65
Grand Total	148 plays (27%) Success: 59% EPA: 0.30	387 plays (70%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.11	15 plays (3%) Success: 27% EPA: -0.29	550 plays (100%) Success: 51% EPA: 0.15

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	37%	2
Nickel	57%	17
Dime+	2%	24
Rush 3	4%	23
Rush 4	54%	28
Rush 5	28%	4
Rush 6+	11%	1
Blitz%	39%	2

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Cardinals struggled on defense and in an effort to improve, made a few questionable additions in free agency. This defensive unit is now a mix of aging expensive veterans and more inexperienced youngsters. **Jordan Phillips** was the big free agent signing on the defensive line and brings some upside as an interior pass rusher (though a 9.5-sack breakout 2019 came with an insanely high unsustainable sack rate). Behind him are a solid veteran run defender in **Corey Peters** and a lot of untapped potential for depth. **Jonathan Bullard** never found a fit as an end/tackle tweener with the Bears and **Zach Allen** might be a younger, slightly improved version. **Michael Dogbe** is an athletic freak but did not see the field often as a rookie seventh-rounder. The Cardinals also doubled up on the defensive line in the draft with **Leki Fotu** and **Rashard Lawrence** in the third and fourth rounds.

Chandler Jones remains one of the league's most underrated players. No matter the scheme or the talent around him, Jones ends up as one of the most disruptive edge rushers year after year. The Cardinals signed **Devon Kennard** to a three-year deal after he was let go by the Lions. Kennard has been a player who has been able to generate pressure while jumping between edge and off-ball roles on the Detroit defense. There's little of note behind those two, but they rely elsewhere for a pass rush as one of the most blitz-heavy teams in the league.

Arizona's first-round pick was Clemson defensive playmaker **Isaiah Simmons**. While Simmons can play all over the defense, he's expected to mostly play linebacker — at least to start the season. It's a position the Cardinals sorely needed to upgrade. The signing of **De'Vondre Campbell**, even to a one-year deal, was puzzling, given Campbell has struggled in coverage so often in his career with the Falcons. Jordan Hicks was a solid run defender and a good blitzer last season. Arizona has still struggled to find the right role for **Haason Reddick** through his first three years in the NFL. He led the Cardinals in pressure rate but he rushed the passer on just 26% of his pass snaps last season. Cal tacking machine **Evan Weaver** was also added in the sixth round of the draft.

After trade rumors proved fruitless throughout last season, **Patrick Peterson** will enter 2020 on the final year of his current deal. He showed some rust after he returned from a suspension but started to turn around his play toward the end. The same could be said for rookie **Byron Murphy** who played better as the season went along. Though both finished below average in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap (which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions) for the season.

Budda Baker is one of the best defensive players in the league and does a little bit of everything for the Cardinals. The problem is he can't do everything. **Jalen Thompson** was a good find as a deep safety in the second round, but the Cardinals still ranked among the worst in the league on deep passes against them.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	60%
All Pass Rk	12
All Rush %	40%
All Rush Rk	21
1 Score Pass %	59%
1 Score Pass Rk	16
2018 1 Score Pass %	55%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	25
2019 Pass Increase %	4%
Pass Increase Rk	10
1 Score Rush %	41%
1 Score Rush Rk	17
Up Pass %	47%
Up Pass Rk	24
Up Rush %	53%
Up Rush Rk	9
Down Pass %	69%
Down Pass Rk	10
Down Rush %	31%
Down Rush Rk	23

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	38%	63%	50%
	Med (4-7)	7	86%	14%	43%
	Long (8-10)	301	49%	51%	49%
	XL (11+)	13	62%	38%	46%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	27	48%	52%	74%
	Med (4-7)	83	63%	37%	49%
	Long (8-10)	90	59%	41%	33%
	XL (11+)	45	80%	20%	27%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	31	65%	35%	65%
	Med (4-7)	52	96%	4%	37%
	Long (8-10)	39	92%	8%	28%
	XL (11+)	28	79%	21%	11%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	11	64%	36%	73%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	100%
	Long (8-10)	1	0%	100%	100%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
13%	87%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
71%	31%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
29%	69%

32% AVG 77%

Arizona Cardinals 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
66%	15	66%	76%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
34%	18	34%	73%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	David Johnson	2	50%
			Kenyan Drake	2	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Kenyan Drake	45	42%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Chase Edmonds	3	0%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Kenyan Drake	7	86%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	David Johnson	10	40%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	David Johnson	10	0%
			Kenyan Drake	10	10%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Christian Kirk	7	43%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Larry Fitzgerald	6	67%
		RUSH	Kyler Murray	6	83%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Christian Kirk	12	42%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Christian Kirk	6	17%
	XL (11+)	PASS	David Johnson	5	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 41% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.06 Rtg: 83.5 *[Att: 354 - Rate: 58.9%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 9.9, EPA: 0.18 Rtg: 107.2 *[Att: 95 - Rate: 15.8%]*	Success: 43% YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.01 Rtg: 88.5 *[Att: 449 - Rate: 74.7%]*
Yes	Success: 47% YPA: 5.8, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 104.6 *[Att: 86 - Rate: 14.3%]*	Success: 41% YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.18 Rtg: 72.6 *[Att: 66 - Rate: 11.0%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 91.0 *[Att: 152 - Rate: 25.3%]*
Total	Success: 42% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 87.8 *[Att: 440 - Rate: 73.2%]*	Success: 46% YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 92.8 *[Att: 161 - Rate: 26.8%]*	Success: 43% YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 89.1 *[Att: 601 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Larry Fitzgerald	Christian Kirk	Maxx Williams	Damiere Byrd	David Johnson	Charles Clay	KeeSean Johnson	Trent Sherfield	Chase Edmonds
1	DET	T 27-27	85 (96%)	83 (93%)	22 (25%)	78 (88%)	77 (87%)	14 (16%)	68 (76%)	5 (6%)	10 (11%)
2	BAL	L 23-17	57 (95%)	56 (93%)	14 (23%)	56 (93%)	36 (60%)	15 (25%)	19 (32%)	4 (7%)	24 (40%)
3	CAR	L 38-20	69 (92%)	69 (92%)	13 (17%)	72 (96%)	65 (87%)	25 (33%)	36 (48%)	3 (4%)	9 (12%)
4	SEA	L 27-10	53 (84%)	59 (94%)	22 (35%)		54 (86%)	17 (27%)	36 (57%)	53 (84%)	13 (21%)
5	CIN	W 26-23	57 (74%)		43 (56%)		54 (70%)	44 (57%)	73 (95%)	59 (77%)	27 (35%)
6	ATL	W 34-33	51 (74%)	40 (58%)		15 (22%)	52 (75%)	31 (45%)	56 (81%)	36 (52%)	20 (29%)
7	NYG	W 27-21	48 (74%)		32 (49%)	52 (80%)	3 (5%)	30 (46%)	5 (8%)	53 (82%)	61 (94%)
8	NO	L 31-9	39 (80%)	42 (86%)	20 (41%)	43 (88%)		20 (41%)		26 (53%)	30 (61%)
9	SF	L 28-25	54 (95%)	55 (96%)	42 (74%)			24 (42%)	25 (44%)	3 (5%)	
10	TB	L 30-27	55 (79%)	67 (96%)	31 (44%)		30 (43%)	32 (46%)	37 (53%)	6 (9%)	
11	SF	L 36-26	55 (80%)	68 (99%)	38 (55%)		9 (13%)	48 (70%)	23 (33%)	4 (6%)	
13	LA	L 34-7	59 (92%)	61 (95%)	18 (28%)	24 (38%)	15 (23%)	31 (48%)		1 (2%)	
14	PIT	L 23-17	55 (92%)	58 (97%)	32 (53%)	26 (43%)	22 (37%)	23 (38%)			11 (18%)
15	CLE	W 38-24	47 (77%)	54 (89%)	40 (66%)	21 (34%)	13 (21%)	43 (70%)		2 (3%)	
16	SEA	W 27-13	60 (87%)	65 (94%)	45 (65%)	25 (36%)	15 (22%)	4 (6%)		3 (4%)	
17	LA	L 31-24	59 (87%)	67 (99%)	41 (60%)	49 (72%)					4 (6%)
	Grand Total		903 (85%)	804 (94%)	493 (47%)	461 (63%)	445 (48%)	401 (41%)	378 (53%)	258 (28%)	209 (33%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	36%	60%	46%
1-0 [4WR]	31%	3%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	23%	20%	47%
2-0 [3WR]	2%	1%	58%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	63%	45%	49%
1-0 [4WR]	76%	42%	45%
1-2 [2WR]	37%	40%	51%
2-0 [3WR]	67%	56%	63%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Larry Fitzgerald	13	10		3
Christian Kirk	11	1	4	6
Chase Edmonds	5			5
KeeSean Johnson	5		2	3
Charles Clay	4	1		3
David Johnson	4	1	1	2
Pharoh Cooper	4	1	1	2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Kyler Murray	19	3	4	12
David Johnson	17	6	1	10
Kenyan Drake	17	8	3	6
Chase Edmonds	7		1	6
Brett Hundley	2		1	1
Andy Isabella	1			1
Christian Kirk	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
20%	11%	69%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
46%	55%	49%
#12	#14	#22

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Rank
01.	Games w Halftime Lead	6
02.	Avg Halftime Lead	-3.0
03.	Wins	5
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	17
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	20
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	24
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	23
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	15
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	17
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	18
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	17
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	22
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	10
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	30
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	25
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	27
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	30
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	19
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	17
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	3
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	8
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	18
23.	PA Improvement Success	22
24.	PA Improvement YPA	14
25.	PA Improvement Rating	25
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	31
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	31
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	29
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	7
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	2
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	28
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	5
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	26
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	9
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	23

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	5.9
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.3
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.6
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	7.8
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	42%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	44%
42.	PSM Rating	77.8
43.	Non-PSM Rating	72.2

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	35%
45.	PA Success Rate	51%
46.	PA YPA	8.5
47.	PA Sack Rate	10.9%
48.	PA Rating	83.5
49.	PA Target Depth	7.5
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	52%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6.6
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	7.1%
53.	Non-PA Rating	86
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	5.4
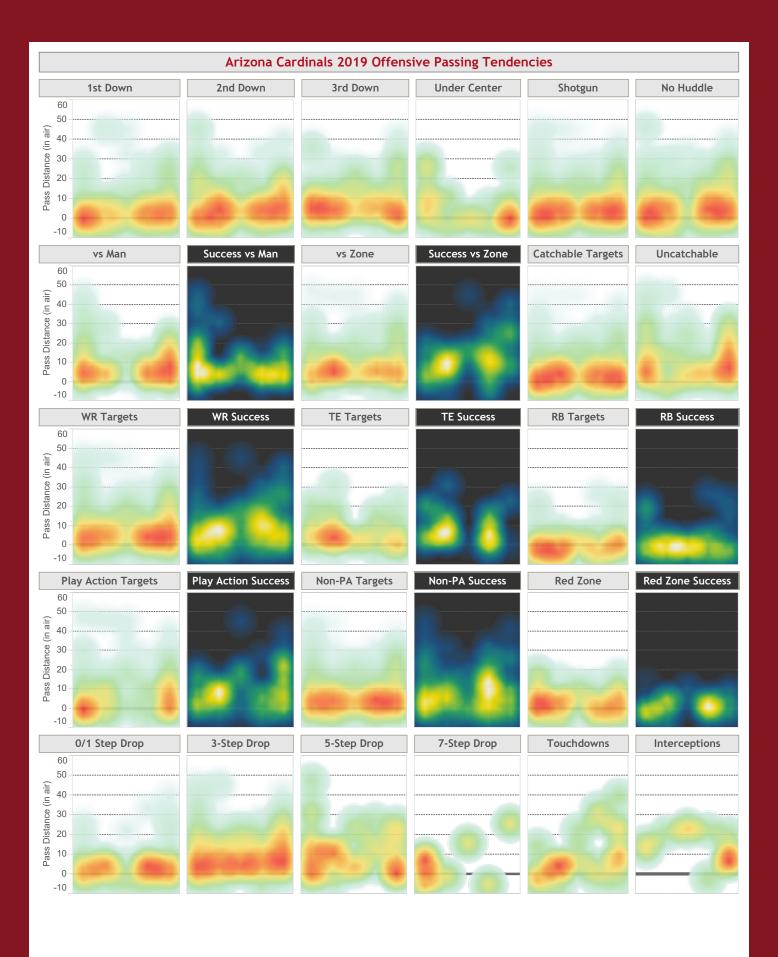
Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	12%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	30%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	37%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.7
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	51%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Net FROE Rk	26	defFUM	23
Net FROE	-2.5	defFUM Rcvrd	10
offFUM	9	defFR Rk	19
offFUM Rcvrd	3	defFR%	43.5%
offFR%	33.3%	defFROE	-0.7
offFR Rk	31	defFROE Rk	20
offFROE	-1.8		
offFROE Rk	25		

Field Goal Luck

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
2019 FG %	89%	YOY Swing	14%
2019 FG Rk	7	YOY Swing Rk	6
Opp 2019 FG %	84%	2018 Team Net	-10%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	11	2018 Net Rk	27
2019 Team Net	4%		
2019 Net Rk	13		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Kyler Murray
CAY	5.1
CAY Rk	31
2018 CAY Rk	
AYTS Rk	30
2018 AYTS Rk	
AGG Rk	31
2018 AGG Rk	
COMP%	64.4
xCOMP%	65.9
xCOMP% Rk	7
2018 xCOMP% Rk	
CPOE%	-1.5
CPOE Rk	24
2018 CPOE Rk	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Kyler Murray
Pressure %	29.5
Pressure Rk	34
Sack %	25.7
Sack Rk	4
Under Pressure Accuracy %	56.7
Pressure Accuracy Rk	33
Rating when Pressured	62.1
Pressured Rating Rk	21
Clean Accuracy %	78.7
Clean Accuracy Rk	20
Rating when Clean	94.8
Clean Rating Rk	32
Time to Throw	2.73
Time to Throw Rk	28

Offensive Metrics

Metric	Value
EPA/Pass	-0.02
EPA/Pass Rk	19
EPA/Rush	0.04
EPA/Rush Rk	3
On-Target Catch %	87
On-Target Catch Rk	9
Drop%	4.8
Drop Rk	1
YAC/Att	2
YAC/Att Rk	27
Rush Broken Tackle %	13.6
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	24
Rush 1st Down %	27.3
Rush 1st Down Rk	3

Arizona Cardinals 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Atlanta Falcons

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Dan Quinn (5 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Dirk Koetter (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Raheem Morris (asst HC/DBs coach) (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
7.5	#3

Past Records

2019: 7-9
2018: 7-9
2017: 10-6

Schedule

Wk	Opp	H/A
1	SEA	H
2	DAL	A
3	CHI	H
4	GB	A
5	CAR	H
6	MIN	A
7	DET	H
8	CAR	A
9	DEN	H
10		
11	NO	A
12	LVR	H
13	NO	H
14	LAC	A
15	TB	H
16	KC	A
17	TB	A

MNF / TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Adrian Clayborn (43DE)	Browns
Austin Hooper (TE)	Browns
De'Vondre Campbell (43OLB)	Cardinals
Desmond Trufant (CB)	Lions
Jack Crawford (43DT)	Titans
Ty Sambrailo (RT)	Titans
Vic Beasley (43OLB)	Titans
Wes Schweitzer (C)	Redskins
Alex Gray (TE)	Null
Devonta Freeman (RB)	Null
J.J. Wilcox (S)	Null
Jamar Taylor (CB)	Null
Johnathan Cyprien (S)	Null
Justin Hardy (WR)	Null
Kemal Ishmael (S)	Null
Kenjon Barner (RB)	Null
Luke Stocker (TE)	Null
Matt Bosher (P)	Null
Matt Simms (QB)	Null
Michael Bennett (43DT)	Null
Ra'Shede Hageman (43DE)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
1.9	6	10

2020 Atlanta Falcons Overview

Coaching matters. It's been a refrain of mine for years now.

The Atlanta Falcons defense had been terrible for years. It seemed odd. The team hired a head coach with a defensive background in Dan Quinn back in 2015. Quinn led the 2013 Seattle Seahawks to the Super Bowl as a defensive coordinator.

Several years ago, I created my custom Early Down Success Rate (EDSR) metric. Seattle's defense ranked top-10 in EDSR both seasons under Quinn. Would he bring a similar prowess to the Falcons?

In a word, no. Atlanta's ranking in EDSR by year:

2015: 31
2016: 27
2017: 30
2018: 29

The Falcons made it to the 2016 Super Bowl thanks to Kyle Shanahan's offense. But the defense was very bad that year. Quinn's first defensive coordinator was Richard Smith. Smith was fired after two years. Quinn effectively did it mid-way in the 2016 Super Bowl season, as he relieved Smith of playcalling prior to Week 13. But after the 2016 season, Quinn promoted secondary coach Marquand Manuel to the role of DC. Manuel, too, was fired after two years.

Heading into 2019, Quinn was a defensive head coach coming off a 7-9 season in 2018 with a defense that never came close to expectations, particularly when thinking about how Seattle's defense looked.

(cont'd - see)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Dante Fowler Jr. (34OLB)	$15
Todd Gurley (RB)	$5.5
Hayden Hurst (TE)	Trade
Charles Harris (34OLB)	Trade
Justin McCray (LT)	$1.10
LaRoy Reynolds (43OLB)	$1.10
Deone Bucannon (ILB)	$0.90
Laquon Treadwell (WR)	$0.90

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	16	CB - A. J. Terrell (Clemson)
2	47	DE - Marlon Davidson (Auburn)
3	78	C - Matt Hennessy (Temple)
4	119	ILB - Mykal Walker (Fresno State)
4	134	S - Jaylinn Hawkins (California)
7	228	P - Sterling Hofrichter (Syracuse)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	7.5
2019 Wins	7
Forecast 2019 Wins	9
2018 Wins	7
2017 Wins	10
2016 Wins	11

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS R.Allen 37
SS K.Neal 22
LB D.Bucannon 36
LB D.Jones 45
RCB I.Oliver 20
SLOTCB K.Sheffield 20
DT D.Fowler Jr. 56
DE T.Davison 95
DE G.Jarrett 97
DE T.McKinley 98
LCB A.Terrell Rookie 24

LWR J.Jones* 11
SLOTWR L.Treadwell 11
LT J.Matthews 70
LG J.Carpenter* 77
C A.Mack 51
RG C.Lindstrom 63
RT C.McGary 76
TE H.Hurst NEW 81
RWR C.Ridley 18

QB M.Ryan* 2
RB T.Gurley NEW 21

WR2 R.Gage 83
WR3 C.Blake 16
RB2 B.Hill 32
QB2 M.Schaub 8

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	9	$113.06M	19
QB	15	$22.56M	16
OL	7	$45.71M	9
RB	12	$10.58M	7
WR	9	$29.48M	23
TE	31	$4.74M	25
All DEF	31	$79.67M	15
DL	22	$37.19M	15
LB	27	$15.94M	15
CB	32	$7.05M	16
S	8	$19.48M	18

Falcons owner Arthur Blank expressed confidence in his coach and it was decided there would be no official defensive coordinator for the 2019 season as Quinn took over those responsibilities and once again regained playcalling duties.

His goal was to keep the Cover 3 scheme consistent from Seattle and allow his defense to play "more loose and free" and emphasize a "run and hit" factor rather than trying to confuse the offense. The goal was a more physical defense.

To outsiders, the move appeared to be a last effort by a defensive coach to keep his job intact. Through the first half of the 2019 season, it looked like it was a move on the verge of backfiring.

Weeks 1 through 8, the Falcons defense faced the NFL's 13th easiest schedule of pass offenses. In three of their first four games, they took on the Titans with Marcus Mariota, a Jacoby Brissett led Colts team and the Eagles in a game when every wide receiver seemed to hurt himself within five minutes of the kickoff. Philadelphia couldn't play 11 personnel because they literally didn't have three wide receivers available.

And yet the Falcons passing defense was abysmal.

Over the first half of the season, Atlanta's pass defense ranked 32nd in the NFL. They allowed 8.3 YPA, a 57% success rate, a 115 passer rating, a 19:2 TD:INT ratio, and recorded only a 2.7% sack rate. In those five pass metrics, Atlanta's defense was literally bottom-5 in every single one. The only thing loose and free was the opposing quarterback when he dropped back to pass.

And like many things in the NFL, as goes passing so goes everything.

Atlanta ranked 32nd in third down conversion percentage, 32nd in takeaways, and 32nd in red zone defense.

Eight games down. A 1-7 record. A Week 9 bye.

Time for a coaching change — but not the one some were expecting. Dan Quinn's job was on the line, but defensive coordinator Dan Quinn was relieved of his duties so that head coach Dan Quinn could see another day.

Instead of bumping up one assistant to take over as interim defensive coordinator, the plan for the playcaller role seemed so convoluted that it surely would get messy.

Linebackers coach Jeff Ulbrich, and former wide receivers coach Raheem Morris would share playcalling duties for the defense moving forward. Ulbrich was responsible for playcalling duties on first and second down and Morris would call plays on third down and in the red zone.

The Falcons also were about to face the third-toughest schedule of pass offenses

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Matt Ryan	54% 8.0 92.6	42% 5.7 80.1	40% 8.0 103.0	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	58%	70%	84%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
ATL	40% 3.4	51% 4.4	53% 3.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	42%	30%	16%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

after returning from the bye through Week 17.

Shifting the schedule of pass defenses from 13th easiest to third-toughest and having two new defensive playcallers (including your prior offensive passing game coordinator) didn't seem like a brilliant plan at first.

But it worked like a charm and the Falcons passing defense dominated.

Same team. Same players. Different coaches.

From the first half to the second half of the season, Atlanta:
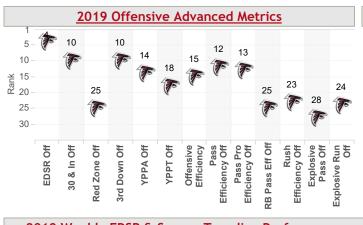
Decreased their passer rating allowed from 115 to 76 (by far the best improvement)
Decreased their TD:INT ratio from 19:2 to 10:9 (by far the best improvement)
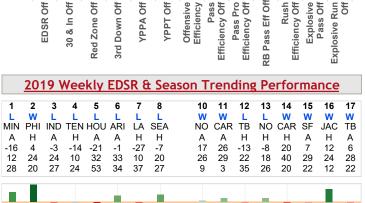
2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics
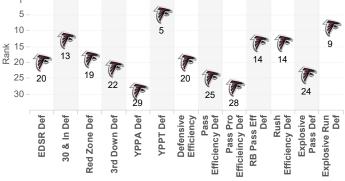
2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	L	W	L	L	L	L	L	L		W	W	L	L	W	W	W	W
OPP	MIN	PHI	IND	TEN	HOU	ARI	LA	SEA		NO	CAR	TB	NO	CAR	SF	JAC	TB
SITE	A	H	A	H	A	A	H	H		A	A	H	H	H	A	H	A
MARGIN	-16	4	-3	-14	-21	-1	-27	-7		17	26	-13	-8	20	7	12	6
PTS	12	24	24	10	32	33	10	20		26	29	22	18	40	29	24	28
OPP PTS	28	20	27	24	53	34	37	27		9	3	35	26	20	22	12	22

WEEK
RESULT
OPP
SITE
MARGIN
PTS
OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **7**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-2**

FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**

FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-4**

1 Score Games Win %: **43% (#21)**

1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **43% (#17)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-5
TO Given	25
INT Given	15
FUM Given	10
TO Taken	20
INT Taken	12
FUM Taken	8
Sack Margin	-22
Sacks	28
Sacks Allow	50
Return TD Margin	-1
Ret TDs	3
Ret TDs Allow	4
Penalty Margin	+8
Penalties	119
Opponent Penalties	127

Atlanta Falcons 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD

EASY

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank)

Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

Average Opponent / RANK

Chart categories (Ease for Offense):
- Total Efficiency — 2019: 4, 2020: 1
- DEF Efficiency — 2019: 7, 2020: 11
- Pass Efficiency DEF — 2019: 7, 2020: 3 *(Passing)*
- YPPA Def — 2019: 14, 2020: 4 *(Passing)*
- Explosive Pass DEF — 2019: 13, 2020: 5 *(Passing)*
- Pass Pro Efficiency DEF — 2019: 11, 2020: 2 *(Passing)*
- Rush Efficiency DEF — 2019: 18, 2020: 8 *(Rushing)*
- Explosive Rush DEF — 2019: 24, 2020: 12 *(Rushing)*
- RB Pass Eff DEF — 2019: 11, 2020: 6 *(Rushing)*
- Red Zone Blend DEF — 2019: 28, 2020: 25
- YPPT Def — 2019: 32
- Third Down Conv DEF — 2019: 30, 2020: 28

Chart categories (Ease for Defense):
- OFF Efficiency — 2019: 7, 2020: 1
- Pass Efficiency OFF — 2019: 10, 2020: 1 *(Passing)*
- YPPA Off — 2019: 7, 2020: 1 *(Passing)*
- Explosive Pass OFF — 2019: 6, 2020: 4 *(Passing)*
- Pass Pro Efficiency OFF — 2019: 23 *(Passing)*
- Rush Efficiency OFF — 2019: 14, 2020: 2 *(Rushing)*
- Explosive Rush OFF — 2019: 24, 2020: 5 *(Rushing)*
- RB Pass Eff OFF — 2020: 2 *(Rushing)*
- Red Zone Blend OFF — 2020: 2
- YPPT Off — 2019: 9, 2020: 2
- Third Down Conv OFF — 2019: 6, 2020: 3

Legend
- ⊙ 2019 Actual
- 🦅 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
15	19	32	9	7	7	28	28

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	2.2	-1.0	-3.7
Average O/U line	49.3	50.4	48.6
Straight Up Record	7-9	7-9	10-6
Against the Spread Record	7-8	5-10	7-9
Over/Under Record	7-9	9-7	4-11
ATS as Favorite	2-3	4-6	6-7
ATS as Underdog	4-5	1-4	1-2
Straight Up Home	3-5	4-4	5-3
ATS Home	3-4	3-5	5-3
Over/Under Home	2-6	5-3	2-6
ATS as Home Favorite	2-2	3-5	5-3
ATS as a Home Dog	1-2	0-0	0-0
Straight Up Away	4-4	3-5	5-3
ATS Away	4-4	2-5	2-6
Over/Under Away	5-3	4-4	2-5
ATS Away Favorite	0-1	1-1	1-4
ATS Away Dog	3-3	1-4	1-2
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	10-6	12-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-5	12-3
Ten Point Teaser Record	11-5	13-3	13-3

ATL-3

Decreased their pass success rate allowed from 57% to 49% (second-best improvement)
Increased their sack rate from 2.7% to 6.9% (second-best improvement)
Decreased their YPA allowed from 8.6 to 7.0 (fifth-best improvement)

Atlanta was bottom-5 in those pass metrics and made the best improvement in the NFL combined.

And as goes passing…

Atlanta's third down conversion rate dropped from 53% to 38%, moving from 32nd to first and Atlanta's red zone conversion rate dropped from 66% to 38%, moving from 32nd to fifth with the best improvement in the NFL.

Thanks in large part to defensive effort, the Falcons closed out the season 6-2 and recorded wins over two of the very best the NFL has to offer: the Saints and 49ers, and did so on the road in both wins.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	1
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	-1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	-1
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	-4
Week 11 Edge	7
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	5
2018 Rk	18
2019 v 2018 Rk	8
Off Rk	5
Def Rk	18
QB Rk	18
RB Rk	13
WR Rk	10
TE Rk	17
Oline Rk	9
Dline Rk	7
LB Rk	1
DB Rk	30

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	SEA	DAL	CHI	GB	CAR	MIN	DET	CAR	DEN	NO	LVR	NO	LAC	TB	KC	TB
Line	1	7	-2	6	-7	6	-4	-1	-4	8.5	-4	3.5	2	2	10.5	6.5
H/A	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	H	A	A

Avg = 1.9

Home Lines

Week	1	3	5	7	9	12	13	15
Opp	SEA	CHI	CAR	DET	DEN	LVR	NO	TB
Line	1	-2	-7	-4	-4	-4	3.5	2

Avg = -1.8

Road Lines

Week	2	4	6	8	11	14	16	17
Opp	DAL	GB	MIN	CAR	NO	LAC	KC	TB
Line	7	6	6	-1	8.5	2	10	6.5

Avg = 5.7

The 2020 defense will look different from a personnel perspective. Gone are **Vic Beasley Jr.**, **Desmond Trufant**, **Adrian Clayborn**, and **De'Vondre Campbell**. In are **Dante Fowler Jr.** and two rookies, **A.J. Terrell** and **Marlon Davidson**.

But the question is, will the defense be as good as it was in the second half of 2019? And to answer that question, I look at the numbers that got us started down the Falcons defensive rabbit hole: EDSR.

The Falcons improved tremendously on third downs, but on early downs, the Falcons turned a 50% success rate, 7.7 YPA, and 3.9 YPC over the first half of the season into 52% success, 7.3 YPA, and 4.8 YPC over the second half of the season.

In other words, the improvement on third downs greatly overshadowed their performance on early downs, and early down performance is more correlated to a true measure of a defense's overall efficiency and is more repeatable.

On early downs, Atlanta finished the season ranked 29th overall, the same as 2018 and not really any better than in any other year under Dan Quinn.

Unfortunately for the Falcons, after facing the NFL's seventh-toughest schedule of offenses and tenth-toughest passing offenses, I project Atlanta will face the NFL's toughest schedule of offenses including the toughest schedule of pass offenses.

If Atlanta's defense somehow takes what they did on third down and overlays that into early downs, they might be able to take some of the pressure off their offense. But absent that, the 2020 Falcons are going to be very much like the 2015-2019 Falcons who needed to rely on their offense to win most games.

The Falcons offense was the fifth-healthiest in 2019 and finished league-average in almost every key metric. They landed 15th in overall efficiency and 12th in EDSR. They return all five starters along the offensive line. That may not be the best thing, as **Matt Ryan** was pressured fifth-most of any quarterback last year.

The Falcons passed often on first down last year, recording a 58% pass rate on first downs, highest in the NFL. One those plays, they produced a 56% success rate and 8.1 YPA, both well above the NFL average. However, when they handed off to **Devonta Freeman** on first and long, it was a disaster. Freeman gained just 3.5 YPC and a 36% success rate. He had nearly 100 carries on first and long last year. Just 16% of drives that started with a Freeman run ended with a TD. Compare that to 24% for other running backs and 25% for any pass play.
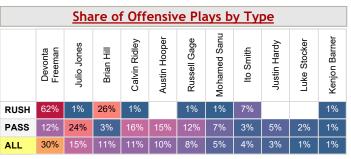
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
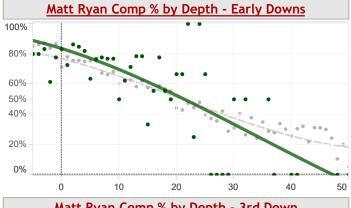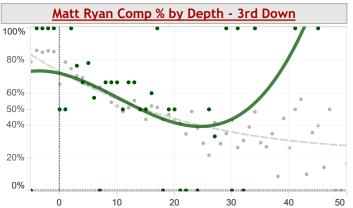
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Devonta Freeman	14%	15%	64%	5%	3%
	Julio Jones		50%			50%
	Brian Hill	14%		45%	13%	28%
	Calvin Ridley			100%		
	Russell Gage	25%		50%	25%	
	Mohamed Sanu	50%	50%			
	Ito Smith	32%	5%	59%	5%	
	Kenjon Barner			50%	25%	25%
	Total	**15%**	**10%**	**57%**	**7%**	**10%**
PASS	Devonta Freeman	31%	20%	37%	8%	5%
	Julio Jones	19%	15%	46%	11%	9%
	Brian Hill	43%	14%	29%		14%
	Calvin Ridley	28%	16%	48%	2%	6%
	Austin Hooper	37%	8%	41%	8%	5%
	Russell Gage	30%	10%	46%	10%	3%
	Mohamed Sanu	50%	18%	32%		
	Ito Smith	50%		50%		
	Justin Hardy	42%	8%	35%	15%	
	Luke Stocker	42%	17%	25%		17%
	Kenjon Barner	33%	33%	33%		
	Total	**31%**	**14%**	**42%**	**7%**	**6%**

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Devonta Freeman	Julio Jones	Brian Hill	Calvin Ridley	Austin Hooper	Russell Gage	Mohamed Sanu	Ito Smith	Justin Hardy	Luke Stocker	Kenjon Barner
RUSH	62%	1%	26%	1%		1%	1%	7%			1%
PASS	12%	24%	3%	16%	15%	12%	7%	3%	5%	2%	1%
ALL	30%	15%	11%	11%	10%	8%	5%	4%	3%	1%	1%

Matt Ryan Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Matt Ryan Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% — 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	47%, 0.09 (525)	51%, 0.06 (90)	58%, 0.14 (52)	67%, -0.45 (9)	33%, -0.16 (36)	71%, 0.71 (7)	0%, -0.88 (2)	43%, -0.03 (7)	48%, 0.07 (728)
RUSH	45%, -0.02 (136)	50%, -0.05 (78)	39%, -0.11 (77)	37%, -0.30 (35)	29%, -0.24 (7)	42%, -0.05 (19)	56%, 0.16 (9)		44%, -0.07 (361)
All	47%, 0.07 (661)	51%, 0.01 (168)	47%, -0.01 (129)	43%, -0.33 (44)	33%, -0.17 (43)	50%, 0.15 (26)	45%, -0.03 (11)	43%, -0.03 (7)	47%, 0.02 (1,089)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Devonta Freeman	44% (54) 5.3, -0.01	78% (9) 11.0, 0.55	20% (5) 0.2, -1.91	50% (2) 7.0, 0.60	47% (70) 5.7, -0.06
	Ito Smith	31% (13) 6.3, 0.12	100% (1) 5.0, 0.37			36% (14) 6.2, 0.14
TE	Austin Hooper	61% (66) 7.6, 0.28	59% (17) 7.8, -0.01	60% (5) 8.0, 0.34		60% (88) 7.7, 0.23
WR	Julio Jones	53% (108) 8.0, 0.31	70% (20) 13.3, 0.66	62% (21) 9.9, 0.40	33% (3) 16.0, 1.11	56% (152) 9.1, 0.38
	Calvin Ridley	57% (69) 8.3, 0.39	78% (9) 14.3, 0.85	71% (7) 14.7, 0.89	60% (5) 9.6, 0.95	60% (90) 9.5, 0.51
	Russell Gage	51% (61) 6.2, 0.22	25% (4) 2.0, -0.27	100% (1) 11.0, 0.71	50% (4) 6.8, -0.09	50% (70) 6.1, 0.18
	Mohamed Sanu	58% (33) 7.4, 0.31	33% (3) 4.7, -0.02	100% (5) 8.0, 0.48	0% (1) 14.0, 0.78	60% (42) 7.5, 0.32

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Freeman Devonta	33% (64) 2.7, -0.29	43% (42) 3.6, -0.15	44% (43) 4.0, -0.06	57% (14) 3.3, -0.28	40% (163) 3.3, -0.19
Hill Brian	43% (35) 5.3, 0.02	61% (18) 5.1, 0.10	20% (15) 1.9, -0.14	33% (3) 0.3, -0.31	42% (71) 4.3, -0.01
Ryan Matt	67% (18) 7.4, 0.54	60% (5) 2.8, 0.13	0% (2) -1.0, -0.91	0% (7) -1.0, -0.75	47% (32) 4.3, 0.10
Smith Ito	64% (11) 5.9, 0.33	25% (4) 4.8, -0.07	50% (2) 2.5, 0.06	50% (2) 4.5, 0.26	53% (19) 5.2, 0.21

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	58% (306) 8.1, 0.30
M2M	52% (130) 7.6, 0.22
Screen	40% (45) 6.0, -0.04

Passing by Route

Curl	62% (110) 7.3, 0.35
Out	60% (104) 6.9, 0.32
Dig	54% (59) 7.4, 0.16
Screen	38% (48) 5.1, -0.10
Slant	68% (41) 9.1, 0.50
Flat	53% (34) 6.5, 0.31

Throw Types

Level 1	56% (464) 7.0, 0.27
Level 2	50% (123) 9.0, 0.12
Level 3	42% (36) 12.7, 0.45
Sidearm	33% (9) 2.3, -0.82
Shovel	14% (7) 3.4, -0.23

QB Drop Types

3 Step	54% (317) 7.4, 0.27
5 Step	53% (117) 8.8, 0.30
0/1 Step	54% (113) 6.0, 0.12
7 Step	53% (34) 9.9, 0.39
Basic Screen	54% (26) 8.6, 0.41
Designed Rollout Right	50% (16) 9.5, -0.14

QB State at Pass

Planted	55% (508) 8.0, 0.26
Shuffling	39% (109) 5.7, -0.04
Moving	44% (61) 6.3, 0.28

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	53% (104) 8.3, 0.06	54% (92) 7.9, 0.07
Shotgun	54% (46) 6.8, -0.04	45% (486) 7.2, 0.08
ALL	53% (150) 7.9, 0.03	47% (578) 7.3, 0.08

Run Types

Inside Zone	50% (68) 4.6, 0.04
Outside Zone	41% (64) 3.1, -0.15
Lead	25% (40) 2.8, -0.28
Pitch	46% (39) 4.1, -0.05
Power	55% (31) 4.5, 0.09
Stretch	67% (9) 5.1, 0.11

ATL-5

And in terms of any score (factoring in FGs), Freeman was 29% vs 41% for other running back runs and 48% for passes.

Freeman has been replaced with **Todd Gurley** and it's not a move that made waves like it might have in years past, and I'm certainly not excited to see how it shakes out given what we saw from Gurley last season. Atlanta used a lot of two-back sets to run the ball in 2019, using 2+ backs on 121 rushing attempts, the eighth-highest number in the NFL. The problem was, they were terrible with two backs. From 21 or 22 personnel, the Falcons recorded a 38% success rate and just 2.6 YPC, both numbers that ranked dead last of 18 teams with over 50 attempts in 2-back sets in 2019.

Adding to the problem is that Gurley has little experience running in two-back sets. So while the Falcons use the eighth-most two-back sets, the Rams literally had zero running back runs with two-backs since Sean McVay came to town in 2017. Much of Gurley's success with the McVay Rams came from spreading the defense out with receivers and clearing out the box.

The Falcons played the fourth-toughest schedule of opponents in 2019 and went 7-9. It gets no easier in 2020, as they are projected to face the NFL's toughest schedule. And it's potentially even worse than it looks.

The "weakest" team on their schedule is the rebuilding Panthers. But there is a very real chance the only other three teams forecast to post losing records (Broncos, Lions, and Raiders) are definitely better than they were in 2019. Every single other opponent is projected to win at least eight games. Their two primetime games are both on the road and they also play a road Thursday night game.

They start the season with four extremely important non-division NFC games (Seahawks, Cowboys, Bears, and Packers). With the Falcons' most likely chance of making the playoffs being the Wild Card, dropping games to other NFC Wild Card contenders would be a terrible way to start the season.

And then there's the close to the season. After the bye, they face the Saints twice in three weeks and Tom Brady's Buccaneers twice in two weeks, with a road game against the Chiefs mixed in for good measure. It's by far the NFL's toughest schedule from Week 11 onward.

I currently project them to face the third-toughest schedule of pass defenses (played the seventh-toughest last year) and the toughest schedule of pass offenses (played tenth-toughest last year). Against pass offenses that ranked league average or better in 2019, the Falcons went 2-7. They play 10 games against league average or better pass offenses from 2019, but if we forecast the Bucs pass offense improves from 18th and the Bears, without Mitch Trubisky, improves from 20th, the Falcons defense very well may play 13 games against top-half pass offenses.

Atlanta Falcons 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

With 4,466 yards (sixth in the league) in 2019, **Matt Ryan** has now thrown for over 4,000 yards in nine consecutive seasons. But even with all of those passing yards, Ryan did lose some efficiency a year ago, posting his lowest yards per pass attempt (7.3) in a season since 2013. Atlanta still had a positive passing game, ranked 12th in success rate per passing play (48%) in 2018, but have now gone from second to third to fifth and now 12th in that area over the past four seasons, continuing a gradual trend. Ryan had a few things working against him. He was sacked on a career-high 7.2% of his dropbacks and took a career-high 48 sacks. Also, Ryan picked up an ankle injury in Week 7 and missed a game for the first time since 2009. Atlanta traded **Mohamed Sanu** after seven games and all of **Julio Jones** (one game), **Calvin Ridley** (three), and **Austin Hooper** (three) missed full games and left other games early over the course of the final eight weeks of the season.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Matt Ryan	406	614	66%	4,434	7.2	25	14	48	91	19
Matt Schaub	50	67	75%	580	8.7	3	1	2	109	4
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Matt Ryan	47%	48%	46	7.0%	15	2.0%	6.9	4.0	24	4%
Matt Schaub	58%	60%	5	7.0%	2	3.0%	6.3	5.3	1	1%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Matt Ryan Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down
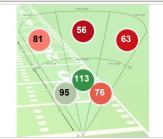
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.3%	2.2%	0.0%	1.6%
10 - 14	2.6%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
15+	0.0%	3.0%	4.0%		2.8%
Total	2.3%	2.6%	1.2%	0.0%	2.1%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Matt Ryan	9.4	6.8	-2.6	69%	13
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
63%	37%	6
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook
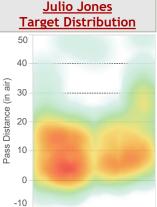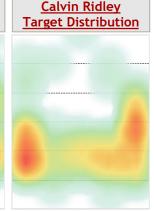
No team threw more passes to wide receivers (420) in 2019 than the Falcons, whose wide receivers ranked sixth in the league in collective success rate per target (55%). The tight ends were also strong as they ranked fifth (60%) in success rate. The one area where they struggled compared to the league was their backfield ranked 25th in success rate per target (41%) despite ranking 16th in the league in overall targets to the position. Star wideout Julio Jones and Calvin Ridley still form one the league's best 1-2 punches, while the team added **Hayden Hurst** and **Todd Gurley** to replace the vacated roles left from the departures of Austin Hooper and **Devonta Freeman** while there is still no solid plan for matching the production in the role Sanu held.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Julio Jones	156	63%	8.9	91.7	56%	38	70	19	103	4
Austin Hooper	97	77%	8.1	112.3	62%	10	5	94	45	5
Calvin Ridley	93	68%	9.3	113.5	59%	19	86	44	82	6
Russell Gage	74	66%	6.0	81.3	49%	85	114	126	7	1
Devonta Freeman	71	83%	5.8	103.6	46%	99	27	127	42	2

Julio Jones Target Distribution

Calvin Ridley Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Atlanta run game checked in at 24th in success rate rushing as a team (45%) and 26th in yards per rushing play (3.8 yards). The Falcons backfield combined to rush for 73.2 yards per game, which ranked 29th in the league and those running backs averaged just 4.4 yards per touch, which ranked 27th. The team has swapped out **Devonta Freeman** for **Todd Gurley** as the lead back in the offense. Gurley lost 3.1 yards per catch, 1.1 yards per carry, and 1.6 yards per touch from his 2018 per play output. His 44% success rate and 3.8 yards per carry barely edged Freeman's 42% rate and 3.6 YPC a year ago. Still only 26 years old, Gurley will look to bounce back in a new environment while the overall rushing depth here is still a concern.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Devonta Freeman	184	3.6	41%	69	50	29	59	40%	70	2
Brian Hill	78	4.1	44%	60	69	51	17	46%	44	2

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Wide Open Passing Game Opportunity
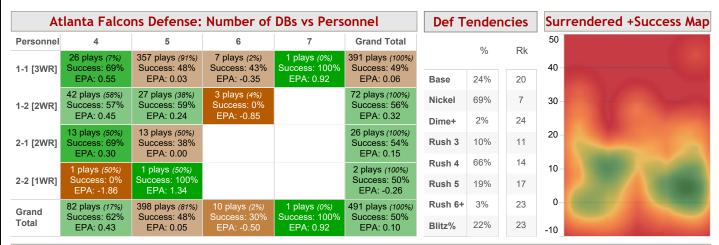
No team has more overall vacated targets (258) and percentage of targets (39.3%) from their 2019 offense than the Falcons. We also can bet on this offense being one of the top offenses overall in terms of passing volume. In the four seasons paired with Dirk Koetter, Matt Ryan has ranked first (41.1), second (39.3), second (40.7), and sixth (38.4) in pass attempts per game.

Of course Julio Jones is still the star here, but the first player that should immediately benefit from the canyon of opportunity available is third-year wideout Calvin Ridley. Ridley has only 92 and 93 targets over his first two seasons in the league. Those 185 targets are good for 33rd among all wide receivers over that span, but Ridley has outproduced his early-career opportunity by ranking 25th in yards per target (9.1 yards), 17th in catch rate (68.6%), 22nd in overall PPR fantasy points scored, and sixth in touchdown receptions (17). In 2019 Ridley ranked eighth among all wide receivers with 50-plus targets in success rate (59%) and he averaged 17.8 PPR points per game over his six games played after Mohamed Sanu was traded, receiving 18.8% of the team targets after 15.3% of the team targets over his 23 career games prior. With so much available opportunity, Ridley should easily smash through 100-plus targets in his third season.

While Atlanta has cleared a league-leading amount of targets off the books from 2019, the types of targets left are primarily on the intermediate level and near the line of scrimmage. Despite having the most missing targets, Atlanta is 13th in vacated air yards (23.9%) from a year ago. With the crux of those coming from Austin Hooper, newly acquired Hayden Hurst is set to have his first real taste of opportunity in the NFL.

Hurst was traded from the team that ran the fewest offensive passing plays in the league in Baltimore (467) to the team that ran the most in the league in Atlanta (735) a year ago. Hurst was already set to see a major target spike in clearing his 62 career targets in his first season with Atlanta, but then the team went without adding any wide receiver depth via the draft, leaving Hurst to contend with the likes of **Russell Gage** and **Laquon Treadwell** for intermediate targets in the offense. Gage got burn to close last season after the team traded away Sanu, but averaged a measly 9.1 yards per catch and 6.0 yards per target while ranking 58th in the league in success rate (49%) at his position.

The Falcons targeted their tight ends 17.7% of the time and 9.0 times per game in 2019, while they have finished 13th or better in the league in success rate targeting their tight ends in each of the past four seasons. Hurst ranked first among all tight ends in success rate per target (67%) with 25 or more targets in 2019 and ranked 12th among all tight ends in yards per route run playing a limited role behind Mark Andrews last season as he is set up to make a TE1-level jump in usage in his third season in the league.

Atlanta Falcons Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	26 plays (7%) Success: 69% EPA: 0.55	357 plays (91%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.03	7 plays (2%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.35	1 plays (0%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.92	391 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.06
1-2 [2WR]	42 plays (58%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.45	27 plays (38%) Success: 59% EPA: 0.24	3 plays (4%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.85		72 plays (100%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.32
2-1 [2WR]	13 plays (50%) Success: 69% EPA: 0.30	13 plays (50%) Success: 38% EPA: 0.00			26 plays (100%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.15
2-2 [1WR]	1 plays (50%) Success: 0% EPA: -1.86	1 plays (50%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.34			2 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.26
Grand Total	82 plays (17%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.43	398 plays (81%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.05	10 plays (2%) Success: 30% EPA: -0.50	1 plays (0%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.92	491 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.10

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	24%	20
Nickel	69%	7
Dime+	2%	24
Rush 3	10%	11
Rush 4	66%	14
Rush 5	19%	17
Rush 6+	3%	23
Blitz%	22%	23

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

As explained earlier in the chapter, few defenses have taken more talent and done less with it than the Falcons over the past few seasons. There are quality players at each level of the field but injuries have derailed some progress and there is rarely a time when all are playing well for a significant stretch of a season.

Grady Jarrett is a star inside. He was second behind Aaron Donald in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate last season as he single-handedly gave the Falcons a pass rush. With Jarrett on the field, it doesn't matter that there's not much other pass rush coming from the interior. **Deadrin Senat** could bring some pass rush and could become a rotational player after not seeing much of the field as a rookie. Auburn's **Marlon Davidson** was drafted in the second round and he brings the ability to play both on the inside and on the edge.

For the first time in a while, the Falcons have two legitimate edge rushers. After spending years trying to make **Vic Beasley** a thing, Atlanta went out and signed **Dante Fowler** to play across from **Takk McKinley**. Fowler has run hot and cold throughout his career but finished ninth among edge rushers in Pass Rush Win Rate last season. However, there's little depth behind those two.

Deion Jones remains one of the best modern linebackers with coverage ability but the Falcons have struggled to put decent players next to him. Not giving snaps to **De'Vondre Campbell**, who was a liability in coverage, should improve the group by default. But again, there's not a lot of quality around Jones and the Falcons aren't a team that plays a lot of Dime (just 2% last season), so those linebackers are an important part of the defense. Fourth-round pick **Mykal Walker** could be a weapon after blitzing on 45% of his pass snaps at Fresno State in 2019.

Atlanta reached for Clemson cornerback **A.J. Terrell** in the first-round but cornerback was a desperate need for this team. Terrell and second-year corner **Kendall Sheffield** will likely be the opening day starters on the outside. Sheffield held up well for a rookie in 2019 — 34th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap among 92 corners with 300+ coverage snaps — and Falcons decision-makers have been high in praise. **Isaiah Oliver** did not hold up as well in his second season, his first as a 16-game starter.

Keanu Neal is great when healthy, but he's played four games over the past two seasons and will be trying to come back from an Achilles tear. **Ricardo Allen** and **Domontae Kazee** teamed up to play a good enough deep safety — the Falcons were around league average in EPA against deep passes last year per. Still, there's some concern about how the team feels about Neal's recovery and whether an Allen-Kazee duo could work as a starting tandem with both more experienced as free safeties playing deep. Cal safety **Jaylinn Hawkins** was added to the depth chart in the fourth round of the draft.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	67%
All Pass Rk	1
All Rush %	33%
All Rush Rk	32
1 Score Pass %	63%
1 Score Pass Rk	3
2018 1 Score Pass %	64%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	5
2019 Pass Increase %	-1%
Pass Increase Rk	23
1 Score Rush %	37%
1 Score Rush Rk	30
Up Pass %	59%
Up Pass Rk	1
Up Rush %	41%
Up Rush Rk	32
Down Pass %	73%
Down Pass Rk	2
Down Rush %	27%
Down Rush Rk	31

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	3	0%	100%	67%
	Med (4-7)	12	42%	58%	67%
	Long (8-10)	335	56%	44%	47%
	XL (11+)	17	59%	41%	29%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	28	18%	82%	75%
	Med (4-7)	76	61%	39%	53%
	Long (8-10)	105	72%	28%	39%
	XL (11+)	53	85%	15%	32%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	33	55%	45%	67%
	Med (4-7)	47	96%	4%	49%
	Long (8-10)	35	94%	6%	37%
	XL (11+)	35	89%	11%	9%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	7	43%	57%	43%
	Med (4-7)	1	0%	100%	100%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	44%	56%

37% *AVG* *63%*

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	58%	14%

68% *AVG* *23%*

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	42%	86%

32% *AVG* *77%*

Atlanta Falcons 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
81%	3	66%	77%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
19%	30	34%	83%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ito Smith	2	50%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	4	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	98	36%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	3	100%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	13	85%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	16	38%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	16	31%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Calvin Ridley	7	57%
			Russell Gage	7	29%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	5	80%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Julio Jones	10	60%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Julio Jones	7	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Julio Jones	5	40%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 47% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 99.1 *[Att: 436 - Rate: 59.9%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 73.3 *[Att: 73 - Rate: 10.0%]*	Success: 47% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.05 Rtg: 95.4 *[Att: 509 - Rate: 69.9%]*
Yes	Success: 46% YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 88.0 *[Att: 142 - Rate: 19.5%]*	Success: 57% YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.20 Rtg: 108.2 *[Att: 77 - Rate: 10.6%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 95.4 *[Att: 219 - Rate: 30.1%]*
Total	Success: 47% YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 96.5 *[Att: 578 - Rate: 79.4%]*	Success: 53% YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 91.4 *[Att: 150 - Rate: 20.6%]*	Success: 48% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 95.4 *[Att: 728 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates
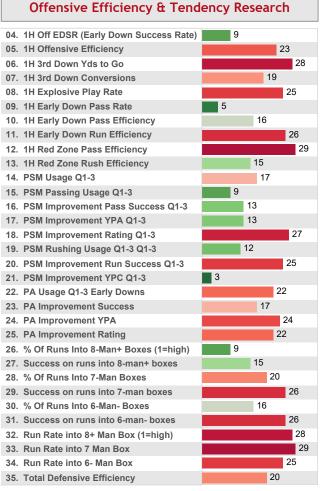
Wk	Opp	Score	Julio Jones	Austin Hooper	Calvin Ridley	Devonta Freeman	Russell Gage	Mohamed Sanu	Christian Blake	Brian Hill	Justin Hardy	Ito Smith
1	MIN	L 28-12	53 (68%)	62 (79%)	61 (78%)	39 (50%)	13 (17%)	66 (85%)			22 (28%)	39 (50%)
2	PHI	W 24-20	54 (82%)	50 (76%)	42 (64%)	41 (62%)	9 (14%)	55 (83%)			11 (17%)	25 (38%)
3	IND	L 27-24	46 (75%)	54 (89%)	46 (75%)	55 (90%)	9 (15%)	50 (82%)			5 (8%)	3 (5%)
4	TEN	L 24-10	63 (79%)	66 (83%)	60 (75%)	50 (63%)	14 (18%)	63 (79%)			14 (18%)	30 (38%)
5	HOU	L 53-32	56 (76%)	62 (84%)	61 (82%)	40 (54%)	16 (22%)	62 (84%)			9 (12%)	35 (47%)
6	ARI	L 34-33	47 (68%)	53 (77%)	41 (59%)	50 (72%)	13 (19%)	47 (68%)			9 (13%)	18 (26%)
7	LA	L 37-10	41 (71%)	50 (91%)	36 (65%)	31 (56%)	11 (20%)	47 (85%)	17 (31%)		10 (18%)	3 (5%)
8	SEA	L 27-20	62 (78%)	70 (88%)	64 (80%)	64 (80%)	47 (59%)		14 (18%)	11 (14%)	12 (15%)	
10	NO	W 26-9	63 (80%)	58 (73%)	70 (89%)	30 (38%)	49 (62%)		15 (19%)	40 (51%)	4 (5%)	
11	CAR	W 29-3	53 (82%)		52 (80%)		31 (48%)		10 (15%)	39 (60%)	12 (18%)	
12	TB	L 35-22	49 (56%)		74 (85%)	64 (74%)			38 (44%)	51 (59%)	15 (17%)	
13	NO	L 26-18			87 (94%)	62 (67%)	63 (68%)		83 (89%)	24 (26%)	26 (28%)	
14	CAR	W 40-20	58 (81%)	47 (65%)	38 (53%)	48 (67%)	37 (51%)		12 (17%)	14 (19%)	12 (17%)	
15	SF	W 29-22	59 (88%)	55 (82%)		53 (79%)	51 (76%)		57 (85%)	10 (15%)	5 (7%)	
16	JAC	W 24-12	57 (76%)	52 (69%)		58 (77%)	38 (51%)		43 (57%)	14 (19%)	21 (28%)	
17	TB	W 28-22	73 (82%)	64 (72%)		54 (61%)	62 (70%)		67 (75%)	18 (20%)	12 (13%)	
	Grand Total		834 (76%)	743 (79%)	732 (75%)	675 (65%)	527 (43%)	390 (81%)	339 (47%)	238 (31%)	199 (16%)	153 (30%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	61%	60%	47%
1-2 [2WR]	15%	20%	51%
2-1 [2WR]	12%	8%	47%
2-2 [1WR]	4%	4%	43%
1-0 [4WR]	4%	3%	33%
1-3 [1WR]	2%	3%	50%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	79%	47%	45%
1-2 [2WR]	54%	51%	50%
2-1 [2WR]	40%	58%	39%
2-2 [1WR]	20%	67%	37%
1-0 [4WR]	84%	33%	29%
1-3 [1WR]	27%	71%	42%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Austin Hooper	14	2	5	7
Russell Gage	13	1		12
Julio Jones	12	2	4	6
Devonta Freeman	8		3	5
Calvin Ridley	7		2	5
Mohamed Sanu	4		1	3
Brian Hill	3		1	2
Ito Smith	3			3

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Devonta Freeman	22	1	2	19
Qadree Ollison	13	6	2	5
Brian Hill	10	2	2	6
Ito Smith	9	4	1	4
Matt Ryan	4	1		3
Keith Smith	2			2

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	18%	20%	62%
	23%	*21%*	*56%*
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	41%	60%	55%
	#25	#5	#6

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	6
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-4.0
03. Wins	7

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	9
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	23
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	28
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	19
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	25
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	5
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	16
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	26
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	29
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	15
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	17
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	9
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	13
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	13
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	27
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	12
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	25
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	3
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	22
23.	PA Improvement Success	17
24.	PA Improvement YPA	24
25.	PA Improvement Rating	22
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	9
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	15
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	20
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	26
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	16
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	26
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	28
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	29
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	25
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	20

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.7
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.9
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.5
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.4
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	54%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	52%
42.	PSM Rating	94.5
43.	Non-PSM Rating	95.4

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	33%
45.	PA Success Rate	55%
46.	PA YPA	8.0
47.	PA Sack Rate	4.9%
48.	PA Rating	79.2
49.	PA Target Depth	10.3
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	50%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.2%
53.	Non-PA Rating	79.7
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.1

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	28%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	42%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.7
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	42%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.7
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	31%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	42%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	24	defFUM	22
Net FROE	-2.5	defFUM Rcvrd	8
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	27
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR%	36.4%
offFR%	52.4%	defFROE	-2.2
offFR Rk	16	defFROE Rk	28
offFROE	-0.3		
offFROE Rk	16		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	80%	YOY Swing	-4%
2019 FG Rk	19	YOY Swing Rk	21
Opp 2019 FG %	88%	2018 Team Net	-4%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	5	2018 Net Rk	21
2019 Team Net	-8%		
2019 Net Rk	27		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Matt Ryan
CAY	6.8
CAY Rk	6
2018 CAY Rk	6
AYTS Rk	23
2018 AYTS Rk	14
AGG Rk	19
2018 AGG Rk	17
COMP%	66.2
xCOMP%	64.8
xCOMP% Rk	16
2018 xCOMP% Rk	20
CPOE%	1.4
CPOE Rk	10
2018 CPOE Rk	4
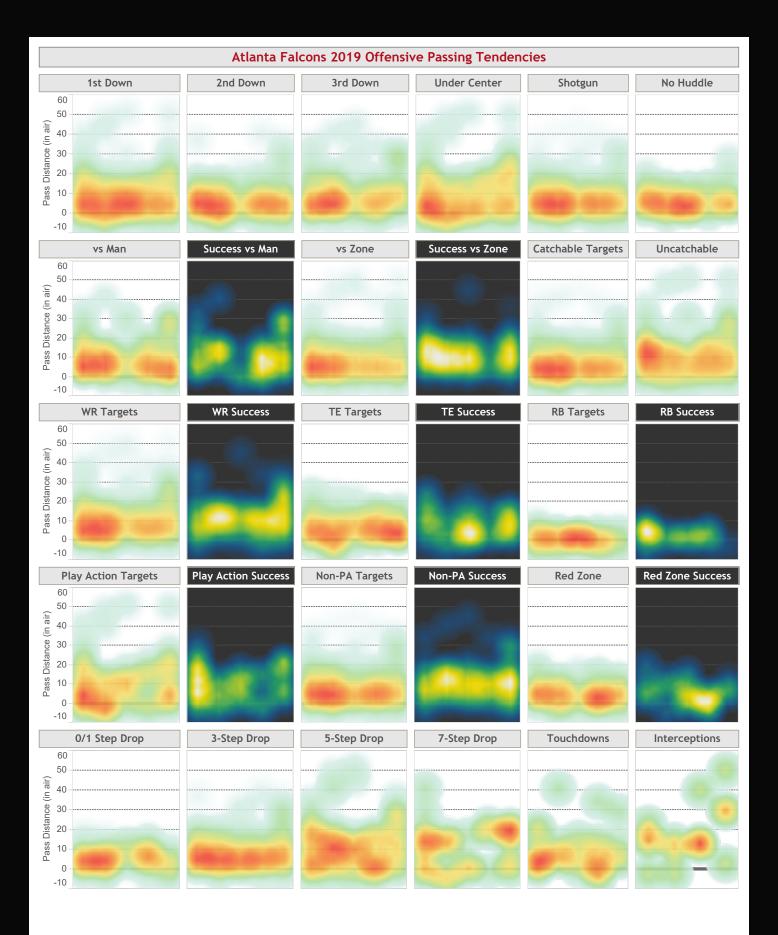
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Matt Ryan
Pressure %	39.2
Pressure Rk	5
Sack %	17.8
Sack Rk	19
Under Pressure Accuracy %	66.5
Pressure Accuracy Rk	11
Rating when Pressured	73.8
Pressured Rating Rk	16
Clean Accuracy %	80.9
Clean Accuracy Rk	11
Rating when Clean	101.5
Clean Rating Rk	18
Time to Throw	2.77
Time to Throw Rk	24

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.08
EPA/Pass Rk	11
EPA/Rush	-0.08
EPA/Rush Rk	22
On-Target Catch %	86.4
On-Target Catch Rk	13
Drop%	5
Drop Rk	2
YAC/Att	2
YAC/Att Rk	27
Rush Broken Tackle %	12.7
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	28
Rush 1st Down %	23.5
Rush 1st Down Rk	15

Atlanta Falcons 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Baltimore Ravens

And there are countless others.

Being right on Lamar Jackson was extremely fun, but Jackson was not the only reason the Ravens were dominant.

Two of the most overwhelming reasons for the Ravens success:

First: organizational buy-in to the analytics movement. Second: commitment from the coaching staff, particularly John Harbaugh and Greg Roman, to build entirely around Jackson's unique talents.

The Ravens became the most aggressive offense in the NFL on fourth downs. That's the low-hanging fruit. One of the other things that goes less discussed is the race to a halftime lead. It's a principle I've preached for several years now. The correlation of a halftime lead with winning the game is extremely strong (simple enough) but there are fundamental reasons why teams with a halftime lead tend to win more often.

Opposing offenses often will make halftime adjustments to become more desperate in the second half and shift away from their most efficient path to victory. Forcing that upon an opponent is a desired objective.

Here is the irony. What do coaches preach, from high school to the NFL? Turnovers lose games. We must protect the ball and not give it away. And they aren't wrong. Teams that won the turnover battle won 78% of games since 2010. Virtually all NFL coaches preach this message and drive it into the behavior of their players.

But you know what other statistic wins games at the EXACT same rate? Leading at halftime.

Teams leading at halftime won 78% of games since 2010. Identical to winning the turnover battle.

Do you hear any coach preaching first half aggressiveness in order to build a lead at halftime?

The answer had been no, at least as far as I heard. Having spoken with several teams in the league in a consulting capacity, there are now a few coaches who have heard this message and may publicly talk about a goal of building a halftime lead. But this is new and is still very infrequent.

In the first half of games, the Ravens were exceedingly aggressive. In the first half, an astounding 41% of their drives resulted in a touchdown.

While the offense of the Kansas City Chiefs is incredible, they scored touchdowns on 33% of their first half drives. The NFL average was 21%. For more context: the blitzkrieg offense of the 2016 Falcons scored TDs on 33% of their first half drives.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Lamar Jackson	49% 7.0 100.1	51% 7.8 117.5	45% 8.1 106.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	39%	47%	62%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
BAL	53% 5.2	57% 5.8	54% 6.3	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	61%	53%	38%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	
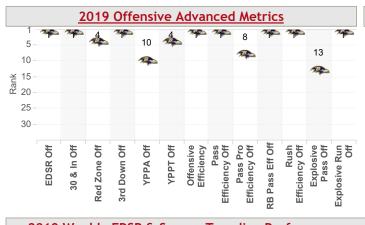
Not since the Tom Brady-Randy Moss-Wes Welker record-setting 2007 Patriots had an offense been as potent in the first half… and what type of weaponry did Lamar Jackson have to work with?

Jackson had two players targeted 50+ times: a rookie WR who started the season injured and was in and out of the lineup frequently due to injury and a second-year TE who entered the season with 34 career receptions.

The fact the offense was as productive and efficient in scoring these touchdowns was fundamentally thanks to it's proficient and extraordinarily diverse rushing attack.

Looking at full season stats skew things with the Ravens offense because they led by multiple scores on average at halftime. As such, they used heavier groupings late and simultaneously went less creative with the offense in general.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	W	W	L	L	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
OPP	MIA	ARI	KC	CLE	PIT	CIN	SEA		NE	CIN	HOU	LA	SF	BUF	NYJ	CLE	PIT
SITE	A	H	A	H	A	H	A		H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H
MARGIN	49	6	-5	-15	3	6	14		17	36	34	39	3	7	21	16	18
PTS	59	23	28	25	26	23	30		37	49	41	45	20	24	42	31	28
OPP PTS	10	17	33	40	23	17	16		20	13	7	6	17	17	21	15	10

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **14**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-0**
FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):
14% (#21)
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **5-1**
1 Score Games Win %: **83% (#3)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **36% (#24)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+10
TO Given	15
INT Given	8
FUM Given	7
TO Taken	25
INT Taken	13
FUM Taken	12
Sack Margin	+7
Sacks	36
Sacks Allow	29
Return TD Margin	+4
Ret TDs	6
Ret TDs Allow	2
Penalty Margin	-12
Penalties	109
Opponent Penalties	97

Baltimore Ravens 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD / EASY — Average Opponent RANK

Categories (Offense side): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Categories (Defense side): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / Rushing groupings

Legend:
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
29	29	18	16	19	19	7	10

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-5.4	-2.6	-2.4
Average O/U line	46.0	44.8	40.6
Straight Up Record	14-2	10-6	9-7
Against the Spread Record	11-5	8-7	9-7
Over/Under Record	8-7	6-9	9-6
ATS as Favorite	8-5	4-6	5-5
ATS as Underdog	3-0	4-0	4-2
Straight Up Home	7-1	6-2	5-3
ATS Home	4-4	3-4	3-5
Over/Under Home	3-4	4-4	5-3
ATS as Home Favorite	3-4	3-4	3-4
ATS as a Home Dog	1-0	0-0	0-1
Straight Up Away	7-1	4-4	4-3
ATS Away	7-1	5-3	6-1
Over/Under Away	5-3	2-5	3-3
ATS Away Favorite	5-1	1-2	2-0
ATS Away Dog	2-0	4-0	4-1
Six Point Teaser Record	14-2	13-3	11-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	14-1	13-3	12-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	15-1	14-2	13-3

BAL-3

Just isolating the first half of games, the Ravens possessed the NFL's

- best rushing offense from 11 personnel
- best rushing offense from 12 personnel
- second-best rushing offense from 21 personnel
- third-best rushing offense from 22 personnel

and the Ravens were the only team with at least 40 attempts from each of those groupings in the first half. That's diversity in attack while being extremely strong at the same time.

In the first half of games, the Ravens averaged 6.9 YPC when running from 11 personnel.

Incredibly, that was a higher yards per play average than the NFL yards per attempt (6.7) when offenses threw the ball in the first half from 11 personnel.

There is a huge value in the mantra I wrote in these pages

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	3
Opp More Rest	4
Net Rest Edge	-1
Week 2 Edge	-3
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	-1
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	7
Week 10 Edge	1
Week 11 Edge	-3
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	3
Week 15 Edge	-1
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	16
2018 Rk	1
2019 v 2018 Rk	31
Off Rk	1
Def Rk	31
QB Rk	20
RB Rk	11
WR Rk	8
TE Rk	11
Oline Rk	3
Dline Rk	7
LB Rk	22
DB Rk	32

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	CLE	HOU	KC	WAS	CIN	PHI	PIT	IND	NE	TEN	PIT	DAL	CLE	JAX	NYG	CIN
H/A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	A	H	H	A	H	H	H	A
Line	-8.5	-5	-2.5	-10	-14	-2.5	-7	-3	-3	-8	-1.5	-7	-3.5	-16	-13	-8.5

Avg = -7.1

Home Lines

1	3	5	7	11	13	15	16
-8.5 CLE	-2.5 KC	-14 CIN	-7 PIT	-8 TEN	-7 DAL	-16 JAX	-13

Avg = -9.5

Road Lines

2	4	6	9	10	12	14	17
-5 HOU	-10 WAS	-2.5 PHI	-3 IND	-3 NE	-1.5 PIT	-3.5 CI	CIN

Avg = -4.6

of the 2019 Ravens preview last summer: "do something different and do it well". There is such a huge edge in zagging while the rest of the NFL zigs. It becomes very difficult for opponents to prepare in under a week for your unique style.

In the first half of games, the Ravens primarily ran QB designed runs, inside zone and Power, but they sprinkled in stretch, lead, duo, and outside zone as well. They gained an absurd 8.2 YPC on outside zone runs and when Jackson carried the ball, he recorded a 67% success rate whether running by design or scrambling due to coverage, and his YPC was between 6.9 YPC and 8.3. The rushing offense averaged the most YPC in the entire Super Bowl era.

Interestingly, in the Ravens' playoff loss last year, a self-inflicted reason that contributed to the loss (aside from flat out bad luck with fourth down conversion rate variance) was not running the ball enough.

Weeks 1-16, opposing defenses typically kept seven men in the box on 50% of the Ravens' early down plays in the first three quarters (NFL average was 44%). On only 27% of runs did defenses have 6 or fewer men in the box against the Ravens' rushing offense (NFL average was 33%).

There were some games defenses played the Ravens differently. Week 3 vs KC, Week 4 vs the Browns, Week 5 vs Pittsburgh, Week 12 vs the Rams, Week 13 vs the 49ers, and Week 15 vs the Jets were six games where opposing defenses kept six or fewer defenders in the box on at least 30% of the Ravens' offensive snaps. The Ravens made them pay. They ran the ball on 55% of their snaps when facing boxes of six or fewer and averaged 7.2 YPA with a 72% success rate.

But in the playoffs, things were different. The Titans put six or fewer defenders in the box on 45% of early downs through three quarters. Well above average. And yet the Ravens did not make them pay.

Against six or fewer box defenders, the Ravens ran the ball just 28% of the time. These runs gained a staggering 8.0 YPC and a 67% success rate. But they passed the ball 72% of the time. And with few box defenders and extra men in coverage, the Ravens' passing attack struggled. Jackson went 11/23 for just 4.2 YPA. He recorded a 57 passer rating and just a 45% success rate.

Even if you exclude all QB runs: against defenses that chose to use six or fewer box defenders at least 25% of the time, the Ravens had run the ball 40% of the time for 5.8 YPC and a 67% success rate on the season.
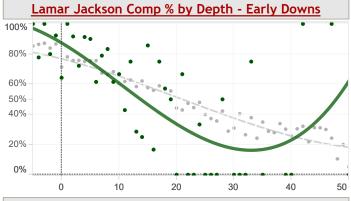
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

| | 2016 Wins | 2017 Wins | 2018 Wins | 2019 Wins | Forecast 2020 Wins |

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
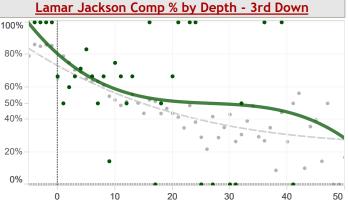
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
PASS	Mark Ingram	7%	11%	56%	11%	15%
	Gus Edwards	25%	13%	50%		13%
	Mark Andrews	12%	4%	61%	4%	18%
	Justice Hill	30%	15%	40%	10%	5%
	Marquise Brown	17%	6%	60%	3%	14%
	Willie Snead	19%	9%	45%	2%	26%
	Hayden Hurst	23%	2%	56%	9%	9%
	Nick Boyle	5%		73%	10%	12%
	Seth Roberts	18%	9%	59%	3%	12%
	Chris Moore	33%		67%		
	Total	16%	6%	58%	5%	15%
RUSH	Mark Ingram	5%	1%	70%	9%	15%
	Gus Edwards	3%	1%	48%	14%	34%
	Justice Hill	2%	2%	36%	16%	45%
	Willie Snead			50%		50%
	Chris Moore			100%		
	De'Anthony Thomas			100%		
	Total	4%	1%	58%	11%	26%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Mark Ingram	Gus Edwards	Mark Andrews	Justice Hill	Marquise Brown	Willie Snead	Hayden Hurst	Nick Boyle	Seth Roberts	Chris Moore	De'Anthony Thomas
PASS	7%	2%	23%	5%	20%	12%	11%	10%	9%	1%	
RUSH	51%	34%		14%		0%				0%	0%
ALL	29%	18%	11%	10%	10%	6%	5%	5%	4%	1%	0%

Lamar Jackson Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Lamar Jackson Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	46%, 0.09 (276)	48%, 0.24 (129)	46%, 0.14 (39)	60%, 0.23 (30)	69%, 0.45 (35)	60%, 0.81 (10)	0%, -1.90 (2)	50%, 0.85 (4)	100%, 1.75 (1)		49%, 0.18 (526)
RUSH	55%, 0.15 (268)	68%, 0.27 (75)	46%, -0.14 (136)	54%, 0.05 (84)	59%, 0.28 (34)	60%, 1.72 (5)	0%, -0.52 (3)			0%, -0.62 (1)	54%, 0.10 (606)
All	50%, 0.12 (544)	55%, 0.25 (204)	46%, -0.08 (175)	55%, 0.10 (114)	64%, 0.37 (69)	60%, 1.12 (15)	0%, -1.07 (5)	50%, 0.85 (4)	100%, 1.75 (1)	0%, -0.62 (1)	#############

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Mark Ingram	63% (16) 8.0, 0.61	45% (11) 6.1, 0.17	50% (2) 7.0, 0.72	55% (29) 7.2, 0.45
TE	Mark Andrews	56% (52) 8.8, 0.31	48% (31) 7.9, 0.29		53% (83) 8.5, 0.31
	Hayden Hurst	50% (14) 9.0, 0.51	79% (19) 11.8, 0.85		67% (33) 10.6, 0.70
	Nick Boyle	36% (14) 4.3, 0.02	60% (10) 8.6, 0.38	100% (3) 12.0, 0.78	52% (27) 6.7, 0.24
WR	Willie Snead	58% (38) 8.2, 0.32	33% (6) 3.3, -0.16	50% (2) 2.0, -1.62	54% (46) 7.3, 0.17
	Seth Roberts	54% (24) 7.8, 0.31	50% (12) 6.9, 0.29	0% (1) 0.0, -0.60	51% (37) 7.3, 0.28
	Marquise Brown	50% (8) 2.9, 0.12	33% (6) 5.0, 0.21	100% (3) 18.0, 0.99	53% (17) 6.3, 0.31

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Ingram Mark	64% (88) 6.0, 0.14	50% (38) 3.8, -0.06	55% (40) 6.2, 0.04	55% (22) 3.7, 0.00	58% (188) 5.3, 0.06
Jackson Lamar	55% (80) 7.9, 0.35	46% (39) 4.4, -0.39	67% (12) 6.8, 0.14	82% (39) 7.9, 0.48	60% (170) 7.0, 0.19
Edwards Gus	54% (65) 6.2, 0.05	46% (39) 3.3, -0.01	67% (18) 8.2, 0.30	50% (6) 5.0, 0.15	53% (128) 5.5, 0.07
Hill Justice	29% (24) 3.8, -0.17	43% (14) 4.5, 0.08	11% (9) 2.3, -0.28	50% (6) 3.3, -0.15	32% (53) 3.7, -0.12

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	55% (219) 8.6, 0.33
M2M	58% (134) 8.1, 0.47
Screen	53% (19) 6.7, 0.30

Passing by Route

Curl	60% (53) 7.5, 0.11
Out	60% (42) 6.8, 0.11
Flat	71% (28) 5.7, 0.50
Slant	67% (24) 9.9, 0.72
Dig	61% (23) 10.3, 0.72
Screen	50% (20) 5.2, 0.13

Throw Types

Level 1	61% (284) 7.3, 0.31
Level 2	44% (71) 9.4, 0.45
Level 3	34% (32) 13.1, 0.53
Sidearm	53% (32) 6.3, 0.25
Shovel	57% (7) 6.6, 0.06

QB Drop Types

3 Step	53% (161) 9.2, 0.38
0/1 Step	56% (136) 7.4, 0.27
5 Step	59% (54) 8.5, 0.38
Designed Rollout Right	56% (45) 6.7, 0.35
7 Step	67% (6) 9.3, 0.53
Basic Screen	60% (5) 7.8, 0.67

QB State at Pass

Planted	54% (370) 8.1, 0.29
Moving	48% (89) 5.7, 0.25
Shuffling	41% (39) 5.1, 0.14

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	71% (14) 5.2, 0.34	14% (7) 0.6, -0.79
Shotgun	44% (151) 7.3, 0.16	51% (358) 7.8, 0.20
ALL	47% (165) 7.1, 0.18	50% (365) 7.6, 0.18

Run Types

Power	55% (111) 4.5, 0.07
Inside Zone	58% (90) 3.7, -0.09
Outside Zone	54% (37) 7.6, 0.21
Lead	62% (21) 6.0, 0.25
Stretch	30% (20) 5.2, -0.25
Pitch	33% (6) 4.0, -0.03

BAL-5

But against the Titans in the playoffs, they ran just 12% of the time, despite averaging 8.0 YPC and a 67% success rate.

Last season in divisional rematch games, every single defense opted to go with heavier boxes (PIT from 35% six-man boxes to 10%, CIN from 33% to 22% and CLE from 33% to 8%) to try and slow down the run. So it's unlikely teams the Ravens face in 2020 will think that lightening the box is the way to beat the Ravens. But for the Titans, it worked primarily because the Ravens allowed it to work.

The two areas the Ravens offense could improve to dominate even further relate to reacting to the defense. And putting themselves ahead of the game even further.

First is allowing Jackson the ability to audible further and check to runs more frequently based on box counts. The Ravens ran the ball (including QB runs) against six or fewer men boxes on 41% of early down plays in the first three quarters. The NFL average was 41%, but six teams had an even higher run rate (Seattle's 46%, Buffalo's 45%, Oakland's 44%, Indy's 42%, Detroit's 42%, Tennessee's 41%) with extremely solid results.

Second is built off of that, and it's making the defense pay when they do stack the box, and letting Jackson audible to pass — and not just any pass. Harbaugh wants Jackson to improve his deep accuracy to make the defenses pay quickly.

"Those corners and safeties are going to be one-on-one against receivers, especially on some downfield throws, and we have got to make them pay for it," Harbaugh said this offseason. "We absolutely have to make them pay. The ability to make them pay for tilting their defense toward stopping our run game with a really, really efficient passing game. I do believe that's the next step of this offense."

When pressed and asked if the Ravens would turn into an "air show", Harbaugh intelligently replied: "I wouldn't say we're going to scrap the run game and I wouldn't say we're going to become a more conventional offense – that's the last thing we want to do. We didn't change the offense... we just want to get better at taking advantage of weaknesses."

Harbaugh absolutely is not wrong. A quick glance at the completion percentage by depth graphic included in this chapter shows Jackson's rate on passes beyond 10 yards compared to the league average on early downs needs improvement. And considering how he preforms above average on third down shows reasons to be optimistic this adjustment and improvement will be realized.

Baltimore Ravens 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook
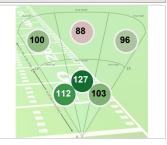
After improving as a passer every season at Louisville, **Lamar Jackson** again took a major stride forward over his rookie campaign in his first full season as the starting quarterback. Baltimore fully committed to an offensive approach centered on Jackson's abilities and it paid off in a big way. On his way to winning the league's MVP Award, Jackson took the Baltimore passing game from 24th in success rate per play (43%) in 2018 up to ninth in the league in success rate in 2019 (48%). Jackson's 9.0% touchdown rate should be expected to regress (league average was 4.5% in 2019) in 2020 as well as the overall amount of passing touchdowns from the Ravens, but this passing game is built around his unique skill set and can continue to improve on their 12th ranking in yards per passing play.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Lamar Jackson	296	460	64%	3,492	7.6	37	8	28	107	5
Robert Griffin	19	34	56%	184	5.4	1	2	5	57	56
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Lamar Jackson	49%	50%	46	10.0%	20	4.0%	6.7	5.1	22	5%
Robert Griffin	41%	44%	2	6.0%	1	3.0%	8.2	2.1	2	6%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Lamar Jackson Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	1.4%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
10 - 14	1.2%	5.4%	3.8%	0.0%	2.4%
15+	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%		3.1%
Total	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%	0.0%	1.6%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Lamar Jackson	8.8	6.4	-2.4	70%	11
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
55%	45%	12
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

No team targeted their tight ends at a higher rate than the Ravens (41%) and they were led by **Mark Andrews**. As a byproduct, Baltimore wideouts combined for 7.3 catches on 11.4 targets per game, both league lows. Despite the low usage, Baltimore wideouts ranked 15th in the league in success rate per target (51%) and 18th in yards per attempt (7.8). 2019 first-round pick **Marquise Brown** only played 51% of the team snaps as a rookie, but will take on a larger role in the offense. The same should be expected for **Miles Boykin**, who was selected in the third round a year ago and only played 38% of the snaps. With one of the league's youngest receiving corps already in place, the team then added **Devin Duvernay** and **James Proche** via the draft.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Mark Andrews	105	65%	8.5	107.3	52%	61	52	75	61	9
Marquise Brown	82	65%	8.7	120.5	50%	76	29	27	100	6
Willie Snead	52	69%	7.4	106.8	54%	50	49	98	44	5

Mark Andrews Target Distribution

Marquise Brown Target Distribution
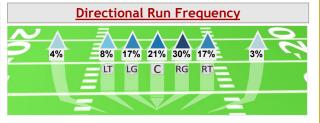
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Baltimore led the league in yards from scrimmage differential (107.0 per game) on the strength of out-rushing their opponents by 112.6 yards per game. Their 3,296 rushing yards on the season were the most overall by an NFL team in a single season and their 206.0 rushing yards per game were the most by a team in a season since 1976. Baltimore led the league in rushing success rate (55%) and yards per rushing play (5.5 yards). The loss of **Marshal Yanda** will be felt, but with the dimension this rushing offense has added via Jackson, this should continue to be the league's most dynamic rushing attack going forward. The Ravens also added **J.K. Dobbins**, who had the highest rate of shotgun runs and RPO attempts of all backs in this draft class, areas where Baltimore led the league in 2019.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Mark Ingram	206	5.0	59%	3	2	43	29	59%	1	10
Lamar Jackson	197	6.9	58%	4	28	65	9	57%	5	7
Gus Edwards	136	5.4	55%	14	1	81	10	56%	7	2
Justice Hill	58	3.9	35%	78	56	49	74	35%	78	2

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Baltimore Should Score Fewer Touchdowns in 2020
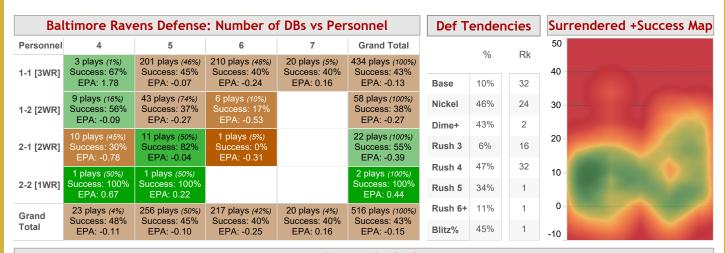
The Ravens scored on 57.0% of their offensive possessions in 2019, matching the 2007 Patriots for the highest scoring rate per drive since 2000. Just 10 other teams from 2000-2018 scored on half of their offensive possessions in a season. The following year, all 10 had a decrease in scoring rate per drive with an average loss of 8.9% per drive. All 10 of those had a decrease in offensive touchdowns the following season with an average decrease of 14 offensive touchdowns. The Ravens scored 57 offensive touchdowns last year, so they can absolutely withstand a 14 touchdown loss and remain one of the league's highest-scoring offenses, but we should be anticipating a decrease in scoring drives from the Ravens in 2020 compared to their 2019 output.

Player to target: Marquise Brown

Brown was the first wide receiver selected in the 2019 draft. Coming off surgery for a Lisfranc injury, Brown played his entire rookie season with a screw in his foot. Baltimore took it easy on his usage as he played just 51% of the team snaps as a rookie. Despite that, Brown did flash. In the seven games in which he played at least 60% of the team snaps, Brown averaged 4.7 receptions for 52.6 yards on 7.7 targets per game. Brown was also the only viable deep target for the Ravens. Jackson was 9-of-18 for 334 yards (18.6 Y/A) with four touchdowns targeting Brown 20-plus yards downfield and 18-of-50 for 495 yards (9.9 Y/A) throwing to anyone else on those attempts. Fully healthy, Brown should make a larger impact in his second season.

Proceed With Caution: Mark Ingram

Mark Ingram was excellent in his first season with the Ravens. He averaged a career-high 5.5 yards per touch and scored a career-high 15 touchdowns to go along with 1,265 yards from scrimmage. But Ingram's efficiency greatly exceeded his usage, ranking 10th in PPR points per game (16.2), but 24th among running backs in touches per game (15.2). 37.1% of Ingram's PPR fantasy points came directly via touchdowns, which ranked fourth in the league in terms of dependency. Ingram also caught five touchdown passes on 29 targets in 2019 after posting five touchdown receptions on 286 targets over the first eight seasons of his career. Natural regression should find the scoring output of this offense and Ingram's efficiency should be impacted in that department. Ingram will also turn 31 years old this December and now faces significant competition from J.K Dobbins in terms of sharing opportunities who should press Ingram for more touches than he faced a year ago.

Baltimore Ravens Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	3 plays (1%) Success: 67% EPA: 1.78	201 plays (46%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.07	210 plays (48%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.24	20 plays (5%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.16	434 plays (100%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.13
1-2 [2WR]	9 plays (16%) Success: 56% EPA: -0.09	43 plays (74%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.27	6 plays (10%) Success: 17% EPA: -0.53		58 plays (100%) Success: 38% EPA: -0.27
2-1 [2WR]	10 plays (45%) Success: 30% EPA: -0.78	11 plays (50%) Success: 82% EPA: -0.04	1 plays (5%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.31		22 plays (100%) Success: 55% EPA: -0.39
2-2 [1WR]	1 plays (50%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.67	1 plays (50%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.22			2 plays (100%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.44
Grand Total	23 plays (4%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.11	256 plays (50%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.10	217 plays (42%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.25	20 plays (4%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.16	516 plays (100%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.15

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	10%	32
Nickel	46%	24
Dime+	43%	2
Rush 3	6%	16
Rush 4	47%	32
Rush 5	34%	1
Rush 6+	11%	1
Blitz%	45%	1

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Somehow (the working of Eric DeCosta) the Ravens turned a good defensive line group from 2019 into a better one on paper for 2020. Baltimore traded a fifth-round pick or **Calais Campbell**, who is still very much *Calais Campbell,* even at age-34. He's still a force on the interior or the edge. **Derek Wolfe** has pass rush ability from the inside and came on just a one-year/$3 million deal in free agency. The loss of **Michael Pierce** hurts a little in run defense, but **Brandon Williams** can fill in that void just fine. **Justin Mdubuike** was added in the third round.

Matt Judon was kept on the franchise tag, which is a rare big expense for the Ravens at edge. There are few teams that create more pressure through blitzing than Baltimore. No team rushed five or more than the Ravens' 45% last season. Still, there's little depth behind Judon outside of 2019 third-round pick **Jaylon Ferguson**. After the draft, the Ravens re-signed **Pernell McPhee**, who started his career in Baltimore and played seven games for the Ravens in 2019. He was a force in that limited time with six quarterback hits, three sacks, and seven tackles for loss.

While the current iteration of the Ravens doesn't rely on their edge rushers, they rely even less on off-ball linebackers. The Ravens played 43% of their defensive snaps in Dime+ personnel last season, which only features one linebacker. **LJ Fort** was solid in that role in 2019 but Baltimore doubled up at the position in the draft. In the first round, the Ravens selected LSU linebacker **Patrick Queen** and **Malik Harrison** of Ohio State was taken in the third round.

The Ravens love good cornerbacks and they have a ton. The **Marcus Peters** trade was one of the best moves of the 2019 season and he rewarded the Ravens with stellar play. **Marlon Humphrey** is also one of the league's better corners, which gives the Ravens one of the best outside duos in the league. **Tavon Young** had broken through as a plus-nickel corner but injuries took away his 2017 and 2019 seasons. **Jimmy Smith** is a former first-round pick who is now a rotational piece who can play all over the secondary.

Tony Jefferson was allowed to leave in free agency but the Ravens still have a deep safety rotation. **Earl Thomas** might be the best single-high safety of all time and he also added "dangerous blitzer" to his resume in 2019. **Chuck Clark** and **Anthony Levine** have filled in as safety/linebacker hybrids in dime packages and Clark just signed a three-year extension. He was also a devastating blizter last season. In the seventh round, the Ravens took Iowa safety **Geno Stone**, who has the range and instincts to play all over the back end.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	44%
All Pass Rk	32
All Rush %	56%
All Rush Rk	1
1 Score Pass %	44%
1 Score Pass Rk	32
2018 1 Score Pass %	50%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	29
2019 Pass Increase %	-6%
Pass Increase Rk	29
1 Score Rush %	56%
1 Score Rush Rk	1
Up Pass %	41%
Up Pass Rk	30
Up Rush %	59%
Up Rush Rk	3
Down Pass %	57%
Down Pass Rk	31
Down Rush %	43%
Down Rush Rk	2

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	10	30%	70%	60%
	Med (4-7)	14	29%	71%	71%
	Long (8-10)	347	38%	62%	52%
	XL (11+)	14	71%	29%	36%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	50	12%	88%	74%
	Med (4-7)	95	53%	47%	58%
	Long (8-10)	99	54%	46%	46%
	XL (11+)	33	76%	24%	36%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	36	33%	67%	75%
	Med (4-7)	56	82%	18%	43%
	Long (8-10)	27	81%	19%	37%
	XL (11+)	23	70%	30%	26%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	14	43%	57%	64%
	Med (4-7)	3	100%	0%	67%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	4%	96%

37% AVG *63%*

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	56%	45%

68% AVG *23%*

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	44%	55%

32% AVG *77%*

Baltimore Ravens 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
59%	22	66%	68%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
41%	11	34%	67%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Mark Ingram	6	67%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Mark Ingram	5	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Mark Ingram	87	57%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Justice Hill	2	0%
			Willie Snead	2	0%
		RUSH	Mark Ingram	2	50%
			Lamar Jackson	2	100%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Mark Ingram	22	77%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Mark Ingram	23	48%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Lamar Jackson	19	47%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Lamar Jackson	5	60%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Gus Edwards	11	55%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Mark Andrews	14	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Mark Andrews	6	50%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Mark Andrews	7	29%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 46% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 94.0 *[Att: 228 - Rate: 43.0%]*	Success: 57% YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.35 Rtg: 133.3 *[Att: 30 - Rate: 5.7%]*	Success: 47% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.12 Rtg: 98.7 *[Att: 258 - Rate: 48.7%]*
Yes	Success: 57% YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.33 Rtg: 109.3 *[Att: 137 - Rate: 25.8%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.14 Rtg: 107.2 *[Att: 135 - Rate: 25.5%]*	Success: 51% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.24 Rtg: 108.3 *[Att: 272 - Rate: 51.3%]*
Total	Success: 50% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.18 Rtg: 99.8 *[Att: 365 - Rate: 68.9%]*	Success: 47% YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.18 Rtg: 112.1 *[Att: 165 - Rate: 31.1%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.18 Rtg: 103.6 *[Att: 530 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Nick Boyle	Willie Snead	Marquise Brown	Seth Roberts	Mark Ingram	Mark Andrews	Hayden Hurst	Miles Boykin	Gus Edwards
1	MIA	W 59-10	43 (56%)	50 (65%)	14 (18%)	52 (68%)	25 (32%)	32 (42%)	43 (56%)	18 (23%)	29 (38%)
2	ARI	W 23-17	49 (62%)	44 (56%)	51 (65%)	27 (34%)	46 (58%)	42 (53%)	33 (42%)	38 (48%)	16 (20%)
3	KC	L 33-28	43 (52%)	59 (71%)	62 (75%)	52 (63%)	50 (60%)	44 (53%)	22 (27%)	27 (33%)	22 (27%)
4	CLE	L 40-25	41 (59%)	52 (75%)	56 (81%)	43 (62%)	32 (46%)	29 (42%)	15 (22%)	21 (30%)	20 (29%)
5	PIT	W 26-23	52 (64%)	56 (69%)	37 (46%)	53 (65%)	53 (65%)	43 (53%)	33 (41%)	20 (25%)	21 (26%)
6	CIN	W 23-17	54 (67%)	54 (67%)		33 (41%)	31 (38%)	39 (48%)	32 (40%)	45 (56%)	33 (41%)
7	SEA	W 30-16	40 (68%)	37 (63%)		19 (32%)	30 (51%)	34 (58%)	27 (46%)	32 (54%)	22 (37%)
8	NE	W 37-20	59 (84%)	42 (60%)	40 (57%)	30 (43%)	31 (44%)	24 (34%)	29 (41%)	27 (39%)	28 (40%)
10	CIN	W 49-13	36 (77%)	22 (47%)	19 (40%)	18 (38%)	23 (49%)	24 (51%)	27 (57%)	21 (45%)	11 (23%)
11	HOU	W 41-7	55 (76%)	42 (58%)	38 (53%)	46 (64%)	33 (46%)	25 (35%)	30 (42%)	24 (33%)	29 (40%)
12	LA	W 45-6	50 (64%)	47 (60%)	49 (63%)	34 (44%)	24 (31%)	32 (41%)	35 (45%)	37 (47%)	32 (41%)
13	SF	W 20-17	60 (92%)	25 (38%)	37 (57%)	32 (49%)	36 (55%)	28 (43%)	23 (35%)	25 (38%)	25 (38%)
14	BUF	W 24-17	54 (90%)	37 (62%)	43 (72%)	27 (45%)	33 (55%)	9 (15%)	28 (47%)	18 (30%)	20 (33%)
15	NYJ	W 42-21	48 (76%)	41 (65%)	47 (75%)	36 (57%)	34 (54%)	23 (37%)	18 (29%)	19 (30%)	18 (29%)
16	CLE	W 31-15	49 (67%)	30 (41%)	43 (59%)	35 (48%)	30 (41%)	39 (53%)	40 (55%)	27 (37%)	30 (41%)
17	PIT	W 28-10	50 (74%)	50 (74%)	35 (51%)	21 (31%)		31 (46%)	34 (50%)	46 (68%)	
	Grand Total		783 (71%)	688 (61%)	571 (58%)	558 (49%)	511 (48%)	467 (44%)	466 (42%)	433 (39%)	402 (36%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	47%	60%	50%
1-2 [2WR]	18%	20%	55%
2-2 [1WR]	15%	4%	46%
2-1 [2WR]	10%	8%	55%
1-3 [1WR]	6%	3%	64%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	51%	46%	55%
1-2 [2WR]	63%	48%	68%
2-2 [1WR]	22%	46%	46%
2-1 [2WR]	26%	60%	54%
1-3 [1WR]	51%	69%	59%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Mark Andrews	15	2	3	10
Marquise Brown	13		6	7
Hayden Hurst	9	2	2	5
Willie Snead	7	1	2	4
Mark Ingram	5		1	4
Nick Boyle	5	4		1
Justice Hill	3			3

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Mark Ingram	40	16	10	14
Lamar Jackson	28	7	7	14
Gus Edwards	24	8	2	14
Justice Hill	9	1	1	7
Robert Griffin	4	1	1	2

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
17%	39%	44%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
56%	56%	51%
#2	#11	#15

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	**13**	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	**8.0**	
03. Wins	**14**	

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	1
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	1
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	6
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	10
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	1
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	32
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	3
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	1
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	2
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	3
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	3
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	5
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	7
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	20
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	11
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	3
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	10
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	11
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	3
23.	PA Improvement Success	31
24.	PA Improvement YPA	30
25.	PA Improvement Rating	28
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	15
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	3
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	8
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	3
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	24
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	1
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	4
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	1
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	6
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	4

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.1
37.	PSM Target Depth	8.2
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.1
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	9.2
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	51%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	48%
42.	PSM Rating	94
43.	Non-PSM Rating	84.9

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	46%
45.	PA Success Rate	48%
46.	PA YPA	7.5
47.	PA Sack Rate	7.0%
48.	PA Rating	99.7
49.	PA Target Depth	9.7
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	58%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.8
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	6.5%
53.	Non-PA Rating	106.4
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	8.2

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	25%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	52%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.9
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	57%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	6.1
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	27%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	64%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	6.5

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	7	defFUM	22
Net FROE	3.1	defFUM Rcvrd	12
offFUM	18	defFR Rk	8
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR%	54.5%
offFR%	61.1%	defFROE	1.8
offFR Rk	7	defFROE Rk	9
offFROE	1.4		
offFROE Rk	8		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	97%	YOY Swing	0%
2019 FG Rk	2	YOY Swing Rk	17
Opp 2019 FG %	87%	2018 Team Net	10%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	7	2018 Net Rk	4
2019 Team Net	10%		
2019 Net Rk	5		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Lamar Jackson
CAY	6.5
CAY Rk	10
2018 CAY Rk	6
AYTS Rk	6
2018 AYTS Rk	14
AGG Rk	28
2018 AGG Rk	11
COMP%	66.1
xCOMP%	65.3
xCOMP% Rk	12
2018 xCOMP% Rk	29
CPOE%	0.8
CPOE Rk	12
2018 CPOE Rk	36

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Lamar Jackson
Pressure %	30.9
Pressure Rk	29
Sack %	16
Sack Rk	26
Under Pressure Accuracy %	67.9
Pressure Accuracy Rk	8
Rating when Pressured	97.7
Pressured Rating Rk	3
Clean Accuracy %	78.4
Clean Accuracy Rk	23
Rating when Clean	118.5
Clean Rating Rk	4
Time to Throw	2.92
Time to Throw Rk	3

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.29
EPA/Pass Rk	1
EPA/Rush	0.11
EPA/Rush Rk	1
On-Target Catch %	86
On-Target Catch Rk	15
Drop%	6.2
Drop Rk	7
YAC/Att	2.7
YAC/Att Rk	4
Rush Broken Tackle %	21.3
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	3
Rush 1st Down %	31.7
Rush 1st Down Rk	1

Baltimore Ravens 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Grid of heat maps showing Pass Distance (in air) for the following categories:

Row 1: 1st Down, 2nd Down, 3rd Down, Under Center, Shotgun, No Huddle

Row 2: vs Man, Success vs Man, vs Zone, Success vs Zone, Catchable Targets, Uncatchable

Row 3: WR Targets, WR Success, TE Targets, TE Success, RB Targets, RB Success

Row 4: Play Action Targets, Play Action Success, Non-PA Targets, Non-PA Success, Red Zone, Red Zone Success

Row 5: 0/1 Step Drop, 3-Step Drop, 5-Step Drop, 7-Step Drop, Touchdowns, Interceptions

The Ravens are fortunate to face the fourth-easiest 2020 schedule after playing the eighth-easiest in 2019. The biggest difference will be in the caliber of defense the Ravens face. Last year they played the 11th-toughest schedule of defenses, including the eighth-toughest pass defenses. But in 2020, they play the third-easiest schedule of defenses including the sixth-easiest pass defenses. If you thought Lamar Jackson's passing exceeded your expectations in 2019, it could look even better in 2020.

They also have the benefit of an easy start and finish. They open the first five weeks against three teams with projected losing records (Texans, Redskins, and Bengals) and two teams with projected winning records, but both are at home (Browns and Chiefs). These five teams each ranked bottom-10 in run defense in 2019, which plays right into the run-dominant Ravens hands.

They close the season with the league's easiest schedule starting in Week 12, and their final three opponents (Jaguars, Giants, and Bengals) should do well to propel them to a better playoff seed. The interesting note is their Week 14 game in Cleveland on Monday night is preceded by a Thursday night game at home against Dallas. As such, the Ravens have a great "mini-bye" of 11 rest days to heal and prepare for the Browns.

Keep in mind, with only one team landing a postseason bye, that late mini-bye could be a huge factor. The Ravens have a potential rest advantage over the Chiefs, who will have their bye in Week 10.

If Baltimore can win against Kansas City Week 3, rest up in their Week 8 bye, and their Week 14 mini-bye then land the No. 1 overall seed and be the sole AFC team with a playoff bye, their advantage over the Chiefs would be massive.

Many are predicting regression for the Ravens offense, and while some is certainly possible, it's hard to imagine a team in better shape to deal with it. This offense was the most efficient offense in the NFL last year and first in many other statistical categories. They face a much easier schedule this season and only have the sole key loss of G Marshal Yanda. They were also fortunate to not lose offensive coordinator Greg Roman to a head coaching job during the offseason.

The defense, which also brings back coordinator Wink Martindale, is the most expensive unit in the NFL and is coming off a season where they ranked first in EDSR defense. The Ravens are in excellent shape to prosper in 2020 and beyond.

Buffalo Bills

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Sean McDermott (3 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Brian Daboll (2 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Leslie Frazier (2 yrs)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9	#2

Past Records
2019: 10-6
2018: 6-10
2017: 9-7

NYJ	MIA	LAR	LVR	TEN	KC	NYJ	NE	SEA	ARI		LAC	SF	PIT	DEN	NE	MIA
H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	H	A		H	A	H	A	A	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF (6) — MNF (13) — SNF (14)

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Frank Gore (RB)	Jets
Jeremiah Sirles (G)	Retired
Jordan Phillips (43DT)	Cardinals
Kevin Johnson (CB)	Browns
Senorise Perry (RB)	Titans
Shaq Lawson (43DE)	Dolphins
Corey Liuget (34DE)	Null
Julian Stanford (ILB)	Null
Kurt Coleman (S)	Null
LaAdrian Waddle (LT)	Null
Lorenzo Alexander (43OLB)	Null
Mo Alexander (43OLB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-1.4	11	5

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	9
2019 Wins	10
Forecast 2019 Wins	7
2018 Wins	6
2017 Wins	9
2016 Wins	7

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2020 Buffalo Bills Overview

There is something to be said for a team willing to make changes before it's too late. Far too often we see teams continue to make the same mistakes over and over and hold off on changing because they are worried about the negatives of such changes. They pessimistically view potential negatives as a worse thing to fear than the familiar negatives.

That wasn't the 2019 Buffalo Bills.

The 6-3 Bills were an offense that passed the ball 53% of the time on early downs in the first three quarters, identical to the league average. They used 11 personnel 59% of the time in these situations, only 4% above the league average.

Over the first 10 weeks, the Bills were dominant when running from 11 personnel on early downs. Compare their productivity by grouping:

11: 62% success, 5.7 YPC
12: 50% success, 5.1 YPC
21: 43% success, 4.7 YPC
13: 50% success, 5.3 YPC
22: 39% success, 3.1 YPC

After a Week 10 loss by three points in Cleveland, and ahead of a trip to Miami, the Bills made a few major changes. The irony of the changes was that barely anyone on a national scale even noticed.

First, offensive coordinator Brian Daboll moved from field level to the coaching booth for the first time in his career. Second, the offense dramatically increased 11 personnel. And third, they went no-huddle and hurry up a significant amount.

(cont'd - see BUF2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Stefon Diggs (WR)	Trade
Mario Addison (34OLB)	$10.1
Vernon Butler (34DE)	$7.5
Quinton Jefferson (43DE)	$6.29
A.J. Klein (43OLB)	$6
Josh Norman (CB)	$6
Tyler Matakevich (ILB)	$3.60
Daryl Williams (LG)	$2.29
Bryan Cox Jr. (43DE)	$0.80
Garrett McGhin (RT)	$0.69

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	54	DE - A. J. Epenesa (Iowa)
3	86	RB - Zack Moss (Utah)
4	128	WR - Gabriel Davis (UCF)
5	167	QB - Jake Fromm (Georgia)
6	188	K - Tyler Bass (Georgia Southern)
6	207	WR - Isaiah Hodgins (Oregon State)
7	239	CB - Dane Jackson (Pittsburgh)

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS J.Poyer 21
SS M.Hyde 23
LB T.Edmunds 49
LB A.Klein 54
RCB J.Norman NEW 29
SLOTCB T.Johnson 24
RE J.Hughes* 55
DE E.Oliver 91
DT M.Addison NEW 97
OLB T.Murphy 93
LCB T.White 27

LWR S.Diggs NEW 14
SLOTWR C.Beasley* 10
LT D.Dawkins 73
LG Q.Spain 67
C M.Morse 61
RG J.Feliciano 76
RT C.Ford 70
TE D.Knox 88
RWR J.Brown* 15

QB J.Allen 17
RB D.Singletary 26

WR2 A.Roberts* 18
WR3 R.Foster 16
RB2 Z.Moss 20
QB2 M.Barkley 5

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF — All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	16	$103.64M	29
QB	25	$9.33M	30
OL	15	$40.07M	20
RB	24	$7.17M	23
WR	6	$35.48M	16
TE	14	$11.59M	8
All DEF	8	$112.29M	13
DL	2	$61.76M	1
LB	24	$18.36M	26
CB	23	$14.20M	28
S	10	$17.97M	9

It's extremely rare a team would make such a bevy of moves between two straight road games. Their bye week was Week 6. They were 6-3 on the season. But the Bills internally decided they would take the risk.

They chose to change. They decided not to fear potential negatives when they weren't happy with familiar negatives.

So how did it go? First, we must look at the context. The Bills played the NFL's fourth-toughest schedule of defenses over the final seven weeks of the season, including the NFL's second-toughest schedule of run defenses.

This was after playing the NFL's fourth-easiest schedule of defenses over the first 10 weeks of the season, including the NFL's easiest schedule of pass defenses.

As such, any statistical measure with such a wide gap in defenses isn't going to be as useful.

From Week 11 on, the Bills used 11 personnel on 77% of plays on early downs in the first three quarters, the highest rate in the NFL. Wide receiver **Isaiah McKenzie** went from playing between 1% to 24% of snaps over the first month of the season to playing on 78% of the Bills offensive snaps down the stretch.

The Bills dramatically increased pace as well. In the first half of games, they went from being a below-average paced team to the fifth-fastest down the stretch. By sticking with 11 personnel, the Bills didn't need to substitute players as often.

By getting to the line quickly, Daboll had ample time from his perch high above the field to view the defense in a way he never could from the sideline. He had enough time before radio communication cut out with quarterback **Josh Allen** to adjust play calls and do more to help Allen get into the right play pre-snap, as well as time to throw out anything else useful. Of course, such a pace puts the defense in a bind as they are unable to substitute players.

One result of this was more runs into lighter boxes. Likely, Daboll helped check into these runs at the line. Prior to Week 11 on early downs in the game's first three quarters, the Bills ran the ball 37% of the time when defenses presented boxes of six or fewer defenders. The league average was 34%. On these runs, the Bills recorded a 61% success rate and 5.6 YPC. But they still were passing the ball 63% of the time, and those passes were terrible: 6.6 YPA, 48% success, and a 1:4 TD:INT ratio.

Of Allen's five interceptions through Week 10 on these plays, only one came on 86 attempts with box counts of 7+ men (1.2% INT rate). Meanwhile, four interceptions came on 87 attempts with box counts of six or fewer men (5.0% INT rate). With fewer defenders in the box, with much better production on the ground, and with more defenders in coverage, the Bills should have been running more — but they did not.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Josh Allen	51% 7.3 87.6	37% 5.7 75.6	35% 6.8 91.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	52%	73%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
BUF	48% 4.6	51% 5.0	46% 3.3	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	48%	27%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

That changed when Daboll went upstairs. The Bills ran the ball on 53% of plays when defenses had box counts of six or fewer men, by far the highest rate in the NFL (avg 34%). It was a huge improvement.
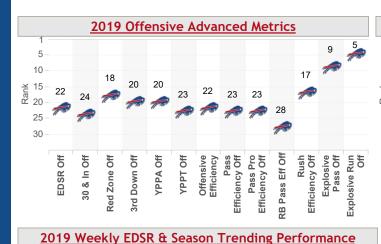
With a quarterback like Allen, it's even more important to do everything possible to ensure you have an edge. And running on light boxes instead of throwing is definitely a key part of that.

But the Bills still weren't perfect. Even with Daboll in the booth upstairs, Buffalo ran the ball 72% of the time against stacked boxes (8+ men) on early downs in the first three quarters. These runs generated a very poor 3.7 YPC with a 38% success rate. Yet when Josh Allen passed against these heavy boxes, he averaged 8.2 YPA, a 67% success rate, and a 116 rating.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	W	W	W	L	W		W	L	W	L	W	W	W	L	W	L	L
OPP	NYJ	NYG	CIN	NE	TEN		MIA	PHI	WAS	CLE	MIA	DEN	DAL	BAL	PIT	NE	NYJ
SITE	A	A	H	H	A		H	H	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	A	H
MARGIN	1	14	4	-6	7		10	-18	15	-3	17	17	11	-7	7	-7	-7
PTS	17	28	21	10	14		31	13	24	16	37	20	26	17	17	17	6
OPP PTS	16	14	17	16	7		21	31	9	19	20	3	15	24	10	24	13

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **10**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-1**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **10% (#24)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **4-5**
1 Score Games Win %: **44% (#19)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **40% (#20)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+4
TO Given	19
INT Given	12
FUM Given	7
TO Taken	23
INT Taken	14
FUM Taken	9
Sack Margin	+4
Sacks	44
Sacks Allow	40
Return TD Margin	-2
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	3
Penalty Margin	-23
Penalties	117
Opponent Penalties	94

Buffalo Bills 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) — **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Average Opponent

RANK

EASY

Legend
- ⊙ 2019 Actual
- 🏈 2020 Forecast

Offense categories (left): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Defense categories (right): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
1	1	18	23	4	3	16	9

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-0.7	6.5	2.0
Average O/U line	40.1	40.7	43.4
Straight Up Record	10-6	6-10	9-7
Against the Spread Record	9-6	8-8	9-6
Over/Under Record	4-12	7-9	8-8
ATS as Favorite	4-3	1-2	5-1
ATS as Underdog	5-2	7-6	4-5
Straight Up Home	4-4	4-4	6-2
ATS Home	3-5	3-5	5-2
Over/Under Home	2-6	5-3	5-3
ATS as Home Favorite	2-3	1-2	4-0
ATS as a Home Dog	1-1	2-3	1-2
Straight Up Away	6-2	2-6	3-5
ATS Away	6-1	5-3	4-4
Over/Under Away	2-6	2-6	3-5
ATS Away Favorite	2-0	0-0	1-1
ATS Away Dog	4-1	5-3	3-3
Six Point Teaser Record	13-3	11-5	11-5
Seven Point Teaser Record	14-1	11-5	11-5
Ten Point Teaser Record	15-1	12-4	12-4

BUF-3

The 72% run rate was not just in times when the offense was in a heavy set such as 13 or 22 personnel on early downs and didn't have many options. Nearly a third of the total runs from Week 11 onward came when the team was in 11 personnel. Surprisingly, when in 11 personnel and faced with 8+ men box counts, the Bills still ran the ball on 75% of their snaps and these runs averaged 1.9 YPC and an 11% success rate. Passes produced a 100% success rate and 10.7 YPA (albeit a small sample size).

These are future areas the Bills can continue to improve, understanding this basic principle: passing wins games in the NFL and with a quarterback like Josh Allen, the Bills cannot expect him to perform like Patrick Mahomes or Deshaun Watson to make countless plays through the air while things dissolve in the pocket. The Bills must give their passing offense every edge possible if they want to receive the passing efficiency which will be required to win enough games to achieve their goals.

Other strategies the Bills can use to improve their passing efficiency include using more play-action.
*(cont'd - see **BUF-4**)*

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	3
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	7
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	-1
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	-1

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	11
2018 Rk	2
2019 v 2018 Rk	29
Off Rk	21
Def Rk	3
QB Rk	15
RB Rk	12
WR Rk	3
TE Rk	30
Oline Rk	26
Dline Rk	24
LB Rk	3
DB Rk	4

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
NYJ	MIA	LAR	LVR	TEN	KC	NYJ	NE	SEA	ARI	LAC	SF	PIT	DEN	NE	MIA

Avg = -1.4

| -6 | -3.5 | -3 | -1.5 | 1.5 | 3 | -2 | -3 | -2 | -1 | -5 | 7 | -2.5 | 1 | 1.5 | -7.5 |

Home Lines

1	3	6	8	9	12	14	17
-6 NYJ	-3 LAR	3 KC	-3 NE	-2 SEA	-5 LAC	-2.5 PIT	1.5 MIA

Avg = -3.3

Road Lines

2	4	5	7	10	13	15	16
-3.5 MIA	-1.5 LVR	1.5 TEN	-2 NYJ	-1 ARI	7 SF	1 DEN	NE

Avg = 0.4

Buffalo was the NFL's worst passing offense when passing without play-action in 2019 as they averaged 6.2 YPA and a 42% success rate. But when using play-action, they raised their YPA by 2.0 yards and improved their success rate by 13 percentage points.

The Bills were only one of three offenses to move from below-average without play-action to above-average with play-action. And yet they used play-action on just 21% of passing plays. Their play-action usage on early downs in the first three quarters of games was the seventh-lowest of any team.

Additionally, incorporating more pre-snap motion could benefit the passing offense by giving Allen easier reads. The Bills were seven percentage points more successful when passing with pre-snap motion (fifth-highest in the NFL) but used the second-least pre-snap motion on early downs in the first three quarters of games.

While Allen might still struggle against man coverage compared to his play against zone in 2019, it would still benefit the Bills to allow him more help to identify the look before the snap. They can continue to use that and do more of what he does well, which includes more audibles based on box count and more play-action.

The Bills did what they could to help Allen in the offseason. They gave him a huge boost by trading for wide receiver **Stefon Diggs**, a year after they added **John Brown** and **Cole Beasley** in free agency. I mentioned last offseason how the Bills made adjustments at wide receiver personnel to add smaller, faster players capable of getting open to make targets easier for Allen, rather than going with taller, bigger but slower targets.

One piece of advice for the usage of Diggs, however, could be to put him in motion slightly more often. Diggs was only targeted after motion on two of 94 targets last year. And perhaps a result of lack of motion, Diggs received an average pre-snap cushion of only 4.6 yards, the fourth-smallest cushion of 125 receivers with 43+ targets last year.

To give Allen more assistance, the Bills built a new offensive line in 2019 and return everyone in 2020, one of just 10 teams to do so in the NFL.

Defensively, the Bills added multiple defensive linemen to go with what already was a strong group. Sean McDermott added former Panthers **Mario Addison** and **Vernon Butler**, added **Quinton Jefferson,** and spent their first draft pick on defensive end **A.J. Epenesa**.
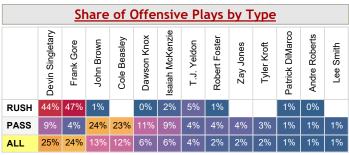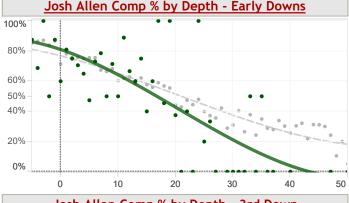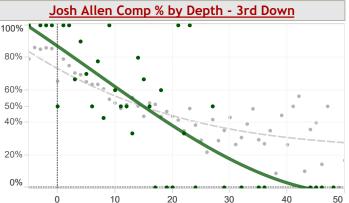
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Devin Singletary	2%	7%	69%	14%	7%
	Frank Gore	2%	7%	62%	13%	16%
	John Brown			100%		
	Dawson Knox			100%		
	Isaiah McKenzie			63%	13%	25%
	T.J. Yeldon			82%	12%	6%
	Robert Foster			50%		50%
	Andre Roberts			100%		
	Total	2%	6%	67%	13%	12%
PASS	Devin Singletary		18%	69%	5%	8%
	Frank Gore			88%	6%	6%
	John Brown	3%	10%	70%	11%	7%
	Cole Beasley	6%	7%	76%	8%	3%
	Dawson Knox	8%	4%	76%	10%	2%
	Isaiah McKenzie	3%	8%	64%	23%	3%
	T.J. Yeldon		13%	81%		6%
	Robert Foster		6%	89%		6%
	Zay Jones		21%	63%	5%	11%
	Tyler Kroft		15%	77%	8%	
	Andre Roberts			100%		
	Lee Smith			100%		
	Total	3%	9%	74%	9%	5%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Devin Singletary	Frank Gore	John Brown	Cole Beasley	Dawson Knox	Isaiah McKenzie	T.J. Yeldon	Robert Foster	Zay Jones	Tyler Kroft	Patrick DiMarco	Andre Roberts	Lee Smith
RUSH	44%	47%	1%		0%	2%	5%	1%				1%	0%
PASS	9%	4%	24%	23%	11%	9%	4%	4%	4%	3%	1%	1%	1%
ALL	25%	24%	13%	12%	6%	6%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Josh Allen Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Josh Allen Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▮▮▮▮▮ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	39%, -0.10 (469)	50%, 0.06 (52)	55%, -0.07 (53)	0%, -0.46 (4)	38%, 0.16 (8)	75%, 0.59 (4)	100%, 2.27 (2)	100%, 2.22 (1)	50%, -0.01 (2)	0%, -0.41 (1)	41%, -0.07 (596)
RUSH	51%, 0.04 (292)	46%, -0.12 (52)	49%, -0.12 (51)	38%, -0.26 (40)	40%, -0.13 (35)	100%, 1.81 (2)	100%, 1.01 (2)	0%, -0.35 (2)			49%, -0.02 (476)
All	43%, -0.05 (761)	48%, -0.03 (104)	52%, -0.09 (104)	34%, -0.28 (44)	40%, -0.07 (43)	83%, 1.00 (6)	100%, 1.64 (4)	33%, 0.51 (3)	50%, -0.01 (2)	0%, -0.41 (1)	############

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	T.J. Yeldon	47% (15) 7.4, -0.13		100% (1) 13.0, 0.69		50% (16) 7.8, -0.08
WR	John Brown	49% (92) 8.6, 0.21	69% (13) 9.2, 0.49	80% (10) 11.8, 0.79		54% (115) 8.9, 0.29
	Cole Beasley	54% (93) 7.5, 0.18	58% (12) 6.4, -0.65	100% (1) 6.0, -0.05	100% (1) 12.0, 1.51	55% (107) 7.4, 0.10
	Isaiah McKenzie	50% (44) 6.2, 0.16				50% (44) 6.2, 0.16
	Zay Jones	23% (13) 3.5, -0.85	0% (1) 0.0, -0.76	0% (3) 0.0, -1.69	100% (1) 23.0, 3.03	22% (18) 3.8, -0.77
	Robert Foster	14% (14) 3.1, -0.34		33% (3) 6.7, -0.15		18% (17) 3.8, -0.30

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Singletary Devin	49% (136) 4.9, -0.02	69% (13) 5.8, 0.20	56% (9) 8.1, 0.30	0% (1) 0.0, -0.62	50% (159) 5.1, 0.01
Gore Frank	49% (55) 4.6, -0.05	37% (30) 3.2, -0.26	38% (26) 3.1, -0.24	44% (25) 2.7, -0.26	43% (136) 3.6, -0.17
Allen Josh	60% (77) 5.9, 0.28	63% (8) 5.6, -0.08	43% (7) 4.3, -0.05	27% (11) 0.2, -0.19	55% (103) 5.2, 0.18
Yeldon T.J.	46% (13) 2.3, -0.16		67% (3) 7.7, -0.98		50% (16) 3.3, -0.31

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

M2M	47% (195) 7.0, 0.11
Zone	55% (157) 8.0, 0.20
Screen	40% (43) 6.0, 0.03

Passing by Route

Curl	55% (69) 6.3, 0.05
Flat	49% (39) 5.9, 0.07
Screen	26% (39) 3.6, -0.32
Out	57% (37) 7.3, 0.38
Dig	59% (34) 8.3, 0.24
Slant	53% (34) 9.0, 0.28

Throw Types

Level 1	50% (311) 6.5, 0.14
Level 2	49% (113) 8.9, 0.12
Level 3	21% (42) 6.2, -0.23
Shovel	64% (11) 4.6, 0.18
Sidearm	67% (9) 12.7, 0.46

QB Drop Types

3 Step	45% (168) 7.4, 0.11
0/1 Step	47% (167) 6.1, 0.11
5 Step	49% (69) 7.4, 0.01
Designed Rollout Right	45% (22) 7.3, 0.00
7 Step	53% (17) 9.5, 0.33
Basic Screen	31% (13) 5.7, -0.15

QB State at Pass

Planted	47% (403) 7.0, 0.11
Moving	38% (88) 5.4, -0.11
Shuffling	40% (62) 6.2, -0.02

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	53% (85) 8.6, 0.15	41% (34) 4.9, 0.01
Shotgun	49% (39) 7.3, 0.16	38% (442) 6.3, -0.13
ALL	52% (124) 8.2, 0.15	39% (476) 6.2, -0.12

Run Types

Power	44% (78) 4.6, -0.05
Inside Zone	54% (71) 4.8, 0.05
Outside Zone	32% (31) 2.8, -0.25
Lead	32% (19) 0.9, -0.23
Pitch	44% (9) 6.7, -0.44
Stretch	0% (4) 0.5, -0.63

BUF-5

Where it gets toughest is for Josh Allen. The Bills played the eighth-easiest schedule of pass defenses in 2019 but play the eighth-toughest in 2020. No offense faces a tougher increase in caliber of pass defenses faced from 2019 to 2020 than the Bills.

It won't appear as tough early in the season, as the Bills face four bottom-half pass defenses in their first five games. However, from Week 8 to Week 16, they play six of eight games against teams with top-15 pass defenses in 2019, including four games against teams that ranked top-three. Allen won't be able to lean more on his run game than usual, as the Bills currently forecast to face the seventh-toughest schedule of run defenses.

Defensively, the Bills were phenomenal last year but that came against the NFL's second-easiest schedule of offenses. They played nine games against bottom-10 pass offenses and went 8-1 in those games. They went 2-5 against pass offenses that ranked 20th or better. This year they face significantly tougher pass offenses.

The Bills face the fourth-toughest jump in pass offenses from 2019 to 2020.

After their Week 11 bye, the Bills are unfortunate to face two difficult schedule quirks against two tough opponents. First, they must travel to San Francisco to play on Monday night in Week 13. East coast teams playing in primetime on the west coast has been a tall order due to circadian biorhythm issues. They then have to fly across the country and play on a short week against the Steelers on Sunday night of Week 14.

Travel is more of an issue in 2020 as well. The Bills must fly to Las Vegas, Arizona, San Francisco, and Denver. And unfortunately for them, they follow up the long road trip to Las Vegas and Denver with road games the following weeks.

In 2019, the Bills never traveled west of Dallas and they haven't had to travel further than that since 2017. The last time the team had to take multiple trips west was 2016 and they went 1-2 (beat the Rams, lost to the Seahawks and Raiders). The Bills have never before made four trips to west of Dallas in the same regular season, as they do in 2020. Since the Jim Kelly era ended, the Bills are 7-16 (30%) in those west coast games.

Buffalo Bills 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook
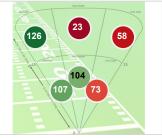
Josh Allen improved across the board in 2019, finishing his second season with a higher completion percentage (58.8%), yards per attempt (6.7), touchdown rate (4.3%), and a lower interception rate (2.0%) than his rookie season numbers. While a step forward was taken, all of those rate stats outside of interception rate were still significantly below league average. Buffalo ended 2019 ranked 28th in successful play rate passing (41%) and 24th in EPA via their passing offense. The addition of **Stefon Diggs** provides another pass catcher to aid Allen in taking a bigger step forward in year three. Where Allen needs to improve most is downfield accuracy after completing just 35.3% of his passes over 15 yards downfield in 2019, which ranked ahead of only Kyle Allen, Mason Rudolph, and Dwayne Haskins for passers that started six or more games.

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Josh Allen	294	506	58%	3,352	6.6	19	9	41	83	36
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Josh Allen	41%	45%	51	10.0%	13	3.0%	6.2	5.2	21	4%
Matt Barkley	38%	43%	6	12.0%	1	2.0%	9.0	4.3	2	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Josh Allen Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	1.6%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.8%
10 - 14	2.1%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
15+	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
Total	2.3%	1.2%	1.3%	0.0%	1.6%
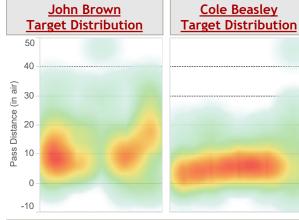
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Josh Allen	9.4	6.1	-3.3	71%	25
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
54%	46%	18
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

With Allen still being below league rates in efficiency, the Buffalo pass catchers fell in line. The Bills ranked 21st (50%), 27th (40%), and 30th (44%) in success rate targeting their wide receivers, running backs, and tight ends a year ago while they finished 23rd (7.4 Y/A), 18th (5.9 Y/A), and 16th (7.2 Y/A) in yards per pass attempt to each position. The Bills and Allen were driven on getting the ball to their wide receivers. Only the Cardinals targeted their wide receivers at a higher rate than the Bills at 66% of all pass attempts. Both **John Brown** and **Cole Beasley** arguably posted the best statistical seasons of their careers as free agent additions. **Stefon Diggs**, Beasley and Brown all finished in the top half of all WRs in success rate.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success % Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
John Brown	123	62%	9.0	97.3	54%	52	84	55	62	6
Cole Beasley	110	65%	7.5	93.8	56%	34	67	109	14	6
Dawson Knox	52	56%	7.7	93.6	42%	120	118	49	128	2

John Brown Target Distribution

Cole Beasley Target Distribution
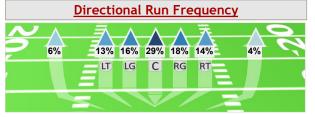
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Bills are still a run-first team, closing 2019 ninth in expected points added on the ground, 10th in the league in success rate (49%), and 13th in yards per carry (4.4 yards). As a mobile quarterback, Josh Allen was an added weapon in this area. Allen finished behind only Lamar Jackson in rushing attempts (109) among quarterbacks and third in rushing yards (510) while he was ninth of all players in the league with 50 or more carries in success rate on the ground (56%). As a rookie runner, **Devin Singletary** added 775 rushing yards in 12 games. Picking up big gains, Singletary finished fourth among all running backs in explosive rushing play rate (16%). Buffalo added rookie **Zack Moss** in the third round this season to fill the vacated role left open from **Frank Gore**.

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Frank Gore	174	3.6	44%	58	41	25	44	47%	39	2
Devin Singletary	164	5.1	50%	29	48	61	21	51%	22	2
Josh Allen	118	5.1	56%	8	31	56	33	51%	22	9

What can we expect from Stefon Diggs transitioning to Buffalo?

On a career-high 15.6-yard average depth of target, Diggs posted career highs in yards per target (12.0), yards per catch (17.9 yards), and receiving yards per game (75.3) on a career-low 6.3 targets per game. With 1,130 yards on just 94 targets, Diggs became just the fourth player since targets were tracked in 1992 to have at least 1,100 yards on fewer than 100 targets. Overcoming playing on a team that ranked 31st in passing plays per game (30.9), Diggs trailed only Michael Thomas in receiving yards per team passing attempt (2.42) among wide receivers in 2019.

Diggs will be forced to sustain that type of efficiency once again. From one low-volume passing game to another, Diggs joins a Buffalo team that ranked 23rd in passing plays per game (34.6) in 2019 and 29th (33.7) in 2018. He joins John Brown and Cole Beasley, who accounted for 43% of the Buffalo targets, 47% of the receptions, 53% of the receiving yards, and 57% of the receiving touchdowns a year ago.

Where Diggs was sensational was catching 16-of-30 targets for 643 yards and five touchdowns on throws beyond 15 yards of the line of scrimmage. Only Kenny Golladay had more yardage on such targets. So far through two seasons, Josh Allen has completed just 32.8% of those attempts, which is last of the 27 passers to have 100 or more such attempts on those throws over that span, despite ranking ninth in overall attempts on those throws. Diggs can help elevate those totals, but asking Diggs himself to remain as efficient is going to be a tall ask when he already appeared poised for regression himself after posting career-marks across the board way above his to-date rates prior to 2019.

If you circle back to the section on the Cardinals, you can also see how top fantasy wideouts have fared changing teams. To be fair, that was a boost for both Brown and Beasley in this same environment a year ago, but both were much cheaper fantasy assets to draft than Diggs will be this summer.

Is Devin Singletary a trap in 2020?

Buffalo used a third-round (74th overall) selection on Devin Singletary last season. Singletary turned in 969 yards from scrimmage on 180 touches (5.4 yards per touch) in just 12 games played. He took over as the feature back for the offense midway through the season, averaging 18.9 touches per game over his final nine games in 2019. Despite his overall usage and efficiency, Singletary lacked the money touches for fantasy. Through two seasons, Josh Allen has targeted his running backs below the league rate. As a byproduct, Singletary caught two or fewer passes in six of his games played, surpassing three catches just three times. As a 203-pound back, Singletary was also frozen out of scoring opportunities. He had just two carries inside of the 5-yard line out of 18 team attempts. With 222-pound Zack Moss added as a complement this offseason and running back efficiency being unstable, Singletary could provide some empty-calorie games in 2020 with a lack of touchdowns and receiving output.

Buffalo Bills Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	9 plays *(2%)* Success: 44% EPA: -0.19	412 plays *(97%)* Success: 44% EPA: -0.13	2 plays *(0%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.05	423 plays *(100%)* Success: 44% EPA: -0.13
1-2 [2WR]	28 plays *(41%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.19	40 plays *(59%)* Success: 35% EPA: -0.17		68 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: -0.02
2-1 [2WR]	21 plays *(55%)* Success: 48% EPA: -0.10	17 plays *(45%)* Success: 35% EPA: -0.15		38 plays *(100%)* Success: 42% EPA: -0.12
2-2 [1WR]	5 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: -0.21			5 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: -0.21
Grand Total	63 plays *(12%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.01	469 plays *(88%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.13	2 plays *(0%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.05	534 plays *(100%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.12

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	23%	21
Nickel	76%	3
Dime+	0%	32
Rush 3	1%	30
Rush 4	72%	7
Rush 5	19%	17
Rush 6+	6%	12
Blitz%	25%	16

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Bills had one of the league's best defenses in the league last season, though it was overshadowed by the likes of the Patriots and 49ers. But, Buffalo will bring back almost that entire unit.

Ed Oliver immediately became one of the best pass-rushing interior linemen as soon as he stepped on the field as a rookie. Oliver ranked seventh among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. Free agent addition **Quinton Jefferson** ranked fifth in that group with the Seahawks last season.

Star Lotulelei offers little to nothing as a pass rusher but can still be a dominant presence up the middle against the run and it's not like the Bills are lacking for pass rush from the interior. **Vernon Butler** neither rushes the passer as well as Oliver or Jefferson nor stops the run as well as Lotulelei but he's a solid rotational piece as a fourth iDL. It would be hard for this position to be deeper or more well-rounded.

For as strong as the Bills' interior defensive line is, the edge leaves a bit to be desired. **Jerry Hughes** has been one of the league's most underrated defenders for years, though his pressure rate cratered in 2019 and his quarterback hits dropped from 18 to nine last season. **Trent Murphy** and former Panther **Mario Addison** provide fine depth as the second and third edges on the team, but if there's a weakness on this defense, it's definitely here. **A.J. Epenesa** from Iowa was drafted in the second round and though he has the versatility to play both inside and outside, he's likely to play more on the edge where the depth is weaker.

With **Tremaine Edmunds** and **Matt Milano**, the Bills have an impressive duo at linebacker. Buffalo played 0% of its defensive snaps in Dime+ personnel last season so at least two linebackers were on the field for every play. **A.J. Klein** is a fine option as the third linebacker and special teams ace **Tyler Matekevich** can fill in on limited defensive snaps if needed.

Last season **Tre'Davious White** solidified his case as one of the league's best cornerbacks. He finished fifth among 92 cornerbacks with at least 300 coverage snaps in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. The Bills signed **Josh Norman** on a one-year deal to play opposite of White and the Bills will have to hope for some type of bounceback. Norman ranked 91st among those 92 corners last season. **Taron Johnson**, **Levi Wallace**, and **E.J. Gaines** will form a decent rotation for the slot role and potentially as an outside fill-in should Norman not improve from 2019s play.

Jordan Poyer and **Micah Hyde** arguably make up the best starting safety group in the league. Last season, Poyer played 94% of the defensive snaps and Hyde played 93%. Availability is great and when healthy, both safeties have no problem being ironmen for the season. But should there be a need for a backup, there isn't much behind them. **Jaquan Johnson** played 5% of the defensive snaps in 2019 and could maybe work in some more three-safety looks which would allow the team to play at least some Dime and not rely on a third linebacker as often.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	54%
All Pass Rk	26
All Rush %	46%
All Rush Rk	7
1 Score Pass %	55%
1 Score Pass Rk	24
2018 1 Score Pass %	49%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	31
2019 Pass Increase %	6%
Pass Increase Rk	3
1 Score Rush %	45%
1 Score Rush Rk	9
Up Pass %	41%
Up Pass Rk	29
Up Rush %	59%
Up Rush Rk	4
Down Pass %	63%
Down Pass Rk	26
Down Rush %	37%
Down Rush Rk	7

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	5	60%	40%	40%
	Med (4-7)	4	50%	50%	75%
	Long (8-10)	331	48%	52%	50%
	XL (11+)	23	61%	39%	43%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	31	19%	81%	77%
	Med (4-7)	86	42%	58%	56%
	Long (8-10)	104	63%	38%	34%
	XL (11+)	40	73%	28%	18%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	39	38%	62%	67%
	Med (4-7)	47	89%	11%	30%
	Long (8-10)	42	98%	2%	36%
	XL (11+)	41	83%	17%	24%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	0%	100%	63%
	Med (4-7)	3	100%	0%	33%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
41%	59%

37% *AVG* *63%*

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
73%	20%

68% *AVG* *23%*

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
27%	80%

32% *AVG* *77%*

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
74%	7	66%	65%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
26%	26	34%	56%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Devin Singletary	67	52%
	XL (11+)	PASS	John Brown	3	67%
		RUSH	Frank Gore	3	67%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Frank Gore	12	75%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Frank Gore	20	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Devin Singletary	13	46%
	XL (11+)	PASS	John Brown	7	14%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Josh Allen	11	73%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Cole Beasley	8	38%
			Dawson Knox	8	25%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Cole Beasley	10	50%
	XL (11+)	PASS	John Brown	8	38%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 38% YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.12 Rtg: 77.9 *[Att: 387 - Rate: 64.5%]*	Success: 53% YPA: 8.7, EPA: 0.15 Rtg: 92.4 *[Att: 75 - Rate: 12.5%]*	Success: 40% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 80.2 *[Att: 462 - Rate: 77.0%]*
Yes	Success: 42% YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 73.0 *[Att: 89 - Rate: 14.8%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.16 Rtg: 113.1 *[Att: 49 - Rate: 8.2%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.04 Rtg: 87.9 *[Att: 138 - Rate: 23.0%]*
Total	Success: 39% YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.12 Rtg: 77.0 *[Att: 476 - Rate: 79.3%]*	Success: 52% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.15 Rtg: 101.1 *[Att: 124 - Rate: 20.7%]*	Success: 41% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.06 Rtg: 82.0 *[Att: 600 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	John Brown	Cole Beasley	Dawson Knox	Devin Singletary	Isaiah McKenzie	Frank Gore	Tyler Kroft	Robert Foster	Zay Jones
1	NYJ	W 17-16	59 (86%)	48 (70%)	38 (55%)	48 (70%)	4 (6%)	19 (28%)		15 (22%)	29 (42%)
2	NYG	W 28-14	60 (79%)	37 (49%)	41 (54%)	25 (33%)	17 (22%)	45 (59%)		27 (36%)	45 (59%)
3	CIN	W 21-17	70 (90%)	47 (60%)	44 (56%)		19 (24%)	49 (63%)		18 (23%)	40 (51%)
4	NE	L 16-10	77 (93%)	71 (86%)	54 (65%)		1 (1%)	38 (46%)			62 (75%)
5	TEN	W 14-7	53 (82%)	42 (65%)	47 (72%)		8 (12%)	33 (51%)			1 (2%)
7	MIA	W 31-21	53 (95%)	31 (55%)	29 (52%)	22 (39%)	21 (38%)	30 (54%)	25 (45%)		
8	PHI	L 31-13	57 (92%)	49 (79%)	28 (45%)	42 (68%)		18 (29%)	36 (58%)	8 (13%)	
9	WAS	W 24-9	54 (87%)	28 (45%)	47 (76%)	41 (66%)	42 (68%)	21 (34%)	16 (26%)	7 (11%)	
10	CLE	L 19-16	64 (93%)	46 (67%)	40 (58%)	46 (67%)	37 (54%)	23 (33%)	30 (43%)	16 (23%)	
11	MIA	W 37-20	71 (99%)	65 (90%)	51 (71%)	53 (74%)	56 (78%)	19 (26%)	24 (33%)		
12	DEN	W 20-3	74 (93%)	65 (81%)	62 (78%)	57 (71%)	61 (76%)	23 (29%)	25 (31%)	10 (13%)	
13	DAL	W 26-15	61 (91%)	59 (88%)	52 (78%)	52 (78%)	30 (45%)	15 (22%)	12 (18%)	28 (42%)	
14	BAL	L 24-17	73 (97%)	73 (97%)	55 (73%)	61 (81%)	54 (72%)	14 (19%)	21 (28%)	19 (25%)	
15	PIT	W 17-10	61 (94%)	45 (69%)	31 (48%)	46 (71%)	30 (46%)	19 (29%)	19 (29%)		
16	NE	L 24-17	52 (96%)	46 (85%)	40 (74%)	52 (96%)	31 (57%)	2 (4%)	17 (31%)	8 (15%)	
17	NYJ	L 13-6					49 (77%)	14 (22%)	30 (47%)		63 (98%)
	Grand Total		939 (91%)	752 (72%)	659 (64%)	545 (68%)	460 (45%)	382 (34%)	255 (35%)	219 (29%)	177 (46%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	70%	60%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	10%	20%	48%
2-1 [2WR]	10%	8%	52%
2-2 [1WR]	4%	4%	34%
1-3 [1WR]	4%	3%	40%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	62%	39%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	50%	50%	46%
2-1 [2WR]	51%	55%	49%
2-2 [1WR]	9%	0%	38%
1-3 [1WR]	19%	38%	40%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Cole Beasley	9	2	2	5
John Brown	9		3	6
Isaiah McKenzie	7		1	6
Dawson Knox	6	2	2	2
Devin Singletary	5		2	3
Zay Jones	3	2	1	

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Frank Gore	26	11	7	8
Josh Allen	22	5	6	11
Devin Singletary	19	2	1	16

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
20%	17%	63%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
40%	44%	50%
#27	#30	#21

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	16
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	12
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	21
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	15
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	9
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	22
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	31
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	6
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	30
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	21
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	31
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	29
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	5
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	16
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	4
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	31
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	21
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	15
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	26
23.	PA Improvement Success	13
24.	PA Improvement YPA	21
25.	PA Improvement Rating	14
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	24
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	16
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	17
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	11
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	8
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	6
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	12
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	21
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	2
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	6

#		Value
01.	Games w Halftime Lead	8
02.	Avg Halftime Lead	2.0
03.	Wins	10

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	6.6
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.8
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.4
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	9.9
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	45%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	41%
42.	PSM Rating	87.1
43.	Non-PSM Rating	64

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	30%
45.	PA Success Rate	54%
46.	PA YPA	7.2
47.	PA Sack Rate	6.5%
48.	PA Rating	90.1
49.	PA Target Depth	8.5
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	47%
51.	Non-PA YPA	5.9
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	4.7%
53.	Non-PA Rating	71.1
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.3

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	18%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.1
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.8
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	54%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.8

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Net FROE Rk	10	defFUM	24
Net FROE	1.5	defFUM Rcvrd	9
offFUM	23	defFR Rk	26
offFUM Rcvrd	16	defFR%	37.5%
offFR%	69.6%	defFROE	-2.2
offFR Rk	3	defFROE Rk	27
offFROE	3.7		
offFROE Rk	2		

Field Goal Luck

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
2019 FG %	81%	YOY Swing	27%
2019 FG Rk	16	YOY Swing Rk	3
Opp 2019 FG %	64%	2018 Team Net	-10%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	32	2018 Net Rk	28
2019 Team Net	17%		
2019 Net Rk	1		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Josh Allen
CAY	6.2
CAY Rk	14
2018 CAY Rk	6
AYTS Rk	6
2018 AYTS Rk	2
AGG Rk	24
2018 AGG Rk	29
COMP%	58.9
xCOMP%	62.6
xCOMP% Rk	28
2018 xCOMP% Rk	37
CPOE%	-3.7
CPOE Rk	35
2018 CPOE Rk	38

CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Josh Allen
Pressure %	36.1
Pressure Rk	13
Sack %	19.3
Sack Rk	16
Under Pressure Accuracy %	55.6
Pressure Accuracy Rk	36
Rating when Pressured	60.5
Pressured Rating Rk	24
Clean Accuracy %	77.2
Clean Accuracy Rk	25
Rating when Clean	95.2
Clean Rating Rk	31
Time to Throw	2.85
Time to Throw Rk	10

Offensive Metrics

Metric	Value
EPA/Pass	-0.04
EPA/Pass Rk	21
EPA/Rush	-0.03
EPA/Rush Rk	10
On-Target Catch %	83.3
On-Target Catch Rk	24
Drop%	11
Drop Rk	31
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	16.8
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	13
Rush 1st Down %	26
Rush 1st Down Rk	5

Buffalo Bills 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Carolina Panthers

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
   Matt Rhule (Baylor HC) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:
   Joe Brady (LSU WR) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
   Phil Snow (Baylor DC) (new)

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
5.5	#4

Past Records

2019: 5-11
2018: 7-9
2017: 11-5

EASY HARD

LVR	TB	LAC	ARI	ATL	CHI	NO	ATL	KC	TB	DET	MIN		DEN	GB	WAS	NO
H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	H	A		H	A	A	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Bruce Irvin (34OLB)	Seahaw..
Daryl Williams (LG)	Bills
Dontari Poe (34DT)	Cowboys
Garrett McGhin (RT)	Bills
Gerald McCoy (34DE)	Cowboys
Greg Olsen (TE)	Seahawks
Greg Van Roten (LG)	Jets
James Bradberry (CB)	Giants
Luke Kuechly (ILB)	Retired
Marcus Baugh (TE)	Redskins
Mario Addison (34OLB)	Bills
Trai Turner (RG)	Chargers
Vernon Butler (34DE)	Bills
Wes Horton (DE)	Retired
Brandon Greene (RG)	Null
Cam Newton (QB)	Null
Chris Hogan (WR)	Null
Eric Reid (S)	Null
Jarius Wright (WR)	Null
Javien Elliott (CB)	Null
Ross Cockrell (CB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
5.4	1	15

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	5.5
2019 Wins	5
Forecast 2019 Wins	7.5
2018 Wins	7
2017 Wins	11
2016 Wins	6

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2020 Carolina Panthers Overview

There are some situations you can see from a mile away that have very little hope. The 2019 Panthers struggling to have success after **Cam Newton** was done for the season was one of those situations.

Make no mistake – they battled admirably, but this was not a winnable battle.

Teams are built with identities. The Cam Newton-led Panthers had an identity. Before Norv and Scott Turner called plays, the way to beat the Panthers was to stop Newton's legs. If you couldn't take his wheels out, it's unlikely you would win. The Turners took Newton's passing to another, more efficient level, to prevent a team from dominating just by slowing down the quarterback on the ground. But Newton's wheels were still a consistent part of the offense's productivity.

Whether it's Cam Newton running or the threat of his running, defenses frequently needed to allocate extra defenders to stop the dynamic quarterback. Defenses didn't have to do anything close when Cam's 2019 replacement, **Kyle Allen**, stepped into the huddle.

In Newton's last year, he recorded a 55% rushing success rate with 5.7 YPC. He had 40 designed runs on the season. But he was also great knowing when to keep the ball due to coverage or simply open run lanes when he dropped back on a pass play.

Through Week 11 of 2019, Allen had a total of just nine rushing attempts and only one was successful (2.9 YPC). He had two designed runs, which averaged 1.0 YPC and a 0% success rate. He didn't even attempt a single run when presented with an open run lane on a pass play.

The Panthers knew early on this offense wasn't close to what it was

(cont'd - see CAR2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Teddy Bridgewater (QB)	$21
Russell Okung (LT)	Trade
Robby Anderson (WR)	$10
Stephen Weatherly (43DE)	$6.29
John Miller (RG)	$4
Juston Burris (S)	$4
Seth Roberts (WR)	$3.79
Eli Apple (CB)	$3
Tahir Whitehead (43OLB)	$2.5

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	7	DT - Derrick Brown (Auburn)
2	38	DE - Yetur Gross-Matos (Penn State)
2	64	S - Jeremy Chinn (Southern Illinois)
4	113	CB - Troy Pride (Notre Dame)
5	152	S - Kenny Robinson (West Virginia)
6	184	DT - Bravvion Roy (Baylor)
7	221	CB - Stantley Thomas-Oliver (Florida International)

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS T.Boston 33
SS J.Chinn Rookie 21
LB S.Thompson 54
LB T.Whitehead* NEW 59
RCB E.Apple 25
SLOTCB J.Burris NEW 31
OLB B.Burns 53
DT D.Brown Rookie 95
DT K.Short* 99
DE S.Weatherly NEW 91
LCB D.Jackson 26
LWR D.Moore 12
LT R.Okung* NEW 74
LG J.Miller NEW 76
C M.Paradis* 61
RG D.Daley 65
RT T.Morton 72
TE I.Thomas 80
RWR R.Anderson NEW 11
SLOTWR C.Samuel 10
QB T.Bridgewater NEW 5
RB C.McCaffrey 22
WR2 T.Smith 11
WR3 R.Ross 19
RB2 C.Artis-Payne 34
QB2 W.Grier 3

2020 Cap Dollars

= 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	21	$95.89M	28
QB	19	$15.57M	11
OL	16	$39.79M	30
RB	9	$12.84M	17
WR	19	$22.88M	30
TE	30	$4.82M	9
All DEF	32	$78.45M	6
DL	21	$39.93M	13
LB	21	$19.83M	1
CB	31	$7.55M	29
S	19	$11.13M	19

with Newton because Allen wasn't close to the dual-threat Cam Newton was, even in his last year in Carolina.

It is important to remember that Newton injured his foot in the 2019 preseason game against the Patriots and was never right after that. He wasn't healthy Week 1 or Week 2. It wasn't his shoulder injury that caused problems the previous season. The issue in 2019 was his foot and how that injury was handled. And as I mentioned at the top, the key to taking out Cam for years has been to take out his wheels.

With a hobbled Newton, the Panthers lost the first two games of the season, but won the Early Down Success Rate (EDSR) battle in both. EDSR has proven to be the most correlated metric to wins behind only turnover margin. But the problem for the Panthers was they lost the turnover battle in both of those first two games of the season, and that was the driver in losing both games by less than a touchdown each game.

The 2019 Panthers started the season out 1-2 but went 3-0 in the EDSR battle. However, from Week 4 onward, the Panthers lost the EDSR battle in 10 of 13 games. They narrowly won the EDSR battle in Week 10 in Green Bay and Week 15 against Seattle, but lost both by one score after losing the turnover battle in each game.

Remarkably, despite a 5-11 record, the Panthers ranked ninth in overall EDSR offensively. Their problem was third down offense, which ranked 29th, and overall offensive efficiency, which ranked 28th.

Taking a young quarterback and getting him to perform as well as the Panthers did on first down speaks volumes regarding the Turners when calling the offense. Kyle Allen recorded 8.2 YPA on first down, which ranked eighth-best in the NFL, slotting in right behind Patrick Mahomes (8.5 YPA). Allen's other first down passing metrics (EPA, success rate, and rating) all ranked above league average.

Even without play-action on first down, Allen was still very productive. Of his 176 first down attempts, 102 came without play-action.

Allen was extremely well-coached and knew where to go with the ball more frequently on first down. He threw just one interception on first down all season, posting a 0.5% interception rate.

The problem was after first down.

His 0.5% interception rate ballooned to 4.2% on second down and 5.1% on third down. His EPA, YPA, and passer rating dipped to well below average marks by the time the Panthers reached second and third down.

Allen posted the NFL's worst YPA and passer rating on third down passes. He also took 19 sacks for a whopping 158 yards, the second-most yards lost in the NFL.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Kyle Allen	54% 8.2 96.7	48% 6.1 70.8	33% 5.5 59.8	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	54%	66%	85%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance
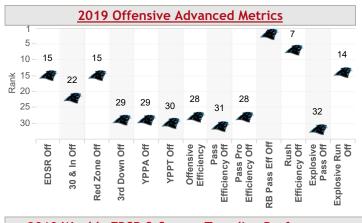
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
CAR	49% 5.0	43% 4.5	34% 4.6	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	46%	34%	15%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

The more he had to react to the defense, such as on third down when in obvious passing situations, the worse he played. Allen's efficiency on early downs, led by first down, compared to third down is visually depicted in the completion percentage by depth graphic in this chapter.

Some coaches may have been leery of starting an inexperienced quarterback and chosen to play things slightly more conservatively on first down. But the Panthers passed the ball on 54% of first downs, the fifth-highest rate in the NFL (average was 48% pass). But unlike a team like the Dolphins, who passed a lot on first down once trailing in the second half, the Panthers opened the game by passing on first down. In the first half, Carolina passed the ball on 55% of first downs, fifth-highest in the NFL.

Some coaches would want to let a stud running back like **Christian McCaffrey** carry

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
RESULT	L	L	W	W	W	W		L	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	WEEK
OPP	LA	TB	ARI	HOU	JAC	TB		SF	TEN	GB	ATL	NO	WAS	ATL	SEA	IND	NO	
SITE	H	H	A	A	H	N		A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	
MARGIN	-3	-6	18	6	7	11		-38	10	-8	-26	-3	-8	-20	-6	-32	-32	
PTS	27	14	38	16	34	37		13	30	16	3	31	21	20	24	6	10	
OPP PTS	30	20	20	10	27	26		51	20	24	29	34	29	40	30	38	42	

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **5**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-2**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **2-6**
1 Score Games Win %: **25% (#29)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **40% (#20)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-14
TO Given	35
INT Given	21
FUM Given	14
TO Taken	21
INT Taken	14
FUM Taken	7
Sack Margin	-5
Sacks	53
Sacks Allow	58
Return TD Margin	-3
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	4
Penalty Margin	+22
Penalties	87
Opponent Penalties	109

Carolina Panthers 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Legend:
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

Categories (Offense, left): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF — *Passing* / *Rushing*

Categories (Defense, right): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF — *Passing* / *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
20	20	10	6	14	13	32	30

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	1.9	0.3	-1.5
Average O/U line	46.2	46.9	44.2
Straight Up Record	5-11	7-9	11-5
Against the Spread Record	6-10	7-9	9-7
Over/Under Record	11-5	8-8	8-7
ATS as Favorite	3-3	3-5	4-5
ATS as Underdog	3-7	4-3	5-2
Straight Up Home	2-6	5-3	6-2
ATS Home	2-6	5-3	4-4
Over/Under Home	6-2	5-3	4-3
ATS as Home Favorite	2-3	3-2	2-4
ATS as a Home Dog	0-3	2-1	2-0
Straight Up Away	2-5	2-6	5-3
ATS Away	3-4	2-6	5-3
Over/Under Away	4-3	3-5	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	0-0	0-3	2-1
ATS Away Dog	3-4	2-2	3-2
Six Point Teaser Record	9-7	10-4	11-5
Seven Point Teaser Record	9-7	12-3	12-3
Ten Point Teaser Record	9-7	13-1	14-2

more of the load in the first half with an inexperienced quarterback. It was smart the Panthers did not: on first downs, McCaffrey averaged 4.8 YPC and posted a 47% success rate. His EPA, yards/play, and success rate were all lower than when Allen dropped back to pass.

Running more often on first down would have made the Panthers even less likely to win games. The fact the Turners operated in this manner bodes well for the Redskins with young Dwayne Haskins behind center.

Aside from intelligently using a smart pass:run ratio on first down and coaching up Allen on where to pass on those plays, the Panthers offense was smart in many other areas.

First, they used the fifth most play-action on early downs in the game's first three quarters. This was massive because Allen's splits with and without play-action were large, particularly on second down.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	3
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	1
Week 6 Edge	-3
Week 7 Edge	-6
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	3
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	7
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	-2

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	15
2018 Rk	29
2019 v 2018 Rk	4
Off Rk	14
Def Rk	13
QB Rk	30
RB Rk	5
WR Rk	3
TE Rk	15
Oline Rk	20
Dline Rk	29
LB Rk	17
DB Rk	7

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17
LVR	TB	LAC	ARI	ATL	CHI	NO	ATL	KC	TB	DET	MIN	DEN	GB	WAS	NO
1.5	8	6	1	7	2.5	12.5	1	14	4.5	-1.5	9.5	1.5	10	1.5	7.5

Avg = 5.4

Home Lines

1	4	6	8	10	11	14	17
1.5	1	2.5	1	4.5	-1.5	1.5	7.5
LVR	ARI	CHI	ATL	TB	DET	DEN	

Avg = 2.3

Road Lines

2	3	5	7	9	12	15	16
8	6	7	12.5	14	9.5	10	1.5
TB	LAC	ATL	NO	KC	MIN	GB	WAS

Avg = 8.6

Second, the Panthers used the sixth-most pre-snap motion in the game's first three quarters. They recorded the seventh-highest increase in efficiency when using pre-snap motion ahead of passing plays. Carolina also had the second-most pre-snap motion ahead of run plays. Such motion generated the fourth-best improvement in rushing efficiency in the NFL.

Although it is tough with a young quarterback, the Panthers could have chosen to give him more of an ability to check out of run plays when faced with a stacked box. When faced with 8+ men in the box on early downs in the game's first three quarters, the Panthers still went 63% run. This was slightly below league average (65%) but the splits were large for Carolina.

Runs into these stacked boxes generated a 43% success rate and only 3.9 YPC, while passes from Allen generated 8.6 YPA with a 54% success rate, both being slightly above average.

The majority of these runs came when the offense was in 12 personnel. There may have been opportunities available to check to more passing plays when in 12, because that was a grouping Allen excelled in, particularly when the box was stacked.

When passing out of 12 against stacked boxes Allen delivered 11.8 YPA and a 61% success rate.

One of the most interesting factors in the Panthers' 2019 season was the difference in production in the red zone after halftime. In the first half of games, their success rate was 53% inside the red zone on all plays. They were one of four teams to average over a 50% success rate in the red zone. The others all made the playoffs (Ravens, Titans, and Packers).

But in the second half, their red zone play success rate dropped to 37%. They were one of four teams to record a sub-38% success rate in the second half of games.

A big reason was the 2-back sets drying up in productivity. In the first half, with 2-backs the Panthers produced an 82% play success rate. They ran the ball on 64% of these plays and delivered a 100% rushing success rate. But in the second half, the Panthers' 82% success rate dropped to just 13%. They went 87% run on these second half red zone plays with 2-backs on the field, and these runs recorded just a 15% success rate.

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
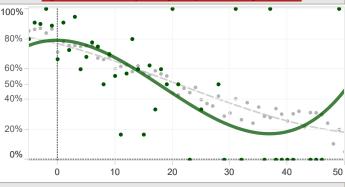
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	15%	17%	56%	7%	6%
	D.J. Moore		50%	33%	17%	
	Curtis Samuel	11%	21%	58%	5%	5%
	Jarius Wright			100%		
	Mike Davis	100%				
	Total	15%	17%	55%	7%	6%
PASS	Christian McCaffrey	37%	12%	48%	3%	1%
	D.J. Moore	19%	16%	59%	6%	
	Curtis Samuel	28%	10%	56%	3%	3%
	Greg Olsen	23%	15%	59%	3%	
	Jarius Wright	41%	6%	45%	4%	4%
	Ian Thomas	56%	11%	33%		
	Chris Hogan	58%	8%	33%		
	Total	31%	12%	52%	4%	1%
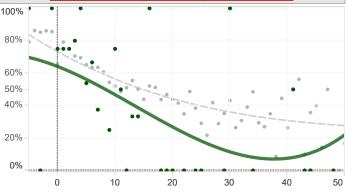
Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Christian McCaffrey	D.J. Moore	Curtis Samuel	Greg Olsen	Jarius Wright	Ian Thomas	Chris Hogan	Mike Davis
RUSH	91%	2%	6%		0%			1%
PASS	26%	23%	19%	15%	10%	5%	2%	
ALL	51%	15%	14%	9%	6%	3%	1%	0%

Kyle Allen Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Kyle Allen Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate
0% ▮▮▮▮▮▮ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, -0.12 (536)	49%, 0.05 (91)	33%, -0.50 (12)	54%, 0.01 (35)	17%, -0.40 (6)	67%, 1.57 (3)	0%, -0.29 (1)		45%, -0.09 (684)
RUSH	44%, 0.00 (189)	48%, -0.22 (97)	41%, -0.20 (59)	48%, 0.08 (25)	45%, 0.08 (11)	50%, 0.99 (2)		0%, -0.27 (1)	45%, -0.08 (384)
All	44%, -0.09 (725)	49%, -0.09 (188)	39%, -0.25 (71)	52%, 0.04 (60)	35%, -0.09 (17)	60%, 1.34 (5)	0%, -0.29 (1)	0%, -0.27 (1)	45%, -0.08 (1,068)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Christian McCaffrey	62% (108) 7.5, 0.38	45% (20) 5.3, -0.08	67% (9) 7.4, 0.46	0% (1) 7.0, -0.29	59% (138) 7.2, 0.32
TE	Greg Olsen	51% (49) 5.5, 0.05	60% (20) 10.3, 0.47	71% (7) 16.6, 0.00		55% (76) 7.8, 0.15
	Ian Thomas	46% (24) 4.7, -0.05	50% (4) 5.8, -0.12			46% (28) 4.9, -0.06
WR	DJ Moore	60% (115) 8.7, 0.25	67% (12) 12.7, 0.68	40% (5) 5.2, 0.11		60% (132) 8.9, 0.28
	Curtis Samuel	35% (74) 4.5, -0.13	64% (22) 9.3, 0.39	57% (7) 9.3, 0.32		43% (103) 5.9, 0.01
	Jarius Wright	38% (56) 5.3, -0.25				38% (56) 5.3, -0.25
	Chris Hogan	43% (14) 4.4, -0.18		100% (1) 6.0, 1.58		47% (15) 4.5, -0.07

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
McCaffrey Christian	42% (140) 5.2, 0.03	51% (77) 3.8, -0.10	49% (43) 5.7, -0.04	53% (17) 4.4, 0.01	46% (277) 4.8, -0.02
Allen Kyle	50% (16) 5.1, 0.26	0% (4) 1.5, -0.90	14% (7) 0.3, -1.29	33% (3) 4.3, 0.34	33% (30) 3.4, -0.25
Samuel Curtis	82% (11) 7.3, 0.36	63% (8) 6.3, 0.27			74% (19) 6.8, 0.33
Newton Cam	0% (3) -1.7, -3.05	0% (1) 0.0, -3.92			0% (4) -1.3, -3.26
Davis Mike	0% (2) 1.0, -1.01				0% (2) 1.0, -1.01

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	51% (307) 6.9, 0.09
M2M	56% (155) 7.5, 0.27
Screen	54% (41) 5.3, -0.08

Passing by Route

Curl	62% (73) 6.9, 0.00
Slant	66% (58) 7.4, 0.28
Out	48% (56) 5.1, 0.12
Screen	46% (41) 5.2, -0.13
Flat	62% (37) 6.3, 0.41
Dig	63% (32) 10.3, 0.56

Throw Types

Level 1	57% (445) 6.6, 0.14
Level 2	47% (101) 8.7, 0.21
Level 3	11% (44) 5.2, -0.42
Shovel	67% (3) 3.7, -0.04
Sidearm	100% (1) 7.0, 0.32

QB Drop Types

3 Step	49% (242) 7.2, 0.05
0/1 Step	61% (148) 6.3, 0.08
5 Step	44% (128) 7.0, 0.11
Designed Rollout Right	42% (19) 2.7, -0.26
Basic Screen	33% (18) 4.7, 0.08
7 Step	83% (12) 16.3, 1.25

QB State at Pass

Planted	53% (486) 7.3, 0.12
Moving	31% (84) 3.8, -0.18
Shuffling	44% (55) 4.9, 0.03

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	43% (79) 7.2, 0.08	39% (18) 4.9, -0.20
Shotgun	55% (125) 7.9, 0.10	43% (462) 6.1, -0.16
ALL	50% (204) 7.7, 0.09	43% (480) 6.1, -0.17

Run Types

Outside Zone	44% (75) 6.0, 0.02
Inside Zone	49% (61) 3.5, 0.07
Power	43% (56) 6.0, -0.09
Pitch	64% (25) 5.7, 0.08
Stretch	14% (22) 2.2, -0.49
Lead	25% (12) 1.4, -0.67

CAR-5

It will be extremely interesting to see the new team philosophy now that Matt Rhule gets his first shot as an NFL head coach. He has ample experience with rebuilds in college coaching tops at Temple and Baylor and appears he will get his first chance to do so in Carolina. The laundry list of players eliminated from the Panthers is extensive.

The team will now be led by **Teddy Bridgewater** and the offense directed by offensive coordinator Joe Brady of LSU fame. Bridgewater has the most insane ATS mark for a quarterback in history. He has led his teams to a 31-9 ATS (78%) record in games where he has attempted at least one pass. His teams are 25-15 straight up (63%) during that span since 2014. He had to fill in for Drew Brees with the Saints last year and went 6-0 SU and ATS as a starter.

If you want to look to give some of that credit to Sean Payton, as some might, I'll point you back to 2015, his last full season in Minnesota, where the team went 11-6 SU and 14-3 (82%) ATS. This was a team coordinated by Norv Turner. They were projected to win just 8 games in 2015 and clearly hit that over.

On every team Bridgewater played and started games, they hit the over on their win total. A perfect 4-0 in seasons his teams exceeded their projected win totals. He is nowhere near as flashy as Cam Newton, but he has been a proven winner, although considerably overlooked.

The rebuild offensively goes beyond just the quarterback and offensive coordinator. The Panthers return only three of five starters on the offensive line from 2019. But consider the context of their 2019 line, which was the third-most inexpensive line in the NFL (only $22.6M in cap). The 2020 line commands $39.8M in cap space and is right around league average (18th in cap allocation).

The Panthers have their primary wide receivers back and added **Robby Anderson** to the mix. **D.J. Moore** was excellent in 2019, but the opposite was true for **Curtis Samuel** and it's interesting to see the splits in Samuel's performance.

Samuel was tremendous when playing in 12 or 21 personnel, where he produced 9.4 YPA and a 63% success rate when targeted, with an aDOT of 14.4 yards. But 74 of his 104 targets came in 11 personnel, and he was terrible in 11. Of these targets, it didn't matter whether he aligned out wide or in the slot. He recorded just 4.5 YPA and a 35% success rate. In 2018, Samuel was productive out wide in 11, but struggled from the slot. In his career, in the slot from 11 he averaged just 5.2 YPA and a 41% success rate, both much lower than out wide in 11 or in 12 or 21 personnel.

Carolina Panthers 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

With **Cam Newton** playing just two games in 2019, the Panthers were forced to lean on **Kyle Allen** to carry the offense before taking a late-season look at **Will Grier**. The results of their quarterback situation were not pretty as Carolina closed the 2019 season ranked respectably 15th in success rate through the air (45%), but ended up 29th in EPA via their passing offense, 29th in yards per pass attempt (6.5 yards), and 30th in yards per passing play called (5.3 yards). The team has since moved on from Newton, releasing the longtime starter after nine seasons. Adding Joe Brady to run the offense and passing game, Carolina signed **Teddy Bridgewater**, who completed 67.9% of his passes for 7.1 Y/A with nine touchdowns and two interceptions in five games of relief for Drew Brees and the Saints a year ago. Bridgewater has not been a full-time starting quarterback since the 2015 season.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Kyle Allen	303	489	62%	3,322	6.8	17	16	46	80	40
Cam Newton	50	89	56%	572	6.4	0	1	6	71	46
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Kyle Allen	47%	51%	35	7.0%	14	3.0%	5.5	5.5	15	3%
Cam Newton	42%	46%	4	4.0%	3	3.0%	7.4	4.0	4	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Kyle Allen Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	3.3%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	5.3%	2.0%	0.0%	3.2%
6 - 9	0.0%	4.6%	6.5%	0.0%	4.9%
10 - 14	0.5%	5.1%	6.5%	0.0%	2.2%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%		2.9%
Total	0.5%	4.2%	5.1%	0.0%	3.0%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Kyle Allen	8.7	5.3	-3.4	70%	29
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
48%	52%	36
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Due to their fluctuation at quarterback, Carolina ranked 30th in yards per pass attempt (6.9 yards) and 24th in success rate (49%) on throws to their wide receivers a year ago. Despite that, second-year wideout **D.J. Moore** took another step forward, catching 87-of-135 targets for 1,175 yards and four touchdowns. The team also added **Robby Anderson** in free agency to go alongside Moore and **Curtis Samuel**. Carolina ranked 24th in yards per attempt (6.6 yards) and 20th in success rate (51%) targeting their tight ends in 2019. Veteran **Greg Olsen** was also released this offseason, with Carolina turning the position over to **Ian Thomas** in his third season. With **Christian McCaffrey** out of the backfield, Carolina was NFL-best targeting RBs.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Christian McCaffrey	143	81%	7.0	102.4	59%	17	59	113	30	3
D.J. Moore	135	64%	8.7	86.5	58%	25	35	54	68	4
Curtis Samuel	107	50%	5.9	79.5	43%	118	104	42	77	4
Greg Olsen	81	64%	7.4	84.2	54%	45	57	65	76	2
Jarius Wright	58	48%	5.1	27.7	36%	133	134	58	96	0

DJ Moore Target Distribution

Curtis Samuel Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Even with Christian McCaffrey, the Carolina run game was not hyper-efficient a year ago. The Panthers ranked 22nd in success rate (45%) and 31st in yards to successful play rate, but because they were fourth in the league in rushing touchdowns (20) and eighth in yards above successful play rate, the team was able to end the season respectably at 13th in EPA via their rushing offense. McCaffrey continued to set new career-highs on the ground, rushing 287 times for 1,387 yards and 15 touchdowns after 336 carries for 1,533 yards and nine touchdowns combined over his first two seasons in the league. McCaffrey played a league-high 93% of his team snaps for running backs and handled a league-high 88.2% of his backfield touches. With questionable depth behind him, the Panthers need McCaffrey to remain on the field.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Christian McCaffrey	287	4.8	47%	45	40	67	23	48%	34	15

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

A Cocktail for Fantasy Production in Carolina

The Panthers are one of the more intriguing "bad" teams in the league this season for fantasy purposes. With the new staff of Matt Rhule and Joe Brady, Carolina is expected to run an open offseason that is predicated on getting the ball in space to their playmakers. Brady was with the Saints over the 2017-2018 seasons as an offensive assistant while Teddy Bridgewater served as a backup to Drew Brees and then was pivotal in the progression of Joe Burrow a year ago at LSU.

Bridgewater is highly accurate and surrounded by a group of players who can excel after the catch. Christian McCaffrey led the NFL in yards after the catch (1,019) a year ago and is the only running back to ever have back-to-back seasons with 100 receptions. Since entering the league in 2017, only Michael Thomas (378) and DeAndre Hopkins (315) have more receptions than McCaffrey (303). We just saw D.J. Moore survive subpar quarterback play, posting 87-1,175-4 on 135 targets in his second year at age 22. Moore has averaged 7.7 yards and 4.5 yards after the catch in his first two seasons in the league.

Custis Samuel's year three take-off was grounded as just 59.2% of his targets deemed catchable in 2019, the lowest rate of any receiver with 100 targets on the season. Samuel was pigeonholed as a downfield target by the previous regime, but his profile coming out of college was more of Swiss Army Knife. Samuel's depth of target has climbed from 9.4 yards as a rookie, up to 12.2 yards in 2018, and up to 14.8 yards a year ago. The offensive transition and the addition of Robby Anderson opens the door for Samuel to be used in his proper context.

Anderson himself has teased us with pockets of WR1 output in each of the past three years, averaging 14.8 yards per catch over his first four seasons in the league. His vertical game is not a direct overlap with the lack of aggressiveness of Bridgewater, but Bridgewater was well above the league baseline in downfield accuracy when he did let it fly. Just 7.1% of Bridgewater's throws were 20-plus yards downfield, but his 57.1% completion rate on those throws was second in the league among all quarterbacks with over 100 dropbacks on the season.

Lastly, third-year tight end Ian Thomas finally is getting his chance to be a full-time player after two seasons playing behind and filling in for veteran Greg Olsen. In nine games without Olsen active over his two seasons in the league Thomas has caught 35-of-55 targets for 348 yards and three touchdowns on 16.6% of the team's targets. To top off the offensive fits for this new scheme, the Carolina offense is attached to a defense we anticipate to be near the bottom of the league in a division where everyone can score points. Carolina was already 31st in the NFL in points allowed and 23rd in yards per play allowed in 2019 and lost key contributors in **Luke Kuechly**, **James Bradberry**, **Gerald McCoy**, **Mario Addison**, **Vernon Butler**, and **Bruce Irvin**. Obviously McCaffrey is the consensus top pick this summer in fantasy drafts, and Moore is a top-15 wide receiver selection, but Bridgewater is an underrated QB2 option while Samuel, Anderson, and Thomas offer upside for the depth of fantasy benches.

Carolina Panthers Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	53 plays (14%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.05	320 plays (84%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.01	10 plays (3%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.02	383 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.02
1-2 [2WR]	60 plays (71%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.16	25 plays (29%) Success: 52% EPA: -0.08		85 plays (100%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.09
2-1 [2WR]	14 plays (82%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.26	3 plays (18%) Success: 33% EPA: -1.08		17 plays (100%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.02
Grand Total	127 plays (26%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.13	348 plays (72%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.00	10 plays (2%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.02	485 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.03

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	33%	5
Nickel	65%	8
Dime+	1%	29
Rush 3	1%	30
Rush 4	71%	10
Rush 5	24%	7
Rush 6+	2%	28
Blitz%	26%	14

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

No defense turned over more players than the Panthers did during the offseason. Every draft pick for the Panthers came on the defensive side of the ball.

Carolina had a deep rotation of interior defenders over the past few seasons and are down to just one left standing. At least they kept the good one. Still, **Kawann Short** just turned 31 years old in February. The seventh overall pick was used on Auburn interior defender **Derrick Brown** to slot next to short and Baylor's **Bravvion Roy** was selected in the sixth round. Both should get plenty of playing time with little other depth at the position.
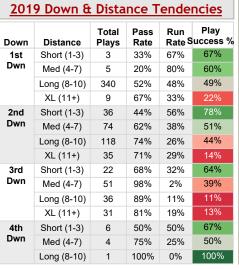
On the edge, **Brian Burns** was great in his rookie season and proved he should have been drafted higher than 16th. After a frustrating split in playing time last season, the Panthers have no choice but to make him the No. 1 edge rusher. **Stephen Weatherly** is a rotational player who will be forced to start with the lack of depth at the position. Second-round pick **Yetur Gross-Matos** is an athletic freak who will at least be the third man in the rotation. After a great All Or Nothing moment for **Efe Obada** following the 2018 season, he played 27% of the defensive snaps in 2019 with little impact.
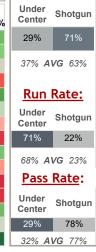
Shaq Thompson remains an ideal modern linebacker and he'll take a bigger role with the retirement of Luke Kuechly. Former Temple Owl **Tahir Whitehead** was brought in as a free agent and while he's in line to be a starter, he has struggled to cover in previous NFL stops. There's little quality behind them and only undrafted free agents were brought in at the position.

Even if **James Bradberry** didn't leave in free agency, this would be a position group dying for more quality. Among 92 cornerbacks with at least 300 coverage snaps played last season, **Donte Jackson** ranked 72nd in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which factors in touchdowns and interceptions. The Panthers got a late gift when **Eli Apple**'s agreement with the Raiders did not work out. Fourth-round pick **Troy Pride** should also play a role as an athletic high-upside corner.

You have to feel for **Tre Boston**. He's been one of the league's best single-high deep safeties in the league over the past few seasons but was never able to cash in on more than a one-year deal in free agency. Then he finally signs a three-year deal this offseason and this is the defense he gets stuck on. **Juston Burris** played well in limited time in the second half of the season with the Browns last year but like Carolina's other positions, there's little veteran quality behind the starters. The Panthers doubled up in the draft with **Jeremy Chinn** in the second round and XFL standout **Kenny Robinson** in the fifth.

Carolina Panthers 2019 Play Analysis

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	64%
All Pass Rk	4
All Rush %	36%
All Rush Rk	29
1 Score Pass %	63%
1 Score Pass Rk	5
2018 1 Score Pass %	57%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	18
2019 Pass Increase %	5%
Pass Increase Rk	6
1 Score Rush %	37%
1 Score Rush Rk	28
Up Pass %	53%
Up Pass Rk	9
Up Rush %	47%
Up Rush Rk	24
Down Pass %	71%
Down Pass Rk	3
Down Rush %	29%
Down Rush Rk	30

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	3	33%	67%	67%
	Med (4-7)	5	20%	80%	60%
	Long (8-10)	340	52%	48%	49%
	XL (11+)	9	67%	33%	22%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	36	44%	56%	78%
	Med (4-7)	74	62%	38%	51%
	Long (8-10)	118	74%	26%	44%
	XL (11+)	35	71%	29%	14%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	22	68%	32%	64%
	Med (4-7)	51	98%	2%	39%
	Long (8-10)	36	89%	11%	11%
	XL (11+)	31	81%	19%	13%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	50%	50%	67%
	Med (4-7)	4	75%	25%	50%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	100%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	29%	71%
37% AVG 63%		

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	71%	22%
68% AVG 23%		

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	29%	78%
32% AVG 77%		

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
56%	26	66%	80%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
44%	6	34%	44%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	2	100%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	4	75%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	140	48%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Christian McCaffrey	3	67%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	16	88%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	23	52%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	24	33%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Christian McCaffrey	7	14%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Christian McCaffrey	4	100%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	D.J. Moore	11	45%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	D.J. Moore	5	20%
			Jarius Wright	5	0%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Christian McCaffrey	8	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N) No	Play Action (Y/N) Yes	Play Action (Y/N) Total
No	Success: 42% YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.16 Rtg: 64.0 [Att: 312 - Rate: 45.6%]	Success: 51% YPA: 7.5, EPA: -0.01 Rtg: 82.2 [Att: 91 - Rate: 13.3%]	Success: 44% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.13 Rtg: 68.2 [Att: 403 - Rate: 58.9%]
Yes	Success: 45% YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.17 Rtg: 72.3 [Att: 168 - Rate: 24.6%]	Success: 50% YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.17 Rtg: 110.1 [Att: 113 - Rate: 16.5%]	Success: 47% YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 88.1 [Att: 281 - Rate: 41.1%]
Total	Success: 43% YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.17 Rtg: 66.9 [Att: 480 - Rate: 70.2%]	Success: 50% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 97.8 [Att: 204 - Rate: 29.8%]	Success: 45% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.09 Rtg: 76.3 [Att: 684 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates
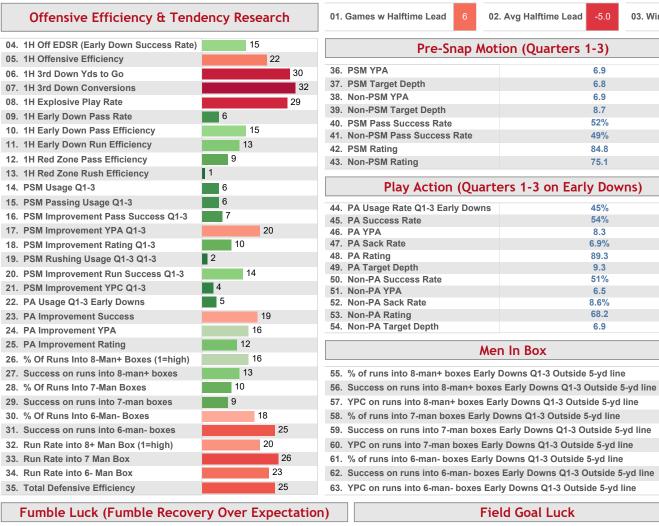
Wk	Opp	Score	Christian McCaffrey	Curtis Samuel	D.J. Moore	Greg Olsen	Jarius Wright	Chris Manhertz	Ian Thomas	Chris Hogan
1	LA	L 30-27	67 (100%)	62 (93%)	63 (94%)	63 (94%)	40 (60%)	18 (27%)	4 (6%)	5 (7%)
2	TB	L 20-14	79 (100%)	77 (97%)	75 (95%)	65 (82%)	54 (68%)	32 (41%)	2 (3%)	3 (4%)
3	ARI	W 38-20	58 (92%)	48 (76%)	46 (73%)	50 (79%)	31 (49%)	32 (51%)	7 (11%)	19 (30%)
4	HOU	W 16-10	68 (100%)	61 (90%)	60 (88%)	66 (97%)	47 (69%)	10 (15%)	10 (15%)	8 (12%)
5	JAC	W 34-27	56 (86%)	59 (91%)	63 (97%)	64 (98%)	50 (77%)		12 (18%)	
6	TB	W 37-26	64 (97%)	53 (80%)	60 (91%)	61 (92%)	31 (47%)	36 (55%)	5 (8%)	
8	SF	L 51-13	54 (78%)	61 (88%)	64 (93%)	54 (78%)	40 (58%)	22 (32%)	15 (22%)	
9	TEN	W 30-20	61 (86%)	53 (75%)	67 (94%)	65 (92%)	36 (51%)	34 (48%)	5 (7%)	
10	GB	L 24-16	73 (100%)	61 (84%)	73 (100%)	73 (100%)	45 (62%)	23 (32%)	4 (5%)	
11	ATL	L 29-3	70 (93%)	72 (96%)	74 (99%)	69 (92%)	59 (79%)	9 (12%)	3 (4%)	
12	NO	L 34-31	76 (100%)	64 (84%)	63 (83%)	70 (92%)	38 (50%)	37 (49%)	2 (3%)	
13	WAS	L 29-21	74 (99%)	69 (92%)	71 (95%)	39 (52%)	52 (69%)	19 (25%)	32 (43%)	
14	ATL	L 40-20	70 (99%)	65 (92%)	70 (99%)		59 (83%)	17 (24%)	61 (86%)	
15	SEA	L 30-24	72 (100%)	66 (92%)	70 (97%)		43 (60%)	28 (39%)	69 (96%)	6 (8%)
16	IND	L 38-6	63 (90%)	53 (76%)	6 (9%)	40 (57%)	40 (57%)	21 (30%)	32 (46%)	52 (74%)
17	NO	L 42-10	51 (72%)	46 (65%)		26 (37%)	38 (54%)	9 (13%)	42 (59%)	63 (89%)
	Grand Total		1,056 (93%)	970 (86%)	925 (87%)	805 (82%)	703 (62%)	347 (33%)	305 (27%)	156 (32%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	60%	44%
1-2 [2WR]	18%	20%	49%
2-2 [1WR]	7%	4%	39%
2-1 [2WR]	6%	8%	52%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	74%	44%	44%
1-2 [2WR]	48%	49%	48%
2-2 [1WR]	17%	33%	41%
2-1 [2WR]	58%	54%	48%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Christian McCaffrey	13	3	2	8
D.J. Moore	13	2		11
Greg Olsen	12	4	4	4
Curtis Samuel	11	5	1	5
Jarius Wright	3		1	2
Ian Thomas	2	1	1	

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Christian McCaffrey	56	20	12	24
Kyle Allen	5	2	1	2
Curtis Samuel	4	1	1	2
Alex Armah	2	2		
D.J. Moore	2		1	1
Will Grier	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
27%	20%	53%
23%	21%	56%
NFL AVG		

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
57%	51%	49%
#1	#20	#24

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	15
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	22
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	30
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	32
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	29
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	6
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	15
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	13
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	9
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	1
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	6
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	6
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	7
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	20
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	10
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	2
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	14
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	4
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	5
23.	PA Improvement Success	19
24.	PA Improvement YPA	16
25.	PA Improvement Rating	12
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	16
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	13
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	10
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	9
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	18
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	25
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	20
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	26
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	23
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	25

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	6.9
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.8
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.9
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.7
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	52%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
42.	PSM Rating	84.8
43.	Non-PSM Rating	75.1

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	45%
45.	PA Success Rate	54%
46.	PA YPA	8.3
47.	PA Sack Rate	6.9%
48.	PA Rating	89.3
49.	PA Target Depth	9.3
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	51%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6.5
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	8.6%
53.	Non-PA Rating	68.2
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	6.9

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	25%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.9
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	52%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	29%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.6

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Net FROE Rk	27	defFUM	16
Net FROE	-2.8	defFUM Rcvrd	7
offFUM	25	defFR Rk	17
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR%	43.8%
offFR%	44.0%	defFROE	-0.4
offFR Rk	26	defFROE Rk	17
offFROE	-2.4		
offFROE Rk	29		

Field Goal Luck

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
2019 FG %	78%	YOY Swing	-3%
2019 FG Rk	21	YOY Swing Rk	19
Opp 2019 FG %	77%	2018 Team Net	4%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	26	2018 Net Rk	12
2019 Team Net	1%		
2019 Net Rk	15		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Metric	Kyle Allen
CAY	5.3
CAY Rk	29
2018 CAY Rk	
AYTS Rk	13
2018 AYTS Rk	
AGG Rk	19
2018 AGG Rk	
COMP%	62
xCOMP%	63.5
xCOMP% Rk	23
2018 xCOMP% Rk	
CPOE%	-1.5
CPOE Rk	24
2018 CPOE Rk	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

Metric	Kyle Allen
Pressure %	34.2
Pressure Rk	23
Sack %	24.2
Sack Rk	6
Under Pressure Accuracy %	60.4
Pressure Accuracy Rk	25
Rating when Pressured	54.1
Pressured Rating Rk	33
Clean Accuracy %	77.3
Clean Accuracy Rk	24
Rating when Clean	89.6
Clean Rating Rk	34
Time to Throw	2.71
Time to Throw Rk	29

Offensive Metrics

Metric	Value
EPA/Pass	-0.11
EPA/Pass Rk	28
EPA/Rush	-0.08
EPA/Rush Rk	23
On-Target Catch %	85.7
On-Target Catch Rk	16
Drop%	8.1
Drop Rk	20
YAC/Att	1.9
YAC/Att Rk	31
Rush Broken Tackle %	14.2
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	21
Rush 1st Down %	21
Rush 1st Down Rk	25

Carolina Panthers 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle

vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable

WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success

Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success

0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

The defense is being overhauled completely. It was the sixth-most expensive defense in 2019 and is now the fifth-least expensive in 2020. All seven draft picks are defensive players and they added multiple defensive players in a very active free agency period.

