

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

The Fastest Way to Get Smart for the 2021 Pro Football Season

BY WARREN SHARP

TEAM PREVIEWS | SEASON PREDICTIONS | FANTASY FOOTBALL VEGAS ODDS | OVER 2,500 HEAT MAPS & DATA VISUALIZATIONS COACHING STRATEGY & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Best & Most Accurate NFL Totals for 15 Years

61% Lifetime Record

Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season:

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 All-Access Package

Everything we offer for the best in Betting, Props, Fantasy & DFS

Early Bird Sale Saves BIG but Ends Soon

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

<u>Lifetime NFL Record</u>

Totals: 557-353 (61%)

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

Lifetime All Releases: 1421-1034 (58%)

Lifetime NFL Playoffs Record: 147-88 (63%)

Lifetime Super Bowl Record: 25-10 (71%)



Respected Analysis
Line Value
Transparent Record Keeping
NFL's Most Consistent Results



2021 Football Preview

By: Warren Sharp @SharpFootball

of

SharpFootballAnalysis.com SharpFootballStats.com sharp@sharpfootballanalysis.com

> Dan Pizzuta Executive Editor

> > Also featuring:

Fantasy Analysis from Sharp Football's Fantasy Expert Rich Hribar

Defensive Analysis from Dan Pizzuta

Betting Analysis from TA Cleveland

Unit Ranking and Rookie Draft Class Analysis from Ryan McCrystal

COLUMNS

- 05 FOREWORD
- 09 PLAYING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC
- 13 ALL ABOUT THAT SPACE
- 17 EFFICIENCY TABLES
- 29 2021 FANTASY PPR CHEAT SHEET

DEDICATION

- TO my wife & children, you are and always will be inspiring
- TO the friends I've made in front offices and on coaching staffs make this year your best
- TO the loyal fans who have been there since day one and to everyone who helps spread the word about this book thank you!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO Dan Pizzuta for editing every word of this book – rest your eyes, thank you and TO Rich Hribar, TA & Ryan McCrystal – thank you for everything

TEAM CHAPTERS

30 LAYOUT AND DEFINITIONS

31 CHAPTERS

- 31 ARIZONA CARDINALS
- 44 ATLANTA FALCONS
- **58 BALTIMORE RAVENS**
- 71 BUFFALO BILLS
- **84 CAROLINA PANTHERS**
- 97 CHICAGO BEARS
- 110 CINCINNATTI BENGALS
- 123 CLEVELAND BROWNS
- 136 DALLAS COWBOYS
- 149 DENVER BRONCOS
- 163 DETROIT LIONS
- 177 GREEN BAY PACKERS
- 191 HOUSTON TEXANS
- 204 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
- 217 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
- 230 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
- 244 LOS ANGELES CHARGERS
- 258 LOS ANGELES RAMS
- 271 LAS VEGAS RAIDERS
- 285 MIAMI DOLPHINS
- 299 MINNESOTA VIKINGS
- 312 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
- 326 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
- 340 NEW YORK GIANTS
- 354 NEW YORK JETS
- 366 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
- 381 PITTSBURGH STEELERS
- 395 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
- **409 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**
- **423 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS**
- 435 TENNESSEE TITANS
- 449 WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM

Foreword

I love what I do.

I'm fortunate to do what I do. It hasn't come easy. But that makes it more meaningful.

Today, I'm a writer. I'm almost done with what takes me months to do every spring and summer, building and writing this book. I say "building" because it truly is built, and I'm the one buying the supplies, mixing the cement, laying the bricks and creating everything. It's important to me to stay completely hands on in this process.

I get assists from a few experts in their fields. In addition to my ace editor Dan Pizzuta doing the editing and defensive capsules, I've got the hardest working fantasy expert in the biz, Rich Hribar, covering all the fantasy elements. I enlisted TA to write betting capsules and Ryan McCrystal to write team positional unit rankings as well as draft evaluation capsules. After all, Ryan is a top-5 accurate mock drafter over the last five years.

But every graphic, every visualization, every word in the 13+ page narrative and the assembly of every single page in the book? I need to do it because I want to study it as I create it. It takes months, from March through early July. It takes long nights. I literally haven't hit the pillow until 3am but for one night while working on this book, and that was after I pulled an all-nighter the night before.

I love it. Yes, I'm a workaholic and no, it's not healthy, but I love the process. When you fall in love with a process, the work itself doesn't seem so bad.

Today, I'm a writer. Tonight, I'll be a builder, assembling this book further.

Yesterday, I was a consultant, pulling research together to present to a head coach and his offensive coordinator. I love that job too. For years now, I've worked as a private consultant for NFL teams. I'm proud to say not a year has gone by since I started that I wasn't working into the playoffs for at least one of these teams. I don't treat the playoffs any more seriously than the regular season, but it's certainly more challenging and the stakes are obviously much higher. I'm fortunate to have ties to many offensive coordinators around the league and talk to each of them in the offseason, even those I'm not employed by, and occasionally during the season. As long as you're comfortable having your name changed to "bro," you can't beat talking ball for hours and strategizing with successful playcallers who have reached the pinnacle of their profession.

But the one job that never I can never compartmentalize, that I can never take time off from, because it has no on/off button and never sits idle, is the job of a bettor. This isn't like Wall Street, where the markets close on the weekend or from the late afternoon through the next morning. It's 24/7/365. Linemakers put up numbers and it's my job to spot the inaccuracies when they're wrong and make them pay (literally).

Even before I got my degree in civil engineering and before I got my license as a professional engineer, I was a bettor. I wasn't a professional, and you could say I was throwing around money in college like 99.9% of other college bettors did back in the day. I was average. Like everything I do, I wanted to get better every single day. So I invested the most precious commodity we have on Earth in it. Time. Lots and lots of time, until I got really good.

You may have heard the story, but if you haven't, after years of working on a computer model, studying every metric and data point I could get my hands on, and watching every possible second of games, I began backing my opinions with my own bankroll while conversing on gambling message boards and sharing my opinions publicly.

After several seasons delivering consistently outstanding results, reps from a Vegas-based betting syndicate contacted me. We arranged for a sit down and came to an agreement for me to work on their

behalf. Despite them seeing my results for several years and tracking me down, they still were not betting large sums of money on my recommendations until they saw my success firsthand. They didn't start going in heavy on my betting advice the first year, the second year, or the third year. It wasn't until the fourth year and that was only after really providing solid, consistent results from both win-loss and a line value perspective.

I started working with them over a decade ago. In the time since, several things have changed.

- 1. It's been harder to come by outs as sportsbooks are more scared than ever of successful bettors.
- 2. Not a day goes by now when a bet on one of my totals doesn't move the entire betting market. We'll always be fighting the sportsbooks for limits, but we aren't fighting them to win. Not on my NFL. We win every year. It's not a fair fight anymore. Our main battle is with other betting syndicate groups that likewise are betting large amounts on games. We have to beat them to numbers. That's the compelling fight now. It's a certainty we will beat the books. We did it last year, the decade before that and we'll do it this year too. It's still challenging, but it is fun to win money betting on the NFL.
- 3. Most obvious to anyone else, betting is legalized (as well it should be) and there is more mainstream coverage than ever before. This is both a good and bad thing. It's good because it was deserved and needed to happen. If states wanted to have legalized sports betting, they should have been able to long ago. PASPA was nonsense and patently unfair. I'm glad that by 2023, 70% of adults in this country will legally be allowed to bet. That's a big win.

The problem is that now most media companies are trying to build a line of "betting content" and you're hearing voices and advice from people who have zero business being "betting experts." The first sign to take caution about what you are hearing, be it in the form of a TV show, segment, podcast, or article: if the company or individual espousing the advice just got into the betting space in the last few years.

It's a money grab. I don't hate the hustle, but let's not make it out to be something that it's not. You could make money betting five, ten, fifteen, twenty years ago. You could cover betting during that time too, and you would have, if you could actually generate +EV content that wins long term. If all of a sudden you want to start covering sports betting and doing so with people that have no track record of actual sports betting history (let alone success), it's easy to see the agenda.

All I'll advise is to keep the source in mind when it comes to the betting content you consume and consider the ultimate agenda of the source you're getting the content from. That should drive your decision to listen, let alone following through by placing a bet. I see a lot of these companies struggling to figure out the nature of their betting content, changing strategies on the fly, and I expect we'll see that continue for several more years.

We're not done seeing the space evolve. It's come a long way in the 20 years I've been in it. It's evolved even further in the last decade when I've been at the forefront of it for the NFL. I love it, but there will never be an end to people with no proven track record sharing opinions without grading them and trying to convince you they are more than they are. That was here decades ago and will always be part of this space. I'm fortunate that when people think of influential NFL betting content, they think of Sharp Football Analysis. But that's come from years and years of proving myself. And like I must do every season for the betting group I work with, that won't ever stop.

And I'm extremely excited to prove myself once again this season.

We are coming off such a unique 2020 season, and linemakers and bettors alike have last year in the back of their mind. It was an extremely successful season for me, being able to take advantage of many misconceptions during the year.

It started with futures, where we swept the board hitting 100% of our four strongest positions and we beat the books decisively with our lone ultra-longshot, getting in at 33:1, 30:1, and 25:1 on the Coach of the Year. We had an insane 49% ROI on last year's futures bets.

What is super exciting is that EVERY ONE OF THOSE futures bets was built through the months of offseason research... and I shared all of it in last year's book. This year is no different. I'll come out with my specific and exact futures recommendations up at Sharp Football Analysis, but the detailed analysis in this book will point you in the right direction for certain.

It continued during the 2020 season, when I had the best season of NFL totals in years. Don't get me wrong, my totals had a 14-year track record of 61%, which is outrageously good (and the reason I work for betting groups and generate so much line movement and industry respect when I move on games). But last year, on a lower volume of recommendations, these totals hit 76%. And we had a solid record overall in 2020 by taking advantage of information early and capitalizing on misconceptions.

That is what excites me so much for the 2021 season. There will be plenty of opportunities to capitalize on the uniqueness of the 2020 season when betting during 2021.

This year will be outstanding, and I can't wait for it. 17 games per team. One extra week to beat the books. Seven teams will make the playoffs in each conference. One extra playoff game, just like last season. It can't get here soon enough.

But before it arrives, you must do your part. Consume everything you can from this book. We literally put the last four months of our lives into it. We tried to uncover every angle that you could use to learn about the teams, coaches, strategies, tendencies and what they'll look like this year. Use this when betting or playing fantasy football.

Above all, we added many new sections in this year's book, which is why it's 100 pages longer than last year's version. Did you like it? What do you think? Let me know by sharing your feedback on Twitter to my handle: @sharpfootball

Lastly, jump on board for an NFL futures and betting package. If you want to get the same advice each week that real betting syndicates are using to place their bets, and that comes from someone with 15 years of documented success, you know where to find us.

I cannot wait till this season starts! For all my jobs. I miss game planning with NFL play callers, winning games and receiving phone calls from them on the team bus to share instant analysis. I miss beating other betting groups to numbers. I miss recording videos and podcasts, and sharing my opinions during the week. I miss the grind of the NFL season because I enjoy the process. And frankly, I'm tired of my job of being a writer and building this book. I'm excited to share it with you and I'm so ready for the 2021 season to arrive!

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS END SOON!

- THE ABSOLUTE BEST PRICE OF THE YEAR -

The Forefront of Inventing & Incorporating Custom Advanced Analytics & Metrics into Football Handicapping

Winning 61% on NFL totals. For more than a decade.

Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis offer the level of examination, insight, and actionable recommendations found in NFL meeting rooms and front offices throughout the league. That's why professional betting groups and NFL teams hire him—to find the edges to exploit and the advantages to accelerate wins.

Now it's accessible to you: the most valuable edge in betting, fantasy, DFS, and prop recommendations, with statistical analysis you won't find anywhere else.

<u>Transparent Record Keeping</u>
All client plays publicly displayed
minutes after the start of the game

NFL's Most Consistent Results
Delivering winning seasons
annually since 2006.
Emphasizing sound money
management, +EV betting
opportunities & beating the market

"I noticed Warren was moving some lines around on Wednesdays after he put his stuff up on his site, and he was winning. Instantly, when Warren gives out his play, the books move toward his line. Very rarely will you get a better number than his. He's a consistent winner."

- Professional Better & Las Vegas Legend

Professional Bettor & Las Vegas Legend
 Bill "Krackman" Krackomberger

Warren Sharp of sharpfootballanalysis.com is an industry pioneer at the forefront of incorporating advanced analytics and metrics into football handicapping after spending years constructing, testing, betting and perfecting computer models written to beat NFL and college football totals.

Lifetime NFL Record

Totals: 557-353 (61%)

All Releases: 1421-1034 (58%)

Lifetime NFL Playoffs Record: 147-88 (63%)

Lifetime Super Bowl Record: 25-10 (71%)



Join for the 2021 season!

BIG SAVINGS NOW

Hurry – early bird pricing ends soon!

Respected Analysis

Numerous betting syndicates acquire recommendations & Warren's work is well known by current and former linemakers

Line Value

Using timed release system, when Warren releases a play to clients, the market reacts giving clients consistent, significant & measurable line value

"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

A licensed Professional Engineer by trade, Warren now works as a quantitative analyst for multiple professional sports betting syndicates in Las Vegas and has parlayed a long-term winning record into selections for clients which move the Vegas line and beat the closing number with regularity.

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 All-Access Package

Everything we offer for the best in Betting, Props, Fantasy & DFS

Early Bird Sale Saves BIG but Ends Soon

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

From the Pandemic to Penalties: How 2020 was the Highest Scoring Season in NFL History

By Rich Hribar

2020 was a struggle on a number of levels, but the NFL kept moving forward. The 2020 season not only was fully completed, but saw the league continue to become more efficient on offense than ever — it burned those increasingly hyper-efficient walls down to the ground. The 2020 campaign featured the league's highest-scoring season by a wide margin. Here is a look at a number of the scoring and efficiency areas that were modern highs with the previous four seasons as a comparison to where the league was headed.

| Category | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Combined Points/Gm | 49.6 | 45.6 | 46.7 | 43.4 | 45.6 |
| Offensive TD | 1403 | 1244 | 1286 | 1121 | 1229 |
| Team oTD/Gm | 2.74 | 2.40 | 2.53 | 2.21 | 2.42 |
| Rush TD | 532 | 447 | 439 | 380 | 443 |
| Pass TD | 871 | 797 | 847 | 741 | 786 |
| Yards Gained Per TD | 131.0 | 143.2 | 140.2 | 152.6 | 146.0 |
| Scoring Drive % | 41.71% | 37.54% | 37.93% | 35.16% | 37.01% |
| TD Drive % | 26.43% | 22.79% | 23.41% | 19.92% | 21.95% |
| Red Zone Drive % | 32.92% | 30.03% | 29.37% | 26.78% | 29.57% |
| Red Zone TD % | 62.00% | 56.10% | 58.82% | 52.42% | 55.26% |

*All NFL Drives excluding ones that ended in kneel downs

There is no secret that the NFL has become more of an offensive game and nothing illustrates the league-wide efficiency in scoring like the table above.

For the first time in league history, the average NFL game not only featured more than 47 points per game and ballooned all the way up to just under 50 points per game in 2020. There were 117 more offensive touchdowns scored last season than in any NFL season prior.

NFL teams scored a touchdown once per every 131.0 yards of offense gained, by far the most efficient mark ever. Even after teams scored a touchdown per yardage gained at their lowest points in three of the previous four seasons prior to 2020, this past season had a massive spike in scoring efficiency per yard gained.

Teams scored on over 40% of their possessions for the first time ever while offenses scored a touchdown on over 25% of their drives. Think about that from a 10,000-foot view. Offenses scored a touchdown on average over once per every four times they touched the ball while they scored any points at all on two of every five possessions.

NFL offenses have been sustaining drives on nearly 30% of all true possessions (ones that do not end in kneel downs) in four of the past five seasons and have hit the 30% mark in each of the past two. Not only sustaining more drives deeper into enemy territory, but teams have also been better in converting those red zone possessions into touchdowns as the league-wide red

zone touchdown rate took a significant spike up to 62% last season. The only time it has cleared the 60% mark over the past decade.

From strictly a passing stance, we saw the league collectively post record highs in completed passes (11.756), completion rate (65.3%), touchdown passes (871), and quarterback rating (93.6) in league history. The league had the lowest interception rate in league history as well, which factored into that all-time high rating.

While we were already trending upwards in just about every NFL offensive metric related to scoring and passing, the 2020 season broke the dam at a higher clip then we were previously moving forward at.

The past year and a half have been under unique circumstances for all walks of life. Everyday tasks were impacted by necessary caveats to be safely accomplished and the NFL was no different. With a shortened and virtual offseason, minimal fan attendance, and special IR rule changes, the impact of COVID also was felt during the 2020 NFL season.

With minimal crowd impact this season, road teams in the NFL found their least resistance in league history. For the first time in the modern era, road teams won at least 50% of their games as away teams posted a 128-127-1 record. On their way to that best collective record on the road, away teams set highs in yards per play (5.55 yards) and points per game (24.8).

NFL passing performances on the road this past season were at an all-time high and even better than home teams in many key areas. On the road, teams posted a 94.4 passer rating, averaged 7.3 yards per pass attempt, a 4.8% touchdown rate, and a 2.1% interception rate. That road passer rating and touchdown rate were all-time highs. Here is the comparison for away passing performances in relation to home passing ones from colleague Dan Pizzuta immediately after the season ended in February at the site.

Road vs Home Passing Difference 2016-2020

| | Comp | | | | | |
|------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Year | % | Y/A | TD% | INT% | Sack% | Rate |
| 2020 | 0.42% | 0.16 | -0.07% | -0.19% | 0.62% | 1.5 |
| 2019 | -0.84% | -0.09 | 0.01% | -0.55% | 0.23% | 1.2 |
| 2018 | -0.89% | -0.22 | -0.42% | 0.29% | 0.45% | -4.3 |
| 2017 | -0.71% | -0.14 | -0.15% | 0.64% | -0.01% | -4.3 |
| 2016 | -2.24% | -0.55 | -0.65% | -0.02% | 0.05% | -6.2 |

Like a number of previously highlighted scoring statistics, quarterback play on the road was already trending upwards compared to their home counterpart passers, but the 2020 season saw road passers trump home passers in completion percentage and yards per pass attempt for the first time while extending the edge in league-wide rating.

The lack of home field advantage was also felt near the end zone, where home crowds can make things tougher on opponents. Road teams combined in converting 60.2% of their red zone possessions for touchdowns after the league rate over the previous five seasons was 54.8%.

Outside of the decreased effectiveness of home field advantage, the NFL also called games differently in 2020.

Significant Enforced Penalty Per Game Data 2016-2020

| Penalty | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Offensive Holding | 1.80 | 2.83 | 2.77 | 2.59 | 2.75 |
| False Start | 1.94 | 2.14 | 2.21 | 2.00 | 2.30 |
| Defensive Holding | 0.68 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.81 |
| False Starts | 1.94 | 2.14 | 2.21 | 2.00 | 2.30 |

^{*}Pro Football Reference

Offensive holding was called just 1.8 times per game per Pro Football Reference, the lowest rate in the 2000s. Just 462 offensive holding calls were enforced after 724, 708, 664, 703, and 709 times the previous five seasons. No technique or coaching changes could have possibly reduced the number to that degree. This change had to be made on the ground level of how the game was being officiated. As a byproduct, quarterbacks were sacked 1,135 times (4.4 per game), which was 141 fewer times than they were sacked in 2019 and 146 times fewer than in 2018.

False starts were down to 1.94 times per game, which was also the fewest in a season in the 2000s. This one was not a major outlier despite being a low-mark as there were 496 false start penalties compared to 547, 566, 513, 588, and 566 the previous five seasons.

Defensive holding was called at the lowest rate (0.7 times per game) since the 2013 season, but defensive pass interference was called 1.2 times per game, which was also the highest rate of the 2000s. This one was not as much of an outlier as offensive holding, however. Defensive pass interference was enforced a record 309 times in 2020 after 269, 236, 266, 279, and 231 times the five previous seasons.

All in all, factoring in everything above, you can see how the already ever-improving offensive performances from NFL offenses was accelerated by the surrounding environment of the 2020 season. Paired together, that was the cocktail for the highest scoring and most efficient offensive season in league history.

With anticipated offensive regression towards the mean in 2021, early season over/unders could be advantageous if they represent where we most recently left off a year ago. It is hard to fully quantify the impact the pandemic had in the total numbers from 2020 since that tide was already rising, but the conditions definitely enhanced the efficiency offenses were having.

We have seen some immediate recoil following previous efficiency spikes in 2016 and 2018 without those unique parameters in place, so with the 2021 season having some return to normalcy, we should anticipate some pullback in 2021 from the 2020 scoring efficiency. The easiest place to look is performance of teams on the road, but the one wild card still in play that does not fully have a COVID-watermark on it is how the games were officiated last season compared to previous seasons, specifically in regard to offensive holding.

Give Yourself the Best Edge in Fantasy Football

We're giving you EVERYTHING below for only \$5/week:

Member Benefits

- •Access to "The Worksheet," by Rich Hribrar, one of the industry's most-read early week articles that provides unique statistics and expectations on every player for every game
- •Comprehensive 2021 Draft Guide (see below)
- Access to DFS plays and weekly player rankings
- •Access and interaction with Rich via weekly client-only video chats

2021 Draft Guide

- •Comprehensive Tier Breakdown: 30+ page PDF, detailing full player analysis for every fantasy football player and how they measure up across position (QB, RB, WR, TE).
- •Fantasy content on-site: 25+ articles on site (membership required), breaking down historical trends & statistical correlations per position, sleeper value by position, most over/under valued players, and how Rich & our fantasy experts are drafting for their leagues.
- •Positional Rankings: Printable Cheat Sheets per position, top 200 player analysis, looking at both traditional and auction-based drafts.
- •Draft Chats: Access to Rich Hribrar's live video sessions, where you can ask our experts questions, allowing you to best prepare for you draft.

In-Season Fantasy Coverage

- •"The Worksheet:" Over 300+ in-season articles, giving you everything you need to know based on every weekly NFL match-up and how impacts the fantasy world.
- •Weekly Positional Rankings: looking and all positions, every week, to help you field the best line-up possible.
- •Waiver Wire analysis: weekly waiver coverage, detailing potential targets to bolster your team.
- •**DFS Content:** Pricing vs Ranks, Best Weekly Stacks, Showdown Slate (player & strategy analysis for every primetime, non-Sunday, game Thursday night & MNF).

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.
- •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.
- •Expected Fantasy Points per Pass Attempt: Analyzing how passers are converting their pass attempts into fantasy points compared to the rest of the league.
- •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

2021 Fantasy

Everything listed above, hundreds of articles and tools to help you WIN

Save 24% with Early Bird Discound

CLICK TO LEARN MORE



2021 All-Access Package

Everything we offer for the best in Betting, Props, Fantasy & DFS

Early Bird Sale Saves BIG but Ends Soon

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

JOIN TODAY – Early Bird Discount ENDS SOON!

All About That Space

By Dan Pizzuta

As the great philosopher of our time Ariana Grande stated, "I'ma need space." I don't think she's talking about coordinating a modern NFL offense, but she could be.

The dimensions of a football field have remained the same, but the current game has become about how teams, on both sides of the ball, can create and manipulate space. Heavy formations and forced runs up the middle just don't have the same value or frequency. Pre-snap motion and play-action — two concepts you'll see mentioned a ton in the coming pages — are just a small part in what offenses are doing to create leverage and distance between a ball carrier or target with a defender.

In this current wave of efficiency, there has been an emphasis on completions and getting yards after the catch. The league-wide completion percentage continues to rise. In 2020, 65.2% of passes were completed. In 2010, six quarterbacks finished the season with a completion percentage of at least 65%. This has coincided with a drop in target depth across the league. In 2016, the average pass traveled 8.43 yards in the air beyond the line of scrimmage. Over the past four years, that's dropped to 8.38, 8.1, 8.1, and then 7.93 in 2020.

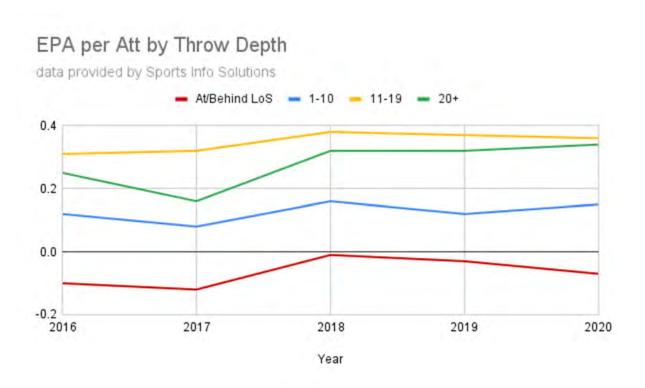
Some of the league's best offenses are working to get the most out of these shorter passes that enable yards after the catch. There might not be a better offensive play designer in that area than Kyle Shanahan. With an offense that went through a number of injuries at quarterback, receiver, and tight end, the San Francisco 49ers picked up 54.3% of their passing yards after the catch in 2020, the third-highest rate in the league.

The ease in which Shanahan is able to create open space for both easy throws and chunks of yards after the catch makes it an appealing offense to duplicate and we're seeing it spread throughout the league. Aaron Rodgers just won NFL MVP running a version of it with Matt LaFleur with the Green Bay Packers. The New York Jets hired former 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh as head coach and he brought along with him long-time Shanahan assistant Mike LaFleur. Sean McVay was once a Shanahan assistant and has similarities in his scheme with the Los Angeles Rams. Even the Chicago Bears borrowed some concepts at the end of the 2020 season when the offense was spiraling and they needed help for Mitchell Trubisky. Trubisky didn't exactly play well over the final four games of the regular season but the scheme changed helped him rank third in completion percentage and eight in Expected

Points Added from Weeks 14-17. Then there is the Kubiak version of this schematic tree, what we see in Minnesota and Cleveland.