After facing the second-toughest schedule in 2019, the Panthers' bad luck continues by facing the sixth-toughest schedule in 2020. With the Saints, Bucs, and Falcons in the division, it will be tough sledding, but their non-division schedule does them no favors either.

They also don't have the benefit of an early bye week. Early bye weeks tend to help first-year coaches make adjustments, but the Panthers 2020 bye is the last one possible: Week 13.

For a team that went heavy on defense in the draft, their offense could use more weaponry and will face the fifth-toughest schedule of run defenses. The Panthers love passing to Christian McCaffrey and will certainly do the same in 2020, but an interesting note: last year the Panthers played five teams that ranked bottom-10 in RB-pass defense and they went 4-1 in those games (1-10 in their other 11 games). In 2020 they are projected to face just two teams that ranked bottom-10 in RB-pass defense: the Raiders Week 1 and Cardinals Week 4.

The Panthers have one of the worst situations of all teams with a brand new coaching staff. The head coach is working to impart his philosophy and culture. The defensive coordinator Phil Snow will take on a young, inexperienced defense. The offensive coordinator is installing a brand new system, and they have a new quarterback with zero chemistry with his receivers. It won't be easy given this difficult and abbreviated offseason. But the Panthers are hoping their rebuild gets them on the right track sooner rather than later.

Head Coach:
Matt Nagy (2 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Bill Lazor (CIN OC) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
Chuck Pagano (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

Chicago Bears

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
8.5	#3
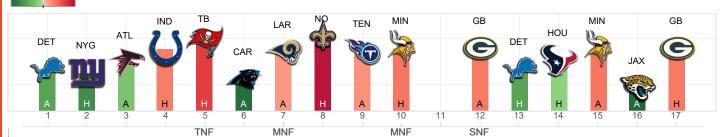
Past Records
2019: 8-8
2018: 12-4
2017: 5-11

	DET	NYG	ATL	IND	TB	CAR	LAR	NO	TEN	MIN		GB	DET	HOU	MIN	JAX	GB
	A	H	A	H	H	A	A	H	A	H		A	H	H	A	A	H
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF   MNF   MNF   SNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Aaron Lynch (34OLB)	Jaguars
Chase Daniel (QB)	Lions
Cornelius Lucas (LT)	Redskins
Dion Sims (TE)	Retired
Ha-Ha Clinton-Dix (S)	Cowboys
Kevin Pierre-Louis (43OLB)	Redskins
Kyle Long (G)	Retired
Leonard Floyd (34OLB)	Rams
Nicholas Williams (34DT)	Lions
Nick Kwiatkoski (ILB)	Raiders
Prince Amukamara (CB)	Raiders
Trey Burton (TE)	Colts
Bradley Sowell (TE)	Null
Joshua Simmons (CB)	Null
Kyle Long (RG)	Null
T.J. Clemmings (RT)	Null
Taylor Gabriel (WR)	Null
Ted Larsen (LG)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
0.5	5	11

2020 Chicago Bears Overview

Throwing good money after bad. The sunk cost fallacy. When someone continues an endeavor as a result of previously invested resources, rather than objectively viewing future decisions based on their own cost-benefit. Far too often, we see teams draft a rookie quarterback highly, watch as the team's performance isn't tragic despite mediocre quarterback play, and then reward said quarterback with a second, more lucrative contract.

It becomes the downfall of that team. A number of these contracts come to mind:

- Derek Carr signing for $125M in 2017 ($25M per)
- Joe Flacco signing for $121M in 2013 ($20M per)
- Blake Bortles signing for $54M in 2018 ($18M per)

After Carr's first two years, the team went 10-22 and he averaged only 6.2 YPA. But thanks to a 12-3 season in 2016 (he only averaged 7.0 YPA) the Raiders tore up the final year of his rookie deal and rewarded him with a $125 million contract. The team hasn't had a winning record in any of the first three years he has been on the new deal.

After Joe Flacco led the Ravens to the Super Bowl win over the 49ers in the 2012 season, the Ravens were in a bind. Flacco was a fine quarterback and clearly did exactly what the team needed him to do on his rookie deal. But that's when his cap hits were low and he was averaging $5.95 million per year. But off the Super Bowl, the Ravens were compelled to pay him. The first three years of his six-year deal, he averaged just 6.8 YPA and the Ravens posted one winning season.

And that was during a period when Flacco's cap was somewhat manageable (in the $14 million range). The next two years of his deal, his cap hit was set to hit $28.6 million and then $31.2 million.

(cont'd - see CHI2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Robert Quinn (43DE)	$14
Jimmy Graham (TE)	$8
Nick Foles (QB)	Trade
Demetrius Harris (TE)	$1.60
Barkevious Mingo (34OLB)	$1.2
Ted Ginn (WR)	$1.2
John Jenkins (34DE)	$1.10
Tashaun Gipson (S)	$1.10
Artie Burns (CB)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	43	TE - Cole Kmet (Notre Dame)
	50	CB - Jaylon Johnson (Utah)
5	155	OLB - Trevis Gipson (Tulsa)
	163	CB - Kindle Vildor (Georgia Southern)
	173	WR - Darnell Mooney (Tulane)
7	226	G - Arlington Hambright (Colorado)
	227	OT - Lachavious Simmons (Tennessee State)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	8.5
2019 Wins	8
Forecast 2019 Wins	9.5
2018 Wins	12
2017 Wins	5
2016 Wins	3

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS E.Jackson 39		SS T.Gipson 38
	LB D.Trevathan* 59	LB R.Smith 58
RCB J.Johnson Rookie 33	SLOTCB B.Skrine 41	OLB K.Mack 52
	LE A.Hicks* 96	RE R.Robertson-Harris 95
	OLB R.Quinn* NEW 94	LCB K.Fuller 23

LWR T.Ginn 19 · SlotWR A.Miller 17 · LT C.Leno 72 · LG J.Daniels 68 · C C.Whitehair 65 · RG R.Coward 69 · RT B.Massie* 70 · TE J.Graham* NEW 80 · RWR A.Robinson 12

QB N.Foles* NEW 9 · RB T.Cohen 24

WR2 C.Patterson 84 · WR3 J.Wims 83 · RB2 D.Montgomery 32 · QB2 M.Trubisky 10

2020 Cap Dollars
* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All OFF · All DEF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	20	$96.81M	25
QB	17	$16.70M	19
OL	25	$32.41M	31
RB	28	$5.13M	31
WR	10	$28.69M	4
TE	7	$13.87M	4
All DEF	2	$147.60M	4
DL	1	$65.95M	25
LB	1	$48.68M	3
CB	9	$24.66M	3
S	24	$8.32M	26

CHI-2

The Ravens still didn't feel they could cut bait but had to do something. So they gave Flacco a $40 million signing bonus and signed him to a new contract, which lowered his 2016 and 2017 cap hits into the $22 to $24 million range. It didn't help enough. Just like the first three years of his first non-rookie deal, the Ravens posted one winning record in those next three years before Flacco gave way to Lamar Jackson, as the one-time Super Bowl winner averaged only 6.2 YPA over those three years.

After Bortles's career started with three straight years of terrible play and terrible records (11-34 in total), the Jaguars defense led them to a 10-6 record in 2017 and the AFC Championship game. Bortles averaged just 7.0 YPA with an 84.7 rating, but the team decided to sign him long-term instead of letting him play out his fifth-year on the option. It was a costly mistake (giving him the fifth-year option itself was an error that snowballed into future bad moves). Bortles went 3-9 in 2018 and averaged 6.7 YPA in the process, and that was when his cap hit was still only $10 million. Prior to his cap hit heading north of $21 million, the Jaguars cut him.

The story was similar with Andy Dalton and I could name a number of other quarterbacks as well. The point being, when these guys are on rookie deals, it's easier to build a winner around them. Even if they aren't great, through the sheer cycles of the NFL and natural variation, these guys could lead the team to an improbable playoff run.

That does not mean he's worthy of a lucrative extension. In fact, giving him such an extension handcuffs the team and makes you less likely to win, as we saw with Carr, Flacco, and Bortles.

We discussed this very point on the NFL panel I was on at the 2019 Sloan Sports Analytics Conference with Mina Kimes. There really hasn't been a precedent of cutting bait with a highly-drafted quarterback after somewhat decent team results. But should there be? When it was my turn I threw out **Mitchell Trubisky**'s name, and said:

"Where do we see this guy's development in year four? One of the big problems that teams have is you have a team that is successful with a quarterback on his rookie deal so it's easier to build your team. In his last year, do we pay this guy? Or do we let him walk and now we might be worse next year? What is that going to say to the fans and what is the public perception going to be of our team's strategy at that point?"

"The league has been getting more aggressive in free agency, and I would like to see a team [with a highly-drafted but mediocre quarterback on a rookie deal] try to be aggressive from that perspective and not care about the repercussions from public perspective."

Trubisky's rookie year was a disaster. But in the first year with Matt Nagy (Trubiksy's sophomore season), Nagy took Trubisky under his arm and allowed the quarterback to shine with a new offense. The Bears went 11-3 in Trubisky's starts and he averaged 7.4 YPA.

2019 Passing Performance
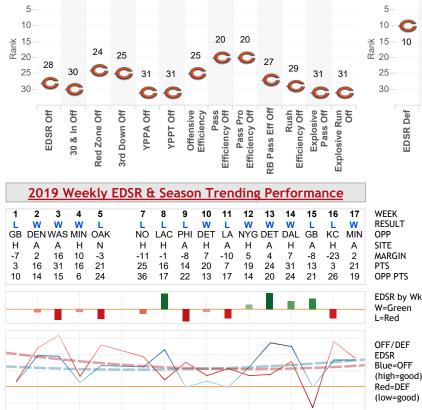
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Mitchell Trubisky	53% 6.2 93.2	41% 5.8 72.5	34% 6.2 80.6	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	52%	60%	81%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
CHI	44% 3.9	46% 3.8	39% 2.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	48%	40%	19%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

But in last year's chapter on the Bears, I warned about the "sophomore jump" in quarterback production, which we've consistently seen as second-year quarterbacks make gargantuan leaps in efficiency compared to their rookie season. I focused on that element coupled with the Bears tough salary cap, and forecast a return to Earth for the 2019 Bears off that 12-4 season of 2018. And that is exactly what happened.

Before diving into the 2019 season deeper, the biggest change this offseason was the team trading for quarterback **Nick Foles**. This type of move is exactly what I lobbied for over a year ago at Sloan — acquiring a veteran quarterback when your rookie-deal quarterback was clearly not the long-term answer and not someone you should dump money into on a second deal. And ignoring whatever the public might think about potentially having wasted a high draft pick (No. 2 overall in this case, with a trade up) on a quarterback.

(cont'd - see CHI-3)

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	L	W	W	W	L		L	L	L	W	L	W	W	W	L	L	W
OPP	GB	DEN	WAS	MIN	OAK		NO	LAC	PHI	DET	LA	NYG	DET	DAL	GB	KC	MIN
SITE	H	A	A	H	N		H	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A
MARGIN	-7	2	16	10	-3		-11	-1	-8	7	-10	5	4	7	-8	-23	2
PTS	3	16	31	16	21		25	16	14	20	7	19	24	31	13	3	21
OPP PTS	10	14	15	6	24		36	17	22	13	17	14	20	24	21	26	19

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records
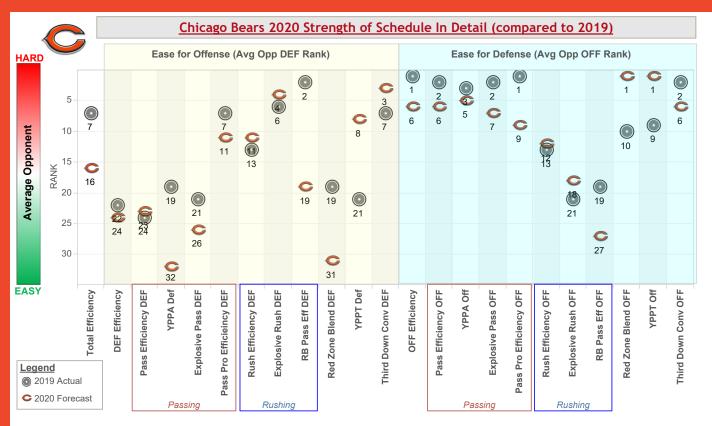
All 2019 Wins: **8**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **25% (#12)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **6-5**
1 Score Games Win %: **55% (#12)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **75% (#7)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+0
TO Given	19
INT Given	12
FUM Given	7
TO Taken	19
INT Taken	10
FUM Taken	9
Sack Margin	-13
Sacks	32
Sacks Allow	45
Return TD Margin	+2
Ret TDs	2
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	+10
Penalties	103
Opponent Penalties	113

77

Chicago Bears 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD
EASY
Average Opponent
RANK

Categories (left to right):
Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF (*Passing*), Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF (*Rushing*), Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF (*Passing*), Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF (*Rushing*), Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
19	26	8	26	19	22	15	17

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-1.0	-2.9	4.8
Average O/U line	40.6	44.2	41.7
Straight Up Record	8-8	12-4	5-11
Against the Spread Record	5-10	12-4	7-6
Over/Under Record	6-10	8-8	5-11
ATS as Favorite	4-6	9-3	1-2
ATS as Underdog	1-4	3-1	6-4
Straight Up Home	4-4	7-1	3-5
ATS Home	3-5	7-1	4-2
Over/Under Home	2-6	4-4	2-6
ATS as Home Favorite	2-4	6-0	1-2
ATS as a Home Dog	1-1	1-1	3-0
Straight Up Away	4-3	5-3	2-6
ATS Away	2-4	5-3	3-4
Over/Under Away	3-4	4-4	3-5
ATS Away Favorite	2-1	3-3	0-0
ATS Away Dog	0-3	2-0	3-4
Six Point Teaser Record	12-4	14-2	12-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-4	15-0	12-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	13-2	16-0	12-4

The move, to some, may have indicated defeat for the Bears. To most of us, however, defeat was inevitable. Trubisky was not the quarterback who could will a team to an 11-3 record as he did in 2018. What was encouraging to see was the Bears refuse to cave to the sunk cost fallacy.

The 2018 Bears went 1-1 when losing the turnover battle but went 11-4 otherwise. The 2019 Bears went 2-5 when losing the turnover battle but 6-3 otherwise.

That the Bears won 29% of games when losing the turnover battle is not a surprise – last year teams won just 23% of games when losing the turnover battle and historically it's slightly lower than that. The key number here being the total games they lost the turnover battle increased from two in 2018 to seven in 2019.

Those numbers can't be blamed on Trubisky, however. He threw 10 interceptions, but that was a lower total than 2018 as was his interception rate. Overall, the Bears turned the ball over less often in 2019.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	3
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	1
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	3
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	-1
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	6
Week 13 Edge	-3
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	13
2018 Rk	3
2019 v 2018 Rk	28
Off Rk	15
Def Rk	12
QB Rk	23
RB Rk	6
WR Rk	20
TE Rk	24
Oline Rk	20
Dline Rk	26
LB Rk	20
DB Rk	2

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
DET	NYG	ATL	IND	TB	CAR	LAR	NO	TEN	MIN	GB	DET	HOU	MIN	JAX	GB
1.5	-5.5	2	-1.5	1	-2.5	4	2.5	3	1	5	-5.5	-3.5	4.5	1	1

Home Lines

Avg = -1.3

2	4	5	8	10	13	14	17
-5.5 NYG	-1.5 IND	1 TB	2.5 NO	1 MIN	-5.5 DET	-3 HOU	1

Road Lines

Avg = 2.3

1	3	6	7	9	12	15	16
1.5 DET	2 ATL	-2.5 CAR	4 LAR	3 TEN	5 GB	4. MIN	1 JAX

But their defense did not have the same type of success. Pressure tends to create the most takeaways, be it via sack-fumbles or problematic passing leading to interceptions, tipped balls, or inaccurate passes leading to interceptions on deflections. The 2018 Bears recorded 50 sacks. The 2019 Bears recorded just 32. When adjusting to offensive sacks allowed, the Bears went from a net +17 sack margin in 2018 to a -13 sack margin. That's a swing of 30 sacks.

There have been only 27 teams in the last 30 years to see a swing of -30 sacks from one year to the next before the 2019 Bears. Every single one of these teams lost more games the following year except one. On average, these teams lost four more games the following season, identical to the 2019 Bears as they dropped from 12 wins to only eight wins.

The Bears dropped from 15th in third down conversion rate in 2018 to 25th in 2019. The driver was largely distance to go: on average, in 2018 they needed 6.3 yards on third down (sixth-fewest) and in 2019 that increased to 7.1, 14th fewest. The Bears must be more efficient on first down to shorten the distance to go.

In order to be more efficient, the Bears should both increase their pass rate and improve the run types that lead back **David Montgomery** is best at executing. On first down through the game's first three quarters, the Bears passed the ball on 50% of play calls, the 11th most frequent in the NFL. Their 57% success rate was above average on such passes, while their 43% success rate on run plays was well below average. Of 137 RB-runs on first down, Montgomery took 104 of them. He averaged just 3.8 YPC and a 41% success rate. He was terribly inefficient running outside zone (2.6 YPC, 38% success) and only slightly better running inside zone, which accounted for over a third of all first down runs (3.9 YPC, 44% success). Montgomery's most efficient runs from an EPA, success rate, or YPC perspective had a lead blocker. He gained 5.5 YPC with a 64% success rate on 22 lead runs. These were primarily from 21 or 12 personnel.

Also interesting was the drop in production from the run game in the red zone in 2019. In 2018, Trubisky recorded a 100% success rate in red zone runs and scored three touchdowns on six carries. The team didn't build on that production in 2019, as he had just six carries, and these were successful just 33% of the time (one TD). Montgomery's 35% success and 1.7 YPC paled in comparison to Jordan Howard's 69% success and 3.2 YPC from 2018. One of the few places on the field where rushing is efficient is inside the red zone and the Bears must fix their red zone rushing offense in 2020.
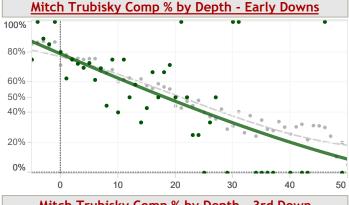
2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
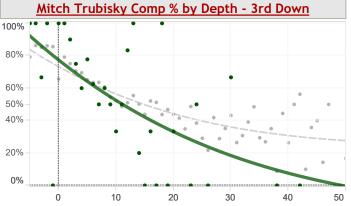
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	David Montgomery	8%	7%	65%	14%	7%
	Tarik Cohen	13%	14%	61%	6%	6%
	Allen Robinson			100%		
	Anthony Miller			100%		
	Taylor Gabriel			67%		33%
	Cordarrelle Patterson	12%	6%	53%	18%	12%
	Mike Davis			91%	9%	
	Total	9%	8%	65%	12%	7%
PASS	David Montgomery	6%	9%	71%	9%	6%
	Tarik Cohen	14%	7%	68%	6%	4%
	Allen Robinson	11%	6%	73%	4%	6%
	Anthony Miller	14%	19%	61%	1%	4%
	Taylor Gabriel	2%	15%	71%		13%
	Javon Wims	23%	3%	62%	10%	3%
	Cordarrelle Patterson	23%	8%	62%	8%	
	Trey Burton		8%	84%	4%	4%
	Mike Davis			100%		
	Adam Shaheen	15%		77%		8%
	Total	11%	9%	70%	4%	6%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	David Montgomery	Tarik Cohen	Allen Robinson	Anthony Miller	Taylor Gabriel	Javon Wims	Cordarrelle Patterson	Trey Burton	Mike Davis	Adam Shaheen
RUSH	71%	19%	0%	0%	1%		5%		3%	
PASS	7%	19%	29%	14%	10%	8%	3%	5%	2%	3%
ALL	34%	19%	17%	9%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

| 2016 Wins | 2017 Wins | 2018 Wins | 2019 Wins | Forecast 2020 Wins |

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

29 31 25 19 12 11 9 13 21 7 10 29 26 7 22 10

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

17 7 14 20 32 8 5 10 9 23 17 22 9 31 23

Mitch Trubisky Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Mitch Trubisky Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	45%, -0.06 (412)	55%, 0.10 (31)	34%, -0.18 (70)	59%, 0.38 (51)	39%, -0.42 (36)	25%, -0.55 (8)	17%, 0.08 (6)	33%, -0.22 (3)		0%, -0.76 (2)	44%, -0.06 (619)
RUSH	44%, -0.09 (224)	38%, -0.26 (84)	52%, 0.05 (44)	43%, -0.11 (14)	38%, -0.62 (8)	100%, 0.86 (2)	0%, -0.53 (4)	25%, -0.23 (4)	17%, -0.60 (6)		43%, -0.13 (390)
All	44%, -0.07 (636)	43%, -0.16 (115)	41%, -0.09 (114)	55%, 0.27 (65)	39%, -0.45 (44)	40%, -0.26 (10)	10%, -0.17 (10)	29%, -0.22 (7)	17%, -0.60 (6)	0%, -0.76 (2)	############

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Tarik Cohen	46% (54) 4.9, -0.13	21% (29) 2.1, -0.37	50% (10) 7.1, -0.06	0% (1) 0.0, -0.67	38% (94) 4.2, -0.20
	Mike Davis	0% (2) 3.5, 0.74	0% (1) 2.0, -0.28			0% (3) 3.0, 0.40
TE	Trey Burton	39% (18) 4.0, -0.30	0% (2) 0.5, -0.76		50% (2) 4.0, -0.13	36% (22) 3.7, -0.33
WR	Allen Robinson	56% (109) 7.1, 0.18	69% (13) 11.1, 0.74	77% (13) 8.2, 0.59	60% (10) 10.1, 0.16	59% (145) 7.8, 0.26
	Anthony Miller	51% (61) 7.4, 0.10	100% (1) 20.0, 1.16	64% (14) 11.3, 0.74	0% (1) 2.0, -1.01	53% (77) 8.2, 0.22
	Taylor Gabriel	50% (28) 5.5, 0.11	50% (2) 4.5, 0.53	50% (6) 6.2, 0.25	60% (5) 9.8, 0.42	51% (41) 6.1, 0.19
	Cordarrelle Patterson	44% (9) 3.3, -0.14	100% (1) 11.0, 1.10	100% (1) 33.0, 3.00	100% (1) 5.0, 0.09	58% (12) 6.6, 0.24

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Montgomery David	42% (130) 3.7, -0.13	38% (69) 3.2, -0.28	57% (30) 4.8, 0.09		42% (229) 3.7, -0.14
Cohen Tarik	43% (51) 3.2, -0.11	33% (3) 1.3, -0.64	25% (4) 5.0, -0.13		41% (58) 3.2, -0.14
Trubisky Mitchell	52% (29) 4.8, 0.18	75% (4) 5.8, 0.02	100% (3) 8.3, 0.93	0% (4) -1.0, -0.76	53% (40) 4.6, 0.13
Davis Mike	25% (4) 1.5, -0.48	0% (2) 2.5, -0.23	25% (4) 2.8, -0.36		20% (10) 2.2, -0.38
Patterson Cordarrelle	80% (5) 3.2, -0.01	33% (3) 15.0, 0.04		50% (2) 3.0, -0.27	60% (10) 6.7, -0.05

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	51% (177) 6.9, 0.21
M2M	45% (127) 5.1, -0.06
Screen	48% (63) 5.0, 0.03
Combo	100% (1) 10.0, 1.16

Passing by Route

Curl	60% (110) 6.1, 0.17
Screen	49% (74) 5.1, -0.05
Out	55% (60) 5.5, 0.06
Slant	57% (42) 6.2, 0.03
Flat	46% (35) 3.0, -0.25
Dig	62% (21) 8.9, 0.53

Throw Types

Level 1	53% (386) 5.3, 0.09
Level 2	45% (106) 9.6, 0.04
Level 3	23% (44) 6.6, -0.25
Shovel	0% (4) 0.8, -0.43
Sidearm	100% (4) 7.3, 1.09

QB Drop Types

3 Step	46% (262) 6.3, 0.03
0/1 Step	51% (118) 5.6, 0.01
5 Step	45% (51) 8.4, 0.21
Designed Rollout Right	66% (32) 7.6, 0.35
Basic Screen	43% (21) 5.7, -0.06
7 Step	41% (17) 5.7, 0.02

QB State at Pass

Planted	51% (409) 6.5, 0.11
Moving	45% (83) 4.8, -0.01
Shuffling	36% (81) 5.7, -0.19

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	52% (54) 9.5, 0.21	43% (14) 3.2, 0.07
Shotgun	51% (72) 6.5, 0.04	43% (480) 5.8, -0.10
ALL	52% (126) 7.8, 0.11	43% (494) 5.7, -0.10

Run Types

Inside Zone	45% (85) 3.3, -0.12
Outside Zone	41% (37) 3.3, -0.16
Lead	43% (28) 3.7, -0.17
Power	33% (27) 3.2, -0.25
Stretch	25% (20) 2.7, -0.26
Pitch	56% (16) 6.4, 0.11

CHI-5

It won't be easy. While the addition of a new quarterback was smart. The implementation was not nearly as smart. Despite quarterbacks like Jameis Winston and Cam Newton sitting as free agents, the Bears went aggressively after Foles. They sent a fourth-round pick to the Jaguars and didn't require Jacksonville to take on any part of Foles's contract. When former starters like Winston, Newton, and Andy Dalton were had for nothing, it seemed illogical for the Bears to be that aggressive. This should tell us all we need to know about what the Bears plans are at the quarterback position in 2020.

The Bears also made the robust move of signing **Jimmy Graham** to a two-year, $16M deal. I realize the Bears lost **Adam Shaheen** and **Trey Burton** to injuries last year. But Graham is a liability in pass protection and may not get used enough as a receiver to make such a contract worth it. Chicago also has eight other tight ends on the roster at a combined $10.3M this season. Even in Weeks 1-9, when both Shaheen and Burton were playing, the Bears used 12 personnel only 14% of the time, sixth-least in the NFL. And the Bears targeted tight ends only 11% of the time in 2019, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

The Bears also must improve in their usage of running backs in the pass game. Last year they threw 29% of all passes on early downs with 10+ yards to go to their backs. That was the fourth-highest rate in the NFL. But unlike two teams with very high target rates, such as the Patriots and Chargers, these targets were terribly inefficient. On such targets, the Bears averaged 4.5 YPA (30th) and a 40% success rate (28th). Compare that to the Chargers, who led the NFL in running back target rate, who were at 8.0 YPA (fifth) and a 56% success rate (fifth). The Patriots were one of the best teams in the league at 8.4 YPA (second) and a 59% success rate (first). Either the plays designed for these targets are in need of massive improvement or the Bears need to seek to target backs much less in these situations.

In 2020, Chicago faces a very similar schedule to last year based on overall strength, but there is some reason for optimism. Last year I forecast the Bears to have the fifth-toughest schedule using my methodology in May. Looking at their actual schedule strength when all was said and done, the Bears faced the seventh-toughest schedule, so my ranking was extremely prescient for them. This year, I forecast they will play the sixth-easiest schedule. That projected improvement in schedule strength of 20 ranking spots is second-most in the NFL. Their three most difficult non-division games are all at home: against the Colts in Week 4, Bucs in Week 5, and Saints in Week 8. But all of those dome/warm weather teams will avoid the cold Chicago winter, given their trips to Chicago are Week 8 or earlier. The Bears are fortunate to host dome teams of the Vikings, Lions, and Texans from mid-November onward. Chicago is 20-7 (74%) and 19-7-1 ATS (73%) at home from Week 10 onward vs dome or warm weather teams since 2005, including 5-0 the last two years. The Bears surprisingly play four primetime games, and in one of those games, they have to play the Rams in LA on Monday night in Week 7. That puts them into a very disadvantageous position – a non-West Coast team playing in primetime on the West Coast. It also sets them up to face the Saints on a short week. Additionally, they play the Buccaneers on a Thursday night. The good news is they host the game, but the bad news is that on short weeks, the better team has more of an edge than does the home team: home underdogs win just 25% of games and cover 38% on three days rest.

If the pairing of Lazor and Foles can work wonders, the Bears absolutely can be better than the 8-8 mark from 2019. But Chicago's roster is severely stressed from a cap perspective and there is little room for error.

Chicago Bears 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook
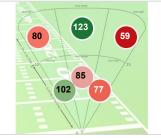
The Chicago passing game was bleak in 2019. They did respectively rank 18th in the league in success rate (44%), but that came along with ranking 30th in the league in yards above successful rate, and 31st in the league in yards per passing play (5.3 yards), which landed them at 26th in the league in total EPA via the air. Third-year quarterback **Mitchell Trubisky** took a major step backward in 2019, ranking last in the league in yards per pass attempt from a clean pocket (6.6 Y/A) and second to last in yards per attempt under pressure (4.6 Y/A) for all qualifying passers. Bypassing the pickup of his fifth-year option, the Bears went out and traded for **Nick Foles** as immediate competition in 2020. Foles is on his fifth team in six seasons and has not thrown 200 or more passes in an NFL season since 2015 with the Rams, but the Bears are not committing to waiting on Trubisky's development any longer.

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Mitchell Trubisky	326	517	63%	3,124	6.0	17	10	37	83	37
Chase Daniel	45	64	70%	435	6.8	3	2	7	92	18
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Mitchell Trubisky	43%	47%	35	7.0%	16	3.0%	5.2	4.4	21	4%
Chase Daniel	51%	57%	4	6.0%	3	5.0%	6.4	3.2	4	6%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Mitchell Trubisky Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%
6 - 9	0.0%	3.1%	1.6%	0.0%	2.1%
10 - 14	0.6%	1.9%	6.5%	0.0%	1.5%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	0.5%	3.3%	1.9%	0.0%	1.8%
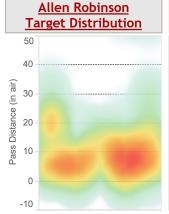
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Mitchell Trubisky	9.1	5.1	-3.9	73%	37
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
54%	46%	19
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Given the quarterback situation in Chicago, it is no surprise that their receiving targets rank among the bottom of the league. The Bears ranked 26th in the league in yards per attempt to their wide receivers (7.2 yards), while 31st in the league in yards per attempt to their tight ends (5.5 yards) and running backs (4.5 yards). One of the lone bright spots was **Allen Robinson**, who caught 98 passes for 1,147 yards and seven touchdowns. Second-year wideout **Anthony Miller** also came on to close the season, catching passes for 438 yards and two touchdowns over his final seven games of the season. Chicago tight ends combined for just 46 catches for 416 yards and two touchdowns last season, adding 33-year-old **Jimmy Graham** and **Cole Kmet.**

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Allen Robinson	153	64%	7.5	93.8	58%	28	42	79	28	7
Tarik Cohen	104	76%	4.4	89.3	39%	130	107	134	8	3
Anthony Miller	85	61%	7.7	78.4	52%	68	34	34	106	1

Allen Robinson Target Distribution

Anthony Miller Target Distribution
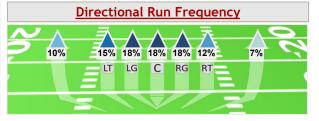
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

It was not just the Chicago passing game that struggled in 2019, but their rushing game also followed suit. The Bears collectively ranked 25th in rushing success rate (44%), 31st in yards created above success rate, and rounded things out by finishing 29th in EPA via the ground and in yards per carry (3.7 yards). Rookie **David Montgomery** was a mixed bag, registering 1,074 yards from scrimmage and seven touchdowns, but he averaged just 4.0 yards per touch. Where Montgomery struggled was creating explosive runs, registering gains of five or more yards on just 28% of his carries (league rate was 34%) and 10 or more yards on 7% of his carries (league rate was 10%). As a team, the Bears finished ahead of only the Dolphins and Jets in rushing gains of 10 or more yards on the season.

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
David Montgomery	242	3.7	45%	50	22	32	69	46%	44	6
Tarik Cohen	64	3.3	42%	64	73	30	57	42%	62	0

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Is there anything of note in the Chicago Passing Game in 2020?
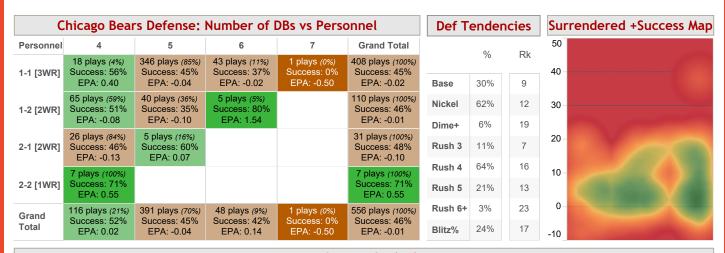
Playing a full 16 games for the first time since the 2016 season, Allen Robinson delivered a WR8 season in PPR scoring overall and WR11 season in points per game. As a one-man-band, Robinson caught 98-of-154 targets for seven touchdowns. At the wide receiver position, only Michael Thomas and Julio Jones received more targets than Robinson, who accounted for 26.6% of the Chicago targets, a usage rate which trailed only Thomas and DeAndre Hopkins among all wideouts. Robinson did average just 11.7 yards per reception, his lowest rate since his rookie season, but posted a career-high 63.6% catch rate as the Bears found ways to get him the football, using him in the slot on 40% of his routes in each of his two seasons there. Transitioning to a volume-based target over a splash-play option, Robinson is elevated as a WR1 in full-PPR formats while losing some ground as a WR2 in standard leagues.

Anthony Miller has posted nearly identical catch rates (61.1% and 61.2%) and yards per catch (12.8 yards and 12.6 yards) over his first two NFL seasons. After outkicking his expected touchdown total as a rookie, Miller found the end zone just two times in 2019, but jumped from 54 targets as a rookie up to 84 a year ago. Miller particularly showed signs of life late in the season. After catching just 17-of-30 targets for 218 yards and zero touchdowns on 9.6% of the team targets through nine games, Miller caught 35-of-55 targets for 438 yards and two touchdowns on 18.5% of the Chicago targets over his final seven games. **Taylor Gabriel** appeared in just two of those games, but was not brought back this offseason while the Bears added **Ted Ginn**. Miller's end of season usage should rollover, the only question remains is how often the Chicago quarterback situation will support the depth behind Allen Robinson. Even during his spike down the stretch, Miller had weeks with just four, two, and one target.

I bring up both Robinson and Miller because the Bears project to face our seventh-easiest passing schedule blend in the NFL this upcoming season. Both Robinson's full season and Miller end of the season were viable for fantasy while playing alongside an anemic Mitchell Trubisky, so both can overcome poor quarterback play no matter who should win the quarterback competition in Chicago.
There is a strong bet that both Trubisky and Nick Foles play, but if one of the two passers is going to be more viable in 2020 for fantasy on their own merit, the answer between the two is Trubisky.

Trubisky has been a really strong fantasy option versus poor defenses. In 17 career games against pass defenses that rank 20th or lower, Trubisky averages 23.3 fantasy points per game and 8.5 yards per pass attempt as opposed to 14.2 fantasy points and 5.7 yards per attempt otherwise. Even a year ago, those marks were 21.9 points per game in five games versus those lower-end pass defenses and 7.9 Y/A versus 14.3 points per game and 5.3 Y/A outside of those weeks. Trubisky even had three top-eight scoring weeks last year versus the Lions and Giants in his three games versus those teams a year ago, who are the opening two opponents for the Bears this season.

Chicago Bears Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	18 plays (4%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.40	346 plays (85%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.04	43 plays (11%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.02	1 plays (0%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.50	408 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.02
1-2 [2WR]	65 plays (59%) Success: 51% EPA: -0.08	40 plays (36%) Success: 35% EPA: -0.10	5 plays (5%) Success: 80% EPA: 1.54		110 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: -0.01
2-1 [2WR]	26 plays (84%) Success: 46% EPA: -0.13	5 plays (16%) Success: 60% EPA: 0.07			31 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.10
2-2 [1WR]	7 plays (100%) Success: 71% EPA: 0.55				7 plays (100%) Success: 71% EPA: 0.55
Grand Total	116 plays (21%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.02	391 plays (70%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.04	48 plays (9%) Success: 42% EPA: 0.14	1 plays (0%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.50	556 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: -0.01

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	30%	9
Nickel	62%	12
Dime+	6%	19
Rush 3	11%	7
Rush 4	64%	16
Rush 5	21%	13
Rush 6+	3%	23
Blitz%	24%	17

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Akiem Hicks has been a world-beater along the defensive line but missed most of last season with multiple injuries. In his absence, both **Eddie Goldman** and **Roy Robertson-Harris** played well. Goldman was the prototypical run stuffer and Robertson-Harris added some pass rush production. **Abdullah Anderson** also had a high pressure rate from the interior on a limited number of snaps. This is a deep group, but Hicks will be 31 in 2020, though Goldman just turned 26 and Robertson-Harris will turn 27 in July.

The Bears gave up a lot of draft picks for **Khalil Mack**. Mack has been everything the Bears hoped, but only one edge rusher could do so much. Chicago doubled down on the pass rush by giving a massive $30 million guaranteed to **Robert Quinn** this offseason. Quinn has been an ESPN Pass Rush Win Rate darling for the past two seasons, but the Bears still made a heavy investment for a No. 2 rusher who will turn 30 in July. **Barkevious Mingo** is the type of third pass rusher who could easily be replaced.

Both **Roquan Smith** and **Danny Trevethan** missed time in 2019 but when healthy they can be one of the better linebacker duos in the league. Trevethan is still a good run stopper but has only played one 16 game season since he came to Chicago. While he turned 30 years old in March, he also signed a new three-year contract. After Nick Kwiatkowski left in free agency, there is little depth behind the top-two and the Bears played 30% of their defensive snaps in base last season.

Both **Kyle Fuller** and **Buster Skrine** were average cornerbacks last season by Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap but the Bears will miss **Prince Amukamara**, who was the team's best corner (but is still a free agent). **Artie Burns** was a free agent signing, who the Bears hope will benefit from a change of scenery. Burns fell out of favor with the Pittsburgh coaching staff the past season and played just 9.3% of the defensive snaps for the Steelers in 2019 and was a healthy scratch for the final four games of the season. Second-round pick **Jaylon Johnson** should also figure into some snaps throughout his rookie season.

Eddie Jackson is great. That's also where the Bears' safety depth stops. Chicago brought in **Tashaun Gipson** after an up and down year with Houston. After that, the Bears have a number of special teamers and castoffs. **Deon Bush** hasn't played more than 15.5% of the team's defensive snaps since he played 45% his rookie season in 2016. **Jordan Lucas** has been mostly a special teamer for his four seasons between two teams. **Kentrell Price** wasn't on a team in 2019 and was cut from the Seattle Dragons of the XFL in minicamp. **DeAndre Houston-Carson's** career-high rate in defensive snaps is 5.3%.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	61%
All Pass Rk	11
All Rush %	39%
All Rush Rk	22
1 Score Pass %	62%
1 Score Pass Rk	7
2018 1 Score Pass %	55%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	24
2019 Pass Increase %	7%
Pass Increase Rk	1
1 Score Rush %	38%
1 Score Rush Rk	26
Up Pass %	50%
Up Pass Rk	17
Up Rush %	50%
Up Rush Rk	16
Down Pass %	69%
Down Pass Rk	8
Down Rush %	31%
Down Rush Rk	25

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	4	50%	50%	25%
	Med (4-7)	6	17%	83%	50%
	Long (8-10)	291	49%	51%	51%
	XL (11+)	14	79%	21%	36%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	45	24%	76%	58%
	Med (4-7)	84	65%	35%	52%
	Long (8-10)	92	66%	34%	40%
	XL (11+)	32	75%	25%	6%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	38	47%	53%	50%
	Med (4-7)	50	86%	14%	40%
	Long (8-10)	47	96%	4%	36%
	XL (11+)	22	95%	5%	14%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	5	40%	60%	80%
	Med (4-7)	4	100%	0%	0%
	Long (8-10)	2	50%	50%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	24%	76%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	72%	27%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	28%	73%

32% AVG 77%

Chicago Bears 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
57%	23	66%	63%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
43%	8	34%	42%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	David Montgomery	2	0%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	David Montgomery	5	60%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	David Montgomery	90	41%
	XL (11+)	PASS	David Montgomery	3	33%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	David Montgomery	20	60%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	David Montgomery	19	53%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Allen Robinson	17	47%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Tarik Cohen	9	0%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	David Montgomery	10	70%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Allen Robinson	12	67%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Allen Robinson	7	57%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Tarik Cohen	3	0%
			Allen Robinson	3	0%
			Taylor Gabriel	3	33%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N) No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 42% YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.11 Rtg: 73.1 *[Att: 394 - Rate: 63.5%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 84.0 *[Att: 70 - Rate: 11.3%]*	Success: 43% YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 74.7 *[Att: 464 - Rate: 74.8%]*
Yes	Success: 46% YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.04 Rtg: 108.1 *[Att: 100 - Rate: 16.1%]*	Success: 55% YPA: 10.4, EPA: 0.31 Rtg: 122.3 *[Att: 56 - Rate: 9.0%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 113.3 *[Att: 156 - Rate: 25.2%]*
Total	Success: 43% YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 80.0 *[Att: 494 - Rate: 79.7%]*	Success: 52% YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.11 Rtg: 100.8 *[Att: 126 - Rate: 20.3%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.06 Rtg: 84.2 *[Att: 620 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates
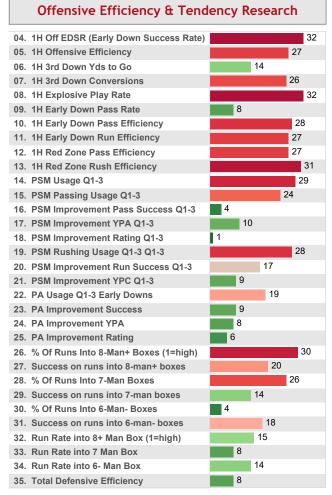
Wk	Opp	Score	Allen Robinson	Anthony Miller	David Montgomery	Tarik Cohen	Javon Wims	Taylor Gabriel	Trey Burton	Adam Shaheen
1	GB	L 10-3	70 (96%)	16 (22%)	28 (38%)	51 (70%)	21 (29%)	67 (92%)		34 (47%)
2	DEN	W 16-14	55 (90%)	32 (52%)	27 (44%)	23 (38%)	18 (30%)	53 (87%)	26 (43%)	21 (34%)
3	WAS	W 31-15	59 (89%)	34 (52%)	44 (67%)	32 (48%)	17 (26%)	49 (74%)	40 (61%)	23 (35%)
4	MIN	W 16-6	63 (88%)	45 (63%)	50 (69%)	28 (39%)	68 (94%)		42 (58%)	32 (44%)
5	OAK	L 24-21	58 (100%)	45 (78%)	30 (52%)	31 (53%)	54 (93%)		44 (76%)	12 (21%)
7	NO	L 36-25	63 (97%)	49 (75%)	30 (46%)	36 (55%)	22 (34%)	38 (58%)	43 (66%)	21 (32%)
8	LAC	L 17-16	73 (89%)	42 (51%)	60 (73%)	17 (21%)	19 (23%)	61 (74%)	49 (60%)	16 (20%)
9	PHI	L 22-14	43 (96%)	18 (40%)	33 (73%)	16 (36%)	5 (11%)	30 (67%)	27 (60%)	19 (42%)
10	DET	W 20-13	55 (96%)	33 (58%)	34 (60%)	30 (53%)	5 (9%)	49 (86%)	20 (35%)	
11	LA	L 17-7	75 (99%)	65 (86%)	35 (46%)	45 (59%)	15 (20%)	69 (91%)		
12	NYG	W 19-14	69 (91%)	42 (55%)	47 (62%)	42 (55%)	34 (45%)	42 (55%)		
13	DET	W 24-20	60 (92%)	56 (86%)	40 (62%)	36 (55%)	58 (89%)			
14	DAL	W 31-24	71 (97%)	65 (89%)	47 (64%)	34 (47%)	33 (45%)			
15	GB	L 21-13	80 (95%)	79 (94%)	36 (43%)	55 (65%)	8 (10%)			
16	KC	L 26-3	59 (94%)	63 (100%)	35 (56%)	34 (54%)	52 (83%)			
17	MIN	W 21-19	72 (96%)	20 (27%)	49 (65%)	33 (44%)	65 (87%)			
	Grand Total		1,025 (94%)	704 (64%)	625 (58%)	543 (50%)	494 (45%)	458 (76%)	291 (57%)	178 (34%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	63%	60%	44%
1-2 [2WR]	11%	20%	43%
2-1 [2WR]	11%	8%	41%
1-0 [4WR]	6%	3%	55%
2-0 [3WR]	4%	1%	39%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	65%	45%	44%
1-2 [2WR]	27%	55%	38%
2-1 [2WR]	61%	34%	52%
1-0 [4WR]	78%	59%	43%
2-0 [3WR]	82%	39%	38%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Allen Robinson	19	3	8	8
Anthony Miller	9	1	2	6
Tarik Cohen	9		2	7
Javon Wims	6		4	2
Cordarrelle Patterson	4	2	1	1
Taylor Gabriel	3	2		1
David Montgomery	2	1		1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
David Montgomery	33	18	5	10
Tarik Cohen	7	1	3	3
Mitchell Trubisky	6	2	1	3
Cordarrelle Patters..	4		2	2
Taylor Gabriel	2			2
Chase Daniel	1		1	

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
28%	11%	62%
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
39%	48%	52%
#28	#23	#13

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	7	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-1.0	
03. Wins	8	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	32
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	27
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	14
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	26
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	32
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	8
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	28
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	27
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	27
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	31
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	29
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	24
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	4
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	10
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	1
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	28
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	17
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	9
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	19
23.	PA Improvement Success	9
24.	PA Improvement YPA	8
25.	PA Improvement Rating	6
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	30
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	20
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	26
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	14
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	4
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	18
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	15
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	8
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	14
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	8

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	6.9
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.7
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.6
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.3
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	53%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	48%
42.	PSM Rating	102
43.	Non-PSM Rating	76.9

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	34%
45.	PA Success Rate	59%
46.	PA YPA	8.5
47.	PA Sack Rate	4.9%
48.	PA Rating	108.6
49.	PA Target Depth	9.0
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	49%
51.	Non-PA YPA	5.5
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.9%
53.	Non-PA Rating	80.7
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	5.9

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	12%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	2.8
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.5

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	13	defFUM	15	
Net FROE	1.1	defFUM Rcvrd	9	
offFUM	13	defFR Rk	5	
offFUM Rcvrd	6	defFR%	60.0%	
offFR%	46.2%	defFROE	2.0	
offFR Rk	24	defFROE Rk	7	
offFROE	-1.0			
offFROE Rk	21			
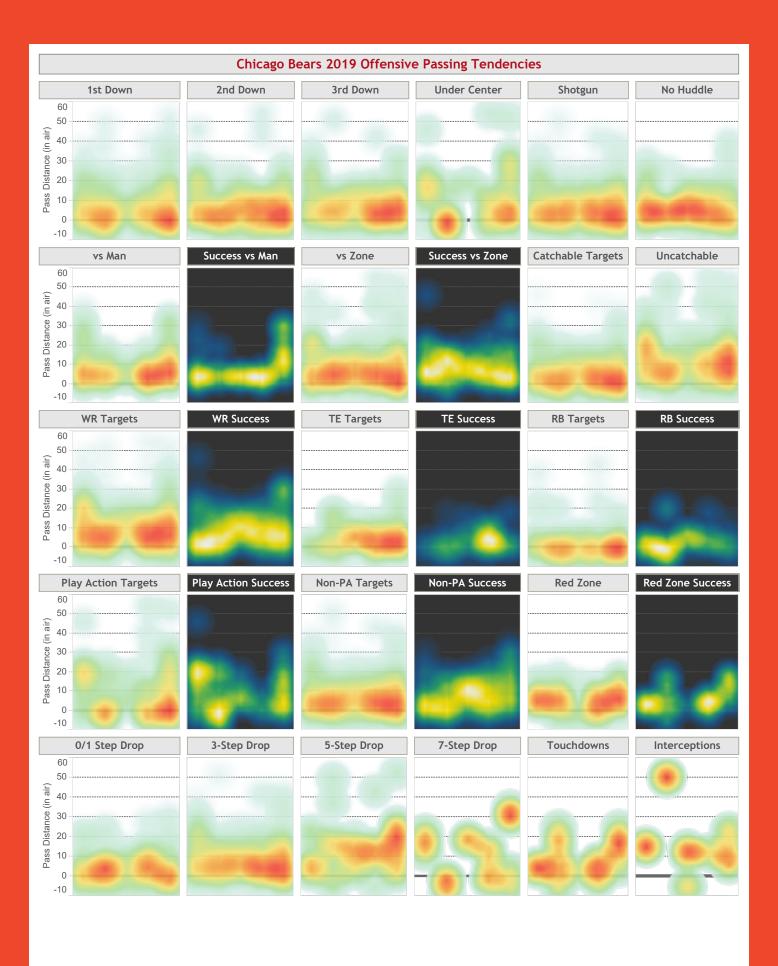
Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	82%	YOY Swing	25%
2019 FG Rk	15	YOY Swing Rk	4
Opp 2019 FG %	77%	2018 Team Net	-20%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	28	2018 Net Rk	31
2019 Team Net	5%		
2019 Net Rk	10		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Mitchell Trubisky

CAY	5.1
CAY Rk	31
2018 CAY Rk	15
AYTS Rk	23
2018 AYTS Rk	5
AGG Rk	13
2018 AGG Rk	8
COMP%	63.2
xCOMP%	64.2
xCOMP% Rk	18
2018 xCOMP% Rk	21
CPOE%	-1
CPOE Rk	21
2018 CPOE Rk	10

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

Mitchell Trubisky

Pressure %	32.3
Pressure Rk	27
Sack %	20.3
Sack Rk	11
Under Pressure Accuracy %	55
Pressure Accuracy Rk	37
Rating when Pressured	55.2
Pressured Rating Rk	32
Clean Accuracy %	76.3
Clean Accuracy Rk	30
Rating when Clean	93
Clean Rating Rk	33
Time to Throw	2.64
Time to Throw Rk	34

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.07
EPA/Pass Rk	26
EPA/Rush	-0.15
EPA/Rush Rk	29
On-Target Catch %	85.3
On-Target Catch Rk	18
Drop%	7.3
Drop Rk	14
YAC/Att	1.8
YAC/Att Rk	32
Rush Broken Tackle %	16.7
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	15
Rush 1st Down %	21.5
Rush 1st Down Rk	23

Chicago Bears 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Cincinnati Bengals

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Zac Taylor (Calls plays) (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
Brian Callahan (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Lou Anarumo (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
5.5	#4

Past Records
2019: 2-14
2018: 6-10
2017: 6-9-1

Schedule:
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	LAC	CLE	PHI	JAX	BAL	IND	CLE	TEN		PIT	WAS	NYG	MIA	DAL	PIT	HOU	BAL
H/A	H	A	A	H	A	A	H	H		A	H	H	A	H	H	A	H

TNF ... MNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Andrew Billings (43DT)	Browns
Andy Dalton (QB)	Cowboys
Clayton Fejedelem (S)	Dolphins
John Miller (RG)	Panthers
LaRoy Reynolds (43OLB)	Falcons
Nick Vigil (43OLB)	Chargers
Tony McRae (CB)	Lions
Tyler Eifert (TE)	Jaguars
B.W. Webb (CB)	Null
Cordy Glenn (LT)	Null
Darqueze Dennard (CB)	Null
Dre Kirkpatrick (CB)	Null
Hardy Nickerson (ILB)	Null
John Jerry (RG)	Null
Kerry Wynn (43DE)	Null
Niles Scott (43DT)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
5.3	1	15

2020 Cincinnati Bengals Overview

Joe Burrow brings hope to the Bengals.

But the Bengals will need to do more than just bring Burrow and hope in order to lift the ceiling of this franchise.

Last season, remarkably, the Bengals played in zero games before Week 17 where they snapped the ball over seven times from all personnel groupings combined other than 11 and 12.

You could argue this was due to a lack of talent, but I would argue that given a lack of talent (particularly at the wide receiver position), that using the highest rate of 11 personnel (3 WRs) on 76% of all offensive plays was not beneficial.

As the 2019 Bengals dropped to 0-7 on the season, this was their play count in all personnel groupings combined, other than 11 and 12.

Week 1: 4 plays
Week 2: 1 play
Week 3: 2 plays
Week 4: 2 plays
Week 5: 2 plays
Week 6: 2 plays
Week 7: 0 plays

And their count and average yardage from 11 and 12 (primarily 11 personnel):

Week 1: 65 plays, 42% success, 7.6 yds/play
Week 2: 62 plays, 32% success, 5.4 yds/play

(cont'd - see CIN2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Trae Waynes (CB)	$14
D.J. Reader (34DT)	$13.3
Vonn Bell (S)	$6
Mackensie Alexander (CB)	$4
Xavier Su'a-Filo (LG)	$3
LeShaun Sims (CB)	$1.7
Josh Bynes (ILB)	$1.60
Mike Thomas (WR)	$0.90
Austin Calitro (ILB)	$0.80
Samaje Perine (RB)	$0.69

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	1	QB - Joe Burrow (LSU)
2	33	WR - Tee Higgins (Clemson)
3	65	ILB - Logan Wilson (Wyoming)
4	107	OLB - Akeem Davis-Gaither (Appalachian State)
5	147	DE - Khalid Kareem (Notre Dame)
6	180	OT - Hakeem Adeniji (Kansas)
7	215	LB - Markus Bailey (Purdue)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	5.5
2019 Wins	2
Forecast 2019 Wins	6
2018 Wins	6
2017 Wins	7
2016 Wins	6

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS J.Bates 30
SS S.Williams 36
LB G.Pratt 57
LB J.Evans 50
RCB W.Jackson 22
SLOTCB T.Waynes NEW 26
DE C.Lawson 58
DT G.Atkins* 97
DT S.Hubbard 94
DE C.Dunlap* 96
LCB M.Alexander NEW 21

LWR A.Green* 18
SLOTWR T.Boyd 83
LT J.Williams 73
LG X.Su'a-Filo NEW 76
C T.Hopkins 66
RG B.Price 53
RT B.Hart 74
TE C.Uzomah 87
RWR T.Higgins Rookie 85

QB J.Burrow Rookie 9
RB J.Mixon 28

WR2 J.Ross 15
WR3 A.Tate 19
RB2 G.Bernard 25
QB2 R.Finley 5

2020 Cap Dollars
* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	25	$91.73M	5
QB	32	$2.16M	17
OL	29	$28.62M	16
RB	16	$9.91M	12
WR	2	$39.74M	3
TE	15	$11.30M	7
All DEF	17	$97.23M	23
DL	15	$46.24M	10
LB	32	$5.61M	32
CB	4	$29.73M	7
S	14	$15.64M	24

Week 3: 55 plays, 44% success, 6.8 yds/play
Week 4: 59 plays, 36% success, 4.2 yds/play
Week 5: 58 plays, 59% success, 6.8 yds/play
Week 6: 53 plays, 38% success, 5.7 yds/play
Week 7: 65 plays, 35% success, 6.1 yds/play

In the first three weeks of the season, no wide receiver saw a higher snap total than **John Ross**. But in Week 4, Ross was injured.

Yet in the four games from Weeks 4 through 7, the Bengals still used 11 personnel on 90%, 88%, 82%, and 94% of offensive snaps.

Why continue to use so much 11 personnel?

There was literally no adjustment to modify what they were doing. Week 3's starting receivers were John Ross, **Tyler Boyd**, and **Auden Tate**.

When Ross went down in Week 4, 22-year old undrafted free agent rookie **Damion Willis** took his snaps. In Week 5, Willis took 40 snaps and **Alex Erickson** took 15. In Week 6, Zac Taylor demoted Willis and gave Erickson 49 of the 54 WR snaps at WR3. In Week 7, a game the team literally ran nothing but 11 (94% of snaps), Erickson took 68 offensive snaps.

In that final game, the Bengals used Erickson purely underneath. His average target depth was just 3.8 yards. He averaged 13.4 yards after the catch, breaking a 48-yarder. He had a good game, but the Bengals lost by double digits.

Why not use more 12 personnel, especially when Ross went down for half the season?

When the Bengals did use 12 personnel to pass on early downs, they were far better than using 11 personnel. Whether based on EPA, success rate, TD:INT, YPA, or passer rating, the Bengals were better in 2019 when passing out of 12 as compared to 11 personnel.
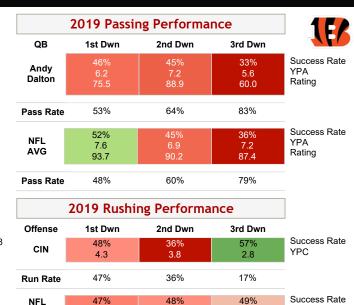
Yet the Bengals used the most 11 personnel in the NFL last year, and used it to pass on 82% of all pass plays, when down their No. 1 receiver all year and their then No. 2 receiver half the year.

For the first time since his rookie season, **Tyler Eifert** was healthy the entire year. He never played a 16-game season, until 2019. But despite that health, he went underutilized in Taylor's offense. Instead, **C.J. Uzomah** started all 16 games.

Why not more from a finally healthy Eifert?

Of 63 tight ends with 50+ receptions from 2015 to 2018, Tyler Eifert ranked 10th in yards/target (8.5), ninth in touchdowns (19), and 10th in yds/game (46).

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Andy Dalton	46%	45%	33%	Success Rate
	6.2	7.2	5.6	YPA
	75.5	88.9	60.0	Rating
Pass Rate	53%	64%	83%	
NFL AVG	52%	45%	36%	Success Rate
	7.6	6.9	7.2	YPA
	93.7	90.2	87.4	Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
CIN	48%	36%	57%	Success Rate
	4.3	3.8	2.8	YPC
Run Rate	47%	36%	17%	
NFL AVG	47%	48%	49%	Success Rate
	4.3	4.5	4.4	YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

His prior problem wasn't production or efficiency, it was health.

In 2019, in terms of receiving grades, Eifert graded out 28th of 69 tight ends, much higher than Uzomah.
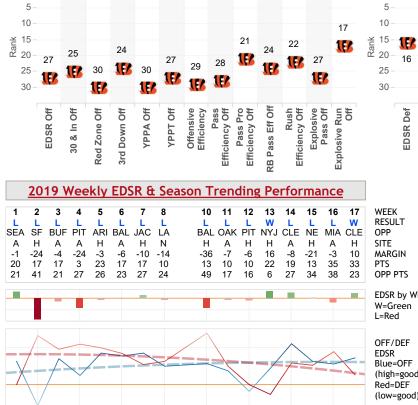
Eifert absolutely could have been used more in the passing game with a receiving corps as shallow as Cincinnati's but instead, the team opted to go with 3-WRs far too often. They could have paired Eifert and Uzomah more often along with Boyd and Tate.

But of 1,052 offensive plays last year, the Bengals used those four players on the field at the same time just 33 plays. Only 24 were pass plays, out of 664 passing plays on the season.

Why not put Eifert and Uzomah on the field together more often?

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
RESULT	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		L	L	L	W	L	L	L	W	WEEK
SITE	SEA	SF	BUF	PIT	ARI	BAL	JAC	LA		BAL	OAK	PIT	NYJ	CLE	NE	MIA	CLE	OPP
MARGIN	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	N		H	A	H	H	A	H	A	H	SITE
PTS	-1	-24	-4	-24	-3	-6	-10	-14		-36	-7	-6	16	-8	-21	-3	10	MARGIN
OPP PTS	20	17	17	3	23	17	17	10		13	10	10	22	19	13	35	33	PTS
	21	41	21	27	26	23	27	24		49	17	16	6	27	34	38	23	OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **2**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-3**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **0-8**
1 Score Games Win %: **0% (#32)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#32)**
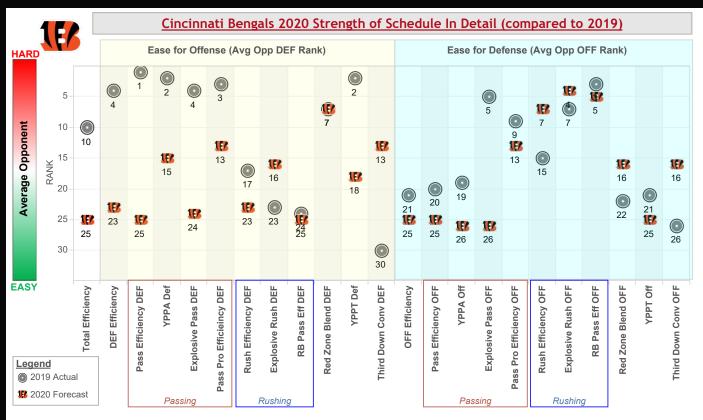
2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-14
TO Given	30
INT Given	16
FUM Given	14
TO Taken	16
INT Taken	11
FUM Taken	5
Sack Margin	-17
Sacks	31
Sacks Allow	48
Return TD Margin	-4
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	5
Penalty Margin	+29
Penalties	93
Opponent Penalties	122

Cincinnati Bengals 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD / EASY — Average Opponent — RANK

Categories (Offense): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Categories (Defense): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / Rushing groupings shown.

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
31	31	27	16	22	29	7	11

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	6.0	3.2	1.0
Average O/U line	44.3	48.3	40.9
Straight Up Record	2-14	6-10	7-9
Against the Spread Record	7-8	9-7	9-7
Over/Under Record	7-8	8-6	7-8
ATS as Favorite	0-1	2-2	3-4
ATS as Underdog	7-6	6-4	6-3
Straight Up Home	2-6	4-4	4-4
ATS Home	3-5	3-5	4-4
Over/Under Home	5-2	4-3	3-4
ATS as Home Favorite	0-1	2-2	2-4
ATS as a Home Dog	3-4	0-2	2-0
Straight Up Away	0-7	2-6	3-5
ATS Away	4-2	6-2	5-3
Over/Under Away	2-5	4-3	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	0-0	0-0	1-0
ATS Away Dog	4-1	6-2	4-3
Six Point Teaser Record	11-4	10-6	9-7
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-4	10-5	9-7
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-4	13-3	12-3

CIN-3

In Uzomah's 644 offensive snaps, he was used to run block on 306 of them (47.5%). Of 79 qualifying tight ends, he ranked 69th in run blocking grade per PFF. Of 644 offensive snaps, Uzomah pass blocked on 74 (11%), and ranked 64th of 79. (Meanwhile, Tyler Eifert graded out fourth of 79 in pass blocking.)

Instead of putting Uzomah in positions to excel, he was asked to run or pass block on 380 of his 644 offensive snaps (59%) and he was terrible as a blocker in 2019.

Of the 264 times he ran pass routes, he was only targeted on 40 of them.

Of those 40 targets, only 29 graded as catchable and Uzomah caught 27 of them. But his average depth of target in 2019 was just 3.8 yards downfield.

Why not more targets and deeper targets for Uzomah?

In 2018, Uzomah's depth of target was 7.0 yards

(cont'd - see CIN-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	5
Net Rest Edge	-3
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	3
Week 4 Edge	-3
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	-7
Week 10 Edge	7
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	-7
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	-3
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	-1
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	20
2018 Rk	27
2019 v 2018 Rk	10
Off Rk	27
Def Rk	10
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	6
WR Rk	31
TE Rk	1
Oline Rk	30
Dline Rk	10
LB Rk	2
DB Rk	23

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	LAC	CLE	PHI	JAX	BAL	IND	CLE	TEN	PIT	WAS	NYG	MIA	DAL	PIT	HOU	BAL
Line	3	7.5	9	-3	14	8.5	3	1.5	9	2	1	3.5	5.5	4.5	7	8.5
H/A	H	A	A	H	A	A	H	A	A	A	H	A	H	H	A	H

Avg = 5.3

Home Lines

1	4	7	8	12	14	15	17
3 LAC	-3 JAX	3 CLE	1.5 TEN	1 NYG	5.5 DAL	4.5 PIT	8.5 BAL

Avg = 3.0

Road Lines

2	3	5	6	10	11	13	16
7.5 CLE	9 PHI	14 BAL	8.5 IND	9 PIT	2 WAS	3.5 MIA	7 HOU

Avg = 7.6

downfield, he caught 39 of 45 catchable passes, and recorded a 54% success rate with three touchdowns. He was a productive receiver when targeted and was certainly capable of being targeted further downfield.

If Uzomah was on the field for 40 targets on 264 pass plays when he wasn't blocking, he was targeted just 15% of these plays, and most of these targets were extremely short. More could have been designed for Uzomah, particularly more creative elements.

And then there was the skeleton key. The key that unlocked the entire offense if the defense knew about it. It was Taylor's tell.

Tyler Eifert.

If Eifert was on the field, there was an 81% chance it was going to be a pass play.

We're not talking slight odds, we're talking 81% odds.

And if Eifert was on the field without Uzomah, the Bengals passed the ball on 296 of 330 snaps! A massive 90% rate. It was ridiculously bad.

Why allow this to happen?

When Eifert last was healthy back in 2015, when he was on the field the team passed the ball 399 times out of 712 plays, or 56%.

Compare to some of the other Bengals last season:

If Uzomah was on the field, Taylor had a 50.4% pass rate.
If Erickson was on the field, Taylor had a 64% pass rate.
If Tate was on the field, Taylor had a 65% pass rate.
If Boyd was on the field, Taylor had a 66% pass rate.

Nothing was close to 80%, let alone 90% over the extremely large sample of 330 snaps.

Eifert is now a Jaguar, but year two of Zac Taylor absolutely must come with fixing the offense.
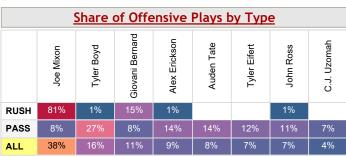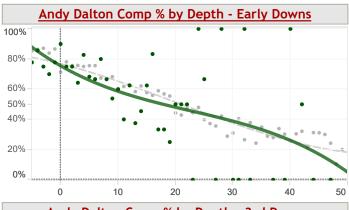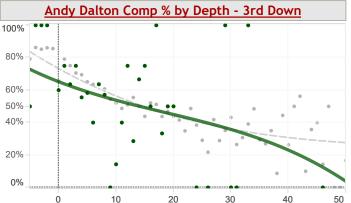
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

2016 Wins	2017 Wins	2018 Wins	2019 Wins	Forecast 2020 Wins

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

20	17	16	22	4	19	17	21		24	31	32	23	26		4

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

25	30	4	31	19	20	30	10		24	7	27	15	22	19

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)
RUSH	Joe Mixon	26%	4%	65%	5%
	Tyler Boyd			100%	
	Giovani Bernard	30%	8%	60%	2%
	Alex Erickson	20%	20%	60%	
	John Ross	33%	33%	33%	
	Total	26%	5%	64%	4%
PASS	Joe Mixon	28%		69%	3%
	Tyler Boyd	31%	3%	64%	2%
	Giovani Bernard	34%	3%	58%	5%
	Alex Erickson	27%	1%	67%	4%
	Auden Tate	36%	3%	54%	7%
	Tyler Eifert	32%	9%	58%	2%
	John Ross	40%	4%	55%	2%
	C.J. Uzomah	17%	3%	80%	
	Total	31%	3%	62%	3%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Joe Mixon	Tyler Boyd	Giovani Bernard	Alex Erickson	Auden Tate	Tyler Eifert	John Ross	C.J. Uzomah
RUSH	81%	1%	15%	1%			1%	
PASS	8%	27%	8%	14%	14%	12%	11%	7%
ALL	38%	16%	11%	9%	8%	7%	7%	4%

Andy Dalton Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Andy Dalton Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	40%, -0.12 (546)	47%, 0.01 (75)	64%, -0.08 (11)	56%, -0.45 (9)	10%, -1.78 (10)	57%, -1.12 (7)	100%, 0.22 (1)	0%, -0.72 (1)	41%, -0.15 (660)
RUSH	45%, -0.06 (254)	45%, -0.10 (109)	40%, -0.48 (5)	50%, 0.24 (6)	0%, -3.11 (1)	67%, 0.42 (3)	0%, -0.82 (4)		45%, -0.08 (382)
All	42%, -0.10 (800)	46%, -0.05 (184)	56%, -0.20 (16)	53%, -0.18 (15)	9%, -1.90 (11)	60%, -0.66 (10)	20%, -0.61 (5)	0%, -0.72 (1)	42%, -0.12 (1,042)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Giovani Bernard	28% (36) 5.7, -0.29	25% (4) 4.8, -0.17		50% (2) 2.5, -0.07	29% (42) 5.4, -0.27
	Joe Mixon	45% (29) 6.3, 0.24	56% (9) 6.9, 0.28	0% (1) -3.0, -1.22	100% (3) 9.3, 0.58	50% (42) 6.4, 0.24
TE	Tyler Eifert	49% (47) 6.6, 0.27	58% (12) 6.3, 0.21		100% (1) 25.0, 2.61	52% (60) 6.9, 0.30
	C.J. Uzomah	64% (25) 7.4, 0.19	45% (11) 4.5, 0.13			58% (36) 6.5, 0.17
WR	Tyler Boyd	45% (130) 7.1, 0.01	62% (13) 7.4, -0.02	100% (1) 12.0, 2.29		47% (144) 7.1, 0.02
	Auden Tate	45% (75) 7.3, 0.13	50% (4) 6.0, 0.09	0% (1) 3.0, -0.81		45% (80) 7.2, 0.12
	Alex Erickson	46% (67) 7.1, -0.01	33% (6) 4.2, -0.14	67% (3) 5.7, -3.17		46% (76) 6.8, -0.14
	John Ross	44% (48) 8.6, 0.17	50% (6) 12.0, 0.38	100% (1) 20.0, 1.45		45% (55) 9.2, 0.21

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Mixon Joe	46% (188) 4.2, -0.03	43% (83) 3.8, -0.10	67% (3) 8.7, 0.32		46% (274) 4.1, -0.04
Bernard Giovani	26% (35) 2.3, -0.33	43% (14) 4.1, -0.15	33% (3) 7.3, 0.16		31% (52) 3.1, -0.26
Dalton Andy	60% (15) 4.2, 0.29	50% (8) 2.0, -0.16		0% (4) -1.3, -0.82	48% (27) 2.7, -0.01

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	50% (262) 7.2, 0.16
M2M	42% (178) 6.0, -0.14
Screen	33% (45) 5.9, -0.32

Passing by Route

Curl	52% (92) 6.2, 0.09
Out	51% (79) 5.5, -0.08
Screen	40% (48) 6.2, -0.16
Dig	60% (40) 11.1, 0.63
Flat	47% (36) 4.6, -0.04
Slant	50% (36) 6.7, 0.08

Throw Types

Level 1	49% (431) 6.3, 0.01
Level 2	41% (104) 7.8, 0.13
Level 3	34% (41) 10.1, -0.13
Shovel	0% (6) 0.8, -0.71
Sidearm	50% (2) 7.5, 0.05

QB Drop Types

3 Step	41% (276) 5.9, -0.12
5 Step	55% (114) 10.2, 0.49
0/1 Step	44% (99) 5.2, -0.08
7 Step	56% (34) 11.7, 0.21
Designed Rollout Right	48% (25) 2.8, 0.05
Basic Screen	36% (25) 5.0, -0.58

QB State at Pass

Planted	46% (493) 7.2, 0.05
Moving	30% (71) 2.6, -0.44
Shuffling	46% (46) 5.4, -0.05

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	43% (97) 7.1, -0.14	44% (36) 5.2, -0.45
Shotgun	44% (48) 4.7, -0.04	40% (481) 6.7, -0.14
ALL	43% (145) 6.3, -0.11	40% (517) 6.6, -0.16

Run Types

Inside Zone	42% (107) 3.7, -0.12
Outside Zone	48% (87) 3.7, -0.07
Pitch	48% (62) 5.0, 0.02
Power	33% (18) 3.7, -0.09
Stretch	57% (7) 4.9, 0.13
Lead	40% (5) 4.8, -0.22

CIN-5

Taylor was hired by the Rams when Sean McVay was hired as the head coach in 2017. Taylor started as a receivers coach, then was promoted to quarterbacks coach in 2018. With just one year as a quarterbacks coach under McVay, Taylor was hired as the Bengals' head coach for the 2019 season. He was the offensive coordinator once before in 2015, calling plays over the final five games of the season for the 6-10 Miami Dolphins. It is clear the Bengals didn't invest in analytics or such a tell would be rooted out and ensured it wasn't so obvious to opposing defenses. By using so much 11 personnel regardless of receiver health or talent elsewhere or a desire to confuse the defense via groupings, it is clear Taylor was taking a page out of his mentor McVay's book of sticking with 11 because "that's what we do."

Over the course of the offseason, the Bengals flipped their spending on both sides of the ball. Their 2019 offense ranked fourth-most expensive and their defense ranked 10th-least expensive. In 2020, their offense ranks ninth-least expensive and their defense ranks 10th-most expensive. They signed a number of defensive free agents including DBs **Trae Waynes**, **Vonn Bell**, and **Mackensie Alexander**, in addition to defensive tackle **D.J. Reader**. Offensively, in addition to Eifert, the Bengals made the big move of moving on from Andy Dalton. The team drafted their quarterback of the future, Joe Burrow, with the first overall pick. Burrow inherits a team that has a lot of work to do, but has one positive in from the 2019 season: they went 0-8 in one-score games, and such teams almost always rebound. There have been 38 instances over the past 30 years that a team lost at least 8 games by one-score. Only seven of those teams won one or fewer games by one-score (thus teams with records between 0-9 and 1-8 in one-score games). Due to those teams' inability to win one-score games, they recorded an average of only three wins apiece (Cincinnati won two games last year). But the following year, these teams averaged 6.1 wins per team, and their average record in one-score games improved from 0.9 wins and 8.4 losses to 3.3 wins and 5.6 losses.

While the Bengals rank as having the 11th toughest overall schedule, they may look much better when Joe Burrow drops back to pass. Not because he appears to be a great prospect, but because of how much easier their schedule of pass defenses appears to be. The Bengals played the toughest schedule of pass defenses in 2019, playing eight games against top-10 pass defenses. In 2020, that number drops to four. And they face the eighth-easiest schedule of pass defenses in totality.

Overall, they go from facing the fourth-toughest schedule of defenses to the 10th-easiest, including the eighth-easiest schedule of pass defenses. It's the second-easiest jump for any team compared to 2019. And they start the season by facing three run defenses in their first four games that ranked 25th or worse last year. The other benefit for the Bengals is they face the Ravens in Week 17. By Week 17, it's possible the Ravens have little to play for, so if there was a time to face the Ravens in 2020, playing them Week 17 is as good as it gets. But troublesome is the fact they play five games against opponents with more rest than they have. That means those opposing defenses have extra time to prepare for Burrow and Taylor's offense. It is essential that the Bengals scrub all overwhelming tells like Eifert's from their playbook. It is essential that they evolve Taylor's preferred 11 personnel offense to optimize when possible to roster talent, injuries, and defensive weaknesses.

Some defenses have a great slot corner but have linebackers that struggle tremendously in coverage. It is a +EV move to force such teams to play more base by using more 12, 13, or 21 personnel. Second-year quarterbacks often take big steps forward, but it will be up to second-year playcaller Zac Taylor to do so if the Bengals are going to have a chance at exceeding their projected 5.5 win total in 2020.

Cincinnati Bengals 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Bengals had the first pick in this year's draft for a plethora of reasons, but near the top of the list was their passing game performance in 2019. Cincinnati ranked 29th in success rate (40%) through the air, 30th in yards per pass attempt (6.5), and 30th in EPA via their passing offense. With that No, 1 pick, the Bengals selected **Joe Burrow**, who is coming off a historic collegiate season at LSU. On the strength of a 2019 breakout, Burrow enters the NFL ranked in the 95th percentile or above in career yards per pass attempt (9.4), completion rate (68.8%), and touchdown-to-interception ratio at 7.1:1 among all passers invited to the combine since 2000. With **Andy Dalton** already released this offseason, Burrow is set up to start immediately in Week 1 for the organization.

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Andy Dalton	314	529	59%	3,486	6.6	16	14	36	78	42
Ryan Finley	41	88	47%	464	5.3	2	2	10	61	53
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

Andy Dalton Rating Early Downs

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Andy Dalton	42%	45%	41	8.0%	15	3.0%	6.2	5.0	18	3%
Ryan Finley	29%	32%	6	7.0%	2	2.0%	6.3	5.3	1	1%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	3.6%	4.3%	0.0%	3.5%
6 - 9		4.3%	2.2%	0.0%	3.2%
10 - 14	2.1%	1.3%	0.0%	20.0%	1.9%
15+	9.1%	0.0%	6.3%		4.4%
Total	**2.4%**	**2.2%**	**2.6%**	**7.7%**	**2.5%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Andy Dalton	9.0	5.9	-3.0	69%	16
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
54%	46%	14
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Bengals' passing game was bottom-shelf last season and they struggled to utilize their receiving corps outside of **Tyler Boyd**, who turned in his second straight 1,000-yard receiving season. Even with Boyd, the Bengals ranked 28th in yards per target (7.1) and 31st in success rate (45%) targeting their wide receivers a year ago. Now, the team is expected to have veteran **A.J. Green** back in the lineup plus the addition of rookie **Tee Higgins** at the top of the second round in this year's draft. Where the Bengals need to improve is using their backfield more optimally in the passing game, especially given the acumen of **Joe Mixon** and **Giovani Bernard** in that area. The Bengals were 24th in success rate targeting their backs in 2019 (41%).

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Tyler Boyd	147	61%	7.1	77.1	46%	101	62	91	47	5
Auden Tate	81	49%	7.1	66.6	43%	116	87	107	26	1
Alex Erickson	78	55%	6.8	60.3	47%	91	105	99	23	0
Tyler Eifert	64	67%	6.8	95.6	52%	69	63	118	15	3
John Ross	56	50%	9.0	84.4	43%	119	98	3	135	3

Tyler Boyd Target Distribution

Auden Tate Target Distribution
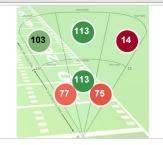
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Bengals were a little better in the rushing game than their passing game a year ago, but still were below league marks across the board. The Bengals ranked 23rd in rushing success rate (45%), 24th in yards per carry (3.9 yards), and 20th in EPA through their run game. Joe Mixon rushed for 1,137 yards and ranked 29th in success rate (46%) out of 44 backs with 100 or more carries on the season. The positive here is that Mixon and the run game got better over the back half of the season, with a 49% success rate on the ground Weeks 10-17 after a 41% success rate prior. With Mixon in the final season of his rookie contract, the team still has Giovani Bernard and **Trayveon Williams** as the primary depth behind Mixon.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Joe Mixon	278	4.1	46%	49	33	50	32	44%	56	5
Giovani Bernard	53	3.2	34%	79	77	62	25	39%	72	0

Yards per Carry by Direction

6.3 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 6.4
LT | LG | C | RG | RT

Directional Run Frequency

8% | 11% | 18% | 21% | 22% | 12% | 9%
LT | LG | C | RG | RT
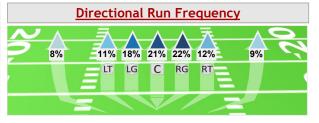
Is Joe Burrow a late-round quarterback gem?

We talked about the resume Burrow enters the league with stemming from his historic 2019 production. There's also volume upside here as Bengals' passers dropped back 665 times in 2019 (fifth in the league) and ranked eighth in the league in passing rate (61%) in neutral game script outside of the fourth quarter of games. The Bengals project to face our No. 1 fastest schedule in projected pace of play and our No. 8 easiest schedule in projected defenses in passing efficiency for the 2020 season. There have been five quarterbacks picked No. 1 overall in the past decade who have gone on to start all 16 games in year one. The majority of those passers have found fantasy success as rookies in Kyler Murray (QB8 overall in 2019), Jameis Winston (QB13 in 2015), Andrew Luck (QB10 in 2012), Cam Newton (QB3 in 2011), and Sam Bradford (QB20 in 2010). Burrow's rushing ability is also something that is potentially being severely undervalued. Burrow rushed for 399 and 368 yards in each of his two seasons as a starter, which includes sack yardage. He has an undercover rushing ability similar to an early career Andrew Luck, something that has added value to his passing acumen. Burrow has high upside in his range of outcomes for fantasy if he can acclimate himself to the NFL quickly in his rookie season.

Will 2020 finally be the year Joe Mixon delivers as a full-season, elite fantasy back?

Joe Mixon had 1,424 yards from scrimmage and eight touchdowns in 2019, but fell short of fantasy expectations due to a rollercoaster of a season. He ended up as the RB20 in PPR points per game (14.1), despite receiving a career-high 313 touches. But he did still flash that high-end upside we've chased from him. Through nine weeks in 2019, Mixon was a fantasy nightmare. Over those eight games played, Mixon registered just 430 yards from scrimmage (37th) on 120 touches (23rd). Over that span, he was the RB36 in overall scoring on 33.9% of the Cincinnati offensive touches. Then from Weeks 10-17, the Bengals swerved into him as the focal point of their offense. Mixon handled 49.9% of the team's touches over his final eight games while his 193 touches and 994 yards from scrimmage trailed only Christian McCaffrey's 196 opportunities and 1,148 yards over that span. In that time, Mixon was the RB4 overall in fantasy scoring. Zac Taylor was able to incorporate a scheme that gave Mixon light boxes frequently. The Bengals ran 66% of their rushing plays from 11 personnel, the highest rate in the league in 2020. Not just impacted by end of game runs chasing points, that rate was 60% in the first half of games, which ranked fifth. As a byproduct, Mixon ran into boxes of eight or more defenders on just 7.9% of his carries, which was the third-lowest rate in the league behind Devin Singletary (5.3%) and David Johnson (5.3%). The usage and scheme came on from Mixon in 2019, but the one early career hang up for Mixon has been his lack of involvement in the passing game. After averaging 13.8 yards per receptions with nine receiving scores in college, Mixon has finished no higher than 25th among running backs in receiving points per game over his first three seasons. Over the past two seasons as the lead back, Mixon has still ranked 21st and 17th in routes run for all backs in the league. Even over his end of season breakout a year ago, Mixon still ran fewer pass routes (118) than Giovani Bernard (129). Joe Burrow frequently used a strong pass-catching back such as Clyde Edwards-Helaire a year ago which gives hope that the receiving ceiling can be unlocked for Mixon, but the usage in that role needs to be ramped up firsthand.

Cincinnati Bengals Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	20 plays (6%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.36	215 plays (64%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.20	100 plays (30%) Success: 41% EPA: 0.05	1 plays (0%) Success: 100% EPA: 2.92	338 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.17
1-2 [2WR]	35 plays (56%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.24	27 plays (43%) Success: 30% EPA: -0.35	1 plays (2%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.66		63 plays (100%) Success: 35% EPA: -0.26
2-1 [2WR]	11 plays (42%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.07	14 plays (54%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.32	1 plays (4%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.92		26 plays (100%) Success: 58% EPA: 0.28
2-2 [1WR]	10 plays (91%) Success: 80% EPA: 0.66	1 plays (9%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.85			11 plays (100%) Success: 73% EPA: 0.53
Grand Total	76 plays (17%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.08	257 plays (59%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.14	102 plays (23%) Success: 42% EPA: 0.09	1 plays (0%) Success: 100% EPA: 2.92	438 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.12

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	29%	11
Nickel	48%	22
Dime+	20%	10
Rush 3	5%	17
Rush 4	62%	19
Rush 5	23%	8
Rush 6+	8%	8
Blitz%	31%	6

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Bengals went on a rare free agent shopping spree this season and the biggest get was **D.J. Reader**. Reader has been a force on the Houston defensive interior and will now slot next to **Geno Atkins** to give the Bengals an impressive duo up the middle. Reader was seventh among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season. Even the depth for the Bengals is good on the interior. 2019 fourth-round pick **Renell Wren** could impress with a bigger role in 2020.

The Bengals find themselves with a good-not-great group of edge rushers. All of **Carlos Dunlap**, **Sam Hubbard**, and **Carl Lawson** were in the top-50 of edge rushers by pressure rate but as a team, the Bengals ranked 27th in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. Dunlap will be 31 years old this season, which puts pressure on the still-young Hubbard-Lawson duo to play more consistently at a high level.

Josh Bynes wasn't the biggest splash of the Bengals' free agent signings but he might be the sneakiest add. Bynes is a good coverage linebacker, which is something the Bengals sorely needed. Cincinnati struggled greatly against tight ends and running backs in coverage last season. **Germaine Pratt** had as a third-round rookie but with some responsibilities lessened, he could see some improvement.
Linebacker was a big focus for the Bengals in the middle of the draft with three taken in Rounds 3-7. **Logan Wilson** (third round), **Akeem Davis-Gaither** (fourth round), and **Markus Bailey** (seventh round) all have the ability to contribute in their rookie seasons.

The Bengals used base on 29% of their plays last season, which was the 14th-highest rate in the league. Though they also played 20% of Dime+ personnel with just one linebacker on the field.

Cincinnati spent a lot of money on **Trae Waynes** but might have gotten the better Minnesota corner on a cheap one-year deal with **Mackensie Alexander**. Meanwhile, **William Jackson** remains one of the most underrated defensive backs in the league but is in the final year of his rookie deal. That starting trio is more than passable and gives the Bengals a better group than they've had in some time, but Waynes is currently the only one signed past 2020.

Jessie Bates and **Shawn Williams** had their ups and downs last season and the Bengals really struggled with deep coverages. Unfortunately, that's not where free agent addition **Von Bell excels**, either. Bates was much better as a deep safety in 2018 and the Bengals could hope he gets back to that level of play.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	63%
All Pass Rk	5
All Rush %	37%
All Rush Rk	28
1 Score Pass %	61%
1 Score Pass Rk	9
2018 1 Score Pass %	61%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	8
2019 Pass Increase %	0%
Pass Increase Rk	21
1 Score Rush %	39%
1 Score Rush Rk	24
Up Pass %	53%
Up Pass Rk	14
Up Rush %	48%
Up Rush Rk	19
Down Pass %	67%
Down Pass Rk	13
Down Rush %	33%
Down Rush Rk	20

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	25%	75%	50%
	Med (4-7)	9	33%	67%	56%
	Long (8-10)	302	48%	52%	48%
	XL (11+)	15	67%	33%	47%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	31	45%	55%	55%
	Med (4-7)	75	51%	49%	47%
	Long (8-10)	96	66%	34%	34%
	XL (11+)	40	78%	23%	23%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	39	51%	49%	54%
	Med (4-7)	54	98%	2%	35%
	Long (8-10)	38	95%	5%	24%
	XL (11+)	31	90%	10%	19%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	11	45%	55%	64%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	32%	68%
37% AVG 63%		

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	62%	25%
68% AVG 23%		

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	38%	75%
32% AVG 77%		

Cincinnati Bengals 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
80%	4	66%	74%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
20%	29	34%	78%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	5	60%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	4	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	125	46%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	4	50%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	12	67%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	31	39%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	26	23%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Alex Erickson	8	38%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	13	69%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Tyler Eifert	14	43%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Alex Erickson	7	14%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Tyler Boyd	8	38%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 39% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.18 Rtg: 76.1 [Att: 380 - Rate: 57.4%]	Success: 40% YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 86.6 [Att: 75 - Rate: 11.3%]	Success: 40% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.18 Rtg: 77.8 [Att: 455 - Rate: 68.7%]
Yes	Success: 42% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 81.1 [Att: 137 - Rate: 20.7%]	Success: 47% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 81.6 [Att: 70 - Rate: 10.6%]	Success: 43% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.09 Rtg: 81.3 [Att: 207 - Rate: 31.3%]
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.16 Rtg: 77.5 [Att: 517 - Rate: 78.1%]	Success: 43% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.11 Rtg: 84.2 [Att: 145 - Rate: 21.9%]	Success: 41% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.15 Rtg: 78.9 [Att: 662 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Tyler Boyd	Auden Tate	Joe Mixon	C.J. Uzomah	Alex Erickson	Tyler Eifert	Giovani Bernard	John Ross
1	SEA	L 21-20	61 (79%)		29 (38%)	54 (70%)	11 (14%)	38 (49%)	48 (62%)	63 (82%)
2	SF	L 41-17	55 (79%)	25 (36%)	38 (54%)	42 (60%)	15 (21%)	19 (27%)	28 (40%)	60 (86%)
3	BUF	L 21-17	55 (90%)	54 (89%)	35 (57%)	28 (46%)	7 (11%)	29 (48%)	26 (43%)	61 (100%)
4	PIT	L 27-3	64 (93%)	63 (91%)	42 (61%)	28 (41%)	5 (7%)	29 (42%)	23 (33%)	45 (65%)
5	ARI	L 26-23	66 (99%)	67 (100%)	42 (63%)	43 (64%)	15 (22%)	18 (27%)	26 (39%)	
6	BAL	L 23-17	61 (98%)	56 (90%)	30 (48%)	27 (44%)	49 (79%)	32 (52%)	33 (53%)	
7	JAC	L 27-17	71 (99%)	65 (90%)	39 (54%)	31 (43%)	68 (94%)	34 (47%)	34 (47%)	
8	LA	L 24-10	75 (90%)	81 (98%)	42 (51%)	47 (57%)	50 (60%)	60 (72%)	33 (40%)	
10	BAL	L 49-13	66 (88%)	75 (100%)	57 (76%)	42 (56%)	38 (51%)	23 (31%)	18 (24%)	
11	OAK	L 17-10	61 (97%)	48 (76%)	37 (59%)	38 (60%)	47 (75%)	23 (37%)	33 (52%)	
12	PIT	L 16-10	58 (100%)	50 (86%)	40 (69%)	36 (62%)	46 (79%)	22 (38%)	21 (36%)	
13	NYJ	W 22-6	55 (83%)	53 (80%)	52 (79%)	47 (71%)	42 (64%)	25 (38%)	13 (20%)	
14	CLE	L 27-19	56 (75%)	29 (39%)	44 (59%)	45 (60%)	60 (80%)	35 (47%)	30 (40%)	38 (51%)
15	NE	L 34-13	57 (86%)		44 (67%)	46 (70%)	50 (76%)	36 (55%)	22 (33%)	25 (38%)
16	MIA	L 38-35	83 (92%)		39 (43%)	47 (52%)	68 (76%)	57 (63%)	51 (57%)	71 (79%)
17	CLE	W 33-23	57 (83%)		51 (74%)	53 (77%)	57 (83%)	27 (39%)	18 (26%)	47 (68%)
	Grand Total		1,001 (89%)	666 (81%)	661 (59%)	654 (58%)	628 (56%)	507 (44%)	457 (40%)	410 (71%)
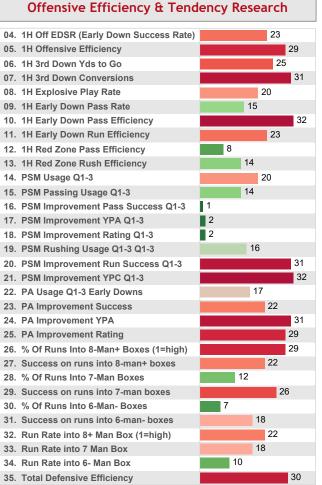
Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	76%	60%	42%
1-2 [2WR]	18%	20%	46%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	40%	45%
1-2 [2WR]	41%	47%	45%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Auden Tate	12	3	3	6
C.J. Uzomah	11	1	4	6
Tyler Boyd	11	4		7
Tyler Eifert	9	3	4	2
Alex Erickson	8	2		6
Joe Mixon	7	3	1	3
Giovani Bernard	6	1	1	4
John Ross	2		1	1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Joe Mixon	41	18	7	16
Giovani Bernard	9	1	2	6
Andy Dalton	7	5		2

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
16%	18%	66%
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
41% #24	52% #16	45% #31

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	5	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-4.0	
03. Wins	2	

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	23
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	29
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	25
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	31
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	20
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	15
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	32
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	23
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	8
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	14
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	20
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	14
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	1
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	2
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	2
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	16
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	31
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	32
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	17
23.	PA Improvement Success	22
24.	PA Improvement YPA	31
25.	PA Improvement Rating	29
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	29
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	22
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	12
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	26
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	7
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	18
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	22
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	18
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	10
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	30

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

36.	PSM YPA	7.1
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.2
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.3
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	9.1
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	51%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	43%
42.	PSM Rating	93.9
43.	Non-PSM Rating	69.7

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45.	PA Success Rate	48%
46.	PA YPA	6.2
47.	PA Sack Rate	7.1%
48.	PA Rating	73.8
49.	PA Target Depth	6.4
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	49%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.7%
53.	Non-PA Rating	82.6
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	8.9

Men In Box

55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	13%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.1
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.4

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	25	defFUM	11	
Net FROE	-2.5	defFUM Rcvrd	5	
offFUM	25	defFR Rk	16	
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR%	45.5%	
offFR%	44.0%	defFROE	-0.1	
offFR Rk	26	defFROE Rk	16	
offFROE	-2.4			
offFROE Rk	29			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	87%	YOY Swing	8%	
2019 FG Rk	9	YOY Swing Rk	9	
Opp 2019 FG %	88%	2018 Team Net	-9%	
Opp 2019 FG Rk	4	2018 Net Rk	26	
2019 Team Net	-1%			
2019 Net Rk	17			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Andy Dalton
CAY	6
CAY Rk	17
2018 CAY Rk	13
AYTS Rk	21
2018 AYTS Rk	16
AGG Rk	5
2018 AGG Rk	12
COMP%	59.5
xCOMP%	62.3
xCOMP% Rk	31
2018 xCOMP% Rk	34
CPOE%	-2.8
CPOE Rk	30
2018 CPOE Rk	24
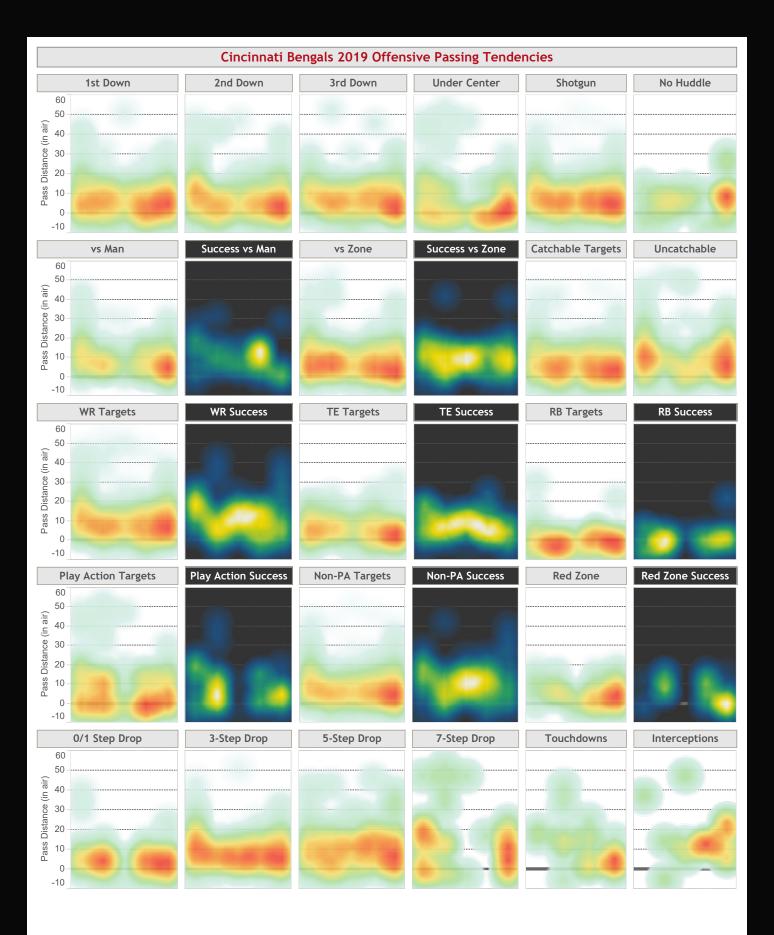
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Andy Dalton
Pressure %	29.2
Pressure Rk	35
Sack %	21.4
Sack Rk	10
Under Pressure Accuracy %	62.3
Pressure Accuracy Rk	20
Rating when Pressured	60
Pressured Rating Rk	26
Clean Accuracy %	73
Clean Accuracy Rk	36
Rating when Clean	83.9
Clean Rating Rk	37
Time to Throw	2.51
Time to Throw Rk	39

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.16
EPA/Pass Rk	31
EPA/Rush	-0.09
EPA/Rush Rk	24
On-Target Catch %	83
On-Target Catch Rk	27
Drop%	8.1
Drop Rk	20
YAC/Att	2.5
YAC/Att Rk	10
Rush Broken Tackle %	19.7
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	4
Rush 1st Down %	22.3
Rush 1st Down Rk	19

Cincinnati Bengals 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle

vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable

WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success

Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success

0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
   Kevin Stefanski (MIN OC, calls plays) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:
   Alex Van Pelt (CIN QB) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
   Joe Woods (SF Pass Gm Coord) (new)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
8.5	#3
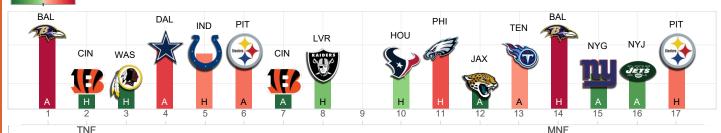
Past Records
2019: 6-10
2018: 7-9
2017: 0-16

Schedule (by week):
Wk	Opp	H/A
1	BAL	A
2	CIN	H
3	WAS	H
4	DAL	A
5	IND	H
6	PIT	A
7	CIN	A
8	LVR	H
10	HOU	H
11	PHI	H
12	JAX	A
13	TEN	A
14	BAL	H
15	NYG	A
16	NYJ	A
17	PIT	H

TNF — MNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Bryan Cox Jr. (43DE)	Bills
Christian Kirksey (43OLB)	Packers
Damarious Randall (S)	Raiders
Demetrius Harris (TE)	Bears
Eric Kush (RG)	Raiders
Eric Murray (S)	Texans
Joe Schobert (ILB)	Jaguars
Justin McCray (LT)	Falcons
Juston Burris (S)	Panthers
Ricky Seals-Jones (TE)	Chiefs
T.J. Carrie (CB)	Colts
Adarius Taylor (43OLB)	Null
Drew Stanton (QB)	Null
Greg Robinson (LT)	Null
Lo Falemaka (C)	Null
Morgan Burnett (S)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-0.3	9	6

2020 Cleveland Browns Overview

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle."

Sun Tzu knew the value of knowing yourself. The Browns didn't know themselves last year, particularly on offense. And that lack of knowledge, coupled with infighting and ultimately insurrection amongst the coaching ranks propelled the Browns from capitalizing on their 7-9 2018 campaign.

Under Hue Jackson in 2018, the Browns were very much an 11 personnel passing attack. In quarters 1-3, they used 76% 11, 15% 12, and nothing else more than 5%.

But they were very inefficient. Those passes from 11 recorded 5.5 YPA, a 71 rating, an 11% sack rate, and a 39% success rate.

When Jackson was fired, Freddie Kitchens took over as offensive coordinator and playcaller. Under Kitchens in quarters 1-3, the Browns used 11 personnel on only 64% of pass attempts and increased heavier packages, including 15% from 12 and 8% from 13 as the next two most used groupings after 11.

Kitchens reduced 11 personnel passes by 16% (12 percentage points) and increased formational diversity. Whereas Jackson only used two groupings at least 7% of the time and three used at least 4%, Kitchens used four different groupings at least 7% of the time with five used at least 4%.

Increasing the blockers and diversity clearly helped.

(cont'd - see CLE2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Jack Conklin (RT)	$14
Austin Hooper (TE)	$10.5
Case Keenum (QB)	$6
Andrew Billings (43DT)	$3.5
Kevin Johnson (CB)	$3.5
Adrian Clayborn (43DE)	$2.89
Karl Joseph (S)	$2.5
B.J. Goodson (ILB)	$2.39
Andrew Sendejo (S)	$2.29
Andy Janovich (FB)	Trade

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	10	OT - Jedrick Wills (Alabama)
2	44	S - Grant Delpit (LSU)
3	88	DT - Jordan Elliott (Missouri)
3	97	ILB - Jacob Phillips (LSU)
4	115	TE - Harrison Bryant (Florida Atlantic)
5	160	C - Nick Harris (Washington)
6	187	WR - Donovan Peoples-Jones (Michigan)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	8.5
2019 Wins	6
Forecast 2019 Wins	9
2018 Wins	7
2017 Wins	0
2016 Wins	1

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS G.Delpit Rookie 22
SS K.Joseph 42
LB M.Wilson 51
LB B.Goodson NEW 93
RCB G.Williams 26
SLOTCB K.Johnson 28
DE A.Clayborn* NEW 94
DT L.Ogunjobi 65
DT S.Richardson 93
DE M.Garrett 95
LCB D.Ward 21

LWR R.Higgins 81
SLOTWR J.Landry 80
LT J.Wills Rookie 71
LG J.Bitonio 75
C J.Tretter 64
RG W.Teller 77
RT J.Conklin NEW 78
TE D.Njoku 85
RWR O.Beckham Jr. 13
QB B.Mayfield 6
RB N.Chubb 24
WR2 D.Ratley 18
WR3 K.Hodge 12
RB2 K.Hunt 27
QB2 C.Keenum 5

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	13	$109.15M	7
QB	20	$13.29M	21
OL	13	$41.85M	8
RB	19	$8.53M	26
WR	4	$36.12M	1
TE	19	$9.37M	19
All DEF	23	$90.78M	7
DL	7	$54.13M	7
LB	30	$7.39M	21
CB	14	$20.55M	10
S	22	$8.71M	6

When not always using typical 11 personnel, **Baker Mayfield's** efficiency shot up in the newly used heavier sets. But his efficiency in 11 increased as well, thanks to the offense showing less of it and using it more tactically.

When Freddie Kitchens became head coach following his stint as offensive coordinator, I anticipated we would see more of the offense he used at the backend of 2018. More of what he wanted to do. Less of the 11 personnel based offense that Jackson used and in which Mayfield struggled tremendously.

Absolutely I anticipated a lot of new wide receiver **Odell Beckham Jr.** on the field along with **Jarvis Landry**, but the team added tight ends **Demetrius Harris** and **Ricky Seals-Jones** in the offseason to partner with **David Njoku**. They also added **Kareem Hunt** to assist **Nick Chubb** with running back duties. There was plenty of opportunity for personnel diversity.

But there was a key hiring that may have changed the course of that strategy. The Browns hired Todd Monken to function as offensive coordinator. Monken had a background in Air Raid and Air Coryell systems with previous playcalling experience. Whereas Kitchens spent most of his career coaching running backs and tight ends, he had never called plays before doing so on an interim basis for the 2018 Browns.

Piecing reports from January 2020 and the aftermath of the Browns 6-10 season with the pre-season and in-season offensive deployment sheds some light on the controversial and puzzling offense.

Kitchens was to call plays for the 2019 Browns and Monken's role was "to help Kitchens" and said his lack of calling plays was "a non-issue."

But as I do in the pre-season, I examined the team's personnel grouping usage, and I found something extremely puzzling. Neither Beckham nor Landry played at all in the preseason games, so they were down their top-2 WRs. They had all three tight ends healthy, plus a cadre of running backs.

And yet the Browns used 85% 11 personnel in the preseason, compared to 56% in 2018. And they used only 12% 12 personnel, compared to 21% in 2018. They didn't use any other grouping over 2% of the time.

We knew how formationally diverse the Browns were when Kitchens took over in 2018. And we knew how their top-2 receivers were both absent these games. The combination of both factors made it extremely puzzling they were pivoting so hard to 11 personnel in the preseason.

Studying the numbers, I said last August in my annual preseason personnel groupings report: "this offense might be operating from spread a lot more than in 2018" based on what I witnessed in the preseason.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Baker Mayfield	48% 7.8 90.7	42% 7.3 76.0	34% 6.0 65.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	62%	81%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
CLE	47% 4.9	43% 5.2	46% 4.2	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	38%	19%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	
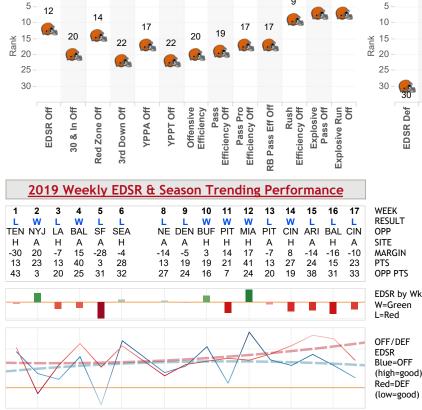
I believed the playcalling may come from Kitchens, but the system and general philosophy could have been influenced by Monken's Air Raid background. If so, we naturally would see more receivers on the field, less 12 and 21, and a change from 2018's Kitchens-styled play calling. The preseason was one thing and I was extremely interested to see the regular season strategy.

Unfortunately for the Browns, it wasn't good.

In Week 1 through 9, 84% of their passes came from 11 personnel. Almost identical to the 85% they utilized in the preseason.

In the first three quarters, they used 11 on 84% of pass plays as compared to 64% with Kitchens in 2018.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	L	W	L	W	L	L		L	L	W	W	W	L	W	L	L	L
OPP	TEN	NYJ	LA	BAL	SF	SEA		NE	DEN	BUF	PIT	MIA	PIT	CIN	ARI	BAL	CIN
SITE	H	A	H	A	A	H		A	A	H	H	H	A	H	A	H	A
MARGIN	-30	20	-7	15	-28	-4		-14	-5	3	14	17	-7	8	-14	-16	-10
PTS	13	23	13	40	3	28		13	19	19	21	41	13	27	24	15	23
OPP PTS	43	3	20	25	31	32		27	24	16	7	24	20	19	38	31	33

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **6**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-0**
FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):
17% (#18)

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **2-4**
1 Score Games Win %: **33% (#24)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **33% (#25)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-8
TO Given	28
INT Given	21
FUM Given	7
TO Taken	20
INT Taken	14
FUM Taken	6
Sack Margin	-2
Sacks	38
Sacks Allow	40
Return TD Margin	-1
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	2
Penalty Margin	-15
Penalties	122
Opponent Penalties	107

Cleveland Browns 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD / **Average Opponent** / **EASY**

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Chart categories (x-axis): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / *Rushing* (for Offense categories); *Passing* / *Rushing* (for Defense categories)

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- 🏈 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
32	32	22	25	22	21	16	14

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-0.3	2.9	6.8
Average O/U line	44.8	46.3	41.3
Straight Up Record	6-10	7-8	0-16
Against the Spread Record	4-10	10-6	4-12
Over/Under Record	8-8	7-8	7-9
ATS as Favorite	3-4	1-1	0-1
ATS as Underdog	1-5	8-5	4-10
Straight Up Home	4-4	5-2	0-7
ATS Home	2-4	5-3	2-5
Over/Under Home	4-4	3-4	1-6
ATS as Home Favorite	2-1	1-1	0-0
ATS as a Home Dog	0-3	4-2	2-4
Straight Up Away	2-6	2-6	0-8
ATS Away	2-6	5-3	2-6
Over/Under Away	4-4	4-4	5-3
ATS Away Favorite	1-3	0-0	0-1
ATS Away Dog	1-2	4-3	2-5
Six Point Teaser Record	9-6	12-4	9-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	10-4	13-3	13-3
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-4	14-1	13-2

CLE-3

The skeptic might suggest that the usage of 11 was because **David Njoku** went down with an injury in Week 2 and didn't play again until Week 14. However, the team still had both free agent tight ends they signed and importantly, things hadn't changed from 2018:

Baker Mayfield was substantially more efficient passing in anything besides 11 personnel.

Look at the production splits in Week 1-9:

From 11: 6.8 YPA, 39% success, 69 rating, 3:6 TD:INT
Non-11: 8.6 YPA, 55% success, 115 rating, 3:0 TD:INT

Yet the Browns continued to use 84% 11 personnel and stumbled to a 2-6 record over the first half of the season.

Even if one wanted to argue the Browns were deeper at receiver after Njoku's injury, I would tell them three things:

First, you always want to use your more productive sets.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	3
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	7
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	-3
Week 15 Edge	-1
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	7
2018 Rk	6
2019 v 2018 Rk	18
Off Rk	4
Def Rk	23
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	1
WR Rk	1
TE Rk	25
Oline Rk	5
Dline Rk	9
LB Rk	26
DB Rk	22

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Wk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	BAL	CIN	WAS	DAL	IND	PIT	CIN	LVR	HOU	PHI	JAX	TEN	BAL	NYG	NYJ	PIT
Line	8.5	-7.5	-8.5	5	-1.5	4.5	-3	-4.5	-3	-1	0	4.5	3.5	-1	1	-1

Avg = -0.3

Home Lines

2	3	5	8	10	11	14	17
-7.5 CIN	-8.5 WAS		-1.5 IND	-4.5 LVR	-3 HOU	-1 PHI	3.5 BAL	-1

Avg = -2.9

Road Lines

1	4	6	7	12	13	15	16
8.5 BAL	5 DAL	4.5 PIT	-3 CIN	0 JAX	4.5 TEN	-1 NYG	1 NYJ

Avg = 2.4

Even without Njoku, 12 and every other non-11 grouping was much more efficient, so scale back on 11.

Second, the Browns also dealt with injuries to wide receivers **Antonio Callaway** and **Rashard Higgins**. The Browns' No. 3 and 4 receivers both played in less than half of the team's 2019 games. Just in Weeks 1 through 9, there were a combined nine games missed between the two, and they both missed Weeks 2, 3, and 4. These absences certainly don't justify more 11 personnel.

And lastly, but most importantly, we can just look at what the Browns did to start the season when all tight ends were healthy:

They started Week 1 using 11 personnel and of their 42 pass attempts, 40 (95%) came from 11 personnel.

Week 2, with a still healthy Njoku, they started the game with 10 personnel (4 WRs and zero TEs) and used 11 personnel on 34 of 38 attempts (89%) despite thrashing the Jets 23-3. Most teams would shift to more runs and passes from heavy sets with a larger lead, but not the Browns.

Those two games coupled with the preseason told me all I needed to know about the 2019 Browns offense. Kitchens may be calling the plays, but make no mistake it was way different from 2018 and was now heavily influenced by Monken.

I couldn't believe what I was watching.

In the first three quarters of games through Week 9, as the Browns struggled to a 2-6 record, they used 84% 11 personnel despite all of the data showing how bad they were in 11 and solid they were in anything else.

It was tangible on Mayfield too. It wasn't just his passing splits which I shared earlier that he was statistically much better than average when using non-11 to pass, but one of the worst quarterbacks in the NFL when using 11. It was the pressure and sack rates when he was in 11 vs other groupings.

With added bodies to either directly assist in protection or give a pre-snap look like there might be extra protection, Mayfield was sacked just once. But in 11 personnel, he was sacked 12 times and pressured much more often. His sack rate was over double in 11 personnel and the pressure rate was similar. He wasn't getting the protection and his productivity reflected a quarterback without confidence.

(cont'd - see)
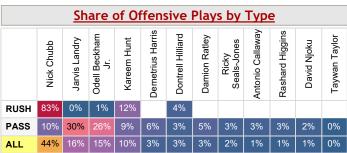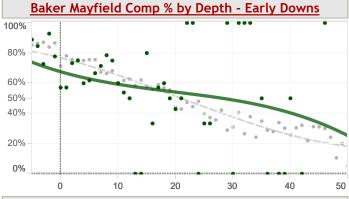
2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
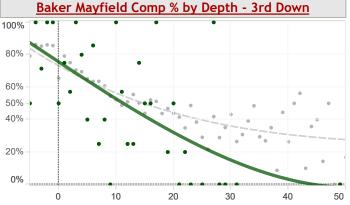
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Nick Chubb	13%	12%	61%	2%	11%
	Jarvis Landry			100%		
	Odell Beckham Jr.	67%	33%			
	Kareem Hunt	5%	7%	70%	2%	16%
	Dontrell Hilliard	8%	8%	46%		38%
	Total	12%	12%	61%	2%	13%
PASS	Nick Chubb	5%	20%	63%	2%	10%
	Jarvis Landry	14%	8%	65%	4%	10%
	Odell Beckham Jr.	14%	7%	64%	6%	9%
	Kareem Hunt	8%	6%	81%		6%
	Demetrius Harris	20%	24%	48%	4%	4%
	Dontrell Hilliard	17%	25%	58%		
	Damion Ratley	14%	9%	64%	9%	5%
	Ricky Seals-Jones	8%		83%		8%
	Antonio Callaway	18%	36%	45%		
	Rashard Higgins	18%		73%		9%
	David Njoku	10%	20%	70%		
	Taywan Taylor					100%
	Total	13%	11%	65%	4%	8%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Nick Chubb	Jarvis Landry	Odell Beckham Jr.	Kareem Hunt	Demetrius Harris	Dontrell Hilliard	Damion Ratley	Ricky Seals-Jones	Antonio Callaway	Rashard Higgins	David Njoku	Taywan Taylor
RUSH	83%	0%	1%	12%		4%						
PASS	10%	30%	26%	9%	6%	3%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%	0%
ALL	44%	16%	15%	10%	3%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

Baker Mayfield Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Baker Mayfield Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-0 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-1 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	40%, -0.15 (392)	48%, 0.14 (80)	51%, 0.17 (41)	44%, -0.02 (32)	50%, 0.10 (14)	25%, -0.42 (4)	33%, -0.02 (3)	100%, 1.18 (1)		42%, -0.07 (567)
RUSH	43%, -0.06 (162)	46%, -0.01 (143)	42%, 0.14 (31)	66%, 0.09 (29)	28%, -0.68 (18)	50%, -0.28 (6)		50%, -0.20 (2)	0%, -0.69 (1)	45%, -0.05 (392)
All	41%, -0.12 (554)	47%, 0.05 (223)	47%, 0.16 (72)	54%, 0.03 (61)	38%, -0.34 (32)	40%, -0.34 (10)	33%, -0.02 (3)	67%, 0.26 (3)	0%, -0.69 (1)	43%, -0.06 (959)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Nick Chubb	47% (34) 5.6, -0.07	67% (6) 9.7, 0.36	0% (4) 2.0, -0.32		45% (44) 5.9, -0.03
	Kareem Hunt	57% (23) 6.6, 0.28	0% (3) 0.7, -0.60	38% (8) 4.1, -0.01		47% (34) 5.5, 0.13
TE	Demetrius Harris	40% (15) 5.3, 0.37	38% (8) 7.0, 0.15			39% (23) 5.9, 0.29
	Ricky Seals-Jon..	50% (12) 9.4, -0.03	67% (6) 18.8, 1.39			56% (18) 12.6, 0.45
WR	Jarvis Landry	45% (103) 7.4, -0.01	69% (13) 16.2, 0.86	86% (7) 12.4, 0.42	0% (1) 0.0, -0.55	49% (124) 8.5, 0.10
	Odell Beckham	43% (86) 7.5, -0.08	54% (28) 7.9, 0.18	67% (6) 10.0, 0.66	50% (2) 3.5, -0.12	47% (122) 7.6, 0.01
	Antonio Callaway	43% (14) 6.1, -0.41			0% (1) 3.0, -0.91	40% (15) 5.9, -0.45

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Chubb Nick	41% (120) 5.0, -0.11	44% (116) 4.5, -0.03	68% (22) 6.7, 0.26		45% (258) 4.9, -0.04
Hunt Kareem	50% (10) 4.3, -0.03	53% (15) 4.4, -0.03	57% (7) 2.4, -0.45		53% (32) 3.9, -0.12
Mayfield Baker	58% (19) 5.8, 0.41	80% (5) 6.6, 0.56		50% (2) 0.0, -0.20	62% (26) 5.5, 0.39

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	52% (203) 8.2, 0.16
M2M	49% (150) 6.6, 0.01
Screen	32% (75) 5.9, -0.11
Combo	100% (1) 7.0, 0.27

Passing by Route

Screen	34% (71) 5.8, -0.13
Slant	52% (58) 7.2, -0.01
Curl	65% (54) 8.6, 0.42
Out	47% (53) 5.9, 0.00
Dig	63% (30) 11.6, 0.18
Flat	55% (22) 6.5, 0.39

Throw Types

Level 1	52% (342) 7.2, 0.14
Level 2	37% (118) 6.9, -0.09
Level 3	44% (32) 12.3, 0.48
Shovel	17% (6) 4.5, -1.29
Sidearm	50% (2) 3.5, 0.13

QB Drop Types

3 Step	48% (212) 7.4, 0.08
0/1 Step	44% (119) 6.2, 0.02
5 Step	41% (71) 7.1, -0.06
Basic Screen	38% (26) 5.7, -0.08
7 Step	56% (18) 10.4, 0.47
Designed Rollout Right	71% (14) 13.4, 0.68

QB State at Pass

Planted	49% (381) 7.8, 0.10
Moving	35% (86) 4.7, -0.14
Shuffling	39% (64) 6.3, 0.05

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	50% (76) 9.6, 0.15	41% (29) 4.3, -0.40
Shotgun	47% (77) 7.9, 0.10	40% (389) 6.6, -0.12
ALL	48% (153) 8.7, 0.13	40% (418) 6.4, -0.14

Run Types

Outside Zone	46% (114) 5.6, 0.06
Inside Zone	35% (51) 2.8, -0.29
Stretch	46% (37) 5.6, 0.09
Power	49% (35) 4.1, -0.16
Pitch	38% (24) 3.7, -0.51
Lead	55% (11) 3.3, 0.10

CLE-5

I also couldn't believe what I was hearing.

Multiple pundits around the nation, as well as many Cleveland Browns fans, raised the call that the team "needs more Monken!" Having done the research, however, I thought "perhaps too much Monken is the problem," and I was shocked people couldn't recognize what I was watching.

We would hear after the season about power struggles between Monken and Kitchens during the season. Monken apparently walked up to opposing coaches before games and told them the Browns were "a total mess".

The weekend of their Week 9 game in Denver, I used my resources to investigate and asked about the level of Monken's influence. The response was as I predicted: too much. But with that came an assurance that it was going to change, and soon. Boy, did it ever.

Take a guess at how much 11 personnel the Browns used the very next week, Week 10, in the first three quarters? Just 41 percent! Down from 84% on the season up until that point. And over the course of the rest of the season, not one game saw more than 56% usage of 11 personnel to pass in the game's first three quarters. Starting with that Week 10 game, the Browns won four of five games and sat 6-7 on the season.

But it still wasn't all beautiful. Heading into Arizona in Week 15, the Browns used 50% 11 personnel in the first three quarters, their highest rate in over a month. Mayfield was predictably terrible in 11 (3.6 YPA, 30% success, 0:1 TD:INT, 9% sack rate) and the Cardinals blew out the Browns.

Kitchens was rightfully relieved of duties. The Browns' playcalling struggled all season and it truly was a waste of what was a talented roster.

As disappointed as I was in the 2019 Browns, I'm as excited for 2020 and it's almost entirely because of coaching. Kevin Stefanski is now the head coach and playcaller. The 2019 Vikings used 3+ WRs on only 22.9% of snaps, by FAR the least often in the NFL. The NFL average was almost triple that rate (64.6%). Instead, they used a ton of 2-TE & 2-RB sets.

And wow, did the Browns load up on personnel to execute such a plan. They added fullback **Andy Janovich**, tight end **Austin Hooper**, and right tackle **Jack Conklin** in free agency. They drafted left tackle **Jedrick Wills** and tight end **Harrison Bryant**.

Cleveland Browns 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Baker Mayfield took a step back last season with his completion rate (59.4%), touchdown rate (4.1%), and yards per pass attempt (7.2) all declining off his rookie rates while his interception rate went from 2.9% up to 3.9% in 2019. Facing the hardest passing schedule in the league in 2019, Cleveland ranked 23rd in success rate per pass play (42%) and ranked 28th in the league in missed yards per pass attempt (3.7 yards). The one bright spot for Mayfield is that he was excellent using play-action. 37.3% of Mayfield's yardage came off play-action, the fifth-highest rate in the league, and was third in the league in touchdown passes (11) using play-action, which accounted for half of his touchdown passes. Mayfield will now work with his third offensive coordinator in three seasons in Kevin Stefanski. Stefanski's approach is built around selling nearly every play as a run play, opening the door to build off the best aspect of Mayfield's 2019 season.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Baker Mayfield	316	533	59%	3,826	7.2	22	21	40	79	41
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Baker Mayfield	42%	45%	57	11.0%	22	4.0%	6.3	5.8	26	5%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Baker Mayfield Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	3.6%	5.0%	33.3%	4.9%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.5%	2.1%	0.0%	1.7%
10 - 14	3.7%	4.9%	8.3%	0.0%	4.5%
15+	0.0%	3.6%	5.9%	0.0%	3.8%
Total	3.3%	3.1%	4.5%	11.1%	3.7%
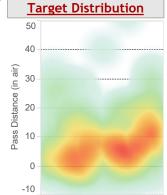
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Baker Mayfield	9.1	6.3	-2.8	68%	14
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
52%	48%	25
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Browns ranked below average in league success rates per target to every position in 2019. They were 25th in success rate targeting both their wide receivers (48%) and tight ends (46%) and 17th targeting the running back position (44%). With big money spent on wide receivers **Odell Beckham** and **Jarvis Landry**, Cleveland went out and opened their wallets for **Austin Hooper** this offseason. The Cleveland passing game will be asked to take a major step forward in efficiency over volume in Stefanksi's offensive scheme. No team used 11 personnel less than the Vikings in 2019 (25% compared to a 60% league rate) while Minnesota was second in use of 12 personnel (34% compared to 20% league average).

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Jarvis Landry	137	61%	8.5	78.4	53%	58	83	28	75	6
Odell Beckham Jr.	133	56%	7.8	69.0	47%	97	125	23	111	4
Nick Chubb	50	72%	5.6	85.3	42%	121	132	111	11	0

Jarvis Landry Target Distribution

Odell Beckham Target Distribution
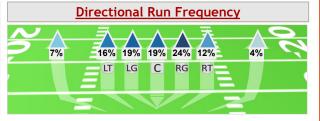
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Browns ran for 1,901 yards in 2019 (12th in the league) and averaged 5.0 yards per carry, which ranked fifth. Despite their per-carry efficiency anchored by long runs, the team ranked 14th in EPA via their rushing offense and 21st in success rate rushing (46%). Running back **Nick Chubb** finished second in the league in rushing yardage (1,494 yards) and was 10th among all running backs with 100 or more carries in explosive run rate (13%). Adding **Kareem Hunt** to the fold for the final eight weeks, the Cleveland backfield combined for 158.5 yards from scrimmage over that span. With Stefanski's Kubiak-ian offensive playcalling and design influence, the combo of Chubb and Hunt will be a large part of the offense in 2020.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Nick Chubb	297	5.0	44%	56	20	75	19	45%	52	8

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

The Browns May Play Faster Than You Think

While we know new head coach Kevin Stefanski wants to base his offense on the appearance of the run game, the actual pace at which the Vikings played in a neutral game script was much faster than you would believe. Minnesota led for 47% of their offensive snaps on the season, which was seventh in the league. As a byproduct of Minnesota leading often, they ranked 16th in the NFL in overall pace of play, running a play every 27.7 seconds of possession. But they ranked 21st in the league in pace of play playing ahead on the scoreboard at any point (29.2 seconds per play) and 27th in pace ahead in the second half of games (31.6 seconds). Adjusting for game script, Minnesota had much more tempo. They ranked ninth in the NFL in pace in neutral game script outside of the fourth quarter of games (28.2 seconds) and sixth in offensive pace trailing at any point in the game (24.6 seconds per play). In the first half of games period, they were eighth in pace played (26.6 seconds).

For comparison, the 2019 Browns were 20th in first half pace of play (28.4 seconds), 27th in pace in neutral game script outside of the fourth quarter (30.4 seconds), and 26th in pace while trailing (27.4) at any point. Unless Cleveland can match the 2019 Vikings in terms of overall positive game script, we can project the Browns to run more offensive plays in 2020 than they did in 2019 (which was actually only three more plays than the 2019 Vikings), which would offer more upside that is being led on by the concerns that Stefanski is out to solely ground and pound opponents.

Can Odell Beckham Rebound in 2020?

Beckham's expectations are so high that he has made back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons end up as disappointments. Through a cocktail of changing teams, not playing up to par, facing the league's hardest passing schedule, and playing through a sports hernia, torn abductor, and torn rectus, Beckham closed 2019 at WR25 overall and WR34 in points per game (12.6) while having career-lows in targets per game (8.3) and yards per target (7.8). The Browns faced 10 opponents in the top half of the league in point differential allowed versus opposing wide receiver average and had just three games against defenses in the bottom 10.

But even in a down year through all that worked against him, he still ranked 12th overall among all wide receivers in targets (133), fourth in end zone targets (13), 12th in expected fantasy points, and eighth in weighted opportunity rating at the position. Beckham is unlikely to receive double-digit targets per game in this Cleveland offense such as he did early in his career with the Giants, but the injury and letdown discount on Beckham from 2019 has room to be advantageous, especially if he ends up as your WR2 option.

Cleveland Browns Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	5 plays (1%) Success: 60% EPA: 0.21	327 plays (97%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.11	6 plays (2%) Success: 83% EPA: 1.11	338 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.08
1-2 [2WR]	5 plays (6%) Success: 20% EPA: -1.39	74 plays (93%) Success: 51% EPA: 0.08	1 plays (1%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.61	80 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: -0.02
2-1 [2WR]	16 plays (47%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.18	18 plays (53%) Success: 61% EPA: 0.11		34 plays (100%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.14
2-2 [1WR]	11 plays (85%) Success: 64% EPA: 0.37	2 plays (15%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.83		13 plays (100%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.19
Grand Total	37 plays (8%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.03	421 plays (91%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.07	7 plays (2%) Success: 71% EPA: 0.86	465 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: -0.05

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	13%	31
Nickel	84%	1
Dime+	2%	24
Rush 3	5%	17
Rush 4	60%	21
Rush 5	26%	5
Rush 6+	9%	5
Blitz%	35%	4

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Cleveland defense never really clicked with Steve Wilks but Kevin Stefanski brought in Joe Woods to be the defensive coordinator after Woods helped the San Francisco secondary last season. He also had a successful stint as the Denver defensive coordinator after Wade Phillips left for the Rams. **Sheldon Richardson** was the prize of last offseason but didn't put up the pass rush production he had with the Vikings in 2018 or near his peak with the Jets. Richardson was 24th among defensive tackles in pressure rate with at least 100 pass rush snaps last season and his quarterback hits dropped from 16 to six. But even with that, he was a plus run defender and even just a good pass rush makes him an above-average interior defender. The same can be said for **Larry Ogunjobi** and free agent signing **Andrew Billings**. Both have the ability to play the run well with the upside of pass rush disruption. Billings was a starter for the Bengals last season and will likely push Ogunjobi for that spot with the Browns. That's a solid three-man rotation and **Jordan Elliott** was added in the third round.

Last year **Myles Garrett** was one of the league's best edge rushers, fourth in Pass Rush Win Rate. **Olivier Vernon** remains a player who consistently puts up a high pressure rate without matching sack production and time missed due to injury. **Adrian Clayborn** gives the Browns a productive backup they didn't really have on the roster last season. Despite Garrett's presence (and especially without him during his suspension) the Browns ranked just 18th as a team in Pass Rush Win Rate per ESPN and 12th in pressure rate per SIS.

Joe Schobert had a down year last season, but even with that his loss will be felt in this group. **Mack Wilson** stepped into a role as a fifth-round rookie but was often overmatched. **B.J. Goodson** struggled in the linebacker no-mans-land of Green Bay, but was an underrated player previously with the Giants. **Sione Takitaki** might have the most upside of this group but that's an incredibly low bar and he was on the field for just 10.4% of Cleveland's defensive snaps as a three-round rookie. Third-round pick **Jacob Phillips** will also factor into the rotation.

With **Denzel Ward** and **Greedy Williams**, the Browns have an impressive, young duo at outside corner. Ward was about average by Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season while Williams struggled a bit as a rookie. Still, there's plenty of potential for improvement in Year 2, something typically seen at the position. Cleveland got an impressive add in free agency with **Kevin Johnson**, who worked well both outside and in the slot for the Bills last season (22nd of 145 corners with 100+ coverage snaps in AYa/CS.

The Browns will have a completely new safety tandem this season. **Karl Joseph** has the ability to play a high-level single-high safety but has not yet managed to stay on the field for a full season. **Andrew Sendejo** mostly epitomizes the veteran journeyman defensive back. First-round pick **Grant Delpit** will make an immediate impact and can push in as a starter. The Browns might also go with more three-safety looks on the back end.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	60%
All Pass Rk	18
All Rush %	40%
All Rush Rk	15
1 Score Pass %	60%
1 Score Pass Rk	12
2018 1 Score Pass %	56%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	21
2019 Pass Increase %	4%
Pass Increase Rk	8
1 Score Rush %	40%
1 Score Rush Rk	21
Up Pass %	52%
Up Pass Rk	16
Up Rush %	48%
Up Rush Rk	17
Down Pass %	63%
Down Pass Rk	23
Down Rush %	37%
Down Rush Rk	10

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	10	50%	50%	60%
	Med (4-7)	14	36%	64%	57%
	Long (8-10)	291	49%	51%	49%
	XL (11+)	12	42%	58%	33%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	38	45%	55%	68%
	Med (4-7)	69	48%	52%	51%
	Long (8-10)	81	64%	36%	36%
	XL (11+)	48	81%	19%	23%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	37	59%	41%	57%
	Med (4-7)	48	94%	6%	40%
	Long (8-10)	29	93%	7%	21%
	XL (11+)	32	94%	6%	28%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	5	20%	80%	60%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	100%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	34%	66%
	37% AVG 63%	

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	70%	26%
	68% AVG 23%	

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	30%	74%
	32% AVG 77%	

Cleveland Browns 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
63%	19	66%	84%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
37%	14	34%	73%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	4	25%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	7	43%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	124	45%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	4	25%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	18	67%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	30	53%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	22	45%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jarvis Landry	8	50%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	8	63%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Jarvis Landry	10	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Jarvis Landry	7	14%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jarvis Landry	6	67%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 38% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.15 Rtg: 60.5 [Att: 343 - Rate: 60.1%]	Success: 46% YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.17 Rtg: 110.1 [Att: 87 - Rate: 15.2%]	Success: 40% YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.08 Rtg: 70.5 [Att: 430 - Rate: 75.3%]
Yes	Success: 48% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 109.2 [Att: 75 - Rate: 13.1%]	Success: 52% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 99.7 [Att: 66 - Rate: 11.6%]	Success: 50% YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 104.6 [Att: 141 - Rate: 24.7%]
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 68.9 [Att: 418 - Rate: 73.2%]	Success: 48% YPA: 8.7, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 105.6 [Att: 153 - Rate: 26.8%]	Success: 42% YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 78.8 [Att: 571 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Odell Beckham ..	Jarvis Landry	Nick Chubb	Demetrius Harris	Kareem Hunt	Damion Ratley	Ricky Seals-Jon..	Rashard Higgins
1	TEN	L 43-13	73 (100%)	73 (100%)	51 (70%)	13 (18%)		35 (48%)		32 (44%)
2	NYJ	W 23-3	63 (91%)	68 (99%)	42 (61%)	54 (78%)		42 (61%)	3 (4%)	
3	LA	L 20-13	71 (99%)	71 (99%)	70 (97%)	65 (90%)		57 (79%)	6 (8%)	
4	BAL	W 40-25	66 (96%)	52 (75%)	44 (64%)	46 (67%)		46 (67%)	21 (30%)	
5	SF	L 31-3	49 (100%)	49 (100%)	41 (84%)	27 (55%)		14 (29%)	15 (31%)	
6	SEA	L 32-28	68 (99%)	66 (96%)	59 (86%)	19 (28%)			47 (68%)	
8	NE	L 27-13	68 (100%)	62 (91%)	43 (63%)	14 (21%)			31 (46%)	14 (21%)
9	DEN	L 24-19	71 (95%)	71 (95%)	45 (60%)	51 (68%)			22 (29%)	15 (20%)
10	BUF	W 19-16	67 (96%)	65 (93%)	57 (81%)	34 (49%)	38 (54%)	1 (1%)		33 (47%)
11	PIT	W 21-7	65 (92%)	65 (92%)	51 (72%)	42 (59%)	39 (55%)	1 (1%)	11 (15%)	29 (41%)
12	MIA	W 41-24	75 (99%)	71 (93%)	43 (57%)	51 (67%)	43 (57%)	1 (1%)	18 (24%)	25 (33%)
13	PIT	L 20-13	65 (94%)	67 (97%)	41 (59%)	43 (62%)	45 (65%)	1 (1%)	14 (20%)	29 (42%)
14	CIN	W 27-19	49 (88%)	50 (89%)	39 (70%)		35 (63%)	16 (29%)	11 (20%)	
15	ARI	L 38-24	68 (97%)	68 (97%)	35 (50%)	42 (60%)	43 (61%)	21 (30%)	19 (27%)	
16	BAL	L 31-15	54 (90%)	50 (83%)	39 (65%)	36 (60%)	34 (57%)	21 (35%)	19 (32%)	
17	CIN	L 33-23	49 (91%)	54 (100%)	31 (57%)	32 (59%)	36 (67%)	11 (20%)	11 (20%)	
	Grand Total		1,021 (95%)	1,002 (94%)	731 (68%)	569 (56%)	313 (60%)	267 (31%)	248 (27%)	177 (35%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	57%	60%	41%
1-2 [2WR]	23%	20%	47%
2-0 [3WR]	7%	1%	47%
2-1 [2WR]	6%	8%	54%
1-3 [1WR]	3%	3%	38%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	71%	40%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	36%	48%	46%
2-0 [3WR]	57%	51%	42%
2-1 [2WR]	52%	44%	66%
1-3 [1WR]	44%	50%	28%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Jarvis Landry	17	6	3	8
Odell Beckham Jr.	8	4		4
Demetrius Harris	7	3	1	3
Antonio Callaway	5		1	4
Damion Ratley	5	2	2	1
Nick Chubb	4	1		3
Kareem Hunt	3		1	2
Rashard Higgins	3		2	1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Nick Chubb	51	16	16	19
Baker Mayfield	7	2	4	1
Dontrell Hilliard	5	2	1	2
Kareem Hunt	5	1	1	3
Odell Beckham Jr.	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	23%	13%	64%
	23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG		

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	44%	46%	48%
	#17	#25	#25

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
01.	Games w Halftime Lead	8
02.	Avg Halftime Lead	0.0
03.	Wins	6

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	22
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	19
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	29
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	27
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	10
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	13
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	20
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	11
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	26
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	28
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	28
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	23
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	11
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	26
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	6
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	24
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	8
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	9
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	9
23.	PA Improvement Success	11
24.	PA Improvement YPA	10
25.	PA Improvement Rating	4
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	26
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	18
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	5
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	14
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	14
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	8
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	15
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	4
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	18
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	22

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.0
37.	PSM Target Depth	8.3
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.3
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.8
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	48%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	45%
42.	PSM Rating	90.6
43.	Non-PSM Rating	74.7
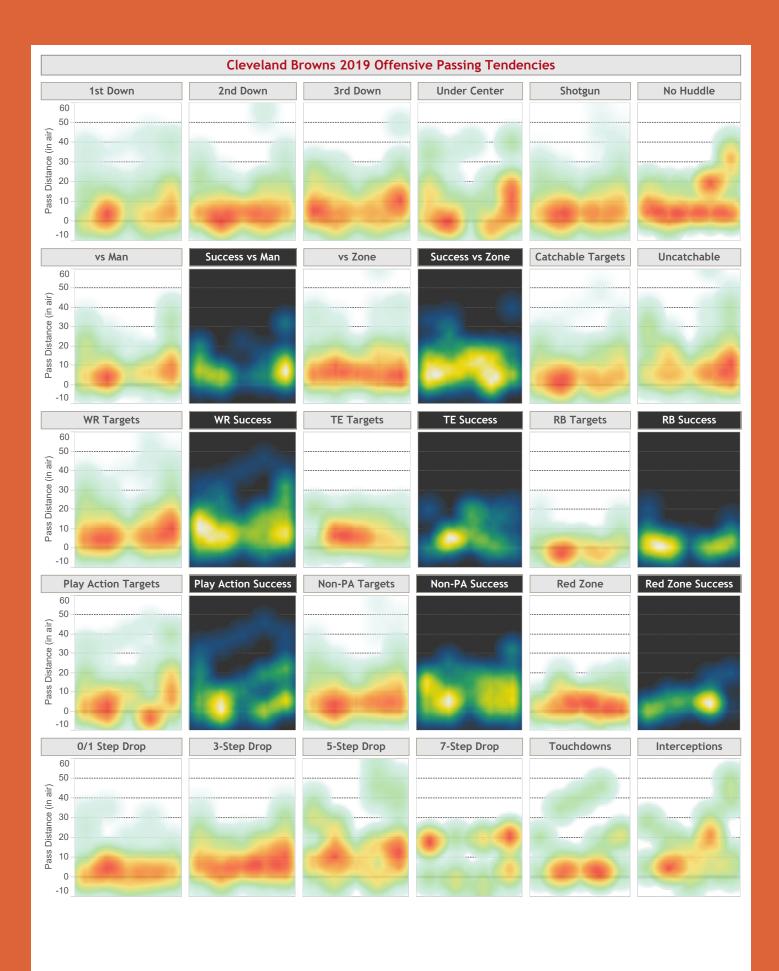
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	39%
45.	PA Success Rate	53%
46.	PA YPA	9.0
47.	PA Sack Rate	5.2%
48.	PA Rating	110.2
49.	PA Target Depth	7.7
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	45%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6.5
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.0%
53.	Non-PA Rating	68.8
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.7

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	16%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.0
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.2
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.8

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Net FROE Rk	23	defFUM	17
Net FROE	-2.4	defFUM Rcvrd	6
offFUM	14	defFR Rk	28
offFUM Rcvrd	7	defFR%	35.3%
offFR%	50.0%	defFROE	-1.9
offFR Rk	19	defFROE Rk	26
offFROE	-0.5		
offFROE Rk	18		

Field Goal Luck

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
2019 FG %	86%	YOY Swing	19%
2019 FG Rk	11	YOY Swing Rk	5
Opp 2019 FG %	72%	2018 Team Net	-5%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	30	2018 Net Rk	23
2019 Team Net	14%		
2019 Net Rk	3		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Baker Mayfield
CAY	6.3
CAY Rk	13
2018 CAY Rk	11
AYTS Rk	13
2018 AYTS Rk	8
AGG Rk	9
2018 AGG Rk	22
COMP%	59.4
xCOMP%	62.8
xCOMP% Rk	27
2018 xCOMP% Rk	25
CPOE%	-3.5
CPOE Rk	33
2018 CPOE Rk	23

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Baker Mayfield
Pressure %	33.4
Pressure Rk	25
Sack %	20.2
Sack Rk	12
Under Pressure Accuracy %	59.7
Pressure Accuracy Rk	28
Rating when Pressured	62
Pressured Rating Rk	22
Clean Accuracy %	72.7
Clean Accuracy Rk	37
Rating when Clean	85
Clean Rating Rk	36
Time to Throw	2.78
Time to Throw Rk	23

Offensive Metrics

Metric	Value
EPA/Pass	-0.06
EPA/Pass Rk	23
EPA/Rush	-0.04
EPA/Rush Rk	12
On-Target Catch %	83.2
On-Target Catch Rk	25
Drop%	9.4
Drop Rk	26
YAC/Att	3.2
YAC/Att Rk	1
Rush Broken Tackle %	21.9
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	2
Rush 1st Down %	22.4
Rush 1st Down Rk	18

Cleveland Browns 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

They can roll 2-TE sets featuring Beckham and Landry at receiver, tight ends Njoku and Hooper, and either Chubb or Hunt in the backfield.

They can roll 2-RB sets with Janovich leading the way for Chubb or Hunt or have Chubb and Hunt on the field together, which worked well in limited plays for the Browns in 2019.

The combinations are nasty. The unpredictability is nasty. And most important, it seems like this is what makes Mayfield comfortable. Yes, he played with Lincoln Riley and the Air Raid in Oklahoma, primarily against subpar Big 12 defenses. But through two full NFL seasons, it's clear he's been at his best with multi-back or TE sets. And that's exactly what Stefanski is bringing to town.

No team sees their projected schedule improve from 2019 to 2020 more than the Browns. Last year they played the ninth-toughest schedule and I forecast them to play the third-easiest schedule in 2020. It's not a perfect schedule, but there are several advantages.

They have extra prep for both games against the Ravens, being that one is Week 1 and the other is a home game on Monday night. They host their Thursday night game. And they have a bye right in the middle of the season (Week 9).

But even bigger than these spots is the schedule for Baker Mayfield. In 2019, they played the third-toughest schedule of pass defenses. They're projected to play the easiest schedule of pass defenses in 2020. The Browns played 10 games against top-15 pass defenses in 2019 and went 3-7 in those games. They play only four top-15 pass defenses in 2020.

They move from the toughest schedule of total defenses in 2019 to the ninth-easiest in 2020. With a new offense, it will certainly benefit the Browns to play Week 2 and Week 3 at home against the lowly Bengals and Redskins, so they can iron out any early issues. Between Weeks 5 and 11, nearly two months, the farthest the Browns have to travel is to face cross-state rival Cincinnati.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Mike McCarthy (GB HC 2018) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:
Kellen Moore (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Mike Nolan (NO LB) (new)

EASY HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9.5	#1

Past Records

2019: 8-8
2018: 10-6
2017: 9-7

Schedule:
#	Team	H/A
1	LAR	A
2	ATL	H
3	SEA	A
4	CLE	H
5	NYG	H
6	ARI	H
7	WAS	A
8	PHI	A
9	PIT	H
10		
11	MIN	A
12	WAS	H
13	BAL	A
14	CIN	A
15	SF	H
16	PHI	H
17	NYG	A

SNF (1) — MNF (6) — SNF (8) — TKG (11) — TNF (13) — SNF (15)

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Byron Jones (CB)	Dolphins
Cameron Fleming (LT)	Giants
Christian Covington (43DT)	Broncos
Cooper Rush (QB)	Giants
Daniel Ross (43DT)	Raiders
Donovan Olumba (CB)	Browns
Jason Witten (TE)	Raiders
Jeff Heath (S)	Raiders
Kavon Frazier (S)	Dolphins
Kerry Hyder (43DE)	49ers
Maliek Collins (43DT)	Raiders
Randall Cobb (WR)	Texans
Robert Quinn (43DE)	Bears
Travis Frederick (C)	Retired
Xavier Su'a-Filo (LG)	Bengals
Chris Covington (43OLB)	Null
Lance Lenoir (TE)	Null
Malcolm Smith (43OLB)	Null
Michael Bennett (43DE)	Null
Ray-Ray Armstrong (ILB)	Null
Tavon Austin (WR)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-2.8	11	5

2020 Dallas Cowboys Overview

Jason Garrett had 10 years as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys. But it's been 24 years since the Cowboys won a Super Bowl and in that span, they haven't even made it past the Divisional round once. "America's Team" has made the Divisional round just six times in those 24 years and are 0-6 when there.

They've gone through a number of well-known coaches in that span, including Barry Switzer, Bill Parcells, and Wade Phillips. All of them outperformed Jason Garrett if success is measured on winning seasons. Each of Switzer, Parcells, and Phillips coached in Dallas for four seasons and each produced winning records in three of those four seasons.

Jason Garrett got over twice the seasons as full-time head coach. In his nine seasons, he produced winning records in just four of nine seasons. His tenure started with three straight non-winning 8-8 seasons. And yet somehow, Jerry Jones kept Garrett around much longer than Switzer, Parcells, or Phillips.

The team is now in Mike McCarthy's hands, and it is a very good team, particularly on offense. The problem has been the Cowboys have never seemed to be a great team. And although oftentimes good teams can go on great runs, the Cowboys never seemed to put it all together to make such a run.

Take the 2019 Cowboys. They sat at 6-4 through 11 weeks in an NFC East that was well below average last season. The division was effectively theirs for the taking. But they dropped three consecutive games to fall to 6-7. A dominant win over the Rams in Week 15 meant that if the Cowboys won their final two games of the season, they would still win the NFC East and make the playoffs at 9-7. But they lost to the Eagles in Week 16 and were knocked out of the playoffs with an Eagles win against the Giants in Week 17.

(cont'd - see)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Gerald McCoy (34DE)	$6
Dontari Poe (34DT)	$4.5
Ha-Ha Clinton-Dix (S)	$3.79
Andy Dalton (QB)	$3
Daryl Worley (CB)	$3
Cameron Erving (LT)	$2.5
Greg Zuerlein (K)	$2.5
Blake Bell (TE)	$1.7
Maurice Canady (CB)	$1.3

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	17	WR - CeeDee Lamb (Oklahoma)
2	51	CB - Trevon Diggs (Alabama)
3	82	DT - Neville Gallimore (Oklahoma)
4	123	CB - Reggie Robinson (Tulsa)
4	146	C - Tyler Biadasz (Wisconsin)
5	179	DE - Bradlee Anae (Utah)
7	231	QB - Ben DiNucci (James Madison)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	9.5
2019 Wins	8
Forecast 2019 Wins	9
2018 Wins	10
2017 Wins	9
2016 Wins	13

Lineup & Cap Hits

Defense:
- FS - X.Woods #25
- SS - H.Clinton-Dix NEW #27
- LB - L.Vander Esch #55
- LB - J.Smith #54
- RCB - T.Diggs #31
- SLOTCB - A.Brown #30
- DE - J.Jackson #56
- DT - T.Crawford* #98
- DT - G.McCoy* NEW #93
- DE - D.Lawrence #90
- LCB - C.Awuzie #24

Offense:
- LWR - M.Gallup #13
- SLOTWR - C.Lamb Rookie #88
- LT - T.Smith #77
- LG - C.Williams #52
- C - J.Looney #73
- RG - Z.Martin #70
- RT - L.Collins #71
- TE - B.Jarwin #89
- RWR - A.Cooper #19
- QB - D.Prescott #4
- RB - E.Elliott #21
- WR2 - D.Smith #15
- WR3 - V.Bryant #83
- RB2 - T.Pollard #36
- QB2 - A.Dalton* NEW #14

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	4	$121.59M	9
QB	2	$35.65M	32
OL	8	$44.93M	1
RB	6	$13.58M	14
WR	24	$19.73M	9
TE	21	$7.70M	21
All DEF	21	$92.03M	18
DL	13	$47.98M	3
LB	20	$20.15M	20
CB	20	$15.22M	24
S	23	$8.69M	27

That fast 3-0 start was never capitalized upon. But the hype the 3-0 Cowboys received was exceptional.

The first stop would be to look at the betting market. Immediately prior to the season, the Cowboys were +160 to win the NFC East while the Eagles were -160. The Cowboys beat the Giants 35-17 in Week 1 and their odds dropped to +125. In Week 2, the Cowboys beat the Redskins 31-21 while the Eagles lost and suddenly Dallas was favored to win the NFC East at -125. Another win, this time 31-6 over the Dolphins, coupled with another Eagles loss and suddenly the Cowboys were -300 to win the NFC East.

They moved from +160 to -300 simply from beating the Giants, Redskins, and Dolphins while the Eagles dropped two games by less than seven total points. Cowboys fans were on top of the world.

And so was the analytics community with respect to something new 2019 play caller Kellen Moore pulled out: play-action.

The Cowboys weren't bad with play action in 2018 — they used it at an average rate of 22% of all passes (NFL average was 23%) and on 37% of early down passes in the first half (NFL average was 34%).

But Dallas didn't need play-action. On those early downs in the first half, **Dak Prescott** was actually slightly more efficient (whether using EPA, success rate, or passer rating) when passing without play-action. But the one thing play-action did was lower his sack rate tremendously, from 10.7% without play action to 1.2% with play action.

But in 2019, the analytics community was buzzing after Week 2's game against the Redskins with how Kellen Moore was using play-action.

He used it on 41% of attempts in Week 1 and 39% of attempts in Week 2. Dallas's 40% play action usage rate through two weeks was the most in the NFL (average was 23%).

Not only was the rate well above both the Cowboys 2018 average under Garrett and the NFL's 2019 average, but the key was the depth of target (aDOT) and results of these play-action passes.

In 2018, Dallas had an aDOT of 7.4 yards on play action, which was well below league average (8.6 yards). But in 2019, these targets had a whopping 11.5 aDOT through Week 2. The league average was only 8.2 yards, but Prescott was well above that average. Deeper passes should be more difficult to complete, but Prescott recorded a perfect 158.3 passer rating on these play-action passes.

With the Cowboys killing the Dolphins 31-6 in Week 3, they didn't need to use play-action as often, but their aDOT was 15.5 yards when they did use a play fake.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Dak Prescott	57% 7.8 94.1	54% 8.3 107.9	42% 8.8 101.7	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	46%	64%	75%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
DAL	52% 4.4	57% 5.0	61% 6.7	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	54%	36%	25%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

But then, sitting at 3-0, something strange happened.

In Weeks 4 through 6, the Dallas usage of play-action and aDOT when using play action revered back to 2018 numbers.

In those three games, Dallas used play-action on only 18% of pass attempts, and their aDOT dropped to 9.1 yards.

After three games and 11 attempts with 17+ air yards off play-action, the Cowboys had three such attempts in the next three games.

After three games with six attempts over 25 air yards off play-action, the Cowboys had zero such attempts in the next three games.

Dallas lost all three games and fell to 3-3 on the season.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	W	W	W	L	L	L	W		W	L	W	L	L	L	W	L	W	WEEK RESULT
	NYG	WAS	MIA	NO	GB	NYJ	PHI		NYG	MIN	DET	NE	BUF	CHI	LA	PHI	WAS	OPP
	H	A	H	A	H	A	H		A	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	SITE
	18	10	25	-2	-10	-2	27		19	-4	8	-4	-11	-7	23	-8	31	MARGIN
	35	31	31	10	24	22	37		37	24	35	9	15	24	44	9	47	PTS
	17	21	6	12	34	24	10		18	28	27	13	26	31	21	17	16	OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF EDSR
Blue=OFF (high=good)
Red=DEF (low=good)

2019 Close Game Records
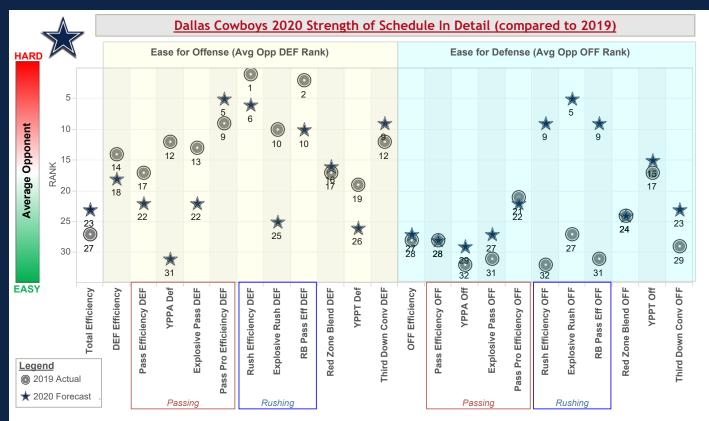
All 2019 Wins: **8**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-2**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **1-6**
1 Score Games Win %: **14% (#31)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **13% (#31)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-1
TO Given	18
INT Given	11
FUM Given	7
TO Taken	17
INT Taken	7
FUM Taken	10
Sack Margin	+16
Sacks	39
Sacks Allow	23
Return TD Margin	+1
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	-7
Penalties	109
Opponent Penalties	102

Dallas Cowboys 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Chart: Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

Legend:
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- ★ 2020 Forecast

HARD / EASY — Average Opponent — RANK

Offense categories (left): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Defense categories (right): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / Rushing groupings

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
24	27	25	31	16	12	1	1

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-5.4	0.7	-2.1
Average O/U line	46.6	43.7	47.2
Straight Up Record	8-8	10-6	9-7
Against the Spread Record	9-7	9-6	8-7
Over/Under Record	10-6	7-8	6-10
ATS as Favorite	7-7	3-2	7-4
ATS as Underdog	1-0	6-4	0-3
Straight Up Home	5-3	7-1	3-5
ATS Home	5-3	5-2	3-5
Over/Under Home	5-3	5-2	3-5
ATS as Home Favorite	4-3	3-2	2-3
ATS as a Home Dog	0-0	2-0	0-2
Straight Up Away	3-5	3-5	6-2
ATS Away	4-4	4-4	5-2
Over/Under Away	5-3	2-6	3-5
ATS Away Favorite	3-4	0-0	5-1
ATS Away Dog	1-0	4-4	0-1
Six Point Teaser Record	10-6	13-3	9-7
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	13-3	10-6
Ten Point Teaser Record	13-2	14-2	10-6

DAL-3

Such a pattern continued all season long. Teams used play-action on 24% of passes in 2019.

When the Cowboys used play-action at least at the league average, they went 8-2.

When the Cowboys used play-action less than the league average, they went 0-6.

The only losses when using higher rates of play-action were against the Vikings (four-point loss and lost the turnover battle) and the Patriots (four-point loss and lost the turnover battle).

Using more play action won't ensure wins, but it was something that worked early and then was reduced quite randomly.

Dallas went 1-6 in games decided by one-score, so apart from a blowout loss to the Packers, there wasn't a situation where Dallas should believe they were down so much that the defense wouldn't respect play-action.

(cont'd - see DAL-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	-1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	-1
Week 8 Edge	-3
Week 9 Edge	-7
Week 11 Edge	8
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	3
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	4
2018 Rk	17
2019 v 2018 Rk	7
Off Rk	2
Def Rk	21
QB Rk	11
RB Rk	1
WR Rk	6
TE Rk	1
Oline Rk	13
Dline Rk	31
LB Rk	16
DB Rk	4

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
LAR	ATL	SEA	CLE	NYG	ARI	WAS	PHI	PIT	MIN	WAS	BAL	CIN	SF	PHI	NYG
-2	-7	2.5	-5	-7.5	-7	-6.5	2.5	-3	3	-11.5	7	-5.5	1	-3	-3

Avg = -2.8

Home Lines

2	4	5	6	9	12	15	16
-7 ATL	-5 CLE	-7.5 NYG	-7 ARI	-3 PIT	-11.5 WAS	1 SF	-3 PHI

Avg = -5.4

Road Lines

1	3	7	8	11	13	14	17
-2 LAR	2.5 SEA	-6.5 WAS	2.5 PHI	3 MIN	7 BAL	-5.5 CIN	-3 NYG

Avg = -0.3

Another frustrating element of the Cowboys' 2019 offense was something that continued from prior seasons, and that was an inability to get production out of **Ezekiel Elliott** in the passing game. Dallas was deadly when targeting wide receivers (third-best in the NFL) and tight ends (fourth-best in the NFL) but when targeting backs, they ranked 20th, with well below average EPA and success. A similar story was true in 2018, when Dallas was above average to wide receivers and tight ends but ranked 29th to running backs.

The initial inclination might be to believe these are dump off passes to prevent sacks and we should expect a lower success. But that wasn't the case.

In 2019, 31% of all running back targets came when the quarterback was under pressure, and the other 69% came when the quarterback was not pressured. Elliott received exactly 69% of his targets when Prescott was not pressured, identical to the NFL average.

The problem also wasn't give-up targets for field position on third-and-long either. Only 85% of Elliott's targets were not on third down.

League wide, EPA, success rate, YPA, and passer rating on throws to running backs are all better when the quarterback was not pressured. The problem for Dallas was all the metrics listed above were equal to or worse for Elliott when Prescott was not pressured as they were when he was under pressure.

Removing third downs, most of Elliott's targets were on screen passes. Elliott was targeted on four types of passes more than five times on non-pressured early downs (screens, curls, flats, and swing routes). He didn't eclipse 40% success on targets from any of those four routes save for screens. Meanwhile, the NFL average was at least 50% success on all four of those routes.

This simply comes down to play design for running back targets. Well over half of Elliott's targets came from 11 personnel last year (expected, as 11 was the preferred offense for Dallas). League-wide, non-third down running back targets typically have a solid floor (53% success, 99.3 rating, 6.5 YPA) but not quite as much upside as running back targets from 12. But Elliott was down at 41% success, 82.5 rating and 4.5 YPA.

Dallas is getting tremendous production when targeting wide receivers and tight ends. They cannot afford to waste production on running back targets when those play designs come with a floor so much lower than other targets.
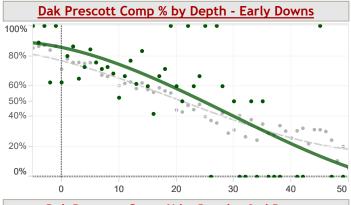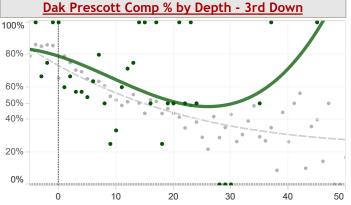
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	9%	7%	67%	6%	11%
	Amari Cooper			100%		
	Tony Pollard	5%	3%	36%	5%	51%
	Randall Cobb			33%	67%	
	Tavon Austin	33%		67%		
	Total	8%	6%	60%	6%	19%
PASS	Ezekiel Elliott	23%	8%	56%	5%	8%
	Amari Cooper	19%	4%	68%	4%	4%
	Tony Pollard			89%		11%
	Michael Gallup	22%	9%	60%	2%	7%
	Randall Cobb	11%	9%	72%	6%	2%
	Jason Witten	13%	6%	69%	7%	6%
	Blake Jarwin	15%	9%	74%		3%
	Tavon Austin	29%		53%		18%
	Jamize Olawale			100%		
	Total	17%	7%	66%	4%	6%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Ezekiel Elliott	Amari Cooper	Tony Pollard	Michael Gallup	Randall Cobb	Jason Witten	Blake Jarwin	Tavon Austin	Jamize Olawale
RUSH	76%	0%	22%		1%			2%	
PASS	12%	23%	4%	20%	16%	14%	7%	3%	0%
ALL	40%	13%	12%	11%	9%	8%	4%	3%	0%

Dak Prescott Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Dak Prescott Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	53%, 0.22 (482)	59%, 0.25 (73)	45%, -0.11 (40)	44%, -0.59 (9)	50%, 0.42 (4)	17%, -0.61 (6)	0%, -1.67 (1)	0%, -0.66 (1)	52%, 0.18 (616)
RUSH	58%, 0.12 (231)	50%, -0.04 (123)	56%, 0.07 (54)	44%, -0.14 (16)	28%, -0.24 (18)	0%, -0.38 (3)	50%, -0.05 (2)		53%, 0.04 (447)
All	54%, 0.18 (713)	53%, 0.07 (196)	51%, 0.00 (94)	44%, -0.30 (25)	32%, -0.12 (22)	11%, -0.53 (9)	33%, -0.59 (3)	0%, -0.66 (1)	53%, 0.12 (1,063)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Ezekiel Elliott	40% (48) 5.3, -0.05	73% (11) 9.9, 0.50	40% (10) 4.6, -0.15	45% (69) 5.9, 0.03
TE	Jason Witten	68% (71) 6.7, 0.35	57% (7) 2.7, -0.01	0% (2) 0.0, -0.43	65% (80) 6.2, 0.30
	Blake Jarwin	47% (32) 8.1, 0.09	57% (7) 7.7, 0.22	100% (1) 12.0, 0.74	50% (40) 8.2, 0.13
WR	Amari Cooper	64% (88) 9.9, 0.42	68% (19) 11.3, 0.55	60% (10) 10.5, 0.49	64% (117) 10.2, 0.44
	Michael Gallup	59% (92) 10.6, 0.49	62% (13) 8.5, -0.12	33% (6) 3.0, -0.26	58% (111) 10.0, 0.38
	Randall Cobb	56% (78) 10.4, 0.38	100% (1) 17.0, 0.97		57% (79) 10.5, 0.38

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Elliott Ezekiel	60% (159) 5.1, 0.07	46% (78) 3.8, -0.10	54% (41) 4.5, 0.02	71% (7) 0.9, 0.65	55% (285) 4.6, 0.03
Pollard Tony	38% (34) 4.4, -0.09	59% (39) 6.2, 0.13	75% (8) 7.9, 0.43	0% (1) -4.0, -1.26	51% (82) 5.5, 0.05
Prescott Dak	63% (30) 7.9, 0.55	33% (6) 4.0, -0.36	33% (3) 3.0, -0.03	0% (10) -1.0, -0.76	45% (49) 5.3, 0.14

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	59% (239) 9.0, 0.36
M2M	52% (217) 7.8, 0.19
Screen	50% (32) 6.7, 0.18

Passing by Route

Curl	64% (113) 6.6, 0.27
Out	66% (65) 8.8, 0.53
Slant	60% (47) 7.4, 0.04
Dig	68% (38) 10.7, 0.74
Screen	39% (28) 5.3, 0.02
Flat	52% (23) 6.7, 0.17

Throw Types

Level 1	59% (389) 6.8, 0.18
Level 2	62% (115) 14.0, 0.74
Level 3	32% (44) 10.6, 0.28
Sidearm	43% (14) 8.6, 0.30
Shovel	67% (3) 6.3, 0.32

QB Drop Types

3 Step	56% (276) 8.6, 0.32
0/1 Step	55% (97) 6.5, 0.16
5 Step	57% (94) 10.1, 0.45
Designed Rollout Right	69% (29) 9.6, 0.51
7 Step	59% (22) 13.5, 0.11
Basic Screen	38% (16) 6.4, 0.03

QB State at Pass

Planted	58% (462) 8.9, 0.34
Moving	47% (87) 6.7, 0.08
Shuffling	27% (44) 4.8, -0.24

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	53% (77) 9.6, 0.10	57% (37) 5.9, 0.02
Shotgun	50% (72) 8.4, 0.15	52% (431) 8.2, 0.21
ALL	52% (149) 9.0, 0.13	53% (468) 8.0, 0.19

Run Types

Outside Zone	53% (90) 4.6, -0.03
Inside Zone	56% (82) 4.1, 0.04
Power	67% (33) 5.2, 0.29
Lead	56% (25) 5.2, 0.12
Pitch	47% (15) 4.3, -0.19
Stretch	27% (15) 2.5, -0.32

DAL-5

Another important adjustment for the Cowboys would come in their playcalling deep in the red zone. In 2019, they ranked 16th in red zone conversion rate. In 2018 they ranked 27th. And yet in those two years, they have used their most successful rusher the least of any player.

When inside the 10-yard line over the last two years, the Cowboys have 61 rushing attempts on early downs. Of the 61, 14 went to Dak Prescott while 46 went to Ezekiel Elliott. Prescott recorded a 64% success rate while Elliott recorded just a 39% success rate. Of 37 players with at least 14 rushing attempts inside the 10, Prescott ranked 10th while Elliott ranked 30th in success rate. Dallas absolutely should allow Prescott the benefit of more designed runs. And similarly, they need to refine the way they use Elliott. He has a nose for the end zone, recording a 72% success rate on all carries inside the two yard line. But from the three yard line to the 10-yard line, only 30% of Elliott's 40 attempts the last two yards were successful. That success rate ranks dead last in the NFL out of 30 running backs with at least 15 attempts.

One interesting nugget is that the 2019 Cowboys defense played the easiest schedule of opposing rushing offenses. But in 2020, they are projected to face the NFL's ninth-toughest schedule of run offenses. Last year, they played seven teams with rushing attacks that ranked 17th or better. They went 1-6 in those games (and 7-2 in the rest of their games). In 2020 they are projected to face eight teams with above-average run offenses.

A great step for the Cowboys last year was Prescott's depth of target. In 2018, Prescott ranked 37th in third-downs thrown short of the sticks, 9% below average. He improved to second in 2019, ranking 6% above average. And when comparing air yards to YAC, Prescott improved from 27th (51% of yardage being before the catch) to fifth in 2019 (63% of yardage being before the catch). This was strong growth by Prescott and a more aggressive scheme under Moore.

Last spring I predicted the 2019 Cowboys would face the tenth-easiest schedule. They actually played the sixth-easiest schedule. This year, I'm forecasting another cushy schedule, the ninth-easiest overall. And over the first seven weeks, it's the third-easiest in the NFL.

I conducted a 10-year study on NFL schedule inequality, the likes of which had never been performed before. I spoke with several people on different team staffs and team management positions who said they have never seen a study at that depth of detail previously. And they were shocked by the results. I also know that people in league offices were surprised to see the results of the study, and how some teams were favored to such an extreme while others were put at such a disadvantage. In the NFC East, the Cowboys were the third-most benefited team, while their three in-division rivals all were bottom-10, and the Giants and Eagles were both bottom-three.

Digging into the nuances of the 2020 schedule, the Cowboys play in five primetime games plus their annual Thanksgiving game. On the positive: their two "short-week" games (one off of Monday Night Football and one being a Thursday game) somehow both are against the lowly Redskins. While they play in Baltimore for a road Thursday night game, they have a full week of prep because the schedule makers put that game the week after Thanksgiving. Late in the season, they get to host the division-rival Eagles on Sunday night.

Dallas Cowboys 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook
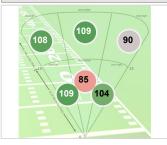
The Cowboys passing game was stellar in 2019 on the strength of a career season for **Dak Prescott**, who set career marks with 4,902 yards and 30 passing touchdowns. Dallas ranked second in the league in success rate on passing plays (53%) while leading the league in average yards per passing play (6.5 yards) a year ago. Jason Garrett has been replaced by Mike McCarthy as head coach, but offensive coordinator Kellen Moore was retained by the new regime to keep some continuity intact in rolling over some of their 2019 passing success.

Target Distribution

Positive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Dak Prescott	388	596	65%	4,902	8.2	30	11	23	100	12
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Dak Prescott	52%	56%	68	11.0%	27	5.0%	8.1	4.7	36	6%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Dak Prescott Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	50.0%	7.5%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
10 - 14	1.9%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Total	1.8%	1.8%	1.3%	10.0%	1.8%
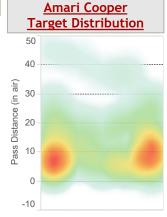
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Dak Prescott	8.8	8.0	-0.8	64%	2
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
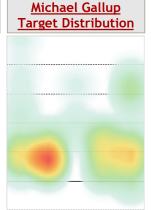
Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
63%	37%	5
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Cowboys' wide receivers were among the league's best in 2019, ranking second in receiving yardage per game (217.2 yards), second in average yards per target (9.7), and third in success rate per target (57%). Bringing **Amari Cooper** back on a long-term extension, with **Michael Gallup** entering his third season and adding **CeeDee Lamb** via the draft this season, Dallas arguably has the best wide receiver trio in the league entering the year. Cooper was third in the NFL in success rate per target (63%) for all wide receivers with at least 50 targets on the season. At tight end, the team ranked fourth in the league in success rate targeting their tight ends (62%). The team let **Jason Witten** walk in free agency which will give **Blake Jarwin** a full runway.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Amari Cooper	119	66%	10.0	114.4	63%	9	23	33	83	8
Michael Gallup	113	58%	9.8	101.9	57%	31	39	10	105	6
Jason Witten	83	76%	6.4	108.0	65%	5	3	125	1	3
Randall Cobb	83	66%	10.0	95.9	53%	55	30	18	118	3
Ezekiel Elliott	72	75%	5.8	98.1	44%	109	130	119	41	2

Amari Cooper Target Distribution

Michael Gallup Target Distribution
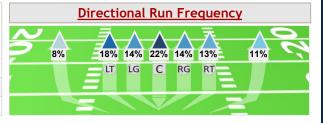
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Dallas was once again among the league's best rushing teams in the league in 2019, averaging 4.8 yards per rushing play (second) with a 55% success rate (second). Both **Ezekiel Elliott** (55.8%) and **Tony Pollard** (52.3%) were well above the average success rate (47.7%) on the ground. Elliott has ranked top-five in the league in rushing yards per game in each of his first four seasons in the league. Pollard proved to be a great compliment as a rookie, averaging 5.6 yards per touch and leading all running backs with 50 or more carries on the season in rate of runs to gain six or more yards (38%). Even with the retirement of Travis Frederick, Dallas has one of the league's best offensive lines and best rushing attacks.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Ezekiel Elliott	301	4.5	56%	9	4	19	47	54%	13	12
Tony Pollard	86	5.3	52%	19	43	68	12	53%	17	2
Dak Prescott	52	5.3	48%	41	62	82	11	43%	58	3

Yards per Carry by Direction

LT	LG	C	RG	RT	
4.5	5.5	3.9	4.4	3.8	4.7	6.4

Directional Run Frequency

LT	LG	C	RG	RT	
8%	18%	14%	22%	14%	13%	11%

Dallas is now a passing team… Well, maybe

The extensions of Amari Cooper and Blake Jarwin, plus the addition of Lamb in the first round, has allowed the Cowboys to make a significant effort to build up their passing game after the solid production in 2019. But the team could still stand to make the passing game the focal point of the offense, throwing even more overall and especially by ramping up their passing attack situationally. In neutral game scripts (the game within seven points outside of the fourth quarter), Dallas still ranked just 22nd in pass rate (56%). On first down in the same offensive climate, they ranked 22nd (43%). In the red zone under the same game conditions, Dallas ranked 30th in pass rate (45%). Among quarterbacks, Prescott ranked 23rd in expected fantasy points in the red zone for the season, yet ranked sixth in actual fantasy points produced from the red zone at the position. There's room for Prescott to take another step further beyond his career-highs set in 2019, but also some fragility should the Cowboys remain conservative in the red zone under new head coach Mike McCarthy.

Getting Amari Cooper in the Slot
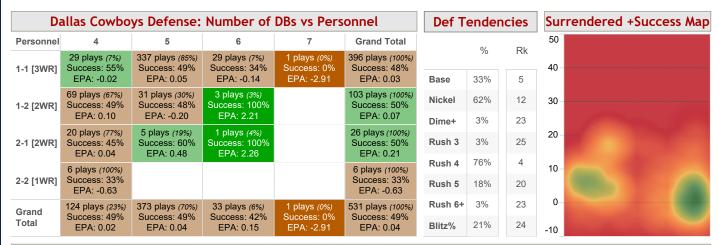
One thing the draft selection of CeeDee Lamb does is potentially allow Amari Cooper to play more in the slot. Lamb himself has some slot experience, playing 26% of senior snaps from the slot. But his experience lining up outside gives Dallas added flexibility to use Cooper in a more dynamic fashion. Since joining the Cowboys, Cooper has run just 14.8% of his routes from the slot after a 20% slot rate with the Raiders. In the slot for the Cowboys, Cooper has averaged 17.4 yards per reception and 2.7 yards per route run. For his career, Cooper has now averaged 2.4 yards per route run and 8.9 yards per target with a 7.0% touchdown rate in the slot as opposed to 1.8 yards per route, 8.6 yards per target, and a 5.3% touchdown rate on the outside. Adding versatility to the game of their lead wideout gives the offense and Cooper an extra gear.

Player to target: Dak Prescott

Dallas is flush with playmakers. You will need a top-five draft pick to select Ezekiel Elliott and the pass-catching room is crowded. Instead of trying to diagnose who has the most value out of those wideouts, the easy answer is to just tag Dak Prescott if he slips at all in your draft and get slices of the entire pie. Prescott led the position in passing points (18.4 per game) while ranking 10yj in rushing points per game (2.9). Prescott is one of just two quarterbacks (Russell Wilson) to finish as a top-10 overall scorer in each of the past four seasons. With a strong offensive supporting cast and the added ability via his legs, he is once again set up for a strong season.

Player to target Blake Jarwin

If looking for a deep tight end target, Jarwin poses some upside. Jarwin has averaged 11.7 yards per catch and 8.7 yards per target over the past two seasons while all other Dallas tight ends have posted 8.9 yards per catch and 6.6 yards per target. Jason Witten's departure leaves 83 targets vacated in the Dallas offense from 2019 for Jarwin to expand on the 41 looks he received a year ago. Jarwin likely will not be elevated to the No. 2 passing option at any point, but there's potential for him to clear 100 targets and be third on the team in total opportunities in 2020.

Dallas Cowboys Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	29 plays (7%) Success: 55% EPA: -0.02	337 plays (85%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.05	29 plays (7%) Success: 34% EPA: -0.14	1 plays (0%) Success: 0% EPA: -2.91	396 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.03
1-2 [2WR]	69 plays (67%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.10	31 plays (30%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.20	3 plays (3%) Success: 100% EPA: 2.21		103 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.07
2-1 [2WR]	20 plays (77%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.04	5 plays (19%) Success: 60% EPA: 0.48	1 plays (4%) Success: 100% EPA: 2.26		26 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.21
2-2 [1WR]	6 plays (100%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.63				6 plays (100%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.63
Grand Total	124 plays (23%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.02	373 plays (70%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.04	33 plays (6%) Success: 42% EPA: 0.15	1 plays (0%) Success: 0% EPA: -2.91	531 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.04

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	33%	5
Nickel	62%	12
Dime+	3%	23
Rush 3	3%	25
Rush 4	76%	4
Rush 5	18%	20
Rush 6+	3%	23
Blitz%	21%	24

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Dallas spent significant offseason resources bringing in veteran interior lineman in **Gerald McCoy** and **Dontari Poe**. **Trysten Hill** showed some promise as a 2019 second-round pick, though he did not get on the field often as a rookie, which came from some problems behind the scenes. With the McCoy/Poe signings, the Cowboys have one of the better interior duos in the league and **Neville Gallimore** of Oklahoma was added in the third round. Gallimore had a high pressure rate in his final college season and forced runs to be bounced outside at one of the highest rates among defensive tackles in this draft class, per SIS.

While Dallas gained experience at the interior, the Cowboys lost it on the edge. Last year, the Cowboys ranked first in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and sixth in pressure rate. Dallas lost **Robert Quinn**, who individually ranked first in PRWR, to a massive contract in Chicago and also allowed **Michael Bennet**t to test the market. That left a huge hole opposite **Demarcus Lawrence**.

The Cowboys drafted **Bradlee Anae** from Utah in the fifth round. The other depth here includes **Aldon Smith**, who was recently reinstated from suspension and last played in 2015.

Over the past few seasons, the Cowboys have loaded up on off-ball linebackers. Even this offseason when it looked like that position would take at least a depth hit when **Sean Lee** hit free agency, he still re-signed to a $4.5 million one-year deal.

Dallas had the fifth-highest rate of base defense played in the league last season, but even that accounted for just 33% of the defensive plays. **Jaylon Smith** and **Leighton Vander Esch** make up for one of the best linebacker duos when healthy and their roles could increase with more blitzing this season under Mike Nolan.

Byron Jones is now in Miami and while there's no clear replacement, the Cowboys have a number of options. **Chidobe Awuzie** was picked on opposite Jones last season (44th of 58 cornerbacks with 400-plus pass snaps in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap) though he had a similar success rate due to being picked on for a few big plays.

Anthony Brown and **Jourdan Lewis** played well in limited snaps and they'll be joined by the rookie tandem of **Trevon Diggs** and **Reggie Robinson**, who were selected in the first and fourth round. Both were among the best man coverage corners in the 2020 draft class, per SIS.

Dallas's biggest addition at safety was arguably the subtraction of **Jeff Heath** playing a significant amount of snaps for the defense. The fact he'll be replaced by an above-average player in **Ha Ha Clinton-Dix** is an even bigger plus. **Xavier Woods** has developed into a decent deep safety and the Cowboys ranked eighth in positive play rate allowed on passes that traveled at least 20 yards beyond the line of scrimmage last season.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	58%
All Pass Rk	21
All Rush %	42%
All Rush Rk	12
1 Score Pass %	60%
1 Score Pass Rk	14
2018 1 Score Pass %	58%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	16
2019 Pass Increase %	2%
Pass Increase Rk	15
1 Score Rush %	40%
1 Score Rush Rk	19
Up Pass %	46%
Up Pass Rk	25
Up Rush %	54%
Up Rush Rk	8
Down Pass %	68%
Down Pass Rk	11
Down Rush %	32%
Down Rush Rk	22

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	83%
	Med (4-7)	7	14%	86%	29%
	Long (8-10)	332	43%	57%	55%
	XL (11+)	18	78%	22%	44%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	48	33%	67%	77%
	Med (4-7)	82	57%	43%	57%
	Long (8-10)	100	76%	24%	50%
	XL (11+)	31	87%	13%	32%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	48	54%	46%	63%
	Med (4-7)	43	93%	7%	37%
	Long (8-10)	32	84%	16%	50%
	XL (11+)	24	96%	4%	21%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	7	29%	71%	71%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	38%	62%
	37% AVG	63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	71%	22%
	68% AVG	23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	29%	78%
	32% AVG	77%

Dallas Cowboys 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
65%	16	66%	77%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
35%	17	34%	71%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	3	100%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	6	17%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	148	55%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Ezekiel Elliott	3	33%
			Michael Gallup	3	100%
		RUSH	Tony Pollard	3	33%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	24	83%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	26	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	19	42%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Amari Cooper	7	43%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	13	77%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Amari Cooper	11	45%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Randall Cobb	7	57%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Amari Cooper	4	25%
			Michael Gallup	4	50%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 57% YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.31 Rtg: 109.5 [Att: 284 - Rate: 46.0%]	Success: 58% YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.32 Rtg: 109.4 [Att: 85 - Rate: 13.8%]	Success: 57% YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.31 Rtg: 109.5 [Att: 369 - Rate: 59.8%]
Yes	Success: 46% YPA: 6.5, EPA: 0.02 Rtg: 83.7 [Att: 184 - Rate: 29.8%]	Success: 44% YPA: 8.5, EPA: -0.13 Rtg: 89.2 [Att: 64 - Rate: 10.4%]	Success: 45% YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 85.1 [Att: 248 - Rate: 40.2%]
Total	Success: 53% YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.19 Rtg: 99.3 [Att: 468 - Rate: 75.9%]	Success: 52% YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 101.2 [Att: 149 - Rate: 24.1%]	Success: 52% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.18 Rtg: 99.8 [Att: 617 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Ezekiel Elliott	Michael Gallup	Jason Witten	Amari Cooper	Randall Cobb	Blake Jarwin	Tavon Austin	Dalton Schultz
1	NYG	W 35-17	37 (54%)	53 (78%)	45 (66%)	52 (76%)	48 (71%)	27 (40%)	25 (37%)	9 (13%)
2	WAS	W 31-21	53 (76%)	47 (67%)	54 (77%)	64 (91%)	53 (76%)	24 (34%)		3 (4%)
3	MIA	W 31-6	48 (67%)		37 (51%)	61 (85%)	53 (74%)	35 (49%)		14 (19%)
4	NO	L 12-10	56 (97%)		46 (79%)	56 (97%)	47 (81%)	17 (29%)	11 (19%)	2 (3%)
5	GB	L 34-24	67 (93%)	62 (86%)	60 (83%)	63 (88%)	60 (83%)	22 (31%)	16 (22%)	3 (4%)
6	NYJ	L 24-22	75 (91%)	79 (96%)	72 (88%)	3 (4%)		35 (43%)	76 (93%)	6 (7%)
7	PHI	W 37-10	55 (79%)	59 (84%)	53 (76%)	56 (80%)	33 (47%)	34 (49%)	14 (20%)	16 (23%)
9	NYG	W 37-18	57 (80%)	65 (92%)	57 (80%)	61 (86%)	54 (76%)	26 (37%)	11 (15%)	1 (1%)
10	MIN	L 28-24	70 (99%)	62 (87%)	56 (79%)	63 (89%)	57 (80%)	23 (32%)	14 (20%)	2 (3%)
11	DET	W 35-27	66 (89%)	61 (82%)	64 (86%)	41 (55%)	46 (62%)	23 (31%)	30 (41%)	11 (15%)
12	NE	L 13-9	56 (88%)	63 (98%)	52 (81%)	52 (81%)	29 (45%)	29 (45%)	13 (20%)	7 (11%)
13	BUF	L 26-15	69 (88%)	69 (88%)	56 (72%)	64 (82%)	67 (86%)	26 (33%)	20 (26%)	2 (3%)
14	CHI	L 31-24	72 (99%)	58 (79%)	56 (77%)	57 (78%)	58 (79%)	22 (30%)	21 (29%)	3 (4%)
15	LA	W 44-21	50 (71%)	59 (84%)	46 (66%)	50 (71%)	29 (41%)	38 (54%)	26 (37%)	16 (23%)
16	PHI	L 17-9	60 (97%)	56 (90%)	49 (79%)	46 (74%)	48 (77%)	19 (31%)	16 (26%)	6 (10%)
17	WAS	W 47-16	51 (68%)	61 (81%)	49 (65%)	62 (83%)	46 (61%)	36 (48%)	14 (19%)	17 (23%)
	Grand Total		942 (83%)	854 (85%)	852 (75%)	851 (76%)	728 (69%)	436 (38%)	307 (30%)	118 (10%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	67%	60%	54%
1-2 [2WR]	18%	20%	53%
2-1 [2WR]	9%	8%	51%
1-3 [1WR]	2%	3%	44%
2-2 [1WR]	2%	4%	32%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	53%	58%
1-2 [2WR]	37%	59%	50%
2-1 [2WR]	43%	45%	56%
1-3 [1WR]	36%	44%	44%
2-2 [1WR]	18%	50%	28%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Amari Cooper	9	1	2	6
Ezekiel Elliott	9		2	7
Jason Witten	9	4	2	3
Michael Gallup	7	1	1	5
Randall Cobb	7		1	6
Tony Pollard	6			6

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Ezekiel Elliott	61	18	13	30
Dak Prescott	14	3	6	5
Tavon Austin	2			2
Tony Pollard	2			2

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
18%	23%	60%
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
43%	62%	57%
#20	#4	#3

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	8	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	1.0	
03. Wins	8	

04. 1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)		8
05. 1H Offensive Efficiency		3
06. 1H 3rd Down Yds to Go		4
07. 1H 3rd Down Conversions		5
08. 1H Explosive Play Rate		8
09. 1H Early Down Pass Rate		20
10. 1H Early Down Pass Efficiency		9
11. 1H Early Down Run Efficiency		5
12. 1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency		10
13. 1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency		19
14. PSM Usage Q1-3		14
15. PSM Passing Usage Q1-3		17
16. PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3		32
17. PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3		32
18. PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3		31
19. PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3		27
20. PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3		10
21. PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3		14
22. PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs		12
23. PA Improvement Success		27
24. PA Improvement YPA		17
25. PA Improvement Rating		21
26. % Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)		19
27. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes		7
28. % Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes		6
29. Success on runs into 7-man boxes		11
30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes		17
31. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes		1
32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)		17
33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box		11
34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box		18
35. Total Defensive Efficiency		19

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

36. PSM YPA	7.1
37. PSM Target Depth	7.1
38. Non-PSM YPA	8.2
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	8.9
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	54%
42. PSM Rating	85.6
43. Non-PSM Rating	95.3

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45. PA Success Rate	56%
46. PA YPA	9.1
47. PA Sack Rate	4.1%
48. PA Rating	101.1
49. PA Target Depth	10.2
50. Non-PA Success Rate	59%
51. Non-PA YPA	7.6
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	3.4%
53. Non-PA Rating	101.3
54. Non-PA Target Depth	8.2

Men In Box

55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	21%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.9
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	49%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.6
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	30%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	64%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.7

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	12	defFUM	19	
Net FROE	1.1	defFUM Rcvrd	10	
offFUM	15	defFR Rk	11	
offFUM Rcvrd	8	defFR%	52.6%	
offFR%	53.3%	defFROE	1.2	
offFR Rk	15	defFROE Rk	11	
offFROE	0.0			
offFROE Rk	15			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	75%	YOY Swing	1%
2019 FG Rk	26	YOY Swing Rk	14
Opp 2019 FG %	81%	2018 Team Net	-8%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	19	2018 Net Rk	25
2019 Team Net	-6%		
2019 Net Rk	24		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Dak Prescott
CAY	7.6
CAY Rk	3
2018 CAY Rk	26
AYTS Rk	4
2018 AYTS Rk	27
AGG Rk	13
2018 AGG Rk	8
COMP%	65.1
xCOMP%	62.6
xCOMP% Rk	28
2018 xCOMP% Rk	14
CPOE%	2.5
CPOE Rk	6
2018 CPOE Rk	13

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Dak Prescott
Pressure %	31.9
Pressure Rk	28
Sack %	11.3
Sack Rk	37
Under Pressure Accuracy %	65.1
Pressure Accuracy Rk	15
Rating when Pressured	79.5
Pressured Rating Rk	8
Clean Accuracy %	80.1
Clean Accuracy Rk	13
Rating when Clean	107.8
Clean Rating Rk	11
Time to Throw	2.88
Time to Throw Rk	6

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.19
EPA/Pass Rk	4
EPA/Rush	0.04
EPA/Rush Rk	2
On-Target Catch %	83.1
On-Target Catch Rk	26
Drop%	10.6
Drop Rk	30
YAC/Att	2.9
YAC/Att Rk	2
Rush Broken Tackle %	18.3
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	7
Rush 1st Down %	26.7
Rush 1st Down Rk	4

Dallas Cowboys 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Denver Broncos

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Vic Fangio (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
Pat Shurmur (NYG HC) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
Ed Donatell (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
7.5	#3

Past Records

2019: 7-9
2018: 6-10
2017: 5-11

	TEN	PIT	TB	NYJ	NE	MIA	KC		ATL	LVR	LAC	NO	KC	CAR	BUF	LAC	LVR
	H	A	H	A	A	H	H		A	A	H	H	A	A	H	A	H
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

MNF   TNF   SNF
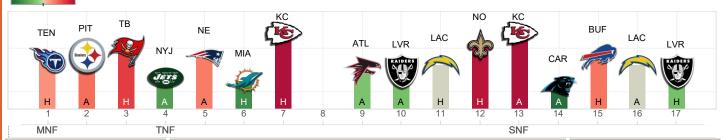
Key Players Lost

Player	New
Andy Janovich (FB)	Browns
Casey Kreiter (LS)	Giants
Chris Harris Jr. (CB)	Chargers
Connor McGovern (C)	Jets
Derek Wolfe (34DE)	Ravens
Devontae Booker (RB)	Raiders
Joe Flacco (QB)	Jets
Will Parks (S)	Eagles
Adam Gotsis (34DE)	Null
Billy Winn (34DE)	Null
Brandon Allen (QB)	Null
Colby Wadman (P)	Null
Corey Nelson (ILB)	Null
Cyrus Jones (CB)	Null
Deyon Sizer (34DE)	Null
Dymonte Thomas (S)	Null
Horace Richardson (CB)	Null
Ronald Leary (RG)	Null
Theo Riddick (RB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
1.9	6	10

2020 Denver Broncos Overview

Watching **Drew Lock** enter in Week 13 and record a win over the Chargers, followed by a win over playoff qualifying Texans on the road was extremely impressive. Seeing him go 4-1 down the stretch was likewise impressive.