What we're seeing now as we head into 2021 (and partly what we saw with Rodgers in 2020... and even back to **Matt Ryan** with Shanahan in 2016) is when a top quarterback is paired with that kind of scheme, everything gets elevated.

While those short completions and yards after the catch are great, the most value on the field comes from hitting intermediate and deep passes. Here's a look at the average value of a pass attempt by depth over the past five seasons:



This is part of the reason we saw a mad dash for quarterback upgrades this past offseason. The 49ers gave up a haul for **Trey Lance** in an attempt to improve production deep and outside the numbers — throws that just didn't exist in the offense with **Jimmy Garoppolo** and Co. The Rams aggressively moved on from **Jared Goff** after the offense struggled to create explosive plays during the 2020 season. Enter **Matthew Stafford**, who was one of the league's best intermediate throwers last season by EPA per attempt.

Spacing and scheme is great, pairing that with a top quarterback can make it special. Think about what the Kansas City Chiefs have been able to do since **Patrick Mahomes** was inserted

as the starting quarterback. So much of what the Chiefs are able to do is due to Mahomes having the type of talent that makes seemingly impossible throws look routine, but he's also in an offensive environment that allows for him to flourish. As much as Mahomes's arm strength and accuracy can allow him to place passes into tight windows, so much of the Kansas City passing offense is about making everything as open as possible.

NFL Next Gen Stats measures tight window throws and describes them as a pass attempt with a defender within one yard of the receiver. In Mahomes's three years as a starter he's thrown into tight windows on 12.2% (2018), 12.2% (2019), and 11.4% (2020) of his attempts, which have ranked no higher than the third-lowest rate in the given year. Some of those 11-12% of throws are absurd, but so much of that offense is built around getting to what is open.

We're also seeing some competing trends on the defensive side of the ball in an attempt to condense that space. As far back as Week 1 against the Houston Texans, defenses decided to play two deep safeties against Kansas City to concentrate resources on stopping the big play. This worked to a degree. The Chiefs didn't have as many deep passes during the 2020 season, but they were also set up in personnel and scheme to move the ball consistently in the short and intermediate area. It's nice to have **Travis Kelce** when the attention is drawn to stooping **Tyreek Hill**.

Other NFL teams didn't quite have that luxury. When defenses started treating the Seattle Seahawks in a similar fashion, there were fewer immediate answers to act as a counterpunch and that led to some struggles over the second half of the season. Seattle then hired Rams passing coordinator Shane Waldon to be the new offensive coordinator, so add another team to the wide-zone offense tree.

No team was better at manipulating that deep space on defense than the Rams, coordinated by Brandon Staley. The Rams used a ton of two-high looks to prevent the deep pass and that defense allowed just 12 completions on 53 attempts of 20 or more air yards, for a league-best 22.6% completion rate.

These two-deep and Quarters-heavy coverages are likely to spread in the way the Shanahan-style offense has over the past few seasons. Staley left the Rams this offseason to be the head coach of the Los Angeles Chargers. The Rams, now with Raheem Morris, are expected to keep many of Staley's defensive principles in place. Staley, himself, is a former assistant of Vic Fangio, the current head coach of the Denver Broncos. Fangio is formerly the defensive

coordinator of the Chicago Bears who promoted a former assistant, Sean Desai, to defensive coordinator this offseason.

There is also the variation that stems from the 49ers with Robert Saleh. He'll take that defense with him to the Jets and the system will still serve as a base in San Francisco under DeMeco Ryans. Former 49ers defensive backs coach Joe Woods is the defensive coordinator with the Cleveland Browns, the defense that used the most Quarters coverage in 2020 and just signed two major players from the Rams' defense, safety **John Johnson** and cornerback **Troy Hill**, in free agency this offseason.

While the defenses stress pass coverage, especially deep, they leave enough resources for the short passes and run fits. Staley's Rams were excellent at filling gaps and closing in on what looked like open space for the offense.

Due to the success of that defense, it won't be a surprise to see that type of structure spread throughout the league during the 2021 season in a similar way we've seen Shanahan-McVay elements sprinkle into offenses over the past few seasons.

Whether it's the offense or defense constantly trying to figure out the next trend to get the advantage, the future of football comes down to who can best control the finite amount of space on the field.

Stable Quarterback Metrics (2020) EPA/att & Rank

| Quarterback | Team | No pressure | Standard Drops | In Pocket | 1D 123Q | No Play Action, Early Downs | Layup throws | Planted |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Aaron Rodgers | Packers | 0.43 (#2) | 0.33 (#1) | 0.30 (#1) | 0.18 (#8) | 0.12 (#9) | 0.25 (#5) | 0.47 (#1) |
| Josh Allen | Bills | 0.40 (#5) | 0.30 (#2) | 0.29 (#2) | 0.29 (#1) | 0.19 (#3) | 0.12 (#15) | 0.35 (#7) |
| Ryan Tannehill | Titans | 0.44 (#1) | 0.26 (#3) | 0.21 (#3) | 0.11 (#19) | 0.23 (#1) | 0.14 (#14) | 0.40 (#2) |
| Patrick Mahomes | Chiefs | 0.41 (#4) | 0.18 (#8) | 0.20 (#4) | 0.14 (#17) | 0.12 (#10) | 0.28 (#2) | 0.35 (#3) |
| Deshaun Watson | Texans | 0.42 (#3) | 0.18 (#6) | 0.17 (#5) | 0.23 (#5) | 0.18 (#6) | 0.11 (#18) | 0.35 (#5) |
| Kirk Cousins | Vikings | 0.34 (#7) | 0.18 (#7) | 0.16 (#7) | 0.14 (#13) | 0.08 (#14) | 0.32 (#1) | 0.35 (#6) |
| Jimmy Garoppolo | 49ers | 0.21 (#24) | 0.12 (#14) | 0.14 (#11) | 0.24 (#4) | 0.15 (#8) | 0.20 (#7) | 0.29 (#9) |
| Drew Brees | Saints | 0.28 (#14) | 0.16 (#10) | 0.16 (#8) | 0.18 (#7) | 0.16 (#7) | 0.12 (#16) | 0.29 (#8) |
| Russell Wilson | Seahawks | 0.32 (#8) | 0.10 (#18) | 0.10 (#17) | 0.17 (#10) | 0.08 (#12) | 0.27 (#3) | 0.27 (#12) |
| Philip Rivers | Colts | 0.23 (#22) | 0.18 (#5) | 0.16 (#6) | 0.13 (#18) | 0.20 (#2) | 0.11 (#17) | 0.26 (#13) |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick | Dolphins | 0.15 (#30) | 0.19 (#4) | 0.15 (#10) | 0.28 (#2) | 0.19 (#4) | 0.03 (#26) | 0.19 (#23) |
| Dak Prescott | Cowboys | 0.35 (#6) | 0.13 (#13) | 0.11 (#16) | 0.07 (#23) | 0.19 (#5) | -0.08 (#37) | 0.35 (#4) |
| Baker Mayfield | Browns | 0.32 (#9) | 0.09 (#20) | 0.11 (#15) | 0.08 (#22) | 0.08 (#15) | 0.17 (#10) | 0.25 (#16) |
| Mitchell Trubisky | Bears | 0.20 (#26) | 0.06 (#22) | 0.11 (#14) | 0.14 (#15) | 0.07 (#16) | 0.24 (#6) | 0.22 (#19) |
| Justin Herbert | Chargers | 0.23 (#21) | 0.11 (#15) | 0.13 (#13) | 0.02 (#28) | 0.07 (#17) | 0.15 (#12) | 0.26 (#14) |
| Matthew Stafford | Lions | 0.21 (#25) | 0.16 (#9) | 0.15 (#9) | 0.15 (#12) | 0.01 (#21) | 0.00 (#30) | 0.27 (#11) |
| Gardner Minshew | Jaguars | 0.30 (#11) | 0.05 (#23) | 0.06 (#23) | 0.11 (#20) | -0.01 (#24) | 0.15 (#11) | 0.24 (#17) |
| Derek Carr | Raiders | 0.27 (#17) | 0.10 (#17) | 0.09 (#19) | 0.17 (#9) | -0.06 (#28) | 0.09 (#20) | 0.25 (#15) |
| Lamar Jackson | Ravens | 0.28 (#16) | 0.10 (#19) | 0.07 (#20) | 0.14 (#14) | -0.07 (#30) | 0.20 (#8) | 0.20 (#21) |
| Kyler Murray | Cardinals | 0.25 (#19) | 0.13 (#12) | 0.09 (#18) | 0.14 (#16) | 0.09 (#11) | 0.01 (#28) | 0.17 (#24) |
| Tom Brady | Buccaneers | 0.30 (#12) | 0.15 (#11) | 0.14 (#12) | 0.04 (#25) | 0.05 (#18) | -0.06 (#35) | 0.23 (#18) |
| Jalen Hurts | Eagles | 0.19 (#27) | -0.03 (#27) | -0.01 (#27) | 0.28 (#3) | -0.07 (#29) | 0.25 (#4) | 0.16 (#26) |
| Matt Ryan | Falcons | 0.27 (#18) | 0.04 (#24) | 0.04 (#24) | 0.19 (#6) | -0.01 (#25) | 0.04 (#25) | 0.19 (#22) |
| Teddy Bridgewater | Panthers | 0.25 (#20) | 0.11 (#16) | 0.06 (#22) | -0.04 (#32) | 0.01 (#22) | 0.03 (#27) | 0.28 (#10) |
| Joe Burrow | Bengals | 0.29 (#13) | 0.06 (#21) | 0.07 (#21) | -0.04 (#33) | -0.01 (#23) | 0.08 (#22) | 0.20 (#20) |
| Jared Goff | Rams | 0.31 (#10) | 0.00 (#26) | 0.00 (#26) | -0.02 (#30) | -0.05 (#27) | 0.14 (#13) | 0.16 (#25) |
| Ben Roethlisberger | Steelers | 0.11 (#33) | 0.04 (#25) | 0.04 (#25) | 0.03 (#27) | 0.04 (#19) | -0.01 (#31) | 0.07 (#32) |
| Andy Dalton | Cowboys | 0.14 (#31) | -0.06 (#28) | -0.04 (#28) | 0.16 (#11) | -0.03 (#26) | -0.05 (#34) | 0.13 (#29) |
| Cam Newton | Patriots | 0.22 (#23) | -0.11 (#32) | -0.07 (#30) | -0.04 (#34) | 0.08 (#13) | 0.01 (#29) | 0.15 (#27) |
| Nick Mullens | 49ers | 0.28 (#15) | -0.09 (#30) | -0.07 (#29) | -0.15 (#37) | -0.12 (#31) | 0.19 (#9) | 0.10 (#30) |
| Tua Tagovailoa | Dolphins | 0.08 (#34) | -0.14 (#35) | -0.09 (#31) | 0.04 (#24) | 0.02 (#20) | 0.09 (#19) | 0.06 (#34) |
| Daniel Jones | Giants | 0.18 (#28) | -0.08 (#29) | -0.10 (#32) | -0.04 (#31) | -0.21 (#37) | 0.06 (#24) | 0.13 (#28) |
| Drew Lock | Broncos | 0.17 (#29) | -0.10 (#31) | -0.10 (#33) | -0.06 (#35) | -0.28 (#38) | -0.06 (#36) | 0.06 (#33) |
| Nick Foles | Bears | -0.06 (#40) | -0.12 (#33) | -0.15 (#36) | 0.03 (#26) | -0.15 (#34) | -0.21 (#39) | 0.04 (#35) |
| Carson Wentz | Eagles | 0.12 (#32) | -0.20 (#38) | -0.22 (#38) | -0.13 (#36) | -0.16 (#35) | -0.04 (#33) | 0.01 (#37) |
| Alex Smith | Football Team | 0.04 (#35) | -0.16 (#36) | -0.14 (#34) | -0.21 (#39) | -0.14 (#33) | -0.14 (#38) | 0.08 (#31) |
| Mike Glennon | Jaguars | 0.01 (#38) | -0.13 (#34) | -0.16 (#37) | 0.09 (#21) | -0.13 (#32) | -0.35 (#40) | -0.03 (#39) |
| Sam Darnold | Jets | 0.02 (#36) | -0.23 (#39) | -0.24 (#39) | -0.21 (#38) | -0.21 (#36) | 0.07 (#23) | 0.03 (#36) |
| Brandon Allen | Bengals | 0.02 (#37) | -0.18 (#37) | -0.15 (#35) | 0.00 (#29) | -0.56 (#40) | 0.09 (#21) | 0.00 (#38) |
| Dwayne Haskins | Football Team | -0.01 (#39) | -0.28 (#40) | -0.25 (#40) | -0.37 (#40) | -0.30 (#39) | -0.02 (#32) | -0.11 (#40) |

Standard Drops = 0/1, 3, 5, 7 step drops; 1D 123Q = first down passes in the first three quarters; Layup Throws = throws less than 5 air yards from clean pockets; Planted = quarterback was not passing on the move



Less Stable Quarterback Metrics (2020) EPA/att & Rank

| Quarterback | Team | Under Pressure | Outside Pocket | Play Action | Being Blitzed | 3rd and 4th Downs | 4th Quarter | Passing when Moving |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Patrick Mahomes | Chiefs | -0.12 (#4) | 0.20 (#3) | 0.17 (#12) | 0.44 (#2) | 0.48 (#1) | 0.36 (#2) | 0.14 (#4) |
| Josh Allen | Bills | -0.07 (#3) | -0.15 (#20) | 0.23 (#5) | 0.25 (#6) | 0.30 (#4) | 0.31 (#4) | 0.15 (#2) |
| Deshaun Watson | Texans | -0.28 (#9) | 0.22 (#2) | 0.21 (#9) | 0.22 (#8) | 0.15 (#9) | 0.20 (#8) | 0.24 (#1) |
| Aaron Rodgers | Packers | -0.28 (#10) | -0.01 (#12) | 0.32 (#1) | 0.20 (#11) | 0.40 (#2) | 0.17 (#11) | 0.13 (#7) |
| Drew Brees | Saints | -0.33 (#15) | 0.08 (#5) | 0.16 (#13) | 0.17 (#12) | 0.10 (#15) | 0.40 (#1) | -0.10 (#25) |
| Lamar Jackson | Ravens | -0.28 (#8) | 0.02 (#11) | 0.15 (#16) | -0.07 (#30) | 0.22 (#5) | 0.32 (#3) | 0.13 (#5) |
| Justin Herbert | Chargers | -0.05 (#2) | 0.03 (#10) | 0.16 (#14) | 0.09 (#19) | 0.14 (#10) | -0.02 (#26) | 0.08 (#9) |
| Matt Ryan | Falcons | -0.32 (#13) | 0.27 (#1) | 0.23 (#6) | 0.09 (#20) | 0.14 (#11) | -0.19 (#36) | 0.09 (#8) |
| Baker Mayfield | Browns | -0.51 (#24) | 0.07 (#7) | 0.23 (#4) | 0.13 (#17) | 0.07 (#17) | 0.06 (#20) | 0.13 (#6) |
| Tom Brady | Buccaneers | -0.44 (#22) | 0.08 (#6) | 0.30 (#2) | -0.07 (#29) | 0.17 (#7) | 0.28 (#5) | -0.15 (#29) |
| Kirk Cousins | Vikings | -0.27 (#7) | -0.14 (#19) | 0.15 (#17) | 0.07 (#22) | 0.03 (#20) | 0.16 (#12) | 0.02 (#16) |
| Ben Roethlisberger | Steelers | -0.29 (#11) | -0.15 (#21) | -0.01 (#32) | 0.13 (#16) | 0.03 (#21) | 0.23 (#7) | 0.01 (#17) |
| Russell Wilson | Seahawks | -0.39 (#18) | -0.05 (#14) | 0.11 (#23) | 0.02 (#26) | 0.02 (#22) | 0.17 (#10) | 0.06 (#11) |
| Ryan Tannehill | Titans | -0.41 (#20) | -0.16 (#22) | 0.18 (#11) | 0.23 (#7) | 0.08 (#16) | 0.20 (#9) | -0.19 (#32) |
| Derek Carr | Raiders | -0.48 (#23) | -0.12 (#17) | 0.05 (#29) | 0.12 (#18) | 0.33 (#3) | -0.17 (#34) | 0.05 (#13) |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick | Dolphins | 0.10 (#1) | -0.49 (#34) | 0.13 (#19) | -0.03 (#27) | -0.17 (#31) | 0.10 (#17) | 0.14 (#3) |
| Nick Mullens | 49ers | -0.62 (#29) | 0.17 (#4) | 0.21 (#10) | -0.10 (#31) | -0.15 (#30) | 0.10 (#16) | 0.06 (#10) |
| Mitchell Trubisky | Bears | -0.35 (#16) | -0.22 (#25) | 0.24 (#3) | 0.16 (#14) | -0.20 (#33) | 0.00 (#22) | 0.03 (#15) |
| Jalen Hurts | Eagles | -0.32 (#14) | -0.17 (#24) | 0.12 (#20) | 0.32 (#5) | 0.13 (#13) | -0.26 (#38) | -0.23 (#34) |
| Philip Rivers | Colts | -0.18 (#5) | -0.59 (#37) | 0.08 (#26) | 0.21 (#9) | 0.11 (#14) | -0.02 (#24) | -0.03 (#18) |
| Tua Tagovailoa | Dolphins | -0.41 (#21) | 0.04 (#8) | 0.02 (#31) | 0.05 (#23) | -0.31 (#34) | 0.15 (#13) | 0.05 (#12) |
| Jared Goff | Rams | -0.66 (#30) | 0.04 (#9) | 0.03 (#30) | 0.08 (#21) | 0.05 (#18) | 0.09 (#18) | -0.05 (#21) |
| Dak Prescott | Cowboys | -0.60 (#27) | -0.07 (#15) | -0.02 (#33) | 0.38 (#3) | -0.06 (#25) | 0.13 (#14) | -0.18 (#31) |
| Jimmy Garoppolo | 49ers | -0.30 (#12) | -0.60 (#38) | 0.13 (#18) | 0.45 (#1) | -0.06 (#26) | 0.04 (#21) | -0.19 (#33) |
| Teddy Bridgewater | Panthers | -0.39 (#19) | -0.31 (#29) | -0.05 (#34) | 0.02 (#25) | 0.14 (#12) | 0.07 (#19) | -0.28 (#37) |
| Matthew Stafford | Lions | -0.26 (#6) | -0.75 (#39) | 0.23 (#7) | -0.15 (#33) | 0.17 (#6) | -0.01 (#23) | -0.06 (#23) |
| Gardner Minshew | Jaguars | -0.72 (#34) | -0.47 (#33) | 0.15 (#15) | 0.17 (#13) | -0.07 (#27) | -0.04 (#27) | -0.03 (#19) |
| Mike Glennon | Jaguars | -0.68 (#32) | -0.03 (#13) | 0.22 (#8) | 0.15 (#15) | -0.42 (#39) | -0.10 (#29) | -0.18 (#30) |
| Joe Burrow | Bengals | -0.76 (#35) | -0.42 (#32) | -0.05 (#35) | -0.03 (#28) | 0.00 (#24) | 0.24 (#6) | -0.05 (#22) |
| Kyler Murray | Cardinals | -0.57 (#26) | -0.53 (#36) | 0.12 (#21) | 0.05 (#24) | -0.11 (#28) | -0.05 (#28) | -0.05 (#20) |
| Andy Dalton | Cowboys | -0.53 (#25) | -0.13 (#18) | 0.11 (#22) | -0.17 (#34) | -0.17 (#32) | -0.13 (#31) | -0.13 (#27) |
| Drew Lock | Broncos | -0.67 (#31) | -0.16 (#23) | 0.10 (#24) | -0.35 (#38) | 0.02 (#23) | -0.02 (#25) | -0.15 (#28) |
| Brandon Allen | Bengals | -0.85 (#37) | -0.11 (#16) | 0.07 (#27) | 0.21 (#10) | 0.04 (#19) | -0.52 (#39) | -0.12 (#26) |
| Daniel Jones | Giants | -0.61 (#28) | -0.27 (#26) | -0.22 (#38) | -0.28 (#36) | 0.15 (#8) | -0.17 (#33) | -0.10 (#24) |
| Nick Foles | Bears | -0.38 (#17) | -0.27 (#27) | 0.09 (#25) | -0.23 (#35) | -0.41 (#38) | -0.12 (#30) | -0.32 (#38) |
| Dwayne Haskins | Football Team | -1.23 (#40) | -0.38 (#31) | -0.29 (#40) | 0.33 (#4) | -0.14 (#29) | -0.19 (#35) | 0.04 (#14) |
| Cam Newton | Patriots | -0.84 (#36) | -0.31 (#28) | -0.06 (#36) | -0.39 (#39) | -0.34 (#36) | 0.13 (#15) | -0.26 (#35) |
| Sam Darnold | Jets | -0.71 (#33) | -0.37 (#30) | -0.19 (#37) | -0.14 (#32) | -0.32 (#35) | -0.55 (#40) | -0.38 (#39) |
| Carson Wentz | Eagles | -0.97 (#39) | -0.51 (#35) | -0.28 (#39) | -0.33 (#37) | -0.40 (#37) | -0.25 (#37) | -0.27 (#36) |
| Alex Smith | Football Team | -0.90 (#38) | -0.96 (#40) | 0.07 (#28) | -0.57 (#40) | -0.68 (#40) | -0.15 (#32) | -0.56 (#40) |

Passing when Moving = quarterback was not planted

Rank of EPA/att

STOP

Our EARLY BIRD SALE ENDS SOON!

Click Below to Learn More

and

DO NOT MISS the lowest prices of the season

Delivering Winners for 14 years:

The Service Pro Bettors Trust...

The Service Respected by Bookmakers...

The Service that Moves Betting Lines on Release...

The Service Live Finals Appearing DFS Pros Rely On...

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 All-Access Package

Everything we offer for the best in Betting, Props, Fantasy & DFS

Early Bird Sale Saves BIG but Ends Soon

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Everything listed above, hundreds of articles and tools to help you WIN

Save 24% with Early Bird Discound

CLICK TO LEARN MORE



Quarterback Accuracy (2020)

On-Target Percentage & Rank

| Quarterback | Team | All | Short | Medium | Deep | Moving | Planted | Red Zone | Man Coverage | Zone Coverage |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Vikings | 82% (#1) | 87% (#5) | 78% (#2) | 64% (#3) | 80% (#7) | 83% (#1) | 74% (#22) | 81% (#2) | 81% (#8) |
| Teddy Bridgewater | Panthers | 82% (#2) | 90% (#1) | 70% (#19) | 49% (#31) | 83% (#2) | 82% (#3) | 76% (#16) | 82% (#1) | 80% (#13) |
| Russell Wilson | Seahawks | 81% (#3) | 86% (#9) | 77% (#3) | 55% (#20) | 81% (#6) | 82% (#4) | 79% (#7) | 77% (#6) | 82% (#4) |
| Aaron Rodgers | Packers | 81% (#4) | 88% (#2) | 67% (#24) | 63% (#6) | 81% (#5) | 81% (#8) | 81% (#3) | 75% (#13) | 82% (#6) |
| Deshaun Watson | Texans | 81% (#5) | 86% (#8) | 76% (#4) | 59% (#12) | 78% (#14) | 82% (#2) | 78% (#9) | 71% (#25) | 84% (#3) |
| Josh Allen | Bills | 81% (#6) | 87% (#4) | 74% (#9) | 53% (#23) | 78% (#10) | 82% (#6) | 79% (#5) | 77% (#8) | 80% (#12) |
| Joe Burrow | Bengals | 80% (#7) | 87% (#3) | 73% (#11) | 50% (#29) | 77% (#16) | 81% (#10) | 69% (#28) | 78% (#4) | 80% (#17) |
| Kyler Murray | Cardinals | 80% (#7) | 85% (#12) | 73% (#12) | 60% (#9) | 76% (#24) | 82% (#5) | 82% (#2) | 74% (#20) | 78% (#21) |
| Derek Carr | Raiders | 80% (#9) | 86% (#7) | 67% (#23) | 64% (#3) | 77% (#16) | 81% (#9) | 77% (#11) | 68% (#31) | 85% (#2) |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick | Dolphins | 80% (#10) | 84% (#19) | 70% (#17) | 65% (#2) | 84% (#1) | 78% (#22) | 66% (#34) | 75% (#16) | 82% (#5) |
| Ryan Tannehill | Titans | 80% (#11) | 85% (#16) | 73% (#13) | 50% (#29) | 73% (#28) | 81% (#10) | 70% (#27) | 76% (#12) | 81% (#10) |
| Tom Brady | Buccaneers | 80% (#12) | 87% (#6) | 69% (#20) | 57% (#15) | 83% (#3) | 79% (#19) | 77% (#10) | 72% (#21) | 81% (#11) |
| Philip Rivers | Colts | 79% (#13) | 86% (#10) | 71% (#16) | 51% (#26) | 78% (#13) | 80% (#16) | 76% (#15) | 72% (#22) | 80% (#15) |
| Drew Brees | Saints | 79% (#14) | 84% (#22) | 67% (#24) | 63% (#6) | 78% (#12) | 79% (#18) | 71% (#26) | 70% (#26) | 80% (#13) |
| Baker Mayfield | Browns | 79% (#15) | 85% (#15) | 69% (#21) | 63% (#5) | 77% (#15) | 80% (#13) | 79% (#7) | 75% (#14) | 78% (#25) |
| Matt Ryan | Falcons | 79% (#15) | 85% (#12) | 74% (#8) | 54% (#22) | 76% (#20) | 80% (#14) | 65% (#35) | 71% (#24) | 81% (#7) |
| Nick Foles | Bears | 78% (#17) | 85% (#12) | 64% (#32) | 57% (#15) | 75% (#26) | 80% (#14) | 74% (#23) | 67% (#34) | 81% (#9) |
| Dak Prescott | Cowboys | 78% (#18) | 85% (#16) | 67% (#26) | 54% (#21) | 70% (#34) | 81% (#12) | 60% (#37) | 74% (#19) | 78% (#24) |
| Jimmy Garoppolo | 49ers | 78% (#19) | 84% (#20) | 76% (#4) | 27% (#39) | 71% (#32) | 80% (#17) | 81% (#4) | 80% (#3) | 72% (#38) |
| Nick Mullens | 49ers | 78% (#20) | 80% (#33) | 76% (#6) | 56% (#19) | 82% (#4) | 77% (#29) | 79% (#6) | 78% (#5) | 75% (#33) |
| Justin Herbert | Chargers | 78% (#21) | 83% (#27) | 74% (#10) | 48% (#32) | 80% (#9) | 77% (#28) | 75% (#19) | 74% (#18) | 77% (#27) |
| Ben Roethlisberger | Steelers | 78% (#22) | 84% (#23) | 67% (#26) | 51% (#27) | 77% (#19) | 78% (#23) | 76% (#18) | 76% (#9) | 74% (#36) |
| Brandon Allen | Bengals | 78% (#22) | 81% (#32) | 81% (#1) | 56% (#18) | 78% (#11) | 78% (#25) | 56% (#39) | 64% (#38) | 80% (#18) |
| Jared Goff | Rams | 77% (#24) | 83% (#25) | 68% (#22) | 41% (#37) | 77% (#18) | 78% (#25) | 83% (#1) | 70% (#27) | 79% (#19) |
| Patrick Mahomes | Chiefs | 77% (#24) | 82% (#28) | 71% (#15) | 59% (#10) | 75% (#25) | 79% (#20) | 75% (#20) | 76% (#10) | 76% (#29) |
| Alex Smith | Football Team | 77% (#26) | 81% (#30) | 67% (#26) | 52% (#25) | 58% (#40) | 82% (#7) | 77% (#12) | 77% (#7) | 76% (#30) |
| Andy Dalton | Cowboys | 77% (#26) | 84% (#21) | 62% (#35) | 46% (#34) | 76% (#22) | 78% (#25) | 69% (#30) | 76% (#11) | 75% (#34) |
| Lamar Jackson | Ravens | 77% (#28) | 84% (#24) | 64% (#33) | 58% (#14) | 80% (#8) | 76% (#33) | 76% (#14) | 75% (#14) | 76% (#28) |
| Matthew Stafford | Lions | 77% (#29) | 80% (#35) | 76% (#7) | 59% (#11) | 67% (#38) | 79% (#20) | 66% (#33) | 69% (#28) | 78% (#22) |
| Sam Darnold | Jets | 77% (#29) | 85% (#18) | 59% (#38) | 57% (#17) | 76% (#21) | 77% (#29) | 69% (#29) | 66% (#35) | 78% (#20) |
| Gardner Minshew | Jaguars | 76% (#31) | 86% (#11) | 60% (#37) | 47% (#33) | 72% (#29) | 78% (#24) | 67% (#32) | 69% (#29) | 80% (#15) |
| Mitchell Trubisky | Bears | 75% (#32) | 83% (#26) | 67% (#26) | 32% (#38) | 76% (#23) | 75% (#35) | 72% (#25) | 69% (#30) | 77% (#26) |
| Daniel Jones | Giants | 75% (#33) | 78% (#38) | 67% (#26) | 62% (#8) | 70% (#35) | 76% (#31) | 67% (#31) | 66% (#35) | 78% (#22) |
| Mike Glennon | Jaguars | 75% (#34) | 80% (#34) | 67% (#26) | 53% (#24) | 74% (#27) | 75% (#36) | 77% (#12) | 68% (#32) | 76% (#32) |
| Cam Newton | Patriots | 74% (#35) | 76% (#39) | 70% (#17) | 69% (#1) | 70% (#36) | 75% (#34) | 64% (#36) | 64% (#39) | 73% (#37) |
| Drew Lock | Broncos | 73% (#36) | 82% (#29) | 62% (#34) | 51% (#27) | 72% (#30) | 74% (#38) | 76% (#16) | 65% (#37) | 76% (#30) |
| Tua Tagovailoa | Dolphins | 73% (#37) | 79% (#37) | 61% (#36) | 46% (#34) | 69% (#37) | 74% (#37) | 58% (#38) | 68% (#33) | 74% (#35) |
| Jalen Hurts | Eagles | 72% (#38) | 75% (#40) | 72% (#14) | 59% (#13) | 64% (#39) | 76% (#32) | 50% (#40) | 54% (#40) | 85% (#1) |
| Dwayne Haskins | Football Team | 71% (#39) | 81% (#31) | 54% (#40) | 26% (#40) | 71% (#33) | 71% (#39) | 73% (#24) | 72% (#23) | 66% (#40) |
| Carson Wentz | Eagles | 71% (#40) | 79% (#36) | 59% (#39) | 43% (#36) | 72% (#31) | 70% (#40) | 74% (#21) | 74% (#17) | 69% (#39) |

Short = 1-10 air yards; Medium = 11-19 air yards; Deep = 20+ air yards; Moving = quarterback was moving when throwing; Planted = quarterback was not moving when throwing



Rushing Efficiency (2020) EPA/att & Rank

| Team | All | Early Down 123Q | Third Down | Standard Box | Heavy Box | Light Box | Between the Tackles | Outside the Tackles | QB Design | QB Scramble |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Ravens | 0.10 (#1) | 0.02 (#5) | 0.37 (#3) | 0.04 (#5) | 0.11 (#1) | 0.14 (#1) | -0.04 (#18) | 0.15 (#1) | 0.14 (#7) | 0.14 (#7) |
| Titans | 0.06 (#2) | 0.01 (#7) | 0.24 (#4) | 0.07 (#3) | -0.03 (#10) | 0.11 (#4) | 0.10 (#3) | 0.01 (#5) | 0.78 (#1) | 0.78 (#1) |
| Cardinals | 0.04 (#3) | -0.11 (#24) | 0.20 (#6) | -0.07 (#18) | -0.21 (#28) | 0.02 (#10) | -0.01 (#11) | -0.10 (#26) | 0.21 (#6) | 0.21 (#6) |
| Patriots | 0.04 (#3) | 0.04 (#4) | -0.03 (#16) | 0.04 (#5) | 0.03 (#4) | -0.05 (#23) | -0.03 (#15) | 0.05 (#3) | 0.12 (#8) | 0.12 (#8) |
| Packers | 0.02 (#5) | 0.02 (#5) | 0.09 (#11) | -0.01 (#12) | 0.05 (#3) | 0.12 (#2) | 0.14 (#1) | -0.02 (#10) | -1.07 (#31) | -1.07 (#31) |
| Saints | 0.02 (#5) | 0.06 (#1) | 0.63 (#1) | 0.06 (#4) | -0.03 (#10) | 0.11 (#4) | 0.00 (#7) | 0.07 (#2) | 0.02 (#10) | 0.02 (#10) |
| Vikings | 0.01 (#7) | -0.04 (#13) | 0.04 (#13) | 0.11 (#1) | -0.01 (#8) | -0.13 (#29) | -0.11 (#23) | 0.05 (#3) | -0.52 (#22) | -0.52 (#22) |
| Eagles | -0.01 (#8) | -0.02 (#9) | 0.13 (#10) | -0.05 (#13) | -0.13 (#20) | 0.04 (#7) | 0.04 (#4) | -0.07 (#17) | -0.28 (#19) | -0.28 (#19) |
| Football Te | -0.02 (#9) | 0.01 (#7) | 0.18 (#7) | -0.09 (#21) | 0.03 (#4) | 0.12 (#2) | 0.04 (#4) | -0.02 (#10) | -0.54 (#24) | -0.54 (#24) |
| Panthers | -0.02 (#9) | -0.05 (#16) | -0.09 (#18) | -0.06 (#15) | -0.01 (#8) | -0.01 (#19) | -0.08 (#22) | 0.01 (#5) | -0.61 (#27) | -0.61 (#27) |
| Raiders | -0.02 (#9) | -0.07 (#20) | 0.22 (#5) | -0.12 (#24) | -0.05 (#13) | 0.02 (#10) | 0.00 (#7) | -0.09 (#21) | 0.59 (#3) | 0.59 (#3) |
| Seahawks | -0.02 (#9) | 0.06 (#1) | -0.17 (#24) | 0.04 (#5) | -0.14 (#23) | 0.02 (#10) | -0.04 (#18) | 0.01 (#5) | -0.75 (#29) | -0.75 (#29) |
| Chiefs | -0.03 (#13) | 0.06 (#1) | -0.35 (#31) | 0.01 (#11) | -0.20 (#27) | 0.00 (#17) | -0.03 (#15) | -0.05 (#14) | -0.22 (#17) | -0.22 (#17) |
| Cowboys | -0.03 (#13) | -0.15 (#30) | 0.15 (#9) | -0.07 (#18) | -0.13 (#20) | 0.02 (#10) | 0.00 (#7) | -0.09 (#21) | 0.12 (#8) | 0.12 (#8) |
| Bears | -0.04 (#15) | -0.03 (#10) | -0.08 (#17) | -0.13 (#26) | -0.05 (#13) | 0.01 (#15) | -0.02 (#13) | -0.07 (#17) | -0.09 (#13) | -0.09 (#13) |
| Browns | -0.04 (#15) | -0.04 (#13) | 0.16 (#8) | 0.04 (#5) | -0.04 (#12) | -0.11 (#27) | -0.12 (#26) | 0.01 (#5) | -0.56 (#25) | -0.56 (#25) |
| Colts | -0.04 (#15) | -0.03 (#10) | -0.09 (#18) | 0.03 (#9) | -0.10 (#16) | 0.00 (#17) | 0.02 (#6) | -0.05 (#14) | 0.55 (#4) | 0.55 (#4) |
| Jaguars | -0.04 (#15) | -0.04 (#13) | -0.09 (#18) | -0.06 (#15) | -0.22 (#30) | 0.10 (#6) | 0.00 (#7) | -0.08 (#19) | -0.58 (#26) | -0.58 (#26) |
| Buccaneers | -0.05 (#19) | -0.05 (#16) | 0.47 (#2) | 0.10 (#2) | 0.00 (#7) | -0.08 (#25) | 0.11 (#2) | -0.09 (#21) | -0.19 (#16) | -0.19 (#16) |
| Bills | -0.06 (#20) | -0.06 (#19) | 0.07 (#12) | -0.07 (#18) | 0.01 (#6) | 0.01 (#15) | -0.01 (#11) | -0.02 (#10) | -0.17 (#15) | -0.17 (#15) |
| Dolphins | -0.07 (#21) | -0.11 (#24) | -0.20 (#25) | -0.15 (#28) | -0.15 (#24) | -0.01 (#19) | -0.11 (#23) | -0.09 (#21) | 0.01 (#11) | 0.01 (#11) |
| Rams | -0.07 (#21) | -0.03 (#10) | -0.25 (#26) | -0.05 (#13) | -0.12 (#19) | -0.01 (#19) | -0.14 (#28) | -0.05 (#14) | 0.74 (#2) | 0.74 (#2) |
| 49ers | -0.09 (#23) | -0.05 (#16) | 0.02 (#15) | 0.02 (#10) | -0.11 (#18) | -0.16 (#31) | -0.26 (#31) | -0.01 (#9) | -0.47 (#21) | -0.47 (#21) |
| Bengals | -0.09 (#23) | -0.15 (#30) | -0.31 (#28) | -0.15 (#28) | -0.10 (#16) | -0.15 (#30) | -0.02 (#13) | -0.22 (#32) | 0.33 (#5) | 0.33 (#5) |
| Chargers | -0.09 (#23) | -0.12 (#28) | -0.33 (#29) | -0.13 (#26) | -0.16 (#25) | -0.03 (#22) | -0.03 (#15) | -0.14 (#31) | -0.32 (#20) | -0.32 (#20) |
| Giants | -0.09 (#23) | -0.08 (#21) | -0.34 (#30) | -0.06 (#15) | -0.05 (#13) | -0.16 (#31) | -0.05 (#20) | -0.12 (#28) | -0.12 (#14) | -0.12 (#14) |
| Jets | -0.09 (#23) | -0.11 (#24) | -0.14 (#22) | -0.15 (#28) | -0.25 (#32) | 0.04 (#7) | -0.19 (#30) | -0.08 (#19) | -0.22 (#17) | -0.22 (#17) |
| Broncos | -0.10 (#28) | -0.11 (#24) | -0.14 (#22) | -0.12 (#24) | -0.23 (#31) | 0.03 (#9) | -0.30 (#32) | -0.03 (#13) | -0.04 (#12) | -0.04 (#12) |
| Falcons | -0.10 (#28) | -0.12 (#28) | 0.03 (#14) | -0.10 (#22) | -0.18 (#26) | 0.02 (#10) | -0.06 (#21) | -0.09 (#21) | -1.53 (#32) | -1.53 (#32) |
| Texans | -0.10 (#28) | -0.18 (#32) | -0.09 (#18) | -0.26 (#32) | 0.07 (#2) | -0.12 (#28) | -0.15 (#29) | -0.12 (#28) | -0.52 (#22) | -0.52 (#22) |
| Lions | -0.11 (#31) | -0.09 (#22) | -0.44 (#32) | -0.10 (#22) | -0.21 (#28) | -0.09 (#26) | -0.11 (#23) | -0.13 (#30) | -0.61 (#27) | -0.61 (#27) |
| Steelers | -0.17 (#32) | -0.10 (#23) | -0.30 (#27) | -0.17 (#31) | -0.13 (#20) | -0.05 (#23) | -0.12 (#26) | -0.11 (#27) | -0.83 (#30) | -0.83 (#30) |

Note: All = All runs by all players; QB specific runs = QB only runs; All other runs are non-QB runs only; Early Down 123Q =early down runs in quarters 1-3 by non-QBs; Standard Box = 7 defenders in the box; Heavy Box = 8+ defenders in the box; Light Box = 6- defenders in the box

Rank of EPA/att

Team Efficiency Ranks (2020) Per-Drive Rank OFF ED OFF ED **DEF ED** DEF ED ED 1H Pass OFF RZ ED OFF RZ ED 3D EPA in FG 123Q Pass 123Q Rush OFF EDSR DEF EDSR 123Q Pass 123Q Rush Team Pass EPA Rush EPA Range % EPA EPA EPA EPA Bills Vikings Titans Chiefs **Packers Buccaneers** Cardinals Seahawks Colts Lions Raiders **Browns Patriots** 49ers Saints Cowboys **Panthers** Dolphins Texans Chargers **Falcons** Bears Ravens Rams Eagles Giants **Jaguars** Bengals Broncos **Football Team** Steelers

EDSR = Early Down Success Rate, a metric that evaluates early down efficiency and third down avoidance; ED 1H Pass % = early down pass rate in the first half; ED 123Q Pass/Rush EPA = early down pass or rush EPA in the first three quarters, RZ ED Pass/Rush EPA = red zone early down pass or rush EPA; 3D EPA in FG Range = third down EPA at or inside opponent's 35 yard line

Jets

Rank
1 32

First Drive of Game (2020)

Per-Drive Rank

| Team | EPA/play | Yards/Play | Score % | TD % | Yards | Plays | Punt % | TO on Downs | Turnover % |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------------|------------|
| Packers | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 19 | 6 |
| Colts | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 24 |
| Titans | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 24 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| Lions | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 15 | 1 | 1 |
| Chiefs | 5 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 1 | 6 |
| Falcons | 6 | 8 | 3 | 14 | 11 | 20 | 15 | 1 | 1 |
| Bears | 7 | 15 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 12 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Seahawks | 7 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 49ers | 9 | 6 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 26 | 27 | 1 | 1 |
| Chargers | 9 | 17 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Jets | 9 | 21 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| Rams | 9 | 9 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 19 | 18 |
| Vikings | 9 | 13 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 9 | 28 | 24 |
| Ravens | 14 | 19 | 10 | 14 | 18 | 12 | 9 | 1 | 24 |
| Bills | 15 | 11 | 10 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 3 | 19 | 24 |
| Buccaneers | 16 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 26 | 20 | 19 | 6 |
| Patriots | 17 | 16 | 18 | 9 | 16 | 9 | 20 | 1 | 18 |
| Saints | 18 | 24 | 18 | 14 | 28 | 26 | 27 | 1 | 6 |
| Browns | 19 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 7 | 16 | 3 | 19 | 31 |
| Bengals | 20 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 25 | 15 | 26 | 27 | 23 |
| Jaguars | 20 | 20 | 21 | 27 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 1 | 18 |
| Raiders | 20 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 30 | 20 | 1 | 6 |
| Giants | 23 | 14 | 21 | 14 | 17 | 20 | 9 | 31 | 24 |
| Steelers | 24 | 32 | 29 | 28 | 30 | 24 | 30 | 19 | 6 |
| Cowboys | 25 | 30 | 10 | 31 | 27 | 9 | 20 | 1 | 1 |
| Eagles | 26 | 28 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 31 |
| Panthers | 26 | 25 | 21 | 21 | 26 | 18 | 20 | 1 | 18 |
| Cardinals | 28 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 24 | 23 | 15 | 28 | 24 |
| Broncos | 29 | 22 | 29 | 31 | 21 | 18 | 20 | 1 | 24 |
| Football Team | 30 | 31 | 31 | 28 | 29 | 26 | 31 | 19 | 6 |
| Dolphins | 31 | 29 | 28 | 21 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 19 | 18 |
| Texans | 32 | 26 | 31 | 28 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 1 | 1 |

Note: first drive of game for all 16 regular season games; Score % = FGs and TDs; Yards = yards/drive; Plays = plays/drive; Ranking #1 in turnover rates is best and signifies zero turnovers; Ranking #1 in punt % is best and signifies fewest punts



First Five of Third Quarter (2020)

Per-Drive Rank

| Team | EPA/Play | Yards/Play | Score % | TD % | Yards | Plays | Punt % | TO on Downs | Turnover % |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------------|------------|
| Bills | 1 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Patriots | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 1 | 18 |
| Titans | 2 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 22 | 19 | 1 | 1 |
| Falcons | 4 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 21 |
| Texans | 4 | 18 | 22 | 19 | 8 | 2 | 24 | 27 | 1 |
| Ravens | 6 | 10 | 12 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 20 | 14 |
| Lions | 7 | 21 | 14 | 14 | 20 | 17 | 13 | 1 | 31 |
| Packers | 8 | 5 | 24 | 6 | 13 | 22 | 26 | 29 | 6 |
| Dolphins | 9 | 25 | 26 | 20 | 27 | 25 | 31 | 1 | 1 |
| Raiders | 9 | 15 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 7 |
| Seahawks | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 10 | 1 | 14 |
| Buccaneers | 12 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 22 | 1 | 20 | 14 |
| Jets | 12 | 8 | 19 | 13 | 22 | 30 | 29 | 1 | 12 |
| Cardinals | 14 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 5 | 22 | 1 | 19 |
| Chiefs | 14 | 4 | 16 | 17 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 29 | 22 |
| Steelers | 16 | 11 | 8 | 14 | 18 | 25 | 13 | 24 | 7 |
| Saints | 17 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 27 |
| 49ers | 18 | 12 | 6 | 22 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 1 | 11 |
| Panthers | 18 | 24 | 32 | 30 | 21 | 16 | 16 | 20 | 29 |
| Cowboys | 20 | 17 | 16 | 21 | 19 | 19 | 10 | 1 | 22 |
| Giants | 21 | 30 | 21 | 32 | 17 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 28 |
| Football Team | 22 | 23 | 13 | 11 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 1 | 9 |
| Colts | 23 | 31 | 28 | 31 | 24 | 8 | 23 | 20 | 14 |
| Browns | 24 | 26 | 22 | 26 | 26 | 19 | 19 | 24 | 25 |
| Jaguars | 24 | 32 | 25 | 8 | 31 | 17 | 18 | 32 | 20 |
| Bengals | 26 | 20 | 29 | 24 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 1 | 1 |
| Chargers | 27 | 28 | 29 | 24 | 25 | 14 | 27 | 1 | 9 |
| Vikings | 27 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 16 | 25 | 5 | 1 | 30 |
| Eagles | 29 | 15 | 26 | 26 | 29 | 31 | 24 | 1 | 31 |
| Rams | 29 | 22 | 15 | 23 | 15 | 5 | 12 | 28 | 13 |
| Broncos | 31 | 29 | 16 | 28 | 23 | 12 | 7 | 29 | 22 |
| Bears | 32 | 27 | 31 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 25 |

Note: drives that started in the first five minutes of third quarter for all 16 regular season games; Score % = FGs and TDs; Yards = yards/drive; Plays = plays/drive; Ranking #1 in turnover rates is best and signifies zero turnovers; Ranking #1 in punt % is best and signifies fewest punts

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

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE



2021 All-Access Package

Everything we offer for the best in Betting, Props, Fantasy & DFS

Early Bird Sale Saves BIG but Ends Soon

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

JOIN TODAY – Early Bird Discount ENDS SOON!

2021 Strength of Schedule Based on Win Totals 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 TOTAL EASIER THAN AVG (above)

18 19 20 21

24 25 26 27 28



| | | | St | rategi | ic Coa | ching | Marke | ers (20 | 020) | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Team | 4D Tendency | ED 1H Pass % | ED 1H Pass EPA Edge | 1st Drive EPA/play | 1H 3rd Down Yds to Go | 1H Explosive Play Rate | ED Motion % | into 8± | Run Rate into 6- Man Box | Halftime Lead | 1st 5 3Q EPA/play | 3Q Margin | Opp 3Q Pts |
| Chiefs | 5 | 1 | 19 | 5 | 18 | 4 | 3 | 25 | 29 | 6 | 14 | 1 | 1 |
| Ravens | 1 | 30 | 26 | 14 | 28 | 23 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| Patriots | 12 | 32 | 28 | 17 | 17 | 32 | 13 | 6 | 1 | 24 | 2 | 17 | 20 |
| Saints | 26 | 24 | 24 | 18 | 4 | 27 | 23 | 9 | 14 | 4 | 17 | 7 | 10 |
| Bills | 7 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 27 | 25 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 28 |
| Colts | 6 | 17 | 10 | 2 | 13 | 1 | 31 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 23 | 10 | 5 |
| Browns | 3 | 22 | 13 | 19 | 29 | 16 | 8 | 25 | 30 | 9 | 24 | 27 | 21 |
| Packers | 2 | 21 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 6 | 32 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 18 |
| Steelers | 21 | 6 | 18 | 24 | 22 | 17 | 30 | 12 | 30 | 8 | 16 | 14 | 8 |
| Dolphins | 29 | 9 | 6 | 31 | 8 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 10 | 9 | 23 | 13 |
| 49ers | 14 | 29 | 21 | 9 | 23 | 28 | 1 | 7 | 20 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 19 |
| Rams | 27 | 14 | 25 | 9 | 3 | 26 | 10 | 11 | 32 | 19 | 29 | 4 | 3 |
| Buccaneers | 32 | 3 | 9 | 16 | 1 | 7 | 19 | 16 | 25 | 12 | 12 | 6 | 15 |
| Chargers | 15 | 15 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 28 | 17 | 2 | 13 | 27 | 22 | 29 |
| Cardinals | 10 | 20 | 14 | 28 | 27 | 20 | 32 | 17 | 2 | 16 | 14 | 9 | 12 |
| Football Team | 8 | 7 | 32 | 30 | 10 | 31 | 5 | 24 | 22 | 30 | 22 | 5 | 2 |
| Panthers | 28 | 12 | 20 | 26 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 14 | 19 | 17 | 18 | 25 | 17 |
| Seahawks | 31 | 5 | 22 | 7 | 25 | 18 | 14 | 22 | 10 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| Vikings | 18 | 26 | 16 | 9 | 21 | 8 | 24 | 31 | 5 | 22 | 27 | 21 | 32 |
| Broncos | 23 | 25 | 30 | 29 | 32 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 10 | 29 | 31 | 19 | 16 |
| Cowboys | 4 | 10 | 12 | 25 | 15 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 22 | 26 | 20 | 15 | 11 |
| Bears | 20 | 13 | 17 | 7 | 2 | 29 | 15 | 27 | 8 | 15 | 32 | 30 | 21 |
| Titans | 19 | 31 | 7 | 3 | 7 | 14 | 4 | 17 | 8 | 14 | 2 | 13 | 24 |
| Raiders | 13 | 18 | 11 | 20 | 16 | 3 | 7 | 27 | 5 | 20 | 9 | 11 | 9 |
| Eagles | 9 | 19 | 31 | 26 | 26 | 30 | 25 | 22 | 5 | 24 | 29 | 28 | 24 |
| Falcons | 10 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 9 | 17 | 30 | 17 | 7 | 4 | 26 | 23 |
| Giants | 24 | 28 | 29 | 23 | 31 | 19 | 29 | 7 | 15 | 23 | 21 | 16 | 6 |
| Jets | 15 | 27 | 23 | 9 | 24 | 22 | 18 | 1 | 22 | 31 | 12 | 29 | 30 |
| Bengals | 17 | 11 | 15 | 20 | 9 | 13 | 22 | 2 | 20 | 21 | 26 | 31 | 26 |
| Jaguars | 25 | 16 | 27 | 20 | 12 | 24 | 26 | 4 | 25 | 32 | 24 | 32 | 31 |
| Lions | 30 | 23 | 8 | 4 | 30 | 5 | 21 | 12 | 17 | 28 | 7 | 24 | 26 |
| Texans | 22 | 4 | 1 | 32 | 19 | 2 | 27 | 14 | 28 | 27 | 4 | 12 | 13 |