But beneath the surface optimism, I found more to be concerned about than otherwise anticipated.

As we know, schedule matters, often more than what is factored into anticipated results. The 2019 Broncos played the fourth-easiest schedule of opposing defenses and recorded the third-worst Early Down Success Rate (EDSR) of any offense in the NFL.

But the defenses Lock faced were notable. Lock's wins came against defenses ranked 21st, 26th, 28th, and 31st. His loss came against defense 14th. These defenses were equally terrible against the pass.

To see how that compared to the rest of the NFL: looking at the last five games of the season (Lock's starts), the Broncos played the fourth-easiest schedule of pass defenses in the NFL.

The schedule itself should have boosted Lock's performance. It did not.

Joe Flacco received the first eight starts for the Broncos and went 2-6. He did so against an average schedule of opposing pass defenses (15th-easiest).

Then came **Brandon Allen**. Allen was a sixth-round journeyman quarterback who was cut multiple times in his career since he was drafted in 2016. Allen started and won his first game against the Cleveland Browns in Week 9, right before the bye. The Browns were league-average against the pass.

(cont'd - see DEN2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Jurrell Casey (34DE)	Trade
A.J. Bouye (CB)	Trade
Graham Glasgow (C)	$11
Melvin Gordon (RB)	$8
Nick Vannett (TE)	$2.89
Jeff Driskel (QB)	$2.5
Sam Martin (P)	$2.39
Christian Covington (43DT)	$1.5

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	15	WR - Jerry Jeudy (Alabama)
2	46	WR - K. J. Hamler (Penn State)
3	77	CB - Michael Ojemudia (Iowa)
	83	C - Lloyd Cushenberry (LSU)
	95	DT - McTelvin Agim (Arkansas)
4	118	TE - Albert Okwuegbunam (Missouri)
5	178	LB - Justin Strnad (Wake Forest)
6	181	G - Netane Muti (Fresno State)
7	252	WR - Tyrie Cleveland (Florida)
	254	DE - Derrek Tuszka (North Dakota State)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	7.5
2019 Wins	7
Forecast 2019 Wins	7
2018 Wins	6
2017 Wins	5
2016 Wins	9

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS K.Jackson* 22
SS J.Simmons 31
LB T.Davis 51
LB A.Johnson 45
RCB I.Yiadom 41
SLOTCB B.Callahan 37
OLB B.Chubb 55
DE J.Casey* NEW 99
DE D.Jones 93
OLB V.Miller* 58
LCB A.Bouye NEW 21

LWR C.Sutton 14
SlotWR K.Hamler Rookie 13
LT G.Bolles 72
LG D.Risner 66
C L.Cushenberry Rookie 79
RG G.Glasgow NEW 61
RT J.James 70
TE N.Fant 87
RWR J.Jeudy Rookie 10

QB D.Lock 3
RB R.Freeman 30
WR2 D.Spencer 11
WR3 T.Patrick 81
RB2 M.Gordon NEW 25
QB2 J.Driskel NEW 12

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All OFF
All DEF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	31	$71.80M	31
QB	29	$4.63M	29
OL	24	$33.80M	26
RB	11	$10.68M	21
WR	31	$9.88M	32
TE	11	$12.81M	13
All DEF	1	$161.67M	3
DL	3	$61.24M	22
LB	3	$47.03M	2
CB	7	$25.49M	14
S	1	$27.91M	10

But then came back-to-back games against the fifth- and seventh-best pass defenses in the NFL, and both were on the road: in Minnesota (where the Broncos blew a 20-point lead) and in Buffalo, where winds were in the 20-30 mph range with occasional gusts above that rate. Good luck performing well as a journeyman QB on the road against two playoff teams with top-7 pass defenses and Mike Zimmer and Sean McDermott scheming against you.

The Broncos lost both of those games.

That paved the way for Lock to make his first NFL start, with the team back home, playing against a bottom-half pass defense in great weather. A perfect set-up.

Three of Lock's five games were in Denver. Denver in December can be dicey, but Lock lucked out for the most part.

The first part of the weather that can kill a quarterback is the wind. The wind speeds in Lock's five starts? 7 mph, 0 mph (dome), 8 mph, 3 mph, and 6 mph. You can't find a quarterback anywhere outside of Florida or California playing outdoors in four of five games late in the year who faced less wind.

Heavy rain or heavy snow would be another factor to hamper a passing attack. But there was no precipitation at all in four of five games, save for the snow game in Kansas City, which definitely impacted Lock's abilities. Patrick Mahomes still went 27/34 for 340 yards (10.0 YPA) and 2 TDs, but Mahomes is a cyborg. Lock went 18/40 for 208 yards (5.2 YPA) and 1 interception.

The final factor which can impact a passing game is brutal cold. Not 30-degree temps, not even 25-degree temps… we're talking anything in the 20-degree range or lower. But apart from the snow game (24 degrees), Lock's other four starts came with temps of: 33 degrees, dome, 67 degrees, and 31 degrees. When was the last time it was 67 degrees in Denver three days before Christmas, I would like to know

The bottom line was: Lock played most of his games at home. He played most of his games against terrible pass defenses. He played most games without any wind, rain, snow, or brutally cold temperatures.

This was a perfect stage for a rookie quarterback to put on display everything he learned while he sat back watching film and learning the office the first three months of the season. And he had the good fortune of recency bias, in that all Broncos fans saw Brandon Allen play and lose in back-to-back road games in impossible situations the two games before Lock made his first start.

But while the Broncos won four of those five road games, Lock's performance in a perfect situation was not anything to get excited over.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Drew Lock	48% 6.4 92.9	44% 6.1 67.2	42% 6.7 117.0	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	40%	62%	82%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
DEN	47% 4.3	46% 3.6	44% 3.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	60%	38%	18%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

First, take a look at the completion percentage by depth graphs. You'll see that on early downs especially, Lock was barely at league average through passes at a five-yard depth, but beyond five yards, his accuracy fell off precipitously. It literally was off the map bad when targeting receivers at a depth of 15+ air yards.

And it wasn't just receivers dropping the ball. Beyond just his completion rate, let's look at his accuracy by depth:

Up to 5 yards: 87% (avg = 86%) :: 1% above avg
6 – 10 yards: 80% (avg = 77%) :: 3% above avg
11 – 15 yards: 57% (avg = 70%) :: 13% below avg
16 – 20 yards: 45% (avg = 67%) :: 22% below avg
Over 20 yards: 30% (avg = 51%) :: 21% below avg

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

EDSR Off	30 & In Off	Red Zone Off	3rd Down Off	YPPA Off	YPPT Off	Offensive Efficiency	Pass Efficiency Off	Pass Pro Efficiency Off	RB Pass Eff Off	Rush Efficiency Off	Explosive Pass Off	Explosive Run Off
30	27	28	30	22	29	26	27	25	23	19	18	21

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

EDSR Def	30 & In Def	Red Zone Def	3rd Down Def	YPPA Def	YPPT Def	Defensive Efficiency	Pass Efficiency Def	Pass Pro Efficiency Def	RB Pass Eff Def	Rush Efficiency Def	Explosive Pass Def	Explosive Run Def
3	4	1	11	15	22	13	14	5	16	11	12	
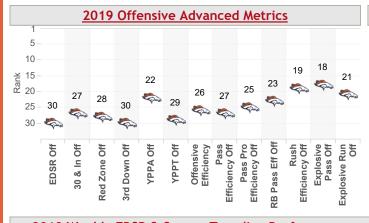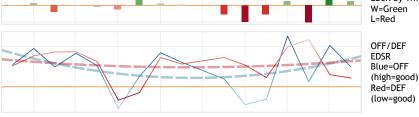
2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	L	L	L	L	W	W	L	L	W		L	L	W	W	L	W	W
OPP	OAK	CHI	GB	JAC	LAC	TEN	KC	IND	CLE		MIN	BUF	LAC	HOU	KC	DET	OAK
SITE	A	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	H		A	A	H	A	A	H	H
MARGIN	-8	-2	-11	-2	7	16	-24	-2	5		-4	-17	3	14	-20	10	1
PTS	16	14	16	24	20	16	6	13	24		23	3	23	38	3	27	16
OPP PTS	24	16	27	26	13	0	30	15	19		27	20	20	24	23	17	15

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records
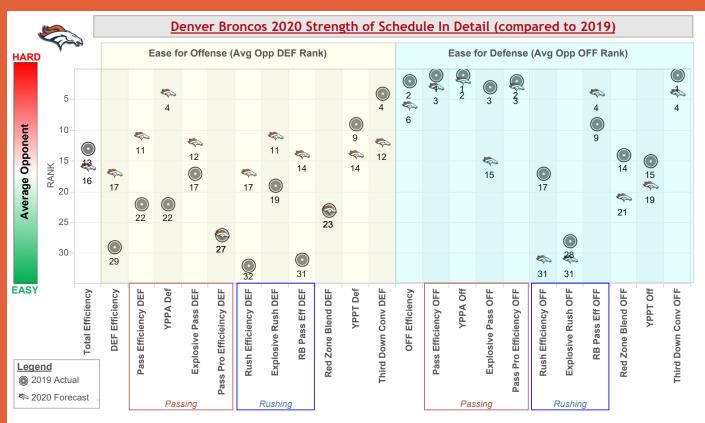
All 2019 Wins: **7**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-3**
FG Games Win %: **40% (#19)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **29% (#8)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **4-5**
1 Score Games Win %: **44% (#19)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **57% (#13)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+1
TO Given	16
INT Given	10
FUM Given	6
TO Taken	17
INT Taken	10
FUM Taken	7
Sack Margin	-1
Sacks	40
Sacks Allow	41
Return TD Margin	-2
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	3
Penalty Margin	+11
Penalties	110
Opponent Penalties	121

Denver Broncos 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

HARD ... **EASY** — Average Opponent — RANK

Legend:
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- 🐴 2020 Forecast

Offense categories: Total Efficiency (16/13), DEF Efficiency (29/17), Pass Efficiency DEF (22/11), YPPA Def (22/4), Explosive Pass DEF (17/12), Pass Pro Efficiency DEF (27), Rush Efficiency DEF (32/11), Explosive Rush DEF (19/14), RB Pass Eff DEF (31/14), Red Zone Blend DEF (23), YPPT Def (9/14), Third Down Conv DEF (4/12) — *Passing* / *Rushing*

Defense categories: OFF Efficiency (2/6), Pass Efficiency OFF (3), YPPA Off (1/2), Explosive Pass OFF (3/15), Pass Pro Efficiency OFF (2/3), Rush Efficiency OFF (17/31), Explosive Rush OFF (28/31), RB Pass Eff OFF (4/9), Red Zone Blend OFF (14/21), YPPT Off (15/19), Third Down Conv OFF (1/4) — *Passing* / *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
5	4	2	1	18	20	29	22

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	2.9	1.3	0.3
Average O/U line	41.5	45.7	41.5
Straight Up Record	7-9	6-10	5-11
Against the Spread Record	8-7	6-8	4-11
Over/Under Record	6-9	3-13	8-8
ATS as Favorite	2-3	2-5	2-5
ATS as Underdog	6-4	4-3	2-5
Straight Up Home	5-3	3-5	4-4
ATS Home	4-3	2-4	3-4
Over/Under Home	4-4	1-7	4-4
ATS as Home Favorite	2-2	0-3	1-3
ATS as a Home Dog	2-1	2-1	2-1
Straight Up Away	2-6	3-5	1-7
ATS Away	4-4	4-4	1-7
Over/Under Away	2-5	2-6	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	0-1	2-2	1-2
ATS Away Dog	4-3	2-2	0-4
Six Point Teaser Record	12-4	11-5	8-7
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-4	11-3	9-7
Ten Point Teaser Record	14-2	14-2	9-7

DEN-3

If we remove Lock's dreadful Week 15 trip to Kansas City in the snow, Lock's accuracy improves slightly up to 10 yards, his accuracy improves to just below average 11-15 yards, but he is still 10% to 18% below average 16+ yards downfield.

Comparing Lock to Flacco wasn't close. Flacco delivered a far more accurate and catchable ball at all depths. In fact, Flacco's accuracy was at or above average in all depths save for 16-20 yards, which was 62%, falling below average by only 4%.

Looking at NextGen Stats, out of 39 qualifying QBs, Lock's passes had the ninth-highest expected completion rate. Expected completion rate uses player tracking tags and incorporates factors such as receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field, the separation the passer had at time of throw from the nearest pass rusher, and more.

While he was expected the ninth-highest rate of passes,

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	4
Net Rest Edge	-2
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	3
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	-3
Week 9 Edge	4
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	-7
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	-7
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	-3
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	25
2018 Rk	14
2019 v 2018 Rk	22
Off Rk	18
Def Rk	27
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	31
WR Rk	1
TE Rk	8
Oline Rk	17
Dline Rk	12
LB Rk	25
DB Rk	28

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
TEN	PIT	TB	NYJ	NE	MIA	KC	ATL	LVR	LAC	NO	KC	CAR	BUF	LAC	LVR
-1.5	5.5	1.5	2.5	6	-6.5	6	4	3	-2.5	4	11	-1.5	-1	4	-3.5

Avg = 1.9

Home Lines

1	3	6	7	11	12	15	17
-1.5 TEN	1.5 TB	-6.5 MIA	6 KC	-2.5 LAC	4 NO	- BUF	-3.5 LVR

Avg = -0.4

Road Lines

2	4	5	9	10	13	14	16
5.5 PIT	2.5 NYJ	6 NE	4 ATL	3 LVR	11 KC	-1.5 CAR	4 LAC

Avg = 4.3

he ranked 27th of 39 QBs in actual completion percentage over expectation, or CPOE.

Pressure also really got to Lock. He was extremely poor when under pressure. And while we typically will expect non-pressured passing performance to correlate closer year over year as compared to pressured passing performance, there are times you need your quarterback to perform when pressured, and Lock didn't do that nearly enough in 2019.

Denver prioritized improving Lock's surroundings this past offseason. They added center **Graham Glasgow**, signed running back **Melvin Gordon** (a move I didn't love), and used their top two draft picks to add wide receivers **Jerry Jeudy** and **K.J. Hamler**. But left tackle **Garett Bolles** is a total liability and has a propensity for holding (34 holding penalties since 2017, 15 more than every other player).

But they also fired Rich Scangarello after just one year as offensive coordinator and brought in Pat Shurmur. At first, I didn't mind some of what Scangarello was doing offensively. But like Lock, after digging deeper, I can see some of what Denver may have been thinking with the move.

Denver had the fifth-lowest early down pass rate in the first half and that contributed to the fifth-worst early down success in the first half. The Broncos used pre-snap motion and play-action at an above average rate through the game's first three quarters, but the results were terrible. Improvement in play-action was well below league average, and the same was true for pre-snap motion.

And then there was production against different box counts with play calling that didn't make much sense.

On early downs in the game's first three quarters, Denver was able to use heavier personnel (12, 21, or 22) to dictate heavy box counts of 8+ defenders frequently. But they didn't take advantage of that by adjusting to pass the ball.
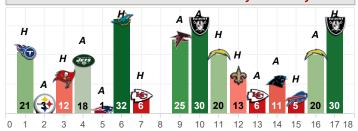
On 60% of plays, the Broncos ran right into that stacked box. They gained just 3.4 YPC with a 43% success rate. But when they passed, the results were magic: 11.5 YPA, 64% success rate, 129 passer rating, and 2:0 TD:INT. Had they passed more against those loaded boxes, they would have loved the results.

In a season where the quarterback play could have used the help, the Broncos didn't adjust enough. The story was similar with regard to light boxes.
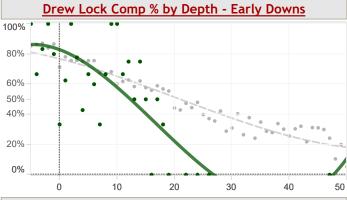
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
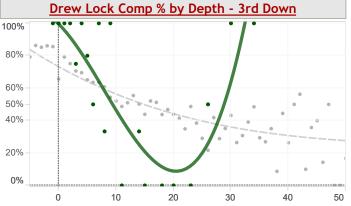
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Phillip Lindsay	8%	6%	65%	9%	12%
	Royce Freeman	12%	8%	55%	14%	11%
	Courtland Sutton			33%	67%	
	Noah Fant			33%	67%	
	Devontae Booker	50%		50%		
	Andy Janovich				100%	
	Total	**10%**	**7%**	**61%**	**12%**	**11%**
PASS	Phillip Lindsay	14%	9%	58%	7%	12%
	Royce Freeman	10%	15%	61%	5%	10%
	Courtland Sutton	15%	6%	66%	4%	9%
	Noah Fant	13%	7%	69%	3%	8%
	DaeSean Hamilton	20%	10%	51%	5%	15%
	Emmanuel Sanders	30%	5%	58%	3%	5%
	Tim Patrick		4%	63%	21%	13%
	Jeff Heuerman	5%	5%	74%		16%
	Devontae Booker			44%	22%	33%
	Andy Janovich			75%		25%
	Total	**14%**	**7%**	**62%**	**5%**	**11%**

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Phillip Lindsay	Royce Freeman	Courtland Sutton	Noah Fant	DaeSean Hamilton	Emmanuel Sanders	Tim Patrick	Jeff Heuerman	Devontae Booker	Andy Janovich
RUSH	61%	36%	1%	1%					1%	0%
PASS	11%	11%	28%	16%	11%	10%	6%	5%	2%	1%
ALL	35%	23%	15%	8%	5%	5%	3%	3%	1%	1%

Drew Lock Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Drew Lock Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-2 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	34%, -0.18 (330)	55%, -0.01 (84)	51%, 0.16 (79)	59%, 0.64 (17)	39%, 0.22 (18)	17%, -0.37 (6)	50%, -0.81 (2)	0%, -2.86 (1)	0%, -0.25 (1)	40%, -0.08 (538)
RUSH	52%, 0.10 (165)	51%, 0.00 (78)	38%, -0.11 (74)	39%, -0.24 (56)	39%, -0.29 (23)	0%, -0.61 (2)				46%, -0.03 (398)
All	40%, -0.09 (495)	53%, 0.00 (162)	44%, 0.03 (153)	44%, -0.03 (73)	39%, -0.07 (41)	13%, -0.43 (8)	50%, -0.81 (2)	0%, -2.86 (1)	0%, -0.25 (1)	43%, -0.06 (936)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Royce Freeman	35% (37) 4.8, -0.11	67% (6) 7.7, 0.71	67% (6) 5.3, 0.11	43% (49) 5.2, 0.02
	Phillip Lindsay	27% (26) 3.7, -0.16	58% (12) 3.3, 0.06	43% (7) 7.3, -0.06	38% (45) 4.1, -0.08
	Devontae Booker	14% (7) 5.0, -0.44	100% (1) 8.0, 0.12		25% (8) 5.4, -0.37
TE	Noah Fant	19% (31) 2.7, -0.67	100% (3) 35.7, 2.21	33% (6) 5.0, 0.13	28% (40) 5.5, -0.34
WR	Courtland Sutton	49% (76) 9.2, 0.46	50% (20) 5.4, 0.12	56% (16) 9.8, 0.25	50% (112) 8.6, 0.36
	DaeSean Hamilton	35% (40) 4.0, -0.16	100% (6) 13.3, 0.89	75% (4) 13.0, 0.75	46% (50) 5.8, 0.04
	Emmanuel Sanders	47% (30) 7.8, -0.19	50% (6) 5.0, 0.06	80% (5) 11.4, 0.70	51% (41) 7.9, -0.04

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Lindsay Phillip	51% (91) 4.7, 0.06	52% (50) 4.8, 0.03	41% (37) 3.9, -0.11	47% (30) 5.2, -0.09	49% (208) 4.6, 0.00
Freeman Royce	49% (51) 5.1, 0.01	50% (22) 3.7, -0.10	26% (31) 3.0, -0.18	39% (18) 2.3, -0.15	42% (122) 3.9, -0.08
Flacco Joe	83% (6) 3.5, 0.52	0% (1) 2.0, -0.36		0% (3) -0.3, -0.62	50% (10) 2.2, 0.09
Booker Devontae	0% (2) 4.5, -0.34				0% (2) 4.5, -0.34

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	48% (201) 6.6, 0.13
M2M	43% (159) 7.9, 0.11
Screen	39% (38) 4.1, -0.17

Passing by Route

Curl	51% (53) 6.1, 0.09
Out	33% (49) 5.3, -0.31
Screen	38% (39) 4.1, -0.23
Slant	51% (39) 6.1, 0.26
Dig	56% (34) 7.9, 0.30
Flat	44% (25) 4.5, -0.12

Throw Types

Level 1	48% (312) 6.2, 0.11
Level 2	40% (94) 7.8, -0.04
Level 3	37% (35) 11.7, 0.34
Sidearm	55% (11) 6.4, 0.31
Shovel	29% (7) 1.7, -0.04

QB Drop Types

3 Step	49% (232) 6.5, 0.13
5 Step	38% (78) 9.5, 0.20
0/1 Step	38% (68) 4.5, -0.23
Designed Rollout Right	44% (32) 4.2, -0.05
7 Step	52% (25) 13.1, 0.51
Basic Screen	31% (13) 3.5, -0.19

QB State at Pass

Planted	46% (364) 7.5, 0.11
Moving	42% (74) 4.6, 0.01
Shuffling	32% (63) 5.3, -0.06

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	48% (83) 8.8, 0.15	51% (63) 9.4, 0.02
Shotgun	40% (35) 4.6, -0.09	37% (361) 6.0, -0.13
ALL	46% (118) 7.6, 0.08	39% (424) 6.5, -0.11

Run Types

Lead	42% (62) 4.1, -0.07
Inside Zone	47% (57) 3.5, -0.12
Outside Zone	39% (56) 3.2, -0.13
Power	44% (39) 4.9, 0.06
Stretch	45% (20) 3.9, -0.10
Pitch	63% (19) 4.2, 0.08

DEN-5

When the Broncos were in 11 personnel on early downs in the first three quarters, defenses frequently played with a light box count. In fact, on 138 of 207 plays opposing teams had six or fewer defenders in the box. This would have been an ideal time to run the ball. But Denver called pass 62% of the time. These passes gained just 6.4 YPC, recorded a 43% success rate, a 77.3 passer rating, and 3:3 TD:INT. But when they ran the ball on these light boxes, they gained 4.9 YPC with a 49% success rate. This could have been something Scangarello noticed and worked with his quarterbacks to adjust for using audibles. It doesn't help that he had to rotate through three quarterbacks, but adjustments could have been made.

Similarly underutilized was 21 personnel in general. In the first half of games, when the Broncos used 21 personnel, they went 51% pass, which was smart and slightly above the NFL average of 50%. Denver dominated when passing from 21. They averaged 8.8 YPA, 63% success, and a 126 rating. But they chose to use 11 personnel far more frequently. And success on first half passes from 11 was disastrous: 6.4 YPA, 40% success, and an 85 rating. Over the course of the entire season, Denver threw 330 passes from 11 and averaged a 37% success rate, 5.8 YPA, and a 78 rating but threw only 84 passes from 21, when such passes averaged a 58% success rate, 7.1 YPA, and a 92 rating.

New offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur and Lock will need to determine what works for them and their new receivers, but one thing is certain: they won't find an easy schedule like Lock found at the end of 2019. Only four teams face a more difficult leap in schedule of opposing pass defenses than the Broncos in 2020.

Last year in May, I forecast the Broncos would play one of the NFL's five toughest schedules. It was one of the few misses I had in my annual spring predicted schedule strength for the fall. But was easily explained by the fact two Broncos' opponents, the Colts and Jaguars, each lost their starting quarterbacks for the season and teams like the Browns and Chargers were far from what we expected each to be heading into the season. This year I again forecast the Broncos will face one of the NFL's five toughest schedules. When so much is unknown this offseason, getting off on the right foot would be ideal. But for Denver, it looks to be easier said than done. The good news is that Denver plays a home game Week 1, where they've been absolutely tremendous, but the bad news is they have to travel to Pittsburgh on a short week for Week 2 and then back home to host Tom Brady's Buccaneers the very next week. They then have a cross-country road Thursday game the very next week, putting them in a tough spot. And then they play the Patriots in New England. Normally a team might stay out East for back-to-back games in New York and New England, but because they have a longer week due to the Thursday kick, they probably will end up taking four cross-country flights for those two games. It's a brutal start, and I haven't even mentioned the Chiefs.

But worse than "how" the early schedule unfolds is the fact they play five straight games against top-10 run defenses to start the season, including four top-six run defenses. Last year, they played just two top-10 run defenses and zero that ranked in the top six. A lot of pressure is sure to fall on Drew Lock and the Broncos passing attack given the run game may not hit the ground running. The good news for the Broncos is how the schedule unfolds after the Week 8 bye. Although they face two likely playoff teams in the Saints and Chiefs in back-to-back games, they play six of their final nine games against teams projected to finish the season at-or-below .500.

Denver Broncos 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook
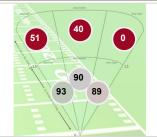
The Broncos closed the 2019 season ranking 25th in EPA via their passing game and 23rd in yards per pass attempt (6.7 yards). Using three different starting quarterbacks over the course of the season, Denver ranked 27th in success rate passing (42%) over the eight games started by **Joe Flacco**, 31st over the three games started by **Brandon Allen** (29%), and climbed up to 20th over the final five weeks started by rookie **Drew Lock** (44%). Lock completed 64.1% of his passes for 6.5 yards per attempt over his starts, throwing seven touchdowns to three interceptions. With a full endorsement from the organization this offseason with no tangible backups added, Lock has been given the keys to the franchise in 2020 while he will be working with new offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur.

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Joe Flacco	171	262	65%	1,822	7.0	6	5	26	85	30
Drew Lock	100	156	64%	1,020	6.5	7	3	5	90	24
Brandon Allen	39	84	46%	515	6.1	3	2	9	68	47
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

Drew Lock Rating Early Downs

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Joe Flacco	42%	49%	24	9.0%	9	3.0%	5.1	5.5	8	3%
Drew Lock	44%	45%	13	8.0%	5	3.0%	5.2	5.1	3	2%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%		2.4%
10 - 14	2.7%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Total	2.3%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Drew Lock	8.8	5.1	-3.6	73%	32
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
47%	53%	31
53%	47%	
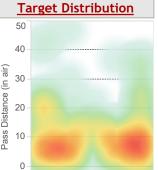
2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Denver ranked 19th in yards per attempt to their wide receivers (7.8 yards) and 28th in success rate (48%) on those targets. Second-year wideout **Courtland Sutton** was a bright spot, catching 72-of-112 targets for 1,112 yards and six touchdowns. After the team traded Emmanuel Sanders after Week 7, all other non-Sutton Denver wideouts combined to catch just 38 passes for 443 yards and one touchdown for the remainder of the season. Needing help, the team used their first-round draft pick (15th overall) on **Jerry Jeudy** and second-round pick (46th overall) on **K.J. Hamler** to team up with Sutton. Denver also ranked 28th in success rate targeting their tight ends (44%) and 23rd targeting their backfield (41%).

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Courtland Sutton	126	57%	8.8	92.4	48%	86	79	32	108	6
Noah Fant	67	60%	8.4	83.1	40%	126	116	5	134	3
DaeSean Hamilton	52	54%	5.7	77.2	44%	113	135	67	60	1
Royce Freeman	50	86%	5.1	94.7	42%	121	89	137	10	1

Courtland Sutton Target Distribution

Noah Fant Target Distribution
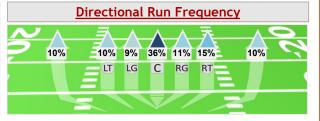
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Denver run game was not effective or generating explosive gains in 2019. The team ranked 19th in success rate (47%) rushing while ranking 30th in yards above successful play rate. The team ranked 17th in EPA on the ground while ranking 21st in yards per carry (4.1 yards). **Phillip Lindsay** was able to reach 1,000 yards on the ground (1,011) for the second straight season, but his rate of runs to gain more than five yards fell from 32% in 2018 to 27% in 2019 and his rate of gains of 10 or more yards fell from 16% to 10%. **Royce Freeman** ranked 41% in success rate rushing, which checked in at 57th in the league out of 66 qualifying backs with more than 50 carries. Looking to upgrade, the team added Melvin Gordon, whose 51% success rate was higher than each Denver back last year despite registering just 3.8 yards per carry.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Phillip Lindsay	224	4.5	50%	29	24	39	53	50%	27	7
Royce Freeman	132	3.8	41%	70	36	46	76	42%	62	3

Yards per Carry by Direction

	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	
3.7	4.5	4.5	4.3	3.1	5.5	3.4

Directional Run Frequency

	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	
10%	10%	9%	36%	11%	15%	10%

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Can Drew Lock elevate the Denver passing game?

The Broncos won four of the five games Lock started to close the 2019 season, but Lock himself still left a lot on the table to question. Over his five starts, he posted just 6.5 yards per pass attempt and an 89.7 rating. For fantasy purposes, his weekly scoring finishes were QB22, QB8, QB31, QB20, and QB21 despite facing the fourth-easiest schedule of pass defenses. With limited weaponry at his disposal during those starts, Denver was relying on players such as **DeSean Hamilton**, **Tim Patrick**, and Royce Freeman, who were three of the top five players in targets from Lock outside of Courtland Sutton and Noah Fant.
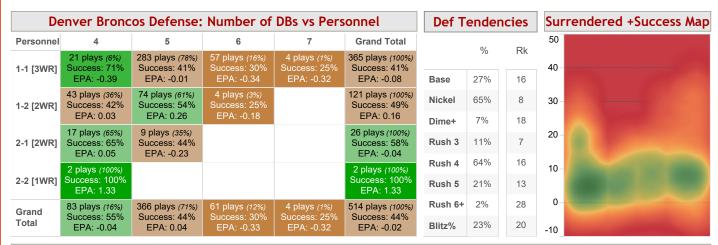
Both Sutton and Fant struggled for fantasy attached to Lock. Sutton was by far at his best working with Joe Flacco, catching 39-of-60 targets (65.0%) for 636 yards and three touchdowns. With Flacco under center, Sutton was the WR13 in overall scoring. After a short stint with Brandon Allen, Sutton then caught 22-of-41 targets (53.7%) for 280 yards and two touchdowns in five games with Lock under center, closing the season as the WR26, finishing as the WR38 or lower in scoring over the team's final four games. Fant caught 10-of-14 targets for 188 yards and a score over those final five weeks, finishing the season as the TE19 over that span. This offseason the Broncos have gone all-in on finding out what Lock can do with surrounding talent. The team went offense-centric, selecting all of Jerry Jeudy, K.J. Hamler, and Lock's former collegiate teammate **Albert Okwuegbunam** in the first four rounds of the NFL Draft. Those added weapons will show us what Lock truly has to offer while assisting both Sutton and Fant from being the primary focus of opposing defenses.

Is Melvin Gordon Back to RB1 Status in Denver?

After returning from a four-game holdout, Gordon lost a chunk of volume and efficiency off his 2018 production. His 75.7 yards from scrimmage per game were his fewest per game since his rookie season after posting 114.6, 98.8, and 108.9 total yards per game over the previous three seasons.

Gordon has averaged fewer than 5.0 yards per touch in four of his five seasons with fewer than 4.0 yards per carry in four of those years. Gordon is no stranger to sharing touches with another back while still holding onto solid volume. Even in sharing work with Austin Ekeler the past two seasons, Gordon has averaged 18.8 touches (12th) and 17.0 (16th) per game. Lindsay has been in the same boat, sharing work in each of his first two seasons, averaging 15.1 touches per game in 2018 (21st) and 16.2 touches per game (19th) a year ago. Gordon is the favorite for goal line work while he has been by far the better receiver out of the backfield in the NFL than Phillip Lindsay. Even with Gordon dropping to 7.0 yards per catch and 5.4 yards per target last season, he has averaged over three receptions per game in each of the past four seasons. Lindsay has not found a significant role in the receiving game at the NFL level. He even had his role reduced there during his second season, catching 18 passes for a paltry 54 yards over the final 11 games of 2019 while running 57 fewer pass routes than Royce Freeman over that span.

All in all, we know there may be a larger rushing game split here for Gordon than the one that he shared with Ekeler in Los Angeles, but he does have an edge in the passing game and scoring opportunities, which are the money touches for fantasy. Lindsay has two 1,200-yard seasons sharing work, but Gordon is going to be the lead back here and have a straight path to the receiving opportunities and the goal line work, which is what we want in fantasy.

Denver Broncos Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	21 plays (6%) Success: 71% EPA: -0.39	283 plays (78%) Success: 41% EPA: -0.01	57 plays (16%) Success: 30% EPA: -0.34	4 plays (1%) Success: 25% EPA: -0.32	365 plays (100%) Success: 41% EPA: -0.08
1-2 [2WR]	43 plays (36%) Success: 42% EPA: 0.03	74 plays (61%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.26	4 plays (3%) Success: 25% EPA: -0.18		121 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.16
2-1 [2WR]	17 plays (65%) Success: 65% EPA: 0.05	9 plays (35%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.23			26 plays (100%) Success: 58% EPA: -0.04
2-2 [1WR]	2 plays (100%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.33				2 plays (100%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.33
Grand Total	83 plays (16%) Success: 55% EPA: -0.04	366 plays (71%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.04	61 plays (12%) Success: 30% EPA: -0.33	4 plays (1%) Success: 25% EPA: -0.32	514 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.02

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	27%	16
Nickel	65%	8
Dime+	7%	18
Rush 3	11%	7
Rush 4	64%	16
Rush 5	21%	13
Rush 6+	2%	28
Blitz%	23%	20

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Denver's defense took a step back in 2019 and reshaped itself with a few veteran trades during the offseason.

The Broncos got a steal with a trade of a seventh-round pick for **Jurrell Casey**. Casey had a four-year low in pressure rate during the 2019 season but he's still an impact player along the defensive line. **Shelby Harris** was a productive pass rusher who had a similar pressure rate to DeForest Buckner last season, per SIS. **Mike Purcell** is exactly what a team would look for as a nose tackle in an odd-man front as a strong run defender. **Dre'Mont Jones** also gives pass rush upside as a rotational defender. McTelvin Agim was also added in the third round of the draft. This is a deep interior group.

Von Miller and **Bradley Chubb** can be a dominant edge rush duo, though Chubb played in just four games last season. **Malik Reed** filled in and struggled with pass rush but had better coverage, which edge rushers do slightly more often in the Denver scheme. There's some need behind the top two, especially since the Broncos might not be able to rely so much on Miller and Chubb going forward. 2019 fifth-round pick **Justin Hollins** could play a role.

The Broncos have a pretty solid off-ball linebacker group. **Todd Davis** was an effective presence in the middle with just a 9.3% broken tackle rate per SIS and **Alexander Johnson** was a surprise impact player in both coverage and against the run. **Josey Jewell** also was a solid tackler on his limited snaps, though he was bumped from the rotation compared to his rookie season in 2018.

A.J. Bouye was the big addition and the Broncos will hope for a bounceback since Bouye was one of the most picked on cornerbacks in the league last season. **Isaac Yiadom** and **Davontae Harris** were also among the worst corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season. **Duke Dawson** produced when he was able to get on the field, but that was not often. The Broncos will miss Chris Harris, but a healthy **Bryce Callahan** should fill in that slot role he excelled in with Vic Fangio in Chicago. Denver could definitely use another outside corner to put across from Bouye and allow Callahan to play more often in the slot.

Justin Simmons has turned into a high-impact safety and the Broncos used the franchise tag to keep him in the secondary. **Kareem Jackson** also pivoted nicely to a safety role while also pitching in a bit at corner. With Simmons and Jackson, the Broncos have a strong starting pair of safeties, though there's not a lot of experience behind them.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	57%
All Pass Rk	24
All Rush %	43%
All Rush Rk	9
1 Score Pass %	57%
1 Score Pass Rk	20
2018 1 Score Pass %	61%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	9
2019 Pass Increase %	-4%
Pass Increase Rk	27
1 Score Rush %	43%
1 Score Rush Rk	13
Up Pass %	50%
Up Pass Rk	18
Up Rush %	50%
Up Rush Rk	15
Down Pass %	64%
Down Pass Rk	22
Down Rush %	36%
Down Rush Rk	11

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	7	57%	43%	71%
	Med (4-7)	12	42%	58%	50%
	Long (8-10)	279	39%	61%	49%
	XL (11+)	14	50%	50%	29%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	38	37%	63%	63%
	Med (4-7)	72	53%	47%	43%
	Long (8-10)	87	63%	37%	45%
	XL (11+)	41	90%	10%	22%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	44	70%	30%	55%
	Med (4-7)	49	94%	6%	29%
	Long (8-10)	22	82%	18%	36%
	XL (11+)	32	88%	13%	13%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	4	50%	50%	100%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	46%	54%

37% AVG *63%*

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	67%	23%

68% AVG *23%*

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	33%	77%

32% AVG *77%*

Denver Broncos 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
54%	29	66%	68%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
46%	4	34%	56%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Royce Freeman	2	100%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Phillip Lindsay	3	100%
			Royce Freeman	3	33%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Phillip Lindsay	107	49%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Royce Freeman	4	0%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Phillip Lindsay	15	80%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Phillip Lindsay	21	38%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Courtland Sutton	17	47%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Courtland Sutton	7	29%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Noah Fant	5	20%
		RUSH	Phillip Lindsay	5	40%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Courtland Sutton	10	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Courtland Sutton	7	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Courtland Sutton	6	33%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N) No	Play Action (Y/N) Yes	Play Action (Y/N) Total
No	Success: 42% YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 92.3 [Att: 239 - Rate: 44.1%]	Success: 34% YPA: 5.3, EPA: -0.08 Rtg: 74.3 [Att: 61 - Rate: 11.3%]	Success: 40% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.08 Rtg: 88.4 [Att: 300 - Rate: 55.4%]
Yes	Success: 35% YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.16 Rtg: 71.6 [Att: 185 - Rate: 34.1%]	Success: 58% YPA: 10.1, EPA: 0.25 Rtg: 118.1 [Att: 57 - Rate: 10.5%]	Success: 40% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.06 Rtg: 82.5 [Att: 242 - Rate: 44.6%]
Total	Success: 39% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.11 Rtg: 82.9 [Att: 424 - Rate: 78.2%]	Success: 46% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 95.4 [Att: 118 - Rate: 21.8%]	Success: 40% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 85.7 [Att: 542 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Courtland Sutton	Noah Fant	DaeSean Hamilton	Phillip Lindsay	Royce Freeman	Jeff Heuerman	Emmanuel Sanders	Tim Patrick	Devontae Booker
1	OAK	L 24-16	57 (89%)	52 (81%)	49 (77%)	34 (53%)	30 (47%)	21 (33%)	57 (89%)	8 (13%)	1 (2%)
2	CHI	L 16-14	78 (95%)	54 (66%)	54 (66%)	39 (48%)	43 (52%)	38 (46%)	76 (93%)		
3	GB	L 27-16	65 (89%)	46 (63%)	42 (58%)	41 (56%)	36 (49%)	36 (49%)	58 (79%)		
4	JAC	L 26-24	52 (95%)	40 (73%)	34 (62%)	25 (45%)	34 (62%)	29 (53%)	44 (80%)		
5	LAC	W 20-13	51 (84%)	40 (66%)	32 (52%)	28 (46%)	33 (54%)	37 (61%)	39 (64%)		
6	TEN	W 16-0	58 (94%)	40 (65%)	40 (65%)	29 (47%)	38 (61%)	32 (52%)	25 (40%)		
7	KC	L 30-6	64 (96%)	48 (72%)	44 (66%)	27 (40%)	42 (63%)	22 (33%)	59 (88%)		
8	IND	L 15-13	68 (93%)	60 (82%)	45 (62%)	36 (49%)	37 (51%)	20 (27%)			
9	CLE	W 24-19	47 (94%)	43 (86%)	32 (64%)	23 (46%)	26 (52%)				1 (2%)
11	MIN	L 27-23	72 (89%)	70 (86%)	42 (52%)	52 (64%)	24 (30%)		59 (73%)		5 (6%)
12	BUF	L 20-3	50 (100%)	37 (74%)	33 (66%)	27 (54%)	28 (56%)	16 (32%)	32 (64%)		3 (6%)
13	LAC	W 23-20	56 (98%)	41 (72%)	37 (65%)	25 (44%)	32 (56%)	28 (49%)	32 (56%)		
14	HOU	W 38-24	57 (97%)	29 (49%)	44 (75%)	31 (53%)	27 (46%)	30 (51%)	37 (63%)		2 (3%)
15	KC	L 23-3	54 (92%)	27 (46%)	49 (83%)	23 (39%)	32 (54%)	24 (41%)	40 (68%)		5 (8%)
16	DET	W 27-17	68 (96%)	41 (58%)	41 (58%)	41 (58%)	28 (39%)	33 (46%)	47 (66%)		4 (6%)
17	OAK	W 16-15	46 (75%)	36 (59%)	43 (70%)	35 (57%)	24 (39%)	33 (54%)	35 (57%)		5 (8%)
	Grand Total		943 (92%)	704 (69%)	661 (65%)	516 (50%)	514 (51%)	399 (45%)	358 (76%)	290 (57%)	26 (5%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	52%	60%	40%
2-1 [2WR]	17%	8%	53%
1-2 [2WR]	16%	20%	44%
2-2 [1WR]	8%	4%	44%
1-3 [1WR]	4%	3%	39%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	67%	34%	52%
2-1 [2WR]	52%	55%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	52%	51%	38%
2-2 [1WR]	23%	59%	39%
1-3 [1WR]	44%	39%	39%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Courtland Sutton	18	3	6	9
Emmanuel Sanders	8	3	2	3
Noah Fant	8	4	2	2
Phillip Lindsay	5		1	4
Royce Freeman	5		1	4
Tim Patrick	5	1		4
DaeSean Hamilton	4	1	1	2
Jeff Heuerman	4		1	3

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Phillip Lindsay	30	8	4	18
Royce Freeman	26	5	8	13
Drew Lock	2			2
Joe Flacco	2	1	1	
Brandon Allen	1			1
Courtland Sutton	1		1	
Diontae Spencer	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
27%	20%	53%
23%	*21%* NFL AVG	*56%*

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
41%	44%	48%
#23	#28	#28

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	9	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	3.0	
03. Wins	7	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	28
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	24
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	18
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	20
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	22
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	28
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	22
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	20
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	15
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	25
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	9
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	8
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	20
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	13
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	22
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	9
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	22
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	17
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	14
23.	PA Improvement Success	22
24.	PA Improvement YPA	29
25.	PA Improvement Rating	19
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	14
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	22
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	4
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	18
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	26
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	16
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	25
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	2
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	17
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	13

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	6.8
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.7
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.6
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	7.5
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	46%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	45%
42.	PSM Rating	80.2
43.	Non-PSM Rating	78

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45.	PA Success Rate	48%
46.	PA YPA	7.6
47.	PA Sack Rate	4.0%
48.	PA Rating	87.5
49.	PA Target Depth	7.8
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	49%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	3.6%
53.	Non-PA Rating	85
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.1
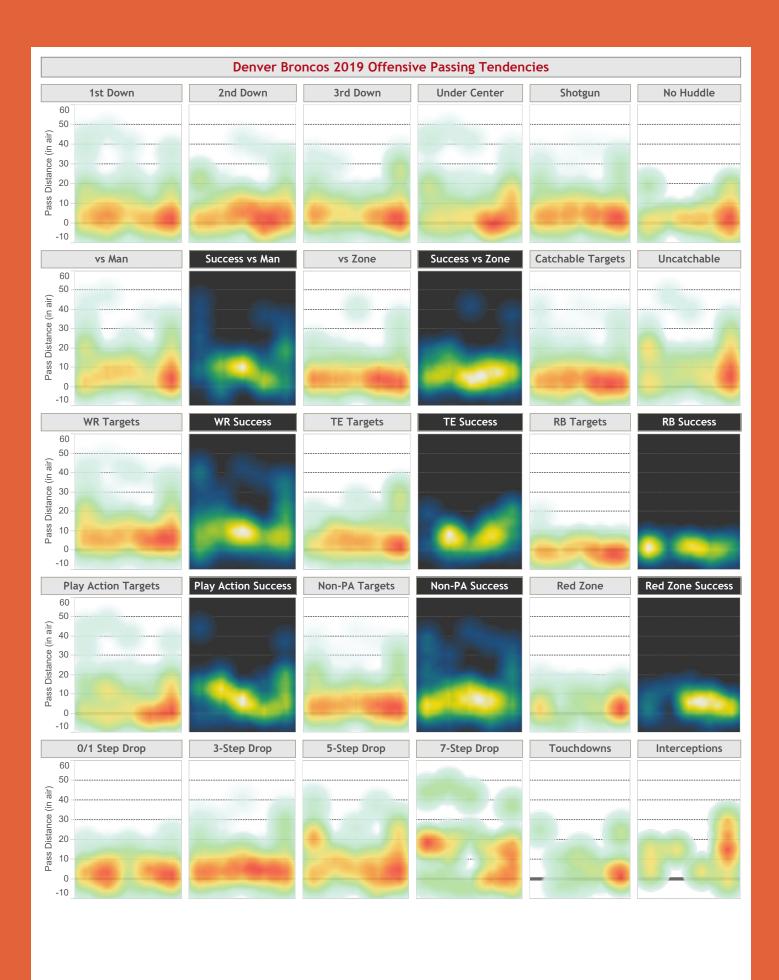
Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	25%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.2
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	24%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.6

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	5	defFUM	16	
Net FROE	3.3	defFUM Rcvrd	7	
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	17	
offFUM Rcvrd	15	defFR%	43.8%	
offFR%	71.4%	defFROE	-0.4	
offFR Rk	2	defFROE Rk	17	
offFROE	3.8			
offFROE Rk	1			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	85%	YOY Swing	2%	
2019 FG Rk	12	YOY Swing Rk	11	
Opp 2019 FG %	87%	2018 Team Net	-4%	
Opp 2019 FG Rk	6	2018 Net Rk	22	
2019 Team Net	-2%			
2019 Net Rk	18			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Joe Flacco	Drew Lock
CAY	5.1	4.6
CAY Rk	31	36
2018 CAY Rk	17	
AYTS Rk	35	30
2018 AYTS Rk	13	
AGG Rk	36	30
2018 AGG Rk	14	
COMP%	65.3	64.1
xCOMP%	65.8	65.8
xCOMP% Rk	9	9
2018 xCOMP% Rk	26	
CPOE%	-0.5	-1.7
CPOE Rk	19	27
2018 CPOE Rk	33	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Joe Flacco	Drew Lock
Pressure %	36.4	36
Pressure Rk	10	14
Sack %	24.3	8.1
Sack Rk	5	39
Under Pressure Accuracy %	67.9	62.2
Pressure Accuracy Rk	8	21
Rating when Pressured	55.4	58.4
Pressured Rating Rk	31	29
Clean Accuracy %	81.4	78.6
Clean Accuracy Rk	8	21
Rating when Clean	97.7	105.3
Clean Rating Rk	27	12
Time to Throw	2.62	2.83
Time to Throw Rk	36	16

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.09
EPA/Pass Rk	27
EPA/Rush	-0.02
EPA/Rush Rk	9
On-Target Catch %	86.7
On-Target Catch Rk	10
Drop%	9
Drop Rk	23
YAC/Att	2.1
YAC/Att Rk	25
Rush Broken Tackle %	15.4
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	16
Rush 1st Down %	18.6
Rush 1st Down Rk	30

Denver Broncos 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Matt Patricia (2 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Darrell Bevell (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Cory Undlin (PHI DB) (new)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
6.5	#4

Past Records

2019: 3-13
2018: 6-10
2017: 9-7

Opponent	CHI	GB	ARI	NO		JAX	ATL	IND	MIN	WAS	CAR	HOU	CHI	GB	TEN	TB	MIN
H/A	H	A	A	H		A	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	H
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TKG

Key Players Lost

Player	New
A'Shawn Robinson (43DT)	Rams
Darius Slay (CB)	Eagles
Devon Kennard (43OLB)	Cardinals
Graham Glasgow (C)	Broncos
J.D. McKissic (WR)	Redskins
Jeff Driskel (QB)	Broncos
Logan Thomas (TE)	Redskins
Rashaan Melvin (CB)	Jaguars
Ricky Wagner (RT)	Packers
Sam Martin (P)	Broncos
Damon Harrison (34DT)	Null
Darius Kilgo (43DT)	Null
Jamie Meder (43DT)	Null
Jermaine Kearse (WR)	Null
Kyle Sloter (QB)	Null
Mike Daniels (43DT)	Null
Steve Longa (43OLB)	Null
Tavon Wilson (S)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
2.4	4	12

2020 Detroit Lions Overview

To suggest I was critical of the Detroit Lions offense in last year's preview would be kind.

But let's take things back a couple of years to understand how the Lions offense has evolved in recent years.

Prior to the 2017 season, I wrote in my preview that I wanted the Lions to look deeper downfield when passing, specifically on first down. They did it in spurts, but were extremely successful when doing so. They won nine games in 2017.

But they fired head coach Jim Caldwell and hired Matt Patricia to lead them into the 2018 season. Patricia brought on players like LeGarrette Blount and effectively neutered any aggressiveness offensive coordinator Jim Bob Cooter had when he remained on staff as a holdover from the prior regime.

And in 2018, all aggressiveness disappeared.

On first downs in the first half, **Matthew Stafford** threw deep on just 5.5% of his attempts. Almost 95% of these first down attempts were within 15 yards of the line of scrimmage.

The Lions ranked dead last in deep attempt rate.

For comparison, the NFL average was 19% deep attempts on first half first downs.

A whopping 70% of Stafford's first down attempts in the first half were thrown within five yards of the line of scrimmage.

So following the 2018 season, and in previewing the 2019 season, last year I challenged

(cont'd - see *)*

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Desmond Trufant (CB)	$10
Jamie Collins (43OLB)	$10
Halapoulivaati Vaitai (RT)	$9
Nicholas Williams (34DT)	$5
Chase Daniel (QB)	$4.29
Duron Harmon (S)	Trade
Danny Shelton (43DT)	$4
Darryl Roberts (CB)	$2
Javron Kearse (S)	$2
Geremy Davis (WR)	$1
Geronimo Allison (WR)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	3	CB - Jeff Okudah (Ohio State)
2	35	RB - D'Andre Swift (Georgia)
3	67	OLB - Julian Okwara (Notre Dame)
3	75	G - Jonah Jackson (Ohio State)
4	121	G - Logan Stenberg (Kentucky)
5	166	WR - Quintez Cephus (Wisconsin)
5	172	RB - Jason Huntley (New Mexico State)
6	197	DT - John Penisini (Utah)
7	235	DT - Jashon Cornell (Ohio State)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	6.5
2019 Wins	3
Forecast 2019 Wins	6.5
2018 Wins	6
2017 Wins	9
2016 Wins	9

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS T.Walker 21
SS D.Harmon NEW 26
LB J.Davis 40
LB J.Tavai 51
RCB D.Trufant 23
SLOTCB J.Coleman 27
DE T.Flowers 98
DT K.Strong 92
DE R.Okwara 95
DE J.Collins* NEW 58
LCB J.Okudah Rookie 1

LWR M.Jones* 11
SLOTWR D.Amendola* 80
LT T.Decker 68
LG F.Ragnow 77
C G.Glasgow 60
RG O.Aboushi 76
RT H.Vaitai NEW 72
TE T.Hockenson 88
RWR K.Golladay 19

QB M.Stafford* 9
RB K.Johnson 33

WR2 T.Fulgham 10
WR3 G.Allison NEW 18
RB2 D.Swift Rookie 6
QB2 C.Daniel NEW 4

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	24	$93.22M	16
QB	11	$23.98M	1
OL	26	$30.01M	23
RB	29	$5.06M	28
WR	20	$22.40M	17
TE	13	$11.78M	18
All DEF	25	$88.51M	22
DL	25	$34.43M	19
LB	23	$18.48M	19
CB	11	$23.65M	6
S	16	$11.95M	30

the Lions and their new offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell. They needed to get more aggressive, shift from being as conservative a first down run-first team, and allow Stafford to pass deep more often on first down.

The message resonated. BIG TIME.

Stafford went deep on first half first downs on a massive 30.2% of his attempts, up from 5.5% in 2018. He passed within five yards of the line of scrimmage only 43% of attempts, down from 70% in 2018.

Only one team was more aggressive on these first down passes (Tampa Bay). The Lions went from 32nd to second in one offseason.

Tracking air yards (yards before the catch) vs YAC (yards after the catch), Stafford's 2018 YAC accounted for 55% of his total yards, which ranked 44th. In 2019, only 37% of his total yards were YAC, improving to fourth-best in the NFL.

On third downs specifically, Stafford's rate of passes thrown beyond the sticks improved from 23rd in 2018 to best in 2019.

Stafford also ranked first in average completed air yards at 8.3. For comparison, No. 5 was all the way back at 7.1, and the NFL average was 5.9. Aaron Rodgers was at 5.4.

His expected completion rate was only 60.9%, which ranked 38th of 39 QBs. Expected completion rate is calculated by factoring in receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field, the separation the passer had at time of throw from the nearest pass rusher, and more. In other words, he should have had some of the worst production in the league based on where he threw the ball, but he had some of the best.

Stafford also ranked first in aggressiveness, as measured by attempts into tight coverage where there is a defender within a yard of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion.

Behind this aggressive attack was a beautiful game script that fit Matthew Stafford like a glove.

In the first quarter of games last year, Stafford recorded 11.4 YPA (aDOT of 10.3 yards), a 67% success rate, a 134 rating, and threw six touchdowns against only one interception. Stafford ranked first in all of those efficiency metrics.

Stafford's productivity in the pass game in the first quarter allowed the Lions to trail only twice entering the second quarter in his eight starts, and those were by margins of 1 point and 3 points (and he rallied to win both of those games).

To start the season, the Lions were 2-0-1, beating the Eagles and Chargers and

drawing a tie against the Cardinals. The schedule was about to get worse, with the next three games for the undefeated Lions coming against the Chiefs, Packers, and Vikings.
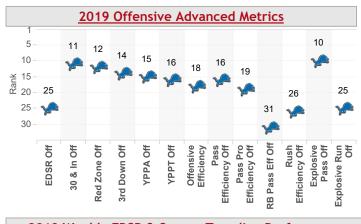
But thanks to the brilliantly scripted and schemed first quarter, relying often on Stafford's arm to push the ball downfield, the Lions led every single one of those games. Not by a little bit. By 10 points, 10 points, and 7 points, respectively.

Those were not insignificant first quarter leads and they came against three playoff teams, including the eventual Super Bowl champions.

Historically, teams with 7+ point leads after the first quarter win 77% of their games. The Lions even held leads entering the second quarter and were leading or tied at halftime in all three.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Matthew Stafford	53% 9.5 98.3	52% 7.8 105.4	40% 8.9 116.3	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	47%	59%	86%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
DET	47% 4.0	48% 4.3	63% 3.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	53%	41%	14%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

Metric	Rank
EDSR Off	25
30 & In Off	11
Red Zone Off	12
3rd Down Off	14
YPPA Off	15
YPPT Off	16
Offensive Efficiency	18
Pass Efficiency Off	16
Pass Pro Efficiency Off	19
RB Pass Eff Off	31
Rush Efficiency Off	26
Explosive Pass Off	10
Explosive Run Off	25

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

Metric	Rank
EDSR Def	25
30 & In Def	24
Red Zone Def	18
3rd Down Def	28
YPPA Def	27
YPPT Def	24
Defensive Efficiency	28
Pass Efficiency Def	29
Pass Pro Efficiency Def	31
RB Pass Eff Def	18
Rush Efficiency Def	17
Explosive Pass Def	27
Explosive Run Def	1

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	T	W	W	L		L	L	W	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
OPP	ARI	LAC	PHI	KC		GB	MIN	NYG	OAK	CHI	DAL	WAS	CHI	MIN	TB	DEN	GB
SITE	A	H	A	H		A	H	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H
MARGIN	0	3	3	-4		-1	-12	5	-7	-7	-8	-3	-4	-13	-21	-10	-3
PTS	27	13	27	30		22	30	31	24	13	27	16	20	7	17	17	20
OPP PTS	27	10	24	34		23	42	26	31	20	35	19	24	20	38	27	23

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **3**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-3**
FG Games Win %: **40% (#19)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **67% (#1)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-8**
1 Score Games Win %: **27% (#28)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **100% (#1)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-5
TO Given	23
INT Given	15
FUM Given	8
TO Taken	18
INT Taken	7
FUM Taken	11
Sack Margin	-15
Sacks	28
Sacks Allow	43
Return TD Margin	+0
Ret TDs	3
Ret TDs Allow	3
Penalty Margin	+4
Penalties	113
Opponent Penalties	117

Detroit Lions 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank)   **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD

EASY

Average Opponent

RANK

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- 🦁 2020 Forecast

X-axis categories (Ease for Offense):
Total Efficiency | DEF Efficiency | Pass Efficiency DEF | YPPA Def | Explosive Pass DEF | Pass Pro Efficiency DEF | Rush Efficiency DEF | Explosive Rush DEF | RB Pass Eff DEF | Red Zone Blend DEF | YPPT Def | Third Down Conv DEF

Passing / *Rushing*

X-axis categories (Ease for Defense):
OFF Efficiency | Pass Efficiency OFF | YPPA Off | Explosive Pass OFF | Pass Pro Efficiency OFF | Rush Efficiency OFF | Explosive Rush OFF | RB Pass Eff OFF | Red Zone Blend OFF | YPPT Off | Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
17	17	25	29	24	32	9	6

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	4.1	2.8	-0.9
Average O/U line	45.5	46.3	44.8
Straight Up Record	3-12	6-10	9-7
Against the Spread Record	5-10	9-7	8-7
Over/Under Record	10-5	6-10	10-6
ATS as Favorite	0-3	3-2	5-2
ATS as Underdog	5-7	6-5	3-5
Straight Up Home	2-6	3-5	4-4
ATS Home	3-5	3-5	4-4
Over/Under Home	6-1	2-6	6-2
ATS as Home Favorite	0-1	1-2	3-1
ATS as a Home Dog	3-4	2-3	1-3
Straight Up Away	1-6	3-5	5-3
ATS Away	2-5	6-2	4-3
Over/Under Away	4-4	4-4	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	0-2	2-0	2-1
ATS Away Dog	2-3	4-2	2-2
Six Point Teaser Record	14-2	12-4	13-3
Seven Point Teaser Record	14-2	12-4	13-3
Ten Point Teaser Record	15-1	13-3	14-2

DET-3

But Detroit lost all three of those games. A big reason for those three eventual losses came on third downs in the second halves.

In the first half of those games, they had a 50% conversion rate on third down. Part of that was that six of 20 third downs were short yardage (1-2 yards to go). But they also were solid on their conversions of medium (3-6 yards to go) and long (7-9 yards to go) third downs, where they converted 75% and 67%, respectively.

In the second half, an overall 50% conversion rate dropped to 25%. Instead of having short yardage situations on third down as they did on 30% of attempts in the first half, they had short yardage on just 1 of 16 (6%) second half third downs. Conversion rate on third and medium dropped from 75% to 20%, and third and long dropped from 67% to 17%.

Why did the Lions find themselves in more third and long situations and fewer third and short situations in the second half?

(cont'd - see DET-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	7
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	-7
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	3
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	-2

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	24
2018 Rk	15
2019 v 2018 Rk	20
Off Rk	28
Def Rk	16
QB Rk	29
RB Rk	26
WR Rk	24
TE Rk	20
Oline Rk	14
Dline Rk	23
LB Rk	19
DB Rk	12

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CHI	GB	ARI	NO	JAX	ATL	IND	MIN	WAS	CAR	HOU	CHI	GB	TEN	TB	MIN
-1.5	6	3	6	-1.5	4	1.5	7	-6	1.5	-1.5	5.5	3	6.5	3	2

Avg = 2.4   Avg = 2.4

Home Lines

1	4	8	10	12	14	16	17
CHI	NO	IND	WAS	HOU	GB	TB	MIN
-1.5	6	1.5	-6	-1.5	3	3	

Avg = 0.8

Road Lines

2	3	6	7	9	11	13	15
GB	ARI	JAX	ATL	MIN	CAR	CHI	TEN
6	3	-1.5	4	7	1.5	5.5	6.5

Avg = 4.0

Part of it had to do with their play selection on first down.

It wasn't just in these three games, either. Weeks 1 through 9, despite Matthew Stafford leading the NFL with 9.5 YPA in the first half, the Lions came out of the locker room and ran the ball on 60% of their first down play calls. This was a rate well above what the Lions ran on first downs in the first half.

These runs gained a terrible 2.7 YPC and produced a 25% success rate.

It would be easier to pin more of the blame on the run game were it not for the passing game being terrible on first downs as well. Stafford passed for just 6.4 YPA, a 30% success rate, a 30.8 passer rating and 0:2 TD:INT on first downs in the third quarter.

Stafford went from the best quarterback in the NFL in the first quarter to the 23rd ranked quarterback in the third quarter, as well as the NFL's worst quarterback on third quarter first downs.

The first down play calling in the third quarter torpedoed the Lions, both the run-heaviness and the inefficient passing. The Lions touchdowns by quarter in Matthew Stafford's eight starts:
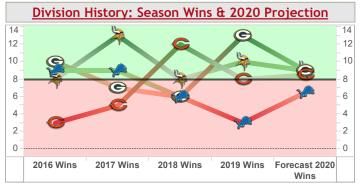
1st quarter: 9
2nd quarter: 6
3rd quarter: 2 <
4th quarter: 7

The Lions must re-examine their first down playcalling in the third quarter. They trailed at halftime in just two of eight games, with those margins being just 3 and 4 points. Yet they won only three of eight games.

The run-heavy strategy out of the halftime locker room bled into the fourth quarter. The Lions went 57% run (60% in the third quarter) on these first downs and such runs gained just 2.5 YPC with a 38% success rate.

All told in Stafford's starts, the Lions went approximately 50/50 run/pass on first half first downs to 59% run in the second half, with runs gaining just 2.6 YPC with a 31% success rate.
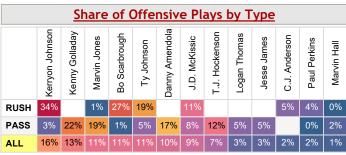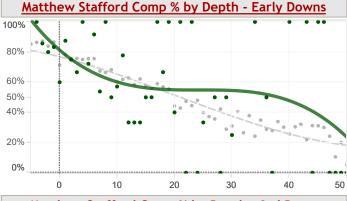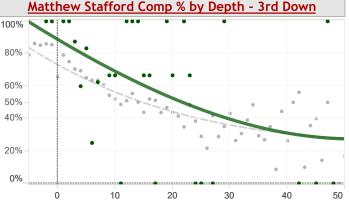
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Kerryon Johnson			88%	9%	3%
	Marvin Jones		50%			50%
	Bo Scarbrough	10%	7%	81%		2%
	Ty Johnson	2%	8%	86%	5%	
	J.D. McKissic	13%	3%	82%	3%	
	C.J. Anderson			69%	31%	
	Paul Perkins	15%		85%		
	Marvin Hall			100%		
	Total	5%	4%	84%	6%	2%
PASS	Kerryon Johnson			93%	7%	
	Kenny Golladay	5%	8%	80%	7%	
	Marvin Jones	4%	10%	80%	5%	
	Bo Scarbrough	25%		75%		
	Ty Johnson	8%	12%	77%	4%	
	Danny Amendola	8%	7%	73%	4%	7%
	J.D. McKissic	10%	10%	69%	3%	8%
	T.J. Hockenson	5%	7%	80%	8%	
	Logan Thomas	13%	8%	79%		
	Jesse James	9%	5%	73%	9%	5%
	Paul Perkins	100%				
	Marvin Hall		18%	82%		
	Total	7%	8%	78%	5%	2%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Kerryon Johnson	Kenny Golladay	Marvin Jones	Bo Scarbrough	Ty Johnson	Danny Amendola	J.D. McKissic	T.J. Hockenson	Logan Thomas	Jesse James	C.J. Anderson	Paul Perkins	Marvin Hall
RUSH	34%		1%	27%	19%		11%				5%	4%	0%
PASS	3%	22%	19%	1%	5%	17%	8%	12%	5%	5%		0%	2%
ALL	16%	13%	11%	11%	11%	10%	9%	7%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%

Matthew Stafford Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Matthew Stafford Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, 0.00 (441)	51%, 0.33 (82)	52%, 0.17 (33)	40%, -0.19 (10)	45%, -0.05 (11)	14%, -0.62 (7)	50%, -0.20 (8)	40%, -1.32 (5)	33%, -0.20 (6)	43%, 0.03 (603)
RUSH	53%, 0.00 (180)	44%, -0.14 (99)	52%, -0.17 (65)	30%, -0.34 (30)	41%, -0.03 (22)	25%, -0.22 (4)	100%, 0.26 (1)	50%, 0.89 (2)		48%, -0.09 (403)
All	45%, 0.00 (621)	48%, 0.07 (181)	52%, -0.06 (98)	33%, -0.30 (40)	42%, -0.04 (33)	18%, -0.48 (11)	56%, -0.15 (9)	43%, -0.69 (7)	33%, -0.20 (6)	45%, -0.02 (1,006)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Kerryon Johnson	50% (8) 11.6, 0.51	75% (4) 7.0, 0.30			58% (12) 10.1, 0.44
TE	Jesse James	47% (17) 4.6, -0.10	50% (6) 5.5, 0.36	50% (2) 6.5, 0.93		48% (25) 5.0, 0.09
WR	Kenny Golladay	46% (74) 8.8, 0.23	71% (17) 17.6, 1.15	64% (11) 8.7, 0.07	50% (2) 3.0, -0.88	52% (104) 10.1, 0.34
	Danny Amendola	50% (90) 7.0, 0.17	60% (5) 8.4, 0.60		100% (1) 4.0, -0.13	51% (96) 7.0, 0.19
	Marvin Jones	59% (61) 8.5, 0.41	63% (19) 7.9, 0.36	67% (6) 15.7, 0.77	100% (1) 5.0, 0.10	61% (87) 8.8, 0.42

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Johnson Kerryon	43% (35) 3.6, -0.13	46% (26) 3.6, -0.01	57% (30) 4.3, -0.33	42% (12) 2.8, -0.15	48% (103) 3.7, -0.16
Scarbrough Bo	67% (42) 5.2, 0.07	54% (37) 3.7, -0.18	0% (1) 2.0, -0.31		60% (80) 4.5, -0.05
Johnson Ty	44% (36) 4.7, -0.04	42% (12) 3.4, -0.11	40% (10) 3.5, -0.07	50% (4) 5.8, -0.01	44% (62) 4.3, -0.06
McKissic J.D.	38% (21) 5.5, -0.08	33% (6) 2.2, -0.52	70% (10) 7.0, 0.28		46% (37) 5.4, -0.05
Driskel Jeff	76% (17) 7.0, 0.42	50% (2) 5.0, -0.14	100% (1) 18.0, 1.65	0% (1) -1.0, -0.25	71% (21) 7.0, 0.39
Stafford Matthew	70% (10) 6.1, -0.16	0% (1) 2.0, -0.57	50% (2) 1.5, -0.22	0% (6) -1.0, -0.85	42% (19) 3.2, -0.40
Anderson C.J.	100% (2) 7.0, 0.48	0% (3) 3.3, -0.20	40% (5) 0.8, -0.53	20% (5) 2.4, -0.55	33% (15) 2.7, -0.34

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	55% (221) 8.8, 0.29
M2M	42% (143) 6.3, 0.03
Screen	46% (35) 6.4, 0.15

Passing by Route

Out	60% (87) 7.3, 0.24
Curl	61% (77) 7.4, 0.27
Screen	45% (38) 6.3, 0.19
Flat	51% (35) 4.7, 0.03
Dig	52% (31) 9.3, 0.24
Slant	46% (28) 4.7, -0.03

Throw Types

Level 1	52% (362) 6.5, 0.15
Level 2	49% (89) 8.7, 0.34
Level 3	37% (63) 14.3, 0.34
Sidearm	43% (7) 6.6, -0.69
Shovel	0% (2) -3.0, -0.76

QB Drop Types

3 Step	52% (202) 7.7, 0.23
5 Step	45% (119) 8.5, 0.21
0/1 Step	44% (84) 4.8, -0.09
7 Step	46% (50) 11.4, 0.42
Designed Rollout Right	63% (35) 8.4, 0.34
Basic Screen	44% (16) 7.6, 0.25

QB State at Pass

Planted	49% (436) 7.8, 0.19
Moving	41% (74) 6.3, 0.08
Shuffling	39% (54) 6.0, -0.12

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	48% (109) 9.6, 0.11	46% (35) 6.7, 0.23
Shotgun	48% (27) 10.2, 0.22	42% (437) 6.7, -0.02
ALL	48% (136) 9.7, 0.13	42% (472) 6.7, 0.00

Run Types

Inside Zone	52% (73) 3.9, -0.13
Outside Zone	33% (57) 3.0, -0.17
Lead	39% (44) 2.8, -0.16
Power	51% (43) 4.4, -0.33
Stretch	75% (12) 5.7, 0.27
Pitch	30% (10) 2.2, -0.32

DET-5

Compared to first half first down runs, which gained 4.5 YPC with a 48% success rate, the Lions simply were not doing themselves any favors — particularly when Stafford had been so brilliant in the first half passing the ball.

One specific item that caused problems for Stafford in the second half was passing into Cover 3 zone on early downs. Stafford seemed better prepared to deal with Cover 3 in the first half. He recorded an overall performance 8.7 YPA, 56% success, and 128.5 rating against it in the first half and was pressured on 32% of his dropbacks against Cover 3. But in the second half, he recorded an overall performance on all dropbacks of 5.5 YPA, 33% success, and 64.9 rating against it and was pressured on 48% of his dropbacks.

I really liked elements of what I saw from the Lions offensive scheme, particularly in the first quarter of their games last year, and I do believe Bevell can work with Stafford to clean up some of what we saw last year, particularly in the second half of games. The offensive unit is relatively intact from what we saw in 2019, which should provide good continuity.

That said, I have no idea why the Lions continue to waste draft capital on backs. There have been just 64 total backs drafted since 2018 and the Lions lead the NFL with five taken. Only 15 running backs have been drafted in the first two rounds and the Lions are the only team to draft two in the first two rounds. Of 59 running backs with at least 30 attempts on first and 10, **Bo Scarbrough** (58%) and **Kerryon Johnson** (54%) ranked in the top 11 in success rate. And in the first half of games, Johnson ranked third of 36 backs with a 57% success rate on 1st and 10.

Detroit has long relied on its offense to win games, but this offseason they went heavy on the defensive side of the ball in free agency, trades, and the draft, including the No. 3 overall draft pick cornerback **Jeff Okudah** and third-round pick **Julian Okwara.** In free agency, the Lions added **Jamie Collins**, **Nick Williams**, **Duron Harmon**, and **Danny Shelton**. Fortunately for the Lions defense, they face the ninth-easiest jump in passing offenses faced in 2020 as compared to 2019, and my early schedule analysis has them shifting from playing the eighth-toughest offenses in 2019 to 18th in 2020.

After playing the third-toughest schedule in 2019, the Lions shift to the eighth-easiest in 2020. That shift is the third-most favorable of any team in the NFL. But the problem for the Lions is the easy part of the schedule is tightly packed right in the middle, from Weeks 6 to 12, where they play the NFL's easiest schedule by far, taking on five of seven opponents that are projected to finish below .500.

Detroit went 0-9 last year against top-15 pass defenses and the Lions will start off the 2020 season with three top-15 pass defenses from 2019 in their first four games. They close with an absolutely brutal schedule, too. From Weeks 13 to 17, the Lions play the fourth-toughest schedule in the league, against five teams projected to finish at-or-above .500.

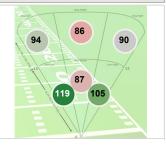# Detroit Lions 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Lions 2019 passing game can be broken down in output with and without **Matthew Stafford**, who appeared in only eight games due to a season-ending back injury. With Stafford on the field, Detroit ranked 10th in the league in success rate (49%) and fourth in yards per passing play (7.6 yards). Over their final eight games, Detroit ranked 30th in success rate (38%) and 31st in yards per passing play (5.1) with the offense helmed by **Jeff Driskel** and **David Blough**. Stafford was averaging a career-high 8.6 yards per pass attempt with a career-high 6.5% touchdown rate prior to injury while he led the NFL with an 11.4-yard average depth of target. Despite missing eight games, Stafford still ranked 13th in the league in passing yards on throws 20 or more yards downfield (810) after he had just 713 passing yards on those throws in 2018. Entering 2020 still at age 32, Stafford will look to build off of what was potentially going to be a career season.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Matthew Stafford	187	291	64%	2,499	8.6	19	5	18	106	8
David Blough	93	172	54%	986	5.7	4	6	14	64	50
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Matthew Stafford	49%	53%	41	14.0%	15	5.0%	8.5	4.9	22	8%
David Blough	37%	39%	10	6.0%	6	3.0%	7.0	3.6	9	5%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Matthew Stafford Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%		2.6%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
10 - 14	2.1%	0.0%	0.0%		1.4%
15+	28.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%
Total	3.7%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
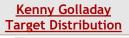
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Matthew Stafford	9.0	8.5	-0.5	61%	1
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
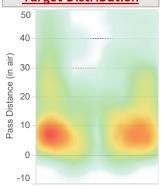
Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
63%	37%	4
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook
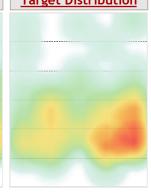
Attached to Matthew Stafford, the Detroit wide receivers were excellent. Through eight games, Detroit ranked third in the NFL in yards per pass attempt to their wide receivers (9.9 yards) with a 56% success rate (sixth in the league). Over the final eight games, the team was 21st in yards per attempt to wideouts (7.3 yards) with a 45% success rate (27th). Even with Stafford, the offense did struggle getting the ball to their tight ends (7.2 Y/A, which was 20th) and running backs (5.6 Y/A, 24th), but they were dead last in the league in yards per attempt to their tight ends (4.6 yards) and running backs (3.0 yards) after losing Stafford for the season.

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Kenny Golladay	116	56%	10.3	105.2	51%	72	95	4	130	11
Danny Amendola	96	65%	7.1	80.1	52%	65	76	106	19	1
Marvin Jones	92	67%	8.5	103.5	59%	21	21	69	63	9
T.J. Hockenson	59	54%	6.2	84.5	46%	102	112	38	84	2

Kenny Golladay Target Distribution

Marvin Jones Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Through a plethora of injuries, the Lions were able to post a respectable 49% success rate on the ground (14th), but were 27th in yards above successful play, which means they were just above league average in required success, but at the bottom of the league in yardage gained beyond. That left them 23rd in EPA on the ground, coming in at 22nd in yards per carry. **Kerryon Johnson** missed eight games, giving him 14 games absent over his first two seasons in the league. Forcing the Lions' hands to pursue another back with high draft capital, the team selected D'Andre Swift at the top of the second round, who averaged over 6.0 yards per carry and 9.0 yards per reception in all three of his seasons at Georgia.

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Kerryon Johnson	113	3.6	52%	21	15	6	68	51%	22	3
Bo Scarbrough	89	4.2	55%	11	16	7	65	54%	13	1
Ty Johnson	63	4.3	44%	56	51	42	62	45%	52	0

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Investing in the Lions Passing Game

Matthew Stafford was quietly the QB4 in points per game (20.8) in eight starts last year. Through eight games, Stafford posted a career-high 8.6 yards per pass attempt and a career-high 6.5% touchdown rate. He then missed the rest of the season with a back injury. That injury likely prevented some inevitable regression as Stafford had the fifth-easiest passing schedule over his eight starts, but the change in offensive approach under Darrell Bevell was a breath of fresh air for Stafford's aggressiveness paired with their receiving corps.

Stafford was let loose downfield after being an intermediate passer under the previous regime. Stafford led the NFL with an 11.4-yard average depth of target after marks of 7.1 yards (36th) 8.8 yards (20th) 7.9 yards (31st), and 6.9 yards (37th) the four previous seasons. Stafford attempted a pass 20 or more yards downfield on 19.2% of his throws, which was the highest rate in the league. League average was at 12.1% in 2019. We know what we are getting from Stafford as he has now been in the top-12 in points per game in eight of the past 10 seasons, while the offensive scheme and pass catchers are tailored around pushing the ball downfield.

With Stafford under center, **Kenny Golladay** was the WR11, averaging 17.4 PPR points per game while **Marvin Jones** was the WR14 in overall scoring, averaging 16.5 points per game. Golladay secured 35-of-62 targets (56.5%) for 640 yards (18.3 yards per catch and seven touchdowns over that span while Jones reeled in 42-of-57 targets (73.6%) for 535 yards (12.7 yards per catch and six touchdowns). Over the remainder of the season, Golladay held steady, catching 30-of-54 targets (55.6%) for 550 yards (18.3 Y/R) and four touchdowns, but Jones was unable to stay healthy or survive the quarterback shift, catching 20-of-35 targets (57.1%) for 244 yards and three touchdowns from David Blough and Jeff Driskel over his five remaining games played over the season.

Golladay led the NFL with 36 targets on throws 20 or more yards downfield while he was tied for second among all wide receivers with 14 end zone targets. His high average depth of target (16.1 yards) leaves a lot of potential for variance (just 61.9% of his targets were catchable, which ranked 77th out of 86 receivers and was 58.1% from Stafford) but those downfield and end zone are the types of targets that we want to pursue.

Jones has been a top-30 scorer in points per game in each of the past three seasons and is coming off a career-high 4.8 receptions per game. Jones was unlikely to maintain that gaudy 73.6% catch rate (he has secured 60% of his targets for his career) even with Stafford staying on the field, but Jones carries spike-week potential (three top-12 scoring weeks over those eight games), which is higher than some company he keeps in price point as a fringe WR3/WR4 option. The downside is that Jones has some volatility (four weeks outside of the top-50 with Stafford) and has missed 10 games over the past two seasons.

Detroit Lions Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	8 plays (2%) Success: 38% EPA: -0.18	182 plays (55%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.18	119 plays (36%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.04	22 plays (7%) Success: 27% EPA: -0.32	331 plays (100%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.06
1-2 [2WR]	17 plays (18%) Success: 76% EPA: 0.75	64 plays (66%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.13	16 plays (16%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.33		97 plays (100%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.27
2-1 [2WR]	26 plays (53%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.50	21 plays (43%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.27	2 plays (4%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.53		49 plays (100%) Success: 59% EPA: 0.40
2-2 [1WR]	11 plays (92%) Success: 73% EPA: 0.12	1 plays (8%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.21			12 plays (100%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.10
Grand Total	62 plays (13%) Success: 61% EPA: 0.41	268 plays (55%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.17	137 plays (28%) Success: 42% EPA: 0.01	22 plays (4%) Success: 27% EPA: -0.32	489 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.14

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	19%	23
Nickel	45%	26
Dime+	34%	5
Rush 3	26%	1
Rush 4	60%	21
Rush 5	9%	32
Rush 6+	3%	23
Blitz%	12%	32

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Detroit moved on from **Damon Harrison**, who had a down year in 2019 after being one of the best run-stuff tackles in football over the past few seasons. As a replacement, **Danny Shelton** was one part of the "what if we made the whole defense out of ex-Patriots" plan from this offseason. Shelton had a good year with the Patriots after his first seasons with the Cleveland Browns were nothing special. The Lions also brought in **Nick Williams**, who had a breakout season for the Bears as a rotational tackle with five starts. Williams had nine quarterback hits, six sacks, and two passes defensed last season.

Trey Flowers was Step 1 in "what if we made the whole defense out of ex-Patriots" last offseason. Flowers came in on a big deal after a high pressure-rate, low-sack season with New England. The problem was the pressure also fell off for Flowers in his first year in Detroit. Overall the Lions were 30th in pressure rate, per SIS, and 32nd in Pass Rush Win Rate last season. They could use a massive upgrade — or at least more depth — at the position. **Julian Okwara** was drafted in the third round and joins his brother **Romeo Okwara** on the edge opposite Flowers.

Hey, look, another former Patriot. **Jamie Collins** was a swiss army knife in his second stint with New England. He played off-ball, had plus coverage, and was one of the league's best pass rushing linebackers (he led all linebackers with 100+ pass rush snaps in pressure rate per SIS). None of that translated to Cleveland when he left New England the first time bit with a former Patriots defensive coordinator running this defense, Collins should be used in a similar way.

There's a lot of linebackers on the depth chart, but not a lot of plus production. **Jahlani Tavai** gave some flashes in his rookie season, but there's still plenty of questions among this group.

The Lions traded away **Darius Slay**, which left a big hole on the outside. Detroit filled that with the selection of **Jeff Okudah** with the third overall pick. **Okudah** is one of the best overall cornerback prospects and should flourish in a man-heavy defense. **Desmond Trufant**, who struggled with the Falcons last season, is on the roster but is nowhere near a sure thing. **Justin Coleman** was the big free agent acquisition last season and his play fell off terribly in 2019 after a stellar season in the slot during 2018. There's hope he can bounce back. **Darryl Roberts** and **Tony McRae** don't add much as free agent acquisitions from this offseason, but there is some potential in **Amani Oruwariye** for his second season.

Duran Harmon finishes off the Patriots plan at safety. He played well at safety in the Patriots dime-heavy looks and lined up in a few places across the secondary. **Tracy Walker** also covered quite well last season and saved the backend of the Lions' secondary after the **Quandre Diggs** trade. **Jayron Kearse** was a good third safety with the Vikings and could get on the field more often with the Lions.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	60%
All Pass Rk	13
All Rush %	40%
All Rush Rk	20
1 Score Pass %	58%
1 Score Pass Rk	19
2018 1 Score Pass %	57%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	19
2019 Pass Increase %	1%
Pass Increase Rk	18
1 Score Rush %	42%
1 Score Rush Rk	14
Up Pass %	57%
Up Pass Rk	2
Up Rush %	43%
Up Rush Rk	31
Down Pass %	65%
Down Pass Rk	19
Down Rush %	35%
Down Rush Rk	14

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	5	20%	80%	40%
	Med (4-7)	10	40%	60%	30%
	Long (8-10)	297	43%	57%	46%
	XL (11+)	20	65%	35%	35%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	36	33%	67%	78%
	Med (4-7)	76	55%	45%	57%
	Long (8-10)	90	47%	53%	47%
	XL (11+)	44	82%	18%	23%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	43	60%	40%	65%
	Med (4-7)	49	90%	10%	41%
	Long (8-10)	36	97%	3%	47%
	XL (11+)	32	97%	3%	16%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	3	33%	67%	100%
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
41%	59%

37% AVG *63%*

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
65%	21%

68% AVG *23%*

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
35%	79%

32% AVG *77%*

Detroit Lions 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
61%	21	66%	79%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
39%	12	34%	44%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Kerryon Johnson	3	33%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Kerryon Johnson	4	0%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Kerryon Johnson	46	52%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Marvin Jones	5	40%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Kerryon Johnson	8	75%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Kenny Golladay	11	55%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Bo Scarbrough	12	50%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Danny Amendola	8	38%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Kenny Golladay	7	71%
		RUSH	Kerryon Johnson	7	57%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Danny Amendola	7	43%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Kenny Golladay	13	69%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Ty Johnson	4	0%
			Marvin Jones	4	25%
			J.D. McKissic	4	25%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 41% YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 83.6 *[Att: 305 - Rate: 50.2%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 9.6, EPA: 0.17 Rtg: 90.6 *[Att: 79 - Rate: 13.0%]*	Success: 42% YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.02 Rtg: 85.0 *[Att: 384 - Rate: 63.2%]*
Yes	Success: 46% YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.02 Rtg: 97.8 *[Att: 167 - Rate: 27.5%]*	Success: 46% YPA: 9.9, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 96.1 *[Att: 57 - Rate: 9.4%]*	Success: 46% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 97.3 *[Att: 224 - Rate: 36.8%]*
Total	Success: 42% YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.00 Rtg: 88.4 *[Att: 472 - Rate: 77.6%]*	Success: 48% YPA: 9.7, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 92.9 *[Att: 136 - Rate: 22.4%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 89.4 *[Att: 608 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Kenny Golladay	Marvin Jones	Danny Amendola	T.J. Hockenson	Jesse James	Logan Thomas	Ty Johnson	Kerryon Johnson	J.D. McKissic
1	ARI	T 27-27	86 (98%)	71 (81%)	47 (53%)	64 (73%)	51 (58%)	7 (8%)	8 (9%)	50 (57%)	5 (6%)
2	LAC	W 13-10	56 (92%)	56 (92%)	35 (57%)	48 (79%)	30 (49%)	6 (10%)	13 (21%)	33 (54%)	4 (7%)
3	PHI	W 27-24	51 (80%)	53 (83%)	23 (36%)	42 (66%)	35 (55%)	19 (30%)	13 (20%)	48 (75%)	6 (9%)
4	KC	L 34-30	69 (90%)	74 (96%)		42 (55%)	37 (48%)	24 (31%)	11 (14%)	54 (70%)	27 (35%)
6	GB	L 23-22	47 (80%)	48 (81%)	20 (34%)	33 (56%)	33 (56%)	21 (36%)	2 (3%)	43 (73%)	14 (24%)
7	MIN	L 42-30	62 (82%)	73 (96%)	54 (71%)	51 (67%)	28 (37%)	12 (16%)	49 (64%)	11 (14%)	19 (25%)
8	NYG	W 31-26	52 (83%)	55 (87%)	42 (67%)	42 (67%)	22 (35%)	7 (11%)	25 (40%)		16 (25%)
9	OAK	L 31-24	58 (82%)	63 (89%)	43 (61%)	46 (65%)	20 (28%)	19 (27%)	44 (62%)		27 (38%)
10	CHI	L 20-13	78 (94%)	76 (92%)	56 (67%)	48 (58%)	28 (34%)	18 (22%)	12 (14%)		58 (70%)
11	DAL	L 35-27	60 (92%)	57 (88%)	36 (55%)	48 (74%)	15 (23%)	22 (34%)	19 (29%)		15 (23%)
12	WAS	L 19-16	68 (91%)	67 (89%)	46 (61%)	33 (44%)	32 (43%)	28 (37%)	27 (36%)		11 (15%)
13	CHI	L 24-20	73 (96%)	73 (96%)	57 (75%)	43 (57%)	27 (36%)	19 (25%)	25 (33%)		17 (22%)
14	MIN	L 20-7	67 (94%)	71 (100%)	57 (80%)		38 (54%)	40 (56%)	21 (30%)		16 (23%)
15	TB	L 38-17	60 (94%)		55 (86%)		38 (59%)	42 (66%)	29 (45%)		12 (19%)
16	DEN	L 27-17	48 (96%)		41 (82%)		29 (58%)	31 (62%)	12 (24%)	16 (32%)	7 (14%)
17	GB	L 23-20	23 (38%)		44 (73%)		39 (65%)	28 (47%)	8 (13%)	27 (45%)	8 (13%)
	Grand Total		958 (86%)	837 (90%)	656 (64%)	540 (63%)	502 (46%)	343 (32%)	318 (29%)	282 (53%)	262 (23%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	61%	60%	45%
1-2 [2WR]	18%	20%	48%
2-1 [2WR]	10%	8%	52%
2-2 [1WR]	4%	4%	33%
1-3 [1WR]	3%	3%	42%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	71%	42%	53%
1-2 [2WR]	45%	51%	44%
2-1 [2WR]	34%	52%	52%
2-2 [1WR]	25%	40%	30%
1-3 [1WR]	33%	45%	41%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Kenny Golladay	15	5	7	3
Marvin Jones	15	4	5	6
Danny Amendola	8	1	2	5
Logan Thomas	7	1	1	5
T.J. Hockenson	7	3	1	3
J.D. McKissic	2	1		1
Jesse James	2		1	1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Kerryon Johnson	21	10	5	6
Ty Johnson	7	1	4	2
Bo Scarbrough	6	1	3	2
Jeff Driskel	4	1	2	1
Wes Hills	3	3		
C.J. Anderson	2			2
Matthew Stafford	2		1	1

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	13%	24%	63%
	23%	*21%*	*56%*
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	36%	46%	51%
	#31	#26	#17

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	6	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	0.0	
03. Wins	3	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	25
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	14
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	10
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	11
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	7
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	25
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	23
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	8
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	13
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	26
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	16
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	18
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	7
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	9
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	15
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	18
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	2
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	7
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	13
23.	PA Improvement Success	17
24.	PA Improvement YPA	2
25.	PA Improvement Rating	23
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	22
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	18
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	14
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	18
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	12
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	5
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	11
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	11
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	4
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	28

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.3
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.6
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.9
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.5
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	50%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%
42.	PSM Rating	88.4
43.	Non-PSM Rating	81.1

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45.	PA Success Rate	52%
46.	PA YPA	10.6
47.	PA Sack Rate	6.9%
48.	PA Rating	83.2
49.	PA Target Depth	13.6
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	47%
51.	Non-PA YPA	5.7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	4.8%
53.	Non-PA Rating	83.8
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	6.0

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	19%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.8
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	45%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.7
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	36%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	55%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.6

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	22	defFUM	23	
Net FROE	-2.1	defFUM Rcvrd	11	
offFUM	12	defFR Rk	13	
offFUM Rcvrd	4	defFR%	47.8%	
offFR%	33.3%	defFROE	0.3	
offFR Rk	31	defFROE Rk	13	
offFROE	-2.4			
offFROE Rk	31			
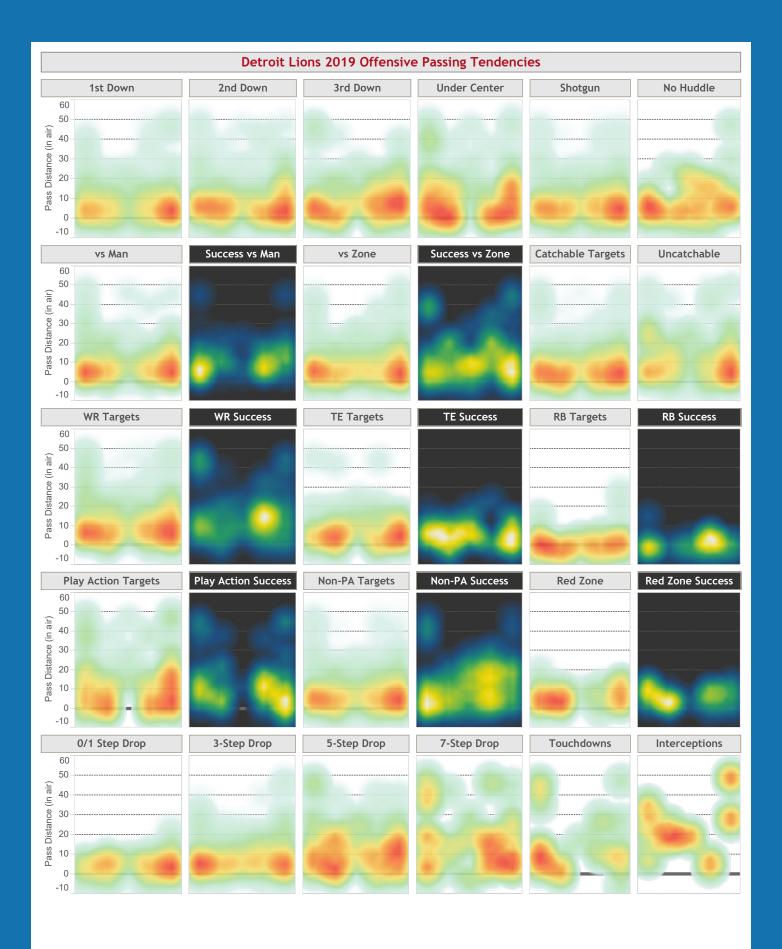
Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	84%	YOY Swing	-15%	
2019 FG Rk	13	YOY Swing Rk	26	
Opp 2019 FG %	79%	2018 Team Net	20%	
Opp 2019 FG Rk	24	2018 Net Rk	1	
2019 Team Net	4%			
2019 Net Rk	11			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Matthew Stafford	David Blough
CAY	8.3	6.8
CAY Rk	1	6
2018 CAY Rk	36	
AYTS Rk	1	12
2018 AYTS Rk	34	
AGG Rk	1	7
2018 AGG Rk	18	
COMP%	64.3	54
xCOMP%	60.9	62.5
xCOMP% Rk	38	30
2018 xCOMP% Rk	11	
CPOE%	3.4	-8.4
CPOE Rk	5	39
2018 CPOE Rk	22	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Matthew Stafford	David Blough
Pressure %	37.5	30.9
Pressure Rk	8	29
Sack %	15	23.3
Sack Rk	31	7
Under Pressure Accuracy %	56.5	47.1
Pressure Accuracy Rk	34	38
Rating when Pressured	77.2	7.5
Pressured Rating Rk	11	38
Clean Accuracy %	75.1	74.4
Clean Accuracy Rk	33	34
Rating when Clean	120	82.5
Clean Rating Rk	3	38
Time to Throw	2.69	2.88
Time to Throw Rk	31	6

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.03
EPA/Pass Rk	15
EPA/Rush	-0.09
EPA/Rush Rk	27
On-Target Catch %	85.4
On-Target Catch Rk	17
Drop%	9
Drop Rk	23
YAC/Att	2.3
YAC/Att Rk	21
Rush Broken Tackle %	13
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	26
Rush 1st Down %	20.4
Rush 1st Down Rk	27

Detroit Lions 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Matt LaFleur (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
Nathaniel Hackett (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Mike Pettine (2 yrs)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9	#1

Past Records

2019: 13-3
2018: 6-10
2017: 7-9

	MIN	DET	NO	ATL		TB	HOU	MIN	SF	JAX	IND	CHI	PHI	DET	CAR	TEN	CHI
	A	H	A	H		A	A	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	H	H	A
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

SNF   MNF   TNF   SNF   SNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
B.J. Goodson (ILB)	Browns
Blake Martinez (ILB)	Giants
Bryan Bulaga (RT)	Chargers
Dan Vitale (FB)	Patriots
Davon House (CB)	Retired
Geronimo Allison (WR)	Lions
Ibraheim Campbell (S)	Titans
Jason Spriggs (LT)	Bears
Jimmy Graham (TE)	Bears
Kyler Fackrell (34OLB)	Giants
Jared Veldheer (RT)	Null
Malcolm Johnson (TE)	Null
Ryan Grant (WR)	Null
Tramon Williams (CB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-1.9	11	5

2020 Green Bay Packers Overview

After a 7-9 record in 2017 and a 6-10 record in 2018, the Packers exploded to win 13 games in 2019. That's an increase of seven wins over their 2018 total.

In the last 30 years, there have been 52 teams to improve by six or more wins from one year to the next.

Only 18 of those 52 teams improved to record at least 12 wins, like the Packers (13 wins last year). Of those 18 teams:

- Zero won the same number or more games the following year.
- All lost at least two more games the following year.
- 13 lost at least four more games the following year.
- On average, these18 teams lost 5.9 more games the following year.

That would put the Packers down from 13 wins in 2019 to seven wins in 2020.

If you want to expand the sample from 18 teams to 35 teams, we can say if a team had an improvement of five or more wins (down from six in the prior example) from one year to the next and improved to at least 12 wins total. Still, the average decrease in wins is 4.8 (down from 5.9). And that would put the Packers at 8-8 in 2020.

Teams with the same core players don't just permanently get better overnight. A new coach can provide a slight boost, but there were a lot of factors that contributed to the massive turnaround Green Bay saw in 2019.

First, compare the 2018 Packers to the 2019 Packers:

(cont'd - see GB2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Christian Kirksey (43OLB)	$6.5
Ricky Wagner (RT)	$5.5
Devin Funchess (WR)	$2.5
Treyvon Hester (34DE)	$0.90
Gerald Willis (34DE)	$0.5
Jamal Davis (34DE)	$0.5

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	26	QB - Jordan Love (Utah State)
2	62	RB - A. J. Dillon (Boston College)
3	94	TE - Josiah Deguara (Cincinnati)
5	175	LB - Kamal Martin (Minnesota)
6	192	G - Jon Runyan Jr. (Michigan)
6	208	C - Jake Hanson (Oregon)
	209	G - Simon Stepaniak (Indiana)
7	236	FS - Vernon Scott (TCU)
7	242	DE - Jonathan Garvin (Miami (FL))

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	9
2019 Wins	13
Forecast 2019 Wins	9.5
2018 Wins	6
2017 Wins	7
2016 Wins	10

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS D.Savage 26
SS A.Amos 38
LB O.Burks 42
LB C.Kirksey NEW 58
RCB K.King 20
SLOTCB J.Jackson 37
DE P.Smith 55
DE K.Clark 97
DE D.Lowry 94
OLB Z.Smith 55
LCB J.Alexander 23

LWR D.Adams 17
LT D.Bakhtiari 69
LG L.Taylor* 65
C C.Linsley 63
RG B.Turner 77
RT R.Wagner* NEW 71
RWR D.Funchess NEW 11
SLOTWR A.Lazard 13
TE M.Lewis* 89

QB A.Rodgers 12
RB A.Jones 33
WR2 M.Valdes-Scadtling 83
WR3 E.Hanerow 16
RB2 A.Dillon Rookie 28
QB2 J.Love Rookie 10

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF   All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	10	$112.75M	1
QB	13	$23.62M	3
OL	2	$49.87M	2
RB	22	$7.89M	29
WR	14	$25.47M	19
TE	27	$5.90M	2
All DEF	5	$125.87M	30
DL	6	$54.77M	30
LB	4	$44.16M	12
CB	27	$10.55M	21
S	12	$16.39M	17

- The 2018 Packers won more games by over 14 points than they lost.
- The 2019 Packers lost more games by over 14 points than they won.

- The 2018 Packers played in 10 games decided by one score.
- The 2019 Packers played in 10 games decided by one score.

- The 2018 Packers won 3 of those 10 games.
- The 2019 Packers won 9 of those 10 games.

Digging deeper, in 2018, the Packers passed on 61% of early downs when the game was within one score (fourth-most in the NFL).

In 2019, the Packers passed on just 53% of early downs when the game was within one score (15th in the NFL).

Because of the more conservative nature of both the pass rate and of the passing attack in general, the Packers faced an average of 7.6 yards to go on third downs in one-score games, ranking fourth-worst in the NFL. The NFL average was 7.1 yards to go.

Compare that to 2018, with a more aggressive early-down offensive approach. The offense faced third and an average of only 6.9 yards to go in one-score games, which ranked 14th in the NFL and just above average.

The difference was, despite having fewer yards to go (6.9) the 2018 Packers converted only 33% of these third downs, which ranked 28th in the NFL overall but was worst for any of the 24 teams to average fewer than 7.5 yards to go.

Whereas the 2019 Packers converted 41% of these third-downs, which ranked 17th in the NFL overall but was fifth-best for any of the 20 teams that averaged at least 7.2 yards to go.

Not only was the 2018 offense putting the Packers in a better position to convert when on third down than the 2019 Packers, but the 2018 Packers were also better at bypassing third downs completely.

In 2018, the Packers ranked 13th in EDSR whereas the 2019 Packers ranked 17th.

In the entirety of the 2019 season, there were only two games that saw the Packers decisively win the EDSR battle: Week 6 vs the Lions and Week 16 vs the Vikings. In both games, it was not an offensive outburst of efficiency that led to the big EDSR win. In fact, the offense produced average EDSR results and the Packers scored 23 points in each game.

The decisive wins came thanks to defensive performances. The Packers held Stafford to 18/32, a 44% success rate, and a passer rating of just 83.5. They held Cousins to 16/29, a 41% success rate, only 4.2 YPA, and a 62.7 passer rating.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Aaron Rodgers	50% 6.5 92.6	42% 7.1 101.6	38% 8.3 93.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	50%	59%	81%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
GB	54% 4.5	51% 4.3	36% 3.3	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	50%	41%	19%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

Cousins threw for only 122 total yards on 29 attempts.

Looking deeper at the Packers defense, it is interesting to look at the quarterbacks the team faced, sorted by total attempts against, with a note indicating number of interceptions thrown:

94 – Mitchell Trubisky (3)
59 – Kirk Cousins (3)
38 – Kyle Allen (1)
37 – Daniel Jones (3)
35 – Matt Moore
32 – Matthew Stafford
28 – Joe Flacco
28 – Derek Carr (1)
27 – Carson Wentz

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	W	W	W	L	W	W	W	W	L	W		L	W	W	W	W	W
OPP	CHI	MIN	DEN	PHI	DAL	DET	OAK	KC	LAC	CAR		SF	NYG	WAS	CHI	MIN	DET
SITE	A	H	H	H	A	H	H	A	A	H		A	A	H	H	A	A
MARGIN	7	5	11	-7	10	1	18	7	-15	8		-29	18	5	8	13	3
PTS	10	21	27	27	34	23	42	31	11	24		8	31	20	21	23	23
OPP PTS	3	16	16	34	24	22	24	24	26	16		37	13	15	13	10	20

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **13**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-0**
FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):
15% (#20)
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **8-1**
1 Score Games Win %: **89% (#1)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **62% (#11)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+12
TO Given	13
INT Given	4
FUM Given	9
TO Taken	25
INT Taken	17
FUM Taken	8
Sack Margin	+5
Sacks	41
Sacks Allow	36
Return TD Margin	+0
Ret TDs	0
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	-3
Penalties	100
Opponent Penalties	97

Green Bay Packers 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD

EASY

Average Opponent

RANK

Legend:
- ◉ 2019 Actual
- Ⓖ 2020 Forecast

Passing / Rushing (Offense) — Passing / Rushing (Defense)

Categories (left to right):
Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
17	22	4	10	8	18	14	16

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-3.8	-2.4	1.6
Average O/U line	45.1	48.0	45.1
Straight Up Record	13-3	6-9	7-9
Against the Spread Record	10-6	6-10	7-9
Over/Under Record	4-10	8-8	11-5
ATS as Favorite	7-5	4-5	4-2
ATS as Underdog	3-1	2-5	3-7
Straight Up Home	7-1	5-2	4-4
ATS Home	5-3	4-4	3-5
Over/Under Home	2-5	4-4	4-4
ATS as Home Favorite	5-3	3-4	3-1
ATS as a Home Dog	0-0	1-0	0-4
Straight Up Away	6-2	1-7	3-5
ATS Away	5-3	2-6	4-4
Over/Under Away	2-5	4-4	7-1
ATS Away Favorite	2-2	1-1	1-1
ATS Away Dog	3-1	1-5	3-3
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	9-6	10-6
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-4	10-5
Ten Point Teaser Record	13-3	13-3	12-4

GB-3

27 – Philip Rivers
27 – Dak Prescott (3)
26 – Dwayne Haskins (1)
26 – David Blough (1)
19 – Jimmy Garoppolo
3 – Mike Glennon

The list is littered with backups, rookies, undrafted players, and mediocre quarterbacks. Note that only seven of the Packers' 17 interceptions taken last year came against non-rookie QBs who will be 2020 starters. In 2020, they still will face Cousins, likely two games vs Stafford instead of one, Rivers (now with the Colts), Wentz, and Garoppolo. But there will be a lot of new names and improved QB play as a whole.

Out: Mitch Trubisky, Kyle Allen, Matt Moore, Joe Flacco, Derek Carr, Dak Prescott and rookies Dwayne Haskins, Daniel Jones, and David Blough

In: Drew Brees, Tom Brady, Matt Ryan, Deshaun Watson,

(cont'd - see GB-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	1
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	3
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	-7
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	3
Week 11 Edge	-3
Week 12 Edge	-6
Week 13 Edge	1
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	14
2018 Rk	22
2019 v 2018 Rk	6
Off Rk	17
Def Rk	8
QB Rk	11
RB Rk	16
WR Rk	26
TE Rk	9
Oline Rk	18
Dline Rk	4
LB Rk	15
DB Rk	20

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
MIN	DET	NO	ATL	TB	HOU	MIN	SF	JAX	IND	CHI	PHI	DET	CAR	TEN	CHI
3.5	-6	6	-6	3	-1	-3	7	-11	2.5	-5	-3	-3	-10	-3.5	-1

Avg = -1.9

Home Lines

2	4	8	10	12	13	15	16
-6 DET	-6 ATL	-3 MIN	-11 JAX	-5 CHI	-3 PHI	-10 CAR	-3.5

Avg = -5.9

Road Lines

1	3	6	7	9	11	14	17
3.5 MIN	6 NO	3 TB	-1 HOU	7 SF	2.5 IND	-3 DET	-1 CHI

Avg = 2.1

Nick Foles, Ryan Tannehill, Teddy Bridgewater, and Gardner Minshew

It's impossible to predict health, but suffice it to say the Packers pass defense is in for a tougher road in 2020.

Immediately one of the biggest first impressions we got from the 2019 Packers was the way they jumped on opponents early. Their Week 1 game aside, the Packers went from Week 2 to 15 with the following per-quarter averages:

1st quarter: 105 points
2nd quarter: 68 points
3rd quarter: 86 points
4th quarter: 62 points

In the first quarter, the Packers averaged 8.1 yds/play and a 54% success rate. The rest of the game, they averaged 6.3 yds/play and a 46% success rate.

The way the Packers jumped on teams in the first quarter came on the shoulders of two key elements: first downs from 11 personnel and tremendous second down playcalling.

The Packers used 11 personnel on first quarter first downs more than double any other grouping. They went 60% pass on such plays, which was extremely aggressive and was the third-highest rate in the NFL (average was 46% pass). These passes had a very low aDOT but a high success rate. They averaged just 4.9 air yards per attempt but recorded a 73% success rate and gained 8.4 YPA.

The key to springing these was play-action. Without play-action on such passes, **Aaron Rodgers** averaged just 6.6 YPA with a 57% success rate and 83 rating. But with play-action, they averaged 10.6 YPA with a 92% success rate and 139 rating.

These passes were very short (3.8 air yards). The floor on these short passes was extremely high and Matt LaFleur fooled defenses by throwing more from 11 than opponents expected (60% pass) after using play-action to draw defenders.

As effective as these plays were, what LaFleur did on second downs was equally impressive.

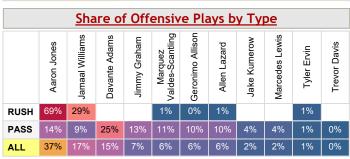After throwing extremely short on first down (6.1 air yds/pass, below the 7.4 NFL

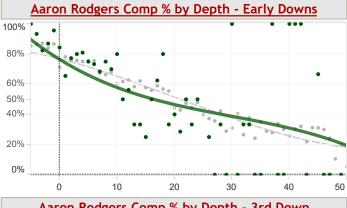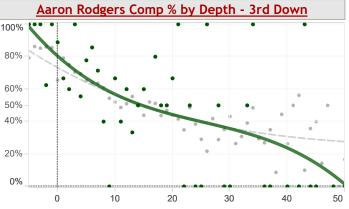## Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Aaron Jones	8%	3%	71%	8%	10%
	Jamaal Williams	10%	7%	62%	9%	12%
	Marquez Valdes-Sca..			100%		
	Geronimo Allison			100%		
	Allen Lazard		50%	50%		
	Tyler Ervin	33%		33%	33%	
	Total	9%	4%	69%	8%	10%
PASS	Aaron Jones	9%	9%	72%	3%	7%
	Jamaal Williams	25%	8%	54%	13%	
	Davante Adams	21%	4%	67%	6%	2%
	Jimmy Graham	16%	6%	63%	7%	7%
	Marquez Valdes-Sca..	7%	2%	77%	4%	11%
	Geronimo Allison	7%	9%	68%	4%	13%
	Allen Lazard	25%	4%	66%	6%	
	Jake Kumerow	18%	14%	50%	9%	9%
	Marcedes Lewis	10%	5%	60%	15%	10%
	Tyler Ervin	60%		40%		
	Trevor Davis			100%		
	Total	16%	6%	66%	6%	6%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Aaron Jones	Jamaal Williams	Davante Adams	Jimmy Graham	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	Geronimo Allison	Allen Lazard	Jake Kumerow	Marcedes Lewis	Tyler Ervin	Trevor Davis
RUSH	69%	29%				1%	0%	1%			1%	
PASS	14%	9%	25%	13%	11%	10%	10%	4%	4%	1%	0%
ALL	37%	17%	15%	7%	6%	6%	6%	2%	2%	1%	0%

Aaron Rodgers Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Aaron Rodgers Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate
0% — 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	45%, 0.05 (481)	40%, 0.04 (92)	47%, 0.07 (73)	42%, 0.22 (12)	40%, 0.29 (5)	0%, -0.27 (2)	33%, 0.86 (3)	44%, 0.06 (668)
RUSH	55%, 0.08 (199)	50%, -0.02 (137)	51%, -0.10 (59)	46%, -0.04 (24)	19%, -0.49 (31)	50%, -0.07 (4)		50%, -0.02 (454)
All	48%, 0.06 (680)	46%, 0.01 (229)	48%, -0.01 (132)	44%, 0.05 (36)	22%, -0.39 (36)	33%, -0.14 (6)	33%, 0.86 (3)	47%, 0.03 (1,122)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Aaron Jones	53% (40) 8.5, 0.25	17% (12) 1.9, -0.25	65% (17) 4.8, 0.11		49% (69) 6.4, 0.13
	Jamaal Williams	50% (36) 5.5, 0.20	50% (2) 6.5, 0.30	43% (7) 4.7, 0.31	0% (1) 5.0, -0.79	48% (46) 5.4, 0.20
TE	Jimmy Graham	53% (57) 7.8, 0.37	29% (7) 7.1, -0.04	0% (2) 0.0, -0.33		48% (66) 7.5, 0.31
WR	Davante Adams	62% (101) 9.0, 0.51	56% (32) 8.6, 0.26	40% (10) 5.1, -0.51	0% (1) 8.0, 0.22	59% (144) 8.7, 0.38
	Geronimo Allison	43% (54) 5.3, 0.01	0% (1) -1.0, -0.82	0% (2) 2.5, -0.36		40% (57) 5.1, -0.02
	Marquez Valdes-Sc..	26% (42) 6.5, -0.20	80% (5) 20.2, 1.19	44% (9) 9.6, 0.51		34% (56) 8.2, 0.04
	Allen Lazard	68% (28) 10.3, 0.61		100% (1) 43.0, 2.50		69% (29) 11.4, 0.68

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Jones Aaron	57% (113) 4.1, 0.05	49% (95) 4.4, -0.02	53% (38) 5.2, -0.10	50% (6) 1.5, -0.03	53% (252) 4.3, 0.00
Williams Jamaal	53% (49) 5.6, 0.17	47% (34) 3.4, -0.07	44% (18) 3.1, -0.22	50% (2) 3.5, -0.26	50% (103) 4.4, 0.02
Rodgers Aaron	56% (25) 7.1, 0.15	75% (4) 5.8, 0.59		6% (17) -0.6, -0.66	39% (46) 4.1, -0.11

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	52% (214) 8.5, 0.29
M2M	48% (163) 8.1, 0.29
Screen	55% (84) 5.6, 0.08

Passing by Route

Screen	52% (64) 6.7, 0.08
Out	57% (61) 6.9, 0.24
Flat	47% (49) 5.7, 0.05
Curl	50% (38) 6.2, 0.14
Slant	61% (28) 7.3, 0.21
Dig	47% (19) 6.9, 0.18

Throw Types

Level 1	52% (332) 6.4, 0.15
Level 2	54% (129) 9.8, 0.42
Level 3	32% (63) 11.3, 0.34
Shovel	68% (19) 4.5, 0.34
Sidearm	44% (16) 5.8, 0.23

QB Drop Types

3 Step	47% (196) 7.6, 0.31
5 Step	50% (134) 9.0, 0.27
0/1 Step	51% (93) 5.7, 0.00
7 Step	52% (44) 10.1, 0.53
Basic Screen	43% (21) 5.5, 0.03
Designed Rollout Right	63% (19) 11.4, 0.53

QB State at Pass

Planted	48% (396) 7.7, 0.21
Moving	39% (118) 5.9, -0.04
Shuffling	53% (117) 6.3, 0.31

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	53% (110) 9.6, 0.23	60% (40) 6.3, 0.31
Shotgun	44% (68) 4.8, -0.20	41% (454) 6.9, 0.04
ALL	49% (178) 7.8, 0.06	43% (494) 6.8, 0.06

Run Types

Inside Zone	61% (137) 5.4, 0.14
Outside Zone	39% (82) 3.1, -0.21
Pitch	51% (59) 4.4, -0.03
Stretch	48% (23) 3.3, -0.11
Lead	38% (16) 1.9, -0.14
Power	40% (5) 3.0, -0.20

GB-5

avg), the Packers came back with deep passes on second down (9.2 air yds/pass, well above the 6.5 NFL avg). That aDOT ranked second-highest in the entire NFL. The Packers run game wasn't good at all on second downs in the first quarter (43% success, 4.2 YPC) but this deep, aggressive pass game off of the conservative first down pass game stunned many opponents out the gates. Rodgers averaged 11.4 YPA, a 60% success rate, a 154 passer rating, and 6:0 TD:INT. He was the best quarterback in the NFL on this down. The Packers didn't rely on play-action, using it on just 39% of dropbacks and were even more explosive without it.

Football is an inherently low sample size sport, so there is an amount of luck and variance sprinkled heavily about. But it's tough to argue against what went right in close games. Great turnover differential made things easier thanks to playing a terrible slate of quarterbacks and so did great first quarter play scripting with a first-year playcaller. Without those, the 2019 Packers don't hit double-digit wins.

This begs the question: is this year's Packers team better than the 2019 edition?

They will have to be, specifically on offense, because their schedule is tougher. After playing the 19th-toughest schedule of opposing defenses in 2019, they will now face the forecast ninth-toughest schedule of opposing defenses in 2020. Specifically it will be more difficult by facing the fourth-toughest slate of run defenses after paying a league-average schedule in 2019. And we mentioned how the caliber of opposing quarterbacks will be significantly more challenging.

The Packers didn't do themselves many favors with the 2020 draft in terms of taking the next step. Drafting Rodgers's replacement plus a bruising running back and a TE/FB isn't exactly the way you take a leap to improve the passing offense.

Keep in mind, a big part of the Packers' passing attack was surprising defenses in the first quarter en route to ranking as the fourth-best passing attack in the first quarter. But they ranked 19th over the rest of the game. That surprise may be lessened this year. Additionally, when divisional defenses saw this offense for a second time, things were very different.

Meeting one: 6.7 YPA, 94 rating, 5:1 TD:INT.
Meeting two: 5.9 YPA, 74 rating, 3:2 TD:INT.

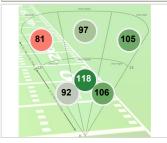# Green Bay Packers 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Packers closed 2019 17th in the league in both successful play rate through the air (44%), and in passing yards per attempt (7.0). They were able to rank seventh in EPA via their passing offense, propelled by a league-low four interceptions. Whether you want to chalk the root of the issue up to late-career fragility, supporting cast, or scheme change, **Aaron Rodgers** has not been the tide-lifting passer he was over the front half of his career. After averaging 7.5 yards per pass attempt in each of his first seven seasons as a starting quarterback, Rodgers has now averaged 7.1 yards per pass attempt over the past five seasons with a high of 7.4 yards. In his first season without Mike McCarthy, Rodgers threw for 7.0 yards per pass attempt, which ranked 22nd among all quarterbacks to start multiple games a year ago. The Packers declined to add any significant weapons in the passing game this offseason outside of **Davante Adams** and appear determined on driving their offense through the run game over Rodgers at this stage.

Positive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Aaron Rodgers	400	635	63%	4,571	7.2	30	6	41	96	16
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

Aaron Rodgers Rating Early Downs

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Aaron Rodgers	44%	46%	59	9.0%	27	4.0%	5.5	5.9	34	5%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Interception Rates by Down

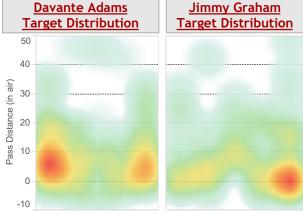| Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.6%
10 - 14	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
15+	0.0%	7.4%	5.0%		4.7%
Total	0.4%	1.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.9%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Aaron Rodgers	8.9	5.4	-3.5	72%	31
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
48%	52%	40
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Green Bay was middle of the road a year ago utilizing their playmakers. The team ranked 14th in yards per target (8.2 yards) and 18th in success rate (50%) targeting their wide receivers. Anchored by Davante Adams, his 127 targets were 71 more than the next highest wide receiver on the team. The team added **Devin Funchess** to the room in 2020 while they lost **Geronimo Allison**. The Packers were 22nd in success rate targeting their tight ends. Moving on from **Jimmy Graham**, Green Bay will look for second-year Jace Sternberger to make a major stride after taking him in the third round a year ago. Where Green Bay was strongest was getting the ball to their backs through the air. The Packers were 11th in success rate targeting their backs.

Davante Adams Target Distribution

Jimmy Graham Target Distribution

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Davante Adams	149	67%	8.7	104.3	58%	26	18	46	74	6
Aaron Jones	76	72%	6.6	107.6	47%	92	60	53	97	4
Jimmy Graham	72	63%	7.7	100.2	47%	94	101	76	89	3
Geronimo Allison	60	62%	5.1	78.9	40%	127	94	123	5	2
Marquez Valdes-Sca..	58	47%	7.9	78.2	33%	136	136	1	137	2
Allen Lazard	56	68%	9.2	114.7	61%	13	15	30	88	3
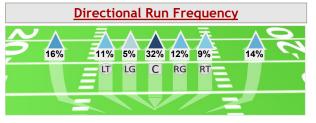
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Matt LaFleur has been vocal about his desire to run the football effectively and Green Bay did just that in 2019. They ranked seventh in the league in success rate (51%) and 10th in EPA on the ground during his first season with the Packers while ranking 15th in rushing yardage per game 112.2. With 1,084 yards and 16 touchdowns rushing on just 236 carries, Aaron Jones remained one of the most efficient runners in the league. He ranked 10th among all running backs in success rate (55%) and fourth among all backs with more than 200 carries in that area. The team added a big and athletic back in the second round in the draft in **A.J. Dillon**, further reinforcing the Packers' desire to run the ball while limiting the overall rushing volume for Jones.

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Aaron Jones	269	4.5	55%	13	7	23	35	55%	10	19
Jamaal Williams	111	4.2	51%	25	49	14	67	53%	17	1
Aaron Rodgers	52	3.8	37%	77	82	17	54	42%	62	1

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

The Path for Davante Adams to be the top fantasy WR in 2020 is set
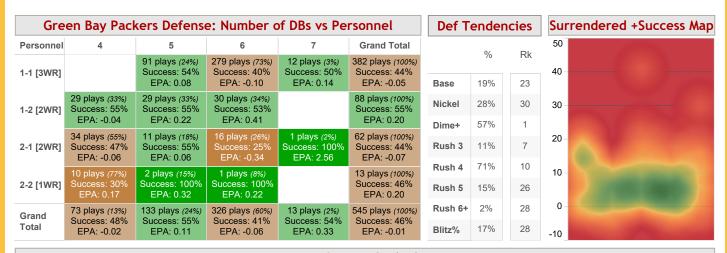
Some poor touchdown variance and a turf toe injury dampened the front half of the 2019 season for Davante Adams, but over the final 10 games of the 2019 season including the playoffs, Adams caught 75-of-113 targets for 917 yards and seven touchdowns. For fantasy purposes, he averaged 20.9 PPR points per game over that span. Over those 10 games, he scored fewer than 18.8 PPR points twice. With no other viable pass catchers in the Green Bay offense, Adams accounted for 33.4% of the Green Bay targets, 34.4% of the receptions, 40.5% of the receiving yards, and 50% of the receiving touchdowns while averaging 2.57 yards per team pass attempt. For the season, Michael Thomas accounted for 33.1% of the New Orleans targets, catching 35.6% of their team receptions for 38.9% of the yardage and 25% of the touchdowns through the air while averaging 2.96 yards per team pass attempt. Now, the Packers currently are sitting on nearly the same group of pass catchers they had in those games a year ago, swapping out **Jimmy Graham** for **Jace Sternberger** and adding **Devin Funchess** while losing **Geronimo Allison**. Adams is set up as an early offseason favorite to lead the NFL in targets while no player in the league has more receiving touchdowns that Adams does over the past four seasons (40).

Is Aaron Jones a trap this season?

Only Christian McCaffrey scored more PPR fantasy points than Aaron Jones did a year ago while he ranked third in points per game (19.7). Jones averaged over 5.0 yards per touch in each of his first three NFL seasons while his touch counts rose each year from 90 to 150 to 285. He has improved and received more opportunities as a receiver in each season as well, with 18, 35, and 68 targets through three seasons while his yards per catch warranted the increase, from 2.4 yards to 7.9 and 9.7. There is a lot to love about Jones the player.

But Jones still has a few things orbiting his situation and usage that could spell trouble. While his usage has gone up yearly, he still does not touch the ball like an elite back. Jones was third in fantasy points per game, but averaged 17.8 touches per game, which was 14th at the position. He handled 63.8% of the Green Bay backfield touches, which ranked 13th at his position. Jones also is surely due for touchdown regression. His 19 touchdowns on 285 touches ranked 11th for all backs with 200 or more touches in scoring rate per touch (6.7%) since 1990. Of the 10 backs ahead of him in scoring rate, all 10 scored fewer touchdowns the following season with the average loss of 10.9 touchdowns scored. Jones out-kicked his expected red zone fantasy point total by a league-leading 42.6 points. The Packers could be incentivized to use their new 247-pound back A.J. Dillon near the goal line this season while the Packers themselves should regress towards the mean of passing touchdown rate in 2020. Green Bay was 25th in the league in passing touchdown split (59.1%) on offense a year ago.

We also need to keep tabs on that receiving increase he had a year ago, as a lot of his high-ceiling moments through the air came with Davante Adams off the field. In the 12 regular season games Adams appeared in, Jones averaged 2.3 receptions on 3.5 targets (9.5% team share) for 3.9 PPR receiving points per game. In the four games Adams missed, Jones was the Packers' leading receiver with 5.5 receptions on 6.8 targets per game (19.7%) and 17.0 receiving points per game. For context, Christian McCaffrey averaged 15.0 receiving points per game for the season.

Green Bay Packers Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]		91 plays (24%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.08	279 plays (73%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.10	12 plays (3%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.14	382 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.05
1-2 [2WR]	29 plays (33%) Success: 55% EPA: -0.04	29 plays (33%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.22	30 plays (34%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.41		88 plays (100%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.20
2-1 [2WR]	34 plays (55%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.06	11 plays (18%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.06	16 plays (26%) Success: 25% EPA: -0.34	1 plays (2%) Success: 100% EPA: 2.56	62 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.07
2-2 [1WR]	10 plays (77%) Success: 30% EPA: 0.17	2 plays (15%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.32	1 plays (8%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.22		13 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.20
Grand Total	73 plays (13%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.02	133 plays (24%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.11	326 plays (60%) Success: 41% EPA: -0.06	13 plays (2%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.33	545 plays (100%) Success: 46% EPA: -0.01

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	19%	23
Nickel	28%	30
Dime+	57%	1
Rush 3	11%	7
Rush 4	71%	10
Rush 5	15%	26
Rush 6+	2%	28
Blitz%	17%	28

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

After spending most of their focus on the defense last offseason, the Packers mostly left the unit alone this offseason. That's not necessarily a bad thing since there's a lot of talent on this unit.

Kenny Clark is fantastic. He was 14th among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season among 97 tackles with at least 100 pass rushes. He's 25 and is in the final year of his rookie contract and should be in line for a huge extension. **Dean Lowry** and **Tyler Lancaster** provide fine depth next to Clark, but the hope is 2019 fifth-round pick Kingsley will get more playing time in his second year. The Packers also often kick their edge rushers inside, which lowers the need for more true interior linemen.

Last year's free agency spending spree worked out for the Packers on the edge. **Za'Darius Smith** finished eighth in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate among edge rushers last season and **Preston Smith** was 10th. **Rashan Gary** played through injuries but did little to suggest he wasn't a reach in the middle of last year's first round. The Smiths both played 83% of the defensive snaps last season, which is a tough ask for multiple seasons.

No team played more Dime than the Packers last season at 52% of defensive plays. That leaves just one off-ball linebacker on the field for over half of plays. That was the role of **Blake Martinez** last season and will fall on the newly signed **Christian Kirksey** in 2020. **Oren Burks** is a high SPARQ athlete who could fill in with upside if needed.

Jaire Alexander has turned into one of the NFL's better young corners and **Chandon Sullivan** ranked fourth in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap in 2019 among 145 corners with at least 100 coverage snaps, per SIS. Sullivan played just a third of the defensive snaps last season but should have a bigger role without **Tramon Williams** on the field. The biggest question comes at No. 2 corner and the uneven performance from **Kevin King**.

Safety was another position the Packers transformed in the 2019 offseason. **Adrian Amos** was signed from the Bears and **Darnell Savage** was drafted in the first round of the draft. Both exceeded expectations on the backend of the secondary.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	60%
All Pass Rk	17
All Rush %	40%
All Rush Rk	16
1 Score Pass %	60%
1 Score Pass Rk	13
2018 1 Score Pass %	65%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	3
2019 Pass Increase %	-4%
Pass Increase Rk	26
1 Score Rush %	40%
1 Score Rush Rk	20
Up Pass %	54%
Up Pass Rk	8
Up Rush %	46%
Up Rush Rk	25
Down Pass %	66%
Down Pass Rk	18
Down Rush %	34%
Down Rush Rk	15

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	12	42%	58%	25%
	Med (4-7)	8	63%	38%	63%
	Long (8-10)	335	50%	50%	57%
	XL (11+)	19	79%	21%	21%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	59	44%	56%	76%
	Med (4-7)	93	62%	38%	47%
	Long (8-10)	97	63%	37%	41%
	XL (11+)	37	92%	8%	19%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	32	66%	34%	59%
	Med (4-7)	58	97%	3%	47%
	Long (8-10)	39	92%	8%	33%
	XL (11+)	27	89%	11%	7%
	35	1	0%	100%	0%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	5	20%	80%	60%
	Med (4-7)	4	100%	0%	75%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	100%
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
41%	59%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
66%	22%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
34%	78%

32% AVG 77%

Green Bay Packers 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
56%	26	66%	80%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
44%	6	34%	80%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	6	33%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	3	67%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	108	59%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jamaal Williams	3	0%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	22	77%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	25	60%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	25	28%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Davante Adams	8	50%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Davante Adams	6	67%
		RUSH	Aaron Jones	6	67%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Davante Adams	10	60%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Davante Adams	6	67%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Marquez Valdes-Sca..	4	25%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 41% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 94.9 *[Att: 305 - Rate: 45.4%]*	Success: 52% YPA: 6.4, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 98.9 *[Att: 81 - Rate: 12.1%]*	Success: 43% YPA: 6.4, EPA: 0.01 Rtg: 95.7 *[Att: 386 - Rate: 57.4%]*
Yes	Success: 46% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.20 Rtg: 96.5 *[Att: 189 - Rate: 28.1%]*	Success: 47% YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.01 Rtg: 97.6 *[Att: 97 - Rate: 14.4%]*	Success: 46% YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 96.9 *[Att: 286 - Rate: 42.6%]*
Total	Success: 43% YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 95.5 *[Att: 494 - Rate: 73.5%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 98.2 *[Att: 178 - Rate: 26.5%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 96.2 *[Att: 672 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates
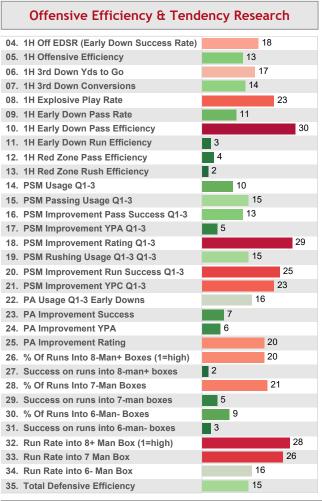
Wk	Opp	Score	Davante Adams	Aaron Jones	Geronimo Allison	Jimmy Graham	Marquez Valdes-S.	Allen Lazard	Jamaal Williams	Jake Kumerow	Dan Vitale
1	CHI	W 10-3	62 (97%)	38 (59%)	32 (50%)	35 (55%)	42 (66%)		26 (41%)	1 (2%)	11 (17%)
2	MIN	W 21-16	71 (96%)	43 (58%)	34 (46%)	54 (73%)	65 (88%)	1 (1%)	35 (47%)	6 (8%)	8 (11%)
3	DEN	W 27-16	52 (91%)	22 (39%)	26 (46%)	24 (42%)	50 (88%)	5 (9%)	35 (61%)		19 (33%)
4	PHI	L 34-27	55 (70%)	66 (84%)	63 (80%)	56 (71%)	68 (86%)	14 (18%)	1 (1%)		19 (24%)
5	DAL	W 34-24		50 (68%)	64 (86%)	52 (70%)	70 (95%)	1 (1%)		50 (68%)	12 (16%)
6	DET	W 23-22		36 (49%)	32 (43%)	54 (73%)	57 (77%)	17 (23%)	39 (53%)	65 (88%)	10 (14%)
7	OAK	W 42-24		34 (57%)	34 (57%)	33 (55%)	20 (33%)	51 (85%)	24 (40%)	43 (72%)	17 (28%)
8	KC	W 31-24		44 (64%)	44 (64%)	42 (61%)	43 (62%)	46 (67%)	32 (46%)	35 (51%)	14 (20%)
9	LAC	L 26-11	45 (83%)	32 (59%)	35 (65%)	35 (65%)	37 (69%)	25 (46%)	24 (44%)	13 (24%)	4 (7%)
10	CAR	W 24-16	54 (79%)	34 (50%)	42 (62%)	44 (65%)	11 (16%)	30 (44%)	34 (50%)	23 (34%)	13 (19%)
12	SF	L 37-8	60 (75%)	41 (51%)	54 (68%)	38 (48%)	30 (38%)	52 (65%)	39 (49%)	22 (28%)	9 (11%)
13	NYG	W 31-13	52 (78%)	39 (58%)	42 (63%)	28 (42%)	18 (27%)	37 (55%)	28 (42%)	14 (21%)	12 (18%)
14	WAS	W 20-15	52 (84%)	36 (58%)	36 (58%)	32 (52%)	10 (16%)	34 (55%)	26 (42%)	7 (11%)	12 (19%)
15	CHI	W 21-13	55 (93%)	35 (59%)	32 (54%)	25 (42%)	7 (12%)	46 (78%)	24 (41%)	11 (19%)	5 (8%)
16	MIN	W 23-10	62 (81%)	52 (68%)	33 (43%)	41 (53%)	11 (14%)	58 (75%)	21 (27%)	28 (36%)	8 (10%)
17	DET	W 23-20	78 (89%)	75 (85%)	54 (61%)	48 (55%)	20 (23%)	67 (76%)		17 (19%)	
	Grand Total		698 (85%)	677 (60%)	657 (59%)	641 (58%)	559 (51%)	484 (47%)	388 (42%)	335 (34%)	173 (17%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	60%	60%	48%
1-2 [2WR]	20%	20%	46%
2-1 [2WR]	12%	8%	48%
1-3 [1WR]	3%	3%	44%
2-2 [1WR]	3%	4%	22%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	71%	45%	55%
1-2 [2WR]	40%	40%	50%
2-1 [2WR]	55%	47%	51%
1-3 [1WR]	33%	42%	46%
2-2 [1WR]	14%	40%	19%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Davante Adams	24	3	3	18
Aaron Jones	14	2	3	9
Geronimo Allison	10	1	3	6
Jimmy Graham	10	3	3	4
Jamaal Williams	8	3	2	3
Allen Lazard	4		3	1
Marquez Valdes-Scan..	4	2		2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Aaron Jones	44	23	3	18
Jamaal Williams	13	2	3	8
Aaron Rodgers	11	5	3	3
Dan Vitale	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	26%	19%	55%
	23%	*21%*	*56%*
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	47%	49%	50%
	#11	#22	#18

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	9
02. Avg Halftime Lead	1.0
03. Wins	13

04. 1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	18
05. 1H Offensive Efficiency	13
06. 1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	17
07. 1H 3rd Down Conversions	14
08. 1H Explosive Play Rate	23
09. 1H Early Down Pass Rate	11
10. 1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	30
11. 1H Early Down Run Efficiency	3
12. 1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	4
13. 1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	2
14. PSM Usage Q1-3	10
15. PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	15
16. PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	13
17. PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	5
18. PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	29
19. PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	15
20. PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	25
21. PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	23
22. PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	16
23. PA Improvement Success	7
24. PA Improvement YPA	6
25. PA Improvement Rating	20
26. % Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	20
27. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	2
28. % Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	21
29. Success on runs into 7-man boxes	5
30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	9
31. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	3
32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	28
33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box	26
34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box	16
35. Total Defensive Efficiency	15

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

36. PSM YPA	7.6
37. PSM Target Depth	8.6
38. Non-PSM YPA	7
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	8.6
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%
42. PSM Rating	87.5
43. Non-PSM Rating	89.6

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45. PA Success Rate	57%
46. PA YPA	8.9
47. PA Sack Rate	5.1%
48. PA Rating	98.3
49. PA Target Depth	9.2
50. Non-PA Success Rate	46%
51. Non-PA YPA	5.7
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	3.5%
53. Non-PA Rating	96.8
54. Non-PA Target Depth	6.4

Men In Box

55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	20%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	58%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.7
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	54%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.5
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	60%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.4

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	28	defFUM	19
Net FROE	-2.9	defFUM Rcvrd	8
offFUM	15	defFR Rk	23
offFUM Rcvrd	6	defFR%	42.1%
offFR%	40.0%	defFROE	-0.8
offFR Rk	29	defFROE Rk	22
offFROE	-2.0		
offFROE Rk	27		

Field Goal Luck
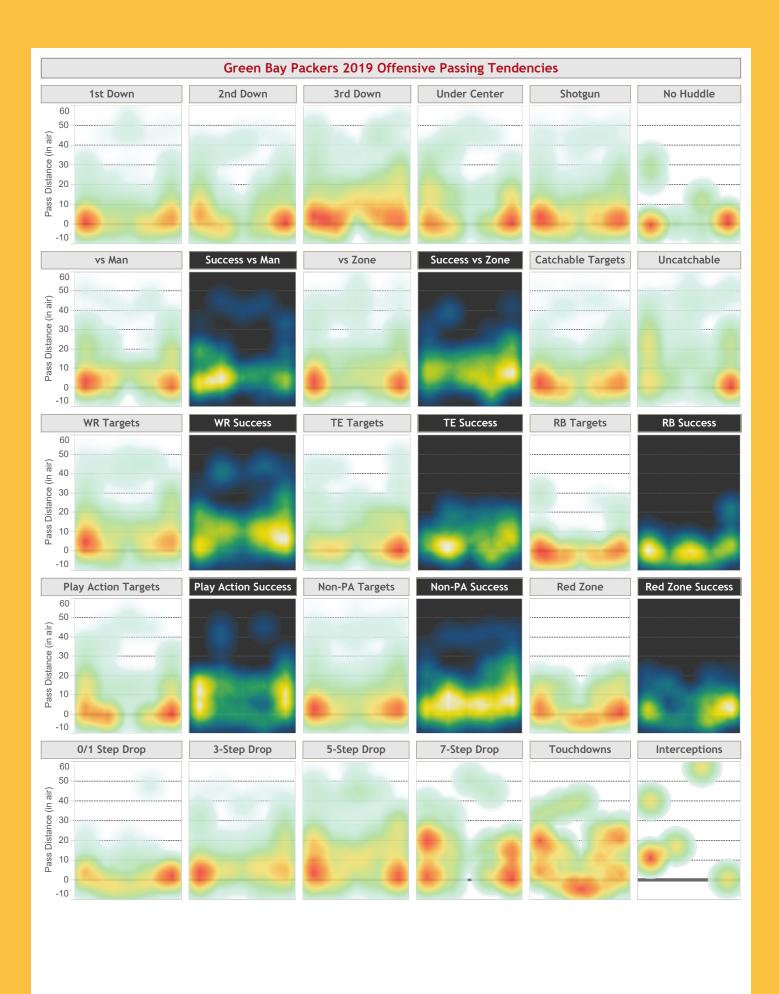
2019 FG %	92%	YOY Swing	1%
2019 FG Rk	5	YOY Swing Rk	15
Opp 2019 FG %	84%	2018 Team Net	7%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	13	2018 Net Rk	10
2019 Team Net	8%		
2019 Net Rk	7		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Aaron Rodgers

CAY	5.4
CAY Rk	27
2018 CAY Rk	15
AYTS Rk	6
2018 AYTS Rk	10
AGG Rk	29
2018 AGG Rk	30
COMP%	62
xCOMP%	63.8
xCOMP% Rk	21
2018 xCOMP% Rk	29
CPOE%	-1.7
CPOE Rk	27
2018 CPOE Rk	25

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

Aaron Rodgers

Pressure %	34.5
Pressure Rk	22
Sack %	16.5
Sack Rk	22
Under Pressure Accuracy %	64.3
Pressure Accuracy Rk	16
Rating when Pressured	74
Pressured Rating Rk	15
Clean Accuracy %	76.2
Clean Accuracy Rk	31
Rating when Clean	104.2
Clean Rating Rk	15
Time to Throw	2.88
Time to Throw Rk	6

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.05
EPA/Pass Rk	14
EPA/Rush	-0.02
EPA/Rush Rk	7
On-Target Catch %	83.6
On-Target Catch Rk	22
Drop%	9.3
Drop Rk	25
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	14.8
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	18
Rush 1st Down %	21.9
Rush 1st Down Rk	22

Green Bay Packers 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Aaron Rodgers attempted 49 RPOs in 2019 and these recorded a 49% success rate (-1.4 EPA), 4.1 YPA, and an 84 rating. Rodgers threw double the number of RPO attempts as in 2018 (24 attempts) but in 2018, Rodgers recorded a 63% success rate (3.1 EPA), 5.5 YPA, and a 103 rating on RPOs.

No one in the NFL threw more RPOs than Rodgers did in 2019, but of all players with at least 20 RPO attempts, Rodgers's success rate was the worst in the NFL. Compare that to 2018 when he threw the fourth-most RPOs but recorded the second-highest RPO success for any quarterback with at least 15 attempts. Of his 49 RPOs, 27 were easy completion screen passes but completions did not often equal success. The Packers struggled to create positive plays with screen tags to outside receivers off RPOs.

As for what we can expect if predicting the Packers defensive regression in 2020, I'll note that while they were a league-average defense in most categories and fringe top-10 in a few others, there were some glaring weaknesses that teams should be able to capitalize on. I'll share just three of at least a dozen:

● The Packers defense did a great job in the first half defending the perimeter but was extremely vulnerable between the numbers. Wide receivers saw far better production (63% success, 11.2 YPA) attacking the Packers between the numbers compared to outside the numbers (42% success, 8.5 YPA).
● The Packers defense was the NFL's most sensitive team to first half play-action (they gave up 22% more success and 4.5 more YPA on passes in the first half when play-action was used, both are the most in the NFL). Equally as important, the Packers did not record a single sack in the first half when play-action was used (0% sack rate vs 9.6% sack rate without play-action).
● The Packers defense ranked bottom-3 defending tight ends, regardless of whether they are aligned in the slot, in-line, or out wide (bottom-3 in every pre-snap alignment). The Packers allowed massive productivity to tight ends in the red zone (69% success, 5.8 YPA), particularly when compared to WRs (37% success, 2.6 YPA).

I predicted last May the Packers would face a league-average schedule in 2019 and they did. The story doesn't change, as I predicted they will face the exact same 15th-easiest schedule in 2020. After losing in California by a combined 63-19 margin, the Packers won't love facing the 49ers in San Francisco Week 9, but with the game being a short-week Thursday night game, it makes matters even worse for the Packers. West coast teams are 11-3 as home favorites on Thursday night, and are undefeated when hosting a team on Thursday not from the West coast.

Another issue for the Packers is they play three teams projected to win over 9.5 games, and all of these are on the road (at the Saints, at the Buccaneers, and at the 49ers). They have several home games against teams they shouldn't struggle with (Jaguars and Panthers) but it's always preferable to play tough games at home. Also intriguing is the Packers play two dome teams after Week 10 of the season, but both teams do not have to come to Lambeau.

In the last 30 years (and still strong of late), the Packers are 25-6 (81%) after week 10 of the season when hosting teams that play in domes when home. But Green Bay is just 16-13 (55%) over that same span when playing those dome teams on the road, in their dome.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Bill O'Brien (6 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Tim Kelly (HOU TE) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
Anthony Weaver (DL Coach) (new)

EASY HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
7.5	#3

Past Records

2019: 10-6
2018: 11-5
2017: 4-12

Schedule:
KC	BAL	PIT	MIN	JAX	TEN	GB		JAX	CLE	NE	DET	IND	CHI	IND	CIN	TEN
A	H	A	H	H	A	H		A	A	H	A	H	A	A	H	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF   TKG

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Barkevious Mingo (34OLB)	Bears
Carlos Hyde (RB)	Seahawks
D.J. Reader (34DT)	Bengals
DeAndre Hopkins (WR)	Cardinals
Johnathan Joseph (CB)	Titans
Mike Adams (FS)	Retired
Taiwan Jones (RB)	Bills
Tashaun Gipson (S)	Bears
Chris Clark (LT)	Null
Jahleel Addae (S)	Null
Joe Webb (QB)	Null
Lamar Miller (RB)	Null
Mike Adams (S)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
0.9	6	9

2020 Houston Texans Overview

The Texans are built like a team would be if they want to rally around a young quarterback. They have just the 23rd most cap space allotted to the position, and are top-10 in cap spending to the offensive line and wide receiver corps. You want a good, young quarterback and you want to give him protection.

From a pass blocking perspective, the Texans offensive line ranked eighth in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate metric and sixth in overall pass blocking grades. The dollars paid off in individual performance along the line.

However, we know a quarterback is a big part of the picture when it comes to controlling sack rate. And despite what was viewed through either player tracking data or trained graders as top-10 performance from the line, **Deshaun Watson** took on pressure on 38% of his 2019 dropbacks, the sixth-highest rate in the NFL.

It was better than 2018, where he was the most under-pressure quarterback in the NFL at 44.7%. That was better than 2017, where he was the most under-pressure QB in the NFL at 47.7%.

But it still isn't ideal. The problem for Watson is that he wants to make plays. (And truthfully, given his defense, he *needs* to make plays.) One look at his completion percentage by target depth graphics and you'll see how brilliant Watson is when going deep. And that takes time. His time in the pocket was second-highest in the NFL. His time until he took a sack was third-highest in the NFL. His time to run was fourth-highest in the NFL.

Spending a lot on the line and getting better pass protection is a good thing for a young quarterback, but keeping him out of pressured situations via his own adjustments as well as your coaching and route design is just as important.

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Brandin Cooks (WR)	Trade
David Johnson (RB)	Trade
Randall Cobb (WR)	$9
Eric Murray (S)	$6
Jaylen Watkins (S)	$1.5
Brent Qvale (LT)	$1
Michael Thomas (S)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	40	DT - Ross Blacklock (TCU)
3	90	OLB - Jonathan Greenard (Florida)
4	126	OT - Charlie Heck (North Carolina)
4	141	CB - John Reid (Penn State)
5	171	WR - Isaiah Coulter (Rhode Island)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	7.5
2019 Wins	10
Forecast 2019 Wins	8.5
2018 Wins	11
2017 Wins	4
2016 Wins	9

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS J.Reid 20
SS E.Murray 23
LB Z.Cunningham 41
LB B.McKinney 55
RCB G.Conley 22
SLOTCB V.Hargreaves 28
DLE W.Mercilus 59
DT A.Blackson 97
DT R.Blacklock Rookie 90
DRE J.Watt* 99
LCB B.Roby 21

LWR B.Cooks NEW 13
SLOTWR R.Cobb NEW 18
LT L.Tunsil 78
LG M.Scharping 74
C N.Martin 66
RG Z.Fulton 73
RT T.Howard 71
TE D.Fells* 87
RWR W.Fuller 15

QB D.Watson 4
RB D.Johnson NEW 31

WR2 K.Coutee 16
WR3 K.Stills 12
RB2 D.Johnson 29
QB2 A.McCarron 2

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF   All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	7	$113.80M	24
QB	24	$9.69M	27
OL	10	$43.96M	24
RB	2	$17.23M	2
WR	3	$36.20M	5
TE	24	$6.71M	29
All DEF	13	$102.09M	9
DL	16	$46.23M	17
LB	11	$28.53M	7
CB	16	$18.06M	12
S	20	$9.27M	13

And the Texans still have work to do there.

Beyond a cheap quarterback and expensive offensive line, the Texans have other issues with the salary cap which are less than ideal: the third-highest cap hit to wide receivers and to running backs.

Houston didn't want to pay their second-best player, **DeAndre Hopkins**, so they traded him away and took back **David Johnson's** ridiculous running back contract and draft capital. And yet the Texans still have the third-most salary cap tied into the wide receiver position this year.

How could that be possible?

First, by signing free agent **Randall Cobb** to a $27 million contract and giving him an average salary only eclipsed by 27 other wide receivers across the entire NFL.

The Texans also took on two expensive wide receiver contracts via trades, for **Brandin Cooks** ($8 million cap hit) and **Kenny Stills** ($7 million cap hit).

There are 25 NFL teams paying a wide receiver at least a $6 million in 2020 cap hit. Three of the 25 teams are paying more than two wide receivers $6 million. But the only team paying cap charges of at least $6 million to four receivers is the Houston Texans.

Aside from the three just mentioned, the most bizarre situation is the only home-grown receiver of the bunch: **Will Fuller**.

It is difficult to find talent in the NFL and even more difficult to find talent at the receiver position. Since the new CBA introduced fifth-year options, 28 receivers have been drafted in the first round with the option available. Only 15 of 28 were given the option — 54%. That's the lowest "hit rate" for any position with at least 12 players drafted.

Of those 15, only two players received the fifth-year option and either did not receive an extension, a trade, or were cut before that fifth-year kicked in: Kendall Wright and Nelson Agholor. Those were the only two receivers drafted in the first round, out of 28 since 2011, who played on the fifth-year option all the way through. Fuller is set to be the third.

Bill O'Brien wasn't the acting general manager when the Texans drafted Fuller, but he was when the Texans decided to give Fuller the fifth-year option. A big reason why it's so rare to play on the fifth-year option is the price structure. Take Fuller for example:

His cap hits have been between $2 million and $3 million over the last four years. But because of the fifth-year option in 2020, his cap hit jumps all the way to $10.2M. That's substantial. For that reason, for most teams that actually like their receiver, they sign them for a long-term deal at much cheaper cap hits. Or, they just let him walk in free agency. Or, they trade him. But it is extremely rare to allow the receiver to occupy such a high cap hit if you actually like him and allow him to hit free agency the next offseason.

But that is exactly what is happening with Fuller. O'Brien chose to pay him $10.2 million for a one-year rental, and allow him to hit free agency next spring. The two other receivers who let their first-round pick play out his fifth year did not re-sign them in free agency. Both went to new teams.

Which takes me back to the top of this discussion, the difficulty in finding talent in the NFL.
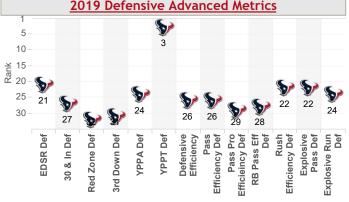
This offseason, the Texans could have worked out a deal with DeAndre Hopkins, one of their former first-round draft picks. And they could have created cap space by giving Fuller an extension. These are two first-round picks of the Texans and it's likely both will be gone.

Back to the salary cap problems, Houston has the third-most cap space tied up at the running back position. And who do they have in that stable?

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Deshaun Watson	50% 7.6 92.8	53% 8.0 106.3	42% 8.3 106.3	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	44%	62%	81%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
HOU	50% 4.6	51% 4.3	53% 5.7	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	56%	38%	19%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	L	W	W	L	W	W	L	W	W		L	W	W	L	W	W	L
OPP	NO	JAC	LAC	CAR	ATL	KC	IND	OAK	JAC		BAL	IND	NE	DEN	TEN	TB	TEN
SITE	A	H	A	H	H	A	A	H	N		A	H	H	H	A	A	H
MARGIN	-2	1	7	-6	21	7	-7	3	23		-34	3	6	-14	3	3	-21
PTS	28	13	27	10	53	31	23	27	26		7	20	28	24	24	23	14
OPP PTS	30	12	20	16	32	24	30	24	3		41	17	22	38	21	20	35

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **10**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **5-1**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **50% (#3)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **8-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **73% (#5)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **80% (#6)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+0
TO Given	22
INT Given	14
FUM Given	8
TO Taken	22
INT Taken	12
FUM Taken	10
Sack Margin	-17
Sacks	32
Sacks Allow	49
Return TD Margin	+1
Ret TDs	2
Ret TDs Allow	1
Penalty Margin	-2
Penalties	111
Opponent Penalties	109

HARD

EASY

Average Opponent

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

RANK

Chart data points (2019 Actual / 2020 Forecast):

Metric	Values
Total Efficiency	2, 8
DEF Efficiency	18
Pass Efficiency DEF	11, 12
YPPA Def	11, 24
Explosive Pass DEF	14, 18
Pass Pro Efficiency DEF	4, 5
Rush Efficiency DEF	25, 29
Explosive Rush DEF	13
RB Pass Eff DEF	25, 30
Red Zone Blend DEF	6, 18
YPPT Def	1, 31
Third Down Conv DEF	18, 25
OFF Efficiency	5, 11
Pass Efficiency OFF	5, 9
YPPA Off	4, 24
Explosive Pass OFF	13, 19
Pass Pro Efficiency OFF	3, 6
Rush Efficiency OFF	8, 9
Explosive Rush OFF	15, 16
RB Pass Eff OFF	7, 18
Red Zone Blend OFF	5
YPPT Off	3
Third Down Conv OFF	10, 12, 26

Passing | Rushing (Offense side); Passing | Rushing (Defense side)

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- 🏈 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
10	10	23	21	19	27	18	20

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-0.3	-3.0	3.6
Average O/U line	48.1	44.4	42.5
Straight Up Record	10-6	11-5	4-12
Against the Spread Record	8-8	8-7	7-9
Over/Under Record	6-8	7-9	8-8
ATS as Favorite	3-5	5-6	2-3
ATS as Underdog	5-3	3-1	5-6
Straight Up Home	5-3	6-2	3-5
ATS Home	2-6	4-4	3-5
Over/Under Home	4-3	3-5	4-4
ATS as Home Favorite	1-5	4-4	2-3
ATS as a Home Dog	1-1	0-0	1-2
Straight Up Away	4-3	5-3	1-7
ATS Away	5-2	4-3	4-4
Over/Under Away	2-4	4-4	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	1-0	1-2	0-0
ATS Away Dog	4-2	3-1	4-4
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	14-2	9-6
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-4	14-1	10-6
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-4	15-1	10-6

HOU-3

David Johnson has averaged no better than 3.7 YPC the last two years and was phased out of the Cardinals offense. Behind him is receiving back **Duke Johnson**, who I like in that role. But beyond that, there is precious little as the Texans no longer have **Carlos Hyde** or **Lamar Miller**. **Buddy Howell** is currently next in line behind David Johnson as the standard back, and he has five career rushing attempts despite logging two years in the NFL.

Once Watson's rookie deal expires and the Texans no longer have the good fortune of paying peanuts for outstanding quarterback play, there will be no way they can afford top-10 cap hits to the offensive line, wide receiver, and running back positions. But what does the future hold for 2020 before Watson inevitably breaks the bank?

To answer that question, let's start at the beginning — with last year's book. Last year's Texans chapter started by focusing on strength of schedule. Specifically, the Texans posting an 11-5 record and how it was entirely

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	1
Net Rest Edge	3
Week 2 Edge	3
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	7
Week 10 Edge	-7
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	3
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	1
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	19
2018 Rk	21
2019 v 2018 Rk	12
Off Rk	24
Def Rk	11
QB Rk	15
RB Rk	27
WR Rk	13
TE Rk	23
Oline Rk	22
Dline Rk	14
LB Rk	8
DB Rk	18

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
KC	BAL	PIT	MIN	JAX	TEN	GB	JAX	CLE	NE	DET	IND	CHI	IND	CIN	TEN
10.5	5	5	0	4	1	0	3	-3	1.5	-1.5	3.5	4.5	-8.5 (H)	-7 (H)	-1

Avg = 0.9 | Avg = 0.9

Home Lines

2	4	5	7	11	13	16	17
5 BAL	0 MIN	-8.5 JAX	1 GB	-3 NE	-1.5 IND	-7 CIN	Avg = -1.9 TEN

Road Lines

1	3	6	9	10	12	14	15
10.5 KC	5 PIT	4 TEN	-3 JAX	3 CLE	1.5 DET	3.5 CHI	Avg = 3.6 IND

150

exaggerated thanks to the defense ranking seventh-best in efficiency and fourth-best in EDSR. But that was on account of the ridiculous quarterbacks they faced. The Texans played the NFL's easiest schedule of passing offenses any team has seen in the last four years.

I predicted this seemingly top-10 defense would regress massively. Because they would not face such a ridiculous schedule of quarterbacks in 2019 as they did in 2018.

After facing the NFL's easiest schedule of pass offenses in 2018, in last year's book I forecast the Texans would face the fifth-toughest schedule of passing offenses in 2019.

When all was said and done last year, the Texans faced the fifth-toughest schedule of passing offenses, exactly as I forecast. As they say, the ball isn't going to spike itself.

Defensively, the 2019 Texans were bad across the board. One look at their defensive metrics paints the picture. In 12 of 13 metrics, they are pushing bottom-10 if not bottom-5. They were terrible against these better passing attacks and ranked 26th against the pass.

With a much tougher schedule of offenses faced and a terrible defense, how was it then that the 2019 Texans won 10 games and made the playoffs?

The bottom line is variance. Statistically, they were not a team that should have won 10 games. But they were able to go 5-1 in games decided by a field goal.

And then there were the halftime deficits erased along with fourth-quarter comebacks.

Historically, teams find it difficult to come back from halftime deficits. Last year, 81% of the time a team was trailing at halftime, they lost the game. That was slightly worse than historical averages of 77%.

Some of the best quarterbacks in the NFL are capable of routinely bringing their teams back into games and pulling out victories.

The best in the NFL the last three years has been a tie between Ben Roethlisberger and Nick Foles, who both led their teams back to wins in 50% of the games they trailed at halftime (each with a record of 5-5).

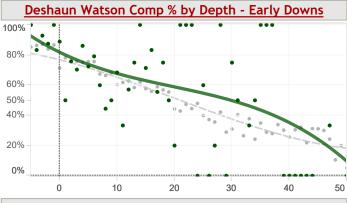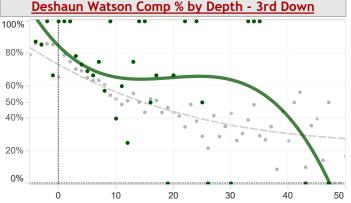## Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Carlos Hyde	8%	6%	78%	2%	7%
	Duke Johnson	7%	5%	78%	3%	7%
	DeAndre Hopkins	50%		50%		
	Keke Coutee		50%	50%		
	Total	8%	6%	78%	2%	7%
PASS	Carlos Hyde	32%	5%	63%		
	Duke Johnson	25%	2%	63%	3%	6%
	DeAndre Hopkins	17%	6%	69%	3%	5%
	Will Fuller	8%	5%	78%	6%	3%
	Kenny Stills	19%	12%	59%	7%	3%
	Jordan Akins	32%	2%	66%		
	Darren Fells	22%	7%	63%	4%	4%
	Keke Coutee	37%	3%	60%		
	DeAndre Carter	20%		80%		
	Total	21%	5%	67%	3%	3%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Carlos Hyde	Duke Johnson	DeAndre Hopkins	Will Fuller	Kenny Stills	Jordan Akins	Darren Fells	Keke Coutee	DeAndre Carter
RUSH	75%	24%	1%					1%	
PASS	4%	13%	29%	13%	12%	10%	9%	6%	3%
ALL	34%	18%	17%	7%	7%	6%	5%	4%	2%

Deshaun Watson Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Deshaun Watson Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Successful Play Rate
0% ▬▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	48%, 0.07 (465)	51%, 0.13 (181)	43%, -0.88 (7)	33%, -0.81 (6)	33%, 0.04 (6)		50%, -0.06 (4)		48%, 0.07 (669)
RUSH	54%, 0.11 (273)	49%, -0.07 (169)	63%, -0.03 (19)	29%, -0.23 (7)	67%, 0.40 (6)	0%, -0.77 (12)	0%, -0.70 (1)	0%, 0.15 (1)	51%, 0.02 (488)
All	50%, 0.09 (738)	50%, 0.03 (350)	58%, -0.25 (26)	31%, -0.50 (13)	50%, 0.22 (12)	0%, -0.77 (12)	40%, -0.18 (5)	0%, 0.15 (1)	49%, 0.05 (1,157)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Duke Johnson	48% (54) 6.7, 0.25	50% (16) 5.0, 0.03			49% (70) 6.3, 0.20
TE	Darren Fells	51% (37) 5.5, 0.24	57% (21) 8.2, 0.46			53% (58) 6.5, 0.32
TE	Jordan Akins	50% (34) 9.0, 0.38	53% (19) 5.9, 0.22			51% (53) 7.9, 0.32
WR	DeAndre Hopkins	56% (117) 8.1, 0.28	64% (50) 7.8, 0.41	100% (2) 10.0, 0.40		59% (169) 8.1, 0.32
WR	Will Fuller	62% (47) 10.3, 0.35	65% (20) 11.2, 0.71	33% (3) 3.0, -0.13	50% (4) 4.5, -0.06	61% (74) 9.9, 0.41
WR	Kenny Stills	64% (53) 11.7, 0.57	42% (12) 5.7, 0.10			60% (65) 10.6, 0.49
WR	Keke Coutee	50% (32) 6.8, -0.49	75% (4) 9.0, 0.44			53% (36) 7.1, -0.39

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Hyde Carlos	57% (130) 4.8, 0.03	48% (119) 4.0, -0.09	53% (15) 2.8, -0.14		53% (264) 4.3, -0.03
Watson Deshaun	52% (64) 5.5, 0.30	57% (21) 5.8, 0.30	100% (2) 4.0, 0.44	0% (12) -1.0, -0.77	47% (99) 4.7, 0.17
Johnson Duke	48% (66) 5.7, 0.06	39% (18) 3.9, -0.40	100% (2) 6.5, 0.40		48% (86) 5.3, -0.03

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	60% (278) 8.8, 0.39
M2M	53% (188) 7.5, 0.19
Screen	28% (40) 3.8, -0.34

Passing by Route

Out	59% (69) 5.6, 0.12
Curl	63% (56) 6.8, 0.32
Slant	78% (50) 8.8, 0.48
Flat	59% (39) 6.3, 0.14
Screen	28% (32) 4.8, -0.11
Dig	45% (22) 8.0, -0.05

Throw Types

Level 1	58% (433) 6.8, 0.23
Level 2	55% (85) 13.1, 0.46
Level 3	33% (42) 12.4, 0.29
Shovel	45% (11) 4.2, -0.11
Sidearm	67% (6) 5.0, 0.11

QB Drop Types

3 Step	55% (247) 8.5, 0.33
0/1 Step	55% (141) 6.0, 0.05
5 Step	49% (99) 9.7, 0.38
Designed Rollout Right	65% (26) 7.4, 0.37
7 Step	67% (15) 17.2, 0.97
Basic Screen	20% (5) 3.4, -0.03

QB State at Pass

Planted	55% (456) 8.3, 0.24
Moving	50% (108) 6.2, 0.19
Shuffling	43% (42) 5.7, 0.06

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	44% (64) 10.3, 0.11	48% (25) 9.4, 0.11
Shotgun	58% (78) 6.5, -0.01	48% (502) 7.5, 0.07
ALL	51% (142) 8.1, 0.05	48% (527) 7.6, 0.08

Run Types

Inside Zone	52% (153) 4.3, -0.07
Outside Zone	51% (76) 4.7, 0.01
Power	50% (64) 5.0, -0.04
Stretch	34% (35) 2.3, -0.27
Lead	50% (6) 4.8, 0.34

HOU-5

Aaron Rodgers is 10-11 (48%). Drew Brees is 9-10 (47%). Russell Wilson is 12-17 (41%). No other quarterbacks are close to them. Not even the best in the game right now. Patrick Mahomes is 1-5 (17%). Lamar Jackson is 0-5. Tom Brady is 3-11 (21%). Philip Rivers is 4-17 (19%). Matthew Stafford is 3-15 (17%).

The quarterbacks I would trust most in these spots in 2020 are probably guys like Patrick Mahomes and Russell Wilson, and even their track record won't get the W more times than not.

Through two NFL seasons, Watson's Texans trailed at halftime in eight games. They went 0-8 in those games. Pulling off second half comebacks is not easy.

But in 2019, the Texans went 4-5 (44%) in games they trailed at halftime.

Week 3, the Texans trailed the Chargers 17-7. Watson willed them back on the shoulders of 3/4 to Hopkins for 56 yards and 3/5 to tight end **Jordan Akins**, who scored two touchdowns. Houston's running backs in the second half gained a total of 15 yards.

Week 5, the Texans trailed the Falcons by one point. To be fair, this game was dominated by the Texans early, and it was a travesty they were down. I remember betting the over in the game, and also had the Texans. I re-upped on the Texans at halftime. Houston blew them out in the second half, scoring 37 in that half alone. Hopkins and Fuller both carried the load in the second half. Hopkins was 6/6 for 74 yards with four first downs. Fuller was 6/7 for 116 yards and four first downs. This time, tight end **Darren Fells** caught two red zone touchdowns.

Week 8, the Texans were down to the Raiders. Watson targeted Hopkins eight times in the second half: 7/8, 66 yards, and six first downs. No other player had over half those eight targets. But Watson once again hit Fells for two red zone touchdowns and the Texans won.

In the Wild Card game, the Texans were down 13-0 at halftime. They came back to tie the game thanks to 70 yards on 4/4 to DeAndre Hopkins, who had no scores but did the heavy lifting (no other receiver had more than 20 yds in the second half) to get the Texans back into the game.

Watson is too good to post an 0-8 record in games down at halftime, and 2019 was the breakout year where he took over. But a large part of that dominance was thanks to their most productive receiver, DeAndre Hopkins.

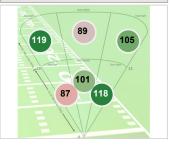# Houston Texans 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Last season, Houston was a top-10 passing team in success rate (48%), missed yards per pass attempt (3.1) yards to successful play (35%) rate, yards above successful rate (66%), and EPA while they were 12th in yards per pass attempt (7.6 Y/A). With 7.8 yards per pass attempt and a 5.3% touchdown rate in 2019, **Deshaun Watson** is the first quarterback to average over 7.0 yards per pass attempt and a 5.0% touchdown rate in each of his first three NFL seasons since Dan Marino. Watson has never played a game without **DeAndre Hopkins** active, so 2020 will be a unique experience. Watson has averaged 9.2 Y/A to non-Hopkins wideouts to start his career, but the influence of Hopkins on the field is also in play with that total.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Deshaun Watson	384	573	67%	4,481	7.8	29	12	54	99	15
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Deshaun Watson	49%	52%	56	10.0%	33	6.0%	6.7	5.0	33	6%
A.J. McCarron	43%	54%	4	11.0%			7.4	2.1	2	5%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Deshaun Watson Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	2.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	16.7%	3.5%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.1%	2.1%	0.0%	1.4%
10 - 14	2.2%	0.0%	2.8%		1.7%
15+	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Total	1.9%	1.7%	1.2%	10.5%	1.9%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Deshaun Watson	8.6	6.6	-2.1	67%	7
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
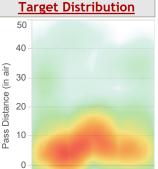
Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
57%	43%	11
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Houston ranked ninth in the league in yards per pass attempt (8.7 yards) and second in success rate (58%) targeting their wide receivers. Gone now is DeAndre Hopkins, who accounted for 28% of those targets. Hopkins was 12th in the league in success rate per target (58%), but **Will Fuller** (59%), **Kenny Stills** (59%), and **Randall Cobb** (53%) were also above league average with new addition **Brandin Cooks** a wild card. That group has some durability concerns, but is still stocked with highly-functional talent. Houston also has both **David Johnson** (49%) and **Duke Johnson** (47%), who were above average success rate out of the backfield in 2019. The only soft spot is tight end, where Houston ranked 20th in yards per pass attempt (7.0) to tight ends.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
DeAndre Hopkins	172	69%	8.0	104.1	58%	23	25	57	53	7
Will Fuller	79	68%	9.6	95.9	59%	16	10	36	94	3
Duke Johnson	73	71%	6.3	90.2	47%	98	102	135	12	2
Kenny Stills	66	71%	10.4	123.7	59%	20	40	7	127	3
Darren Fells	60	68%	6.7	126.4	55%	42	11	100	27	8
Jordan Akins	55	65%	7.6	77.7	49%	84	17	108	36	2

DeAndre Hopkins Target Distribution

Will Fuller Target Distribution
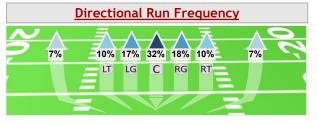
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

In the run game, Houston was sixth in the league in success rate (51%) and seventh in the league in EPA on the ground, but below league average in yards above successful play and yards to successful play rate. Most of their highly efficient runs stemmed from Watson. **Carlos Hyde** was good at getting positive runs (51% success rate), but he was let go in favor of trading for David Johnson, who was 61st in success rate (43%) rushing a year ago and 74th in 2018 (38%). Houston has 59.6% of their 2019 team rushing attempts vacated, which is the most in the league. Despite his struggles over the past two seasons, the crux of those will be going to the 29-year-old Johnson with Duke Johnson operating in the same capacity he has over the start of his career.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Carlos Hyde	274	4.2	51%	24	17	26	48	51%	22	6
Deshaun Watson	102	5.0	49%	37	61	21	60	46%	44	9
Duke Johnson	87	5.3	51%	27	59	71	18	51%	22	2

Yards per Carry by Direction

LT 4.9 — LG 3.3 — C 6.2 — RG 4.0 — RT 4.7 — 3.6 — 4.4

Directional Run Frequency

LT 7% — LG 10% — C 17% — 32% — RG 18% — RT 10% — 7%

New Look Texans

With the trade of DeAndre Hopkins and letting Carlos Hyde leave via free agency, Houston is without 45.8% of their offensive touches from ago. Paired with the additions of David Johnson, Brandin Cooks, and Randall Cobb, the Houston offense has a ton of moving parts.

Deshaun Watson has ranked as the QB1, QB2, and QB4 in fantasy points per game over his first three seasons while averaging over 5.0 rushing points per game in each of those three seasons. To begin Watson's career, Hopkins has accounted for 31.9% of Watson's passing targets, 32.7% of completed passes, 34.3% of his passing yardage, and 35.2% of his passing touchdowns. Watson has averaged 9.2 Y/A to non-Hopkins wideouts to start his career, but the influence of Hopkins on the field is also in play with that total.

Watson has ranked first (19.6%), 22nd (11.1%), and fifth (14.9%) in rate of deep passing attempts (throws 20-plus yards downfield) to start his career, so surrounding him with a cupboard full of downfield passing game weapons such as Will Fuller, Brandin Cooks, and Kenny Stills makes Watson sort of similar to a high volume three-point shooter in the NBA. Adding David Johnson and Randall Cobb as intermediate targets to go with Duke Johnson also gives him weapons on the intermediate levels.

David Johnson has averaged 10.7 yards per catch over his career, and even though his rushing acumen has been nearly non-existent the past two seasons, Johnson caught 30 passes for 315 yards and three touchdowns in his first six games as a full-time back in 2019. Cobb's 829 receiving yards a year ago were the most he has had in a season since 2015 while he averaged a career-high 15.1 yards per catch. Since entering the league in 2015, Duke Johnson's 7.1 yards per target ranks seventh at the position and his 9.3 Y/R ranks eighth among all backs to have 100-plus targets over that span. All in all, there is still plenty of receiving talent around Watson paired with his rushing ability to keep him in play as a top-five fantasy option at this position, despite potentially having a brutal schedule to start the season.

Of course, Watson is expensive. Making the cheaper pass-catching options here more intriguing. The top two wideouts in Fuller and Cooks, especially. Fuller has been top-40 in points per game in each of the past three seasons playing with Watson, but has now missed multiple games in all four seasons of his career with 22 missed in total. Prior to last season, Cooks had reeled off five consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons and will still turn just 27-years-old this September. Both Fuller and Cooks come major durability red flags, but those are largely priced into their fantasy cost, while nearly none of their spike-week potential is accounted for.

Houston Texans Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	19 plays *(4%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.10	319 plays *(67%)* Success: 45% EPA: 0.05	130 plays *(27%)* Success: 43% EPA: 0.15	10 plays *(2%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.17	478 plays *(100%)* Success: 45% EPA: 0.08
1-2 [2WR]	65 plays *(55%)* Success: 49% EPA: -0.04	49 plays *(41%)* Success: 45% EPA: 0.14	5 plays *(4%)* Success: 20% EPA: 0.37		119 plays *(100%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.05
2-1 [2WR]	30 plays *(79%)* Success: 63% EPA: 0.19	7 plays *(18%)* Success: 86% EPA: 0.50	1 plays *(3%)* Success: 100% EPA: 1.39		38 plays *(100%)* Success: 68% EPA: 0.28
2-2 [1WR]	8 plays *(89%)* Success: 25% EPA: -0.51	1 plays *(11%)* Success: 100% EPA: 1.99			9 plays *(100%)* Success: 33% EPA: -0.23
Grand Total	122 plays *(19%)* Success: 51% EPA: 0.01	376 plays *(58%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.08	136 plays *(21%)* Success: 43% EPA: 0.17	10 plays *(2%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.17	644 plays *(100%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.08

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	29%	11
Nickel	51%	19
Dime+	19%	11
Rush 3	11%	7
Rush 4	59%	23
Rush 5	23%	8
Rush 6+	5%	16
Blitz%	28%	11

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Houston lost **D.J. Reader** to the Bengals in free agency and expected to replace him with **Timmy Jernigan**, but that free agent deal fell apart and Jernigan now remains unsigned. 2020 second-round pick **Ross Blacklock** could be thrust into a starting role without much quality depth at the position. **J.J. Watt** is still JJ Watt. That's always a positive for the Texans. **Whitney Mercilus** was a productive No. 2 edge last season, though he was better in his No. 3 role behind Watt and Jadeveon Clowney in past years. Behind those two, there's little of note. **Brennan Scarlett** and **Jacob Martin** had some flashes but won't play more than rotational roles at the position. There's potential for third-round pick **Jonathan Greenard**, who had 16 tackles for loss, three forced fumbles, and four passes defensed in his final college season.

Zach Cunningham has turned into a good rangey sideline-to-sideline run defender, though his coverage ability still needs work. Still, the Texans were slightly above average defending the shallow middle of the field last season. **Benardrick McKinney** has also been good in a role that saw him rush the passer on 22.5% of his pass snaps, per SIS. Cunningham played 87.5% of the Houston defensive snaps last season and McKinney played 78.6%. The Texans can piece together depth, especially since either one of Cunningham or McKinney is typically on the field, so while a coverage linebacker could help, it's not as high on the list of needs for a team in Houston's situation.

There's a lot of players at corner, the question is whether or not any of them are good. Houston acquired former first-round picks **Gareon Conley** and **Vernon Hargreaves** last season but both showed why the teams that picked them there wanted to move on.

The top corner will be **Bradley Roby**, who was the only above-average corner on the roster last season. There were 92 corners who played at least 300 coverage snaps last season. By Adjusted Yards Allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions Roby ranked 42nd. **Lonnie Johnson**, Vernon Hargreaves, and Gareon Conley ranked 86th, 87th, and 88th.

Thankfully **Justin Reid** has turned into a star at safety after being a third-round pick in 2018. It's the saving grace of this secondary. **Tashaun Gipson** struggled in his first season with the Texans after being cut from the Jaguars and was then released by Houston. **Eric Murray** was added to the group in free agency, though he played mostly slot corner for the Browns last season. **Jaylen Watkins** could also see some time. He played 34% of the Chargers' defensive snaps last season, mostly as a box safety on a defense that played a ton of defensive backs. **Michael Thomas** could be a third safety, but has been more of a special teams ace throughout his career.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	57%
All Pass Rk	23
All Rush %	43%
All Rush Rk	10
1 Score Pass %	56%
1 Score Pass Rk	23
2018 1 Score Pass %	55%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	27
2019 Pass Increase %	1%
Pass Increase Rk	17
1 Score Rush %	44%
1 Score Rush Rk	10
Up Pass %	47%
Up Pass Rk	22
Up Rush %	53%
Up Rush Rk	11
Down Pass %	63%
Down Pass Rk	25
Down Rush %	37%
Down Rush Rk	8

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	9	22%	78%	89%
	Med (4-7)	10	50%	50%	50%
	Long (8-10)	341	43%	57%	50%
	XL (11+)	17	76%	24%	53%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	44	32%	68%	75%
	Med (4-7)	94	63%	37%	53%
	Long (8-10)	110	69%	31%	45%
	XL (11+)	38	84%	16%	26%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	48	73%	27%	69%
	Med (4-7)	40	93%	8%	58%
	Long (8-10)	41	83%	17%	34%
	XL (11+)	37	86%	14%	22%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	12	67%	33%	67%
	Med (4-7)	1	0%	100%	0%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
21%	79%

37% AVG *63%*

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
63%	32%

68% AVG *23%*

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
37%	68%

32% AVG *77%*

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
63%	20	66%	83%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
37%	13	34%	64%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Carlos Hyde	4	100%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Carlos Hyde	2	0%
			Deshaun Watson	2	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Carlos Hyde	127	46%
	XL (11+)	PASS	DeAndre Hopkins	4	50%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Carlos Hyde	18	78%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Carlos Hyde	24	67%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	DeAndre Hopkins	18	44%
	XL (11+)	PASS	DeAndre Hopkins	8	50%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Carlos Hyde	9	89%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	DeAndre Hopkins	8	75%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Deshaun Watson	6	17%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Duke Johnson	10	10%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 48%, YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.05, Rtg: 93.8 [Att: 378 - Rate: 56.5%]	Success: 51%, YPA: 7.5, EPA: -0.03, Rtg: 93.6 [Att: 80 - Rate: 12.0%]	Success: 48%, YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.03, Rtg: 93.8 [Att: 458 - Rate: 68.5%]
Yes	Success: 48%, YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.15, Rtg: 106.4 [Att: 149 - Rate: 22.3%]	Success: 52%, YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.14, Rtg: 101.1 [Att: 62 - Rate: 9.3%]	Success: 49%, YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.15, Rtg: 104.8 [Att: 211 - Rate: 31.5%]
Total	Success: 48%, YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.08, Rtg: 97.3 [Att: 527 - Rate: 78.8%]	Success: 51%, YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.05, Rtg: 96.9 [Att: 142 - Rate: 21.2%]	Success: 48%, YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.07, Rtg: 97.2 [Att: 669 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	DeAndre Hopkins	Darren Fells	Jordan Akins	Kenny Stills	Will Fuller	Carlos Hyde	Duke Johnson	Keke Coutee
1	NO	L 30-28	66 (99%)	34 (51%)	47 (70%)	28 (42%)	65 (97%)	25 (37%)	42 (63%)	
2	JAC	W 13-12	62 (94%)	44 (67%)	39 (59%)	25 (38%)	60 (91%)	40 (61%)	26 (39%)	29 (44%)
3	LAC	W 27-20	58 (97%)	39 (65%)	27 (45%)	32 (53%)	58 (97%)	31 (52%)	29 (48%)	17 (28%)
4	CAR	L 16-10	67 (97%)	43 (62%)	33 (48%)	11 (16%)	68 (99%)	33 (48%)	45 (65%)	40 (58%)
5	ATL	W 53-32	71 (97%)	58 (79%)	48 (66%)		72 (99%)	47 (64%)	29 (40%)	32 (44%)
6	KC	W 31-24	90 (98%)	80 (87%)	67 (73%)		81 (88%)	56 (61%)	34 (37%)	47 (51%)
7	IND	L 30-23	65 (100%)	42 (65%)	42 (65%)	61 (94%)	3 (5%)	26 (40%)	39 (60%)	45 (69%)
8	OAK	W 27-24	80 (96%)	75 (90%)	43 (52%)	80 (96%)		43 (52%)	37 (45%)	
9	JAC	W 26-3	70 (100%)	59 (84%)	48 (69%)	60 (86%)		39 (56%)	33 (47%)	
11	BAL	L 41-7	57 (93%)	42 (69%)	36 (59%)	60 (98%)		21 (34%)	36 (59%)	44 (72%)
12	IND	W 20-17	59 (100%)	52 (88%)	28 (47%)	37 (63%)	53 (90%)	29 (49%)	30 (51%)	
13	NE	W 28-22	47 (84%)	42 (75%)	31 (55%)	38 (68%)	42 (75%)	21 (38%)	38 (68%)	
14	DEN	L 38-24	80 (100%)	45 (56%)	51 (64%)	77 (96%)		41 (51%)	42 (53%)	57 (71%)
15	TEN	W 24-21	63 (100%)	52 (83%)	38 (60%)	39 (62%)	59 (94%)	42 (67%)	21 (33%)	
16	TB	W 23-20	65 (98%)	52 (79%)	41 (62%)	56 (85%)	19 (29%)	39 (59%)	29 (44%)	
17	TEN	L 35-14			53 (82%)			5 (8%)	21 (32%)	39 (60%)
	Grand Total		1,000 (97%)	759 (73%)	672 (61%)	604 (69%)	580 (78%)	538 (48%)	531 (49%)	350 (55%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	64%	60%	50%
1-2 [2WR]	30%	20%	50%
2-1 [2WR]	2%	8%	58%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	63%	48%	54%
1-2 [2WR]	52%	51%	49%
2-1 [2WR]	27%	43%	63%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Darren Fells	12	3	2	7
DeAndre Hopkins	11	4	2	5
Duke Johnson	9		6	3
Jordan Akins	6	1		5
Will Fuller	6		4	2
Carlos Hyde	4			4
DeAndre Carter	2		1	1
Keke Coutee	2		1	1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Carlos Hyde	36	9	7	20
Deshaun Watson	20	8	3	9
Duke Johnson	10	2		8
DeAndre Hopkins	2		1	1
Gregory Howell	2	1	1	
A.J. McCarron	1	1		
Keke Coutee	1	1		
Taiwan Jones	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	17%	21%	62%
	23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG		

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	45%	52%	58%
	#14	#17	#2

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	6	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-1.0	
03. Wins	10	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	19
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	8
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	16
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	8
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	30
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	19
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	10
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	7
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	5
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	18
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	15
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	27
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	13
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	13
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	17
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	22
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	24
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	23
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	25
23.	PA Improvement Success	30
24.	PA Improvement YPA	28
25.	PA Improvement Rating	30
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	28
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	6
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	18
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	11
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	6
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	11
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	22
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	8
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	12
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	26

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.0
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.5
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.8
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.8
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	54%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	52%
42.	PSM Rating	93.6
43.	Non-PSM Rating	87.6

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	31%
45.	PA Success Rate	50%
46.	PA YPA	7.6
47.	PA Sack Rate	8.4%
48.	PA Rating	77
49.	PA Target Depth	10.1
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	57%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.2
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	8.5%
53.	Non-PA Rating	91.3
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.9

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	15%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	49%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.4
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.7
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	42%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	51%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.4

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	4	defFUM	16
Net FROE	3.9	defFUM Rcvrd	10
offFUM	20	defFR Rk	4
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR%	62.5%
offFR%	60.0%	defFROE	2.6
offFR Rk	8	defFROE Rk	6
offFROE	1.3		
offFROE Rk	9		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	79%	YOY Swing	-4%
2019 FG Rk	20	YOY Swing Rk	20
Opp 2019 FG %	84%	2018 Team Net	0%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	12	2018 Net Rk	18
2019 Team Net	-5%		
2019 Net Rk	20		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Deshaun Watson
CAY	6.5
CAY Rk	10
2018 CAY Rk	5
AYTS Rk	6
2018 AYTS Rk	10
AGG Rk	22
2018 AGG Rk	26
COMP%	67.3
xCOMP%	65.9
xCOMP% Rk	7
2018 xCOMP% Rk	17
CPOE%	1.4
CPOE Rk	10
2018 CPOE Rk	8

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Deshaun Watson
Pressure %	38.4
Pressure Rk	6
Sack %	19.4
Sack Rk	15
Pressure Accuracy %	61.2
Pressure Accuracy Rk	24
Rating when Pressured	76.6
Pressured Rating Rk	12
Clean Accuracy %	82.1
Clean Accuracy Rk	6
Rating when Clean	107.9
Clean Rating Rk	10
Time to Throw	2.82
Time to Throw Rk	17

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.12
EPA/Pass Rk	8
EPA/Rush	0.01
EPA/Rush Rk	5
On-Target Catch %	89
On-Target Catch Rk	3
Drop%	6.8
Drop Rk	10
YAC/Att	2.2
YAC/Att Rk	24
Rush Broken Tackle %	14.5
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	19
Rush 1st Down %	25.6
Rush 1st Down Rk	6

Houston Texans 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

In fact, when trailing in the second half, no receiver had recorded more first downs than Hopkins's 28. He averaged 10.6 YPA and a 66% success rate on targets to go along with a 115 passer rating. He totaled a ridiculous 22.8 EPA.

And then there were the fourth-quarter comebacks. Prior to 2019, Watson's Texans were 1-10 (9%) when trailing entering the fourth quarter. Watson's 2019 Texans trailed entering the fourth quarter in a whopping eight games. History would show they would lose most of those games, but the 2019 Texans went 4-4 in those eight games. It was the best record in the NFL (min. four games trailing entering the fourth quarter). Only two other teams last year even won over two games they trailed entering the fourth quarter (the Bills and Seahawks, both with three wins). Every other team won two or fewer. Watson won four.

Last May I predicted the 2019 Texans would face the NFL's hardest schedule. They played the seventh-toughest schedule, and it would have been the toughest were it not for Andrew Luck missing the entire season and Nick Foles going down in Week 1.

In their 2020 schedule, they play just three teams forecast to finish at-or-below .500. Every other opponent is projected to finish with a winning record. They also face the NFL's toughest schedule the first four weeks, with four straight games against likely playoff teams.

Making this stretch even more difficult is these first four opponents each rank top-10 in pass defense. With the potential for passing attacks to struggle some immediately out of the gates and with the Texans missing DeAndre Hopkins for the first time in 2020, it could make things challenging for Deshaun Watson.

Pay attention to when the Texans face strong run offenses. In 2019 they went 2-5 against teams with top-12 run offenses and 8-3 against everyone else. They play another seven games in 2020 against teams with top-12 rushing attacks.

I didn't expect the Texans to get the massive bump in rushing efficiency in 11 personnel from Carlos Hyde, but he delivered. He gained 5.0 YPC with a 57% success rate and 5.8 EPA. It was a huge spike from Lamar Miller (3.9 YPC, 43% success rate, and -1.9 EPA on 82 attempts) or Alfred Blue (3.1 YPC, 35% success, and -11.5 EPA on 65 attempts).

David Johnson hasn't been anywhere close to Carlos Hyde. He gained 3.4 YPC, 34% success, and -3.5 EPA last year in Arizona. And in 2018, he was at 3.9 YPC, 36% success, and -13.1 EPA on 140 attempts from 11 personnel.

Without DeAndre Hopkins, without enough defensive improvement, without Watson getting substantially better at avoiding pressure, and without David Johnson producing Hyde-like numbers in 11 personnel runs, I have my concerns about the Texans. But it's always a dangerous proposition to doubt, let alone bet against Deshaun Watson.

Indianapolis Colts

Head Coach:
Frank Reich (Calls plays) (2 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Nick Sirianni (2 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Matt Eberflus (2 yrs)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9	#1

Past Records

2019: 7-9
2018: 10-6
2017: 4-12

Schedule:
JAX (A-1), MIN (H-2), NYJ (H-3), CHI (A-4), CLE (A-5), CIN (H-6), DET (A-8), BAL (H-9), TEN (A-10), GB (H-11), TEN (H-12), HOU (A-13), LVR (A-14), HOU (H-15), PIT (A-16), JAX (H-17)

TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Brian Hoyer (QB)	Patriots
Devin Funchess (WR)	Packers
Eric Ebron (TE)	Steelers
Joe Haeg (RG)	Buccaneers
Josh Andrews (C)	Jets
Margus Hunt (43DE)	Saints
Pierre Desir (CB)	Jets
Quincy Wilson (CB)	Jets
Trevon Coley (43DT)	Cardinals
Adam Vinatieri (K)	Null
Billy Brown (TE)	Null
Briean Boddy-Calhoun (S)	Null
Chester Rogers (WR)	Null
Clayton Geathers (S)	Null
Dontrelle Inman (WR)	Null
Isaiah Johnson (S)	Null
Jabaal Sheard (43DE)	Null
Jonathan Williams (RB)	Null
Kai Nacua (S)	Null
Steve Ishmael (WR)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-2.2	10	6

2020 Indianapolis Colts Overview

At the time of writing the Colts chapter for last year's book, Indianapolis was projected to finish first in the AFC South, record 9.5 wins, and the fifth-highest odds to win the Super Bowl. They had **Andrew Luck**, the fourth-highest graded QB from the 2018 season and were off a 10-win season that ended with a road playoff loss against the Chiefs in difficult conditions. They were a team on the come-up, and ready to take the next step.

But then Andrew Luck retired.

The Colts' odds to win the Super Bowl dropped from +1000 to +8000, shifting from the fifth-most likely team to win the Super Bowl to 24th. Their odds to win the AFC South dropped from being the favorites at +125 to finishing last at +600. Their forecasted wins dropped from 9.5 down to 7.5.

Luck's 2018 season gave the Colts plenty of reasons for optimism. After missing the 2017 season with injury, he returned at the start of the 2018 season, his first with Frank Reich calling plays, and recorded:

- his career-best QBR
- his career-best passer rating
- his career-best completion rate

He won Comeback Player of the Year. He was healthy and happy entering 2019. But Luck suffered a mysterious calf or ankle injury in the 2019 offseason. He was in pain for weeks, tried resting and rehabbing, but made no progress and it wasn't responding to treatment. And then shockingly, Luck retired at the age of 29.

He shared many reasons, but key among them was the burden of the injuries he sustained, and "four years of this 'injury -> pain -> rehab' cycle." *(cont'd - see IND2)*
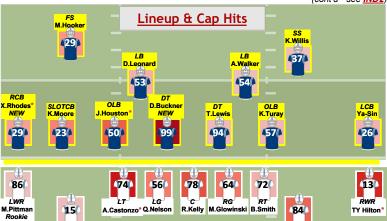
Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Philip Rivers (QB)	$25
DeForest Buckner (43DT)	Trade
Xavier Rhodes (CB)	$3
Sheldon Day (43DT)	$1.8
Roosevelt Nix (FB)	$1
T.J. Carrie (CB)	$1
Trey Burton (TE)	$0.90

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	34	WR - Michael Pittman Jr. (USC)
2	41	RB - Jonathan Taylor (Wisconsin)
3	85	S - Julian Blackmon (Utah)
4	122	QB - Jacob Eason (Washington)
5	149	G - Danny Pinter (Ball State)
6	193	DT - Robert Windsor (Penn State)
6	211	CB - Isaiah Rodgers (UMass)
6	212	WR - Dezmon Patmon (Washington State)
6	213	OLB - Jordan Glasgow (Michigan)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	9
2019 Wins	7
Forecast 2019 Wins	9.5
2018 Wins	10
2017 Wins	4
2016 Wins	8

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS M.Hooker 29
SS K.Willis 37
LB D.Leonard 53
LB A.Walker 54
RCB X.Rhodes* NEW 29
SLOTCB K.Moore 23
OLB J.Houston* 50
DT D.Buckner NEW 99
DT T.Lewis 94
OLB K.Turay 57
LCB Ya-Sin 26

LWR M.Pittman Rookie 86
SLOTWR P.Campbell 15
LT A.Castonzo* 74
LG Q.Nelson 56
C R.Kelly 78
RG M.Glowinski 64
RT B.Smith 72
TE J.Doyle* 84
RWR TY Hilton* 13

QB P.Rivers* NEW 17
RB J.Taylor Rookie 28

WR2 M.Johnson 83
WR3 Z.Pascal 14
RB2 M.Mack 25
QB2 J.Brissett 7

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF
All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	1	$141.40M	12
QB	1	$47.86M	22
OL	3	$49.68M	22
RB	25	$6.76M	27
WR	17	$24.14M	2
TE	10	$12.96M	3
All DEF	29	$84.90M	17
DL	9	$51.92M	5
LB	29	$9.30M	31
CB	19	$15.92M	11
S	28	$7.76M	16

Even entering that incredible 2018 season, he admitted to being a "miserable SOB" when he was 600 days into rehab, trying to get ready for the season. At his press conference, Luck talked about the 2016 season. He played through a lot of pain that year, too. He reflected back to that season, saying:

"I've been stuck in this process. I haven't been able to live the life I want to live. It's taken the joy out of this game and after 2016, when I played in pain and was unable to regularly practice, I made a vow to myself that I would never go down that path again. I find myself in a similar situation and the only way for me is to remove myself from football and this cycle I've been in. I've come to the proverbial fork in the road and I made the vow to myself that if I ever entered this situation again, I would choose the innocence."

Without Luck, the Colts promoted **Jacoby Brissett** to take over. Again. Brissett led the 2017 Colts to a 4-12 record. But I noticed something about that 2017 Colts team that not many outside that building noticed. I called it "The Unbelievable Story of the 2017 Colts" and you can read it in its entirety. Bottom line, the 2017 Colts went 4-12 but trailed in only six games at halftime. They were the only team in the last 30 years to lose seven or more games that they led at halftime. They led entering the fourth quarter in nine of 16 games, but through predictable playcalling with a fourth-quarter lead and bad defense, and a sprinkle of Brissett's late-game issues, the Colts won just four games.

I thought we shouldn't write off the 2019 Colts. I thought they might surprise some people, who had no confidence in Brissett. And through eight weeks, that was largely correct. They sat 5-2 through Week 8. They beat the Chiefs in Kansas City, handing Patrick Mahomes just his second regular season home loss of his career. They also defeated the other 2019 playoff teams they faced: the Texans and Titans. They only lost once against the spread in their first six games.

Imagine this: through Week 8, the Indianapolis Colts would have earned a first-round bye as the No. 2 seed in the AFC, behind the 8-0 Patriots.

And then things started to fall apart. They were due to play the 2-4 Steelers, also starting a backup quarterback, and the 0-8 Dolphins in their next two games. The 5-2 Colts dropped both games and that was just the beginning. After the 5-2 start, the Colts went 2-7 the rest of the way.

Over their first seven games, the Colts led at halftime in four games and won all four. They led entering the fourth quarter in three games and won all three. The only win which saw a fourth-quarter comeback was Week 8 against the Broncos. But prior to that, if they had a lead, they kept it.

That's the way things go for most teams. A team with a lead at halftime wins just under 80% of the time. A lead to start the fourth quarter bumps that up to 83%.

But after the first half of the season, something went bad for the Colts. Quite bad.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Jacoby Brissett	50% 6.8 87.4	39% 5.4 81.6	36% 7.1 89.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	47%	77%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
IND	47% 4.4	57% 4.9	62% 4.0	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	53%	23%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

Over the 5-2 Colts' final nine games, they led either at halftime or entering the fourth quarter in seven games!

The only teams with more late leads (led to start the third or fourth quarter) after Week 8 were the Chiefs and Ravens. That's it. The 49ers also held late leads in seven games. Every other team held late leads in fewer games.

Winning games with late leads was not a problem for the Colts earlier in the year: the Colts won 100% of the time earlier in the season, 90% of the time the prior season, and the NFL overall wins 80% of the time.

But the Colts went 2-5 in those seven games. They blew leads to the Steelers in Week 9 (lost by 2), the Texans in Week 12 (lost by 3), the Titans in Week 13 (lost by 14), the Buccaneers in Week 14 (lost by 3), and the Jaguars in Week 17 (lost by 18).

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	L	W	L	W			W	W	L	L	W	L	L	L	L	W	L
OPP	LAC	TEN	ATL	OAK	KC		HOU	DEN	PIT	MIA	JAC	HOU	TEN	TB	NO	CAR	JAC
SITE	A	A	H	H	A		H	H	A	H	H	A	H	A	A	H	A
MARGIN	-6	2	3	-7	6		7	2	-2	-4	20	-3	-14	-3	-27	32	-18
PTS	24	19	27	24	19		30	15	24	12	33	17	17	35	7	38	20
OPP PTS	30	17	24	31	13		23	13	26	16	13	20	31	38	34	6	38

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **7**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-3**

FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**

FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **43% (#4)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **5-6**

1 Score Games Win %: **45% (#18)**

1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **71% (#9)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+2
TO Given	21
INT Given	10
FUM Given	11
TO Taken	23
INT Taken	15
FUM Taken	8
Sack Margin	+9
Sacks	41
Sacks Allow	32
Return TD Margin	-1
Ret TDs	3
Ret TDs Allow	4
Penalty Margin	+32
Penalties	79
Opponent Penalties	111

Indianapolis Colts 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) — **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD / EASY — Average Opponent

Legend:
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

Offense categories (Passing / Rushing): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Defense categories (Passing / Rushing): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
20	20	8	14	17	14	10	8

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-0.3	-1.1	5.5
Average O/U line	45.8	47.7	42.8
Straight Up Record	7-9	10-6	4-12
Against the Spread Record	7-7	8-7	8-8
Over/Under Record	9-7	8-7	6-10
ATS as Favorite	4-4	5-5	2-0
ATS as Underdog	3-2	3-2	6-8
Straight Up Home	5-3	6-2	3-5
ATS Home	4-4	3-4	5-3
Over/Under Home	5-3	4-3	2-6
ATS as Home Favorite	4-3	3-4	2-0
ATS as a Home Dog	0-1	0-0	3-3
Straight Up Away	2-6	4-4	1-7
ATS Away	3-3	5-3	3-5
Over/Under Away	4-4	4-4	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	0-1	2-1	0-0
ATS Away Dog	3-1	3-2	3-5
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	13-3	10-5
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	13-3	11-5
Ten Point Teaser Record	11-5	15-1	13-3

IND-3

Of the 608 team-seasons since division realignment in 2002, only 146 times (24%) did a team hold late leads in at least seven games from Week 8 onward. The Colts are the only team in the NFL to win less than 35% of those games. Their 2-5 (29%) record is the worst in the NFL. In fact, even going back 30 years, no team has a worse record.

A lot of things factored into this. Turnovers, playcalling, and talent.

Over the first half of the season, the Colts had just two games with two turnovers and zero with three. In the second half of the season, they had five games with two or more turnovers and three games with three turnovers.

Over the first half of the season, the Colts were solid on early downs with a second half lead.

They averaged just 6.5 yards to go on third downs, the sixth-lowest rate in the NFL. And they had a 42% conversion rate on these plays, the 12th best in the NFL.

(cont'd - see IND-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	3
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	7
Week 9 Edge	-7
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	3
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	-3
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	1
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	12
2018 Rk	31
2019 v 2018 Rk	3
Off Rk	16
Def Rk	9
QB Rk	22
RB Rk	18
WR Rk	32
TE Rk	21
Oline Rk	1
Dline Rk	11
LB Rk	12
DB Rk	17

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	JAX	MIN	NYJ	CHI	CLE	CIN	DET	BAL	TEN	GB	TEN	HOU	LVR	HOU	PIT	JAX
Line	-7	-2.5	-7	1.5	1.5	-8.5	-1.5	3	3	-2.5	-3	1.5	-1.5	-4.5	3	-10.5

Avg = -2.2

Home Lines

2	3	6	9	11	12	15	17
-2.5 MIN	-7 NYJ	-8.5 CIN	3 BAL	-2.5 GB	-3 TEN	4.5 HOU	3 JAX

Avg = -4.4

Road Lines

1	4	5	8	10	13	14	16
-7 JAX	1.5 CHI	1.5 CLE	-1.5 DET	3 TEN	1.5 HOU	-1.5 LVR	3 PIT

Avg = 0.1

But over the second half of the season, they averaged 8.9 yards to go on these plays. Substantially worse. Remarkably, their conversion rate was nearly identical (43%), the 11th best in the NFL.

The first half of the season, they went 35% pass on these early down plays, just shy of the 38% NFL average.

But in the second half of the season, they upped that to 41% pass. Their early down runs generated 6.4 YPC and a 55% success rate and 10.6 EPA but early down passes generated just 33% success, 5.7 YPA, and -8.5 EPA.

Another issue for them over the second half of the season was injuries. The Colts' big offensive signing last year was wide receiver **Devin Funchess**, but he was lost after Week 1. Their best offensive draft pick was second-round receiver **Parris Campbell**. He broke his hand, suffered a sports hernia, missed a lot of time, and played in just one game after Week 9. The Colts' projected 2019 11 personnel receivers played in one game together, Week 1.

The biggest loss was clearly WR1 **T.Y. Hilton**. As the Colts started out 5-2, he played in six of their first seven games (missing the loss to the Raiders in Week 4).

He missed five of the team's next six games with injuries, which is when the season derailed itself as they lost five of those next six games. All told, when Hilton played, the Colts went 6-4. When he didn't play, the Colts went 1-5.

And the team also had to deal with the loss of tight end **Eric Ebron**, who missed the team's final five games of the season (they went 1-4).

Primarily on account of the lack of talent at receiver, the Colts shifted to become a more run-centric team. In 2018, with Luck and slightly healthier receivers, the Colts went 65% pass in one-score games, the second-highest rate in the NFL. But last year, without Luck and without receiving talent or depth, the Colts shifted to only 52% pass in one-score games, which ranked second-lowest. Their shift from pass heavy to run heavy was, unsurprisingly, the largest shift in the NFL last year.

Compare Luck in 2018 to Brissett in 2019. Luck saw 59% of his passing yardage come via the air, seventh-most in the NFL, whereas Brissett saw just 46%, ranked 43rd. Luck averaged 0.9% CPOE, meaning his completion rate was better than expected based on player tracking data looking at pass location, defender proximity, and state of QB. Brissett averaged -4.0% CPOE, ranking 36 of 39 quarterbacks

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week
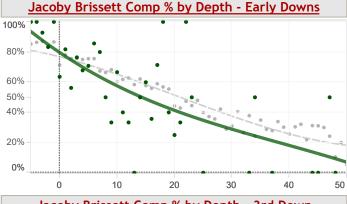

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
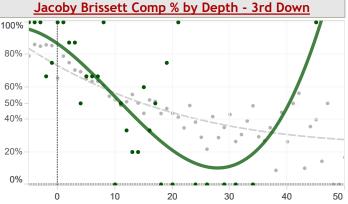
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
PASS	Marlon Mack			88%	6%	6%
	Nyheim Hines	11%	11%	68%	9%	2%
	Zach Pascal	6%	6%	79%	3%	6%
	Jack Doyle	9%	4%	79%	3%	4%
	T.Y. Hilton	2%	3%	75%	15%	5%
	Jordan Wilkins	13%		88%		
	Jonathan Williams			100%		
	Eric Ebron	8%	12%	79%	2%	
	Marcus Johnson	7%	3%	79%		10%
	Chester Rogers	7%	15%	78%		
	Devin Funchess		20%	80%		
	Dontrelle Inman	40%		20%		40%
	Chad Williams			100%		
	Total	7%	7%	77%	5%	4%
RUSH	Marlon Mack	6%	6%	81%	4%	4%
	Nyheim Hines	6%	6%	77%	4%	8%
	Zach Pascal			100%		
	Jordan Wilkins	12%	8%	61%	6%	14%
	Jonathan Williams			84%	2%	14%
	Chester Rogers			100%		
	Total	6%	5%	78%	4%	7%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Marlon Mack	Nyheim Hines	Zach Pascal	Jack Doyle	T.Y. Hilton	Jordan Wilkins	Jonathan Williams	Eric Ebron	Marcus Johnson	Chester Rogers	Devin Funchess	Dontrelle Inman	Chad Williams
PASS	4%	14%	17%	17%	15%	2%	1%	13%	7%	7%	1%	1%	0%
RUSH	61%	13%	0%			13%	12%			0%			
ALL	33%	14%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	4%	4%	1%	1%	0%

Jacoby Brissett Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Jacoby Brissett Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-2 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	ALL
PASS	41%, -0.04 (369)	46%, 0.05 (122)	41%, -0.15 (22)	44%, 0.04 (16)	10%, -0.56 (10)	100%, 1.62 (1)		0%, 0.02 (1)	42%, -0.03 (541)
RUSH	53%, 0.08 (254)	56%, 0.02 (142)	36%, -0.12 (50)	53%, 0.05 (19)	33%, 0.15 (3)	0%, -0.53 (1)	100%, 0.33 (1)		52%, 0.04 (470)
All	46%, 0.01 (623)	51%, 0.04 (264)	38%, -0.13 (72)	49%, 0.05 (35)	15%, -0.40 (13)	50%, 0.54 (2)	100%, 0.33 (1)	0%, 0.02 (1)	46%, 0.00 (1,011)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Nyheim Hines	39% (41) 5.0, -0.05	50% (10) 4.7, 0.01	50% (4) 8.0, 0.28	0% (1) 9.0, 0.08	41% (56) 5.3, -0.01
	Marlon Mack	43% (7) 3.7, 0.00	56% (9) 5.9, 0.15			50% (16) 4.9, 0.09
TE	Jack Doyle	52% (50) 6.2, 0.02	53% (15) 6.9, 0.46	50% (2) 3.5, 0.15		52% (67) 6.3, 0.12
	Eric Ebron	55% (29) 7.9, 0.41	54% (13) 6.7, -0.85	0% (1) 0.0, -0.89		53% (43) 7.3, -0.01
WR	Zach Pascal	55% (51) 8.9, 0.26	35% (17) 6.7, 0.17	50% (2) 10.0, 0.54		50% (70) 8.4, 0.24
	T.Y. Hilton	54% (52) 7.8, 0.29	43% (14) 5.2, 0.20	100% (1) 21.0, 1.25	0% (1) 0.0, -0.86	51% (68) 7.3, 0.27
	Chester Rogers	43% (21) 6.9, 0.16	50% (6) 5.7, 0.61			44% (27) 6.6, 0.26

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Mack Marlon	52% (135) 4.6, 0.07	52% (83) 4.1, -0.10	50% (8) 4.0, -0.11	52% (226) 4.4, 0.00
Hines Nyheim	51% (37) 3.8, 0.03	57% (7) 3.1, -0.13	40% (5) 4.4, -0.08	51% (49) 3.7, -0.01
Wilkins Jordan	52% (23) 3.2, -0.08	63% (19) 7.0, 0.30	50% (2) 7.0, 0.29	57% (44) 5.0, 0.11
Williams Jonathan	50% (24) 4.3, 0.14	50% (16) 6.2, 0.13	67% (3) 6.7, 0.28	51% (43) 5.2, 0.15
Brissett Jacoby	62% (29) 5.4, 0.30	83% (12) 5.1, 0.58	100% (1) 5.0, 0.83	69% (42) 5.3, 0.39

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	54% (220) 8.1, 0.22
M2M	44% (155) 5.6, 0.09
Screen	38% (40) 5.1, -0.16

Passing by Route

Curl	61% (67) 6.4, 0.19
Screen	36% (45) 5.5, -0.11
Out	51% (37) 6.6, 0.25
Dig	54% (35) 9.2, 0.44
Flat	57% (28) 5.8, 0.25
Slant	28% (18) 3.2, -0.19

Throw Types

Level 1	50% (356) 6.4, 0.17
Level 2	54% (78) 10.9, 0.24
Level 3	9% (35) 3.3, -0.58
Shovel	67% (3) 2.7, 0.46
Sidearm	33% (3) 2.0, -0.31

QB Drop Types

3 Step	48% (194) 6.6, 0.09
5 Step	36% (118) 6.8, 0.04
0/1 Step	51% (83) 6.3, 0.29
7 Step	62% (37) 10.9, 0.25
Designed Rollout Right	77% (13) 7.8, 0.63
Basic Screen	25% (12) 3.0, -0.56

QB State at Pass

Planted	47% (397) 6.8, 0.12
Moving	38% (64) 5.0, -0.01
Shuffling	39% (44) 5.5, -0.17

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	49% (67) 8.8, 0.06	44% (16) 5.9, 0.01
Shotgun	49% (92) 6.6, 0.01	39% (366) 6.0, -0.06
ALL	49% (159) 7.5, 0.03	39% (382) 6.0, -0.06

Run Types

Inside Zone	61% (121) 5.0, 0.13
Outside Zone	46% (57) 4.4, -0.04
Stretch	41% (54) 4.1, -0.03
Power	27% (26) 2.8, -0.15
Pitch	47% (15) 3.5, -0.28
Lead	100% (1) 5.0, 0.25

IND-5

last year.

Brissett was extremely susceptible to pressure. His accuracy was 79.9% from a clean pocket but only 57.5% when pressured (31st). Brissett brought some of that pressure on himself when he held the ball in the pocket. His 2.03 average seconds to throw was the second-longest among those 39 qualified quarterbacks in 2019.

Looking at the team's EDSR chart, over that first half of the season, the Colts only had solid EDSR wins in two of seven games, yet went 5-2. Over the second half of the season, they won the EDSR battle in five of nine games, yet went 2-7.

Reflecting back to the 2018 Colts, a similar pattern of EDSR performance was seen. Over the first five games, the Colts lost the EDSR battle in all five games, but did much better down the stretch, winning it in 10 of their final 11 games. In that season, winning the EDSR battle translated into wins, which wasn't the case in 2019.

However, the point remains, this is the third year that Frank Reich will be working with a new quarterback in his system. 2018 was Year 1 with Andrew Luck, 2019 was Year 1 with Jacoby Brissett, and 2020 will be Year 1 with **Philip Rivers**. In both prior years, the Colts started slow offensively. Obviously, Luck's season can be excused due to his injury and rehab and likely wasn't 100% to start the season. But emphasis must be placed on trying to avoid a slower start to the season with Rivers. Over the last five years combined, Rivers's Chargers have started out 9-16 (36%) during the first five weeks of the season. In his career, he's 33-35 over the first five weeks and 56-29 from Week 12 onward. Figuring out how to get Rivers and this offense started fast should be a paramount objective.

My May 2019 forecast for the Colts was the ninth-easiest schedule in 2019. It ended up being third-easiest. But without a quarterback, the Colts lost six games by seven or fewer points and produced a losing record. Apparently, the respect for the Colts isn't there in 2020, as they get just one primetime game, a short-week tilt in Tennessee.

In 2020, the Colts are fortunate to play the NFL's easiest schedule, and it starts off nicely for them: a road game against whatever the Jaguars trot onto the field this season followed by two home games, against the Vikings and Jets. Over the first eight weeks of the season, the Colts face, by far, the easiest schedule in the NFL, playing just two teams forecast to even record a winning record. That said, while some teams may benefit from easy schedules of run defenses to start the season, the Colts do have to play three top-half run defenses in their first four games.

After Week 5, the Colts play just two games outdoors the rest of the season: Week 10 in Tennessee (on Thursday) and Week 16 in Pittsburgh. They play three road games in domes. Since 2000, the Colts are 21-10 (68%) on the road in domes and 71-69 (51%) on the road outdoors. From Week 5 onward, the Colts face just two teams that finished above-average in run defense last season: the Steelers and Titans. Every other opponent was below-average, giving the Colts the fifth-easiest schedule of run defenses starting in Week 5.

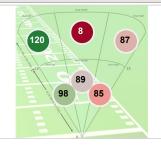# Indianapolis Colts 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

With the surprise of a late-summer retirement from **Andrew Luck**, the Colts were forced to turn things over to **Jacoby Brissett** once again in 2019. The results were not pretty as Indianapolis ranked 19th in EPA through the air, 25th in the league in success rate through the air (42%), 31st in yards created above success rate, and 28th in yards per pass attempt (6.5 Y/A). Reuniting **Philip Rivers** with Colts head coach Frank Reich and offensive coordinator Nick Sirianni, who were both with the Chargers, the Colts will be starting a different Week 1 quarterback than the season prior for the fourth straight season. In 2019, Rivers and the Chargers passing game finished fifth in the league in success rate (49%), 11th in EPA via their passing offense and ninth in yards per pass attempt (7.8). While the receiving talent in Indianapolis is not an apples to apples comparison to what Rivers had in Los Angeles, Rivers is an upgrade over what Brissett provided a year ago.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Jacoby Brissett	272	447	61%	2,924	6.5	18	6	26	88	26
Brian Hoyer	35	65	54%	372	5.7	4	4	5	66	49
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

Jacoby Brissett Rating Early Downs

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Jacoby Brissett	43%	45%	32	7.0%	11	2.0%	5.1	5.7	13	3%
Brian Hoyer	39%	40%	6	9.0%			6.1	4.5	2	3%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Interception Rates by Down

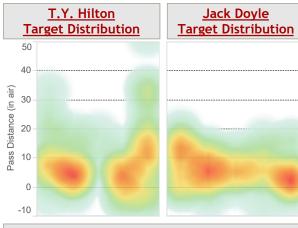| Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	3.7%	5.3%	0.0%	4.3%
10 - 14	1.2%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Total	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	0.0%	1.3%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Jacoby Brissett	9.3	4.8	-4.4	74%	41
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
46%	54%	43
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Through multiple injuries and subpar quarterback play, the Colts' passing game struggled in all capacities. The team ranked 30th in success rate targeting their wideouts (45%) and 24th in yards per pass attempt to their wide receivers (7.2 yards). Lead receiver **T.Y. Hilton** missed six games and second-round draft pick **Parris Campbell** missed nine as 2018 undrafted rookie **Zach Pascal** tied for the team in targets on the season with 72. He matched targets with **Jack Doyle** as **Eric Ebron** missed five games and the Colts ranked 21st in yards per pass attempt to their tight ends (6.9 yards). With a healthy Hilton and Campbell, paired with the additions of **Michael Pittman Jr.** and **Trey Burton** to go along with Rivers, the passing game will rebound.

T.Y. Hilton Target Distribution

Jack Doyle Target Distribution

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Jack Doyle	72	60%	6.2	84.7	51%	70	90	92	34	4
Zach Pascal	72	57%	8.4	84.7	50%	76	111	48	110	5
T.Y. Hilton	69	65%	7.3	104.8	52%	63	71	103	46	5
Nyheim Hines	58	76%	5.5	88.3	43%	117	117	121	33	0
Eric Ebron	52	60%	7.2	77.0	52%	66	128	83	38	3

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Colts had success running the football in 2019, ranking fifth in EPA on the ground, 11th in yards per carry (4.5 yards), fifth in success rate (53%), and seventh in rate of yards created above success. **Marlon Mack** had 1,011 and 1,173 yards from scrimmage in the past two seasons, but has also missed multiple games in each of his first three seasons. Entering the final season of his rookie contract paired with the missed game over the past two seasons, the Colts used a second-round pick (41st overall) on **Jonathan Taylor**. No running back in this class has a more decorated career usage background that Taylor does. He handled 968 touches over three seasons at Wisconsin for over 2,000 yards from scrimmage in all three years.

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Marlon Mack	247	4.4	52%	20	38	27	16	52%	20	8
Jacoby Brissett	56	4.1	55%	10	60	31	72	48%	34	4
Nyheim Hines	52	3.8	52%	22	34	28	45	50%	27	2
Jordan Wilkins	51	6.0	57%	6	6	60	5	56%	7	2

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Is this Backfield Solely for Jonathan Taylor to dominate as a rookie?

There was no pure runner available in this draft class than Jonathan Taylor. While Taylor was at Wisconsin from 2017-2019, he had 1,715 more rushing yards than the next highest player in college football over that span.

While the touch count is high, there is really no need to have that factor in as a concern. On a per game level, Taylor's 23.6 touches per game in college were fewer than Adrian Peterson (24.9) and Ray Rice (24.9) handled per game while his career touch count is below that of LaDainian Tomlinson (986), Michael Turner (983), DeAngelo Williams (1,039), and David Johnson (1,007) to name a few successful high-volume backs in college.

The only remaining blemish for Taylor is will he catch a ton of passes in the NFL or fall into a Derrick Henry-esque type of a role within an offense. Taylor improved last season, catching 26 passes after just 16 through two seasons. That was good for 10.6% of his team's receptions, which ranked 10th among all 30 backs invited to the combine. But his usage in that area at the next level is still to be determined as Pro Football Focus credited him with eight career drops on 50 catchable passes. Taylor also has been a limited pass protector (33 snaps in protection last season), something that can prevent him playing full-time alongside a veteran quarterback.

Rivers has peppered backfields with targets before, with the Chargers ranking first, third, and 11th in backfield targets over the past three seasons, but neither Taylor nor Mack fit the mold of a Darren Sproles, Danny Woodhead, or Austin Ekeler. That keeps the door open for **Nyheim Hines** to muddy things further, but he himself has had a ton of early struggles in the league. Hines managed to catch another 44 passes a year ago, giving him 107 receptions through two years in the NFL. The downside is that Hines had his snap share significantly reduced last season (32%) from 2018 (44%) by this same coaching staff and he has averaged just 7.0 yards per catch and 5.2 yards per target on those passing game opportunities.

Mack has been a solid back for the Colts the past two seasons and a solid find in the fourth round of 2017. As good of a runner as Mack has been, he has been 59th and 79th in receiving points per game over the past two seasons with a combined 31-185-1 receiving line and 5.9 yards per catch. Mack did catch 65 passes in college for 7.7 yards per catch and did catch 21 passes as a rookie for 10.7 yards per reception, so he has caught passes before. This staff just has not used him in that capacity for the past two seasons. He has also struggled in pass protection, ranking 58th of 60 backs in Pass blocking efficiency per Pro Football Focus.

It is unlikely that Taylor will have a full-time, workhorse role right away in Week 1 with Mack as a threat to touches on the ground and Hines still being used on passing downs. But both leave a lot on the table in the passing game, while Mack has been unable to stay healthy, missing multiple games each year of his career so far. With Taylor's supreme rushing acumen and the door still open for anyone here to be better in the passing game, Taylor is a back to expect to pick up steam as the season moves in terms of percentage of team touches he sees per week.

Indianapolis Colts Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	11 plays *(3%)* Success: 36% EPA: -0.14	243 plays *(65%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.04	120 plays *(32%)* Success: 43% EPA: 0.01	2 plays *(1%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.36	376 plays *(100%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.02
1-2 [2WR]	62 plays *(55%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.14	37 plays *(33%)* Success: 57% EPA: -0.01	12 plays *(11%)* Success: 58% EPA: 0.74	1 plays *(1%)* Success: 100% EPA: 0.61	112 plays *(100%)* Success: 52% EPA: 0.16
2-1 [2WR]	22 plays *(92%)* Success: 45% EPA: -0.12	1 plays *(4%)* Success: 0% EPA: 0.12	1 plays *(4%)* Success: 100% EPA: 2.22		24 plays *(100%)* Success: 46% EPA: -0.01
2-2 [1WR]	6 plays *(86%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.19	1 plays *(14%)* Success: 0% EPA: -5.41			7 plays *(100%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.94
Grand Total	101 plays *(19%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.03	282 plays *(54%)* Success: 48% EPA: 0.02	133 plays *(26%)* Success: 45% EPA: 0.09	3 plays *(1%)* Success: 67% EPA: -0.04	519 plays *(100%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.04

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	34%	3
Nickel	46%	24
Dime+	19%	11
Rush 3	7%	15
Rush 4	73%	6
Rush 5	14%	27
Rush 6+	5%	16
Blitz%	19%	26

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Colts didn't have a great defense in 2019, but there is a lot of young talent that could be on the brink of a breakout on every level of the unit. Indianapolis made a splash at quarterback but the biggest move — parting with a first-round pick plus a massive contract extension — came with the addition of **DeForest Buckner**. Buckner immediately upgrades the interior with a dangerous disruptor next to **Denico Autry**, who was already eighth among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate last season.

There isn't much depth to speak of behind them, but Buckner-Autry is one hell of a 1-2 punch that will likely see the field for most of Indianapolis's defensive snaps. As long as both aren't off the field at the same time, the line will be ok. **Kemoko Turay** had a promising rookie season on the edge in 2018 but made it through just four games in 2019 and finished the year on injured reserve. **Justin Houston** was a welcome positive presence on the edge for Indianapolis, but it was rookie **Ben Banogu** who finished with the highest pressure rate on the team last season, per SIS. Banogu had limited snaps but improved as the season went on and should be in line for a bigger role in 2020. **Al-Quadin Muhammed** also ran a higher pressure rate than Houston as a rotational edge. While Banogu could break out and Turay could return to health, there's clearly room here for another edge somewhere in the middle rounds of the draft.
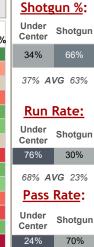
At linebacker, the Colts are still benefiting from their third-round steal of **Darius Leonard** two seasons ago. He makes the middle of the defense work with both tackling and coverage ability. **Bobby Okereke** might be a third-round steal in his own right. The 2019 rookie is a plus in coverage and should emerge with more playing time in the coming season. Indianapolis played 34% of their snaps in base last season, which was the third-highest rate in the league per SIS. The other starting linebacker is **Anthony Walker**, also a good coverage linebacker. It's a good starting trio with decent depth behind them.

As a second-round pick, **Rock Ya-Sin** was one of the league's better rookie corners last season. He was about average in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. For a position that usually takes a year or two to fully develop, that's a good sign. **Marvell Tell** was also an impressive rookie who had some really positive flashes with a couple of rookie mistakes. He could work his way into more playing time in 2020. **Kenny Moore** should also be an above average starter — he finished between Byron Jones and Marcus Peters in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season. There are a number of corners on the depth chart, but the quality is the question. The biggest is **Xavier Rhodes**, who was routinely torched last season with the Vikings.

Malik Hooker played 13 games last season and showed the extended promise he had flashed in previous injury-shortened seasons. Hooker can be one of the most dynamic deep safeties if healthy and the hope is that he can continue in the final year of his rookie deal (fifth-year option pending). **Khari Willis** was also great last season. The problem is depth. Tell could pitch in some at safety if needed, though that wouldn't be suggested if he continues to play well at corner. The Colts took Utah defensive back **Julian Blackmon** in the third round, who has experience at both corner and safety. He has range that looks to play well in the backend of the secondary.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	54%
All Pass Rk	28
All Rush %	46%
All Rush Rk	5
1 Score Pass %	52%
1 Score Pass Rk	31
2018 1 Score Pass %	65%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	2
2019 Pass Increase %	-14%
Pass Increase Rk	32
1 Score Rush %	48%
1 Score Rush Rk	2
Up Pass %	53%
Up Pass Rk	11
Up Rush %	47%
Up Rush Rk	22
Down Pass %	55%
Down Pass Rk	32
Down Rush %	45%
Down Rush Rk	1

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	83%
	Med (4-7)	10	30%	70%	40%
	Long (8-10)	301	48%	52%	49%
	XL (11+)	14	57%	43%	29%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	41	32%	68%	71%
	Med (4-7)	64	38%	63%	63%
	Long (8-10)	92	46%	54%	49%
	XL (11+)	47	74%	26%	15%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	44	57%	43%	68%
	Med (4-7)	37	84%	16%	59%
	Long (8-10)	33	97%	3%	27%
	XL (11+)	36	92%	8%	19%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	9	22%	78%	67%
	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	0%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	34%	66%
	37% AVG	63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	76%	30%
	68% AVG	23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	24%	70%
	32% AVG	77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
57%	23	66%	81%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
43%	8	34%	58%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Marlon Mack	3	67%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Marlon Mack	3	0%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Marlon Mack	92	47%
	XL (11+)	PASS	T.Y. Hilton	3	33%
		RUSH	Marlon Mack	3	33%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Marlon Mack	20	70%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Marlon Mack	22	68%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Marlon Mack	26	62%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Marlon Mack	7	14%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Jack Doyle	8	100%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Eric Ebron	8	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Zach Pascal	5	40%
			Chester Rogers	5	60%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Zach Pascal	7	14%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 41% YPA: 6.2, EPA: 0.00 Rtg: 83.3 [Att: 294 - Rate: 54.3%]	Success: 49% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.10 Rtg: 96.6 [Att: 95 - Rate: 17.6%]	Success: 43% YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 86.6 [Att: 389 - Rate: 71.9%]
Yes	Success: 32% YPA: 5.4, EPA: -0.25 Rtg: 72.7 [Att: 88 - Rate: 16.3%]	Success: 48% YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 96.9 [Att: 64 - Rate: 11.9%]	Success: 39% YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.17 Rtg: 83.4 [Att: 152 - Rate: 28.1%]
Total	Success: 39% YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.06 Rtg: 81.1 [Att: 382 - Rate: 70.6%]	Success: 49% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 96.8 [Att: 159 - Rate: 29.4%]	Success: 42% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 85.7 [Att: 541 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Jack Doyle	Zach Pascal	Marlon Mack	T.Y. Hilton	Marcus Johnson	Chester Rogers	Mo Alie-Cox	Nyheim Hines	Eric Ebron	Jordan Wilkins
1	LAC	L 30-24	43 (68%)	23 (37%)	48 (76%)	56 (89%)		25 (40%)	13 (21%)	17 (27%)	25 (40%)	
2	TEN	W 19-17	51 (71%)	32 (44%)	49 (68%)	65 (90%)		29 (40%)	24 (33%)	14 (19%)	34 (47%)	11 (15%)
3	ATL	W 27-24	49 (69%)	31 (44%)	44 (62%)	37 (52%)		29 (41%)	27 (38%)	18 (25%)	36 (51%)	10 (14%)
4	OAK	L 31-24	57 (73%)	53 (68%)	28 (36%)			55 (71%)	10 (13%)	35 (45%)	27 (35%)	16 (21%)
5	KC	W 19-13	59 (73%)	44 (54%)	54 (67%)	67 (83%)		40 (49%)	37 (46%)	17 (21%)	27 (33%)	12 (15%)
7	HOU	W 30-23	58 (76%)	36 (47%)	54 (71%)	70 (92%)		41 (54%)	30 (39%)	9 (12%)	32 (42%)	14 (18%)
8	DEN	W 15-13	46 (72%)	59 (92%)	39 (61%)	60 (94%)		40 (63%)	18 (28%)	18 (28%)	22 (34%)	6 (9%)
9	PIT	L 26-24	55 (77%)	67 (94%)	39 (55%)			46 (65%)	21 (30%)	20 (28%)	24 (34%)	14 (20%)
10	MIA	L 16-12	42 (60%)	69 (99%)	32 (46%)		56 (80%)	35 (50%)	22 (31%)	30 (43%)	43 (61%)	7 (10%)
11	JAC	W 33-13	44 (65%)	66 (97%)	21 (31%)		63 (93%)	32 (47%)	23 (34%)	24 (35%)	29 (43%)	
12	HOU	L 20-17	46 (69%)	59 (88%)		25 (37%)	42 (63%)	41 (61%)	20 (30%)	22 (33%)	29 (43%)	1 (1%)
13	TEN	L 31-17	68 (94%)	72 (100%)			67 (93%)	1 (1%)	15 (21%)	31 (43%)	32 (44%)	
14	TB	L 38-35	49 (78%)	63 (100%)	26 (41%)		56 (89%)		16 (25%)	35 (56%)	9 (14%)	
15	NO	L 34-7	46 (82%)	45 (80%)	25 (45%)	29 (52%)	45 (80%)		14 (25%)	9 (16%)	24 (43%)	
16	CAR	W 38-6	61 (95%)	50 (78%)	31 (48%)	38 (59%)	46 (72%)		35 (55%)	11 (17%)	22 (34%)	
17	JAC	L 38-20	37 (66%)	40 (71%)	27 (48%)	38 (68%)	42 (75%)		32 (57%)	31 (55%)		
	Grand Total		811 (74%)	809 (75%)	517 (54%)	485 (72%)	417 (81%)	414 (48%)	357 (33%)	341 (31%)	328 (42%)	178 (20%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	62%	60%	46%
1-2 [2WR]	26%	20%	51%
1-3 [1WR]	7%	3%	38%
2-1 [2WR]	3%	8%	49%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	59%	41%	53%
1-2 [2WR]	46%	46%	56%
1-3 [1WR]	31%	41%	36%
2-1 [2WR]	46%	44%	53%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Jack Doyle	14	4	1	9
Zach Pascal	12	2	1	9
Eric Ebron	11	2	1	8
T.Y. Hilton	8	4	2	2
Nyheim Hines	5	1	3	1
Parris Campbell	5		1	4
Chester Rogers	4	2		2
Marcus Johnson	4	2		2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Marlon Mack	37	9	8	20
Jacoby Brissett	14	5	2	7
Jordan Wilkins	11	5	1	5
Nyheim Hines	8	3	2	3
Quenton Nelson	1	1		

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	21%	27%	52%
	23%	21%	56%
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	45%	52%	45%
	#15	#18	#30

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	10	02. Avg Halftime Lead	0.0	03. Wins	7

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	11
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	10
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	22
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	7
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	16
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	27
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	11
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	10
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	23
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	8
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	19
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	30
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	7
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	18
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	23
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	26
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	25
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	4
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	7
23.	PA Improvement Success	6
24.	PA Improvement YPA	19
25.	PA Improvement Rating	7
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	18
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	5
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	24
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	14
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	10
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	10
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	12
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	3
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	4
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	17

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	6.9
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.9
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.8
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.1
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	52%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
42.	PSM Rating	90.6
43.	Non-PSM Rating	88.4

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	43%
45.	PA Success Rate	56%
46.	PA YPA	7.3
47.	PA Sack Rate	4.3%
48.	PA Rating	97
49.	PA Target Depth	8.1
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	45%
51.	Non-PA YPA	5.9
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	6.5%
53.	Non-PA Rating	70.2
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	8.2

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	21%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	51%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.6
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.4
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	52%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.1

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	20	defFUM	16
Net FROE	-2.1	defFUM Rcvrd	8
offFUM	18	defFR Rk	12
offFUM Rcvrd	7	defFR%	50.0%
offFR%	38.9%	defFROE	0.6
offFR Rk	30	defFROE Rk	12
offFROE	-2.6		
offFROE Rk	32		

Field Goal Luck
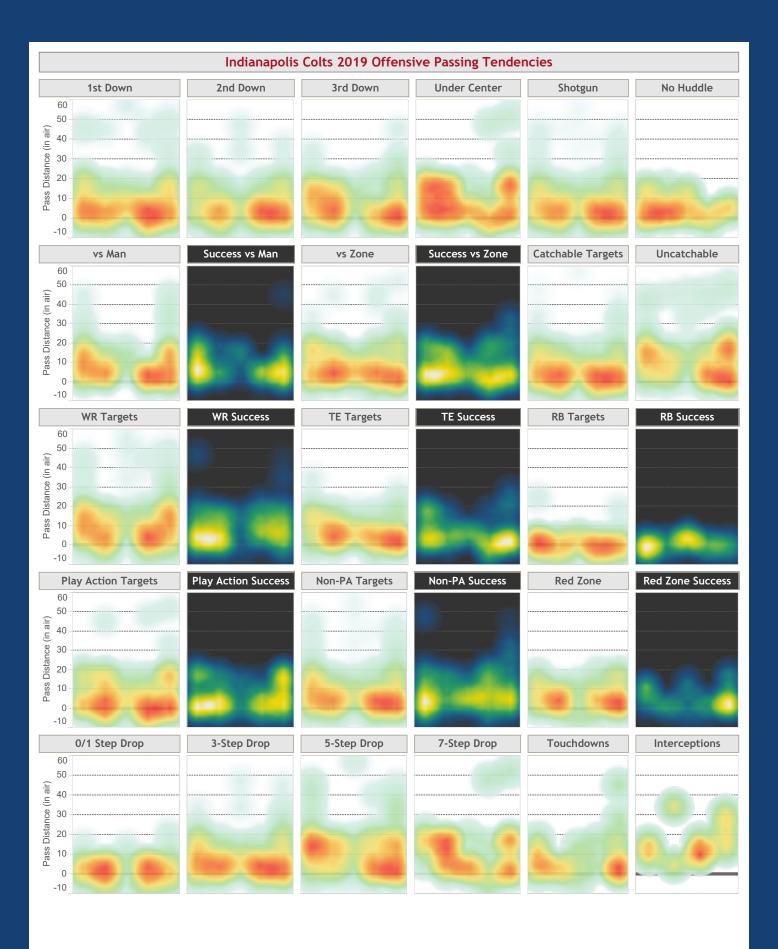
2019 FG %	71%	YOY Swing	-19%
2019 FG Rk	29	YOY Swing Rk	29
Opp 2019 FG %	94%	2018 Team Net	-3%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	1	2018 Net Rk	20
2019 Team Net	-23%		
2019 Net Rk	31		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Jacoby Brissett

CAY	5.1
CAY Rk	31
2018 CAY Rk	
AYTS Rk	27
2018 AYTS Rk	
AGG Rk	17
2018 AGG Rk	
COMP%	60.9
xCOMP%	64.9
xCOMP% Rk	15
2018 xCOMP% Rk	
CPOE%	-4
CPOE Rk	36
2018 CPOE Rk	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

Jacoby Brissett

Pressure %	38.3
Pressure Rk	7
Sack %	13.4
Sack Rk	33
Pressure Accuracy %	57.5
Pressure Accuracy Rk	31
Rating when Pressured	63.8
Pressured Rating Rk	20
Clean Accuracy %	79.9
Clean Accuracy Rk	14
Rating when Clean	100.5
Clean Rating Rk	20
Time to Throw	2.93
Time to Throw Rk	2

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.05
EPA/Pass Rk	22
EPA/Rush	0.03
EPA/Rush Rk	4
On-Target Catch %	79.7
On-Target Catch Rk	32
Drop%	11.4
Drop Rk	32
YAC/Att	2.5
YAC/Att Rk	10
Rush Broken Tackle %	18
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	8
Rush 1st Down %	27.8
Rush 1st Down Rk	2

Indianapolis Colts 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle

vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable

WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success

Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success

0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
  Doug Marrone (3 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
  Jay Gruden (WAS HC) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
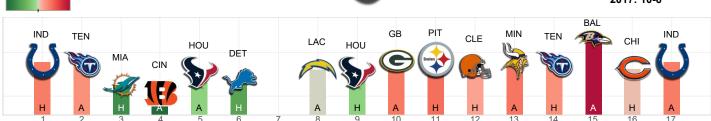 Todd Wash (4 yrs)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
4.5	#4

Past Records

2019: 6-10
2018: 5-11
2017: 10-6

IND	TEN	MIA	CIN	HOU	DET		LAC	HOU	GB	PIT	CLE	MIN	TEN	BAL	CHI	IND
H	A	H	A	A	H		A	H	A	H	H	A	H	A	H	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
A.J. Bouye (CB)	Broncos
Austin Calitro (ILB)	Bengals
Calais Campbell (43DE)	Ravens
Cedric Ogbuehi (RT)	Seahawks
Cody Davis (S)	Patriots
Marqise Lee (WR)	Patriots
Nick Foles (QB)	Bears
Nick O'Leary (TE)	Raiders
Akeem Spence (43DT)	Null
Ben Ijalana (LT)	Null
Ben Koyack (TE)	Null
Brandon Thomas (LG)	Null
Carl Davis (34DE)	Null
D.J. Alexander (ILB)	Null
Devante Mays (RB)	Null
Donald Payne (ILB)	Null
Donnell Greene (LT)	Null
Geoff Swaim (TE)	Null
Jake Ryan (ILB)	Null
James Onwualu (43OLB)	Null
Jeremy McNichols (RB)	Null
Marcell Dareus (43DT)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
6.2	1	14

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	4.5
2019 Wins	6
Forecast 2019 Wins	8
2018 Wins	5
2017 Wins	10
2016 Wins	3

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2020 Jacksonville Jaguars Overview

Help a young quarterback. Find out what he does well, quickly, and emphasize it. Keep him from obvious passing situations. Keep the defense guessing with your playcalls. Keep him confident by keeping him upright. And let him pass on early downs to build up his confidence.

The formula to helping a young quarterback goes beyond that handful of strategies, but they get you pretty far down the road.

John DeFilippo didn't expect to be working with a young quarterback. He was hired to be the Jaguars' offensive coordinator in January 2019. Blake Bortles was still the Jaguars' starting quarterback, but clearly head coach Doug Marrone discussed ideas for what the Jaguars would do at the position in 2019. In free agency, the Jaguars went hard after **Nick Foles**. Foles was the Eagles' backup quarterback and took the Eagles into the playoffs twice. He did so once and won a Super Bowl with DeFilippo acting as quarterbacks coach.

The Jaguars overpaid for Foles in free agency, as teams tend to do when signing players in free agency. They released Bortles and DeFilippo was back to working with Foles. That was the plan for 2019. The team drafted **Gardner Minshew** in the sixth round as an afterthought.

The depth chart as of May 1 was QB1: Foles, QB2: Cody Kessler, QB3: Tanner Lee, QB4: Minshew.

But the Jaguars released Kessler on May 9. And everyone bumped up one spot. And then, in the midst of the preseason, the Jaguars released Lee on August 17.

And boom, just like that, behind Foles was Gardner Minshew,

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Joe Schobert (ILB)	$10.8
Rodney Gunter (34DE)	$6
Tyler Eifert (TE)	$4.79
Al Woods (43DT)	$2.5
Rashaan Melvin (CB)	$1.8
Chris Thompson (RB)	$1.39
Mike Glennon (QB)	$1.2
Aaron Lynch (34OLB)	$1
Cassius Marsh (43DE)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	9	CB - C. J. Henderson (Florida)
1	20	LB - K'Lavon Chaisson (LSU)
2	42	WR - Laviska Shenault (Colo..)
3	73	DT - DaVon Hamilton (Ohio ..)
4	116	OT - Ben Bartch (Saint John'..)
4	137	CB - Josiah Scott (Michigan ..)
4	140	LB - Shaquille Quarterman (..)
5	157	S - Daniel Thomas (Auburn)
5	165	WR - Collin Johnson (Texas)
6	189	QB - Jake Luton (Oregon Sta..)
6	206	TE - Tyler Davis (Georgia Te..)
7	223	CB - Chris Claybrooks (Mem..)

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS J.Wilson 26
LB M.Jack 44
LB J.Schobert NEW 53
SS R.Harrison 36
RCB C.Henderson Rookie 21
SLOTCB D.Hayden 25
DRE Y.Ngakoue 91
DRT T.Bryan 90
DLT A.Jones 95
DLE J.Allen 41
LCB R.Melvin* 22

LWR C.Conley 18
SLOTWR D.Westbrook 12
LT C.Robinson 74
LG A.Norwell 68
C B.Linder 65
RG A.Cann 60
RT J.Taylor 75
TE T.Eifert NEW 88
RWR D.Chark 17

QB G.Minshew 15
WR2 L.Shenault Rookie 10
WR3 K.Cole 84
RB2 C.Thompson 34
QB2 M.Glennon 2
RB L.Fournette 27

2020 Cap Dollars

= 30+ years old

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	30	$76.13M	27
QB	31	$3.04M	20
OL	20	$37.21M	18
RB	7	$13.28M	8
WR	27	$15.26M	25
TE	23	$7.35M	24
All DEF	24	$90.37M	14
DL	19	$42.08M	8
LB	15	$26.04M	24
CB	21	$14.67M	5
S	29	$7.58M	25

QB2, a rookie sixth-rounder.

Trailing 10-0 to the eventual Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs, Nick Foles dropped back on 3rd and 8 and bombed a 35-yard touchdown to **D.J. Chark**. But he was blown up on the play. He ended up breaking his left clavicle and needed surgery. He was put on IR with a designated to return tag. His season wasn't over, but he would be out for a couple of months.

Suddenly, before it really got started, the DeFilippo/Foles reunion was over. And DeFilippo was left with a sixth-round rookie, who wasn't prepared at all.

Learning a new offense with new teammates isn't easy. With both DeFilippo and Foles in Year 1 with a new team and teammates, you can imagine Foles and the first-team offense did a lot of work in the preseason. This was not a Kyler Murray situation, where the plan was to get the young pup ready for Week 1 and give him meaningful reps all preseason. Minshew was an afterthought in the draft and in the preseason. And here he was, in Week 1, dropping back to pass 25 times against the NFL's best QB and eventual Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes.

That Week 1 game saw Minshew impressively go 22/25 for 275 yards (11.0 YPA), but the team obviously lost 40-26.

It's hard not to feel for DeFilippo. But injuries happen. And it was time to get to work figuring out how to maximize the offense to do as best possible with Minshew as QB1.

There were a couple of pitfalls DeFilippo didn't fall into, which was good. But there were also things that were beyond head-scratching, to be kind. For the purpose of the analysis of the DeFilippo-Minshew marriage, I'm removing Week 1 and Weeks 11-12, when Foles returned before exiting again for good in Week 13.

One of the first pitfalls many playcallers fall into with a young quarterback is a desire to get conservative. They believe a young quarterback's best friend is the run game, his enemy is too many dropbacks, and the run game should carry the burden with the quarterback passing when he needs to.

But the reality is, a young QB's best friend is passing on non-obvious passing situations. His enemy is passing on obvious passing situations. The run game should support and complement the quarterback, not attempt to carry him unnaturally.

To his credit, DeFilippo didn't fall into that first pitfall. I wrote in last year's preview about DeFilippo's time with the Eagles before going to Minnesota in 2018. I forecast that, with his wings spread after Mike Zimmer's conservative approach caged him, DeFilippo would return to a more pass-oriented attack (a la the Eagles style) in Jacksonville. Had Nick Foles been QB1 all season, perhaps the Jaguars would have gone even more pass-heavy. But with Minshew at the helm, they were fairly balanced.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Gardner Minshew	51% 7.8 95.5	43% 6.1 93.9	29% 7.0 83.6	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	53%	62%	79%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
JAC	36% 4.2	46% 4.7	46% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	47%	38%	21%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

Still, it was much more pass-heavy than the 2018 Jaguars. In fact, even with a rookie QB, the Jaguars passed the ball 6% more in one-score situations, the fourth-highest increase in the league.
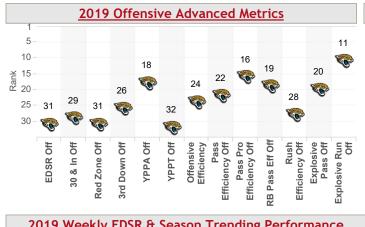
In the first half of games, on first down the Jaguars were 49% pass. That was right in line with the NFL average. They were the third-most run-heavy team in this situation in 2018 (42% pass). Even while the Jaguars ran less often, the problem was when they did run it was an absolute disaster.

The Jaguars averaged just 2.9 YPC and a 27% success rate. That ranked 31st and 32nd in the NFL.

Of 41 running backs with 30+ first half, first down carries last year, **Leonard Fournette** ranked dead last. His 2.7 YPC was dead last. His successful play rate of 25% ranked dead last.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

Ranks (Rank axis, 1 best to 30): EDSR Off 31, 30 & In Off 29, Red Zone Off 31, 3rd Down Off 26, YPPA Off 18, YPPT Off 32, Offensive Efficiency 24, Pass Efficiency Off 22, Pass Pro Efficiency Off 16, RB Pass Eff Off 19, Rush Efficiency Off 28, Explosive Pass Off 20, Explosive Run Off 11

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

Ranks (Rank axis): EDSR Def 26, 30 & In Def 30, Red Zone Def 16, 3rd Down Def 23, YPPA Def 25, YPPT Def 19, Defensive Efficiency 29, Pass Efficiency Def 22, Pass Pro Efficiency Def 6, RB Pass Eff Def 23, Rush Efficiency Def 30, Explosive Pass Def 26, Explosive Run Def 29

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	L	L	W	W	L	L	W	W	L	L	L	L	L	W	L	W
OPP	KC	HOU	TEN	DEN	CAR	NO	CIN	NYJ	HOU	IND	TEN	TB	LAC	OAK	ATL	IND
SITE	H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	N	A	A	H	H	A	A	H
MARGIN	-14	-1	13	2	-7	-7	10	14	-23	-20	-22	-17	-35	4	-12	18
PTS	26	12	20	26	27	6	27	29	3	13	20	11	10	20	12	38
OPP PTS	40	13	7	24	34	13	17	15	26	33	42	28	45	16	24	20

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **6**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-1**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **17% (#18)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **2-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **40% (#22)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **33% (#25)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-1
TO Given	20
INT Given	8
FUM Given	12
TO Taken	19
INT Taken	10
FUM Taken	9
Sack Margin	+5
Sacks	47
Sacks Allow	42
Return TD Margin	+0
Ret TDs	2
Ret TDs Allow	2
Penalty Margin	-30
Penalties	132
Opponent Penalties	102

Jacksonville Jaguars 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD

Average Opponent

EASY

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank)

Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

RANK

Categories (left to right):
- Total Efficiency
- DEF Efficiency
- Pass Efficiency DEF
- YPPA Def
- Explosive Pass DEF
- Pass Pro Efficieincy DEF
- Rush Efficiency DEF
- Explosive Rush DEF
- RB Pass Eff DEF
- Red Zone Blend DEF
- YPPT Def
- Third Down Conv DEF
- OFF Efficiency
- Pass Efficiency OFF
- YPPA Off
- Explosive Pass OFF
- Pass Pro Efficiency OFF
- Rush Efficiency OFF
- Explosive Rush OFF
- RB Pass Eff OFF
- Red Zone Blend OFF
- YPPT Off
- Third Down Conv OFF

Passing | *Rushing* | *Passing* | *Rushing*

Legend
- ⊚ 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
16	14	29	12	10	17	13	7

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	2.4	-0.2	-2.4
Average O/U line	43.7	41.8	40.3
Straight Up Record	6-10	5-11	10-6
Against the Spread Record	7-9	6-9	9-7
Over/Under Record	8-7	6-10	8-8
ATS as Favorite	2-1	2-5	6-5
ATS as Underdog	5-8	4-4	3-2
Straight Up Home	3-4	3-4	5-2
ATS Home	3-4	4-3	4-3
Over/Under Home	4-3	2-5	4-3
ATS as Home Favorite	1-1	1-3	4-2
ATS as a Home Dog	2-3	3-0	0-1
Straight Up Away	3-5	2-6	4-4
ATS Away	4-4	2-5	4-4
Over/Under Away	4-3	4-4	3-5
ATS Away Favorite	1-0	1-2	2-3
ATS Away Dog	3-4	1-3	2-1
Six Point Teaser Record	9-7	8-7	11-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	9-7	9-7	12-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-5	13-3

JAC-3

On 75 attempts, he had just four broken tackles. These 75 runs recorded -16.4 EPA.

In other words, starting out the game (first half), when the Jaguars stuck the ball into the belly of Fournette, they stuck the knife in their own belly and slowly but steadily killed their chances of winning games.

Meanwhile, on first down passes in the first half, Minshew was great. He had 73 attempts, nearly identical to the number of runs for Fournette. But Minshew averaged 7.8 YPA and delivered a 90% accuracy rate. He threw just one interception. He recorded a 105 rating, a 63% success rate, and 9.5 EPA. Of 31 quarterbacks to throw at least 40 attempts, Minshew posted the sixth-best success rate.

While the Jaguars were not overly run heavy on these downs, they were so terrible when rushing (41st of 41) and so great when passing (sixth of 31) that they needed to go more pass-heavy.

We saw the Jaguars pass the ball at an above-average

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	1
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	3
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	-7
Week 8 Edge	7
Week 9 Edge	-7
Week 10 Edge	-3
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	1
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	29
2018 Rk	28
2019 v 2018 Rk	14
Off Rk	26
Def Rk	25
QB Rk	28
RB Rk	6
WR Rk	22
TE Rk	32
Oline Rk	4
Dline Rk	20
LB Rk	31
DB Rk	6

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
IND	TEN	MIA	CIN	HOU	DET	LAC	HOU	GB	PIT	CLE	MIN	TEN	BAL	CHI	IND
7	11	1.5	3	8.5	1.5	7	3	11	6	0	11	3.5	16	-1	10.5

Avg = 6.2

H A H A A A A A H H H A A H H A

Home Lines

1	3	6	9	11	12	14	16
7	1.5	1.5	3	6	0	3.5	-1
IND	MIA	DET	HOU	PIT	CLE	TEN	CHI

Avg = 2.7

Road Lines

2	4	5	8	10	13	15	17
11	3	8.5	7	11	11	16	10.5
TEN	CIN	HOU	LAC	GB	MIN	BAL	IND

Avg = 9.8

rate on first downs in the first half with Minshew at the helm in just four games out of 12:

Week 3 vs the Titans (67% pass)
Week 4 vs the Broncos (57% pass)
Week 9 vs the Texans (78% pass)
Week 17 vs the Colts (79% pass)

The Jaguars' record in those four games where DeFilippo allowed Minshew to pass more on first half first downs?

3-1

In every other start, the team skewed even more run-heavy than average. And as we just learned, with each first down handoff to Fournette, the Jaguars were less and less likely to win.

This strong run rate with disastrous results was a big reason why the Jaguars held a halftime lead in just two games all season long. No other team held fewer halftime leads. The next closest teams were the Redskins and Giants, both at four games.

Over the last 30 years, only five teams held a halftime lead in fewer than two games. It hasn't happened since 2012. And only 12 other teams in those 30 years held a halftime lead in just two games. The last time prior to the 2019 Jaguars was the 0-16 Browns of 2017.

The frustrating part was this was entirely on playcalling. The score was not out of whack. It was the opening drive. It was the late first quarter. It was 20 minutes into the game. It was just the first half. And on first downs, where the defense didn't know if you would run or pass, which means a great opportunity to pass, the Jaguars chose balance over efficiency. And it directly translated into more losses.

But even more frustrating than the first half run rate (because to be fair, it was league average), was the lack of tools that were made available to Minshew. And those tools are play-action and pre-snap motion.

The 2019 Jaguars used play-action on just 25% of their early down pass attempts in the first three quarters. That ranked 30th in the NFL, or third-least often.
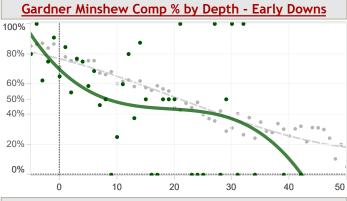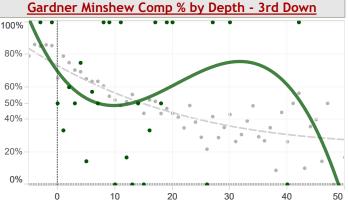
For perspective, the NFL average was 36%.

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Leonard Fournette	18%	18%	54%	4%	5%
	D.J. Chark			100%		
	Dede Westbrook	20%	20%	60%		
	Ryquell Armstead	9%	3%	77%	3%	9%
	Keelan Cole	100%				
	Marqise Lee			100%		
	Total	17%	16%	57%	4%	5%
PASS	Leonard Fournette	39%	14%	34%	6%	7%
	D.J. Chark	25%	16%	49%	8%	2%
	Dede Westbrook	33%	9%	49%	3%	6%
	Chris Conley	31%	16%	46%	4%	3%
	Ryquell Armstead	42%	8%	50%		
	Keelan Cole	37%	13%	47%	3%	
	James O'Shaughnes..	15%	25%	55%		5%
	Geoff Swaim	33%	13%	40%	7%	7%
	Seth DeValve	33%	20%	47%		
	Nick O'Leary	92%		8%		
	Marqise Lee	25%		75%		
	Ben Koyack	33%	33%	33%		
	Total	33%	14%	45%	4%	3%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Leonard Fournette	D.J. Chark	Dede Westbrook	Chris Conley	Ryquell Armstead	Keelan Cole	James O'Shaughnessy	Geoff Swaim	Seth DeValve	Nick O'Leary	Marqise Lee	Ben Koyack
RUSH	86%	1%	2%		11%	0%					0%	
PASS	18%	22%	18%	16%	5%	6%	4%	3%	3%	3%	1%	1%
ALL	44%	14%	12%	10%	7%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	0%

Gardner Minshew Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Gardner Minshew Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-1 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, -0.02 (492)	50%, 0.11 (56)	36%, -0.33 (70)	14%, -0.37 (7)	100%, 2.61 (1)	0%, -1.25 (1)	0%, -8.35 (1)	100%, 0.87 (1)		42%, -0.05 (629)
RUSH	44%, 0.00 (199)	39%, -0.13 (122)	45%, 0.20 (11)	38%, -0.05 (47)	0%, -1.24 (4)	33%, -0.08 (3)	0%, -0.23 (1)	0%, -0.09 (1)	0%, 0.13 (1)	41%, -0.05 (389)
All	43%, -0.01 (691)	42%, -0.05 (178)	37%, -0.26 (81)	35%, -0.09 (54)	20%, -0.47 (5)	25%, -0.37 (4)	0%, -4.29 (2)	50%, 0.39 (2)	0%, 0.13 (1)	41%, -0.05 (1,018)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Leonard Fournette	41% (79) 4.8, -0.16	22% (9) 5.9, -0.35	56% (9) 8.2, 0.28	40% (97) 5.2, -0.14
TE	James O' Shaughne..	67% (15) 8.9, 0.45		50% (4) 5.0, 0.26	63% (19) 8.1, 0.41
WR	DJ Chark Jr	48% (96) 8.2, 0.23	40% (10) 7.3, -0.12	58% (12) 10.0, 0.46	48% (118) 8.3, 0.22
	Dede Westbrook	42% (91) 6.0, -0.05	50% (8) 8.5, 0.18	67% (3) 16.0, 0.76	43% (102) 6.5, -0.01
	Chris Conley	48% (67) 9.3, 0.45	53% (15) 8.3, 0.40	40% (5) 4.0, 0.00	48% (87) 8.8, 0.41
	Keelan Cole	57% (28) 10.8, 0.65	57% (7) 5.6, 0.05	100% (1) 20.0, 1.09	58% (36) 10.0, 0.55

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Fournette Leonard	41% (130) 4.3, -0.05	43% (95) 4.5, -0.03	33% (3) 5.3, -0.08		42% (228) 4.4, -0.04
Minshew Gardner	59% (37) 7.2, 0.20	18% (11) 2.5, -0.66		0% (1) 2.0, 0.13	49% (49) 6.0, 0.00
Armstead Ryquell	33% (21) 3.5, -0.12	27% (11) 2.6, -0.35			31% (32) 3.2, -0.20

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	48% (261) 7.5, 0.13
M2M	41% (132) 6.6, 0.08
Screen	39% (44) 5.1, 0.00

Passing by Route

Curl	55% (73) 6.4, -0.02
Out	59% (64) 7.9, 0.37
Flat	52% (60) 5.3, 0.10
Screen	35% (46) 4.7, -0.11
Slant	38% (37) 4.5, -0.15
Dig	54% (28) 9.6, 0.39

Throw Types

Level 1	46% (390) 6.1, 0.09
Level 2	56% (98) 9.7, 0.28
Level 3	32% (47) 11.7, 0.44
Shovel	33% (6) 3.0, -0.33
Sidearm	33% (3) 2.3, -0.74

QB Drop Types

3 Step	42% (231) 7.1, 0.14
0/1 Step	48% (182) 5.6, -0.01
5 Step	53% (66) 10.5, 0.49
Designed Rollout Right	54% (26) 8.1, 0.37
Basic Screen	31% (16) 4.9, -0.29
7 Step	67% (9) 19.6, 1.12

QB State at Pass

Planted	48% (415) 7.5, 0.17
Moving	36% (104) 5.3, 0.00
Shuffling	37% (68) 4.8, -0.14

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	55% (56) 10.2, 0.35	50% (18) 5.9, 0.06
Shotgun	47% (30) 9.3, 0.30	40% (525) 6.3, -0.12
ALL	52% (86) 9.9, 0.34	40% (543) 6.3, -0.12

Run Types

Power	36% (55) 2.5, -0.16
Inside Zone	32% (53) 2.6, -0.16
Outside Zone	37% (52) 5.1, -0.08
Lead	50% (38) 8.1, 0.20
Pitch	25% (8) 0.4, -0.44
Stretch	33% (6) 0.7, -0.40

JAC-5

And I simply don't understand the justification for such a low rate. Let's pretend that Minshew was just average in play-action.

Let's pretend he averaged 8.5 YPA with play-action as opposed to 6.7 without.
Let's pretend he averaged a 55% success rate with play-action as opposed to 51% without.
Let's pretend he averaged a 103 passer rating with play action as opposed to 90 without.

You have a running back like Fournette in the backfield. He's clearly terrible when running behind this line, especially on these early downs to start the game. You know defenses will *think* you will want to run the ball because you have a No. 4 overall pick at running back and a rookie sixth-round quarterback, so they might try to play the run more. And you know your quarterback is significantly better when using play-action (using the NFL average stats above).

How could you possibly justify using play-action the third-least often in the NFL?

But wait, it gets worse. And that's because Minshew didn't just improve like the NFL average when using play-action. He was OFF THE CHARTS great.

How about these splits (early downs, quarters 1-3 as defined above):

With play-action: 11.2 YPA, 68% success, 147 rating, 61% positive play, 0.48 EPA/att, 9.3% TD rate
W/O play action: 5.3 YPA, 44% success, 76 rating, 45% positive play, 0.04 EPA/att, 1.9% TD rate

Among 32 quarterbacks with at least 40 play-action attempts, Minshew ranked first in EPA/att, first in positive play rate, first in success rate, first in rating, first in accuracy, first in TD/INT ratio, and fifth in YPA.

He wasn't just average with play-action. He was the best in the NFL. And his splits were the largest in the NFL. He was first with play-action and gained the biggest benefit by using play-action. You can look at the "Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research" section of this chapter, line 22, and see how little they used it but lines 23 through 25 show how great they were with it.

And yet the Jaguars used play-action at the 30th-highest rate of 32 teams. It made zero sense. And this gets back to the second sentence in this chapter: "Find out what your young QB does well, quickly, and emphasize it." The Jaguars failed hereby not using more play-action.
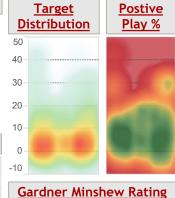
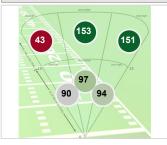# Jacksonville Jaguars 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Using both free agent **Nick Foles** and sixth-round draft pick **Gardner Minshew** under center last season, Jacksonville ranked 27th in success rate through the air (42%) and 23rd in EPA via their passing offense. Minshew threw 21 touchdown passes to just six interceptions on 556 dropbacks, but completed 60.6% of his passes while his expected completion percentage was 65.8% per NFL Next Gen Stats. That -5.2% mark under expected completion rate bested only David Blough for all qualifying passers a year ago. His 7.9-yard average depth of target ranked 28th while his 7.0 yards per pass attempt ranked 23rd for all passers with four or more starts on the season. The Jaguars shipped Foles off this spring to the Bears, giving Minshew the opportunity to be the full-time quarterback in Jacksonville for the 2020 season.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Gardner Minshew	285	470	61%	3,270	7.0	21	6	33	91	20
Nick Foles	77	117	66%	736	6.3	3	2	8	85	32
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Gardner Minshew	42%	47%	43	9.0%	20	4.0%	6.0	5.5	23	5%
Nick Foles	40%	41%	10	9.0%	3	3.0%	4.9	4.7	4	3%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Gardner Minshew Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down
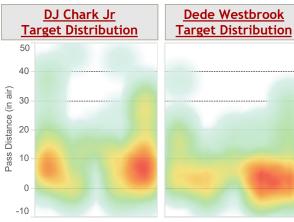
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2		0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	4.3%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	1.0%
10 - 14	1.7%	0.0%	3.3%	0.0%	1.5%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	1.6%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	1.2%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Gardner Minshew	9.3	5.9	-3.5	72%	30
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
52%	48%	27
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Jacksonville struggled to use their tight ends (30th in yards per target) and their running backs (26th) in the passing game last season. **Leonard Fournette** had 100 targets in the passing game last season, but ranked 50th in successful play rate in the passing game among backs. New addition **Chris Thompson** checked in at 54th on the same list in 2019. The Jaguars ranked 26th in success rate targeting their wide receivers, but that wideout group did rank 16th in the league in yards per target (8.1 yards). The team received a big breakout from **D.J. Chark** (73-1,008-8) in his second season. Chark is the lead option in the passing game moving forward while **Laviska Shenault**, **Tyler Eifert**, and Thompson are new contributors here in the passing game.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
D.J. Chark	117	62%	8.6	105.6	50%	80	106	29	116	8
Dede Westbrook	101	65%	6.5	85.4	44%	114	72	72	98	3
Leonard Fournette	100	76%	5.2	83.0	40%	127	123	133	31	0
Chris Conley	91	52%	8.5	98.9	47%	93	99	77	32	3

DJ Chark Jr Target Distribution

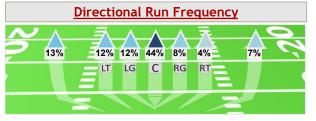### Dede Westbrook Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Jaguars ranked 30th in success rate rushing (41%) ahead of just the Jets and Dolphins while ranking 26th in Expected Points Added on the ground. Despite Leonard Fournette tallying 1,152 yards on the ground, he ranked 42nd out of 47 running backs in success rate (42%) to have 100 or more carries on the season. The Jaguars also just could not find the end zone on the ground, registering a league-low three rushing scores in 2019, which was the fewest rushing touchdowns in a season for a team since 2005. With no major additions to the backfield to significantly threaten Fournette's workload, the team projects to lean on the power back once again in the final season of his contract.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Leonard Fournette	265	4.3	42%	65	46	78	14	40%	70	3
Gardner Minshew	67	5.1	42%	66	79	52	75	42%	62	0

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Is Gardner Minshew an underrated fantasy option?

Minshew had his faults as a passer and "real" quarterback, but was a reliable fantasy option. Minshew made 12 starts last season and finished in the top half of weekly scoring at his position in nine of those 12 weeks. His 16.8 fantasy points per game in those starts were good for the QB16 on the season, ahead of options such as Kirk Cousins, Tom Brady, Jared Goff, and fellow rookie Daniel Jones. What helped Minshew sustain a high floor was that he led all NFL quarterbacks in scramble rushing attempts (50) and was 13th in rushing points per game (2.6). Still a streaming and bench option in 1QB formats, Minshew is a solid late-round value pick in 2QB formats with an undervalued floor.

What do we do with Leonard Fournette in 2020?

One thing in short supply in fantasy football are running backs with volume. Even with inefficiency, we want players who get the ball a lot, and that is what we have with Fournette. He is coming off a career-high 341 touches while handling 85.8% of the Jacksonville running back carries and 84.8% of the backfield touches. Despite sitting out Week 17, those rates of usage trailed only Christian McCaffrey at the position. The depth chart behind him right now is filled with inexperienced, low-investment options and satellite back Chris Thompson, who comes with his own set of baggage in terms of staying on the field.

Fournette is also due to have a spike in touchdown output, even playing for the lowly Jaguar offense. He scored just three times on those 341 touches. It was the fifth-most touches in an NFL season with three or fewer touchdowns scored. There have been five times in league history where a back has scored three or fewer times on 300-plus touches and received another 300-plus touches the following season. In those years, the touchdown spikes for those backs resulted in scoring seasons of 14, 15, 11, 15, and seven touchdowns. Jacksonville also had a 24-to-3 passing to rushing TD rate (88.9%), the second-highest split over the past decade behind the 2017 Seahawks, who went from four touchdowns on the ground up to 15 the following season.

The question still remains in how we trust the Jaguars and can Fournette get to 300 touches again in 2020? On one hand, the Jaguars seemingly are not too enthralled with Fournette on the field or behind closed doors. They tried to trade him this offseason and declined to pick up his fifth-year option. But on the other hand, the team also failed to aggressively add any real competition or investment into the depth chart from a rushing perspective behind Fournette.

The shakiest thing for Fournette is that his 2019 receiving role should be compromised. Fournette set a career-high with 76 catches and 100 targets, but did so with only 6.9 yards per catch and had 19 total air yards all season on those targets. The Jaguars added Thompson, who has familiarity with Jay Gruden, to take away receiving snaps but has played a full season just once in seven years and has missed five or more games in each of the past three seasons.

Fournette has the projected workload and scoring regression to the mean as pros to him being a potential value option with a high floor, but also comes with added fragility due to his standing with the organization and potential loss of a career-high in receiving output.

Jacksonville Jaguars Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	19 plays (5%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.26	300 plays (80%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.03	55 plays (15%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.26	374 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.05
1-2 [2WR]	54 plays (63%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.21	32 plays (37%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.25		86 plays (100%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.22
2-1 [2WR]	20 plays (59%) Success: 65% EPA: 0.29	14 plays (41%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.21		34 plays (100%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.25
2-2 [1WR]	17 plays (100%) Success: 65% EPA: 0.40			17 plays (100%) Success: 65% EPA: 0.40
Grand Total	110 plays (22%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.17	346 plays (68%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.06	55 plays (11%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.26	511 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.10

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	30%	9
Nickel	59%	15
Dime+	9%	17
Rush 3	3%	25
Rush 4	72%	7
Rush 5	17%	22
Rush 6+	7%	9
Blitz%	24%	17

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Jacksonville had one of the most feared defenses in the league just a few years ago but that time has long past. The stars of that team are all gone and the Jaguars are in the midst of a rebuild at every level of defense.

The loss of **Calais Campbell** will be felt across the entire defensive line, but 2018 first-round pick **Taven Bryan** had an impressive sophomore campaign as a pass rusher with a 9.72% pressure rate that ranked fourth behind Aaron Donald, Chris Jones, and Javon Hargrave among defensive tackles with at least 100 pass rushes. There's little of note behind Bryan, though veterans such as **Abry Jones** and **Rodney Gunter** should be fine if Bryan can continue to develop. Jacksonville also used a third-round pick on **Davon Hamilton**, who mostly played a nose tackle role at Ohio State.

The Jaguars pass rush hinges on whether **Yannick Ngakoue** will be on the team for the 2020 season and beyond. Ngakoue was offered the franchise tag but has made his desire to move on from Jacksonville well known. **Josh Allen** had an impressive rookie season and there is still room to grow. The Jaguars drafted LSU EDGE **K'Lavon Chaisson** with their second first-round pick to add to the rotation and have a possible starter when/if the team and Ngokue part ways.

With **Myles Jack** and free agent signing **Joe Schobert**, the Jaguars rival the Cowboys with the most investment at off-ball linebacker (quality may vary). Jack signed a huge extension a year ago but took a huge step back in play during the 2019 season. He's cuttable after 2020 with nearly $5 million in cap savings, but with so many other needs on the defense, it's more likely the Jaguars will allow that to play out before potentially addressing a permanent fall off early.

At this time last season, the starting cornerback duo was Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye. This is not that. **D.J. Hayden** was a standout last season in the slot (10th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap among corners with 100+ snaps) but he might have to take on more responsibility in 2020. The Jaguars selected **C.J. Henderson** of Florida ninth overall. Henderson struggled in coverage during his final college season but is very, very fast.

Rashaan Melvin was a bottom-tier corner with the Lions last season but will battle as the other outside starter, as will **Tre Herndon**, who was slightly below average in his first season as a starter.

At safety, **Jarrod Wilson** played admirably for a fourth-year undrafted free agent who was pushed into his first starting role in 2019. **Ronnie Harrison** also showed some promise in his third season. Still, the Jaguars were among the worst teams defending the deep ball and there's little to no depth behind the penciled-in starters.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	62%
All Pass Rk	9
All Rush %	38%
All Rush Rk	24
1 Score Pass %	58%
1 Score Pass Rk	18
2018 1 Score Pass %	52%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	28
2019 Pass Increase %	6%
Pass Increase Rk	4
1 Score Rush %	42%
1 Score Rush Rk	15
Up Pass %	47%
Up Pass Rk	23
Up Rush %	53%
Up Rush Rk	10
Down Pass %	67%
Down Pass Rk	15
Down Rush %	33%
Down Rush Rk	18

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	2	0%	100%	100%
	Med (4-7)	4	25%	75%	50%
	Long (8-10)	274	49%	51%	45%
	XL (11+)	17	53%	47%	12%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	31	39%	61%	65%
	Med (4-7)	69	54%	46%	48%
	Long (8-10)	92	63%	37%	38%
	XL (11+)	46	76%	24%	26%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	32	59%	41%	47%
	Med (4-7)	56	91%	9%	30%
	Long (8-10)	29	79%	21%	28%
	XL (11+)	37	86%	14%	16%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	83%
	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	50%
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	36%	64%
	37% AVG	63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	76%	13%
	68% AVG	23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	24%	87%
	32% AVG	77%

Jacksonville Jaguars 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
74%	8	66%	80%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
26%	25	34%	78%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	2	100%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	2	0%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	105	33%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	5	20%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	16	81%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	26	42%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	27	37%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Leonard Fournette	7	29%
			D.J. Chark	7	43%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	11	45%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Dede Westbrook	11	18%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	D.J. Chark	7	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Leonard Fournette	6	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N) No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 40% YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.12 Rtg: 84.4 [Att: 487 - Rate: 77.4%]	Success: 55% YPA: 11.7, EPA: 0.42 Rtg: 143.9 [Att: 51 - Rate: 8.1%]	Success: 42% YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 90.4 [Att: 538 - Rate: 85.5%]
Yes	Success: 38% YPA: 5.2, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 84.3 [Att: 56 - Rate: 8.9%]	Success: 49% YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.22 Rtg: 108.5 [Att: 35 - Rate: 5.6%]	Success: 42% YPA: 6.0, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 93.5 [Att: 91 - Rate: 14.5%]
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.12 Rtg: 84.4 [Att: 543 - Rate: 86.3%]	Success: 52% YPA: 9.9, EPA: 0.34 Rtg: 131.7 [Att: 86 - Rate: 13.7%]	Success: 42% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 90.9 [Att: 629 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Leonard Fournette	Chris Conley	D.J. Chark	Dede Westbrook	Keelan Cole	Seth DeValve	Geoff Swaim	Nick O'Leary	Marqise Lee
1	KC	L 40-26	50 (86%)	44 (76%)	41 (71%)	48 (83%)	12 (21%)	8 (14%)	29 (50%)		12 (21%)
2	HOU	L 13-12	65 (97%)	57 (85%)	55 (82%)	58 (87%)	9 (13%)	10 (15%)	35 (52%)		
3	TEN	W 20-7	54 (100%)	38 (70%)	38 (70%)	43 (80%)	5 (9%)	12 (22%)	21 (39%)		15 (28%)
4	DEN	W 26-24	71 (84%)	66 (78%)	62 (73%)	53 (62%)	10 (12%)	22 (26%)	41 (48%)		25 (29%)
5	CAR	L 34-27	77 (92%)	65 (77%)	68 (81%)	58 (69%)	10 (12%)	22 (26%)	43 (51%)		19 (23%)
6	NO	L 13-6	55 (93%)	49 (83%)	42 (71%)	46 (78%)	7 (12%)	24 (41%)	32 (54%)		21 (36%)
7	CIN	W 27-17	74 (90%)	57 (70%)	63 (77%)	54 (66%)	20 (24%)	49 (60%)			
8	NYJ	W 29-15	60 (79%)	56 (74%)	56 (74%)	31 (41%)	26 (34%)	45 (59%)			22 (29%)
9	HOU	L 26-3	56 (84%)	59 (88%)	64 (96%)		55 (82%)	34 (51%)			
11	IND	L 33-13	45 (71%)	60 (95%)	59 (94%)	53 (84%)	25 (40%)				
12	TEN	L 42-20	82 (95%)	65 (76%)	83 (97%)	74 (86%)	31 (36%)			45 (52%)	
13	TB	L 28-11	65 (89%)	55 (75%)	67 (92%)	57 (78%)	39 (53%)			47 (64%)	
14	LAC	L 45-10	51 (77%)	57 (86%)	58 (88%)	44 (67%)	34 (52%)			45 (68%)	
15	OAK	W 20-16	55 (96%)	50 (88%)		53 (93%)	43 (75%)	29 (51%)		21 (37%)	
16	ATL	L 24-12	58 (94%)	48 (77%)	54 (87%)	43 (69%)	25 (40%)	39 (63%)		22 (35%)	
17	IND	W 38-20		54 (78%)	54 (78%)	42 (61%)	29 (42%)	35 (51%)			
	Grand Total		918 (89%)	880 (80%)	864 (82%)	757 (74%)	380 (35%)	329 (40%)	201 (49%)	180 (51%)	114 (28%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	60%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	17%	20%	42%
1-0 [4WR]	8%	3%	37%
1-3 [1WR]	5%	3%	35%

Grouping Tendencies

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
D.J. Chark	15	2	4	9
Dede Westbrook	11	5	1	5
Leonard Fournette	7	1	2	4
Keelan Cole	5	1	1	3
Chris Conley	4	1	1	2
James O'Shaughnessy	4		2	2
Seth DeValve	4	1	1	2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Leonard Fournette	46	8	15	23
Gardner Minshew	10	1	3	6
Ryquell Armstead	8	1	2	5
Devine Ozigbo	3			3

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	25%	15%	60%
	23%	21%	56%
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	43%	44%	48%
	#18	#29	#26

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Stat	Value
01	Games w Halftime Lead	2
02	Avg Halftime Lead	-5.0
03	Wins	6
04	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	30
05	1H Offensive Efficiency	32
06	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	31
07	1H 3rd Down Conversions	29
08	1H Explosive Play Rate	13
09	1H Early Down Pass Rate	14
10	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	25
11	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	31
12	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	32
13	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	32
14	PSM Usage Q1-3	32
15	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	32
16	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	11
17	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	24
18	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	12
19	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	32
20	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	17
21	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	17
22	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	30
23	PA Improvement Success	1
24	PA Improvement YPA	3
25	PA Improvement Rating	1
26	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	6
27	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	26
28	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	7
29	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	21
30	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	31
31	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	32
32	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	1
33	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	6
34	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	32
35	Total Defensive Efficiency	29

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Stat	Value
36	PSM YPA	6.4
37	PSM Target Depth	5.0
38	Non-PSM YPA	6.6
39	Non-PSM Target Depth	7.7
40	PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
41	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	46%
42	PSM Rating	86.3
43	Non-PSM Rating	77.5

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Stat	Value
44	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	24%
45	PA Success Rate	62%
46	PA YPA	10.4
47	PA Sack Rate	7.1%
48	PA Rating	129.2
49	PA Target Depth	5.7
50	Non-PA Success Rate	45%
51	Non-PA YPA	5.6
52	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.1%
53	Non-PA Rating	75.8
54	Non-PA Target Depth	5.9

Men In Box

#	Stat	Value
55	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	33%
56	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	35%
57	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
58	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	49%
59	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	45%
60	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.7
61	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	18%
62	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	23%
63	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.7

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Stat	Value	Stat	Value
Net FROE Rk	30	defFUM	21
Net FROE	-3.0	defFUM Rcvrd	9
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	20
offFUM Rcvrd	9	defFR%	42.9%
offFR%	42.9%	defFROE	-0.8
offFR Rk	28	defFROE Rk	21
offFROE	-2.3		
offFROE Rk	28		

Field Goal Luck

Stat	Value	Stat	Value
2019 FG %	97%	YOY Swing	14%
2019 FG Rk	1	YOY Swing Rk	7
Opp 2019 FG %	81%	2018 Team Net	1%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	18	2018 Net Rk	14
2019 Team Net	16%		
2019 Net Rk	2		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

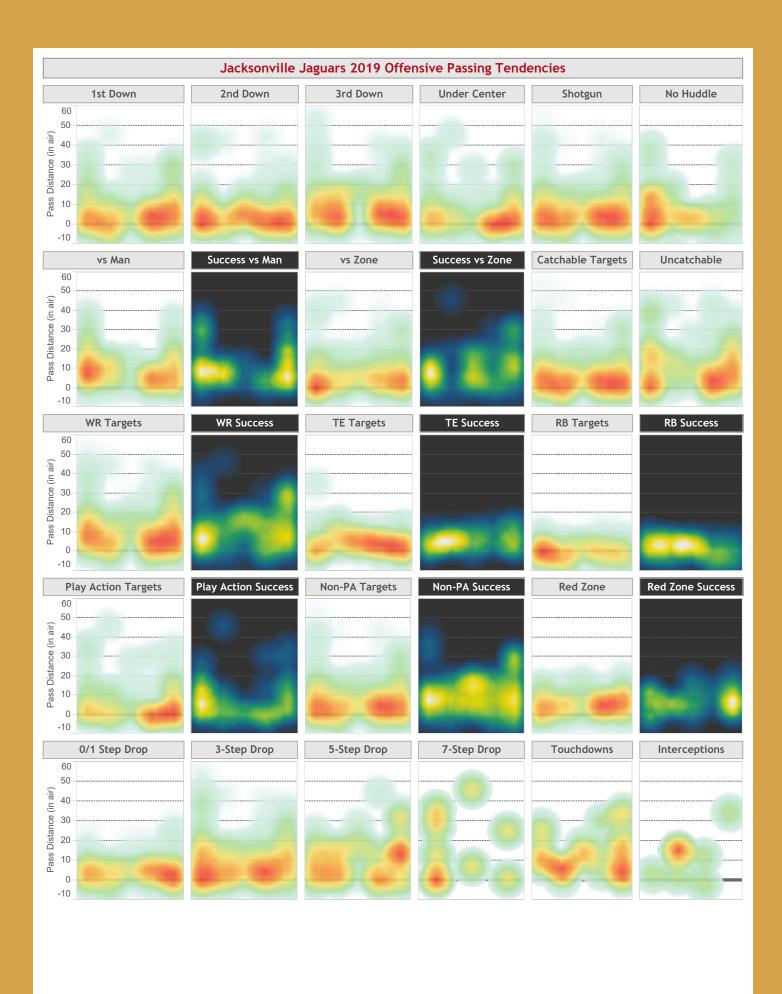|	Gardner Minshew
CAY	5.9
CAY Rk	20
2018 CAY Rk	
AYTS Rk	29
2018 AYTS Rk	
AGG Rk	23
2018 AGG Rk	
COMP%	60.6
xCOMP%	65.8
xCOMP% Rk	9
2018 xCOMP% Rk	
CPOE%	-5.2
CPOE Rk	38
2018 CPOE Rk	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Gardner Minshew
Pressure %	35.1
Pressure Rk	19
Sack %	16.9
Sack Rk	21
Pressure Accuracy %	57.1
Pressure Accuracy Rk	32
Rating when Pressured	77.7
Pressured Rating Rk	10
Clean Accuracy %	75.7
Clean Accuracy Rk	32
Rating when Clean	96.7
Clean Rating Rk	29
Time to Throw	2.85
Time to Throw Rk	10

Offensive Metrics

Stat	Value
EPA/Pass	-0.04
EPA/Pass Rk	20
EPA/Rush	-0.05
EPA/Rush Rk	15
On-Target Catch %	82
On-Target Catch Rk	30
Drop%	7.4
Drop Rk	15
YAC/Att	2.6
YAC/Att Rk	7
Rush Broken Tackle %	12.9
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	27
Rush 1st Down %	21.3
Rush 1st Down Rk	24

Jacksonville Jaguars 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Next is pre-snap motion. Through three quarters, the NFL average is using pre-snap motion ahead of 39% of passes, 49% of rushes, and 43% of all plays.

The Jaguars ranked 32nd in pre-snap usage rate, at 24%. And specifically for passes, as we talk about helping a young quarterback they ranked 32nd with just 18% usage. That's less than half the rate of the league average (39%).

Look at the five teams that used the most pre-snap motion ahead of passes last year & their usage rate over the first three quarters of the game:

Chiefs: Super Bowl champions & AFC No. 2 seed (53%)
49ers: Super Bowl & NFC No. 1 seed (66%)
Titans: AFC Championship & AFC No. 6 seed (63%)
Ravens: Best regular season record & AFC No. 1 seed (57%)
Patriots: AFC No. 3 seed (65%)

Pre-snap motion helps quarterbacks discern if the defense is playing man or zone coverage. It helps determine leverage. It allows your quarterback to see who is moving defensively and can allow him to better predict what the look will be postsnap. There is inherent value to pre-snap motion.

And best of all, it is free. It costs nothing. It takes no talent. Put your player in motion and peak behind the curtain free of charge.

And yet the NFL average is only 39% in quarters one through three. Where was Jacksonville?

32nd.

They used it only 14.5% of the time (17.8% in quarters 1-3). No other teams were remotely close to that low level of usage. They were far and away last in the league.

Did it help Minshew? Not nearly as much as play-action, but it didn't hurt. His success rate increased by 1%, his TD:INT ratio improved, his passer rating improved by seven points but his YPA declined by 0.4 YPA. That was largely due to aDOT. When using pre-snap motion ahead of a pass, Minshew's aDOT was only 4.6 yards downfield. When not using pre-snap motion, his aDOT was 7.7 yards downfield. Clearly, most if not all of that 0.4 YPA decline was related to the play calls themselves, rather than his own performance.

But more than anything, his sack rate improved tremendously with pre-snap motion. When using pre-snap motion: two sacks on 91 dropbacks (2.2%). Without, the Jags took 39 sacks on 538 dropbacks (7.2%).

If the 2020 Jaguars want to do something other than tank, they need new offensive coordinator Jay Gruden to study what worked for Minshew and do more of it.

The Jaguars face the seventh-toughest increase in schedule strength in 2020 as compared to 2019, but it won't seem that difficult to start the season. In fact, the Jaguars play the NFL's second-easiest schedule and easiest schedule in their first eight games. They play just two teams forecast to produce a winning record (Colts and Titans). They are fortunate to host a Thursday night game (against the Dolphins) and they have a Week 7 bye to prepare for a trip to visit the Chargers in Los Angeles.

However, from Week 10 onward, the Jaguars play the NFL's second-toughest schedule. Their final eight games feature zero teams projected to post a losing record. Seven of their final eight opponents are forecast to win over eight games.

Much is often made about Florida teams hosting early-season games as a big advantage, due to the heat and humidity. But historically, the Jaguars win and cover just 49% of home games the first month of the season (23-24-2 ATS). A seemingly better edge are late-season games in Florida, as the Jaguars win and cover 56% of these games. Note that when playing at home since 2010, Florida teams (Jaguars, Dolphins, and Buccaneers) win 35% and cover 32% of games the first month of the season but win 45% and cover 46% of games in the last month of the season.

Kansas City Chiefs

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Andy Reid (7 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Eric Bieniemy (2 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Steve Spagnuolo (1 yr)
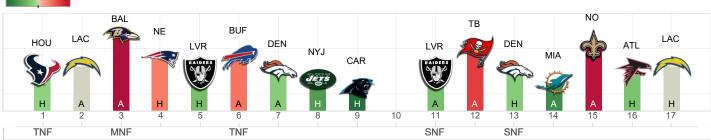
EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
11.5	#1

Past Records

2019: 12-4
2018: 12-4
2017: 10-6

	HOU	LAC	BAL	NE	LVR	BUF	DEN	NYJ	CAR		LVR	TB	DEN	MIA	NO	ATL	LAC
	H	A	A	H	H	A	A	H	H		A	A	H	A	A	H	H
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF — MNF — TNF — SNF — SNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Blake Bell (TE)	Cowboys
Cameron Erving (LT)	Cowboys
Emmanuel Ogbah (43DE)	Dolphins
Jordan Lucas (S)	Bears
Kendall Fuller (CB)	Redskins
Reggie Ragland (ILB)	Lions
Ron Parker (FS)	Retired
Stefen Wisniewski (LG)	Steelers
Darron Lee (43OLB)	Null
Dustin Colquitt (P)	Null
Felton Davis (WR)	Null
Keith Reaser (CB)	Null
LeSean McCoy (RB)	Null
Marcus Kemp (WR)	Null
Matt Moore (QB)	Null
Morris Claiborne (CB)	Null
Spencer Ware (RB)	Null
Terrell Suggs (34OLB)	Null
Xavier Williams (43DT)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-7.2	14	2

2020 Kansas City Chiefs Overview

Patrick Mahomes is at the mic. You have one question you can ask him. Mine is simple: "How?"

As in, how the hell are you so damn great at football? How the hell are you capable of doing the things you do?

The man is like Neo. He sees the matrix and no matter how many Mr. Andersons he's up against or how overwhelming the odds appear to be, he can get his team out of the jam.

If you ever get exactly a 10-point lead on Mahomes, run for the hills. In 2019, when opposing teams led the Chiefs by 10 or more points at any point, Mahomes went 5-0. That's insane. This included erasing the 24-point deficit to the Texans in their first playoff game (the largest deficit overcome in NFL playoff history), erasing a 10-point deficit to the Titans the next week in the AFC Championship game, and erasing a 10-point deficit to the 49ers in the Super Bowl.

Three playoff games. Three 10+ point deficits overcome.

H-O-W?

How do you trail the 49ers by 10 points with less than nine minutes left in the Super Bowl, at your own 17-yard line, and end up winning by 11 points? The Chiefs scored 21 points on offense within five minutes in the fourth quarter of a Super Bowl!

With Mahomes and Andy Reid, this team has finished 12-4 in consecutive seasons and could have won back-to-back Super Bowls but for an offsides infraction in the 2018 AFC Championship game.

(cont'd - see KC2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Mike Remmers (RT)	$1.2
Antonio Hamilton (CB)	$1
DeAndre Washington (RB)	$1
Ricky Seals-Jones (TE)	$0.90
Taco Charlton (34DE)	$0.80

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	32	RB - Clyde Edwards-Helaire (LSU)
2	63	ILB - Willie Gay (Mississippi State)
3	96	OT - Lucas Niang (TCU)
4	138	S - L'Jarius Sneed (Louisiana Tech)
5	177	DE - Michael Danna (Michigan)
7	237	CB - Thakarius Keyes (Tulane)
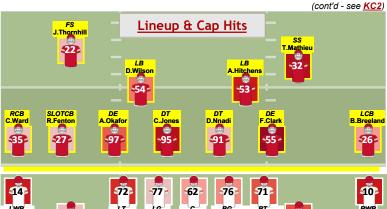
Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	11.5
2019 Wins	12
Forecast 2019 Wins	10.5
2018 Wins	12
2017 Wins	10
2016 Wins	12

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS J.Thornhill 22
SS T.Mathieu 32
LB D.Wilson 54
LB A.Hitchens 53
RCB C.Ward 35
SLOTCB R.Fenton 27
DE A.Okafor 97
DT C.Jones 95
DT D.Nnadi 91
DE F.Clark 55
LCB B.Breeland 26

LWR S.Watkins 14
SLOTWR M.Hardman 17
LT E.Fisher 72
LG A.Wylie 77
C A.Reiter 62
RG L.D-Tardif 76
RT M.Schwartz 71
TE T.Kelce* 87
RWR T.Hill 10

QB P.Mahomes 15
RB C.Edwards-Helaire Rookie 25

WR2 D.Robinson 11
WR3 B.Pringle 7
RB2 D.Williams 26
QB2 C.Henne* 4

2020 Cap Dollars

= 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF   All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	8	$113.74M	17
QB	27	$8.84M	24
OL	11	$42.65M	21
RB	23	$7.31M	15
WR	1	$41.43M	7
TE	9	$13.50M	5
All DEF	9	$110.18M	29
DL	8	$52.68M	20
LB	18	$22.84M	25
CB	28	$9.77M	27
S	2	$24.88M	8

They are returning all five starting offensive linemen from 2019. In fact, they are returning all 11 starters on offense (although first-round draft pick running back **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** may end up taking over for **Damien Williams** at some point). Defensively, this unit returns 10 of 11 starters, with cornerback **Kendall Fuller** leaving for Washington. There are question marks surrounding the availability of cornerback **Bashaud Breeland** who is suspended for four-games but is appealing.

With those lone player starting roster modifications, this is a team that has three things going for it:

1. Won the Super Bowl last year
2. Return basically everyone
3. Coaching staff is intact
4. No other team can say the same

And if there ever is an offseason where it's more vital than ever before to have continuity and chemistry, it's this offseason from hell. We've seen starting quarterbacks play musical chairs this offseason.

There are 13 new offensive coordinators this season.

There are only eight play callers who have their quarterback entering their third year together or longer:

• Andy Reid with Patrick Mahomes
• Kyle Shanahan with Jimmy Garoppolo
• Brian Schottenheimer with Russell Wilson
• Doug Pederson with Carson Wentz
• Sean Payton with Drew Brees
• Brian Daboll with Josh Allen
• Jon Gruden with Derek Carr
• Sean McVay with Jared Goff

How many of these eight do you think make the playoffs? Seems like a huge advantage in an offseason like the one we're having. (And note I left Ben Roethlisberger off the list because he doesn't actually have two years of experience with Randy Fichtner, but that is a technicality.)

It might look easy when you have the best quarterback in football, but the Chiefs do a number of things offensively to give themselves an even larger head start than most teams. And they are unique in a number of aspects.

First, their passing rate. Yes, they have the best quarterback in the NFL. They want to throw early and often. But they also know that passes offer higher +EV than do rushes (several times more) and they lean even further into them.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Patrick Mahomes	57% 8.4 114.4	47% 7.3 90.6	42% 9.2 114.3	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	55%	61%	79%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
KC	50% 4.4	50% 4.0	70% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	45%	39%	21%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

No team in the NFL passed the ball as often as the Chiefs in the game's first three quarters, a 67% rate.

The Chiefs passed the ball on 65% of their first downs in the game's first half. The NFL's second-most pass-heavy team is way down at 55%. The NFL average is 48%.

The Chiefs are a full 10% higher than any other team, and almost 20% above the league average. In fact, the Chiefs' pass rate on early downs in the first half is the second-highest of any team in the last 20 years.

Second, due to their pass-heavy nature, they dictate coverage. The Chiefs force you to use six-or-fewer men in the box and then make you pay.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		13	14	15	16	17	WEEK
W	W	W	W	L	L	W	L	W	L	W		W	W	W	W	W	RESULT
JAC	OAK	BAL	DET	IND	HOU	DEN	GB	MIN	TEN	LAC		OAK	NE	DEN	CHI	LAC	OPP
A	A	H	A	H	H	A	H	H	A	N		H	A	H	A	H	SITE
14	18	5	4	-6	-7	24	-7	3	-3	7		31	7	20	23	10	MARGIN
40	28	33	34	13	24	30	24	26	32	24		40	23	23	26	31	PTS
26	10	28	30	19	31	6	31	23	35	17		9	16	3	3	21	OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **12**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-1**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **8% (#25)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **5-4**
1 Score Games Win %: **56% (#11)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **42% (#19)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+8
TO Given	15
INT Given	5
FUM Given	10
TO Taken	23
INT Taken	16
FUM Taken	7
Sack Margin	+20
Sacks	45
Sacks Allow	25
Return TD Margin	+3
Ret TDs	4
Ret TDs Allow	1
Penalty Margin	+9
Penalties	107
Opponent Penalties	116

Kansas City Chiefs 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD / **EASY** — Average Opponent

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Chart X-axis categories:
Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficieincy DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Groupings: Passing / Rushing (Offense side), Passing / Rushing (Defense side)

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- (KC logo) 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
20	16	5	7	26	30	25	22

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-5.1	-5.0	-3.5
Average O/U line	50.3	54.0	46.1
Straight Up Record	12-4	12-4	10-6
Against the Spread Record	10-6	8-6	10-6
Over/Under Record	7-8	9-6	6-8
ATS as Favorite	8-5	5-6	7-5
ATS as Underdog	2-1	3-0	2-1
Straight Up Home	5-3	7-1	6-2
ATS Home	4-4	4-4	6-2
Over/Under Home	4-3	2-5	1-5
ATS as Home Favorite	3-3	4-4	5-2
ATS as a Home Dog	1-1	0-0	0-0
Straight Up Away	6-1	5-3	4-4
ATS Away	5-2	4-2	4-4
Over/Under Away	3-4	7-1	5-3
ATS Away Favorite	4-2	4-2	2-3
ATS Away Dog	1-0	3-0	2-1
Six Point Teaser Record	13-3	14-2	11-5
Seven Point Teaser Record	13-2	14-1	11-5
Ten Point Teaser Record	14-2	16-0	13-3

KC-3

On early downs in the game's first three quarters, NFL defenses predominantly use six-or-fewer-man boxes on 44% of snaps and go to seven-man boxes on 39% of snaps. But against the Chiefs, teams go with a light box on 66% of snaps, by far the highest rate in the NFL, and 22% above average.

This might sound unimportant, but it's extremely valuable: the Chiefs know what is coming. Nearly seven out of 10 snaps will be against a light box when you play them, whereas for most offenses it's nearly a 50/50 proposition.

You might think logically that the time to run the ball is against a light box and you wouldn't be wrong. Teams peak on EPA/carry and YPC when running on light boxes rather than neutral seven man boxes. Running on 8+ man boxes yields the worst EPA/carry and YPC in these early down situations.

And that was no different for the Chiefs:

(cont'd - see KC-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	2
Week 2 Edge	3
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	-1
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	3
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	-3
Week 11 Edge	7
Week 12 Edge	1
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	18
2018 Rk	9
2019 v 2018 Rk	21
Off Rk	13
Def Rk	24
QB Rk	24
RB Rk	22
WR Rk	19
TE Rk	1
Oline Rk	23
Dline Rk	30
LB Rk	27
DB Rk	3

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	HOU	LAC	BAL	NE	LVR	BUF	DEN	NYJ	CAR	LVR	TB	DEN	MIA	NO	ATL	LAC
H/A	H	A	A(2.5)	H	H	A(-3)	A	H	A	A	-1.5	H	A	1.5	H	H
Line	-10.5	-6.5	2.5	-8	-12	-3	-6	-12.5	-14	-6	-1.5	-11	-7.5	1.5	-10.5	-10.5

Avg = -7.2 (Home), Avg = -7.2 (Away)

Home Lines

1	4	5	8	9	13	16	17
-10.5 HOU	-8 NE	-12 LVR	-12.5 NYJ	-14 CAR	-11 DEN	-10.5 ATL	-10.5 LAC

Avg = -11.1

Road Lines

2	3	6	7	11	12	14	15
-6.5 LAC	2.5 BAL	-3 BUF	-6 DEN	-6 LVR	-1.5 TB	-7 MIA	1.5 NO

Avg = -3.3

_KC-4_

- 6- man box runs: 5.3 YPC, -0.04 EPA/carry
- 7 man box runs: 4.2 YPC, -0.15 EPA/carry
- 8+ man box runs: 1.9 YPC, -0.27 EPA/carry

However, for the Chiefs, they have the NFL's best quarterback. So why gain 5.3 YPC with -0.04 EPA/carry when you can still pass on those light boxes and gain 8.5 YPA with 0.24 EPA/att? So, for that reason, the Chiefs kept throwing the ball in those situations (73% pass).

Third, what the Chiefs absolutely refuse to do is to run into heavy boxes on early down plays in the first three quarters. Their run rate when the defense was in an 8+ man box is the lowest in the NFL. The Chiefs won't play into your hands – if you've got bodies in the box, they're throwing. Sounds simple, but no other offense passes as often as the Chiefs.

Fourth, another thing that makes the Chiefs offense unique is that they don't need to manufacture offense by use of play-action or pre-snap motion like many offenses.

On early downs in the game's first three quarters, the NFL average is a 36% use of play-action. Across the league, play-action adds 0.14 EPA/att, 4% success, and 1.9 YPA compared to dropbacks without play-action. More teams should use play-action more often.

But without play-action, the Chiefs averaged 0.19 EPA/att and 57% success. Their EPA/att without play-action ranked third, as did their success rate. Play-action wasn't needed because Mahomes is already so outstanding.

The same is true for pre-snap motion (PSM). In the game's first three quarters, the NFL average is 40% PSM before passes. And PSM adds 0.02 EPA/att, 3% success, and 0.2 YPA compared to passes not using PSM.
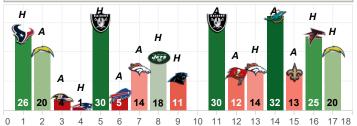
But without PSM, the Chiefs averaged 0.25 EPA/att and 53% success. Their EPA/att without PSM ranked second and their success rate ranked fifth. In fact, the Chiefs were better from an EPA/att perspective without using PSM. Again, with a quarterback like Mahomes, it can make his job easier to use PSM, but it's not a prerequisite for success like it is with most quarterbacks.

Andy Reid still uses the fifth-most PSM and the 10th-most play action, because it's smart and some defenses are worse when it's used, but Mahomes can still dominate on snaps without either.
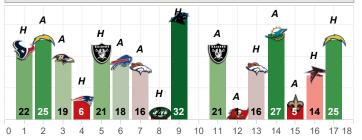
(cont'd - see KC-5)

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
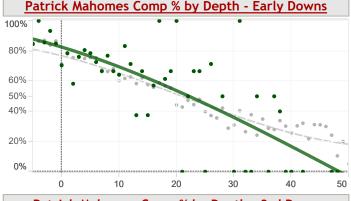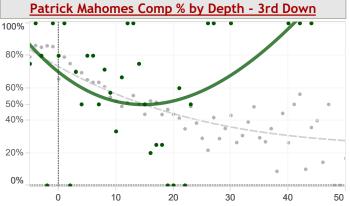
	Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH					
Damien Williams	1%	5%	63%	12%	20%
Travis Kelce		50%	50%		
LeSean McCoy	2%	4%	62%	10%	22%
Tyreek Hill	10%		70%	10%	10%
Sammy Watkins			67%	33%	
Darwin Thompson			25%	20%	55%
Mecole Hardman			100%		
Darrel Williams	8%		88%		4%
Spencer Ware			29%	29%	41%
Anthony Sherman			50%		50%
De'Anthony Thomas			100%		
Total	2%	4%	59%	12%	23%
PASS					
Damien Williams	5%	5%	68%	8%	15%
Travis Kelce	5%	6%	60%	13%	15%
LeSean McCoy	3%	3%	81%	9%	3%
Tyreek Hill	5%	11%	63%	8%	12%
Sammy Watkins		7%	64%	18%	11%
Demarcus Robinson	4%	6%	70%	9%	11%
Darwin Thompson			64%	36%	
Mecole Hardman	2%	12%	68%	5%	12%
Darrel Williams			89%		11%
Spencer Ware			40%	20%	40%
Blake Bell			60%	7%	33%
Anthony Sherman			50%	25%	25%
De'Anthony Thomas					100%
Total	3%	7%	65%	12%	13%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Damien Williams	Travis Kelce	LeSean McCoy	Tyreek Hill	Sammy Watkins	Demarcus Robinson	Darwin Thompson	Mecole Hardman	Darrel Williams	Spencer Ware	Blake Bell	Anthony Sherman	De'Anthony Thomas
RUSH	46%	1%	27%	3%	1%		10%	1%	6%	4%		1%	0%
PASS	11%	24%	6%	17%	18%	9%	2%	7%	2%	1%	3%	1%	0%
ALL	25%	15%	14%	11%	11%	6%	5%	5%	3%	2%	2%	1%	0%

Patrick Mahomes Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Patrick Mahomes Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

183

Successful Play Rate 0% ▭▭▭▭ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	2-0 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	51%, 0.23 (495)	50%, 0.21 (189)	77%, 0.59 (13)	33%, -0.77 (12)	0%, -0.94 (3)	0%, -2.46 (1)		50%, 0.21 (713)
RUSH	52%, 0.02 (211)	50%, 0.01 (141)	39%, -0.21 (49)	49%, -0.12 (47)	67%, -0.27 (3)	0%, -0.47 (1)	100%, 2.06 (1)	50%, -0.02 (453)
All	51%, 0.17 (706)	50%, 0.12 (330)	47%, -0.04 (62)	46%, -0.25 (59)	33%, -0.61 (6)	0%, -1.46 (2)	100%, 2.06 (1)	50%, 0.12 (1,166)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Damien Williams	47% (36) 5.8, 0.15	36% (11) 6.2, 0.32		45% (47) 5.9, 0.19
	LeSean McCoy	33% (21) 4.2, -0.13	64% (11) 5.8, -0.20	50% (2) 2.5, -0.57	44% (34) 4.6, -0.18
TE	Travis Kelce	68% (99) 8.9, 0.47	58% (45) 10.0, 0.47	100% (2) 35.0, 2.04	65% (146) 9.6, 0.49
WR	Sammy Watkins	51% (77) 9.3, 0.42	55% (20) 6.9, 0.21	0% (2) 0.0, -0.56	51% (99) 8.6, 0.35
	Tyreek Hill	61% (70) 9.4, 0.47	58% (24) 11.9, 0.77	100% (2) 11.5, 0.51	61% (96) 10.1, 0.55
	Demarcus Robinson	51% (45) 8.2, 0.09	58% (12) 7.2, 0.32	100% (2) 15.0, 1.08	54% (59) 8.2, 0.17

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Williams Damien	51% (77) 4.7, 0.01	44% (50) 4.2, -0.15	64% (11) 6.9, 0.33	47% (19) 2.3, -0.30	49% (157) 4.4, -0.06
McCoy LeSean	35% (49) 4.5, -0.15	58% (36) 4.4, 0.03	100% (5) 5.2, 0.34	40% (10) 5.7, 0.02	47% (100) 4.7, -0.04
Mahomes Patrick	71% (28) 9.5, 0.60	67% (15) 7.5, 0.87	6% (17) -1.6, -0.71	0% (5) 0.0, -0.63	48% (65) 5.4, 0.23
Williams Darrel	67% (18) 4.1, -0.06	31% (16) 2.9, -0.48	40% (5) 2.4, -0.12	50% (2) 4.5, 0.07	49% (41) 3.4, -0.22
Thompson Darwin	59% (22) 3.6, -0.01	42% (12) 3.4, -0.04	100% (2) 4.0, 0.62	25% (4) 1.5, -0.22	53% (40) 3.4, -0.01
Hill Tyreek	50% (6) 3.7, -0.11	50% (2) 1.5, -0.33		100% (1) 4.0, -0.13	56% (9) 3.2, -0.16

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	58% (254) 9.6, 0.44
M2M	54% (219) 8.2, 0.29
Screen	46% (54) 5.5, 0.03

Passing by Route

Curl	64% (72) 8.6, 0.28
Screen	46% (57) 4.7, -0.10
Out	63% (56) 5.9, 0.23
Flat	44% (45) 4.1, -0.01
Dig	62% (29) 10.5, 0.49
Slant	54% (26) 6.4, 0.23

Throw Types

Level 1	57% (404) 7.0, 0.22
Level 2	55% (121) 12.2, 0.54
Level 3	41% (54) 13.9, 0.78
Sidearm	45% (11) 4.1, 0.13
Shovel	86% (7) 7.9, 0.87

QB Drop Types

3 Step	56% (256) 9.3, 0.41
0/1 Step	52% (93) 5.5, 0.13
5 Step	57% (93) 10.9, 0.56
7 Step	53% (34) 13.6, 0.62
Designed Rollout Right	53% (34) 7.4, 0.06
Basic Screen	28% (29) 4.6, -0.25

QB State at Pass

Planted	57% (419) 9.4, 0.41
Shuffling	46% (137) 6.5, 0.08
Moving	47% (126) 6.1, 0.09

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	47% (57) 10.0, 0.06	54% (13) 7.6, 0.36
Shotgun	54% (155) 8.1, 0.23	50% (489) 8.0, 0.21
ALL	52% (212) 8.6, 0.19	50% (502) 8.0, 0.21

Run Types

Outside Zone	39% (85) 4.2, -0.16
Inside Zone	48% (69) 2.8, -0.20
Power	57% (49) 4.1, 0.04
Stretch	50% (46) 5.9, -0.10
Pitch	67% (9) 6.8, 0.12
Lead	44% (9) 2.2, -0.16

KC-5

Fifth, no team has a coach that schemes up as many easy options for the quarterback that will still provide efficiency like Andy Reid. Case in point, passes behind the line of scrimmage in opposing territory. Some coaches design nice passes on first down behind the line of scrimmage. So does Reid. But let's look beyond that.

Passes thrown on second through fourth down behind the line of scrimmage in opposing territory don't fare well. Sure, they're easy completions. But they result in -0.10 EPA/att on average. The Chiefs gained 0.12 EPA/att on these passes, which ranked fourth in the NFL. And no team threw more of these passes than the Chiefs.

Reid could force Mahomes to use his arm talent to the max as often as possible and design a more high-leverage offense. Big hits but some big misses. Some huge wins but some bad losses. Instead, Reid has raised the floor of this offense completely. He makes life easy on an already great quarterback who doesn't need life to be made easy, but certainly appreciates it.

Sixth, and lastly, Reid knows when to run the ball. Rushes inside the red zone generate 0.02 EPA/att and a 49% success rate while passes generate -0.07 EPA/att and a 41% success rate. Short yardage and in the red zone are two of the most desirable times to run, and in most other situations, passes will offer the highest upside for most teams.

I already mentioned how pass-heavy Reid is, the most pass heavy in the NFL by far. However, inside the red zone, the Chiefs throw the ball on only 52% of plays, which ranks 21st in frequency. They actually run the ball at an above average clip.

Not only is it smart from a league-average perspective, it's smart for KC. Mahomes averaged 0.05 EPA/att and a 47% success rate in the red zone last year, but their red zone runs gained 0.15 EPA/att and a 56% success rate. This justifies Reid's move to go run-heavy.

Looking at the other teams that ranked top-10 in pass rate in the first three quarters, only one other team aside from the Chiefs shifted to run the ball at an above average rate in the red zone. All of the other teams in the top-10 stayed pass-heavy. No team in the NFL shifted from as much full-field passing to as much rushing in the red zone as the Chiefs.

There are more than those six unique things that the Chiefs offense does, but those are examples. They've got a stud quarterback, a loaded roster, AND are aggressively pursuing non-conventional plans of attack which put them well outside the norm.

Coupled with the fact they use a lot of personnel grouping diversity and have a mobile quarterback who scrambles for first downs and doesn't take sacks on third downs, this team will be just as capable of winning in 2020 as they were in 2019.

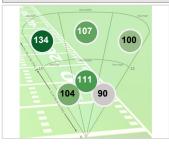# Kansas City Chiefs 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Chiefs were right at the top of the league in passing output, even with **Patrick Mahomes** missing two and a half games due to injury. Kansas City ranked first in EPA via passing offense, second in yards per passing play (7.4 yards), and third in success rate passing (50%). With Mahomes having some natural regression off his stellar 2018 output, he managed to finish fourth in the league in yards per pass attempt (8.3), seventh in passing yardage per game (287.9), and eighth in touchdown rate (5.4%) during the regular season. Through 31 regular season starts, Mahomes ranks first all-time in passing touchdowns (76) and adjusted passing yards per attempt (9.2 AY/A), passing yardage (9,412 yards), and second in yards per pass attempt (8.6) only behind Kurt Warner (9.1). With the Chiefs returning 10 of 11 starters on the offensive side of the ball from their Super Bowl-winning roster a year ago, Mahomes is primed for another top-shelf campaign.

Target Distribution

Positive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Patrick Mahomes	391	596	66%	4,911	8.2	36	7	23	106	7
Matt Moore	59	91	65%	659	7.2	4	0	8	101	10
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Patrick Mahomes	51%	53%	63	11.0%	30	5.0%	6.5	6.2	35	6%
Matt Moore	47%	54%	9	10.0%	5	5.0%	6.2	5.0	6	7%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Patrick Mahomes Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	2.7%	3.9%		3.0%
10 - 14	0.4%	1.4%	3.6%		0.9%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	0.4%	1.5%	2.1%	0.0%	1.1%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Patrick Mahomes	9.2	6.6	-2.5	72%	12
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
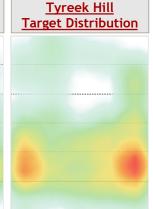
Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
52%	48%	28
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Kansas City wideouts collectively ranked sixth in yards per target (9.3 yards) and eighth in success rate (54%). This season, the Chiefs are returning every receiver who took a snap for them last season outside of De'Anthony Thomas. Anchored by **Travis Kelce** at tight end, the Chiefs ranked second in success rate (62%) and fourth in yards per target (9.3 yards) targeting their tight ends. The one area where the Chiefs will look to improve is using their backs in the passing game more effectively. In 2019, they ranked 21st in success rate (43%) and 25th in yards per target (5.4 yards) targeting their backs. Rookie **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** recorded the most receptions for any drafted running back in his final season since DeMarco Murray.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Travis Kelce	158	73%	9.1	120.1	65%	4	8	52	66	9
Tyreek Hill	115	65%	9.3	107.0	57%	29	32	59	40	5
Sammy Watkins	108	61%	8.9	102.4	51%	71	69	24	113	4
Damien Williams	66	74%	6.0	109.2	45%	105	38	112	64	3
Demarcus Robinson	61	57%	7.9	91.2	52%	60	45	35	95	4

Travis Kelce Target Distribution

Tyreek Hill Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Kansas City ran the least in neutral game script (39%) through the opening three-quarters of games. The Chiefs ranked 23rd in rushing yards per game (98.1 yards) and 20th in yards per carry (4.2 yards), but ran the ball situationally, which led to ranking fourth in the league in success rate (53%) and sixth in expected points added via rushing offense. In addition to retaining **Damien Williams** (who ranked 15th in success rate rushing at 52%), Edwards-Helaire will be a weapon on the ground. He handled 56.7% of the LSU non-QB rushing attempts in 2019, yet produced 65.2% of their rushing yardage. That +8.5% gap in yardage versus usage was tops in this draft class. His +2.0 yards per carry compared to his non-QB teammates was also first in this class.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Damien Williams	174	4.4	53%	17	37	58	8	52%	20	11
LeSean McCoy	101	4.6	49%	38	19	72	15	47%	39	4
Patrick Mahomes	67	5.3	49%	35	74	36	7	42%	62	4

Yards per Carry by Direction

	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	
6.4	2.9	2.6	3.5	4.7	5.1	4.0

Directional Run Frequency

	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	
14%	8%	10%	33%	12%	8%	15%

Can Clyde Edwards-Helaire be a league winner?

No back raised their draft stock more during the 2019 season nor exited the draft with his fantasy stock elevated higher by landing spot than Edwards-Helaire. He benefited from playing in the highest-scoring offense in the country, but Edwards-Helaire also was hyper-efficient on his own merit as discussed in the rushing outlook portion of the team previously. That added context was for rushing only, he handled 56.7% of the team's non-QB rushing attempts, yet produced 65.2% of their rushing yardage. Edwards-Helaire led all backs in this class with 3.7 receptions per game in 2019 and ran 21% of routes split out as a receiver, the most in this draft class.

Often compared stylistically and physically to Brian Westbrook, Edwards-Helaire lands with attachment to Andy Reid, who provided the offensive propane for Westbrook's fantasy career in which he was a top-10 fantasy back all five seasons 2004-2008. Through 16 years as a head coach or playcaller, Reid's top running back has been a top-10 scorer 12 times. If Edwards-Helaire can dispatch Damien Williams quickly into the season, then the sky is the limit given his dual usage. Over his final seven full games played, Williams himself played 77% of the snaps, handled 82% of the backfield touches, and averaged 110.4 yards from scrimmage and 22.9 PPR points per game.

At 224 pounds compared to 207 for Edwards-Helaire, Williams still stands to be a potential thorn in goal-line situations. I would also take the under on Edwards-Helaire reaching the 325-touch mark Kareem Hunt had as a rookie in this offense in 2017 when he had 272 carries and the next closest running back (Charcandrick West) had just 18 carries. But if Edwards-Helaire can approach 250 touches, that may be all that he needs to crack being an RB1 as a rookie.

Can Mecole Hardman make a jump in year two?

With one of the league's best offenses now for three years running, the Chiefs offense has been a major target for fantasy gamers. The entire core of their offense (Mahomes, Edwards-Helaire, **Tyreek Hill**, and Kelce) all come at the cost of high draft capital and are hard to obtain. With that, there are not a lot of value plays to be had within the offense. One of their less rich commodities is Hardman. As a rookie, Hardman led all players with 25 or more targets on the season in yards per reception (20.7), yards per target (13.1), and finished second in percentage of targets that resulted in a gain of 20 or more yards or a touchdown (36.6%). He also was third in the NFL in kickoff return yards, fifth in average per kickoff return (26.1 yards) with a touchdown.

Generating explosive plays is his game, but with the Chiefs returning 99.3% of their wide receiver targets from a year ago, can we realistically anticipate Hardman's opportunity level to take off? In 13 games played with both Tyreek Hill and **Sammy Watkins** active, Hardman caught 12-of-18 targets for 248 yards and three touchdowns. In two of those games, Hill also only played 12 and seven snaps total. At the end of the day, Hardman is an upside pick you would like to have rostered in case of an expanded role or an injury due to his big play ability, but the overall opportunity in the offense may not match the opportunity of surrounding wide receivers at similar cost.

Kansas City Chiefs Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	16 plays (3%) Success: 63% EPA: 0.62	200 plays (43%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.01	236 plays (51%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.22	15 plays (3%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.01	467 plays (100%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.09
1-2 [2WR]	62 plays (51%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.28	46 plays (38%) Success: 52% EPA: -0.09	14 plays (11%) Success: 36% EPA: -0.33		122 plays (100%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.07
2-1 [2WR]	38 plays (68%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.04	13 plays (23%) Success: 31% EPA: -0.39	5 plays (9%) Success: 20% EPA: -0.87		56 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.14
2-2 [1WR]	11 plays (92%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.02	1 plays (8%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.61			12 plays (100%) Success: 42% EPA: -0.03
Grand Total	127 plays (19%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.23	260 plays (40%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.04	255 plays (39%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.24	15 plays (2%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.01	657 plays (100%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.07

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	26%	18
Nickel	38%	28
Dime+	33%	6
Rush 3	9%	13
Rush 4	63%	18
Rush 5	17%	22
Rush 6+	9%	5
Blitz%	26%	14

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Kansas City was a team led by the offense but a defensive turnaround over the second half of the season helped propel the Super Bowl run.

If **Chris Jones** stays (he's currently franchise tagged and has threatened a holdout) the Chiefs are fine because Jones is one of the league's best interior linemen against both the pass and the run. He was second in pressure rate among defensive tackles per SIS and third in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. **Derrick Nnadi** and **Mike Pennel** were able to fill in during the few games Jones missed, but having Jones on the field is what makes this line special.

Frank Clark started the season terribly but improved as the year and his health progressed. **Alex Okafor** was fine as a rotational rusher but the Chiefs might miss **Emannuel Ogbah**, who led the team in pressure rate last season. **Tanoh Kpassagnon** was a big body out there but left a lot to be desired with his actual pass rushing. If Chris Jones does not play, Kpassagnon might be better served as an undersized interior defender. As a team, the Chiefs were just 19th in Pass Rush Win Rate.

The Chiefs played Dime+ on 33% of their defensive snaps, which was the sixth-highest rate in the league. They relied more on that as the season went on. In 2019, the linebacker wasn't strong so the Chiefs limited the impact of the position. Kansas City gave a big deal to **Anthony Hitchens** before the 2018 season (and one they can't get out of until 2021 after a restructure) but instead of forcing Hitchens to do things he wasn't good at, they worked around him/Wilson/**Ben Niemann** — mostly with safeties taking coverage responsibilities. Kansas City took **Willie Gay** in the second round, a first-round talent who dropped in the draft for some off-field concerns.

The Chiefs wandered into a group of successful corners last season without much invested at the position. **Charvarious Ward** ranked 28th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap among 92 corners with at least 300 snaps in 2019 and **Bashaud Breeland** ranked 32nd. **Rashad Fenton** only played 115 coverage snaps per SIS, but his 0.38 AYa/CS figure ranked 11th among the 145 corners who hit 100, an impressive start for a sixth-round rookie.

There might not be a more versatile group of safeties in the league. To consider **Tyrann Mathieu** as a safety underplays the role he played last season when he was arguably the team's best box safety, free safety, outside corner, slot corner, linebacker, and pass rusher on the lead up to the Super Bowl. **Daniel Sorensen** played a de facto linebacker late in the season and while he has some flaws, he held up well enough at the position. **Juan Thornhill** was a rookie star at safety before a torn ACL ended his season at the end of December.

Outside of Gay, the Chiefs only added cornerbacks **L'Jarius Sneed** in the fourth round and **Thakarius Keyes** in the seventh round in the draft, among many other undrafted free agents. The core of this defense should remain mostly unchanged.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	62%
All Pass Rk	10
All Rush %	38%
All Rush Rk	23
1 Score Pass %	65%
1 Score Pass Rk	1
2018 1 Score Pass %	64%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	4
2019 Pass Increase %	0%
Pass Increase Rk	19
1 Score Rush %	35%
1 Score Rush Rk	32
Up Pass %	56%
Up Pass Rk	5
Up Rush %	44%
Up Rush Rk	28
Down Pass %	68%
Down Pass Rk	12
Down Rush %	32%
Down Rush Rk	21

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	9	22%	78%	56%
	Med (4-7)	14	71%	29%	36%
	Long (8-10)	386	62%	38%	54%
	XL (11+)	12	83%	17%	58%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	53	30%	70%	68%
	Med (4-7)	83	67%	33%	47%
	Long (8-10)	109	76%	24%	50%
	XL (11+)	37	89%	11%	30%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	51	51%	49%	63%
	Med (4-7)	51	88%	12%	63%
	Long (8-10)	29	100%	0%	31%
	XL (11+)	28	96%	4%	21%
4th ..	Short (1-3)	10	20%	80%	80%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	23%	77%
	37% AVG	63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	72%	26%
	68% AVG	23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	28%	74%
	32% AVG	77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
64%	18	66%	71%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
36%	15	34%	75%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Damien Williams	3	67%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Travis Kelce	5	20%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Damien Williams	56	50%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Travis Kelce	2	50%
			Sammy Watkins	2	100%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Damien Williams	14	79%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Travis Kelce	17	71%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Sammy Watkins	15	60%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Travis Kelce	8	88%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Damien Williams	6	83%
			LeSean McCoy	6	67%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Travis Kelce	16	63%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Sammy Watkins	6	50%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Tyreek Hill	6	50%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 50% YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.25 Rtg: 108.7 [Att: 252 - Rate: 35.3%]	Success: 54% YPA: 8.7, EPA: 0.17 Rtg: 105.6 [Att: 94 - Rate: 13.2%]	Success: 51% YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.23 Rtg: 107.9 [Att: 346 - Rate: 48.5%]
Yes	Success: 50% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.17 Rtg: 99.8 [Att: 250 - Rate: 35.0%]	Success: 50% YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.20 Rtg: 114.4 [Att: 118 - Rate: 16.5%]	Success: 50% YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.18 Rtg: 104.5 [Att: 368 - Rate: 51.5%]
Total	Success: 50% YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.21 Rtg: 104.3 [Att: 502 - Rate: 70.3%]	Success: 52% YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.19 Rtg: 110.5 [Att: 212 - Rate: 29.7%]	Success: 51% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.21 Rtg: 106.1 [Att: 714 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Travis Kelce	Sammy Watkins	Demarcus Robinson	Tyreek Hill	Mecole Hardman	Blake Bell	Damien Williams	LeSean McCoy	Spencer Ware
1	JAC	W 40-26	50 (74%)	65 (96%)	43 (63%)	12 (18%)	53 (78%)	33 (49%)	45 (66%)	20 (29%)	
2	OAK	W 28-10	65 (86%)	70 (92%)	69 (91%)		56 (74%)	25 (33%)	39 (51%)	31 (41%)	
3	BAL	W 33-28	63 (93%)	65 (96%)	62 (91%)		43 (63%)	31 (46%)		26 (38%)	
4	DET	W 34-30	68 (97%)	69 (99%)	64 (91%)		44 (63%)	24 (34%)		32 (46%)	
5	IND	L 19-13	58 (92%)	2 (3%)	58 (92%)		39 (62%)	28 (44%)	35 (56%)	14 (22%)	
6	HOU	L 31-24	56 (97%)		50 (86%)	29 (50%)	32 (55%)	21 (36%)	22 (38%)	29 (50%)	
7	DEN	W 30-6	55 (90%)		49 (80%)	53 (87%)	29 (48%)	29 (48%)	18 (30%)	26 (43%)	
8	GB	L 31-24	59 (100%)	51 (86%)	38 (64%)	53 (90%)	9 (15%)	18 (31%)	25 (42%)	23 (39%)	
9	MIN	W 26-23	58 (97%)	54 (90%)	24 (40%)	60 (100%)	11 (18%)	31 (52%)	43 (72%)	6 (10%)	
10	TEN	L 35-32	78 (95%)	63 (77%)	55 (67%)	69 (84%)	18 (22%)	34 (41%)	60 (73%)		
11	LAC	W 24-17	65 (96%)	56 (82%)	39 (57%)	7 (10%)	52 (76%)		12 (18%)	27 (40%)	
13	OAK	W 40-9	61 (91%)	41 (61%)	38 (57%)	54 (81%)	26 (39%)	34 (51%)		24 (36%)	
14	NE	W 23-16	77 (99%)	71 (91%)	62 (79%)	71 (91%)	14 (18%)	15 (19%)		24 (31%)	31 (40%)
15	DEN	W 23-3	62 (91%)	52 (76%)	38 (56%)	57 (84%)	14 (21%)	30 (44%)		17 (25%)	27 (40%)
16	CHI	W 26-3	61 (92%)	51 (77%)	35 (53%)	59 (89%)	23 (35%)	26 (39%)	35 (53%)		24 (36%)
17	LAC	W 31-21	47 (94%)	36 (72%)	21 (42%)	43 (86%)	17 (34%)	21 (42%)	35 (70%)		
	Grand Total		983 (93%)	746 (78%)	745 (69%)	567 (72%)	480 (45%)	400 (41%)	369 (52%)	299 (35%)	82 (39%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	60%	60%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	28%	20%	49%
2-1 [2WR]	6%	8%	47%
2-2 [1WR]	5%	4%	45%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	71%	52%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	56%	49%	49%
2-1 [2WR]	21%	77%	39%
2-2 [1WR]	23%	33%	49%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Travis Kelce	23	7	10	6
Damien Williams	13	4	2	7
Tyreek Hill	9	1	2	6
Mecole Hardman	6		2	4
Sammy Watkins	6	4		2
Demarcus Robinson	5	1	1	3
LeSean McCoy	5		1	4
Byron Pringle	2		2	
Darwin Thompson	2		2	
Blake Bell	1		1	
Darrel Williams	1	1		

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
LeSean McCoy	19	7	5	7
Patrick Mahomes	14	2	4	8
Darwin Thompson	11	2	2	7
Darrel Williams	6	2	1	3
Spencer Ware	2		1	1
Anthony Sherman	1			1
Matt Moore	1			1
Travis Kelce	1	1		

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	20%	28%	52%
	23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG		

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	43%	62%	54%
	#21	#2	#8

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	4
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	4
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	13
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	2
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	6
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	1
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	8
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	15
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	23
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	11
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	5
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	4
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	20
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	22
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	9
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	7
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	4
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	11
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	10
23.	PA Improvement Success	25
24.	PA Improvement YPA	22
25.	PA Improvement Rating	18
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	32
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	29
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	30
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	1
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	1
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	18
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	32
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	31
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	22
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	14

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.4
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.8
38.	Non-PSM YPA	8.5
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	9.2
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	55%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	54%
42.	PSM Rating	109.6
43.	Non-PSM Rating	99.7

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	39%
45.	PA Success Rate	55%
46.	PA YPA	8.9
47.	PA Sack Rate	2.9%
48.	PA Rating	110.4
49.	PA Target Depth	9.1
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	57%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	3.3%
53.	Non-PA Rating	101.4
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.1

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	8%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	33%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	2.9
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	37%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	59%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.4
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	56%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.4

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	29	defFUM	20
Net FROE	-3.0	defFUM Rcvrd	7
offFUM	20	defFR Rk	29
offFUM Rcvrd	10	defFR%	35.0%
offFR%	50.0%	defFROE	-2.3
offFR Rk	19	defFROE Rk	29
offFROE	-0.7		
offFROE Rk	20		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	90%	YOY Swing	2%
2019 FG Rk	6	YOY Swing Rk	12
Opp 2019 FG %	81%	2018 Team Net	8%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	21	2018 Net Rk	8
2019 Team Net	9%		
2019 Net Rk	6		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Patrick Mahomes
CAY	6.2
CAY Rk	14
2018 CAY Rk	10
AYTS Rk	16
2018 AYTS Rk	4
AGG Rk	36
2018 AGG Rk	36
COMP%	65.9
xCOMP%	66.5
xCOMP% Rk	5
2018 xCOMP% Rk	22
CPOE%	-0.6
CPOE Rk	20
2018 CPOE Rk	14

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Patrick Mahomes
Pressure %	28.3
Pressure Rk	37
Sack %	11.4
Sack Rk	36
Pressure Accuracy %	68.3
Pressure Accuracy Rk	7
Rating when Pressured	89.7
Pressured Rating Rk	4
Clean Accuracy %	78.8
Clean Accuracy Rk	19
Rating when Clean	110.6
Clean Rating Rk	9
Time to Throw	2.82
Time to Throw Rk	17

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.22
EPA/Pass Rk	2
EPA/Rush	-0.06
EPA/Rush Rk	16
On-Target Catch %	86.5
On-Target Catch Rk	11
Drop%	6.9
Drop Rk	11
YAC/Att	2
YAC/Att Rk	27
Rush Broken Tackle %	13.9
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	23
Rush 1st Down %	24.5
Rush 1st Down Rk	10

Kansas City Chiefs 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

We see the highlight plays from Mahomes — the deep passes, the aggressive downfield style. But the way Reid has designed this offense, Mahomes was expected to complete 66.5% of his passes in 2019. We can measure that using player tracking data. We can calculate it based on factors such as receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field and the separation the passer had at time of throw from the nearest pass rusher. That 66.5% rate was the fifth-highest in the NFL.

While there are absolutely those out of structure passes that Mahomes throws into tight coverage or while racing outside the pocket, about to be leveled, those stand out in our brain due to von Restorff effect. We see 50 Mahomes attempts, but the ones we remember are those that stand out. Mahomes is the best we have, but Reid tries to make his life easy and that, in turn, makes Mahomes even better.

Additionally, and defying your perceptions of Mahomes, he ranked just 36 out of 39 QBs in aggressiveness. Again, using player tracking data, aggressiveness tracks the amount of passing attempts a quarterback makes that are into tight coverage, where there is a defender within 1 yard of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion. Mahomes's rank in aggressiveness in both of his seasons as a full-time starter (2018 and 2019) has been 36 of 39 each year. Reid has designed an offense which gets players open and is far easier on his quarterback than Reid gets credit for.

The Chiefs were very interesting from an EDSR perspective. They dominated the first four weeks of the season and in their last five games before the Super Bowl. They went 9-0 in those games and also won the EDSR battle in eight of the nine (lone EDSR loss was Week 17).

Then, during the Week 5 Colts game that the Chiefs lost by six points, Patrick Mahomes suffered a high-ankle sprain. He was not 100% in the Week 6 one-score loss to the Texans or the Week 7 win over the Broncos. In that game against the Broncos, Mahomes dislocated his kneecap and missed Weeks 8 and 9. Mahomes returned at less than 100% in Week 10 to incur a three-point loss to the Titans. He then beat the Chargers in Mexico City, again at less than 100%, before the Chiefs had their bye week and he was able to heal up.

There was a stretch of seven games, from Week 5 through 11, where Mahomes was either not 100% due to various injuries, or not there altogether. The Chiefs offense suffered for it, winning the EDSR battle in only two of seven games, and losing outright in four of the seven games.

The Chiefs held a huge lead early against the Raiders coming out of the bye (thus explaining the narrow ESDR loss). And they followed that up by performing extremely well in the first half in Foxboro against the Patriots (led 20-7 at halftime) before Mahomes banged his throwing hand causing swelling and the team had to alter the second half game plan entirely.

In games Mahomes was healthy and did not suffer an in-game injury, the Chiefs went 9-0 in 2019, 8-1 in the EDSR battle, and won these games by 14 ppg on average.

Their offense ranked third in EDSR and they face a similar slate of defenses in 202 (19th-toughest schedule).

So how do you beat these guys? How do you knock off the Chiefs?

Well, for one, you must score. They are 27-8 the last two years with Mahomes at the helm, and when Mahomes was not playing injured, his team has scored at least 28 points in all losses. The Chiefs average 36 ppg in his losses at full health. Opponents have to average 39 ppg to beat him. So first thing is first, you have to score.

There are several ways to do that defensively. The Chiefs defense ranked just 24th in EDSR last season and was 14th in efficiency. They are highly susceptible to play-action, particularly play-action under center. They are similarly highly susceptible to pre-snap motion, particularly when offenses use it ahead of run plays. They ranked second in pressure and sacks on third down, but when offenses passed on early downs, the Chiefs had one of the NFL's worst sack and pressure rates in the NFL. Additionally, while the Chiefs had the sixth-ranked pass defense, they struggled to defend passes between the numbers, particularly on early downs, ranked 30th in the NFL. The defending Super Bowl champions won it all last year against the 15th easiest schedule. In 2020, they face the 10th-easiest schedule based on opponent win totals, and it's especially easier in one area: opposing rush offenses.

The Chiefs struggled to stop the run last year and actually went 1-4 in the regular season against teams with top-12 rushing attacks. They went 11-0 against all other opponents. Their 2019 schedule of rushing attacks faced ranked 14th easiest. In 2020, it improves to fourth-easiest. They still face four teams with rushing attacks that rank top-12 (Texans, Ravens, Panthers and Saints) but on average, their overall schedule is much easier.

The least fortunate aspect to the Chiefs schedule is the location of their toughest games. The Chiefs play four teams projected (after incorporating juice) to win 9+ games, and all four are on the road (Ravens, Bills, Buccaneers, and Saints). The first of these games is Monday night, in Baltimore. Shockingly, the Ravens have played in 14 Monday night games since 2008 but only two were at home, so this year will be the third. The Chiefs also must travel to Buffalo to play on a short-week Thursday game.

Between Week 7 and 17, the Chiefs face the easiest schedule in the NFL, and are fortunate to play eight of 10 teams that are forecast to post at-or-below .500 records. The two difficult teams they face are both from the NFC South (Buccaneers and Saints) and both come as the second of back-to-back road tilts.

Los Angeles Chargers

Head Coach:
  Anthony Lynn (3 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
  Shane Steichen (QB Coach) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
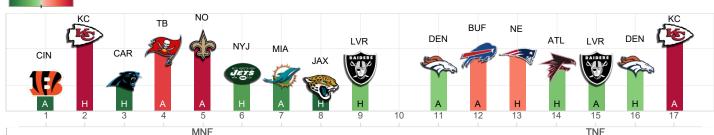 Gus Bradley (2 yrs)

EASY HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
7.5	#2

Past Records
2019: 5-11
2018: 12-4
2017: 9-7

Schedule

Wk	Opp	Loc
1	CIN	A
2	KC	H
3	CAR	H
4	TB	A
5	NO	A
6	NYJ	H
7	MIA	H
8	JAX	H
9	LVR	H
10		
11	DEN	A
12	BUF	A
13	NE	H
14	ATL	H
15	LVR	A
16	DEN	H
17	KC	A

MNF — TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Adrian Phillips (S)	Patriots
Antonio Gates (TE)	Retired
Derek Watt (FB)	Steelers
Dylan Cantrell (WR)	Cardinals
Geremy Davis (WR)	Lions
Jatavis Brown (43OLB)	Eagles
Jaylen Watkins (S)	Texans
Melvin Gordon (RB)	Broncos
Michael Schofield (RG)	Panthers
Nick Dzubnar (ILB)	Titans
Philip Rivers (QB)	Colts
Russell Okung (LT)	Panthers
Thomas Davis (43OLB)	Redskins
Travis Benjamin (WR)	49ers
Brandon Mebane (43DT)	Null
Lance Kendricks (TE)	Null
Sean Culkin (TE)	Null
Spencer Drango (RT)	Null
Sylvester Williams (43DT)	Null
Troymaine Pope (RB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
0.7	9	7

2020 Los Angeles Chargers Overview

The Chargers' 2019 season started with leads at halftime in all of their first four games. The Chargers blew two second-half leads, Week 2 against the Lions and Week 3 against the Texans. They lost each game by one score and sat at 2-2.

From that point through the end of the season, this team lost the EDSR battle in just one game through Week 17. That one game was vs the Bears. They lost the EDSR battle badly, but they won the game.

Although they won that game, it resulted in head coach Anthony Lynn firing offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt and promoting quarterbacks coach Shane Steichen to OC.

At that point, the Chargers sat at 3-5 at the season's midpoint. They held leads in three of their five losses. They held second half leads in two of those three games.

It was likely Week 7 in Tennessee that firmly planted the seed in Lynn's brain to fire Whisenhunt. The game was tied at halftime. The Chargers dug out of an early second half hole and had 1st and goal at the Titans' 1-yard line, down three points, with :39 left in the game.

First play: false start – penalty

Second play: DPI in the end zone, set up another first and goal at the one

Third play: **Melvin Gordon** was ruled to score a rushing touchdown, but replay reviewed the score and said he didn't break the plane, setting up 2nd and goal from the 1 with :19 left.

Fourth play: Melvin Gordon was ruled to be tackled for no gain,

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Trai Turner (RG)	Trade
Bryan Bulaga (RT)	$10
Chris Harris Jr. (CB)	$8.5
Linval Joseph (43DT)	$8.5
Nick Vigil (43OLB)	$2.39
Darius Jennings (WR)	$0.90

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	6	QB - Justin Herbert (Oregon)
1	23	LB - Kenneth Murray (Oklahoma)
4	112	RB - Joshua Kelley (UCLA)
5	151	WR - Joe Reed (Virginia)
6	186	S - Alohi Gilman (Notre Dame)
7	220	WR - K. J. Hill (Ohio State)

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF — All OFF

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	7.5
2019 Wins	5
Forecast 2019 Wins	9.5
2018 Wins	12
2017 Wins	9
2016 Wins	5

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

Defense:
- FS R.Jenkins 23
- LB K.Murray Rookie 56
- SS D.James 33
- LB U.Nwosu 42
- RCB D.King 20
- SLOTCB C.Harris* NEW 25
- DE M.Ingram* 54
- DT L.Joseph* NEW 98
- DT J.Jones 91
- DE J.Bosa 99
- LCB C.Hayward* 26

Offense:
- LWR A.Patton 88
- SLOTWR K.Allen 13
- LT S.Tevi 69
- LG D.Feeney 66
- C M.Pouncey* 53
- RG T.Turner NEW 70
- RT B.Bulaga NEW 75
- TE H.Henry 86
- RWR M.Williams 16
- QB T.Taylor 5
- RB A.Ekeler 30
- WR2 J.Reed Rookie 12
- WR3 J.Moore 89
- RB2 J.Jackson 22
- QB2 T.Taylor 5

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	22	$94.60M	3
QB	26	$8.85M	7
OL	22	$35.37M	7
RB	20	$8.19M	16
WR	16	$24.88M	8
TE	2	$17.30M	15
All DEF	16	$97.63M	19
DL	17	$45.20M	6
LB	25	$17.74M	22
CB	6	$26.65M	22
S	27	$8.04M	23

but replay reviewed the play and determined that Gordon fumbled into the end zone.

The Chargers went from 1st and goal at the 1-yard line and what should be a win or overtime, to losing the game in regulation on that ridiculous four-play sequence.

A four-play sequence involving Melvin Gordon and the run game. And it dropped the Chargers to 2-5 on the season.

The next week, the Chargers beat the Bears, but they should have lost that game. Not only did they get crushed in EDSR, as the chart for "2019 Weekly EDSR" shows, but the Bears' Eddie Pineiro missed a 41-yard field goal with :04 left in the game, which allowed the Chargers to win by one-point.

The Chargers media was looking for a scapegoat. And the easiest, most obvious thing to pin the losses on was a lack of a run game.

And that relates to Melvin Gordon.

In hindsight, this next part is hilarious: Melvin Gordon held out to start the season because he wanted as much money as fellow running backs Todd Gurley, David Johnson, and Le'Veon Bell. Every team that signed those other three backs regretted the deals they signed. Those backs didn't come close to meeting the level of performance acceptable to justify such a deal. And they didn't come close. They couldn't. They were just running backs.

• Todd Gurley averaged just 3.8 YPC last year and was cut by the Rams.
• David Johnson averaged just 3.7 YPC last year and was traded to the only league decision maker willing to take on his bloated salary, Bill O'Brien.
• Le'Veon Bell averaged 3.2 YPC last year and his new head coach said he didn't want him nor his bloated contract. A contract that wasn't even signed by current general manager Joe Douglas, but his predecessor Mike Maccagnan, who was fired.

Those three backs were all the top-3 RBs in 2019 cap hit. And they all were terrible.

I said at the time when Gordon was holding out that he wasn't worth it. Not even close.

But I've been selling Melvin Gordon for some time. Not in fantasy football, due to his volume and red zone carries. But in real football, as a real running back, I've been dogging him for years.

Ever since his rookie season. Notes from my series of Football Previews, by year:

2016: "Very few first-round running backs recorded five or fewer rushing touchdowns and 3.48 or fewer YPC in their rookie year. Those that did are players who never lived up to expectations. Gordon also fumbled six times and had microfracture knee surgery this offseason."
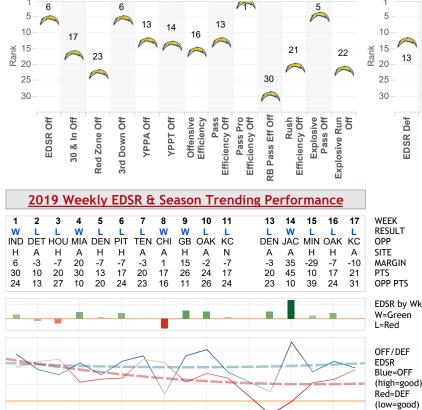
2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Philip Rivers	58% 8.6 103.0	47% 7.0 81.2	41% 7.8 83.6	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	52%	68%	82%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
LAC	59% 3.1	48% 4.5	44% 3.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	48%	32%	18%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

2017: "Gordon was great on third down but poor in many other situations… Looking at all first and second down carries, Gordon had 233 carries but averaged just 3.8 YPC and was successful on just 42%, ranking 28th out of 40 running backs. And consider this was against the second easiest schedule of run defenses… He is not a difference-maker as a rusher, which I'm sure the Chargers hoped to get when they traded fourth and fight round picks to move up two spots to draft Gordon 15th overall."

2018: "Melvin Gordon has averaged fewer than four yards per carry in all three years of his career. And his 42% success rate on 538 carries the past two years ranked worst among all qualifying running backs. Last year, the Chargers ran Gordon on first down 161 times even though he was the worst first down rusher in the league. It seems like Anthony Lynn's coaching staff views Gordon as a workhorse back, but Gordon isn't that type of player."

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	W	L	W	L	L	L	W	W	L	L		L	W	L	L	L
OPP	IND	DET	HOU	MIA	DEN	PIT	TEN	CHI	GB	OAK	KC	DEN	JAC	MIN	OAK	KC
SITE	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	A	H	A	N	A	A	H	H	A
MARGIN	6	-3	20	-7	-7	-3	1	1	26	-2	-7	-3	35	-29	-7	-10
PTS	30	10	20	30	13	17	20	17	26	24	17	20	45	10	17	21
OPP PTS	24	13	27	10	20	24	23	16	11	26	24	23	10	39	24	31

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **5**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-4**
FG Games Win %: **20% (#23)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **20% (#17)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **2-9**
1 Score Games Win %: **18% (#30)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **40% (#20)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-17
TO Given	31
INT Given	20
FUM Given	11
TO Taken	14
INT Taken	11
FUM Taken	3
Sack Margin	-4
Sacks	30
Sacks Allow	34
Return TD Margin	-3
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	4
Penalty Margin	+5
Penalties	103
Opponent Penalties	108

192

Los Angeles Chargers 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Chart showing RANK (5 to 30, HARD to EASY, Average Opponent) with 2019 Actual and 2020 Forecast values for the following metrics:

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank):
- Total Efficiency: 2019=23, 2020=31
- DEF Efficiency: 2019=24, 2020=26
- Pass Efficiency DEF: 2019=23, 2020=18 (Passing)
- YPPA Def: 2019=26, 2020=18 (Passing)
- Explosive Pass DEF: 2019=21, 2020=20 (Passing)
- Pass Pro Efficiency DEF: 2019=21, 2020=17 (Passing)
- Rush Efficiency DEF: 2019=28, 2020=27 (Rushing)
- Explosive Rush DEF: 2019=23, 2020=9 (Rushing)
- RB Pass Eff DEF: 2019=30, 2020=17 (Rushing)
- Red Zone Blend DEF: 2019=24, 2020=21
- YPPT Def: 2019=24, 2020=21
- Third Down Conv DEF: 2019=6, 2020=14

Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank):
- OFF Efficiency: 2019=29, 2020=15
- Pass Efficiency OFF: 2019=26, 2020=13 (Passing)
- YPPA Off: 2019=21, 2020=12 (Passing)
- Explosive Pass OFF: 2019=17, 2020=24 (Passing)
- Pass Pro Efficiency OFF: 2019=15, 2020=14 (Passing)
- Rush Efficiency OFF: 2019=32, 2020=27 (Rushing)
- Explosive Rush OFF: 2019=32, 2020=32 (Rushing)
- RB Pass Eff OFF: 2019=25, 2020=21 (Rushing)
- Red Zone Blend OFF: 2019=29, 2020=23
- YPPT Off: 2019=30, 2020=20
- Third Down Conv OFF: 2019=25, 2020=17

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- ⚡ 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
11	12	10	16	31	25	22	19

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-1.4	-4.8	-1.6
Average O/U line	45.2	47.8	44.8
Straight Up Record	5-11	12-4	9-7
Against the Spread Record	4-11	9-7	8-6
Over/Under Record	7-9	8-8	4-12
ATS as Favorite	2-6	6-6	4-3
ATS as Underdog	2-5	3-1	3-2
Straight Up Home	2-5	4-3	5-3
ATS Home	1-5	2-5	4-4
Over/Under Home	2-5	3-4	2-6
ATS as Home Favorite	0-4	2-5	3-3
ATS as a Home Dog	1-1	0-0	0-1
Straight Up Away	3-5	7-1	4-4
ATS Away	3-5	7-1	4-2
Over/Under Away	5-3	5-3	2-6
ATS Away Favorite	2-2	4-0	1-0
ATS Away Dog	1-3	3-1	3-1
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-5	14-2
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-5	14-2
Ten Point Teaser Record	11-4	14-2	14-2

LAC-3

The fact that Gordon held out was shocking to me, given my impression of where he sits in the hierarchy of today's running backs, coupled with where I think any back's value truly sits.

Nevertheless, Gordon held out and **Austin Ekeler** took the reigns to start the 2019 campaign. Ekeler was anything but breathtaking, but he didn't kill the Chargers in the backfield. On the ground, he recorded -0.01 EPA/att, a 50% success rate, and 4.2 YPC. Basically middle-of-the-pack results for running backs. But through the air, Ekeler averaged 0.54 EPA/att, a 64% success rate, and 10.8 YPA.

Gordon ended his holdout after the Chargers didn't fold. Gordon's first game was Week 5 in Denver, where he totaled 31 rushing yards on 12 carries at 2.6 YPC with -0.34 EPA/att and a 33% success rate. He was a disaster.

That Broncos game marked the first of a four-game stretch when the Chargers faced the toughest run defenses of the

(cont'd - see LAC-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	4
Net Rest Edge	-2
Week 2 Edge	-3
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	-1
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	-7
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	7
Week 12 Edge	-7
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	3
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	30
2018 Rk	20
2019 v 2018 Rk	24
Off Rk	29
Def Rk	20
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	1
WR Rk	28
TE Rk	29
Oline Rk	27
Dline Rk	16
LB Rk	6
DB Rk	29

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CIN	KC	CAR	TB	NO	NYJ	MIA	JAX	LVR	DEN	BUF	NE	ATL	LVR	DEN	KC
-3	6.5	-6	6.5	9	-4	-1	-7	-6	2.5	5	-1	-2	2.5	-4	10.5

Avg = 0.7

Home Lines

2	3	6	8	9	13	14	16
6.5 KC	-6 CAR	-4 NYJ	-7 JAX	-4 LVR	-1 NE	-2 ATL	-4 DEN

Avg = -2.7

Road Lines

1	4	5	7	11	12	15	17
-3 CIN	6.5 TB	9 NO	-1 MIA	2.5 DEN	5 BUF	2.5 LVR	10.5 KC

Avg = 4.0

LAC-4

season: No. 16 Denver, No. 3 Pittsburgh, No. 10 Tennessee, and No. 13 Chicago. All in consecutive weeks. That's four-straight top-half run defenses after starting the season's first four games playing zero top-half run defenses.

A trend arose as Gordon returned. Week after week, he progressively became worse and the Chargers lost each game by narrow margins.

His second game back, Week 6 against the Steelers, his EPA dropped from -0.24/att to -0.35/att. His YPC dropped from 2.6 to 2.3, and his success rate dropped from 33% to 13%. The Chargers lost by just seven points.

Gordon's third game back, his EPA dropped from -0.35/att to -0.55/att. But Whisenhunt kept feeding him carries, allowing him to take 15 in total. His YPC dropped from 2.3 to 2.1. The Chargers lost by just three points, as he fumbled the ball into the end zone to end the game, turning a Chargers four-point win into a Chargers three-point loss.

It's hard to pin all the blame on Whisenhunt. After all, while Gordon is a great runner in space with the ball, he's proven over his NFL career he's not a great bell-cow back, nor worthy of being drafted 15th overall — all things I was saying four years ago. Gordon's entire situation between the holdout, the return, and the immediate RB1 workload was a disaster waiting to happen.

The lack of a run game absolutely played into the firing of Whisenhunt. And while it may sound like I'm defending Whisenhunt, I'm not intending to absolve him at all. It was a tough situation for all included. I've made it clear for years the issues I've taken with Whisenhunt and his inefficient tendencies, so I was happy to see the Chargers give Steichen a shot.

Whisenhunt ended his tenure in an inauspicious run, literally: the Chargers became the first team in the Super Bowl era to rush for under 40 yards in four consecutive games. They did that during that perfect storm of Gordon returning from his holdout along with the Chargers facing a brutal four-game stretch of run defenses.

Not only was it the first time in the Super Bowl era, but it was also just the third time since 1940 that a team's rushing attack was impotent for four such games in a row, and the prior two times were all the way back in 1946 and 1944.

When Steichen took over, the offense became much more efficient. Thanks to the 13th best EDSR defense, along with a more productive offense, the Chargers won

(cont'd - see LAC-5)

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
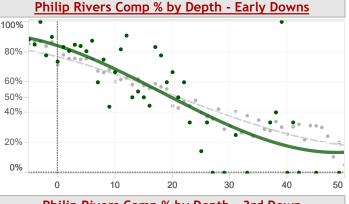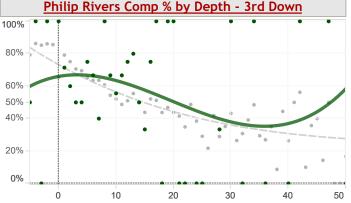
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Austin Ekeler	7%	8%	70%	5%	9%
	Melvin Gordon	19%	9%	59%	3%	9%
	Keenan Allen		33%	67%		
	Mike Williams			100%		
	Justin Jackson	17%		62%	10%	10%
	Derek Watt		43%	43%		14%
	Total	13%	9%	64%	4%	9%
PASS	Austin Ekeler	13%	11%	71%		4%
	Melvin Gordon	11%	18%	66%	2%	2%
	Keenan Allen	8%	10%	78%	1%	2%
	Mike Williams	15%	14%	63%		7%
	Hunter Henry	5%	20%	69%	2%	5%
	Justin Jackson		11%	67%	22%	
	Dontrelle Inman			77%	23%	
	Derek Watt	20%	20%	60%		
	Travis Benjamin	8%	8%	83%		
	Virgil Green	18%	9%	64%		9%
	Lance Kendricks	14%	14%	71%		
	Total	10%	13%	71%	2%	4%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Austin Ekeler	Melvin Gordon	Keenan Allen	Mike Williams	Hunter Henry	Justin Jackson	Dontrelle Inman	Derek Watt	Travis Benjamin	Virgil Green	Lance Kendricks
RUSH	40%	49%	1%	0%		9%		2%			
PASS	21%	9%	29%	15%	14%	2%	3%	1%	3%	2%	1%
ALL	29%	26%	17%	9%	8%	5%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%

Philip Rivers Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Philip Rivers Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	48%, 0.01 (494)	59%, 0.29 (70)	49%, 0.01 (41)	25%, -0.03 (8)	80%, 0.93 (5)	100%, 0.64 (4)	33%, 1.30 (3)	100%, 0.73 (2)	100%, 1.93 (1)	50%, 0.07 (628)
RUSH	48%, 0.02 (217)	51%, -0.03 (73)	37%, -0.64 (35)	43%, -0.17 (30)	20%, -0.57 (5)	50%, 0.41 (2)				47%, -0.08 (362)
All	48%, 0.02 (711)	55%, 0.13 (143)	43%, -0.29 (76)	39%, -0.14 (38)	50%, 0.18 (10)	83%, 0.56 (6)	33%, 1.30 (3)	100%, 0.73 (2)	100%, 1.93 (1)	49%, 0.01 (990)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Austin Ekeler	49% (77) 9.1, 0.23	72% (18) 10.7, 0.67	83% (6) 7.7, 0.36	0% (2) -0.5, -0.56	54% (103) 9.1, 0.30
	Melvin Gordon	49% (39) 6.2, 0.01	38% (13) 2.2, -0.19	0% (1) 0.0, -0.71		45% (53) 5.1, -0.05
TE	Hunter Henry	68% (60) 8.4, 0.22	71% (7) 10.4, 0.87	67% (6) 10.5, 0.37		68% (73) 8.8, 0.30
WR	Keenan Allen	56% (125) 7.8, 0.18	79% (14) 7.4, 0.41	56% (9) 10.2, 0.52		58% (148) 7.9, 0.22
	Mike Williams	54% (74) 11.2, 0.35	43% (7) 10.6, 0.25	20% (5) 4.0, -1.15	100% (1) 44.0, 5.03	52% (87) 11.1, 0.31

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Gordon Melvin	51% (104) 4.1, 0.00	57% (35) 3.7, 0.03	31% (13) 2.2, -0.97	43% (7) 3.3, -0.05	50% (159) 3.8, -0.08
Ekeler Austin	47% (85) 4.8, 0.05	38% (21) 3.5, -0.08	44% (16) 2.6, -0.50	40% (10) 4.6, -0.03	45% (132) 4.3, -0.04
Jackson Justin	54% (13) 6.8, 0.10	67% (9) 4.4, 0.01	100% (2) 6.5, 0.35	67% (3) 12.0, 0.80	63% (27) 6.6, 0.17
Rivers Philip	43% (7) 4.6, 0.13	0% (1) -3.0, -0.96	0% (1) 1.0, -0.38	0% (3) -0.3, -2.63	25% (12) 2.4, -0.69
Taylor Tyrod	25% (4) 3.3, -0.49			0% (3) -1.0, -0.57	14% (7) 1.4, -0.52

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	57% (281)	8.7, 0.21
M2M	54% (142)	7.8, 0.31
Screen	44% (43)	7.9, 0.00

Passing by Route

Curl	67% (61) 7.6, 0.17
Out	60% (57) 7.4, 0.38
Dig	62% (52) 8.6, 0.27
Screen	34% (44) 7.4, 0.07
Slant	62% (26) 7.2, 0.35
Flat	50% (24) 4.6, 0.11

Throw Types

Level 1	59% (323) 7.3, 0.24
Level 2	54% (167) 9.6, 0.28
Level 3	35% (51) 11.0, 0.15
Sidearm	37% (19) 3.3, -0.14
Shovel	60% (10) 3.8, -0.79

QB Drop Types

3 Step	61% (241) 7.8, 0.27
5 Step	46% (194) 9.1, 0.23
0/1 Step	62% (66) 5.6, -0.04
7 Step	59% (29) 11.0, 0.38
Basic Screen	34% (29) 6.2, -0.09
Designed Rollout Right	75% (4) 8.8, 0.65

QB State at Pass

Planted	56% (446) 8.3, 0.26
Shuffling	45% (103) 6.9, -0.08
Moving	36% (42) 4.7, -0.13

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	47% (59) 9.7, 0.07	52% (29) 8.1, 0.19
Shotgun	57% (74) 8.8, 0.34	48% (466) 7.3, 0.02
ALL	53% (133) 9.2, 0.22	49% (495) 7.4, 0.03

Run Types

Outside Zone	37% (68) 3.5, -0.10
Inside Zone	58% (64) 3.4, -0.19
Pitch	56% (32) 4.5, 0.11
Power	57% (30) 4.8, 0.15
Stretch	33% (9) 2.9, -0.29
Lead	14% (7) 1.3, -0.41

LAC-5

the EDSR battle in all eight of their games under the new offensive coordinator.

The Chargers immediately came out of the gates with 159 rushing yards against the Packers and 146 against the Raiders. It clearly helped to go from a brutal schedule of run defenses to multiple run defenses ranking bottom-10 over Steichen's first few games as offensive coordinator.

But the only way for a team to go 8-0 in the EDSR battle yet 2-6 on the real scoreboard is to lose the turnover battle. Repeatedly. And sure enough, in the two games the Chargers won, they were even in turnover margin. Here's a depiction of the second half of the season for the Chiefs, looking at EDSR results, turnover margin and final margin (Week 11 was a bye):

Week 9: EDSR win, net 0 turnovers = WIN
Week 10: EDSR win, -3 turnover margin = LOSS (2-pt loss)
Week 12: EDSR win, -3 turnover margin = LOSS (7-pt loss)
Week 13: EDSR win, -1 turnover margin = LOSS (3-pt loss)
Week 14: EDSR win, net 0 turnovers = WIN
Week 15: EDSR win, -6 turnover margin = LOSS (29-pt loss)
Week 16: EDSR win, net 0 turnovers = LOSS (7-pt loss)
Week 17: EDSR win, -1 turnover margin = LOSS (10-pt loss)

Most of these games were close, coin flip games which saw the Chargers put themselves in great full-game position to win thanks to offensive and defensive EDSR production. But turnovers cost them, and many times it wasn't even close.

Examining some of the efficiency improvement from the first half to the second half of the season is interesting nonetheless:

Whisenhunt ran the ball from 21 personnel on 20% of the Chargers' first half run plays, but such runs were extremely unproductive. Steichen ran the ball the same amount from 21, but with vastly different results, as this split shows on first half runs from 21:

• Weeks 1-8: 1.8 YPC, 24% success, -0.27 EPA/att
• Weeks 9-17: 5.9 YPC, 58% success, 0.11 EPA/att

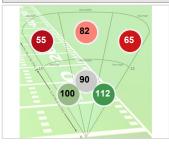# Los Angeles Chargers 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Chargers passing game finished fifth in the league in success rate (49%), 11th in EPA via their passing offense and ninth in yards per pass attempt (7.8). But after 16 seasons with the team and 14 years as the starting quarterback, the team openly let **Philip Rivers** walk away in free agency this offseason, elevating **Tyrod Taylor** to interim starter while the team used the sixth overall selection in this year's draft on **Justin Herbert**. The last time Taylor was a regular starting quarterback was in 2017, when his team was 24th in the league in EPA through the air and 25th in yards per pass attempt (6.5). As a prospect, Herbert ranks in the 62nd percentile in career yards per attempt (8.2), 68th percentile in completion rate (64.0%), and 91st percentile in TD/INT rate (4.1:1) for all drafted passers since 2000.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Philip Rivers	390	591	66%	4,615	7.8	23	20	34	89	25
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Philip Rivers	49%	53%	57	10.0%	23	4.0%	6.1	5.7	23	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Philip Rivers Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	2.4%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	6.7%	2.8%	0.0%	4.3%
6 - 9	0.0%	3.7%	4.0%	0.0%	3.7%
10 - 14	1.4%	3.9%	2.9%	20.0%	2.5%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	100.0%	5.5%
Total	1.3%	3.6%	4.5%	18.2%	3.2%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Philip Rivers	9.2	6.0	-3.2	68%	21
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
51%	49%	29
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Chargers passing game is stocked with talent at the top. The wide receivers, led by **Keenan Allen** and Mike Williams, ranked 12th in yards per target (8.4 yards) and 10th in success rate (53%). The tight ends were led by **Hunter Henry** and ranked ninth in yards per target (8.1 yards) and first in success rate (63%) while the running backs were first in yards per target (7.5) and fifth in success rate (51%) on the strength of **Austin Ekeler's** huge season, catching 92-of-108 targets for 993 yards and eight touchdowns through the air. Henry was second among all NFL tight ends with at least 50 targets in success rate per target (66%) while Ekeler was second in success rate (56%) among running backs with 50-plus looks.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Keenan Allen	150	69%	8.0	84.3	59%	22	46	89	29	6
Austin Ekeler	108	85%	9.2	122.0	56%	32	26	63	104	8
Mike Williams	90	54%	11.1	64.2	52%	62	78	25	93	1
Hunter Henry	76	72%	8.6	114.6	66%	3	16	62	67	3
Melvin Gordon	55	76%	5.4	94.2	45%	105	115	129	17	1

Keenan Allen Target Distribution

Mike Williams Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Chargers were middle of the pack to below average in the run game, ranking 17th in success rate (48%), 22nd in EPA on the ground, and 23rd in yards per carry (4.0). The team let **Melvin Gordon** leave via free agency this offseason, while extending Austin Ekeler to a four-year contract. Despite his lowest yards per carry (3.8 YPC) since his rookie season, Gordon (50%) bested Ekeler (45%) in success rate on the ground in 2019. In six games without Gordon the past two years, Ekeler has carried 96 times for 349 yards (3.6 YPC) versus his 5.4 yards per tote when in a combo role over the past two seasons. With that in mind, the Chargers added 212-pound rookie back Joshua Kelley in the fourth round to go along with third-year back **Justin Jackson** who has averaged 5.5 yards per touch on 103 opportunities through two seasons.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Melvin Gordon	162	3.8	50%	29	10	34	56	49%	31	8
Austin Ekeler	132	4.2	45%	50	23	70	20	43%	58	3

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Charging into Transition

By letting Philip Rivers leave via free agency, the Chargers are preparing to change their offensive identity by turning the offense over to Tyrod Taylor and inevitably Justin Herbert. The team got more athletic at the position, but be prepared for a downswing in passing efficiency and overall passing volume.

Prior to joining the Chargers as head coach in 2017, Anthony Lynn was the assistant head coach, offensive coordinator and running backs coach for the previous four seasons for the Jets and Bills. In those seasons working backward, those teams ranked 30th, 30th, 25th, and 29th in overall passing plays run during the season. Those 30th ranked seasons came attached to Taylor as the starting quarterback in Buffalo. In Taylor's three years as the primary starting quarterback, his teams have attempted 476, 474, and 465 passes. The Chargers have ranked 10th, 26th, and 12th in passing volume the past three seasons under Lynn with Rivers, attempting 597, 512, and 583 passes.
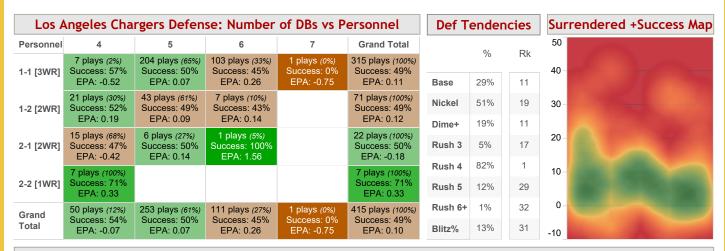
In the offseason, the Chargers' major acquisitions were acquiring right guard Trai Turner in a trade, while signing right tackle Bryan Bulaga, cornerback Chris Harris, defensive tackle Linval Joseph, and outside linebacker Nick Vigil in free agency. Game script ultimately drives passing volume and the Chargers just had a top-10 draft pick on their own merit, but the early signal here is to anticipate a team that is going to have a major reduction in passing output and play through their run game and defense. That transition can significantly impact the fantasy ceilings of the entire core of the offense, who all have had strong reliance predicated on their passing volume and efficiency.

Is Austin Ekeler Set up to Excel in 2020?

Since entering the league, Ekeler's 158 receptions rank sixth among all running backs while his 1,676 receiving yards are third among backs over that span. Ekeler's touches have gone up from 74 to 145 to 224 over his three seasons in the league. In seven career games without Melvin Gordon active, Ekeler has averaged 20.8 PPR points per game and has been a top-12 scorer four times with just one week outside of the top-24 scorers at his position.

But Ekeler's 2019 ceiling was so amazing it will be tough to replicate. He averaged 9.2 yards per target after 7.7 through his first two seasons. He caught 85.2% of his targets after 75.0% through two seasons and had eight receiving touchdowns, the most by a running back in a season since Marshall Faulk in 2001. On top of all that, Ekeler exceeded his expected yards after the catch by a league-leading 276 yards.

The addition of **Joshua Kelley** (5'11, 212) adds a little more size to the backfield to take on more of the potential between the tackles runs and goal line opportunities. For his career, Ekeler has converted just 4-of-13 carries inside of the 5-yard for touchdowns. Lastly, the loss of Philip Rivers is a potential thorn. ..

Los Angeles Chargers Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	7 plays (2%) Success: 57% EPA: -0.52	204 plays (65%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.07	103 plays (33%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.26	1 plays (0%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.75	315 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.11
1-2 [2WR]	21 plays (30%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.19	43 plays (61%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.09	7 plays (10%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.14		71 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.12
2-1 [2WR]	15 plays (68%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.42	6 plays (27%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.14	1 plays (5%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.56		22 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.18
2-2 [1WR]	7 plays (100%) Success: 71% EPA: 0.33				7 plays (100%) Success: 71% EPA: 0.33
Grand Total	50 plays (12%) Success: 54% EPA: -0.07	253 plays (61%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.07	111 plays (27%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.26	1 plays (0%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.75	415 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.10

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	29%	11
Nickel	51%	19
Dime+	19%	11
Rush 3	5%	17
Rush 4	82%	1
Rush 5	12%	29
Rush 6+	1%	32
Blitz%	13%	31

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Linval Joseph is a great veteran addition to the middle of this defensive line. Joseph has long been one of the most underrated interior defenders who can produce both against the run and with plus pass rush. Behind him, the Chargers will have to hope there's an improvement from two previous draft picks. 2018 third-round pick **Justin Jones** was a starter but didn't make much of an impact. 2019 first-round pick **Jerry Tillery** also failed to live up to the draft position after being a dominant pass rusher in college.

No team relies on its top two edge rushers to create pressure than the Chargers. When healthy both **Joey Bosa** and **Melvin Ingram** play almost all of the defensive snaps, though Ingram played just 13 games in 2019. To add, no team rushed just four more than the Chargers last season (82%), per SIS. There is little behind the two on the roster. **Uchenna Nwosu** rushed the passer on 87.7% of his pass snaps, but his sub-10% pressure rate was well below an acceptable mark to make a difference.

The Chargers used more nickel personnel last season after they went heavy Dime in 2018. That helped with **Thomas Davis** on the field last season, but the 37-year-old was on just a one-year deal and reunited with Ron Rivera in Washington during the offseason. **Nick Virgil** was signed, but his work in Cincinnati wasn't close to what the **Kyzir White/Drue Tranquill/Denzel Perryman** rotation did last season, especially in coverage. The Chargers traded back up in the first round to select Oklahoma linebacker **Kenneth Murray**. Murray has more athleticism than instincts at the position, but that could play better with the surrounding talent of the Chargers than it would on other teams.

Adding **Chris Harris** to this cornerback group isn't really fair. Harris has said he was told he'd be kept in the slot with the Chargers, which raises questions about what the Chargers will do with **Desmond King** but if the Chargers go back to a high rate of Dime+ packages, they can keep both on the field. King is quite good and it makes little sense to move on from a good, young player with versatility. Since Harris's signing, there have been trade rumors around King.

Casey Hayward is also great (12th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap among 58 corners with at least 400 coverage snaps. The question here comes from the other outside corner, where the **Trevor Davis/Brandon Facyson** duo was above average by Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season.

All this safety group needs is a healthy **Derwin James** and it will be ok. A healthy James also limits the holes in other positions like corner and linebacker, which he can play by moving seamlessly around the defense. It also helps that **Rayshawn Jenkins** and **Nasir Adderley** make a good pair of safeties on their own.