4D Tendency = blend of fourth down decision making weighting 2020 heavier with 2019 for +EV go/kick decision making based on win percentage added on a normalized basis for all 32 teams (this is the lone metric in the graphic that incorporates some 2019 data); ED 1H Pass % = early down pass rate in the first half; ED 1H Pass EPA Edge = increase in efficiency delivered by passes on these first half early downs; 1st Drive EPA/play = first drive of game; 1H 3rd Down Yds to Go = yards to go on third down in the first half; ED Motion % = early down motion rate (play action and/or pre-snap motion) in the first three quarters; Run Rate into boxes = 1 is high (frequent), 32 = low (infrequent); Halftime lead = frequency of building halftime leads in 2020; 1st 5 3Q EPA/play = EPA during the first five minutes of the third quarter; 3Q Margin = scoring margin in the third quarter; Opp 3Q Points = halftime defensive adjustments to limit opposing scoring, 1 = best



| | | 2021 Posi | tional Uni | t Ranking | gs | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|
| Team | Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach |
| Arizona Cardinals | 10 | 13 | 28 | 14 | 11 | 21 | 18 |
| Atlanta Falcons | 13 | 25 | 29 | 21 | 28 | 29 | 26 |
| Baltimore Ravens | 6 | 7 | 8 | 24 | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| Buffalo Bills | 7 | 16 | 26 | 7 | 17 | 2 | 6 |
| Carolina Panthers | 30 | 29 | 4 | 14 | 10 | 24 | 19 |
| Chicago Bears | 21 | 26 | 24 | 25 | 7 | 22 | 23 |
| Cincinnati Bengals | 16 | 29 | 17 | 11 | 29 | 18 | 28 |
| Cleveland Browns | 12 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 9 |
| Dallas Cowboys | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 23 | 25 | 19 |
| Denver Broncos | 31 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 21 |
| Detroit Lions | 27 | 11 | 22 | 31 | 29 | 28 | 31 |
| Green Bay Packers | 2 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 20 | 7 | 10 |
| Houston Texans | 32 | 27 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 32 |
| Indianapolis Colts | 25 | 8 | 5 | 27 | 15 | 16 | 12 |
| Jacksonville Jaguars | 19 | 23 | 14 | 26 | 31 | 26 | 30 |
| Kansas City Chiefs | 1 | 6 | 20 | 3 | 18 | 15 | 2 |
| Las Vegas Raiders | 15 | 22 | 12 | 23 | 27 | 32 | 21 |
| Los Angeles Chargers | 9 | 15 | 13 | 18 | 26 | 19 | 24 |
| Los Angeles Rams | 8 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Miami Dolphins | 17 | 28 | 30 | 17 | 19 | 4 | 13 |
| Minnesota Vikings | 14 | 21 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 15 |
| New England Patriots | 23 | 5 | 25 | 28 | 14 | 9 | 1 |
| New Orleans Saints | 24 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 11 | 14 | 4 |
| New York Giants | 28 | 31 | 10 | 19 | 22 | 11 | 25 |
| New York Jets | 29 | 24 | 32 | 29 | 21 | 31 | 27 |
| Philadelphia Eagles | 25 | 14 | 27 | 30 | 16 | 27 | 29 |
| Pittsburgh Steelers | 22 | 32 | 20 | 12 | 2 | 12 | 7 |
| San Francisco 49ers | 18 | 12 | 19 | 8 | 3 | 13 | 7 |
| Seattle Seahawks | 3 | 18 | 16 | 5 | 24 | 20 | 13 |
| Tampa Bay Buccaneers | 3 | 3 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 |
| Tennessee Titans | 10 | 19 | 6 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 16 |
| Washington Football Team | 19 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 4 | 9 | 17 |

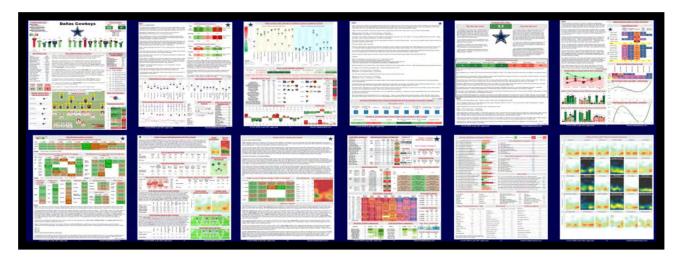
Rankings incorporate roster depth, do not factor in future seasons, assume Aaron Rodgers plays for the Packers and DeShaun Watson does not play for the Texans



2021 Sharp Football Analysis Fantasy PPR Cheat Sheet

| | | Quarterbac | ks | | | | | Running Bacl | ks | | | | | | Wide Receivers | | | |
|----------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|----|----------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Rk | Ov 54 | Player | Team | \$\$ 10 | Bye | Rk | Ov | Player | Team | \$\$ 50 | Bye | | Rk | Ov | Player | Team | \$\$ 50 | Bye |
| 1 2 | 54 61 | Patrick Mahomes Lamar Jackson | KC BAL | 10 7 | 12 8 | 1 2 | 1 2 | Christian McCaffrey Dalvin Cook | CAR MIN | 59 55 | 13 7 | | 1 2 | 8 9 | Tyreek Hill Davante Adams | KC GB | 50 47 | 12 13 |
| 3 | 62 | Josh Allen | BUF | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 | Ezekiel Elliott | DAL | 54 | 7 | | 3 | 16 | Stefon Diggs | BUF | 39 | 7 |
| 4 | 67 | Dak Prescott | DAL | 5 | 7 | 4 | 4 | Saquon Barkley | NYG | 54 | 10 | | 4 | 17 | Calvin Ridley | ATL | 38 | 6 |
| 5 | 68 | Kyler Murray | ARI | 4 | 12 | 5 | 5 | Derrick Henry | TEN | 53 | 13 | | 5 | 18 | DeAndre Hopkins | ARI | 37 | 12 |
| 6 | 75 | Russell Wilson | SEA | 4 | 9 | 6 | 6 | Alvin Kamara | NO | 51 | 6 | | 6 | 19 | D.K. Metcalf | SEA | 37 | 9 |
| 7 | 81 | Ryan Tannehill | TEN | 4 | 13 | 7 | 7 | Aaron Jones | GB | 50 | 13 | | 7 | 20 | Justin Jefferson | MIN | 36 | 7 |
| 8 9 | 82 84 | Justin Herbert Aaron Rodgers | LAC GB | 4 4 | 7 13 | 8 9 | 11 12 | Jonathan Taylor Nick Chubb | IND CLE | 45 45 | 14 13 | | 8 9 | 25 26 | Michael Thomas A.J. Brown | NO TEN | 32 31 | 6 13 |
| 10 | 93 | Jalen Hurts | PHI | 3 | 14 | 10 | 13 | Cam Akers | LAR | 43 | 11 | | 10 | 31 | Keenan Allen | LAC | 27 | 7 |
| 11 | 99 | Tom Brady | ТВ | 2 | 9 | 11 | 14 | Joe Mixon | CIN | 40 | 10 | | 11 | 32 | Terry McLaurin | WAS | 26 | 9 |
| 12 | 100 | Matthew Stafford | LAR | 2 | 11 | 12 | 15 | Austin Ekeler | LAC | 39 | 7 | | 12 | 33 | Amari Cooper | DAL | 26 | 7 |
| 13 | 106 | Joe Burrow | CIN | 2 | 10 | 13 | 21 | Najee Harris | PIT | 36 | 7 | | 13 | 34 | Julio Jones | TEN | 25 | 13 |
| 14 | 118 | Trevor Lawrence | JAC | 2 | 7 | 14 | 23 | Antonio Gibson | WAS | 33 | 9 | | 14 | 36 | Allen Robinson | CHI | 23 | 10 |
| 15 16 | 159 170 | Kirk Cousins Matt Ryan | MIN ATL | 1 1 | 7 6 | 15 16 | 27 28 | Chris Carson Clyde Edwards-Helaire | SEA KC | 30 30 | 9 12 | | 15 16 | 37 38 | Chris Godwin Mike Evans | TB TB | 22 21 | 9 |
| 17 | 176 | Carson Wentz | IND | 0 | 14 | 17 | 29 | D'Andre Swift | DET | 28 | 9 | | 17 | 39 | CeeDee Lamb | DAL | 21 | 7 |
| 18 | 177 | Baker Mayfield | CLE | 0 | 13 | 18 | 30 | J.K. Dobbins | BAL | 27 | 8 | | 18 | 41 | D.J. Moore | CAR | 20 | 13 |
| 19 | 181 | Tua Tagovailoa | MIA | 0 | 14 | 19 | 35 | Miles Sanders | PHI | 24 | 14 | | 19 | 43 | Tyler Lockett | SEA | 18 | 9 |
| 20 | 184 | Zach Wilson | NYJ | 0 | 6 | 20 | 42 | Josh Jacobs | LV | 19 | 8 | | 20 | 45 | Cooper Kupp | LAR | 17 | 11 |
| 21 | 188 | Justin Fields | CHI | 0 | 10 | 21 | 44 | David Montgomery | CHI | 17 | 10 | | 21 | 46 | Robert Woods | LAR | 16 | 11 |
| 22 | 189 | Ryan Fitzpatrick | WAS LV | 0 | 9 8 | 22 | 58 63 | Mike Davis Travis Etienne | ATL | 9 7 | 6 7 | | 22 23 | 47 48 | Kenny Golladay | NYG | 15 14 | 10 13 |
| 23 24 | 193 195 | Derek Carr Daniel Jones | LV NYG | 0 | 8 10 | 23 24 | 63 69 | I ravis Etienne Myles Gaskin | JAC MIA | 6 | 7 14 | | 23 24 | 48 49 | Odell Beckham Adam Thielen | CLE MIN | 14 13 | 13 7 |
| 24 25 | 198 | Ben Roethlisberger | PIT | 0 | 7 | 24 25 | 70 | Kareem Hunt | CLE | 6 | 13 | | 24 25 | 50 | Tee Higgins | CIN | 12 | 10 |
| 26 | 199 | Sam Darnold | CAR | 0 | 13 | 26 | 71 | Javonte Williams | DEN | 5 | 11 | | 26 | 51 | Diontae Johnson | PIT | 12 | 7 |
| 27 | 200 | Trey Lance | SF | 0 | 6 | 27 | 72 | Michael Carter | NYJ | 5 | 6 | | 27 | 52 | Courtland Sutton | DEN | 11 | 11 |
| 28 | 202 | Jameis Winston | NO | 0 | 6 | 28 | 73 | Chase Edmonds | ARI | 5 | 12 | | 28 | 53 | Chase Claypool | PIT | 10 | 7 |
| 29 | 205 | Jared Goff | DET | 0 | 9 | 29 | 79 | James Robinson | JAC | 4 | 7 | | 29 | 56 | Robby Anderson | CAR | 10 | 13 |
| 30 31 | 206 210 | Mac Jones Teddy Bridgewater | NE DEN | 0 | 14 11 | 30 31 | 89 96 | Leonard Fournette Melvin Gordon | TB DEN | 3 2 | 9 11 | | 30 31 | 59 60 | Jerry Jeudy JuJu Smith-Schuster | DEN PIT | 9 8 | 11 7 |
| 31 32 | 210 | Taysom Hill | NO | 0 | 6 | 31 32 | 96 98 | Damien Harris | NE | 2 | 11 | | 31 32 | 64 | Deebo Samuel | SF | 8 7 | 6 |
| V. | 411 | . 4,0001111111 | 110 | | | 33 | 101 | Raheem Mostert | SF | 2 | 6 | | 33 | 65 | Brandon Aiyuk | SF | 7 | 6 |
| | | | | | | 34 | 102 | Trey Sermon | SF | 2 | 6 | | 34 | 66 | Ja'Marr Chase | CIN | 6 | 10 |
| Tig | ht End | ls | | | | 35 | 103 | Ronald Jones | TB | 2 | 9 | | 35 | 76 | Will Fuller | MIA | 5 | 14 |
| Rk | Ov | Player | Team | \$\$ | Bye | 36 | 104 | Zack Moss | BUF | 2 | 7 | | 36 | 77 | Brandin Cooks | HOU | 5 | 10 |
| 1 | 10 | Travis Kelce | KC | 45 | 12 | 37 | 111 | Tony Pollard | DAL | 2 | 7 | | 37 | 78 | Tyler Boyd | CIN | 4 | 10 |
| 2 | 22 | Darren Waller | LV | 36 | 8 | 38 | 112 | A.J. Dillon | GB | 2 | 13 | | 38 | 80 | D.J. Chark | JAC | 4 | 7 |
| 3 4 | 24 40 | George Kittle Kyle Pitts | SF ATL | 31 21 | 6 6 | 39 40 | 119 121 | David Johnson Devin Singletary | HOU BUF | 2 | 10 7 | | 39 40 | 83 85 | Curtis Samuel Jarvis Landry | WAS CLE | 4 4 | 9 13 |
| 5 | 55 | T.J. Hockenson | DET | 6 | 9 | 40 41 | 122 | Gus Edwards | BAL | 2 | 8 | | 40 41 | 86 | Marquise Brown | BAL | 3 | 8 |
| 6 | 57 | Mark Andrews | BAL | 6 | 8 | 42 | 124 | James Conner | ARI | 2 | 12 | | 42 | 87 | Antonio Brown | TB | 3 | 9 |
| 7 | 74 | Noah Fant | DEN | 5 | 11 | 43 | 128 | Nyheim Hines | IND | 2 | 14 | | 43 | 88 | Michael Gallup | DAL | 3 | 7 |
| 8 | 97 | Dallas Goedert | PHI | 2 | 14 | 44 | 129 | Tarik Cohen | CHI | 2 | 10 | | 44 | 90 | Corey Davis | NYJ | 3 | 6 |
| 9 | 105 | Mike Gesicki | MIA | 2 | 14 | 45 | 130 | Kenyan Drake | LV | 2 | 8 | | 45 | 91 | DeVonta Smith | PHI | 3 | 14 |
| 10 | 108 109 | Evan Engram Gerald Everett | NYG SEA | 2 | 10 9 | 46 47 | 131 133 | Tevin Coleman Darrell Henderson | NYJ LAR | 1 | 6 11 | | 46 47 | 92 94 | Jaylen Waddle Mike Williams | MIA LAC | 3 | 14 7 |
| 11 12 | 110 | Tyler Higbee | LAR | 2 | 11 | 48 | 134 | J.D. McKissic | WAS | 1 | 9 | | 48 | 94 95 | Damell Mooney | CHI | 2 | 10 |
| 13 | 113 | Logan Thomas | WAS | 2 | 9 | 49 | 135 | Jamaal Williams | DET | 1 | 9 | | 49 | 107 | DeVante Parker | MIA | 2 | 14 |
| 14 | 126 | Jonnu Smith | NE | 2 | 14 | 50 | 136 | Alexander Mattison | MIN | 1 | 7 | | 50 | 114 | Nelson Agholor | NE | 2 | 14 |
| 15 | 127 | Irv Smith Jr. | MIN | 2 | 7 | 51 | 140 | James White | NE | 1 | 14 | | 51 | 115 | Henry Ruggs | LV | 2 | 8 |
| 16 | 142 | Hunter Henry | NE | 1 | 14 | 52 | 143 | Latavius Murray | NO | 1 | 6 | | 52 | 116 | Laviska Shenault | JAC | 2 | 7 |
| 17 18 | 158 164 | Robert Tonyan Anthony Firkser | GB TEN | 1 1 | 13 13 | 53 54 | 144 146 | Chuba Hubbard Kenneth Gainwell | CAR PHI | 1 | 13 14 | | 53 54 | 117 120 | Mecole Hardman Russell Gage | KC ATL | 2 | 12 6 |
| 19 | 180 | Zach Ertz | PHI | 0 | 14 | 55 | 147 | Giovani Bernard | TB | 1 | 9 | | 55 | 123 | Marvin Jones | JAC | 2 | 7 |
| 20 | 187 | Austin Hooper | CLE | 0 | 13 | 56 | 148 | Rashaad Penny | SEA | 1 | 9 | | 56 | 125 | Cole Beasley | BUF | 2 | 7 |
| 21 | 190 | Cole Kmet | CHI | 0 | 10 | 57 | 152 | Darrynton Evans | TEN | 1 | 13 | | 57 | 132 | Elijah Moore | NYJ | 1 | 6 |
| 22 | 192 | Adam Trautman | NO | 0 | 6 | 58 | 157 | Phillip Lindsay | HOU | 1 | 10 | | 58 | 137 | Terrace Marshall | CAR | 1 | 13 |
| 23 | 196 | Blake Jarwin | DAL | 0 | 7 | 59 | 162 | Joshua Kelley | LAC | 1 | 7 | | 59 | 138 | Michael Pittman | IND | 1 | 14 |
| 24 25 | 197 201 | Jared Cook O.J. Howard | LAC TB | 0 | 7 9 | 60 61 | 163 165 | Malcolm Brown Darrel Williams | MIA KC | 1 1 | 14 12 | | 60 61 | 139 141 | Sterling Shepard Jalen Reagor | NYG PHI | 1 1 | 10 14 |
| 26 | 204 | Rob Gronkowski | TB | 0 | 9 | 62 | 166 | Samaje Perine | CIN | 1 | 10 | | 62 | 145 | Jamison Crowder | NYJ | 1 | 6 |
| 27 | 208 | Eric Ebron | PIT | 0 | 7 | 63 | 171 | LaMical Perine | NYJ | 1 | 6 | | 63 | 149 | T.Y. Hilton | IND | 1 | 14 |
| 28 | 209 | Mo Alie-Cox | IND | 0 | 14 | 64 | 172 | Benny Snell | PIT | 1 | 7 | | 64 | 150 | Emmanuel Sanders | BUF | 1 | 7 |
| 29 | 211 | Dan Arnold | CAR | 0 | 13 | 65 | 173 | Rhamondre Stevenson | NE | 1 | 14 | | 65 | 151 | Parris Campbell | IND | 1 | 14 |
| 30 | 212 | Chris Herndon | NYJ | 0 | 6 | 66 | 175 | Qadree Ollison | ATL | 0 | 6 | | 66 | 153 | Tre'Quan Smith | NO | 1 | 6 |
| 31 | 213 | Hayden Hurst Dawson Knox | ATL | 0 | 6 | 67 | 178 | Sony Michel | NE SF | 0 | 14 | | 67 | 154 | Gabriel Davis | BUF | 1 | 7 |
| 32 33 | 214 215 | Dawson Knox Donald Parham | BUF LAC | 0 | 7 7 | 68 69 | 179 182 | Elijah Mitchell Gerrid Doaks | MIA | 0 | 6 14 | | 68 69 | 155 156 | Denzel Mims Rashod Bateman | NYJ BAL | 1 1 | 6 8 |
| 34 | 216 | Jordan Akins | HOU | 0 | 10 | 70 | 183 | Salvon Ahmed | MIA | 0 | 14 | | 70 | 160 | Rondale Moore | ARI | 1 | 12 |
| 35 | 217 | Jack Doyle | IND | 0 | 14 | 71 | 185 | Javian Hawkins | ATL | 0 | 6 | | 71 | 161 | John Brown | LV | 1 | 8 |
| 36 | 218 | Harrison Bryant | CLE | 0 | 13 | 72 | 186 | Mark Ingram | HOU | 0 | 10 | | 72 | 167 | DeSean Jackson | LAR | 1 | 11 |
| 37 | 219 | Jacob Hollister | BUF | 0 | 7 | 73 | 191 | DeeJay Dallas | SEA | 0 | 9 | | 73 | 168 | Amon-Ra St. Brown | DET | 1 | 9 |
| 38 | 220 | Pat Freiermuth | PIT | 0 | 7 | 74 | 203 | Jaret Patterson | WAS | 0 | 9 | | 74 | 169 | Christian Kirk | ARI | 1 | 12 |
| 39 40 | 221 222 | C.J. Uzomah Brevin Jordan | CIN HOU | 0 | 10 10 | 75 | 207 | Marlon Mack | IND | 0 | 14 | | 75 | 174 | Tyrell Williams | DET | 0 | 9 |
| ÷0 | ~~~ | Di Ovili ooluali | 1100 | U | 10 | | | | | | | اس | | | | | | |

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 2021 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: Rest and preparation edges based on schedule timing // ranking of schedule edges 1-32 compared to rest of NFL teams

PAGE 5: Positional unit rankings 1-32

PAGE 6: 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 7: Success by Play Type and Personnel Grouping: the first number in the grouping is the number 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 8: team narrative continues // analysis of the immediate impact of the team's 2021 draft class on the upcoming season only (not focused on future years)

PAGE 9: 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 (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 10: 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 11: Most metrics are self-explanatory, early down target rate shows NFL averages below frequency

PAGE 12: 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 presnap motion (PSM) usage and improvement in quarters 1-3 only. Metrics 22-26 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 13: 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.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

<u>Head Coach</u>: Kliff Kingsbury (2 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Offensive Coordinator:
Kingsbury calls plays (2 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:

Defensive Coordinator: Vance Joseph (2 yrs)

Arizona Cardinals

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

8

#4

Past Records

2020: 8-8 2019: 5-11 2018: 7-8-1



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Angelo Blackson (IDL) | Bears |
| Dan Arnold (TE) | Panthers |
| Haason Reddick (EDGE) | Panthers |
| Kenyan Drake (RB) | Raiders |
| Marcus Gilbert (OT) | Retired |
| Mason Cole (C) | Vikings |
| Patrick Peterson (CB) | Vikings |
| Trent Sherfield (WR) | 49ers |
| Brett Hundley (QB) | TBD |
| Corey Peters (IDL) | TBD |
| D.J. Foster (RB) | TBD |
| De'Vondre Campbell (LB) | TBD |
| Domata Peko (IDL) | TBD |
| Dre Kirkpatrick (CB) | TBD |
| Isaiah Irving (EDGE) | TBD |
| J.R. Sweezy (RG) | TBD |
| Johnathan Joseph (CB) | TBD |
| Josh Mauro (IDL) | TBD |
| Kevin Peterson (CB) | TBD |
| Larry Fitzgerald (WR) | TBD |
| Mike Nugent (K) | TBD |
| Seth DeValve (TE) | TBD |
| Zane Gonzalez (K) | TBD |

2021 Arizona Cardinals Overview

It is hard to properly value the efficiency that a good running quarterback brings to an NFL offense. For example, consider the following:

Derrick Henry is a beast of a running back and had a career year last year, averaging over 125 rushing yards per game with over 2,000 total yards on the season... but...

...in the first three quarters, **Kyler Murray's** rushing produced nearly four times more expected points than Derrick Henry's rushing, on one-third of the carries. Kyler Murray averaged over ten times more expected points per rush than Henry.

Murray's 0.41 EPA/att on 98 attempts dwarfed Henry's 0.04 EPA/att over his 293 attempts in the first three quarters of games.

In last year's book, I urged the Cardinals to use Murray's legs even more in 2020.

They obliged, and Murray's rushing EPA/att was tops in the NFL last season. It was a huge reason for Arizona's early season success and their 5-2 record out of the gates.

It is vital that opposing defenses try harder to minimize Murray's rushing upside (which is easier said than done), but it's also vital that we account for it when analyzing the Cardinals' rushing output.

Because if we leave it in the calculus, the Cardinals 2020 rushing offense ranked third in EPA/att.

But if we remove QB rushing, the Cardinals ranked below-average,

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|---------------------|----------|
| J.J. Watt (IDL) | \$14 |
| Rodney Hudson (C) | Trade |
| A.J. Green (WR) | \$6 |
| Malcolm Butler (CB) | \$3.29 |
| Matt Prater (K) | \$3.29 |
| James Conner (RB) | \$1.8 |
| Brian Winters (RG) | \$1.2 |
| Colt McCoy (QB) | \$1.2 |
| Shawn Williams (S) | \$1.2 |

Drafted Players

| R | d Pk | Player (College) |
|---|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | 16 | LB - Zaven Collins (Tulsa) |
| 2 | 49 | WR - Rondale Moore (Purdue) |
| 4 | 136 | CB - Marco Wilson (Florida) |
| 6 | 210 | DE - Victor Dimukeje (Duke) |
| ٥ | 223 | CB - Tay Gowan (UCF) |
| 7 | 243 | S - James Wiggins (Cincinnati) |
| Ľ | 247 | C - Michal Menet (Penn State) |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Games

Favored

<u>Average</u>

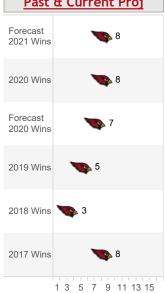
Line

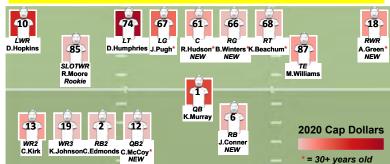
-0.7

Games

Underdog

7





2021 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see ARI2)



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 15 | \$93.31M | 24 |
| QB | 20 | \$11.53M | 24 |
| OL | 9 | \$42.06M | 22 |
| RB | 28 | \$5.69M | 7 |
| WR | 12 | \$26.31M | 9 |
| TE | 24 | \$7.71M | 29 |
| All DEF | 5 | \$104.81M | 8 |
| DL | 2 | \$59.65M | 12 |
| LB | 8 | \$19.84M | 7 |
| СВ | 29 | \$11.37M | 6 |
| S | 12 | \$13.96M | 25 |
| | | | |

ARI-2

18th in the NFL, with just 4.1 YPC, 48% success, and -0.04 EPA/att from non-QB runs.