Los Angeles Chargers 2019 Play Analysis

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	63%
All Pass Rk	6
All Rush %	37%
All Rush Rk	27
1 Score Pass %	65%
1 Score Pass Rk	2
2018 1 Score Pass %	59%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	12
2019 Pass Increase %	6%
Pass Increase Rk	5
1 Score Rush %	35%
1 Score Rush Rk	31
Up Pass %	55%
Up Pass Rk	6
Up Rush %	45%
Up Rush Rk	27
Down Pass %	69%
Down Pass Rk	9
Down Rush %	31%
Down Rush Rk	24

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	10	20%	80%	70%
	Med (4-7)	8	25%	75%	88%
	Long (8-10)	293	47%	53%	51%
	XL (11+)	21	86%	14%	43%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	40	35%	65%	60%
	Med (4-7)	73	58%	42%	47%
	Long (8-10)	88	74%	26%	51%
	XL (11+)	35	83%	17%	23%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	43	51%	49%	58%
	Med (4-7)	44	100%	0%	43%
	Long (8-10)	26	100%	0%	46%
	XL (11+)	29	97%	3%	31%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	7	43%	57%	57%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	30%	70%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	74%	22%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	26%	78%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
71%	9	66%	83%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
29%	24	34%	60%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	6	83%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	4	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	73	41%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Austin Ekeler	7	57%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	12	75%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	15	40%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Mike Williams	13	69%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Keenan Allen	7	29%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Austin Ekeler	8	75%
			Melvin Gordon	8	63%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Keenan Allen	12	58%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Keenan Allen	7	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Keenan Allen	6	50%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 50% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 86.8 [Att: 328 - Rate: 52.2%]	Success: 48% YPA: 8.2, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 85.0 [Att: 42 - Rate: 6.7%]	Success: 49% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 86.6 [Att: 370 - Rate: 58.9%]
Yes	Success: 47% YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 73.2 [Att: 167 - Rate: 26.6%]	Success: 55% YPA: 9.6, EPA: 0.33 Rtg: 134.6 [Att: 91 - Rate: 14.5%]	Success: 50% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 95.0 [Att: 258 - Rate: 41.1%]
Total	Success: 49% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 82.3 [Att: 495 - Rate: 78.8%]	Success: 53% YPA: 9.2, EPA: 0.22 Rtg: 119.0 [Att: 133 - Rate: 21.2%]	Success: 50% YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 90.0 [Att: 628 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Keenan Allen	Mike Williams	Hunter Henry	Austin Ekeler	Andre Patton	Melvin Gordon	Virgil Green	Travis Benjamin	Derek Watt	Sean Culkin
1	IND	W 30-24	53 (83%)	41 (64%)	58 (91%)	48 (75%)			27 (42%)	31 (48%)	15 (23%)	1 (2%)
2	DET	L 13-10	61 (91%)	41 (61%)		49 (73%)			59 (88%)	44 (66%)	6 (9%)	16 (24%)
3	HOU	L 27-20	68 (91%)	70 (93%)		49 (65%)			27 (36%)	43 (57%)	8 (11%)	44 (59%)
4	MIA	W 30-10	56 (84%)			48 (72%)	24 (36%)		19 (28%)			39 (58%)
5	DEN	L 20-13	69 (99%)	62 (89%)		46 (66%)	16 (23%)	32 (46%)	54 (77%)	40 (57%)	8 (11%)	
6	PIT	L 24-17	60 (97%)	56 (90%)	41 (66%)	28 (45%)		37 (60%)	23 (37%)	34 (55%)	6 (10%)	
7	TEN	L 23-20	60 (94%)	61 (95%)	58 (91%)	38 (59%)	20 (31%)	34 (53%)	12 (19%)		5 (8%)	
8	CHI	W 17-16	31 (69%)	43 (96%)	39 (87%)	24 (53%)	37 (82%)	25 (56%)	13 (29%)		5 (11%)	
9	GB	W 26-11	62 (87%)	65 (92%)	55 (77%)	24 (34%)	58 (82%)	45 (63%)	24 (34%)		7 (10%)	
10	OAK	L 26-24	65 (84%)	73 (95%)	62 (81%)	35 (45%)	62 (81%)	48 (62%)	22 (29%)		3 (4%)	
11	KC	L 24-17	71 (89%)	74 (93%)	61 (76%)	46 (58%)	59 (74%)	42 (53%)	24 (30%)		7 (9%)	
13	DEN	L 23-20	63 (95%)	58 (88%)	50 (76%)	35 (53%)	41 (62%)	43 (65%)	23 (35%)		4 (6%)	
14	JAC	W 45-10	42 (67%)	45 (71%)	38 (60%)	31 (49%)	36 (57%)	29 (46%)	24 (38%)	17 (27%)		
15	MIN	L 39-10	58 (94%)	52 (84%)	43 (69%)	30 (48%)	46 (74%)	25 (40%)	23 (37%)		5 (8%)	
16	OAK	L 24-17	53 (87%)	53 (87%)	53 (87%)	33 (54%)	46 (75%)	37 (61%)	12 (20%)		5 (8%)	
17	KC	L 31-21	72 (94%)	56 (73%)	63 (82%)	45 (58%)	68 (88%)	36 (47%)	17 (22%)		2 (3%)	
	Grand Total		944 (88%)	850 (85%)	621 (79%)	609 (57%)	513 (64%)	433 (54%)	384 (38%)	192 (57%)	122 (12%)	100 (36%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	72%	60%	48%
2-1 [2WR]	14%	8%	55%
1-2 [2WR]	8%	20%	43%
2-2 [1WR]	4%	4%	39%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	69%	48%	48%
2-1 [2WR]	49%	59%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	54%	49%	37%
2-2 [1WR]	21%	25%	43%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Keenan Allen	18	3	5	10
Austin Ekeler	13	4	2	7
Mike Williams	13	3	3	7
Hunter Henry	9	1	4	4
Melvin Gordon	5	1		4
Justin Jackson	3		1	2
Virgil Green	2			2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Melvin Gordon	32	15	5	12
Austin Ekeler	17	9	2	6
Justin Jackson	5		1	4
Derek Watt	4	1	2	1
Troymaine Pope	2			2
Philip Rivers	1		1	

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
35%	18%	47%
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
51%	63%	53%
#5	#1	#10

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	6	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	0.0	
03. Wins	5	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	6
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	16
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	7
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	22
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	11
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	10
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	6
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	28
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	20
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	7
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	13
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	26
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	26
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	7
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	24
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	10
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	14
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	15
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	2
23.	PA Improvement Success	21
24.	PA Improvement YPA	19
25.	PA Improvement Rating	26
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	17
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	9
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	1
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	24
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	27
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	24
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	30
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	18
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	31
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	21

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.0
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.6
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.5
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.5
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	50%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	51%
42.	PSM Rating	88.7
43.	Non-PSM Rating	87.7

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)
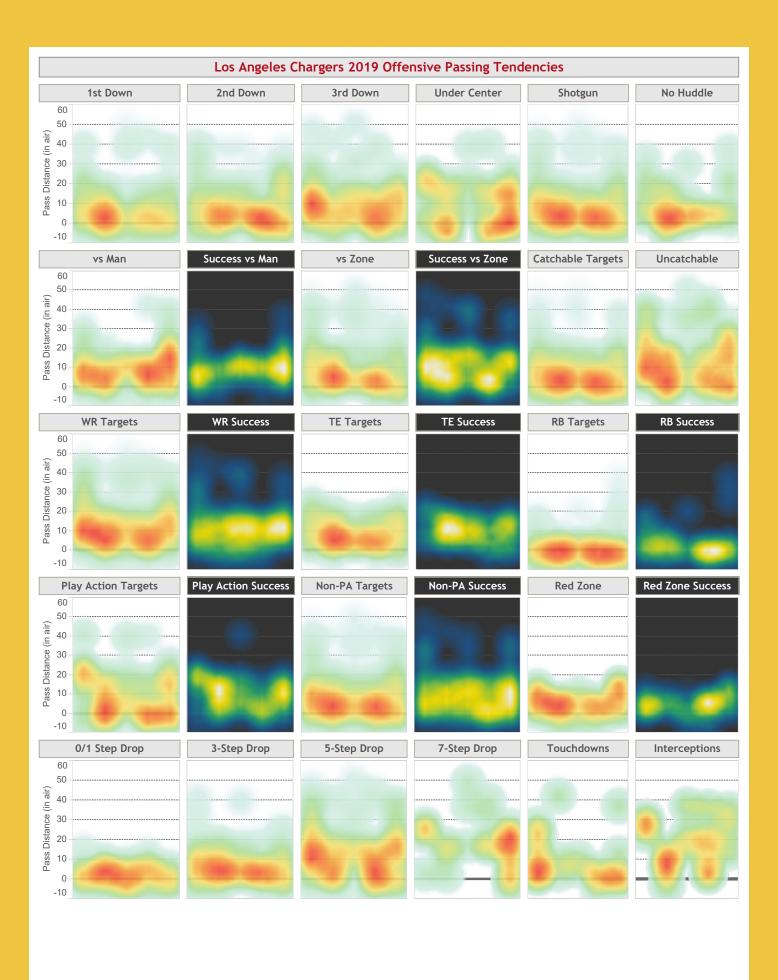
#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	49%
45.	PA Success Rate	53%
46.	PA YPA	8.1
47.	PA Sack Rate	1.1%
48.	PA Rating	86.7
49.	PA Target Depth	7.8
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	51%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6.7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	2.2%
53.	Non-PA Rating	89.6
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	6.6

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	23%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.4
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	44%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.8
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	24%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	44%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	32	defFUM	16
Net FROE	-5.7	defFUM Rcvrd	3
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	31
offFUM Rcvrd	10	defFR%	18.8%
offFR%	47.6%	defFROE	-4.4
offFR Rk	22	defFROE Rk	30
offFROE	-1.3		
offFROE Rk	23		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	76%	YOY Swing	0%
2019 FG Rk	25	YOY Swing Rk	16
Opp 2019 FG %	70%	2018 Team Net	6%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	31	2018 Net Rk	11
2019 Team Net	7%		
2019 Net Rk	9		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Philip Rivers
CAY	6
CAY Rk	17
2018 CAY Rk	11
AYTS Rk	16
2018 AYTS Rk	20
AGG Rk	16
2018 AGG Rk	21
COMP%	66
xCOMP%	64
xCOMP% Rk	19
2018 xCOMP% Rk	9
CPOE%	1.9
CPOE Rk	8
2018 CPOE Rk	12

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Philip Rivers
Pressure %	35.5
Pressure Rk	18
Sack %	15.1
Sack Rk	30
Under Pressure Accuracy %	65.3
Pressure Accuracy Rk	14
Rating when Pressured	71.7
Pressured Rating Rk	18
Clean Accuracy %	81.1
Clean Accuracy Rk	10
Rating when Clean	96.4
Clean Rating Rk	30
Time to Throw	2.63
Time to Throw Rk	35

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.08
EPA/Pass Rk	12
EPA/Rush	-0.08
EPA/Rush Rk	21
On-Target Catch %	87.8
On-Target Catch Rk	6
Drop%	5.8
Drop Rk	4
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	17.8
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	11
Rush 1st Down %	24.6
Rush 1st Down Rk	8

Los Angeles Chargers 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

No team in the NFL last year ran for at least 5.8 YPC, 58% success, and 0.11 EPA/att on first half runs from 21 personnel. The Chargers, during Steichen's tenure, were the best.

The Chargers could have used even more 21 personnel to be honest. It was the Chargers most efficient grouping to run out of in 2019, particularly under Steichen's watch.

But in addition to runs being phenomenal, passes from 21 personnel were tremendous as well, especially compared to other groupings. From Weeks 9-17, pass efficiency in the game's first three quarters:

• 11 (76% of att): 8.6 YPA, 56% success, -0.01 EPA/att, 91 rating
• 21 (15% of att): 8.8 YPA, 59% success, 0.34 EPA/att, 123 rating
• 12 (4% of att): 7.0 YPA, 50% success, 0.06 EPA/att, 73 rating

The Chargers, even under Steichen, seemed to reserve fullback **Derek Watt** primarily for blowout wins, such as Week 1 vs the Colts, Week 4 vs the Dolphins, and Week 14 vs the Jaguars. But the offense, particularly under Steichen, was better when sticking the fullback on the field, whether it was to show run and pass off it, or it was to actually run the ball (moreso earlier in the game than later). Watt is now in Pittsburgh but there are two undrafted free agents (240-pound **Darius Bradwell** and 250-pound **Bobby Holly)** who could play that role. The Chargers could also use Ekeler and either **Justin Jackson** or fourth-round pick **Josh Kelley** on the field together. Last season the Chargers used Ekeler and Gordon on the field at the same time on 75 plays with nearly a 50-50 pas-run split.

When the Chargers won the turnover battle, they were 2-0. When they lost it, they were 1-7. They were a net -17 in turnover margin last year, so they must do more to win the battle in 2020.

One thing that will help is fumble luck. They were 32nd last year in fumble luck. They were below average on offense (ranking 23rd), but on defense, they recovered just three of 16 fumbles. That luck should even out in 2020.

After going 6-1 in one-score games in 2018 en route to a 12-4 record, the Chargers went 2-9 on one-score games in 2019. Their offensive EDSR was about identical in 2019 to 2018, but their red zone conversion rate dropped as did their turnover margin.

The Chargers have the NFL's worst home ATS record in the NFL for the last two years. They are 3-10-1 ATS for a 23% win rate.

What is hilarious is that unlike teams like the Bucs or Giants, who fall at second and third on the list of worst cover rates at home, the Chargers have been favored by 6 points per game on average, whereas these teams have been underdogs.

The Chargers are just 6-8 outright (43%) despite being an average favorite of 5.7 points per game. The Bucs, as an average 0.5 point underdog, have won the exact same number of games at home as the Chargers the last two years.

Of the 15 teams with the worst home W-L record (outright, not ATS) the last two years:

• 12 of the 15 have been an underdog on average
• 2 of the 15 have been favored by between 1 and 2 points on average
• 1 of the 15 has been favored by more than 2 points on average: the Chargers

And yet they have the seventh-worst overall home W-L record of any team in the NFL.

Last year I forecast the Chargers would face the eighth-easiest schedule and was almost perfect, as they played the 10th-easiest schedule. In 2020, I'm forecasting another top-10 easiest schedule. With the uncertainty of this year's offseason, playing weak run defenses to start the season could be a big benefit. The Chargers face the easiest schedule of run defenses over the first three weeks of the season, taking on three bottom-5 run defenses from 2019 (Bengals, Chiefs, and Panthers). And two of those three teams are working with new quarterbacks as well.

After that, there are two brutal weeks with back-to-back road games against two of the best teams in the NFL: the Buccaneers and Saints. But from Week 6 onward, the Chargers play the NFL's easiest schedule. They play five straight games against teams projected to post a losing record. The Chargers' strong pass defense will benefit from the 2020 schedule – they play seven games against quarterbacks that will open the season as starters for the first time with their current team. Overall, there are many positive regression factors favoring the Chargers in 2020. These should result in better fumble luck, better turnover margin, better record in one-score games, hopefully better health (ranked 30th last year). Another reasonable schedule with a much easier schedule for their defense. There are questions, however. How will **Tyrod Taylor** look as a full-season starter, or whether **Justin Herbert** will get a shot at some point? How much will **Trai Turner** and **Bryan Bulaga** improve the offensive line? And how will Shane Steichen call the offense without Melvin Gordon?

Los Angeles Rams

Head Coach:
    Sean McVay (3 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
    Kevin O'Connell (WAS OC) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
    Brandon Staley (DEN LB) (new)

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
8.5	#3

Past Records

2019: 9-7
2018: 13-3
2017: 11-5

EASY HARD

DAL	PHI	BUF	NYG	WAS	SF	CHI	MIA		SEA	TB	SF	ARI	NE	NYJ	SEA	ARI
H	A	A	H	A	A	H	A		H	A	H	A	H	H	A	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

SNF — SNF — MNF — MNF — TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Brandin Cooks (WR)	Texans
Cory Littleton (ILB)	Raiders
Dante Fowler Jr. (34OLB)	Falcons
Eric Weddle (FS)	Retired
Greg Zuerlein (K)	Cowboys
JoJo Natson (WR)	Browns
Mike Thomas (WR)	Bengals
Nickell Robey-Coleman (CB)	Eagles
Todd Gurley (RB)	Falcons
Blake Bortles (QB)	Null
Bryce Hager (ILB)	Null
Clay Matthews (34OLB)	Null
Josh Carraway (34OLB)	Null
Marqui Christian (S)	Null
Tanzel Smart (34DE)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-0.8	9	7

2020 Los Angeles Rams Overview

It starts simple. On 1st and 10 in the first half, the 2018 Rams ran the ball on 47% of their attempts. The 2019 Rams ran the ball on 46% of their attempts, only 1% less often than 2018.

They should have run it much less.

The 2018 Rams gained 5.9 YPC, a 62% success rate, and 0.10 EPA/carry.
The 2019 Rams gained 3.5 YPC, a 36% success rate, and -0.23 EPA/carry.

That's a decrease of 2.4 YPC, 26% success, and 0.33 EPA.

The 2019 Rams recorded the second-worst EPA on first half 1st and 10 runs at -22.8 but the second most EPA on first half 1st and 10 passes at 29.4.

What teams do on first down directly impacts what happens on third down.

And thanks to their inefficiency on first down runs in 2019 but desire to keep their run rate (46%) close to that of 2018 (47%), the 2019 Rams faced an average of 7.2 yards to go on first half third downs. In 2018, the Rams faced an average of only 5.7 yards to go, second-best in the NFL behind only the Patriots.

I could spend the entirety of this chapter talking about the perils of overpaying a running back, of how his production is often predicated on line play, and of the domino effect from relying too much on running back production. But you've heard it all before. Instead, I'll study something that hasn't been discussed but, as it relates to the 2020 Rams, is far more important: personnel usage.

To set the tone for the 2019 Rams personnel usage, we first must look

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Leonard Floyd (34OLB)	$10
A'Shawn Robinson (43DT)	$8.5

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	52	RB - Cam Akers (Florida State)
	57	WR - Van Jefferson (Florida)
3	84	OLB - Terrell Lewis (Alabama)
	104	S - Terrell Burgess (Utah)
4	136	TE - Brycen Hopkins (Purdue)
6	199	S - Jordan Fuller (Ohio State)
	234	LB - Clay Johnston (Baylor)
7	248	K - Sam Sloman (Miami (OH))
	250	G - Tremayne Anchrum (Clemson)

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF | All OFF

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	8.5
2019 Wins	9
Forecast 2019 Wins	10.5
2018 Wins	13
2017 Wins	11
2016 Wins	4

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS T.Rapp 24
SS J.Johnson 43
LB T.Howard 48
LB K.Young 40
RCB J.Ramsey 20
SLOTCB D.Long 25
OLB L.Floyd NEW 54
DT M.Brockers 90
DT A.Donald 99
OLB S.Ebukam 50
LCB T.Hill 22

LWR J.Reynolds 83
SLOTWR C.Kupp 18
LT A.Whitworth 77
LG J.Noteboom 70
C B.Allen 0
RG A.Blythe 66
RT R.Havenstein 79
TE T.Higbee 89
RWR R.Woods 17

QB J.Goff 16
RB M.Brown 34

WR2 V.Jefferson Rookie 12
WR3 G.Dortch 87
RB2 C.Akers Rookie 23
QB2 J.Wolford 9

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	23	$93.24M	15
QB	6	$30.76M	23
OL	31	$26.07M	19
RB	30	$4.86M	5
WR	26	$17.86M	6
TE	8	$13.69M	27
All DEF	18	$95.16M	16
DL	14	$47.77M	12
LB	26	$17.66M	11
CB	13	$22.54M	23
S	30	$7.20M	15

back to 2017 and 2018. In 2017, Sean McVay's first year in LA, the Rams used 11 personnel on 81% of their offensive snaps. The NFL average was down at 59% and the prior season, the Rams were way down at 66%.

But there was something slightly peculiar about the personnel usage. When **Robert Woods** was healthy and the Rams had their starting 3-WR sets up (**Sammy Watkins**, **Cooper Kupp**, and Woods) the first 11 weeks of the season, they used 11 personnel on 74% of offensive plays and 85% of pass plays.

However, Woods was injured and missed entirely Week 12-14. In those three games, the Rams actually used 11 personnel on 92% of offensive plays and on 96% of pass plays. **Jared Goff** averaged 7.7 YPA with a 44% success rate, 0.14 EPA/att, and took seven sacks on 107 drop backs (6.5%).

Compare that to the first 11 weeks of the season, when Goff averaged 8.2 YPA, a 46% success rate, 0.15 EPA/att, and took 15 sacks on 333 drop backs (4.5%).

It seemed extremely odd in retrospect but wasn't something I was aware of in-season. Woods was the Rams' leading receiver those first 11 weeks: first in targets, receptions, yards, first downs, and touchdowns. But then he's gone for three straight games. And instead of using less 11 personnel, McVay just upped **Josh Reynolds** from single-digit snaps per game to 60+. And mixed in a little more **Tavon Austin**. And in order to increase the usage rate of 11 personnel, **Tyler Higbee's** snap rate took a dip, from 75-80% down to low 60%.

We know McVay was shocking the NFL with the 11 personnel packages, but why use even more 11 personnel when your No. 1 receiver didn't play for three weeks?

Fast forward to 2018, where the pattern continued and ultimately caught up with the Rams.

Weeks 1-4, the Rams were fully healthy and McVay ramped up the usage of 11 personnel even more. The Rams used 11 personnel on an insane 97% of their offensive plays. But then Cooper Kupp got dinged in Week 5, and for two weeks, he split reps with Josh Reynolds but played through the injury. McVay didn't drop the rate of 11 personnel. And apart from Week 7, when Kupp missed the first of two games and McVay used nine snaps to run the ball from 12 personnel late in a 39-10 win over the Rams, McVay didn't lower his usage of 11. Kupp came back for Week 9 and 10, and McVay was still using 11 personnel 97% of offensive plays.

But then Kupp was lost for the season. And in the five weeks from Week 11-15, McVay didn't change a thing with his personnel. They still used 11 on 97% of snaps and the only difference was Josh Reynolds increased from 1-2 snaps per game up to 65-75 per game.

McVay didn't seem to let it bother him that the offense was no longer nearly as

productive. Week 1-4, with a healthy offense, Goff dominated from 11, to a tune of 10.3 YPA, 59% success, 0.39 EPA/att, and five sacks (3.7% sack rate). But Weeks 11-15, even accounting for that 54-51 epic vs the Chiefs in this sample, Goff wasn't anywhere close to as productive: 6.3 YPA, 49% success, and 11 sacks (5.9% sack rate). But the EPA difference was the most glaring.
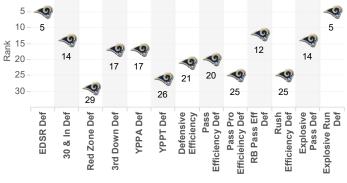
Goff went from averaging 0.39 EPA/att down to -0.07 EPA/att. Instead of adding nearly 1 expected point every 2.6 attempts, Goff was losing expected points every attempt. On 135 attempts with Kupp in the first split, Goff totaled 52.9 EPA. He totaled -12.4 EPA in the first four games without him.

The Rams made the playoffs, made the Super Bowl, and prior to it, I implored the Rams to use more 12 personnel. The Patriots pass ranked third vs 11 personnel and 26th vs 12 personnel. So there was that. Coupled with what McVay should have known, and that was their 11 personnel wasn't nearly as strong *(cont'd - see)*

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Jared Goff	53% 7.0 80.8	49% 7.1 90.5	39% 8.6 94.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	52%	65%	79%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
LA	44% 3.7	52% 3.8	44% 3.7	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	48%	35%	21%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																
RESULT	W	W	W	L	L	L	W	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	L	W
OPP	CAR	NO	CLE	TB	SEA	SF	ATL	CIN	PIT	CHI	BAL	ARI	SEA	DAL	SF	ARI
SITE	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	N	A	H	H	A	H	A	A	H
MARGIN	3	18	7	-15	-1	-13	27	14	-5	10	-39	27	16	-23	-3	7
PTS	30	27	20	40	29	7	37	24	12	17	6	34	28	21	31	31
OPP PTS	27	9	13	55	30	20	10	10	17	7	45	7	12	44	34	24

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **9**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-2**
FG Games Win %: **33% (#21)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **11% (#23)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **50% (#14)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **33% (#25)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+0
TO Given	24
INT Given	17
FUM Given	7
TO Taken	24
INT Taken	13
FUM Taken	11
Sack Margin	+28
Sacks	50
Sacks Allow	22
Return TD Margin	+0
Ret TDs	4
Ret TDs Allow	4
Penalty Margin	-13
Penalties	118
Opponent Penalties	105

Los Angeles Rams 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- ⚑ 2020 Forecast

Passing / *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
25	24	3	4	32	24	26	25

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

LA-3

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-3.1	-7.7	-2.0
Average O/U line	47.8	51.6	46.3
Straight Up Record	9-7	13-3	11-5
Against the Spread Record	10-6	7-7	9-7
Over/Under Record	7-9	7-8	11-5
ATS as Favorite	8-3	7-7	6-4
ATS as Underdog	1-1	0-0	3-2
Straight Up Home	4-3	7-1	3-4
ATS Home	4-3	3-3	3-4
Over/Under Home	3-4	5-2	4-3
ATS as Home Favorite	3-2	3-3	3-2
ATS as a Home Dog	0-1	0-0	0-1
Straight Up Away	4-4	6-2	7-1
ATS Away	5-3	4-4	5-3
Over/Under Away	4-4	2-6	7-1
ATS Away Favorite	4-1	4-4	2-2
ATS Away Dog	1-0	0-0	3-1
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	13-3	11-5
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	13-3	11-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-4	13-3	14-2

without Kupp, and the Rams (in limited work) had been much better passing from 12, both in efficiency and pass protection.

I hoped, for once, McVay would adjust. To his own roster's strength and to his opponent's weakness. But he didn't. His first 12 personnel pass didn't come until 3:42 left in the third quarter. For the game, 11 personnel gained 5.6 YPA with 29% success while 12 gained 8.8 YPA with 60% success, but the Rams passed 36 times from 11 personnel and only six from 12 personnel.

And now here we are, back to 2019. The tone was set by seeing the, at times, confounding way McVay used his personnel in 2017 and 2018. In 2019, McVay started out the first month using 11 personnel on 85% of snaps. Not the 97% insanity of 2018, but higher than 2017, and clearly still the highest rate in the NFL. He had all of his top receivers healthy: Robert Woods, Cooper Kupp, and **Brandin Cooks**, the same three starting wide receivers from 2018.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	-1
Week 10 Edge	7
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	-8
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	3
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	10
2018 Rk	4
2019 v 2018 Rk	27
Off Rk	9
Def Rk	15
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	19
WR Rk	5
TE Rk	17
Oline Rk	25
Dline Rk	2
LB Rk	23
DB Rk	19

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
DAL	PHI	BUF	NYG	WAS	SF	CHI	MIA	SEA	TB	SF	ARI	NE	NYJ	SEA	ARI
2	3.5	3	-7	-5	7	-4	-3	-1.5	4	2.5	-1	-4	-7	3.5	-6

Avg = -0.8 ... Avg = -0.8

Home Lines

1	4	7	10	12	14	15	17
2 DAL	-7 NYG	-4 CHI	-1.5 SEA	2.5 SF	-4 NE	NYJ	ARI

Avg = -3.1

Road Lines

2	3	5	6	8	11	13	16
3.5 PHI	3 BUF	-5 WAS	7 SF	-3 MIA	4 TB	-1 ARI	SEA

Avg = -1.5

But unrelated to injury to any of them, in Weeks 5, 6, and 7 (two losses and a win), McVay started to roll out more 12 personnel. For three weeks, the Rams averaged only a 66% usage rate of 11 personnel with a 24% usage rate of 12 personnel and an 8% usage rate of 13 personnel. The heavier sets were not more efficient, they were less so:

11 personnel: 7.3 YPA, 48% success
12/13 personnel: 5.8 YPA, 33% success

They ran the ball 70% of the time from this heavier personnel, but these runs gained just 3.6 YPC with a 49% success rate. Both of which were worse than 11 personnel.

The one thing that the heavier sets did was help in pass pro: in 18 dropbacks, Goff wasn't sacked once. But reducing those negative plays didn't help the Rams' chances of winning with how inefficient the groupings were otherwise.

Then Week 8 brought the Brandin Cooks injury. He played just three snaps before going down against the Bengals. Instead of upping 12 personnel, something McVay had done the prior three games, he inserted Josh Reynolds and actually upped 11, going 98% 11 personnel in Week 8. And out of a bye, with extra time to prepare and craft a game plan, McVay went 94% 11 personnel for Week 12's game in Pittsburgh, just letting Reynolds take all the work and not increasing any 12 personnel.

How did it go? In 11 without Cooks, Goff averaged 5.1 YPA, 36% success, and a 53 rating on 47 dropbacks. He only attempted two passes from 12: 22.5 YPA, 100% success, and a 119 rating. The Rams lost.

They also lost Robert Woods, so in Week 11 against the Bears, now down Cooks and Woods, the Rams had no choice but to go heavy 12 personnel (67% 12 personnel).

But then both Woods and Cooks returned Week 12. After three weeks without a full contingent of his top three receivers, McVay had them back. And they would remain healthy and in the lineup the rest of the season. So right out of the gates, McVay went 98% 11 personnel against the Ravens and was dominated 45-6. In that game, he lost his second tight end, **Gerald Everett**, essentially for the rest of the season (he played four snaps the final 5 games).

One would think things would normalize. Top three wide receivers? Check. Top two tight ends? Nope. Seems like a clear recipe to go with 11. But just when you thought things couldn't get any more strange, that was not the case.

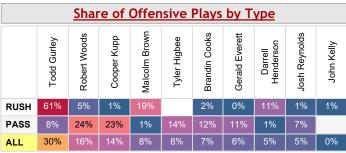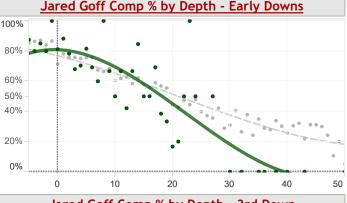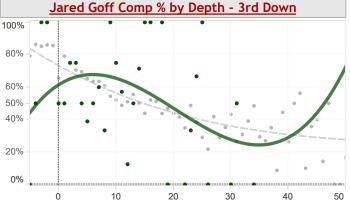## Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Todd Gurley	6%	1%	69%	13%	11%
	Robert Woods			76%	12%	12%
	Cooper Kupp			100%		
	Malcolm Brown	6%	4%	68%	12%	10%
	Brandin Cooks		17%	83%		
	Gerald Everett			100%		
	Darrell Henderson		5%	44%	3%	49%
	Josh Reynolds			60%	40%	
	John Kelly					100%
	Total	5%	2%	66%	12%	15%
PASS	Todd Gurley	19%	7%	65%	7%	2%
	Robert Woods	12%	1%	70%	8%	9%
	Cooper Kupp	11%	4%	71%	8%	6%
	Malcolm Brown		17%	33%	33%	17%
	Tyler Higbee	17%		65%	17%	1%
	Brandin Cooks	13%	3%	66%	13%	5%
	Gerald Everett	16%	2%	70%	13%	
	Darrell Henderson			25%	25%	50%
	Josh Reynolds	11%		68%	3%	18%
	Total	13%	2%	68%	10%	6%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Todd Gurley	Robert Woods	Cooper Kupp	Malcolm Brown	Tyler Higbee	Brandin Cooks	Gerald Everett	Darrell Henderson	Josh Reynolds	John Kelly
RUSH	61%	5%	1%	19%		2%	0%	11%	1%	1%
PASS	8%	24%	23%	1%	14%	12%	11%	1%	7%	
ALL	30%	16%	14%	8%	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	0%

Jared Goff Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Jared Goff Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	48%, 0.04 (536)	47%, 0.12 (75)	39%, 0.28 (31)	25%, 0.13 (4)	0%, -2.82 (1)	50%, 0.81 (2)	47%, 0.06 (649)
RUSH	46%, -0.06 (232)	45%, -0.17 (144)	30%, -0.62 (10)	54%, 0.14 (13)	0%, -2.46 (1)		46%, -0.11 (400)
All	48%, 0.01 (768)	46%, -0.07 (219)	37%, 0.06 (41)	47%, 0.13 (17)	0%, -2.64 (2)	50%, 0.81 (2)	47%, -0.01 (1,049)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Todd Gurley	34% (38) 3.3, -0.19	44% (9) 6.9, 0.15	50% (2) 9.0, 0.30	37% (49) 4.2, -0.11
TE	Tyler Higbee	65% (74) 7.9, 0.25	73% (15) 10.2, 0.63		66% (89) 8.2, 0.31
TE	Gerald Everett	46% (54) 6.5, 0.01	25% (4) 6.3, 0.15		45% (58) 6.5, 0.02
WR	Robert Woods	53% (113) 8.4, 0.17	53% (19) 9.1, 0.21	20% (5) 2.6, -0.32	52% (137) 8.3, 0.16
WR	Cooper Kupp	52% (118) 7.9, 0.31		58% (12) 8.4, 0.76	52% (130) 8.0, 0.35
WR	Brandin Cooks	52% (61) 8.7, 0.24	38% (8) 4.8, -0.17	50% (2) 7.5, 0.76	51% (71) 8.2, 0.21
WR	Josh Reynolds	43% (23) 8.1, 0.16	55% (11) 9.1, 0.02	25% (8) 5.0, 0.19	43% (42) 7.8, 0.13

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Gurley Todd	47% (122) 4.1, -0.02	47% (95) 3.7, -0.11	47% (217) 3.9, -0.06
Brown Malcolm	49% (49) 4.0, -0.02	38% (16) 3.1, -0.39	46% (65) 3.8, -0.11
Henderson Jr Darrell	40% (25) 4.1, -0.20	30% (10) 2.7, -0.49	37% (35) 3.7, -0.29
Goff Jared	38% (16) 1.8, -0.39	23% (13) 0.2, -0.46	31% (29) 1.1, -0.42
Woods Robert	58% (12) 6.0, 0.23	100% (4) 11.8, 0.65	69% (16) 7.4, 0.33
Bortles Blake	0% (1) 1.0, -1.08	0% (1) -10.0, -1.75	0% (2) -4.5, -1.42

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	55% (297) 8.0, 0.24
M2M	41% (124) 7.0, 0.01
Screen	46% (69) 6.2, 0.06

Passing by Route

Out	51% (103) 6.6, 0.17
Curl	63% (80) 7.4, 0.28
Screen	49% (72) 6.0, 0.07
Dig	60% (42) 11.1, 0.42
Flat	54% (26) 4.8, 0.23
Slant	62% (21) 7.9, 0.48

Throw Types

Level 1	52% (467) 7.0, 0.14
Level 2	50% (113) 9.4, 0.34
Level 3	26% (23) 9.2, 0.03
Sidearm	0% (1) 1.0, -0.44

QB Drop Types

3 Step	50% (305) 7.1, 0.17
0/1 Step	49% (78) 5.2, -0.06
5 Step	45% (64) 8.5, 0.16
7 Step	56% (62) 10.2, 0.40
Designed Rollout Right	59% (51) 8.6, 0.28
Basic Screen	48% (25) 4.8, -0.17

QB State at Pass

Planted	51% (469) 7.6, 0.20
Moving	52% (83) 7.7, 0.22
Shuffling	34% (74) 4.4, -0.31

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	52% (194) 8.0, 0.13	48% (31) 8.3, 0.24
Shotgun	25% (4) 2.0, -0.57	46% (420) 6.9, 0.02
ALL	51% (198) 7.8, 0.12	46% (451) 7.0, 0.03

Run Types

Outside Zone	45% (152) 3.8, -0.06
Inside Zone	50% (60) 4.0, -0.13
Pitch	44% (25) 4.6, -0.02
Stretch	41% (17) 4.4, -0.03
Power	0% (6) 0.8, -0.67
Lead	100% (1) 5.0, -4.33

LA-5

McVay used only 64% 11 personnel the final five games of the season, and instead ramped up 12 personnel to 34% usage. But who did they get to play the second tight end if Everett was out? Enter **Johnny Mundt**, an undrafted free agent from Oregon who McVay drafted as part of his first class in 2017. Mundt had played on just eight dropbacks his first two years in LA. But over those final five games, Mundt totaled 213 snaps including 87 dropbacks. He was targeted just five times, caught three, and averaged 3.4 YPA.

In those final five games, passing averages:

11 personnel: 7.5 YPA, 53% success, 0.11 EPA/att
12 personnel: 7.3 YPA, 49% success, 0.27 EPA/att

Worse overall production but thanks to three touchdown passes on 45 attempts, the Rams had better EPA from 12 in those final five games.

What is the moral? After years of insisting on using 11 regardless of injuries, which cost a Super Bowl, did McVay learn:

…to use personnel based on actual personnel available? Unlikely given those final five weeks.
…to adjust personnel based on defensive weakness? Possibly.
…that constant 11 personnel wasn't ideal and maybe more 12 could benefit Goff? Possibly.

I don't know why McVay went to high rates of 12 personnel from Weeks 5-7 even though his receivers were healthy and it was less efficient than 11 personnel. I don't know why, when Cooks went down in Weeks 8-10, McVay went back to high rates of 11 personnel, even though, without Cooks, 12 personnel was more efficient. And I certainly don't know why, late in the season, with all WRs healthy, McVay went back to high rates of 12 personnel.

The best thing I can think of is the pass protection element of the heavier sets, which I suggested back before the Super Bowl. But that was primarily when the Rams didn't have all three top wide receivers to run McVay's scheme.

The Rams traded Cooks to the Texans and will trot out Kupp, Woods, and Reynolds as the starting three in 11 personnel. If the last three years have taught us anything about McVay's offense, it's that using the same amount of 11 with Reynolds starting instead of Cooks, Woods, or Kupp is no advantage. There's a big difference over last two years in the Rams' production out of 11 when Kupp, Woods, and Cooks were all playing compared to when one was out and Reynolds had to step in to:

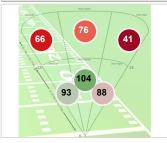# Los Angeles Rams 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

After two strong seasons under Sean McVay in 2017-2018, **Jared Goff** took a step backward a year ago. Goff posted lows in yards per pass attempt (7.4) and touchdown rate (3.5%) since his rookie season. Where Goff took an interesting turn in 2019 was in the play-action game. 32.8% of his pass attempts came via play-action, which trailed only Lamar Jackson (34.8%). But the volume was not warranted as Goff ranked 22nd in completion rate (63.1%), 13th in yards per attempt (8.4), and 26th in quarterback rating (85.9) off of the use of play-action. He threw just four play-action touchdown passes a year ago after a league-leading 15 touchdowns in 2018. One area where Goff was still excellent was in the red zone. Goff carried a 112.0 rating in the red zone (which only trailed Jackson's 112.7 mark among qualifying passers), and threw 18 touchdowns to zero interceptions with a 65.7% completion percentage, which ranked third in the league.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Jared Goff	394	626	63%	4,639	7.4	22	16	22	87	29
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Jared Goff	48%	51%	72	12.0%	18	3.0%	6.1	5.6	20	3%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Jared Goff Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

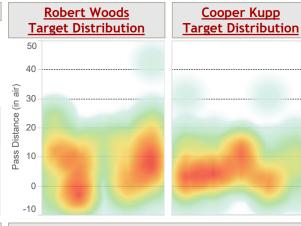| Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	4.8%	0.0%	50.0%	4.8%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%		3.8%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.5%	1.9%	0.0%	1.6%
10 - 14	1.3%	2.2%	5.3%	0.0%	2.0%
15+	6.3%	5.6%	0.0%		4.3%
Total	1.6%	2.2%	3.7%	16.7%	2.5%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Jared Goff	9.0	6.1	-2.9	68%	15
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
52%	48%	26
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Rams used a vastly different approach in their passing attack in 2019 versus the first two seasons under McVay. After targeting their running backs 20% and 17% of the time out of the backfield through two seasons, the Rams used their backfield a league-low 10% of the time. As a byproduct, their tight end usage rose to 26% (seventh in the league) after their tight ends received 17% and 16% target shares over the previous two seasons. The change was successful from a rate stance, as Rams tight ends ranked eighth in the league in success rate (57%) and 12th in yards per target (7.4) while the backs ranked 30th and 32nd in the same areas.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Robert Woods	140	64%	8.1	76.3	51%	74	56	60	70	2
Cooper Kupp	134	70%	8.7	115.3	53%	56	66	66	79	9
Tyler Higbee	89	78%	8.2	107.6	66%	2	1	74	49	3
Brandin Cooks	72	58%	8.1	82.1	50%	76	97	41	69	2
Gerald Everett	61	61%	6.7	77.8	44%	112	75	82	85	2
Todd Gurley	50	62%	4.1	84.3	36%	134	129	117	35	1

Robert Woods Target Distribution

Cooper Kupp Target Distribution
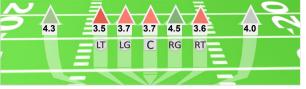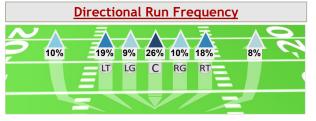
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Rams backfield was a huge disappointment in 2019. The Rams' backs combined for 23.2 touches (30th) for 95.5 yards from scrimmage per game (31st), averaging 4.1 yards per touch (30th). The team as a whole fared better in success rate per play on the ground (46%), but that was only good for 20th in the league while ranking 27th in yards per play (3.7 yards). The team released **Todd Gurley** this offseason, leaving 2020 second-round pick **Cam Akers** to immediately compete with 2019 third-round pick **Darrell Henderson** and **Malcolm Brown**. Henderson managed just 43 touches for 184 yards and zero touchdowns as a rookie. Brown held an edge on Henderson for most of the season, totaling 71 touches for 271 yards.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Todd Gurley	223	3.8	47%	44	58	35	52	47%	39	12
Malcolm Brown	69	3.7	46%	47	67	15	64	48%	34	5

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Are the Rams transitioning to a 12 personnel team?

The Rams made a major shift in personnel usage during the 2019 season that was drastically different than how the team had operated under McVay in the past. After being the predominant team that led the league in 11 personnel (3 WR) as a base offense, the Rams were forced to transition a year ago over the back half of the season to more 12 personnel (2 TE). In Week 11, the Rams used 12 personnel on 32 (76%) of their offensive snaps. Up until that point of the season, the Rams were primarily an offense with three wide receivers on the field at all times, running just 58 plays total (12%) in 12 personnel through 10 weeks. Over that same span, they used 11 personnel on 80% of their snaps, which was second in the league. For the remainder of the season, the Rams used 11 personnel for 58% of their offensive plays (16th) and 12 personnel on 40% of their plays (fourth).

This had a ripple effect on their pass catchers for fantasy. Through those opening 10 weeks of the season, **Cooper Kupp** was the WR6 in overall PPR scoring, catching 58-of-91 targets for 792 yards and five touchdowns. Kupp averaged 13.7 yards per catch, and 2.36 yards per route run over that span, with 71.9% of his routes from the slot while being targeted on 26.3% of his routes. In the transition for more 12 personnel, Kupp was forced to win more outside. Over the final seven weeks, Kupp caught 36-of- 43 targets for 360 yards, averaging 10.3 yards per catch and 1.66 yards per route run. He ran 60.4% of his routes from the slot while being targeted on 19.8% of his routes over that span.

Robert Woods was a benefactor over that stretch, scoring as the WR6 overall over those final seven weeks, catching 45-of-68 targets for 568 yards and two touchdowns. While Woods bounced back after a slow second half of the season, it was **Tyler Higbee** who became the biggest boom in fantasy once the Rams made the switch to incorporate heavier personnel as a part of their weekly game plan. From Weeks 11-17, Higbee was the highest scoring fantasy tight end, catching 48-of-62 targets for 542 yards and two touchdowns. That included a four-game stretch in which he became the first tight end in league history to have at least seven receptions and 100 receiving yards in four consecutive games played.

Given their offensive success to close the season, the current state of their offensive line being a question mark, and the added transactions in releasing Gurley, trading **Brandin Cooks**, and then drafting another young running back and another tight end, the offseason signal points towards the Rams sticking with their end of 2019 personnel usage. If that holds true, then Higbee and Woods could be the actual value pieces of the offense.

But there is also some fragility in going all in assuming the Rams are solely as a 12 personnel team. From Weeks 11-17, at any point the Rams trailed, they used 11 personnel on 85% of their offensive snaps. They used 11 on 53% of their snaps tied or leading and on just 41% when tied or leading in the second half. If investing fully into Higbee and completely avoiding Kupp, you have to nail the weekly game script projection while **Josh Reynolds** becomes a deeper hedge play at the end of drafts if you anticipate the Rams to struggle this season.

Los Angeles Rams Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	18 plays *(5%)* Success: 56% EPA: -0.31	106 plays *(28%)* Success: 53% EPA: 0.02	254 plays *(67%)* Success: 37% EPA: -0.06	378 plays *(100%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.05
1-2 [2WR]	62 plays *(75%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.14	6 plays *(7%)* Success: 33% EPA: -0.17	15 plays *(18%)* Success: 53% EPA: 0.38	83 plays *(100%)* Success: 49% EPA: 0.16
2-1 [2WR]	21 plays *(72%)* Success: 48% EPA: 0.24	1 plays *(3%)* Success: 0% EPA: -1.40	7 plays *(24%)* Success: 43% EPA: 0.32	29 plays *(100%)* Success: 45% EPA: 0.20
2-2 [1WR]	5 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: 0.30			5 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: 0.30
Grand Total	106 plays *(21%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.09	113 plays *(23%)* Success: 51% EPA: -0.01	276 plays *(56%)* Success: 38% EPA: -0.02	495 plays *(100%)* Success: 44% EPA: 0.00

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	34%	3
Nickel	23%	32
Dime+	41%	3
Rush 3	5%	17
Rush 4	66%	14
Rush 5	23%	8
Rush 6+	4%	20
Blitz%	27%	12

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

A line that includes **Aaron Donald** is always going to be a good one but the Rams also went out and used a decent amount of limited resources on the interior. **A'Shawn Robinson** was brought in on a two-year deal and **Michael Brockers** was brought back after a free agent deal with the Baltimore Ravens fell through.

Samson Ebukam has been an under-the-radar impact edge rusher for the Rams over the past few seasons. He was 23rd in pressure rate among 112 edge rushers with at least 200 pass rush snaps last season per SIS. He'll get a bigger role now as the No. 1 edge. The Rams also brought in **Leonard Floyd** who hadn't found a clear role with the Bears. There's a pretty clear lack of depth here without a lot of top-end talent, either. The Rams' first defensive draft pick was in the third round on Alabama EDGE **Terrell Lewis**.

The off-ball linebacker spot is a huge question mark. The Rams lost **Corey Littleton** in free agency and there is no one on the roster ready to take his place and no player who comes close to his coverage ability as one of the best coverage linebackers in the league. **Micah Kiser** and **Kenny Young** are in place to take over.

At corner, **Jalen Ramsey** played well once he moved to the Rams from the Jaguars and he'll be in position to be the No. 1 lockdown corner with possibly a new contract. **Troy Hill** was impressive as his role increased last season. He finished 17th among 92 cornerbacks with at least 300 coverage snaps in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season. He'll be the outside No. 2.

There's a question of who will man the slot. Right now, that could go to **David Long**, last year's third-round pick who played 20% of the defensive snaps last season.

After two great seasons, **John Johnson** had a wildly down year in coverage last season. He had 11 passes defensed in each of his first two seasons and that dropped to two in 2019. With **Eric Weddle** now retired, the Rams will have to hope for a bounceback from Johnson. In his rookie season, **Taylor Rapp** played more box/slot and did it well. Two safeties were added in the draft, **Terrell Burgess** of Utah in the third round and **Jordan Fuller** of Ohio State in the sixth.

The Rams used Dime+ personnel on 41% of their snaps last season, so expect these defensive backs to be used often and all over the field.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	62%
All Pass Rk	8
All Rush %	38%
All Rush Rk	25
1 Score Pass %	61%
1 Score Pass Rk	8
2018 1 Score Pass %	59%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	13
2019 Pass Increase %	3%
Pass Increase Rk	13
1 Score Rush %	39%
1 Score Rush Rk	25
Up Pass %	50%
Up Pass Rk	19
Up Rush %	50%
Up Rush Rk	14
Down Pass %	77%
Down Pass Rk	1
Down Rush %	23%
Down Rush Rk	32

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	10	30%	70%	60%
	Med (4-7)	11	18%	82%	27%
	Long (8-10)	320	52%	48%	49%
	XL (11+)	16	63%	38%	31%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	42	36%	64%	67%
	Med (4-7)	70	69%	31%	56%
	Long (8-10)	107	75%	25%	41%
	XL (11+)	42	81%	19%	45%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	37	54%	46%	65%
	Med (4-7)	46	96%	4%	41%
	Long (8-10)	43	95%	5%	33%
	XL (11+)	25	72%	28%	20%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	4	75%	25%	25%
	Med (4-7)	2	50%	50%	50%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	56%	44%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	63%	5%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	37%	95%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
65%	17	66%	86%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
35%	16	34%	67%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Todd Gurley	6	83%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Todd Gurley	6	33%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Todd Gurley	96	41%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Todd Gurley	4	0%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Todd Gurley	16	81%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Todd Gurley	12	42%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	17	35%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Robert Woods	8	63%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Todd Gurley	10	60%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	15	73%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	12	42%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	5	20%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N) No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 47% YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.02 Rtg: 92.4 *[Att: 346 - Rate: 53.3%]*	Success: 51% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.16 Rtg: 85.4 *[Att: 104 - Rate: 16.0%]*	Success: 48% YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.05 Rtg: 90.8 *[Att: 450 - Rate: 69.3%]*
Yes	Success: 44% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 84.5 *[Att: 105 - Rate: 16.2%]*	Success: 51% YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 77.3 *[Att: 94 - Rate: 14.5%]*	Success: 47% YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 81.0 *[Att: 199 - Rate: 30.7%]*
Total	Success: 46% YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 90.6 *[Att: 451 - Rate: 69.5%]*	Success: 51% YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.12 Rtg: 81.5 *[Att: 198 - Rate: 30.5%]*	Success: 47% YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 87.7 *[Att: 649 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates
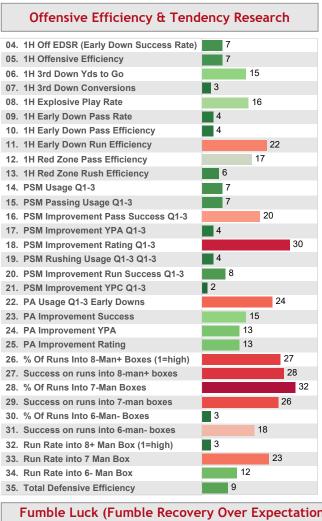
Wk	Opp	Score	Robert Woods	Cooper Kupp	Todd Gurley	Brandin Cooks	Tyler Higbee	Josh Reynolds	Gerald Everett	Malcolm Brown
1	CAR	W 30-27	73 (95%)	69 (90%)	54 (70%)	71 (92%)	40 (52%)	25 (32%)	30 (39%)	21 (27%)
2	NO	W 27-9	69 (99%)	66 (94%)	45 (64%)	68 (97%)	24 (34%)	3 (4%)	50 (71%)	25 (36%)
3	CLE	W 20-13	63 (95%)	65 (98%)	49 (74%)	59 (89%)		17 (26%)	58 (88%)	17 (26%)
4	TB	L 55-40	96 (98%)	92 (94%)	74 (76%)	88 (90%)	44 (45%)	16 (16%)	56 (57%)	24 (24%)
5	SEA	L 30-29	67 (93%)	48 (67%)	67 (93%)	46 (64%)	40 (56%)	29 (40%)	58 (81%)	3 (4%)
6	SF	L 20-7	53 (100%)	45 (85%)		52 (98%)	30 (57%)	4 (8%)	28 (53%)	36 (68%)
7	ATL	W 37-10	58 (76%)	47 (62%)	46 (61%)	59 (78%)	49 (64%)	19 (25%)	56 (74%)	
8	CIN	W 24-10	61 (98%)	60 (97%)	32 (52%)	3 (5%)	34 (55%)	55 (89%)	30 (48%)	
10	PIT	L 17-12	77 (100%)	71 (92%)	57 (74%)		25 (32%)	73 (95%)	54 (70%)	12 (16%)
11	CHI	W 17-7		54 (98%)	41 (75%)		42 (76%)	52 (95%)	14 (25%)	11 (20%)
12	BAL	L 45-6	36 (67%)	53 (98%)	52 (96%)	42 (78%)	38 (70%)	30 (56%)	17 (31%)	2 (4%)
13	ARI	W 34-7	67 (85%)	57 (72%)	54 (68%)	61 (77%)	72 (91%)	29 (37%)		18 (23%)
14	SEA	W 28-12	69 (99%)	20 (29%)	56 (80%)	27 (39%)	68 (97%)	46 (66%)		14 (20%)
15	DAL	L 44-21	73 (100%)	67 (92%)	70 (96%)	52 (71%)	63 (86%)	26 (36%)		3 (4%)
16	SF	L 34-31	70 (100%)	43 (61%)	54 (77%)	41 (59%)	62 (89%)	29 (41%)	4 (6%)	14 (20%)
17	ARI	W 31-24	78 (95%)	50 (61%)	56 (68%)	49 (60%)	79 (96%)	38 (46%)		26 (32%)
	Grand Total		1,010 (93%)	907 (81%)	807 (75%)	718 (71%)	710 (67%)	491 (44%)	455 (54%)	226 (23%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	73%	60%	48%
1-2 [2WR]	21%	20%	46%
1-0 [4WR]	4%	3%	37%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	70%	48%	46%
1-2 [2WR]	34%	47%	45%
1-0 [4WR]	76%	39%	30%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Cooper Kupp	19	1	7	11
Tyler Higbee	18	6	3	9
Robert Woods	10	1	3	6
Gerald Everett	8	1	3	4
Brandin Cooks	4	2	2	
Josh Reynolds	4	2		2
Todd Gurley	4			4

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Todd Gurley	56	15	14	27
Malcolm Brown	16	8	2	6
Jared Goff	10	5	3	2
Robert Woods	4	1	1	2
Darrell Henderson	2	2		
Gerald Everett	1		1	

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	12%	28%	60%
	23%	*21%*	*56%*
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	37%	57%	50%
	#30	#8	#19

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	8	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	1.0	
03. Wins	9	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	7
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	7
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	15
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	3
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	16
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	4
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	4
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	22
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	17
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	6
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	7
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	7
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	20
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	4
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	30
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	4
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	8
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	2
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	24
23.	PA Improvement Success	15
24.	PA Improvement YPA	13
25.	PA Improvement Rating	13
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	27
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	28
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	32
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	26
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	3
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	18
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	3
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	23
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	12
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	9

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.3
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.8
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.7
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.6
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	53%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	52%
42.	PSM Rating	87.9
43.	Non-PSM Rating	93
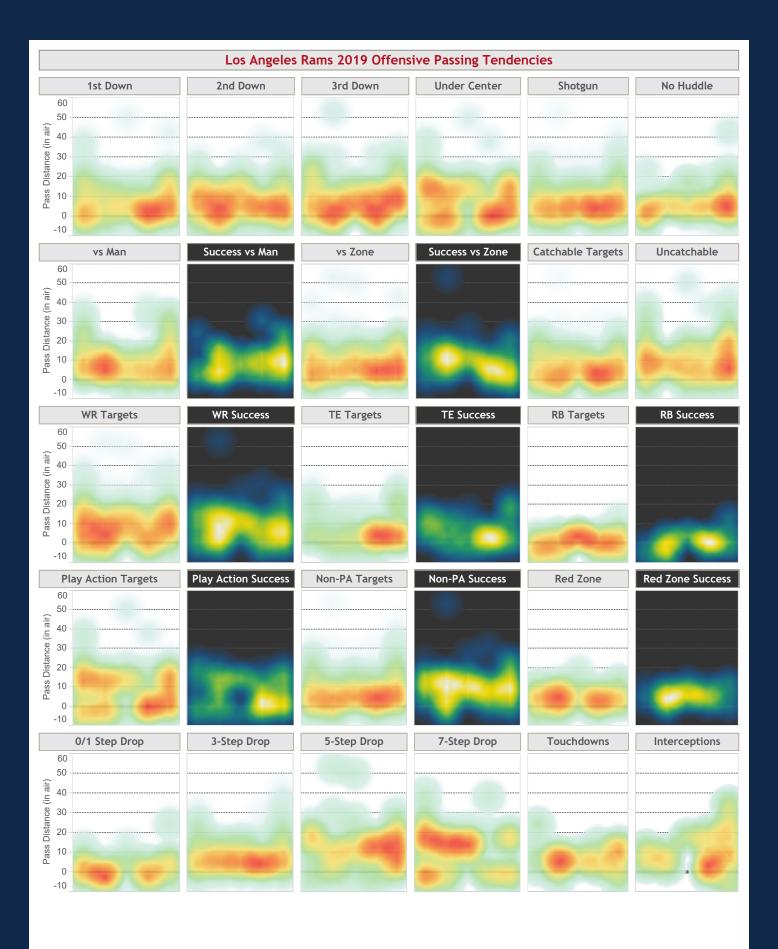
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	32%
45.	PA Success Rate	61%
46.	PA YPA	9.6
47.	PA Sack Rate	6.1%
48.	PA Rating	106.8
49.	PA Target Depth	8.8
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	55%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.5
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	4.3%
53.	Non-PA Rating	87.5
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	6.6

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	16%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.6
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.1
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.7

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	11	defFUM	23
Net FROE	1.2	defFUM Rcvrd	11
offFUM	17	defFR Rk	13
offFUM Rcvrd	10	defFR%	47.8%
offFR%	58.8%	defFROE	0.3
offFR Rk	9	defFROE Rk	13
offFROE	0.9		
offFROE Rk	10		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	73%	YOY Swing	-1%
2019 FG Rk	28	YOY Swing Rk	18
Opp 2019 FG %	80%	2018 Team Net	-6%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	23	2018 Net Rk	24
2019 Team Net	-7%		
2019 Net Rk	25		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Jared Goff
CAY	5.9
CAY Rk	20
2018 CAY Rk	4
AYTS Rk	23
2018 AYTS Rk	5
AGG Rk	35
2018 AGG Rk	32
COMP%	62.9
xCOMP%	66.5
xCOMP% Rk	5
2018 xCOMP% Rk	26
CPOE%	-3.6
CPOE Rk	34
2018 CPOE Rk	18

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Jared Goff
Pressure %	36
Pressure Rk	14
Sack %	9.2
Sack Rk	38
Pressure Accuracy %	60.4
Pressure Accuracy Rk	25
Rating when Pressured	60.4
Pressured Rating Rk	25
Clean Accuracy %	78.6
Clean Accuracy Rk	21
Rating when Clean	99.5
Clean Rating Rk	22
Time to Throw	2.8
Time to Throw Rk	21

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.07
EPA/Pass Rk	13
EPA/Rush	-0.12
EPA/Rush Rk	28
On-Target Catch %	86.5
On-Target Catch Rk	11
Drop%	6.5
Drop Rk	8
YAC/Att	2.3
YAC/Att Rk	21
Rush Broken Tackle %	18
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	8
Rush 1st Down %	22.9
Rush 1st Down Rk	16

Los Angeles Rams 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

- All 3 WRs up: 8.1 YPA, 53% success, 96.8 rating, 33:18 TD:INT, 0.13 EPA/att
- Reynolds in: 7.1 YPA, 49% success, 83.1 rating, 20:13 TD:INT, 0.01 EPA/att

The Rams are returning all five offensive linemen in 2020, which is an advantage in pass pro over teams making sweeping offensive line changes in this offseason of distancing. Even so, I would advocate for more 2-TE sets in 2020. The primary reasons are simple: you no longer have ideal personnel to use 11 non-stop, you give the defense more to think about when you rotate personnel occasionally, and in 80 dropbacks with 2+ TEs last year, Jared Goff wasn't sacked a single time. If that protection helps his performance, and all other things are somewhat equal, go with what avoids sacks and gives your quarterback more confidence in general.

Looking at the page in this chapter on the Rams performance by personnel grouping, and comparing to the 2018 Rams, it's clear this team was dramatically worse from all groupings as compared to 2018. Switching to more 12 is not a magic bullet. The key is, adapting your offensive strategy to your personnel on a weekly basis AND to your opponent's weakness.

In 2019, Goff ranked 35th of 39 quarterbacks in aggressiveness and his expected completion percentage was fifth highest. Far too many easy, low risk passes. That said, Goff completed 3.6% fewer passes than expected, netting a CPOE rank of 34th of 39 quarterbacks. Another way to demonstrate how Goff became less aggressive downfield is by looking at his air yards vs YAC split. In 2019, he was 55% air yards vs 45% YAC, which ranked 16th. But he dropped to 52% air yards vs 48% YAC. And looking at his completion percentage by depth chart, it's clear to see how much worse he was than average on anything past 15 air yards.

It was valuable to discuss the passing game and McVay's juggling of personnel groupings, but it took away from discussing the disaster of **Todd Gurley's** contract. But much like I try to do in all things I publish, I don't want to waste too much time telling you what you already know, and would rather elaborate on areas you or other analysts might not be spending as much time studying. But as for the Rams run game, it was clearly a failure and much of that related to Gurley.

The Rams were wise to cut bait on Gurley prior to his salary cap hitting $17 million in 2020. Yes, they had to eat $20 million dead cap, but like a band-aid, it's better to rip it right off rather than being stuck paying him $26 million in total cap (2020+2021 dead) if they cut him after this season or $35 million in total cap (2020+2021+2022 dead) if they cut him after 2021. And there was no chance he played out his contract in LA through 2023.

And what many don't realize is the Rams don't eat all $20 million in 2020. They have an $11.75 million dead cap hit for Gurley this year and $8.4 million in 2021. With a combined running back cap hit of $4.86 million in 2020, even factoring in dead cap the Rams are spending less on backs in 2020 than they would if they kept Gurley onboard.

The larger issue is the collective 2020 dead cap, which is a whopping $36 million, and is largely occupied by Brandin Cooks and his $21.8 million dead cap number. In total, the Rams are paying $64.8 million in 2020 — nearly a third of the cap — for Jared Goff and four players not playing for the Rams in 2020. It's hard to build a winner with so much dead cap.

To make room for such a large cap hit, the Rams will be without **Cory Littleton**, one of the best coverage linebackers in the NFL with the highest tackling grade per PFF in the NFL last year, as well as **Dante Fowler Jr.**, **Eric Weddle,** and **Nickell Robey-Coleman**. With the Cardinals improving, the 49ers still staying respectable and the Seahawks with the clear best quarterback in the division, things are going to be more difficult for the Rams in 2020 than they've been since Sean McVay came to town and shocked the NFL with his high usage of 11 personnel in 2017.

No team played a tougher schedule in 2019 than the Rams. It was the perfect storm for regression given the Super Bowl hangover and a brutal schedule. The bad news for the Rams? Their 2020 schedule doesn't get much easier. They face the seventh-toughest 2020 schedule and it's the third-toughest through three weeks and the third toughest through 12 weeks.

One of the worst elements of their schedule is that they will face the second-toughest schedule of run defenses in 2020, after facing the 14th toughest in 2019. Against top-10 run defenses in 2019, the Rams went 1-5. They went 8-2 vs non-top-10 run defenses. In 2020 they face seven run defenses that ranked in the top-10 last year.

The Rams were fortunate to get the league to put games in Philadelphia and Buffalo on back-to-back Sundays so they can stay out East. An interesting quirk to the schedule is their Week 14 meeting with the Patriots on Thursday in LA. These teams met in the Super Bowl in 2018 and Sean McVay commented that with two weeks to prepare, he spent too much time looking at old film and researching. Well, this season, he'll have just three days to prepare. And he must do that against Bill Belichick, a man whose teams are 13-2 on Thursdays since 2002, including 10-1 after Week 1. Since 2002, the Patriots win 75% and cover 61% of games when their opponent has fewer than a week to prepare for them and win just 67% and cover 53% when their opponent has more than a week to prepare. Of course, they've also had Tom Brady who won't be available in 2020. It will make for a fascinating game.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Jon Gruden (2 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Greg Olson (2 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Paul Guenther (2 yrs)

EASY   HARD

Las Vegas Raiders

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
7.5	#4

Past Records
2019: 7-9
2018: 4-12
2017: 6-10

Schedule:

Wk	Opp	Loc
1	CAR	A
2	NO	H
3	NE	A
4	BUF	H
5	KC	A
7	TB	H
8	CLE	A
9	LAC	A
10	DEN	H
11	KC	H
12	ATL	A
13	NYJ	A
14	IND	H
15	LAC	H
16	MIA	H
17	DEN	A

MNF — SNF — SNF — TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Benson Mayowa (43DE)	Seahawks
Daryl Worley (CB)	Cowboys
DeAndre Washington (RB)	Chiefs
Eric Tomlinson (TE)	Giants
Karl Joseph (S)	Browns
Mike Glennon (QB)	Jaguars
Tahir Whitehead (43OLB)	Panthers
Cameron Hunt (RG)	Null
Curtis Riley (S)	Null
DeShone Kizer (QB)	Null
Dion Jordan (43DE)	Null
Dwayne Harris (WR)	Null
Isaiah Crowell (RB)	Null
Josh Mauro (43DE)	Null
Makinton Dorleant (CB)	Null
Olsen Pierre (43DT)	Null
Vontaze Burfict (ILB)	Null
Will Compton (ILB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
2.7	4	12

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	7.5
2019 Wins	7
Forecast 2019 Wins	6
2018 Wins	4
2017 Wins	6
2016 Wins	12

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2020 Las Vegas Raiders Overview

The Raiders produced a ton of efficiency on offense thanks to first down and third down decision making.

On first downs in the first three quarters, whether this was planned or dictated by personnel, the Raiders had the NFL's highest run rate into six or fewer man boxes and into seven-man boxes. The NFL average was a 38% run rate into six or fewer man boxes and 56% into seven-man boxes on first down. The Raiders were at 52% and 68%, respectively.

They averaged 5.0 YPC into six-man boxes and 6.2 YPC into seven-man boxes. On average, they were at 5.6 YPC, 49% success, and 0.05 EPA/attempt on first down rushes into boxes with seven or fewer men. The NFL average was 4.7 YPC, 48% success, and -0.01 EPA/att.

As a result of their run heavy rate into anything but 8+ man boxes, the Raiders had one of the highest overall run rates on first down in the first three quarters. They went 62% run, which was third-highest in the NFL, narrowly ahead of the Ravens and just behind the Titans and Redskins.

Because they performed better than average on these runs, their first downs had a higher floor than most teams. A high run rate with better than average performance means it was unlikely the Raiders would face second and 9 or 10 yards to go after a first down run.

To compliment the higher floor, their first down passing game, though used at the third-lowest rate, was extremely efficient. They averaged 8.1 YPA, a 63% success rate, and 0.14 EPA/att. The NFL average was 7.8 YPA, 56% success, and 0.08 EPA/att.

As a result of the efficiency through the air and ground, and a high rate *(cont'd - see OAK2)*

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Cory Littleton (ILB)	$11.8
Marcus Mariota (QB)	$8.80
Carl Nassib (34OLB)	$8.30
Nick Kwiatkoski (ILB)	$7
Maliek Collins (43DT)	$6
Jason Witten (TE)	$4
Jeff Heath (S)	$3
Damarious Randall (S)	$1.5
Prince Amukamara (CB)	$1.2

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	12	WR - Henry Ruggs (Alabama)
1	19	CB - Damon Arnette (Ohio State)
3	80	WR - Lynn Bowden (Kentucky)
3	81	WR - Bryan Edwards (South Carolina)
3	100	ILB - Tanner Muse (Clemson)
4	109	G - John Simpson (Clemson)
4	139	CB - Amik Robertson (Louisiana Tech)

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS D.Randall NEW 23
LB C.Littleton NEW 42
LB N.Kwiatkoski NEW 44
SS J.Abram 24
RCB P.Amukamara 0
SLOTCB *L.Joyner 29
OLB C.Ferrell 96
DT M.Hurst 73
DT M.Collins NEW 97
DE M.Crosby 98
LCB T.Mullen 27

LWR H.Rugs Rookie 11
SlotWR H.Renfrow 13
LT K.Miller 77
LG R.Incognito* 64
C *R.Hudson 61
RG G.Jackson 66
RT T.Brown 77
TE D.Waller 83
RWR T.Williams 16

QB D.Carr 4
RB J.Jacobs 28

WR2 Z.Jones 11
WR3 B.Edwards Rookie 89
RB2 J.Richard 33
QB2 M.Mariota NEW 8

2020 Cap Dollars
* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	2	$136.72M	6
QB	3	$32.76M	10
OL	1	$58.36M	5
RB	15	$9.95M	11
WR	25	$18.61M	24
TE	3	$17.05M	23
All DEF	20	$94.10M	31
DL	26	$34.28M	26
LB	13	$26.46M	29
CB	26	$11.31M	26
S	7	$22.05M	5

213

of rushing to reduce incompletions on first down, the Raiders ranked first in the NFL in yards-to-go on second down, with only 7.3 yards to go on average (NFL average was 7.9). Number two in the NFL was Baltimore, another efficiently run-heavy team.

The beauty about the NFL is there are more than one way to skin a cat, and it's not just rushing that sets up second and more manageable. The teams with the third and fifth-shortest average yards to go on second down were the Eagles and Saints, both of which ranked above average in first down pass rate (Saints were the third-most pass-heavy team in the first half of games).

But this strategy worked extremely well for the Raiders. And thanks to acceptable (though not brilliant) performance on second downs, the Raiders also found themselves with the shortest average yards-to-go on third down — 6.2 yards, over a yard better than the NFL average of 7.3 yards to go.

That leads into the next intelligent and unique thing they did on third downs — a different strategy than most teams implement.

An interesting way to look at third down performance is to analyze how deep a quarterback is passing based on yardage needed. Subtracting average air yardage from to-go yardage, we can calculate the "excess air yardage" or EAY. Segregating out buckets of to-go yardage and eliminating those over 10 yards, we have buckets of short (1-2 yards), medium (3-6 yards), long (7-9 yards), and "10" (10 yards). Look at the difference between what the Raiders were doing with their passing game and the NFL average in this next exercise, as I list the EAY.

Short – NFL: 4.6 EAY
Short – Raiders: 8.0 EAY

Medium – NFL: 3.5 EAY
Medium – Raiders: 2.8 EAY

Long – NFL: 2.3 EAY
Long – Raiders: -0.5 EAY

"10" – NFL: 1.8 EAY
"10" – Raiders: -5.2 EAY

Last year, the Raiders' 8.0 excess air yardage on third and short passes ranked second-highest in the NFL and was well above average. Needing just 1-2 yards, they averaged 10 air yards per attempt.

But on every other distance to go, they were well short of the NFL average.

Combining third downs from 7-10 yards together, the Raiders were the most conservative offense in the NFL. No team threw it shorter of the yardage to gain than

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Derek Carr	60% 8.1 91.1	49% 6.6 90.6	42% 9.6 127.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	40%	64%	80%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance
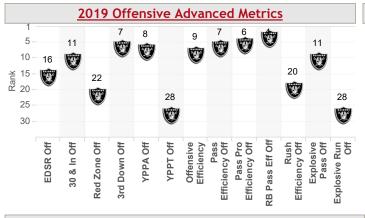
Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
LVR	53% 4.2	52% 3.6	47% 4.7	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	60%	36%	20%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

the Raiders. Their passes averaged just 6.8 air yards vs the NFL average of 10.7. The NFL average was passing the ball 2.2 air yards beyond the sticks, but the Raiders passed the ball 1.4 yards short of the sticks.

It's a fascinating strategy – going so aggressive on short yardage passes and getting more conservative on longer to-go situations. Excluding 3rd and more than 10 yards to go, the league average was a 48% conversion rate on third down passes in general, and the Raiders were at 58%, which was first in the NFL.

When needing just 1-2 yards, even though the Raiders threw the deepest aDOT in the NFL, they converted 65% of these passes with an EPA/att of 0.70 (sixth-highest). The league average was a 66% conversion rate and only 0.15 EPA/att.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	W	L	L	W	W		L	L	W	W	W	L	L	L	L	W	L
OPP	DEN	KC	MIN	IND	CHI		GB	HOU	DET	LAC	CIN	NYJ	KC	TEN	JAC	LAC	DEN
SITE	H	H	A	A	N		A	A	H	H	H	A	A	H	H	A	A
MARGIN	8	-18	-20	7	3		-18	-3	7	2	7	-31	-31	-21	-4	7	-1
PTS	24	10	14	31	24		24	24	31	26	17	3	9	21	16	24	15
OPP PTS	16	28	34	24	21		42	27	24	24	10	34	40	42	20	17	16

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **7**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **29% (#8)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **7-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **70% (#8)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **100% (#1)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-2
TO Given	17
INT Given	8
FUM Given	9
TO Taken	15
INT Taken	9
FUM Taken	6
Sack Margin	+3
Sacks	32
Sacks Allow	29
Return TD Margin	-1
Ret TDs	2
Ret TDs Allow	3
Penalty Margin	-37
Penalties	128
Opponent Penalties	91

Las Vegas Raiders 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD

Average Opponent

EASY

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank)

Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

Chart metrics (Offense side, left to right): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Chart metrics (Defense side, left to right): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / *Rushing* / *Passing* / *Rushing*

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
2	2	6	8	24	16	18	15

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	2.6	6.0	0.3
Average O/U line	46.5	47.6	46.2
Straight Up Record	7-9	4-12	6-10
Against the Spread Record	8-8	6-10	5-9
Over/Under Record	7-8	6-9	5-11
ATS as Favorite	2-3	1-0	2-4
ATS as Underdog	6-5	5-10	3-5
Straight Up Home	4-3	3-4	4-3
ATS Home	3-4	4-3	3-3
Over/Under Home	3-4	3-4	3-4
ATS as Home Favorite	2-2	1-0	2-3
ATS as a Home Dog	1-2	3-3	1-0
Straight Up Away	2-6	1-7	2-6
ATS Away	4-4	2-6	2-5
Over/Under Away	3-4	3-4	2-6
ATS Away Favorite	0-1	0-0	0-1
ATS Away Dog	4-3	2-6	2-4
Six Point Teaser Record	9-7	9-7	10-6
Seven Point Teaser Record	9-7	9-7	11-5
Ten Point Teaser Record	10-6	10-6	11-5
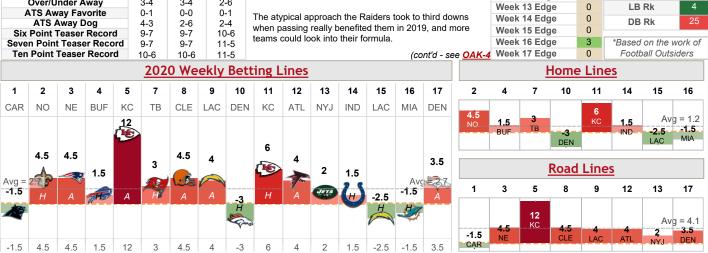
OAK-3

On the third downs of 7-10 yards to go, the league average was a 38% conversion rate and 0.24 EPA/att. The Raiders' strategy didn't help much from a conversion rate (38%) but they did average 0.52 EPA/att, fifth-highest in the NFL.

In both the short and long yardage third downs, the Raiders first down conversion rate was on-par with league average but they were top-6 in EPA/att.

Where the Raiders crushed it was in medium yardage situations. The Raiders threw the ball with 2.8 EAY, which ranked ninth-shortest (avg was 3.5 EAY). But they converted 68% of these (nearly identical to their short yardage passes) and gained 0.76 EPA/att. The league average was a 52% conversion rate and 0.23 EPA/att. The Raiders ranked first in both conversion rate and EPA/att.

The atypical approach the Raiders took to third downs when passing really benefited them in 2019, and more teams could look into their formula.

(cont'd - see **OAK-4**)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	-1
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	7
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	-7
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	3
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	26
2018 Rk	19
2019 v 2018 Rk	23
Off Rk	25
Def Rk	22
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	29
WR Rk	17
TE Rk	1
Oline Rk	29
Dline Rk	25
LB Rk	4
DB Rk	25

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CAR	NO	NE	BUF	KC	TB	CLE	LAC	DEN	KC	ATL	NYJ	IND	LAC	MIA	DEN
-1.5	4.5	4.5	1.5	12	3	4.5	4	-3	6	4	2	1.5	-2.5	-1.5	3.5
H	A	A		A	H	A	A	H	H	A			H	H	A

Avg = 2.7

Home Lines

2	4	7	10	11	14	15	16
4.5 NO	1.5 BUF	3 TB	-3 DEN	6 KC	1.5 IND	-2.5 LAC	-1.5 MIA

Avg = 1.2

Road Lines

1	3	5	8	9	12	13	17
-1.5 CAR	4.5 NE	12 KC	4.5 CLE	4 LAC	4 ATL	2 NYJ	3.5 DEN

Avg = 4.1

OAK-4

It has also led to very few third down interceptions. This, too, is atypical from the NFL average. The league average is a higher interception rate progressing from first down to second down to third down.

But one look at the Raiders' passing interceptions by down the last two years tells a different story:

2018:

1st down: 5 INTs
2nd down: 5 INTs
3rd down: 0 INTs

2019:

1st down: 3 INTs
2nd down: 4 INTs
3rd down: 1 INT

With the exception of going deep on third and short, most of the Raiders' passing attack in 2019 was extremely conservative in nature.

Derek Carr's average completed air yards per attempt was 4.9, which ranked 35th of 39 QBs. His air yards to the sticks (the amount of air yards ahead or behind the first down marker on all attempts for a passer) ranked 37th of 39. His aggressiveness ranking (amount of passing attempts a quarterback makes that are into tight coverage) ranked 38th of 39.

Carr's expected completion rank, which is based on receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field, and the separation the passer had at time of throw from the nearest pass rusher, ranked second of 39. That further emphasizes how Carr was finding the most open men and rarely looking to force the issue offensively.

Looking at the run game, while the Raiders were intelligent when they ran, they used a first round pick on a running back last year. It's too soon to tell how it will turn out for them, but the year one results were mixed.

The Raiders faced the NFL's third-easiest schedule of run defenses but ranked 20th in rushing efficiency and 28th in explosive rushing offense.
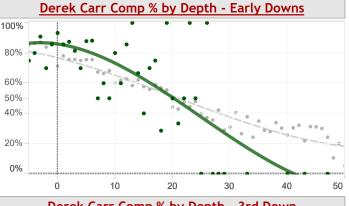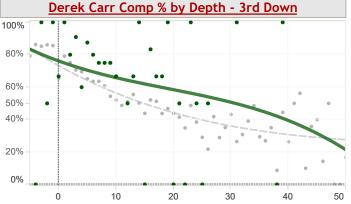
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Josh Jacobs	15%	0%	76%	6%	2%
	DeAndre Washington	18%	4%	66%	10%	3%
	Darren Waller	50%		50%		
	Jalen Richard	21%	3%	67%	8%	3%
	Zay Jones			100%		
	Derek Carrier			100%		
	Trevor Davis			75%		25%
	Total	16%	2%	72%	7%	3%
PASS	Josh Jacobs	12%		76%	12%	
	DeAndre Washington	19%	8%	65%	5%	3%
	Darren Waller	33%	1%	61%	5%	1%
	Jalen Richard	28%	13%	55%	3%	3%
	Hunter Renfrow	14%	1%	77%	4%	3%
	Tyrell Williams	25%		66%	10%	
	Zay Jones	16%	8%	72%	4%	
	Derek Carrier	41%	6%	47%	6%	
	Trevor Davis	20%		70%	10%	
	Marcell Ateman	20%	10%	70%		
	Ryan Grant	33%		67%		
	J.J. Nelson	60%		40%		
	Total	24%	3%	65%	6%	1%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Josh Jacobs	DeAndre Washington	Darren Waller	Jalen Richard	Hunter Renfrow	Tyrell Williams	Zay Jones	Derek Carrier	Trevor Davis	Marcell Ateman	Ryan Grant	J.J. Nelson
RUSH	61%	27%	1%	10%			0%	0%	1%			
PASS	6%	9%	26%	10%	17%	15%	6%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%
ALL	33%	18%	13%	10%	9%	7%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Derek Carr Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Derek Carr Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

216

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% — 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-0 [5WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	48%, 0.10 (351)	56%, 0.14 (91)	63%, 0.30 (30)	45%, -0.08 (51)	74%, 0.59 (23)	0%, -0.36 (1)	0%, -1.16 (2)	0%, -0.59 (1)	51%, 0.12 (550)
RUSH	50%, -0.02 (179)	43%, -0.17 (65)	47%, -0.11 (88)	62%, 0.01 (37)	48%, -0.01 (58)	67%, 1.10 (3)	0%, -0.40 (1)		49%, -0.05 (431)
All	49%, 0.06 (530)	51%, 0.01 (156)	51%, 0.00 (118)	52%, -0.04 (88)	56%, 0.16 (81)	50%, 0.73 (4)	0%, -0.91 (3)	0%, -0.59 (1)	50%, 0.04 (981)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Jalen Richard	48% (33) 6.7, 0.14	25% (4) 5.3, -0.66		46% (37) 6.6, 0.05
TE	Darren Waller	59% (73) 8.9, 0.28	68% (19) 10.1, 0.45	100% (9) 15.4, 1.28	64% (101) 9.7, 0.40
WR	Tyrell Williams	59% (46) 10.0, 0.39	64% (11) 12.0, 0.79	50% (4) 13.0, 0.70	59% (61) 10.6, 0.48
	Hunter Renfrow	54% (35) 8.7, 0.37	100% (2) 7.0, 1.33		57% (37) 8.6, 0.42
	Zay Jones	36% (25) 4.8, -0.04	100% (3) 7.7, 0.59		43% (28) 5.1, 0.02
	Ryan Grant	17% (6) 0.5, -0.63	33% (3) 3.7, -1.33		22% (9) 1.6, -0.86

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Jacobs Josh	52% (89) 5.5, 0.07	45% (51) 4.3, -0.08	42% (33) 3.7, -0.24	50% (38) 4.3, 0.06	48% (211) 4.7, -0.02
Washington DeAndre	47% (47) 3.2, -0.12	58% (19) 3.5, 0.00	54% (24) 4.2, -0.05	42% (12) 3.3, -0.08	50% (102) 3.5, -0.08
Richard Jalen	57% (28) 4.5, -0.01	50% (2) 3.0, -0.07	0% (4) 2.3, -0.39	40% (5) 0.8, -0.63	49% (39) 3.7, -0.13
Carr Derek	40% (10) 4.6, -0.41	13% (8) -0.4, -0.43	25% (4) 5.0, -0.11	100% (1) 9.0, 0.53	30% (23) 3.1, -0.32

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	56% (246) 7.2, 0.17
M2M	63% (99) 11.5, 0.57
Screen	47% (38) 5.2, -0.10

Passing by Route

Curl	62% (77) 7.4, 0.19
Flat	52% (44) 5.9, 0.17
Out	55% (42) 5.8, 0.09
Slant	59% (41) 9.9, 0.31
Screen	42% (33) 8.5, 0.09
Dig	68% (28) 11.1, 0.65

Throw Types

Level 1	58% (337) 7.5, 0.21
Level 2	54% (81) 10.2, 0.33
Level 3	39% (28) 9.6, 0.22
Sidearm	38% (8) 8.5, 0.25
Shovel	100% (1) 10.0, 0.89

QB Drop Types

3 Step	53% (210) 8.1, 0.26
5 Step	56% (102) 10.3, 0.47
0/1 Step	57% (88) 6.2, -0.15
7 Step	67% (21) 8.6, 0.31
Designed Rollout Right	75% (20) 6.5, 0.42
Basic Screen	44% (9) 9.1, 0.24

QB State at Pass

Planted	57% (373) 8.3, 0.24
Moving	48% (89) 5.9, 0.14
Shuffling	41% (59) 8.1, 0.08

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	59% (90) 8.1, 0.30	52% (58) 7.9, -0.01
Shotgun	60% (30) 6.8, 0.26	48% (373) 7.9, 0.08
ALL	59% (120) 7.7, 0.29	48% (431) 7.9, 0.07

Run Types

Outside Zone	51% (149) 4.5, -0.04
Lead	45% (56) 3.1, -0.11
Inside Zone	52% (50) 4.2, -0.02
Power	48% (33) 4.1, -0.22
Stretch	59% (32) 5.7, 0.11
Pitch	50% (20) 5.9, 0.17

OAK-5

Josh Jacobs ranked 22nd on early downs, identical to **DeAndre Washington**, and Jacobs recorded the exact same overall success rate of 50%. With all of the beneficial situational rushing the Raiders did and the 30th ranked run schedule, it is slightly surprising they finished below average in rushing efficiency, and does not bode particularly well against a tougher schedule of run defenses in 2020.

The 2019 Raiders defense literally ranked bottom five in almost every single key metric, and ranked dead last in the most important ones, including EDSR, overall success, and the red zone, to name a few. This was despite the fact the Raiders played just the 20th toughest schedule of opposing offenses. They also got really lucky with opposing quarterbacks. Before the season, I expected the 2019 Raiders defense to play the 13th-toughest schedule of passing offenses. But then Andrew Luck went down so they faced Jacoby Brissett (Raiders won). The next week, instead of facing the Bears' starter, the Raiders were able to face Chase Daniel (Raiders won). Instead of facing Andy Dalton, the Raiders faced Ryan Finley (Raiders won). They also faced rookie Gardner Minshew instead of Nick Foles, and rookie Drew Lock instead of Joe Flacco. (In hindsight, both may have been slight upgrades.)

In total, the Raiders played six of 16 games against quarterbacks not intended to be the starter, and of the Raiders' seven wins, three were against backups. Those wins over Brissett, Daniel, and Finley were each only by one-score. And speaking of one-score games, the Raiders went 7-3 in one-score games (likely to regress) and 100% of their seven wins on the season came by one score. That's not a positive heading into 2020.

The Raiders went on a massive spending spree on the defensive side of the ball in free agency. After fielding the second-least expensive defense in both 2018 and 2019 (which produced disastrous results), the Raiders went all out and added linebacker **Cory Littleton** ($35M), edge **Carl Nassib** ($25M), linebacker **Nick Kwiatkoski** ($21M), safety **Jeff Heath** ($6M), defensive tackle **Maliek Collins** ($6M), and a handful of others. Their defense now ranks 14th in cap dollars, a huge change from the last two seasons.

The Raiders were projected to face one of the toughest schedules in 2019 by my pre-season metrics, but thanks, in part, to some of the quarterback changes highlighted above, they played an easier than average schedule in 2019. But in 2020, they face the fourth-toughest schedule and have the third-toughest schedule increase when comparing 2019 to 2020. The toughest part for the Raiders is they start the season from Week 1 to 5 playing the NFL's toughest schedule of pass defenses. And the schedule stays the same over the first 11 weeks, as the Raiders pass offense plays the toughest schedule of pass defenses.

Last year, the Raiders played nine games against top-half pass defenses and they went 2-7 in these games (5-2 against bottom-half pass defenses). Considering they start the season with six straight top-half pass defenses and eight in their first 10 games, it will be imperative to deliver better results in 2020. Things get much easier to close the season, with just one pass defense ranked above 18th in their final six games. Facing such a tough schedule of pass defenses over the first 11 weeks, the Raiders will have to rely more on their run game. They face the seventh-easiest schedule of run defenses in 2020.

Las Vegas Raiders 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Raiders had some positives throwing the ball a year ago. The team was fourth in the NFL in success rate (50%) through the air while **Derek Carr** set career-highs in completion rate (70.4%) and yards per pass attempt (7.9). The Raiders ranked sixth in yards per passing play (7.0 yards) and 12th in EPA via passing offense. While they were efficient in successful plays with minimal turnovers and sacks, Carr was again conservative in nature and the Raiders struggled to generate explosive plays, ranked 27th in yards to success rate and 23rd in yards above success rate. Carr's average depth of target was just 6.6 yards, which ranked 30th in the league. With improved playmakers incoming, the Raiders have put Carr in a good position to be more aggressive, while adding **Marcus Mariota** as insurance and competition to the position.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Derek Carr	359	511	70%	3,980	7.8	20	8	29	100	13
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Derek Carr	50%	54%	53	10.0%	18	4.0%	5.4	5.7	17	3%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Derek Carr Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	25.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	2.3%
6 - 9	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%		2.2%
10 - 14	1.3%	1.9%	0.0%		1.3%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Total	1.8%	1.9%	0.6%	0.0%	1.5%

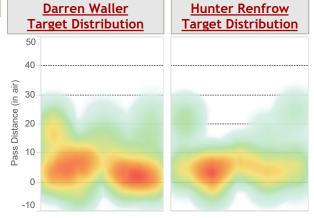## 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Derek Carr	8.5	5.4	-3.1	73%	18
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
48%	52%	38
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Raiders had an efficient passing game, 11th in yards per pass attempt (8.5 yards) and success rate (53%), but they threw to their wideouts just 43% of the time, which was 30th in the league. Through that, Raiders wideouts combined for 13.3 targets (30th), 8.8 receptions (28th), and 114.4 yards (29th) per game. The team added both **Henry Ruggs** (12th overall) and **Bryan Edwards** (81st) to the wide receiver room this season to go along with **Hunter Renfrow** and **Tyrell Williams**. The team was also third in yards per attempt (8.8 yards) and success (62%) targeting their tight ends as **Darren Waller** led the team in targets (117), receptions (80), and receiving yards (1,145), throwing to tight ends 33% of the time, the third-highest rate in the NFL.
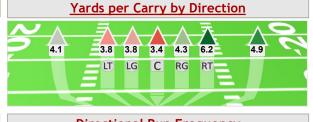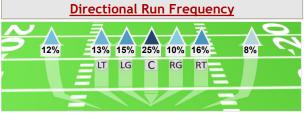
Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success % Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Darren Waller	117	77%	9.8	108.4	64%	7	4	50	92	3
Hunter Renfrow	71	69%	8.5	108.0	55%	43	61	84	87	4
Tyrell Williams	64	66%	10.2	110.9	58%	24	37	13	107	5

Darren Waller Target Distribution

Hunter Renfrow Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

As a team, the Raiders checked in 12th in success rate (49%), 18th in EPA, and 19th in yards per carry (4.3) in 2019. The Raiders used the 24th overall pick on **Josh Jacobs** last year and rewarded their decision with 1,316 yards from scrimmage and seven touchdowns in 13 games played while averaging 5.0 yards per touch. Jacobs was above league average in success rate (50%), which was sixth among all 18 running backs with 200 or more carries a year ago. **DeAndre Washington** was second on the team with 144 touches, leaving via free agency. In an effort to replace Washington, the Raiders added **Lynn Bowden** via the draft and **Devontae Booker** in free agency to go along with **Jalen Richard**, leaving Jacobs once again to be a workhorse on the ground.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Josh Jacobs	242	4.8	50%	28	5	53	22	50%	27	7
DeAndre Washington	108	3.6	50%	29	13	9	73	50%	27	3

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Where Josh Jacobs can take a step forward in year two

Josh Jacobs had a sensational rookie season, ranking eighth at the position in yards from scrimmage per game (101.2 yards) and 16th in PPR points per game (14.7). On the ground, Jacobs was a terror. Only Derrick Henry (102.7 yards) and Nick Chubb (93.4 yards) rushed for more yards per game than Jacobs did in 2019 (88.5 yards). Despite missing three games, no running back forced more missed tackles than Jacobs on the season, who forced a missed tackle once every 3.5 carries. When active, Jacobs accounted for 66.9% of the Raiders team rushing attempts, a rushing share that would have ranked seventh over the course of a full season.

But the one area that held Jacobs back as an RB2 in points per game was his lack of involvement in the passing game. Jacobs caught 20-of-27 targets for 166 yards as a rookie. His 2.8 receiving points per game ranked 55th at the position as 81.9% of his fantasy output stemmed via rushing production. Among top-24 scoring backs on the season, only Marlon Mack (86.7%) and Derrick Henry (84.9%) were as dependent on rushing output to carry their fantasy production.

In games active, Jacobs ran 147 pass routes (41st at the position those weeks) compared to 161 for Jalen Richard. That lack of receiving involvement hurt his floor (6-of-13 weeks outside of the top-24) while failing to enhance his ceiling (five top-12 scoring weeks). In his nine games without a touchdown, Jacobs averaged just 10.5 fantasy points and was the average RB28.4 in scoring those weeks. Behind Jacobs, the Raiders have limited rushing options in Jalen Richard, Devontae Booker, and Lynn Bowden. Booker (289-1,103-6) and Richard (233-1,175-3) have tallied career rushing lines that rival what Jacobs has done (242-1,150-7) in just one NFL season on the ground. But both backs carry receiving acumen while Bowden is a converted wide receiver.

Can Darren Waller repeat his 2019 season?

After four troubled years since being drafted in 2015, Darren Waller broke out in a major way in 2019 for the Raiders. Waller finished third among all tight ends in targets (117) while trailing only Travis Kelce in receptions (90) and receiving yards (1,145). Waller was one of just five tight ends to lead his team in targets on the season while his 46 more targets than the next closest Raider (Hunter Renfrow) ranked 11th in the league in terms of target advantage over the next highest target in the league.

Renfrow's involvement in the offense developed into a bit of a thorn for Waller over the course of the season. Waller did his best work early and late in the season when Hunter Renfrow was either inactive or yet to still find a role in the offense early. Waller was the average weekly TE14 with only two games of double-digit PPR points in the final six games with Renfrow active. His opportunities still held steady as Waller did still have 18% of the team targets in those games, but he accounted for 25% of the team targets with Renfrow absent Weeks 13-15 and averaged 16.1 fantasy points per game those weeks as opposed to 9.7 points per game over his final six games played with Renfrow active.

Waller was low in the scoring department, finding the end zone just three times, and his expected touchdown total off of expected target opportunities was actually just 3.9. With the Raiders adding more weaponry in the passing game this offseason, Waller will have to contend with more than just Renfrow in 2020.

Las Vegas Raiders Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	9 plays *(2%)* Success: 33% EPA: 0.05	331 plays *(86%)* Success: 49% EPA: 0.15	44 plays *(11%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.06	384 plays *(100%)* Success: 48% EPA: 0.12
1-2 [2WR]	17 plays *(25%)* Success: 76% EPA: 0.93	51 plays *(74%)* Success: 45% EPA: 0.16	1 plays *(1%)* Success: 0% EPA: -0.58	69 plays *(100%)* Success: 52% EPA: 0.34
2-1 [2WR]	15 plays *(41%)* Success: 67% EPA: 0.21	22 plays *(59%)* Success: 73% EPA: 0.67		37 plays *(100%)* Success: 70% EPA: 0.48
2-2 [1WR]	5 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: 0.16			5 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: 0.16
Grand Total	46 plays *(9%)* Success: 61% EPA: 0.44	404 plays *(82%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.18	45 plays *(9%)* Success: 42% EPA: -0.07	495 plays *(100%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.18

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	19%	23
Nickel	73%	4
Dime+	5%	21
Rush 3	3%	25
Rush 4	81%	2
Rush 5	10%	31
Rush 6+	6%	12
Blitz%	16%	30

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

After falling to the fifth-round because of a heart condition discovered at the NFL Combine, **Maurice Hurst** has turned into the disruptor he was projected to be coming out of Michigan. Last season, Hurst ranked sixth in pressure rate among 97 defensive tackles with at least 100 pass rushes per SIS. Free agent signing **Maliek Collins** ranked fourth among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate last season. With Hurst and Collins, the Raiders have a disruptive duo with decent depth behind them.

The Raiders spent a first- and fourth-round pick on the edge last season and got production that matched, just with the players and picks swapped. **Maxx Crosby** might not be a consistent 10-plus sack player but he showed he can be a plus contributor as a pass rusher. **Clelin Ferrell**, the fourth overall pick, did not show that. **Carl Nassib**, signed to a three-year deal in the offseason, had an impressive 2018 but was less effective as the No. 3 in Tampa Bay last season.

Vegas completely reshaped its linebacking corps through free agency with the signings of **Cory Littleton** and **Nick Kwiatowski**. Both excel in coverage, which is something the Raiders have sorely lacked in the middle of the defense — they were among the worst in the league against opposing tight ends last season. Even backups like **Te'Von Coney** have shown good coverage skills, so the Raiders finally look set with a modern look at the position. Third-round pick **Tanner Muse** was a safety/linebacker hybrid at Clemson and projects to play closer to the line of scrimmage with the Raiders.

Vegas completely reworked its cornerback depth chart this offseason. **Lamarcus Joyner** has been a slot/safety but the Raiders appear to want to keep him in the slot for 2019. **Prince Amukamara** was a late-May signing after a deal with **Eli Apple** fell through earlier in the offseason. **Damon Arnette** was a surprise first-round pick, but his coverage metrics were pretty solid in his final college season at Ohio State. In the fourth round, the Raiders added ballhawk **Amik Robertson**, who had 17 passes defensed as an undersized corner at Louisiana Tech. 2019 second-round pick **Trayvon Mullen** is the leading returner but he was below average as a rookie on the outside last season.

At safety, **Jonathan Abram** is a wild player and while it can be a positive, it led to a season-ending injury in Week 1. **Damarious Randall** bounced around the defense with a few bad coordinators in Cleveland, but will likely return to a more traditional safety role. **Erik Harris** filled in well after Abram was lost for the season last year and could provide good depth in three-safety looks. **Jeff Heath** rounds out the depth chart.

Las Vegas Raiders 2019 Play Analysis

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	56%
All Pass Rk	25
All Rush %	44%
All Rush Rk	8
1 Score Pass %	53%
1 Score Pass Rk	29
2018 1 Score Pass %	58%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	14
2019 Pass Increase %	-5%
Pass Increase Rk	28
1 Score Rush %	47%
1 Score Rush Rk	4
Up Pass %	50%
Up Pass Rk	20
Up Rush %	50%
Up Rush Rk	13
Down Pass %	65%
Down Pass Rk	20
Down Rush %	35%
Down Rush Rk	13

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	13%	88%	50%
	Med (4-7)	6	33%	67%	33%
	Long (8-10)	286	39%	61%	52%
	XL (11+)	16	44%	56%	50%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	47	32%	68%	66%
	Med (4-7)	88	61%	39%	52%
	Long (8-10)	69	68%	32%	41%
	XL (11+)	36	92%	8%	33%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	55	58%	42%	64%
	Med (4-7)	46	93%	7%	52%
	Long (8-10)	21	100%	0%	38%
	XL (11+)	29	93%	7%	14%
4th ..	Short (1-3)	11	18%	82%	55%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
51%	49%
37% *AVG*	63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
71%	18%
68% *AVG*	23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
29%	82%
32% *AVG*	77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
70%	10	66%	77%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
30%	23	34%	54%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	5	60%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	2	0%
			DeAndre Washington	2	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	112	46%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	6	50%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	19	79%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	16	44%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Darren Waller	12	83%
	XL (11+)	PASS	DeAndre Washington	5	40%
			Darren Waller	5	40%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	9	78%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	11	64%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	4	25%
			Tyrell Williams	4	75%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	5	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N)		
	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 46% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.01 Rtg: 91.7 *[Att: 351 - Rate: 63.7%]*	Success: 58% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.27 Rtg: 110.2 *[Att: 78 - Rate: 14.2%]*	Success: 48% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 95.1 *[Att: 429 - Rate: 77.9%]*
Yes	Success: 59% YPA: 10.2, EPA: 0.34 Rtg: 137.2 *[Att: 80 - Rate: 14.5%]*	Success: 62% YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.32 Rtg: 112.7 *[Att: 42 - Rate: 7.6%]*	Success: 60% YPA: 9.5, EPA: 0.33 Rtg: 129.8 *[Att: 122 - Rate: 22.1%]*
Total	Success: 48% YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 100.6 *[Att: 431 - Rate: 78.2%]*	Success: 59% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.29 Rtg: 111.1 *[Att: 120 - Rate: 21.8%]*	Success: 51% YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.12 Rtg: 102.9 *[Att: 551 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates
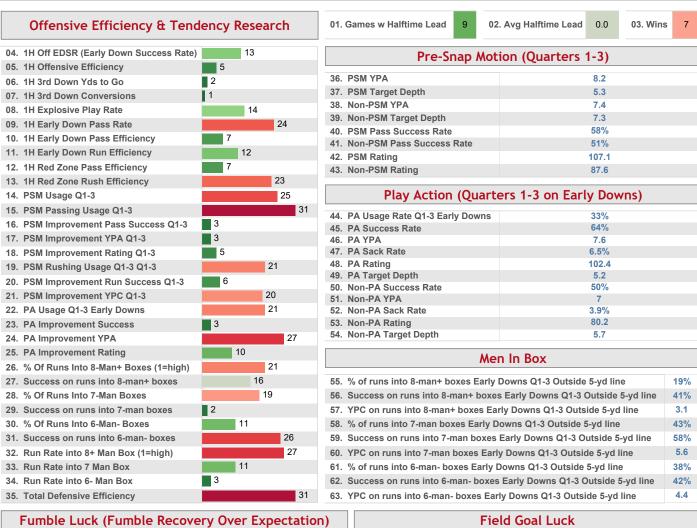
Wk	Opp	Score	Darren Waller	Tyrell Williams	Josh Jacobs	Zay Jones	Hunter Renfrow	Foster Moreau	Marcell Ateman	Ryan Grant
1	DEN	W 24-16	58 (100%)	55 (95%)	43 (74%)		16 (28%)	32 (55%)		41 (71%)
2	KC	L 28-10	62 (95%)	61 (94%)	30 (46%)		49 (75%)	15 (23%)		49 (75%)
3	MIN	L 34-14	53 (90%)	57 (97%)	25 (42%)		33 (56%)	23 (39%)		
4	IND	W 31-24	61 (91%)	62 (93%)	36 (54%)		28 (42%)	31 (46%)		
5	CHI	W 24-21	57 (78%)		50 (68%)		42 (58%)	45 (62%)	28 (38%)	
7	GB	L 42-24	61 (92%)		37 (56%)		30 (45%)	32 (48%)	23 (35%)	
8	HOU	L 27-24	54 (96%)	50 (89%)	31 (55%)	22 (39%)	36 (64%)	22 (39%)		
9	DET	W 31-24	57 (79%)	59 (82%)	42 (58%)	66 (92%)	39 (54%)	37 (51%)	4 (6%)	
10	LAC	W 26-24	56 (97%)	49 (84%)	30 (52%)	39 (67%)	31 (53%)	26 (45%)	6 (10%)	
11	CIN	W 17-10	66 (94%)	51 (73%)	45 (64%)	48 (69%)	31 (44%)	41 (59%)	5 (7%)	
12	NYJ	L 34-3	53 (90%)	45 (76%)	23 (39%)	53 (90%)	25 (42%)	19 (32%)	8 (14%)	
13	KC	L 40-9	55 (92%)	54 (90%)	34 (57%)	42 (70%)		29 (48%)	4 (7%)	
14	TEN	L 42-21	61 (97%)	52 (83%)		53 (84%)		26 (41%)	2 (3%)	
15	JAC	L 20-16	66 (88%)	72 (96%)	43 (57%)	50 (67%)			3 (4%)	
16	LAC	W 24-17	51 (81%)	55 (87%)	33 (52%)	29 (46%)			6 (10%)	
17	DEN	L 16-15	69 (95%)	21 (29%)		60 (82%)	56 (77%)		52 (71%)	
	Grand Total		940 (91%)	743 (83%)	469 (56%)	466 (71%)	445 (53%)	378 (45%)	141 (19%)	90 (73%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	54%	60%	49%
1-2 [2WR]	16%	20%	51%
2-2 [1WR]	12%	4%	51%
1-3 [1WR]	9%	3%	52%
2-1 [2WR]	8%	8%	56%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	66%	48%	50%
1-2 [2WR]	58%	56%	43%
2-2 [1WR]	25%	63%	47%
1-3 [1WR]	58%	45%	62%
2-1 [2WR]	28%	74%	48%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Hunter Renfrow	12	3	3	6
Darren Waller	10	2	2	6
Tyrell Williams	8	3	2	3
Foster Moreau	7	3	1	3
DeAndre Washington	5			5
Derek Carrier	3	1		2
Josh Jacobs	3		2	1
Zay Jones	3	2		1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Josh Jacobs	42	12	9	21
DeAndre Washington	15	4	3	8
Alec Ingold	3	3		
Jalen Richard	2			2

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
29%	35%	36%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
54%	62%	53%
#4	#3	#11

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	9	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	0.0	
03. Wins	7	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	13
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	5
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	2
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	1
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	14
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	24
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	7
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	12
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	7
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	23
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	25
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	31
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	3
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	3
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	5
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	21
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	6
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	20
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	21
23.	PA Improvement Success	3
24.	PA Improvement YPA	27
25.	PA Improvement Rating	10
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	21
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	16
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	19
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	2
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	11
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	26
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	27
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	11
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	3
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	31

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.2
37.	PSM Target Depth	5.3
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.4
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	7.3
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	58%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	51%
42.	PSM Rating	107.1
43.	Non-PSM Rating	87.6

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	33%
45.	PA Success Rate	64%
46.	PA YPA	7.6
47.	PA Sack Rate	6.5%
48.	PA Rating	102.4
49.	PA Target Depth	5.2
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	50%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	3.9%
53.	Non-PA Rating	80.2
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	5.7

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	19%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.1
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	58%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.6
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	42%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.4

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	16	defFUM	15	
Net FROE	-0.2	defFUM Rcvrd	6	
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	24	
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR%	40.0%	
offFR%	57.1%	defFROE	-1.0	
offFR Rk	11	defFROE Rk	23	
offFROE	0.8			
offFROE Rk	11			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	73%	YOY Swing	-5%	
2019 FG Rk	27	YOY Swing Rk	22	
Opp 2019 FG %	77%	2018 Team Net	1%	
Opp 2019 FG Rk	27	2018 Net Rk	15	
2019 Team Net	-4%			
2019 Net Rk	19			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Derek Carr
CAY	4.9
CAY Rk	35
2018 CAY Rk	31
AYTS Rk	37
2018 AYTS Rk	34
AGG Rk	38
2018 AGG Rk	32
COMP%	70.4
xCOMP%	67.9
xCOMP% Rk	2
2018 xCOMP% Rk	1
CPOE%	2.4
CPOE Rk	7
2018 CPOE Rk	19

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Derek Carr
Pressure %	28.4
Pressure Rk	36
Sack %	18.4
Sack Rk	17
Under Pressure Accuracy %	81.7
Pressure Accuracy Rk	2
Rating when Pressured	88.4
Pressured Rating Rk	6
Clean Accuracy %	82.4
Clean Accuracy Rk	5
Rating when Clean	104.8
Clean Rating Rk	13
Time to Throw	2.82
Time to Throw Rk	17

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.13
EPA/Pass Rk	7
EPA/Rush	-0.06
EPA/Rush Rk	18
On-Target Catch %	89.3
On-Target Catch Rk	2
Drop%	7.4
Drop Rk	15
YAC/Att	2.3
YAC/Att Rk	21
Rush Broken Tackle %	19
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	5
Rush 1st Down %	23.8
Rush 1st Down Rk	12

Las Vegas Raiders 2019 Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
   Brian Flores (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
   Chan Gailey (NYJ OC 2016) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
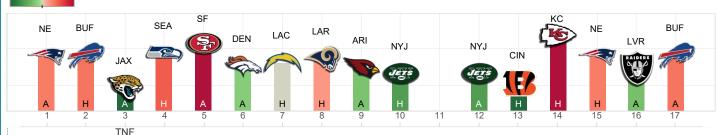   Josh Boyer (CB coach) (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
6.5	#4

Past Records
2019: 5-11
2018: 7-9
2017: 6-10

	NE	BUF	JAX	SEA	SF	DEN	LAC	LAR	ARI	NYJ		NYJ	CIN	KC	NE	LVR	BUF
	A	H	A	H	A	A	H	H	A	H		A	H	H	H	A	A
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Charles Harris (34OLB)	Falcons
Evan Boehm (C)	Bills
Evan Brown (C)	Browns
Gerald Willis (34DE)	Packers
Jamal Davis (34DE)	Packers
John Jenkins (34DE)	Bears
Linden Stephens (CB)	Seahawks
Montre Hartage (CB)	Giants
Samaje Perine (RB)	Bengals
Taco Charlton (34DE)	Chiefs
Trevor Davis (WR)	Bears
Aqib Talib (CB)	Null
Chase Allen (ILB)	Null
Clive Walford (TE)	Null
Daniel Kilgore (C)	Null
De'Lance Turner (RB)	Null
Deon Lacey (ILB)	Null
J'Marcus Webb (LT)	Null
Mike Hull (ILB)	Null
Reshad Jones (S)	Null
Taybor Pepper (LS)	Null
Walt Aikens (S)	Null

2020 Miami Dolphins Overview

The tank is over.

Miami signed 12 players in free agency for a total of $237 million, the most of any team. How much is that, really? The team spending the second-most was essentially $100 million less (the Lions at $138 million).

How does what the Dolphins spent in 2020 free agency compare to the highest spending team over the last ten years?

2020: $237 million – Dolphins
2019: $226 million – Jets
2018: $194 million – Jets
2017: $177 million – Jaguars
2016: $225 million – Jaguars
2015: $182 million – Jets
2014: $147 million – Bucs
2013: $159 million – Dolphins
2012: $162 million – Bucs
2011: $149 million – Panthers

The salary cap has risen from $120 million in 2011 to $198 million in 2020, or approximately $7.8 million per year. The Jaguars' spend in 2016 was extraordinarily large (landed Malik Jackson, Kelvin Beachum, Tashaun Gipson, and Chris Ivory, among others). But net overall, no team has spent more on free agents in the history of the NFL than did the 2020 Dolphins.

They paid an average of nearly $20 million per player ($19.8 million), also the most in the NFL.

(cont'd - see MIA2)

Key Free Agents/Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Byron Jones (CB)	$16.5
Kyle Van Noy (34OLB)	$12.8
Ereck Flowers (LG)	$10
Shaq Lawson (43DE)	$10
Emmanuel Ogbah (43DE)	$7.5
Jordan Howard (RB)	$4.90
Matt Breida (RB)	$3.29
Kamu Grugier-Hill (43OLB)	$3
Ted Karras (C)	$3
Clayton Fejedelem (S)	$2.89

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	5	QB - Tua Tagovailoa (Alaba..
	18	OT - Austin Jackson (USC)
	30	CB - Noah Igbinoghene (Aub..
2	39	G - Robert Hunt (Louisiana)
	56	DT - Raekwon Davis (Alaba..
3	70	S - Brandon Jones (Texas)
4	111	G - Solomon Kindley (Georgi..
5	154	DE - Jason Strowbridge (Nort..
	164	DE - Curtis Weaver (Boise St..
6	185	LS - Blake Ferguson (LSU)
7	246	RB - Malcolm Perry (Navy)

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
3.7	3	13

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins		6.5
2019 Wins		5
Forecast 2019 Wins		5
2018 Wins		7
2017 Wins		6
2016 Wins		10

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS B.McCain 28
SS E.Rowe 21
LB J.Baker 55
LB R.McMillan 52
RCB B.Jones NEW 24
SLOTCB N.Igbinoghene Rookie 46
DE S.Lawson NEW 90
DT C.Wilkins 97
DT D.Godchaux 56
DE K.Van Noy* NEW 53
LCB X.Howard 25

LWR P.Williams 18
SlotWR A.Wilson 15
LT J.Davenport 73
LG E.Flowers NEW 75
C T.Karras NEW 67
RG R.Hunt Rookie 68
RT J.Davis 77
TE M.Gesicki 86
RWR D.Parker 11

QB T.Tagovailoa Rookie 1
RB J.Howard NEW 24
WR2 A.Hurns 17
WR3 I.Ford 84
RB2 M.Breida NEW 22
QB2 R.Fitzpatrick* 14

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All OFF
All DEF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	29	$83.51M	32
QB	18	$16.42M	28
OL	28	$28.65M	32
RB	14	$10.28M	30
WR	18	$24.08M	11
TE	32	$4.07M	31
All DEF	6	$121.27M	26
DL	18	$42.70M	32
LB	17	$24.72M	28
CB	1	$36.66M	17
S	11	$17.19M	1

How does that compare to Miami's 2019's offseason? Prior to 2019, the Dolphins signed 15 players, but for a combined $33.4 million, the third-least of any team. They spent over $200 million more this offseason.

The 2020 Dolphins signed five players whose average salary is $7.5 million or higher.

The 2019 Dolphins signed zero players whose average salary was $6.0 million or higher.

But it even goes beyond that. The 2018 Dolphins signed just one player with an AAV over $7.5 million (**Albert Wilson**). As did the 2017 Dolphins (**Jay Cutler**). The 2016 Dolphins signed zero. The 2015 Dolphins signed one (**Ndamukong Suh**). As did the 2014 Dolphins (**Branden Albert**). As did the 2013 Dolphins (**Mike Wallace**). What did that exercise show?

The 2020 Dolphins signed as many players with an average salary of $7.5 million as they did in the prior seven years combined. That's remarkable.

Miami gave cornerback **Byron Jones** the most lucrative contract of any free agent this offseason. Five years, $82.5 million. No team spent more on a single player.

In addition, the Dolphins gave former Patriots linebacker **Kyle Van Noy** $51 million, which was the seventh-highest in the entire 2020 free agent class. They also added EDGE **Shaq Lawson** (from Buffalo) for $30 million, guard **Ereck Flowers** (from Washington), and EDGE **Emmanuel Ogbah** (from Kansas City).

In 2019, only seven defenses spent less cap money on their defense than Miami's $63.7 million. To hit that mark, they purged several players, including Cameron Wake, who signed with the Titans for $23 million. They also signed a ton of defensive players to one-year deals for cheap. Guys like Robert Nkemdiche, Adolphus Washington, Tyler Patmon, and Terrance Smith. Each signed for one year only at less than $1 million. But three of the four were released prior to the season, and Nkemdiche played only 16 defensive snaps before he was released.

Their best young defensive player was 2018 first-rounder **Minkah Fitzpatrick** (only one year of experience heading into 2019), but he made just two starts for the Dolphins and was then traded to the Steelers for a first-round pick.

What Miami effectively did defensively was start the NFL's least experienced unit. Looking at the 2019 Dolphins defensive snaps, they played the least experienced roster in the NFL. The average age per snap was 25.1 years old. For comparison, the Patriots' defense – Brian Flores's old team and one of the best defenses in the NFL – had the oldest defense with an average age of 28.2 years.

Miami started (not just played in games but actually started) 10 rookies last year on defense (53 total games started between the 10). They also saw 33 games started by five players with just one year of experience.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Ryan Fitzpatrick	47% 6.6 88.6	47% 7.0 91.8	36% 7.4 64.8	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	56%	72%	78%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance
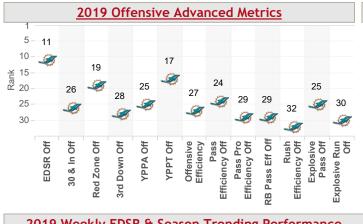
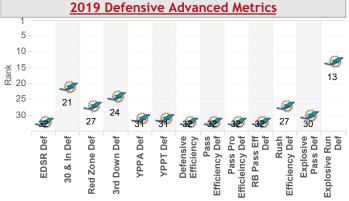| Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
MIA	44% 3.8	44% 4.1	37% 2.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	44%	28%	22%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

I'll introduce a concept to show the point, as suggesting a snap weighted age of 25 is not the easiest concept to grasp.

On a team, 16 games started by players equals one full-season starter equivalent. So 53 games started by rookies equates to 3.3 full-season starter equivalents. And we know that the defense can only have a total of 11 full-season starter equivalents. Splitting by age, the 2019 Dolphins had:

Rookies: 3.3 full-season starter equivalents
One-year exp: 2.1 full-season starter equivalents
Two-years exp: 3.2 full-season starter equivalents
3+ years exp: 2.4 full-season starter equivalents

That's the experience of their 11 starters in 2019. Super, super young. Of the seven

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

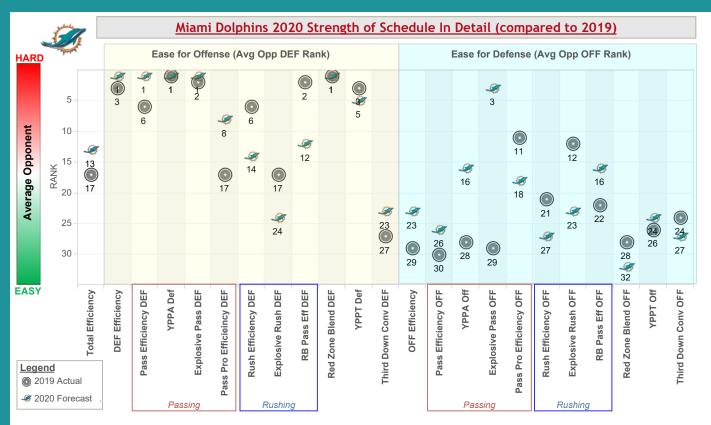|	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	L	L	L	L		L	L	L	W	W	L	L	W	L	L	W	W
OPP	BAL	NE	DAL	LAC		WAS	BUF	PIT	NYJ	IND	BUF	CLE	PHI	NYJ	NYG	CIN	NE
SITE	H	H	A	H		H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	A	H	A
MARGIN	-49	-43	-25	-20		-1	-10	-13	8	4	-17	-17	6	-1	-16	3	3
PTS	10	0	6	10		16	21	14	26	16	20	24	37	21	20	38	27
OPP PTS	59	43	31	30		17	31	27	18	12	37	41	31	22	36	35	24

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **5**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **40% (#5)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **5-2**
1 Score Games Win %: **71% (#6)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **100% (#1)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-10
TO Given	26
INT Given	18
FUM Given	8
TO Taken	16
INT Taken	13
FUM Taken	3
Sack Margin	-35
Sacks	23
Sacks Allow	58
Return TD Margin	-1
Ret TDs	2
Ret TDs Allow	3
Penalty Margin	+19
Penalties	92
Opponent Penalties	111

Miami Dolphins 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Chart: **Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank)** and **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Y-axis: RANK (HARD at top, EASY at bottom), Average Opponent

Categories (left to right):
- Total Efficiency (13 / 17)
- DEF Efficiency (1 / 3)
- Pass Efficiency DEF (1 / 6)
- YPPA Def (1 / 1)
- Explosive Pass DEF (2 / 2)
- Pass Pro Efficiency DEF (8 / 17)
- Rush Efficiency DEF (6 / 14)
- Explosive Rush DEF (12 / 24)
- RB Pass Eff DEF (12)
- Red Zone Blend DEF (2 / 2)
- YPPT Def (1 / 3 / 5)
- Third Down Conv DEF (23 / 27)
- OFF Efficiency (23 / 29)
- Pass Efficiency OFF (26 / 30)
- YPPA Off (16 / 28)
- Explosive Pass OFF (3 / 29)
- Pass Pro Efficiency OFF (11 / 18)
- Rush Efficiency OFF (21 / 27)
- Explosive Rush OFF (12 / 23)
- RB Pass Eff OFF (16 / 22)
- Red Zone Blend OFF (28 / 32)
- YPPT Off (24 / 26)
- Third Down Conv OFF (24 / 27)

Passing and Rushing groupings indicated.

Legend:
- ◉ 2019 Actual
- 🐬 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
11	13	31	30	10	5	24	21

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

MIA-3

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	10.3	3.5	4.6
Average O/U line	44.2	44.9	43.3
Straight Up Record	5-11	7-9	6-10
Against the Spread Record	9-7	7-9	5-9
Over/Under Record	9-7	8-7	8-8
ATS as Favorite	0-0	2-2	0-1
ATS as Underdog	8-7	4-7	4-8
Straight Up Home	3-5	6-2	4-3
ATS Home	4-4	5-3	3-2
Over/Under Home	5-3	5-3	4-3
ATS as Home Favorite	0-0	2-2	0-0
ATS as a Home Dog	3-4	2-1	2-2
Straight Up Away	2-6	1-7	2-6
ATS Away	5-3	2-6	2-6
Over/Under Away	4-4	3-4	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	0-0	0-0	0-1
ATS Away Dog	5-3	2-6	2-5
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	9-7	11-5
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-4	9-7	11-5
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-3	11-5	12-4

players to start 10+ games, only one had more than two years of experience. These were young guys, like rookies first-round pick **Christian Wilkins** and undrafted free agent **Nik Needham**.

Having established the pure youth, let's look at the quality of starters doing the same exercise as above to determine, of the 11 full-season starters, what their make-up was by draft round:

Undrafted: 2.5 full-season starter equivalents
Fifth-seventh round: 3.0 full-season starter equivalents
Third-fourth round: 1.9 full-season starter equivalents
Second round: 2.0 full-season starter equivalents
First round: 1.6 full-season starter equivalents

Only 8.5 out of 11 spots were players actually drafted. Exactly half the defense (5.5 spots) were players drafted in the fifth to seventh rounds or undrafted, and the other half of the defense was drafted in the first four rounds. This was a defense lacking in talent.

(cont'd - see MIA-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	3
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	1
Week 9 Edge	-7
Week 10 Edge	1
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	-3
Week 16 Edge	-3
Week 17 Edge	1

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	28
2018 Rk	24
2019 v 2018 Rk	16
Off Rk	19
Def Rk	30
QB Rk	14
RB Rk	24
WR Rk	23
TE Rk	1
Oline Rk	28
Dline Rk	27
LB Rk	5
DB Rk	31

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	NE	BUF	JAX	SEA	SF	DEN	LAC	LAR	ARI	NYJ	NYJ	CIN	KC	NE	LVR	BUF
Line	6	3.5	-1.5	4.5	13	6.5	1	3	4.5	-1.5	4	-3.5	7.5	3	1.5	7.5
H/A	A	H		H	A	A	H	A	A			H	H	H	A	A

Avg = 3.7

Home Lines

2	4	7	8	10	13	14	15
3.5 BUF	4.5 SEA	1 LAC	3 LAR	-1.5 NYJ	-3.5 CIN	7.5 KC	NE

Avg = 2.2

Road Lines

1	3	5	6	9	12	16	17
6 NE	-1.5 JAX	13 SF	6.5 DEN	4.5 ARI	4 NYJ	1.5 LVR	7.5 BUF

Avg = 5.2

225

Having established the pure youth and poor talent, the final straw was this defense saw its starters rotated to a tremendous extent. They clocked in as the third-most injured defense, but some of these injuries may have been putting guys down strategically.

It was impossible to see any continuity or develop chemistry. A defense has 11 starters. It's virtually impossible that all 11 make 16 starts. But the Dolphins had a total of 28 players make starts on defense.

So between youth, talent, and the disjointedness of the defense, it was bound to be bad. And it was. Despite playing the fourth-easiest schedule of opposing offenses, the defense was predictably terrible, ranking 32nd in EDSR, 32nd in overall efficiency, and 32nd in most other critical metrics.

It had to be a real downer for new head coach Brian Flores. But he bought into the plan. It was a tank from the personnel department, specifically on his side of the ball. There wasn't much he could do about it on the field. When you're allowing offenses like the Browns, Giants, Bengals, and Bills to put up over 30 points, you know it has to be frustrating, but the good news is the tank ended quickly.

The first thing we must realize is, this defense is going to be substantially different in 2020. They brought in veterans in free agency. They won't be tanking because of youth, bad talent, or (barring injury) disjointedness.

Just take a look at the four big priced defensive free agents they added and where they were drafted:

First round: Byron Jones, Shaq Lawson
Second round: Kyle Van Noy, Emmanuel Ogbah

These are pedigree players with four, five, and six years of experience. The two tables we looked at and compared full-season starter equivalents by years of experience and by draft round? Blow both of them out of the water with these four new starters, who bring experience and were highly drafted.

And then there is the 2020 draft. The Dolphins drafted defensive players in the first three rounds of the draft, snagging cornerback **Noah Igbinoghene**, defensive tackle **Raekwon Davis**, and safety **Brandon Jones**.

Time will tell how much these players see the field in 2020, but with these three *(cont'd - see)*

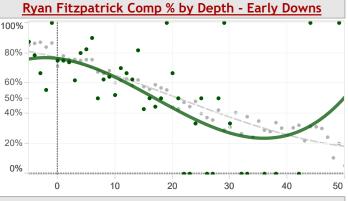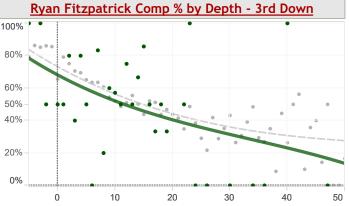## Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Kalen Ballage	24%	11%	55%	9%	
	Patrick Laird	10%	2%	84%		5%
	Kenyan Drake	25%	10%	65%		
	Mark Walton	11%	6%	74%	8%	2%
	Albert Wilson	40%	20%	20%		20%
	Myles Gaskin	25%	3%	31%	3%	39%
	Jakeem Grant	50%		50%		
	Isaiah Ford			100%		
	Samaje Perine			100%		
	Total	**19%**	**7%**	**64%**	**4%**	**7%**
PASS	DeVante Parker	30%	10%	50%	5%	5%
	Kalen Ballage	38%	21%	33%	4%	4%
	Patrick Laird	28%	4%	68%		
	Mike Gesicki	30%	9%	49%	8%	4%
	Kenyan Drake	33%	17%	50%		
	Mark Walton	20%	27%	33%	13%	7%
	Preston Williams	30%	11%	54%	4%	2%
	Albert Wilson	33%	2%	58%	2%	4%
	Allen Hurns	31%	16%	53%		
	Myles Gaskin	22%		44%	11%	22%
	Jakeem Grant	44%	9%	38%	9%	
	Isaiah Ford	7%	3%	76%	3%	10%
	Clive Walford			50%		50%
	Total	**29%**	**10%**	**52%**	**5%**	**4%**

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	DeVante Parker	Kalen Ballage	Patrick Laird	Mike Gesicki	Kenyan Drake	Mark Walton	Preston Williams	Albert Wilson	Allen Hurns	Myles Gaskin	Jakeem Grant	Isaiah Ford	Samaje Perine	Clive Walford
RUSH		26%	22%		17%	18%		2%		13%	1%	0%	2%	
PASS	23%	5%	5%	15%	5%	3%	11%	9%	9%	2%	6%	6%		1%
ALL	15%	12%	11%	9%	9%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%	4%	1%	1%

Ryan Fitzpatrick Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Ryan Fitzpatrick Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, -0.02 (458)	43%, -0.10 (138)	36%, -0.40 (39)	40%, -0.04 (5)	30%, 0.02 (10)	0%, -0.90 (2)	60%, 0.21 (5)	40%, -0.34 (5)	0%, -2.71 (1)	33%, -0.29 (3)	43%, -0.07 (666)
RUSH	43%, -0.09 (160)	41%, -0.19 (106)	31%, -0.28 (39)	38%, -0.16 (26)	0%, -0.59 (2)	40%, -0.40 (10)	0%, -0.35 (1)		67%, 1.22 (3)		40%, -0.15 (347)
All	44%, -0.04 (618)	42%, -0.14 (244)	33%, -0.34 (78)	39%, -0.14 (31)	25%, -0.09 (12)	33%, -0.49 (12)	50%, 0.11 (6)	40%, -0.34 (5)	50%, 0.24 (4)	33%, -0.29 (3)	############

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Kenyan Drake	43% (23) 5.6, 0.05	50% (4) 8.3, 0.27	25% (4) 0.8, -1.61		42% (31) 5.3, -0.13
TE	Mike Gesicki	48% (62) 7.1, 0.16	40% (20) 4.9, -0.48	50% (2) 5.0, 0.69		46% (84) 6.5, 0.02
WR	DeVante Parker	58% (91) 10.3, 0.46	46% (24) 8.5, 0.38	33% (6) 5.8, -0.17	100% (1) 12.0, 1.05	55% (122) 9.7, 0.42
	Albert Wilson	43% (51) 5.9, 0.09	60% (5) 5.4, -0.26	0% (2) 0.0, -1.02	100% (2) 8.5, 0.70	45% (60) 5.7, 0.04
	Allen Hurns	53% (32) 8.3, 0.47	64% (11) 8.4, 0.05	100% (1) 18.0, 2.77	0% (1) 0.0, -0.88	56% (45) 8.3, 0.39
	Jakeem Grant	44% (25) 4.1, -0.20	67% (3) 9.7, -0.13	67% (3) 11.0, 0.93		48% (31) 5.3, -0.08

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Ballage Kalen	24% (33) 1.8, -0.39	32% (19) 2.1, -0.18	36% (14) 1.2, -0.25	75% (4) 2.5, 0.07	31% (70) 1.8, -0.28
Laird Patrick	26% (19) 2.3, -0.29	32% (31) 2.7, -0.33	40% (5) 5.2, -0.22	0% (1) 2.0, -0.27	30% (56) 2.8, -0.31
Fitzpatrick Ryan	59% (27) 5.9, 0.29	80% (15) 6.7, 0.40	0% (4) -1.5, -0.86	0% (3) -4.0, -1.38	57% (49) 4.9, 0.12
Walton Mark	48% (23) 5.2, 0.00	40% (15) 2.2, -0.27	50% (10) 3.9, 0.07	0% (1) 1.0, -0.39	45% (49) 3.9, -0.08
Drake Kenyan	46% (28) 4.5, -0.19	30% (10) 2.5, -0.59	0% (3) 0.0, -0.73	100% (1) 4.0, 0.47	40% (42) 3.7, -0.31
Gaskin Myles	57% (14) 5.0, 0.17	31% (13) 2.3, -0.19	0% (2) 1.0, -0.50		41% (29) 3.5, -0.04

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	51% (289) 7.3, 0.07
M2M	44% (154) 5.8, -0.04
Screen	40% (42) 4.5, -0.08

Passing by Route

Curl	55% (98) 6.8, 0.02
Slant	53% (58) 6.4, -0.06
Out	58% (57) 6.6, -0.02
Dig	61% (46) 7.5, 0.35
Screen	44% (43) 5.3, -0.04
Flat	35% (40) 3.4, -0.22

Throw Types

Level 1	52% (426) 6.4, 0.07
Level 2	45% (84) 9.1, 0.12
Level 3	25% (55) 8.4, 0.13
Shovel	33% (3) 1.7, -0.34
Sidearm	33% (3) 4.3, -0.08

QB Drop Types

3 Step	47% (266) 7.2, 0.08
0/1 Step	52% (150) 6.3, 0.17
5 Step	48% (92) 7.5, 0.08
Basic Screen	42% (19) 5.1, -0.05
7 Step	47% (15) 6.6, -0.36
Designed Rollout Right	36% (11) 4.0, -1.12

QB State at Pass

Planted	49% (477) 7.1, 0.12
Moving	42% (78) 5.9, -0.14
Shuffling	34% (58) 4.1, -0.22

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	43% (72) 7.3, -0.26	40% (40) 6.6, -0.10
Shotgun	46% (41) 6.7, -0.05	43% (519) 6.6, -0.05
ALL	44% (113) 7.1, -0.18	43% (559) 6.6, -0.05

Run Types

Power	46% (67) 4.0, -0.12
Inside Zone	23% (26) 1.4, -0.28
Lead	40% (25) 2.4, -0.17
Outside Zone	22% (23) 2.6, -0.31
Stretch	33% (9) 2.7, -0.26
Pitch	0% (1) -8.0, -1.57

MIA-5

picks plus the top four defensive free agents, all seven of these defensive players were drafted in the first three rounds. Add to that starting cornerback **Xavien Howard** (second round), Christian Wilkins (first round), linebacker **Raekwon McMillian** (second round), cornerback **Eric Rowe** (second round), and linebacker **Jerome Baker** (third round), you suddenly go from a defense that was young, with a ton of round 5+ or undrafted starters to a veteran unit with a thick influence of highly touted and drafted players.

And the good news is the 2020 Dolphins defense still gets to play an easy schedule of offenses, that is made even easier without Tom Brady twice a year. Miami will face the tenth-easiest schedule of opposing offenses, including the eighth-easiest schedule of passing offenses and the sixth-easiest schedule of opposing run offenses.

The AFC East is laden with incredible defenses and given this virtual offseason, I think it will be difficult for this group to make a one-year jump to be in that conversation. But they'll be noticeably better than 2019 and are well on their way to providing the offense with the support they'll need by 2021.

The rest of the 2020 draft for the Dolphins was fascinating. The Dolphins entered with the most draft picks and the most draft capital (value of picks in possession). They held pat in rounds 1-3, but turned eight late-round picks into five, by trading up the board, and added a 2021 pick in the process.

They ended near even in total value, but tried to reduce late-round picks. The Dolphins left the 2020 draft with three fewer picks then they entered. No other team was down more than two picks.

We don't know what Chris Grier was thinking in March 2019. But if he was thinking like most general managers without a long-term quarterback, he was thinking: "I really hope we're in position to land **Tua Tagovailoa** in the 2020 draft." Everyone assumed at the time that position was No. 1 overall. But then Tua was injured. And Joe Burrow exploded. We all know every GM has a different taste. And it's hard to imagine, with the way the season ended, that if the Dolphins had the first overall pick they would have taken Tua over Burrow at that spot. More than likely, if they really wanted Tua, they would have traded down a few picks. Regardless, imagine for a moment that Tua was the guy Grier wanted in March 2019 AND in March 2020 — a plan that played out perfectly for Miami.

Many people thought the Dolphins were making a mistake by winning a few games last season. After going 0-7 to start the year, the Dolphins went 5-4 to

Miami Dolphins 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Dolphins were at the bottom of the league in nearly every passing category in 2019. They ranked 29th in success rate (42%), 20th in EPA, 22nd in yards per attempt (6.7), and tied in allowing a league-high 58 sacks. While **Ryan Fitzpatrick** was better than **Josh Rosen**, the 37-year-old passer was not going to be the answer for Miami. Miami used the No. 5 overall pick in this year's draft to select **Tua Tagovailoa**. At almost a year and a half younger than the No. 1 selection in the draft in Joe Burrow, Tagovailoa ranks in the 99th percentile in career yards per attempt (10.9) and TD/INT ratio (7.9:1) among all quarterbacks invited to the combine since 2000. The Dolphins will likely slow play Tua's start given his hip injury and Fitzpatrick in place to bridge the gap, but once Tagovailoa is ready and cleared to dress, he should find the field quickly.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Ryan Fitzpatrick	309	500	62%	3,528	7.1	19	13	40	85	31
Josh Rosen	58	108	54%	567	5.3	1	5	15	53	57
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Ryan Fitzpatrick	44%	47%	43	9.0%	12	2.0%	7.3	4.1	20	4%
Josh Rosen	36%	42%	5	5.0%	2	2.0%	4.0	5.8	4	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Ryan Fitzpatrick Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

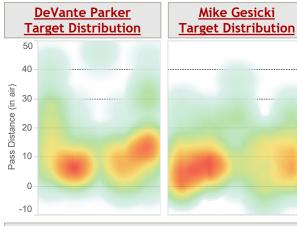| Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	**4.2%**
3, 4, 5	0.0%	3.3%	3.3%	0.0%	**3.0%**
6 - 9	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	**2.0%**
10 - 14	1.6%	1.1%	6.8%	0.0%	**2.2%**
15+	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	**3.8%**
Total	**1.5%**	**2.0%**	**4.7%**	**0.0%**	**2.4%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Ryan Fitzpatrick	9.1	7.2	-1.9	66%	5
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
63%	37%	3
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Dolphins wide receivers ranked 16th in success rate (51%) and 20th in yards per target (7.6) in 2019, but did have some positives. Miami got a massive breakout from former 2015 first-round pick **DeVante Parker** (72-1,202-9) while undrafted rookie **Preston Williams** led the Dolphins in targets (60), receptions (32), and receiving yardage (428) through the opening eight games of the season. Miami tight ends ranked 28th in yards per target (6.3) and 27th in success rate (45%), but second-year tight end **Mike Gesicki** finished the season with improved production. After a 15-153-0 line through seven games, Gesicki bounced back with a 36-417-5 line to close the season over the final nine weeks.

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
DeVante Parker	128	56%	9.4	98.5	53%	54	53	15	99	6
Mike Gesicki	88	58%	6.5	86.8	44%	111	85	116	20	5
Albert Wilson	62	69%	5.7	82.1	44%	115	103	85	58	1
Preston Williams	60	53%	7.1	79.0	50%	76	126	51	86	3

DeVante Parker Target Distribution

Mike Gesicki Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

No team got less production from its backfield in 2019 than the Dolphins. Ranking 32nd in success rate rushing (39%), Miami backs collectively ranked dead last in touches (22.9) and yards from scrimmage (89.4) per game while averaging 3.9 yards per touch and scoring five total touchdowns. Ryan Fitzpatrick actually led the team with 243 rushing yards and their top back in yardage was **Mark Walton** with 201 yards on the ground. The Dolphins made an effort to reshape nearly the entire rushing unit. **Jordan Howard** and **Matt Breida** were added to the backfield while offensive linemen **Austin Jackson** and **Robert Hunt** were drafted in the top-40 picks this spring. **Ereck Flowers** and **Ted Karras** were added via free agency. Miami should be able to at least generate more production from their backfield than they did a year ago.

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Kalen Ballage	74	1.8	32%	80	80	2	82	29%	80	3
Patrick Laird	62	2.8	29%	82	78	54	38	30%	79	1
Ryan Fitzpatrick	53	4.6	53%	18	66	3	50	56%	7	4
Mark Walton	53	3.8	46%	48	53	13	39	46%	44	0

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

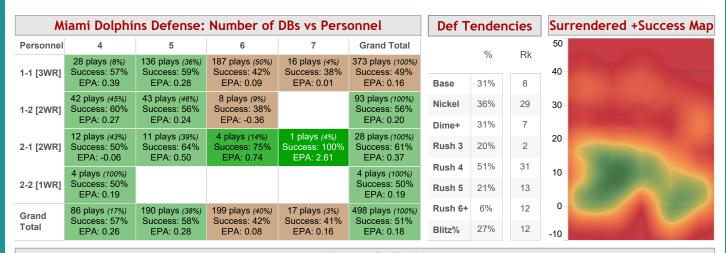**Can we buy DeVante Parker's 2019 breakout?**

After four years of perpetually offseason hype and inevitable end-of-season disappointment, DeVante Parker finally showcased the WR1 upside many believed he had all along. Parker broke out with 1,202 yards and nine touchdowns in 2019 after a combined 979 yards receiving and two touchdowns over the 2017-2018 seasons. The loss of Preston Williams played a big role for Parker. He averaged 9.5 targets and 19.3 PPR points per game in the eight weeks after Williams was lost for the season after averaging 6.5 targets and 11.5 points per game prior. Ryan Fitzpatrick's hyper-aggressive nature also elevated the downfield receiver. Parker ranked third in the NFL in targets of 20-plus yards downfield (17) while tied for the league lead in receptions (11) and led all wideouts in touchdowns (four) on those targets over the final eight weeks of the season. While Parker's splits with and without Williams active are a concern, getting paired with the potential fit of a rookie passer in Tagovailoa could also give pause for a followup in 2020.

Parker did put some high points on his resume against high-end corners that shut nearly everyone else down a year ago, which suggests he did take a step forward. Parker's explosion down the stretch included huge games against Buffalo (7-135-0), catching 5-of-5 targets for 80 yards in coverage of Tre'Davious White in that game, and New England (8-137-0) while catching 7-of-9 targets for 119 yards in coverage of Stephon Gilmore.

Is Mike Gesicki the late-round tight end to target?

Like Parker, Mike Gesicki's season took a big swing after the injury to Preston Williams. After a 15-153-0 line through seven games, Mike Gesicki bounced back with a 36-417-5 to close the season over the final nine weeks. Gesicki averaged 7.3 targets per game (18.0% of the team targets) after Williams was injured compared to 3.9 targets (11.0% of the team share) per game prior. Gesicki reached 35 receiving yards in just three of those eight games without Williams active, but found the end zone five times to elevate his stock. Over that same span, Gesicki was tied for the league lead among tight ends in targets 20-plus yards downfield (10) and ranked second in both receptions (five) and touchdowns (two) on those targets.

For the season, Gesicki ran a league-high 71.1% of his routes from the slot for all tight ends, which played a large part in him ranking third at the position in routes run (alongside Miami playing catch-up on the scoreboard consistently). He also was second among all tight ends in average depth of target (11.6 yards). A 99th percentile SPARQ score athlete, Gesicki runs into similar questions surrounding Williams returning to the lineup and Tagovailoa inevitably taking over, but offers upside in the latter portion of drafts for those that miss out on the early tiers of tight ends.

Miami Dolphins Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	28 plays *(8%)* Success: 57% EPA: 0.39	136 plays *(36%)* Success: 59% EPA: 0.28	187 plays *(50%)* Success: 42% EPA: 0.09	16 plays *(4%)* Success: 38% EPA: 0.01	373 plays *(100%)* Success: 49% EPA: 0.16
1-2 [2WR]	42 plays *(45%)* Success: 60% EPA: 0.27	43 plays *(46%)* Success: 56% EPA: 0.24	8 plays *(9%)* Success: 38% EPA: -0.36		93 plays *(100%)* Success: 56% EPA: 0.20
2-1 [2WR]	12 plays *(43%)* Success: 100% EPA: -0.06	11 plays *(39%)* Success: 64% EPA: 0.50	4 plays *(14%)* Success: 75% EPA: 0.74	1 plays *(4%)* Success: 100% EPA: 2.61	28 plays *(100%)* Success: 61% EPA: 0.37
2-2 [1WR]	4 plays *(100%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.19				4 plays *(100%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.19
Grand Total	86 plays *(17%)* Success: 57% EPA: 0.26	190 plays *(38%)* Success: 58% EPA: 0.28	199 plays *(40%)* Success: 42% EPA: 0.08	17 plays *(3%)* Success: 41% EPA: 0.16	498 plays *(100%)* Success: 51% EPA: 0.18

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	31%	8
Nickel	36%	29
Dime+	31%	7
Rush 3	20%	2
Rush 4	51%	31
Rush 5	21%	13
Rush 6+	6%	12
Blitz%	27%	12

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Dolphins were a low-talent, high-effort team under Brian Flores in 2019 but went out and acquired more top-end talent through free agency and the draft.

Christian Wilkins was a first-round pick last season and was a decent disruptor up the middle. Among 97 defensive tackles with at least 100 pass rush snaps, Wilkins ranked 16th in pressure rate last season per SIS. Those pressures weren't converted into sacks, but that's something that can regress from year-to-year. **Davon Godchaux** was the nose tackle and he also found his way into the backfield with seven quarterback hits (though he ranked 67th in pressure rate). Depth at the position is a question but **Raekwon Davis** was drafted in the second round and **Jason Strowbridge** was drafted in the fifth.

If Miami is going run with the "positionless" thing on defense, they're going all-in with this edge group. **Charles Harris** never came close to living up to his first-round status — he had 3.5 sacks through three seasons — and he was shipped to the Falcons for a 2021 seventh-round pick after the draft. In free agency, the Dolphins went hard at the edge and added **Shaq Lawson**, **Emmanuel Ogbah**, and **Kyle Van Noy**. Van Noy is listed as an edge but he's a versatile player who can fill many roles on the defense. Fifth-round pick **Curtis Weaver** had one of the highest pressure rates in this draft class and added 19.5 tackles for loss in his final season at Boise State.
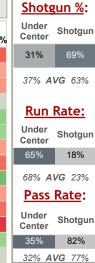
After being a starter in 2017 and 2018, **Elandon Roberts** lost his role and was downgraded to just 20% of the New England defensive snaps last season. He's likely to jump back into a starter role for the Dolphins. **Raekwon McMillan** has been an old school run-stuffing linebacker with little in the way of coverage ability. **Jerome Baker** has taken most of the coverage responsibility as an athletic linebacker who can move into the slot when needed.

There's some solid depth here with **Kamu Grugier-Hill**, who was a below-average starter but a fine fill-in, and **Andrew Van Ginkel** who was a heavy blitzer both in college and during his rookie season (though to little success last year).

Miami made the effort to improve its outside coverage this offseason and brought in **Byron Jones**. Paired with **Xavien Howard**, who missed most of last season with a knee injury, the Dolphins have one of the better outside corner duos in the league. There's some question of the nickel corner, though. Rookie undrafted free agent **Nik Needham** filled in admirably last season and spent some time in the slot. That role could also go to **Bobby McCain** who had been a nickel corner before playing free safety for the Dolphins last season. Though, McCain is more likely to stay at safety after Miami took **Noah Igbinoghene** in the first round.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	66%
All Pass Rk	2
All Rush %	34%
All Rush Rk	31
1 Score Pass %	62%
1 Score Pass Rk	6
2018 1 Score Pass %	56%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	22
2019 Pass Increase %	7%
Pass Increase Rk	2
1 Score Rush %	38%
1 Score Rush Rk	27
Up Pass %	57%
Up Pass Rk	3
Up Rush %	43%
Up Rush Rk	30
Down Pass %	69%
Down Pass Rk	7
Down Rush %	31%
Down Rush Rk	26

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	4	25%	75%	25%
	Med (4-7)	7	43%	57%	43%
	Long (8-10)	297	52%	48%	39%
	XL (11+)	6	83%	17%	50%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	19	32%	68%	58%
	Med (4-7)	62	73%	27%	55%
	Long (8-10)	111	75%	25%	41%
	XL (11+)	46	74%	26%	28%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	35	60%	40%	66%
	Med (4-7)	37	86%	14%	41%
	Long (8-10)	45	84%	16%	29%
	XL (11+)	34	82%	18%	15%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	9	56%	44%	56%
	Med (4-7)	2	50%	50%	50%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
31%	69%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
65%	18%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
35%	82%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
90%	1	66%	81%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
10%	32	34%	67%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ryan Fitzpatrick	2	50%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Kenyan Drake	2	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Kalen Ballage	31	29%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Mike Gesicki	2	50%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Kalen Ballage	4	50%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Mike Gesicki	6	33%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	DeVante Parker	13	38%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Mike Gesicki	8	38%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Kalen Ballage	6	83%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	DeVante Parker	8	88%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Mike Gesicki	6	67%
	XL (11+)	PASS	DeVante Parker	4	75%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N)		
	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 42% YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.09 Rtg: 81.5 *[Att: 419 - Rate: 62.4%]*	Success: 43% YPA: 5.4, EPA: -0.31 Rtg: 34.2 *[Att: 56 - Rate: 8.3%]*	Success: 42% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.11 Rtg: 75.9 *[Att: 475 - Rate: 70.7%]*
Yes	Success: 46% YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.05 Rtg: 85.5 *[Att: 140 - Rate: 20.8%]*	Success: 46% YPA: 8.9, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 115.4 *[Att: 57 - Rate: 8.5%]*	Success: 46% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.02 Rtg: 93.6 *[Att: 197 - Rate: 29.3%]*
Total	Success: 43% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 82.5 *[Att: 559 - Rate: 83.2%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.18 Rtg: 72.7 *[Att: 113 - Rate: 16.8%]*	Success: 43% YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 80.9 *[Att: 672 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	DeVante Parker	Mike Gesicki	Allen Hurns	Durham Smythe	Albert Wilson	Preston Williams	Kalen Ballage	Jakeem Grant	Nick O'Leary
1	BAL	L 59-10	38 (76%)	34 (68%)	35 (70%)	12 (24%)	6 (12%)	21 (42%)	20 (40%)	30 (60%)	20 (40%)
2	NE	L 43-0	57 (92%)	35 (56%)	28 (45%)	25 (40%)		42 (68%)	21 (34%)	38 (61%)	14 (23%)
3	DAL	L 31-6	69 (96%)	30 (42%)	5 (7%)	40 (56%)		69 (96%)	25 (35%)	46 (64%)	28 (39%)
4	LAC	L 30-10	43 (83%)	26 (50%)		37 (71%)		43 (83%)	8 (15%)	22 (42%)	24 (46%)
6	WAS	L 17-16	67 (88%)	44 (58%)	27 (36%)	27 (36%)	29 (38%)	67 (88%)	4 (5%)		19 (25%)
7	BUF	L 31-21	62 (85%)	33 (45%)	26 (36%)	37 (51%)	17 (23%)	66 (90%)	5 (7%)	7 (10%)	19 (26%)
8	PIT	L 27-14	47 (78%)	38 (63%)	20 (33%)	22 (37%)	18 (30%)	53 (88%)	10 (17%)	14 (23%)	18 (30%)
9	NYJ	W 26-18	57 (83%)	42 (61%)	30 (43%)	25 (36%)	25 (36%)	51 (74%)	21 (30%)	14 (20%)	
10	IND	W 16-12	63 (95%)	40 (61%)	59 (89%)	31 (47%)	35 (53%)		54 (82%)	15 (23%)	
11	BUF	L 37-20	62 (90%)	59 (86%)	60 (87%)	8 (12%)	36 (52%)		53 (77%)	30 (43%)	
12	CLE	L 41-24	63 (100%)	57 (90%)	57 (90%)	39 (62%)	30 (48%)		24 (38%)	3 (5%)	
13	PHI	W 37-31	59 (82%)	53 (74%)	58 (81%)	37 (51%)	38 (53%)		11 (15%)		
14	NYJ	L 22-21	18 (25%)	50 (69%)	57 (79%)	41 (57%)	17 (24%)				
15	NYG	L 36-20	67 (94%)	55 (77%)	33 (46%)	23 (32%)	57 (80%)				
16	CIN	W 38-35	75 (83%)	58 (64%)	32 (36%)	55 (61%)	66 (73%)				
17	NE	W 27-24	67 (99%)	51 (75%)		26 (38%)	67 (99%)				
	Grand Total		914 (84%)	705 (65%)	527 (56%)	485 (44%)	441 (48%)	412 (79%)	256 (33%)	219 (35%)	142 (33%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	61%	60%	44%
1-2 [2WR]	24%	20%	42%
2-1 [2WR]	8%	8%	33%
1-3 [1WR]	3%	3%	39%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	74%	44%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	57%	43%	41%
2-1 [2WR]	50%	36%	31%
1-3 [1WR]	16%	40%	38%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
DeVante Parker	13	1	2	10
Mike Gesicki	10	1	5	4
Preston Williams	10	2	1	7
Allen Hurns	5	1		4
Isaiah Ford	5		2	3
Kalen Ballage	5			5
Patrick Laird	4		1	3
Kenyan Drake	2			2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Kalen Ballage	16	7	5	4
Ryan Fitzpatrick	16	4	4	8
Patrick Laird	11	2	3	6
Kenyan Drake	5		2	3
Myles Gaskin	5	1	1	3
Mark Walton	3	2		1

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	23%	19%	58%
	23%	*21%*	*56%*
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	38%	45%	51%
	#29	#27	#16

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

Stat	Value
01. Games w Halftime Lead	6
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-3.0
03. Wins	5

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	24
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	30
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	12
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	13
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	26
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	7
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	17
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	32
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	14
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	30
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	18
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	16
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	13
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	5
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	7
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	25
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	13
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	20
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	29
23.	PA Improvement Success	19
24.	PA Improvement YPA	18
25.	PA Improvement Rating	31
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	11
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	32
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	13
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	32
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	19
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	15
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	5
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	32
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	29
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	32

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.3
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.3
38.	Non-PSM YPA	6.7
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.8
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%
42.	PSM Rating	86.5
43.	Non-PSM Rating	75.5

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	26%
45.	PA Success Rate	51%
46.	PA YPA	7.4
47.	PA Sack Rate	13.3%
48.	PA Rating	65.7
49.	PA Target Depth	8.8
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	48%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	3.9%
53.	Non-PA Rating	84.4
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.2

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	26%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	29%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	2.1
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	45%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	30%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	2.6
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	29%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	19	defFUM	17
Net FROE	-1.3	defFUM Rcvrd	3
offFUM	25	defFR Rk	32
offFUM Rcvrd	17	defFR%	17.6%
offFR%	68.0%	defFROE	-4.9
offFR Rk	4	defFROE Rk	32
offFROE	3.6		
offFROE Rk	3		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	77%	YOY Swing	-20%
2019 FG Rk	24	YOY Swing Rk	30
Opp 2019 FG %	82%	2018 Team Net	15%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	17	2018 Net Rk	2
2019 Team Net	-5%		
2019 Net Rk	21		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Ryan Fitzpatrick
CAY	7.1
CAY Rk	5
2018 CAY Rk	1
AYTS Rk	10
2018 AYTS Rk	3
AGG Rk	4
2018 AGG Rk	4
COMP%	62
xCOMP%	63.5
xCOMP% Rk	23
2018 xCOMP% Rk	29
CPOE%	-1.6
CPOE Rk	26
2018 CPOE Rk	6

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Ryan Fitzpatrick
Pressure %	39.7
Pressure Rk	4
Sack %	17.4
Sack Rk	20
Under Pressure Accuracy %	59.9
Pressure Accuracy Rk	27
Rating when Pressured	57.8
Pressured Rating Rk	30
Clean Accuracy %	79.6
Clean Accuracy Rk	15
Rating when Clean	98.4
Clean Rating Rk	25
Time to Throw	2.61
Time to Throw Rk	37

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.07
EPA/Pass Rk	24
EPA/Rush	-0.17
EPA/Rush Rk	31
On-Target Catch %	81.9
On-Target Catch Rk	31
Drop%	10.5
Drop Rk	29
YAC/Att	2.1
YAC/Att Rk	25
Rush Broken Tackle %	12
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	30
Rush 1st Down %	18.6
Rush 1st Down Rk	30

Miami Dolphins 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

close the season. All five of their wins were by just one score. And as a result, they lost out on the first overall pick. But if they always wanted Tua rather than Burrow, it was irrelevant. In that scenario, the Dolphins got their quarterback and didn't have to make a single move to get him. A dream scenario.

I said before the draft, if you're planning to draft Tua, you had better not neglect your offensive line. Thanks to a bevy of draft capital, the Dolphins not only landed Tua but two top-40 offensive linemen (**Austin Jackson** and **Robert Hunt**). They brought in a few offensive linemen in free agency as well.

Miami went -35 in sack margin in 2019 and allowed 58 sacks. They must do a better job protecting Tua. With the abbreviated offseason, it may be even more difficult for offensive lines to gel. Miami is returning only three starters along the line and have the second-least amount of salary cap dedicated to the offensive line.

As much as I want to see Tua get a shot, not only is the schedule not suited for him, this line won't be able to protect him. I think it's a long shot to believe it's a good decision to start Tua in Week 1. I believe we shouldn't see him for at least a month, if not longer. **Ryan Fitzpatrick** proved with a terrible defense and poor surrounding talent, he could keep things interesting offensively. Once Tua is comfortable with the offense and the line has gelled as much as possible, that's when he should make his first start.

In 2020 the Dolphins' offense faces the NFL's toughest schedule of total defenses and the toughest schedule of pass defenses. It starts right out of the gate, with games against two top-5 pass defenses from 2019, the Patriots and Bills.

From a scheduling perspective, it might make the most sense to start Tua in Week 7 after a stay on the West coast between road games in San Francisco and Denver. But the Chargers pass defense, with the return of Derwin James, won't be easy, nor will be facing the top-10 Rams pass defense the very next week.

Additionally, the Dolphins' start to the season features four teams projected to win 9+ games and a road Thursday night game. They close the season with back-to-back road games and have to travel to play in Buffalo Week 17.

The Dolphins won't be tanking in 2020. But the season won't be easy. The little things I'll be watching for are how Tua looks and develops, how the new-look defense performs, and how the first year under offensive coordinator Chan Gailey looks.

Miami has a lot to look forward to beyond 2020. While they made 11 draft picks in 2020, the 2021 Dolphins are set to make another splash with this draft capital:

Round 1 — 2 picks (own, Texans)
Round 2 — 2 picks (own, Texans)
Round 3 — 1 pick (own)
Round 4 — 1 pick (own)
Round 5 — 1 pick (own)
Round 6 — 2 picks (Steelers, Seahawks)
Round 7 — 1 pick (Falcons)

Having the Texans' picks could be better in 2021 then the last several years, because for the first time since 2014, oddsmakers are projecting the Texans to have a losing season (7.5 wins).

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Mike Zimmer (6 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Gary Kubiak (Asst HC) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
Adam Zimmer / Andre Patterson (new)

Minnesota Vikings

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9	#2

Past Records

2019: 10-6
2018: 8-8
2017: 13-3

EASY   HARD

GB	IND	TEN	HOU	SEA	ATL	GB	DET	CHI	DAL	CAR	JAX	TB	CHI	NO	DET
H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	H	H	A	H	A	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

SNF   MNF   FRI

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Andrew Sendejo (S)	Browns
Jayron Kearse (S)	Lions
Laquon Treadwell (WR)	Falcons
Linval Joseph (43DT)	Chargers
Mackensie Alexander (CB)	Bengals
Stefon Diggs (WR)	Bills
Stephen Weatherly (43DE)	Panthers
Trae Waynes (CB)	Bengals
Xavier Rhodes (CB)	Colts
David Morgan (TE)	Null
Everson Griffen (43DE)	Null
Josh Kline (RG)	Null
Kentrell Brothers (ILB)	Null
Marcus Sherels (CB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-2.1	10	5

2020 Minnesota Vikings Overview

The NFC North is an interesting division. The division winner Packers made the NFC Championship game and decided instead of adding a missing link to get over the hill, to draft for the future by taking a quarterback in the first round. The second-place Vikings, who also made the playoffs and upset the Saints while there, decided to overhaul the roster.

Picture Mike Zimmer's defense. The 4-3 features four down linemen. If the offense is playing with three wide receivers, Zimmer has his slot corner on the field. You have seven defenders close to the line of scrimmage: four linemen and three corners. Of those seven starters in 2019, only two remain on the roster in 2020.

Gone are **Linval Joseph** (Chargers) and **Everson Griffen** (TBD) from the line and all three starting corners: **Xavier Rhodes** (Colts), **Trae Waynes** (Bengals), and **Mackensie Alexander** (Bengals). That is a significant upheaval for the seventh-ranked defense of 2019.

Offensively, the Vikings lost two of their most important pieces: offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski and wide receiver **Stefon Diggs**. Almost hilariously, Stefon Diggs earned 3.9 EPA when RUSHING the ball last year. The entire 2019 season, **Dalvin Cook** only earned 6.9 EPA, and all other rushers were between 2.0 EPA (**Mike Boone**) and -10.2 EPA (**Alexander Mattison**). As a receiver, Diggs's EPA was 38.4, outpacing all other Vikings receivers by a significant margin (No. 2 was down at 21.4 EPA).

And of course, then there is Stefanski. To understand Stefanski, we must first back up a year to 2018, when the Vikings lost Pat Shurmur to a head job with the Giants and hired former Eagles quarterbacks coach John DeFilippo. I wrote extensively about DeFilippo vs Shurmur in last year's chapter, but the Cliff Notes versions was:

(cont'd - see MIN2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Michael Pierce (34DT)	$9
Anthony Zettel (43DE)	$1
Tajae Sharpe (WR)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	22	WR - Justin Jefferson (LSU)
	31	CB - Jeff Gladney (TCU)
2	58	OT - Ezra Cleveland (Boise ..
3	89	CB - Cameron Dantzler (Miss..
4	117	DE - D. J. Wonnum (South C..
	130	DT - James Lynch (Baylor)
	132	LB - Troy Dye (Oregon)
5	169	CB - Harrison Hand (Temple)
	176	WR - K. J. Osborn (Miami (F..
6	203	OT - Blake Brandel (Oregon ..
	205	S - Josh Metellus (Michigan)
7	225	DE - Kenny Willekes (Michig..
	244	QB - Nate Stanley (Iowa)
	249	OLB - Brian Cole (Mississippi..
	253	C - Kyle Hinton (Washburn)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	9
2019 Wins	10
Forecast 2019 Wins	9
2018 Wins	8
2017 Wins	13
2016 Wins	8

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS A.Harris -41
SS H.Smith* -22
LB A.Barr -55
LB E.Kendricks -54
RCB H.Hill -24
SLOTCB M.Hughes -21
DE I.Odenigbo -95
DT M.Pierce NEW -97
DT H.Mata'afa -51
DE D.Hunter -99
LCB J.Gladney Rookie -20

LWR J.Jefferson Rookie -11
SLOTWR O.Johnson -81
LT R.Reiff* -71
LG P.Elflein -65
C G.Bradbury -56
RG D.Dozier -70
RT B.O'Neill -75
TE K.Rudolph* -82
RWR A.Thielen -19

QB K.Cousins* -8
RB D.Cook -33

WR2 T.Sharpe NEW -19
WR3 K.Osborn Rookie -17
RB2 A.Mattison -25
QB2 S.Mannion -14

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF | All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	27	$89.61M	14
QB	14	$23.11M	4
OL	30	$28.26M	28
RB	26	$5.22M	24
WR	21	$20.23M	10
TE	12	$12.80M	22
All DEF	22	$91.01M	2
DL	29	$27.81M	4
LB	10	$30.07M	23
CB	30	$9.10M	4
S	3	$24.03M	7

The Vikings started the season 4-2-1 (67%) through Week 7 using a pass-heavy first down philosophy under DeFilippo, passing the ball on 63% of first half first downs. It was second-most in the NFL and was well above the 52% NFL average. These passes produced a 64% success rate (third in the NFL) and 8.1 YPA (10th). Meanwhile, first half first down rushes earned just a 39% success rate (28th) and 3.5 YPC (28th). Passes gained 0.30 EPA/att while rushes gained a terrible -0.12 EPA/att.

And yet, Zimmer wanted to run more. So from Week 8 until when DeFilippo was fired (Week 14) the Vikings reduced their pass rate from 63% on those plays down to 54%. The team went 2-4 during this stretch, and the in-house arguments between the pass-heavy DeFilippo and the run-centric Zimmer eventually resulted in the OC's firing.

Stefanski stuck to the script from the jump, seeing first hand what happens when you don't. The Vikings passed the ball on just 41% of the first half first downs when he called plays, considerably less than the NFL average and insanely lower than DeFilippo's rate. The Vikings beat the terrible 6-10 Lions, the 7-9 Dolphins, and were throttled by the Trubisky-led 12-4 Bears, but Stefanski was able to retain his offensive coordinator title as the team entered the 2019 season.

It's always interesting to try and get inside the mind of defensive coordinators that are head coaches. Of 32 NFL head coaches, only 11 of 32 (34.4%) were former NFL defensive coaches and they include Dan Quinn, Sean McDermott, Vic Fangio, Matt Patricia, Brian Flores, Mike Zimmer, Bill Belichick, Mike Tomlin, Pete Carroll, Mike Vrabel, and Ron Rivera. Several of these coaches allow the offense to operate autonomously, as its own unit. Coaches that have put the kibosh on heavy, aggressive passing games of recent have included Matt Patricia, Pete Carroll, and Mike Zimmer.

If a team is going to go with a defensive-minded head coach, I prefer him to hire a creative, aggressive offensive coordinator and allow him free reign, understanding that offense wins games and his own job is to ensure the team wins as many games as possible. Defensive coaches that interfere offensively, trying to instill a more conservative, less creative approach almost always restrict the ceiling of the offense.

The best example of a defensive-minded head coach who understands the true job and responsibility of a head coach is to win as many games as possible has been Bill Belichick. Belichick has allowed Josh McDaniels to create and stay aggressive offensively, and at times, Belichick himself is involved in that creative process with the goal to keep the offensive as creative and unpredictable as possible.

And that last word is most key: "unpredictable." Conservative offense almost always goes hand-in-hand with predictability. With the rules of today's game, offenses run the show. More often than not, good offense will always beat good defense. Talent being equal, it won't be close, thanks to the rules. The only thing offenses can do that gives a defense the upper hand is to become predictable. And that is what these defensive-minded head coaches don't realize enough. By influencing the offense, they are interjecting a conservativeness that inserts predictability.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Kirk Cousins	51% 7.9 102.4	51% 7.8 108.3	44% 8.3 108.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	43%	50%	74%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
MIN	40% 4.4	46% 5.0	44% 3.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	57%	50%	26%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

Look at it from the other side of the ball. Would Mike Zimmer himself rather face a run-heavy, conservative offense? Or a pass-heavy, aggressive offense? The results speak for themselves:

Over the last four years, the Vikings are 11-15 (42%) against teams ranking top-15 in pass rate and pass efficiency. They are 29-10 (74%) against all other teams.
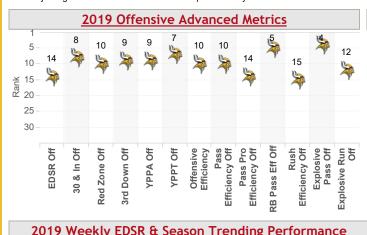
Yet Zimmer himself all too often is the puppeteer, controlling the strings of the offense, and restricting creative, open minded, and aggressive offense.

At times with these defensive-minded coaches, the question comes back to, what is the ceiling? Belichick can go all the way and did so by letting the offense stay efficient. Tomlin lets the Steelers pass as often as the offensive coordinator wants. Both won multiple Super Bowls. Quinn showed similar with Kyle Shanahan taking them to a Super Bowl but coming up just short.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	W	L	W	L	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	L	W	W	L	L
OPP	ATL	GB	OAK	CHI	NYG	PHI	DET	WAS	KC	DAL	DEN	SEA	DET	LAC	GB	CHI
SITE	H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	H
MARGIN	16	-5	20	-10	18	18	12	10	-3	4	4	-7	13	29	-13	-2
PTS	28	16	34	6	28	38	42	19	23	28	27	30	20	39	10	19
OPP PTS	12	21	14	16	10	20	30	9	26	24	23	37	7	10	23	21

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **10**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-2**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **2-4**
1 Score Games Win %: **33% (#24)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **20% (#30)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+11
TO Given	20
INT Given	8
FUM Given	12
TO Taken	31
INT Taken	17
FUM Taken	14
Sack Margin	+20
Sacks	48
Sacks Allow	28
Return TD Margin	+2
Ret TDs	2
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	-13
Penalties	96
Opponent Penalties	83

Minnesota Vikings 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD

Average Opponent

EASY

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

RANK

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- 🛡 2020 Forecast

Offense metrics: Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Defense metrics: OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing | *Rushing* | *Passing* | *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*
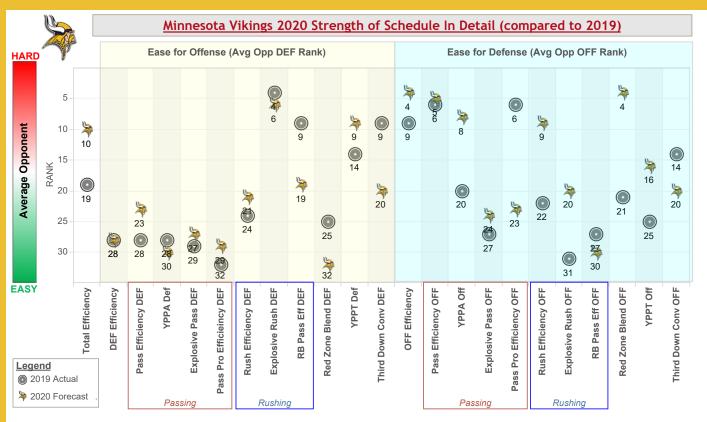
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
11	15	7	24	14	14	4	5

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-3.7	-2.7	-3.3
Average O/U line	43.7	45.6	42.6
Straight Up Record	10-6	8-7	13-3
Against the Spread Record	8-7	7-7	11-3
Over/Under Record	9-7	6-10	6-9
ATS as Favorite	6-4	6-3	8-2
ATS as Underdog	2-3	1-4	3-1
Straight Up Home	6-2	5-3	7-1
ATS Home	4-3	4-3	6-1
Over/Under Home	4-4	2-6	2-5
ATS as Home Favorite	3-3	4-2	4-1
ATS as a Home Dog	1-0	0-1	2-0
Straight Up Away	4-4	3-4	5-2
ATS Away	4-4	3-4	4-2
Over/Under Away	5-3	4-4	3-4
ATS Away Favorite	3-1	2-1	3-1
ATS Away Dog	1-3	1-3	1-1
Six Point Teaser Record	13-2	11-5	13-3
Seven Point Teaser Record	14-2	11-5	13-3
Ten Point Teaser Record	15-1	13-3	16-0

MIN-3

Rivera allowed his OCs to run their room and likewise advanced to a Super Bowl but fell short.

We don't yet know about Flores, Vrabel, McDermott, or Fangio as to how much they'll influence the offensive strategy and whether it will limit their team's ceiling.

But at the other end of the spectrum, we have seen the Lions turned decidedly run-heavy when Patricia took over. Carroll was able to win with Russell Wilson on his rookie deal, but despite all of Wilson's brilliance, he hasn't made up for the conservative offensive structure since. And then there is Zimmer, who falls into this same bucket where he appears to influence the offense too often.

When you have a defensive-minded head coach, a lot of scrutinies should (justifiably) come on his defense. And where does that leave Zimmer with regard to his defense?

In 2019, the Vikings played:

(cont'd - see MIN-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	7
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	-8
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	-7
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	2

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	1
2018 Rk	12
2019 v 2018 Rk	2
Off Rk	3
Def Rk	2
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	13
WR Rk	16
TE Rk	6
Oline Rk	6
Dline Rk	6
LB Rk	14
DB Rk	10

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
GB	IND	TEN	HOU	SEA	ATL	GB	DET	CHI	DAL	CAR	JAX	TB	CHI	NO	DET

Weekly line values:
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
-3.5	2.5	-3.5	0	3	-6	3	-7	-1	-3	-9.5	-11	3.5	-4.5	6	-2

Avg = -2.1

Home Lines

1	3	6	9	11	12	13	15
-3.5 GB	-3.5 TEN	-6 ATL	-7 DET	-3 DAL	-9.5 CAR	-11 JAX	-4.5 CHI

Avg = -6.0

Road Lines

2	4	5	8	10	14	16	17
2.5 IND	0 HOU	3 SEA	3 GB	-1 CHI	3.5 TB	6 NO	-2 DET

Avg = 1.9

• 2 games vs rookie QBs (David Blough, Daniel Jones)
• 3 games vs bad veteran QBs (Matt Moore, Case Keenum, Derek Carr)
• 5 games v the Bears & Packers & the Broncos' Brandon Allen
• 6 games vs respectable QBs

Here is what those six QBs produced:

Dak Prescott: 397 yds, 9.0 YPA, 59% success
Matthew Stafford: 364 yds, 8.1 YPA, 56% success
Philip Rivers: 307 yds, 8.1 YPA, 58% success
Carson Wentz: 306 yds, 7.7 YPA, 55% success
Matt Ryan: 304 yds, 6.8 YPA, 53% success
Russell Wilson: 240 yds, 7.7 YPA, 52% success

And those three games vs the bad vets? Moore had 8.1 YPA and a 62% success rate, Keenum also had 8.1 YPA with a 75% success rate, and Carr was at 7.3 YPA with a 61% success rate and a 105 rating.

The Vikings still beat Prescott, Stafford, Rivers, Wentz, and Ryan but lost to Wilson.

But do we really credit the Vikings defense for beating the Cowboys, when Prescott was converting everything, Ezekiel Elliott was averaging 2.4 YPC, the Cowboys were on the Vikings 11-yard line, down four points with 1:30 left in the game, and chose to run Zeke on 2nd & 2 (0 yard gain) and 3rd & 2 (loss of 3) instead of letting Dak carve?

Do we credit the Vikings defense for beating the terrible Brandon Allen, when the Broncos were up 20 points at halftime, and teams were 0-99 the last five years when trailing by 20+ at halftime? Previously, only 28 of 1,399 teams in NFL history overcame such a halftime deficit. It was the Vikings offense that earned that win.

The Vikings had three things going for them: turnover luck, injury luck, and field goal luck.

First, the primary determining factor as to whether the Vikings would win a game last season wasn't EDSR, it was turnovers. They went 8-2 when winning the turnover battle and 1-4 when losing it. It was similar to 2018, when they were 4-0 when winning the turnover battle and 2-4-1 when losing it. Or 2017, when they were 9-0 when winning the turnover battle and 2-4 when losing it. Or 2016, when they were 7-2 when winning the turnover battle and 1-3 when losing it.
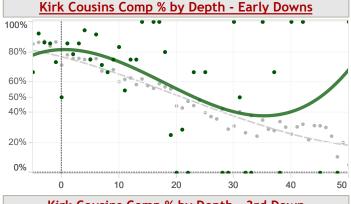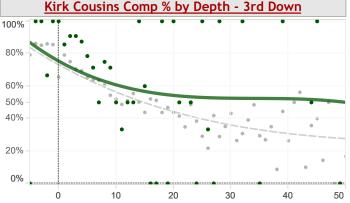
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
PASS	Dalvin Cook	15%	6%	71%		8%
	Alexander Mattison	8%	8%	83%		
	Stefon Diggs	17%	5%	67%	4%	7%
	Mike Boone		25%	75%		
	Adam Thielen	18%	7%	61%		14%
	Kyle Rudolph	22%	7%	65%		7%
	Irv Smith Jr.	9%	7%	76%	2%	7%
	Ameer Abdullah	25%	30%	35%	5%	5%
	Olabisi Johnson	15%	13%	72%		
	C.J. Ham	8%	8%	79%		4%
	Laquon Treadwell	13%	7%	73%		7%
	Total	**16%**	**8%**	**68%**	**1%**	**7%**
RUSH	Dalvin Cook	8%	2%	71%	4%	15%
	Alexander Mattison	3%	3%	44%	12%	38%
	Stefon Diggs			100%		
	Mike Boone		10%	49%	12%	29%
	Adam Thielen			60%		40%
	Ameer Abdullah	4%	8%	54%	4%	29%
	Olabisi Johnson			100%		
	C.J. Ham			88%		13%
	Total	**5%**	**3%**	**63%**	**7%**	**22%**

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Dalvin Cook	Alexander Mattison	Stefon Diggs	Mike Boone	Adam Thielen	Kyle Rudolph	Irv Smith Jr.	Ameer Abdullah	Olabisi Johnson	C.J. Ham	Laquon Treadwell
PASS	17%	3%	20%	1%	11%	12%	11%	5%	10%	6%	4%
RUSH	59%	22%	1%	10%	1%			5%	0%	2%	
ALL	40%	13%	10%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	2%

Kirk Cousins Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Kirk Cousins Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬▬▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	51%, 0.07 (243)	40%, 0.04 (158)	52%, 0.12 (93)	60%, 0.36 (25)	67%, 0.26 (30)	50%, 0.14 (2)	0%, -1.05 (2)		49%, 0.09 (553)
RUSH	44%, -0.18 (120)	41%, 0.13 (108)	44%, 0.05 (137)	41%, -0.11 (93)	45%, -0.23 (53)	100%, 1.68 (1)	0%, -0.22 (1)	0%, -0.25 (1)	43%, -0.04 (514)
All	49%, -0.01 (363)	40%, 0.07 (266)	47%, 0.08 (230)	45%, -0.01 (118)	53%, -0.06 (83)	67%, 0.66 (3)	0%, -0.77 (3)	0%, -0.25 (1)	46%, 0.03 (1,067)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Dalvin Cook	65% (37) 8.7, 0.35	37% (19) 6.0, 0.26	62% (13) 7.2, 0.43		57% (69) 7.7, 0.34
TE	Kyle Rudolph	66% (29) 7.7, 0.45	20% (10) 3.8, -0.22	20% (5) 3.0, -0.06		50% (44) 6.3, 0.24
WR	Stefon Diggs	51% (47) 9.1, 0.23	61% (28) 13.6, 0.76	58% (19) 13.7, 0.24		55% (94) 11.4, 0.39
	Adam Thielen	71% (21) 11.5, 0.67	44% (25) 7.2, -0.15	69% (16) 11.2, 0.58	0% (1) 0.0, -1.40	59% (63) 9.5, 0.29
	Laquon Treadwell	60% (5) 20.8, 1.18	33% (9) 5.1, -0.13		0% (1) 0.0, -0.70	40% (15) 10.0, 0.27

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Cook Dalvin	46% (93) 5.2, 0.11	45% (65) 3.6, -0.20	43% (53) 4.6, 0.11	51% (35) 4.3, 0.21	46% (246) 4.5, 0.04
Mattison Alexander	20% (20) 3.7, -0.13	47% (30) 5.4, 0.07	27% (15) 6.1, 0.16	48% (21) 4.6, -0.27	37% (86) 4.9, -0.04
Boone Mike	45% (11) 3.5, -0.15	22% (9) 2.4, -0.25	67% (12) 8.8, 0.35	44% (16) 6.6, -0.04	46% (48) 5.6, -0.01
Cousins Kirk	100% (2) 2.0, 0.49	38% (8) 2.6, -0.42	57% (7) 2.0, 0.39	15% (13) 0.5, -0.43	37% (30) 1.5, -0.17

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	54% (234) 8.4, 0.24
M2M	59% (117) 8.8, 0.42
Screen	56% (55) 8.2, 0.32

Passing by Route

Screen	58% (55) 8.1, 0.34
Curl	67% (52) 6.7, -0.02
Out	68% (41) 7.3, 0.38
Flat	44% (25) 5.5, -0.02
Dig	52% (23) 7.0, -0.09
Slant	50% (22) 6.3, -0.07

Throw Types

Level 1	58% (303) 7.2, 0.18
Level 2	54% (95) 8.6, 0.36
Level 3	47% (47) 16.1, 0.82
Sidearm	50% (2) 8.5, 0.84
Shovel	0% (1) 0.0, -0.48

QB Drop Types

3 Step	56% (183) 8.2, 0.31
5 Step	52% (94) 7.3, 0.16
7 Step	48% (44) 9.4, 0.27
0/1 Step	50% (38) 7.4, 0.22
Basic Screen	57% (37) 6.5, 0.28
Designed Rollout Right	63% (19) 12.7, -0.10

QB State at Pass

Planted	56% (342) 8.3, 0.30
Shuffling	44% (91) 6.5, 0.06
Moving	48% (86) 7.5, 0.08

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	54% (158) 8.5, 0.16	59% (116) 7.4, 0.04
Shotgun	50% (6) 21.8, 1.42	42% (277) 7.4, 0.05
ALL	54% (164) 8.9, 0.21	47% (393) 7.4, 0.05

Run Types

Outside Zone	44% (153) 4.8, -0.03
Lead	43% (80) 4.5, -0.05
Pitch	45% (67) 4.6, 0.03
Inside Zone	58% (43) 4.4, 0.08
Power	41% (27) 4.9, 0.17
Stretch	46% (26) 4.3, 0.03

MIN-5

The difference between 2019 and 2018 is the 2019 Vikings were +11 in turnovers on the season while the 2018 Vikings were a net zero (and finished 8-8).

But the Vikings finished second in fumble recovery luck and recovered 5.3 more fumbles than expected based on average recovery rates. This aided their +11 net turnover margin and helped them win the turnover battle in 10 of 16 games, winning 8 of those 10.

Second, injury luck. The Vikings have been fortunate with player health. They were the healthiest team in the NFL last year. Their health over the last six years: first, 12th, 11th, 30th, 12th, and eighth. They've been running hot with injury luck for a number of years, and at some point, that pendulum may swing back to league-average.

Third, field goal luck. In 2018, the Vikings had a net field goal make rate (comparing own vs opponent's against them) of -23%, which ranked dead last in the NFL. But in 2019, their net field goal make rate was 7%, which was eighth-best. But that 30% swing from 2018 to 2019 was by far the largest year over year swing in the NFL from 2018 to 2019.

If turnover luck, injury luck, or field goal luck regress, the 2020 Vikings won't be happy with their end-of-season results.

Looking at what may change from 2019, the Vikings will be using former assistant head coach Gary Kubiak as offensive coordinator now that Stefanski received a head coaching assignment in Cleveland.

The 2019 Vikings used 3+ wide receivers on only 22.9% of snaps, by FAR the least often in the NFL.

The NFL average was almost triple that rate (64.6%). Instead, they used a ton of 2-TE & 2-RB sets.

While I think that Stefanski will take that with him to Cleveland to assist Baker Mayfield, there are a number of interesting observations that may bleed over from 2019's Vikings offense into 2020.

If Kubiak runs a lot of 12 personnel like last year, it's probably a good thing. But **Kirk Cousins's** struggles in 11 personnel were notable. Typically when a quarterback is pressured, his results drop precipitously compared to when he's kept clean. And while he was better without pressure from most groupings, Cousins's efficiency was terrible even when clean in 11 personnel: 44% success, 7.7 YPA, 0.11 EPA/att, and 79.6 rating.

Minnesota Vikings 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Vikings wielded an efficient passing game in 2020, ranking seventh in the league in success rate (49%), eighth in yards per pass attempt (8.0 Y/A), and ninth in EPA via their passing game. Quarterback **Kirk Cousins** set full-season high marks in touchdown rate (5.9%) and yards per attempt (8.1 Y/A). Using play-action, Cousins was sensational, completing 71.8% of his passes for 9.7 Y/A and matching Lamar Jackson for the league lead with 14 passing touchdowns off the use of play-action. 53/9% of his passing touchdowns came via play-action, the highest rate in the league. The only rub was that despite all of that efficiency, the Vikings ran just 494 passing plays, which was 31st in the league while ranking 29th in the league in passing rate (52%). Controlling for game script, Minnesota led for 47% of their offensive snaps on the season, which was seventh in the league.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Kirk Cousins	345	502	69%	4,027	8.0	28	7	36	106	9
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Kirk Cousins	49%	51%	57	11.0%	27	5.0%	5.9	5.8	26	5%
Sean Mannion	52%	62%	1	5.0%	1	5.0%	4.8	5.8	1	5%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Kirk Cousins Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%
6 - 9	20.0%	0.0%	3.7%		2.4%
10 - 14	0.6%	1.8%	4.3%		1.2%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	**1.0%**	**1.1%**	**1.9%**	**0.0%**	**1.3%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Kirk Cousins	8.9	5.7	-3.2	75%	23
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
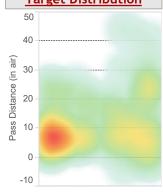
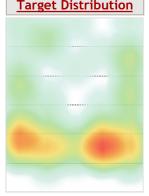| Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
50%	50%	34
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Attached to a highly efficient passer, Minnesota wide receivers ranked first in the league in yards per pass attempt to wide receivers (10.1 yards) and seventh in success rate (55%). They threw just 47% of the time to their wideouts, however, which ranked 29th in the league. With **Adam Thielen** playing just 43% of the snaps, **Stefon Diggs** was electric. Diggs was second in the NFL in receiving yards per team pass attempt (2.42 yards) in 2019 and accounted for 30.3% of the Minnesota passing yardage, which was sixth among all wideouts. He has now been traded this offseason, putting the crux of the receiving work into the hands of Thielen while first-round wideout **Justin Jefferson** gets acclimated to the NFL.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Stefon Diggs	101	66%	11.9	109.4	56%	33	20	16	132	4
Dalvin Cook	76	82%	7.6	98.2	54%	49	47	93	25	0
Adam Thielen	64	66%	9.3	120.4	55%	44	82	73	80	5
Kyle Rudolph	59	76%	6.8	133.6	59%	18	51	102	65	6
Irv Smith Jr.	50	78%	7.0	109.2	60%	14	6	95	50	1

Adam Thielen Target Distribution

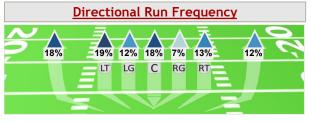### Stefon Diggs Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Vikings were fourth in the league in run rate (48%) and ran the ball the fourth-most times (476) in 2019. With all that volume, however, Minnesota ranked 15th in success rate (47%), 20th in yards above success rate, and 27th in yards to successful play while checking in 16th in EPA on the ground. Third-year back **Dalvin Cook** broke out, rushing for 1,135 yards and 13 touchdowns on the ground. Cook and the organization could be headed for a standoff this offseason over a desired contract extension by Cook while backups **Alexander Mattison** (4.6 YPC and 38% success rate) and **Mike Boone** (5.6 YPC and 42% success rate) had spouts of efficiency on limited opportunities behind Cook (4.5 YPC and 46% success rate) in 2019.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Dalvin Cook	287	4.3	47%	43	45	47	51	47%	39	15
Alexander Mattison	106	4.6	38%	74	72	74	24	39%	72	1

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Bet on More Passing from the Vikings in 2020

Although the Vikings are sure to retain a run-centric philosophy on offense, circumstances make them a strong objective bet to actually pass more in 2020. Minnesota was just the 14th team since 2011 to run fewer than 500 passing plays in a season. Of the 12 other teams (the 2019 Ravens are here as well) to have this few passing plays, 10 of the 12 ran more passing plays the following season. The average increase among those 12 teams was 65.3 passing plays the following season with an average of 542.6 passing plays run per season by those teams.
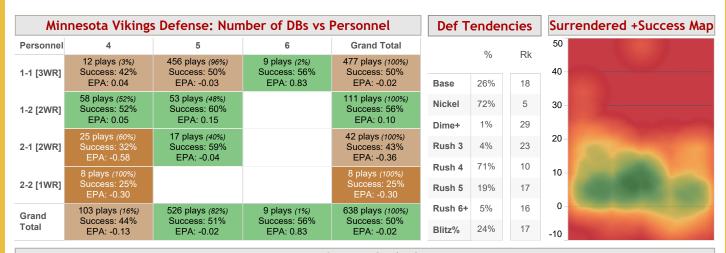
Minnesota led for 47% of their offensive snaps on the season, which was seventh in the league and played into their offensive approach a year ago. Of those 12 teams, nine saw the percentage of plays in which they were ahead on the scoreboard decrease the following season with an average loss of an 11.0% rate of those offensive snaps. That all culminated in an average passing rate increase among those teams of 4.8%.

Even if we bump up the arbitrary passing play total to teams that ran fewer than 550 passing plays over that stretch, 86.4% (51-of-59) had a spike in passing plays the following season with an average increase of 56.3 passing plays the following season. We know the Vikings want to run the football and are unlikely to be among the league leaders in dropbacks in 2020, but they are a solid bet to not have the same game script from a year ago and will throw more this upcoming season regardless of mindset.

Buy an Adam Thielen Rebound in 2020

With that in the corner of our minds and the trade of Stefon Diggs this offseason, Adam Thielen should be on your radar as an undervalued asset over the summer. Dealing with a hamstring injury suffered just nine snaps into Week 7, Thielen played just 43% of the team snaps in 2020. Prior to that injury, Thielen was the WR12 in overall PPR scoring, catching 27-of-40 targets for 391 yards and six touchdowns while averaging 14.5 yards per catch. Among all players with at least 25 targets in 2019, Thielen had a reception of 20 or more yards or a touchdown on 29.2% of his targets, which was fourth in the league. Over the opening six weeks fully healthy, Thielen accounted for 25% of the team's targets compared to 22% for Diggs, while Diggs bested Thielen in percentage of team air yards (45% to 36%). Thielen had seven of the 12 team end zone targets over that span.

With the selection of Justin Jefferson in the first round, Thielen will not have to return to a slot-centric role and should take on a portion of the vertical targets that Diggs was receiving while Thielen still remains a viable touchdown threat with 17 end zone targets over the past two seasons. We have seen Thielen have a stretch where he was bonafide WR1 in fantasy football before and you can draft him outside of that range in 2020.

Minnesota Vikings Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	12 plays *(3%)* Success: 42% EPA: 0.04	456 plays *(96%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.03	9 plays *(2%)* Success: 56% EPA: 0.83	477 plays *(100%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.02
1-2 [2WR]	58 plays *(52%)* Success: 52% EPA: 0.05	53 plays *(48%)* Success: 60% EPA: 0.15		111 plays *(100%)* Success: 56% EPA: 0.10
2-1 [2WR]	25 plays *(60%)* Success: 32% EPA: -0.58	17 plays *(40%)* Success: 59% EPA: -0.04		42 plays *(100%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.36
2-2 [1WR]	8 plays *(100%)* Success: 25% EPA: -0.30			8 plays *(100%)* Success: 25% EPA: -0.30
Grand Total	103 plays *(16%)* Success: 44% EPA: -0.13	526 plays *(82%)* Success: 51% EPA: -0.02	9 plays *(1%)* Success: 56% EPA: 0.83	638 plays *(100%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.02

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	26%	18
Nickel	72%	5
Dime+	1%	29
Rush 3	4%	23
Rush 4	71%	10
Rush 5	19%	17
Rush 6+	5%	16
Blitz%	24%	17

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Minnesota saw a mass exodus on the defensive side of the ball, but they hit the draft to get cheaper and probably not much worse options.

The Vikings moved on from **Linval Joseph** but replaced him with **Michael Pierce** — a rare place where they actually replaced a departing player on defense in free agency. While this could still be an above-average run defense interior line, there is little to no potential pass rush here. That's a problem. **James Lynch** had a high pressure rate from the interior at Baylor but it's unknown if his play strength will translate to the NFL.

Everson Griffen is gone and does not appear to be returning as a free agent. That leaves **Danielle Hunter**, who is still dominant, and some questions on the edge for the Vikings. **Ifedi Odeninigbo** had seven sacks as a rotational player but ranked 43rd of 81 edge rushers with at least 250 pass rushes in pressure rate per SIS. He's penciled in as a starter and that pressure will have to increase while his sack rate is likely to regress. Both **Eddie Yarbrough** and **Anothony Zettel** both flashed in 2017 but haven't seen the field much since. Fourth-round pick **D.J. Wonnum** will likely work his way into the rotation.

Eric Kendricks was one of the best coverage linebackers in the league last season and he made up for a step back from **Anthony Barr**. This is one of the stronger units, especially for the Vikings who didn't lose anyone of note from the group this offseason. Oregon's **Troy Dye** was added in the fourth round and he adds solid depth with coverage and athleticism.

At corner, **Xavier Rhodes**, **Trae Waynes**, and **Mackensie Alexander** are all gone. That wasn't a great trio in 2019 (Alexander was the only one who performed above expectations) but the loss of all of those players takes away any semblance of depth at the position. **Mike Hughes** is now left as the No. 1. **Jeff Gladney** will be the other outside starter after he was taken in the first round. Minnesota also grabbed **Cameron Dantzler** (Mississippi State) in the third round and the highly athletic **Harrison Hand** (Temple) in the fifth.

The good news at safety is **Anthony Harris** and **Harrison Smith** are quite good. The bad news is there are only late-round rookies behind them. **Josh Metellus** (sixth round) and **Brian Cole** (seventh) serve as the only depth at the position.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	51%
All Pass Rk	30
All Rush %	49%
All Rush Rk	3
1 Score Pass %	55%
1 Score Pass Rk	26
2018 1 Score Pass %	62%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	7
2019 Pass Increase %	-7%
Pass Increase Rk	30
1 Score Rush %	45%
1 Score Rush Rk	7
Up Pass %	40%
Up Pass Rk	31
Up Rush %	60%
Up Rush Rk	2
Down Pass %	63%
Down Pass Rk	27
Down Rush %	37%
Down Rush Rk	6

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	12	42%	58%	50%
	Med (4-7)	9	22%	78%	33%
	Long (8-10)	319	43%	57%	48%
	XL (11+)	24	58%	42%	42%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	46	33%	67%	61%
	Med (4-7)	86	62%	38%	60%
	Long (8-10)	97	51%	49%	40%
	XL (11+)	44	66%	34%	25%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	46	57%	43%	61%
	Med (4-7)	53	91%	9%	51%
	Long (8-10)	30	97%	3%	30%
	XL (11+)	32	84%	16%	22%
	35	1	100%	0%	0%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	17%	83%	83%
	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	50%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	70%	30%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	64%	14%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	36%	86%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
67%	13	66%	65%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
33%	19	34%	70%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	5	60%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	6	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	111	41%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Dalvin Cook	5	80%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	20	70%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	22	59%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	35	31%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	8	38%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	9	67%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Stefon Diggs	8	63%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Stefon Diggs	8	25%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Stefon Diggs	5	60%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 46% YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.04 Rtg: 93.4 [Att: 279 - Rate: 50.1%]	Success: 47% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 114.5 [Att: 90 - Rate: 16.2%]	Success: 46% YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.01 Rtg: 98.7 [Att: 369 - Rate: 66.2%]
Yes	Success: 52% YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.26 Rtg: 97.3 [Att: 114 - Rate: 20.5%]	Success: 62% YPA: 10.4, EPA: 0.35 Rtg: 128.6 [Att: 74 - Rate: 13.3%]	Success: 56% YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.30 Rtg: 110.0 [Att: 188 - Rate: 33.8%]
Total	Success: 47% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.05 Rtg: 94.6 [Att: 393 - Rate: 70.6%]	Success: 54% YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.21 Rtg: 121.0 [Att: 164 - Rate: 29.4%]	Success: 49% YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 102.6 [Att: 557 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Kyle Rudolph	Stefon Diggs	Irv Smith Jr.	Dalvin Cook	Bisi Johnson	Adam Thielen	C.J. Ham	Tyler Conklin	Laquon Treadwell
1	ATL	W 28-12	53 (100%)	32 (60%)	26 (49%)	36 (68%)		47 (89%)	22 (42%)		
2	GB	L 21-16	65 (100%)	58 (89%)	27 (42%)	47 (72%)		64 (98%)	25 (38%)	6 (9%)	
3	OAK	W 34-14	55 (87%)	44 (70%)	31 (49%)	38 (60%)	13 (21%)	55 (87%)	26 (41%)	14 (22%)	
4	CHI	L 16-6	52 (84%)	52 (84%)	29 (47%)	49 (79%)	36 (58%)	59 (95%)	9 (15%)	2 (3%)	9 (15%)
5	NYG	W 28-10	64 (90%)	53 (75%)	36 (51%)	47 (66%)	31 (44%)	60 (85%)	21 (30%)	12 (17%)	5 (7%)
6	PHI	W 38-20	68 (96%)	45 (63%)	39 (55%)	45 (63%)	20 (28%)	59 (83%)	34 (48%)	11 (15%)	7 (10%)
7	DET	W 42-30	55 (75%)	59 (81%)	41 (56%)	51 (70%)	52 (71%)	9 (12%)	39 (53%)	27 (37%)	10 (14%)
8	WAS	W 19-9	60 (83%)	57 (79%)	46 (64%)	51 (71%)	53 (74%)		22 (31%)	31 (43%)	16 (22%)
9	KC	L 26-23	55 (77%)	63 (89%)	43 (61%)	57 (80%)	59 (83%)	7 (10%)	22 (31%)	14 (20%)	20 (28%)
10	DAL	W 28-24	59 (78%)	60 (79%)	56 (74%)	57 (75%)	54 (71%)		28 (37%)	32 (42%)	13 (17%)
11	DEN	W 27-23	55 (87%)	62 (98%)	51 (81%)	51 (81%)	51 (81%)		9 (14%)	9 (14%)	8 (13%)
13	SEA	L 37-30	47 (85%)	52 (95%)	47 (85%)	24 (44%)	31 (56%)		11 (20%)	11 (20%)	16 (29%)
14	DET	W 20-7	47 (64%)	54 (74%)	51 (70%)	34 (47%)	52 (71%)		30 (41%)	35 (48%)	18 (25%)
15	LAC	W 39-10	35 (54%)	46 (71%)	42 (65%)	28 (43%)	26 (40%)	33 (51%)	30 (46%)	30 (46%)	11 (17%)
16	GB	L 23-10	36 (67%)	46 (85%)	33 (61%)		24 (44%)	50 (93%)	17 (31%)	7 (13%)	1 (2%)
17	CHI	L 21-19	1 (2%)	22 (45%)		36 (73%)		14 (29%)	35 (71%)	42 (86%)	
	Grand Total		807 (77%)	783 (79%)	620 (60%)	615 (66%)	538 (58%)	443 (70%)	359 (34%)	276 (28%)	176 (22%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-2 [2WR]	34%	20%	49%
1-1 [3WR]	25%	60%	40%
2-1 [2WR]	21%	8%	47%
2-2 [1WR]	11%	4%	45%
1-3 [1WR]	8%	3%	53%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-2 [2WR]	67%	51%	44%
1-1 [3WR]	59%	40%	41%
2-1 [2WR]	40%	52%	44%
2-2 [1WR]	21%	60%	41%
1-3 [1WR]	36%	67%	45%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Kyle Rudolph	10	4		6
Irv Smith Jr.	8	1	1	6
Olabisi Johnson	7	3	3	1
Stefon Diggs	5		2	3
Adam Thielen	3	1	1	1
C.J. Ham	3	3		
Dalvin Cook	3			3

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Dalvin Cook	53	26	11	16
Alexander Mattison	28	4	11	13
Mike Boone	12	3	6	3
Kirk Cousins	4	4		
Ameer Abdullah	3			3
C.J. Ham	3	2		1
Adam Thielen	1	1		
Sean Mannion	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
36%	25%	39%
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
50%	60%	55%
#7	#5	#7

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	10	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	3.0	
03. Wins	10	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	12
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	9
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	8
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	9
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	5
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	31
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	1
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	19
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	16
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	9
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	22
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	20
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	2
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	1
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	3
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	23
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	29
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	29
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	6
23.	PA Improvement Success	25
24.	PA Improvement YPA	24
25.	PA Improvement Rating	5
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	10
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	9
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	3
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	29
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	28
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	30
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	26
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	6
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	8
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	7

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.2
37.	PSM Target Depth	5.8
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.1
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.0
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	58%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	50%
42.	PSM Rating	112.3
43.	Non-PSM Rating	88.8

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	44%
45.	PA Success Rate	55%
46.	PA YPA	8.1
47.	PA Sack Rate	3.2%
48.	PA Rating	115.4
49.	PA Target Depth	6.8
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	57%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.1
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	8.2%
53.	Non-PA Rating	85.6
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	5.5

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	26%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.8
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	42%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.7
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	23%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.8

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	2	defFUM	22
Net FROE	5.3	defFUM Rcvrd	14
offFUM	29	defFR Rk	3
offFUM Rcvrd	17	defFR%	63.6%
offFR%	58.6%	defFROE	3.8
offFR Rk	10	defFROE Rk	2
offFROE	1.5		
offFROE Rk	7		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	94%	YOY Swing	30%
2019 FG Rk	3	YOY Swing Rk	1
Opp 2019 FG %	87%		
Opp 2019 FG Rk	8	2018 Team Net	-23%
2019 Team Net	7%		
2019 Net Rk	8	2018 Net Rk	32

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Kirk Cousins
CAY	6
CAY Rk	17
2018 CAY Rk	23
AYTS Rk	22
2018 AYTS Rk	23
AGG Rk	34
2018 AGG Rk	34
COMP%	69.1
xCOMP%	63.6
xCOMP% Rk	22
2018 xCOMP% Rk	15
CPOE%	5.5
CPOE Rk	3
2018 CPOE Rk	4

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Kirk Cousins
Pressure %	36.4
Pressure Rk	10
Sack %	16
Sack Rk	26
Under Pressure Accuracy %	73
Pressure Accuracy Rk	4
Rating when Pressured	84.9
Pressured Rating Rk	7
Clean Accuracy %	83
Clean Accuracy Rk	2
Rating when Clean	118.1
Clean Rating Rk	5
Time to Throw	3.01
Time to Throw Rk	1

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.13
EPA/Pass Rk	6
EPA/Rush	-0.05
EPA/Rush Rk	14
On-Target Catch %	87.4
On-Target Catch Rk	7
Drop%	6.6
Drop Rk	9
YAC/Att	2.6
YAC/Att Rk	7
Rush Broken Tackle %	16.8
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	13
Rush 1st Down %	22.1
Rush 1st Down Rk	20

Minnesota Vikings 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

From every other grouping he used on at least 15 clean dropbacks, he averaged at least 60% success, at least 8.1 YPA, at least 0.33 EPA/att, and at least a 113 rating. Making matters worse, the only receiver to average positive EPA and at least 50% success on targets from 11 personnel was Stefon Diggs, and now Diggs is gone:

Diggs: 0.76 EPA/att, 61% success, 13.3 YPA
Thielen: -0.15 EPA/att, 44% success, 6.4 YPA
Rudolph: -0.22 EPA/att, 20% success, 6.2 YPA
Treadwell: -0.13 EPA/att, 33% success, 6.5 YPA
Johnson: 0.49 EPA/att, 43% success, 8.0 YPA
Cook: 0.26 EPA/att, 37% success, 6.3 YPA

Without Diggs, it will be interesting to see how Kubiak installs efficiency to 11 personnel. Due to **Adam Theilen's** multi-week injury, only two Vikings were targeted 50+ times: Diggs and Cook. The Vikings, without DeFilippo, shifted from 62% pass in one-score games down to 55% pass, the third-largest shift toward the run of the NFL. Cousins spent a ton of time under center and a ton of time handing the ball off to Dalvin Cook.

The problem for the Vikings in 2019 was the lack of efficiency of these runs. In order to prevent hurting Cook by including fourth quarter carries that run out the clock, let's look at first quarter carries, knowing the 2018 Vikings passed the ball often on these first downs. Cook primarily ran out of 12 personnel or 21 personnel in the first quarter. His combined runs from all other groupings total 27 attempts, the same number he had from 12 personnel. The efficiency of such runs wasn't anything beneficial for the Vikings:

12 personnel: 37% success, 2.6 YPC, -0.26 EPA/att
21 personnel: 38% success, 3.2 YPC, -0.08 EPA/att

One final nugget with regard to 2019 play calling which may or may not bleed into 2020 with Kubiak: pre-snap motion. Overall, the Vikings saw improvement from play-action, like most teams in the league. On early downs the first three quarters of games, the league average is to see 1.9 more YPA, 4% more success, and 0.14 more EPA per play-action pass as compared to non-play-action passes. But the Vikings gained only 1.0 more YPA, lost 2% success, and gained 0.14 more EPA per play-action pass. Thus, at or worse than league average improvement by using play-action, they used it at well above average rates.

However, they used pre-snap motion at below average rates, yet saw much more improvement when passing with pre-snap motion. Look at the comparison vs the league average with the advantage gained by using pre-snap motion prior to passes.

NFL avg: 0.2 more YPA, 3% more success, 0.02 more EPA/att
Vikings: 1.6 more YPA, 6% more success, 0.25 more EPA/att

The Vikings used the 20th-most pre-snap motion ahead of passes but had the NFL's best improvement. Meanwhile, they used the sixth-most play-action but only had the 25th most improvement with play-action. Perhaps the Vikings weren't aware of the massive edge they were getting from pre-snap motion, but it was great yet underused.

This next nugget is pretty insane. Since Mike Zimmer came to Minnesota, the Vikings are 1-17-1 (5.6%) outdoors against a team with a winning record. They are 3-15-1 ATS (16.7%). Those straight up and against the spread wins were all back in 2015. That was five years ago. Since 2016, Zimmer's team is 0-15-1 (0%) both SU and ATS. That is remarkable. And most of these games aren't close. They've been an average underdog of only +2.6 points and lose on average by 10.5 ppg.

The incredible thing is, I shared this nugget in last year's book, when the trend was 0-10-1 SU and ATS. Zimmer's team played five more games last year outdoors against teams with a winning record. I literally predicted which teams the Vikings would face outdoors with a winning record in my book last year at this time: Packers (correct), Bears (correct), Chiefs (correct), Seahawks (correct), and Chargers (incorrect). The Vikings went 0-4 SU and ATS against these teams, and then they added a ridiculous 27-10 loss to the 49ers in the playoffs for good measure.

When all was said and done, the Vikings went 0-5 SU and ATS last season, and the trend increased to 0-15-1 since 2016.

Off of playing the 14th-easiest schedule in 2019, the Vikings have the 13th-easiest in 2020. It's a schedule that features only four teams forecast to produce over nine wins (Seahawks, Cowboys, Buccaneers, and Saints). From an offensive perspective, they faced the fifth-easiest schedule of defenses in 2019 and are projected to face the fifth-easiest schedule of defenses in 2020.

The problem for the Vikings is they play two primetime games and both are on the road (in Seattle and in Chicago) and Kirk Cousins's play in primetime has been well documented (last year he was 1-5 in non-Sunday games unless Sunday Night Football). Because the Vikings play the AFC South, they face the only two dome teams in the entire AFC (as of 2019) and they play on the road against both the Colts and Texans while hosting the Titans and Jaguars. They also play dome road games in New Orleans and Detroit. Meaning they play just two of 10 non-divisional games outdoors (Seattle and Tampa Bay). One of the major benefits the Vikings have enjoyed has been the crowd noise impacting their home field advantage since moving into their new stadium in 2016. Minnesota has a 24-9 record and is 21-9-3 ATS (70%) at home, which is the best home cover rate in the NFL since 2016. If there are no fans or a reduced number, the reflection of their noise waves off the acoustically designed roof back down onto the playing surface will absolutely hurt the Vikings home field. And while the Vikings have the best cover rate in the NFL at home since 2016, they are just 16-17-1 on the road, covering only 15 of 34 games.

SHARP

New England Patriots

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Bill Belichick (20 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Josh Daniels (8 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Steve Belichick calls plays (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9	#1

Past Records

2019: 12-4
2018: 11-5
2017: 13-3

Schedule:
Week	Opp	H/A
1	MIA	H
2	SEA	A
3	LVR	H
4	KC	A
5	DEN	H
6	—	
7	SF	H
8	BUF	A
9	NYJ	A
10	BAL	H
11	HOU	A
12	ARI	H
13	LAC	A
14	LAR	A
15	MIA	A
16	BUF	H
17	NYJ	H

SNF (wk 1) · MNF (wk 7) · SNF (wk 10) · TNF (wk 13) · MNF (wk 16)

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Benjamin Watson (TE)	Retired
Danny Shelton (43DT)	Lions
Duron Harmon (S)	Lions
Elandon Roberts (ILB)	Dolphins
James Develin (FB)	Retired
Jamie Collins (43OLB)	Lions
Kyle Van Noy (34OLB)	Dolphins
Nate Ebner (S)	Giants
Phillip Dorsett (WR)	Seahawks..
Ted Karras (C)	Dolphins
Tom Brady (QB)	Buccan..
Ben Watson (TE)	Null
Cody Kessler (QB)	Null
James Develin (FB)	Null
James Ferentz (LG)	Null
Keionta Davis (43DE)	Null
Marshall Newhouse (LT)	Null
Nick Folk (K)	Null
Stephen Gostkowski (K)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-0.5	8	8

2020 New England Patriots Overview

The Patriots had been absolutely dominant with **Tom Brady** and Bill Belichick since they joined forces in 2001. They've been virtually unbeatable at home, and especially at home in December, and especially *especially* at home in the playoffs… and somehow the last two games before this mega-dynasty was split were back-to-back home losses in consecutive weeks to Ryan Fitzpatrick in Week 17 and Ryan Tannehill in the Wild Card round. That two AFC East doormat quarterbacks for years were the two to end the dynasty is spectacularly ironic.

It would be hard to convince anyone back on Halloween 2019 the Patriots wouldn't get a first-round bye and wouldn't win a single playoff game. They were sitting at 8-0 through Week 8, held the top seed in the AFC, and the best record in the entire NFL.

The defending Super Bowl champions were averaging 31.2 points per game and allowing just 7.6. They had what journalists were eager to declare the best defense in history.

I was not there. I wasn't being contrarian. I wasn't being a hater. I was being a realist. I was using the schedule tools from Sharp Football Stats.

Over the first eight weeks of the season, the Patriots defense played the easiest schedule in the NFL and by a huge gap over the second-easiest schedule. The Patriots had faced eight offenses, and the average rank of those eight offenses in efficiency was 27th.

They played the No. 32 Steelers, No. 31 Jets twice, No. 30 Redskins, No. 27 Dolphins, No. 23 Giants, No. 22 Bills, and No. 20 Browns in a monsoon. The Patriots defense looked good? Against that motley crew? Of course they did. This "on pace to be record-setting" defense played nothing but garbage offenses for the most part. But now they had to go up against the top offense in the NFL of the Ravens.

(cont'd - see NE2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Beau Allen (43DT)	$3.5
Adrian Phillips (S)	$3
Cody Davis (S)	$1.5
Dan Vitale (FB)	$1.3
Brian Hoyer (QB)	$1.10
Cam Newton (QB)	$1.25
Marqise Lee (WR)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	37	S - Kyle Dugger (Lenoir–Rhyne)
	60	OLB - Josh Uche (Michigan)
3	87	OLB - Anfernee Jennings (Alabama)
	91	TE - Devin Asiasi (UCLA)
	101	TE - Dalton Keene (Virginia Tech)
5	159	K - Justin Rohrwasser (Marshall)
	182	G - Michael Onwenu (Michigan)
6	195	OT - Justin Herron (Wake Forest)
	204	LB - Cassh Maluia (Wyoming)
7	230	C - Dustin Woodard (Memphis)
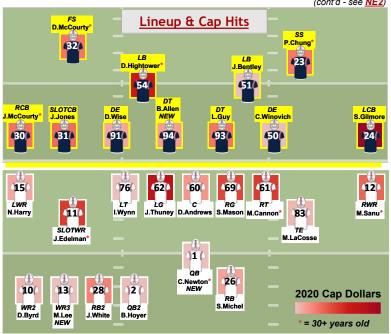
Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	9
2019 Wins	12
Forecast 2019 Wins	11
2018 Wins	11
2017 Wins	13
2016 Wins	14

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS D.McCourty* 32
SS P.Chung* 23
LB D.Hightower* 54
LB J.Bentley 51
RCB J.McCourty* 30
SLOTCB J.Jones 31
DE D.Wise 91
DT B.Allen NEW 94
DT L.Guy 93
DE C.Winovich 50
LCB S.Gilmore 24

LWR N.Harry 15
SLOTWR J.Edelman* 11
LT I.Wynn 76
LG J.Thuney 62
C D.Andrews 60
RG S.Mason 69
RT M.Cannon 61
TE M.LaCosse 83
RWR M.Sanu* 12

QB C.Newton NEW 1
RB S.Michel 26
WR2 D.Byrd 10
WR3 M.Lee NEW 13
RB2 J.White 28
QB2 B.Hoyer 2

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF · All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	19	$97.95M	21
QB	30	$3.11M	14
OL	5	$46.77M	29
RB	3	$14.62M	3
WR	11	$28.43M	13
TE	28	$5.02M	32
All DEF	14	$100.64M	12
DL	30	$25.93M	27
LB	22	$19.36M	13
CB	2	$36.38M	13
S	9	$18.98M	2

I couldn't wait to watch what Bill Belichick had schemed up to try to stop Lamar Jackson. But more than anything, I couldn't wait to see the world get shocked when the Patriots defense didn't live up to the "Best of All-Time" billing that was getting laundered around. Making matters worse for the Patriots defense, the Ravens had a bye heading into that home game on Sunday night against the Patriots. And the Ravens had plenty of time to prepare to unleash everything they had been saving up when they were cake walking through most of their opponents. I called it on my weekly B/R show with Adam Lefkoe on Thursday before the game.

The ball was kicked, and the Ravens completely worked this Patriots defense. The first three opening drives for Baltimore went 77 yards, 75 yards, and 54 yards for two touchdowns and a field goal.

It was just the fifth game in the last five years that the Patriots defense has allowed at least 10 first quarter points. And the first quarter score wasn't as bad as the actual game. It was a total domination:

First downs: Ravens 10, Patriots 1
Total Yards: Ravens 133, Patriots 4
Passing Yards: Ravens 58, Patriots -9
Yards per Play: Ravens 6.0, Patriots 0.6

To a lot of people, the Patriots' 37-20 loss to the Ravens signaled a baton being passed in the AFC. I already believed the Ravens and Chiefs were the strongest teams in the AFC, not the Patriots, despite their 8-0 record. Prior to Week 1, the Patriots were the favorites to win the AFC, and rightfully so as the defending Super Bowl champs. You could take them at +200. Prior to the game in Baltimore, the Patriots had shifted to -250 favorites to win the AFC. That single loss dropped them to -110.

And to show just how much that loss continued to resonate, examine how the Patriots' odds continued to drop despite more wins. They came out of the bye and beat the Eagles in Week 11. Despite sitting at 9-1, their odds to win the AFC dropped to +120. They beat the Cowboys in Week 12, but their odds dropped to +300 to win the AFC. How could this be?

The Patriots barely beat the Eagles and Cowboys. They won both games by one score and easily could have lost both. They even trailed at halftime to the Eagles. After the Dallas game, Belichick admitted the Patriots' punt block against the Cowboys was the reason they won the game. And then there was what the Ravens did: they thrashed the Texans 41-7 in Week 11 and the Rams 45-6. The books and sharp bettors finally realized the real team that should be favored to win the AFC. So regardless of sitting at 10-1 with the No. 1 overall seed, the Patriots were no longer favorites to win the AFC.

Whether it was their back-to-back losses to the Dolphins and Titans that technically closed the book on the dynasty, the shocking manner in which they lost to the Ravens in Week 9 sent the snowball rolling down the hill and it gained momentum over

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Tom Brady	52% 7.2 92.5	43% 6.1 82.5	35% 6.5 81.9	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	63%	78%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
NE	50% 3.4	49% 3.8	47% 3.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	37%	22%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

the second half of the season.

Looking back on the Patriots dynasty, they were just so damn good. Incredibly good. So good we probably won't see it again. Just think about what they were so great at, year after year, since 2001:

They defended their home like it was personal. These guys were almost unbeatable for years & years in Foxboro. Win % at home:

No. 1 Patriots: 84%
No. 2 PIT, No. 3 BAL, and No. 4 GB were down at 74%, 72%, and 72% (avg = 57%)

They always knew how to turn it on late in the season and dominate down the home stretch. Win % in December:
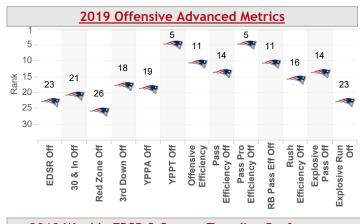
2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	WEEK
W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	L		W	W	L	L	W	W	L	RESULT
PIT	MIA	NYJ	BUF	WAS	NYG	NYJ	CLE	BAL		PHI	DAL	HOU	KC	CIN	BUF	MIA	OPP
H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	A		A	H	A	H	A	H	H	SITE
30	43	16	6	26	21	33	14	-17		7	4	-6	-7	21	7	-3	MARGIN
33	43	30	16	33	35	33	27	20		17	13	22	16	34	24	24	PTS
3	0	14	10	7	14	0	13	37		10	9	28	23	13	17	27	OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **12**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-1**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **4-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **57% (#10)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **33% (#25)**
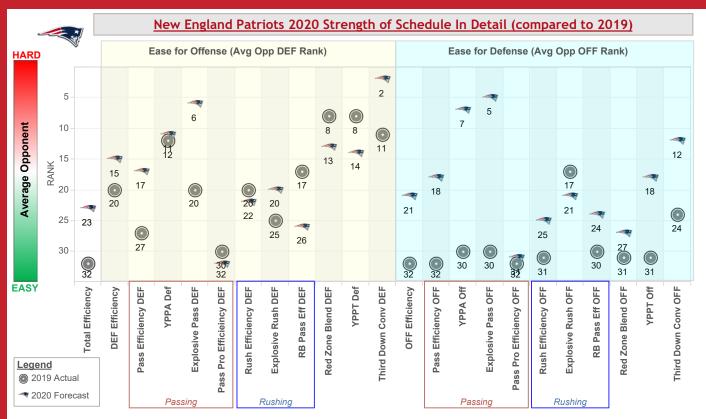
2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+21
TO Given	15
INT Given	9
FUM Given	6
TO Taken	36
INT Taken	25
FUM Taken	11
Sack Margin	+19
Sacks	47
Sacks Allow	28
Return TD Margin	+2
Ret TDs	7
Ret TDs Allow	5
Penalty Margin	+13
Penalties	94
Opponent Penalties	107

New England Patriots 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) / **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD / EASY — Average Opponent — RANK

Chart data points (2019 Actual ◎ / 2020 Forecast):

Offense side:
- Total Efficiency: 23 / 32
- DEF Efficiency: 15 / 20
- Pass Efficiency DEF: 17 / 27
- YPPA Def: 12
- Explosive Pass DEF: 6 / 20
- Pass Pro Efficiency DEF: 30 / 32
- Rush Efficiency DEF: 20 / 22
- Explosive Rush DEF: 20 / 25
- RB Pass Eff DEF: 17 / 26
- Red Zone Blend DEF: 8 / 13
- YPPT Def: 8 / 14
- Third Down Conv DEF: 2 / 11

Defense side:
- OFF Efficiency: 21 / 32
- Pass Efficiency OFF: 18 / 32
- YPPA Off: 7 / 30
- Explosive Pass OFF: 5 / 30
- Pass Pro Efficiency OFF: 32
- Rush Efficiency OFF: 25 / 31
- Explosive Rush OFF: 17 / 21
- RB Pass Eff OFF: 24 / 30
- Red Zone Blend OFF: 27 / 31
- YPPT Off: 18 / 31
- Third Down Conv OFF: 12 / 24

Passing / Rushing groupings noted.

Legend
- ◎ 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
7	11	18	21	2	2	10	13

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-9.8	-7.4	-8.9
Average O/U line	44.4	49.5	49.7
Straight Up Record	12-4	11-5	13-3
Against the Spread Record	9-7	9-7	10-5
Over/Under Record	6-9	5-11	6-9
ATS as Favorite	9-7	9-7	10-5
ATS as Underdog	0-0	0-0	0-0
Straight Up Home	6-2	8-0	6-2
ATS Home	4-4	6-2	5-3
Over/Under Home	3-4	2-6	5-3
ATS as Home Favorite	4-4	6-2	5-3
ATS as a Home Dog	0-0	0-0	0-0
Straight Up Away	6-2	3-5	6-1
ATS Away	5-3	3-5	4-2
Over/Under Away	3-5	3-5	1-5
ATS Away Favorite	5-3	3-5	4-2
ATS Away Dog	0-0	0-0	0-0
Six Point Teaser Record	12-4	11-5	12-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-4	11-5	12-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	13-2	13-3	12-4

No. 1 NE: 81%
No. 2 PIT, No. 3 GB, and No. 4 PHI were down at 69%, 69%, and 66% (avg = 50%)

They took every loss hard but ALWAYS got right back up and fought back. Win % off a loss:

No. 1 NE: 78%
No. 2 PIT, No. 3 SEA, No. 4 BAL were down at 65%, 63%, and 63% (avg = 46%)

They always seemed to make the best halftime adjustments, especially when losing. Win % when trailing at half:

No. 1 NE: 42%
No. 2 GB, No. 3 IND, No. 4 SEA were down at 33%, 33%, and 31% (avg = 22%)

And you could never count them out of a game. They made so many +EV decisions in the fourth quarter. Win % when trailing after the third quarter:

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	4
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	1
Week 4 Edge	1
Week 5 Edge	-3
Week 7 Edge	7
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	-1
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	-3
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	3
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	-1

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	23
2018 Rk	16
2019 v 2018 Rk	19
Off Rk	30
Def Rk	1
QB Rk	18
RB Rk	32
WR Rk	27
TE Rk	19
Oline Rk	24
Dline Rk	3
LB Rk	7
DB Rk	11

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
MIA	SEA	LVR	KC	DEN	SF	BUF	NYJ	BAL	HOU	ARI	LAC	LAR	MIA	BUF	NYJ

Lines: MIA H -6; SEA 3.5 A; LVR -4/5; KC 8 A; DEN H -6; SF 1 H; BUF 3 A; NYJ -1; BAL 3 H; HOU 3 A; ARI 1 H -6; LAC; LAR 4 A; MIA -3 A; BUF -1.5 H; NYJ H -7

Avg = -0.5 / Avg = -0.5

Bottom row: -6 | 3.5 | -4.5 | 8 | -6 | 1 | 3 | -1 | 3 | 3 | -6 | 1 | 4 | -3 | -1.5 | -7

Home Lines

1	3	5	7	10	12	16	17
MIA -6	LVR -4.5	DEN -6	SF 1	BAL 3	ARI -6	BUF -1.5	NYJ -3.4 (Avg)

Road Lines

2	4	8	9	11	13	14	15
SEA 3.5	KC 8	BUF 3	NYJ -1	HOU 3	LAC 1	LAR 4	MIA -3

Avg = 2.3

No. 1 NE: 32%
No. 2 IND, No. 3 PIT, No. 4 DAL were down at 26%, 24%, and 23% (avg = 17%)

But nothing lasts in this world. When we were babies our mom carried us, and when she grows old, we will carry her. So it was for the Patriots defense and Tom Brady. During the early 2000s, Belichick's defense carried the Patriots. But Brady took over and carried the defense. Both models won Super Bowls. But last year, it was the defense that carried the offense.

This defense studies everything, and that won't change without Tom Brady. As an example: the Patriots coaches teach that water-weighted balls drop faster on passes in the rain, and get their secondary to practice against it, factor it into their coverage and breaks on balls prior to playing a game where heavy rain is forecast (which was the case multiple times in 2019). In the pursuit of winning, they literally account for everything.

However, one problem the Patriots defense had was they became highly sensitive to play-action. In fact, from Week 10 onward, they were the most sensitive defense to play-action (aka most negatively affected) in quarters one through three:

Weeks 1-9
w/o PA: 4.4 YPA, 31% success
w PA: 6.1 YPA, 40% success

Weeks 10-17
w/o PA: 5.7 YPA, 39% success
w PA: 9.2 YPA, 67% success

While the defense didn't look as good late in the season once they started to play better offenses, the Patriots' own offense was in dire straits.

In terms of team health in 2019, the New England offensive line ranked 24th, their WRs ranked 27th, and running backs ranked 32nd. This team had one wide receiver other than **Julian Edelman** targeted 50+ times, and that was **Phillip Dorsett**, who was basically a one-trick pony running down the left sideline (see his heat map).

Important too were the losses to the Patriots fullbacks. No team has used more 21 personnel over the last four years than New England. And the last two years, 60% of the Patriots red zone rushes featured a fullback. **James Develin** was on the field for all their rushing touchdowns in the 2018 playoff run.
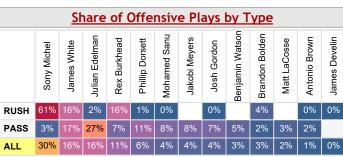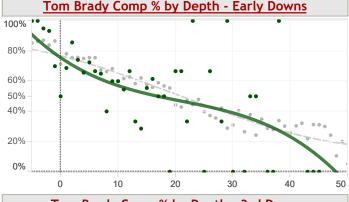
2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
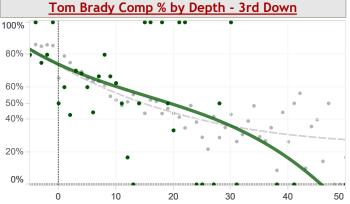
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Sony Michel		5%	63%	8%	23%
	James White	10%	28%	39%	1%	21%
	Julian Edelman		10%	60%		30%
	Rex Burkhead	1%	13%	41%	6%	38%
	Phillip Dorsett				33%	67%
	Mohamed Sanu			100%		
	Josh Gordon					100%
	Brandon Bolden	7%		60%	7%	27%
	Antonio Brown			100%		
	James Develin			100%		
	Total	2%	10%	56%	7%	26%
PASS	Sony Michel		20%	60%		20%
	James White	7%	11%	57%	11%	14%
	Julian Edelman	3%	13%	53%	15%	16%
	Rex Burkhead	3%	6%	56%	3%	33%
	Phillip Dorsett	11%	9%	43%	19%	19%
	Mohamed Sanu	5%	36%	54%	3%	3%
	Jakobi Meyers	3%	16%	59%	3%	19%
	Josh Gordon			49%	17%	34%
	Benjamin Watson	8%	17%	58%	8%	8%
	Brandon Bolden			56%	11%	33%
	Matt LaCosse	6%	6%	69%		19%
	Antonio Brown			50%	50%	
	Total	5%	13%	54%	11%	18%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Sony Michel	James White	Julian Edelman	Rex Burkhead	Phillip Dorsett	Mohamed Sanu	Jakobi Meyers	Josh Gordon	Benjamin Watson	Brandon Bolden	Matt LaCosse	Antonio Brown	James Develin
RUSH	61%	16%	2%	16%	1%	0%		0%		4%		0%	0%
PASS	3%	17%	27%	7%	11%	8%	8%	7%	5%	2%	3%	2%	
ALL	30%	16%	16%	11%	6%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	0%

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

Tom Brady Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Tom Brady Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	1-3 [1WR]	ALL
PASS	43%, -0.03 (424)	49%, 0.14 (79)	47%, 0.14 (47)	37%, -0.56 (19)	51%, 0.06 (63)	33%, -0.28 (48)	100%, 0.18 (1)	100%, -0.14 (1)	44%, -0.02 (682)
RUSH	50%, -0.04 (201)	48%, -0.11 (87)	45%, -0.02 (106)	41%, -0.25 (56)	50%, 0.73 (4)	27%, -0.19 (11)	0%, -0.60 (1)		47%, -0.07 (466)
All	46%, -0.03 (625)	49%, 0.01 (166)	46%, 0.03 (153)	40%, -0.33 (75)	51%, 0.10 (67)	32%, -0.26 (59)	50%, -0.21 (2)	100%, -0.14 (1)	45%, -0.04 (1,148)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	James White	48% (69) 8.0, 0.28	46% (13) 5.6, 0.24	100% (3) 11.3, 0.80	33% (3) 4.0, -0.05	49% (88) 7.6, 0.28
	Rex Burkhead	63% (16) 10.3, -0.18	100% (3) 9.0, 0.43	67% (6) 7.3, 0.69	100% (1) 6.0, 0.25	69% (26) 9.3, 0.11
TE	Benjamin Watson	69% (16) 8.8, 0.76		0% (1) 0.0, -0.73	38% (8) 5.6, 0.03	56% (25) 7.4, 0.46
	Matt LaCosse	43% (7) 5.6, 0.10		50% (4) 7.8, 0.30	63% (8) 7.0, -0.27	53% (19) 6.6, -0.02
WR	Julian Edelman	54% (104) 7.5, 0.07	64% (14) 6.7, 0.43	57% (21) 7.5, 0.19	38% (8) 7.3, 0.02	54% (147) 7.4, 0.12
	Phillip Dorsett	40% (45) 7.7, 0.27	50% (6) 4.7, -0.19		0% (1) 3.0, -0.24	40% (52) 7.3, 0.21
	Mohamed Sanu	36% (39) 4.2, -0.33	60% (5) 5.2, 0.36	0% (2) 0.0, -0.47	33% (3) 4.3, 0.02	37% (49) 4.1, -0.24

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Michel Sony	51% (86) 4.3, -0.02	45% (69) 4.0, -0.06	44% (70) 3.8, -0.14	50% (30) 2.2, -0.23	47% (255) 3.8, -0.09
White James	44% (66) 4.1, -0.13	0% (1) 1.0, -0.76			43% (67) 4.1, -0.14
Burkhead Rex	47% (32) 4.3, 0.02	41% (17) 5.1, 0.04	63% (8) 3.8, -0.15	60% (5) 3.8, 0.34	48% (62) 4.4, 0.03
Brady Tom	100% (5) 3.8, 0.60	67% (3) 2.0, 0.31		8% (13) -0.7, -0.59	38% (21) 0.8, -0.18

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	50% (249) 7.0, 0.15
M2M	50% (242) 7.1, 0.11
Screen	46% (63) 7.1, 0.13

Passing by Route

Curl	52% (79) 5.1, 0.19
Out	56% (71) 5.9, 0.12
Screen	51% (51) 7.1, 0.19
Dig	50% (44) 6.6, 0.13
Flat	36% (33) 6.0, 0.03
Slant	50% (32) 8.8, 0.18

Throw Types

Level 1	51% (456) 6.2, 0.09
Level 2	50% (82) 10.5, 0.28
Level 3	29% (41) 9.5, 0.02
Shovel	20% (5) 7.2, -0.24
Sidearm	0% (1) 6.0, -0.60

QB Drop Types

3 Step	52% (264) 6.8, 0.16
5 Step	50% (139) 8.8, 0.15
0/1 Step	46% (110) 5.3, -0.06
Basic Screen	58% (31) 9.6, 0.53
7 Step	41% (22) 6.5, -0.30
Designed Rollout Right	11% (9) 1.2, -0.44

QB State at Pass

Planted	50% (512) 7.1, 0.12
Shuffling	39% (90) 6.6, -0.05
Moving	19% (52) 2.5, -0.47

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	57% (109) 9.1, 0.14	39% (74) 5.4, -0.13
Shotgun	39% (44) 5.8, -0.31	43% (455) 6.3, -0.02
ALL	52% (153) 8.2, 0.01	42% (529) 6.2, -0.03

Run Types

Power	51% (99) 4.5, -0.06
Lead	45% (75) 3.3, -0.10
Inside Zone	43% (53) 3.7, -0.06
Outside Zone	36% (50) 3.7, -0.10
Stretch	51% (35) 5.3, -0.01
Pitch	41% (34) 1.9, -0.26

NE-5

Early in the season, the Patriots lost both fullbacks, James Develin and **Jakob Johnson**, to season-ending IR.

Look at their weekly rates of runs from 21 personnel, by week last season:

Week 1: 52%
Week 2: 37% - James Develin injured
Week 3: 0%
Week 4: 57% - Jakob Johnson becomes FB replacement
Week 5: 34%
Week 6: 8% - Jakob Johnson injured
Week 7: 3%
Week 8: 0%
Week 9: 0%
Week 11: 9%
Week 12: 7%
Week 13: 0%
Week 14: 5%
Week 15: 3%
Week 16: 55% - LB **Elandon Roberts** used as a functional FB
Week 17: 11%
WC Rd: 28%

To see how much Belichick knew he needed more 21, look no further than Week 16's must-win game against the Bills. He had prepared linebacker Elandon Roberts for use as a fullback and broke him out in that key game. The Patriots gained 5.9 YPC from 21 personnel with a 67% success rate. After that win, the Patriots hid him in Week 17 in case they wanted to use him again in the Wild Card game.

For years, the Patriots' true results were tied to EDSR results. Examine the 2018 season, where they went 9-0 when winning the EDSR battle and 2-5 when losing the EDSR battle. Last year, they should have lost to the Bills, Browns, Eagles, and Cowboys based on EDSR results. They won the EDSR battle in six of their first seven games against terrible teams (lost it vs the Bills), and the rest of the season they won it just three times. ..

New England Patriots 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Patriots struggled to consistently generate passing production in 2019, ranking 19th in successful play rate through the air (44%) and 32nd in the league in yards above success rate created. The team checked in 17th in EPA through the air and 21st in yards per pass attempt (6.7 yards). With **Tom Brady** leaving New England, the Patriots will have a different Week 1 starting quarterback for the first time since the 2001 season. Post-Brady, the Patriots have **Cam Newton** on a one-year deal with **Jarrett Stidham** and **Brian Hoyer** as depth to insure Newton's health. Newton is coming off a season in which he played in just two games, and has had three surgeries over the past three seasons. When last on the field nearly full-time in 2018, Newton had a career-high 67.9% completion rate and his highest yards per pass attempt (7.2 Y/A) since his MVP season in 2015.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Tom Brady	391	648	60%	4,216	6.5	21	9	27	85	33
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Tom Brady	44%	48%	63	10.0%	18	3.0%	5.6	5.2	26	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Tom Brady Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2		0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	5.6%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1.1%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.6%
10 - 14	1.4%	1.0%	2.4%		1.4%
15+	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
Total	1.7%	0.4%	2.2%	0.0%	1.3%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Tom Brady	9.0	5.7	-3.3	76%	26
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
53%	47%	24
53%	47%	
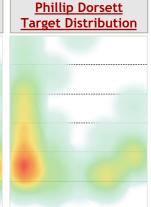
2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

New England struggled to find consistent wide receiver play in 2019, ranking 31st in yards per pass attempt (6.8 yards) and 27th in success rate (48%) throwing the ball to their wideouts. The Patriots got 100 catches for 1,117 yards and six touchdowns on 153 targets from 33-year-old **Julian Edelman** last season but the team collectively got 119 receptions for 1,445 yards and 10 touchdowns on 214 targets from the seven other wide receivers that played offensively in 2019. No team threw fewer passes (52) to their tight ends than the Patriots did a year ago, resulting in a combined effort of 36 receptions for 418 yards and two touchdowns. Outside of Edelman and **James White**, the receiving production on this team is still a question mark.

Julian Edelman Target Distribution

Phillip Dorsett Target Distribution

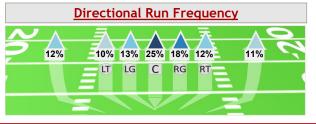| Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Julian Edelman	159	65%	7.2	90.8	54%	48	48	101	18	6
James White	99	77%	7.0	101.2	45%	105	122	104	52	2
Phillip Dorsett	58	52%	6.9	95.7	41%	124	109	68	55	5
Mohamed Sanu	52	52%	4.2	53.2	37%	132	100	128	3	2

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

New England ranked middle of the pack in success rate (48%) and yards above successful play on the ground, but ranked 24th in EPA via rushing and 26th in yards per carry (3.8 yards). New England has not had a 1,000-yard rusher since LeGarrette Blount in 2016. **Sony Michel** led the team with 247 carries for 912 yards (3.7 YPC) while the rest of the team rushed 200 times for 791 yards (3.9 YPC). Third-round rookie selection **Damien Harris** found the field for just five offensive snaps all season and was out-carried by first-round pick **N'Keal Harry** on the season, who is a wide receiver. With Michel, Harris, James White, and **Rex Burkhead** all returning for 2020, the Patriots will be relying on the same group of backs to outproduce their 2019 production.

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Sony Michel	260	3.7	48%	39	29	18	36	48%	34	7
Rex Burkhead	68	4.5	50%	29	21	63	42	49%	31	3
James White	67	4.1	43%	61	57	66	37	43%	58	1

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

What can we expect from the New England offense in 2020?

A year ago, the Patriots ranked 23rd in yards per offensive play (5.2 yards) but it was even worse than that outside of the opening six weeks of the season. From Weeks 7-17, New England averaged just 4.9 yards per offensive play, which was 25th in the league. That seasonal mark was the fewest yards per play the Patriots have averaged in a season since 2006.

Bringing in Cam Newton on a one-year, "prove it" deal, the Patriots should be expected to take a new offensive identity this season compared to how they have operated under Brady for two decades.
Newton just turned 31 years old last month and is coming off a Lisfranc injury that resulted in him appearing in just two games a year ago. This after two shoulder surgeries over the previous year. Newton has been banged up, but when we last saw him on the field regularly in 2018, he had the highest completion percentage of his career (67.9%) while he posted his highest yards per pass attempt (7.2 Y/A) since 2015 and passed for the most yardage per game (242.5 yards) in any season since his rookie campaign. Newton has finished as the QB13 or higher in fantasy points per game in every season outside of last year while finishing as the QB8 or higher in points per game in seven of the first eight seasons of his career.

Newton's career-high in pass attempts for a season is 517, while he has eclipsed 500 pass attempts just twice in his career. Over his first seven seasons in the league, Newton's Carolina teams averaged 64.0 offensive plays per game, with a 54.2% passing rate that averaged out to 555.9 passing plays per season. Since 2011, the Patriots have averaged 68.2 offensive play per game with a 58.2% passing rate and 635.5 passing plays per season. Even a year ago, the Patriots were third in the NFL in plays run while ninth in passing plays.

A healthy and running Newton is a high-end fantasy quarterback, but what about the cupboard of skill players in New England?

Julian Edelman (100-1,117-6) was still productive a year ago, but will be 34-years-old to start the season and has not caught a pass from a non-Brady passer since the 2016 season. First-round draft pick from last season, N'Keal Harry did not take the field until Week 11 and managed just 12 catches on 24 targets for 105 yards (8.8 Y/R) with two scores while active. **Mohamed Sanu** will turn 31 years old this August and was a colossal bust of a trade last season, catching 26 passes for 207 yards and one touchdown in eight games with the Patriots. With Edelman already locked into his position, Sanu went from playing 84% of his snaps in the slot with Atlanta to just 32% inside with New England.

At tight end, no team threw fewer passes (52) to their tight ends than the Patriots did a year ago. This season, they use two third-round picks on tight ends **Devin Asiasi** and **Dalton Keene** in this draft. Both failed to reach 800 yards receiving over their collegiate careers. The Patriots were third in the NFL in PPR fantasy points as a backfield, but only James White (who accounted for 39.4% of those points) was a top-30 fantasy scorer at his position. Through two seasons, Sony Michel has five RB1 scoring weeks in 29 regular season games with 18 weeks as an RB3 or lower and now has Newton as a potential threat to his goal line touches.

New England Patriots Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	8 plays *(2%)* Success: 38% EPA: -0.54	148 plays *(39%)* Success: 41% EPA: -0.31	182 plays *(49%)* Success: 34% EPA: -0.30	36 plays *(10%)* Success: 22% EPA: -0.32	375 plays *(100%)* Success: 36% EPA: -0.31
1-2 [2WR]	22 plays *(24%)* Success: 64% EPA: 0.16	46 plays *(51%)* Success: 37% EPA: -0.34	18 plays *(20%)* Success: 33% EPA: -0.56	1 plays *(1%)* Success: 100% EPA: 1.25	90 plays *(100%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.23
2-1 [2WR]	9 plays *(56%)* Success: 33% EPA: -0.25	4 plays *(25%)* Success: 75% EPA: 0.45	2 plays *(13%)* Success: 0% EPA: -1.53	1 plays *(6%)* Success: 0% EPA: -2.47	16 plays *(100%)* Success: 38% EPA: -0.37
2-2 [1WR]		1 plays *(100%)* Success: 100% EPA: 0.09			1 plays *(100%)* Success: 100% EPA: 0.09
Grand Total	39 plays *(8%)* Success: 51% EPA: -0.08	199 plays *(41%)* Success: 41% EPA: -0.30	202 plays *(42%)* Success: 34% EPA: -0.33	38 plays *(8%)* Success: 24% EPA: -0.34	482 plays *(100%)* Success: 37% EPA: -0.30

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	15%	30
Nickel	42%	27
Dime+	41%	3
Rush 3	15%	5
Rush 4	54%	28
Rush 5	23%	8
Rush 6+	7%	9
Blitz%	30%	7

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Patriots got decent production out of **Danny Shelton** both as a pass rusher and run stopper last season, but he's now in Detroit with Matt Patricia. Still, there's a solid rotation remaining on the interior and the Pats will move a few of these players around, such as **Deatrich Wise**, who can play inside or on the end of a four-man line. Wise only had 101 pass rush snaps last season but had an impressive 17.8% pressure rate, per SIS. New England wasn't very active in free agency but did sign **Beau Allen** from the Buccaneers. **Lawrence Guy** and **Adam Butler** were both plus contributors last season on a good run-stopping line.

Bill Belichick has rarely paid a premium for pass rushers and the ability to scheme pressure will be put to the test in 2020. Both **Kyle Van Noy** and **Jamie Collins** are gone and while neither served as a pure EDGE, they ranked first and fourth in pressure rate on the team in 2019. Stepping into that role will be second-round pick **Josh Uche** from Michigan. Uche is a highly athletic defender who led this draft class in pressure rate (25%) but rushed the passer on just 71% of his pass snaps. **Chase Winovich** impressed as a second-round pick last season and will likely serve as New England's top full-time pass rusher. The Patriots weren't a great quick-strike pass rush last season as they relied more on coverage sacks. They ranked just 22nd in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate.

Another place where the loss of Van Noy and Collins will be felt will be at off-ball linebacker, though New England's off-ball position also could be considered an on-ball position. Even **Dont'a Hightower** rushed the passer on nearly 60% of his pass snaps in 2019. The Patriots also used dime personnel at the fourth-highest rate in the league last season (41% of plays per SIS), which limits the amount multiple linebackers will have to be on the field. Alabama's **Anfernee Jennings** was selected in the third round and was also an athletic high-pressure (17%), low-rush (79%) type of linebacker in college.

Stephon Gilmore made his case as the best cornerback in the NFL during the 2019 season. **JC Jackson** and **Jonathan Jones** were also among the best statistically and **Jason McCourty** was a good No. 2 on the outside. This was one of the strongest position groups in the NFL and the key will be how much regression comes from the play of Jackson and Jones after no significant players were added during the offseason.

With **Devin McCourty** and **Patrick Chung**, the Patriots are set at safety for 2020. McCourty was re-signed to a two-year deal after it looked like he might leave in free agency. Still, McCourty will be 33 years old this season and is closer to the end of his Patriots tenure than the beginning. **Adrian Phillips** was signed to an affordable two-year contract and just turned 28 years old in March. New England also drafted **Kyle Duggar** in the second round and could use him in more three-safety looks.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	59%
All Pass Rk	19
All Rush %	41%
All Rush Rk	14
1 Score Pass %	61%
1 Score Pass Rk	10
2018 1 Score Pass %	58%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	15
2019 Pass Increase %	3%
Pass Increase Rk	12
1 Score Rush %	39%
1 Score Rush Rk	23
Up Pass %	57%
Up Pass Rk	4
Up Rush %	43%
Up Rush Rk	29
Down Pass %	67%
Down Pass Rk	16
Down Rush %	33%
Down Rush Rk	17

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	0%	100%	67%
	Med (4-7)	17	35%	65%	41%
	Long (8-10)	361	50%	50%	51%
	XL (11+)	11	73%	27%	36%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	40	18%	83%	63%
	Med (4-7)	103	58%	42%	43%
	Long (8-10)	107	85%	15%	45%
	XL (11+)	39	87%	13%	33%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	47	47%	53%	64%
	Med (4-7)	73	93%	7%	34%
	Long (8-10)	36	100%	0%	33%
	XL (11+)	25	92%	8%	24%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	17%
	Med (4-7)	5	100%	0%	60%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
50%	50%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
67%	15%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
33%	85%

32% AVG 77%

New England Patriots 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
52%	30	66%	64%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
48%	3	34%	46%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Sony Michel	2	0%
			Tom Brady	2	100%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Sony Michel	8	38%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Sony Michel	118	48%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Julian Edelman	4	50%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Sony Michel	22	64%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Sony Michel	25	48%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Julian Edelman	20	65%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Julian Edelman	7	43%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James White	10	70%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	James White	11	45%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	James White	10	30%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Julian Edelman	5	20%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 42% YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 86.9 *[Att: 203 - Rate: 29.8%]*	Success: 46% YPA: 8.0, EPA: -0.28 Rtg: 93.6 *[Att: 48 - Rate: 7.0%]*	Success: 43% YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 88.2 *[Att: 251 - Rate: 36.8%]*
Yes	Success: 42% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 84.5 *[Att: 326 - Rate: 47.8%]*	Success: 54% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.15 Rtg: 103.7 *[Att: 105 - Rate: 15.4%]*	Success: 45% YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.02 Rtg: 89.3 *[Att: 431 - Rate: 63.2%]*
Total	Success: 42% YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 85.4 *[Att: 529 - Rate: 77.6%]*	Success: 52% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.01 Rtg: 100.6 *[Att: 153 - Rate: 22.4%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 88.9 *[Att: 682 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Julian Edelman	James White	Benjamin Watson	Matt LaCosse	Sony Michel	Jakobi Meyers	Mohamed Sanu	Rex Burkhead
1	PIT	W 33-3	67 (96%)	33 (47%)			23 (33%)	8 (11%)		32 (46%)
2	MIA	W 43-0	66 (92%)	22 (31%)		42 (58%)	35 (49%)			17 (24%)
3	NYJ	W 30-14	39 (51%)				17 (22%)	49 (64%)		57 (74%)
4	BUF	W 16-10	62 (95%)	34 (52%)		12 (18%)	29 (45%)	4 (6%)		12 (18%)
5	WAS	W 33-7	72 (92%)	31 (40%)		73 (94%)	38 (49%)	36 (46%)		
6	NYG	W 35-14	73 (89%)	31 (38%)		15 (18%)	41 (50%)	57 (70%)		
7	NYJ	W 33-0	73 (89%)	44 (54%)	62 (76%)		31 (38%)	42 (51%)		
8	CLE	W 27-13	66 (96%)	28 (41%)	48 (70%)		28 (41%)	25 (36%)	37 (54%)	13 (19%)
9	BAL	L 37-20	67 (100%)	28 (42%)	67 (100%)		15 (22%)	1 (1%)	67 (100%)	24 (36%)
11	PHI	W 17-10	66 (89%)	32 (43%)	59 (80%)	21 (28%)	22 (30%)	19 (26%)	41 (55%)	21 (28%)
12	DAL	W 13-9	68 (97%)	21 (30%)	49 (70%)	34 (49%)	36 (51%)	54 (77%)		15 (21%)
13	HOU	L 28-22	80 (92%)	68 (78%)	47 (54%)	53 (61%)	15 (17%)	61 (70%)	19 (22%)	4 (5%)
14	KC	L 23-16	66 (99%)	41 (61%)	32 (48%)	54 (81%)	9 (13%)	38 (57%)	39 (58%)	18 (27%)
15	CIN	W 34-13	40 (62%)	25 (38%)	34 (52%)	49 (75%)	27 (42%)	7 (11%)	56 (86%)	20 (31%)
16	BUF	W 24-17	52 (71%)	33 (45%)	31 (42%)	46 (63%)	31 (42%)	14 (19%)	70 (96%)	19 (26%)
17	MIA	L 27-24	54 (89%)	22 (36%)	40 (66%)	38 (62%)	26 (43%)	7 (11%)	50 (82%)	13 (21%)
	Grand Total		1,011 (87%)	493 (45%)	469 (66%)	437 (55%)	423 (37%)	422 (37%)	379 (69%)	265 (29%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	54%	60%	46%
2-1 [2WR]	14%	8%	49%
1-2 [2WR]	13%	20%	46%
2-2 [1WR]	7%	4%	40%
1-0 [4WR]	6%	3%	51%
2-0 [3WR]	5%	1%	32%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	43%	50%
2-1 [2WR]	48%	49%	48%
1-2 [2WR]	31%	47%	45%
2-2 [1WR]	25%	37%	41%
1-0 [4WR]	94%	51%	50%
2-0 [3WR]	81%	33%	27%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Julian Edelman	21	5	4	12
James White	17	1	4	12
Antonio Brown	5		2	3
Josh Gordon	5	1	1	3
Mohamed Sanu	5	2	1	2
N'Keal Harry	5		3	2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Sony Michel	47	16	13	18
James White	13	5	1	7
Tom Brady	11	7	3	1
Rex Burkhead	10	3	3	4
Brandon Bolden	5	4	1	

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
27%	10%	63%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
48%	54%	48%
#9	#15	#27

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
01.	Games w Halftime Lead	10
02.	Avg Halftime Lead	5.0
03.	Wins	12

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	21
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	25
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	3
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	18
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	19
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	9
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	24
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	21
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	11
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	24
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	2
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	2
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	20
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	12
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	18
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	5
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	5
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	6
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	27
23.	PA Improvement Success	8
24.	PA Improvement YPA	11
25.	PA Improvement Rating	15
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	7
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	3
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	22
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	21
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	23
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	13
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	17
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	24
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	27
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	1

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.3
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.0
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.3
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	51%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	50%
42.	PSM Rating	91.5
43.	Non-PSM Rating	85.7

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	29%
45.	PA Success Rate	56%
46.	PA YPA	8.4
47.	PA Sack Rate	1.8%
48.	PA Rating	99.9
49.	PA Target Depth	8.0
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	46%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	2.2%
53.	Non-PA Rating	85.5
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	6.5

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	32%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	52%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.5
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	45%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	27%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.5

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	18	defFUM	26	
Net FROE	-1.0	defFUM Rcvrd	11	
offFUM	13	defFR Rk	22	
offFUM Rcvrd	7	defFR%	42.3%	
offFR%	53.8%	defFROE	-1.1	
offFR Rk	14	defFROE Rk	24	
offFROE	0.0			
offFROE Rk	14			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	81%	YOY Swing	-9%
2019 FG Rk	17	YOY Swing Rk	23
Opp 2019 FG %	89%	2018 Team Net	0%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	3	2018 Net Rk	17
2019 Team Net	-9%		
2019 Net Rk	28		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Tom Brady
CAY	5.6
CAY Rk	23
2018 CAY Rk	23
AYTS Rk	28
2018 AYTS Rk	20
AGG Rk	26
2018 AGG Rk	28
COMP%	60.8
xCOMP%	64
xCOMP% Rk	19
2018 xCOMP% Rk	8
CPOE%	-3.1
CPOE Rk	32
2018 CPOE Rk	28

CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE:
Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Tom Brady
Pressure %	29.9
Pressure Rk	32
Sack %	14.1
Sack Rk	32
Pressure Accuracy %	59.5
Pressure Accuracy Rk	29
Rating when Pressured	51.8
Pressured Rating Rk	34
Clean Accuracy %	76.7
Clean Accuracy Rk	28
Rating when Clean	101.2
Clean Rating Rk	19
Time to Throw	2.75
Time to Throw Rk	26

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.00
EPA/Pass Rk	18
EPA/Rush	-0.07
EPA/Rush Rk	20
On-Target Catch %	82.7
On-Target Catch Rk	28
Drop%	8.7
Drop Rk	22
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	12.3
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	29
Rush 1st Down %	24.6
Rush 1st Down Rk	8

New England Patriots 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

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The good news for the Brady-less 2020 Patriots is their offensive line returns all starters (they get prior starting center **David Andrews** back) and the productive run game should still be solid. They lose James Develin but return Jakob Johnson or could pivot to **Danny Vitale**. One of the biggest negatives, apart from Brady's ability to get into the best play, is the loss of offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia.

From a passing perspective, the Patriots were very proficient early in the year passing from 11 and even 10 personnel, back when **Josh Gordon** was healthy and they played bad teams. But later in the season, their primary success through the air came when passing from 21 or 12 personnel. And some of that success certainly came as a result of Brady giving the appearance of run but checking to pass.

But the biggest news of the last month is **Cam Newton** to the Patriots. And boy am I excited to see this play out. When I saw the Patriots' draft, I said in April "this draft looks VERY Cam-friendly". The Patriots, with one of the best defenses in the NFL, started with two defenders in the second round and another in the third, before adding two tight ends in the third as well. Then they took a kicker in the fifth and offensive line help with three of their final four picks. I went back and re-wrote this chapter after seeing Newton land in New England. And I need to address one glaring issue that people seem hung up on: "who's he going to throw the ball to" because "if Tom Brady couldn't get anything out of this offense what could Cam possibly get?"

There is a huge difference between Brady and Newton in the way defenses can play them. Across the NFL, defenses typically play 58% of snaps with five defensive backs (nickel), 28% of snaps with four or fewer defensive backs (base), and 14% of snaps with six or more defensive backs (dime). Over the last two years against the Patriots, defenses have played almost 18% of snaps with six or more defensive backs. But the last time Newton was healthy (2018), defenses played dime against the Panthers on only 5% of snaps. Even when Carolina used 11 personnel, which typically is defended with dime on 19% of snaps, the Panthers saw dime only 7% with Newton. Because of the added threat Newton brings as a runner, and especially considering his size, defenses have tended to keep heavier personnel out on the field. (Note that in 2019, without Newton, defenses went back defending Carolina using 6+ DBs on 17% of 11 personnel snaps.) This is something Brady never had the luxury of facing.

Another thing that's different as a result is more men in the box, and productivity when running against it. Over the last two years on early downs in the first half, looking at run plays, the only time the Patriots were efficient was when they got defenses to play with six or fewer men in the box. Then they gained 5.7 YPC (fourth) and earned positive EPA (0.15 EPA/att). But against seven-man boxes they gained just 2.5 YPC with negative EPA. And forget about it with 8+ man boxes, where they gained just 2.1 YPC and more negative EPA. However, the Panthers with Newton could do anything they wanted, and were productive against all types of boxes. They averaged 6.0 YPC against six-or-fewer men in the box, even better than the Patriots. But the real shift is when defenses played with higher box counts:

- 7: 6.7 YPC (first), 54% positive play rate (third), and 0.18 EPA/att (first, NE was negative)
- 8+: 3.8 YPC (13th), 47% positive play rate (10th), and 0.10 EPA/att (fourth, NE was negative)

While Brady's Patriots were unable to run against standard or loaded boxes, Cam's Panthers excelled. And without Newton in 2019, they could not accomplish anything. The Panthers rushing against 7 or 8+ man boxes in 2019 looked similar to the Patriots. Add in Cam – runs against standard or loaded boxes produce positive EPA. Try that without Cam, and good luck.

The Patriots would be wise to use more play-action to help Newton. The Patriots always have seen tremendous boost from play-action, but last year they used it the sixth-least often on early downs in the first three quarters. They saw YPA improve from 6.0 to 8.4 with play-action, and success rate jumped 10 percentage points. Frankly, without healthy fullbacks last year, the Patriots should have increased their play-action rate in 2019, but they used it even less frequently last year (29%) as they did in 2018 (35%).

The Patriots have always been a great screen team, and target upside receiving backs frequently. Between adding more play-action and utilizing running backs as receivers, especially on screens, this offense could be friendly to Newton, who had a lot of success throwing to Christian McCaffrey.

The Patriots also were second in the NFL in usage rate of pre-snap motion. Using pre-snap motion helps to identify defensive coverages and weak spots prior to the snap. If it helped Tom Brady, and it did as his numbers bear out, it absolutely will help Newton.

Having absolutely zero to do with Tom Brady's departure, and just sheer coincidence in scheduling, for the first time in several years the Patriots are not projected to play one of the easiest schedules in the NFL.

Last summer, I forecast the Patriots to face the easiest schedule and they did, in fact, play the easiest schedule. This year my projection is they will face the NFL's second-toughest jump from 2019 to 2020 in schedule difficulty, as the Patriots face the NFL's ninth-toughest overall schedule.

The Patriots still play in the AFC East which means four games against the Dolphins and Jets, but each are better than they were last year. They also face brutal non-division opponents including the Chiefs, Ravens, 49ers, and Seahawks. They must make a trip to the Pacific Northwest to battle Seattle in primetime Week 2. In fact, the Patriots play twice on the West Coast in primetime, but their Thursday night tilt against the Rams is after they already stayed out West for the prior game, so the circadian rhythm impact should not be as evident. Looking at their four toughest games of the season, the only one served to the Patriots in a fortuitous spot is the 49ers, which comes after a Patriots bye, and the 49ers are off of a Sunday night game then must travel East. Otherwise, they have Seattle and Kansas City both on the road and their massive tilt against the Ravens comes on a short week due to a road Monday night game the week prior.

SHARP

New Orleans Saints

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Sean Payton (14 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Pete Carmichael (11 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Dennis Allen (5 yrs)

EASY HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
10.5	#1

Past Records
2019: 13-3
2018: 13-3
2017: 11-5

Schedule:
Wk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	TB	LVR	GB	DET	LAC		CAR	CHI	TB	SF	ATL	DEN	ATL	PHI	KC	MIN	CAR
H/A	H	A	H	A	H		H	A	A	H	H	A	A	A	H	H	A

MNF — SNF — MNF — SNF — FRI

Key Players Lost

Player	New
A.J. Klein (43OLB)	Bills
Eli Apple (CB)	Panthers
Keith Kirkwood (WR)	Panthers
Ted Ginn (WR)	Bears
Teddy Bridgewater (QB)	Panthers
Vonn Bell (S)	Bengals
Zach Line (FB)	Retired
Josh Martin (43DE)	Null
Larry Warford (RG)	Null
Manti Te'o (ILB)	Null
Stephone Anthony (43OLB)	Null
Zach Line (FB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-4.9	15	

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	10.5
2019 Wins	13
Forecast 2019 Wins	10.5
2018 Wins	13
2017 Wins	11
2016 Wins	7

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2020 New Orleans Saints Overview

The Saints entered the Week 9 bye with all the momentum. After **Drew Brees** went down with an injury in Week 2, **Teddy Bridgewater** started Week 3's game in Seattle and pulled out a win. It would be his first of five straight wins. Most thought Brees would return after the bye week, but he came back two weeks ahead of schedule, in a Week 8 home start against the Cardinals. The Saints won and improved to 7-1 heading into the bye with the 1-7 Falcons on deck.

From 2002-2011, teams off of a bye went 55% straight up and 56% against the spread, including 77% SU and 65% ATS if favored off the bye. But the new 2011 CBA limited access to players during the bye week and work players were allowed to do.

To say the 2011 CBA had a significant impact as it came to bye weeks would be understating it.

Since 2012, teams off a bye are only 50% SU and 50% ATS. If favored off a bye, they are 67% SU but only 51% ATS.

These teams went from being 65% ATS covering machines down to -EV propositions at 51% ATS.

Favorites of over nine points have covered only 30% ATS since 2012, after covering 63% of such inflated spreads between 2002 and 2011.

And that was the fate of the Saints, as they were blown out by the 1-7 Falcons by 17 points in New Orleans despite the Saints being favored by 13 points at home. We later found out that Dan Quinn fired himself as defensive playcaller and implemented a DC-by-committee with a brand new game plan, which resulted in holding the Saints to a season-low 9 points. It was just a small blip for New Orleans, though. *(cont'd - see NO2)*

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Emmanuel Sanders (WR)	$8
Malcolm Jenkins (S)	$8
Margus Hunt (43DE)	$1.2
Jameis Winston (QB)	$1.10
Anthony Chickillo (34OLB)	$1
James Hurst (RT)	$1
Michael Burton (FB)	$1
Ty Montgomery (RB)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	24	C - Cesar Ruiz (Michigan)
3	74	OLB - Zack Baun (Wisconsin)
	105	TE - Adam Trautman (Dayton)
7	240	QB - Tommy Stevens (Mississippi State)

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS M.Jenkins* NEW 27
SS M.Williams 43
LB K.Alonso 54
LB A.Anzalone 47
RCB M.Lattimore 23
SLOTCB P.Williams 26
DE M.Davenport 92
DT S.Rankins 98
DT D.Onyemata 93
DE C.Jordan* 94
LCB J.Jenkins* 20
LWR M.Thomas 13
SLOTWR T.Smith 10
LT T.Armstead 72
LG A.Peat 75
C E.McCoy 58
RG C.Ruiz Rookie 51
RT R.Ramczyk 71
TE B.Watson* 82
RWR E.Sanders* NEW 17
QB D.Brees* 9
RB A.Kamara 41
WR2 Deonte Harris 11
WR3 A.Carr 80
RB2 L.Murray 25
QB2 J.Winston NEW 2

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	15	$105.63M	10
QB	5	$31.96M	9
OL	27	$29.76M	4
RB	17	$9.56M	25
WR	23	$19.79M	26
TE	6	$14.56M	20
All DEF	27	$86.53M	25
DL	20	$40.90M	18
LB	19	$20.47M	16
CB	18	$16.12M	19
S	21	$9.04M	31

The Saints offense averaged 37 points per game for the rest of the season.

How did the 2019 Saints repeat a 13-3 record? A few key factors. It starts with offensive consistency, but we would be remiss to not touch on the one thing that improved the most from 2018: the early down defense. They went 13-3 in 2018 thanks to their offense, because defensively, they ranked 31st in EDSR. They improved to fourth-best in 2019, a massive leap.

Offensively, Drew Brees was a freak on first down, as per usual. No quarterback accumulated as much EPA on first down passes (54.7). His success rate was best in the NFL (66%), as were his TD:INT rate, passer rating (126), and sack rate. His positive play rate was second-best in the NFL. The Saints were outstanding through the air despite not really having much beyond **Michael Thomas** (although new tight end **Jared Cook** made an impactful difference).

But where they weren't outstanding is from a player you may be surprised to read, and that is their RB1, **Alvin Kamara**. Two of the most valuable places to target running backs are through positive air yards and in the red zone.

After bursting onto the scene as a rookie and having a stellar sophomore season, there are some caution flags to raise for Kamara. And they come in both his receiving production as well as in the red zone. Sometimes fans go with an easy argument, that a player isn't as efficient or productive because he's "being used more". In some cases, that is a factor. But not in this one. First, the receiving game.

Alvin Kamara isn't declining in receiving production because he's being used more and thus, less efficient or more tired, etc. In fact, he's somehow caught exactly 81 receptions in each of his three years in New Orleans. But his yards per reception has declined tremendously, from 10.2 his rookie year to 8.8 in 2018 to 6.6 in 2019.

Among running backs with over 20 receptions, Kamara's yards/reception ranking shifted from eighth in 2017 to 14th in 2018 to 38th (of 45) in 2019.

Part of this has to do with where he's been targeted on the field. In 2017, Kamara had an impressive aDOT for a running back at 1.3 yards. In 2018, that dropped to 0.57 yards. Last year, it dropped to behind the line of scrimmage on average at -0.35 yards.

With Kamara catching the exact same number of receptions each year, we can also compare his yards after catch (YAC), yards after first contact (YAFC), broken tackles (BT), and first downs:

2017: 698 YAC, 317 YAFC, 32 BT, 38 first downs
2018: 647 YAC, 198 YAFC, 5 BT, 31 first downs
2019: 570 YAC, 176 YAFC, 10 BT, 28 first downs

As a receiver, Kamara's EPA and success rates have decreased as well:

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Drew Brees	66% 8.7 125.9	54% 6.7 113.5	41% 7.5 92.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	51%	64%	76%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

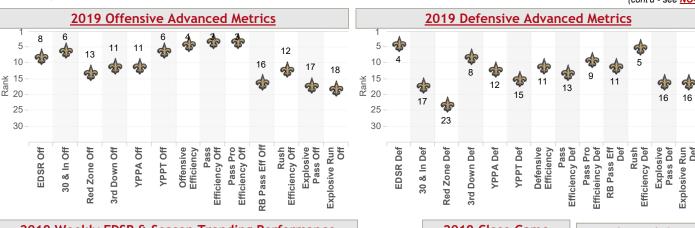| Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
NO	49% 4.8	59% 4.7	52% 4.1	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	49%	36%	24%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

2017: 36.2 EPA, 54% success
2018: 23.1 EPA, 53% success
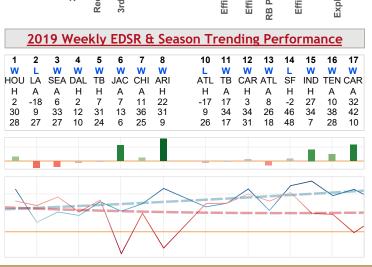2019: 1.7 EPA, 49% success

Kamara's usage rate on early downs has been nearly identical. His usage rate from 11 personnel has been nearly identical. But his production from 11 personnel (by far his most targeted grouping) has declined substantially. From 11 personnel:

2017: 59 att, 7.9 YPA, 128 rating, 0.29 EPA/att
2018: 72 att, 7.7 YPA, 112 rating, 0.30 EPA/att
2019: 72 att, 5.9 YPA, 96 rating, 0.09 EPA/att

He is averaging nearly two fewer YPA and his EPA/att has declined a massive 70% compared to both 2018 and 2017.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	W	L	W	W	W	W	W	W		L	W	W	W	L	W	W	W	WEEK RESULT
OPP	HOU	LA	SEA	DAL	TB	JAC	CHI	ARI		ATL	TB	CAR	ATL	SF	IND	TEN	CAR	
SITE	H	A	A	H	H	A	A	H		H	A	H	A	H	H	A	A	
MARGIN	2	-18	6	2	7	7	11	22		-17	17	3	8	-2	27	10	32	
PTS	30	9	33	12	31	13	36	31		9	34	34	26	46	34	38	42	
OPP PTS	28	27	27	10	24	6	25	9		26	17	31	18	48	7	28	10	

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
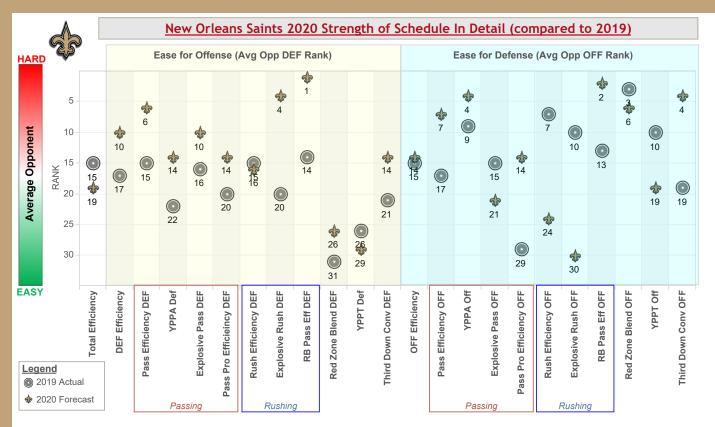(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **13**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-1**
FG Games Win %: **75% (#7)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):
23% (#14)
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **7-1**
1 Score Games Win %: **88% (#2)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **54% (#15)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+15
TO Given	8
INT Given	6
FUM Given	2
TO Taken	23
INT Taken	13
FUM Taken	10
Sack Margin	+26
Sacks	51
Sacks Allow	25
Return TD Margin	+3
Ret TDs	4
Ret TDs Allow	1
Penalty Margin	-28
Penalties	120
Opponent Penalties	92

New Orleans Saints 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD / **EASY** — Average Opponent

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Legend:
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

Categories (left to right): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / *Rushing* groupings indicated.

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
8	7	14	3	5	10	30	26

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-4.3	-5.6	-3.3
Average O/U line	47.7	52.6	49.9
Straight Up Record	13-3	13-3	11-5
Against the Spread Record	11-5	10-6	8-8
Over/Under Record	9-7	7-9	6-7
ATS as Favorite	7-4	7-6	7-4
ATS as Underdog	4-1	3-0	1-4
Straight Up Home	6-2	6-2	7-1
ATS Home	4-4	4-4	4-4
Over/Under Home	4-4	5-3	4-3
ATS as Home Favorite	3-4	3-4	4-3
ATS as a Home Dog	1-0	1-0	0-1
Straight Up Away	7-1	7-1	3-4
ATS Away	7-1	6-2	3-4
Over/Under Away	5-3	2-6	2-3
ATS Away Favorite	4-0	4-2	2-1
ATS Away Dog	3-1	2-0	1-3
Six Point Teaser Record	13-2	12-3	12-3
Seven Point Teaser Record	14-2	13-3	14-2
Ten Point Teaser Record	14-2	13-2	15-1

NO-3

The Saints also stopped using Kamara as much in the red zone. He was worked into the offense as a rookie, dominated touches in year two, but saw a ton of those touches dispersed elsewhere in 2019. Kamara's rushes inside the 10-yard line (along with those given to the other running back on the roster):

2017 Kamara: 13 att, 62% success, 0.42 EPA/att
2017 Ingram: 19 att, 58% success, 0.13 EPA/att

2018 Kamara: 34 att, 59% success, 0.17 EPA/att
2018 Ingram: 19 att, 42% success, -0.20 EPA/att

2019 Kamara: 14 att, 50% success, 0.08 EPA/att
2019 Murray: 14 att, 64% success, 0.26 EPA/att

Kamara's best production came as a rookie, but his success and EPA have precipitously declined, with the latter shifting from 0.42 EPA/att to 0.17 to 0.06 the last two years. Kamara's ownership of the backfield when in scoring range was likewise concerning, as he went from receiving 34 attempts in 2018 to just 14 in 2019.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	-1
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	6
Week 8 Edge	1
Week 9 Edge	1
Week 10 Edge	-3
Week 11 Edge	-7
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	2

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	8
2018 Rk	7
2019 v 2018 Rk	17
Off Rk	8
Def Rk	17
QB Rk	27
RB Rk	22
WR Rk	9
TE Rk	12
Oline Rk	12
Dline Rk	19
LB Rk	29
DB Rk	8

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
TB	LVR	GB	DET	LAC	CAR	CHI	TB	SF	ATL	DEN	ATL	PHI	KC	MIN	CAR
-4	-4.5	-6	-6	-9	-12.5	-2.5	0	-2.5	-8.5	-4	-3.5	-1	-1.5	-6	-7.5

Avg = -4.9

Home Lines

1	3	5	7	10	11	15	16
-4 TB	-6 GB	-9 LAC	-12.5 CAR	-2.5 SF	-8.5 ATL	-1.5 KC	-6

Avg = -6.3

Road Lines

2	4	8	9	12	13	14	17
-4.5 LVR	-6 DET	-2.5 CHI	0 TB	-4 DEN	-3.5 ATL	-1 PHI	CAR

Avg = -3.6

Expanding briefly to look everywhere on the field, we can see that Kamara wasn't nearly as productive in his two strongest personnel groupings in 2019.

2018 rushes from 11: 4.5 YPC, 60% success, 0.16 EPA/att
2019 rushes from 11: 4.3 YPC, 45% success, -0.13 EPA/att

2018 rushes from 21: 7.1 YPC, 55% success, 0.18 EPA/att
2019 rushes from 21: 3.8 YPC, 47% success, -0.19 EPA/att

Kamara shifted from being a valuable asset on these runs to being a liability, and he was outproduced in YPC, success rate, and EPA in both run types by **Latavius Murray**.

I'm not sure if 2020 won't mark a further decline in the usage of Alvin Kamara. In the receiving game, the Saints finally have a competent WR2 to stage opposite Michael Thomas now that **Emmanuel Sanders** signed in free agency. They still have Jared Cook, who was quite productive in his first year with the Saints. On the ground, they still have Murray in his second year in New Orleans. And they also have **Jameis Winston**, who is a more adept passer than was Teddy Bridgewater as a backup for Drew Brees. I would imagine this could open the door to more creativity from x-factor **Taysom Hill**. As such, Kamara's usage in the air and ground may not be as strong as some fantasy players may hope.

I wanted to spend time on Kamara because no one else is calling out the decline in all facets of the game in 2019 and it's something to keep an eye on in 2020.

The addition of Sanders could be significant. Michael Thomas is a complete freak and he and Brees play with the football on a rope. It's literally the game tin can telephone, where each guy has a can and a string runs between both. The connection is strong and rarely missed. But it's been a while since Brees had a respectable No. 2.

Looking at the Saints' No. 2 WR and TE the last several years:

2019: Ted Ginn and Jared Cook
2018: Ted Ginn and Ben Watson
2017: Ted Ginn and Coby Fleener
2016: Brandin Cooks and Coby Fleener
2015: Willie Snead and Ben Watson

None of these duos would concern any defense. Jared Cook in 2019 was by far
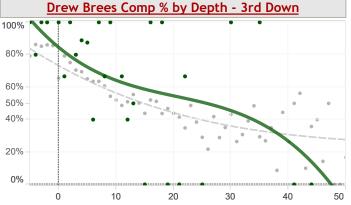
(cont'd - see)
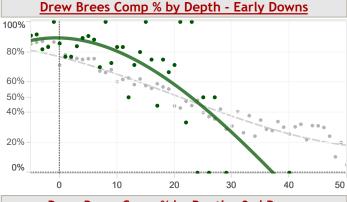
2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Alvin Kamara	2%	3%	74%	14%	7%
	Latavius Murray	1%	3%	63%	10%	23%
	Michael Thomas			100%		
	Ted Ginn			100%		
	Zach Line			29%	71%	
	Dwayne Washington					100%
	Zach Zenner					100%
	Total	2%	3%	66%	13%	16%
PASS	Alvin Kamara	8%	12%	64%	10%	6%
	Latavius Murray	3%	3%	76%	5%	14%
	Michael Thomas	10%	8%	67%	8%	7%
	Jared Cook	14%	9%	67%	3%	7%
	Ted Ginn	4%	6%	73%	13%	4%
	Josh Hill			81%	3%	16%
	Tre'Quan Smith	4%	4%	67%	8%	17%
	Zach Line	10%		70%	10%	10%
	Dwayne Washington				100%	
	Dan Arnold			75%		25%
	Zach Zenner			100%		
	Total	8%	7%	69%	8%	8%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Alvin Kamara	Latavius Murray	Michael Thomas	Jared Cook	Ted Ginn	Josh Hill	Tre'Quan Smith	Zach Line	Dwayne Washington	Dan Arnold	Zach Zenner
RUSH	51%	43%	0%		1%			2%	2%		0%
PASS	18%	8%	35%	13%	10%	7%	5%	2%	0%	1%	0%
ALL	32%	23%	20%	7%	6%	4%	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

Drew Brees Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Drew Brees Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▭▭▭▭▭ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	51%, 0.11 (409)	60%, 0.36 (106)	54%, 0.18 (84)	50%, 0.21 (12)	56%, 0.37 (9)	86%, 0.37 (7)	40%, -0.27 (5)	50%, 0.39 (4)	0%, -2.24 (2)	100%, 0.83 (1)	53%, 0.16 (639)
RUSH	50%, -0.07 (175)	63%, 0.14 (84)	56%, 0.01 (106)	50%, 0.03 (24)	33%, -0.03 (6)	50%, 0.47 (8)	80%, 0.23 (5)				54%, 0.01 (408)
All	51%, 0.06 (584)	62%, 0.26 (190)	55%, 0.08 (190)	50%, 0.09 (36)	47%, 0.21 (15)	67%, 0.42 (15)	60%, -0.02 (10)	50%, 0.39 (4)	0%, -2.24 (2)	100%, 0.83 (1)	############

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Alvin Kamara	44% (79) 5.6, 0.02	50% (8) 5.3, 0.19	31% (13) 3.3, -0.59	50% (2) 4.5, 0.39	43% (102) 5.2, -0.04
	Latavius Murray	48% (21) 4.2, 0.22	58% (12) 8.3, 0.03	45% (11) 4.4, -0.17		50% (44) 5.3, 0.07
TE	Jared Cook	63% (43) 9.8, 0.41	67% (15) 13.2, 0.82	50% (6) 8.3, 0.46	0% (1) 0.0, -0.51	62% (65) 10.3, 0.49
	Josh Hill	38% (16) 3.9, 0.00	50% (12) 6.1, 0.07	60% (5) 10.6, 0.53		45% (33) 5.7, 0.11
WR	Michael Thomas	67% (123) 9.3, 0.37	75% (36) 9.2, 0.61	86% (22) 10.5, 0.77	75% (4) 10.0, 0.87	71% (185) 9.4, 0.48
	Ted Ginn	43% (37) 5.6, -0.15	17% (6) 9.2, 0.05	69% (13) 13.4, 0.96		46% (56) 7.8, 0.13
	Tre'Quan Smith	70% (20) 10.6, 0.65	100% (4) 5.8, 0.75	0% (1) 0.0, -0.67		72% (25) 9.4, 0.62

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Kamara Alvin	45% (94) 4.3, -0.14	47% (30) 3.8, -0.18	63% (32) 6.3, 0.12	77% (13) 5.5, 0.45	51% (169) 4.7, -0.05
Murray Latavius	64% (47) 4.7, 0.06	58% (52) 4.5, 0.10	56% (39) 4.2, -0.03	33% (6) 1.8, -0.27	58% (144) 4.4, 0.04
Hill Taysom	50% (18) 4.8, -0.04	83% (6) 5.8, 0.37	75% (4) 9.3, 0.67		61% (28) 5.7, 0.15
Bridgewater Teddy	25% (8) 3.6, -0.03	40% (5) 0.6, -0.35	100% (2) 3.5, 0.43	0% (4) -0.5, -0.70	32% (19) 1.9, -0.21
Washington Dwayne	0% (1) -1.0, -0.60	33% (3) 3.3, -0.14	75% (4) 12.8, 0.74		50% (8) 7.5, 0.24

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	61% (253) 8.4, 0.31
M2M	64% (154) 9.0, 0.42
Screen	42% (67) 4.6, -0.06

Passing by Route

Curl	69% (72) 7.9, 0.38
Out	64% (70) 6.7, 0.35
Screen	44% (66) 5.0, 0.04
Slant	82% (44) 8.7, 0.51
Flat	58% (33) 5.4, 0.21
Dig	62% (29) 10.8, 0.58

Throw Types

Level 1	60% (412) 7.0, 0.25
Level 2	55% (125) 10.0, 0.40
Level 3	42% (31) 12.9, 0.35
Sidearm	64% (11) 4.5, 0.23
Shovel	50% (2) -1.5, -0.90

QB Drop Types

3 Step	60% (229) 7.5, 0.27
5 Step	53% (156) 8.8, 0.35
0/1 Step	63% (81) 6.1, 0.17
7 Step	65% (52) 12.5, 0.58
Basic Screen	42% (36) 6.4, 0.16
Designed Rollout Right	65% (20) 4.7, 0.14

QB State at Pass

Planted	59% (458) 8.3, 0.32
Shuffling	45% (80) 5.5, 0.08
Moving	44% (73) 5.5, -0.05

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	64% (106) 10.0, 0.41	48% (62) 5.4, 0.02
Shotgun	62% (13) 15.5, 0.64	51% (459) 7.2, 0.11
ALL	64% (119) 10.5, 0.44	50% (521) 7.0, 0.10

Run Types

Outside Zone	56% (108) 4.9, 0.09
Inside Zone	56% (52) 3.9, -0.25
Lead	49% (47) 4.6, 0.03
Pitch	51% (37) 5.1, -0.02
Power	59% (27) 3.9, 0.19
Stretch	50% (4) 3.5, -0.04

NO-5

the best tight end of any of them, with his nine touchdowns and 10.9 YPA dwarfing the rest of the tight end seasons. That was only in year one with Brees and Payton. Cook has the potential to record another great year with how frequently the Saints mix groupings up. Couple him with Sanders, a player whose addition to the 49ers really helped propel the team to the heights they reached last year. I've long believed Sanders to be an underrated receiver. He should fit in perfectly. He will love the pairing of a great playcaller and designer with a great quarterback, and the ability to play opposite a stud like Thomas.

Sanders's 2019 offensive coordinator Rich Scangarello said of him: "I can't describe the things that he's done — as a receiver that's been in the league this long — for the benefit of this team, stuff that just you wouldn't see on film that you wouldn't get out of a lot of receivers in his position. And he has laid it on the line." He's been an asset in run blocking historically.

One note on the Saints performance in New Orleans: since 2014, while the Saints are 32-22 overall at home, they are just 22-30 ATS. There hasn't been a single season where the Saints produced a winning ATS record at home over the course of a season, falling below .500 each year. While they have done better SU when favored (27-18), they are a dreadful 16-29 ATS (36% ATS). Only four teams have a worse record ATS as home favorites in that span (Bucs, 49ers, Dolphins, and Chargers).

This is more of a factor now that the Saints may not have the home field edge their crowd typically offers if we can't clear games to be played with fans in the stands in 2020.

Years ago, the narrative with the Saints was they would cover all the time at home but were terrible on the road. It went that their team was built to excel at home but not on grass, and that Brees would get too impacted by weather conditions including wind.

However, over that same time span (since 2014), the Saints are by far the NFL's best team on the road. They have covered 31 of 48 road games (66%), best in the NFL. So the stigma of the Saints has flip-flopped, and if too much home-field edge is baked into the Saints' spreads when playing at home this year, that new and less well-known stigma will persist.

Last year I forecast the Saints to play the NFL's 18th easiest schedule. Almost directly on the money, the Saints ended the season having played the 17th easiest schedule. In 2020, I project the Saints will play the tenth-toughest schedule.

The good news lies in the venues for their toughest games. The Saints play seven games against teams forecast to have a winning record in 2020 and only two of the seven will be on the road (Buccaneers and Eagles). This gives them the benefit of not needing to travel. In years past, home field would be a massive edge as well in these tilts, but we don't yet know if that benefit will exist this season.

New Orleans Saints 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

40-year old **Drew Brees** was as good as ever in 2019. Brees posted a career-high 7.1% touchdown rate and led the NFL in completion percentage (74.3%) for the third consecutive season, his fourth straight season completing at least 70% of his passes. Even with backup Teddy Bridgewater starting five games, the Saints led the NFL in success rate through the air as a team at 53% in 2019, their fourth straight season pacing the league in that area on the strength of Brees's efficiency. In terms of EPA via their passing offense, the Saints ranked second in the league behind only the Chiefs. Turning 41-years-old this offseason, Brees re-signed with the Saints to push for another Super Bowl ring. Bridgewater has moved on via free agency, but the Saints added **Jameis Winston** behind Brees to go along with the jack-of-all-trades usage of **Taysom Hill**.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Drew Brees	307	411	75%	3,187	7.8	28	5	15	114	1
Teddy Bridgewater	133	196	68%	1,384	7.1	9	2	12	99	14
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	
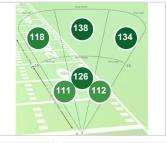
Drew Brees Rating Early Downs

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Drew Brees	56%	61%	39	9.0%	14	3.0%	5.5	4.9	15	4%
Teddy Bridgewater	47%	51%	16	8.0%	5	3.0%	4.9	5.5	7	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
6 - 9	0.0%	2.0%	2.9%		2.2%
10 - 14	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%		3.8%
Total	**0.5%**	**1.4%**	**2.2%**	**0.0%**	**1.2%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Drew Brees	8.7	5.6	-3.1	70%	19
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
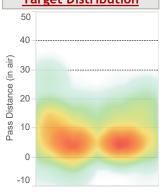
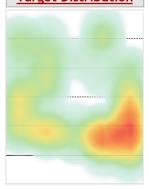| Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
53%	47%	20
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Saints receiving unit was anchored by NFL Offensive Player of the Year **Michael Thomas**. A year after becoming the first non-running back to catch 80% of his intended targets on 100 or more opportunities, Thomas set an NFL record with 149 receptions on 185 targets (80.5%). For the season, Thomas led the league in target share (31.8%), percentage of team receptions (35.7%), yardage receiving (38.9%), and yards per team pass attempt (2.97). Outside of Thomas securing the top team success rate to wide receivers (64%), the Saints also ranked ninth in success rate targeting their tight ends (56%). With another veteran added this offseason in **Emmanuel Sanders**, the Saints project to still have one the best receiving outlooks of 2020.

Michael Thomas Target Distribution

Ted Ginn Target Distribution

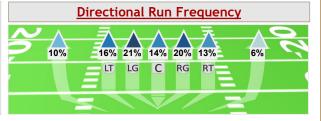| Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Michael Thomas	194	80%	9.3	120.7	71%	1	2	80	39	8
Alvin Kamara	106	84%	5.3	88.2	44%	110	81	131	43	1
Jared Cook	70	69%	10.8	138.0	64%	6	9	8	120	8
Ted Ginn	57	54%	7.7	76.6	46%	103	120	22	123	2

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Not just efficient through the air, the Saints ranked third in the league in success rate rushing the football (54%), but were 16th in the league in yards per play (4.3) in that area. **Alvin Kamara** ranked fourth in the league in rate of runs to gain six or more yards (32%) among all backs with 100 or more carries on the season, while **Latavius Murray** was 25th (25%). Where New Orleans gained extra leverage running the ball was using Taysom Hill, who had a 67.7% success rate rushing and 7.4% rate over average on his 27 attempts. With all of Kamara, Murray, and Hill returning plus four out of their five starting offensive lineman from a year ago, the Saints are set up for similar success in 2020.

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Alvin Kamara	178	4.6	52%	23	25	37	40	55%	10	6
Latavius Murray	151	4.4	60%	2	3	10	55	59%	1	5

Keep Buying Alvin Kamara as a fantasy RB1

While 252 touches for 1,330 yards is hardly a disappointing season, fantasy owners were not lifted to the ceiling heights showcased over Kamara's first two seasons in the NFL in 2019. After producing 83.6% and 91.8% of the RB1 overall scoring output in each of his first two seasons, Kamara produced 52.7% of the RB1 output in 2019. In fact, Kamara's yards per touch and yards per target have all decreased from his previous season in each of his years in the league.
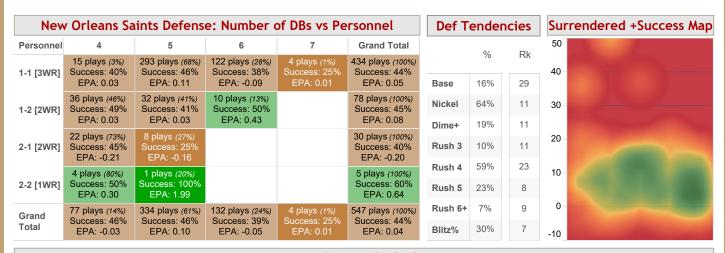
Despite the decline, Kamara still has a plethora of positives in terms of usage and team attachment. For one, the opportunity is still there. Kamara has averaged over 18.0 touches per game in each of the past two years and has exactly 81 receptions in each of his first three seasons. Last season was the first time in his career that Kamara ran on the cold end of touchdown variance. After scoring 33 rushing and receiving touchdowns through two full NFL seasons, Kamara reached the end zone just seven times in 2019, scoring just twice through Week 14. That scoring variance began to oscillate back in his favor to close the season, scoring five touchdowns over his final three games played, but by then it was largely too late for the majority of fantasy rosters.

Playing for an offense that has ranked fourth, second, and third in offensive touchdowns over the past three seasons, his attachment to scoring opportunities is still among the league's best. Kamara out-carried Latavius Murray 7-to-3 inside of the 5-yard line a year ago, but the team had just 13 total rushing attempts from that area of the field last year as opposed to Kamara's first two seasons in the league. As a team, 75% of the New Orleans offensive touchdowns came via the pass (fourth) as Drew Brees posted a career-high 7.1% touchdown rate. In Kamara's first two seasons, the Saints were second (50%) and fourth (53.5%) in rushing touchdown rate.

Lastly, Kamara also suffered a midseason ankle injury that played a role in his efficiency decline. Through six weeks, Kamara had forced a missed tackle on a league-leading 31.9% of his touches and he averaged 5.5 yards per touch. Once returning to the lineup in Week 10, Kamara forced a missed tackle on just 13.5% of his touches for the remainder of the season and averaged 5.1 yards per touch.

Proceed with Caution: Jared Cook

After years of unfulfilled promise, **Jared Cook** delivered a year ago. At age 33 and tied to Brees, Cook set career-highs in touchdowns (nine) and yards per catch (16.4) in his first year with the Saints. However, he ran ultra-hot with a 13.9% touchdown rate that masked his 4.6 targets per game. That target volume per game ranked 19th at the position. Over the past 10 seasons, Cook's 13.9% touchdown rate per target ranks seventh among the 120 top-12 scoring seasonal tight ends. But his 65 targets rank 118th out of 120 top-12 scoring seasonal tight ends and his 46 receptions rank 119th from the same group. Attachment to Brees and the Saints offense is still a major pro for Cook and the tight end position is a low bar to maintain relevance, but Cook will need a major volume spike at age 34 or be forced to sustain his career-highs in efficiency. With the addition of Emmanuel Sanders to go along with the already target-rich options in Michael Thomas and Alvin Kamara, that potential surge in added volume is hard to project.

New Orleans Saints Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	15 plays (3%) Success: 40% EPA: 0.03	293 plays (68%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.11	122 plays (28%) Success: 38% EPA: -0.09	4 plays (1%) Success: 25% EPA: 0.01	434 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.05
1-2 [2WR]	36 plays (46%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.03	32 plays (41%) Success: 41% EPA: 0.03	10 plays (13%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.43		78 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.08
2-1 [2WR]	22 plays (73%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.21	8 plays (27%) Success: 25% EPA: -0.16			30 plays (100%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.20
2-2 [1WR]	4 plays (80%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.30	1 plays (20%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.99			5 plays (100%) Success: 60% EPA: 0.64
Grand Total	77 plays (14%) Success: 46% EPA: -0.03	334 plays (61%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.10	132 plays (24%) Success: 39% EPA: -0.05	4 plays (1%) Success: 25% EPA: 0.01	547 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.04

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	16%	29
Nickel	64%	11
Dime+	19%	11
Rush 3	10%	11
Rush 4	59%	23
Rush 5	23%	8
Rush 6+	7%	9
Blitz%	30%	7

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

New Orleans has turned into one of the league's better units. Even with a rough start to last season, the defense turned around to play at a high level at the back end of 2019. Each position group has both depth and quality.

Sheldon Rankins has been a good presence in the interior and there's a decent amount of depth behind him. **Mario Edwards** had an impressive pressure rate as a rotational tackle last season and while he's maybe the fourth-most important player here, he could get some more time because of the pass rush. **David Onyemata** and **Malcom Brown** are solid run defenders who don't offer much against the pass.
Cameron Jordan remains one of the league's most underrated pass rushers though he'll turn 31 years old in July. Jordan is getting rotated out a bit more than he had been in previous seasons, but is still on the field often. He played 82.6% of the Saints' defensive snaps last season which is still a high number but he went from 2012-2017 playing at least 90% in each of those seasons. Behind him, **Marcus Davenport** has emerged as a plus pass rusher a few seasons after the Saints traded up for him in the first round. **Trey Hendrickson** also flashed as an athletic third-round pick from 2017 who got on the field for 38% of the defensive snaps last season. As a team, the Saints led the league in pressure rate last season per SIS.

The Saints traded up for **Zack Baun** in the third round and has the ability to play both edge and off-ball linebacker, which perfectly fits with how New Orleans uses the players on the second level.

Demario Davis is one of the best all-around linebackers in the league — elite in coverage, run defense, and blitzing. **Alex Anzalone** was a solid tackler in 2018 before his injury-shortened 2019. Even **Kiko Alonso** showed better ability last season than he had in previous stops. The Saints barely spend time in base (just 16% of plays in 2019, the fourth-lowest rate in the league per SIS) so only two linebackers will see the field on most plays.

New Orleans's corner group is pretty stacked, especially with the return of **Janoris Jenkins**, who was great after he was signed midseason. **Marshon Lattimore** struggled a bit early in the season but improved as the season went along. **Patrick Robinson** is back to man the slot. Those are three above-average starters the Saints can rotate, which also helps with their deep safety group. New Orleans could add a little more youth into this group if they wanted and could potentially do that for added depth in the draft.

The Saints had a deep rotation at safety and then thought, "what if we also bring **Malcolm Jenkins** back?" Jenkins, **Marcus Williams**, and **Chauncey Gardner-Johnson** make for a trio of safeties who can play deep, in the box, or slot corner and be good all around the field.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	60%
All Pass Rk	15
All Rush %	40%
All Rush Rk	18
1 Score Pass %	61%
1 Score Pass Rk	11
2018 1 Score Pass %	57%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	17
2019 Pass Increase %	4%
Pass Increase Rk	11
1 Score Rush %	39%
1 Score Rush Rk	22
Up Pass %	54%
Up Pass Rk	7
Up Rush %	46%
Up Rush Rk	26
Down Pass %	70%
Down Pass Rk	4
Down Rush %	30%
Down Rush Rk	29

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	9	67%	33%	67%
	Med (4-7)	11	36%	64%	55%
	Long (8-10)	350	52%	48%	59%
	XL (11+)	10	80%	20%	30%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	49	33%	67%	82%
	Med (4-7)	93	72%	28%	57%
	Long (8-10)	85	64%	36%	51%
	XL (11+)	35	97%	3%	23%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	41	44%	56%	63%
	Med (4-7)	49	96%	4%	43%
	Long (8-10)	22	91%	9%	36%
	XL (11+)	29	97%	3%	17%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	5	20%	80%	80%
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
48%	52%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
67%	13%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
33%	88%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
68%	12	66%	40%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
32%	21	34%	57%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Michael Thomas	2	50%
			Josh Hill	2	50%
		RUSH	Alvin Kamara	2	100%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Alvin Kamara	5	60%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Alvin Kamara	85	58%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Michael Thomas	3	33%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Latavius Murray	20	90%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Alvin Kamara	10	60%
			Michael Thomas	10	80%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Alvin Kamara	13	38%
		RUSH	Alvin Kamara	13	46%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Alvin Kamara	9	22%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Taysom Hill	7	86%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Michael Thomas	13	54%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Michael Thomas	7	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Michael Thomas	4	50%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N)		
	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 51% YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.10 Rtg: 101.3 *[Att: 397 - Rate: 62.0%]*	Success: 73% YPA: 12.3, EPA: 0.63 Rtg: 155.1 *[Att: 56 - Rate: 8.8%]*	Success: 54% YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.17 Rtg: 108.8 *[Att: 453 - Rate: 70.8%]*
Yes	Success: 49% YPA: 6.3, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 106.5 *[Att: 124 - Rate: 19.4%]*	Success: 56% YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.27 Rtg: 120.8 *[Att: 63 - Rate: 9.8%]*	Success: 51% YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.15 Rtg: 111.4 *[Att: 187 - Rate: 29.2%]*
Total	Success: 50% YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.10 Rtg: 102.5 *[Att: 521 - Rate: 81.4%]*	Success: 64% YPA: 10.5, EPA: 0.44 Rtg: 139.6 *[Att: 119 - Rate: 18.6%]*	Success: 53% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.16 Rtg: 109.5 *[Att: 640 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Michael Thomas	Josh Hill	Alvin Kamara	Ted Ginn	Jared Cook	Tre'Quan Smith	Latavius Murray	Austin Carr
1	HOU	W 30-28	59 (89%)	32 (48%)	50 (76%)	49 (74%)	42 (64%)	42 (64%)	18 (27%)	
2	LA	L 27-9	64 (98%)	28 (43%)	42 (65%)	39 (60%)	44 (68%)	38 (58%)	23 (35%)	
3	SEA	W 33-27	51 (88%)	34 (59%)	51 (88%)	39 (67%)	44 (76%)		12 (21%)	27 (47%)
4	DAL	W 12-10	69 (97%)	41 (58%)	55 (77%)	50 (70%)	40 (56%)		18 (25%)	44 (62%)
5	TB	W 31-24	64 (91%)	52 (74%)	48 (69%)	45 (64%)	42 (60%)	19 (27%)	23 (33%)	17 (24%)
6	JAC	W 13-6	65 (98%)	41 (62%)	39 (59%)	44 (67%)	38 (58%)		28 (42%)	21 (32%)
7	CHI	W 36-25	73 (94%)	53 (68%)		55 (71%)		65 (83%)		42 (54%)
8	ARI	W 31-9	68 (89%)	56 (74%)		43 (57%)		62 (82%)		41 (54%)
10	ATL	L 26-9	66 (96%)	22 (32%)	54 (78%)	48 (70%)	49 (71%)	57 (83%)	17 (25%)	
11	TB	W 34-17	57 (81%)	32 (46%)	43 (61%)	38 (54%)	49 (70%)	42 (60%)	29 (41%)	
12	CAR	W 34-31	58 (88%)	31 (47%)	44 (67%)	39 (59%)	38 (58%)	47 (71%)	26 (39%)	
13	ATL	W 26-18	40 (80%)	29 (58%)	41 (82%)	27 (54%)	29 (58%)	37 (74%)	13 (26%)	
14	SF	L 48-46	70 (97%)	62 (86%)	55 (76%)	42 (58%)	8 (11%)	56 (78%)	24 (33%)	
15	IND	W 34-7	48 (72%)	47 (70%)	42 (63%)	19 (28%)	28 (42%)	45 (67%)	22 (33%)	
16	TEN	W 38-28	61 (87%)	42 (60%)	44 (63%)	25 (36%)	36 (51%)	38 (54%)	25 (36%)	
17	CAR	W 42-10	46 (67%)	55 (80%)	28 (41%)	18 (26%)	26 (38%)	43 (62%)	37 (54%)	
	Grand Total		959 (88%)	657 (60%)	636 (69%)	620 (57%)	513 (56%)	464 (64%)	442 (40%)	192 (45%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	55%	60%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	18%	20%	62%
2-1 [2WR]	18%	8%	55%
2-2 [1WR]	3%	4%	50%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	70%	51%	50%
1-2 [2WR]	56%	60%	63%
2-1 [2WR]	44%	54%	56%
2-2 [1WR]	33%	50%	50%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Michael Thomas	18	4	3	11
Alvin Kamara	12		7	5
Jared Cook	9	3	1	5
Taysom Hill	5	4	1	
Ted Ginn	5		1	4
Tre'Quan Smith	4	1		3
Austin Carr	1			1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Alvin Kamara	28	9	6	13
Latavius Murray	24	4	11	9
Teddy Bridgewater	9	1	3	5
Taysom Hill	6		2	4
Drew Brees	1	1		
Dwayne Washington	1			1
Zach Zenner	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
32%	18%	51%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
45%	56%	64%
#16	#9	#1

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	10	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	5.0	
03. Wins	13	

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	3
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	2
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	19
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	16
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	21
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	2
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	2
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	4
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	18
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	15
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	21
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	19
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	25
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	22
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	21
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	13
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	6
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	13
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	28
23.	PA Improvement Success	13
24.	PA Improvement YPA	12
25.	PA Improvement Rating	9
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	3
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	1
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	31
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	9
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	20
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	4
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	12
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	24
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	29
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	11

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.7
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.0
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.8
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	7.3
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	56%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	56%
42.	PSM Rating	107.1
43.	Non-PSM Rating	104.1

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	27%
45.	PA Success Rate	64%
46.	PA YPA	9.6
47.	PA Sack Rate	2.9%
48.	PA Rating	129.3
49.	PA Target Depth	7.3
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	57%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.2
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	1.9%
53.	Non-PA Rating	106.2
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	6.1

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	35%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	60%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.8
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	37%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	52%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	29%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	59%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	3	defFUM	15	
Net FROE	5.2	defFUM Rcvrd	10	
offFUM	9	defFR Rk	1	
offFUM Rcvrd	7	defFR%	66.7%	
offFR%	77.8%	defFROE	3.0	
offFR Rk	1	defFROE Rk	4	
offFROE	2.2			
offFROE Rk	5			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	87%	YOY Swing	-19%
2019 FG Rk	8		
Opp 2019 FG %	92%	YOY Swing Rk	28
Opp 2019 FG Rk	2		
2019 Team Net	-5%	2018 Team Net	14%
2019 Net Rk	22	2018 Net Rk	3

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

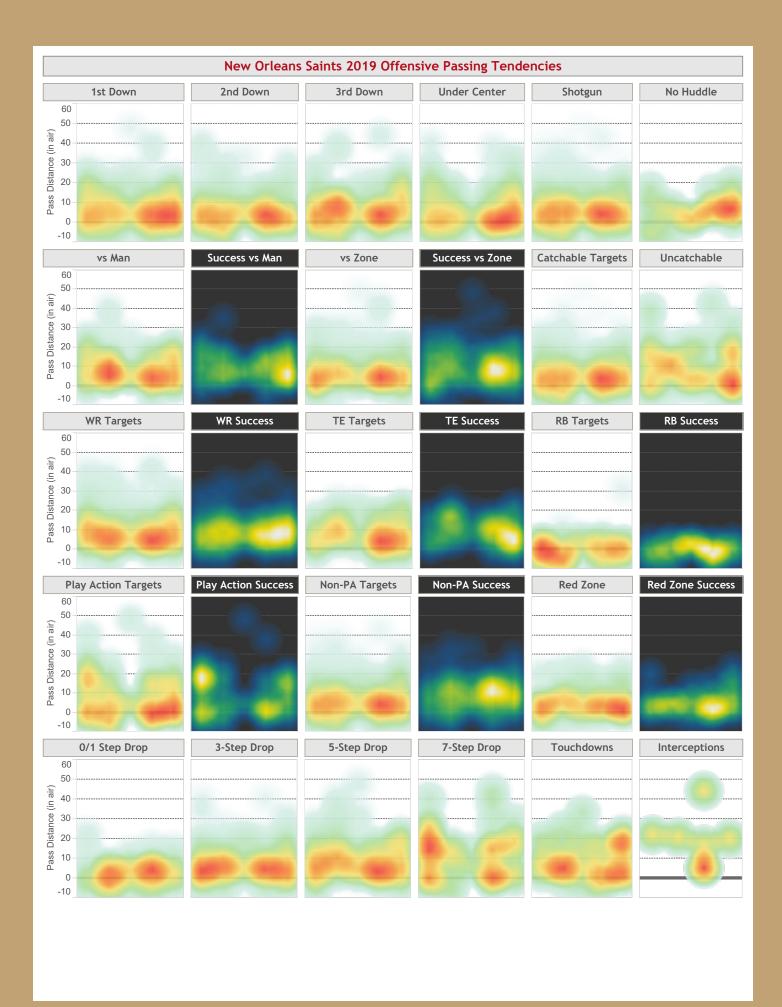|	Drew Brees	Teddy Bridgewater
CAY	5.2	4.6
CAY Rk	30	36
2018 CAY Rk	17	
AYTS Rk	33	39
2018 AYTS Rk	30	
AGG Rk	32	32
2018 AGG Rk	23	
COMP%	74.3	67.9
xCOMP%	68	67.3
xCOMP% Rk	1	4
2018 xCOMP% Rk	5	
CPOE%	6.3	0.6
CPOE Rk	2	13
2018 CPOE Rk	1	

CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Drew Brees	Teddy Bridgewater
Pressure %	25.1	33.6
Pressure Rk	38	24
Sack %	12.2	16.2
Sack Rk	35	23
Pressure Accuracy %	83.3	69.8
Pressure Accuracy Rk	1	5
Rating when Pressured	100.1	60.9
Pressured Rating Rk	1	23
Clean Accuracy %	82.7	83.9
Clean Accuracy Rk	4	1
Rating when Clean	120.8	114
Clean Rating Rk	2	7
Time to Throw	2.57	2.82
Time to Throw Rk	38	17

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.20
EPA/Pass Rk	3
EPA/Rush	-0.02
EPA/Rush Rk	8
On-Target Catch %	88.4
On-Target Catch Rk	4
Drop%	6
Drop Rk	5
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	18.5
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	6
Rush 1st Down %	23.7
Rush 1st Down Rk	13

New Orleans Saints 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Grid of heat map charts, each titled, plotting Pass Distance (in air) from -10 to 60:

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Meanwhile, of the seven games the Saints play against teams forecast to have a losing record, five come on the road. Much was made a few years ago about the Saints' poor performance on the road compared to home, and that wasn't untrue. From 2012-2017 the Saints went 20-30 on the road as compared to 31-18 at home. But during that stretch on the road, the Saints won 56% of games against teams with losing records and are now 17-8 (68%) since 2012 on the road against teams below .500, and they cover 60% of these games as well. In fact, since 2016, the Saints are 10-2 in these situations, and their 83% ATS mark is the best in the NFL.

There has been only one year in the last four where the Saints swept the Falcons. And now that they play the Falcons twice in three weeks, it makes a sweep even less likely despite the Falcons projected to be much worse in 2020. That is because teams that won the first meeting and then play again two weeks later are 6-17 (30%) in the next game. They drop from 23-0 to 6-17. Meanwhile, had they played four or five weeks later, the team that won the first game wins 70% of the time in the second meeting. So this inherently hurts the favorite, in this case, the Saints.

The Saints offense moves from playing the 15th-toughest schedule of pass defenses to sixth-toughest, and their defense shifts from playing the 17th-toughest schedule to seventh-toughest.

The Saints have made the postseason in each of the last three years. Their ultimate losses each of those seasons came at the hands of two of the most intelligent defensive minds we have in the NFL: Wade Phillips and Mike Zimmer. Two of the losses were in overtime and one was the Minneapolis Miracle, which saw the Saints up one with 10 seconds left and lose on a walk-off, 61-yard touchdown. There is nothing to say this team needs anything more than to maintain, improve in a couple of areas and get a little bit of luck.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Joe Judge (NE ST/WR Coach) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:
Jason Garrett (DAL HC) (new)
Defensive Coordinator:
Patrick Graham (MIA DC) (new)

EASY HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
6.5	#3

Past Records

2019: 4-12
2018: 5-11
2017: 3-13

	PIT	CHI	SF	LAR	DAL	WAS	PHI	TB	WAS	PHI		CIN	SEA	ARI	CLE	BAL	DAL
	H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H		A	A	H	H	A	H
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

MNF — TNF — MNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Antonio Hamilton (CB)	Chiefs
Cody Latimer (WR)	Redskins
Deone Bucannon (ILB)	Falcons
Eli Manning (QB)	Retired
Michael Thomas (S)	Texans
Mike Remmers (RT)	Chiefs
Rhett Ellison (TE)	Retired
Alec Ogletree (ILB)	Null
Antoine Bethea (S)	Null
Buck Allen (RB)	Null
Colin Holba (LS)	Null
George Asafo-Adjei (RT)	Null
Isaiah Searight (TE)	Null
Jon Halapio (C)	Null
Kareem Martin (34OLB)	Null
Markus Golden (34OLB)	Null
Nate Harvey (34DE)	Null
Russell Shepard (WR)	Null
Scott Simonson (TE)	Null
Zak DeOssie (LS)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
3.9	3	12

2020 New York Giants Overview

When drafting a running back second overall, you hope defenses are worried about stopping him. You hope they try to stop him by loading up the box, which in turn would free up pass efficiency. But that didn't happen often last year.

Defenses didn't load up to stop the run out of fear for **Saquon Barkley**.

On first downs in the first three quarters, the NFL average running back faced 8+ men boxes on 25% of attempts. The Giants faced 8+ men boxes on 26% of attempts. Barkley himself was only at 26% — just 1% above the league average.

But compare the production vs the league average on these first down runs against loaded boxes:

NFL avg: 3.9 YPC, 41% success, -0.08 EPA/att
Barkley: 2.7 YPC, 27% success, -0.11 EPA/att

Next, look at these same first down runs vs seven-man boxes, which he faced on 46% of his first down rushing attempts (a rate identical to the NFL average):

NFL avg: 4.7 YPC, 47% success, -0.02 EPA/att
Barkley: 3.3 YPC, 44% success, -0.15 EPA/att

But against six-man boxes on first down, Barkley was at his best:

NFL avg: 4.8 YPC, 47% success, 0.02 EPA/att
Barkley: 5.9 YPC, 50% success, 0.13 EPA/att

The problem was, Barkley rarely faced six or fewer man boxes.

(cont'd - see)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
James Bradberry (CB)	$14.5
Blake Martinez (ILB)	$10.3
Kyler Fackrell (34OLB)	$4.59
Cameron Fleming (LT)	$3.5
Levine Toilolo (TE)	$3.10
Colt McCoy (QB)	$2.29
Nate Ebner (S)	$2
Dion Lewis (RB)	$1.60
Austin Johnson (34DT)	$1.5
Cooper Rush (QB)	$1.3

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	4	OT - Andrew Thomas (Georgia)
2	36	S - Xavier McKinney (Alabama)
3	99	OT - Matt Peart (UConn)
4	110	CB - Darnay Holmes (UCLA)
5	150	G - Shane Lemieux (Oregon)
6	183	LB - Cameron Brown (Penn State)
7	218	OLB - Carter Coughlin (Minnesota)
7	238	OLB - T. J. Brunson (South Carolina)
7	247	CB - Chris Williamson (Minnesota)
7	255	LB - Tae Crowder (Georgia)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	6.5
2019 Wins	4
Forecast 2019 Wins	6
2018 Wins	5
2017 Wins	3
2016 Wins	11

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS X.McKinney Rookie 29
SS J.Peppers 22
LB B.Martinez 50
LB L.Carter 59
RCB J.Bradberry 24
SLOTCB J.Love 20
DE O.Ximines 53
OLB L.Williams 99
DT D.Tomlinson 94
OLB D.Lawrence 97
LCB D.Baker 35

LWR S.Shepard 87
SLOTWR G.Tate 15
LT N.Solder 76
LG W.Hernandez 71
C S.Pulley 77
RG K.Zeitler 70
RT A.Thomas Rookie 78
TE E.Engram 88
RWR D.Slayton 86

QB D.Jones 8
RB S.Barkley 26
WR2 C.Core 16
WR3 C.Coleman 19
RB2 D.Lewis 33
QB2 C.McCoy 12

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	14	$107.31M	13
QB	22	$11.05M	5
OL	6	$46.06M	25
RB	5	$13.58M	9
WR	13	$26.50M	20
TE	17	$10.12M	11
All DEF	26	$86.66M	32
DL	28	$33.77M	31
LB	14	$26.11M	9
CB	15	$18.70M	31
S	26	$8.08M	21

So, how could the Giants get more six-man boxes for Barkley?

Well, for starters they have to be in three wide receiver sets.

On first downs in the first three quarters, when the Giants were NOT in 11 personnel, defenses had 7+ men in the box on 98% of rushing attempts. These were runs from 12 personnel, 21 personnel, or 22 personnel. On those runs, Barkley averaged just 2.5 YPC, 35% success, and -0.22 EPA/att. In other words, abysmal.

Of 41 rushers with at least 25 attempts, Barkley ranked as follows on his 43 attempts:

• 41st in YPC (2.5)
• 39th in success rate (35%)
• 37th in EPA/att (-0.22)

The Giants were terrible when trying to run without 3+ wide receivers on the field. And it's clearly represented in the "Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings" table later in this chapter.

The problem for the Giants was they never made defenses pay for anything.

On first down in the first three quarters, when defenses flooded coverage and left just six or fewer men in the box, the Giants played right into it, passing the ball 68% of the time. These passes averaged 7.5 YPA, but recorded -0.09 EPA/att. This can be compared to Barkley's runs against light boxes which we just discussed, where he averaged 0.13 EPA/att. That's a 0.22 EPA/play swing.

While the Giants didn't make defenses pay for playing coverage, they didn't make defenses pay for loading the box, either. When defenses had 8+ defenders in the box, the Giants ran the ball on 61% of these first downs, playing right into the defense's hands. As mentioned, Barkley was terrible running on first down against loaded boxes, much worse than the NFL average (2.7 YPC, 27% success, and -0.11 EPA/att) while passes gained 8.4 YPA with 52% success and 0.0 EPA/att.

Perhaps new offensive coordinator Jason Garrett will give quarterback **Daniel Jones** more command at the line of scrimmage. Or perhaps he'll encourage run plays early and often, as he did when he called plays in Dallas.

On early downs in the first half of games, the Giants went 55% pass, which was just above the NFL average pass rate. In Dallas, Jason Garrett oversaw a team that drafted Ezekiel Elliott in 2016 and went 49% run in these same situations (fifth-most run-heavy), 47% run in 2017 (third-most run-heavy), and 51% run in 2018 (11th-most run-heavy). This coincided with a young QB in Dak Prescott at the helm.

I would be stunned if Jason Garrett went 55% pass in early downs in the first half of games in 2020, as the Giants did last year. I strongly believe the Giants will go more

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Daniel Jones	48% 6.9 90.2	35% 5.8 76.3	39% 7.0 97.2	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	56%	62%	83%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
NYG	49% 3.7	45% 5.2	48% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	44%	38%	17%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

run-heavy than 2019. That's good news for Saquon Barkley fantasy stock if it happens, but the key is, the Giants need to pass when the defense loads the box and run when the defense goes light. I wonder if Garrett will implement his run structure using his own preferences, or if he will study enough of the Giants the last two years to see that they struggle running the ball unless it's to the right of center. Take a look at these YPC by direction, first in 2019 and then 2018:

2.8 YPC – Left Edge
4.3 YPC – LT
3.6 YPC – LG
3.6 YPC – C
5.2 YPC – RG
5.0 YPC – RT
5.7 YPC – Right Edge

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	L	L	W	W	L	L	L	L	L	L		L	L	L	W	W	L
OPP	DAL	BUF	TB	WAS	MIN	NE	ARI	DET	DAL	NYJ		CHI	GB	PHI	MIA	WAS	PHI
SITE	A	H	A	H	H	A	H	A	H	H		A	H	A	H	A	H
MARGIN	-18	-14	1	21	-18	-21	-6	-5	-19	-7		-5	-18	-6	16	6	-17
PTS	17	14	32	24	10	14	21	26	18	27		14	13	17	36	41	17
OPP PTS	35	28	31	3	28	35	27	31	37	34		19	31	23	20	35	34

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF / DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **4**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-0**
FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **25% (#12)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **2-5**
1 Score Games Win %: **29% (#27)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **50% (#16)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-17
TO Given	33
INT Given	17
FUM Given	16
TO Taken	16
INT Taken	10
FUM Taken	6
Sack Margin	-7
Sacks	36
Sacks Allow	43
Return TD Margin	-2
Ret TDs	3
Ret TDs Allow	5
Penalty Margin	+27
Penalties	90
Opponent Penalties	117

New York Giants 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Chart: **Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank)** and **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Y-axis: RANK (HARD at top / EASY at bottom) — Average Opponent

Categories (left group - Ease for Offense):
- Total Efficiency — 2020 Forecast: 2; 2019 Actual: 13
- DEF Efficiency — 4; 8
- Pass Efficiency DEF — 10; 19 (Passing)
- YPPA Def — 4; 9
- Explosive Pass DEF — 11; 13
- Pass Pro Efficiency DEF — 6; 17
- Rush Efficiency DEF — 4; 8 (Rushing)
- Explosive Rush DEF — 7; 20
- RB Pass Eff DEF — 2; 2
- Red Zone Blend DEF — 13; 20
- YPPT Def — 27/28
- Third Down Conv DEF — 32; 19

Categories (right group - Ease for Defense):
- OFF Efficiency — 15; 23
- Pass Efficiency OFF — 16; 26 (Passing)
- YPPA Off — 22; 27
- Explosive Pass OFF — 14; 20
- Pass Pro Efficiency OFF — 12; 25
- Rush Efficiency OFF — 5; 20 (Rushing)
- Explosive Rush OFF — 6; 20
- RB Pass Eff OFF — 6; 25
- Red Zone Blend OFF — 13; 18
- YPPT Off — 21; 22
- Third Down Conv OFF — 11; 21

Legend: ◉ 2019 Actual · ny 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
8	9	23	28	5	6	3	2

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	4.2	2.6	4.4
Average O/U line	45.6	45.9	42.5
Straight Up Record	4-12	5-11	3-13
Against the Spread Record	7-9	9-7	7-9
Over/Under Record	9-7	9-7	6-10
ATS as Favorite	2-2	2-1	0-3
ATS as Underdog	4-7	7-6	7-6
Straight Up Home	2-6	2-6	2-6
ATS Home	2-6	2-6	3-5
Over/Under Home	3-5	4-4	3-5
ATS as Home Favorite	2-1	1-1	0-2
ATS as Home Dog	0-5	1-5	3-3
Straight Up Away	2-6	3-5	1-7
ATS Away	5-3	7-1	4-4
Over/Under Away	6-2	5-3	3-5
ATS Away Favorite	0-1	1-0	0-1
ATS Away Dog	4-2	6-1	4-3
Six Point Teaser Record	8-8	11-4	8-8
Seven Point Teaser Record	8-8	12-3	8-8
Ten Point Teaser Record	10-6	13-3	9-7

NYG-3

2018:

3.8 YPC – Left edge
3.4 YPC – LT
2.9 YPC – LG
3.5 YPC – C
7.6 YPC – RG
8.6 YPC – RT
5.4 YPC – Right Edge

Two consecutive years and very consistent results. Behind center or to the left of center produces below-average rushing results, but to the right produces well above average results.

For Barkley's stock to reach its ceiling, he needs red zone touches, touchdowns, and a positive game script. Therefore, the Giants need to get first down right (unlike last year), because of how big early downs are to their results. When they won the early down battle last year, they went 3-2. When they lost, they went 1-10.

(cont'd - see NYG-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	-1
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	3
Week 9 Edge	-8
Week 10 Edge	-7
Week 12 Edge	7
Week 13 Edge	1
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	1
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	17
2018 Rk	8
2019 v 2018 Rk	25
Off Rk	22
Def Rk	5
QB Rk	25
RB Rk	21
WR Rk	30
TE Rk	28
Oline Rk	7
Dline Rk	1
LB Rk	28
DB Rk	8

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
PIT	CHI	SF	LAR	DAL	WAS	PHI	TB	WAS	PHI	CIN	SEA	ARI	CLE	BAL	DAL
3.5	5.5	7	7	7.5	-4.5	5.5	3	0	3.5	-1	9	-1	1	13	3
A	A	H	A	A		A	H		H		A		H	A	

Avg = 3.9

Home Lines

1	3	6	8	10	14	15	17
3.5	7	-4.5	3	3.5	-1	1	
PIT	SF	WAS	TB	PHI	ARI	CLE	DAL

Avg = 1.9

Road Lines

2	4	5	7	9	12	13	16
5.5	7	7.5	5.5	0	-1	9	
CHI	LAR	DAL	PHI	WAS	CIN	SEA	BAL

Avg = 5.8

One of the two real losses when the Giants won the EDSR battle came in Week 7 against the Cardinals. The Giants were -3 in turnover margin and lost by only six points. Turnovers trump virtually everything, and were it not for a -3 margin, the Giants likely are 4-1 when winning the EDSR battle and 1-10 when losing it.

That Giants went 2-5 in one-score games last year, which was actually a decrease in results given they were 4-8 in 2018. It's easy to suggest that such records are due to regress, But in these five losses, the Giants actually won the turnover battle in three of five, and lost the EDSR battle in two of those three. Those games should have been larger losses for the Giants — they were fortunate the game was within one score.

The Giants also have some work to do to improve passing efficiency, but there are a couple key things that, if enhanced, could pay quick dividends.

Looking at receiving efficiency from 2019, all wide receivers delivered reasonable returns from a success and EPA perspective. However, the biggest shock was the inefficiency from the tight end position. Typically, tight end is a young quarterback's best friend. Routes that tight ends run are generally easy for quarterbacks to target. Additionally, they are run in an area of the field where passes typically see success. Finally, they usually have matchup advantages purely due to size over the defenders assigned to cover them in routes.

So it was stunning to see **Evan Engram**, a year after delivering 0.26 EPA/att (better than Odell Beckham) and receiving 9.0 YPA, struggle as he did in 2019. Engram recorded just 6.8 YPA, a 41% success rate, and 0.07 EPA/att. Of any receiver targeted at least 30 times, it was the worst on the Giants.

Engram's aDOT was only 6.1 yards, so these were not deep, difficult passes. The difference in production by route type was astonishing. Look at the two routes he ran the most, with at least 12 targets on each last year:

Outs: -0.50 EPA/att, 31% success, 3.2 YPA, 67 rating
Curls: 0.24 EPA/att, 50% success, 7.4 YPA, 96 rating

If Jason Garrett can improve the chemistry between Engram and Jones, it will go a long way to improving the Giants passing efficiency.

Another way to improve Jones's efficiency is through the use of play-action. But not just any play action: shotgun play-action.
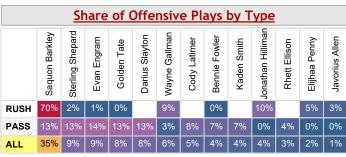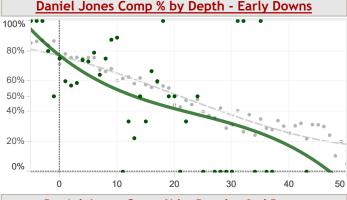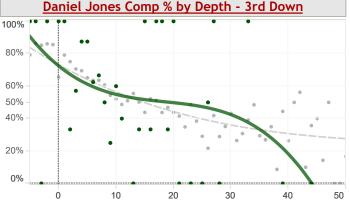
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Saquon Barkley	13%	13%	67%	2%	4%
	Sterling Shepard		33%	50%		17%
	Evan Engram		67%	33%		
	Golden Tate			100%		
	Wayne Gallman	10%	7%	48%	3%	31%
	Bennie Fowler			100%		
	Jonathan Hilliman	13%	10%	50%	3%	23%
	Elijhaa Penny	33%	7%	33%		27%
	Javorius Allen	10%		10%		80%
	Total	13%	13%	60%	2%	12%
PASS	Saquon Barkley	25%	23%	50%		2%
	Sterling Shepard	18%	22%	52%	1%	6%
	Evan Engram	40%	15%	38%	3%	4%
	Golden Tate	16%	19%	63%		1%
	Darius Slayton	9%	20%	69%		2%
	Wayne Gallman	25%	13%	31%	13%	19%
	Cody Latimer	28%	15%	53%		5%
	Bennie Fowler	46%	17%	31%	3%	3%
	Kaden Smith	18%	15%	68%		
	Jonathan Hilliman		50%	50%		
	Rhett Ellison	24%	19%	48%		10%
	Elijhaa Penny	50%		50%		
	Javorius Allen	100%				
	Total	26%	18%	51%	1%	4%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Saquon Barkley	Sterling Shepard	Evan Engram	Golden Tate	Darius Slayton	Wayne Gallman	Cody Latimer	Bennie Fowler	Kaden Smith	Jonathan Hilliman	Rhett Ellison	Elijhaa Penny	Javorius Allen
RUSH	70%	2%	1%	0%		9%		0%		10%		5%	3%
PASS	13%	13%	14%	13%	13%	3%	8%	7%	7%	0%	4%	0%	0%
ALL	35%	9%	9%	8%	8%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%	1%

Daniel Jones Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Daniel Jones Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, -0.07 (536)	43%, -0.10 (79)	47%, -0.09 (19)	50%, 0.69 (4)	0%, -1.74 (2)	20%, -0.59 (5)	50%, 0.08 (4)	42%, -0.08 (649)
RUSH	53%, 0.08 (212)	38%, -0.25 (95)	38%, -0.22 (29)	45%, -0.26 (20)	17%, -1.26 (6)			47%, -0.07 (362)
All	45%, -0.02 (748)	40%, -0.18 (174)	42%, -0.16 (48)	46%, -0.10 (24)	13%, -1.38 (8)	20%, -0.59 (5)	50%, 0.08 (4)	44%, -0.07 (1,011)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Saquon Barkley	34% (62) 6.7, 0.14	40% (5) 0.8, -0.53	67% (3) 4.3, 0.03		36% (70) 6.2, 0.09
TE	Evan Engram	41% (54) 7.0, 0.09	38% (13) 6.9, -0.01			40% (67) 7.0, 0.07
	Rhett Ellison	25% (16) 6.0, -0.36	33% (9) 7.0, 0.13	33% (3) 2.7, -0.18		29% (28) 6.0, -0.18
WR	Golden Tate	51% (74) 8.3, 0.20	50% (6) 7.0, 0.28	50% (2) 5.5, 0.37	0% (2) 0.0, -0.47	50% (84) 8.0, 0.19
	Sterling Shepard	57% (70) 7.2, 0.03	64% (11) 5.3, 0.30	50% (2) 4.5, -0.03	100% (1) 7.0, 1.16	58% (84) 6.9, 0.08
	Darius Slayton	44% (43) 7.9, 0.10	80% (5) 7.4, 0.67	67% (3) 9.0, 0.79	100% (1) 14.0, 0.11	50% (52) 8.0, 0.20
	Cody Latimer	51% (37) 6.7, 0.22	33% (3) 3.0, 0.24	50% (2) 21.5, -1.65		50% (42) 7.1, 0.13

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Barkley Saquon	49% (137) 5.8, 0.02	33% (57) 2.5, -0.24	29% (17) 3.5, -0.26	50% (6) 2.0, -0.11	43% (217) 4.6, -0.07
Jones Daniel	67% (33) 7.6, 0.26	100% (3) 4.3, 0.76	100% (3) 5.3, 0.60	25% (4) -0.3, -0.75	67% (43) 6.5, 0.23
Hilliman Jon	46% (13) 3.6, -0.06	33% (12) 2.8, -0.54	33% (3) 3.3, -0.03	100% (1) 2.0, 0.75	41% (29) 3.2, -0.23
Gallman Wayne	71% (14) 6.6, 0.21	13% (8) 1.3, -0.54	0% (1) 2.0, -0.34	33% (3) 0.7, -0.05	46% (26) 4.1, -0.07
Allen Javorius	100% (1) 4.0, 0.42	50% (6) 4.7, -0.15		67% (3) 1.3, -0.11	60% (10) 3.6, -0.08

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	46% (237) 7.3, 0.11
M2M	48% (143) 6.2, 0.16
Screen	50% (34) 9.3, 0.49

Passing by Route

Curl	60% (112) 6.3, 0.12
Out	55% (62) 6.6, 0.20
Slant	51% (41) 7.9, 0.15
Screen	45% (38) 8.7, 0.42
Flat	50% (24) 4.6, 0.40
Dig	57% (21) 6.8, 0.33

Throw Types

Level 1	51% (385) 6.4, 0.16
Level 2	43% (89) 8.4, 0.00
Level 3	26% (53) 8.2, -0.02
Sidearm	50% (2) 3.5, -0.34

QB Drop Types

3 Step	45% (240) 6.7, 0.07
0/1 Step	56% (151) 7.7, 0.26
5 Step	33% (70) 5.1, -0.30
Designed Rollout Right	48% (23) 6.5, 0.14
Basic Screen	40% (20) 8.7, 0.58
7 Step	50% (10) 4.8, 0.11

QB State at Pass

Planted	49% (475) 7.1, 0.14
Moving	33% (70) 5.0, -0.13
Shuffling	32% (62) 5.3, -0.13

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	43% (65) 6.4, -0.29	30% (10) 3.2, -0.90
Shotgun	56% (81) 9.6, 0.26	40% (494) 6.4, -0.08
ALL	50% (146) 8.2, 0.02	40% (504) 6.3, -0.10

Run Types

Inside Zone	47% (113) 4.4, -0.08
Outside Zone	34% (62) 2.6, -0.32
Power	51% (51) 5.7, 0.08
Pitch	9% (11) 0.6, -0.57
Lead	44% (9) 1.4, -0.09
Stretch	20% (5) 5.0, -0.47

NYG-5

The Giants had massive play-action splits, but used it at near-average rates. On early downs in the first three quarters:

- With P/A: 9.0 YPA, 59% success, 0.20 EPA/att
- W/O P/A: 6.0 YPA, 43% success, -0.14 EPA/att

But the real edge wasn't play-action from under center and sticking it in the belly of Barkley before pulling it. The real edge was shotgun play-action, as these splits show:

- Under center P/A: 6.9 YPA, 50% success, -0.11 EPA/att (55 att)
- Shotgun P/A: 10.9 YPA, 67% success, 0.48 EPA/att, (60 att)

The Giants were barely better with under center play-action than when they didn't use any at all. But they were volumes better when using shotgun play-action in 2019.

With regard to Jones, here is a notable nugget: he ranked 22nd in completed air yards, 22nd in air yards vs YAC, but third in aggressiveness rank and 33rd in expected completion percentage. This was very problematic. Breaking it down, ranking below average in completed air yards means he's not throwing deep down the field. The longer a throw, the less likely it is to get completed. So, he was throwing shorter passes which should be more likely completed. But let's tackle the aggressiveness ranking next. Aggressiveness is a player tracking stat, and measures the amount of passing attempts a quarterback makes that are into tight coverage, where there is a defender within one yard or less of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion. This means that even though Jones was throwing short, he was still throwing into tight coverage. And that's echoed in his expected completion percentage, which measures probability of a pass completion, based on numerous factors such as receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field and the separation the passer had at the time of throw from the nearest pass rusher. There shouldn't be a need to be so aggressive (third of 39 QBs) with passes that have super low expected completion (33rd of 39 QBs) when you're throwing well below average depth of target. This is something that Jason Garrett needs to fix. Jones also had a massive drop off when he moved off of his first read.

It seems like no team in the league faces worse scheduling than the Giants, and the story is unchanged in 2020. Not only do the Giants face the second-toughest schedule in the NFL this year based on opponents, they are the only team in the NFL to play three short-rest road games as well. After their Week 1 Monday night game, they must play on the road in Chicago on short rest. Then they have to play Thursday night in Philadelphia. Then, they play another Monday night game (this time against the Buccaneers) and are on the road the following week. In their first 10 games the Giants don't play a single other team forecast to produce a losing record in 2020 aside from the Redskins. And most of their opponents are forecast to produce over nine wins. Last year, Daniel Jones benefitted from facing the NFL's 19th toughest slate of pass defenses. In 2020, they face the 10th toughest opposing pass defenses. And they start the season playing four straight top-10 pass defenses, the second-toughest schedule of any passing offense to start the season. But where the schedule gets much worse is for the Giants defense.

New York Giants 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Giants closed 2019 ranking 24th in success rate passing (42%), 24th in yards per pass attempt (6.7 yards), and 27th in expected points added via their passing offense. After selecting **Daniel Jones** with the sixth overall pick in last year's draft, the rookie found the field starting in Week 3. There were low points. Jones ranked 35th among all quarterbacks with at least four starts in yards per attempt (6.6 yards) and 30th in completion rate (61.9%), but there were also some highs. Jones was just the second rookie passer to have three games with four or more touchdown passes and had five 300-yard passing games. His 24 touchdown passes overall on the season were good for third all-time by a rookie. Jones was pressured on 41% of his dropbacks (second highest) and sacked on 7.6%, but improvement still has to be made without pressure, where Jones ranked 24th in yards per pass attempt (7.0) from a clean pocket.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Daniel Jones	284	459	62%	3,021	6.6	24	12	38	88	27
Eli Manning	91	147	62%	1,042	7.1	6	5	5	83	38
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Daniel Jones	41%	42%	39	8.0%	18	4.0%	5.7	5.0	16	3%
Eli Manning	47%	56%	15	10.0%	6	4.0%	6.8	4.6	9	6%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Daniel Jones Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2		0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	4.2%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
6 - 9	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
10 - 14	3.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	3.1%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%	2.6%
Total	2.7%	1.3%	2.9%	5.0%	2.4%

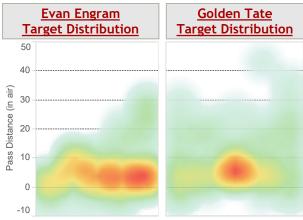### 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Daniel Jones	8.9	5.6	-3.4	72%	27
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
52%	48%	22
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Despite multiple missed games from **Sterling Shepard**, **Golden Tate**, and **Darius Slayton**, Giants wide receivers did collectively have a 52% success rate (14th) per target despite ranking 21st in yards per target (7.4). Slayton (48-740-8) was a major positive as a rookie, leading the team in snaps played at receiver and matching the league lead with eight touchdown receptions among rookie wideouts despite being the 18th receiver selected. Where the Giants really struggled was ranking 32nd in success rates targeting both their tight ends (41%) and running backs (35%). Both **Evan Engram** and **Saquon Barkley** missed time, but there is far too much talent at those positions to come in at the bottom of the league.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Golden Tate	85	58%	7.9	86.9	49%	81	110	61	57	4
Sterling Shepard	85	67%	6.8	78.4	58%	27	74	86	24	3
Darius Slayton	83	58%	8.9	99.5	48%	87	64	31	117	5
Saquon Barkley	73	71%	6.0	95.6	34%	135	131	26	131	2
Evan Engram	68	65%	6.9	99.3	41%	125	121	70	129	3

Evan Engram Target Distribution

Golden Tate Target Distribution

Pass Distance (in air)

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

As a team, the Giants ranked 18th in rushing success rate (48%), 11th in expected points added via rushing, and sixth in yards per carry (4.7 YPC) despite their head pin in Saquon Barkley checking in below his rookie season output. Barkley has been a volatile runner over his two years in the league, ranking 48th (44%) and 60th (41%) in success rate the past two seasons, but he ranks second in rushing yardage (1,371 yards) and touchdowns (nine) on carries that have gained 10 or more yards. An early-season ankle injury and Barkley's line compounded the nature of his style as he ranked 34th in yards before contact (1.8) after averaging 2.2 YBC (24th) as a rookie while forcing a missed tackle once every 13.6 carries as opposed to once every 8.7 in 2018. Improvements up front, a clean bill of health and new offensive scheme will help Barkley.

Yards per Carry by Direction

2.8	4.3	3.6	3.6	5.2	5.0	5.7
	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	

Directional Run Frequency

5%	8%	17%	31%	15%	16%	8%
	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Saquon Barkley	217	4.6	44%	59	54	77	2	45%	52	6

Sorting out the Giants Passing Game

The Giants did not have all of Saquon Barkley, Evan Engram, Sterling Shepard, Golden Tate, and Darius Slayton all on the field at the same time for a single snap in 2019. Shepard, Tate, and Engram played just one game together while the three wideouts played just six games together. To compound matters, Daniel Jones played in just four of those six games. In the one game the Giants had everyone but Barkley, Engram led the team with 11 targets, followed by Shepard (nine), Tate (six), and Slayton (five). In the four games all three wideouts played with Jones, Shepard (21-179-1) led the team with 35 targets, followed by Tate (22-of-32 for 210-2) and Slayton (12-of-23 for 179-1).

All in all, we have one big mess on our hands. Shepard was his best without Tate active (16.8 PPG) and the inverse was true about Tate with Shepard inactive (17.6 PPG) and both averaged fewer points when they played with Engram on the field. Slayton averaged 14.2 PPG with Engram sidelined as opposed to 9.4 points with him on the field.

Shepard averaged a career-high 5.7 catches per game in 2019 and had at least five catches in all four of the games all three wideouts played with Jones. But he also averaged career-low 10.1 yards per catch. Shepard has scored just nine touchdowns over the past three seasons and has now had three official concussions while in the league plus migraine issues that have bothered him in the past. Tate will be 32 years old at the start of the season, having posted a 19-272-3 line (10.7 PPG) in the six games he played with both Shepard and Slayton also active as opposed to a 30-404-3 line when Shepard was out. Slayton is the most intriguing of the three because he is coming off a strong rookie season and does not carry injury the stigma of Shepard. But he does not come without volume concerns even with an expected year two jump in usage. He is also due for expected touchdown regression. Slayton scored eight times when his expected touchdown total based on target opportunity on the field was just 3.5 scores.

Struggling to find consistency with a rookie passer, Engram had 6-113-1 in his first game with Daniel Jones then combined for 21-190-1 over his other five games played with Jones under center. Engram plays the palatable fantasy position to chase here, but he has now missed 13 games over the past two seasons. That missed time has kept Engram outside of the top-12 end of season scorers in each of the past two seasons, but he has been the TE7 in PPR points per game in each of those years. Engram has scored six times in 19 games the past two seasons after scoring six times in 15 games as a rookie, but the targets are still there. Engram averaged 21.5% of the team's targets per game in 2019, a rate that would have ranked sixth at the position over a full season.

The easy answer would be to just select Daniel Jones and let the chips fall where they may week to week given just about everyone here is a concern to miss more time at some stage outside of Slayton given the history between Engram and Shepard plus Tate's age.

If playing the options here, Engram is the top target based on scarcity at the position, but he is also the only player here that costs you anything of real significance in terms of draft equity. All of the wideouts do not carry a lot of downside at their cost since everyone at that stage has it. I prefer Shepard for his target and reception floor in reception-based formats, but Slayton and Tate both carry upside based on year two growth for Slayton and the injuries surrounding Engram and Shepard.

New York Giants Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	14 plays (4%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.70	249 plays (69%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.10	86 plays (24%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.19	9 plays (3%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.87	359 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.17
1-2 [2WR]	32 plays (33%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.09	59 plays (61%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.12	6 plays (6%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.19		97 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.05
2-1 [2WR]	20 plays (57%) Success: 65% EPA: 0.62	15 plays (43%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.13			35 plays (100%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.30
2-2 [1WR]	9 plays (82%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.46	2 plays (18%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.47			11 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.29
Grand Total	75 plays (15%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.20	325 plays (65%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.09	92 plays (18%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.19	9 plays (2%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.87	502 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.15

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	19%	23
Nickel	62%	12
Dime+	18%	15
Rush 3	5%	17
Rush 4	67%	13
Rush 5	20%	16
Rush 6+	9%	5
Blitz%	29%	10

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Giants doubled down on the bizarre **Leonard Williams** trade by giving him the franchise tag this offseason. He'll count for $16.1 million on the 2020 cap for being pretty good. The depth for the Giants' interior line was good before the Williams trade. They had just used a first-round pick on **Dexter Lawrence** and **Dalvin Tomlinson** had shown some pass rush production to add on to his run-stopping. Tomlinson is in the last year of his rookie deal but was the best run defender on the line. The Williams trade derailed the progression of 2018 third-round pick **B.J. Hill**, who was impressive as a starter during his rookie season.

On an offseason conference call, general manager Dave Gettleman said he believes the Giants can create their pass rush with scheme and, boy, are they going to have to with this group. The Giants were 17th in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate last season and 23rd in team pressure rate per SIS.

Markus Golden was the team's only consistent threat as a pass rusher in 2019. He was hit with a rare UFA tag, so he may or may not be back by the end of July.

Free agent addition **Kyler Fackrell** is somewhere between his 10.5-sack 2018 season and 1.0-sack 2019. **Oshane Ximine**s showed some flashes as a third-round rookie but 2018 third-round pick **Lorenzo Carter** hasn't been able to find a groove as a pass rusher.

Blake Martinez was a tackle machine in Green Bay, whose responsibilities were to make clean up tackles and not much else. **Ryan Connelly** played well above expectations for a fifth-round rookie before a torn ACL cost him the remainder of the 2019 season just four weeks in. **David Mayo** found his way into playing time because of the Connelly injury and could be the starter at the beginning of the year.

The Giants have used a lot of resources at cornerback over the past two seasons and it's still not a great group. The addition of **James Bradberry**, who played well covering No. 1 corners in the NFC South, will give the Giants a top corner. **DeAndre Baker** struggled mightily his rookie season before any off-field troubles came during the offseason. 2018 Supplemental Draft pick **Sam Beal** came on at the end of the season after Janoris Jenkins was waived, but he's still played just six games over two seasons.

Beal could be in for more time in the slot, where the Giants had no answers in 2019. **Grant Haley** fell out of favor and no corner with 100 or more coverage snaps allowed more Adjusted Yards (factoring in touchdowns and interceptions) or was targeted more often than **Corey Ballentine**. 2020 fifth-round pick **Darnay Holmes** will be in contention for the slot role, though he played just 10% of his snaps inside last year at UCLA.

Julian Love played a bit of a slot/safety hybrid last season and could bounce around the secondary wherever help is needed. Second-round pick **Xavier McKinney** gives the Giants an immediate upgrade at safety with a mix of plus instincts and athleticism. **Jabrill Peppers** was fine as the box safety but missed the final five games of the season with a back injury.

New York Giants 2019 Play Analysis

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	64%
All Pass Rk	3
All Rush %	36%
All Rush Rk	30
1 Score Pass %	63%
1 Score Pass Rk	4
2018 1 Score Pass %	60%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	10
2019 Pass Increase %	2%
Pass Increase Rk	14
1 Score Rush %	37%
1 Score Rush Rk	29
Up Pass %	53%
Up Pass Rk	12
Up Rush %	47%
Up Rush Rk	21
Down Pass %	70%
Down Pass Rk	5
Down Rush %	30%
Down Rush Rk	28

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	13%	88%	38%
	Med (4-7)	11	82%	18%	55%
	Long (8-10)	297	51%	49%	52%
	XL (11+)	10	80%	20%	40%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	42	31%	69%	64%
	Med (4-7)	77	57%	43%	47%
	Long (8-10)	87	61%	39%	33%
	XL (11+)	35	83%	17%	14%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	46	65%	35%	61%
	Med (4-7)	46	89%	11%	50%
	Long (8-10)	35	94%	6%	17%
	XL (11+)	22	86%	14%	27%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	7	43%	57%	57%
	Med (4-7)	5	100%	0%	60%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	100%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	27%	73%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	74%	20%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	26%	80%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
46%	32	66%	76%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
54%	1	34%	56%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	5	20%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Darius Slayton	2	50%
			Golden Tate	2	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	102	45%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Sterling Shepard	2	50%
			Golden Tate	2	0%
		RUSH	Daniel Jones	2	100%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	20	70%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	22	45%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	22	23%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Evan Engram	6	17%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	8	50%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Sterling Shepard	8	75%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Bennie Fowler	5	40%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Golden Tate	4	50%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	Play Action (Y/N) No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 39% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.16 Rtg: 77.1 *[Att: 372 - Rate: 57.2%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.04 Rtg: 120.8 *[Att: 110 - Rate: 16.9%]*	Success: 41% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.12 Rtg: 87.0 *[Att: 482 - Rate: 74.2%]*
Yes	Success: 44% YPA: 6.3, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 83.9 *[Att: 132 - Rate: 20.3%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 128.6 *[Att: 36 - Rate: 5.5%]*	Success: 45% YPA: 6.4, EPA: 0.05 Rtg: 93.4 *[Att: 168 - Rate: 25.8%]*
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 79.0 *[Att: 504 - Rate: 77.5%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.02 Rtg: 123.2 *[Att: 146 - Rate: 22.5%]*	Success: 42% YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 88.6 *[Att: 650 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Saquon Barkley	Darius Slayton	Golden Tate	Sterling Shepard	Evan Engram	Kaden Smith	Cody Latimer	Bennie Fowler	Rhett Ellison
1	DAL	L 35-17	55 (80%)			68 (99%)	53 (77%)		61 (88%)	50 (72%)	22 (32%)
2	BUF	L 28-14	61 (87%)			55 (79%)			40 (57%)	55 (79%)	33 (47%)
3	TB	W 32-31	24 (37%)	29 (45%)		62 (95%)	57 (88%)			39 (60%)	23 (35%)
4	WAS	W 24-3		34 (44%)		70 (90%)	57 (73%)		27 (35%)	49 (63%)	41 (53%)
5	MIN	L 28-10	45 (65%)	46 (67%)	56 (81%)	58 (84%)			32 (46%)		29 (42%)
6	NE	L 35-14		49 (98%)	49 (98%)			10 (20%)	23 (46%)		50 (100%)
7	ARI	L 27-21	61 (86%)	69 (97%)	70 (99%)		59 (83%)		23 (32%)	28 (39%)	28 (39%)
8	DET	L 31-26	61 (82%)	62 (84%)	69 (93%)		65 (88%)		33 (45%)	23 (31%)	30 (41%)
9	DAL	L 37-18	59 (82%)	67 (93%)	68 (94%)		50 (69%)	3 (4%)	11 (15%)	42 (58%)	36 (50%)
10	NYJ	L 34-27	59 (82%)	67 (93%)	68 (94%)			41 (57%)	6 (8%)	55 (76%)	35 (49%)
12	CHI	L 19-14	58 (97%)	51 (85%)	50 (83%)	57 (95%)		59 (98%)	9 (15%)		
13	GB	L 31-13	64 (96%)	63 (94%)		57 (85%)		61 (91%)	33 (49%)		
14	PHI	L 23-17	49 (94%)	42 (81%)	46 (88%)	48 (92%)		50 (96%)	4 (8%)		
15	MIA	W 36-20	54 (79%)	47 (69%)	38 (56%)	54 (79%)		68 (100%)	16 (24%)		
16	WAS	W 41-35	68 (97%)	20 (29%)	58 (83%)	70 (100%)		70 (100%)	41 (59%)		
17	PHI	L 34-17	64 (86%)	64 (86%)	67 (91%)	66 (89%)		74 (100%)	14 (19%)		
	Grand Total		737 (83%)	709 (76%)	629 (86%)	608 (91%)	454 (80%)	436 (74%)	373 (36%)	341 (60%)	327 (49%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	74%	60%	45%
1-2 [2WR]	17%	20%	40%
2-1 [2WR]	5%	8%	42%
2-2 [1WR]	2%	4%	46%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	72%	42%	53%
1-2 [2WR]	45%	43%	38%
2-1 [2WR]	40%	47%	38%
2-2 [1WR]	17%	50%	45%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Evan Engram	11	3	2	6
Sterling Shepard	10		4	6
Golden Tate	8			8
Saquon Barkley	7	2	3	2
Cody Latimer	6	1	1	4
Darius Slayton	6	1	2	3
Kaden Smith	6	2	1	3
Bennie Fowler	4			4

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Saquon Barkley	32	8	8	16
Wayne Gallman	6	4		2
Daniel Jones	5	1	2	2
Jonathan Hilliman	3	1	1	1
Elijhaa Penny	2		2	
Javorius Allen	2	1		1
Eli Manning	1		1	
Sterling Shepard	1		1	

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	19%	26%	55%
	23%	*21%*	*56%*
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	35%	41%	52%
	#32	#32	#14

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	4
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-2.0
03. Wins	4

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	20
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	17
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	5
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	17
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	18
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	12
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	21
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	14
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	3
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	27
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	23
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	28
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	19
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	8
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	25
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	19
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	32
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	31
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	15
23.	PA Improvement Success	2
24.	PA Improvement YPA	8
25.	PA Improvement Rating	2
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	12
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	22
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	9
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	14
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	22
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	11
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	17
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	17
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	23
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	27

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.4
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.0
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	7.9
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	47%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	45%
42.	PSM Rating	85.1
43.	Non-PSM Rating	84.7

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45.	PA Success Rate	59%
46.	PA YPA	9.0
47.	PA Sack Rate	5.2%
48.	PA Rating	118
49.	PA Target Depth	8.1
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	43%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	3.2%
53.	Non-PA Rating	72.5
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	8.0

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	26%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.6
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	28%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	51%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	6

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	21	defFUM	14
Net FROE	-2.1	defFUM Rcvrd	6
offFUM	31	defFR Rk	20
offFUM Rcvrd	15	defFR%	42.9%
offFR%	48.4%	defFROE	-0.5
offFR Rk	21	defFROE Rk	19
offFROE	-1.6		
offFROE Rk	24		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	71%	YOY Swing	-16%
2019 FG Rk	30	YOY Swing Rk	27
Opp 2019 FG %	78%	2018 Team Net	8%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	25	2018 Net Rk	6
2019 Team Net	-8%		
2019 Net Rk	26		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Daniel Jones	Eli Manning
CAY	5.7	6.7
CAY Rk	22	9
2018 CAY Rk		27
AYTS Rk	19	19
2018 AYTS Rk		34
AGG Rk	3	8
2018 AGG Rk		6
COMP%	61.9	61.9
xCOMP%	62.1	64.8
xCOMP% Rk	33	16
2018 xCOMP% Rk		6
CPOE%	-0.2	-2.9
CPOE Rk	17	31
2018 CPOE Rk		30
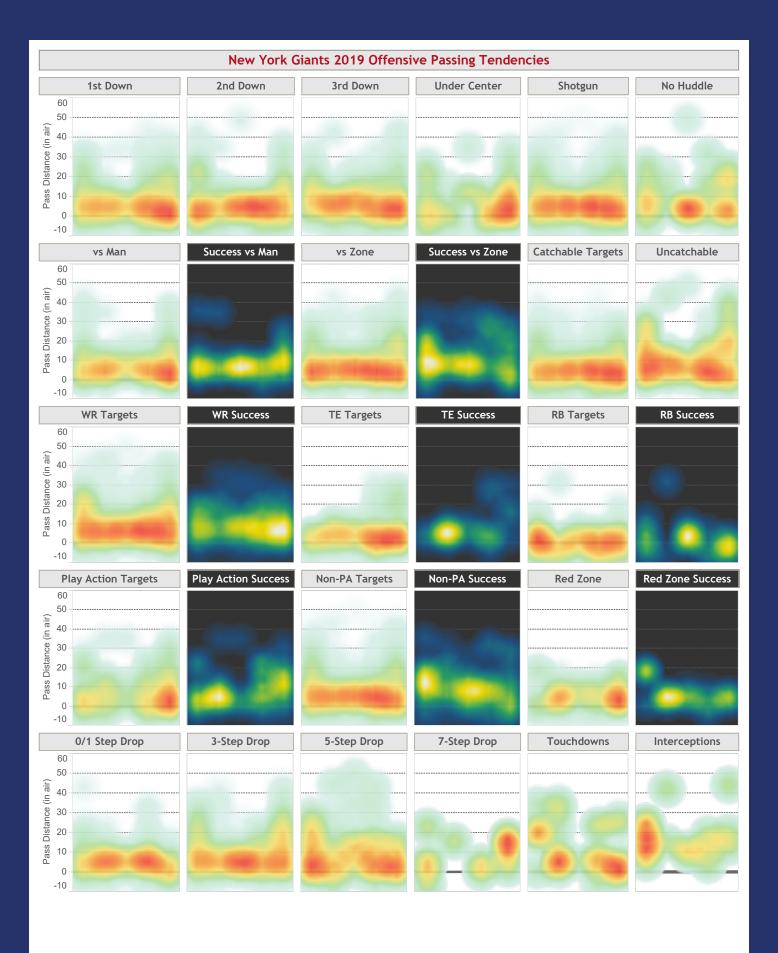
CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Daniel Jones	Eli Manning
Pressure %	41.7	20.3
Pressure Rk	2	39
Sack %	18.2	16.1
Sack Rk	18	24
Under Pressure Accuracy %	63.8	31.3
Pressure Accuracy Rk	17	39
Rating when Pressured	72.2	7.5
Pressured Rating Rk	17	38
Clean Accuracy %	76.5	76.9
Clean Accuracy Rk	29	27
Rating when Clean	96.8	101.6
Clean Rating Rk	28	17
Time to Throw	2.84	2.66
Time to Throw Rk	13	32

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.07
EPA/Pass Rk	25
EPA/Rush	-0.09
EPA/Rush Rk	25
On-Target Catch %	83.6
On-Target Catch Rk	22
Drop%	6.9
Drop Rk	11
YAC/Att	2.7
YAC/Att Rk	4
Rush Broken Tackle %	13.5
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	25
Rush 1st Down %	24.3
Rush 1st Down Rk	11

New York Giants 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

| 1st Down | 2nd Down | 3rd Down | Under Center | Shotgun | No Huddle |

| vs Man | Success vs Man | vs Zone | Success vs Zone | Catchable Targets | Uncatchable |

| WR Targets | WR Success | TE Targets | TE Success | RB Targets | RB Success |

| Play Action Targets | Play Action Success | Non-PA Targets | Non-PA Success | Red Zone | Red Zone Success |

| 0/1 Step Drop | 3-Step Drop | 5-Step Drop | 7-Step Drop | Touchdowns | Interceptions |

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Adam Gase (Calls plays) (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
Dowell Loggains (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Gregg Williams (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

New York Jets

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
7	#3

Past Records
2019: 7-9
2018: 4-12
2017: 5-11

BUF	SF	IND	DEN	ARI	LAC	BUF	KC	NE	MIA		MIA	LVR	SEA	LAR	CLE	NE
A	H	A	H	H	A	H	A	H	A		H	H	A	A	H	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF   MNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Brandon Copeland (34OLB)	Patriots
Brandon Shell (RT)	Seahawks
Brent Qvale (LT)	Texans
Darryl Roberts (CB)	Lions
Maurice Canady (CB)	Cowboys
Robby Anderson (WR)	Panthers
Tom Compton (RG)	49ers
Ty Montgomery (RB)	Saints
Albert McClellan (ILB)	Null
Bilal Powell (RB)	Null
Blake Countess (S)	Null
Charles Tapper (34OLB)	Null
Demaryius Thomas (WR)	Null
Kelvin Beachum (LT)	Null
Lachlan Edwards (P)	Null
Paul Worrilow (ILB)	Null
Rontez Miles (S)	Null
Ryan Kalil (C)	Null
Trevor Siemian (QB)	Null
Trumaine Johnson (CB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
3.2	5	11

2020 New York Jets Overview

Writing the Jets chapter in the 2019 preview was frustrating. The aftermath of the 2018 Jets 4-12 season saw head coach Todd Bowles get fired. His newly appointed offensive coordinator, Jeremy Bates, took over for John Morton and Bates was a disaster. I was hoping this year's chapter would be less frustrating. After all, Adam Gase was the new head coach, and he was also the team's playcaller. And the Jets went 7-9. It couldn't be worse than the 2018 Jets… could it?

The dismal 2018 Jets offense ranked 30th in EDSR and 29th in overall offensive efficiency. It was a disaster. So in the offseason, they added dependable slot receiver **Jamison Crowder** and Pro Bowl running back **Le'Veon Bell**.

And yet the 2019 Jets offense ranked 32nd in EDSR and 31st in overall offensive efficiency.

This wasn't a team moving forward in Adam Gase's first year. This was a wolf treading water in sheep's clothing.

Whenever I see a team ranking 31st in third down conversion rate, as the 2019 Jets offense did, the first place I look is average yardage to go on third down. In 2018, the Jets averaged 7.5 yards to go on third downs, which ranked eighth-worst in the NFL. But in 2019, the Jets averaged a ridiculous 8.1 yards to go on third down. Dead last in the NFL. In the first half, they averaged an even worse 8.3 yards to go on third down. Also, dead last.

Clearly, the Jets' 32nd rank in early down success not only resulted in few third downs skipped, it resulted in incredibly long yards to go on third down. So, what went wrong?

If we flash back to 2018, I wrote about a significant problem that *(cont'd - see NYJ2)*

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
George Fant (LT)	$9.19
Connor McGovern (C)	$9
Breshad Perriman (WR)	$6.5
Pierre Desir (CB)	$3.79
Greg Van Roten (LG)	$3.5
Patrick Onwuasor (ILB)	$2
Joe Flacco (QB)	$1.5
Quincy Wilson (CB)	Trade
Frank Gore (RB)	$1.10
Josh Andrews (C)	$1

Drafted Players
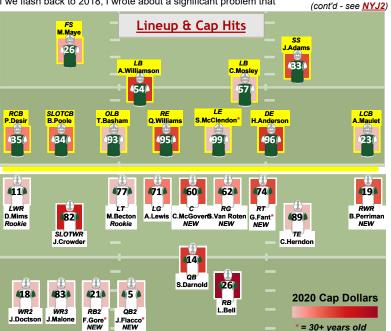
Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	11	OT - Mekhi Becton (Louisville)
2	59	WR - Denzel Mims (Baylor)
3	68	S - Ashtyn Davis (California)
3	79	DE - Jabari Zuniga (Florida)
	120	RB - La'Mical Perine (Florida)
4	125	QB - James Morgan (Florida International)
	129	OT - Cameron Clark (Charlotte)
5	158	CB - Bryce Hall (Virginia)
6	191	P - Braden Mann (Texas A&M)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	Jets	7
2019 Wins	Jets	7
Forecast 2019 Wins	Jets	7
2018 Wins	Jets	4
2017 Wins	Jets	5
2016 Wins	Jets	5

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS M.Maye 26
LB A.Williamson 54
LB C.Mosley 57
SS J.Adams 33

RCB P.Desir 35
SLOTCB B.Poole 34
OLB T.Basham 93
RE Q.Williams 95
LE S.McClendon* 99
DE H.Anderson 96
LCB A.Maulet 23

LWR D.Mims Rookie 11
SLOTWR J.Crowder 82
LT M.Becton Rookie 77
LG A.Lewis 71
C C.McGovern NEW 60
RG G.Van Roten NEW 62
RT G.Fant* NEW 74
TE C.Herndon 89
RWR B.Perriman NEW 19

QB S.Darnold 14
RB L.Bell 26

WR2 J.Doctson 18
WR3 J.Malone 83
RB2 F.Gore* NEW 21
QB2 J.Flacco* NEW 5

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF   All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	12	$109.28M	22
QB	21	$11.65M	25
OL	19	$38.91M	12
RB	1	$19.12M	6
WR	8	$33.13M	15
TE	25	$6.47M	30
All DEF	11	$104.35M	10
DL	27	$34.20M	23
LB	5	$40.86M	5
CB	17	$17.59M	9
S	17	$11.70M	12

then-offensive coordinator Bates had with second downs. The Jets ran a ton on second and long, particularly after a **Sam Darnold** incompletion. They ran the ball the fourth-most often on second and 10+ yards to go in the first three quarters. These runs averaged just 13% success and gained only 3.3 YPC. Both were last in the NFL.

As it turns out, 2019 was like a bad version of Groundhog Day. It was the same movie, but with different characters. Sub out Bill Murray, act like you're upgrading him, but instead we have to watch Jim Varney survive a day in Punxsutawney.

Instead of running fourth-most, the 2019 Jets ran third-most on 2nd and 10+ yards to go. These runs produced just 15% success and gained 3.0 YPC. They averaged -0.34 EPA/att. No, the upgrade from Isiah Crowell and Bilal Powell to Bell wasn't worth anything on these plays.

The answer isn't bringing in a better pedigree running back to run on 2nd and 10. It's to stop running on 2nd and 10.

Such plays simply result in third and long, which the Jets couldn't convert in 2018 or 2019, and likely won't convert in 2020 either.

Overall the Jets ranked 29th in EDSR and 32nd in first half yards-to-go on third down.

It's vital to fix the Jets' performance on early downs, not just because it would keep them out of third and long, but because their 2019 results were so closely wed to EDSR performance. The Jets went 6-1 when winning the EDSR battle in 2019 and 1-8 when losing it.

Bringing in Le'Veon Bell didn't do anything to help the Jets run game. What it did was eat up $9 million in cap space and give the Jets worse rushing efficiency than they had in 2018.

Bell averaged just 3.2 YPC and a 41% success rate, which ranked 68th. His explosiveness ranked 80th. He and the Jets ranked dead last in broken tackle rate. And this came against the NFL's 10th-easiest schedule of run defenses last year.

But it's about to get worse for the Jets. Bell's 2020 cap hit nearly doubles to $15.5 million. It's the NFL's highest running back cap hit, and No. 2 isn't close. David Johnson's cap hit is at $11 million.

The only two running backs hitting the cap for over $11 million in 2020 averaged 3.2 YPC and 3.7 YPC last year and scored a combined five touchdowns in 28 games.

The good news is, the schedule of opposing run defenses is about to lighten up, as I forecast the Jets will play the third-easiest schedule of opposing run defenses in 2019. The Jets won't ever get enough efficiency out of Bell to justify his cap hit, but the reality is no running back will deliver that much efficiency. Still, the Jets must figure out a way

to use him to maximize his efficiency as much as possible. Their 2019 offensive line was the second-most injured group in the NFL last year, so player health is likely to improve in 2020. And perhaps such continuity would improve Bell's efficiency.

But more than anything, the Jets seemed like they needed a little more dabbling on the offensive end. Two examples:

In the game's first three quarters, the Jets used 69% 11 personnel. The NFL average was 58%. Their usage rate was 12% above average, and seventh-highest in the NFL. However, their efficiency from 11 personnel was terrible.

The Jets averaged -0.18 EPA/att from 11 personnel in the first three quarters, the second-worst in the NFL. They recorded 6.5 YPA, a 12:12 TD:INT ratio, and took a sack on 10% of dropbacks. All of these were bottom five in the NFL. Yet they stayed in 11 at one of the highest rates in the NFL.
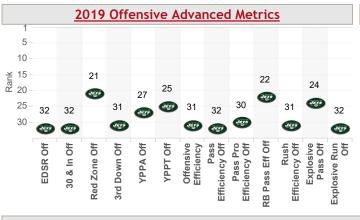
2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Sam Darnold	51% 7.4 97.3	45% 6.8 80.4	35% 6.5 75.5	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	50%	59%	80%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
NYJ	30% 3.5	37% 3.1	42% 3.3	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	50%	41%	20%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	L	L	L		L	W	L	L	L	W	W	W	L	W	L	W	W	WEEK RESULT
OPP	BUF	CLE	NE		PHI	DAL	NE	JAC	MIA	NYG	WAS	OAK	CIN	MIA	BAL	PIT	BUF	
SITE	H	H	A		A	H	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	
MARGIN	-1	-20	-16		-25	2	-33	-14	-8	7	17	31	-16	1	-21	6	7	
PTS	16	3	14		6	24	0	15	18	34	34	34	6	22	21	16	13	
OPP PTS	17	23	30		31	22	33	29	26	27	17	3	22	21	42	10	6	

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **7**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-1**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **29% (#8)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **5-2**
1 Score Games Win %: **71% (#6)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **71% (#9)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-4
TO Given	25
INT Given	16
FUM Given	9
TO Taken	21
INT Taken	12
FUM Taken	9
Sack Margin	-17
Sacks	35
Sacks Allow	52
Return TD Margin	+4
Ret TDs	6
Ret TDs Allow	2
Penalty Margin	-8
Penalties	115
Opponent Penalties	107
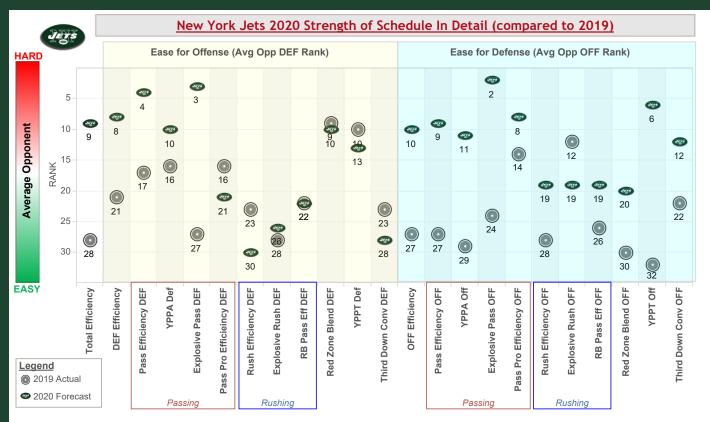
New York Jets 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

Average Opponent — HARD / EASY

RANK

Legend:
- ◉ 2019 Actual
- ⬤ 2020 Forecast

Passing | Rushing | Passing | Rushing

Categories (left to right): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
2	3	29	20	1	1	6	12

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	4.6	4.2	6.2
Average O/U line	42.1	43.0	42.4
Straight Up Record	7-9	4-12	5-11
Against the Spread Record	7-9	5-11	8-6
Over/Under Record	6-9	10-6	7-8
ATS as Favorite	0-4	2-2	0-1
ATS as Underdog	6-5	3-9	7-4
Straight Up Home	5-3	2-6	4-4
ATS Home	4-4	2-6	6-1
Over/Under Home	2-6	6-2	4-3
ATS as Home Favorite	0-2	2-2	0-0
ATS as a Home Dog	4-2	0-4	6-1
Straight Up Away	2-6	2-6	1-7
ATS Away	3-5	3-5	2-5
Over/Under Away	4-3	4-4	3-5
ATS Away Favorite	0-2	0-0	0-1
ATS Away Dog	2-3	3-5	1-3
Six Point Teaser Record	10-6	11-5	14-2
Seven Point Teaser Record	10-5	11-5	14-2
Ten Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-5	14-2

NYJ-3

This was one of the exact issues I had with Gase when in Miami. There was always far too much 11 personnel which wasn't productive. When something isn't working, try switching it up. Experiment. Figure out another way to coax efficiency out of the offense.

Out of all the teams in the NFL last year, only six used fewer unique lineups on offense than the Jets. When something isn't working and isn't efficient, the least likely way a team will improve is to continue doing it repeatedly.

Some coaches may believe the repetition to be beneficial and eventually, the team will turn the corner and perfect things. But if you're putting too limited a catalog on tape, defenses know exactly what to expect. You may be slightly better, but defenses can anticipate what's coming from the lack of diversity. And your efficiency is unlikely to improve.

Another issue I had with the Jets offense was predictability. If you flip to the Success by Play Type and Primary Personnel Groupings graphic in this chapter and

(cont'd - see NYJ-4,

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	3
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	3
Week 6 Edge	1
Week 7 Edge	-3
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	-1
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	-3
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	1

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	32
2018 Rk	13
2019 v 2018 Rk	32
Off Rk	31
Def Rk	32
QB Rk	26
RB Rk	10
WR Rk	29
TE Rk	27
Oline Rk	31
Dline Rk	21
LB Rk	32
DB Rk	24

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
BUF	SF	IND	DEN	ARI	LAC	BUF	KC	NE	MIA	MIA	LVR	SEA	LAR	CLE	NE
6	5.5	7	-2.5	-1	4	2	12.5	1	1.5	-4	-2	8	7	-1	7
A	H	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	H	H	H	A	A	H	A

Home Lines

2	4	5	7	9	12	13	16
5.5 SF	-2.5 DEN	-1 ARI	2 BUF	1 NE	-4 MIA	LVR	CLE

Avg = -0.3

Road Lines

1	3	6	8	10	14	15	17
6 BUF	7 IND	4 LAC	12.5 KC	1.5 MIA	8 SEA	7 LAR	7 NE

Avg = 6.6

review the Jets performance when rushing from 12 or 21 personnel, you'll notice it was terrible. In part, that was because of how predictable the Jets were based on personnel grouping.

When they were in 12 personnel, they ran the ball 70% of the time, third-most often in the NFL. The NFL average was 53% run from 12 personnel. These predictable runs averaged 2.4 YPC, a 34% success rate, and -0.28 EPA/att.

It should not surprise that the two teams that ran even more often when in 12 personnel than the Jets also had terrible production (Bears and Redskins).

In 13 personnel, the Jets ran the ball 84% of the time, also third-most often (NFL average 64% run). These predictable runs averaged 2.8 YPC, a 33% success rate, and -0.16 EPA/att.

In 22 personnel, they ran the ball 93% of the time, second-most often (NFL average 80% run). These predictable runs averaged 0.4 YPC, a 21% success rate, and -0.30 EPA/att.

When tight end **Trevon Wesco** was on the field with **Daniel Brown**, the Jets ran the ball on 83 of 102 plays (81%). When Wesco was on the field without wide receiver **Robby Anderson**, it was a run 88% of the time.

The Jets were not great running out of 11 personnel either, but were far worse running out of heavy sets simply because they would run so often, defenses played run and the Jets never made them pay.

Another thing that was very odd for Gase was his usage of shotgun for Darnold. With 3+ WRs on the field, it was 88% shotgun, which was in line with the NFL average. But from 12 or 13 personnel, while the NFL average was 55% shotgun, Gase had Darnold under center 73% of the time. The most in the NFL.

Ironically, where Darnold crushed in 2018 from 12 or 13 personnel was in shotgun. At that time, Jeremy Bates called 50% shotgun, 50% under center, and exactly 50 dropbacks from each. Splits:

- Under center: 6.0 YPA, 47% success, 68.1 rating
- In shotgun: 8.8 YPA, 52% success, 123.5 rating

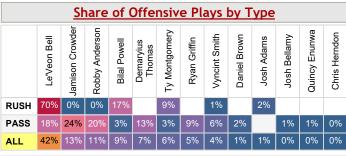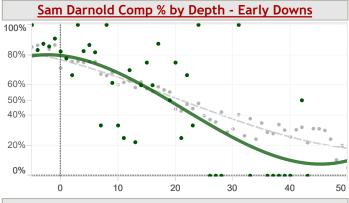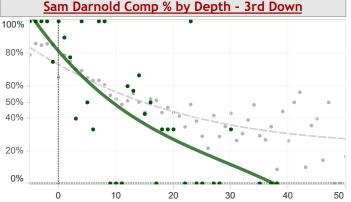Therefore, not surprisingly, where Darnold crushed it in 2019 was from 12 or 13

(cont'd - see)

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	24%	14%	52%	7%	4%
	Jamison Crowder			100%		
	Robby Anderson			100%		
	Bilal Powell	5%	2%	87%	2%	5%
	Ty Montgomery	22%	6%	50%	3%	19%
	Vyncint Smith	67%		33%		
	Josh Adams					100%
	Total	20%	11%	57%	5%	7%
PASS	Le'Veon Bell	28%	20%	45%	5%	1%
	Jamison Crowder	21%	8%	63%	4%	5%
	Robby Anderson	26%	13%	55%	1%	5%
	Bilal Powell		9%	91%		
	Demaryius Thomas	43%	7%	41%	2%	7%
	Ty Montgomery	23%	15%	38%	8%	15%
	Ryan Griffin	26%	16%	42%	8%	8%
	Vyncint Smith	12%	24%	56%	4%	4%
	Daniel Brown			100%		
	Josh Bellamy	33%	33%	33%		
	Quincy Enunwa			100%		
	Chris Herndon			100%		
	Total	25%	13%	54%	4%	5%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Le'Veon Bell	Jamison Crowder	Robby Anderson	Bilal Powell	Demaryius Thomas	Ty Montgomery	Ryan Griffin	Vyncint Smith	Daniel Brown	Josh Adams	Josh Bellamy	Quincy Enunwa	Chris Herndon
RUSH	70%	0%	0%	17%		9%		1%		2%			
PASS	18%	24%	20%	3%	13%	3%	9%	6%	2%		1%	1%	0%
ALL	42%	13%	11%	9%	7%	6%	5%	4%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Sam Darnold Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Sam Darnold Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-0 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	40%, -0.21 (447)	34%, -0.06 (35)	75%, 0.75 (8)	40%, 0.06 (30)	61%, 0.10 (18)	25%, -0.27 (20)	0%, -1.36 (1)	67%, 0.68 (9)	40%, -0.15 (568)
RUSH	44%, -0.07 (206)	34%, -0.33 (80)	33%, -0.21 (42)	36%, -0.15 (14)	20%, -0.20 (15)	44%, -0.11 (9)	21%, -0.33 (14)	100%, 0.73 (1)	39%, -0.16 (381)
All	41%, -0.16 (653)	34%, -0.25 (115)	40%, -0.05 (50)	39%, 0.00 (44)	42%, -0.04 (33)	31%, -0.22 (29)	20%, -0.40 (15)	70%, 0.68 (10)	40%, -0.15 (949)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Le'Veon Bell	46% (68) 5.7, 0.01	40% (5) 4.2, 0.09	0% (1) 1.0, -1.36	67% (3) 12.3, 0.56	45% (77) 5.8, 0.02
TE	Ryan Griffin	61% (33) 8.0, 0.38	50% (4) 7.3, 0.05		100% (2) 9.5, 1.01	62% (39) 8.0, 0.38
WR	Jamison Crowder	45% (103) 5.9, -0.10	40% (5) 10.8, 0.27	86% (7) 14.1, 1.29		47% (115) 6.6, 0.00
	Robby Anderson	44% (78) 7.2, -0.11	100% (5) 15.0, 1.20	50% (4) 6.3, 0.08	100% (3) 20.3, 1.02	49% (90) 8.1, 0.00
	Demaryius Thomas	48% (48) 6.9, 0.03	0% (1) 0.0, -0.46	60% (5) 9.6, 0.74	50% (2) 11.5, 0.74	48% (56) 7.1, 0.11

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Bell Le'Veon	46% (153) 3.6, -0.08	31% (49) 2.0, -0.35	13% (8) 1.1, -0.37	40% (5) 1.6, 0.24	41% (215) 3.1, -0.15
Powell Bilal	35% (26) 4.1, -0.13	50% (20) 4.2, -0.22	0% (1) 0.0, -0.69	50% (2) 2.0, -0.14	41% (49) 4.0, -0.18
Montgomery Ty	36% (11) 4.1, -0.07	17% (6) 0.8, -0.50	20% (5) 2.8, -0.24	0% (1) -2.0, -0.86	26% (23) 2.7, -0.25
Darnold Sam	38% (13) 4.2, -0.04	0% (2) -1.0, -0.75		0% (5) -1.2, -0.85	25% (20) 2.4, -0.31
Adams Josh		0% (2) 1.5, -0.20		0% (1) 2.0, -0.43	0% (3) 1.7, -0.28

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	54% (213) 8.9, 0.31
M2M	38% (159) 5.2, -0.29
Screen	34% (53) 4.6, -0.11

Passing by Route

Out	52% (69) 5.8, -0.03
Curl	62% (55) 7.0, 0.21
Screen	38% (55) 5.7, -0.04
Flat	50% (36) 6.3, 0.07
Dig	63% (27) 9.9, 0.49
Slant	46% (13) 4.8, -0.15

Throw Types

Level 1	51% (272) 6.7, 0.09
Level 2	45% (154) 7.2, 0.03
Level 3	31% (51) 8.0, -0.09
Shovel	25% (4) 4.0, -1.26

QB Drop Types

3 Step	49% (269) 7.4, 0.08
0/1 Step	45% (111) 4.9, -0.09
Designed Rollout Right	40% (30) 5.4, -0.05
5 Step	46% (24) 10.4, 0.20
7 Step	40% (20) 11.4, 0.35
Basic Screen	44% (18) 8.6, 0.03

QB State at Pass

Planted	48% (340) 7.1, 0.03
Moving	33% (95) 5.9, -0.13
Shuffling	45% (80) 5.8, 0.06

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	40% (85) 8.6, 0.06	53% (15) 4.9, -0.25
Shotgun	44% (55) 6.4, -0.12	39% (414) 6.3, -0.19
ALL	41% (140) 7.7, -0.02	40% (429) 6.3, -0.19

Run Types

Inside Zone	38% (106) 3.2, -0.12
Outside Zone	41% (58) 2.9, -0.19
Power	43% (54) 4.2, -0.14
Lead	29% (35) 2.5, -0.31
Stretch	18% (11) 2.9, -0.30
Pitch	67% (9) 4.9, 0.12

NYJ-5

when in shotgun, not under center. Splits:

- Under center: 7.0 YPA, 43% success, 0.09 EPA/att, 74.9 rating
- In shotgun: 12.0 YPA, 71% success, 0.51 EPA/att, 156.3 rating

Gase didn't appear to notice the massive splits for Darnold in 2018, when he performed so much better in shotgun heavy sets. And he didn't appear to notice via self-scout the massive splits when he performed the same exact way. Instead, the Jets continued to put Darnold under center when passing from heavy sets all season long.