After **Kenyan Drake** delivered 5.2 YPC and 0.12 EPA/att in 2019, he regressed down to just 4.0 YPC and -0.05 EPA/att in 2020. **Chase Edmonds** wasn't significantly better (-0.02 EPA/att). This rushing offense wouldn't have contributed anything save for Murray's ability on the ground.

It didn't matter the run type, Murray was tremendous with them all.

On designed quarterback runs, including sneaks and draws, he gained +0.24 EPA/att with 6.1 YPC on 67 attempts. On scrambles, due to either defensive pressure, coverage, or open run lanes, Murray averaged +0.64 EPA/att with 8.2 YPC on 52 attempts.

The only runs which were unsuccessful were designed runs on third down (-0.53 EPA/att).

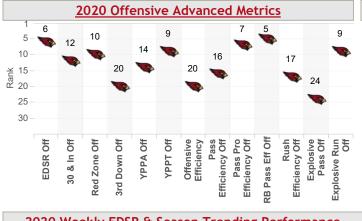
When you have a quarterback delivering such efficiency on the ground, and a set of running backs incapable of producing anything close to such efficiency, it becomes highly problematic when your quarterback gets hurt and cannot run effectively.

Murray dealt with a shoulder injury over the second half of the season, an injury he sustained when he landed on the shoulder on the first drive in Week 11 at Seattle. He battled through that game and kept playing, but after the season he said he initially hurt it against the Dolphins in Week 9 and then re-injured it in that Seattle game. Regardless of when the injury first occurred, what was clear was Kingsbury and Murray decided he should run the ball less often in that Week 11 game in Seattle.

Murray went from rushing attempts of 10, 14, 11, and 11 during the prior four games (three of four were wins) to five runs in each of the next three games, starting in Week 11 (Week 11 in Seattle, Week 12 in New England, and Week 13 vs the LA Rams).

Arizona lost all three games.

A run game which recorded positive EPA every single week since Week 1 (nine weeks of EPA above zero) with six wins in nine games, suddenly recorded negative EPA on the ground week after week after week.



| | | | ĕ | Red | 3rd | ŕ | | | Effic | Effic | RB Pa | Fffic | | Explo | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | 2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 W SF A 4 24 20 | 2 W WAS H 15 30 15 | 3 L DET H -3 23 26 | 4 L CAR A -10 21 31 | 5 W NYJ A 20 30 10 | 6 W DAL A 28 38 10 | 7 W SEA H 3 37 34 | 9 L MIA H -3 31 34 | 10 W BUF H 2 32 30 | 11 L SEA A -7 21 28 | 12 L NE A -3 17 20 | 13 L LA H -10 28 38 | 14 W NYG A 19 26 7 | 15 W PHI H 7 33 26 | 16 L SF H -8 12 20 | 17 L LA A -11 7 18 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | <u></u> | | <u> </u> |

| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Kyler Murray | 54% 8.2 104.6 | 52% 6.7 97.8 | 36% 6.0 72.3 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 45% | 62% | 72% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ARI | 51% 4.5 | 50% 4.6 | 54% 5.8 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 55% | 38% | 28% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | | | | | | | |

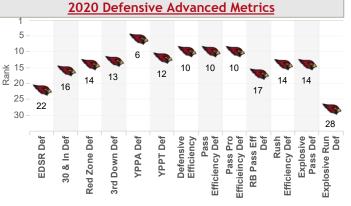
It wasn't just the first three weeks when Murray was initially injured. Arizona recorded below zero EPA for six of their final seven games, and lost five of them.

Although Murray later said he had to "play through the shoulder and took hits here and there and kept playing – it was fine," it was clear he wasn't able to run as often or as effectively as he did earlier in the season.

Pre-injury: 9.0 rushes/game, 0.50 EPA/att, 7.6 YPC, 62% success Post-injury: 6.1 rushes/game, 0.20 EPA/att, 5.1 YPC, 60% success

The inability to run as often or as effectively had a substantial impact on Arizona's overall ability to win games, because,

(cont'd - see ARI-3)



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)

2020 Close Game Records

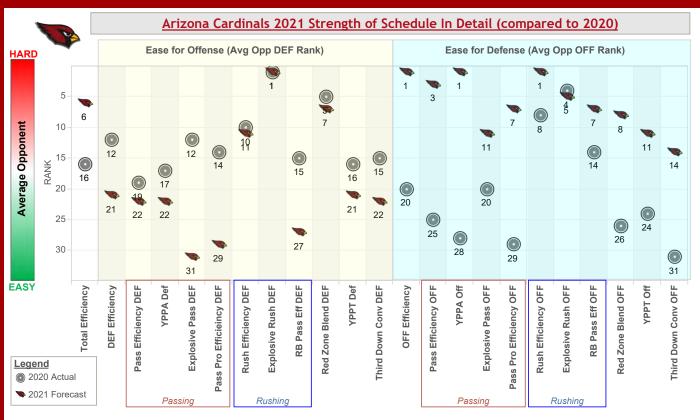
All 2019 Wins: 8 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 2-3 FG Games Win %: 40% (#20) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 25% (#12)

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **4-5** 1 Score Games Win %: **44% (#18)** 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **50% (#18)**

2020 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats TO Margin +0

TO Given 21 **INT Given** 13 **FUM Given** 8 TO Taken 21 **INT Taken** 11 10 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +19 48 Sacks Sacks Allow 29 Return TD Margin -3 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 3 **Penalty Margin** -9 Penalties 113 **Opponent Penalties** 104



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | | | | | | | |
| 21 | 28 | 19 | 24 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 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 | | | | | 20 | 21 (|)ppo | nent | s by | Divi | sion | 2020 | Орр | oner | nts b | y Div | visio | <u>n</u> <u>H</u> | ealth | by l | Jnit* | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------------|----------|------------|------------|-------|--------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|--------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | | | | _ | | | | | | _ | | | 2020 | Rk | 23 |
| | Ave | rage I | ine | | -1.8 | 5 | .4 | 7.4 | NF | CW | []A | | <u>پ</u> (﴿ | 3 | | NFCW | | <u>)</u> Æ | 🖎 偱 | 3 | | | 2019 | Rk | 22 |
| | Avera | | | | 50.0 | 47 | .5 | 42.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 20 | 20 v 20 | 19 Rk | 11 |
| | | | Record | | 8-8 | 5- | | 3-13 | | | æ . | 2 | | W - | | | | | | | | 20 | | | |
| | | | ad Red | | 7-9 | 10 | - | 7-8 | AF | -cs | () P |) (| A | | | | | > | * | ~ 4 | C (0.00) | | Off F | | 15 |
| · ' | | | Record | | 6-10 5-6 | 9 | | 7-9 0-2 | | | | | , | | | AFCE | 11 00 | | 7 | W | Jers. | | Def F | ₹k | 28 |
| | ATS a | as Fav | | | 5-6 2-3 | 10 | -1)-5 | 0-2 7-6 | | | | | | N. | | | | | | | | | QB F | Rk | 12 |
| | Straig | | | | 4-4 | 2 | - | 1-7 | NF | CN | | , | | \ni | 44 | | | | | | _ | | RB F |) k | 9 |
| | | S Hon | | | 3-5 | 4 | - | 3-5 | | | | , fi | | | P | | | - m | | \$ | | | | | |
| | Over/L | Jnder | Home | | 5-3 | 5 | -3 | 2-6 | | | | | | | | NFCE | | | 3 G | ~ 4 | Tensor S | | WR F | ₹k | 11 |
| A | ΓS as I | lome I | Favori | te | 2-4 | 0- | | 0-2 | ΔF | CN | | | | | | | | | | | | | TER | k | 25 |
| - | | | ne Dog | | 1-1 | 4 | | 3-3 | 741 | 0.11 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | Oline | Rk | 23 |
| | Straig | | | | 4-4 | - | -5 | 2-6 | | | | | | | | NFCN | 9/ | 2 | | | | | Dline | | 25 |
| | | S Awa | | | 4-4 1-7 | 6 | -2 -4 | 4-3 5-3 | NIE. | CE | | | | | | NFCN | Je. | | | | | | | | |
| | Over/Under Away ATS Away Favorite | | | 3-2 | 0 | | 5-3 0-0 | NF | -CE | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | LB R | Rk | 23 | |
| ATS Away Favorite | | | 1-2 | 6 | - | 4-3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DB F | Rk | 28 | | |
| Six Point Teaser Record | | rd | 10-6 | 12 | | 8-7 | | | - | | | | | NFCS | | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Seven Point Teaser Record | | | 10-5 | 12 | 2-4 | 9-7 | NF | NFCS | | IFCS | | 141 | | | 141 00 | | • | | | | | | n the w | |
| Ter | Point | Tease | r Reco | ord | 13-2 | 12 | 2-3 | 10-6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Footba | II Outsi | ders |
| | | | | | 20 |)21 V | /eek | ly Be | ettin | ıg Lir | <u>nes</u> | | | | | | | | | Hor | ne L | <u>ines</u> | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 10 | 14 | 16 | 18 |
| TEN | MIN | JAX | LAR | SF | CLE | HOU | GB | SF | CAR | SEA | CHI | LAR | DET | IND | DAL | SEA | | 0 | | | . | | 2.5 | -1 | _2 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | -3.5 MIN | SF | -10.5 | | В | | LAR | IN Avg | =_2.9 |
| +2.5 | -3.5 | -2.5 | +4.5 | +0.0 | +4.5 | -10.5 | -3.0 | +5.5 | -6.0 | +3.5 | -1.5 | +2.5 | -6.5 | -1.0 | +1.5 | -2.0 | | | HOU | | C | CAR | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | A | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avg = | -0.7 | CA. | A | | A | Н | Н | A | Н | A | A | 45 | Α | 7.5 | Avg | = -0.7 | | | | Roa | <u>ad Li</u> | nes | | | |
| | - Sign | 600 | | | | | 6 | | - | | | | - 🙉 | | | | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 17 |
| | | | | | | | | | 1100 | | | | | | | | | | 4.5 | | | | | | |
| | , | | | | | <i>a</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 5.5 | | | | |
| | · | | | | | S | | | | | | | | | | | 2.5 TEN | -2.5 | 4.5 -LAR | 4.5 _CLE_ | 5.5 SF | 3.5 SEA | -1.5 | Avg | =1.153 |
| | | | | _ | | S | | | | | | | | | | | Z.5 TEN | -2.5 JAX | | | | | -1.5 CHI | -6.5 | = ₁ 1 ₅ 3 |
| 51 | .9.5 | 49 | 49 | 46.5 | 20 | 49 | 49 | 47 | 49.5 | 50.5 | 46 | 48 | 47 | 20 | 52 | 49 | | | | | | | | | |





despite acquiring **DeAndre Hopkins**, and being an "Air Raid" offense, Arizona ran the ball more than most teams in neutral situations. 2020 showed an increase in run rate over 2019, Kingsbury's first season in the desert.

But poor rushing alone wasn't what sent the Cardinals from a 6-3 start to a 2-5 finish. The shoulder injury predictably impacted Arizona's passing attack as well

In the first nine games, Murray had 14 completions over 20 yards. In the last seven games? Only six.

Kyler's splits pre- and post-injury were clear:

Pre-injury: 0.05 EPA/att, 8.1 aDOT, 7.6 YPA, 3.7% sack rate Post-injury: -0.06 EPA/att, 7.2 aDOT, 6.6 YPA, 5.8% sack rate

Pre-injury, his completions were thrown to an average depth 2.7 yards short of the sticks. This was with an average of 9.1 yards to go on each completion. Post-injury, his completions were thrown with an average of only 8.8 yards to go, a shorter distance. If he averaged the same air yards, he would complete his passes just 2.4 yards short of the sticks, forcing less onto the receiver's plate post-catch. But with the injury, these completions were significantly shorter: thrown 4.0 yards short of the sticks. In summary, his average depth of completion dropped nearly two yards, from 6.4 pre-injury to 4.8 post-injury.

This certainly didn't help the Cardinals' ability to avoid third downs or at least third-and-longs.

Pre-injury, the Cardinals gained 233 first downs and went to third down only 112 times, the second best ratio in the NFL. Post-injury, their rate of third down avoidance dropped to 17th.

Pre-injury, the Cardinals averaged 6.8 yards-to-go on third down, 13th best in the NFL. Their conversion rate ranked an identical 13th best in the NFL.

Post-injury, the Cardinals averaged 7.1 yards-to-go on third down, eighth worst. And their third down conversion rate was fourth worst in the NFL.

Worse early down production led to far more third downs, longer third downs, far worse performance on third down... and predictably, more losses.

Another thing that happened was Murray took more sacks after getting injured. Over the first 10 weeks of the season, he was pressured on just 24% of his dropbacks, fourth lowest in the NFL. 14% of his pressures turned into sacks, 11th lowest in the NFL. When he wasn't sacked on these pressures, he averaged 7.0 YPA, 10th best in the NFL.

But after his shoulder injury, Murray was pressured on 30.4% of his dropbacks (increase of over 6%) and 16.3% of his pressures turned into sacks. More pressures and more sacks. When the pressure didn't result in a sack and he released a pass, he averaged only 5.3 YPA, a significant decline from 7.0 YPA pre-injury.

In total, it was a season that saw a huge reduction in sacks for Murray, as the Cardinals shifted from allowing 50 in 2019 to just 29 in 2020. As a team, they shifted from being -10 in sack margin to +19, a 29-sack swing. It was the second best swing of any team last year.

In last year's book, I predicted the Cardinals would face the 10th most difficult schedule of run defense and that turned out to be the case. But this was not a substantial increase over 2019 when they aced the 11th most difficult schedule.

Their poor 2020 rushing primarily related to a regression of RB Kenyan Drake (particularly in 11 personnel where he slipped from 53% success and 4.3 YPC in 2019 to 44% success and 3.8 YPC in 2020) and the Kyler Murray injury.

Kingsbury's offense has been great at avoiding runs into loaded boxes. Only 10% of their runs went into 8+ man boxes (fewest in the NFL) and only 33% went into 7-man boxes (sixth fewest). These were very similar rates to 2019, and are unlikely to see any improvement in 2021. A whopping 51% of Arizona's runs went into light boxes of six or fewer defenders, the second highest rate in the NFL. That must continue in 2021. Kingsbury certainly hopes the addition of RB **James Conner** will improve rushing efficiency, but I'm skeptical.

Last year with the Steelers, in runs against standard or light boxes in the first three quarters, Connor's 3.8 YPC was last of the Steelers' three primary ball carriers, as was his -0.10 EPA/att. And as a reminder, he shared the backfield with **Benny Snell** and **Anthony McFarland Jr**.

(cont'd - see ARI-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game prep to prep 2 +2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Arizona Cardinals Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank** Rank Rank 12 24

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- All of the free agent acquisitions of older veterans may backfire and the Cardinals begin to look old in 2021.
- Arizona faces the ninth toughest schedule of opponents based on current win totals. The NFC West is by far the toughest division in the NFL and the only division that currently has three teams as a favorite to make the playoffs.
- Arizona's pass defense caught a break having to face six backup or rookie starting QBs last season. This season the Cardinals defense is expected to face the sixth toughest schedule of opposing pass offenses, based on EPA.
- The Cardinals ranked eighth in fumble recovery luck and sixth in net TD percentage in the red zone. If those luck stats regress it could mean even more close game losses

8



Why Bet the Over

- Based on point differential, the Cardinals would have been expected to win 9.1 games last season, 1.1 more than their actual win total of 8 games. That was the eighth highest gap in the NFL last season. The Cardinals lost eight games but none by more than 11 points.
- J.J. Watt can produce at a high level and bring a locker room presence that can help win an extra game or two.
 Watt graded out as the seventh best edge defender in the NFL last year, according to PFF. The Cardinals ranked eighth in pressure rate last season and did so with Chandler Jones missing 11 games. The combination of Watt and Jones, who was second in the NFL in sacks in 2019, is a formidable one up front.
- Kyler Murray must take a step up in his passing from his first two seasons. He ranked 12th among QBs in EPA per dropback but that was mainly value added with his feet. He ranked only 26th in yards per attempt. Arizona faces six pass defenses that ranked in the bottom 10 of DVOA pass defense last season.

Arizona Cardinals Positional Unit Rankings Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach 10 13 28 14 11 21 18

Arizona has just one unit in the top 10, but a case could be made that their highest-ranked units (QB, OL, front seven) are among the most important, while their weakest (RB) is the easiest to hide.

Kyler Murray has yet to ascend to an elite level, but his combination of accuracy and mobility makes him the ideal quarterback for today's game. On scrambles (non-designed runs), Murray averaged +0.61 EPA/attempt, tops in the league.

We've seen enough of **Chase Edmonds** and **James Connor** to know they're unspectacular but capable of performing in Kliff Kingsbury's offense. In 2020, Arizona's scheme allowed its backfield to run into a box of six or fewer men 48% of the time, the highest rate in the league. So the lack of backfield talent is likely by design, knowing their scheme will allow for enhanced production.

D.J. Humphries and Kelvin Beachum emerged as one of the best LT/RT duos in the game last season and anchor our 13th-ranked offensive line.

The front seven earned votes ranging from ninth to 19th, reflecting a realistic range of potential outcomes. The additions of **J.J. Watt** and rookie **Zaven Collins**, plus the potential development of 2019 first-round pick **Isaiah Simmons**, gives them an elite ceiling but it remains a mostly unproven unit.

The departed **Patrick Peterson** and **Dre Kirkpatrick** accounted for 82% of the team's snaps at outside cornerback last season. So this new-look secondary will need to gel fast in a division stacked with talent at receiver. The unit ranks in the bottom half of the league on every ballot.

Head coach Kliff Kingsbury brings some legitimate play calling strengths to the table, but we remain skeptical of his overall skills as a head coach—he failed to earn a single vote in the upper half of the league.

<u> ARI-4</u>

It's always interesting to study college coaches shifting to the NFL and their philosophy. We know in college, Kingsbury utilized substantial rates of 10 personnel, featuring 4-WRs, zero TEs, and 1-RB. As discussed in last year's book, while Kingsbury used 10 personnel on over 60% of offensive plays his first month on the job (and fewer than 3-WRs less than 9% of offensive play calls), Kingsbury greatly reduced his dependence on 10 personnel immediately thereafter, after noticing lack of success and mounting WR injuries.

I praised him for this personnel flexibility and not being wed to using 10 personnel if the team wasn't built to accommodate it... while wondering what Kingsbury's strategy would be in 2020 after acquiring DeAndre Hopkins and being able to trot out **Christian Kirk** and **Larry Fitzgerald** at a minimum for 11 personnel, while rotating on another receiver to get to 10 personnel.

Kingsbury didn't even attempt to utilize heavy rates of 4-WR sets at all to start the 2020 season. Instead, he opted to go with heavy rates of 2-TE sets in 12 personnel. Over the first three weeks of the 2020 season, Kingsbury's "Air Raid" offense used the second-most 12 personnel of any team in the NFL.

They used 12 personnel on 30% of offensive snaps (the league average was 18%), reducing their 11 personnel down to 52% (average was 61%). Kingsbury used 10 personnel on only 13% of offensive plays, an incredible decline from his first three weeks in 2019 where they were at 61% 10 personnel.

For an "Air Raid" team built on spacing and most typically using no tight ends in 10 personnel, Kingsbury's Cardinals finished the 2020 season ranked second in usage rate of 2-TE sets, using them on 31% of offensive plays.

ARI-5

I don't view **A.J. Green** as a tremendous offseason addition (posted career lows in yards per reception, yards per target, touchdowns, receiving first downs, and catch rate last year after returning from missing the entire 2019 season) but I do think rookie WR **Rondale Moore** will provide more juice for this passing attack.

A change I fully believe in betting on is for Arizona to return to more 3- and 4-WR sets in 2021 and with it, a reduction in usage of 12 personnel.

Another thing the Cardinals should absolutely look to incorporate more in 2021 is pre-snap motion. Arizona's efficiency improved from +0.01 EPA/att without pre-snap motion to +0.05 EPA/att when using it, and their YPA increased by 0.6. These improvements ranked 10th most and 13th most in the NFL last year. In addition, when Arizona ran the football after using pre-snap motion, their rushing efficiency improved more than any other team in the NFL.

And yet the 2020 Cardinals ranked dead last in pre-snap motion usage rate overall, before pass plays, and before run plays. Similar to Kingsbury adapting his Air Raid philosophy to use more tight ends when it showed it increased efficiency, he should do similar and use more pre-snap motion since it produces such dividends for the Cardinals.

On the other side of the ball last year, Arizona's defense had the good fortune of facing the 20th easiest schedule of offenses, including the fifth worst collective group of passing offenses based on yards gained per pass attempt. Arizona played offenses from the terrible NFC East and AFC East (everyone but Buffalo was bad), plus the rebuilding Lions and Panthers.

Fortunately this season, they'll still get the Lions and Panthers, but instead of playing the NFC East, the Cardinals defense must slow down the NFC North along with the Cowboys (featuring a healthy **Dak Prescott**), and the Browns. They also will face the Bears but not until Week 13, and it's a game for Chicago which is three weeks after their bye and right after a mini-bye. **Justin Fields** is almost guaranteed to play against the Cardinals by Week 13, and he's a far scarier prospect than **Andy Dalton** or **Nick Foles**.

(cont'd - see ARI-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



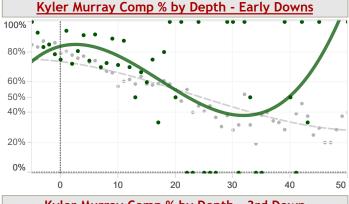
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

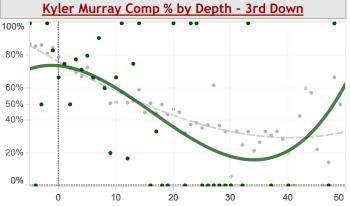


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | Usage R | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Kenyan Drake | 6% | 8% | 65% | 7% | 14% |
| | Chase Edmonds | 5% | 5% | 77% | 4% | 8% |
| RUSH | DeAndre Hopkins | | | 100% | | |
| 2 | Christian Kirk | | | 50% | | 50% |
| | Andy Isabella | | | 100% | | |
| | Total | 6% | 7% | 69% | 6% | 12% |
| | Kenyan Drake | | 24% | 66% | 3% | 7% |
| | Chase Edmonds | 11% | 24% | 54% | 6% | 5% |
| | DeAndre Hopkins | 9% | 15% | 63% | 4% | 9% |
| PASS | Christian Kirk | 9% | 12% | 67% | 3% | 9% |
| ĕ | Larry Fitzgerald | 3% | 12% | 71% | 4% | 10% |
| | Dan Arnold | 13% | 10% | 65% | 5% | 8% |
| | Andy Isabella | 6% | 15% | 74% | 3% | 3% |
| | Total | 8% | 15% | 65% | 4% | 8% |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type DeAndre Hopkins Edmonds Drake _arry Fitzgerald Isabella Arnold Christian Kenyan Andy Chase Dan RUSH 70% 29% 0% PASS 7% 33% ALL





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 49%, 0.03 (296) | 50%, -0.04 (116) | 48%, -0.08 (159) | 50%, 0.49 (8) | 100%, 1.48 (3) | 50%, -0.37 (2) | 50%, 0.36 (2) | 100%, 3.55 (1) | 0%, -0.76 (1) | 49%, 0.00 (598) |
| RUSH | 47%, 0.03 (197) | 51%, -0.01 (203) | 61%, 0.37 (56) | 55%, 0.21 (11) | 71%, -0.09 (7) | | | | | 50%, 0.05 (478) |
| All | 48%, 0.03 (493) | 50%, -0.02 (319) | 52%, 0.04 (215) | 53%, 0.33 (19) | 80%, 0.39 (10) | 50%, -0.37 (2) | 50%, 0.36 (2) | 100%, 3.55 (1) | 0%, -0.76 (1) | 50%, 0.02 (1,076) |

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

| | Receiv | ing Succe | ss by Top- (Leaderbo | 4 Personr | el Groupi | ngs |
|-----|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| POS | Player | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| RB | Chase Edmonds | 53% (34) 7.1, 0.26 | 52% (21) 5.5, 0.10 | 38% (8) 2.6, -0.41 | 50% (2) 3.0, -0.16 | 51% (65) 5.9, 0.11 |
| | Kenyan Drake | 54% (13) 4.1, 0.03 | 50% (4) 8.3, 0.50 | 50% (12) 4.1, -0.07 | | 52% (29) 4.7, 0.05 |
| TE | Dan Arnold | 64% (22) 9.8, 0.76 | | 62% (21) 10.5, 0.19 | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.29 | 61% (44) 9.9, 0.44 |
| WR | DeAndre Hopkins | 56% (95) 8.1, 0.25 | 64% (28) 9.2, 0.45 | 64% (25) 9.1, 0.14 | 67% (3) 28.7, 1.59 | 59% (151) 8.9, 0.29 |
| | Christian Kirk | 57% (42) 10.5, 0.23 | 46% (24) 4.5, -0.16 | 40% (10) 7.1, 0.14 | | 51% (76) 8.2, 0.09 |
| | Larry Fitzgerald | 39% (33) 4.3, -0.25 | 71% (31) 7.0, 0.27 | 43% (7) 6.4, 0.07 | | 54% (71) 5.7, 0.01 |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | | • | <u> </u> | |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| Drake | 51% (122) | 44% (97) | 20% (5) | 47% (224) |
| Kenyan | 4.0, -0.07 | 3.8, -0.03 | 3.2, -0.21 | 3.9, -0.06 |
| Murray | 57% (47) | 54% (56) | 100% (5) | 57% (108) |
| Kyler | 6.8, 0.28 | 5.0, 0.17 | 8.0, 0.78 | 5.9, 0.24 |
| Edmonds | 45% (31) | 43% (37) | 0% (1) | 43% (69) |
| Chase | 3.7, -0.19 | 4.4, -0.02 | -1.0, -0.54 | 4.0, -0.10 |

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

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| | rerage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 57% (402) 6.3, 0.14 | 3 Step | 57% (174) 8.5, 0.29 | Planted | | % (426) 8, 0.15 | Inside Zone | 51% (144) 4.4, 0.07 |
| | 500/ (0.44) | Curl | 70% (98) 8.1, 0.33 | | | 5 Step | 50% (155) | Moving | | 7% (73) 4, -0.08 | Power | 47% (47) |
| Zone | Zone 56% (344) 8.0, 0.12 | | 66% (64) 6.1, 0.20 | Level 2 | 45% (82) 9.5, -0.01 | Сопр | 8.9, 0.18 | Shuffling | | 1% (64) 4, -0.03 | | 4.0, -0.01 |
| | | 1% (117) Slant 61% (3 6.6, 0.1 | <u> </u> | Level 3 | 38% (45) | 0/1 Step | 54% (122) 5.4, -0.05 | | Play Action | on | Outside Zone | 45% (44) 3.8, - 0.12 |
| M2M | 51% (117) 7.2, 0.14 | | 6.6, 0.10 | Level 3 | 14.4, 0.44 | Designed Rollout Right | 59% (29) 7.8, 0.20 | | Play Action | No P/A | Pitch | 44% (18) 3.7, -0.04 |
| | , , | Dig | 60% (20) | Shovel | el 83% (6) | | 45% (11) | Under Center | 64% (22) 7.7, 0.22 | 29% (14) 3.7, 0.01 | | 30% (10) |
| | 47% (58) | | 9.8, 0.73 | | | 7 Step | 6.5, 0.19 | Shotgun | 53% (160) 9.3, 0.11 | 47% (402) 6.3, -0.06 | Stretch | 1.7, -0.47 |
| Screen | 4.2, -0.04 | Drag | 53% (17) 10.0, 0.15 | Sidearm | 50% (2) 3.0, -0.22 | Basic Screen | 50% (10) 3.9, 0.26 | ALL | 54% (182) 9.1, 0.13 | 46% (416) 6.2, -0.06 | Lead | 25% (4) 2.5, -0.15 |

ARI-6

But one interesting wrinkle has elevated the Cardinals slightly is they are scheduled to face both the Packers and Texans this season, both of which had Pro Bowl-level quarterbacks at minimum in **Aaron Rodgers** and **Deshaun Watson**. Both of which may not be facing the Cardinals this season, boosting the Arizona defensive outlook.

If both Rodgers and Watson don't play against the Cardinals, these numbers aren't as riveting, but as of now, the schedule shifts from playing the fifth easiest pass offenses in 2020 to the toughest pass offenses in 2021, the most difficult increase in schedule toughness of any defense this year.

For years, the Cardinals defense had been great at home. From 2012-2017, when playing at home the Cardinals held opposing offenses to nearly three fewer points than oddsmakers projected, by far the single best mark in the NFL for any team. When playing at home, the Cardinals held opposing offenses under the projected team total in 30 of 49 games (61%), a huge money making opportunity. But since 2018, the Cardinals have allowed opposing offenses to exceed their projected team total in 17 of 24 games (71%).

In Kliff Kingsbury's two years, only three in 16 home games (19%) saw the Cardinals defense hold their opponents under their projected team total. That's the second worst mark in the NFL behind the Lions.

To be fair, road offenses have been more productive than average over the last couple years, and we know no crowd noise impacted road offenses quite favorably in 2020. But the Cardinals defense has been much worse than average, after being the best defense in the NFL in this metric for over half a decade.

With the defense adding DE J.J. Watt and CB Malcolm Butler in free agency (replacing Patrick Peterson), drafting LB Zaven Collins 16th overall, and drafting defensive players with five of their first six picks, the front office knows that this defense needs to improve.

Statistically, the defense was much better last year than in 2019, improving from 27th against the pass in 2019 to 10th in 2020 and improving from 23rd in total defense in 2019 to 10th in 2020.





Kyler Murray has seen a remarkable start to his career. He is the only quarterback in NFL history to start his career with consecutive seasons of at least 3,500 passing yards, 20 passing TDs, and 60% completions. Murray is also the only quarterback in NFL history with consecutive seasons (regardless of years in the NFL) of at least 3,500 passing yards, 20 passing TDs, and 500 rushing yards.

The influx of talent, primarily with **Rodney Hudson**, J.J. Watt, the drafting of Rondale Moore, and a clear focus on improving defensive efficiency should make the Cardinals a better team in 2021.

Arizona plays the ninth toughest overall schedule of 2021 opponents, and an absolutely brutal increase in opposing offenses. With Kyler's legs and more talent at the receiver position, the arrow will absolutely point up for this offense, particularly at the start of the season with three AFC South opponents in the first seven weeks

Arizona is becoming a trendy team to back this offseason. At this time last year, Arizona was an underdog of 6+ points in five of eight road games. This year, in nine road games, the Cardinals aren't underdogs of 6+ points in any of them. For Arizona to have a shot at taking a significant step forward in 2021, they must improve defensively, keep Murray healthy, and figure out how to win divisional games. Under Kingsbury, Arizona has won just three of 12 divisional games (one of which was in overtime). The 49ers and the Rams will be better at key positions this season and Kingsbury is a collective 1-7 in eight games against them over the last two years, losing by nearly double digits on average.

Immediate Impact of Arizona Cardinals 2021 Draft Class

The Cardinals' selection of LB **Zaven Collins** (first round) was somewhat surprising because it wasn't the most glaring area of need and the team has done a poor job evaluating and developing talent at the position in recent years.

Collins is expected to start immediately as the Mike linebacker and will be expected to be the quarterback of the defense. We know Collins is an elite athlete, but a significant part of his task as a rookie will be communicating with the veterans and earning their trust.

WR **Rondale Moore** (second round) will bring an electric skill set to Kliff Kingsbury's offense, likely lining up in the slot. **Christian Kirk** and Andy **Isabella** have been Kingsbury's speedsters in the slot, but Moore's track record at Purdue does not necessarily indicate he'll be used in the same way.

In 2020, Kirk and Isabella each saw an average depth of target from the slot greater than 10 yards downfield. So their speed has been used to stretch the field, whereas Moore has been used almost exclusively near the line of scrimmage. Moore saw an average depth of target of 2.4 yards over his final two seasons at

CB **Marco Wilson** (fourth round) might compete for playing time in a weak secondary. Wilson had a fantastic start to his career at Florida, but suffered a season-ending knee injury in 2018 and his production never recovered. Wilson was among the worst cornerbacks in the SEC in 2020, allowing 9.0 yards per target. But Arizona will obviously be hoping he returns to form now that he's two full years removed from the knee injury.

S James Wiggins (seventh round) is another intriguing post-injury project for the Cardinals.

Based on Sports Info Solutions' Points Saved metric (based on the EPA framework), Wiggins graded out at +12.3 in 2018. Following a torn ACL which wiped out his 2019 campaign, he checked in at -0.7 in 2020.

Wiggins was a three-time member of Bruce Feldman's Freaks List and few players still on the board in the seventh round had as much athletic upside.

Arizona Cardinals 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Arizona was 17th in success rate per passing play (48%) and 19th in EPA passing in 2020. In his second season, **Kyler Murray** lifted his completion percentage (67.2%), yards per pass attempt (7.1 Y/A), and touchdown rate (4.7%) over his rookie season numbers. Below league average rate in every category outside of interception rate as a rookie in rating index, Murray was at above base rate in completion rate, touchdown rate, interception rate, and overall rating while coming in just below the watermark in yards per pass attempt and adjusted yards per pass. Murray averaged 8.2 yards per pass attempt on first down pass attempts (13th), but just 6.4 Y/A on all other downs (28th), including 6.1 Y/A on third downs (38th). Taking a step forward in year two, there is still much more of a passing ceiling for Murray to tap into in his third NFL season.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kyler Murray | 375 | 558 | 67% | 3,971 | 7.1 | 26 | 12 | 27 | 94 | 22 | | | |
| NFL Avg | NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----|--|--|
| QB Success % Success % Passing Success % Gains Success % Success % Success % Sains Success Sains Success Sains Success Sains Success S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kyler Murray | 49% | 53% | 44 | 8.0% | 24 | 4.0% | 5.8 | 4.8 | 24 | 4% | | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | | |

Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Kyler Murray Rating

Early Downs 53 112 99 104

| <u>In</u> | tercep | tion Ra | tes by | <u>Down</u> | |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------|
| 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% | 2.8% | 0.0% | 1.4% |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 1.1% | 4.4% | 0.0% | 2.1% |
| 10 - 14 | 1.0% | 2.7% | 9.7% | 0.0% | 2.3% |
| 15+ | 6.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 2.4% |
| Total | 1.4% | 1.4% | 4.2% | 0.0% | 2.1% |

| 3rd Down F | assing | - Short | of Stic | <u>ks Anal</u> | <u>ysis</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| QB | Avg. Vds to Go Comp) 8.9 5.7 | | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk |
| Kyler Murray | 8.9 | 5.7 | -3.2 | 72% | 26 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | |

| | Air Y | 'ds vs | YAC |
|----|--------------|----------|-----|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
| | 54% | 46% | 21 |
| | 52% | 48% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

In his first season in Arizona, **DeAndre Hopkins** reeled in 115 passes for 1,407 yards to go along with six touchdowns. But Hopkins himself accounted for 29.7% of the team receptions (third in the league) and accounted for 34.3% of the team receiving yardage gained on the season, which was the highest rate of any wide receiver in the league last season. Non-Hopkins wideouts for Arizona totaled just 1,477 yards on 143 receptions for nine touchdowns. As a group, they averaged 6.8 yards per target while Hopkins was at 8.8 yards per look. This offseason, the team added **A.J. Green**, who had just a 41% successful target rate, fourth-lowest among all wideouts in the league. **Rondale Moore** led this draft class in receptions per game (8.9).

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | Comp % | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| DeAndre Hopkins | 149 | 71% | 8.3 | 101.6 | 57% | 42 | 84 | 30 | 92 | 5 |
| Christian Kirk | 75 | 60% | 7.8 | 100.3 | 49% | 96 | 87 | 13 | 112 | 6 |
| Larry Fitzgerald | 68 | 75% | 5.5 | 75.2 | 53% | 69 | 82 | 130 | 6 | 0 |
| Chase Edmonds | 63 | 79% | 6.1 | 107.9 | 51% | 85 | 110 | 129 | 24 | 3 |

DeAndre Hopkins Target Distribution Christian Kirk Target Distribution 50 40 20 -10

2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Arizona was fourth in the NFL in rushing EPA and 11th in success rate (52%), but a lot of that success came via Kyler Murray. After 5.8 rushes for 34.0 yards per game with four scores on the ground as a rookie, Murray averaged 6.2 rushes for 51.2 yards per game to go along with 11 rushing touchdowns in 2020. Arizona backs handled 26.1 touches (16th) for 122.6 yards per game (20th) in 2020, coming in 22nd in the league in yards per touch (4.7 yards) as a collective group. The team let 264 of those touches leave via free agency this offseason in **Kenyan Drake**, replacing him with veteran **James Conner** as a partial replacement for those touches to go along with a potential workload increase for **Chase Edmonds**. Edmonds posted a 48% success rate rushing in 2020 compared to 47% for Conner and 43% for Drake.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Kenyan Drake | 239 | 4.0 | 50% | 51 | 37 | 46 | 29 | 48% | 60 | 10 |
| Kyler Murray | 133 | 6.6 | 58% | 10 | 78 | 63 | 3 | 59% | 4 | 11 |
| Chase Edmonds | 97 | 4.6 | 49% | 58 | 69 | 74 | 34 | 49% | 54 | 1 |

Yards per Carry by Direction 1.6 5.4 3.6 4.3 5.1 4.6 4.6 LT LG C RG RT



Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Will Chase Edmonds Take Over This Backfield?



With both Chase Edmonds and James Conner currently only signed for 2021, Arizona still could have opted to use one of their eight draft picks on a back of either archetype to be competition or contractual depth. Instead, the team bypassed all runners during the draft and the undrafted pool of prospects at the position.

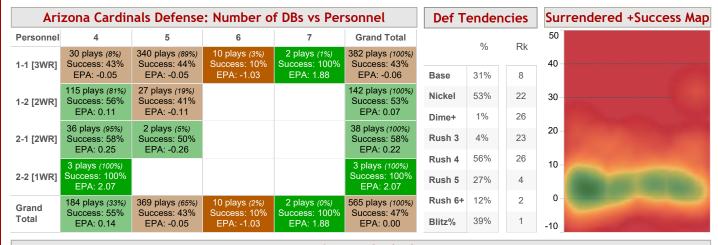
Edmonds has averaged 5.7 yards per touch in each of the past two seasons. In line for a spike in touches this season, Edmonds has still been fueled by receptions throughout his career as he ranked seventh among all backs last season in targets (67) and receptions (53) in 2020, but has averaged just 3.8, 4.6, and 6.1 rushing attempts per game over his first three years in the league. He has gotten three opportunities to be a feature back in three seasons, with games of 31, nine, and 28 touches in those games for 150, 13, and 88 yards. Expecting his rushing opportunities to rise again in 2021, Edmonds also could run into more feature weeks as James Conner has yet to play a full NFL season four years into his career.

Every time the Cardinals turned to Edmonds as a workhorse has come out of full necessity while he has almost immediately also been banged up after those workloads. By signing Conner, this allows Edmonds to remain in a similar (albeit increased) role he was already effective while also being able to pinch-hit as a feature back if Conner continues to struggle with staying on the field.

Edmonds also has just ONE career rushing attempt inside of the 5-yard line through three NFL seasons. His seven career rushing touchdowns have come from six, eight, 20, 20, 22, 29, and 37 yards out.

Under the same coaching staff, Drake had 27 of those carries for the Cardinals over his 23 games played in Arizona and was tied for the league lead in rushing scores (nine) on those carries in 2020. Conner himself has 29 such carries since entering the league in 2017 and has converted 16 of them for scores. That 55.2% conversion rate is above the base rate of the league average (46.1%) since he entered the league. Not only will Edmonds have Conner to deal with near the end zone, but quarterback Kyler Murray also had seven rushing attempts from inside of the 5-yard line and 12 from inside of the 10-yard line.

Although Conner has declined in each of the past two seasons since his 2018 breakout, he still averaged 4.6 yards per touch last season while all other Steeler backs were at 3.7 yards per touch. His 47% success rate rushing in 2020 was also higher than Drake's 43%. Edmonds offers upside if his role is increased to that of a feature back paired with the fragility of Conner, but he is still more an RB2/FLEX option out of the gates.



Defensive Outlook

J.J. Watt might not be *J.J. Watt* anymore but his presence should help the Cardinals both on the edge and inside. Still, Watt ranked eighth in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate as an edge rusher last season. Watt played just over 20 snaps on the interior last season with Houston, but could revert back to that role more often given the difference in depth between the two positions.

The Cardinals will get **Chandler Jones** back after the top pass rusher tore his biceps midway through the 2020 season. **Markus Golden** finished fifth among edge rushers in pressure rate last season, according to Sports Info Solutions, and he was second behind only **Joey Bosa** in pressure rate after he was traded back to the Cardinals. Golden re-signed for an incredibly team-friendly two-year/\$5 million contract with another \$4 million worth in sack incentives.

Even the depth here has flashed as rotational pieces. **Dennis Gardeck** had seven sacks on 10 quarterback hits last season and **Devon Kennard** had 14 sacks combined in 2018 and 2019 with the Detroit Lions before playing 32.6% of the snaps last season.

Arizona took a swing at **Isaiah Simmons** with the seventh overall pick in 2020 and while it took a bit to find the right fit for Simmons in the defense, it started to click a bit as the year progressed. The Cardinals selected **Zaven Collins** with their first-round pick in 2021 to pair with Simmons for a super athletic linebacking duo.

At corner, **Byron Murphy** ranked 68th among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. The second-year corner made a healthy jump in performance from his rookie season, with more snaps as the team's slot corner, and there is belief that could continue in Year 3.

Patrick Peterson was allowed to leave as a free agent and he was replaced by Malcolm Butler, who signed for just a one-year deal. Butler struggled in a poor Tennessee secondary last season and ranked 97th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap as one of the most targeted corners in the league.

Budda Baker got a massive extension last season and followed up with his best year as a pro. Baker lined up all over the secondary and made an impact from every spot. He's signed through 2024.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 57% |
| All Pass Rk | 20 |
| All Rush % | 43% |
| All Rush Rk | 13 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 56% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 20 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 59% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 16 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -3% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 21 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 44% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 13 |
| Up Pass % | 55% |
| Up Pass Rk | 18 |
| Up Rush % | 45% |
| Up Rush Rk | 15 |
| Down Pass % | 61% |
| Down Pass Rk | 19 |
| Down Rush % | 39% |
| Down Rush Rk | 14 |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | Shots | <u>gun %</u> : | | ∆ri z c | na Car | dinals | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play Success % | Under Center | Shotgun | 2020 Play Analysis | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 9 | 0% | 100% | 78% | 8% 92% | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 14 | 50% | 50% | 64% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 339 | 45% | 55% | 52% | 37% AVG 63% | | 37% AVG 63% | | 37% AVG 63% | | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 16 | 75% | 25% | 25% 19% | | | Sn. | ort Y | ardage Ir | itelliger | ice: | | | | |
| | 35 | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | Run Rate | Rate | | | | | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 41 | 32% | 68% | 63% | | race. | | 2n | d and Sh | ort Run | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 98 | 61% | 39% | 54% | Under | Shotgun | | | | | - NE | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 78 | 71% | 29% | 46% | | 36% | Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freg Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 45 | 91% | 9% | 38% | 68% | 36% | <u>.</u> | | | | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 49 | 55% | 45% | 67% | 68% A | VG 23% | 74% | 9 | 67% | 62% | 75% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 46 | 93% | 7% | 41% | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 23 | 83% | 17% | 30% | Pass | Rate: | | <u>2nc</u> | <u>d and Sho</u> | <u>ort Pass</u> | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 35 | 77% | 23% | 11% | Under | Shotgun | Pass | Pass | NFL Pass | Pass 1D | Pass NFL | | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 11 | 27% | 73% | 73% | Center | Onotgun | Freq | Rk | Freq Avg | Rate | 1D Avg | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 3 | 67% | 33% | 100% | 32% | 64% | 26% | 24 | 33% | 56% | 59% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% | 32% A | VG 77% | | | 00.0 | 0070 | | | | | |
| quent | uent Play Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Shotg | <u>un %</u> : |
|-----------------|---|
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 8% | 92% |
| 37% A | /G 63% |
| Run l | Rate: |
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 68% | 36% |
| 68% A | /G 23% |
| <u>Pass</u> | Rate: |
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 32% | 64% |
| 32% A | /G 77% |
| | Run Under Center 68% AV Pass Under Center 32% |



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | |
| 74% | 9 | 67% | 62% | 75% | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | |
| 000/ | | 000/ | E00/ | 500 / | | |

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Down Distance | | Play n Distance Type Player | | Total Plays | Play Success % | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Kenyan Drake | 6 | 67% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Kenyan Drake | 5 | 60% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Kenyan Drake | 95 | 37% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | DeAndre Hopkins | 4 | 25% | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Kenyan Drake | 16 | 50% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Kenyan Drake | 16 | 50% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | DeAndre Hopkins | 12 | 75% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Chase Edmonds | 9 | 44% | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | DeAndre Hopkins | 9 | 78% | | |
| Dwn | | RUSH | Kenyan Drake | 9 | 78% | | |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | DeAndre Hopkins | 12 | 42% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Christian Kirk | 5 | 0% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | DeAndre Hopkins | 7 | 0% | | |

| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | |
| No | Success: 47% | Success: 54% | Success: 49% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.03 | YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.00 | YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.02 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 88.7 | Rtg: 97.4 | Rtg: 91.0 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 346 - Rate: 57.9%] | [Att: 123 - Rate: 20.6%] | [Att: 469 - Rate: 78.4%] | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 44% | Success: 54% | Success: 49% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 5.1, EPA: -0.18 | YPA: 10.6, EPA: 0.38 | YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.08 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 95.5 | Rtg: 135.6 | Rtg: 114.0 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 70 - Rate: 11.7%] | [Att: 59 - Rate: 9.9%] | [Att: 129 - Rate: 21.6%] | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 46% | Success: 54% | Success: 49% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.06 | YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.00 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 89.8 | Rtg: 110.0 | Rtg: 95.9 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 416 - Rate: 69.6%] | [Att: 182 - Rate: 30.4%] | [Att: 598 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | |

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | DeAndre Hopkins | Christian Kirk | Larry Fitzgerald | Chase Edmonds | Dan Arnold | Maxx Williams | Andy Isabella | KeeSean Johnson |
| 1 | SF | W 24-20 | 77 (94%) | 63 (77%) | 65 (79%) | 28 (34%) | 45 (55%) | 43 (52%) | 14 (17%) | |
| 2 | WAS | W 30-15 | 75 (97%) | 47 (61%) | 61 (79%) | 27 (35%) | 56 (73%) | | 14 (18%) | |
| 3 | DET | L 26-23 | 61 (94%) | | 56 (86%) | 21 (32%) | 31 (48%) | | 26 (40%) | 46 (71%) |
| 4 | CAR | L 31-21 | 54 (95%) | 36 (63%) | 53 (93%) | 21 (37%) | 31 (54%) | | 24 (42%) | |
| 5 | NYJ | W 30-10 | 65 (87%) | 44 (59%) | 60 (80%) | 34 (45%) | 27 (36%) | | 23 (31%) | 5 (7%) |
| 6 | DAL | W 38-10 | 48 (77%) | 50 (81%) | 38 (61%) | 23 (37%) | 26 (42%) | | 19 (31%) | |
| 7 | SEA | W 37-34 | 80 (95%) | 66 (79%) | 66 (79%) | 51 (61%) | 21 (25%) | | 42 (50%) | |
| 9 | MIA | L 34-31 | 67 (97%) | 44 (64%) | 51 (74%) | 66 (96%) | 18 (26%) | 34 (49%) | 17 (25%) | |
| 10 | BUF | W 32-30 | 70 (96%) | 54 (74%) | 66 (90%) | 36 (49%) | 35 (48%) | 39 (53%) | 11 (15%) | |
| 11 | SEA | L 28-21 | 61 (91%) | 61 (91%) | 55 (82%) | 36 (54%) | 26 (39%) | 38 (57%) | 18 (27%) | |
| 12 | NE | L 20-17 | 71 (97%) | 64 (88%) | | 32 (44%) | 26 (36%) | 52 (71%) | 41 (56%) | 9 (12%) |
| 13 | LA | L 38-28 | 64 (100%) | 60 (94%) | | 37 (58%) | 9 (14%) | 18 (28%) | 54 (84%) | 45 (70%) |
| 14 | NYG | W 26-7 | 62 (78%) | 66 (84%) | 57 (72%) | 40 (51%) | 24 (30%) | 51 (65%) | | 19 (24%) |
| 15 | PHI | W 33-26 | 65 (96%) | 58 (85%) | 46 (68%) | 36 (53%) | 26 (38%) | 23 (34%) | | 21 (31%) |
| 16 | SF | L 20-12 | 75 (91%) | 68 (83%) | 71 (87%) | 16 (20%) | 36 (44%) | | | 20 (24%) |
| 17 | LA | L 18-7 | 48 (91%) | | | 21 (40%) | 32 (60%) | 27 (51%) | 3 (6%) | 49 (92%) |
| | Grand | Total | 1,043 (92%) | 781 (77%) | 745 (79%) | 525 (47%) | 469 (42%) | 325 (51%) | 306 (34%) | 214 (41%) |
| | Red Zone Targets Leaderboard Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | | | | | |

| <u>Pe</u> | erso | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Perso | nnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. % |
| 1-1 [3 | WR] | 46% | 60% | 48% |
| 1-2 [2 | WR] | 30% | 20% | 50% |
| 1-0 [4 | WR] | 20% | 2% | 52% |
| Gr | an dan | ai a a | | |
| <u> </u> | oup | ing Te | enden | cies |
| Perso | | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| | nnel | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Perso | nnel WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| DeAndre Hopkins | 15 | 5 | 3 | 7 | |
| Christian Kirk | 13 | 3 | 6 | 4 | |
| Chase Edmonds | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | |
| Dan Arnold | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | |
| Larry Fitzgerald | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| Andy Isabella | 3 | 1 | | 2 | |
| Maxx Williams | 3 | 1 | 2 | | |

| Red Zone Rusnes Leader board | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Kenyan Drake | 56 | 22 | 13 | 21 | |
| Kyler Murray | 25 | 8 | 6 | 11 | |
| Chase Edmonds | 15 | 1 | 2 | 12 | |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 20% 23% | 13% 21% NFL AVG | 67% 56% |
| | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % |
| Overall RB | Target Su | ICCESS % |



| | - | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | | |
| 36. PSM YPA | 7.7 | | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.0 | | | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.1 | | | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 7.6 | | | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 50% | | | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 52% | | | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.05 | | | | | |