Another thing that Gase didn't help was Darnold's expected completion rate. Using player tracking, we can determine completion probability by looking at based on numerous factors such as receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field, and the separation the passer had at the time of throw from the nearest pass rusher. Darnold ranked 38 of 39 QBs in 2018… and 36 of 39 QBs in 2019. They need to work more on getting better +EV targets to increase the overall efficiency of this passing offense.

What Gase was able to do was to improve Darnold on 3-step drops. In 2018, Darnold was at 6.2 YPA, 41% success, and a terrible -0.25 EPA/att. In 2019, Gase improved that to 7.4 YPA, 49% success, and 0.08 EPA/att. But nearly 25% of Darnold's attempts were 0/1 step drops and on these, he had just 4.9 YPA, 45% success, and -0.09 EPA/att. This was much worse than Darnold's performance here in 2018. They need to harvest more efficiency on these quick throws in 2020.

Some good news for Jets fans is that in 2019, they ranked 31st in fumble luck and 30th in field goal luck. These two factors typically regress and that should benefit the Jets in 2020. But bad news relates to the schedule.

Last summer I forecasted the Jets would play the NFL's second-easiest schedule. I was close, as they played the fifth-easiest schedule. But in 2020, they will face the NFL's third-toughest schedule. It's easily the biggest shift from easy to hard for any team in the NFL. The schedule gets tough on Sam Darnold, especially. The 2019 Jets played eight games against top-half pass defenses and went 2-6 in those games. They played seven games against bottom-10 pass defenses and went 5-2. But in 2020 they play 10 games against top-half pass defenses and only four games against bottom-10 pass defenses. Overall, I forecast the Jets to face the fourth-toughest schedule of pass defenses. The other story is the Jets pass defense will be in for a much tougher schedule as well. In 2019 they faced just five pass offenses that ranked in the top half of the NFL. In 2020, I project they will face at least eight. The Jets will receive one big benefit of facing the Broncos at home on a Thursday, which forces a team from two time zones West to travel East on a short week. They also have the benefit of hosting the Patriots on a Monday night game and playing the Dolphins before and right out of a bye.

New York Jets 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

With **Sam Darnol**d diagnosed with early-season mononucleosis and **Luke Falk** playing essentially three full games, the Jets closed the season ranked 30th in the league in success rate passing (40%) and 32nd in EPA through the air in 2019. Darnold did improve in some areas over his rookie season, increasing his completion rate (61.9%), touchdown rate (4.3%), and decreasing his interception rate (2.9%) in year two. But unfortunately, all of those marks were below the league watermark while Darnold's 6.9 yards per pass attempt ranked 29th in the league. 2020 is a big season for Darnold to take a true stride forward. Darnold enters his third season still as one of the youngest quarterbacks in the league, turning only 23 years old this June. In context, expected No. 1 overall draft pick Joe Burrow turned 23 years old this past December.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Sam Darnold	273	441	62%	3,036	6.9	19	13	33	84	34
Luke Falk	47	73	64%	416	5.7	0	3	17	62	52
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Sam Darnold	44%	48%	40	9.0%	14	3.0%	5.7	5.4	15	3%
Luke Falk	26%	33%	4	5.0%	2	3.0%	3.1	5.7	1	1%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Sam Darnold Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	3.6%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.7%	4.8%	0.0%	2.9%
10 - 14	1.2%	2.1%	7.1%	0.0%	2.0%
15+	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%		6.3%
Total	1.1%	3.4%	4.3%	0.0%	2.7%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Sam Darnold	8.7	5.6	-3.1	70%	17
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
51%	49%	30
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

New York wide receivers ranked 22nd in yards per target (7.4 yards) and 29th in success rate in 2019. Jets wideouts were in the back half of the league with 12.1 receptions (17th) for 150.8 receiving yards (21st) per game while combining for 12 touchdowns (24th). The team moved on from **Robby Anderson** via free agency, but did select rookie **Denzel Mims** in the second round of the draft and signed **Breshad Perriman** in free agency. The Jets ranked 13th in yards per attempt (7.4 yards) and 12th in success rate targeting tight ends, but targeted the position just 11% of the time (29th). Getting **Chris Herndon** back in year three should raise that volume. Using their backs out of the backfield was a major issue, ranking 20th in yards per attempt.

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Jamison Crowder	122	64%	6.8	83.2	48%	90	65	96	73	4
Robby Anderson	96	54%	8.1	85.3	47%	96	119	20	121	4
Le'Veon Bell	78	85%	5.9	90.2	45%	108	44	132	48	1
Demaryius Thomas	59	61%	7.3	68.0	51%	73	77	71	54	1

Jamison Crowder Target Distribution

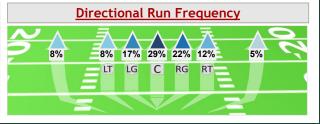**Robby Anderson Target Distribution**

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

It is arguable that the Jets had the worst rushing game in the NFL last season. The team ranked 31st in rushing success rate (40%), 31st in yards per rush (3.3 yards), 32nd in yards above success rate, and 31st in EPA on the ground. This after signing free agent **Le'Veon Bell** to a lucrative contract during the offseason. Bell ranked 55-of-66 backs with 50 or more carries in success rate (41%) on the ground while explosive runs were few and far between. Just 12 of Bell's 245 carries gained 10 or more yards (4.9%) while Bell was one of just two backs with at least 100 carries (Peyton Barber being the other) to fail to have a run of at least 20 yards on the season. This offseason, the team added **Frank Gore** and **La'Mical Perine** to join Bell in the backfield.

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Le'Veon Bell	246	3.2	41%	68	68	12	80	42%	62	3
Bilal Powell	60	3.8	37%	76	70	57	77	37%	76	0

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Is there anything to be excited about on the Jets Offense in 2020?

The biggest thing that the Jets had to address this offseason was their offensive line. Sam Darnold was under pressure on a league-high 42.1% of dropbacks in 2019. Under pressure, he averaged just 4.6 yards per pass attempt (26th out of 28 qualifiers) while he averaged 8.2 Y/A while kept clean, which ranked 11th from the same group of passers. That +3.6 Y/A difference between being clean versus pressure was the largest such discrepancy among passers in the league last year. Darold will still only be 23 years old this upcoming season, but remains a QB2 and streaming option for fantasy purposes.

Le'Veon Bell set career-lows in nearly every major category in his first season with the Jets. His patient rushing style was a poor fit for the Jets porous offensive line, which ranked last in yards before contact (0.71) per carry for their running backs as Bell mustered just 3.2 yards per carry and no runs of 20-plus yards on the entire season. Bell also had no scoring juice, reaching the end zone just four times on 311 touches. On the positive end, Bell was still a workhorse, handling 311 touches overall (eighth in the league) and 72.3% of the backfield touches, which also ranked eighth among running backs. The additions of a 37-year-old and fourth-round rookie La'Mical Perine do not pose significant threats to that workload once again remaining high in 2020.

There are still improvements to be made up front, but adding Conner McGovern and first-round tackle Mekhi Becton are upgrades over what the Jets had at those positions a year ago.

In the receiving game, **Jamison Crowder** led the team in receptions (78), receiving yards (833), and touchdowns (six) in his first season with the team. Second-round draft pick Denzel Mims led the country with 30.3% of his catches coming in contested catch situations in 2019, which can be perceived as a strength in winning one-on-one battles while potentially a negative if he struggles to create separation. Signing Breshad Perriman aids the development of Mims while filling the void left behind by Robby Anderson, Perriman set career highs in targets (69), receptions (36), receiving yards (645), and touchdowns (six). What got Perriman a new contract was the way he finished the season, catching 25-of-37 targets for 506 yards (20.2 yards per catch) and five touchdowns over his final five games of the season, while Chris Godwin and Mike Evans dealt with end of season injuries.

For fantasy, Crowder is a fine FLEX option in PPR formats, while Perriman offers volatility and Mims a lottery ticket that could potentially become the lead wide receiver at some point during his rookie season.

Perhaps the most intriguing Jets offensive player is Chris Herndon. Herndon was suspended for the opening four weeks of the season and then managed to play just 18 snaps afterwards as he dealt with hamstring issues. A post-hype breakout is still on the table after a 39-502-4 rookie season in 2019 in which he averaged 9.0 yards per target.

New York Jets Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	8 plays (2%) Success: 63% EPA: 0.38	358 plays (95%) Success: 41% EPA: -0.02	10 plays (3%) Success: 30% EPA: 0.58	376 plays (100%) Success: 41% EPA: 0.00
1-2 [2WR]	17 plays (20%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.14	66 plays (78%) Success: 61% EPA: 0.40	2 plays (2%) Success: 0% EPA: -2.01	85 plays (100%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.24
2-1 [2WR]	25 plays (54%) Success: 64% EPA: -0.14	20 plays (43%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.07	1 plays (2%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.93	46 plays (100%) Success: 57% EPA: -0.13
2-2 [1WR]	7 plays (100%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.07			7 plays (100%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.07
Grand Total	57 plays (11%) Success: 56% EPA: -0.04	444 plays (86%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.04	13 plays (3%) Success: 23% EPA: 0.06	514 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.03

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	18%	28
Nickel	77%	2
Dime+	2%	24
Rush 3	13%	6
Rush 4	55%	27
Rush 5	26%	5
Rush 6+	4%	20
Blitz%	30%	7

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Quinnen Williams didn't live up to expectations as the No. 3 overall pick last season with just six quarterback hits but was still a good run defender. **Steve McLendon** and **Folorunso Fatukasi** were also great against the run. There is a deep group of interior defenders that could use a little more pass rush outside of a Williams improvement.

Jordan Jenkins re-signed for one year after not getting a better deal as a free agent. He was the Jets' best edge rusher last season, which probably tells you enough about this edge group. Jenkins and **Tarrell Basham** had similar pressure rates, but Jenkins converted a much higher rate into sacks.

Behind them, there's not much. The Jets did rank 12th as a team in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate, but were 22nd in pressure rate per SIS and relied heavily on blitzing, 30% which tied for the eighth-highest rate in the league in 2019. **Jabari Zuniga** was drafted in the third round and Memphis linebacker **Bryce Huff**, who led the NCAA in pressures, was brought in as a UDFA.

The Jets spent a lot of money to bring in **C.J. Moseley** last season but the former Raven lasted just two games before his year ended. **Avery Williamson** was also lost for the season before it began with a torn ACL in August. The injuries left the Jets with a hole that wasn't filled well by a rotating cast. **Neville Hewitt**, **Blake Cashman**, and **James Burgess** were good blitzers but failed to hold up with other responsibilities.

When **Pierre Desir** is signed to potentially be the team's No. 1 corner, there's a depth and talent issue. Desir struggled a bit with the Colts last season and was released just a year into a three-year deal with Indianapolis. **Brian Poole** was one of the league's best nickel corners last season and was a bargain to bring back on a one-year deal in free agency. After those two, whew. **Nate Hairston** was one of the most targeted corners on a per snap basis last season and there was good reason. Fifth-round pick **Bryce Hall** had 21 passes defensed in 2018 before an injury took some effectiveness in 2019 but a fully healthy Hall could be the best corner on this team.

Jamal Adams is a do-it-all safety and it appears he wants to do-it-all somewhere else. Last season, Adams spent time as the team's best safety, linebacker, and pass rusher. The Jets have been in no rush to get an extension done and Adams's frustrations with the franchise have not been kept secret. **Marcus Maye** has also been a good safety opposite Adams. **Ashtyn Davis** is an athletic rangey safety drafted in the third round.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	60%
All Pass Rk	14
All Rush %	40%
All Rush Rk	19
1 Score Pass %	57%
1 Score Pass Rk	21
2018 1 Score Pass %	55%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	23
2019 Pass Increase %	1%
Pass Increase Rk	16
1 Score Rush %	43%
1 Score Rush Rk	12
Up Pass %	53%
Up Pass Rk	10
Up Rush %	47%
Up Rush Rk	23
Down Pass %	66%
Down Pass Rk	17
Down Rush %	34%
Down Rush Rk	16

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	3	67%	33%	33%
	Med (4-7)	7	43%	57%	71%
	Long (8-10)	282	51%	49%	47%
	XL (11+)	12	33%	67%	42%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	29	41%	59%	62%
	Med (4-7)	75	51%	49%	56%
	Long (8-10)	89	57%	43%	34%
	XL (11+)	40	68%	33%	13%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	42	64%	36%	57%
	Med (4-7)	41	88%	12%	41%
	Long (8-10)	32	100%	0%	19%
	XL (11+)	39	74%	26%	10%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	9	44%	56%	56%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	35%	65%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	70%	26%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	30%	74%

32% AVG 77%

New York Jets 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
67%	13	66%	69%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
33%	19	34%	63%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Ryan Griffin	2	50%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	2	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	98	45%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	6	17%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	11	82%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	26	58%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	25	24%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jamison Crowder	9	22%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	12	58%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Jamison Crowder	9	56%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Jamison Crowder	6	33%
			Robby Anderson	6	17%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Le'Veon Bell	8	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 41% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.18 Rtg: 76.4 *[Att: 347 - Rate: 61.0%]*	Success: 39% YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 81.3 *[Att: 76 - Rate: 13.4%]*	Success: 40% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.16 Rtg: 77.3 *[Att: 423 - Rate: 74.3%]*
Yes	Success: 37% YPA: 5.0, EPA: -0.24 Rtg: 91.1 *[Att: 82 - Rate: 14.4%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 8.7, EPA: 0.00 Rtg: 95.6 *[Att: 64 - Rate: 11.2%]*	Success: 40% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 93.0 *[Att: 146 - Rate: 25.7%]*
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.19 Rtg: 79.3 *[Att: 429 - Rate: 75.4%]*	Success: 41% YPA: 7.7, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 87.7 *[Att: 140 - Rate: 24.6%]*	Success: 40% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.15 Rtg: 81.4 *[Att: 569 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Robby Anderson	Jamison Crowder	Le'Veon Bell	Ryan Griffin	Demaryius Thomas	Vyncint Smith	Bilal Powell	Ty Montgomery
1	BUF	L 17-16	69 (96%)	65 (90%)	72 (100%)	68 (94%)				5 (7%)
2	CLE	L 23-3	67 (99%)	67 (99%)	61 (90%)	61 (90%)	7 (10%)			24 (35%)
3	NE	L 30-14	51 (100%)	46 (90%)	51 (100%)	47 (92%)			1 (2%)	8 (16%)
5	PHI	L 31-6	45 (76%)	32 (54%)	52 (88%)	57 (97%)	46 (78%)	7 (12%)	2 (3%)	8 (14%)
6	DAL	W 24-22	57 (92%)	50 (81%)	51 (82%)	52 (84%)	50 (81%)	8 (13%)	12 (19%)	6 (10%)
7	NE	L 33-0	56 (92%)	47 (77%)	57 (93%)	51 (84%)	44 (72%)	16 (26%)	4 (7%)	7 (11%)
8	JAC	L 29-15	55 (90%)	44 (72%)	52 (85%)	58 (95%)	38 (62%)	25 (41%)	10 (16%)	6 (10%)
9	MIA	L 26-18	67 (96%)	59 (84%)	63 (90%)	65 (93%)	54 (77%)	17 (24%)	7 (10%)	2 (3%)
10	NYG	W 34-27	54 (83%)	47 (72%)	48 (74%)	42 (65%)	48 (74%)	17 (26%)	15 (23%)	5 (8%)
11	WAS	W 34-17	59 (83%)	41 (58%)	39 (55%)	60 (85%)	46 (65%)	21 (30%)	16 (23%)	15 (21%)
12	OAK	W 34-3	52 (83%)	41 (65%)	36 (57%)	55 (87%)	44 (70%)	17 (27%)	15 (24%)	12 (19%)
13	CIN	L 22-6	65 (88%)	63 (85%)	63 (85%)	62 (84%)	55 (74%)	20 (27%)	11 (15%)	4 (5%)
14	MIA	W 22-21	66 (93%)	56 (79%)		3 (4%)	37 (52%)	35 (49%)	56 (79%)	23 (32%)
15	BAL	L 42-21	59 (100%)	50 (85%)	51 (86%)			37 (63%)		12 (20%)
16	PIT	W 16-10	57 (93%)	52 (85%)	56 (92%)			49 (80%)	4 (7%)	8 (13%)
17	BUF	W 13-6	65 (97%)	55 (82%)	46 (69%)			50 (75%)	15 (22%)	4 (6%)
	Grand Total		944 (91%)	815 (79%)	798 (83%)	681 (81%)	469 (65%)	319 (38%)	168 (19%)	149 (14%)

Personnel Groupings
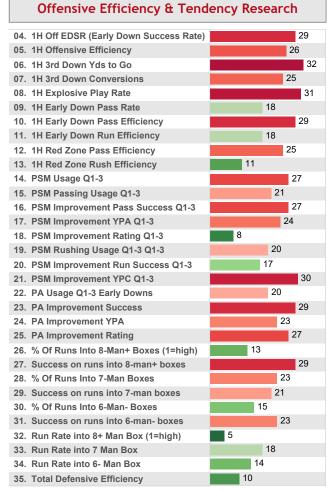
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	69%	60%	41%
1-2 [2WR]	12%	20%	34%
1-3 [1WR]	5%	3%	40%
1-0 [4WR]	5%	3%	39%
2-1 [2WR]	3%	8%	42%
2-0 [3WR]	3%	1%	31%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	40%	44%
1-2 [2WR]	30%	34%	34%
1-3 [1WR]	16%	75%	33%
1-0 [4WR]	68%	40%	36%
2-1 [2WR]	55%	61%	20%
2-0 [3WR]	69%	25%	44%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Jamison Crowder	11	2	2	7
Le'Veon Bell	9	1	2	6
Demaryius Thomas	5			5
Robby Anderson	4	1	1	2
Ryan Griffin	4	3		1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Le'Veon Bell	20	6	3	11
Sam Darnold	6	2	1	3
Bilal Powell	5		1	4
Ty Montgomery	1			1
Vyncint Smith	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
24%	13%	63%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
42%	56%	47%
#22	#12	#29

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	7	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-4.0	
03. Wins	7	

04. 1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	29
05. 1H Offensive Efficiency	26
06. 1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	32
07. 1H 3rd Down Conversions	25
08. 1H Explosive Play Rate	31
09. 1H Early Down Pass Rate	18
10. 1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	29
11. 1H Early Down Run Efficiency	18
12. 1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	25
13. 1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	11
14. PSM Usage Q1-3	27
15. PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	21
16. PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	27
17. PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	24
18. PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	8
19. PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	20
20. PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	17
21. PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	30
22. PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	20
23. PA Improvement Success	29
24. PA Improvement YPA	23
25. PA Improvement Rating	27
26. % Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	13
27. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	29
28. % Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	23
29. Success on runs into 7-man boxes	21
30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	15
31. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	23
32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	5
33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box	18
34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box	14
35. Total Defensive Efficiency	10

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

36. PSM YPA	6.4
37. PSM Target Depth	6.6
38. Non-PSM YPA	6.6
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	9.2
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	43%
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	45%
42. PSM Rating	79
43. Non-PSM Rating	69

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	34%
45. PA Success Rate	46%
46. PA YPA	7.6
47. PA Sack Rate	8.4%
48. PA Rating	79.4
49. PA Target Depth	9.5
50. Non-PA Success Rate	51%
51. Non-PA YPA	6.5
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	6.0%
53. Non-PA Rating	84.1
54. Non-PA Target Depth	6.0

Men In Box

55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	25%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	33%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.2
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	45%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.3
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	45%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	31	defFUM	29	
Net FROE	-3.7	defFUM Rcvrd	9	
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	30	
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR%	31.0%	
offFR%	57.1%	defFROE	-4.5	
offFR Rk	11	defFROE Rk	31	
offFROE	0.8			
offFROE Rk	11			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	68%	YOY Swing	-22%	
2019 FG Rk	31	YOY Swing Rk	31	
Opp 2019 FG %	82%	2018 Team Net	7%	
Opp 2019 FG Rk	16	2018 Net Rk	9	
2019 Team Net	-14%			
2019 Net Rk	30			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Sam Darnold
CAY	5.6
CAY Rk	23
2018 CAY Rk	6
AYTS Rk	10
2018 AYTS Rk	5
AGG Rk	12
2018 AGG Rk	5
COMP%	61.9
xCOMP%	61.6
xCOMP% Rk	36
2018 xCOMP% Rk	38
CPOE%	0.3
CPOE Rk	15
2018 CPOE Rk	32

CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Sam Darnold
Pressure %	41.9
Pressure Rk	1
Sack %	15.8
Sack Rk	28
Under Pressure Accuracy %	61.4
Pressure Accuracy Rk	23
Rating when Pressured	58.5
Pressured Rating Rk	28
Clean Accuracy %	81.3
Clean Accuracy Rk	9
Rating when Clean	99.6
Clean Rating Rk	21
Time to Throw	2.92
Time to Throw Rk	3

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.17
EPA/Pass Rk	32
EPA/Rush	-0.17
EPA/Rush Rk	30
On-Target Catch %	87.3
On-Target Catch Rk	8
Drop%	7.7
Drop Rk	18
YAC/Att	2
YAC/Att Rk	27
Rush Broken Tackle %	11.2
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	32
Rush 1st Down %	15.9
Rush 1st Down Rk	32

New York Jets 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Philadelphia Eagles

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Doug Pederson (Calls plays) (4 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Mike Groh (4 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Jim Schwartz (3 yrs)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9.5	#2

Past Records

2019: 9-7
2018: 9-7
2017: 13-3

Schedule: WAS(A) LAR(H) CIN(H) SF(A) PIT(A) BAL(H) NYG(H) DAL(H) — NYG(A) CLE(A) SEA(H) GB(A) NO(H) ARI(A) DAL(A) WAS(H)
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
SNF — TNF SNF — MNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Halapoulivaati Vaitai (RT)	Lions
Jordan Howard (RB)	Dolphins
Kamu Grugier-Hill (43OLB)	Dolphins
Malcolm Jenkins (S)	Saints
Nelson Agholor (WR)	Raiders
Richard Rodgers (TE)	Redskins
Ronald Darby (CB)	Redskins
Darren Sproles (RB)	Null
Jason Peters (LT)	Null
Josh McCown (QB)	Null
Nigel Bradham (ILB)	Null
Timmy Jernigan (43DT)	Null
Vinny Curry (43DE)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-1.5	8	8

2020 Philadelphia Eagles Overview

When the Eagles won the 2017 Super Bowl, they had **Zach Ertz** healthy for all but two games, and their three starting wide receivers didn't miss a regular season start (**Alshon Jeffery**, **Nelson Agholor,** and **Torrey Smith**).

Their top four receivers in receptions in 2017 were their No. 1 tight end and their top three wide receivers. Very standard and very reliable.

The speed of Smith (4.36 40-time) was something the Eagles wanted to replicate the following year after they traded him to Carolina. So, in 2018 they signed 4.33 40-time Mike Wallace to a one-year deal. But in Week 2 of the 2018 season, Wallace fractured his fibula and was lost for the season. He finished the 2018 season with zero receptions on three targets. Jeffery missed the first three weeks of the season recovering from offseason rotator cuff surgery he received after the Super Bowl.

Without two of their top-3 wide receivers for the first three weeks of the season, and with **Carson Wentz** recovering from ACL surgery, the Eagles were down to targeting receivers like Josh Perkins, Kamar Aiken, DeAndre Carter, and Shelton Gibson. It wasn't pretty. Later in the season, with Agholor struggling, still no sign of Mike Wallace and the Eagles down to very little WR talent behind Jeffery, they acquired Golden Tate at the trade deadline.

Their top four receivers in receptions in 2018 were their top tight end, top-2 wide receivers, and their newly drafted rookie tight end, **Dallas Goedert**.

And let's not forget how that season ended: a trip to the playoffs, a Wild Card round win in Chicago, and a game in New Orleans in the Divisional Round that saw the Eagles down six points (20-14) with the ball on the Saints 27-yard line, on 2nd and 10, with 2:01 left in the game. Nick Foles threw a perfect pass to Jeffery which

(cont'd - see PHI2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Darius Slay (CB)	Trade
Javon Hargrave (34DT)	$13
Marquise Goodwin (WR)	Trade
Will Parks (S)	$1.5
Nickell Robey-Coleman (C..	$1.39
Jatavis Brown (43OLB)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	21	WR - Jalen Reagor (TCU)
2	53	QB - Jalen Hurts (Oklahoma)
3	103	OLB - Davion Taylor (Colorado)
4	127	S - K'Von Wallace (Clemson)
4	145	G - Jack Driscoll (Auburn)
5	168	WR - John Hightower (Boise State)
6	196	LB - Shaun Bradley (Temple)
6	200	WR - Quez Watkins (Southern Miss)
6	210	OT - Prince Tega Wanogho (Auburn)
7	233	OLB - Casey Toohill (Stanford)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	9.5
2019 Wins	9
Forecast 2019 Wins	10
2018 Wins	9
2017 Wins	13
2016 Wins	7

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

Defense:
FS R.McLeod* 23
SS J.Mills 21
LB J.Brown 53
LB N.Gerry 47
RCB A.Maddox 29
SLOTCB Robey-Coleman NEW 31
DE D.Barnett 96
DT F.Cox 91
DT J.Hargrave NEW 79
DE B.Graham* 55
LCB D.Slay NEW 24

Offense:
LWR A.Jeffery* 17
SLOTWR J.Reagor Rookie 18
LT A.Dillard 77
LG I.Seumalo 73
C J.Kelce 62
RG M.Pryor 69
RT L.Johnson 65
TE Z.Ertz 86
RWR D.Jackson* 10
QB C.Wentz 11
RB M.Sanders 26
TE2 D.Goedert 88
WR3 Arcega-Whiteside 19
RB2 B.Scott 49
QB2 J.Hurts Rookie 2

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	5	$120.76M	20
QB	16	$21.96M	18
OL	12	$41.94M	10
RB	31	$4.67M	18
WR	5	$35.92M	14
TE	4	$16.28M	14
All DEF	30	$81.31M	24
DL	11	$49.42M	14
LB	31	$6.47M	30
CB	22	$14.25M	25
S	18	$11.17M	4

went right through his hands, was intercepted, and the Saints advanced to the Championship game. If Jeffery doesn't drop the ball, the Eagles may score and win that game, face the Rams (who they had already beaten 30-23 in Week 15), and then would have faced the Patriots in the Super Bowl for the second time in two years.

The negativity of the way the 2018 season ended was replaced with optimism at the start of 2019 due to player health and player acquisitions, specifically at the quarterback and receiver positions.

General manager Howie Roseman brought home **DeSean Jackson**. Jackson started his career with the Eagles and played the prior two seasons with the Buccaneers. He still had the deep threat potential and displayed it often in Tampa, averaging 18.9 yards per reception, his third-highest average of his 11-year career.

Jackson's speed was going to give the Eagles that deep threat they missed in 2018, along with far more ball skills and ability to gain YAC than what they had in their 2017 deep threat, Smith. Jackson played double-digit games in 10 of his 11 years in the NFL and was extremely healthy in general for a 32-year old deep threat receiver.

The season was looking extremely promising. Starting quarterback Carson Wentz wasn't off season-ending surgery and was able to play all offseason and Week 1, unlike 2018. No. 1 receiver Jeffery wasn't off offseason surgery and would be fully healthy in Week 1. They had their new speed burner No. 2 WR DeSean Jackson, and they would use Nelson Agholor in the slot. When they went to 2-WR sets, they could be extremely dangerous with Ertz, Goedert, Jeffrey, and Jackson on the field together. The Eagles also used a second-round pick on **JJ Arcega-Whiteside** out of Stanford. Arcega-Whiteside was a solid red zone threat and would have the ability to grow into his role, given the receiving talent ahead of him.

The Eagles had all their talent in Week 1 and everything went according to plan. Targets and production for Week 1:

Jackson: 9 targets, 8 receptions, 154 yards, 2 TDs
Jeffery: 7 targets, 5 receptions, 49 yards, 1 TD
Ertz: 7 targets, 5 receptions, 54 yards
Agholor: 5 targets, 2 receptions, 11 yards
Goedert: 3 targets, 2 receptions, 16 yards

The rest of the targets went to running backs. They didn't have to use any other receiver depth, JJAW could learn by watching, and the starting crew began to develop some chemistry together. Wentz passed for 313 yards and three touchdowns, was sacked just once, and though the game was a narrow win, it was a win.

Week 2 came on Sunday Night Football and it was time for the Eagles to unleash this passing attack for a second week in a row.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Carson Wentz	57% 7.8 89.7	44% 5.7 95.3	41% 6.3 95.5	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	60%	78%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
PHI	60% 6.1	44% 4.2	51% 4.1	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	40%	22%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

But early in the game, disaster struck.

• Dallas Goedert hurt his calf in pregame warmups and missed the game. One player unable to play on the 53-man active roster, and key player at that (41 snaps in Week 1), and the game hadn't even started.
• On his sixth snap of the game, Alshon Jeffery also hurt his calf, and he was lost for the rest of the game.
• On his 11th snap of the game, DeSean Jackson hurt his groin, and he was lost for the rest of the game.

Just 11 snaps into the game, still early in the first quarter, and the Eagles were without their No. 1 receiver, No. 2 receiver, and No. 2 tight end. Making matters worse, No. 3 receiver Nelson Agholor had to leave the game to get a concussion test and missed some time.

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance
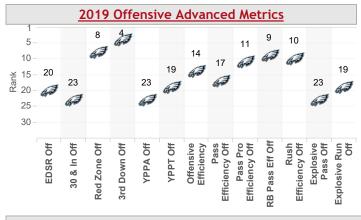
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
																		WEEK
RESULT	W	L	W	W	L	L	W	W			L	L	L	W	W	W	W	RESULT
OPP	WAS	ATL	DET	GB	NYJ	MIN	DAL	BUF	CHI		NE	SEA	MIA	NYG	WAS	DAL	NYG	OPP
SITE	H	A	H	A	H	A	A	A	H		H	H	A	H	A	H	A	SITE
MARGIN	5	-4	-3	7	25	-18	-27	18	8		-7	-8	-6	6	10	8	17	MARGIN
PTS	32	20	24	34	31	20	10	31	22		10	9	31	23	37	17	34	PTS
OPP PTS	27	24	27	27	6	38	37	13	14		17	17	37	17	27	9	17	OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **9**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-1**
FG Games Win %: **0% (#24)**
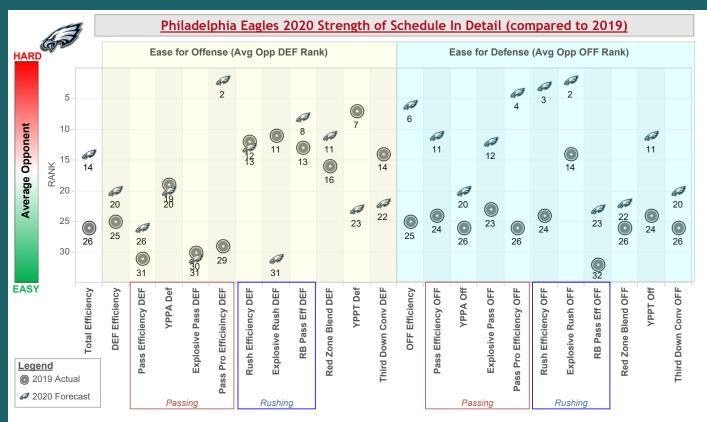FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **5-5**
1 Score Games Win %: **50% (#14)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **56% (#14)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-3
TO Given	23
INT Given	8
FUM Given	15
TO Taken	20
INT Taken	11
FUM Taken	9
Sack Margin	+5
Sacks	42
Sacks Allow	37
Return TD Margin	+2
Ret TDs	3
Ret TDs Allow	1
Penalty Margin	+15
Penalties	100
Opponent Penalties	115

Philadelphia Eagles 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD

Average Opponent

EASY

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

RANK

Categories (left to right): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing | *Rushing* | *Passing* | *Rushing*

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
11	6	14	27	3	4	2	3

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-2.7	-2.1	-4.1
Average O/U line	45.6	45.6	45.5
Straight Up Record	9-7	9-7	13-3
Against the Spread Record	7-9	6-9	10-6
Over/Under Record	8-8	6-9	7-8
ATS as Favorite	4-5	5-7	7-4
ATS as Underdog	3-4	1-2	2-2
Straight Up Home	5-3	5-3	7-1
ATS Home	3-5	2-5	5-3
Over/Under Home	2-6	2-6	3-5
ATS as Home Favorite	2-3	2-5	5-2
ATS as a Home Dog	1-2	0-0	0-1
Straight Up Away	4-4	3-4	6-2
ATS Away	4-4	3-4	5-3
Over/Under Away	6-2	4-2	4-3
ATS Away Favorite	2-2	2-2	2-2
ATS Away Dog	2-2	1-2	2-1
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-4	15-1
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-3	12-4	15-1
Ten Point Teaser Record	13-3	14-2	15-1

PHI-3

Due to the demands of the 53-man roster, teams that play a lot of 2-TE sets don't just have seven wide receivers active. So when your top three receivers are out, you're in trouble. At one point, the Eagles were down to just two healthy receivers (**Mack Hollins** and Arcega-Whiteside) and one healthy tight end (Ertz).

It's just Week 2 of the season, and a team isn't even able to run 11 personnel because they literally don't have three wide receivers. And that wouldn't be the last time of the season the Eagles were unable to use 11 personnel in a game due to receiver health.

Ironically, if Agholor catches a perfect ball from Wentz down the sideline, down 24-20 with less than two minutes left, he has a walk-in touchdown and the Eagles likely win the game. Instead, they lose by the same score, 24-20.

The injury bug dug deep into the Eagles' receiving corps for the second straight year in that Week 2 game and didn't ever leave.

(cont'd - see **PHI-4**)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	-1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	-3
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	3
Week 10 Edge	7
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	-3
Week 13 Edge	-1
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	21
2018 Rk	32
2019 v 2018 Rk	5
Off Rk	10
Def Rk	29
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	17
WR Rk	25
TE Rk	10
Oline Rk	10
Dline Rk	31
LB Rk	21
DB Rk	15

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Home Lines

Road Lines

Jackson would be lost for the season. He tried to come back in Week 9, played four snaps, and was done. Jeffery missed the Week 3 game against the Lions. Once again, the Eagles were left resorting to target players like Mack Hollins seven times and playing rookie Arcega-Whiteside for a significant number of snaps.

Jeffery returned Week 4, but missed two more games in the middle of the season (narrow, one-score losses to the Patriots and Seahawks) before playing one more full game the rest of the season and re-injuring himself and landing on IR (Lisfranc injury).

If you're tracking at home, that's the Eagles' No. 1 and No. 2 receivers down. And then came the injury to Nelson Agholor, who, though he had reliability issues, didn't have availability issues until Week 12. He, too, missed the game against the Seahawks. He, too, played in one more full game after that. He, too, missed the rest of the season (knee).

From Week 2-17, the Eagles were without their No. 2 WR (speed threat Jackson). From Week 12 through the end of the season (save for Week 13), the Eagles were without their No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 receivers.

Yet this team still swept their final four games and made the playoffs again. They found a way to win. But it wasn't pretty nor was it easy.

The Eagles were forced to start Arcega-Whiteside, although he didn't impress. They were forced to sign **Greg Ward Jr.** to the active roster for that Week 12 game where they first lost all their top receivers. Ward was an undrafted rookie who was a college quarterback that converted to wide receiver. He eventually became the team's No. 1 receiver, that's how crazy the end of the season got in Philadelphia.

Their top four receivers in receptions in 2018 were their No. 1 tight end, No. 2 tight end, No. 1 running back, and former No. 1 receiver who essentially missed half the team's games (8) yet he still finished fourth in receptions thanks to injuries to the other receivers and lack of depth/talent at the position.

Someone find me another team in NFL history whose top three receivers in a season were two tight ends and a running back. I'll wait.

The Eagles have ranked as one of the most-injured receiving corps over the last two years. It's important to lay out the entire timeline of the Eagles receiver health struggles, particularly in 2019. Because most people look at stats without context

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

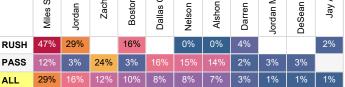## Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

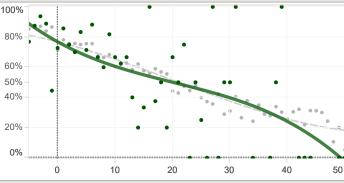## Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Miles Sanders	6%	8%	79%	3%	4%
	Jordan Howard	10%	12%	52%	15%	11%
	Boston Scott	22%	1%	61%	4%	10%
	Nelson Agholor			50%	50%	
	Alshon Jeffery			100%		
	Darren Sproles	6%	35%	29%	18%	12%
	Jay Ajayi			90%	10%	
	Total	10%	9%	66%	8%	7%
PASS	Miles Sanders	14%	4%	65%	6%	10%
	Jordan Howard	14%	14%	57%	14%	
	Zach Ertz	11%	9%	64%	10%	7%
	Boston Scott	8%		77%	15%	
	Dallas Goedert	10%	3%	70%	12%	4%
	Nelson Agholor	8%	11%	65%	11%	5%
	Alshon Jeffery	9%	16%	55%	9%	12%
	Darren Sproles		30%	30%	30%	10%
	Jordan Matthews	33%		67%		
	DeSean Jackson	9%	36%	45%	9%	
	Total	11%	10%	63%	10%	6%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type
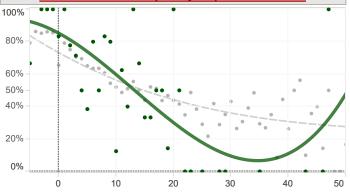
	Miles Sanders	Jordan Howard	Zach Ertz	Boston Scott	Dallas Goedert	Nelson Agholor	Alshon Jeffery	Darren Sproles	Jordan Matthews	DeSean Jackson	Jay Ajayi
RUSH	47%	29%		16%		0%	0%	4%			2%
PASS	12%	3%	24%	3%	16%	15%	14%	2%	3%	3%	
ALL	29%	16%	12%	10%	8%	8%	7%	3%	1%	1%	1%

Carson Wentz Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Carson Wentz Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬▬▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	49%, -0.03 (350)	47%, 0.01 (289)	30%, -0.21 (20)	53%, 0.36 (15)	60%, -0.10 (5)	0%, -3.97 (1)	0%, -0.68 (1)	48%, -0.02 (681)
RUSH	50%, 0.00 (258)	48%, -0.10 (181)	30%, -0.18 (20)	33%, -0.01 (12)	57%, 0.19 (7)			48%, -0.04 (478)
All	49%, -0.02 (608)	47%, -0.03 (470)	30%, -0.20 (40)	44%, 0.19 (27)	58%, 0.07 (12)	0%, -3.97 (1)	0%, -0.68 (1)	48%, -0.03 (1,159)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Miles Sanders	45% (11) 12.4, 0.60	63% (19) 7.1, 0.35		57% (30) 9.0, 0.44
TE	Zach Ertz	62% (77) 7.7, 0.29	53% (53) 6.8, 0.13		58% (130) 7.3, 0.23
	Dallas Goedert	54% (72) 6.3, -0.04	71% (14) 10.6, 0.58	100% (3) 19.3, 1.53	58% (89) 7.4, 0.11
WR	Alshon Jeffery	55% (29) 7.8, 0.23	55% (42) 6.3, 0.17	0% (1) 0.0, -0.38	54% (72) 6.8, 0.19
	Nelson Agholor	47% (19) 5.2, 0.07	46% (50) 4.8, -0.19		46% (69) 4.9, -0.12
	DeSean Jackson	25% (4) 1.5, -0.86	86% (7) 21.9, 2.10		64% (11) 14.5, 1.02

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Sanders Miles	48% (96) 5.3, 0.06	41% (73) 3.3, -0.21	33% (9) 9.2, 0.19	50% (4) 7.0, 0.30	45% (182) 4.7, -0.04
Howard Jordan	49% (63) 4.1, 0.00	47% (55) 4.8, 0.03	0% (1) 3.0, -0.29		48% (119) 4.4, 0.01
Scott Boston	50% (46) 3.8, -0.10	57% (14) 4.8, 0.15		50% (2) 3.0, -0.13	52% (62) 4.0, -0.04
Wentz Carson	65% (31) 4.0, -0.04	70% (23) 4.7, -0.19	100% (1) 2.0, 0.42	100% (1) 7.0, 0.36	68% (56) 4.3, -0.09
Sproles Darren	60% (5) 7.2, 0.28	36% (11) 2.9, -0.18	0% (1) -2.0, -1.95		41% (17) 3.9, -0.15
Ajayi Jay	29% (7) 1.4, -0.27	67% (3) 6.7, 0.16			40% (10) 3.0, -0.14

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	57% (233) 7.7, 0.21	
M2M	46% (198) 5.9, 0.08	
Screen	55% (58) 5.8, -0.04	

Passing by Route

Curl	58% (83) 6.2, 0.02
Out	60% (70) 6.9, 0.21
Screen	52% (61) 6.9, 0.05
Flat	56% (45) 4.0, 0.08
Dig	64% (42) 7.7, 0.29
Slant	53% (40) 4.9, -0.17

Throw Types

Level 1	56% (433) 6.1, 0.09
Level 2	46% (84) 8.6, 0.25
Level 3	33% (42) 11.1, 0.29
Shovel	57% (14) 2.4, -0.33
Sidearm	57% (7) 6.9, 0.14

QB Drop Types

3 Step	48% (223) 7.0, 0.10
0/1 Step	59% (186) 6.0, 0.06
5 Step	51% (76) 8.1, 0.25
Designed Rollout Right	50% (28) 5.2, 0.17
Basic Screen	54% (24) 8.0, 0.15
7 Step	56% (9) 11.8, 0.35

QB State at Pass

Planted	50% (472) 6.6, 0.03
Moving	53% (87) 6.3, 0.24
Shuffling	54% (78) 7.2, 0.28

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	48% (73) 8.3, 0.17	54% (37) 6.6, 0.00
Shotgun	51% (121) 6.9, 0.09	46% (450) 6.3, -0.08
ALL	50% (194) 7.4, 0.12	47% (487) 6.3, -0.07

Run Types

Inside Zone	50% (110) 4.2, -0.01
Outside Zone	41% (88) 3.5, -0.16
Power	51% (37) 4.3, -0.04
Stretch	41% (27) 2.9, -0.17
Pitch	60% (5) 9.0, 0.04
Lead	75% (4) 18.5, 1.36

PHI-5

and draw big conclusions from them.

And they'll look at Wentz's stats the last two years, and more importantly in 2019, and think that he struggled... that he's not a great quarterback... that he might be regressing. That couldn't be farther from the truth. Wentz excelled last season in crunch time. He excelled in the clutch. He had to play with a different group of inexperienced receivers every single week the entire second half of the season.

Despite those impediments, Wentz was excellent out of structure. You would think chemistry and rapport with receivers would be paramount for producing out of structure, and Wentz had neither.

The NFL average for quarterbacks shuffling when passing is a 41% success rate and -0.01 EPA/att. Wentz recorded a 55% success rate when shuffling, first in the NFL. His 0.31 EPA/att was also first in the NFL.

The NFL average for QBs that are moving when passing is a 42% success rate and 0.01 EPA/att. Wentz recorded a 55% success rate when moving, #1 in the NFL. His 0.32 EPA/att was also first in the NFL.

The Eagles are hopeful that the third time's a charm, and they will have better luck with receiver health in 2020. The team still has Alshon Jeffery and DeSean Jackson on the roster this season. But both are off of those season-ending injuries. The Eagles are hopeful both will be healthy and productive to start the season, but as we've seen, there's absolutely no guarantee. As such, the Eagles decided to go with redundancy at the position.

They drafted TCU receiver **Jalen Reagor** in the first round. At 5'11" and 206 pounds at the combine, Reagor notched an amazing 98th percentile explosion score and a strong 66th percentile speed score (with a 4.47 40-time). They also traded for **Marquise Goodwin**, who ran a 4.27 40-time. Their hope is Jackson is healthy all season, but with Agholor finally gone (Raiders), the hope is that Reagor, Jackson, and Goodwin can provide the speed they need at the position. They didn't stop there and added Boise State receiver **John Hightower**, who ran a 4.43 40-time, in the fifth round and Southern Miss receiver **Quez Watkins**, who ran a 4.35, in the sixth round.

Jeffery isn't a speed threat at all, but the Eagles definitely now have some receivers that can use their speed. That is important, considering tight ends Ertz and Goedert were their leading receivers in 2019 and don't have that type of speed.
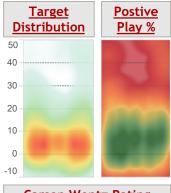
The Eagles have a lot of offensive line turnover, and it didn't help that right guard Brandon Brooks tore his Achilles tendon this offseason. Brandon Brooks allowed 0.75 sacks per year in four years in Philly. He was a three-time Pro Bowler the last three years and graded first, third, and sixth among all guards per PFF in those   *(cont'd - see)*
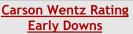
Philadelphia Eagles 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Eagles passing game ranked 13th in the NFL success rate (47%), but ranked 16th in EPA and 26th in yards per pass attempt (6.6 yards). Considering all of the team injuries and their top two targets being tight ends, things could have been worse. It was also a testament to **Carson Wentz** playing better than his numbers, based on working with a skeleton crew of playmakers. Wentz played in all 16 games for the first time since his rookie season and has now had an interception rate below 2.0% in each of the past three seasons. They drafted **Jalen Hurts** in the second round this offseason to insure Wentz while simultaneously offering new wrinkles in the offense.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Carson Wentz	389	609	64%	4,042	6.6	27	7	38	93	17
Josh McCown	21	29	72%	198	6.8	0	0	6	91	22
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Carson Wentz	48%	51%	52	9.0%	15	2.0%	5.5	4.8	23	4%
Josh McCown	43%	50%	2	7.0%	1	3.0%	5.0	4.5		
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Carson Wentz Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

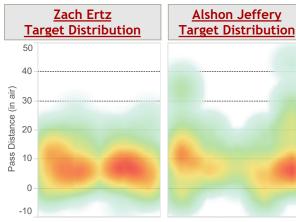| Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%	0.8%
10 - 14	2.3%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	2.1%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	1.1%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Carson Wentz	8.6	5.4	-3.1	71%	20
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
52%	48%	21
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Given all of their injuries at wide receiver a year ago, the Eagles' top two targets were **Zach Ertz** and **Dallas Goedert**. Ertz has always been a target magnet, but the team was forced to heavily lean on their tight ends to carry the passing game. Philadelphia used 12 personnel on a league-high 51% of their passing plays. The downside is that while they ranked first in tight end targets, they ranked 13th in success rate (55%) and 19th in yards per target (7.0) when throwing to their tight ends. At wide receiver, they were 32nd in yards per target (6.5). Bringing back older vets **DeSean Jackson** and **Alshon Jeffery,** the team went and added **Jalen Reagor**, **Marquise Goodwin**, **John Hightower**, and **Quez Watkins** this offseason.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Zach Ertz	138	65%	7.0	96.9	56%	36	33	88	56	3
Dallas Goedert	95	68%	7.2	93.3	56%	37	7	97	51	5
Alshon Jeffery	72	60%	6.8	92.9	54%	46	92	45	59	3
Nelson Agholor	69	57%	5.3	85.6	46%	100	93	105	4	3
Miles Sanders	68	78%	7.6	113.1	47%	95	113	43	109	1

Zach Ertz Target Distribution

Alshon Jeffery Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Eagles ranked 11th in the league in rushing yardage per game, 11 in success rate (49%), and 15th in EPA via their rushing offense in 2019. Moving forward in 2020, the team will now feature second-year back **Miles Sanders**, who they selected in the second round (no. 57 overall) a year ago. Sanders set a franchise rookie record with 1,327 yards from scrimmage. He rushed for 4.6 yards per carry, but ranked 34th out of 44 backs with 100 or more carries in success rate (45%). Behind Sanders, **Boston Scott** has an inline to maintain the role he had to close the season playing next to Sanders. Scott totaled 61 touches for 350 yards and four touchdowns over the final four games of the regular season. The depth of Scott, **Corey Clement**, **Elijah Holyfield**, and undrafted rookies **Michael Warren** and **Adrian Killins** is unsettled at this point of summer.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Miles Sanders	192	4.6	45%	54	44	69	28	43%	58	3
Jordan Howard	119	4.4	53%	16	9	24	61	54%	13	6
Boston Scott	67	4.0	51%	26	11	44	34	53%	17	5
Carson Wentz	63	3.9	62%	1	27	5	71	58%	3	1

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency
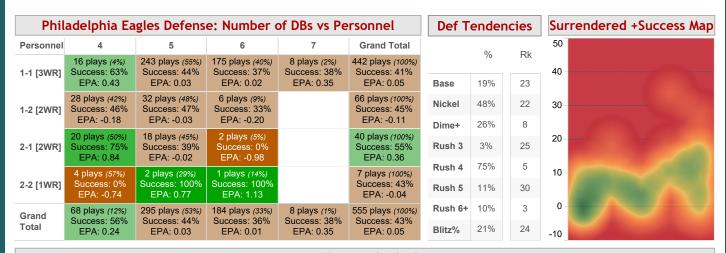
Is Miles Sanders ready to be an RB1?

Miles Sanders set a franchise rookie record with 1,327 yards from scrimmage in 2019, but did not play more than 53% of the team snaps in a game until Week 11. He averaged 18.5 touches for 95.4 yards per game over the final eight games of the season while playing 72% of the snaps. That includes two games against the Giants in which he dealt with dehydration (57% of the snaps) and left early due to injury (31%). From Weeks 11-16, Sanders scored the third-most PPR fantasy points in the league, behind Christian McCaffrey and Ezekiel Elliott over that span as he helped owners win fantasy titles.

The Eagles had a plethora of injuries to close the 2019 season, so it was unclear just how much the team is actually willing to go in on Sanders without tangible competition for lead opportunities. The real question is does head coach Doug Pederson prefer a committee of running backs or has he been forced to use a committee given what he has had to work with?

Sanders was the first back to receive 200 touches in a season for the Eagles since Pederson took over in 2016. Over those four seasons, an Eagles back has reached 20 touches in just 12 games, but Sanders accounted for three of those during his hot run to end the season. But Philadelphia had a consistent stable of compartmentalized backs over that span.

They have had passing-game first backs in Darren Sproles, Wendell Smallwood, and Corey Clement to go along with isolated running-game usage backs in LeGarrette Blount, Jordan Howard, Josh Adams, and Jay Ajayi. The closest back the Eagles had with three-down acumen under Pederson is Ryan Mathews, who was there for his final season in the NFL after suffering a herniated disc and having neck surgery.

That is the difference here with Sanders entering 2020. Sanders was a solid addition in the passing game, catching 50-of-63 targets for 509 yards and three touchdowns, becoming just one of two backs to average at least 10.0 yards per reception with over 40 catches last season. Sanders ranked eighth among all running backs in air yards despite ranking 13th in overall targets. While it may be true that Sanders never gets to 300-plus touches under Pederson, if he can turn his 229 touches a year ago into 250-270 touches with his dual usage ability, that is in the strike zone as a top-15 back with the upside if given even more opportunity.

Philadelphia Eagles Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	16 plays (4%) Success: 63% EPA: 0.43	243 plays (55%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.03	175 plays (40%) Success: 37% EPA: 0.02	8 plays (2%) Success: 38% EPA: 0.35	442 plays (100%) Success: 41% EPA: 0.05
1-2 [2WR]	28 plays (42%) Success: 46% EPA: -0.18	32 plays (48%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.03	6 plays (9%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.20		66 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.11
2-1 [2WR]	20 plays (50%) Success: 75% EPA: 0.84	18 plays (45%) Success: 39% EPA: -0.02	2 plays (5%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.98		40 plays (100%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.36
2-2 [1WR]	4 plays (57%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.74	2 plays (29%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.77	1 plays (14%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.13		7 plays (100%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.04
Grand Total	68 plays (12%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.24	295 plays (53%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.03	184 plays (33%) Success: 36% EPA: 0.01	8 plays (1%) Success: 38% EPA: 0.35	555 plays (100%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.05

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	19%	23
Nickel	48%	22
Dime+	26%	8
Rush 3	3%	25
Rush 4	75%	5
Rush 5	11%	30
Rush 6+	10%	3
Blitz%	21%	24

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Eagles went about their defense this offseason with the strategy of "what if we just go a whole bunch of good players?" It worked.

Putting **Javon Hargrave** next to **Fletcher Cox** is unfair and will give nightmares to opposing guards and centers. **Malik Jackson** got into just one game last season but will now serve as a rotational piece, which still means the Eagles will lose little pass rush ability when either Cox or Hargrave comes off the field.

The Eagles also have one of the deepest edge rotations, even with the loss of **Vinny Curry**, who led the team in pressure rate with a rotational role. Last season, **Brandon Graham** and **Derek Barnett** took most of the defensive snaps (76% and 68%, respectively) and that will likely continue in 2020. **Josh Sweat's** role will increase and he was the second-most productive edge rusher on the team by pressure rate last season. **Genard Avery** could also see a bigger role after a midseason trade from Cleveland.

Nate Gerry is fine in the middle of the defense but this is one place the Eagles could use an upgrade. They cut loose **L.J. Fort** early last season and he'd be the team's best linebacker if on the roster. While the Eagles stacked up at other positions, Philadelphia's addition to the group was a reserve linebacker from a team that barely played linebackers to begin with. Because there's no depth, third-round pick **Davion Taylor** is likely to see the field early.

Entering the offseason, corner was the weakest spot on the Eagles' roster but that made a concerted effort to fix that. They traded for **Darius Slay**, which gives them a true No.1 corner they haven't had in years (Ronald Darby was one of the league's worst corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap) and the signing of **Nickell Robey-Coleman** to man the slot was one of the best deals of the offseason. There's still a question about the second outside corner but there are a few bodies for that competition.

The loss of Malcolm Jenkins will hurt most at safety. He was one of the best players on the defense and was on the field for 99% of the defensive snaps in 2019. Converted corner **Jalen Mills** could be in line to potentially start next to **Rodney McLeod**, but there's a reason Mills is converting from a position he struggled to play. Fourth-round pick **K'Von Wallace** has that slot-safety experience and could start immediately.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	59%
All Pass Rk	20
All Rush %	41%
All Rush Rk	13
1 Score Pass %	59%
1 Score Pass Rk	17
2018 1 Score Pass %	63%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	6
2019 Pass Increase %	-4%
Pass Increase Rk	25
1 Score Rush %	41%
1 Score Rush Rk	16
Up Pass %	53%
Up Pass Rk	13
Up Rush %	47%
Up Rush Rk	20
Down Pass %	63%
Down Pass Rk	24
Down Rush %	37%
Down Rush Rk	9

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	4	25%	75%	50%
	Med (4-7)	13	38%	62%	77%
	Long (8-10)	340	49%	51%	53%
	XL (11+)	15	47%	53%	20%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	51	45%	55%	67%
	Med (4-7)	99	53%	47%	52%
	Long (8-10)	102	63%	37%	35%
	XL (11+)	32	78%	22%	34%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	56	50%	50%	70%
	Med (4-7)	65	94%	6%	43%
	Long (8-10)	34	97%	3%	29%
	XL (11+)	20	80%	20%	5%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	50%	50%	38%
	Med (4-7)	4	100%	0%	25%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	27%	73%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	66%	29%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	34%	71%

32% AVG 77%

Philadelphia Eagles 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
54%	28	66%	68%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
46%	5	34%	57%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Jordan Howard	4	75%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	80	48%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	5	20%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	15	73%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	21	48%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	19	16%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Dallas Goedert	6	33%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Carson Wentz	9	89%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Dallas Goedert	8	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Miles Sanders	4	0%
			Mack Hollins	4	25%
			DeSean Jackson	4	75%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	3	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 47% YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 83.7 *[Att: 361 - Rate: 53.0%]*	Success: 54% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.19 Rtg: 112.5 *[Att: 117 - Rate: 17.2%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.00 Rtg: 90.7 *[Att: 478 - Rate: 70.2%]*
Yes	Success: 46% YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.09 Rtg: 97.0 *[Att: 126 - Rate: 18.5%]*	Success: 44% YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.01 Rtg: 86.6 *[Att: 77 - Rate: 11.3%]*	Success: 45% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 93.1 *[Att: 203 - Rate: 29.8%]*
Total	Success: 47% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.07 Rtg: 87.1 *[Att: 487 - Rate: 71.5%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.12 Rtg: 102.3 *[Att: 194 - Rate: 28.5%]*	Success: 48% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.02 Rtg: 91.4 *[Att: 681 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Zach Ertz	Dallas Goedert	Nelson Agholor	Miles Sanders	Alshon Jeffery	J.J. Arcega-..	Greg Ward Jr.	Jordan Howard	Josh Perkins	DeSean Jackson
1	WAS	W 32-27	62 (83%)	41 (55%)	60 (80%)	36 (48%)	60 (80%)	5 (7%)		17 (23%)		52 (69%)
2	ATL	L 24-20	81 (100%)		78 (96%)	35 (43%)	6 (7%)	75 (93%)		18 (22%)		11 (14%)
3	DET	L 27-24	76 (100%)	9 (12%)	75 (99%)	26 (34%)		55 (72%)	2 (3%)	25 (33%)		
4	GB	W 34-27	47 (76%)	43 (69%)	56 (90%)	22 (35%)	50 (81%)	6 (10%)		33 (53%)		
5	NYJ	W 31-6	58 (85%)	50 (74%)	61 (90%)	29 (43%)	63 (93%)	2 (3%)		29 (43%)		
6	MIN	L 38-20	52 (80%)	46 (71%)	56 (86%)	19 (29%)	62 (95%)	5 (8%)		41 (63%)		
7	DAL	L 37-10	49 (84%)	36 (59%)	57 (93%)	33 (54%)	57 (93%)	12 (20%)		23 (38%)		
8	BUF	W 31-13	66 (90%)	55 (75%)	55 (75%)	13 (18%)	52 (71%)	4 (5%)		53 (73%)		
9	CHI	W 22-14	70 (79%)	70 (79%)	79 (89%)	36 (40%)	70 (79%)	15 (17%)		43 (48%)		4 (4%)
11	NE	L 17-10	67 (89%)	61 (81%)	66 (88%)	64 (85%)		19 (25%)				
12	SEA	L 17-9	66 (87%)	66 (87%)		64 (84%)		54 (71%)	37 (49%)			
13	MIA	L 37-31	53 (75%)	40 (56%)	63 (89%)	62 (87%)	64 (90%)	27 (38%)	29 (41%)			
14	NYG	W 23-17	79 (89%)	60 (67%)		50 (56%)	20 (22%)	80 (90%)	77 (87%)		30 (34%)	
15	WAS	W 37-27	68 (88%)	65 (84%)		55 (71%)		71 (92%)	58 (75%)		16 (21%)	
16	DAL	W 17-9	59 (82%)	65 (90%)		59 (82%)		45 (63%)	51 (71%)		28 (39%)	
17	NYG	W 34-17		74 (100%)		23 (31%)		17 (23%)	56 (76%)	1 (1%)		58 (78%)
	Grand Total		953 (86%)	781 (71%)	706 (89%)	626 (53%)	504 (71%)	492 (40%)	310 (57%)	283 (40%)	132 (43%)	67 (29%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-2 [2WR]	52%	20%	49%
1-1 [3WR]	41%	60%	47%
1-3 [1WR]	3%	3%	30%
2-1 [2WR]	2%	8%	44%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-2 [2WR]	58%	49%	50%
1-1 [3WR]	61%	47%	48%
1-3 [1WR]	50%	30%	30%
2-1 [2WR]	56%	53%	33%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard
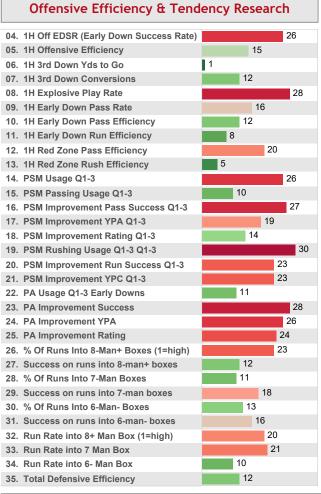
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Zach Ertz	14	1	1	12
Dallas Goedert	10	4	1	5
Alshon Jeffery	9	2	2	5
Miles Sanders	9		3	6
Nelson Agholor	7	4		3
Mack Hollins	5		3	2
J.J. Arcega-Whiteside	2		1	1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Miles Sanders	29	6	8	15
Jordan Howard	22	10	2	10
Boston Scott	14	4	4	6
Carson Wentz	13	4	1	8
Jay Ajayi	2			2

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
22%	42%	36%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
48%	55%	50%
#10	#13	#20

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
01.	Games w Halftime Lead	8
02.	Avg Halftime Lead	-1.0
03.	Wins	9

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	26
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	15
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	1
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	12
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	28
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	16
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	12
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	8
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	20
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	5
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	26
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	10
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	27
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	19
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	14
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	30
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	23
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	23
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	11
23.	PA Improvement Success	28
24.	PA Improvement YPA	26
25.	PA Improvement Rating	24
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	23
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	12
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	11
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	18
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	13
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	16
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	20
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	21
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	10
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	12

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.1
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.3
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.3
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	50%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	52%
42.	PSM Rating	94.5
43.	Non-PSM Rating	86.1

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)
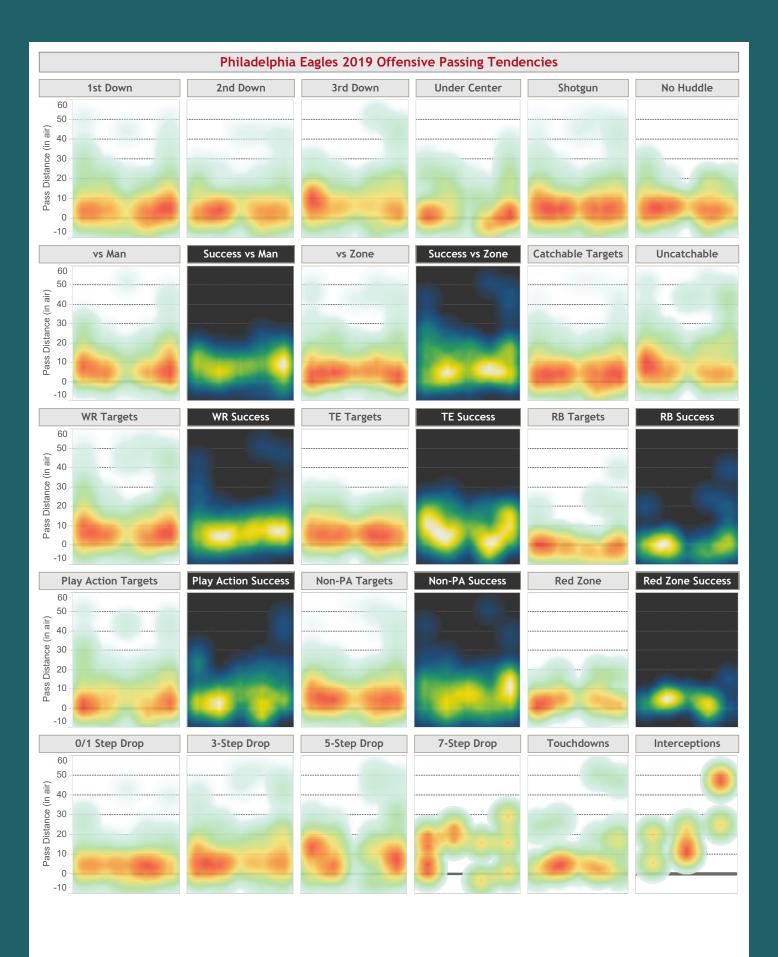
#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	39%
45.	PA Success Rate	53%
46.	PA YPA	7.1
47.	PA Sack Rate	6.1%
48.	PA Rating	91.3
49.	PA Target Depth	7.3
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	57%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6.3
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	4.3%
53.	Non-PA Rating	92.4
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	5.8

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	18%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	44%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	36%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	17	defFUM	19	
Net FROE	-0.4	defFUM Rcvrd	9	
offFUM	31	defFR Rk	15	
offFUM Rcvrd	16	defFR%	47.4%	
offFR%	51.6%	defFROE	0.2	
offFR Rk	18	defFROE Rk	15	
offFROE	-0.6			
offFROE Rk	19			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	86%	YOY Swing	3%
2019 FG Rk	10	YOY Swing Rk	10
Opp 2019 FG %	83%	2018 Team Net	0%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	15	2018 Net Rk	16
2019 Team Net	3%		
2019 Net Rk	14		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Carson Wentz
CAY	5.5
CAY Rk	25
2018 CAY Rk	20
AYTS Rk	15
2018 AYTS Rk	20
AGG Rk	21
2018 AGG Rk	18
COMP%	63.9
xCOMP%	65.3
xCOMP% Rk	12
2018 xCOMP% Rk	11
CPOE%	-1.4
CPOE Rk	23
2018 CPOE Rk	7

CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Carson Wentz
Pressure %	35.8
Pressure Rk	17
Sack %	15.4
Sack Rk	29
Under Pressure Accuracy %	65.6
Pressure Accuracy Rk	12
Rating when Pressured	78.8
Pressured Rating Rk	9
Clean Accuracy %	77.1
Clean Accuracy Rk	26
Rating when Clean	99.4
Clean Rating Rk	23
Time to Throw	2.71
Time to Throw Rk	29

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.01
EPA/Pass Rk	17
EPA/Rush	-0.04
EPA/Rush Rk	13
On-Target Catch %	84.8
On-Target Catch Rk	19
Drop%	7.7
Drop Rk	18
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	14.1
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	22
Rush 1st Down %	22.9
Rush 1st Down Rk	16

Philadelphia Eagles 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle

vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable

WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success

Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success

0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

seasons. Left tackle Jason Peters was allowed to see his contract expire as 2019 first-round pick Andre Dillard, who struggled in 2019, will slot in as the starting left tackle. Left guard, center, and right tackle stay consistent, but the line will need to stay healthy and play well if the Eagles want to make another deep postseason run.

While the injury situation at the wide receiver position was a disaster, one thing that definitely went their way was the schedule. The Eagles played the NFL's second-easiest schedule of pass defenses and fourth-easiest schedule of pass rushes.

Philadelphia played six opponents ranked top-15 in pass defense in 2019 and went 3-3 in these games. They are set to play seven such opponents next season and have two brutal stretches where they play three-straight teams with top-15 pass defenses from 2019 (49ers, Steelers, and Ravens in Weeks 4-6 and then Seahawks, Packers, and Saints Weeks 12-14).

After playing the 29th-toughest schedule of pass rushes, the Eagles face the second-toughest schedule in 2020. It's the largest jump in difficulty in the NFL. That being said, playing weaker pass rushes didn't help the Eagles in 2019. They played five games against bottom-5 pass rushes (Dolphins, Lions, Seahawks, and Falcons) if you count the playoff game and went 0-5 in those games. Looking purely at player tracking based Pass Rush Win Rate, the Falcons did rank second in the NFL, but didn't hit home enough, but the rest of those four teams all ranked in the bottom half of the NFL, with the Lions and Dolphins pulling up at 31st and 32nd.

On the ground, the Eagles seem to be in a great spot with **Miles Sanders**. The Eagles have been looking for a running back to carry more of a load, but didn't have good luck in years past. The Eagles traded for LeGarrette Blount prior to the 2017 season and traded for Jay Ajayi during the 2017 season (after **Darren Sproles** was lost for the year). They rode both to a Super Bowl title.

Sproles was in and out of the lineup with injuries in the 2018 and 2019 season. Jay Ajayi tore his ACL in 2018 in Week 5, so the Eagles were without their top two running backs for much of the 2018 season. They added **Jordan Howard** via a trade with the Bears last season, and while he was productive in spots early, he suffered a shoulder injury and was lost after Week 9.

The Eagles turned to Sanders as a rookie and he came up great, showing tremendous explosiveness on the ground. He also proved to be a dangerous receiver out of the backfield. For the first time in a couple of seasons, the Eagles didn't trade for a running back (instead, they traded away Howard). They didn't draft one, either. The backfield is firmly Sanders. The team still has a stable of receiving backs plus the shifty **Boston Scott** who showed a nose for the end zone and a solid early down success rate, but so long as Sanders can stay healthy, it's hard to envision him not owning the lion share of touches.

While the Eagles are hoping for improved health, they can actively make several modifications to improve their success. One thing they can study is drop depth by Carson Wentz.

For whatever reason the last two seasons, Wentz has been above average when passing from 0/1 step drops and 5-step drops, but struggled tremendously from 3-step drops. And that story has been the same for the last two years.

In 2018, Wentz ranked first in the NFL in success rate and positive play rate (rate of plays where EPA was positive) from both 0/1 and 5-step drops combined and had the fourth-best rating.

But on 3-step drops, his positive play ranking dropped from first to 22nd (from 56.3% to 48.4%), his success rate ranking dropped from first to 23rd (from 59% to 51%), and his EPA dropped from 0.12 EPA/att to -0.03 EPA/att.

In 2019 the story was similar, though slightly worse due to the caliber of receiving targets. From 0/1 and 5-step drops, he ranked third in success rate (56%), eighth in positive play rate (51.3%), and 11th in EPA/att (0.08 EPA/att).

But from 3-step drops, his success rate ranking dropped from third to 32nd (from 56% to 46%), his positive play ranking dropped from eighth to 29th (from 51.3% to 43.2%), and his EPA rank dropped from 11th to 37th (from 0.08 EPA/att to -0.12 EPA/att).

These are large enough sample sizes of passes happening in consecutive seasons with not small but massive drops in productivity. The Eagles should be able to dig in deeper to determine how to raise Wentz's efficiency on 3-step drops or reduce their usage.

I forecasted the 2019 Eagles would face the NFL's third-easiest schedule last summer and was close, as they actually faced the seventh-easiest. But I project the Eagles will face the 19th easiest schedule in 2020, making them deal with the fifth-toughest year-over-year schedule increase. The Eagles' toughest stretch by far comes from three consecutive games against the 49ers, Steelers, and Ravens. But it's not any ordinary stretch. They must travel to play the 49ers for a Sunday night game. Such night games on the West coast are notoriously difficult for East coast teams. Then, they must travel to face Pittsburgh on a shorter-than-average week and then take on the Ravens. Later in the year, the Eagles must travel to Green Bay on a short week after a Monday night game. These opponents are difficult enough, but the situations make things even more challenging. The biggest change for the Eagles compared to 2019 will be the offenses faced. In 2019, Philadelphia faced the NFL's eighth-easiest schedule of offenses. I project they will face the sixth-toughest in 2020. In 2019, when playing offenses that finished the season ranked top-20, they went 2-6 (and went 7-1 in their other eight games). In 2020, the Eagles face 10 offenses that ranked in the top-20 last year.

SHARP

Pittsburgh Steelers

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Mike Tomlin (13 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Randy Fichtner (2 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Keith Butler (4 yrs)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9.5	#2

Past Records

2019: 8-8
2018: 9-7
2017: 13-3

Schedule:
1. NYG (A) - MNF
2. DEN (H)
3. HOU (H)
4. TEN (A)
5. PHI (H)
6. CLE (H)
7. BAL (A)
8. —
9. DAL (A)
10. CIN (H)
11. JAX (A)
12. BAL (H) - TKG
13. WAS (H) - SNF
14. BUF (A)
15. CIN (A) - MNF
16. IND (H)
17. CLE (A)

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Artie Burns (CB)	Bears
B.J. Finney (C)	Seahawks
Javon Hargrave (34DT)	Eagles
Nick Vannett (TE)	Broncos
Ramon Foster (G)	Retired
Roosevelt Nix (FB)	Colts
Ryan Shazier (ILB)	Retired
Sean Davis (S)	Redskins
Tyler Matakevich (ILB)	Bills
Anthony Chickillo (34OLB)	Null
Johnny Holton (WR)	Null
Lavon Hooks (34DE)	Null
Leterrius Walton (34DE)	Null
Mark Barron (ILB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-2.3	10	5

2020 Pittsburgh Steelers Overview

Between their lack of implementing valuable offensive strategies and simply watching their brand of uninspiring football every Sunday, the Steelers were one of the most frustrating teams to watch in 2019. If it was frustrating watching them as an analyst, I cannot imagine how it was to be a fan.

And we will get to the bad soon enough. But before we do, let's take a moment to acknowledge how insane it was that the Steelers finished 8-8 and not significantly worse last year.

This was a team that lost **Ben Roethlisberger** six quarters into the season.

This was a team that sat 0-2 and needed to name a new starter for their Week 3 game. A game on the road against the team that would hold a 10-point fourth quarter lead in the Super Bowl, the San Francisco 49ers. They dropped that game.

And yet over their final 13 games, of which **Mason Rudolph** started seven and **Duck Hodges** started six, neither backup quarterback recorded a losing record. Together, the Steelers produced an 8-5 record over those games.

It was a gross season for quarterback play on the Steelers, but even beyond that duo, this offense had virtually nothing.

• A third-round rookie from Toledo, **Diontae Johnson**, was their leading receiver.
• A fourth-round rookie from Kentucky, **Benny Snell**, was eight carries shy of being their leading rusher.

One would figure with such terrible options at quarterback and in the receiving game, this team would need to rely on rushing touchdowns to score points. *(cont'd - see PIT2)*

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Eric Ebron (TE)	$6
Derek Watt (FB)	$3.29
Stefen Wisniewski (LG)	$1.39
Chris Wormley (34DE)	Trade
Breon Borders (CB)	$0.80

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	49	WR - Chase Claypool (Notre Dame)
3	102	OLB - Alex Highsmith (Charlotte)
4	124	RB - Anthony McFarland Jr. (Maryland)
4	135	G - Kevin Dotson (Louisiana)
6	198	S - Antoine Brooks (Maryland)
7	232	DT - Carlos Davis (Nebraska)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	9.5
2019 Wins	8
Forecast 2019 Wins	9
2018 Wins	9
2017 Wins	13
2016 Wins	11

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

Defense:
- FS M.Fitzpatrick 39
- SS T.Edmunds 34
- LB V.Williams 98
- LB D.Bush 55
- RCB S.Nelson 20
- SLOTCB M.Hilton 28
- OLB B.Dupree 48
- DE C.Heyward 97
- DE S.Tuitt 91
- OLB T.Watt 90
- LCB J.Haden 23

Offense:
- LWR D.Johnson 11
- SLOTWR J.Smith-Schuster 19
- LT A.Villanueva 78
- LG S.Wisniewski 61
- C M.Pouncey 53
- RG D.DeCastro 66
- RT M.Feiler 71
- TE E.Ebron 85
- RWR J.Washington 13
- QB B.Roethlisberger 7
- RB J.Conner 30
- WR2 R.Switzer 10
- WR3 C.Claypool Rookie 82
- RB2 J.Samuels 38
- QB2 M.Rudolph 2

2019 Cap Dollars

2020 Unit Spending

All OFF / All DEF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	25	$91.56M	23
QB	9	$26.93M	6
OL	13	$41.64M	11
RB	32	$3.75M	32
WR	32	$8.29M	31
TE	16	$10.95M	12
All DEF	5	$107.99M	11
DL	12	$39.95M	11
LB	8	$34.74M	8
CB	9	$25.07M	15
S	23	$8.22M	28

But they only scored a total of seven touchdowns on the ground all season.

Among teams to post final records at or above .500 over the past 20 years, only 4% scored seven or fewer rushing touchdowns.

Despite the lack of a quarterback, despite the lack of receiving weapons, despite the lack of rushing production…

…how were the Steelers sitting at 8-5 and in the playoffs through Week 14?

There are a few key "singular event" statistics that correlate extremely strongly with wins:
• Winning the turnover battle = 79% wins
• Winning the sack battle = 71% wins
• Scoring a non-offensive TD = 71% wins

Forget everything else that happens in games. When you win these battles, you often win the war. They don't guarantee anything, however, they aren't 100% wins.

But for the Steelers, they were 100% losses if they didn't win these battles.

• Unless the Steelers won the turnover battle, they were 0-5.
• Unless the Steelers won the sack battle, they were 0-5.
• In six games, they didn't win the turnover battle, sack battle, or both. They went 0-6.

In 10 games they won both the turnover battle and sack battle, they went 8-2. Compare these numbers to the prior two years, where the Steelers went 17-10-1 when not winning the turnover battle, sack battle, or both (0-6 last year).

However, in those prior two years, only five times did the Steelers win both the turnover and sack battle (5-0). Compare to 10 times last year alone.

How did they win the turnover battle so often in 2019? (The defense was incredible, but we'll dive in there later.)

First, the Steelers had a ton of luck. Specifically, fumble luck. Pittsburgh recovered 5.6 fumbles over expectation (FROE), which was the best in the NFL. While the Steelers fumbled 30 times on offense, they recovered 63% of those fumbles. They created 33 fumbles on defense, and recovered 54.5% of those. Stripping the ball can be a skill, but once that odd-shaped football starts bouncing on the carpet, a lot of luck gets involved in recovery. And the Steelers were the luckiest team in the NFL in that capacity.

They also had other things go their way. They were 4-0 when scoring a non-offensive touchdown, such as a defensive turnover for a touchdown or a punt/kick return.

Pittsburgh was also the fourth-best team in field goal luck. While the kicking unit was great offensively (a skill) and made 94% of field goals, the Steelers were fortunate that

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Mason Rudolph	41% 5.3 75.8	47% 6.6 92.5	33% 7.4 80.6	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	46%	58%	82%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance
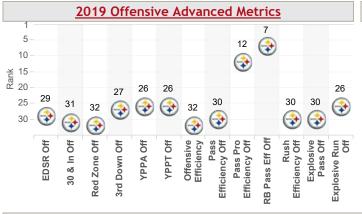
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
PIT	44% 3.7	41% 3.7	44% 4.1	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	54%	42%	18%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

opponents only made 81% of field goals against them. It was the fourth-best net in the NFL. Compare to 2018, where they had the fourth-worst net in the NFL.

This was a big part of how the Steelers finished 8-8 despite the massive talent disadvantage. Another huge element was the fact they faced the fourth-easiest schedule of opposing run defenses. They played five games against teams ranked 27th or worse against the run and won four of the five, or half their wins on the entire season.

Another element that helped win eight games was the strength of their running back pass game. The Steelers ranked top-10 in virtually every RB-pass metric and bottom-5 in virtually every wide receiver or tight end pass metric. Whereas the Patriots totaled 167 air yards on 120 completions to running backs (most in the NFL), the Steelers totaled -112 air yards on 91 completions to RBs, second-worst. The Steelers still totaled the ninth-most EPA/att on these

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	L	L	L	W	L	W		W	W	W	L	W	W	W	L	L	L
OPP	NE	SEA	SF	CIN	BAL	LAC		MIA	IND	LA	CLE	CIN	CLE	ARI	BUF	NYJ	BAL
SITE	A	H	A	H	H	A		H	H	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	A
MARGIN	-30	-2	-4	24	-3	7		13	2	5	-14	6	7	6	-7	-6	-18
PTS	3	26	20	27	23	24		27	26	17	7	16	20	23	10	10	10
OPP PTS	33	28	24	3	26	17		14	24	12	21	10	13	17	17	16	28

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2018 Wins: **8**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-2**
FG Games Win %: **33% (#21)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **13% (#22)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **6-5**
1 Score Games Win %: **55% (#12)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **75% (#7)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+8
TO Given	30
INT Given	19
FUM Given	11
TO Taken	38
INT Taken	20
FUM Taken	18
Sack Margin	+22
Sacks	54
Sacks Allow	32
Return TD Margin	+2
Ret TDs	4
Ret TDs Allow	2
Penalty Margin	+4
Penalties	111
Opponent Penalties	115

Pittsburgh Steelers 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD / **EASY** — Average Opponent

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

RANK axis: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30

Categories (Offense side): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Categories (Defense side): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / *Rushing* groupings

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
30	30	18	19	26	28	12	24

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-0.5	-3.3	-5.8
Average O/U line	42.0	50.1	44.3
Straight Up Record	8-8	9-6	13-3
Against the Spread Record	8-8	8-8	7-9
Over/Under Record	3-12	8-8	5-10
ATS as Favorite	2-5	4-8	6-8
ATS as Underdog	4-3	4-0	1-1
Straight Up Home	5-3	5-3	6-2
ATS Home	5-3	4-4	3-5
Over/Under Home	3-5	5-3	5-3
ATS as Home Favorite	1-3	3-4	3-4
ATS as a Home Dog	2-0	1-0	0-1
Straight Up Away	3-5	4-3	7-1
ATS Away	3-5	4-4	4-4
Over/Under Away	0-7	3-5	0-7
ATS Away Favorite	1-2	1-4	3-4
ATS Away Dog	2-3	3-0	1-0
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	10-5	11-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	11-5	12-3
Ten Point Teaser Record	13-3	12-3	13-3

PIT-3

running back targets despite their conservative, behind-the-line target rate.

Compare the positional EPA recorded by the 2019 Steelers passing offense:

- WRs: -20.6 EPA (32nd), 42% success rate (32nd)
- TEs: -0.6 EPA (31st), 43% success rate (31st)
- RBs: 13.1 EPA (ninth), 51% success rate (seventh)

And the final huge element that helped win eight games was their offensive line. In the five years with Mike Munchak as offensive line coach, the Steelers ranked top-10 in offensive line performance (average of pass blocking & run blocking ranks) every single season. But he left for Denver and I had my concerns about the offensive line. And sure enough, based on Adjusted Line Yards and Adjusted Sack Rate, the Steelers dropped out of the top-10 last season. Last year, the Steelers allowed 32 sacks on 505 QB attempts (6.3%), as compared to 24 sacks on 687 QB attempts (3.5%) in 2018.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	7
Week 10 Edge	-7
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	1
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	-1
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	9
2018 Rk	5
2019 v 2018 Rk	26
Off Rk	11
Def Rk	14
QB Rk	31
RB Rk	25
WR Rk	13
TE Rk	14
Oline Rk	2
Dline Rk	17
LB Rk	13
DB Rk	16

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines (wks 1-16)

Wk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Opp	NYG	DEN	HOU	TEN	PHI	CLE	BAL	DAL	CIN	JAX	BAL	WAS	BUF	CIN	IND
Line	-3.5	-6	-5	3	-2	-4	6.5	3.5	-8.5	-6.5	2.5	-9.5	2.5	-4	-3

Avg = -2.3

Home Lines (wks 1-16)

2	3	5	6	10	12	13	16
-6 DEN	-5 HOU	-2 PHI	-4 CLE	-8.5 CIN	2.5 BAL	-9.5 WAS	-3

Avg = -4.4

Road Lines (wks 1-16)

1	4	7	9	11	14	15
-3.5 NYG	3 TEN	6.5 BAL	3.5 DAL	-6.5 JAX	2.5 BUF	-4 CIN

Avg = 0.2

However, we need to consider more than just the team-based stats when evaluating offensive line play. Based on ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate, the Steelers ranked seventh in the NFL. The metric measures the rate at which linemen can sustain their blocks for 2.5 seconds, and the Steelers o-line did it at a 62% rate on average. This was actually an improvement over the 2018 Steelers line, which ranked 17th. Looking at PFF grades, the Steelers ranked fifth in pass blocking, down from third in 2018, but still solid.

We see in these numbers the impact of quarterback play and decision making, and how much they can control pressure and sack rates. Behind solid o-line play in 2018, Roethlisberger helped the team to the fourth-lowest sack rate. Behind comparable o-line play based on player tracking and player grades in 2019, Rudolph and Hodges led the Steelers to almost double the sack rate as 2018.

In 2018, the Steelers saw the left side of the line intact for all 16 games (LT **Alejandro Villanueva**, LG **Ramon Foster**, and C **Maurkice Pouncey**). RT **David DeCastro** played 14 games but RT **Marcus Gilbert** played only five games so RT **Matt Feiler** filled in for 10 games.

In 2019, the Steelers didn't have the same health along the left side of the line. While Villanueva played all 16 games, Foster played 14 and Pouncey played 13. On the right side of the line, DeCastro was healthy for all 16 games, but the real story was the surprising Feiler. The undrafted kid out of Bloomsburg University, who had played RT for the first time in his NFL career in 2018, not only started all 16 games at RT in 2019, he recorded the best overall passing grade of any Steelers lineman. In 2020, the o-line continuity takes another hit, with journeyman **Stefen Wisniewski** taking over at LG from Ramon Foster who retired.

So, what about the bad. What did the Steelers do poorly that was frustrating to watch and to recap after the season? For starters, it's the lack of play-action.

Play action helps the passing games immensely. On early downs in a game's first three quarters last year, 3,497 passes with play-action totaled 504.1 EPA. But 5,784 passes without play-action totaled -67.9 EPA. That's the single best data point to show how valuable it is to offenses. Splits across multiple metrics per play:

With P/A: 8.6 YPA, 55% success, 0.14 EPA, 104 rating
W/O P/A: 6.7 YPA, 51% success, -0.01 EPA, 90.4 rating

Without a starting quarterback, and with an offense that needed

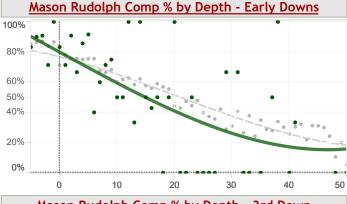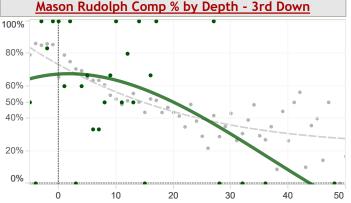## Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	James Conner	9%	9%	67%	3%	12%
	Jaylen Samuels	6%	8%	82%	2%	3%
	Benny Snell Jr.	4%	9%	69%	5%	14%
	Diontae Johnson		25%	75%		
	Vance McDonald			100%		
	Trey Edmunds	9%		86%	5%	
	Johnny Holton			100%		
	Total	6%	8%	72%	3%	10%
PASS	James Conner	19%		70%	4%	7%
	Jaylen Samuels	14%	7%	75%		4%
	Benny Snell Jr.			100%		
	Diontae Johnson	10%	16%	69%	4%	2%
	James Washington	12%	15%	69%	3%	1%
	Juju Smith-Schuster	15%	13%	72%		
	Vance McDonald	19%	7%	70%	4%	
	Trey Edmunds	43%		57%		
	Donte Moncrief	69%	8%	23%		
	Johnny Holton	25%		75%		
	Nick Vannett	10%	10%	80%		
	Ryan Switzer	40%	20%	40%		
	Xavier Grimble			100%		
	Total	17%	11%	69%	2%	2%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	James Conner	Jaylen Samuels	Benny Snell Jr.	Diontae Johnson	James Washington	Juju Smith-Schuster	Vance McDonald	Trey Edmunds	Donte Moncrief	Johnny Holton	Nick Vannett	Ryan Switzer	Xavier Grimble
RUSH	36%	21%	34%	1%			0%	7%		0%			
PASS	7%	14%	1%	20%	16%	16%	13%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%
ALL	20%	17%	15%	12%	9%	9%	8%	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%

Mason Rudolph Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Mason Rudolph Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▢▢▢▢ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-0 [5WR]	2-0 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-3 [1WR]	ALL
PASS	41%, -0.12 (424)	38%, -0.17 (77)	30%, -0.77 (10)	25%, -0.65 (16)	50%, -0.31 (2)	100%, 0.17 (2)	40%, 0.19 (5)	50%, 2.30 (4)	0%, -1.12 (1)		40%, -0.14 (541)
RUSH	43%, -0.14 (235)	39%, -0.16 (114)	24%, -0.30 (29)	0%, -2.84 (1)	50%, 0.02 (8)	29%, -0.61 (7)	0%, -0.65 (1)			0%, -4.77 (1)	40%, -0.18 (396)
All	42%, -0.13 (659)	39%, -0.17 (191)	26%, -0.42 (39)	24%, -0.78 (17)	50%, -0.04 (10)	44%, -0.43 (9)	33%, 0.05 (6)	50%, 2.30 (4)	0%, -1.12 (1)	0%, -4.77 (1)	40%, -0.16 (937)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Min 50 targets)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Jaylen Samuels	50% (46) 5.7, -0.03	33% (6) 4.0, -0.17	67% (3) 4.0, 0.11	0% (1) 2.0, -0.88	48% (56) 5.4, -0.05
	James Conner	59% (34) 7.1, 0.42	25% (4) 2.8, 0.06	0% (1) 0.0, -0.45		54% (39) 6.4, 0.36
TE	Vance McDonald	34% (35) 5.7, -0.12	41% (17) 3.2, -0.20			37% (52) 4.9, -0.15
WR	James Washington	51% (63) 10.0, 0.16	44% (9) 6.3, 0.10	0% (1) 0.0, -4.76	100% (1) 45.0, 3.96	50% (74) 9.9, 0.14
	JuJu Smith-Schuster	44% (54) 7.7, -0.11	31% (16) 3.3, -0.29		100% (1) 76.0, 5.99	42% (71) 7.7, -0.07
	Diontae Johnson	53% (38) 6.9, 0.22	50% (6) 10.5, 0.56	100% (1) 4.0, -0.03	0% (1) 9.0, 0.12	52% (46) 7.4, 0.25

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Min 25 carries)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Conner James	40% (78) 3.6, -0.26	48% (27) 4.6, -0.06	40% (5) 2.6, -0.18	100% (1) 1.0, 0.41	42% (111) 3.7, -0.20
Snell Benny	49% (49) 3.7, -0.04	45% (51) 4.7, 0.05	0% (5) -0.6, -0.70	100% (1) 1.0, 0.41	45% (106) 4.0, -0.02
Samuels Jaylen	44% (45) 3.2, -0.12	31% (13) 2.5, -0.21	20% (5) 1.2, -0.37	0% (2) -2.0, -1.11	38% (65) 2.7, -0.19
Whyte Jr Kerrith	38% (24) 4.9, 0.07	100% (1) 5.0, 0.12			40% (25) 4.9, 0.07

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	48% (216) 7.0, 0.04	
M2M	41% (141) 6.9, -0.04	
Screen	42% (53) 4.6, -0.11	

Passing by Route

Curl	55% (56) 5.3, 0.04	
Out	55% (53) 5.9, -0.02	
Screen	38% (50) 4.7, -0.19	
Flat	35% (26) 4.2, 0.00	
Dig	47% (19) 11.5, -0.56	
Slant	56% (16) 6.4, 0.16	

Throw Types

Level 1	47% (321) 6.1, 0.07	
Level 2	33% (58) 5.4, -0.51	
Level 3	28% (53) 10.4, -0.05	
Shovel	73% (11) 6.2, 0.33	
Sidearm	50% (4) 2.3, -0.34	

QB Drop Types

3 Step	46% (225) 7.4, 0.09	
0/1 Step	51% (95) 5.3, -0.07	
5 Step	37% (70) 8.0, -0.07	
Designed Rollout Right	47% (17) 5.3, -0.11	
7 Step	19% (16) 3.3, -0.70	
Basic Screen	19% (16) 1.8, -0.46	

QB State at Pass

Planted	49% (305) 7.5, 0.09	
Shuffling	29% (68) 3.8, -0.38	
Moving	41% (37) 5.3, -0.17	

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	28% (32) 3.7, -0.47	43% (14) 5.6, 0.04
Shotgun	49% (45) 6.1, 0.07	40% (450) 6.5, -0.14
ALL	40% (77) 5.1, -0.15	40% (464) 6.5, -0.14

Run Types

Inside Zone	45% (71) 4.0, -0.06	
Power	39% (61) 3.6, -0.13	
Outside Zone	41% (32) 2.6, -0.24	
Lead	39% (18) 4.1, -0.15	
Stretch	50% (12) 4.9, 0.10	
Pitch	50% (6) 2.7, -0.37	

PIT-5

to be more balanced and ground-oriented than most out of necessity, one would think this would be the prime opportunity to use more play action.

But in 2019, the Steelers used play-action on the fewest plays in the NFL and the least often of any team.

In unfortunate news for Steelers fans, even with Roethlisberger in 2018, they used play-action least of any team. While most of the league is taking advantage of using more and more play-action for the benefits it provides, the Steelers seem dead set on ignoring it as much as possible. It's a huge mistake. It doesn't matter who you have in the backfield or at quarterback – we can measure linebacker movement and say with certainty that play-action influences second-level defenders, opens throwing lanes, and improves passing efficiency. If an offensive coordinator chooses to ignore that or not build an offense to generate success against the defense's weaknesses, it's not just an opportunity lost, it's a shame.

Then, there was the lack of pre-snap motion. The Steelers used pre-snap motion ahead of just 34% of plays in quarters 1-3. That ranked seventh-least in the NFL and well below the 43% average. Pre-snap motion helps a quarterback identify coverage before the snap, to allow him to choose the matchup that will have the best odds of success or manipulate that matchup. It discerns man or zone coverage. And the quarterback can also adjust the play after the motion, a la Tom Brady.

In fact, the five teams that used the most pre-snap motion ahead of passes last year:

KC: Super Bowl champions & AFC No. 2 seed
SF: Super Bowl & NFC No. 1 seed
TEN: AFC Championship & AFC No. 6 seed
BAL: Best regular season record & AFC No. 1 seed
NE: AFC No. 3 seed

Pre-snap motion is free and takes no talent. Just run your man laterally and see how the defense adjusts. Take the free information and profit. Just like play-action (which is also free and takes no talent) the Steelers choose to ignore the edge it provides an offense.

Then, there was the predictability. With how tilted the rulebook is to offenses in the modern game, particularly passing offenses, it is rare for a defense to have the upper hand. Sometimes you'll have a huge talent disparity between offense and defense. But barring that, most often when defenses "win" a play, it's the result of the offense shooting itself in the foot, whether it's a failure to execute, breakdown, or miscommunication.

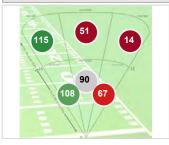# Pittsburgh Steelers 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

With **Ben Roethlisberger** lost for the season after just six quarters into the 2019 season, the Steelers passing game was compromised and their depth at the quarterback was exposed. With **Mason Rudolph** and **Devlin Hodges** pressed into action, the Steelers ranked last in the NFL in success rate through the air (39%). Slightly better than dead last, they did rank 28th in yards per passing play (5.5) and 28th in EPA on the season via their passing offense. The team went from 313 passing yards per game in 2018 down to 186.3 passing yards per game in 2019, the largest single-season decline of passing yardage per game in league history. Rudolph and Hodges turned the ball over 17 times via interceptions compared to 18 touchdown passes. Roethlisberger will be 38 years old and coming off elbow surgery, but has a low bar to clear improving the Steelers' passing game output in 2020.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Mason Rudolph	176	283	62%	1,765	6.2	13	9	15	82	39
Devlin Hodges	100	160	63%	1,063	6.6	5	8	15	71	45
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Mason Rudolph	40%	44%	21	7.0%	11	4.0%	4.4	5.6	9	3%
Devlin Hodges	38%	41%	11	7.0%	6	4.0%	5.4	5.3	9	6%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Mason Rudolph Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	3.2%
10 - 14	3.2%	5.7%	6.7%	0.0%	4.1%
15+	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%		3.4%
Total	**2.8%**	**3.0%**	**3.6%**	**0.0%**	**3.0%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Mason Rudolph	9.2	4.1	-5.1	76%	43
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
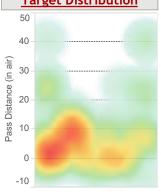
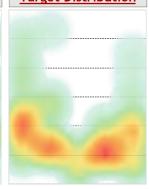| Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
42%	58%	44
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

As a byproduct of the quarterback situation, the Steelers' wide receivers ranked 18th in success rate (49%) and their tight ends ranked 20th (51%). But despite being limited by quarterback play, the Pittsburgh wideouts still ranked ninth in yards per target (8.2) and third-round rookie **Diontae Johnson** led all NFL rookies with 59 receptions. No player felt the sting of losing Roethlisberger more than **JuJu Smith-Schuster**. In his first season as the lead receiver for the team, Smith-Schuster missed four games due to injury and finished 78th out of 84 qualifying wide receivers in success rate per target (42%). With Roethlisberger and a young nucleus of Smith-Schuster, Johnson, **James Washington** plus **Eric Ebron**, expect more aerial production.

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Diontae Johnson	83	63%	7.2	99.3	45%	97	92	99	25	5
James Washington	68	57%	9.6	86.2	47%	83	51	37	110	3
Juju Smith-Schuster	68	60%	8.0	82.0	43%	101	102	14	106	3
Jaylen Samuels	56	82%	5.4	87.5	48%	76	39	101	17	1
Vance McDonald	54	69%	5.0	82.9	41%	107	105	116	3	3

JuJu Smith-Schuster Target Distribution

Diontae Johnson Target Distribution
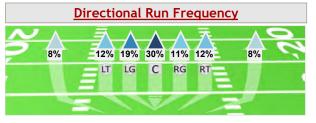
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Pittsburgh passing offense was so anemic in 2019 that it masked the fact their running game was just as bad. Pittsburgh was last in the league in Expected Points Added via their rushing game, 29th in success rate (43%) and 29th in yards per play (3.7 yards). Another area where the Steelers' depth chart was exposed a bit was at the running back position. Durability has been an issue for **James Conner** over the past two seasons with nine games outright due to injury and fewer than 40% of the team snaps in 10 of his 23 games active. With Conner missing time last year, the duo of **Jaylen Samuels** and **Benny Snell** totaled 929 yards on 214 touches while Conner produced 715 yards on his 150 touches. Pittsburgh added explosive playmaker **Anthony McFarland** in the draft this spring to insure and compliment Conner.

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
James Conner	116	4.0	45%	53	52	45	31	46%	44	4
Benny Snell Jr.	108	3.9	49%	36	12	20	66	45%	52	2
Jaylen Samuels	66	2.7	39%	72	65	4	79	41%	68	1

Yards per Carry by Direction

4.4	3.5	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.9	3.2
	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	

Directional Run Frequency

8%	12%	19%	30%	11%	12%	8%
	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Take the Discount on JuJu Smith-Schuster

Playing just six quarters with Ben Roethlisberger and missing four full games, we came away with more questions about Smith-Schuster's status as an elite fantasy wide receiver without the presence of Antonio Brown than answers. His per-game output (3.5 receptions for 46.0 yards) was nuked. Coming off of last season's bitter taste, it is easy to forget Smith-Schuster is still one of the most precocious wideouts in the league even factoring last season's production. Smith-Shuster does not turn 24-year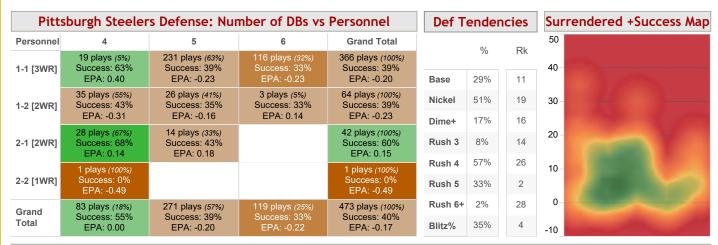s old until November and is only 683 yards away from having the most receiving yards prior to turning 24 in league history. The emergence of Diontae Johnson also allows Smith-Schuster to keep working primarily through the slot, as his 66.3% slot rate in 2019 was a career-high. As a player that was in the running to be a top-five pick at his position a year ago with one of the most decorated early careers ever at his position, a fourth-round price reduction allows you to take advantage of the disappointment of last season when everything went wrong while offering some insulation should he fail to completely reach 2018 levels of output.

Player to target: Diontae Johnson

While you should explore the discount on Smith-Shuster, Diontae Johnson may be the best value in this offense overall. For as bad as the Pittsburgh offense was in 2019, Johnson was a rose that grew out of the concrete. Johnson led all rookies with 59 receptions (690 yards and five touchdowns) while contributing 12.4 yards per punt return with a touchdown. Per NFL Next Gen Stats, Johnson led all NFL wide receivers in average yards of separation (3.6) per target. With similar universal skill sets that remind of the Antonio Brown, Emmanuel Sanders, and Santonio Holmes receiving corps from seasons past, Johnson can make a significant stride forward with actual quarterback play in 2020.

Ben Roethlisberger is a Strong Late Round QB Target

We still do not know what fantasy life for Roethlisberger looks like without a prime Antonio Brown, but the Steelers have a young pass-catching nucleus filled with upside while the Steelers draw our No. 2 easiest projected passing efficiency schedule for the full season and our third easiest schedule in the same department over the opening four weeks of the season. Finishing as the QB9 or higher in points per game in each of the three prior seasons to 2019, Roethlisberger should not be overlooked as a solid starting option that will come cheaply for those players waiting on the position.

Pittsburgh Steelers Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	19 plays *(5%)* Success: 63% EPA: 0.40	231 plays *(63%)* Success: 39% EPA: -0.23	116 plays *(32%)* Success: 33% EPA: -0.23	366 plays *(100%)* Success: 39% EPA: -0.20
1-2 [2WR]	35 plays *(55%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.31	26 plays *(41%)* Success: 35% EPA: -0.16	3 plays *(5%)* Success: 33% EPA: 0.14	64 plays *(100%)* Success: 39% EPA: -0.23
2-1 [2WR]	28 plays *(67%)* Success: 68% EPA: 0.14	14 plays *(33%)* Success: 43% EPA: 0.18		42 plays *(100%)* Success: 60% EPA: 0.15
2-2 [1WR]	1 plays *(100%)* Success: 0% EPA: -0.49			1 plays *(100%)* Success: 0% EPA: -0.49
Grand Total	83 plays *(18%)* Success: 55% EPA: 0.00	271 plays *(57%)* Success: 39% EPA: -0.20	119 plays *(25%)* Success: 33% EPA: -0.22	473 plays *(100%)* Success: 40% EPA: -0.17

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	29%	11
Nickel	51%	19
Dime+	17%	16
Rush 3	8%	14
Rush 4	57%	26
Rush 5	33%	2
Rush 6+	2%	28
Blitz%	35%	4

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

No defense bailed out its offense more than the Steelers in 2019. Despite having the 27th worst starting field position, Pittsburgh finished the season third in points and yards allowed per drive. Much of that was due to a league-high turnover rate that will be unlikely to repeat in 2020. Still, there's a lot of talent on every level of this defense.

Even after losing **Javon Hargrave** to the Eagles in free agency, the Steelers have one of the strongest interior lines in the league with **Cameron Heyward** and **Stephon Tuitt**, though Tuitt played just six games last season and ended the year on IR. Both have the ability to rush the passer and can kick outside in a four-man front if necessary. Pittsburgh already made a move to add positional depth with a rare intradivision trade that brought **Chris Wormley** over from the Ravens. Wormley just has one year remaining on his rookie contract, though, but provides added depth for 2020.

T.J. Watt is already one of the league's best pass rushers. He was second in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate last season and was second in pressure rate, per SIS. The Steelers franchised **Bud Dupree** after he finally broke out in his fifth season. There's a question around how committed the Steelers are to Dupree and that might need to be answered given how much Pittsburgh relied on their two edge rushers last season. Dupree played 90% of the defensive snaps and Watt played 86%. There's little depth of note behind them outside of 2020 third-round pick **Alex Highsmith** of Charlotte.
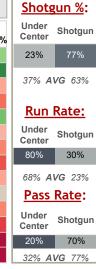
Devin Bush was an instant impact starter at off-ball linebacker last season but the Steelers also relied on **Mark Barron** for nearly 70% of the defensive snaps as an inside linebacker. He wasn't particularly effective but without Barron on the roster those are still snaps that need to be accounted for and not much was added at the position. Pittsburgh could give a bigger role to **Vince Williams**, who flashed with limited playing time. His coverage was solid and he was an effective blitzer with a 29% pressure rate on 48 pass rush snaps, per SIS.

Joe Haden and **Steven Nelson** played as one of the league's best corner duos last season; both allowed a sub-1.0 Adjusted Yards per coverage snap. **Mike Hilton** was the weak link as the slot corner, but **Cameron Sutton** was a star in limited playing time across the secondary. **Justin Layne** also has promise as a long third-round pick from 2019. This is one area where the Steelers have high-level play and depth. Sixth-round pick **Antoine Brooks** is listed as a safety, but could profile into a Barron-type role in the NFL.

Like every position expect corner, the Steelers have a good top duo they rely on often with little depth behind the starters. The acquisition of **Minkah Fitzpatrick** was a season changer for the defense but it also limited what Pittsburgh could use to build depth behind him. 2019 first-round pick **Terrell Edmunds** bounced around from deep safety to the slot but could use a little more development in coverage.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	58%
All Pass Rk	22
All Rush %	42%
All Rush Rk	11
1 Score Pass %	56%
1 Score Pass Rk	22
2018 1 Score Pass %	66%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	1
2019 Pass Increase %	-10%
Pass Increase Rk	31
1 Score Rush %	44%
1 Score Rush Rk	11
Up Pass %	43%
Up Pass Rk	27
Up Rush %	57%
Up Rush Rk	6
Down Pass %	67%
Down Pass Rk	14
Down Rush %	33%
Down Rush Rk	19

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	7	14%	86%	57%
	Med (4-7)	9	22%	78%	89%
	Long (8-10)	275	45%	55%	44%
	XL (11+)	14	79%	21%	29%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	37	38%	62%	65%
	Med (4-7)	65	58%	42%	46%
	Long (8-10)	88	65%	35%	34%
	XL (11+)	42	67%	33%	21%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	30	53%	47%	43%
	Med (4-7)	47	85%	15%	49%
	Long (8-10)	32	97%	3%	34%
	XL (11+)	31	97%	3%	16%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	4	75%	25%	0%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	23%	77%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	80%	30%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	20%	70%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
88%	2	66%	77%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
12%	31	34%	67%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James Conner	3	67%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Jaylen Samuels	3	67%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	James Conner	56	41%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Vance McDonald	3	67%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James Conner	10	70%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	James Conner	9	56%
			Benny Snell Jr.	9	11%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Diontae Johnson	10	60%
	XL (11+)	PASS	James Washington	6	33%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Benny Snell Jr.	6	83%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Diontae Johnson	8	63%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Diontae Johnson	5	60%
			Juju Smith-Schuster	5	40%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Diontae Johnson	7	29%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 38% YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 79.4 [Att: 301 - Rate: 55.6%]	Success: 53% YPA: 6.3, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 85.7 [Att: 30 - Rate: 5.5%]	Success: 40% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.13 Rtg: 80.0 [Att: 331 - Rate: 61.2%]
Yes	Success: 43% YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.12 Rtg: 71.5 [Att: 163 - Rate: 30.1%]	Success: 32% YPA: 4.4, EPA: -0.29 Rtg: 65.7 [Att: 47 - Rate: 8.7%]	Success: 40% YPA: 5.5, EPA: -0.16 Rtg: 70.2 [Att: 210 - Rate: 38.8%]
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 76.6 [Att: 464 - Rate: 85.8%]	Success: 40% YPA: 5.1, EPA: -0.15 Rtg: 73.7 [Att: 77 - Rate: 14.2%]	Success: 40% YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 76.2 [Att: 541 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Vance McDonald	Diontae Johnson	James Washington	Juju Smith-Schuster	Jaylen Samuels	James Conner	Johnny Holton	Donte Moncrief
1	NE	L 33-3	49 (71%)	25 (36%)	36 (52%)	62 (90%)	23 (33%)	32 (46%)	8 (12%)	62 (90%)
2	SEA	L 28-26	52 (91%)	27 (47%)	34 (60%)	47 (82%)	22 (39%)	31 (54%)	6 (11%)	18 (32%)
3	SF	L 24-20	15 (28%)	42 (79%)	49 (92%)	53 (100%)	14 (26%)	36 (68%)	5 (9%)	
4	CIN	W 27-3		37 (63%)	45 (76%)	43 (73%)	27 (46%)	38 (64%)	9 (15%)	3 (5%)
5	BAL	L 26-23	37 (62%)	55 (92%)	33 (55%)	55 (92%)	15 (25%)	48 (80%)	20 (33%)	
6	LAC	W 24-17	39 (65%)	42 (70%)		51 (85%)		30 (50%)	32 (53%)	14 (23%)
8	MIA	W 27-14	60 (78%)	34 (44%)	36 (47%)	57 (74%)		64 (83%)	26 (34%)	15 (19%)
9	IND	W 26-24	51 (81%)	43 (68%)	27 (43%)	47 (75%)	40 (63%)		22 (35%)	
10	LA	W 17-12	72 (97%)	53 (72%)	37 (50%)	55 (74%)	41 (55%)		22 (30%)	
11	CLE	L 21-7	71 (96%)	38 (51%)	63 (85%)	22 (30%)	25 (34%)	13 (18%)	44 (59%)	
12	CIN	W 16-10	63 (85%)	50 (68%)	58 (78%)		22 (30%)		16 (22%)	
13	CLE	W 20-13	54 (87%)	40 (65%)	44 (71%)		34 (55%)		19 (31%)	
14	ARI	W 23-17	31 (52%)	42 (70%)	43 (72%)		28 (47%)		17 (28%)	
15	BUF	L 17-10		44 (75%)	50 (85%)		17 (29%)	34 (58%)	13 (22%)	
16	NYJ	L 16-10	65 (97%)	56 (84%)	51 (76%)	53 (79%)	42 (63%)	9 (13%)	7 (10%)	
17	BAL	L 28-10	44 (88%)	39 (78%)	44 (88%)	37 (74%)	20 (40%)		6 (12%)	
Grand Total			703 (77%)	667 (66%)	650 (69%)	582 (77%)	370 (42%)	335 (53%)	272 (26%)	112 (34%)

Personnel Groupings
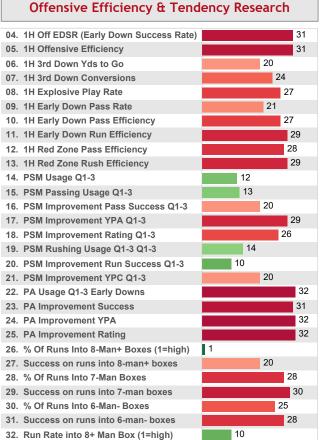
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	70%	60%	42%
1-2 [2WR]	20%	20%	39%
2-1 [2WR]	4%	8%	26%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	64%	41%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	40%	38%	39%
2-1 [2WR]	26%	30%	24%

Red Zone Targets (min 3)

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Vance McDonald	9	2	3	4
Jaylen Samuels	8	1	1	6
Diontae Johnson	7	1		6
Juju Smith-Schuster	6		1	5
James Conner	3			3

Red Zone Rushes (min 3)

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Benny Snell Jr.	22	3	7	12
James Conner	14	5	2	7
Jaylen Samuels	11	3	4	4
Devlin Hodges	6	2	3	1
Trey Edmunds	4	1		3
Kerrith Whyte Jr.	3		1	2

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
23%	16%	61%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
50%	43%	42%
#8	#31	#32

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	6	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-1.0	
03. Wins	8	

#	Metric	Rank
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	31
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	31
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	20
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	24
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	27
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	21
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	27
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	29
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	28
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	29
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	12
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	13
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	20
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	29
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	26
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	14
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	10
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	20
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	32
23.	PA Improvement Success	31
24.	PA Improvement YPA	32
25.	PA Improvement Rating	32
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	1
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	20
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	28
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	30
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	25
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	28
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	10
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	29
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	18
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	3

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	6.7
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.2
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.2
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.0
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	48%
42.	PSM Rating	83.7
43.	Non-PSM Rating	84.2

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	20%
45.	PA Success Rate	40%
46.	PA YPA	4.9
47.	PA Sack Rate	0.0%
48.	PA Rating	67.5
49.	PA Target Depth	4.9
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	50%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6.8
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.9%
53.	Non-PA Rating	87.5
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	6.9

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	37%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.4
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.1
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	24%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	41%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	1	defFUM	33	
Net FROE	5.6	defFUM Rcvrd	18	
offFUM	30	defFR Rk	8	
offFUM Rcvrd	19	defFR%	54.5%	
offFR%	63.3%	defFROE	2.7	
offFR Rk	5	defFROE Rk	5	
offFROE	2.9			
offFROE Rk	4			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	94%	YOY Swing	28%	
2019 FG Rk	4	YOY Swing Rk	2	
Opp 2019 FG %	81%	2018 Team Net	-15%	
Opp 2019 FG Rk	20	2018 Net Rk	29	
2019 Team Net	13%			
2019 Net Rk	4			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Mason Rudolph	Devlin Hodges
CAY	4.5	4.5
CAY Rk	38	38
2018 CAY Rk		
AYTS Rk	23	33
2018 AYTS Rk		
AGG Rk	11	39
2018 AGG Rk		
COMP%	62.2	62.5
xCOMP%	63.2	62
xCOMP% Rk	25	34
2018 xCOMP% Rk		
CPOE%	-1	0.5
CPOE Rk	21	14
2018 CPOE Rk		

CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Mason Rudolph	Devlin Hodges
Pressure %	36.4	37.2
Pressure Rk	10	9
Sack %	13.4	22.1
Sack Rk	33	9
Pressure Accuracy %	62.5	63.6
Pressure Accuracy Rk	19	18
Rating when Pressured	35.6	34.4
Pressured Rating Rk	36	37
Clean Accuracy %	79.1	83
Clean Accuracy Rk	18	2
Rating when Clean	104.7	87.3
Clean Rating Rk	14	35
Time to Throw	2.8	2.84
Time to Throw Rk	21	13

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	-0.15
EPA/Pass Rk	29
EPA/Rush	-0.19
EPA/Rush Rk	32
On-Target Catch %	82.2
On-Target Catch Rk	29
Drop%	10.2
Drop Rk	28
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	11.4
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	31
Rush 1st Down %	18.7
Rush 1st Down Rk	29

Pittsburgh Steelers 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

Select Observations: Notice under center drop targets have very short aDOT as compared to shotgun. Atypical to NFL averages, Steelers seven-step drops last year tended not to result in deeper targets. Although TE targets tended to be thrown to the right, the strongest success was to the left just beyond the LOS. RB targets were the thrown close to the LOS and middle of the field, but those with the most success tended to be thrown further away from the middle of the field.

The only one thing an offense can do to give the defense an upper hand is predictability. There is no room for predictability on offense in today's game. It's one thing for an offense to do something so well that they keep repeating it until the defense stops it. But as you'll see, that wasn't the case for the Steelers. These predictable lineups resulted in below-average production, even for the 2019 Steelers.

When **Jaylen Samuels** was on the field, the Steelers passed 75% of the time. These passes averaged 4.9 YPA.

When **Benny Snell** was on the field, the Steelers ran 78% of the time. These rushes averaged 3.5 YPC.

And if **Johnny Holton** was on the field at the same time as Snell, it was a run on 67 of the 73 play calls – 92% of the time. These rushes averaged 3.1 YPC

These rates are far too predictable, particularly for a team with poor quarterback play that couldn't afford to be at all predictable. The reasoning behind the decisions made sense: Benny Snell was a rookie and the Steelers didn't trust him to pass block. He only pass blocked on eight of 167 total snaps. But Samuels, a second-year back with more pass blocking experience with time at tight end in college, was adept at receiving and pass blocking. The problem is, defensive coordinators get excited when you share trends that are accurate 67% of the time. When you're talking 75% to 90% accuracy over the course of a season? They're going to make you pay for such predictability.

This offseason, the Steelers added Matt Canada as a quarterbacks coach. But he'll do more than that. Mike Tomlin said he's going to bring "fresh ideas, new schematic ideas" and will have input on offensive game plans.

Under OC Randy Fichtner, the Steelers used a lot of 11 personnel, didn't use play-action, and rarely used pre-snap motion. Canada always crafts his offenses to the personnel he has. For example, his recent stops included spread sets with a dual-threat quarterback (Northern Illinois), a heavy power rushing attack (Wisconsin), as well as working pro-style with the Pitt Panthers and at NC State. He uses a lot of personnel groupings, a lot of shifts and motions, read-options and varies his tempo.

Keep in mind – Canada coached both **James Connor** at Pitt and Jaylen Samuels at NC State, and produced massive years for each. The Steelers offense under Fichtner in 2018 was top-5 but they didn't squeeze enough juice from the orange. His 2019 offense showed limitations without exceptional talent. I wonder how these two offensive minds will co-exist because I can see Canada justifiably wanting to change up several elements.

It has shades of the Browns' Freddie Kitchens/Todd Monken experiment. And we know Canada didn't last long in LSU due to something between him and Ed Orgeron. But that he's even in the building is a positive. The Steelers offense needs more creativity, less predictability, and a stronger desire to take advantage of the free efficiency that exists in today's offensive game.

After all, the Steelers play in the AFC North with one of the most analytically advanced teams in the NFL. Every intentional move away from efficiency is magnified when a team like the Ravens stand between you and the crown of King of the North.

Coaching will be extremely important because, for the second straight year, the Steelers have the NFL's cheapest skill position corps. They literally are spending the 32nd-highest cap hit on wide receivers and 32nd-highest cap hit on running backs in 2020. That means youth and inexperience.

In addition to the hope of coaching improvement, another positive is the schedule for Roethlisberger. He missed 2019 when the Steelers played the ninth-toughest schedule of pass defenses. But in 2020, I forecast the Steelers will face the second-easiest schedule of pass defenses. That drop in difficulty, from ninth to 31st, is the third-largest for any team.

After facing the 15th-toughest overall schedule in 2019 the Steelers will face the seventh-easiest in 2020. That increase is the sixth-best improvement for any team. Pittsburgh gets to play seven games against teams forecast to win 7.5 or fewer games on the season.

Their 2019 schedule started off with three games against playoff teams, two of which were on the road (Patriots, Seahawks, and 49ers). They lost Roethlisberger in the second game and the season was over before it started. But in 2020, the Steelers are one of three teams to start the season's first three weeks against three opponents that are all forecast to produce a losing record in 2020 (Giants, Broncos, and Texans).

In their shift from the ninth-toughest schedule of pass defenses to the second-easiest, they play just three games against top-15 pass defenses. They played seven games against top-15 pass defenses in 2019.

Pittsburgh's schedule is also favorable in several other ways. Although they play in two Monday night games, they get to host the following game each time, negating a short week road game. Their Week 2 opponent, the Broncos, will be playing on a short week road game being they play on Monday in Week 1. Pittsburgh has a bye ahead of their second-toughest road game (Week 9 in Dallas). The Steelers host the Ravens on Thanksgiving. And after a Sunday night tilt on the road in Buffalo, they have one extra day to prepare for their Monday game in Cincinnati. They play zero back-to-back road games other than that one game the entire season, and they have extra rest for that game.

SHARP

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Kyle Shanahan (Calls plays) (3 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
(3 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
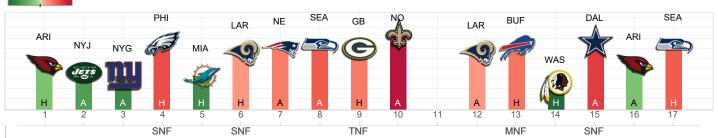Robert Saleh (2 yrs)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
10.5	#1

Past Records
2019: 13-3
2018: 4-12
2017: 6-10

ARI	NYJ	NYG	PHI	MIA	LAR	NE	SEA	GB	NO		LAR	BUF	WAS	DAL	ARI	SEA
H	A	A	H	H	H	A	A	H	A		A	H	H	A	A	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

SNF — SNF — TNF — MNF — SNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Anthony Zettel (43DE)	Vikings
DeForest Buckner (43DT)	Colts
Elijah Lee (43OLB)	Lions
Emmanuel Sanders (WR)	Saints
Garrett Celek (TE)	Retired
Joe Staley (LT)	Retired
Levine Toilolo (TE)	Giants
Marquise Goodwin (WR)	Eagles
Matt Breida (RB)	Dolphins
Sheldon Day (43DT)	Colts
Andrew Lauderdale (RG)	Null
Damontre Moore (43DE)	Null
Earl Mitchell (43DT)	Null
Garrett Celek (TE)	Null
Joe Staley (LT)	Null
Jordan Matthews (WR)	Null
Mike Person (LG)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-2.5	12	4

2020 San Francisco 49ers Overview

The story heading into the Super Bowl was that Kyle Shanahan was handcuffed with **Jimmy Garoppolo**, needed to rely on the run game, and likely wouldn't have much of a shot against the stud prodigy Patrick Mahomes on the other side of the field.

I hated that narrative. Not only did I not believe it, but it was also completely lazy. People saw Garoppolo throw only eight passes in the NFC Championship game while the Niners ran wild. They saw Garoppolo go a dismal 11/19 for 131 yards and 1:1 TD:INT in the NFC Divisional Round.

Talking heads and fans alike ignored reality. They focused on a small subset. They didn't break down the real season to see what the 49ers passing attack really was.

What happened in the Super Bowl?

The 49ers built a 10-point lead entering the fourth quarter and held that same lead with less than seven minutes to go in the game.

And how did the quarterbacks look through three quarters?

- Jimmy G: 17/20, 9.2 YPA, 65% success, 0.36 EPA/att, 0 sacks, 5.7 aDOT
- Mahomes: 16/25, 5.8 YPA, 48% success, -0.08 EPA/att, 2 sacks, 5.4 aDOT

The point isn't to disparage Mahomes, the best quarterback in the NFL. It's to praise Garoppolo. The Chiefs had the NFL's sixth-best pass defense. No pushovers by any extreme. Not only was Garoppolo throwing deeper than Mahomes in the first three quarters, he was delivering far better efficiency. He was not only on the way to winning the game, but being named MVP.

(cont'd - see SF2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Trent Williams (LT)	Trade
Tom Compton (RG)	$2.79
Kerry Hyder (43DE)	$1.5
Travis Benjamin (WR)	$1.10
Joe Walker (ILB)	$0.90

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	14	DT - Javon Kinlaw (South Carolina)
1	25	WR - Brandon Aiyuk (Arizona State)
5	153	OT - Colton McKivitz (West Virginia)
6	190	TE - Charlie Woerner (Georgia)
7	217	WR - Jauan Jennings (Tennessee)

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF — All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	18	$99.31M	8
QB	7	$29.08M	15
OL	18	$38.96M	6
RB	8	$12.92M	1
WR	29	$13.50M	22
TE	29	$4.86M	26
All DEF	15	$98.79M	5
DL	12	$48.22M	2
LB	28	$10.73M	18
CB	10	$24.49M	20
S	15	$15.36M	14

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	10.5
2019 Wins	13
Forecast 2019 Wins	8
2018 Wins	4
2017 Wins	6
2016 Wins	2

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS J.Ward 20
SS J.Tartt 29
LB K.Alexander 58
LB F.Warner 48
RCB A.Witherspoon 23
SLOTCB K.Williams 24
DL N.Bosa 97
DL S.Thomas 94
DL J.Kinlaw Rookie 99
DL D.Ford 55
LCB R.Sherman* 25

LWR D.Samuel 19
SLOTWR J.Hurd 14
LT T.Williams NEW 71
LG L.Tomlinson 75
C W.Richburg 58
RG T.Compton NEW 79
RT M.McGlinchey 69
TE G.Kittle 85
RWR B.Aiyuk Rookie 11

QB J.Garoppolo 10
RB R.Mostert 31

FB K.Juszczyk 44
WR3 K.Bourne 84
RB2 T.Coleman 26
QB2 N.Mullens 4

2020 Cap Dollars
* = 30+ years old

But then came the fourth quarter. Then came a couple of errant passes (one possible for a touchdown, the other, an interception). Then came the 10-point lead evaporating. Then came the 49ers defense giving up 21 fourth quarter points. In a Super Bowl.

And now, people are making the same exact mistakes they did leading into the game.

They're ignoring the reality of what Garoppolo did through three quarters and are focusing only on the final quarter, when his defense and his play calling and Mahomes' brilliance all likewise played major roles in the end result.

Far too few people remember what Garoppolo did through three quarters, so it's important to share it. Far too few people remember what Garoppolo did during the season, so it's important to share it.

But before we dig in, it's important to remember one huge factor: when it comes to a quarterback and his playcaller, one thing people don't account enough for is that these two individuals are inseparable.

Before the 2019 season, I was asked by Colin Cowherd which playcaller I'd rather have: Sean McVay or Kyle Shanahan. McVay was off two straight double-digit win seasons and a trip to the Super Bowl. Shanahan was off of two straight seasons with double-digit losses. I didn't hesitate: my unpopular answer was (and still is) Shanahan.

Kyle Shanahan designs and calls plays to produce and to win. Period. He doesn't care how it gets done, who gets the credit, or what the media will write afterward. As such, when we're talking Garoppolo, there is always some Shanahan mixed in. It's inevitable.

In 2019 the 49ers had the eighth-best passing offense despite playing the 10th-toughest schedule of pass defenses. They had a brutal schedule.

Isolate only those games Garoppolo played against top-15 pass defenses (11 of his 18 games came against top-15 pass defenses) and his numbers were:

• 8.7 YPA, 68% completions, 47% success, 96 passer rating, and a 13:10 TD:INT ratio.

Obviously, the 49ers like to be very balanced on early downs. But against these top-15 pass defenses, when put into a passing 3rd down situation, Garoppolo delivered:

• 8.5 YPA, 73% completions, 46% conversion rate, 106 rating, and a 3:1 TD:INT ratio

Let's move beyond the best defenses and look at all defenses.

Of the 31 quarterbacks to have at least 50 early down pass attempts vs Cover 3 last year, Garoppolo ranked first in YPA (11.4), second in EPA/att (0.32), and second in success rate (65%) on his 105 attempts. He also delivered a 126 rating (second) and a 9:2 TD:INT ratio.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Jimmy Garoppolo	57% 9.8 102.0	43% 7.2 94.6	45% 8.1 102.8	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	37%	52%	69%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
SF	44% 4.6	44% 4.6	50% 4.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	63%	48%	31%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

Let's move beyond coverage to look at the preferred target location. No team passed the ball more between the numbers than the 49ers, who threw to the middle of the field on 65% of their total attempts. On the season, when passing between the numbers, Jimmy G delivered 9.2 YPA, 56% success, 109 rating, and 17:8 TD:INT. No quarterback had more total EPA when passing to the middle of the field, and his 0.36 EPA/att ranked top-5.

Let's move beyond target location to look at this extremely important metric: the 49ers had the NFL's most explosive passing offense of 2019. Seems shocking, I know. But 13% of their passes produced gains of 20 or more yards, best in the NFL. The NFL average was 9%. (For comparison, Mahomes and the Chiefs ranked ninth in that metric.)

No passing offense in the last four years produced explosive gains at a better rate than the 2019 49ers.
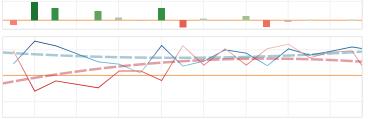
2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	W	W	W		W	W	W	W	W	L	W	W	L	W	L	W	W
OPP	TB	CIN	PIT		CLE	LA	WAS	CAR	ARI	SEA	ARI	GB	BAL	NO	ATL	LA	SEA
SITE	A	A	H		H	A	A	H	A	H	H	H	A	A	H	H	A
MARGIN	14	24	4		28	13	9	38	3	-3	10	29	-3	2	-7	3	5
PTS	31	41	24		31	20	9	51	28	24	36	37	17	48	22	34	26
OPP PTS	17	17	20		3	7	0	13	25	27	26	8	20	46	29	31	21

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **13**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-2**
FG Games Win %: **60% (#8)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **23% (#14)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **5-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **63% (#9)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **38% (#23)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+4
TO Given	23
INT Given	13
FUM Given	10
TO Taken	27
INT Taken	12
FUM Taken	15
Sack Margin	+12
Sacks	48
Sacks Allow	36
Return TD Margin	+2
Ret TDs	5
Ret TDs Allow	3
Penalty Margin	+11
Penalties	105
Opponent Penalties	116

San Francisco 49ers 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Legend:
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

Categories (Offense): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF — (Passing / Rushing)

Categories (Defense): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF — (Passing / Rushing)
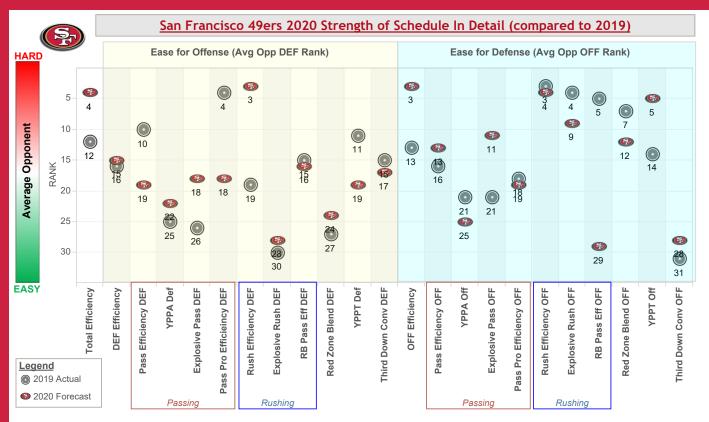
2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
26	23	1	5	13	11	18	28

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-4.1	3.8	4.4
Average O/U line	45.5	46.7	43.8
Straight Up Record	13-3	4-12	6-10
Against the Spread Record	9-7	5-11	9-6
Over/Under Record	9-7	9-7	8-8
ATS as Favorite	5-7	1-4	1-0
ATS as Underdog	3-0	4-7	8-6
Straight Up Home	6-2	4-4	3-5
ATS Home	3-5	3-5	3-4
Over/Under Home	5-3	4-4	5-3
ATS as Home Favorite	3-5	1-3	0-0
ATS as a Home Dog	0-0	2-2	3-4
Straight Up Away	7-1	0-8	3-5
ATS Away	6-2	2-6	6-2
Over/Under Away	4-4	5-3	3-5
ATS Away Favorite	2-2	0-1	1-0
ATS Away Dog	3-0	2-5	5-2
Six Point Teaser Record	14-2	11-5	12-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	14-2	11-4	12-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	15-1	12-4	13-2

SF-3

The way an offense ranks first in the NFL in explosive pass rate despite throwing deep least is because Garoppolo had a 59% success rate on passes thrown over 15 air yards and averaged 16.7 YPA, both first in the NFL. And, of course, creative play designs with the goal of producing YAC.

Somehow, Garoppolo was able to deliver all of these numbers against the 10th-toughest schedule of pass defenses and once again for over three quarters of the Super Bowl against the No. 6 pass defense. But now we should ignore all of those numbers and instead focus on him not passing much in the playoffs before the Super Bowl and because of his fourth quarter?

Speaking of creative play designs, two things Shanahan has done quite well has been the usage of play-action and pre-snap motion to give his offense an edge.

The 49ers used the fourth-most play-action on early downs in the first three quarters. These passes averaged 11.6

(cont'd - see SF-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	2
Net Rest Edge	0
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	-7
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	3
Week 12 Edge	8
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	-1
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	27
2018 Rk	26
2019 v 2018 Rk	15
Off Rk	23
Def Rk	26
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	30
WR Rk	12
TE Rk	15
Oline Rk	19
Dline Rk	22
LB Rk	18
DB Rk	26

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17
ARI	NYJ	NYG	PHI	MIA	LAR	NE	SEA	GB	NO	LAR	BUF	WAS	DAL	ARI	SEA
-1	-3.5	-2.5	-4.5	-3	Null	-2.5	-1	2	1.5	2.5	-9	-8	-6	-3.5	6

Home Lines

1	4	5	6	9	13	14	17
-1 ARI	-4.5 PHI	-3 MIA		2 GB	-9 BUF	WAS	6 SEA

Avg = -2.5

Road Lines

2	3	7	8	10	12	15	16
-3.5 NYJ	-2.5 NYG	-2.5 NE	-1 SEA	1.5 NO	2.5 LAR	-6 DAL	ARI

Avg = -1.9

YPA (second), 61% success (second), 0.26 EPA/att (second) and a 109 rating. They had the fifth-largest improvement in success rate and seventh-largest improvement in YPA when using play-action.

The 49ers also used the NFL's highest rate of pre-snap motion. They used it on a whopping 70% of plays in the first three quarters – substantially higher than the NFL's 43% average usage rate.

However, the most unique aspect of the 49ers offense isn't the play-action or the pre-snap motion. It's the personnel grouping they favor.

The 49ers run the ball from 21 personnel on 33% of all rushing attempts. The NFL average is 11%. There is something the teams that ran from 21 over 21% of run plays had in common:

33% - 49ers – playoffs
26% - Vikings – playoffs
25% - Saints – playoffs

Toss in the Ravens and the Patriots, both of which had 82 runs from 21 personnel last year (fourth- and fifth-most in the NFL) and you have two more playoff teams.

The 49ers were second in EPA/att from 21, fourth in YPC, and seventh in success rate.

San Francisco was also extremely adept at passing from 21 personnel, doing so on 21% of their attempts (average was 6%). These passes averaged 0.25 EPA/att, gained 9.7 YPA, with a 61% success rate.

I've long said teams that do something different and do it well gain an inherent edge because NFL defenses typically aren't built to stop unique offenses with so little time to prepare. General managers draft and defensive coordinators mold defenses to play a system, and beyond that, to be able to handle opposing offenses in their own division. Non-NFC West defenses are not going to get the looks throughout the season for defending so much 21 personnel. They aren't going to practice the run fits nearly as much. They are going to be at a disadvantage.

That's a positive for the 49ers and Kyle Shanahan.

The 49ers, like all Super Bowl runners up, had a tricky offseason. Oftentimes with

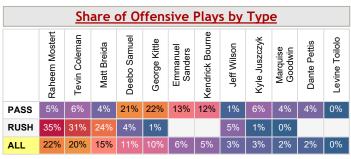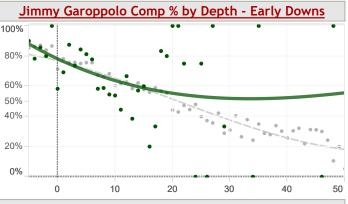## Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
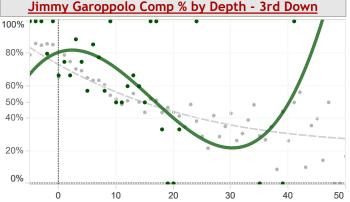
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
PASS	Raheem Mostert		9%	65%	13%	13%
	Tevin Coleman	4%		63%	22%	11%
	Matt Breida			75%	19%	6%
	Deebo Samuel	1%	5%	71%	12%	10%
	George Kittle		3%	74%	9%	14%
	Emmanuel Sanders		9%	81%	4%	7%
	Kendrick Bourne		12%	69%	6%	13%
	Jeff Wilson			67%	33%	
	Kyle Juszczyk	4%	8%	84%		4%
	Marquise Goodwin			72%		28%
	Dante Pettis			61%	6%	33%
	Levine Toilolo			100%		
	Total	1%	5%	72%	9%	12%
RUSH	Raheem Mostert		4%	61%	9%	26%
	Tevin Coleman		3%	67%	12%	18%
	Matt Breida		2%	64%	12%	23%
	Deebo Samuel		15%	60%		25%
	George Kittle			100%		
	Jeff Wilson			59%		41%
	Kyle Juszczyk			67%		33%
	Marquise Goodwin			100%		
	Total		3%	64%	10%	23%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Raheem Mostert	Tevin Coleman	Matt Breida	Deebo Samuel	George Kittle	Emmanuel Sanders	Kendrick Bourne	Jeff Wilson	Kyle Juszczyk	Marquise Goodwin	Dante Pettis	Levine Toilolo
PASS	5%	6%	4%	21%	22%	13%	12%	1%	6%	4%	4%	0%
RUSH	35%	31%	24%	4%	1%			5%	1%	0%		
ALL	22%	20%	15%	11%	10%	6%	5%	3%	3%	2%	2%	0%

Jimmy Garoppolo Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Jimmy Garoppolo Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, 0.06 (326)	57%, 0.24 (133)	49%, 0.04 (87)	67%, 0.47 (21)	50%, 0.59 (4)	0%, -1.07 (1)		48%, 0.11 (572)
RUSH	41%, 0.04 (150)	54%, 0.08 (199)	41%, -0.14 (131)	49%, -0.06 (104)	13%, -0.42 (16)		100%, 0.66 (1)	46%, -0.01 (601)
All	43%, 0.05 (476)	55%, 0.14 (332)	44%, -0.07 (218)	52%, 0.03 (125)	20%, -0.22 (20)	0%, -1.07 (1)	100%, 0.66 (1)	47%, 0.05 (1,173)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Tevin Coleman	45% (20) 5.9, -0.18	60% (5) 11.2, 0.78	33% (3) 1.0, -0.48	46% (28) 6.3, -0.04
	Matt Breida	50% (12) 5.7, 0.17	0% (4) 1.8, -1.79	100% (4) 10.5, 0.71	50% (20) 5.9, -0.11
TE	George Kittle	53% (62) 7.5, 0.38	58% (19) 8.0, 0.12	68% (22) 12.9, 0.71	57% (103) 8.7, 0.40
WR	Emmanuel Sanders	54% (28) 10.9, 0.26	63% (19) 9.8, 0.48	33% (9) 4.8, -0.06	54% (56) 9.6, 0.28
	Kendrik Bourne	53% (40) 7.0, 0.40	80% (5) 8.6, 0.46	80% (5) 16.2, 0.88	58% (50) 8.1, 0.45
	Deebo Samuel	59% (22) 10.7, 0.49	40% (5) 6.2, 0.06	50% (16) 7.4, -0.06	53% (43) 9.0, 0.24
FB	Kyle Juszczyk	0% (1) 2.0, 1.22	70% (20) 10.6, 0.51		67% (21) 10.2, 0.54

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	2-1 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Mostert Raheem	56% (71) 6.3, 0.11	43% (60) 6.8, 0.18	37% (19) 3.4, -0.15	68% (34) 5.1, 0.16	52% (184) 5.9, 0.12
Coleman Tevin	53% (59) 4.4, -0.03	32% (31) 4.5, -0.08	45% (47) 3.9, 0.01	46% (26) 4.3, -0.03	45% (163) 4.3, -0.03
Breida Matt	45% (44) 5.2, 0.04	36% (28) 5.4, -0.06	40% (43) 3.4, -0.31	56% (16) 6.9, -0.07	43% (131) 4.9, -0.11
Garoppolo Jimmy	43% (7) 1.9, -0.33	36% (14) 2.8, -0.44	56% (9) 2.3, 0.04	13% (16) -0.4, -0.56	33% (46) 1.4, -0.37
Wilson Jeff	67% (9) 3.4, 0.34	60% (5) 7.8, -0.01	29% (7) 4.6, -0.06	33% (6) 0.5, -0.21	48% (27) 3.9, 0.05

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	56% (196) 9.6, 0.42
M2M	60% (122) 8.5, 0.31
Screen	41% (69) 6.3, -0.09

Passing by Route

Screen	40% (67) 6.6, -0.06
Out	63% (59) 8.1, 0.44
Dig	60% (50) 9.5, 0.35
Slant	59% (46) 9.2, 0.36
Curl	60% (42) 8.2, 0.26
Flat	39% (23) 3.5, 0.16

Throw Types

Level 1	57% (320) 7.7, 0.32
Level 2	51% (79) 10.5, 0.32
Level 3	46% (24) 17.7, 0.60
Shovel	36% (14) 2.6, -0.16
Sidearm	29% (14) 4.6, -0.75

QB Drop Types

0/1 Step	58% (142) 7.6, 0.32
3 Step	55% (134) 8.8, 0.39
5 Step	44% (59) 7.5, 0.22
7 Step	60% (43) 10.6, 0.25
Basic Screen	30% (33) 4.8, -0.36
Designed Rollout Right	58% (19) 14.9, 0.67

QB State at Pass

Planted	54% (402) 8.8, 0.31
Shuffling	50% (68) 7.9, 0.22
Moving	44% (61) 6.0, 0.00

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	61% (131) 10.3, 0.31	44% (71) 7.4, -0.06
Shotgun	46% (54) 9.7, 0.05	45% (317) 7.5, 0.08
ALL	57% (185) 10.1, 0.23	45% (388) 7.5, 0.06

Run Types

Lead	42% (90) 4.4, -0.09
Outside Zone	44% (87) 6.0, 0.11
Pitch	56% (72) 5.3, -0.03
Power	45% (67) 4.4, 0.09
Stretch	50% (44) 5.5, 0.03
Inside Zone	39% (36) 2.5, -0.38

SF-5

successful teams, free agents get huge paydays elsewhere and their coaching staff gets looted.

The 49ers coaching staff is intact (thanks to Shanahan blocking an interview, which won't be allowed in the future). The 49ers lost two key players this offseason and one semi-important piece: left tackle **Joe Staley** to retirement and **DeForest Buckner** to the Colts in a trade after the team decided to extend **Arik Armstead** on the defensive line. Wide receiver **Emmanuel Sanders** also left in free agency. But look at how the 49ers instantly replaced them all.

To replace Staley, they were able to trade for disgruntled former-Redskins tackle **Trent Williams** during the draft. Williams refused to play for the Redskins, so the 49ers made out on that deal. Williams didn't play last year, but is a true beast of a left tackle.

They also took the first-round pick they received from the Colts in the Buckner trade and drafted DT **Javon Kinlaw** from South Carolina. They didn't have to pay the veteran contract for Buckner and are able to pay much less on a rookie deal for Kinlaw and hopefully wind up with just as big a long-term stud on the interior.

Sanders was an extremely productive and efficient piece en route to the team's Super Bowl run. But they took the 31st overall pick, along with a fourth- and fifth-round selection, and traded up to draft Arizona State wide receiver **Brandon Aiyuk**. Aiyuk, a JUCO transfer, was a return specialist and a receiver who brings a lot of YAC ability to a team that thrives on YAC generating a lot of their passing yardage. Last year, 54.2% of Jimmy Garoppolo's yardage came from yards after the catch, the highest rate for passers that took 50% of their team dropbacks.

The former three pieces, whose absences would have absolutely hurt the team, were instantly replaced thanks to aggressive moves in April. Unfortunately, the 49ers lost stud wide receiver **Deebo Samuel** to a Jones fracture in his left foot. These injuries are notoriously difficult to come back from. Teammate **Trent Taylor** had the same injury in 2019, and needed five surgeries (three of which were due to infection) and missed the entire season.

A starting skill set featuring tight end **George Kittle**, receivers Deebo Samuel and Brandon Aiyuk, fullback **Kyle Juszczyk,** and running back **Raheem Mostert** would have been very intriguing. We may not see it until later in the year. Now, we'll have **Kendrick Bourne** replacing Samuel most likely, and the 49ers will be without two of their top three receivers from 2019.

Things on the other side of the ball won't be easy. The 49ers played the NFL's 13th-toughest schedule of offenses in 2019, but is projected to become the third-toughest in 2020. While the 49ers' 2019 defense was outstanding, we somewhat built them into something they were not. Robert Saleh has done an outstanding job and this defense has many studs but there were some shocking things about this defense.

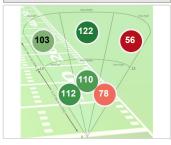# San Francisco 49ers 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

In his first full NFL season, **Jimmy Garoppolo** was tasked with operating with efficiency over volume. Garoppolo ranked third in yards per pass attempt (8.4) while the 49ers as a team ranked eighth in the league in success rate passing (49%) and third in yards per passing play (7.4 yards), but also ranked 29th in passing plays per game (32.1). In games plus or minus seven points outside of the fourth quarter, San Francisco ranked 25th in the league in passing rate (41%) despite posting a 57% success rate and 8.7 yards per pass attempt in those situations. With that, there is a chicken or egg argument to be made if the overall offensive structure propelled the San Francisco team passing efficiency or that the 49ers should have dropped back and utilized the pass more than they actually did and will likely be forced to do moving forward when their game script naturally regresses in 2020.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Jimmy Garoppolo	366	534	69%	4,483	8.4	29	16	40	100	11
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Jimmy Garoppolo	49%	50%	67	13.0%	27	5.0%	5.8	6.4	23	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Jimmy Garoppolo Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	3.2%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%	50.0%	2.2%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%		0.8%
10 - 14	2.9%	6.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%
15+	0.0%	12.0%	0.0%		5.6%
Total	2.5%	3.4%	1.9%	10.0%	2.8%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Jimmy Garoppolo	8.9	5.6	-3.2	75%	24
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
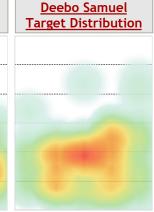
Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
47%	53%	42
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

With the passing game operating on a hyper-efficient level over volume, it is no surprise to see the 49ers receivers rank highly across the board in all areas of 2019. San Francisco's wideouts ranked seventh in yards per target (9.2) and 12th in success rate (53%) while the tight ends ranked sixth (8.5 yards per target) and seventh (58% success rate) in the same areas. The biggest surprise is how efficient the team was throwing to running backs. Anchored by **George Kittle** and **Deebo Samuel**, the large moving part the 49ers passing game has in 2020 is losing veteran wideout Emmanuel Sanders, who they are replacing with first-round selection **Brandon Aiyuk**.

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
George Kittle	120	78%	9.4	116.1	60%	14	19	64	90	5
Deebo Samuel	99	68%	10.2	94.1	53%	59	54	11	124	3
Emmanuel Sanders	61	67%	9.4	86.3	54%	47	12	47	102	5
Kendrick Bourne	55	65%	8.1	119.2	56%	34	31	110	6	6

George Kittle Target Distribution

Deebo Samuel Target Distribution
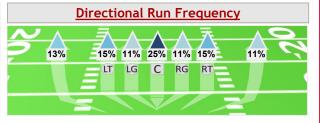
2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The 49ers run game was above the average league rate in 2019 and the team was not shy about leaning on that production. San Francisco ranked second in rushing attempt (31.1) and yardage (144.1 yards) per game. On those attempts, they ranked 16th in success rate (48%) rushing as a team while ranking eighth in yards per carry (4.6 yards) and eighth in EPA via their rushing offense. This was a collective effort as well, with three different backs rushing for over 500 yards while not one reached 800 yards on the ground. The highlight came from **Raheem Mostert**, who ranked fourth among all running backs in 2019 in success rate rushing (56%) and second among all backs in rate of runs to gain six or more yards (38%) on the season.

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Raheem Mostert	190	5.8	55%	12	26	59	27	58%	3	13
Tevin Coleman	170	4.1	46%	46	35	41	46	48%	34	8
Matt Breida	132	4.9	43%	62	55	73	13	44%	56	1
Jimmy Garoppolo	56	1.1	30%	81	81	1	49	8%	82	1

Yards per Carry by Direction

5.7 4.7 5.9 3.9 3.2 6.7 5.0
LT   LG   C   RG   RT

Directional Run Frequency

13% 15% 11% 25% 11% 15% 11%
LT   LG   C   RG   RT

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Do We Trust Any Of The Running Backs?

The 49ers backfield is one we want to target in totality. The team collectively ranked second in the league in touches (31.5) and yards from scrimmage (175.3) among all backfields. The problem for us is that everyone and anyone who touched the ball for them was effective, leaving us vulnerable at any moment for the backfield usage turning in another direction. The 49ers had four different running backs post a top-15 scoring week in PPR formats over the season while all of **Raheem Mostert** (952 yards), **Tevin Coleman** (724), and **Matt Breida** (743) chipped in with over 700 yards from scrimmage.

It was Mostert who carried the load to close the season. He tallied 792 total yards and 12 touchdowns over the final eight games of 2019. But he also had just nine receptions over that span and carries a terribly similar stigma surrounding him that fantasy gamers were faced with Damien Williams in drafts a year ago as mid-career, journeyman running back who popped with a big end of season run. We also saw the 49ers were still willing to pull the rug out on us at any moment, even with Mostert playing so well down the stretch. In the Divisional Round of the playoffs, the team once again showed that any back can step forward in the offense, with Coleman receiving a season-high 22 touches for 105 yards and two touchdowns while Mostert received 12 touches. The next week, Coleman injured his shoulder early in the game as he and Mostert were splitting snaps prior to Mostert going bananas the rest of the way in the NFC Championship game. With **Jerick McKinnon** swapping places for Breida and **Jeffery Wilson** still floating around the depth chart, the 49ers backfield could once again be a sum of parts that offers pockets of fantasy production for the individual components over one back being a locked-in wire-to-wire starting option.

Dealing with Deebo's Injury

Outside of George Kittle there is a lot of uncertainty in the San Francisco passing game. We assumed that second-year wideout Deebo Samuel would make a jump after he ranked sixth in targets (84), fourth in receptions (57), and fourth in receiving yardage (802 yards) among all rookie wideouts, but an early-summer Jones Fracture injury has halted his ascension and places his early-season in doubt. This is the same injury that has impacted the post-return production for Sammy Watkins, Dez Bryant, Julian Edelman, and Greg Olsen amongst others in recent seasons. Samuel is still in play as a late-round dart, but now comes with a lot of risk on estimated return to the lineup, potential re-injury, and potential of a declined performance when he does return.

With Samuel on the mend, 2020 first-round rookie Brandon Aiyuk can receive a larger slice of the offense now. Aiyuk is strong after the catch (10.9 YAC in 2019) which goes along with what this offense was predicated on a year ago. No quarterback had a higher rate of his passing yardage come from yards after the catch than Jimmy Garoppolo a year ago (54.2%). While Aiyuk can have his role accelerated in the offense, second-year wideout **Jalen Hurd** has the profile of someone who can take on some of the unique assignments Samuel had in the offense. Samuel led all NFL wideouts in rushing yardage (159 yards) and touchdowns (three) in 2019. Hurd is a former college running back at Tennessee that transitioned to wide receiver at Baylor, with 637 collegiate rushing attempts for 2,844 yards and 23 touchdowns on the ground under his belt. Like Samuel, Hurd has a hard time avoiding injury, but fits the mold of filling the creative usage Samuel was receiving in the offense.

San Francisco 49ers Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	12 plays (3%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.39	425 plays (94%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.30	15 plays (3%) Success: 27% EPA: -0.40	452 plays (100%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.28
1-2 [2WR]	107 plays (86%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.07	17 plays (14%) Success: 41% EPA: 0.03		124 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.06
2-1 [2WR]	12 plays (50%) Success: 17% EPA: -0.32	12 plays (50%) Success: 58% EPA: -0.21		24 plays (100%) Success: 38% EPA: -0.26
2-2 [1WR]	9 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.52			9 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: 0.52
Grand Total	140 plays (23%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.09	454 plays (75%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.28	15 plays (2%) Success: 27% EPA: -0.40	609 plays (100%) Success: 39% EPA: -0.20

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	27%	16
Nickel	70%	6
Dime+	1%	29
Rush 3	1%	30
Rush 4	78%	3
Rush 5	16%	25
Rush 6+	3%	23
Blitz%	19%	26

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The 49ers had one of the league's best defenses last season and kept most of the pieces together with one major offseason decision that had to be made — the 49ers picked **Arik Armstead** for an extension and traded **DeForest Buckner** to the Indianapolis Colts. **Armstead** was the more versatile piece that can play on the edge and the interior. He could play the interior more with Bucker gone, where he was still a productive pass rusher. That could open up the edges for **Nick Bosa** and **Dee Ford**. **Javon Kinlaw** was a first-round pick who could also be the immediate replacement for Bucker inside.

Solomon Thomas hasn't lived up to his draft status and is in the final year of his rookie deal. **DJ Jones** has emerged as a productive interior rusher as well. **Julian Taylor** could also provide depth as he has developed from a super athletic seventh-round pick in 2018.

With Bosa and Ford, the Niners have a dominant edge duo. There's slightly less depth than last season with Buckner gone and Armstead potentially stretched more to the interior. **Kentavius Street** was a promising prospect who tore his ACL in pre-draft workouts and he appeared in four games last season. **Kerry Hyder** has also been a versatile inside/outside piece throughout his career and peaked with eight sacks in 2016.

Fred Warner has already turned into one of the best off-ball linebackers in the league with elite coverage and instincts. Many questioned the **Kwon Alexander** contract last offseason but he played well in coverage in the eight games he played in 2019. **Dre Greenlaw** also played incredibly well in the times he filled in at linebacker.

This might be the deepest group of corners in the league. **Richard Sherman** just had one of the best seasons of his career in his second year off his Achilles injury. **K'Waun Williams** and **Emmanuel Moseley** broke out as plus performers — Williams was 15th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season — and took over as the No. 2 and 3 corners. A 2019 decline from **Ahkello Witherspoon** could derail another group but the 49ers are so deep, they were able to work around it.

Like at other positions, the 49ers interchange some of their safeties and corners. **Jaquiski Tartt** has excelled in his deep safety role and **Jimmie Ward** has jumped between safety and corner, but has done well with both positions. He was re-signed to a three-year deal this offseason. Slot corner **D.J. Reed** also has some safety experience, though he tore a pectoral muscle in an offseason workout. **Marcell Harris** also played 40% of the defensive snaps last season and was a core special teamer.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	51%
All Pass Rk	31
All Rush %	49%
All Rush Rk	2
1 Score Pass %	54%
1 Score Pass Rk	28
2018 1 Score Pass %	57%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	20
2019 Pass Increase %	-3%
Pass Increase Rk	24
1 Score Rush %	46%
1 Score Rush Rk	5
Up Pass %	45%
Up Pass Rk	26
Up Rush %	55%
Up Rush Rk	7
Down Pass %	59%
Down Pass Rk	30
Down Rush %	41%
Down Rush Rk	3

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	16	6%	94%	56%
	Med (4-7)	16	44%	56%	44%
	Long (8-10)	370	39%	61%	53%
	XL (11+)	17	82%	18%	41%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	41	24%	76%	63%
	Med (4-7)	93	47%	53%	55%
	Long (8-10)	103	59%	41%	37%
	XL (11+)	48	83%	17%	25%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	40	40%	60%	60%
	Med (4-7)	60	90%	10%	53%
	Long (8-10)	27	96%	4%	56%
	XL (11+)	31	71%	29%	13%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	67%	33%	83%
	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
57%	43%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
69%	28%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
31%	72%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
50%	31	66%	61%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
50%	2	34%	56%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Tevin Coleman	7	71%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Tevin Coleman	6	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Raheem Mostert	72	60%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Raheem Mostert	3	0%
			Deebo Samuel	3	67%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Raheem Mostert	12	50%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Raheem Mostert	18	56%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Matt Breida	16	19%
	XL (11+)	PASS	George Kittle	9	22%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jimmy Garoppolo	9	100%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	George Kittle	7	71%
			Kendrick Bourne	7	57%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	George Kittle	7	71%
			Kendrick Bourne	7	86%
	XL (11+)	PASS	George Kittle	5	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 46% YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.17 Rtg: 103.6 *[Att: 140 - Rate: 24.4%]*	Success: 55% YPA: 10.7, EPA: 0.33 Rtg: 119.5 *[Att: 51 - Rate: 8.9%]*	Success: 48% YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.21 Rtg: 107.9 *[Att: 191 - Rate: 33.3%]*
Yes	Success: 44% YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.00 Rtg: 96.5 *[Att: 248 - Rate: 43.3%]*	Success: 57% YPA: 9.9, EPA: 0.20 Rtg: 102.3 *[Att: 134 - Rate: 23.4%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 98.6 *[Att: 382 - Rate: 66.7%]*
Total	Success: 45% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 99.1 *[Att: 388 - Rate: 67.7%]*	Success: 57% YPA: 10.1, EPA: 0.23 Rtg: 107.0 *[Att: 185 - Rate: 32.3%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.11 Rtg: 101.7 *[Att: 573 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	George Kittle	Deebo Samuel	Emmanuel Sanders	Kendrick Bourne	Kyle Juszczyk	Tevin Coleman	Raheem Mostert	Marquise Goodwin	Matt Breida
1	TB	W 31-17	62 (91%)	60 (88%)		17 (25%)	32 (47%)	18 (26%)	20 (29%)	50 (74%)	30 (44%)
2	CIN	W 41-17	48 (67%)	29 (40%)		23 (32%)	37 (51%)		34 (47%)	37 (51%)	21 (29%)
3	PIT	W 24-20	79 (100%)	41 (52%)		22 (28%)	50 (63%)		24 (30%)	53 (67%)	32 (41%)
5	CLE	W 31-3	73 (96%)	35 (46%)		17 (22%)	34 (45%)	26 (34%)	24 (32%)	46 (61%)	26 (34%)
6	LA	W 20-7	65 (83%)	47 (60%)		22 (28%)		43 (55%)	7 (9%)	48 (62%)	28 (36%)
7	WAS	W 9-0	61 (95%)			57 (89%)		42 (66%)		7 (11%)	17 (27%)
8	CAR	W 51-13	56 (84%)	47 (70%)	55 (82%)	32 (48%)		32 (48%)	14 (21%)		19 (28%)
9	ARI	W 28-25	51 (69%)	49 (66%)	70 (95%)	20 (27%)		41 (55%)	2 (3%)		29 (39%)
10	SEA	L 27-24		73 (83%)	26 (30%)	62 (70%)	41 (47%)	44 (50%)	19 (22%)	12 (14%)	25 (28%)
11	ARI	W 36-26		61 (79%)	36 (47%)	42 (55%)	41 (53%)	38 (49%)	38 (49%)	23 (30%)	
12	GB	W 37-8	38 (79%)	35 (73%)	32 (67%)	24 (50%)	23 (48%)	29 (60%)	14 (29%)		
13	BAL	L 20-17	57 (100%)	55 (96%)	56 (98%)	25 (44%)	26 (46%)	10 (18%)	42 (74%)		
14	NO	W 48-46	62 (93%)	53 (79%)	63 (94%)	38 (57%)	29 (43%)	11 (16%)	40 (60%)		12 (18%)
15	ATL	L 29-22	61 (95%)	57 (89%)	61 (95%)	34 (53%)	25 (39%)	19 (30%)	34 (53%)		12 (19%)
16	LA	W 34-31	55 (96%)	47 (82%)	56 (98%)	30 (53%)	24 (42%)	24 (42%)	31 (54%)		
17	SEA	W 26-21	47 (94%)	39 (78%)	46 (92%)	10 (20%)	34 (68%)	15 (30%)	27 (54%)		8 (16%)
	Grand Total		815 (89%)	728 (72%)	501 (80%)	475 (44%)	396 (49%)	392 (41%)	370 (38%)	276 (46%)	259 (30%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	40%	60%	43%
2-1 [2WR]	28%	8%	55%
1-2 [2WR]	19%	20%	43%
2-2 [1WR]	11%	4%	52%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	44%	40%
2-1 [2WR]	39%	56%	55%
1-2 [2WR]	40%	49%	39%
2-2 [1WR]	17%	67%	49%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Deebo Samuel	17	3	3	11
George Kittle	17	2	6	9
Kendrick Bourne	9	2	5	2
Kyle Juszczyk	8	1	1	6
Tevin Coleman	6	1	2	3
Emmanuel Sanders	5	2	1	2
Raheem Mostert	3			3

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Tevin Coleman	33	11	6	16
Raheem Mostert	22	6	3	13
Jeff Wilson	16	6	4	6
Jimmy Garoppolo	12	2	3	7
Matt Breida	6	1	1	4
Deebo Samuel	3			3
George Kittle	2	1		1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
23%	27%	50%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
50%	58%	53%
#6	#7	#12

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
01.	Games w Halftime Lead	9
02.	Avg Halftime Lead	6.0
03.	Wins	13

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	2
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	11
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	27
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	6
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	2
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	26
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	14
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	25
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	6
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	15
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	1
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	1
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	30
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	28
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	32
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	1
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	1
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	1
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	4
23.	PA Improvement Success	5
24.	PA Improvement YPA	7
25.	PA Improvement Rating	16
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	4
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	9
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	2
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	7
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	32
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	31
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	5
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	8
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	25
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	2

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.0
37.	PSM Target Depth	6.7
38.	Non-PSM YPA	8.4
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	7.6
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	50%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	53%
42.	PSM Rating	82.5
43.	Non-PSM Rating	100.4

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	45%
45.	PA Success Rate	61%
46.	PA YPA	10.9
47.	PA Sack Rate	4.9%
48.	PA Rating	103.4
49.	PA Target Depth	7.7
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	49%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.8
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	7.4%
53.	Non-PA Rating	91.6
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	5.1

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.8
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.8
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	13%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	37%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	6.9

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Net FROE Rk	14	defFUM	28
Net FROE	0.8	defFUM Rcvrd	15
offFUM	19	defFR Rk	10
offFUM Rcvrd	9	defFR%	53.6%
offFR%	47.4%	defFROE	2.0
offFR Rk	23	defFROE Rk	8
offFROE	-1.2		
offFROE Rk	22		

Field Goal Luck

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
2019 FG %	80%	YOY Swing	-14%
2019 FG Rk	18	YOY Swing Rk	25
Opp 2019 FG %	86%	2018 Team Net	8%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	9	2018 Net Rk	7
2019 Team Net	-6%		
2019 Net Rk	23		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Jimmy Garoppolo
CAY	5.4
CAY Rk	27
2018 CAY Rk	
AYTS Rk	38
2018 AYTS Rk	
AGG Rk	25
2018 AGG Rk	
COMP%	69.1
xCOMP%	67.5
xCOMP% Rk	3
2018 xCOMP% Rk	
CPOE%	1.7
CPOE Rk	9
2018 CPOE Rk	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Jimmy Garoppolo
Pressure %	30
Pressure Rk	31
Sack %	22.8
Sack Rk	8
Under Pressure Accuracy %	68.6
Pressure Accuracy Rk	6
Rating when Pressured	74.2
Pressured Rating Rk	14
Clean Accuracy %	81.8
Clean Accuracy Rk	7
Rating when Clean	110.8
Clean Rating Rk	8
Time to Throw	2.65
Time to Throw Rk	33

Offensive Metrics

Metric	Value
EPA/Pass	0.13
EPA/Pass Rk	5
EPA/Rush	-0.03
EPA/Rush Rk	11
On-Target Catch %	84.4
On-Target Catch Rk	21
Drop%	7.6
Drop Rk	17
YAC/Att	2.4
YAC/Att Rk	13
Rush Broken Tackle %	14.5
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	19
Rush 1st Down %	22.1
Rush 1st Down Rk	20

San Francisco 49ers 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

The first thing was play-action. Of the 12 defenses in the postseason, the 49ers defense ranked dead last in success rate allowed (71%) when facing play-action during the playoffs. The 49ers ranked second-worst in play-action sensitivity in the playoffs, as offenses recorded 31% more success passing with play-action (71%) than without (40%).

In the regular season, the 49ers pass defense ranked first when opposing offenses did not use play-action. Success against the 49ers defense increased by 15% when opponents used play-action, which put the 49ers defense as the most sensitive team to play-action in the NFL in 2019. Against first quarter play-action, the 49ers ranked fifth-worst in performance and were the fifth most sensitive to it, while ranking first vs non-play-action passes.

Second, while the 49ers excelled at recording third down sacks (they had a 16% sack rate on third down), on early downs, it was just 6.3%.

And third, the 49ers were great limiting teams to enter the red zone, but when there, the 49ers defense was not good at all. The 49ers allowed a 61% red zone TD rate, which ranked 25th in the NFL. They allowed a 49% success rate in the red zone from Week 9 on, which ranked 25th and they allowed a 53% success rate to red zone passes, ranked 31st.

On 52 early down attempts in the 49ers red zone, opposing quarterbacks were not sacked once, and had a 15:1 TD:INT ratio. On 128 pass attempts inside the SF 40-yard line, opposing QBs were sacked just twice on early downs all season (1.6%), ranked 31st in the NFL. On 11 personnel passes in the red zone, the 49ers had the NFL's worst pass defense. with a league-worst 53% success and 12 TDs on 45 plays with just one sack.

Like Garoppolo's numbers, but for opposite reasons, those defensive numbers may surprise you and cut against your impression of this defense. And now they are playing a more difficult schedule of offenses in 2020.

Heading into the Super Bowl, the 49ers hadn't trailed by more than seven points in the second half in 17 of 18 games this season. They trailed by 11 points for four minutes and 34 seconds in a 27-24 OT loss to Seattle in November. After delivering a memorable 2019 run that left them a 10-point fourth quarter lead in the Super Bowl, the 49ers face a slightly easier schedule than in 2019 based on opponent win totals. But it's a schedule which is easy early before getting significantly more difficult.

In the first five weeks of the season, the 49ers play four teams projected to post a losing record. It's the second-easiest schedule in the NFL. But from Week 6 onward, the 49ers are projected to face the NFL's third-toughest schedule, playing nine of 11 games against teams forecast to have winning records in 2020.

That said, the NFL did significant favors for the 49ers with regard to when they play their games. The 49ers host three primetime games who are not West coast teams (Eagles Week 4, Packers Week 9, and Bills Week 13). These are brutal trips for those opposing teams and playing on the West coast in primetime is extremely difficult. Additionally, the 49ers get two home games following two primetime games, avoiding short road week games.

The toughest element of the 49ers schedule is that the run defenses they face will improve from the 19th toughest schedule to the third-toughest. It's the toughest schedule of run defenses from Week 1 through 7.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
  Pete Carroll (10 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
  Brian Schottenheimer (2 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
  Ken Norton (2 yrs)

EASY   HARD

Seattle Seahawks

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9	#2

Past Records

2019: 11-5
2018: 10-6
2017: 10-5-1

Schedule:
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ATL	NE	DAL	MIA	MIN		ARI	SF	BUF	LAR	ARI	PHI	NYG	NYJ	WAS	LAR	SF
A	H	H	A	H		A	H	A	A	H	A	H	H	A	H	A

SNF (Week 2), SNF (Week 5), TNF (Week 11), MNF (Week 12)

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Al Woods (43DT)	Jaguars
D.J. Fluker (RG)	Ravens
George Fant (LT)	Jets
Germain Ifedi (RT)	Bears
Quinton Jefferson (43DE)	Bills
Akeem King (S)	Null
C.J. Prosise (RB)	Null
Ed Dickson (TE)	Null
Ezekiel Ansah (43DE)	Null
Jadeveon Clowney (34OLB)	Null
Jaron Brown (WR)	Null
Josh Gordon (WR)	Null
Justin Britt (C)	Null
Justin Johnson (TE)	Null
Kalan Reed (CB)	Null
Malik Turner (WR)	Null
Marshawn Lynch (RB)	Null
Mychal Kendricks (43OLB)	Null
Nazair Jones (43DT)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-5.3	14	2

2020 Seattle Seahawks Overview

I had a vision for the Seahawks. Pete Carroll brings in Bruce Buffer, the fabled UFC fight announcer. "This is the moment you've all been waiting for. IT'S TIME!!!!" Time for what? Time to take the next step. Time to stop thinking that better results can be accomplished with the same process and more luck. Time to stop treading water the past five years with four trips to the playoffs and four postseason losses to just three wins and zero Conference Championship game appearances since the last trip to the Super Bowl.

As important as the results are the fact that of these playoff games, only one of seven was at home in Seattle and never did they earn a bye week.

Contrast that with the back-to-back Super Bowl trips in 2013 and 2014. 100% of their games were at home and 100% of the time they had first round byes.

Funny how that works. Even if the teams were better in 2013 and 2014, ask them to go on the road for three straight weeks (with no bye week after Week 17) in order to make the Super Bowl, or ask them to rest up at home for 14 days and then host two games in Seattle. Which scenario most likely results in a trip to the Super Bowl?

I'm a firm believer in setting season-long goals, but I want to know what I need to do each day in order to achieve those longer-term goals. You don't just climb the mountain without proper preparation and a detailed plan for execution. My plan:

It's time for Seattle to make another trip to the Super Bowl. To do that, they need to lock up the single bye week in the NFC this year. Doing that also ensures home field advantage. (Just like 2013 and 2014.) To do that, they need to win every single game possible. To do that, they need to race to be up on the scoreboard at halftime. To do that, they need to entrust **Russell Wilson** with the ball earlier and more often than they've done the last five years. To do that, it's in their hands. All they need

(cont'd - see SEA2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Greg Olsen (TE)	$7
Bruce Irvin (34OLB)	$5.5
Brandon Shell (RT)	$4.5
B.J. Finney (C)	$4
Quinton Dunbar (CB)	Trade
Benson Mayowa (43DE)	$3
Carlos Hyde (RB)	$2.79
Cedric Ogbuehi (RT)	$2.29
Phillip Dorsett (WR)	$1
Linden Stephens (CB)	$0.5

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	27	LB - Jordyn Brooks (Texas Tech)
2	48	DE - Darrell Taylor (Tennessee)
3	69	G - Damien Lewis (LSU)
4	133	TE - Colby Parkinson (Stanford)
4	144	RB - DeeJay Dallas (Miami (FL))
5	148	DE - Alton Robinson (Syracuse)
6	214	WR - Freddie Swain (Florida)
7	251	TE - Stephen Sullivan (LSU)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	9
2019 Wins	11
Forecast 2019 Wins	9
2018 Wins	10
2017 Wins	9
2016 Wins	10

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS Q.Diggs 37
SS B.McDougald 30
LB K.Wright* 50
LB B.Wagner* 54
RCB Q.Dunbar NEW 23
SLOTCB T.Flowers 37
DE L.Collier 95
DT B.Mayowa NEW 91
DT J.Reed 90
DE B.Irvin* NEW 51
LCB S.Griffin 26

LWR D.Metcalf 14
SLOTWR T.Lockett 16
LT D.Brown* 76
LG M.Iupati 76
C B.Finney NEW 67
RG D.Lewis Rookie 68
RT B.Shell NEW 72
TE G.Olsen* NEW 88
RWR D.Moore 83

QB R.Wilson* 3
RB R.Penny 32

WR2 P.Dorsett NEW 13
WR3 J.Ursua 15
RB2 C.Hyde NEW 34
QB2 G.Smith 7

2020 Cap Dollars

= 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	11	$112.52M	18
QB	4	$32.50M	8
OL	23	$34.97M	15
RB	13	$10.38M	20
WR	22	$20.10M	28
TE	5	$14.58M	17
All DEF	28	$85.91M	20
DL	31	$23.13M	24
LB	7	$35.65M	4
CB	25	$11.33M	32
S	13	$15.81M	11

is for Carroll, Brian Schottenheimer, and Wilson to get together, become of one mind, and listen to Bruce Buffer: IT'S TIME!!!!

That's really all it comes down to, which is why it's so frustrating for some Seattle fans longing for a return to greatness. It's the constant feeling that it's not exterior forces holding them back. They are doing it to themselves, wasting away years of Wilson's prime. This is why you have him. This is why you paid him $140 million. *Of course* life was easier when he was on a rookie deal. As a third-rounder, he was pennies on the dollar. Seattle paid him just $2.2 million TOTAL over his first three years in the NFL, from 2012 to 2014. His excellent performance coupled with the cheap salary allowed them to stack the defense and build out the rest of the roster.

But when Seattle tore up his rookie deal and gave him an $87.5 million contract in 2015, it became more difficult. Things were still reasonable from a cap perspective, with Wilson's cap staying under $18.5 million in the first three seasons. But in 2018, it jumped to $23.8 million. And then he earned the $140 million contract, with a 2019 cap hit of $26 million. And now, his 2020 cap hit will be $31 million.

For perspective, let's look at 2014. Wilson's cap hit was $817,000 and the NFL salary cap was $133 million. Wilson occupied 0.6% of the cap. But in 2020, his $31 million cap hit occupies 16% of the $198.2 million cap. It's substantially more difficult to build a roster. The defense will inevitably be worse. The talent on offense won't be as potent. If he is worth the money (hint: he is) the offensive philosophy CANNOT remain the same as it was in 2014. Nor 2018. Nor 2019. It must progressively put more on Wilson's shoulders because he IS the offense.

You don't want nor can you afford to have your $31 million quarterback complete six first half passes while he hands off the ball six times in the first half to a previously retired and washed-up running back you just signed as you fall behind 21-3 on the road in the second round of the playoffs.

But that's exactly what happened to end the season for the Seahawks. And it's overly simplistic to describe it in this manner, but Seattle gave **Marshawn Lynch** $60,000 last year and he had the same number of first half carries (for 2.3 yds/carry) as Wilson, who was paid $35 million, had completions (for 17.5 yds/comp). Seattle obviously called more than six first half passes, but the point is, Seattle must put more on Wilson's shoulders, and they must do it Week 1 in Atlanta and continue to do it for 15 more games.

Over the last two seasons, Russell Wilson's expected completion percentage based on tracking data has been bottom-5 in the NFL. Analyzing receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field, the separation Wilson had at the time of throw from the nearest pass rusher, and more, he's not been expected to get very much accomplished. However, his actual CPOE (Completion Percentage Over Expectation) has been top-5 in the NFL both seasons. He's a wizard. Let him make magic.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Russell Wilson	56% 7.2 103.2	52% 9.1 116.8	36% 8.5 97.9	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	46%	53%	75%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
SEA	55% 6.1	52% 4.3	49% 4.2	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	54%	47%	25%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

There are two reasons why I wrote that the Seahawks must race to be up at halftime in my plan for the 2020 Seahawks. First, it's far easier to win that way. Teams leading at halftime win 78% of games. But for Wilson, he's even better than the NFL averages. Seattle is 65-7 (90%) with a halftime lead under Wilson, including 6-0 in 2019, 13-0 the last two years, and 27-2 (93%) since 2016.

But secondly, it alleviates pressure from Wilson to fight back in the second half of games to earn a win. The NFL season is a war of attrition in many ways. There are only going to be so many games a year that Russell Wilson can stay pure, healthy, and full of 100% energy in order to pull off a comeback.

Look at last season: From Weeks 1-13, the Seahawks trailed at halftime in seven games. Wilson incredibly willed them back in the second half to win six of those seven games, including two overtime wins. But to close the season, from Week 14 onward, Seattle trailed at halftime in four games and lost all four. *(cont'd - see)*
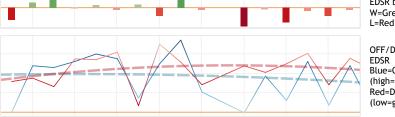
2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17	
	W	W	L	W	W	W	L	W	W	W		W	W	L	W	L	L	WEEK RESULT
	CIN	PIT	NO	ARI	LA	CLE	BAL	ATL	TB	SF		PHI	MIN	LA	CAR	ARI	SF	OPP
	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	A		A	H	A	A	H	H	SITE
	1	2	-6	17	1	4	-14	7	6	3		8	7	-16	6	-14	-5	MARGIN
	21	28	27	27	30	32	16	27	40	27		17	37	12	30	13	21	PTS
	20	26	33	10	29	28	30	20	34	24		9	30	28	24	27	26	OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **11**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **4-0**
FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **36% (#7)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **10-2**
1 Score Games Win %: **83% (#3)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **91% (#5)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+12
TO Given	20
INT Given	6
FUM Given	14
TO Taken	32
INT Taken	16
FUM Taken	16
Sack Margin	-20
Sacks	28
Sacks Allow	48
Return TD Margin	-3
Ret TDs	3
Ret TDs Allow	6
Penalty Margin	-12
Penalties	109
Opponent Penalties	97
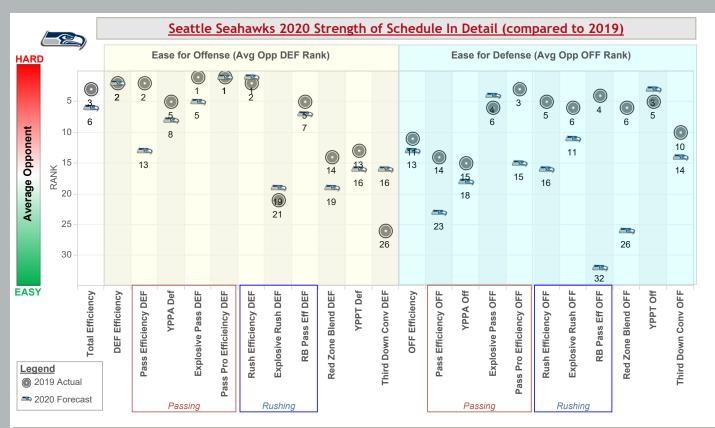
Seattle Seahawks 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Average Opponent — HARD (top) / EASY (bottom)

RANK axis: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30

X-axis categories (left to right):
Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / Rushing groupings under each section.

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
27	25	10	13	28	23	26	32

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-2.6	-0.8	-3.3
Average O/U line	48.1	46.0	44.0
Straight Up Record	11-5	10-6	9-7
Against the Spread Record	8-6	10-5	6-9
Over/Under Record	9-7	9-7	7-9
ATS as Favorite	5-4	5-4	3-6
ATS as Underdog	2-1	5-1	3-3
Straight Up Home	4-4	6-2	4-4
ATS Home	2-5	6-2	2-6
Over/Under Home	5-3	5-3	5-3
ATS as Home Favorite	1-4	4-2	1-6
ATS as a Home Dog	0-1	2-0	1-0
Straight Up Away	7-1	3-4	5-3
ATS Away	6-1	3-3	4-3
Over/Under Away	4-4	4-3	2-6
ATS Away Favorite	4-0	0-2	2-0
ATS Away Dog	2-0	3-1	2-3
Six Point Teaser Record	11-5	13-3	12-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	14-2	12-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-4	15-1	12-2

SEA-3

Wilson ran out of magic down the stretch. He couldn't continue pulling the rabbit out of the hat every single week. No one could.

Even what Wilson did last year, in winning six of 11 games when down at half, was atypical for him. Look at 2015 through 2018: Seattle, when trailing at halftime, went 2-4, 0-5-1, 3-6, and 3-6 in those four seasons. They were a combined 8-21-1 (28%). It's hard to win if down at halftime. It's more difficult when your defense is nowhere near the level it was in 2013 and 2014 and you don't have as talented an offense surrounding you.

To start the 2019 season, Seattle trailed in 10 of 12 games! More remarkable, they were 10-2 in those 12 games!! Considering teams lose 64% of games that opponents have a lead, to win 83% of these games over your first 12 games played is incredible.

Unfortunately, I covered this at length during the season when I first noticed it. And I concluded: "Their luck will run

(cont'd - see **SEA-4**)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	3
Net Rest Edge	-1
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	-3
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	8
Week 8 Edge	0
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	-7
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	3
Week 13 Edge	-1
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	6
2018 Rk	10
2019 v 2018 Rk	13
Off Rk	12
Def Rk	7
QB Rk	11
RB Rk	20
WR Rk	6
TE Rk	26
Oline Rk	15
Dline Rk	18
LB Rk	11
DB Rk	13

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ATL	NE	DAL	MIA	MIN	ARI	SF	BUF	LAR	ARI	PHI	NYG	NYJ	WAS	LAR	SF
A -7.5 Avg=-5.2	H -5.5	H -7	-5	H	-1	H 1	A -7	A 2.5		A -2.5	H -7	H -7	H -1	H -5.5 Avg = -5.2	A -6
				-13				-14							
-7.5	-5.5	-7	-5	-13	-1	1	-7	2.5	Null	-2.5	-7	-14	-1	-5.5	-6

Home Lines

2	3	5	8	11	13	14	16
-5.5 NE	-7 DAL	-13 MIN	1 SF		-7 NYG	-1 NYJ Avg = -7.3	-5.5

Road Lines

1	4	7	9	10	12	15	17
-7.5 ATL	-5 MIA	-1 ARI	-7 BUF	2.5 LAR	-2.5 PHI	-1 WAS Avg = -3.4	SF

out eventually. They need to play with more urgency earlier in games."

From that moment onward, Seattle went 0-4 to close the season in games their opponent had a lead of any kind.

During the regular season, Seattle held a lead at the start of the second quarter in just five of 16 games and held a halftime lead in just five games. They trailed at some point in 13 of 16 games. And yet they went 11-5. I noted before their playoff loss to the Packers: "Their ability to come from behind & win is absolutely not sustainable. They must find a way to get out early." They trailed 21-3 at halftime and despite a furious second-half comeback, their season ended on the frozen tundra.

Seattle went 10-2 in one-score games last year, up from 5-6 in 2018. Again, this isn't something that is sustainable.

Pete Carroll needs to take a hard look at these numbers and the case I've laid out. Seattle is not some "good luck" away from winning a Super Bowl. Seattle was lucky to go 11-5 last year.

Unfortunately, despite frequent double-digit win seasons, they aren't as close to winning it all as Carroll would like to believe. He needs to look at my plan and realize that "getting into the tournament" isn't getting him any closer to winning it. He must do everything he can to ensure Seattle gets that first-round bye. And the plan for years, which gets rinsed and reused thanks to false optimism of "double-digit win seasons and playoff appearances," needs to be overhauled.

Seattle improved in some aspects in 2019 as compared to 2018 and one area was on early downs offensively. In my EDSR metric, their ability to produce successful plays and bypass third downs was illustrated in their shift from 19th in 2018 to seventh in 2019. However, Seattle's defense declined to 29th last year. As a result, Seattle won the EDSR battle in just six of 16 games in 2019.
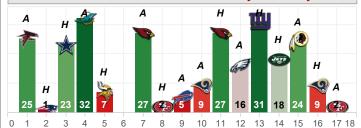
Russell Wilson was absolutely outstanding when passing on early downs. He was second in virtually everything, including success rate (62%), YPA (8.6), TD:INT ratio (25:3), and rating (116). His early down passes recorded the fifth-most EPA (55.5).