01. Games w Halftime Lead

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

02. Avg Halftime Lead 0.0

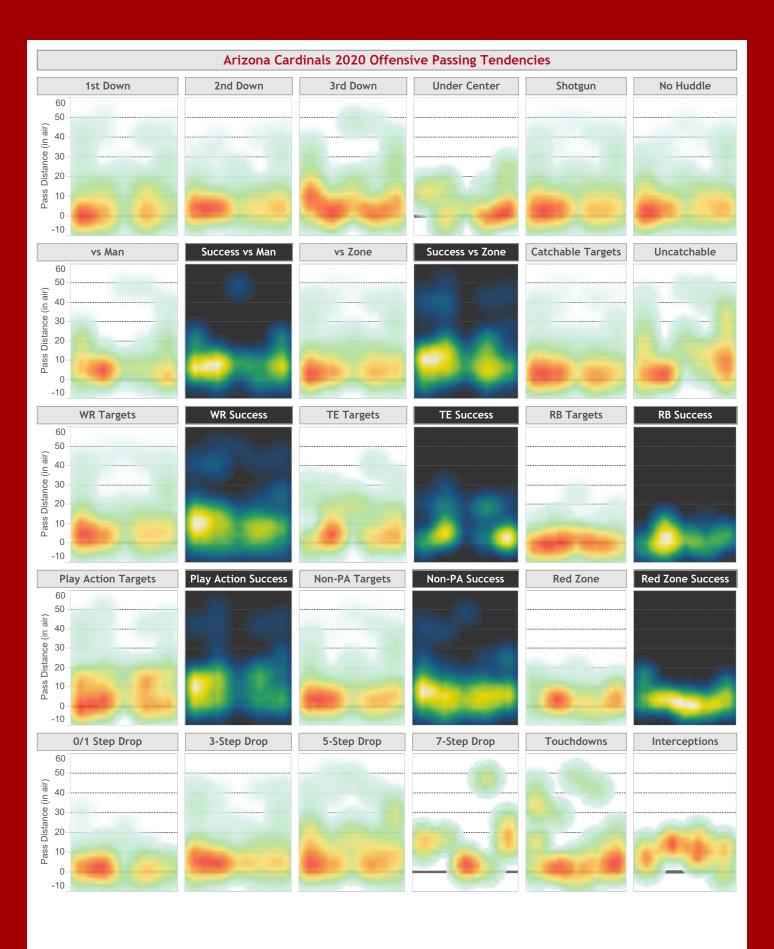
0.01

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | | | |
|---|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 41% | | | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 58% | | | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 9.6 | | | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 6.4% | | | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.1 | | | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 8.7 | | | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 56% | | | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.5 | | | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 3.6% | | | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.06 | | | | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 5.6 | | | | | |
| Men In Box | | | | | | |

| Men In Box | | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|--|--|
| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 10% | | | | |
| 56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 25% | | | | |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 2.4 | | | | |
| 58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 33% | | | | |
| 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 | 4.1 | | | | |
| 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 | 50% | | | | |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.8 | | | | |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | | Field Goal Luck | | | |
|--|-------|---------------|-------|-----------------|-----|---------------|-------|
| Net FROE Rk | 26 | defFUM | 23 | 2020 FG % | 89% | YOY Swing | 14% |
| Net FROE | -2.5 | defFUM Rcvrd | 10 | 2020 FG Rk | 7 | TOTOWING | 1470 |
| offFUM | 9 | dell OW Revid | 10 | 2020 I G IKK | , | VOV Curing Dk | 6 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 3 | defFR Rk | 19 | Opp 2020 FG % | 84% | YOY Swing Rk | 0 |
| offFR% | 33.3% | defFR% | 43.5% | Opp 2020 FG Rk | 11 | 2019 Team Net | -10% |
| offFR Rk | 31 | -I | 0.7 | 0000 T N-4 | 40/ | 2015 Team Net | -1070 |
| offFROE | -1.8 | defFROE | -0.7 | 2020 Team Net | 4% | | |
| offFROE Rk | 25 | defFROE Rk | 20 | 2020 Net Rk | 13 | 2019 Net Rk | 27 |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pre | ssure | Offensive N | Offensive Metrics | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Kyler Murray | | Kyler Murray | EPA/Pass | 0.05 | |
| CAY | 5.9 | Pressure % | 27 | EPA/Pass Rk | 17 | |
| CAY Rk | 19 | Pressure Rk | 31 | EPA/Rush | 0.04 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 31 | Sack % | 4.2 | EPA/Rush Rk | 3 | |
| AYTS Rk | 25 | Sack Rk | 31 | On-Target Catch % | 93.0% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 30 33 | Pressure Accuracy % | 61.7 | On-Target Catch Rk | 5 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 31 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 32 | Drop% | 3.7% | |
| СОМР% | 67.2 | Rating when Pressured | 64.8 | Drop Rk | 1 | |
| xCOMP% | 64.7 | Pressured Rating Rk | 21 | · | · | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 24 | Clean Accuracy % | 79.9 | YAC/Att | 1.9 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 7 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 15 | YAC/Att Rk | 30 | |
| CPOE% | 2.5 | Rating when Clean | 102.5 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.3% | |
| CPOE Rk | 11 | | | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 20 | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 24 | Clean Rating Rk | 19 | | | |
| | 'S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: | Time to Throw | 2.74 | Rush 1st Down % | 28.4% | |
| Aggressiveness xCOMP : Expected completion percentage CPOE : Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw Rk | 20 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 6 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:

Easy

Arthur Smith (TEN OC) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:

Smith calls plays (new)
Defensive Coordinator:

Dean Pees (TEN DC) (new)

Hard

Atlanta Falcons

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

7.5

#3

Past Records

2020: 4-12 2019: 7-9 2018: 7-9



Key Players Lost

-3

Rest Edge:

| Player | New |
|------------------------|----------|
| Alex Mack (C) | 49ers |
| Brandon Powell (WR) | Bills |
| Brian Hill (RB) | Titans |
| Charles Harris (EDGE) | Lions |
| Damontae Kazee (S) | Cowboys |
| Julio Jones (WR) | Titans |
| Justin McCray (LG) | Texans |
| Keanu Neal (S) | Cowboys |
| LaRoy Reynolds (LB) | Patriots |
| Ricardo Allen (S) | Bengals |
| Allen Bailey (IDL) | TBD |
| Blidi Wreh-Wilson (CB) | TBD |
| Darqueze Dennard (CB) | TBD |
| Edmond Robinson (LB) | TBD |
| Ito Smith (RB) | TBD |
| James Carpenter (LG) | TBD |
| John Wetzel (LT) | TBD |
| Laquon Treadwell (WR) | TBD |
| Luke Stocker (TE) | TBD |
| Sharrod Neasman (S) | TBD |
| Todd Gurley (RB) | TBD |

2021 Atlanta Falcons Overview

+3

-7

When you're leading at halftime, you win the game nearly 80% of the time. Blowing halftime leads is infrequent and when it happens, it stings. Last year, the Falcons led at halftime in nine games.

They won only four of the nine. That's a 44% win rate and five blown leads. Only six teams in the last 30 years blew more halftime leads than the 2020 Falcons. It wasn't just halftime leads, either. Atlanta led in 13 of 16 games in 2020. They won four games all year.

That's nine blown leads.

Since 2000, only seven teams blew more than nine leads in a season.

How does that happen? How do you blow so many leads?

+7

To blow a lead, you have to build a lead. And Atlanta built leads thanks to their passing offense.

The Falcons passed the ball on 54% of first downs in the first half. Look at their first down first half splits:

Average Line

1.5

Games Favored # Games Underdog

<u>Underdo</u>

Passes: +0.26 EPA/att, 8.8 YPA, 59% success
Runs: -0.16 EPA/att, 3.0 YPC, 41% success

The decline of 0.42 EPA per play from a pass play to a run play was the largest of any team in the NFL.

(cont'd - see <u>ATL2</u>)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Cordarrelle Patterson (WR) | \$3 |
| Mike Davis (RB) | \$2.79 |
| Lee Smith (TE) | Trade |
| Erik Harris (S) | \$1.39 |
| Barkevious Mingo (EDGE) | \$1.3 |
| A.J. McCarron (QB) | \$1.2 |
| Duron Harmon (S) | \$1.2 |
| Fabian Moreau (CB) | \$1.10 |
| Josh Andrews (C) | \$1.10 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|--|
| 1 | 4 | TE - Kyle Pitts (Florida) |
| 2 | 40 | S - Richie Grant (UCF) |
| 3 | 68 | OT - Jalen Mayfield (Michigan) |
| 4 | 108 | CB - Darren Hall (San Diego State) |
| 7 | 114 | C - Drew Dalman (Stanford) |
| | 148 | DE - Ta'Quon Graham (Texas) |
| 5 | 182 | DE - Adetokunbo Ogundeji (Notre Dame) |
| | 183 | CB - Avery Williams (Boise State) |
| 6 | 187 | WR - Frank Darby (Arizona State) |

Regular Season Wins:





| 20 | 26 | 56 | 96 | 97 | 91 | 24 |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 17 LWR O.Zaccheaus | 14 SLOTWR R.Gage | | 77 61 LG C MayfieldM.Henne Rookie | RG | 76 RT K.McGary 8 | its |
| 13 WR2 C.Blake | WR3 | 30 5 RB2 QB2 OllisonA.McCarror NEW | QB M.Ryan | RB M.Davis NEW | | 020 Cap Dollars = 30+ years old |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 21 | \$88.16M | 13 |
| QB | 6 | \$28.57M | 14 |
| OL | | \$31.66M | 13 |
| RB | 30 | \$5.28M | 11 |
| WR | 26 | \$15.38M | 6 |
| TE | 27 | \$7.28M | 30 |
| All DEF | 25 | \$80.97M | 25 |
| DL | 11 | \$46.73M | 22 |
| LB | 15 | \$15.96M | 18 |
| СВ | 28 | \$11.42M | 30 |
| s | 31 | \$6.85M | 5 |

Every time the Falcons passed on first down in the first half, it was a win as compared to when they ran the ball. The Falcons ranked 30th in early down run efficiency in the first half of games.

Fast forward to the second half. When leading, Atlanta passed the ball on only 35% of first downs — a shift of approximately 20 percentage points to the run.

Runs averaged -0.09 EPA/att, 3.4 YPC and 42% success.

Atlanta was terrible in the first half running the ball so it was no surprise they would be terrible in the second half as well.

In the fourth quarter, when leading by one score, Atlanta ran the ball on 61% of early down plays. These runs recorded -0.17 EPA/att, 1.7 YPC, and 40% success. No offense averaged fewer YPC.

Atlanta's run rates in the second half were not overly run heavy. Situationally, they still tended to pass more than average. But teams in these positions (with leads) pass far less often, even if they're still doing so at an above average rate.

It's just what coaches do around our league. But when your run game was as bad as Atlanta's, it's trouble. This run offense wasn't even good enough to be productive when mixing in the run and being deceptive with it early in the game. So it certainly wouldn't be productive in predictable running situations when leading late.

Not all teams heavily changed their pass-run frequency while leading, however. The Buffalo Bills had an unproductive run game, though not quite as bad as the Falcons. So what did the Bills do?

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics

Early down pass rate with a one-score lead in the fourth quarter:

Buffalo: 53% pass (first in the NFL)

Atlanta: 41% pass

First down pass rate with any lead in the second half:

11

Buffalo: 50% pass (first in the NFL)

15

Atlanta: 35% pass

5

10

15 21

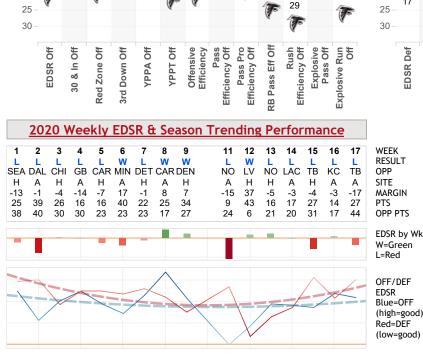
20

2020 Passing Performance 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn QB 3rd Dwn Success Rate Matt 6.8 5.7 Rvan Rating 84.7 95.4 53% 63% 78% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.6 7.0 AVG Rating 95.4 85.6 96.0 **Pass Rate** 50% 60% 75% 2020 Rushing Performance Offense 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn Success Rate 46% ATL 3.5 4.7 47% 37% 22% Run Rate 49% 51% 54% Success Rate NFL YPC 4.5 4.6 AVG 50% 40% 25% Run Rate

In other words, just because the rest of the NFL shifts way run-heavy with a lead does not mean you have to if your run game is terrible. And Atlanta's was, for multiple reasons.

First was the signing of Todd Gurley by general manager Thomas Dimitroff. In last year's Falcons chapter, putting it kindly, I commented "I'm certainly not excited" about the Gurley signing. Gurley was cut by the Rams and signed with the Falcons for \$5.5 million. He instantly had the eighth highest cap hit for a running back in the NFL. There was no reason for it. His efficiency and explosiveness noticeably disappeared in Los Angeles. Whether it was his chronic knees or something else, Gurley just wasn't reliable any longer. Depending on Gurley to be a feature back and carry the ball 18 times per game (which is what Gurley averaged over the first half of the season) was not a valid strategy. (cont'd - see ATL-3)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics 9 5 10 Rank 15 12 26 20 17 25 22 23 30 27 27 Pass Efficiency Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Run YPPA Def Explosive Pass Off **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Red Zone Def Pass Pro 3rd Down Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Efficieincy Def Explosive **Explosive**



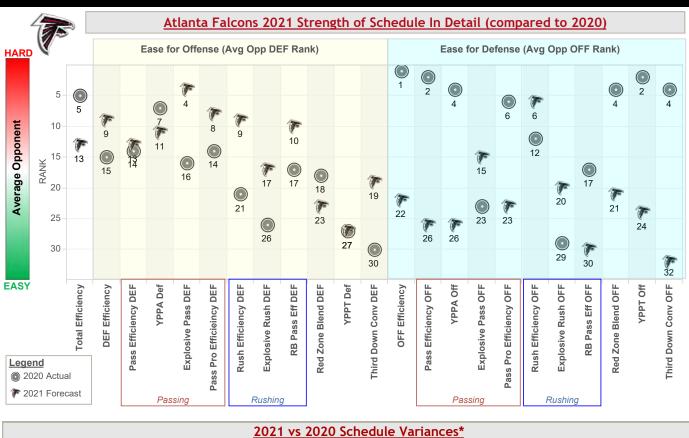
2020 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: 4 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 0-4 FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

- Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-8 Score Games Win %: 20% (#30)
- 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 50% (#18)

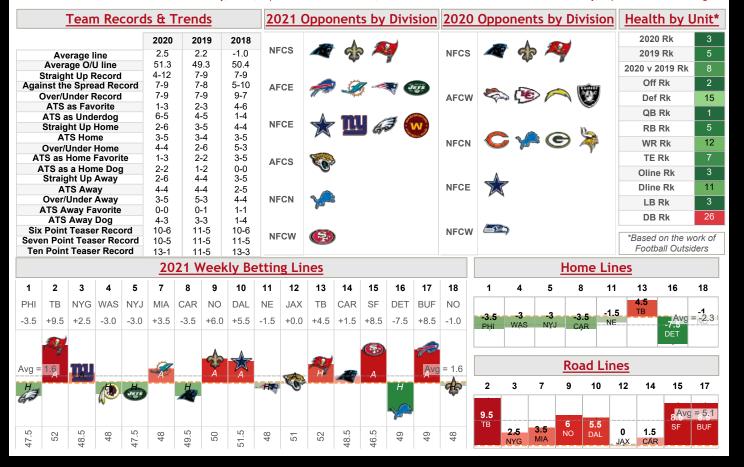
2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** +3 **TO Margin** TO Given 18 INT Given 11 **FUM Given** TO Taken 21 INT Taken 12 FUM Taken 9 Sack Margin -12 29 Sacks Sacks Allow 41 Return TD Margin +1 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** +8 Penalties 83 **Opponent Penalties**

91



| 2021 vs 2020 Schedule Variances* | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-------------------|----|
| Pass DEF Rk | 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 Bl | | | | | Rush OFF Blend Rk | |
| 16 | 13 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 30 | 8 | 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







In his first five games, all of which were losses, Gurley was productive. He averaged 4.8 YPC and carried between 14-21 times in each game. However, his second half runs in Week 2's loss to the Cowboys in which Dallas came from behind in stunning fashion, were a big part of the team's failure. Gurley gained 2.2 YPC and -0.25 EPA/att on 11 runs in the second half with a lead. Atlanta gave the ball back to Dallas time and time again because of these terrible runs.

But after his best game of the season, a 121-yard Week 5 loss to the Panthers, Gurley was done. Atlanta continued to ride him for the next four weeks but got nothing out of him. From Weeks 6-9, Gurley averaged 20 carries per game but only 52 yards per game. That was good for 2.6 YPC.

Thereafter, from Week 11-17, Atlanta had no choice but to reduce his workload. Atlanta had a bye in Week 10 and Gurley averaged only six carries per game the remainder of the season, averaging (oddly an identical) 2.6 YPC. Gurley's best games of the year, the first five, saw Atlanta go 0-5.

The second problem was an issue I also pointed out in last summer's Falcons chapter in this book, months before the season started. It related to "how" Atlanta would be running the ball. Here's a bit from the chapter:

"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.

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."

I didn't understand at all how Gurley would fit into what Atlanta wanted to do with the run game.

So what happened?

Gurley was asked to carry the ball 46 times from 21 personnel. He averaged -0.12 EPA/att, 2.7 YPC, and a 37% success rate. It was predictably horrible. Compare Gurley by personnel groupings where he had at least 30 attempts:

11 personnel: -0.02 EPA/att, 4.2 YPC, 49% success, 78 att 21 personnel: -0.12 EPA/att, 2.7 YPC, 37% success, 46 att 12 personnel: -0.05 EPA/att, 3.8 YPC, 45% success, 38 att

He was bad in all of them, but by far the worst when running with 21 personnel. Additionally, the other Falcons backs including **Brian Hill** and **Ito Smith** were all much better when running from 21 personnel, albeit with extremely small sample sizes:

Todd Gurley: -0.12 EPA/att, 2.7 YPC, 37% success, 46 att Brian Hill: 0.00 EPA/att, 4.5 YPC, 64% success, 14 att Ito Smith: 0.04 EPA/att, 5.4 YPC, 46% success, 13 att

Unfortunately, and predictably, the Todd Gurley experiment was destined for failure.

If factor one in blowing leads was a bad run game, and factor two was calling too many runs knowing the run game was bad and the pass game was good, the third factor inevitably was Dan Quinn's defense itself.

Quinn was the Super Bowl winning defensive coordinator for the Seahawks in 2013. But when he came to Atlanta, his defenses were terrible in the metric that matters most (Early Down Success Rate):

2015: 31 2016: 27

2017: 30

2018: 29

2019: 30 (prior to Quinn relieving himself of play calling duties starting Week 10)

Quinn was on thin ice to begin with, and firing himself from calling plays actually turned out to be the right card to play, as the defense turned around and Atlanta closed the 2019 season 6-2 and preserved Quinn's job heading into 2020. After the 0-5 start, Arthur Blank fired Quinn and GM Dimitroff.

(cont'd - see ATL-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game prep to prep 0 3

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Atlanta Falcons Ranking vs NFL Average

| Net Rest Edge Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Rank | Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------|------|------------------|
| 21 | 21 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- Although the offense adds exciting rookie Kyle Pitts to the mix, Julio Jones being traded created a large hole at wide receiver opposite **Calvin Ridley**.
- The defense played above their talent level last season, finishing 14th in DVOA, after starting the season ranked 25th after the first five games. Because of a tight salary cap, the Falcons did not upgrade their defense much of all in the offseason.
- Atlanta was the third healthiest team in the NFL last season, according to Football Outsiders, which will be difficult to duplicate again.
- Because the 17th game added is a road game in Jacksonville and the Falcons technically have a "home game" in London against the Jets, the Falcons will only play seven of their 17 games in Georgia.

7.5



Why Bet the Over

- The Falcons suffered from tough luck in 2020, losing eight of 10 one-score games. Since 1990, 78 teams have posted a winning percentage of 20% or below in one-score games. The following season, their record in one-score games more than doubled to 45%.
- Based on Atlanta's negative 18-point differential, the 4-12
 Falcons played more like a 7.5 win team based on their
 Pythagorean win expectation. In fact, Atlanta had a plus 28-point
 differential entering the fourth quarter. Since 1990 no team with
 a differential through three quarters of plus-27 or more has won
 fewer than six games. The Falcons blew five fourth quarter leads
 with under two minutes to play.
- Atlanta faced the single toughest schedule in the NFL last season based on DVOA strength of schedule. This season, the schedule is expected to be much easier, ranked 21st overall.
- Although the loss of **Julio Jones** is a big blow to the receiving corps, the Falcons welcome the highest drafted tight end in NFL history, **Kyle Pitts**. Although the Falcons didn't use 12 personnel groupings often last year (15% of pass plays), **Matt Ryan** produced the eighth best success rate in the NFL. Without Julio and with Pitts and **Hayden Hurst**, expect an increase in usage this season.

| Atlanta Falcons Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | 25 | 29 | 21 | 28 | 29 | 26 | | | |

With only one unit ranked inside the top 20, Atlanta appears headed towards a fourth consecutive losing season.

Matt Ryan remains productive at age 36, and gives Atlanta the 13th ranked QB room. However, Ryan better stay healthy, as few teams have worse depth than A.J. McCarron and rookie Feleipe Franks.

Led by newcomer **Mike Davis**, the backfield ranks 28th, but was listed as low as 32nd on some ballots. When contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage in Carolina last year, Davis averaged 2.0 yards per carry, trailing only **Nick Chubb** and **Derrick Henry**. So Davis should be fine behind this weak offensive line, but the depth is as bad as it gets, and played a significant role in this unit's poor ranking.

The 25th-ranked offensive line will be replacing veterans **Alex Mack** and **James Carpenter**. Perhaps the young replacements will offer an upgrade in the long term, but there's little reason to expect a significant leap forward this fall.

LB **Deion Jones** and DT **Grady Jarrett** deserve better than the 28th-ranked front seven unit, but with virtually no proven production among the edge rushers, it's tough to justify a higher ranking.

Among 82 players with at least 300 coverage snaps at cornerback, **A.J. Terrell**, **Isaiah Oliver**, and **Kendall Sheffield** ranked 69th, 72nd and 81st, respectively, in yards allowed per coverage snap. Three rookies join the secondary but, barring some shocking production from the youngsters, this will again be one of the league's worst units

New head coach Arthur Smith ranks second among this year's rookie class and 26th overall.

ATL-4

In the offseason, Blank hired Arthur Smith, the former Titans offensive coordinator of the last two years, to coach the Falcons.

Before we get into what the Falcons may look like under Smith, it's important to understand why they'll have the roster they will have... and that's because of Dimitroff.

Before the draft, the Falcons only had nine offensive players signed beyond this upcoming season, with pending fifth-year options on **Calvin Ridley** and **Hayden Hurst**. Ultimately, the Falcons declined the option on Hurst while picking it up on Ridley.

But just before the draft, 77% of their 2021 cap was taken up solely by Matt Ryan, Julio Jones, Grady Jarrett, Jake Matthews, and Deion Jones.

After the 2017 season, the Falcons gave Ryan a five-year, \$150M deal. But the deal was so backloaded in cap hit to assist Dimitroff in the near-term that the dead cap numbers late in the deal are unreasonable to walk away from Ryan. For the first three years of the deal, despite an average salary of \$30M per year, the cap hits were \$17.7 million, \$15.8 million and \$18.9 million (last year). After a restructure this offseason, the future cap hits are \$26.9 million, \$48.6 million and \$43.6 million. Cutting Ryan in 2022 would incur a \$40.5 million dead cap hit. Matt Ryan has the NFL's largest 2022 cap hit, and no player will hit the cap at a higher amount from 2022-2023 than Ryan.

Dimitroff also left the Falcons with a ton of dead cap this season. Atlanta has \$21.8 million in dead cap in 2021, from players such as Julio Jones, **Desmond Trufant**, **James Carpenter**, **Ricardo Allen**, and over half-a-dozen others. It's the seventh-most in the NFL. They also have the highest dead cap hit in 2022

<u>ATL-5</u>

as of right now, because that's when the majority of Julio Jones dead cap hits, a total of \$15.5M, due to his post-June 1 trade.

Dimitroff believed this core group of players that made the run to the Super Bowl (Ryan, Julio Jones, Jarrett, Matthews, and Deion Jones) could do it again, even though Kyle Shanahan, the architect behind the run, left town. Reworking deals and kicking the can down the road only defers payment for so long, and for the Falcons the bill is due now.

So what type of offense does Arthur Smith inherit? When he took the job, it seemed like one in win-now mode, bringing the band back together for one more run. Then the Julio Jones trade happened and now, it is one that Smith is going to have to get all kinds of creative with to produce a winning season.

After ranking fourth in EDSR offense in 2019, the 2020 Falcons dropped to 21st. Their offensive efficiency dipped from 15th to 21st. We've detailed the mistakes with Gurley and the rushing offense, but what about the passing offense?

For starters, I didn't understand why the Falcons shifted to a higher run rate in 2020. The 2019 Falcons went 58% pass on first down. The 2020 Falcons dropped that rate down to 53%. That was a big mistake, as you can imagine.

We also have Matt Ryan, who for two years has struggled without play-action. Here are last year Ryan's splits on early downs:

With play-action: +0.18 EPA/att, 8.9 YPA, 53% success Without play-action: -0.01 EPA/att, 6.5 YPA, 49% success

Most quarterbacks get better when using play-action, but Ryan was objectively not good when passing without play-action last year, and it made a big impact on his performance. He was a below-average quarterback without play-action and shifted to above average with play-action.