I had wondered how Wilson would do in 2019 without Doug Baldwin, his long-time most consistent connection. Wilson was better in every single metric save for YPA (8.8 in 2018) in 2019.

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
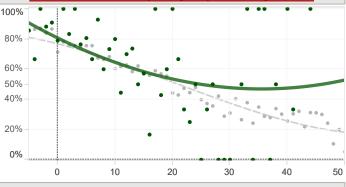
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Chris Carson	5%	4%	75%	10%	6%
	Tyler Lockett		25%	75%		
	D.K. Metcalf			100%		
	Rashaad Penny			80%	12%	8%
	Travis Homer	6%	41%	44%	9%	
	David Moore		25%	50%	25%	
	C.J. Prosise	13%	9%	57%	13%	9%
	Marshawn Lynch	13%	47%	40%		
	Will Dissly			100%		
	Luke Willson		100%			
	Total	5%	10%	70%	10%	5%
PASS	Chris Carson	5%	3%	80%	5%	8%
	Tyler Lockett	18%	17%	58%	5%	3%
	D.K. Metcalf	9%	17%	65%	3%	6%
	Rashaad Penny			91%	9%	
	Jacob Hollister	15%	19%	63%	3%	
	Travis Homer	13%	75%	13%		
	David Moore	7%	20%	67%	3%	3%
	C.J. Prosise	13%	13%	75%		
	Will Dissly	19%	4%	58%		19%
	Jaron Brown	32%	5%	59%		5%
	Josh Gordon	30%	10%	60%		
	Luke Willson	13%		63%	13%	13%
	Nick Vannett	20%	20%	60%		
	Total	14%	16%	62%	3%	5%
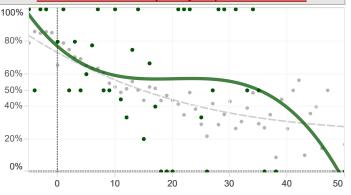
Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Chris Carson	Tyler Lockett	D.K. Metcalf	Rashaad Penny	Jacob Hollister	Travis Homer	David Moore	C.J. Prosise	Marshawn Lynch	Will Dissly	Jaron Brown	Josh Gordon	Luke Willson	Nick Vannett
RUSH	63%	1%	0%	15%		7%	1%	5%	7%	0%			0%	
PASS	9%	24%	22%	2%	14%	4%	7%	2%		6%	5%	2%	2%	1%
ALL	36%	13%	11%	9%	7%	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%

Russell Wilson Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Russell Wilson Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate
0% [gradient] 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	47%, 0.06 (495)	61%, 0.28 (76)	61%, 0.24 (38)	100%, 0.61 (1)	67%, 0.59 (6)	75%, 0.65 (4)	25%, 0.32 (4)		0%, -3.74 (1)	50%, 1.23 (2)	50%, 0.11 (627)
RUSH	49%, -0.01 (346)	49%, -0.10 (91)	60%, 0.11 (52)	12%, -0.72 (17)	56%, 0.03 (9)	67%, -0.06 (6)	0%, -0.10 (1)	50%, 0.72 (4)	33%, -2.46 (3)		49%, -0.05 (529)
All	48%, 0.03 (841)	54%, 0.08 (167)	60%, 0.17 (90)	17%, -0.65 (18)	60%, 0.25 (15)	70%, 0.22 (10)	20%, 0.23 (5)	50%, 0.72 (4)	25%, -2.78 (4)	50%, 1.23 (2)	#############

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Chris Carson	51% (39) 4.9, 0.04	100% (3) 16.0, 1.18	75% (4) 7.3, 0.28		57% (46) 5.8, 0.14
TE	Jacob Hollister	51% (49) 6.1, -0.06	44% (16) 6.1, -0.20	100% (1) 6.0, 0.16	100% (1) 9.0, 0.67	51% (67) 6.1, -0.08
WR	Tyler Lockett	60% (103) 9.3, 0.44	82% (17) 12.6, 0.74	67% (6) 7.0, 0.15	100% (1) 13.0, 0.57	64% (127) 9.7, 0.47
	DK Metcalf	45% (33) 6.2, -0.09	75% (4) 15.8, 1.10	83% (6) 15.2, 0.80	0% (1) 0.0, -0.53	52% (44) 8.1, 0.13
	David Moore	47% (34) 9.6, 0.27		100% (3) 10.3, 0.62		51% (37) 9.7, 0.30
	Jaron Brown	56% (25) 7.6, 0.10	0% (1) 0.0, -0.56	100% (1) 16.0, 1.37		56% (27) 7.6, 0.12

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Carson Chris	52% (172) 4.6, 0.00	58% (57) 3.6, -0.01	0% (1) -1.0, -3.72	50% (4) 5.5, 0.10	53% (234) 4.4, -0.01
Wilson Russell	54% (54) 6.5, 0.17	33% (15) 3.9, -0.14	8% (13) -0.2, -0.62		43% (82) 5.0, -0.01
Penny Rashaad	48% (46) 5.9, 0.06	40% (5) 2.4, -0.21	0% (1) 1.0, -0.34	100% (2) 6.5, 0.20	48% (54) 5.5, 0.03
Homer Travis	44% (27) 4.0, -0.14	0% (3) -0.7, -0.77	100% (1) 5.0, 0.28		42% (31) 3.5, -0.19
Lynch Marshawn	30% (20) 2.6, -0.27	33% (6) 1.7, -0.24	0% (1) 1.0, -0.37	33% (3) 1.3, -0.19	30% (30) 2.2, -0.26

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	66% (203) 9.7, 0.46
M2M	48% (172) 7.4, 0.18
Screen	64% (28) 6.6, 0.06

Passing by Route

Curl	68% (68) 8.0, 0.30
Out	65% (34) 6.0, 0.21
Screen	55% (31) 6.3, -0.03
Flat	80% (30) 7.7, 0.49
Slant	77% (26) 10.0, 0.54
Dig	67% (12) 10.8, 0.72

Throw Types

Level 1	64% (293) 7.7, 0.29
Level 2	53% (95) 9.3, 0.31
Level 3	34% (71) 11.0, 0.31
Shovel	60% (5) 4.2, -0.10
Sidearm	75% (4) 3.8, 0.07

QB Drop Types

0/1 Step	59% (186) 7.0, 0.22
3 Step	48% (130) 8.7, 0.26
5 Step	45% (62) 9.1, 0.21
Designed Rollout Right	69% (49) 8.8, 0.43
7 Step	92% (24) 18.0, 1.05
Basic Screen	60% (5) 5.6, 0.16

QB State at Pass

Planted	57% (369) 8.3, 0.29
Moving	52% (141) 8.1, 0.30
Shuffling	47% (60) 7.0, 0.05

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	61% (100) 10.6, 0.20	38% (16) 3.8, -0.23
Shotgun	59% (75) 8.5, 0.21	46% (436) 7.7, 0.08
ALL	60% (175) 9.6, 0.21	46% (452) 7.5, 0.07

Run Types

Inside Zone	50% (142) 3.6, -0.14
Outside Zone	54% (136) 4.8, 0.05
Power	48% (33) 6.9, -0.17
Pitch	62% (21) 6.5, 0.20
Stretch	53% (15) 4.3, 0.10
Lead	29% (7) 2.3, -0.19

SEA-5

In addition to ensuring the passing game saw no drop-off without Baldwin, one thing Brian Schottenheimer did was increase the rate of passing. On first half early downs in 2018, Seattle ran the ball 60% of the time, the most run-heavy offense in the NFL by far (No. 2 was 55% run and the NFL average was 46% run). But on first half early downs in 2019, Seattle passed the ball on 51% of plays. That was an 11% shift from 40% pass in 2018. It was one of the largest shifts from 2018 to 2019 of any team. And the passing became more efficient: YPA, success rate, and EPA/att were up in 2019.

The problem was, it still wasn't enough. Seattle still passed 3% below average and ranked as the 10th-most run-heavy offense in the NFL. But Russell Wilson was the second best passer on these first half early downs. Seattle made great strides in the shift, but more must be done.

Specifically, on second down. Seattle had near league-average first down pass rate (and the goal isn't average, it's higher-than-average), but they were the fifth-most run-heavy team on second downs. Seattle was the NFL's best second-down passing team in the first half of games. This gets back to the discussion point earlier: when Seattle is paying Wilson $31 million, Seattle must use him like they're paying him $31 million. If he's the best passer on these second downs, but the team is still the fifth-most run-heavy, it's not getting enough out of Wilson.

In addition to increasing pass rates and increasing pass efficiency, another thing Schottenheimer did was position the Seahawks so they could run into light boxes and pass against heavier boxes. On early downs in the first three quarters (thus non-obvious run or pass situations), Seattle had a 42% running back run rate against boxes with six or fewer defenders. This was the most in the NFL (average was 31%). Seattle recorded a 54% success rate on these runs. Most of these runs came when Seattle was in 11 or 10 personnel and defenses played with lighter boxes to utilize 5+ DBs.

And when Seattle was faced with 8+ man boxes on early downs in the first three quarters, they had a lower run rate than the league average. Wilson killed these defenses: he averaged 12.0 YPA, a 66% success rate, and a 149 rating with a 4:0 TD:INT ratio.

The problem with both the heavy or light boxes is that with a quarterback as good as Wilson, you still should go even more pass heavy than you might think. Against 8+ man boxes, Seattle was the 10th-most pass-heavy team. Good. But that still was 59% run. With Patrick Mahomes, the Chiefs were the most pass-heavy team at only 43% run. So there is room for the Seahawks to shift more to the pass against heavy boxes.

League-wide, quarterbacks are less efficient passing against light boxes than heavier ones. But Wilson recorded 8.1 YPA, a 61% success rate, and a 113 rating with 9:1 TD:INT against them. As such, being the most run-heavy team vs light boxes would be wise if you have poor quarterback play but not necessarily when you have Russell Wilson. For comparison, the Chiefs were the 10th-most pass-heavy team (27% run) as compared to Seattle's 42% run. Again, standard convention and best coaching practices say run more against light boxes (which Seattle did). But Wilson is such an anomaly that he must remain unlocked even against light boxes.

Seattle Seahawks 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Turning 32 years old this November, **Russell Wilson** remains as good as ever. In 2019, he averaged 8.0 yards per pass attempt (eighth), ranked fourth in completion percentage (66.1%) over expected rate (+4.8%), and threw 31 touchdown passes to five interceptions. Wilson is the only quarterback to throw at least 30 touchdown passes in each of the last three seasons, while no other passer even has two such seasons. Despite ranking 22nd in pass attempts, Seattle was sixth in success rate (49%) and sixth in total expected points added through the air. At this stage, we are confident that Seattle is not going to run their offense through Wilson's arm, but he is still among the league's best and most efficient passers when the team does turn to the passing game.

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Russell Wilson	380	576	66%	4,713	8.2	33	5	54	107	6
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Russell Wilson	49%	54%	65	11.0%	27	5.0%	7.2	5.3	36	6%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Russell Wilson Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
6 - 9	25.0%	1.4%	2.2%		2.5%
10 - 14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	1.9%
Total	**0.4%**	**1.0%**	**1.2%**	**0.0%**	**0.8%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Russell Wilson	9.1	7.1	-2.0	68%	6
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
57%	43%	9
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Attached to Wilson, Seattle ranked top-10 in success rate targeting every skill position, checking in third when targeting their backs (55%), fourth to wideouts (57%), and 10th to tight ends (56%). Led by strong seasons from **Tyler Lockett** and **D.K. Metcalf**, Seattle wide receivers averaged 9.7 yards per target, which ranked third in the league. Lockett ranked second in the league behind Michael Thomas in success rate per target (64%) for all wideouts with 50-plus targets. Despite their success rate to backs and tight ends, their backfield ranked 14th in yards per attempt (6.2 yards) and their tight ends 18th (7.1 yards). Expected to operate under a similar approach in 2020, **Phillip Dorsett** and **Greg Olsen** were the only real additions this offseason.

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Tyler Lockett	129	74%	9.7	124.0	64%	8	13	56	71	8
D.K. Metcalf	114	61%	9.8	113.2	54%	53	22	40	112	6
Jacob Hollister	69	70%	6.0	87.3	49%	82	24	122	13	3

Tyler Lockett Target Distribution

DK Metcalf Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

If you are going to be a run-first offense, you better at least be good at running. Seattle rushed for the fourth-most yards in the league (2,200), was ninth in the league in success rate on the ground (51%), and 10th in yards per carry offensively. Led by **Chris Carson's** 1,230 rushing yards, he also ranked fifth among all backs with 50-plus carries in success rate (55%) on 278 carries. Backup **Rashaad Penny** was third in the same category (57% success rate) on his 65 carries before suffering a torn ACL in Week 14. With Penny expected to be limited early in the season or potentially begin the season on the PUP list, Seattle added **Carlos Hyde** this offseason, who was 18th in success rate (51%) rushing in 2019 for Houston.

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Chris Carson	278	4.4	56%	7	14	33	30	55%	10	7
Russell Wilson	91	5.0	42%	67	71	22	58	38%	75	3
Rashaad Penny	65	5.7	57%	5	8	76	6	57%	5	3

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Players to Target: Both Tyler Lockett and D.K. Metcalf

Because Seattle does not lean into their passing game, their wide receivers do not rack up high volume stats compared to other cohorts at the position. But their own play and attachment to Russell Wilson make them valuable commodities with the unaccounted for upside that perhaps one season Seattle will be forced to throw the ball heavily.
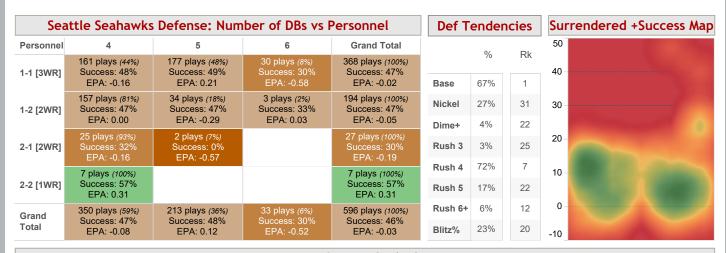
Lockett has finished the past two seasons as the WR13 and WR16 in overall scoring and the WR23 and WR23 in PPR points per game. He averaged a career-high 5.1 receptions per game a year ago. Lockett picked up an ankle injury in Week 10 that forced him to play a season-low 71% of the snaps. Prior to that point, Lockett was the WR3 in overall fantasy scoring and had at least 51 receiving yards in each of the previous eight games with six touchdowns while accounting for 25.5% of the team's targets. Playing through the injury, Lockett then totaled just five catches for 81 yards over the next three games after the injury on just 11 targets (12.6% of the team's targets). He then came back and finished strong, leading the team with 41 targets (27.5%), 28 catches, and 381 yards while matching the team lead with three touchdowns over the final five games of the season for Seattle.

Rookie D.K. Metcalf caught 58-of-100 targets for 900 yards and seven touchdowns in the regular season while catching 11-of-14 targets for 219 yards and a touchdown in two postseason games for Seattle. After a typically slow rookie start, Metcalf got hot over the back end of the season. Through eight games, Metcalf averaged 2.9 receptions on 5.6 targets (18% of the team share) for 50.3 yards per game. He had four or fewer receptions in all eight of those games.

Over his final 10 games played, Metcalf averaged 4.6 receptions on 6.9 targets (21.6% of the team targets) for 71.7 yards per game with six or more receptions in six of those 10 games. Even with Lockett back up to full speed to close the season, Metcalf had already established himself and accounted for games of 6-81-1, 7-160-1, and 5-49-0 over the final three games Seattle played. For the season, Metcalf matched or bested Lockett in targets in 10-of-18 games. A 6'3", 228-pound wideout who also runs a 4.33, Metcalf still has an enormous ceiling that has yet to be fully realized. As a rookie, he led all players with 18 end zone targets during the regular season.

Let Russ Cook

Russell Wilson has been one of just two quarterbacks to finish as a top-10 overall scorer in each of the past four seasons and Wilson has done that in all eight of his NFL seasons for overall QB scoring. This is despite the Seahawks having ranked higher than 19th in passing plays just once during his eight seasons in the league. He just keeps overcoming his environment. Despite ranking 26th in pass attempts per game (32.3), Wilson ranked fifth in passing points per attempt (.540). Wilson is the only quarterback to have at least 30 touchdown passes in each of the past three seasons and he has also started all 16 games in every year of his career. As stable of a commodity as they come at the position despite the Seattle offensive commitment to limit him, Wilson still has even more upside to showcase should we find that one season in which Seattle has to fully lean on him and their passing game.

Seattle Seahawks Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	161 plays *(44%)* Success: 48% EPA: -0.16	177 plays *(48%)* Success: 49% EPA: 0.21	30 plays *(8%)* Success: 30% EPA: -0.58	368 plays *(100%)* Success: 47% EPA: -0.02
1-2 [2WR]	157 plays *(81%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.00	34 plays *(18%)* Success: 47% EPA: -0.29	3 plays *(2%)* Success: 33% EPA: 0.03	194 plays *(100%)* Success: 47% EPA: -0.05
2-1 [2WR]	25 plays *(93%)* Success: 32% EPA: -0.16	2 plays *(7%)* Success: 0% EPA: -0.57		27 plays *(100%)* Success: 30% EPA: -0.19
2-2 [1WR]	7 plays *(100%)* Success: 57% EPA: 0.31			7 plays *(100%)* Success: 57% EPA: 0.31
Grand Total	350 plays *(59%)* Success: 47% EPA: -0.08	213 plays *(36%)* Success: 48% EPA: 0.12	33 plays *(6%)* Success: 30% EPA: -0.52	596 plays *(100%)* Success: 46% EPA: -0.03

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	67%	1
Nickel	27%	31
Dime+	4%	22
Rush 3	3%	25
Rush 4	72%	7
Rush 5	17%	22
Rush 6+	6%	12
Blitz%	23%	20

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

During the peak of the Legion of Boom era, the Seahawks had the league's most devastating defense. That has not been the case since Seattle moved on from those players and tried to rebuild the secondary and defensive line.

The Seahawks lost their best interior pass rusher when **Quinton Jefferson** left to join the Bills in free agency. He was fifth among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. **Poona Ford** was a disruptor against the run with five tackles for loss and **Jarran Reed** was fine against the run with little pass rush upside. There's little quality depth behind those two up the middle.

Seattle brought back **Bruce Irvin** on the edge but that's not enough to make up for the loss of **Jadeveon Clowney**, who is still a free agent. **Benson Mayowa** might actually be the better signing after he had a higher pressure rate than anyone on the Seahawks last year, Clowney included. The big question mark is 2019 first-round pick **L.J. Collier**, who couldn't get on the field during his rookie season. **Rasheem Green** brings some good depth but Seattle could use another impact player on the edge.

Bobby Wagner and **KJ Wright** make up the best off-ball duo in the league. They're consistently on the field, too, since the Seahawks were in base defense a league-leading 67% of the time per SIS (the next highest team was at 37%). Joining them could be 2020 first-round pick **Jordyn Brooks**. Brooks did not excel at coverage but had an impressive 21.5 tackles for loss in his final season at Texas Tech.

Cody Barton showed room for improvement during his limited snaps and **Ben Burr-Kirven** barely got on the field for defense (four snaps) but was a solid special teams contributor. **Shaquem Griffin** played some off-ball linebacker through his first two years but has made a bigger impact when he was allowed to rush the passer, which was mostly his role in college. He could potentially be more of an answer for the edge depth than going back to play off the ball.

Shaquill Griffin had a bounceback year as the team's No. 1 corner after a disappointing 2018. **Tre Flowers** was also fine on the outside — the pair ranked 35th and 36thin Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap among 92 corners with 300 or more coverage snaps in 2019. The trade for **Quinton Dunbar** looked like a steal at the time, but pending legal troubles could be in play. Dunbar was 15th in AYa/CS among that same group of corners. He has the ability to play both outside and in the slot, which can add another element to the Seattle secondary.

The acquisition of **Quandre Diggs** at safety was the steal of the regular season. The Seattle defense turned around after the trade for Diggs with a significant improvement in coverage from the first half of the season to the second. Now not all of that magically came from Diggs, but the Seahawks had lacked competence at safety before his arrival.

Bradley McDougald played well as the starting box safety but he'll turn 30 years old this season and is on the last year of his three-year contract. Should Seattle go with some three-safety looks, **Marquise Blair** earned some more playing time with flashed during limited snaps in 2019.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	54%
All Pass Rk	27
All Rush %	46%
All Rush Rk	6
1 Score Pass %	52%
1 Score Pass Rk	30
2018 1 Score Pass %	47%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	32
2019 Pass Increase %	5%
Pass Increase Rk	7
1 Score Rush %	48%
1 Score Rush Rk	3
Up Pass %	42%
Up Pass Rk	28
Up Rush %	58%
Up Rush Rk	5
Down Pass %	60%
Down Pass Rk	29
Down Rush %	40%
Down Rush Rk	4

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	38%	63%	63%
	Med (4-7)	10	20%	80%	60%
	Long (8-10)	344	46%	54%	53%
	XL (11+)	17	53%	47%	29%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	52	27%	73%	67%
	Med (4-7)	99	57%	43%	55%
	Long (8-10)	91	58%	42%	42%
	XL (11+)	43	79%	21%	53%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	49	49%	51%	55%
	Med (4-7)	47	91%	9%	49%
	Long (8-10)	35	94%	6%	31%
	XL (11+)	29	86%	14%	14%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	4	50%	50%	25%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	30%	70%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	68%	35%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	32%	65%

32% AVG 77%

Seattle Seahawks 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
79%	5	66%	71%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
21%	28	34%	75%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Chris Carson	4	25%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Chris Carson	4	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Chris Carson	106	53%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Chris Carson	6	17%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Chris Carson	25	80%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Chris Carson	22	64%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Chris Carson	15	47%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Tyler Lockett	7	43%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Chris Carson	14	64%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	D.K. Metcalf	6	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	D.K. Metcalf	7	14%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Chris Carson	2	0%
			Tyler Lockett	2	0%
			D.K. Metcalf	2	50%
			David Moore	2	0%
		RUSH	Russell Wilson	2	50%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 47% YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.12 Rtg: 99.6 *[Att: 323 - Rate: 51.5%]*	Success: 60% YPA: 9.6, EPA: 0.19 Rtg: 116.1 *[Att: 94 - Rate: 15.0%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 103.1 *[Att: 417 - Rate: 66.5%]*
Yes	Success: 42% YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.04 Rtg: 100.5 *[Att: 129 - Rate: 20.6%]*	Success: 60% YPA: 9.7, EPA: 0.22 Rtg: 140.1 *[Att: 81 - Rate: 12.9%]*	Success: 49% YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.06 Rtg: 116.0 *[Att: 210 - Rate: 33.5%]*
Total	Success: 46% YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.07 Rtg: 99.8 *[Att: 452 - Rate: 72.1%]*	Success: 60% YPA: 9.6, EPA: 0.21 Rtg: 127.7 *[Att: 175 - Rate: 27.9%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.11 Rtg: 107.5 *[Att: 627 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Tyler Lockett	D.K. Metcalf	Chris Carson	Jacob Hollister	Jaron Brown	David Moore	Will Dissly	Luke Willson
1	CIN	W 21-20	48 (91%)	41 (77%)	41 (77%)		41 (77%)			27 (51%)
2	PIT	W 28-26	70 (89%)	70 (89%)	43 (54%)		58 (73%)		47 (59%)	
3	NO	L 33-27	82 (98%)	71 (85%)	37 (44%)		62 (74%)	20 (24%)	46 (55%)	
4	ARI	W 27-10	61 (97%)	40 (63%)	48 (76%)		35 (56%)	25 (40%)	50 (79%)	16 (25%)
5	LA	W 30-29	67 (91%)	51 (69%)	62 (84%)		23 (31%)	17 (23%)	66 (89%)	43 (58%)
6	CLE	W 32-28	80 (96%)	59 (71%)	66 (80%)	29 (35%)	45 (54%)	19 (23%)	20 (24%)	56 (67%)
7	BAL	L 30-16	71 (99%)	54 (75%)	64 (89%)	37 (51%)	43 (60%)	30 (42%)		34 (47%)
8	ATL	W 27-20	56 (92%)	56 (92%)	42 (69%)	22 (36%)	17 (28%)	30 (49%)		43 (70%)
9	TB	W 40-34	69 (92%)	71 (95%)	64 (85%)	60 (80%)	17 (23%)	41 (55%)		17 (23%)
10	SF	W 27-24	53 (72%)	72 (97%)	71 (96%)	58 (78%)		20 (27%)		14 (19%)
12	PHI	W 17-9	56 (86%)	57 (88%)	35 (54%)	45 (69%)		18 (28%)		
13	MIN	W 37-30	66 (88%)	60 (80%)	39 (52%)	61 (81%)	8 (11%)	10 (13%)		
14	LA	L 28-12	60 (90%)	53 (79%)	55 (82%)	53 (79%)	9 (13%)	14 (21%)		
15	CAR	W 30-24	53 (79%)	55 (82%)	51 (76%)	46 (69%)	11 (16%)	10 (15%)		
16	ARI	L 27-13	48 (84%)	56 (98%)	18 (32%)	43 (75%)	7 (12%)	10 (18%)	22 (39%)	
17	SF	L 26-21	70 (93%)	74 (99%)	67 (89%)	3 (4%)		54 (72%)		
	Grand Total		1,010 (90%)	940 (84%)	736 (70%)	521 (68%)	379 (38%)	318 (32%)	256 (60%)	245 (44%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	73%	60%	48%
1-2 [2WR]	14%	20%	54%
1-0 [4WR]	8%	3%	60%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	59%	47%	49%
1-2 [2WR]	46%	61%	49%
1-0 [4WR]	42%	61%	60%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Tyler Lockett	21	3	5	13
D.K. Metcalf	17	3	2	12
Jacob Hollister	13	4	3	6
David Moore	7	1	2	4
Will Dissly	5	1	2	2
Jaron Brown	3		2	1
Rashaad Penny	2			2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Chris Carson	41	9	11	21
Russell Wilson	15	4	2	9
Marshawn Lynch	9	5	1	3
Rashaad Penny	8	3	1	4
Travis Homer	4		2	2

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	19%	21%	60%
	23%	*21%*	*56%*
		NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	55%	56%	57%
	#3	#10	#4

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	5	02. Avg Halftime Lead	-1.0	03. Wins	11	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	10
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	6
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	9
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	21
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	3
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	23
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	5
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	2
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	12
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	3
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	24
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	11
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	5
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	27
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	16
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	29
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	17
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	27
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	8
23.	PA Improvement Success	12
24.	PA Improvement YPA	15
25.	PA Improvement Rating	17
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	25
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	25
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	27
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	5
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	5
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	6
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	22
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	15
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	1
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	18

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	7.8
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.4
38.	Non-PSM YPA	8.2
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	10.0
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	54%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	50%
42.	PSM Rating	103.4
43.	Non-PSM Rating	96.4

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)
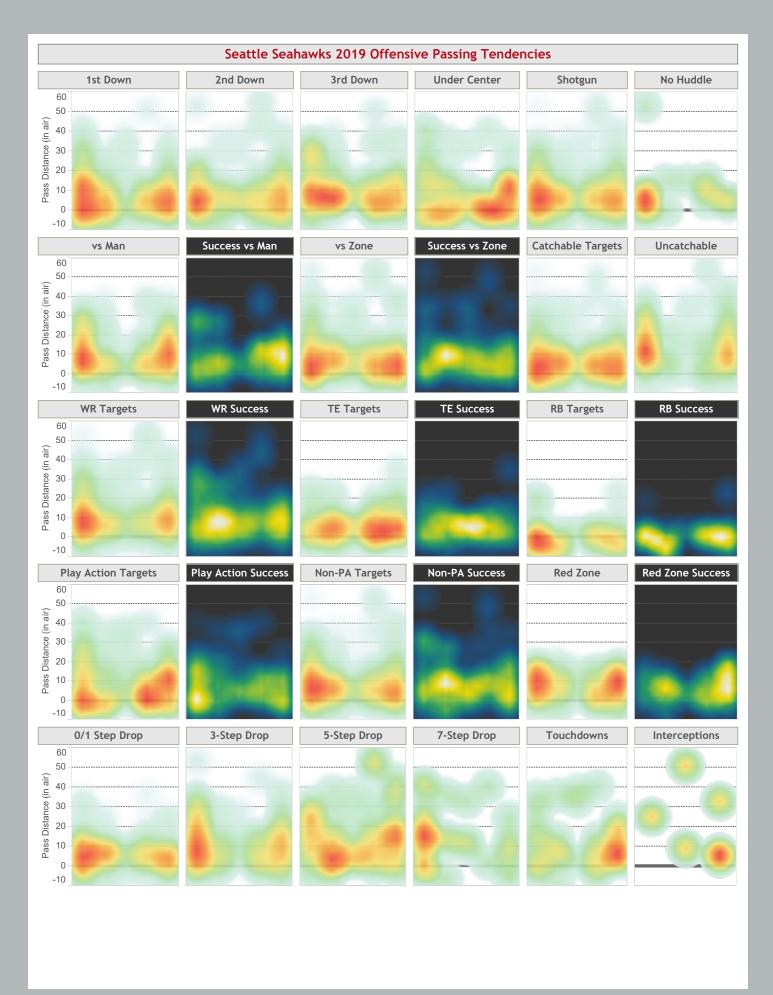
#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	40%
45.	PA Success Rate	64%
46.	PA YPA	9.2
47.	PA Sack Rate	10.9%
48.	PA Rating	111.8
49.	PA Target Depth	8.8
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	56%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.3
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.5%
53.	Non-PA Rating	100.2
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	8.8

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	18%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	36%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.7
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	54%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	54%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.7

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	8	defFUM	25
Net FROE	2.5	defFUM Rcvrd	16
offFUM	26	defFR Rk	2
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR%	64.0%
offFR%	46.2%	defFROE	4.4
offFR Rk	24	defFROE Rk	1
offFROE	-1.9		
offFROE Rk	26		

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	78%	YOY Swing	2%
2019 FG Rk	22	YOY Swing Rk	13
Opp 2019 FG %	74%	2018 Team Net	3%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	29	2018 Net Rk	13
2019 Team Net	4%		
2019 Net Rk	12		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Russell Wilson

CAY	6.8
CAY Rk	6
2018 CAY Rk	3
AYTS Rk	5
2018 AYTS Rk	8
AGG Rk	10
2018 AGG Rk	27
COMP%	66.1
xCOMP%	61.3
xCOMP% Rk	37
2018 xCOMP% Rk	36
CPOE%	4.8
CPOE Rk	4
2018 CPOE Rk	3

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

Russell Wilson

Pressure %	39.8
Pressure Rk	3
Sack %	19.8
Sack Rk	14
Pressure Accuracy %	66.7
Pressure Accuracy Rk	10
Rating when Pressured	89.3
Pressured Rating Rk	5
Clean Accuracy %	80.5
Clean Accuracy Rk	12
Rating when Clean	114.5
Clean Rating Rk	6
Time to Throw	2.85
Time to Throw Rk	10

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.09
EPA/Pass Rk	9
EPA/Rush	-0.06
EPA/Rush Rk	17
On-Target Catch %	88.3
On-Target Catch Rk	5
Drop%	7
Drop Rk	13
YAC/Att	2.6
YAC/Att Rk	7
Rush Broken Tackle %	17.9
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	10
Rush 1st Down %	24.9
Rush 1st Down Rk	7

Seattle Seahawks 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

The good news is, life wasn't easy for the 2019 Seahawks and they still were a top-10 offense. They played the second-toughest schedule of pass defenses and Russell Wilson still crushed. Even with little depth at wide receiver. They used tight end **Will Dissly** heavily but lost him for the season in Week 6. In his prior four games, he was 22/24, 250 yds, 10.4 YPA, and four touchdowns.

That leads to the benefits of 12 personnel, specifically for the Seahawks. I loved what Seattle did from 12 last year. **Luke Willson** didn't play the first three weeks, but when Seattle had both Willson and Dissly up for three weeks (Weeks 4-6) they were tremendous from 12. And they used a ton of 12. In fact, Seattle used 12 on 29% of pass attempts over that three-week span, and check out the results through the air by grouping:

11: 8.2 YPA, 57% success, 119 rating, 7 sacks, 0.19 EPA/att (not factoring sacks)
12: 15.7 YPA, 100% success, 158.3 rating, 1 sack, 1.2 EPA/att (not factoring sacks)

Seattle's usage of 12 was lower Weeks 1-3 without Willson and lower Weeks 8-10 after losing Dissly, but they creatively worked in more 12 (not close to the 29% at optimal health) down the stretch.

Overall, Seattle used 12 personnel on 17% of early down plays last year, up from 14% in 2018, and it was significantly more efficient. Seattle averaged nearly 2.0 more YPA from 12 and an 8% better passing success rate when passing from 12 as compared to 11. From 11, Wilson recorded an EPA of 25.0 on 255 att (.098 EPA/att). But from 12, he recorded an EPA of 17.0 on 59 att (0.29 EPA/att), thus nearly three times higher EPA.

And that was without quality at the position. The Seahawks made significant investments at the position this offseason. They added **Greg Olsen** in free agency and spent a fourth-rounder on Stanford's **Colby Parkinson**. They'll still return both Will Dissly and Luke Willson. Because I think **Phillip Dorsett** is fast but too duplicative where he's good with where **D.K. Metcalf** is good, and because of the general lack of surrounding wide receiver talent and depth, I would try to operate much more out of 12 personnel if I'm Seattle.

Another offensive adjustment we need to see is even more play-action. On early downs the first three quarters in 2018, Seattle used play-action on 51% of drop backs, the highest rate in the NFL (avg = 34%). But last year it dropped to 41% (avg = 36%) which ranked eighth. Considering how much more efficient Wilson is when passing with play-action (2.1 more YPA, 30% more success, 21% higher EPA), they absolutely should be at the top of the NFL as they were in 2018.

Bottom line: more passing, more 12 personnel and more play-action. Both top running backs are returning in 2020 from season-ending injuries in 2019, and the team is far more efficient on the shoulders of Wilson. When I look at the graphic in this chapter for Seattle's "Most Frequent Play" based on down and distance, I don't want to see a third straight year of nothing but **Chris Carson** runs on first-and-short, medium, and long and second-and-short, medium, and long.

The lack of offensive line continuity is the most concerning element from an offensive personnel perspective, but the Seahawks have had bad lines in the past. Seattle signed a new center and right tackle and drafted a right guard in the third round to compete for a starting job.

Another reason Seattle should focus more on the passing game is their schedule. In 2019, they faced the second-toughest schedule of pass defenses. I forecast that to drop to 13th in 2020, the sixth-best shift in the league. Meanwhile, Seattle will face the NFL's most difficult schedule of run defenses. The entirety of the season they play just three games against opponents ranking below 15th in run defense from 2019.

They should start their passing offense from a far better place, as four of their first six opponents ranked bottom-10 in pass defense in 2019. The Seahawks have the sixth easiest schedule of pass defenses through Week 7.

The Seahawks are also extremely fortunate in that the games after their four primetime games are all at home, which means no short week road games. After hosting the Patriots in Week 2 they play at home. After hosting the Vikings in Week 5 they have a bye. They have a mini-bye after hosting the Cardinals Week 11. After a Monday night game in Philadelphia, they come home and host the Giants in Week 13.

Seattle plays three primetime home games, and they are 18-4 (82%) in these games and 15-6-1 (71%) ATS since Russell Wilson took over, both marks ranking fourth-best in the league. Also of interest, Seattle is 30-19 (61%) against teams with a winning record including 32-16-1 (67%) ATS.

While the Seahawks are rarely out of games thanks to Wilson, and have either led or been down by less than one possession in 138 of 143 games since he came to Seattle, now is not the time to stick with old habits. Now is the time to implement the philosophical changes that are necessary to win a Super Bowl. It's time.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
  Bruce Arians (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
  Byron Leftwich (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
  Todd Bowles (1 yr)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
9.5	#2

Past Records

2019: 7-9
2018: 5-11
2017: 5-11

Schedule:

NO	CAR	DEN	LAC	CHI	GB	LVR	NYG	NO	CAR	LAR	KC		MIN	ATL	DET	ATL
A	H	A	H	A	H	A	H	H	A	H	H		H	A	A	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

TNF (6), SNF (7), MNF (8), SNF (9), MNF (11)

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Beau Allen (43DT)	Patriots
Breshad Perriman (WR)	Jets
Carl Nassib (34OLB)	Raiders
Jameis Winston (QB)	Saints
Michael Liedtke (LT)	Redskins
Peyton Barber (RB)	Redskins
Darian Stewart (S)	Null
Demar Dotson (RT)	Null
Earl Watford (RG)	Null
Jerald Hawkins (RT)	Null
Orion Stewart (S)	Null
Sam Acho (43DE)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-2.8	13	2

2020 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Overview

Jameis Winston has long been a conundrum. He can be outstanding at times but goes diametrically opposite the very next play. We've only recently discovered he was visually impaired as well, which further clouds the picture.

A simple example of the complications surrounding Winston: Of the 19 quarterbacks to post above-average accuracy on targets 15+ yards downfield on early downs, Winston and rookie Dwayne Haskins were the only two to record accuracy below 50% on these deep targets on third down. View the CPOE graphic in this chapter to compare his deep accuracy on early downs to that on third down.

A deeper example: It should be understandable that it is easier to produce through the air against stacked boxes than it is when defenses use light boxes. With 8+ men in the box, only three men are left to play coverage. With six or fewer men in the box, defenses have at least five men in coverage.

For this reason, on early downs in a game's first three quarters, passes against 8+ men boxes gain more YPA, record more EPA, produce a higher success rate, result in a better TD:INT rate, and a higher passer rating as compared to passing against six or fewer men boxes.

Against stacked boxes (8+ defenders) Jameis Winston threw six interceptions in 2019 (early downs, quarters 1-3). The entire rest of the NFL threw only 17 interceptions.

Winston threw an interception on 7.3% of his passes while the NFL average was 1.5%.

Bruce Arians did a great job of getting the Bucs to run infrequently against such stacked boxes, something that should be avoided, especially on early downs. Leaguewide, such runs gain just 4.1 YPC with a 43% success rate as compared to runs *(cont'd - see TB2)*

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Tom Brady (QB)	$25
Joe Haeg (RG)	$2.29
Rob Gronkowski (TE)	Trade

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	13	OT - Tristan Wirfs (Iowa)
2	45	S - Antoine Winfield Jr. (Minnesota)
3	76	RB - Ke'Shawn Vaughn (Vanderbilt)
5	161	WR - Tyler Johnson (Minnesota)
6	194	DT - Khalil Davis (Nebraska)
7	241	OLB - Chapelle Russell (Temple)
7	245	RB - Raymond Calais (Louisiana)

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	3	$125.42M	2
QB	8	$28.15M	12
OL	9	$44.79M	3
RB	27	$5.18M	19
WR	12	$26.84M	12
TE	1	$20.47M	6
All DEF	10	$106.50M	21
DL	10	$50.81M	9
LB	6	$39.32M	10
CB	29	$9.41M	30
S	31	$6.96M	29

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

	Wins
Forecast 2020 Wins	9.5
2019 Wins	7
Forecast 2019 Wins	6
2018 Wins	5
2017 Wins	5
2016 Wins	9

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS J.Evans 21
SS A.Winfield Rookie 31
LB L.David* 54
LB D.White 45
RCB J.Dean 35
SLOTCB Murphy-Bunting 23
DE S.Barrett 58
DT N.Suh* 93
DT V.Vea 50
DE J.Pierre-Paul* 90
LCB C.Davis 33

LWR M.Evans 13
SlotWR T.Johnson Rookie 18
LT D.Smith 76
LG A.Cappa 65
C R.Jensen 66
RG A.Marpet 74
RT T.Wirfs Rookie 78
TE R.Gronkowski* NEW 87
RWR C.Godwin 12

QB T.Brady* NEW 12
RB R.Jones 27

WR2 S.Schnell 83
WR3 S.Miller 10
RB2 K.Vaughn Rookie 30
QB2 B.Gabbert* 7

2020 Cap Dollars

* = 30+ years old

against light boxes, which gain 5.1 YPC with a 49% success rate. Tampa ran just 52% of the time when defenses put 8+ defenders in the box, the second least in the NFL. Only the Chiefs were more intelligent.

Ignoring the interceptions, Winston was great from an efficiency perspective. Against these stacked boxes he averaged 10.1 YPA with a 59% success rate, both far superior to what he averaged against light boxes.

Like Winston, **Tom Brady** was great passing against stacked boxes. His 2019 splits:

8+ man box: 8.4 YPA, 52% success, 109 rating
7 or fewer: 6.5 YPA, 49% success, 90 rating

The difference for Brady was that he didn't throw the interceptions that Winston did.

Arians invited heavier boxes by using 12 personnel on early downs. Out of the 155 attempts on early downs in the first three quarters, 93 came from 12 personnel. When Arians sent out 12 personnel in these situations, defenses used six or less in the box 27 of 180 plays (15%), seven men in the box on 60 of 180 plays (33%), and 8+ men in the box on 93 of 180 plays (52%). Winson recorded a 60% success rate with 8.9 YPA on these passes.

Winston was great passing from 11 personnel against 8+ men boxes, but defenses rarely played 8+ in the box, doing so just 12% of all snaps, instead using six or fewer in the box 59% of the time.

Earlier this offseason, Arians said "we've always been a 12 personnel team. Ever since Pittsburgh. That's our base offense."

While I would love that to be true, especially for a team built like the Buccaneers, that wasn't exactly the case, assuming you define base as the grouping that is used most and is the default standard.
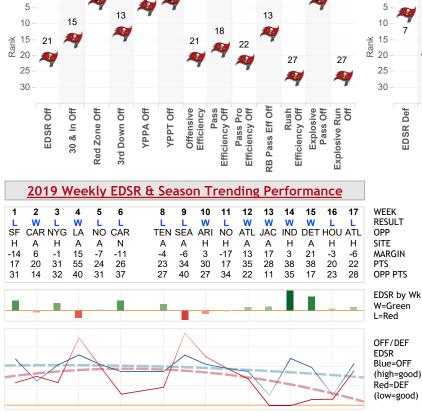
Last year the Bucs used 12 on 23% of offensive snaps, only 3% above average. They used 11 personnel on 64% of snaps. On pass plays, the Bucs used 12 personnel on 17% of attempts, ranking only 1% above average.

But if we back up to look only at the first quarter, and only on early downs, we see the Bucs used 12 personnel on 37% of offensive plays, which was 10% above average and the fifth-most in the NFL.

For whatever reason, the Bucs got away from 12 after the first quarter. Their early down usage dropped from 37% to 25% in the second quarter and 26% over the remainder of the game.

The production gained from 12 was notable. Winston averaged 1.1 more YPA,

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Jameis Winston	49% 9.5 93.1	48% 7.9 87.5	41% 6.9 71.3	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	50%	71%	77%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance
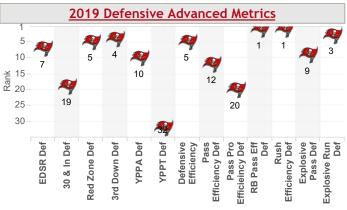
Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
TB	42% 3.9	39% 3.4	41% 3.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	50%	29%	23%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

6% more success, and 23 more passer rating points when passing from Arians's 12 personnel sets. It would be wise to feature that package not just in the first quarter (as they did in 2019) but also far more frequently the rest of the game.

Historically, teams with halftime leads win 77% of games. Teams with leads entering the fourth quarter win 83% of games. And yet Tampa Bay lost 40% of games they led at halftime and a whopping 45% of the games they led entering the fourth quarter.

They held halftime leads in 10 games and won just six. They held leads entering the fourth quarter in nine games and won just five.

To show how rare that is: in the last 30 years, only seven other teams held leads entering the fourth quarter in at least nine games but won no more than five. Out of 955 teams, it happened just seven times (0.7%) previously. *(cont'd - see)*
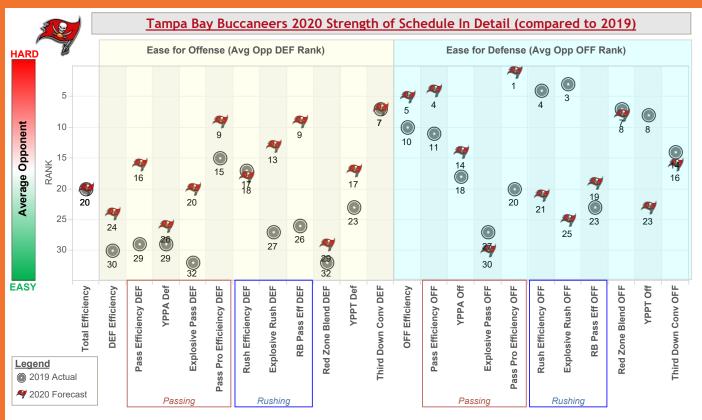
2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

WEEK	1	2	3	4	5	6		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
RESULT	L	W	L	W	L	L		L	L	W	L	W	W	W	W	L	L
OPP	SF	CAR	NYG	LA	NO	CAR		TEN	SEA	ARI	NO	ATL	JAC	IND	DET	HOU	ATL
SITE	H	A	H	A	A	N		A	A	H	H	A	A	H	A	H	H
MARGIN	-14	6	-1	15	-7	-11		-4	-6	3	-17	13	17	3	21	-3	-6
PTS	17	20	31	55	24	26		23	34	30	17	35	28	38	38	20	22
OPP PTS	31	14	32	40	31	37		27	40	27	34	22	11	35	17	23	28

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **7**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **29% (#8)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-6**
1 Score Games Win %: **33% (#24)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **43% (#17)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	-13
TO Given	41
INT Given	30
FUM Given	11
TO Taken	28
INT Taken	12
FUM Taken	16
Sack Margin	+0
Sacks	47
Sacks Allow	47
Return TD Margin	-1
Ret TDs	6
Ret TDs Allow	7
Penalty Margin	-23
Penalties	134
Opponent Penalties	111

Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

HARD ... **EASY**

Average Opponent

RANK

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank)

Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)

Legend
- ⊙ 2019 Actual
- 🏴‍☠️ 2020 Forecast

Categories (left to right):
Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF, OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / *Rushing* / *Passing* / *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
2	4	14	2	8	8	30	31

** **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);*
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	1.2	3.4	2.3
Average O/U line	49.3	51.8	46.3
Straight Up Record	7-9	5-11	5-11
Against the Spread Record	5-9	5-8	6-8
Over/Under Record	12-4	9-6	8-8
ATS as Favorite	2-2	1-2	2-4
ATS as Underdog	3-5	4-6	3-4
Straight Up Home	2-5	4-4	4-4
ATS Home	0-6	3-4	4-3
Over/Under Home	5-2	3-5	2-6
ATS as Home Favorite	0-2	1-2	1-2
ATS as a Home Dog	0-2	2-2	2-1
Straight Up Away	5-3	1-7	1-7
ATS Away	5-2	2-4	2-5
Over/Under Away	6-2	6-1	6-2
ATS Away Favorite	2-0	0-0	1-2
ATS Away Dog	3-2	2-4	1-3
Six Point Teaser Record	11-4	13-3	12-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	13-3	13-3	13-3
Ten Point Teaser Record	14-2	14-2	13-3

TB-3

Out of 612 teams that led entering the fourth quarter in at least seven games, only 14 other teams lost at least 44% of their games.

The great news for the Buccaneers is these improbable losses are unlikely to be repeated, mostly because the reasons for the losses were primarily fourth-quarter turnovers by Jameis Winston.

In the Week 3 loss to the Giants, Tampa Bay held a three-point lead late when Winston threw an interception at the Giants' 26-yard line. The Bucs lost by one point. Winston's interception cost the Bucs 5.0 expected points.

In the Week 8 loss to the Titans, Tampa Bay entered the fourth quarter with the ball and a three-point lead. Winston fumbled the ball at his own 34-yard line. When down four late, Winston threw an interception at the Titans' 25-yard line. The Bucs lost by four points. Winston's fumble cost the Bucs 5.0 expected points and his interception cost them another 0.9 expected points.

(cont'd - see TB-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	1
Opp More Rest	5
Net Rest Edge	-4
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	-3
Week 7 Edge	-7
Week 8 Edge	-3
Week 9 Edge	-1
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	-1
Week 14 Edge	7
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	2
2018 Rk	30
2019 v 2018 Rk	1
Off Rk	6
Def Rk	4
QB Rk	21
RB Rk	1
WR Rk	18
TE Rk	13
Oline Rk	11
Dline Rk	13
LB Rk	24
DB Rk	1

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17
NO	CAR	DEN	LAC	CHI	GB	LVR	NYG	NO	CAR	LAR	KC	MIN	ATL	DET	ATL
4	-8	-1.5	-6.5	-1	-3	-3	-3	0	-4.5	-4	1.5	-3.5	-2	-3	-6.5

Avg = -2.8 ... Avg = -2.8

Home Lines

2	4	6	9	11	12	14	17
-8 CAR	-6.5 LAC	-3 GB	0 NO	-4 LAR	1.5 KC	-3.5 MIN	Avg = -3.8 ATL

Road Lines

1	3	5	7	8	10	15	16
4 NO	-1.5 DEN	-1 CHI	-3 LVR	-3 NYG	-4.5 CAR	-2 ATL	DET

Avg = -1.8

333

In the Week 9 loss to the Seahawks, after a Seattle field goal to tie the game, the Bucs had the ball on the Seahawks' 45-yard line. Winston fumbled the ball on the Seattle 48 and it was returned by the Seahawks to the Bucs' 15-yard line. The Bucs lost in overtime by six points. Winston's fumble cost the Bucs 7.1 expected points.

In every single one of these games, Tampa Bay led entering the fourth quarter but saw Winston generate at least one turnover which, in that single play, cost the Bucs more points than the final margin. In other words, those single events literally cost them the game. Yes, there were plays after that could have offset the expected points lost on the turnovers to change the outcome. But they were extremely costly.

In the Bucs' Week 17 loss to the Falcons, for the first time, Winston didn't blow that fourth quarter lead due to turnovers. That one was just good old fashioned bad play and bad playcalling. Leading by six points entering the fourth quarter, Tampa Bay had two total drives in the fourth quarter, both still with a lead. They gained a grand total of 10 yards combined on both drives. On three first down plays on the two drives, the Bucs called a run each time. On each second down play that followed, the Bucs called a pass. On each drive, they punted the ball. On each Atlanta drive following those punts, the Falcons scored.

The way they lost these games was brutal. But for 2020, the more important item to study is how they held so many leads in the first place.

It came with a combination of good enough offensive performance on early downs with great defensive performance on early downs.

That second part may come as a surprise, because the 2018 Bucs defense was trash and people likely assume that because the 2019 Bucs posted a losing record and allowed 28.1 points per game (fourth-most) they must have been trash as well. The only thing that should be trashed is the opinion of anyone you speak with who ranks defenses by points per game.

The 2018 Bucs had the sixth-most expensive defense in the NFL but ranked dead last in efficiency. The 2019 Bucs shed $20M in defensive salary cap space to rank 12th-least expensive. And guess what happened?

They went from 32nd to fifth in defensive efficiency against a tougher schedule while spending $20M less in cap space. That was in large part thanks to defensive coordinator Todd Bowles, who performed magic.

Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score
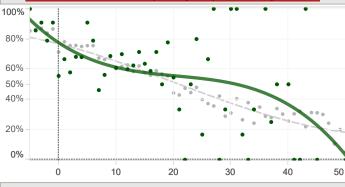
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Ronald Jones	4%	8%	74%	7%	7%
	Peyton Barber	3%	12%	66%	5%	14%
	Chris Godwin			100%		
	Breshad Perriman			50%		50%
	Dare Ogunbowale	27%		45%	9%	18%
	Total	4%	9%	69%	6%	11%
PASS	Ronald Jones	5%	16%	74%	5%	
	Peyton Barber	14%	18%	68%		
	Chris Godwin	13%	8%	69%	4%	6%
	Mike Evans	7%	7%	69%	5%	12%
	Breshad Perriman	11%	14%	67%	2%	6%
	Dare Ogunbowale	15%	18%	60%		8%
	Cameron Brate	13%	36%	44%	2%	4%
	O.J. Howard	14%	7%	64%	7%	7%
	Total	11%	13%	65%	4%	7%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type
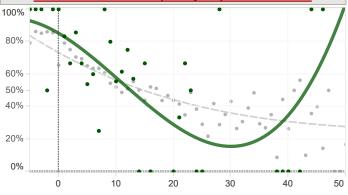
	Ronald Jones	Peyton Barber	Chris Godwin	Mike Evans	Breshad Perriman	Dare Ogunbowale	Cameron Brate	O.J. Howard
RUSH	51%	45%	0%			1%	3%	
PASS	8%	5%	22%	22%	14%	9%	10%	9%
ALL	27%	22%	13%	13%	8%	6%	6%	5%

Jameis Winston Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Jameis Winston Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate
0% ▬▬▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	46%, 0.01 (473)	50%, 0.03 (117)	33%, 0.38 (3)	52%, -0.02 (27)	32%, -0.50 (19)	56%, 0.27 (9)	56%, -0.01 (9)	36%, -0.29 (11)	50%, -0.02 (2)	47%, 0.00 (670)
RUSH	45%, -0.02 (221)	39%, -0.06 (130)	10%, -0.69 (29)	33%, -1.29 (3)	60%, -0.30 (5)	40%, -0.02 (10)	22%, -0.37 (9)	0%, -0.35 (1)		40%, -0.10 (408)
All	46%, 0.00 (694)	45%, -0.02 (247)	13%, -0.59 (32)	50%, -0.15 (30)	38%, -0.46 (24)	47%, 0.12 (19)	39%, -0.19 (18)	33%, -0.30 (12)	50%, -0.02 (2)	44%, -0.04 (1,078)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Ronald Jones	57% (30) 8.6, 0.08	22% (9) 2.9, -0.34		100% (1) 14.0, 0.71	50% (40) 7.5, 0.00
	Peyton Barber	40% (15) 4.8, -0.27	50% (6) 5.3, 0.29	0% (1) 2.0, -0.64		41% (22) 4.8, -0.13
TE	O.J. Howard	60% (35) 6.9, 0.08	42% (12) 12.4, 0.11		67% (3) 13.7, -0.53	56% (50) 8.7, 0.05
	Cameron Brate	40% (30) 5.4, 0.02	75% (16) 6.6, 0.32			52% (46) 5.8, 0.13
WR	Chris Godwin	63% (88) 12.2, 0.62	63% (19) 8.6, 0.50	50% (4) 12.8, 1.11		62% (111) 11.6, 0.62
	Mike Evans	53% (77) 9.6, 0.15	62% (26) 12.7, 0.13	60% (5) 8.0, 0.53		56% (108) 10.3, 0.17
	Breshad Perriman	43% (58) 8.1, 0.06	75% (4) 14.0, 0.81	50% (2) 22.0, 1.13	100% (1) 37.0, 2.04	46% (65) 9.3, 0.17

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Jones II Ronald	41% (103) 4.3, -0.12	50% (56) 4.4, 0.05	43% (7) 3.4, -0.13	0% (4) 1.8, -0.60	43% (170) 4.2, -0.07
Barber Peyton	49% (73) 3.4, -0.08	28% (67) 3.1, -0.19	0% (3) 0.3, -0.59	33% (3) 2.0, -0.33	38% (146) 3.2, -0.15
Winston Jameis	50% (28) 7.6, 0.43	60% (5) 2.4, 0.28	0% (15) -0.9, -0.82	50% (2) 1.0, 0.05	36% (50) 4.3, 0.03

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	53% (274) 8.6, 0.05
M2M	53% (178) 7.8, 0.25
Screen	40% (63) 6.3, 0.05

Passing by Route

Out	57% (88) 6.3, 0.09
Curl	63% (78) 7.6, 0.18
Screen	41% (64) 6.9, 0.04
Dig	57% (42) 9.3, -0.04
Flat	50% (30) 3.8, 0.05
Slant	46% (26) 7.0, -0.41

Throw Types

Level 1	56% (447) 7.6, 0.16
Level 2	44% (77) 11.1, 0.02
Level 3	33% (60) 10.9, 0.34

QB Drop Types

3 Step	52% (303) 8.0, 0.15
0/1 Step	49% (117) 5.9, 0.07
5 Step	55% (101) 12.6, 0.20
Basic Screen	41% (34) 6.1, -0.06
7 Step	50% (16) 10.8, 0.45
Designed Rollout Right	63% (8) 8.9, 0.36

QB State at Pass

Planted	51% (502) 8.2, 0.13
Moving	53% (72) 9.3, 0.16
Shuffling	38% (47) 5.7, -0.07

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	52% (104) 12.1, 0.29	44% (84) 7.2, -0.17
Shotgun	57% (14) 7.9, 0.33	46% (469) 7.4, -0.05
ALL	53% (118) 11.6, 0.29	45% (553) 7.4, -0.06

Run Types

Inside Zone	46% (98) 3.5, -0.14
Outside Zone	45% (93) 4.0, -0.03
Lead	26% (23) 2.5, -0.15
Power	14% (14) 3.0, -0.14
Pitch	44% (9) 2.8, -0.19
Stretch	22% (9) 2.2, -0.33

TB-5

Tampa Bay's defense ranked seventh in EDSR but ranked 32nd in yards per point allowed. Yes, their team didn't require opposing offenses to gain many yards per point scored, but that was in large part to the terrible field position Winston gave them, or outright pick-sixes he giftwrapped. That's not on the Bucs defense. And if Brady improves that area, which is near 100% certainty, the Bucs defense won't rank anywhere near 32nd in yards per point scored.

In 11 games decided by fewer than 14 points, the Bucs only lost the EDSR battle in three games (and they won two of the three). That bodes extremely well for the 2020 Bucs.

They will need to improve their offensive early down success, however (21st in 2019). A big part of their overall offensive production was the third-best red zone conversion rate (65%). That ranking was notable, because an issue for Arians in Arizona was a lack of red zone production due to the style of his "no risk-it, no biscuit" offense which featured deeper throws and vertical routes.

His 2012 Colts converted just 51% of red zone trips, which ranked 21st. His first two years in Arizona, his offenses converted 52% and 44%, ranked 20th and 28th, respectively. He managed a couple better years in 2015 and 2016 (10th and sixth respectively) before ranking third-worst in his final year with Carson Palmer and the Cardinals. As such, pushing the third-best red zone rate in year one in Tampa Bay with Jameis Winston indicates Arians and offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich worked on the red zone offensive structure and is something to be excited about now that Tom Brady is at the helm.

One of the biggest changes from the Patriots offense to Arians's system is the average target depth. The Bucs averaged 10.2 air yards per pass, first in the NFL. The Patriots were down at 7.7, 21st in 2019. In 2018, they averaged 7.4, which ranked 23rd. Brady will be looking deeper more often. This could be particularly true on first down, where the Bucs averaged 13 air yards per pass (first) and the Patriots were down at 26th with 7.1. Having receivers like **Mike Evans** and **Chris Godwin** will help, a talented duo Brady has not seen in quite some time — especially compared to last year's receiving corps in New England.

Another big change is the lack of pre-snap motion. Last year in the first three quarters of games, the Patriots used pre-snap motion on 65% of pass attempts, the second most in the NFL. The Bucs didn't use it on 63% of attempts. Their 37% usage rate was one of the lowest in the NFL (average was 40%).

One of the biggest similarities from the Patriots offense to Arians's system is a slightly lower rate of play-action but big production boosts off it. On early downs in the game's first three quarters, the Bucs called play-action on 25% of dropbacks (average was 36%). But YPA improved from 7.5 to 11.7 and success improved from 51% to 57%. The Patriots used play-action ahead of only 28% of dropbacks. But their YPA improved from 6.0 to 8.4 and their success improved from 46% to 56%.

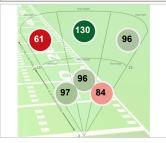## Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Buccaneers led the league in passing yardage (4,845 yards) and yards per completion (13.4) while they were third in passing touchdowns (33). But due to the turnover-prone play of **Jameis Winston**, Tampa Bay ranked just 13th in EPA via their passing offenses while they ranked 14th in success rate (46%) through the air. Winston was the first passer to throw 30 interceptions in a season since Vinny Testaverde in 1988. Tampa Bay has replaced Winston with the league's most decorated quarterback in **Tom Brady**. Brady will be 43 years old this August coming off a season in which he posted his lowest yards per pass attempt (6.6 Y/A) in a season since 2002 while his touchdown rate (3.9%) was an all-time low. Brady was 28th in aDOT (8.0) and 15th in air yards per completion (6.0) in 2019 throwing to a limited arsenal of pass catchers, something that is significantly upgraded in Tampa Bay.

Target Distribution

Postive Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Jameis Winston	379	625	61%	5,108	8.2	32	30	47	84	35
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Jameis Winston	46%	48%	75	12.0%	31	5.0%	8.4	5.1	39	6%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Jameis Winston Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	10.5%	0.0%	5.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	1.6%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.1%	7.3%	0.0%	3.3%
10 - 14	4.0%	6.3%	9.5%	100.0%	5.8%
15+	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%		1.8%
Total	**3.6%**	**3.2%**	**6.7%**	**20.0%**	**4.5%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Jameis Winston	9.2	8.3	-0.9	59%	3
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC
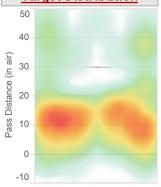
Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
62%	38%	7
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Buccaneers were led by stellar receiving campaigns by both **Mike Evans** (67-1,157-8) and **Chris Godwin** (86-1,333-9). Tampa Bay wideouts ranked fourth in the league in yards per target (9.6) and ninth in success rate (54%). The Buccaneers were also successful in getting the ball effectively to their backs in the passing game, ranking ninth in yards per target (6.3) and 13th in success rate (46%) targeting their running backs. The one area where Tampa Bay was under par was targeting tight ends. Tampa tight ends ranked 22nd in yards per target (6.3) and 19th in success rate (52%). Tampa Bay added **Rob Gronkowski** to the tight end group to pair up with stud wideouts in Godwin and Evans, while Brady is in place to sustain using his backfield.

Mike Evans Target Distribution

Chris Godwin Target Distribution

Player *Min 50 Targets*	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Chris Godwin	119	72%	11.2	116.7	61%	12	36	39	101	9
Mike Evans	118	57%	9.8	84.6	55%	41	55	6	114	8
Breshad Perriman	69	52%	9.3	95.4	48%	88	108	12	115	3
Cameron Brate	56	64%	5.6	95.2	52%	67	50	115	21	3
O.J. Howard	54	63%	8.5	80.7	56%	39	58	14	119	1

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Tampa Bay ranked 22nd in the league in rushing efficiency (44% success rate), 27th in explosive run rate, and 28th in expected points added via their run game in 2019. Their backs combined to rank 18th in touches per game (26.5), 20th in yards from scrimmage per game (121.5), and 24th in yards per touch (4.6). The team still has **Ronald Jones** (1,033 yards) and **Dare Ogunbowale** (303 yards) from last season. Jones ranked 41st in overall success rate on the ground (45%), but was the most explosive player in the backfield, ranking 12th in the league in explosive run rate (12%). Adding **Ke'Shawn Vaughn** in the third round (No. 76) and **Raymond Calais** in the seventh round (No. 245), the Buccaneers can replace **Peyton Barber** (who ranked 61st in success rate at 38%) but this backfield still has question marks entering 2020.

Yards per Carry by Direction

3.3	4.3	4.5	3.1	3.6	3.2	5.5
LT	LG	C	RG	RT		

Directional Run Frequency

6%	9%	15%	41%	13%	12%	4%
LT	LG	C	RG	RT		

Player *Min 50 Rushes*	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Ronald Jones	172	4.2	45%	52	47	48	26	46%	44	6
Peyton Barber	154	3.1	39%	73	30	16	78	37%	76	6
Jameis Winston	59	4.2	37%	75	75	38	70	27%	81	1

Can Rob Gronkowski still be a fantasy TE1?

The last time we saw Gronkowski on the field was 2018. In that season, Gronkowski dealt with a lingering ankle injury that forced him to miss three games. He had limited mobility and his play suffered from it, averaging just 3.6 receptions for 52.5 receiving yards per game. It was the fewest yards per game he had in a season outside of his rookie year. He also caught just three touchdowns on 47 receptions (4.2%) after catching a touchdown on 16.5% of his career receptions prior. Despite that down production to his own standards, Gronkowski still averaged 14.5 yards per reception, which ranked fifth among all tight ends with more than 25 receptions in 2018. Gronk also still averaged 10.1 PPR points per game in 2018, which was good for TE11 on the season per game. Entering 2020 at age 31, Gronk has not appeared in a full season since 2011 and is not the lead option in a passing game that has two prime wide receivers in Chris Godwin and Mike Evans while the team still has both **O.J. Howard** and **Cameron Brate** on the roster. Despite those negatives, there is a low bar to clear for fantasy relevancy at tight end and the passing game situation in Tampa Bay is good enough to generate a plethora of scoring opportunities.

Is Ke'Shawn Vaughn going to surpass Ronald Jones and take over the backfield?

Second-year running back Ronald Jones made a significant jump up to 203 touches and 5.1 yards per touch from his anemic rookie season usage (30 touches) and efficiency (5.1 yards per touch). Despite his improvement in year two, the Buccaneers were still reluctant to fully trust him with the offense, allowing Peyton Barber (170 touches) to carve into his workload. A big early-career thorn for Jones has been his effectiveness in pass protection. In 2019, he allowed eight pressures on 49 snaps in protection. This opened the door for Dare Ogunbowale to lead the team in pass protection snaps (72) and routes run (223) from the backfield.

In 2019, nearly no college back was asked to do as much as Ke'Shawn Vaughn across the board for his team's offense. Vaughn accounted for 70.7% of the team non-QB carries (second in this class), 69.7% of the non-QB rushing yards (second), 36.2% of the team yards from scrimmage (third), 13.9% of the receptions (second), and scored 47.6% of the team touchdowns (second). Vaughn's three-down ability could make him the 1A option sooner than later while the Tampa Bay backs combined for 15 touchdowns in 2019.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	36 plays *(8%)* Success: 50% EPA: -0.08	416 plays *(89%)* Success: 42% EPA: -0.05	14 plays *(3%)* Success: 36% EPA: -0.06	466 plays *(100%)* Success: 42% EPA: -0.05
1-2 [2WR]	74 plays *(78%)* Success: 46% EPA: 0.18	20 plays *(21%)* Success: 60% EPA: 0.47	1 plays *(1%)* Success: 0% EPA: -0.94	95 plays *(100%)* Success: 48% EPA: 0.23
2-1 [2WR]	15 plays *(56%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.21	11 plays *(41%)* Success: 55% EPA: 0.36	1 plays *(4%)* Success: 0% EPA: -4.01	27 plays *(100%)* Success: 48% EPA: 0.12
2-2 [1WR]	3 plays *(100%)* Success: 33% EPA: 0.61			3 plays *(100%)* Success: 33% EPA: 0.61
Grand Total	128 plays *(22%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.12	447 plays *(76%)* Success: 43% EPA: -0.02	16 plays *(3%)* Success: 31% EPA: -0.36	591 plays *(100%)* Success: 43% EPA: 0.00

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	28%	15
Nickel	65%	8
Dime+	2%	24
Rush 3	5%	17
Rush 4	54%	28
Rush 5	29%	3
Rush 6+	10%	3
Blitz%	39%	2

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

The Buccaneers turned into the league's best run defense last season under defensive coordinator Todd Bowles and a big part of that came from the interior duo of **Ndamukong Suh** and **Vita Vea**. Tampa Bay wanted to run that duo back and re-signed Suh to a one-year deal after he hit the free agent market. Suh is no longer the pass rusher he used to be but Vea turned into a productive one last season, 10th in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate among defensive tackles.

Tampa also got great production off the edge. The Bucs ranked third in Pass Rush Win Rate as a team last season and **Shaquil Barrett** was fifth overall among edge rushers. Like the interior, the Buccaneers worked to bring back the group that showed success last season by re-signing **Jason Pierre-Paul** to a two-year deal and putting the franchise tag on Barrett. There's a lot of money tied in the top two edge rushers but not much locked in past the coming season, pending a Barrett extension. Tampa will rely heavily on those two rushers off the edge, but are also one of the most blitz-heavy teams in the league. Only Baltimore (45%) rushed five or more at a higher rate than Tampa Bay last season (39%).

With a big contract for **Lavonte David** and a top-5 pick in **Devin White**, there are few teams with more invested at off-ball linebacker than the Buccaneers. David and White also play a high number of Tampa Bay's defensive snaps — David played 99% and White played 73% last season.

Cornerback is a position of intrigue for the Buccaneers. Tampa threw a bunch of Day 2 picks over the past two drafts and found a few gems. **Sean Bunting-Murphy** was an above-average corner by Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap (which factors in touchdowns and interceptions), as was **Jamel Dean**, who was an NFL Combine standout last season and selected in the third round. **Carlton Davis** ran hot and cold with a low completion percentage allowed by a few big plays thrown in. No corners were added, so Tampa is comfortable with this group developing more in 2020.

Safety is easily the shakiest position on the Tampa Bay defense. **Justin Evans** started to break out in 2018 but missed the entire 2019 season with an Achilles injury. Without Evans, the Bucs ran with a trio of **Mike Edwards**, **Andrew Adams**, and **Jordan Whitehead**. They were one of the worst teams in the league defending deep passes. The Bucs added **Antoine Winfield Jr.**, a promising safety in the second round. He sports both range and instincts to start immediately in the defensive backfield. But still, there's no guarantee of what Evans will look like when he does return to the field, which keeps a cloud over this position group.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	62%
All Pass Rk	7
All Rush %	38%
All Rush Rk	26
1 Score Pass %	60%
1 Score Pass Rk	15
2018 1 Score Pass %	60%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	11
2019 Pass Increase %	0%
Pass Increase Rk	22
1 Score Rush %	40%
1 Score Rush Rk	18
Up Pass %	52%
Up Pass Rk	15
Up Rush %	48%
Up Rush Rk	18
Down Pass %	70%
Down Pass Rk	6
Down Rush %	30%
Down Rush Rk	27

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	10	50%	50%	40%
	Med (4-7)	8	13%	88%	63%
	Long (8-10)	336	47%	53%	44%
	XL (11+)	15	47%	53%	27%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	30	43%	57%	70%
	Med (4-7)	81	70%	30%	52%
	Long (8-10)	97	80%	20%	46%
	XL (11+)	55	89%	11%	31%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	49	59%	41%	65%
	Med (4-7)	44	89%	11%	50%
	Long (8-10)	27	96%	4%	44%
	XL (11+)	38	87%	13%	29%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	100%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	49%	51%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	65%	9%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	35%	91%

32% AVG 77%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
69%	11	66%	67%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
31%	22	34%	64%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Mike Evans	2	50%
		RUSH	Dare Ogunbowale	2	0%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Peyton Barber	4	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Ronald Jones	93	37%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Ronald Jones	6	0%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Peyton Barber	9	56%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Peyton Barber	12	25%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Chris Godwin	13	69%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Chris Godwin	8	63%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ronald Jones	8	50%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Mike Evans	8	38%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Justin Watson	4	75%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Chris Godwin	10	40%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 43% YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.12 Rtg: 74.1 *[Att: 402 - Rate: 59.9%]*	Success: 60% YPA: 15.1, EPA: 0.57 Rtg: 131.4 *[Att: 45 - Rate: 6.7%]*	Success: 45% YPA: 8.0, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 80.8 *[Att: 447 - Rate: 66.6%]*
Yes	Success: 52% YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 102.7 *[Att: 151 - Rate: 22.5%]*	Success: 48% YPA: 9.4, EPA: 0.13 Rtg: 107.2 *[Att: 73 - Rate: 10.9%]*	Success: 50% YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.09 Rtg: 104.1 *[Att: 224 - Rate: 33.4%]*
Total	Success: 45% YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.06 Rtg: 81.8 *[Att: 553 - Rate: 82.4%]*	Success: 53% YPA: 11.6, EPA: 0.29 Rtg: 120.5 *[Att: 118 - Rate: 17.6%]*	Success: 47% YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.00 Rtg: 88.5 *[Att: 671 - Rate: 100.0%]*

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Chris Godwin	Mike Evans	O.J. Howard	Breshad Perriman	Cameron Brate	Ronald Jones	Dare Ogunbowale	Peyton Barber	Justin Watson
1	SF	L 31-17	64 (91%)	60 (86%)	55 (79%)	45 (64%)	31 (44%)	22 (31%)	27 (39%)	25 (36%)	1 (1%)
2	CAR	W 20-14	62 (95%)	59 (91%)	60 (92%)	31 (48%)	18 (28%)	8 (12%)	16 (25%)	42 (65%)	2 (3%)
3	NYG	L 32-31	74 (96%)	68 (88%)	58 (75%)	52 (68%)	32 (42%)	23 (30%)	19 (25%)	28 (36%)	2 (3%)
4	LA	W 55-40	70 (95%)	67 (91%)	65 (88%)	5 (7%)	18 (24%)	36 (49%)	21 (28%)	19 (26%)	2 (3%)
5	NO	L 31-24	57 (97%)	57 (97%)	47 (80%)		14 (24%)	20 (34%)	19 (32%)	20 (34%)	1 (2%)
6	CAR	L 37-26	77 (96%)	73 (91%)	60 (75%)		30 (38%)	13 (16%)	46 (58%)	19 (24%)	3 (4%)
8	TEN	L 27-23	82 (99%)	76 (92%)		58 (70%)	55 (66%)	22 (27%)	27 (33%)	29 (35%)	
9	SEA	L 40-34	76 (96%)	68 (86%)		48 (61%)	11 (14%)	42 (53%)	21 (27%)	11 (14%)	
10	ARI	W 30-27	79 (93%)	75 (88%)	84 (99%)	57 (67%)	15 (18%)	40 (47%)	22 (26%)	22 (26%)	2 (2%)
11	NO	L 34-17	68 (100%)	65 (96%)	17 (25%)	36 (53%)	51 (75%)	21 (31%)	29 (43%)	12 (18%)	
12	ATL	W 35-22	58 (88%)	61 (92%)	51 (77%)	26 (39%)	21 (32%)	33 (50%)	14 (21%)	15 (23%)	4 (6%)
13	JAC	W 28-11	70 (92%)	63 (83%)	63 (83%)	44 (58%)	28 (37%)	21 (28%)	23 (30%)	30 (39%)	11 (14%)
14	IND	W 38-35	74 (95%)	18 (23%)	68 (87%)	65 (83%)	24 (31%)	27 (35%)	23 (29%)	30 (38%)	43 (55%)
15	DET	W 38-17	46 (61%)		66 (88%)	67 (89%)	31 (41%)	34 (45%)	21 (28%)	21 (28%)	42 (56%)
16	HOU	L 23-20			61 (84%)	70 (96%)	31 (42%)	37 (51%)	27 (37%)	8 (11%)	70 (96%)
17	ATL	L 28-22			38 (75%)	48 (94%)	27 (53%)	23 (45%)	12 (24%)	16 (31%)	48 (94%)
	Grand Total		957 (92%)	810 (85%)	793 (79%)	652 (64%)	437 (38%)	422 (36%)	367 (31%)	347 (30%)	231 (26%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	64%	60%	46%
1-2 [2WR]	23%	20%	45%
2-2 [1WR]	3%	4%	13%
0-2 [3WR]	3%	0%	50%
1-0 [4WR]	2%	3%	38%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	68%	46%	45%
1-2 [2WR]	47%	50%	39%
2-2 [1WR]	9%	33%	10%
0-2 [3WR]	90%	52%	33%
1-0 [4WR]	79%	32%	60%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Mike Evans	14	8	2	4
Chris Godwin	12	5	4	3
O.J. Howard	8	1	2	5
Cameron Brate	7	2	2	3
Dare Ogunbowale	7	2	2	3
Justin Watson	4		1	3
Tanner Hudson	3	1	1	1

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Peyton Barber	22	10	3	9
Ronald Jones	20	4	6	10
Jameis Winston	8	5		3
Dare Ogunbowale	7	7		
T.J. Logan	1	1		

Early Down Target Rate

	RB	TE	WR
	21%	19%	60%
	23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG		

Overall Target Success %

	RB	TE	WR
	46%	52%	54%
	#13	#19	#9

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	5
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	18
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	11
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	4
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	12
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	3
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	13
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	30
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	19
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	20
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	11
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	22
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	13
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	10
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	13
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	11
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	25
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	26
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	31
23.	PA Improvement Success	15
24.	PA Improvement YPA	4
25.	PA Improvement Rating	8
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	8
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	26
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	25
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	31
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	21
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	14
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	31
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	14
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	27
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	5

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.5
37.	PSM Target Depth	9.1
38.	Non-PSM YPA	8.2
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	10.8
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	54%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	52%
42.	PSM Rating	92
43.	Non-PSM Rating	83.3

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	24%
45.	PA Success Rate	57%
46.	PA YPA	11.7
47.	PA Sack Rate	9.0%
48.	PA Rating	107.3
49.	PA Target Depth	11.1
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	51%
51.	Non-PA YPA	7.5
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	5.8%
53.	Non-PA Rating	81.5
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	9.7

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	32%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	35%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.0
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	28%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	49%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.4

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Net FROE Rk	6	defFUM	27
Net FROE	3.1	defFUM Rcvrd	16
offFUM	23	defFR Rk	6
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR%	59.3%
offFR%	52.2%	defFROE	3.5
offFR Rk	17	defFROE Rk	3
offFROE	-0.3		
offFROE Rk	17		

Field Goal Luck

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
2019 FG %	77%	YOY Swing	8%
2019 FG Rk	23	YOY Swing Rk	8
Opp 2019 FG %	86%	2018 Team Net	-17%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	10	2018 Net Rk	30
2019 Team Net	-9%		
2019 Net Rk	28		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Jameis Winston

Metric	Value
CAY	8.2
CAY Rk	2
2018 CAY Rk	2
AYTS Rk	2
2018 AYTS Rk	1
AGG Rk	18
2018 AGG Rk	3
COMP%	60.7
xCOMP%	60.8
xCOMP% Rk	39
2018 xCOMP% Rk	33
CPOE%	-0.1
CPOE Rk	16
2018 CPOE Rk	10

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

Jameis Winston

Metric	Value
Pressure %	33
Pressure Rk	26
Sack %	20.2
Sack Rk	12
Under Pressure Accuracy %	58
Pressure Accuracy Rk	30
Rating when Pressured	44.5
Pressured Rating Rk	35
Clean Accuracy %	73.8
Clean Accuracy Rk	35
Rating when Clean	98.6
Clean Rating Rk	24
Time to Throw	2.77
Time to Throw Rk	24

Offensive Metrics

Metric	Value
EPA/Pass	0.03
EPA/Pass Rk	16
EPA/Rush	-0.09
EPA/Rush Rk	26
On-Target Catch %	86.4
On-Target Catch Rk	13
Drop%	6
Drop Rk	5
YAC/Att	2.5
YAC/Att Rk	10
Rush Broken Tackle %	15.2
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	17
Rush 1st Down %	19.8
Rush 1st Down Rk	28

Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Tom Brady picked a good time to jettison from the Patriots as the Buccaneers face a much easier schedule in 2020 than do the Patriots. Tampa plays the NFL's 11th-easiest schedule, including the eighth-easiest through the first eight weeks.

However, that schedule ease relates to win totals. Comparing what the Bucs offense faced last year to what they will face this year, the schedule gets much more difficult. Winston tossed 32 touchdowns and 30 interceptions against the NFL's fourth-worst pass defenses. This year Brady will face the 16th-toughest pass defenses. That increase in difficulty of pass defenses faced is second-highest in the NFL. The Bucs also are playing five games with less rest than their opponent and only one with more rest. In four consecutive weeks (Weeks 6 through 9) the Bucs are at a rest disadvantage in every game. They play two straight teams with bye weeks to prepare for them and then the Giants who have three extra days of rest plus they must play on a short week against the Saints.

Tampa has a unique quirk from Week 9 onward in the season: they host three games against teams that typically play in domes (Saints, Vikings, and Falcons). Over the last 30 years, Florida teams do much better at home late in the season as compared to earlier. They win 56% and cover 49% of games from November onward, much better than they do to start the season. Additionally, from Week 9 onward, the Bucs face four teams forecast to finish the year at-or-above .500, and all four games are at home (Saints, Rams, Chiefs, and Vikings).

Brady will have to play four games in domes this year (Saints, Raiders, Falcons, and Lions). He was 17-4 (81%) both SU and ATS in domes when in New England.

On the defensive side of the ball, the 2019 Bucs were the best team against the run and that was against the NFL's fourth-toughest schedule of run offenses. This year, that drops to 21st toughest, so the run defense should theoretically be stellar again. The key, however, is always the pass defense. Because even with a lead, opposing offenses won't bother running, they'll just pass. The 2019 Bucs ranked 12th against the pass, with a developing, young secondary. And this year they face the fourth-toughest schedule of pass offenses (11th-toughest in 2019).

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Mike Vrabel (2 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Arthur Smith (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
n/a (new)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
8.5	#2

Past Records

2019: 9-7
2018: 9-7
2017: 9-7

Schedule:
DEN	JAX	MIN	PIT	BUF	HOU	CIN	CHI	IND	BAL	IND	CLE	JAX	DET	GB	HOU
A	H	A	H	H	H	A	H	H	A	A	H	A	H	A	A
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

MNF   TNF   SNF

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Austin Johnson (34DT)	Giants
Darius Jennings (WR)	Chargers
Dion Lewis (RB)	Giants
Jack Conklin (RT)	Browns
Jurrell Casey (34DE)	Broncos
LeShaun Sims (CB)	Bengals
Marcus Mariota (QB)	Raiders
Tajae Sharpe (WR)	Vikings
Cameron Wake (34OLB)	Null
Daren Bates (ILB)	Null
David Fluellen (RB)	Null
Delanie Walker (TE)	Null
Kevin Pamphile (RG)	Null
Logan Ryan (CB)	Null
Ryan Succop (K)	Null
Tramaine Brock (CB)	Null
Wesley Woodyard (ILB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
-1.3	10	6

2020 Tennessee Titans Overview

The anti-Jeff Fisher Titans have now recorded 9-7 records for four straight seasons. In two of those seasons, they made the playoffs. When there, they've proved to be dangerous opponents, beating strong pedigreed teams of the Chiefs, Ravens, and Patriots and nearly upsetting the eventual Super Bowl champion 2020 Chiefs.

While the 2019 Titans won just as many games as the 2018, 2017, and 2016 Titans, teams should not be defined just by the old Parcellsism "you are what your record says you are".

They were substantially better than their 2018 team.

They also were brave.

Brave to acquire **Ryan Tannehill** last offseason despite exercising **Marcus Mariota's** fifth-year option for the 2019 season, which came with a $20.9 million cap number. Most teams that draft a quarterback in the first few picks in the draft, and see him do "good enough" to lead the team to three-straight 9-7 records are not going to risk bringing in a backup that may disrupt the starter.

Most teams think "it will look like we made a mistake in the draft, so let's clutch our drafted quarterback until he produces a losing record." The Titans didn't submit to popular convention or worry about what the media thought about bringing in Tannehill. And they were brave enough to swap out Marcus Mariota to see what Tannehill had left in the tank after just six games in the season.

The 2019 Titans are an example of the importance of good quarterback play, the value of cutting ties when it's time, and the benefit of not overpaying a middling quarterback just because you drafted him high.

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Vic Beasley (43OLB)	$9.5
Johnathan Joseph (CB)	$2
Ty Sambrailo (RT)	$1.60
Jack Crawford (43DT)	$1.2
Nick Dzubnar (ILB)	$1
Ibraheim Campbell (S)	$0.90
Senorise Perry (RB)	$0.90

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	29	OT - Isaiah Wilson (Georgia)
2	61	CB - Kristian Fulton (LSU)
3	93	RB - Darrynton Evans (Appalachian State)
5	174	DT - Larrell Murchison (NC State)
7	224	QB - Cole McDonald (Hawaii)
7	243	CB - Chris Jackson (Marshall)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	Titans	8.5
2019 Wins	Titans	9
Forecast 2019 Wins	Titans	8
2018 Wins	Titans	9
2017 Wins	Titans	9
2016 Wins	Titans	9

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS K.Byard 31
SS K.Vaccaro 24
OLB J.Brown 55
LB R.Evans 54
RCB M.Butler* 21
SLOTCB K.Fulton Rookie 26
OLB H.Landry 58
RE J.Crawford* NEW 94
LE D.Jones 90
LB V.Beasley NEW 44
LCB A.Jackson 25

LWR A.Brown 11
SLOTWR A.Humphries 10
LT T.Lewan 77
LG R.Saffold* 76
C B.Jones* 60
RG N.Davis 64
RT I.Wilson Rookie 79
TE J.Smith 81
RWR C.Davis 84

QB R.Tannehill* 17
RB D.Henry 22

WR2 C.Hollister 16
WR3 T.Thompson 87
RB2 D.Evans Rookie 32
QB2 L.Woodside 5

2020 Cap Dollars
* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All DEF / All OFF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	6	$118.75M	11
QB	12	$23.75M	13
OL	4	$48.77M	13
RB	4	$13.67M	13
WR	15	$25.17M	21
TE	22	$7.39M	10
All DEF	19	$94.91M	8
DL	32	$22.84M	16
LB	16	$25.16M	17
CB	12	$23.52M	2
S	4	$23.38M	20

If general manager Jon Robinson never acquired Ryan Tannehill, Mike Vrabel never has a chance to start him. If Mike Vrabel never starts Tannehill, the Titans don't make the playoffs. If the Titans don't make the playoffs, we never see the thrilling upset postseason wins in New England, in Baltimore, and an epic game in Kansas City.

But let's also take a moment to appreciate offensive coordinator Arthur Smith.

So much in the NFL is interdependent, and try as we might to isolate certain aspects to assign responsibility or ownership, it's challenging and imperfect… even at the most important position in the NFL, the quarterback.

Put Ryan Tannehill on the 2019 Titans but bring along his 2018 playcaller, Adam Gase. This team isn't in the AFC Championship. But the same is true if you left Tannehill on the Dolphins for the 2019 season but gave him Arthur Smith.

The 2019 Titans absolutely benefitted from the balanced roster, the ability to run the ball, some solid downfield threats, and strong tight end options.

But what turned this team into a feared and worthy opponent was Arthur Smith's development as a play designer and playcaller.

In 2018, his first year in the position, Smith used pre-snap motion ahead of 60% of snaps the first three quarters of the game, ranking second-highest in the NFL. But there wasn't a noticeable bump in production. And he only used play-action on early downs at a league-average rate.

Smith made significant advances in the offseason to get more out of his pre-snap motion packages, and it had nothing to do with Ryan Tannehill.

Arthur Smith used pre-snap motion at the NFL's third-highest rate in Weeks 1-6 with Marcus Mariota at the helm. And it made a substantial impact.

Mariota-led passing splits with pre-snap motion quarters 1-3:

• With PSM: 8.4 YPA, 42% success, -0.03 EPA/att, 104 rating
• W/O PSM: 6.0 YPA, 24% success, -0.34 EPA/att, 64 rating

Runs also saw significant efficiency boost with pre-snap motion:

• With PSM: 4.2 YPC, 51% success, 0.07 EPA/att
• W/O PSM: 3.8 YPC, 38% success, -0.15 EPA/att

Smith continued usage of pre-snap motion with Ryan Tannehill under center, even though the dividends weren't as noteworthy since the Tannehill was great even without the motion:

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Ryan Tannehill	57% 10.5 121.7	53% 8.6 108.8	38% 8.0 119.5	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	38%	53%	77%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
TEN	54% 4.9	46% 5.4	53% 4.8	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	62%	47%	23%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

• With PSM: 9.0 YPA, 58% success, 0.10 EPA/att, 120 rating
• W/O PSM: 8.8 YPA, 48% success, 0.10 EPA/att, 104 rating

Smith slightly dropped the usage of PSM ahead of run plays, as the offense was generating solid games even in its absence:

• With PSM: 5.8 YPC, 57% success, 0.10 EPA/att
• W/O PSM: 6.1 YPC, 57% success, 0.18 EPA/att

Bottom line – the Titans increased their pre-snap motion usage by just over 1% in 2019 vs 2018, but it was the way in which they used it and the result they gained from it which showed massive improvement from 2018.
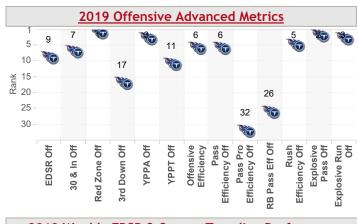
Play-action was a different animal. Smith used much more play-action in 2019 than he did in 2018. In 2018, the Titans used play-action on 42% of

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		12	13	14	15	16	17	
RESULT	W	L	W	L	L	W	W	L	W			W	W	W	L	L	W	WEEK
OPP	CLE	IND	JAC	ATL	BUF	DEN	LAC	TB	CAR	KC		JAC	IND	OAK	HOU	NO	HOU	
SITE	A	H	A	A	H	A	H	H	A	H		H	A	A	H	H	A	
MARGIN	30	-2	-13	14	-7	-16	3	4	-10	3		22	14	21	-3	-10	21	
PTS	43	17	7	24	7	0	23	27	20	35		42	31	42	21	28	35	
OPP PTS	13	19	20	10	14	16	20	23	30	32		20	17	21	24	38	14	

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **9**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2**
FG Games Win %: **50% (#9)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **22% (#16)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **50% (#14)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **33% (#25)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+6
TO Given	17
INT Given	8
FUM Given	9
TO Taken	23
INT Taken	14
FUM Taken	9
Sack Margin	-13
Sacks	43
Sacks Allow	56
Return TD Margin	+4
Ret TDs	4
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	+26
Penalties	99
Opponent Penalties	125

Tennessee Titans 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

Average Opponent — HARD / EASY

Chart categories (Ease for Offense): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF

Chart categories (Ease for Defense): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF

Passing / Rushing (groupings)

Legend
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*
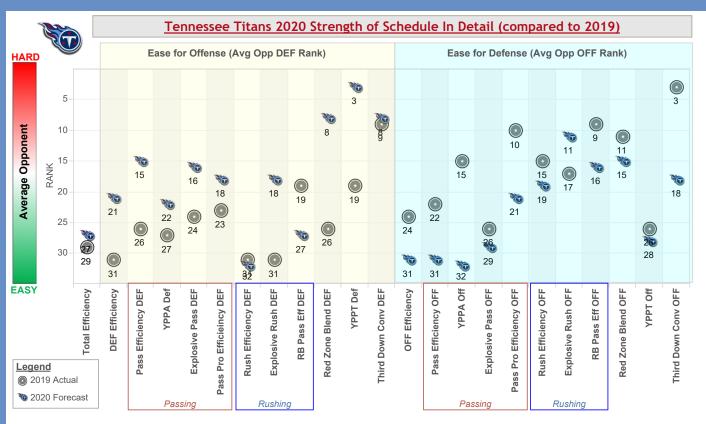
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
5	7	14	11	28	31	21	18

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	-0.5	1.2	-2.0
Average O/U line	44.2	42.3	43.9
Straight Up Record	9-7	9-7	9-7
Against the Spread Record	9-7	8-8	7-8
Over/Under Record	10-6	8-8	8-7
ATS as Favorite	6-4	2-3	6-6
ATS as Underdog	3-3	6-4	1-1
Straight Up Home	4-4	6-2	6-2
ATS Home	4-4	4-4	5-3
Over/Under Home	5-3	5-3	4-3
ATS as Home Favorite	3-3	1-2	4-3
ATS as a Home Dog	1-1	3-2	1-0
Straight Up Away	5-3	3-4	3-5
ATS Away	5-3	3-4	2-5
Over/Under Away	5-3	3-4	4-4
ATS Away Favorite	3-1	1-1	2-3
ATS Away Dog	2-2	2-2	0-1
Six Point Teaser Record	10-4	10-5	11-4
Seven Point Teaser Record	12-3	11-4	12-4
Ten Point Teaser Record	14-2	12-4	13-3

TEN-3

early down dropbacks the first three quarters, the fifth-highest rate in the NFL. The benefits to such plays were negligible. YPA improved by 0.3 and the success rate, as well as EPA, didn't improve at all.

However, in 2019 Smith increased their play-action rate to 52% on these plays, the highest rate in the NFL. And the results were noticeable, even with Mariota at the helm. Splits:

• With P/A: 10.7 YPA, 44% success, 0.24 EPA/att, 117 rating
• W/O P/A: 6.2 YPA, 34% success, -0.23 EPA/att, 77 rating

And with Tannehill, the results just rocketed off the charts:

• With P/A: 12.2 YPA, 65% success, 0.34 EPA/att, 139 rating
• W/O P/A: 7.0 YPA, 51% success, -0.04 EPA/att, 87 rating

(cont'd - see TEN-4)

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	2
Opp More Rest	1
Net Rest Edge	1
Week 2 Edge	-1
Week 3 Edge	0
Week 4 Edge	0
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 8 Edge	7
Week 9 Edge	0
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	3
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	0
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	3
2018 Rk	11
2019 v 2018 Rk	9
Off Rk	7
Def Rk	6
QB Rk	1
RB Rk	9
WR Rk	13
TE Rk	22
Oline Rk	8
Dline Rk	15
LB Rk	9
DB Rk	14

Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
DEN	JAX	MIN	PIT	BUF	HOU	CIN	CHI	IND	BAL	IND	CLE	JAX	DET	GB	HOU
1.5	-11	3.5	-2.5	-1.5	-4	-1.5	-3	-3	8	3	-4.5	-3.5	-6.5	3.5	1

Avg = 1.3

Home Lines

2	4	5	6	9	10	13	15
-11 JAX	-2.5 PIT	-1.5 BUF	-4 HOU	-3 CHI	-3 IND	-4.5 CLE	-6.5 DET

Avg = -4.5

Road Lines

1	3	8	11	12	14	16	17
1.5 DEN	3.5 MIN	-1.5 CIN	8 BAL	3 IND	-3.5 JAX	3.5 GB	1 HOU

Avg = 1.9

Forget even intelligently increasing the rate of play-action usage from 2018 to 2019 for a moment.

Using pre-snap motion or play-action in 2018 for the Titans didn't create a noticeable bump in efficiency, despite how the average team gets a boost from both.

The ability for Arthur Smith to get that much more out of pre-snap motion and play-action from 2018 to 2019 was absolutely incredible, regardless of whether it was Marcus Mariota or Ryan Tannehill at the helm.

While there is no doubt that trade for Tannehill was Jon Robinson's biggest, most important acquisition, there is one that is swept under the radar but needs to be brought to light. A seemingly innocuous mid-season signing of a running back off the Vikings practice squad, **Khari Blasingame**.

On the surface, it didn't seem like much. The team cut **Rod Smith** and had only two backs on the roster, so they added Blasingame, an undrafted rookie out of Vanderbilt. But that's when things start getting interesting.

The signing occurred during the Titans' bye week. Both Vrabel and Robinson scouted Blasingame at Vanderbilt's Pro Day and invited him to the Titans' practice facility for a visit. Blasingame wasn't just a running back, however, he also doubled as a fullback. The Titans' prior fullback, **David Fluellen**, was placed on IR after playing in only two games much earlier in the season.

The Titans hadn't used a fullback on the field in weeks, but came out of the bye against the Jaguars and ran a whopping 17 plays with a fullback on the field. All told, after going 0% two-back sets for weeks, a full third of the Titans' plays against the Jaguars featured a fullback. Tennessee saw tremendous success in 21 personnel. Runs recorded 9.7 YPC, 83% success, and 0.32 EPA/att. Passes recorded 14.5 YPA, 100% success, and 0.85 EPA/att.

Robinson, Vrabel, and Smith had found something.

After using 2-back sets on just 1% of plays the first 10 games of the season, the Titans closed the year using 2-back sets on 19% of plays the rest of the season. With the team thrashing four of their final six opponents to close the regular season, it's more important to look at first half production. In the first half of games the rest of the season, the Titans' most productive rushing grouping, by far, was 21 personnel:
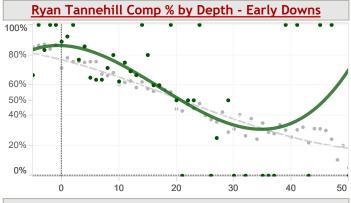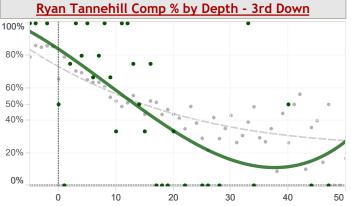
Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
PASS	Derrick Henry	24%	8%	56%	8%	4%
	Dion Lewis	10%	14%	62%	7%	7%
	Corey Davis	12%	9%	72%	6%	1%
	Jonnu Smith	13%	9%	69%	4%	4%
	Adam Humphries	13%	13%	74%		
	Tajae Sharpe	15%	24%	56%		6%
	Delanie Walker	24%	12%	52%	4%	8%
	Anthony Firkser	10%	10%	81%		
	Total	**14%**	**12%**	**67%**	**4%**	**3%**
RUSH	Derrick Henry	9%	5%	69%	2%	15%
	Dion Lewis	4%	9%	55%	5%	27%
	Jonnu Smith			75%		25%
	Adam Humphries			100%		
	Total	**8%**	**5%**	**67%**	**2%**	**17%**

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Derrick Henry	Dion Lewis	Corey Davis	Jonnu Smith	Adam Humphries	Tajae Sharpe	Delanie Walker	Anthony Firkser
PASS	9%	10%	23%	15%	16%	12%	9%	7%
RUSH	86%	13%		1%	0%			
ALL	56%	11%	9%	7%	6%	5%	3%	3%

Ryan Tannehill Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Ryan Tannehill Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

2019 Detailed Analytics Summary
Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▬▬▬▬▬ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	2-0 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, -0.01 (373)	50%, 0.21 (121)	44%, -0.17 (36)	83%, 0.51 (12)	63%, 0.34 (8)	17%, -0.11 (6)	50%, -0.35 (4)	50%, 0.88 (4)	0%, -0.55 (1)	0%, -0.81 (2)	45%, 0.04 (567)
RUSH	53%, 0.03 (180)	50%, 0.07 (202)	38%, -0.27 (72)	57%, 0.00 (51)	53%, 0.15 (34)	50%, 0.13 (2)	100%, 0.55 (1)		0%, -0.19 (1)		50%, 0.01 (543)
All	46%, 0.00 (553)	50%, 0.12 (323)	40%, -0.24 (108)	62%, 0.10 (63)	55%, 0.19 (42)	25%, -0.05 (8)	60%, -0.17 (5)	50%, 0.88 (4)	0%, -0.37 (2)	0%, -0.81 (2)	############

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Dion Lewis	30% (30) 5.1, -0.09	50% (2) 4.5, -0.01			31% (32) 5.1, -0.09
	Derrick Henry	38% (13) 4.8, -0.04	50% (16) 9.8, 0.24			45% (29) 7.6, 0.11
TE	Jonnu Smith	57% (28) 11.5, 0.43	53% (15) 6.4, 0.11	50% (2) 4.5, 0.09		56% (45) 9.5, 0.31
WR	Corey Davis	56% (50) 8.2, 0.32	48% (21) 8.1, 0.10	100% (5) 12.0, 1.23	0% (1) 0.0, -0.86	56% (77) 8.3, 0.30
	Adam Humphries	62% (47) 7.4, 0.47	50% (4) 11.3, 0.39		100% (1) 6.0, 0.34	62% (52) 7.7, 0.46
	Tajae Sharpe	66% (35) 9.6, 0.58	0% (4) 0.0, -0.80			59% (39) 8.6, 0.44
	A.J. Brown	43% (23) 6.5, 0.06	90% (10) 20.9, 1.34			58% (33) 10.9, 0.44

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

 | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total
---|---|---|---|---|---
Henry Derrick | 48% (166) 5.4, 0.08 | 52% (104) 4.6, 0.01 | 55% (44) 4.7, 0.00 | 61% (23) 6.9, 0.24 | 51% (337) 5.2, 0.06
Lewis Dion | 40% (15) 2.7, -0.17 | 47% (30) 4.7, -0.25 | 50% (2) 2.5, -0.24 | 40% (5) 3.2, -0.03 | 44% (52) 3.9, -0.20
Tannehill Ryan | 86% (7) 8.3, 0.52 | 74% (19) 6.1, 0.50 | 80% (5) 10.4, 0.12 | 33% (6) 0.0, -0.02 | 70% (37) 6.1, 0.37
Mariota Marcus | 75% (8) 5.6, 0.26 | 47% (15) 5.9, 0.08 | | | 57% (23) 5.8, 0.14

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	55% (191) 8.8, 0.33
M2M	48% (117) 7.4, 0.18
Screen	47% (55) 8.3, 0.08

Passing by Route

Out	51% (67) 6.6, 0.35
Curl	65% (57) 8.9, 0.48
Screen	45% (49) 8.5, 0.08
Dig	64% (33) 14.4, 0.71
Slant	48% (27) 7.1, -0.11
Flat	40% (15) 4.7, 0.06

Throw Types

Level 1	56% (293) 8.0, 0.29
Level 2	56% (87) 11.0, 0.48
Level 3	32% (37) 7.7, 0.04
Shovel	33% (3) 3.7, 0.10
Sidearm	0% (2) 4.0, -0.50

QB Drop Types

3 Step	52% (193) 8.3, 0.31
0/1 Step	53% (93) 7.1, 0.19
5 Step	52% (61) 9.7, 0.20
Basic Screen	33% (27) 9.8, 0.23
Designed Rollout Right	61% (23) 10.7, 0.59
7 Step	80% (10) 13.2, 0.81

QB State at Pass

Planted	54% (363) 9.4, 0.34
Moving	44% (77) 6.4, 0.07
Shuffling	41% (64) 6.4, 0.02

Play Action

 | Play Action | No P/A
---|---|---
Under Center | 58% (123) 12.8, 0.33 | 40% (45) 6.7, 0.04
Shotgun | 53% (47) 9.4, 0.30 | 40% (354) 7.0, -0.09
ALL | 56% (170) 11.8, 0.32 | 40% (399) 7.0, -0.08

Run Types

Outside Zone	52% (133) 6.0, 0.11
Inside Zone	47% (75) 4.3, 0.04
Lead	52% (64) 5.1, 0.05
Pitch	55% (53) 6.5, 0.09
Power	51% (39) 4.8, 0.02
Stretch	33% (18) 2.8, -0.29

TEN-5

21: 6.3 YPC, 68% success, 0.16 EPA/att
11: 5.4 YPC, 56% success, 0.04 EPA/att
12: 4.9 YPC, 49% success, 0.08 EPA/att

And if we look at the full games the rest of the season, the most productive passing grouping was 21 personnel:

21: 13.3 YPA, 91% success, 0.51 EPA/att
12: 13.3 YPA, 62% success, 0.43 EPA/att
11: 7.8 YPA, 52% success, 0.07 EPA/att
13: 10.9 YPA, 50% success, -0.35 EPA/att

Credit is due here to the general manager and head coach for bringing in a capable fullback, but a significant amount of credit is also due to Smith for seamlessly incorporating him mid-season and doing so to the tune of the most efficient rushing and receiving production the team delivered the rest of the season.

Ryan Tannehill's production was incredible last season and the offense took off at that point. The numbers are undeniable, by almost any metric.

An even more convincing way to look at the data is through the lens of points scored per minute of possession. It's raw, but intuitively factors in so many things including early down efficiency, third down efficiency, explosiveness, red zone performance, etc.

• With Mariota at the helm, the Titans averaged 0.43 points per minute.
• The NFL average last year was 0.57 points per minute.
• The best team in the NFL was the Chiefs at 0.77 points per minute.
• With Tannehill at the helm, the Titans averaged 0.99 points per minute.

We're not talking a moderate improvement, we're talking almost 30% better than the NFL's best offense, the Chiefs.

There are other ways to look at efficiency and the improvement that was enjoyed post-Mariota.

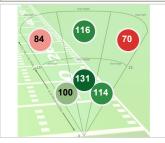# Tennessee Titans 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Through six weeks, the Titans passing game ranked 31st in the NFL in success rate (35%) and last in the league in missed yards per pass attempt (5.0). After switching over to **Ryan Tannehill** as the starting quarterback in Week 7, Tennessee then ranked fifth in the league in success rate passing (50%) and first in the league in yards above successful rate (71%). After throwing for 7.0 yards per pass attempt and a 4.2% touchdown rate prior to this season and left to restart his career as a backup to **Marcus Mariota**, Tannehill's 9.6 yards per pass attempt ranked fourth all-time for a season in which a quarterback attempted at least 100 passes. His 7.7% touchdown rate trailed only Lamar Jackson (9.0%) among quarterbacks in 2019. It remains to be seen how much of a career outlier Tannehill's 2019 spike in production was and how much of it he can sustain after inking a new four-year extension with the team this offseason.

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Ryan Tannehill	235	344	68%	3,109	9.0	25	7	36	112	2
Marcus Mariota	95	160	59%	1,206	7.5	6	2	25	90	23
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Ryan Tannehill	49%	54%	47	14.0%	18	5.0%	7.3	6.0	15	4%
Marcus Mariota	35%	40%	17	11.0%	7	4.0%	6.5	6.2	7	4%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Ryan Tannehill Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%
6 - 9	0.0%	2.1%	2.7%	0.0%	2.3%
10 - 14	1.7%	2.2%	0.0%	50.0%	2.1%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	**2.3%**	**1.5%**	**0.9%**	**14.3%**	**1.8%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Ryan Tannehill	9.0	7.2	-1.8	65%	4
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
55%	45%	13
53%	47%	

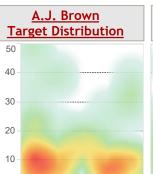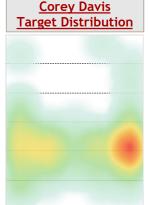## 2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Operating on the high-level efficiency that Tannehill was producing, Tennessee ranked fifth in the league in yards per attempt to their wide receivers (9.6 yards) and fifth in success rate (56%) targeting their wideouts. The team hit an absolute home run on second-round rookie **A.J. Brown**, who became just the 18th rookie wide receiver to reach 1,000 yards receiving since the 1970 merger. As part of his 52-1,051-8 line, Brown averaged 20.2 yards per catch while ranking second in the league in yards after the catch per reception (8,9 yards). The Titans also ranked fifth in yards per attempt to their tight ends (8.6 yards) and seventh to their running backs (6.6) despite being well below the league rate in target rate to their backs (14%).

A.J. Brown Target Distribution

Corey Davis Target Distribution

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
A.J. Brown	94	61%	11.9	121.5	52%	64	96	2	136	7
Corey Davis	81	60%	8.3	94.1	56%	39	80	21	91	3
Jonnu Smith	54	76%	9.2	120.8	54%	51	28	78	81	4
Adam Humphries	52	79%	7.7	111.5	62%	11	14	130	2	2

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

The Titans ran the ball at the fourth-highest rate in the league (46.8%), ranking fourth in the league in EPA via rushing, eighth in success rate (51%), third in yards per carry (5.0), and first in yards above success rate (54%). Despite missing a game, running back **Derrick Henry** led the NFL in carries (303) and rushing yards (1,540) while he tied for the league lead with 16 rushing touchdowns. Including postseason games, Henry has now scored 28 touchdowns over his past 23 games played with 10 100-yard rushing yard performances. Brought back on the franchise tag this season, the Titans project to run their offense once again through Henry while they selected **Darrynton Evans** in the third round (93rd overall) of this year's draft to replace **Dion Lewis** behind Henry.

Yards per Carry by Direction

Directional Run Frequency

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Dion Lewis	56	3.9	45%	55	32	8	81	46%	44	0
Ryan Tannehill	56	3.9	50%	29	76	11	1	46%	44	5

It was borderline insane how Tennessee closed the 2019 season on an efficiency level paired with team approach — almost to the point where none of it made any sense. That in itself makes the Titans a fragile team investment from a top-down stance because we have to anticipate some offensive decline.

The team ranked first in yards generated above success rate in both rushing and passing once Ryan Tannehill took over as the starting quarterback. The team scored a touchdown on 34.5% of their offensive drives under Tannehill, which was second in the NFL and way above the 22.0% league rate. Even more wild in their scoring efficiency, the Titans scored a touchdown on 26 of 30 of their possessions (86.7%) over that span that ended inside of the red zone. They were held to just one field goal on those one red zone possessions to go with three turnovers. The league rates over that span were at 59.1% of red zone possessions ending in a touchdown and 30.8% ending in a field goal try. For the season, the Titans scored a touchdown on 77.4% of their red zone opportunities, the highest rate in the league for a season in the 2000s.

Over the previous 10 seasons, there have been seven teams to score on 70% of their red zone possessions. In the following season, those teams averaged a 53.5% touchdown rate in the red zone. All of those teams scored fewer touchdowns the following season with an average loss of 12 touchdowns scored among those teams.

A.J. Brown was the 18th rookie wideout to hit 1,000 yards in his first season, but Brown was the first of those players to do so on fewer than 100 targets (84) and 60 receptions (52). Brown ranked second in the league in yards per route run (2.67) behind Michael Thomas. But he also had 5-64-0 line on 10 targets over three postseason games, which is a reminder that you are also betting on the identity of this offense creating a high floor for a player expected to make a significant jump in cost. Brown accounted for 27.3% of the team receiving touchdowns and 27.9% of the team receiving yardage on just 18.9% of the team receptions with Tannehill under center. Those are marks that are going to inherently flatten out, but with more inefficiency comes more volume. Even with regression, I believe Brown is a solid fantasy option moving forward since lead wide receivers with minimal competition are in short supply.

Ryan Tannehill will very much likely need to sustain passing efficiency above the base rate since the one thing we do know is that we know who the Titans are from a systematic approach, which is a run-first team. There have been 53 other quarterback seasons since the 1970 merger in which a passer hit a 7.0% touchdown rate on 100-plus attempts and then came back and hit that threshold for pass attempts the following season. Just one of those passers (Dave Krieg in 1987-1988) increased his previous season touchdown rate and just one other passer (Aaron Rodgers 2011-2012) hit that 7.0% mark again in the next season.

All of that points to still buying in on Derrick Henry since he has the most projectable volume. But Henry himself is a fantasy scorer that needs touchdowns. Well, they all do, but not to the degree Henry does since he is almost a zero in the passing department. Henry has yet to have more than 18 catches in any season, but has scored 28 touchdowns over his past 23 games played, which carry his totals. 32.6% of Henry's 2019 PPR scoring output came via rushing touchdowns alone, the highest dependency among top-12 scorers at the position. The average rushing touchdown makeup of fantasy scoring from the same group of backs outside of Henry was 18.2%. We can buy that both Henry and Brown are the featured players at their positions on this roster, but the top-down team regression in overall scoring leaves a lot of unknown potential for a lower floor than assumed for any of the Tennessee offensive players.

Tennessee Titans Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	6 plays *(1%)* Success: 17% EPA: -0.35	284 plays *(54%)* Success: 49% EPA: -0.03	219 plays *(42%)* Success: 42% EPA: 0.03	10 plays *(2%)* Success: 30% EPA: 0.69	525 plays *(100%)* Success: 45% EPA: -0.01
1-2 [2WR]	41 plays *(36%)* Success: 59% EPA: 0.22	59 plays *(52%)* Success: 53% EPA: 0.11	13 plays *(12%)* Success: 69% EPA: 0.75		113 plays *(100%)* Success: 57% EPA: 0.23
2-1 [2WR]	29 plays *(74%)* Success: 69% EPA: 0.29	8 plays *(21%)* Success: 50% EPA: 0.05	2 plays *(5%)* Success: 0% EPA: -1.03		39 plays *(100%)* Success: 62% EPA: 0.17
2-2 [1WR]	5 plays *(83%)* Success: 40% EPA: -0.19	1 plays *(17%)* Success: 0% EPA: -0.21			6 plays *(100%)* Success: 33% EPA: -0.20
Grand Total	81 plays *(12%)* Success: 58% EPA: 0.18	352 plays *(52%)* Success: 49% EPA: 0.00	234 plays *(34%)* Success: 43% EPA: 0.06	10 plays *(1%)* Success: 30% EPA: 0.69	683 plays *(100%)* Success: 47% EPA: 0.04

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	20%	22
Nickel	53%	18
Dime+	26%	8
Rush 3	18%	3
Rush 4	62%	19
Rush 5	13%	28
Rush 6+	4%	20
Blitz%	17%	28

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Tennessee traded away **Jurrell Casey** and while part of that was about a big cap hit for the veteran, it was also a vote of confidence in the health and development of last year's first-round pick **Jeffery Simmons**, who played in nine games and started seven in 2019. **DaQuan Jones** was good against the run, but without Casey, there's little pass rush here pending Simmons's improvement.

Harold Landry had a strong season on the edge, though he ranked just 48th of 112 edge rushers with at least 200 pass rushes in pressure rate per SIS. The Titans signed **Vic Beasley** to a one-year deal, but it's hard to view that as a "prove-it" deal since we have a pretty good idea of what Beasley is, which is not an impact edge rusher. There continue to be rumors of **Jadeveon Clowney** interest, which would certainly help this group add an impact player, but those have been there since free agency started and there has been little development.

Jayon Brown followed up a great 2018 season with another standout season in 2019 as an off-ball linebacker. His 2018 breakout came mostly as a pass rusher with 10 quarterback hits. He took to coverage in 2019 with eight passes defensed. He now has 18 over the past three seasons. **Rashaan Evans** wasn't much of a coverage backer but he was able to defend the run quite well in the middle of the defense. The Titans spent a lot of time in nickel and dime packages last season, which limited the amount they relied on a heavy rotation of linebackers.

By Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which factors in touchdowns and interceptions, both **Adoree Jackson** and **Malcolm Butler** were around average starting corners last season. Jackson has developed his speed into good coverage ability, though his passes defensed have dropped from 17 to 10 to six over the past three seasons. Tennessee added **Jonathan Joseph** in free agency and **Kristian Fulton** in the second round to add depth behind them.

Kevin Byard is one of the league's best safeties and his high level of play continued in 2019. **Kenny Vaccaro** split his time between the box and free safety but did his best work closer to the line of scrimmage. If the Titans want to keep Vaccaro there often, **Amani Hooker**, a 2019 fourth-round pick, could be a good third safety.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	53%
All Pass Rk	29
All Rush %	47%
All Rush Rk	4
1 Score Pass %	54%
1 Score Pass Rk	27
2018 1 Score Pass %	50%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	30
2019 Pass Increase %	4%
Pass Increase Rk	9
1 Score Rush %	46%
1 Score Rush Rk	6
Up Pass %	38%
Up Pass Rk	32
Up Rush %	63%
Up Rush Rk	1
Down Pass %	62%
Down Pass Rk	28
Down Rush %	38%
Down Rush Rk	5

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	8	25%	75%	88%
	Med (4-7)	12	33%	67%	67%
	Long (8-10)	333	34%	66%	53%
	XL (11+)	16	63%	38%	31%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	37	24%	76%	54%
	Med (4-7)	90	51%	49%	50%
	Long (8-10)	78	62%	38%	53%
	XL (11+)	50	76%	24%	24%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	43	56%	44%	70%
	Med (4-7)	41	95%	5%	34%
	Long (8-10)	29	90%	10%	28%
	XL (11+)	41	95%	5%	17%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	3	33%	67%	100%
	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%
	Long (8-10)	2	100%	0%	50%

Shotgun %:

Under Center	Shotgun
55%	45%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
72%	20%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

Under Center	Shotgun
28%	80%

32% AVG 77%

Tennessee Titans 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
57%	23	66%	44%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
43%	8	34%	75%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	6	83%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	8	88%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	178	51%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Dion Lewis	3	67%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	24	54%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	32	53%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	25	48%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	6	0%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	11	91%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Adam Humphries	5	80%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Dion Lewis	4	25%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Dion Lewis	7	0%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 41% YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.06 Rtg: 87.8 [Att: 194 - Rate: 34.1%]	Success: 53% YPA: 11.1, EPA: 0.32 Rtg: 123.0 [Att: 60 - Rate: 10.5%]	Success: 44% YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.03 Rtg: 96.4 [Att: 254 - Rate: 44.6%]
Yes	Success: 40% YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.10 Rtg: 101.4 [Att: 205 - Rate: 36.0%]	Success: 58% YPA: 12.3, EPA: 0.32 Rtg: 144.9 [Att: 110 - Rate: 19.3%]	Success: 46% YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.05 Rtg: 117.4 [Att: 315 - Rate: 55.4%]
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.08 Rtg: 94.6 [Att: 399 - Rate: 70.1%]	Success: 56% YPA: 11.8, EPA: 0.32 Rtg: 137.4 [Att: 170 - Rate: 29.9%]	Success: 45% YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.04 Rtg: 107.8 [Att: 569 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Corey Davis	Jonnu Smith	A.J. Brown	Derrick Henry	MyCole Pruitt	Tajae Sharpe	Adam Humphries	Dion Lewis	Anthony Firkser	Delanie Walker
1	CLE	W 43-13	45 (74%)	37 (61%)	26 (43%)	36 (59%)	34 (56%)	30 (49%)	22 (36%)	26 (43%)	9 (15%)	29 (48%)
2	IND	L 19-17	50 (83%)	29 (48%)	27 (45%)	30 (50%)	28 (47%)	32 (53%)	34 (57%)	30 (50%)	3 (5%)	34 (57%)
3	JAC	L 20-7	59 (74%)	41 (51%)	40 (50%)	38 (48%)	27 (34%)	39 (49%)	54 (68%)	42 (53%)	3 (4%)	46 (58%)
4	ATL	W 24-10	56 (88%)	43 (67%)	28 (44%)	48 (75%)	38 (59%)	38 (59%)	26 (41%)	18 (28%)		20 (31%)
5	BUF	L 14-7	54 (87%)	38 (61%)	40 (65%)	38 (61%)	25 (40%)	20 (32%)	36 (58%)	25 (40%)	1 (2%)	27 (44%)
6	DEN	L 16-0	60 (86%)	30 (43%)	40 (57%)	37 (53%)	22 (31%)	30 (43%)	43 (61%)	29 (41%)	5 (7%)	40 (57%)
7	LAC	W 23-20	48 (75%)	53 (83%)	39 (61%)	48 (75%)	32 (50%)	25 (39%)	31 (48%)	17 (27%)	15 (23%)	5 (8%)
8	TB	W 27-23	39 (62%)	46 (73%)	39 (62%)	42 (67%)	36 (57%)	23 (37%)	28 (44%)	21 (33%)	36 (57%)	
9	CAR	L 30-20	58 (77%)	55 (73%)	52 (69%)	40 (53%)	13 (17%)	33 (44%)	47 (63%)	35 (47%)	20 (27%)	
10	KC	W 35-32		40 (77%)	49 (94%)	37 (71%)	18 (35%)	42 (81%)	34 (65%)	15 (29%)	14 (27%)	
12	JAC	W 42-20	39 (74%)	50 (94%)	37 (70%)	40 (75%)	27 (51%)	9 (17%)	12 (23%)	8 (15%)	16 (30%)	
13	IND	W 31-17	41 (68%)	52 (87%)	54 (90%)	45 (75%)	26 (43%)		23 (38%)	11 (18%)	19 (32%)	
14	OAK	W 42-21	47 (76%)	49 (79%)	52 (84%)	37 (60%)	33 (53%)	30 (48%)		24 (39%)	12 (19%)	
15	HOU	L 24-21	51 (76%)	54 (81%)	61 (91%)	39 (58%)	30 (45%)	27 (40%)		24 (36%)	18 (27%)	
16	NO	L 38-28	44 (71%)	51 (82%)	62 (100%)		27 (44%)	39 (63%)		43 (69%)	13 (21%)	
17	HOU	W 35-14	42 (68%)	50 (81%)	49 (79%)	47 (76%)	32 (52%)	27 (44%)		11 (18%)	18 (29%)	
	Grand Total		733 (76%)	718 (71%)	695 (69%)	602 (64%)	448 (45%)	444 (47%)	390 (50%)	379 (37%)	202 (22%)	201 (43%)

Personnel Groupings
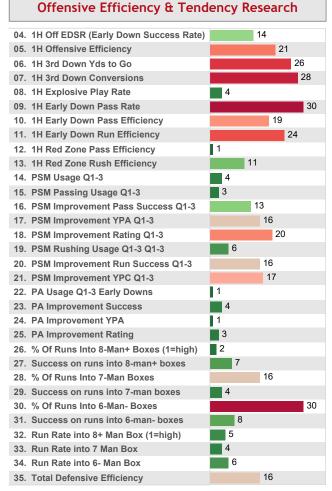
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	50%	60%	46%
1-2 [2WR]	29%	20%	50%
1-3 [1WR]	10%	3%	40%
2-1 [2WR]	6%	8%	62%
2-2 [1WR]	4%	4%	55%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	67%	42%	53%
1-2 [2WR]	37%	50%	50%
1-3 [1WR]	33%	44%	38%
2-1 [2WR]	19%	83%	57%
2-2 [1WR]	19%	63%	53%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Jonnu Smith	7	1	1	5
Tajae Sharpe	5	1	2	2
Adam Humphries	4		2	2
Corey Davis	4	1	2	1
Dion Lewis	4		1	3
Anthony Firkser	2		1	1
Derrick Henry	2			2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Derrick Henry	59	16	16	27
Ryan Tannehill	6	3	1	2
Marcus Mariota	5	1	2	2
Dion Lewis	3			3
Dalyn Dawkins	2			2
Jonnu Smith	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
15%	28%	56%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
40%	50%	56%
#26	#21	#5

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

01. Games w Halftime Lead	6	
02. Avg Halftime Lead	-1.0	
03. Wins	9	

#	Metric	Value
04.	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	14
05.	1H Offensive Efficiency	21
06.	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	26
07.	1H 3rd Down Conversions	28
08.	1H Explosive Play Rate	4
09.	1H Early Down Pass Rate	30
10.	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	19
11.	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	24
12.	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	1
13.	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	11
14.	PSM Usage Q1-3	4
15.	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	3
16.	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	13
17.	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	16
18.	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	20
19.	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	6
20.	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	16
21.	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	17
22.	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	1
23.	PA Improvement Success	4
24.	PA Improvement YPA	1
25.	PA Improvement Rating	3
26.	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	2
27.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	7
28.	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	16
29.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	4
30.	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	30
31.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	8
32.	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	5
33.	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	4
34.	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	6
35.	Total Defensive Efficiency	16

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36.	PSM YPA	8.1
37.	PSM Target Depth	7.9
38.	Non-PSM YPA	7.9
39.	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.2
40.	PSM Pass Success Rate	51%
41.	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	49%
42.	PSM Rating	91.5
43.	Non-PSM Rating	87.7

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44.	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	52%
45.	PA Success Rate	58%
46.	PA YPA	11.7
47.	PA Sack Rate	8.0%
48.	PA Rating	121.3
49.	PA Target Depth	8.4
50.	Non-PA Success Rate	45%
51.	Non-PA YPA	6.7
52.	Non-PA Sack Rate	8.5%
53.	Non-PA Rating	76.5
54.	Non-PA Target Depth	7.2

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55.	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	35%
56.	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
57.	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.0
58.	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	55%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.7
61.	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	21%
62.	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.6

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	9	defFUM	16	
Net FROE	2.3	defFUM Rcvrd	9	
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	7	
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR%	56.3%	
offFR%	57.1%	defFROE	1.6	
offFR Rk	11	defFROE Rk	10	
offFROE	0.8			
offFROE Rk	11			

Field Goal Luck

2019 FG %	47%	YOY Swing	-30%	
2019 FG Rk	32	YOY Swing Rk	32	
Opp 2019 FG %	81%	2018 Team Net	-3%	
Opp 2019 FG Rk	22	2018 Net Rk	19	
2019 Team Net	-33%			
2019 Net Rk	32			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Ryan Tannehill	Marcus Mariota
CAY	7.5	6.2
CAY Rk	4	14
2018 CAY Rk	31	27
AYTS Rk	3	35
2018 AYTS Rk	27	25
AGG Rk	6	27
2018 AGG Rk	31	35
COMP%	70.3	59.4
xCOMP%	62.2	61.8
xCOMP% Rk	32	35
2018 xCOMP% Rk	18	3
CPOE%	8	-2.4
CPOE Rk	1	29
2018 CPOE Rk	25	16
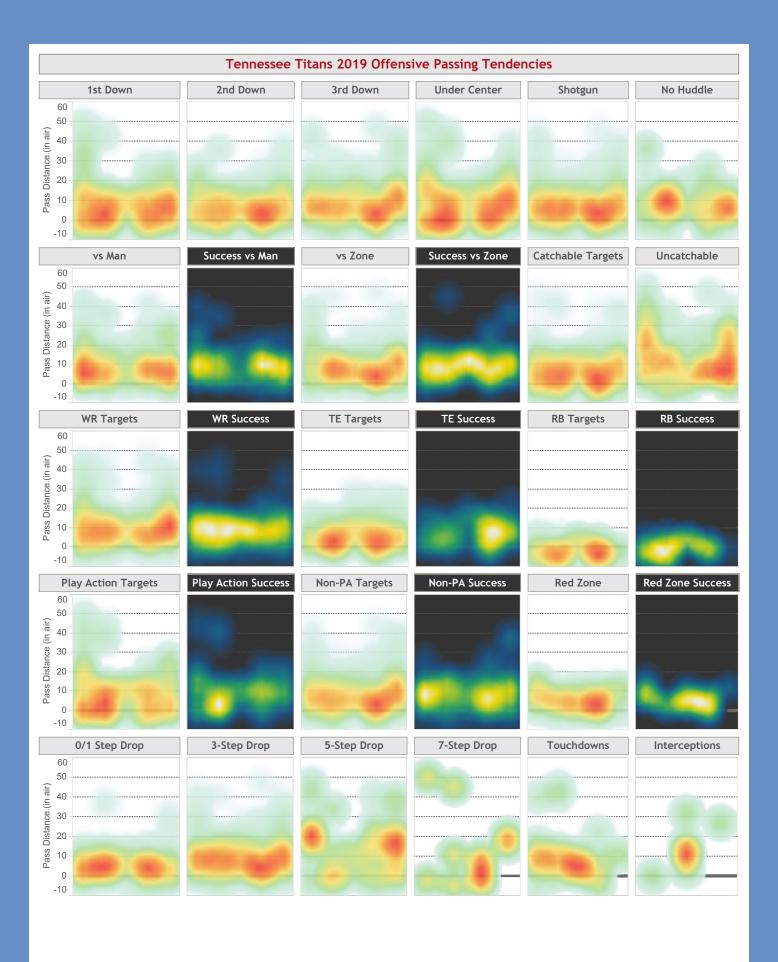
CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Ryan Tannehill	Marcus Mariota
Pressure %	29.9	35.1
Pressure Rk	32	19
Sack %	31	35.2
Sack Rk	3	1
Under Pressure Accuracy %	65.5	79.3
Pressure Accuracy Rk	13	3
Rating when Pressured	98.4	75.1
Pressured Rating Rk	2	13
Clean Accuracy %	79.6	71.8
Clean Accuracy Rk	15	39
Rating when Clean	122.8	98
Clean Rating Rk	1	26
Time to Throw	2.9	2.84
Time to Throw Rk	5	13

Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.09
EPA/Pass Rk	10
EPA/Rush	-0.01
EPA/Rush Rk	6
On-Target Catch %	89.7
On-Target Catch Rk	1
Drop%	5.4
Drop Rk	3
YAC/Att	2.9
YAC/Att Rk	2
Rush Broken Tackle %	22.5
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	1
Rush 1st Down %	23.6
Rush 1st Down Rk	14

Tennessee Titans 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

1st Down	2nd Down	3rd Down	Under Center	Shotgun	No Huddle
vs Man	Success vs Man	vs Zone	Success vs Zone	Catchable Targets	Uncatchable
WR Targets	WR Success	TE Targets	TE Success	RB Targets	RB Success
Play Action Targets	Play Action Success	Non-PA Targets	Non-PA Success	Red Zone	Red Zone Success
0/1 Step Drop	3-Step Drop	5-Step Drop	7-Step Drop	Touchdowns	Interceptions

In the first six weeks with Marcus Mariota, the Titans averaged a tragic 9.7 yards-to-go on third downs in the first half, second-worst in the NFL. They sat behind only the Jets and predictably converted at a low rate (ranked fifth-worst in conversion rate).

But from Week 7 onward, with Ryan Tannehill at the helm, the Titans averaged 6.5 yards-to-go on first half third downs, ninth-best in the NFL and a full 3.2 yards better than with Mariota. They recorded the 12th best conversion rate on these third downs.

Tannehill's player tracking metrics were in such stark contrast to Mariota's it's shocking they were even on the same offense. Tannehill's air yards to the sticks ranked third of 39 quarterbacks, while Mariota ranked 35th. Tannehill's aggressiveness ranking ranked sixth vs Mariota's 27th. Based on factors like receiver separation from the nearest defender, where the receiver is on the field and the separation the passer had at the time of throw from the nearest pass rusher, both Mariota and Tannehill should have completed roughly 62% of their attempts. The difference was Mariota completed only 59% and Tannehill completed 70%. Tannehill ranked first in CPOE (completion percentage over expectation) whereas Mariota ranked 29th.

So the big question is, can this offense replicate this magic to hopefully go even deeper in the postseason in 2020?

The good news is that from a rushing perspective, I think the answer is yes, barring injury. The Titans were the NFL's third-healthiest team in 2019, and if that continues, it will be hard to derail the ground game given the diversity, their ability to run behind a fullback, and frankly, because I predict they will face the NFL's easiest schedule of run defenses.

But the passing offense is a different story. I don't know if Tannehill has it in him to exceed his expected completion rate by such a large margin again in 2020. He's also facing more difficult passing defenses (the fifth-largest increase in schedule difficulty in the NFL). With Tannehill at the helm, the Titans faced seven top-half pass defenses and went 4-3. They went 5-1 against bottom-half pass defenses.

Tannehill was night and day with play-action. Without play-action, Tannehill was mortal (7.0 YPA, 51% success, -0.04 EPA/att, 87 rating), so how do defenses adjust this offseason and try to minimize the gains play-action gave Tannehill?

And then there's this nugget: since the last uncapped season (2010), 11 teams spent at least 17.5% of total salary cap on just two players: QB1 & RB1

Results:

• 9 of 11 had losing records
• 6.8 wins on avg
• only two made playoffs: 0-1 each in their playoff game

The Titans are in this bucket after giving Tannehill a four-year, $118 million extension and putting the franchise tag on running back **Derrick Henry** ($10.3 million).

Prior to 2019, I forecast the Titans to face the fourth-toughest schedule. They ended up with the fourth easiest schedule, the biggest variance between predicted and actual. What happened? No Andrew Luck, no Cam Newton, and they didn't play two games against Nick Foles or Deshaun Watson. Plus, bad seasons after higher pre-season expectations for the 2019 Browns and Falcons.

There are some positives, however. The first is Smith continuing as offensive coordinator and has the opportunity to further develop this offense with Tannehill. Second is the Titans went just 3-3 in one-score games, so there is no impending regression. The team made a ridiculous 47% of their field goals, and finished -33% in net field goal rate, both last in the NFL by far, with the latter being down 30% (from -3%) in 2018. This should regress to the benefit of the Titans.

Also, the Titans face my projected second-easiest schedule in 2020. The 2019 Titans were able to run the ball thanks to a positive game script against easy opponents and the second-easiest schedule of run defenses. In 2020, the Titans play the NFL's easiest schedule of run defenses.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Titans play the NFL's second-easiest schedule of opposing offenses. They face just three teams all season that ranked in the top-half of the NFL in offensive efficiency in 2019.

The Titans play a tough Week 1 road game in Denver on Monday night, but fortunately, follow up that short week of rest with a home game against the lowly Jaguars. They also host a Thursday night game and catch the Colts as Indy travels with a short week of preparation. The downsides of the schedule include late-season road games against the Ravens and Titans, but fortunately for the Titans, they have a mini-bye prior to facing Baltimore.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Ron Rivera (CAR HC) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:
Scott Turner (CAR OC) (new)
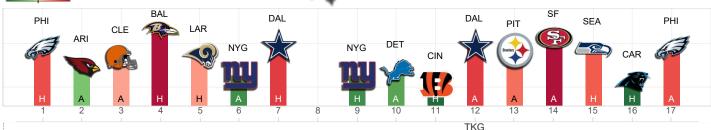**Defensive Coordinator**:
Jack Del Rio (OAK HC 2017) (new)

EASY   HARD

2020 Forecast

Wins	Div Rank
5.5	#4

Past Records

2019: 3-13
2018: 7-9
2017: 8-7-1

Schedule:
Wk	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	PHI	ARI	CLE	BAL	LAR	NYG	DAL		NYG	DET	CIN	DAL	PIT	SF	SEA	CAR	PHI
H/A	H	A	A	H	H	A	H		H	A	H	A	A	A	H	H	A

TKG

Key Players Lost

Player	New
Breon Borders (CB)	Steelers
Case Keenum (QB)	Browns
Chris Thompson (RB)	Jaguars
Colt McCoy (QB)	Giants
Ereck Flowers (LG)	Dolphins
Josh Norman (CB)	Bills
Michael Burton (FB)	Saints
Quinton Dunbar (CB)	Seahawks
Trent Williams (LT)	49ers
Treyvon Hester (34DE)	Packers
Chris Odom (34OLB)	Null
Coty Sensabaugh (CB)	Null
Dee Delaney (CB)	Null
Dominique Rodgers-Cromar..	Null
Donald Penn (LT)	Null
Jerome Cunningham (TE)	Null
Jordan Reed (TE)	Null
Josh Woodrum (QB)	Null
Tony Bergstrom (C)	Null
Vernon Davis (TE)	Null
Wendell Smallwood (RB)	Null

Average Line	# Games Favored	# Games Underdog
6.3	2	13

2020 Washington Redskins Overview

First-round rookie quarterbacks are as preciously delicate a commodity as the NFL has in their possession. The way in which a team handles that rookie's first NFL experience can build them up, tear them down, or destroy them.

The Redskins had that responsibility when it came to **Dwayne Haskins**, who they drafted 15th overall in the 2019 NFL draft.

What happened next isn't surprising, but nevertheless let's examine Washington's decision-making process.

We knew the Redskins were not going to have a great season. They were projected to finish last in the NFC East. They were projected to have a losing record. They were not even favored in any game until Week 6.

As 8.5-point road underdogs in Philadelphia Week 1, the Redskins almost won. They then narrowly lost to the Cowboys at home in Week 2 as 6.5-point underdogs. They sat at 0-4 heading into a game against the Patriots in Week 5 and, despite playing at home, the Redskins were 16.5-point underdogs. As the market tried to tell us, the game wouldn't be close. The Redskins were shellacked 33-7.

In his prior five seasons, Jay Gruden eclipsed eight wins just once and eclipsed third place in the NFC East just once. Despite the failings year after year, Dan Snyder continuously brought him back. Despite a massive loss to the Patriots, which everyone saw coming, especially Vegas, that was the impetus to fire Gruden? It was because the team lost all their games to start the season, as predicted, including being demolished by the Patriots, as predicted? But replacing him *before* the season, despite clear evidence over five full seasons that he wasn't producing a winning product, was too heavy a lift?

(cont'd - see WAS2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Kendall Fuller (CB)	$10
Wes Schweitzer (C)	$4.5
Sean Davis (S)	$4
Thomas Davis (43OLB)	$3.5
Logan Thomas (TE)	$3.10
Kevin Pierre-Louis (43OLB)	$3
Ronald Darby (CB)	$3
Cornelius Lucas (LT)	$1.89
J.D. McKissic (WR)	$1.60
Peyton Barber (RB)	$1.5
Cody Latimer (WR)	$1

Drafted Players

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	2	DE - Chase Young (Ohio State)
3	66	RB - Antonio Gibson (Memphis)
4	108	OT - Saahdiq Charles (LSU)
	142	WR - Antonio Gandy-Golden (Liberty)
5	156	C - Keith Ismael (San Diego State)
	162	OLB - Khaleke Hudson (Michigan)
7	216	SS - Kamren Curl (Arkansas)
	229	DE - James Smith-Williams (NC State)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2020 Wins	5.5
2019 Wins	3
Forecast 2019 Wins	6.5
2018 Wins	7
2017 Wins	7
2016 Wins	8

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Lineup & Cap Hits

FS S.Davis 36
SS L.Collins 21
LB T.Davis* NEW 58
LB J.Bostic 53
RCB R.Darby NEW 31
SLOTCB K.Fuller NEW 23
OLB M.Sweat 90
DL J.Allen 93
OLB R.Kerrigan* 91
DL C.Young Rookie 99
LCB F.Moreau 31

LWR T.McLaurin 17
SLOTWR T.Quinn 18
LT S.Charles Rookie 77
LG W.Schweitzer NEW 71
C C.Roullier 73
RG B.Scherff 75
RT M.Moses 76
TE J.Sprinkle 87
RWR K.Harmon 13

QB D.Haskins 7
RB A.Peterson* 26

WR2 Gandy-Golden Rookie 10
WR3 S.Sims 15
RB2 A.Gibson Rookie 24
QB2 K.Allen NEW 8

2020 Cap Dollars
* = 30+ years old

2020 Unit Spending

All OFF
All DEF

Positional Spending

	Rank	Total	2019 Rk
All OFF	28	$88.40M	4
QB	10	$24.86M	2
OL	21	$36.67M	17
RB	21	$8.07M	10
WR	30	$10.60M	29
TE	20	$8.20M	1
All DEF	12	$103.81M	27
DL	24	$35.56M	28
LB	9	$33.17M	14
CB	24	$12.99M	8
S	6	$22.09M	22

Jay Gruden was fired right after that Patriots game and right before he would have defeated the hapless Miami Dolphins. In his stead, the Redskins promoted offensive line coach Bill Callahan to interim head coach and he was credited with the win over the Dolphins.

After being fired, two days after the Redskins beat Miami, Gruden said he didn't believe Haskins was ready to play in the NFL: "He wasn't quite ready to step in and play in the first five games of the season, in my opinion. It will take some time for him. He only played 13 or 14 games as a college player. I think he's very raw, but he's very talented, and it will take some time with him. Just wasn't ready when I was there."

But that flies in the face of what they actually did with Haskins.

In Weeks 1 through 4, Gruden designated backup quarterback **Colt McCoy** as inactive each week. The only backup quarterback who was active behind starter **Case Keenum** was Haskins, a player Gruden didn't believe was ready to play. Why, if Haskins wasn't ready, would he not designate Haskins as inactive and allow the veteran McCoy to be the backup?

When you have a rookie quarterback, he's not going to get better just with film. During the week, a lame-duck coach like Gruden is not going to give him significant practice reps. He's going to devote all of the time and reps to his top quarterback in hopes of winning games and saving his job. And that's what happened here. McCoy and Haskins actually split backup reps many weeks of practice. As a result, Haskins wasn't getting any substantial work.

The target shifts when the coach is actually preparing a rookie backup quarterback to get his first action. The coach will give the rookie all the starters reps, integrate him with the 1's as best as possible in practice, so he's as prepared as possible to make his debut.

Fast forward to Week 4. Sitting at 0-3, in the first half against the Giants, Keenum threw one interception on his first 11 passes. Trailing 14-0, Gruden was so angry at Keenum, he benched their newly signed free agent starter. But he had no experienced quarterback to bring in because McCoy was inactive. And so, in the middle of the second quarter, Jay Gruden inserted Haskins into a game he'd be trailing 14-0, against a defense that had swarmed, harassed, sacked, and intercepted his starter (admittedly one of the only times that could have been said about the Giants defense last season).

It was ridiculous. Gruden knew Haskins wasn't ready to play in general (see his prior quote) and knew Haskins hadn't taken starters reps to prepare for this game because he split the backup reps with McCoy leading into the Giants game.

Mistake one was making McCoy inactive. Mistake two was pulling Keenum just to prove a point with him, like playing a game of chicken, when your next move is, unfortunately, to start what everyone hoped would be the future franchise quarterback without proper

preparation.

Haskins predictably was terrible and it was entirely on Gruden.

But he didn't learn from his mistakes. The very next week, Week 5, in what would become Gruden's last game as coach, Gruden listed his quarterbacks as such, setting up the possibility for the exact same mistake:

Starter: McCoy
Bench: Haskins
Inactive: Keenum

Gruden was fired after this Week 5 loss. In came Callahan and he returned to Keenum as the starter in Week 6 against the Dolphins. The replacement coach made the same mistakes as his predecessor.

2019 Passing Performance

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Dwayne Haskins	46% 8.3 76.3	45% 6.7 82.3	26% 5.3 68.5	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	42%	65%	87%	
NFL AVG	52% 7.6 93.7	45% 6.9 90.2	36% 7.2 87.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	79%	

2019 Rushing Performance

Offense	3rd Dwn	2nd Dwn	1st Dwn	
WAS	48% 4.9	46% 5.3	44% 4.0	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	58%	35%	13%	
NFL AVG	47% 4.3	48% 4.5	49% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	52%	40%	21%	

2019 Offensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Defensive Advanced Metrics

2019 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15	16	17
WEEK																	
RESULT	L	L	L	L	L	W	L	L	L		L	W	W	L	L	L	L
OPP	PHI	DAL	CHI	NYG	NE	MIA	SF	MIN	BUF		NYJ	DET	CAR	GB	PHI	NYG	DAL
SITE	A	H	H	A	H	A	H	A	A		H	H	A	A	H	H	A
MARGIN	-5	-10	-16	-21	-26	1	-9	-10	-15		-17	3	8	-5	-10	-6	-31
PTS	27	21	15	3	7	17	0	9	9		17	19	29	15	27	35	16
OPP PTS	32	31	31	24	33	16	9	19	24		34	16	21	20	37	41	47

EDSR by Wk
W=Green
L=Red

OFF/DEF
EDSR
Blue=OFF
(high=good)
Red=DEF
(low=good)

2019 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **3**
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-0**
FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)**
FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **67% (#1)**
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-3**
1 Score Games Win %: **50% (#14)**
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **100% (#1)**

2019 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats

TO Margin	+1
TO Given	21
INT Given	13
FUM Given	8
TO Taken	22
INT Taken	13
FUM Taken	9
Sack Margin	-3
Sacks	46
Sacks Allow	49
Return TD Margin	-2
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	3
Penalty Margin	-12
Penalties	106
Opponent Penalties	94

Washington Redskins 2020 Strength of Schedule In Detail (compared to 2019)

Ease for Offense (Avg Opp DEF Rank) | **Ease for Defense (Avg Opp OFF Rank)**

HARD / EASY — Average Opponent — RANK

Legend:
- 2019 Actual
- 2020 Forecast

Categories (Offense side): Total Efficiency, DEF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency DEF, YPPA Def, Explosive Pass DEF, Pass Pro Efficiency DEF, Rush Efficiency DEF, Explosive Rush DEF, RB Pass Eff DEF, Red Zone Blend DEF, YPPT Def, Third Down Conv DEF — *Passing* / *Rushing*

Categories (Defense side): OFF Efficiency, Pass Efficiency OFF, YPPA Off, Explosive Pass OFF, Pass Pro Efficiency OFF, Rush Efficiency OFF, Explosive Rush OFF, RB Pass Eff OFF, Red Zone Blend OFF, YPPT Off, Third Down Conv OFF — *Passing* / *Rushing*

2020 vs 2019 Schedule Variances*

Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk
28	28	27	32	10	8	5	4

* **1**=Hardest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much harder schedule in 2019), **32**=Easiest Jump in 2020 schedule from 2019 (aka a much easier schedule in 2020);
Pass Blend metric blends 4 metrics: Pass Efficiency, YPPA, Explosive Pass & Pass Rush; **Rush Blend** metric blends 3 metrics: Rush Efficiency, Explosive Rush & RB Targets

Team Records & Trends

	2019	2018	2017
Average line	7.1	2.8	1.2
Average O/U line	42.0	43.9	46.2
Straight Up Record	3-13	7-9	7-9
Against the Spread Record	6-10	9-7	7-9
Over/Under Record	8-8	7-9	7-8
ATS as Favorite	0-2	2-2	3-2
ATS as Underdog	6-7	6-5	4-6
Straight Up Home	1-7	3-5	5-3
ATS Home	2-6	4-4	4-4
Over/Under Home	5-3	4-4	3-5
ATS as Home Favorite	0-1	1-2	3-1
ATS as a Home Dog	2-4	2-2	1-3
Straight Up Away	2-6	4-4	2-6
ATS Away	4-4	5-3	3-5
Over/Under Away	3-5	3-5	4-3
ATS Away Favorite	0-1	1-0	0-1
ATS Away Dog	4-3	4-3	3-3
Six Point Teaser Record	10-5	10-6	9-6
Seven Point Teaser Record	11-5	10-6	10-6
Ten Point Teaser Record	12-4	11-5	11-5

WAS-3

In Weeks 6, 7, and 8, Callahan listed his quarterbacks as such:

Starter: Keenum
Backup: Haskins
Inactive: McCoy

That brings us to the Week 8 game against the Vikings. The Vikings with the fifth-best pass rush and seventh-best pass defense. The Vikings with Mike Zimmer.

Most importantly, the game against the Vikings was on the road on a Thursday night, which meant the Redskins had just two days of rest at home (Monday and Tuesday) before they had to travel to Minnesota and prepare for a short-week road game. It's the absolute worst type of game a team could have. Player preparation for these road teams is notoriously poor to begin with. Now in this unique situation, with hardly any starters reps let alone backup reps, and facing the insanely tough Vikings defense, Callahan should have set McCoy as the backup. But he did not.

2020 Rest Analysis

Team More Rest	4
Opp More Rest	1
Net Rest Edge	3
Week 2 Edge	0
Week 3 Edge	-3
Week 4 Edge	1
Week 5 Edge	0
Week 6 Edge	0
Week 7 Edge	1
Week 9 Edge	8
Week 10 Edge	0
Week 11 Edge	0
Week 12 Edge	0
Week 13 Edge	0
Week 14 Edge	1
Week 15 Edge	0
Week 16 Edge	0
Week 17 Edge	0

Health by Unit*

2019 Rk	31
2018 Rk	25
2019 v 2018 Rk	30
Off Rk	32
Def Rk	28
QB Rk	32
RB Rk	28
WR Rk	21
TE Rk	31
Oline Rk	16
Dline Rk	5
LB Rk	30
DB Rk	27

*Based on the work of Football Outsiders

2020 Weekly Betting Lines

Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Opp	PHI	ARI	CLE	BAL	LAR	NYG	DAL	NYG	DET	CIN	DAL	PIT	SF	SEA	CAR	PHI
Line	6	6.5	8.5	10	5	4.5	6.5	0	6	-2	11.5	10	14	6	-1.5	10
H/A	H	A	A	H	H	A	H	H	A	A	A	A	A	H		A

Avg = 6.3

Home Lines

1	4	5	7	9	11	15	16
6 PHI	10 BAL	5 LAR	6.5 DAL	0 NYG	-2 CIN	6 SEA	-1.5 CAR

Avg = 3.8

Road Lines

2	3	6	10	12	13	14	17
6.5 ARI	8.5 CLE	4.5 NYG	6 DET	11.5 DAL	10 PIT	14 SF	10 PHI

Avg = 8.9

Once again, if Keenum went down, the only quarterback available to go in was Haskins. And sure enough, against Zimmer's defense, Keenum went down and he went down hard. Keenum was diagnosed with a concussion that he sustained in the first half. So leading the Redskins out of the locker room, without any proper preparation, was the rookie, Dwayne Haskins.

Thrown to the wolves once more.

Haskins threw another interception, was sacked twice, and only attempted five passes in the entire second half. That was because, mercifully, the Vikings had a drive that effectively ate up almost all of the final nine minutes of the game.

But the playcalling when Haskins was in was ridiculous. Literally the Redskins final sequence: 1st and 10, run. 2nd and medium, run. 3rd and medium, predictable passing situation, on which Haskins was sacked. Why even make him active if you aren't going to prepare him nor call plays when he's out there to give him a chance to succeed?

But this was not on Haskins, nor the offensive coordinator. This was on Callahan for making the same dumb mistake that Gruden repeatedly made all season long.

Haskins was named the starter in Week 9, and through Week 16, the team was his. They lost to the NFL's No. 6 defense in Buffalo the next week and the No. 10 defense of the Jets after the bye week.

But then something interesting happened. Despite the 1-9 record, despite being thrown to the wolves multiple times, despite playing two top-10 defenses in his first two starts, despite playing with an extremely untalented group of skill players, the team responded and so did Haskins.

They beat the Lions in Week 12 and the Panthers in Week 13. They lost narrowly to the Packers in Week 14, by only five points. And in his final two starts of the season, against the Eagles and Giants, Haskins delivered:

31/43 (72%), 9.2 YPA, 394 yards, 4:0 TD:INT, 56% success, and 0.39 EPA/att

The Redskins operated almost exclusively from 11 personnel these two games: 39 attempts from 11 and just four from all other groupings combined.

On the season, Haskins struggled when passing from 3+ WR sets, although he

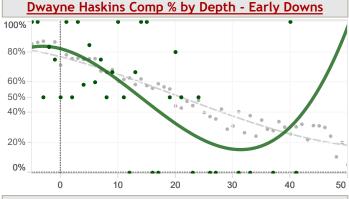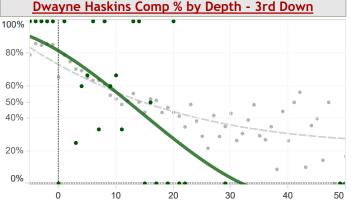## Division History: Season Wins & 2020 Projection

Rank of 2020 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

Rank of 2020 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Situational Usage by Player & Position

Usage Rate by Score

		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
RUSH	Adrian Peterson	18%	13%	65%	2%	1%
	Chris Thompson	46%	8%	41%	5%	
	Steven Sims Jr.	11%		89%		
	Derrius Guice	19%	12%	64%	2%	2%
	Paul Richardson					100%
	Wendell Smallwood	41%	14%	45%		
	Josh Ferguson			100%		
	Total	22%	12%	62%	2%	1%
PASS	Adrian Peterson	22%	22%	56%		
	Chris Thompson	35%	33%	29%	2%	2%
	Terry McLaurin	26%	17%	54%	2%	
	Steven Sims Jr.	44%	18%	38%		
	Derrius Guice	40%	20%	30%		10%
	Trey Quinn	26%	26%	44%	5%	
	Kelvin Harmon	38%	13%	50%		
	Paul Richardson	37%	11%	45%	8%	
	Jeremy Sprinkle	34%	6%	60%		
	Wendell Smallwood	38%	15%	46%		
	Vernon Davis	63%	5%	21%	11%	
	Total	34%	18%	45%	3%	1%

Share of Offensive Plays by Type

	Adrian Peterson	Chris Thompson	Terry McLaurin	Steven Sims Jr.	Derrius Guice	Trey Quinn	Kelvin Harmon	Paul Richardson	Jeremy Sprinkle	Wendell Smallwood	Vernon Davis	Josh Ferguson
RUSH	65%	11%		3%	13%			0%		7%		1%
PASS	5%	13%	21%	11%	3%	11%	10%	10%	9%	3%	5%	
ALL	32%	12%	11%	8%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	3%	0%

Dwayne Haskins Comp % by Depth - Early Downs

Dwayne Haskins Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Successful Play Rate 0% ▮▮▮▮▮ 100%

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-0 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	43%, -0.10 (431)	53%, -0.05 (38)	26%, -0.53 (34)	30%, -1.07 (10)	50%, 0.33 (2)	100%, 0.79 (1)	0%, -1.63 (3)	50%, -0.90 (2)	100%, 2.76 (1)	0%, 0.01 (1)	42%, -0.14 (523)
RUSH	42%, -0.15 (186)	45%, -0.05 (89)	44%, 0.22 (16)	45%, 0.01 (33)	47%, -0.29 (15)	44%, 0.17 (9)	29%, -0.05 (7)				43%, -0.09 (355)
All	42%, -0.11 (617)	47%, -0.05 (127)	32%, -0.29 (50)	42%, -0.24 (43)	47%, -0.22 (17)	50%, 0.23 (10)	20%, -0.53 (10)	50%, -0.90 (2)	100%, 2.76 (1)	0%, 0.01 (1)	42%, -0.12 (878)

Format   Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
RB	Chris Thompson	39% (51) 6.9, 0.10		29% (7) 3.7, -0.42		38% (58) 6.5, 0.04
	Adrian Peterson	53% (19) 6.4, -0.05	25% (4) 5.3, -0.13			48% (23) 6.2, -0.06
	Wendell Smallwood	64% (11) 6.2, 0.22		0% (1) 0.0, -0.67		58% (12) 5.7, 0.14
TE	Vernon Davis	35% (17) 6.4, -0.15	50% (2) 7.5, -2.81			37% (19) 6.5, -0.43
WR	Terry McLaurin	46% (28) 6.3, 0.16	64% (11) 13.1, 0.89	0% (3) 4.0, -0.39	25% (4) 1.5, -1.34	46% (46) 7.3, 0.17
	Trey Quinn	39% (41) 4.2, -0.50		60% (5) 3.6, 0.08		41% (46) 4.1, -0.43
	Paul Richardson	59% (37) 5.8, 0.18	50% (2) 9.0, -1.38	0% (1) 8.0, -0.16	0% (1) 0.0, -0.50	56% (41) 5.8, 0.08

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPA, EPA

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
(Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Peterson Adrian	44% (98) 3.9, -0.08	50% (66) 5.0, -0.05	42% (26) 4.2, 0.00	50% (6) 0.5, -0.80	46% (196) 4.2, -0.08
Guice Derrius	38% (24) 2.8, -0.24	67% (6) 17.3, 0.81	75% (4) 6.0, 0.24	67% (3) 0.7, 0.38	49% (37) 5.3, 0.03
Thompson Chris	40% (30) 3.6, -0.15	50% (2) 3.5, -0.54			41% (32) 3.6, -0.18
Smallwood Wendell	33% (6) 4.8, 0.07	0% (9) 1.7, -0.47	33% (3) 4.7, -0.16		17% (18) 3.2, -0.24
Keenum Case	67% (3) 4.0, -0.58	0% (2) 0.5, -0.69		33% (3) -0.3, -0.23	38% (8) 1.5, -0.48

Format   Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)   Line 2: YPC, EPA

Passing by Coverage Scheme

Zone	56% (190) 7.3, 0.08
M2M	39% (104) 4.6, -0.16
Screen	40% (43) 8.2, 0.24

Passing by Route

Curl	69% (68) 7.9, 0.34
Out	58% (48) 6.5, 0.00
Screen	38% (48) 7.2, 0.16
Flat	50% (42) 5.6, 0.00
Slant	47% (34) 7.1, 0.23
Dig	55% (29) 8.5, 0.35

Throw Types

Level 1	50% (290) 6.2, -0.03
Level 2	47% (53) 7.7, 0.15
Level 3	24% (25) 7.6, -0.02
Sidearm	60% (10) 8.6, 0.28
Shovel	0% (2) -0.5, -1.11

QB Drop Types

3 Step	48% (151) 6.1, -0.03
0/1 Step	53% (94) 5.1, -0.14
5 Step	37% (75) 6.7, -0.10
Basic Screen	40% (25) 8.5, 0.34
Designed Rollout Right	57% (14) 8.0, 0.51
7 Step	67% (12) 17.3, 0.83

QB State at Pass

Planted	49% (340) 7.2, 0.07
Shuffling	35% (69) 4.9, -0.19
Moving	44% (66) 6.1, -0.01

Play Action

	Play Action	No P/A
Under Center	53% (75) 11.8, 0.30	28% (29) 5.1, -0.49
Shotgun	44% (36) 5.0, -0.37	41% (385) 6.0, -0.18
ALL	50% (111) 9.5, 0.08	40% (414) 5.9, -0.20

Run Types

Inside Zone	54% (80) 6.2, 0.10
Outside Zone	35% (62) 3.6, -0.21
Power	44% (43) 4.3, 0.05
Lead	38% (21) 3.0, -0.19
Pitch	43% (14) 4.0, -0.12
Stretch	25% (12) 3.6, -0.15

WAS..

improved tremendously late. What hurt him most was protections from spread sets. Prior to those final two games of the season, with 3+ WRs, Haskins was sacked on 23 of 146 dropbacks (16%). With multiple tight ends or running backs and two or fewer wide receivers, Haskins was sacked on only 1 of 19 dropbacks (5%). But in those final two games, he was sacked on just 2 of 39 dropbacks with 3+ receivers on the field, for a 5% sack rate. He showed the ability to improve his protections.

The Redskins didn't help Haskins with the thing that helped him most, play-action. The NFL average for play-action usage on early downs in the game's first three quarters is 36%. The Redskins as a team used it only 32% of the time, which ranked 10th-lowest in the NFL. For Haskins, they used it only 31% of the time. But his splits were noticeable:

- With P/A: 10.0 YPA, 62% success, 0.11 EPA/att, 121 rating, 2:0 TD:INT
- W/O P/A: 6.0 YPA, 47% success, -0.07 EPA/att, 70 rating, 0:2 TD:INT

Haskins's results were also noticeably better when using pre-snap motion. Fortunately, the Redskins used it at above-average rates. His splits as a starter:

- With PSM: 7.4 YPA, 49% success, -0.01 EPA/att, 98 rating, 4:1 TD:INT
- W/O PSM: 6.5 YPA, 41% success, -0.15 EPA/att, 78 rating, 3:2 TD:INT

In good news, new offensive coordinator Scott Turner knows how to help quarterbacks, being a long-time quarterbacks coach in Carolina. He was heavily involved in game planning as the 2019 season evolved. His offense ranked fifth in play-action usage on early downs in the first three quarters, so that should immediately be an upgrade for Haskins. His offense also ranked sixth in pre-snap motion usage in the game's first three quarters.

Turner's QB room in Carolina last year experienced similar disruption as the Redskins'. Turner's offense made productive use of both the running back and tight end in the passing game, something that cannot be said for the Redskins last year. Such targets tend not to have high ceilings, but they are reliable with solid floors for quarterbacks, and both boost confidence as well as stay ahead of the chains.

The Redskins added multiple tight ends in free agency. They added **Peyton Barber at** running back and drafted the extremely versatile **Antonio Gibson** in the third-round, a running back/wide receiver hybrid from Memphis.

They are not going to wow with their skill position players, and it will be a challenge for Turner to replicate the success he had in Year 1 with Cam Newton when working with

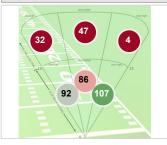# Washington Redskins 2019 Passing Recap & 2020 Outlook

With all of **Case Keenum**, **Dwayne Haskins**, and **Colt McCoy** making starts a year ago, Washington closed the season 26th in the league in successful play rate (42%), 32nd in missed yardage on successful play rate, 31st in EPA via passing offense, and 32nd in yards per passing play (5.3 yards). Washington selected Haskins with the 15th overall selection a year ago. The rookie struggled heavily, completing just 58.6% of his passes for 6.7 yards per pass attempt and the exact same touchdown rate (3.4%) as his interception rate. In hopes of making a year two jump, Haskins needs to improve his efficiency on third downs and taking sacks. On third downs, Haskins ranked 41st in completion rate (50%), 36th in first down per pass attempt rate (38.2%), and 43rd in sack rate (20.6%) out of 43 qualified passers. He took a sack on 11.8% of his dropbacks overall, which was the third-highest rate in the league. Keenum took a sack on just 5.6% of his dropbacks.

Target Distribution

Positve Play %

2019 Standard Passing Table

QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Case Keenum	160	248	65%	1,707	6.9	11	5	15	91	21
Dwayne Haskins	119	203	59%	1,365	6.7	7	7	28	76	43
NFL Avg			62%		6.9				85.1	

2019 Advanced Passing Table

QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %
Dwayne Haskins	39%	46%	19	9.0%	6	3.0%	6.2	5.3	8	4%
Case Keenum	46%	52%	18	7.0%	7	3.0%	5.6	4.7	8	3%
NFL Avg	44%	48%	31.1	8.9%	12.6	3.6%	6.1	5.1	14.7	4%

Dwayne Haskins Rating Early Downs

Interception Rates by Down

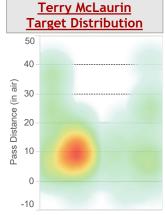| Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	8.3%	5.0%	0.0%	5.9%
6 - 9		3.3%	4.8%	0.0%	3.8%
10 - 14	5.1%	0.0%	0.0%		2.8%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Total	**4.2%**	**2.4%**	**2.7%**	**0.0%**	**3.0%**

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. YIA (of Comp)	Avg Yds Short	Short of Sticks Rate	Short Rk
Dwayne Haskins	9.4	6.2	-3.2	71%	22
NFL Avg	9.0	5.9	-3.1	70%	

Air Yds vs YAC

Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
54%	46%	17
53%	47%	

2019 Receiving Recap & 2020 Outlook

Given their roster and quarterback play, it is not surprising to see Washington check in at 25th in yards per attempt (7.2 yards) and 23rd in success rate (49%) on throws to their wide receivers. But there is potential here as Washington's top three wideouts were all 2019 rookies. The team appeared to hit a home run on **Terry McLaurin** in the third round (76th overall). As a rookie, McLaurin caught 58-of-93 targets for 919 yards (15.8 Y/R) and seven touchdowns. Undrafted rookie **Steven Sims** had a 34-310-4 line in the passing game, with 20-230-4 over the final four games. The same is true for sixth-round pick **Kelvin Harmon**. Harmon had 22 catches for 290 yards over the final seven games after just eight receptions for 75 yards prior.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Terry McLaurin	93	62%	9.9	115.8	57%	30	43	9	122	4
Chris Thompson	58	72%	6.5	89.6	38%	131	133	124	78	0
Steven Sims Jr.	56	61%	5.5	92.1	32%	137	137	81	126	3

Terry McLaurin Target Distribution

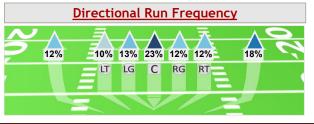

Steven Sims Target Distribution

2019 Rushing Recap & 2020 Outlook

Washington closed 2019 ranking 27th in success rate (44%), 21st in EPA via rushing, and 14th in yards per carry (4.4 yards) on the ground. 34-year-old **Adrian Peterson** paced the team with 211 carries while the next highest player on the team in attempts was **Derrius Guice**, with 42 carries. With Guice having appeared now in just five games over the past two seasons, Washington retained Peterson, while adding **Peyton Barber** and **J.D. McKissic** via free agency this offseason and could get last year's seventh-round pick **Bryce Love** back into the fold. The team also went out and drafted **Antonio Gibson** in the third round (66th overall), creating a crowded room competing for touches and roster spots this summer. Guice, Peterson, and Gibson are virtual locks for roster spots, with Barber, Love, and McKissic fighting to fill out the depth chart.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % Rk	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Adrian Peterson	211	4.3	47%	42	18	40	43	47%	39	5

Yards per Carry by Direction

2.9	4.7	5.0	4.8	4.2	3.7	4.7
	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	

Directional Run Frequency

12%	10%	13%	23%	12%	12%	18%
	LT	LG	C	RG	RT	

Be Aggressive on Terry McLaurin

One of the few bright spots for Washington last season was the emergence of third-round pick Terry McLaurin. McLaurin started immediately to open the season, catching five passes for 125 yards and a touchdown in his first NFL game. He picked up an early-season hamstring injury that cost him a game, but McLaurin was on fire to open the season, catching 23-of-38 passes for 408 yards and five touchdowns over his first five games of the season. Then he hit a wall, catching 19-of-34 targets for 238 yards and zero scores over his next six games as the team began transitioning to rookie quarterback Dwayne Haskins. It took awhile for Haskins to show some signs of life, but over the final three games of the season for McLaurin, he caught 16-of-21 targets for 273 yards and two touchdowns from Haskins before missing Week 17 with a concussion.

All in all, McLaurin closed his season as the WR30 in PPR points per game. Averaging 22.9% of the team targets per game, that mark would have ranked 14th at the position over a full season. McLaurin still comes with quarterback concerns overall that will keep his price in check, but with one the league's most locked-in targets shares, and a stellar rookie season in which he averaged 15.8 yards per catch, he still is potentially being undervalued.

Is there anyone else in Washington to take a shot on?

Outside of McLaurin, the Washington offense is less than desirable, but because their offense is so young outside of Adrian Peterson, and ambiguous after McLaurin, there are some cheaper fantasy options that still may have something to say at the end of the day for fantasy.

Undrafted rookie Steven Sims totaled 1,240 all-purpose yards. Sims came on late in the season as a receiver, with 20-230-4 over the final four games on 27.7% of the team's targets. One of those games was without McLaurin active and Sims averaged just 9.1 yards per reception on the season, so the floor is low here if that touchdown success does not hold up. But all of the floors here are priced in for this offense outside of McLaurin.

Derrius Guice has rolled snake eyes in each of his first two NFL seasons, but did average 6.6 yards per touch in his limited sample when he finally got on the field for his first NFL action a year ago. Guice ran for 171 yards on his final 12 carries last season before once again losing time.

The real fantasy appeal here may just be rookie Antonio Gibson. Gibson had 1,104 yards from scrimmage this past season at Memphis… on 71 touches. He averaged 19.3 yards per catch on 38 receptions (with eight scores) and another 11.2 yards per carry on 33 rushing attempts (four scores). He also is a stellar return man who averaged 28.0 yards (and one score) on 23 kickoff returns. At 6'0", 228 pounds, Gibson ran a 4.39 40. A do-it-all offensive weapon, Gibson could end up being a "master of none" fantasy option, but with running back positional eligibility over wide receiver eligibility, that gives him more cushion to be viable as a deeper target while Washington is starving for playmakers offensively.

Washington Redskins Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel

Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total
1-1 [3WR]	9 plays (3%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.39	291 plays (85%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.17	29 plays (9%) Success: 34% EPA: 0.13	12 plays (4%) Success: 17% EPA: -0.13	341 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.16
1-2 [2WR]	63 plays (61%) Success: 51% EPA: 0.15	37 plays (36%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.12	3 plays (3%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.44	1 plays (1%) Success: 100% EPA: 4.08	104 plays (100%) Success: 51% EPA: 0.19
2-1 [2WR]	29 plays (49%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.06	29 plays (49%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.16		1 plays (2%) Success: 0% EPA: -1.28	59 plays (100%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.07
2-2 [1WR]	6 plays (100%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.31				6 plays (100%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.31
Grand Total	107 plays (21%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.12	357 plays (70%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.14	32 plays (6%) Success: 38% EPA: 0.16	14 plays (3%) Success: 21% EPA: 0.09	510 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.13

Def Tendencies

	%	Rk
Base	33%	5
Nickel	58%	16
Dime+	6%	19
Rush 3	18%	3
Rush 4	58%	25
Rush 5	18%	20
Rush 6+	5%	16
Blitz%	23%	20

Surrendered +Success Map

Defensive Outlook

Washington is pretty set with the interior defensive line. High draft picks were used on **Da'Ron Payne** and **Jonathan Allen**, who have turned into good players, but arguably the best of the bunch has been 2016 fifth-round pick **Matt Ioannidis**. Ioannidis has turned into one of the most disruptive interior defenders against the pass. He was ninth last season among interior defenders in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and has 44 quarterback hits over the past three seasons.

Montez Sweat came on during the second half of the season as Washington's 2019 first-round pick. They invested even more at edge and drafted Chase Young with the second overall pick. **Ryan Kerrigan** remains an underrated edge rusher, though he'll turn 32 years old in August, and will now be the No. 3 option in this group.

Thomas Davis isn't the coverage linebacker he used to be at 37 years old but was still a solid tackler with the Chargers last season. **Cole Holcomb** was also a tackle machine as a fifth-round rookie but was a liability in coverage. The coverage can be handled by **Kevin Pierre-Louis**, who was solid there with the Bears last season. Another fifth-round pick was used on Michigan's **Khaleke Hudson**. Under Ron Rivera, the Panthers used nickel on 65% of their snaps last season with just two linebackers on the field.

There's a lot of unknown at cornerback and the known isn't that great. **Fabien Moreau** and **Jimmy Moreland** both played well on a per coverage snap basis last season, though they had the benefit of opposing offenses picking on **Josh Norman** so often. Of course, to replace Norman, Washington signed **Ronald Darby** who was the only corner to be worse than Norman by Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap among 92 corners with at least 300 coverage snaps in 2019. Former Redskin **Kendall Fuller** returns after getting his best play as a slot/safety hybrid through the Chiefs' Super Bowl run last season.

At safety, **Landon Collins** continued being Landon Collins after his big free agent signing last season. He was stretched a bit in coverage without much help around him in the back end of the secondary. That help still really isn't here. Washington signed **Sean Davis**, who only played one game last season with the Steelers due to an ankle injury. He was a solid starter as a deep safety for Pittsburgh in 2018. It wouldn't be surprising to see Kendall Fuller continue to work as a safety to add depth here.

2019 Play Tendencies

All Pass %	60%
All Pass Rk	16
All Rush %	40%
All Rush Rk	17
1 Score Pass %	55%
1 Score Pass Rk	25
2018 1 Score Pass %	55%
2018 1 Score Pass Rk	26
2019 Pass Increase %	0%
Pass Increase Rk	20
1 Score Rush %	45%
1 Score Rush Rk	8
Up Pass %	50%
Up Pass Rk	21
Up Rush %	50%
Up Rush Rk	12
Down Pass %	64%
Down Pass Rk	21
Down Rush %	36%
Down Rush Rk	12

2019 Down & Distance Tendencies

Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	50%
	Med (4-7)	4	25%	75%	50%
	Long (8-10)	263	33%	67%	45%
	XL (11+)	18	78%	22%	22%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	24	25%	75%	63%
	Med (4-7)	78	67%	33%	56%
	Long (8-10)	84	62%	38%	46%
	XL (11+)	41	90%	10%	32%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	33	76%	24%	48%
	Med (4-7)	41	90%	10%	27%
	Long (8-10)	32	94%	6%	25%
	XL (11+)	26	100%	0%	15%
4th Dwn	Short (1-3)	1	0%	100%	0%
	Med (4-7)	4	100%	0%	25%

Shotgun %:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	40%	60%

37% AVG 63%

Run Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	71%	21%

68% AVG 23%

Pass Rate:

	Under Center	Shotgun
	29%	79%

32% AVG 77%

Washington Redskins 2019 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run

Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
75%	6	66%	56%	73%

2nd and Short Pass

Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
25%	27	34%	83%	63%

Most Frequent Play

Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Adrian Peterson	3	67%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Adrian Peterson	3	67%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Adrian Peterson	125	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Steven Sims Jr.	2	0%
			Paul Richardson	2	50%
			Vernon Davis	2	0%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Adrian Peterson	11	64%
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Adrian Peterson	19	63%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Adrian Peterson	12	33%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Terry McLaurin	5	40%
			Steven Sims Jr.	5	0%
			Trey Quinn	5	0%
3rd Dwn	Short (1-3)	PASS	Trey Quinn	5	20%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Steven Sims Jr.	4	25%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Steven Sims Jr.	6	33%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Play Action (Y/N)

Pre-Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 42% YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 83.9 [Att: 273 - Rate: 52.0%]	Success: 56% YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.19 Rtg: 97.9 [Att: 52 - Rate: 9.9%]	Success: 44% YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.09 Rtg: 86.2 [Att: 325 - Rate: 61.9%]
Yes	Success: 36% YPA: 4.7, EPA: -0.32 Rtg: 68.1 [Att: 141 - Rate: 26.9%]	Success: 46% YPA: 9.7, EPA: -0.01 Rtg: 115.1 [Att: 59 - Rate: 11.2%]	Success: 39% YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.23 Rtg: 82.2 [Att: 200 - Rate: 38.1%]
Total	Success: 40% YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.20 Rtg: 78.6 [Att: 414 - Rate: 78.9%]	Success: 50% YPA: 9.5, EPA: 0.08 Rtg: 107.0 [Att: 111 - Rate: 21.1%]	Success: 42% YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.14 Rtg: 84.7 [Att: 525 - Rate: 100.0%]

2019 Weekly Snap Rates

Wk	Opp	Score	Terry McLaurin	Jeremy Sprinkle	Kelvin Harmon	Trey Quinn	Paul Richardson	Chris Thompson	Steven Sims Jr.	Vernon Davis
1	PHI	L 32-27	62 (93%)	14 (21%)	15 (22%)	65 (97%)	52 (78%)	43 (64%)	5 (7%)	55 (82%)
2	DAL	L 31-21	56 (90%)	22 (35%)	6 (10%)	49 (79%)	54 (87%)	28 (45%)	5 (8%)	46 (74%)
3	CHI	L 31-15	70 (89%)	38 (48%)	10 (13%)	59 (75%)	67 (85%)	40 (51%)	7 (9%)	56 (71%)
4	NYG	L 24-3		21 (41%)	29 (57%)	39 (76%)	45 (88%)	27 (53%)	5 (10%)	38 (75%)
5	NE	L 33-7	56 (95%)	27 (46%)	6 (10%)	45 (76%)	51 (86%)	32 (54%)	32 (54%)	
6	MIA	W 17-16	57 (97%)	54 (92%)	12 (20%)	31 (53%)	35 (59%)	13 (22%)	5 (8%)	
7	SF	L 9-0	47 (98%)	38 (79%)	9 (19%)	29 (60%)	36 (75%)		6 (13%)	
8	MIN	L 19-9	40 (93%)	33 (77%)	11 (26%)	24 (56%)	33 (77%)		1 (2%)	
9	BUF	L 24-9	51 (100%)	38 (75%)	25 (49%)	31 (61%)	24 (47%)		3 (6%)	
11	NYJ	L 34-17	62 (91%)	50 (74%)	63 (93%)	41 (60%)			9 (13%)	
12	DET	W 19-16	59 (98%)	51 (85%)	38 (63%)	22 (37%)	15 (25%)		24 (40%)	
13	CAR	W 29-21	55 (86%)	49 (77%)	54 (84%)	7 (11%)		23 (36%)	37 (58%)	
14	GB	L 20-15	61 (94%)	49 (75%)	55 (85%)			26 (40%)	46 (71%)	
15	PHI	L 37-27	47 (89%)	43 (81%)	44 (83%)			18 (34%)	37 (70%)	
16	NYG	L 41-35	61 (87%)	45 (64%)	60 (86%)			37 (53%)	53 (76%)	
17	DAL	L 47-16		42 (68%)	56 (90%)			30 (48%)	39 (63%)	
	Grand Total		784 (93%)	614 (65%)	493 (51%)	442 (62%)	412 (71%)	317 (45%)	314 (32%)	195 (75%)

Personnel Groupings

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	70%	60%	42%
1-2 [2WR]	14%	20%	47%
1-0 [4WR]	6%	3%	32%
2-1 [2WR]	5%	8%	42%

Grouping Tendencies

Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	70%	43%	42%
1-2 [2WR]	30%	53%	45%
1-0 [4WR]	68%	26%	44%
2-1 [2WR]	23%	30%	45%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard

Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Terry McLaurin	13	3	4	6
Steven Sims Jr.	8	1	5	2
Chris Thompson	5		1	4
Kelvin Harmon	5	1	1	3
Trey Quinn	5	2	1	2
Hale Hentges	4		1	3
Jeremy Sprinkle	4	3	1	
Wendell Smallwood	4			4

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Adrian Peterson	24	7	4	13
Derrius Guice	7	3		4
Chris Thompson	6	2	2	2
Case Keenum	4	2		2
Dwayne Haskins	2	1		1
Wendell Smallwood	2			2
Steven Sims Jr.	1			1

Early Down Target Rate

RB	TE	WR
23%	15%	62%
23%	*21%*	*56%*
	NFL AVG	

Overall Target Success %

RB	TE	WR
43%	48%	49%
#19	#24	#23

Offensive Efficiency & Tendency Research

#	Metric	Value
01	Games w Halftime Lead	4
02	Avg Halftime Lead	-5.0
03	Wins	3
04	1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	27
05	1H Offensive Efficiency	28
06	1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	23
07	1H 3rd Down Conversions	30
08	1H Explosive Play Rate	24
09	1H Early Down Pass Rate	29
10	1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	26
11	1H Early Down Run Efficiency	16
12	1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	31
13	1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	21
14	PSM Usage Q1-3	8
15	PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	12
16	PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	31
17	PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	31
18	PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	28
19	PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	8
20	PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	29
21	PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	27
22	PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	23
23	PA Improvement Success	9
24	PA Improvement YPA	5
25	PA Improvement Rating	11
26	% Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	5
27	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	13
28	% Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	15
29	Success on runs into 7-man boxes	24
30	% Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	29
31	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	18
32	Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	2
33	Run Rate into 7 Man Box	15
34	Run Rate into 6- Man Box	21
35	Total Defensive Efficiency	24

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

#	Metric	Value
36	PSM YPA	6.1
37	PSM Target Depth	7.1
38	Non-PSM YPA	6.8
39	Non-PSM Target Depth	8.5
40	PSM Pass Success Rate	43%
41	Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%
42	PSM Rating	74.7
43	Non-PSM Rating	75.8

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

#	Metric	Value
44	PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	32%
45	PA Success Rate	60%
46	PA YPA	10.2
47	PA Sack Rate	8.8%
48	PA Rating	100.1
49	PA Target Depth	10.9
50	Non-PA Success Rate	50%
51	Non-PA YPA	6.3
52	Non-PA Sack Rate	7.6%
53	Non-PA Rating	78.9
54	Non-PA Target Depth	7.4

Men In Box

#	Metric	Value
55	% of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
56	Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
57	YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3
58	% of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	44%
59	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	44%
60	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.1
61	% of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	22%
62	Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	46%
63	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
Net FROE Rk	15	defFUM	23
Net FROE	0.1	defFUM Rcvrd	9
offFUM	21	defFR Rk	25
offFUM Rcvrd	13	defFR%	39.1%
offFR%	61.9%	defFROE	-1.7
offFR Rk	6	defFROE Rk	25
offFROE	1.8		
offFROE Rk	6		

Field Goal Luck

Metric	Value	Metric	Value
2019 FG %	83%	YOY Swing	-9%
2019 FG Rk	14	YOY Swing Rk	24
Opp 2019 FG %	83%	2018 Team Net	9%
Opp 2019 FG Rk	14	2018 Net Rk	5
2019 Team Net	0%		
2019 Net Rk	16		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

	Case Keenum	Dwayne Haskins
CAY	5.5	6.4
CAY Rk	25	12
2018 CAY Rk	23	
AYTS Rk	30	16
2018 AYTS Rk	27	
AGG Rk	15	2
2018 AGG Rk	18	
COMP%	64.8	58.6
xCOMP%	65.2	63.2
xCOMP% Rk	14	25
2018 xCOMP% Rk	23	
CPOE%	-0.4	-4.6
CPOE Rk	18	37
2018 CPOE Rk	31	

CAY: Completed Air Yards **AYTS**: Air Yards to the Sticks **AGG**: Aggressiveness **xCOMP**: Expected completion percentage **CPOE**: Actual completion percentage over expectation

QB Pressure

	Case Keenum	Dwayne Haskins
Pressure %	35	35.9
Pressure Rk	21	16
Sack %	16.1	33
Sack Rk	24	2
Under Pressure Accuracy %	61.5	56.5
Pressure Accuracy Rk	22	34
Rating when Pressured	64.4	58.9
Pressured Rating Rk	19	27
Clean Accuracy %	79.3	72.4
Clean Accuracy Rk	17	38
Rating when Clean	103.7	81.8
Clean Rating Rk	16	39
Time to Throw	2.75	2.87
Time to Throw Rk	26	9

Offensive Metrics

Metric	Value
EPA/Pass	-0.16
EPA/Pass Rk	30
EPA/Rush	-0.06
EPA/Rush Rk	19
On-Target Catch %	84.7
On-Target Catch Rk	20
Drop%	9.7
Drop Rk	27
YAC/Att	2.7
YAC/Att Rk	4
Rush Broken Tackle %	17.1
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	12
Rush 1st Down %	20.5
Rush 1st Down Rk	26

Washington Redskins 2019 Offensive Passing Tendencies

Dwayne Haskins in Year 1. That said, we know that Haskins was in a ridiculous situation last year as a rookie and we know second-year quarterbacks tend to take a nice step forward. Most don't have the tumult of a new offensive coordinator which Haskins will have, but in his case, it's an upgrade in system and QB friendliness, which should make for positive returns.

The Redskins play the eighth-toughest schedule in 2020 after tangling with the 10th-toughest in 2019. If there's anything good about the Redskins' schedule it is that it's defined by three sections.

The first section is Week 1 to the Week 8 bye. In that span, they play four teams projected to record at least 8.5 wins and every single one of those games is home in DC (Eagles, Ravens, Rams, and Cowboys). Tough opponents, but at least the Redskins catch them at home.

After that, the second section is the bye followed by the easiest stretch of their season: home games against the Giants and Bengals, and then a trip to the Lions.

But from Week 12 onward, it is brutal. Only three teams play a more difficult schedule to close the season. It begins with a short week road game in Dallas on Thanksgiving, the first of three consecutive road games. They close the season by taking on two perirenal playoff teams (Seahawks and Eagles) along with the Panthers, new head coach Ron Rivera's former team.

The Redskins are fortunate to be taking on three opponents on short rest road games. Week 4 they host the Ravens who are off a Monday night game against the Chiefs. Week 7 they take on the Cowboys, off a Monday night game against the Cardinals. And Week 9 they host the Giants, who are off a Monday night game against the Buccaneers.

In good news for Haskins, Washington also shifts from playing the NFL's 13th toughest schedule of pass defenses to the sixth-easiest in 2020. They shift from facing the NFL's 10th-toughest schedule of defenses to facing the 21st toughest schedule. In 2019 they went 3-2 against defenses ranking outside the top-20 but 0-11 against top-20 defenses. In 2020 they project to play seven games against defenses ranking outside the top-20.

The bad news for the 2020 Redskins when looking back at 2019 is they won just three games and all were by one-score, so they weren't victims of bad luck and variance. In fact, they went 3-3 in one-score games, thus no positive regression can be anticipated in that department.

In the turnover department, the Redskins were somehow +1 on the season, so they weren't victims of losing a lot of games due to self-inflicted turnover errors that can be cleaned up in 2020. They also ranked 15th in fumble luck and 16th in field goal luck. A true middle-of-the-road team in the luck department. And yet they won only three games. That's bad.

What also is bad is the Redskins' injury history. In the summer before the 2019 season, I wrote: "The last five years, no team has lost more players to injury than the Redskins. Their games lost to injury is 44% above average." They were off of ranking dead last in games lost to injury in 2018. In 2019, somehow they were STILL abhorrent. They ranked 31st in games lost to injury in 2019.

In 2020, the Redskins fired team president Bruce Allen and head athletic trainer Larry Hess. Rivera hired Panthers head trainer Ryan Vermillion and announced renowned physical therapist Dr. Kevin Wilk would be the team's new medical consultant. These changes could be just what the Redskins need to avoid playing replacements so often.

Also from a positive perspective, the new coaching blood being injected into the franchise will be welcomed. Ron Rivera brings a completely different command and presence than did Jay Gruden. Scott Turner will incorporate more QB-friendly things into the game for Haskins which also are +EV offensive adaptations he was not using enough last season.