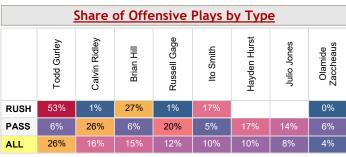
(cont'd - see ATL-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 2 0 0 2017 Wins 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

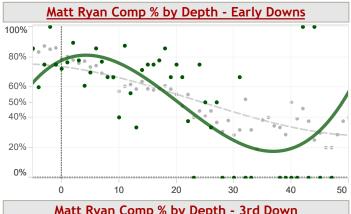


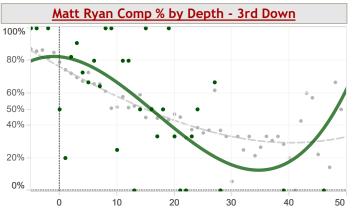


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4 | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | Todd Gurley | 6% | 8% | 64% | 10% | 12% | | | | | | |
| | Calvin Ridley | | 40% | 60% | | | | | | | | |
| _ | Brian Hill | 7% | 10% | 57% | 3% | 23% | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Russell Gage | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| LE. | Ito Smith | 5% | 9% | 59% | 8% | 19% | | | | | | |
| | Olamide Zaccheaus | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 6% | 9% | 61% | 8% | 16% | | | | | | |
| | Todd Gurley | 6% | 6% | 78% | 3% | 6% | | | | | | |
| | Calvin Ridley | 12% | 14% | 58% | 9% | 7% | | | | | | |
| | Brian Hill | 14% | | 57% | 7% | 21% | | | | | | |
| (0 | Russell Gage | 14% | 10% | 63% | 4% | 9% | | | | | | |
| PASS | Ito Smith | 30% | | 52% | 4% | 13% | | | | | | |
| ļ. | Hayden Hurst | 7% | 15% | 57% | 9% | 12% | | | | | | |
| | Julio Jones | 10% | 4% | 66% | 6% | 13% | | | | | | |
| | Olamide Zaccheaus | 25% | 3% | 50% | 3% | 19% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 13% | 9% | 61% | 6% | 11% | | | | | | |







Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary

F

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 47%, 0.06 (470) | 58%, 0.21 (91) | 46%, 0.03 (50) | 65%, 0.56 (17) | 46%, -0.04 (13) | 24%, -0.29 (17) | 20%, -0.95 (5) | 0%, 0.32 (1) | 48%, 0.07 (666) |
| RUSH | 49%, 0.03 (184) | 48%, -0.09 (75) | 43%, -0.15 (83) | 42%, -0.11 (43) | 33%, -0.39 (15) | 0%, -0.19 (2) | 67%, -1.10 (3) | 100%, -2.54 (1) | 46%, -0.07 (410) |
| All | 48%, 0.05 (654) | 54%, 0.07 (166) | 44%, -0.08 (133) | 48%, 0.08 (60) | 39%, -0.23 (28) | 21%, -0.28 (19) | 38%, -1.01 (8) | 50%, -1.11 (2) | 47%, 0.01 (1,076) |

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 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RB | Todd Gurley | 38% (16) 4.5, 0.17 | 50% (12) 3.3, -0.10 | 25% (4) 6.8, 0.02 | | 41% (32) 4.3, 0.05 | | | | | | |
| | Ito Smith | 29% (21) 2.9, -0.41 | 50% (2) 5.0, 0.17 | 50% (2) 3.0, -0.26 | | 32% (25) 3.1, -0.35 | | | | | | |
| TE | Hayden Hurst | 47% (55) 6.1, -0.07 | 60% (20) 6.1, 0.10 | 0% (3) 0.7, -0.56 | | 49% (78) 5.9, -0.05 | | | | | | |
| WR | Calvin Ridley | 58% (98) 8.7, 0.28 | 59% (22) 13.0, 0.52 | 64% (14) 14.6, 0.66 | 0% (1) 7.0, -0.45 | 59% (135) 10.0, 0.35 | | | | | | |
| | Russell Gage | 51% (96) 7.0, 0.19 | 100% (5) 9.0, 0.79 | 67% (3) 13.7, 0.53 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.48 | 53% (105) 7.3, 0.22 | | | | | | |
| | Julio Jones | 61% (49) 9.9, 0.62 | 78% (9) 15.9, 0.87 | 100% (4) 18.0, 1.16 | | 66% (62) 11.3, 0.69 | | | | | | |
| | Laquon Treadwell | 83% (6) 6.7, 0.32 | 100% (1) 9.0, 1.54 | | | 86% (7) 7.0, 0.50 | | | | | | |

| Rushin | g Succes | s by Top (Leader | -4 Persoi rboard) | nnel Gro | upings |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp To |

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Gurley | 49% (78) | 37% (46) | 45% (38) | 57% (21) | 46% (183) |
| Todd | 4.2, -0.02 | 2.7, -0.12 | 3.8, -0.05 | 3.3, 0.24 | 3.6, -0.02 |
| Hill Brian | 47% (51) | 64% (14) | 43% (23) | 43% (7) | 48% (95) |
| | 5.6, 0.06 | 4.5, 0.00 | 3.3, -0.21 | 3.7, -0.19 | 4.7, -0.03 |
| Smith Ito | 53% (34) | 46% (13) | 62% (13) | 67% (3) | 54% (63) |
| | 3.8, -0.05 | 5.4, 0.04 | 3.8, -0.07 | 4.3, -0.01 | 4.2, -0.03 |
| Ryan Matt | 62% (13) | 0% (3) | 100% (1) | 11% (9) | 38% (26) |
| | 6.3, 0.60 | -0.3, -2.07 | 12.0, 0.69 | -0.8, -0.63 | 3.3, -0.13 |

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

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

| _ | sing by | _ | ing by | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| Coverage Scheme | | Route | | Level 1 54% (434) 6.4, 0.17 | | 3 Step | 50% (270) 7.8, 0.20 | Planted | | % (491) 6, 0.18 | Inside Zone | 52% (107) 4.1, 0.01 | |
| | / (D-1) | Curl | 64% (89) 7.4, 0.34 | | | 0/1 Step | 53% (123) | Shuffling | | 7% (75) 5, -0.08 | Outside | 40% (83) | |
| Zone | 59% (351) 8.3, 0.32 | Out | 67% (69) | Level 2 | 59% (123) 11.8, 0.51 | ол отор | 5.2, 0.08 | Moving | | 3% (59) 8, 0.44 | Zone | 3.6, -0.13 | |
| | | | 8.5, 0.35 | | 21% (38) | 5 Step | 56% (108) 9.3, 0.36 | | Play Action | | Power | 46% (41) 3.6, -0.05 | |
| M2M | 43% (203) 6.9, 0.09 | Slant | 68% (50) 8.7, 0.36 | Level 3 | 8.6, -0.05 | 7 Step | 54% (48) | | Play Action | No P/A | Lead | 55% (40) | |
| | 0.9, 0.09 | | 47% (38) | Shovel | 67% (6) | | 8.2, 0.09 | Under Center | 54% (136) 9.2, 0.21 | 56% (70) 6.6, 0.12 | | 4.0, 0.12 | |
| | 400/ (05) | Dig | 7.8, 0.21 | 00. | 6.5, 0.33 | Designed Rollout Right | 68% (22) 10.4, 0.64 | Shotgun | 58% (38) | 44% (422) | Pitch | 43% (35) 3.3, -0.17 | |
| Screen | 43% (35) 5.2, 0.02 | Drag | 35% (26) 6.2, -0.06 | Sidearm | 0% (2) 1.5, -1.59 | Basic Screen | 27% (15) 2.3, -0.25 | ALL | 8.7, 0.25 55% (174) 9.1, 0.22 | 6.7, 0.00 45% (492) 6.7, 0.02 | Stretch | 50% (20) 5.6, -0.02 | |

ATL-6

The Falcons used play-action at a 33% rate on early downs, identical to the NFL average last year. Arthur Smith's Titans were up at 48%, most in the NFL.

Using more play-action will absolutely help Matt Ryan in 2021 and we should expect Smith will up that rate considerably.

Julio Jones delivered the most upside with play-action, but he also had the highest floor without play-action. The receiver who stood the most to gain when targeted off of play action was, by far, Calvin Ridley. Look at Ridley's early down targets last year:

With play-action: +0.57 EPA/att, 14.7 YPA, 62% success Without play-action: -0.06 EPA/att, 6.6 YPA, 51% success

66% of Ridley's early down targets came without play-action. If Smith increases play-action usage as we expect, it will raise Ridley's ceiling more than any other Falcons receiver.

Losing Jones will naturally have a big impact. Matt Ryan ranked fourth in yards per dropback with Jones on the field and 28th without Jones on the field, a massive swing. Additionally, Jones was first in EPA/att on intermediate targets in the NFL last year.

As our Rich Hribar identified for Sharp Football Analysis, in the nine games that Jones missed or exited early in 2020 (he played just 15 snaps in Week 1 and 22 snaps in Week 11) the Falcons were a much different offense. In those nine games, the Falcons went from scoring 28.7 points per game down to 21.7 points per game. They scored 17 or fewer points in five of those nine games while scoring 30 or more points in just one. Their offensive yardage went from 404.6 yards per game with Jones fully on the field down to 340.3 yards per game with him limited or absent.

Naturally, none of Ryan's 2020 splits involved having tight end **Kyle Pitts**, the fourth overall pick in the draft, at his disposal, which can prevent him bottoming out in the same fashion that he did a year ago when Julio was off the field. But he won't simply replace what Jones did for this offense.





What we're likely to see is Calvin Ridley emerge as even more of a star. It was overlooked because the Falcons were a trainwreck last year, but Ridley posted eight 100+ yard receiving games last year. That was more than 22 teams with all their players combined last year. In games without Jones, Ridley's target share increased, but not to the level you might think (from 20.6% to 26.5%).

Pitts entering this offense won't lower Ridley's target share. If anything, I think Ridley will be more efficient with his targets than he was previously. But Pitts needs to deliver in a way most other top tight ends in their rookie year have not.

If this is the offense Smith inherits, what can he do with it? We already know this team led in 13 of 16 games in 2020 and went 2-8 in one-score games. But they were +3 in turnover margin and only -12 in sack margin, driven largely by allowing 41 sacks, which was a decline from 50 sacks allowed in 2019. While Smith should help Ryan drop that sack total, helping their overall sack margin in 2021, the turnover margin already regressed positively last year, so we can't bank on it doing anything helpful this year. Injury luck won't get better either, as the Falcons were third last year and fifth in 2019.

As we said earlier, the three driving factors to so many blown leads were a bad run game, running that bad run game too much in the second half, and a bad defense. Count me as not expecting this defense to get better from a personnel perspective in 2021. Though what is encouraging is a significantly easier projected schedule. Atlanta played the toughest schedule of offenses last year including the second toughest schedule of pass offenses. I currently project them to play the 22nd toughest schedule this year and the 26th toughest schedule of pass offenses. Here's where it gets interesting: Atlanta will play the sixth toughest schedule of run offenses this year. It will be vital to jump out to a lead on these teams and force opponents to pass with bad quarterbacks in the second half rather than run the ball with good run offenses.

It's easier to blow leads when you're facing Russell Wilson, Dak Prescott, Drew Brees, Justin Herbert, Tom Brady, and Patrick Mahomes. Those six quarterbacks were responsible for six of the nine blown Atlanta leads last year. Gone is Drew Brees, enter Jameis Winston or Taysom Hill for two divisional games. Sam Darnold will be on the Panthers twice a year as well. In the AFC East, the Falcons go up against the unproven Zach Wilson and two quarterbacks off down years in Tua Tagovailoa and Cam Newton. They play the NFC East. They also get the Jaguars and a rookie quarterback, the Lions and Jared Goff, and the 49ers with either Jimmy Garoppolo or rookie Trey Lance. I'd trade that schedule in a heartbeat to not have to go against all those future Hall of Famers as they did in 2020.

The key will be what Smith does offensively. Look at where Smith had his Titans ranking in 2019 and 2020 in these four critical metrics. Format is year: pass efficiency rank, run efficiency rank, pass explosiveness rank, run explosiveness rank

2020: 4, 3, 8, 10 2019: 6, 5, 2, 3

Then compare them to 2018: 25, 12, 23, 11. Naturally, the bigger move was swapping out **Marcus Mariota** for **Ryan Tannehill**, but Smith's impact raised the ceiling

Smith believes in a lot of motion. On early downs, Smith used motion on 64% of offensive plays, the third highest rate in the NFL behind only the Ravens and 49ers. Atlanta was down at 52% last year, below the NFL average of 54%.

(cont'd - see ATL-8)

Immediate Impact of Atlanta Falcons 2021 Draft Class

There didn't appear to be a single draft analyst down on TE Kyle Pitts (first round), who has been widely praised as one of the greatest tight end prospects of all time.

One of the reasons Pitts is special is his ability to line up as an in-line tight end (49% of his targets in 2020), in the slot (24%), and out wide (27%). That flexibility will allow Atlanta to use unique alignments to create mismatches. New head coach Arthur Smith relied heavily on play-action with the Titans (35% of their pass attempts in 2020). And on those play-action throws, tight ends saw a 24% target share. So expect Pitts to see significant action in the passing game immediately.

Safety **Richie Grant** (second round) should also see the field, with very little competition. **Duron Harmon** is the most experienced safety on the depth chart, and even he only has one full year of starting experience in the league.

Grant has experience in both safety roles, but is at his best in the deep secondary. New DC Dean Peas relied heavily on a mix of Cover 1 and Cover 3 at his most recent job in Tennessee in 2019. That matches UCF's system, which used those coverages 54% of the time last season. Though it's unclear what role Grant will play, it would make sense to use him as the deep safety in those formations.

OL **Jalen Mayfield** (third round) could compete for the starting role at left guard, but his inexperience probably makes him a long shot to win the job. Mayfield effectively has just one year of experience under his belt, playing 13 career games at Michigan (only two in 2020), all at right tackle. OL **Drew Dalman** (fourth round) should also compete for a starting job on the line, likely challenging last year's third-round selection **Matt Hennessy** at center.

Hennessy made two unimpressive starts at the end of last season, and if Atlanta felt confident in him as **Alex Mack's** successor, Dalman would likely not have entered the equation.

Due to Atlanta's mess of a secondary, CB **Darren Hall** (fourth round) and CB **Avery Williams** (sixth round) can't be ruled out as contenders for playing time either. Both corners have multiple years starting experience on the outside, though Williams's size may dictate a shift to the slot.

WR Frank Darby (seventh round) appeared to be only battling for a roster spot on draft day. The recent trade of Julio Jones, however, suddenly creates a training camp battle between Darby, Christian Blake, Olamide Zaccheaus, and possibly a few others, to help replace Jones along with Calvin Ridley and Russell Gage.

On draft day, the Falcons' selection of Kyle Pitts made sense. Pairing Pitts with Jones and Ridley in an effort to build one last dominant offense around **Matt Ryan** seemed like a reasonable plan. With Jones gone, however, it raises some questions.

Without Jones on the roster, would anyone have tried to justify Atlanta passing over **Justin Fields** on draft day? It seems unlikely. And even if Atlanta simply wasn't high on Fields, rebuilding the offensive line with a prospect like **Penei Sewell** would have put Ryan's eventual replacement (possibly their 2022 first-round pick) in a better situation. New GM Terry Fontenot did well to come away with a few immediate starters and some quality depth pieces. However, Since Atlanta's ability to win now is compromised without Jones, delaying the selection of a franchise quarterback seems ill-advised in hindsight.



Yards to Go

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

2.5%

0.0%

2.3%

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Total

Atlanta Falcons 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

With 4,581 yards in 2020, Matt Ryan has thrown for at least 4,000 yards in 10 straight seasons. Ryan has completed over 400 passes in each of the past three seasons and has led the league in completions in each of the past two seasons. With a 48% success rate through the air, Atlanta has now gone from second, to third, to fifth, to 12th and now 19th in that area over the past five seasons. With Arthur Smith and Dave Ragone coming in to run this offense, we should see Ryan and this offense incorporate more play-action than in recent seasons. Ryan has ranked 22nd, 28th, 11th, and 16th in play-action rate over the past four seasons after ranking first in the league during his 2016 MVP season. As the offensive coordinator in Tennessee the past two seasons, Smith's offenses have ranked first (36.4%) and second (31.3%) in play-action rate per dropback.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Matt Ryan | 407 | 626 | 65% | 4,581 | 7.3 | 26 | 11 | 41 | 93 | 24 | |
| NFL Avg | NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | |

| 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----|--|--|
| QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success % Success % Success % Success Gains Success % Success % Success Gains Success % Success Gains Success % Success Gains Gain Gain Gain Gain Gain Gain Gain Gain | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Matt Ryan | 48% | 50% | 59 | 9.0% | 16 | 3.0% | 7.0 | 4.3 | 30 | 5% | | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | | |

Total

0.0%

2.9%

0.0%

2.0%

3.0%

1.6%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis

Pass Distance (in air)

-10

| JI U DUWII I | assing | - 31101 t | OI SLIC | NS Allai | <u>y 515</u> |
|--------------|---|-----------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| QB | Avg. Avg. YIA Yds to (of Go Comp) | | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk |
| Matt Ryan | 8.6 | 6.8 | -1.8 | 66% | 3 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

25.0%

0.0%

4.5%

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

3.0%

0.0%

0.0%

11.1%

0.9%

1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 4th Dwn

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

1.2%

The Falcons ranked 10th in success rate targeting their wide receivers and 11th yards per target (8.7 yards) to wideouts. The team traded Julio Jones this summer, leaving Calvin Ridley as the feature wideout with marginal talent at the position behind him. Ridley has done nothing but improve over the start of his career as his targets (5.8-7.2-9.5), receptions (4.0-4.8-6.0), and yardage (51.3-66.6-91.6) have risen each season. In 12 games without Julio Jones or him playing fewer than 50% of the snaps, Ridley totaled 23.9% of the team targets and 32.5% of the team receiving yards. The tight ends in Atlanta were a struggle last season. Now insert Kyle Pitts, the highest-drafted tight end in league history, to boost this passing game.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Calvin Ridley | 129 | 62% | 9.4 | 97.4 | 57% | 50 | 24 | 22 | 88 | 8 |
| Russell Gage | 100 | 67% | 7.2 | 93.7 | 53% | 68 | 64 | 96 | 36 | 3 |
| Hayden Hurst | 82 | 63% | 6.7 | 93.0 | 51% | 83 | 92 | 44 | 81 | 5 |
| Julio Jones | 68 | 75% | 11.3 | 126.5 | 65% | 11 | 10 | 17 | 117 | 3 |

2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Falcons were 27th in the NFL last season in expected points added via rushing and 27th in success rate (48%). The team added veteran Mike Davis, who accrued 1,015 yards and eight touchdowns last season in relief of Christian McCaffrey in 2020. Only three backs caught more passes than the 59 receptions Davis had a year ago. Davis showed he was capable of being a back that can accumulate production if fed touches, but still was not a player that was turning in high efficiency on that volume. Despite racking up 224 touches in total, Davis managed just 3.9 yards per carry and just 6.3 yards per reception on those touches.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Todd Gurley | 195 | 3.5 | 46% | 74 | 59 | 18 | 72 | 45% | 73 | 9 |
| Brian Hill | 100 | 4.7 | 47% | 68 | 30 | 65 | 30 | 48% | 60 | 1 |
| Ito Smith | 64 | 4.2 | 59% | 6 | 17 | 2 | 87 | 57% | 10 | 1 |

52% 48% Julio Jones Calvin Ridley **Target Distribution Target Distribution** 50 40 30 20 10 0

Target

Distribution

Matt Ryan Rating Early Downs

> 90 102

> > Air

Yds %

62%

87

Air Yds vs YAC

YAC

%

38%

Rk

40

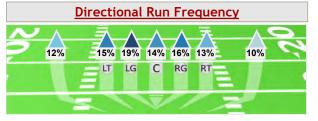
30

20

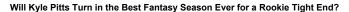
10 0 -10 **Postive**

Play %





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





Selected with the No. 4 overall pick in the draft, Pitts was the highest-drafted tight end in league history.

More than deserving of that honor, Pitts ranks first in touchdowns per game (1.5), second in receiving yards per game (96.3), and 15th in receptions per game (5.4) in their final college season among all tight end prospects since 2000. His 17.9 yards per catch is the highest among all of those prospects who caught 40 or more passes and his 27.9% touchdown rate on those grabs is second among the same group. On top of all that, he also registered in the 95th percentile athletically at his position at his Pro Day.

In his eight games played this past season, Pitts accounted for 20.2% of the Florida receptions, 25.7% of their receiving yardage, and 37.5% of their touchdown receptions while averaging 2.51 yards per team pass attempt. His final game came against Alabama, in which he caught seven passes for 129 yards and a touchdown.

For fantasy, tight ends have been a notorious slow burn. Just one first-round tight end has cleared 200 PPR points in his rookie season and that was Keith Jackson back in 1988. Just five have cleared 150 PPR points in their first season, with the latest being Evan Engram in 2017. Vernon Davis (6.3 rookie year points per game) and Kellen Winslow (5.0 in just two games) were both taken sixth overall in their respective drafts while T.J. Hockenson (6.7 points per game) was just selected eighth overall two years ago and was paired with a strong quarterback out of the box, unlike Davis and Winslow.

Just four rookie tight ends have ever cleared 800 yards receiving regardless of the round they were drafted, with just one rookie tight end ever hitting 1,000 yards, which was Mike Ditka back in 1961.

With an added 17th game added in 2021, Pitts has some extra runway compared to his previous counterparts and an immediate opportunity to threaten those benchmarks.

Under Arthur Smith last season, the Titans used 12 personnel 35% of the time in 2020, which led the league. That team targeted their tight ends 29% of the time, which was the fourth-highest rate in the league. In 2020, **Hayden Hurst** was third on the Atlanta roster in targets (88 total and 5.5 per game),

With **Calvin Ridley** on the perimeter and **Julio Jones** being traded, Pitts should have his way to not only favorable opportunities in terms of volume and mismatch potential, with those wideouts a high priority for opposing defenses, but also aided surroundings as noted in the play-action rates used by Smith as a play caller in Tennessee. You will have to bet on Pitts being near his ceiling in fantasy drafts as a top-six tight end, but at a position with limited ceiling creators, I believe it is a solid bet to make.

| At | lanta Falcons | Defense: Numb | per of DBs vs P | ersonnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map | | |
|----------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|--|-----|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ 51 | | 50 | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 36 plays (8%) Success: 56% | 427 plays (91%) Success: 50% | 7 plays (1%) Success: 0% | 470 plays (100%) Success: 50% | | | | % Rk | | 40- |
| | EPA: 0.13 EPA: 0.16 EPA: -0.67 EPA: 0.15 | | Base | 23% | 15 | The second second | | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 41 plays (49%) Success: 54% | 41 plays <i>(49%)</i> Success: 59% | 2 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 100% | 84 plays (100%) Success: 57% | Nickel | 75% | 4 | 30 - | | |
| | EPA: 0.05 | EPA: 0.48 | EPA: 0.47 | EPA: 0.27 | Dime+ | 0% | 32 | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 17 plays (47%) Success: 35% EPA: -0.07 | 19 plays (53%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.01 | | 36 plays (100%) Success: 36% EPA: -0.04 | Rush 3 | 9% | 10 | 20 – | | |
| | | | | | Rush 4 | 61% | 20 | 10- | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 6 plays (67%) Success: 50% EPA: -1.88 | 3 plays <i>(33%)</i> Success: 33% EPA: 0.55 | | 9 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: -1.07 | Rush 5 | 25% | 7 | 10- | | |
| | 100 plays (17%) | 490 plays (82%) | 9 plays <i>(2%)</i> | 599 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 4% | 21 | 0 – | | |
| Grand Total | Success: 51% EPA: -0.06 | Success: 50% EPA: 0.18 | Success: 22% EPA: -0.41 | Success: 50% EPA: 0.13 | Blitz% | 29% | 10 | -10 | | |

Defensive Outlook

Grady Jarrett was third in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate among defensive tackles and eighth in Run Stop Win Rate. He was one of three defensive tackles to be in the top 10 of both in 2020. Jarrett was 21st among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season, per SIS. **Tyeler Davison** played the second-most snaps on the interior at 48%. Davison is more of a run-stopping interior player (ranked just 80th in pressure rate at the position) and that's all that is needed next to a player like Jarrett.

Dante Fowler parlayed a good season with the Rams into a three-year contract with the Falcons. The production did not follow. Fowler ranked 79th among edge rushers in pressure rate, per SIS. The rest of the Atlanta defensive line depth chart features a number of tweeners in both the positive and negative sense of the phrase. John Comisky has been a positive inside and on the edge. 2020 second-round pick Marlon Davidson has the potential but had a slow rookie season. Jacob Tuioti-Mariner and Jonathan Bullard can also play inside and outside but still need more development.

Deion Jones remains one of the best all-around linebackers in the league. Last season, he combined nine tackles for loss with 10 quarterback hits and six passes defensed. He was one of 19 defenders to go at least 5-5-5 in those categories. **Foyesade Oluokun** was a sixth-round pick in 2018 and turned into a plus starter with his first shot at extended playing time. He struggled in coverage but was able to bring it as a pass rusher. He rushed the passer on 20.8% of his pass snaps. **Mykal Walker**, a 2020 fourth-round pick, was also a heavily used blitzer as an off-ball linebacker. Walker rushed the passer on 25% of his pass snaps but created significantly less pressure (just 8%) than Oluokun (22%). The ability to blitz from the off-ball spot will come in handy for a Dean Pees defense.

The Falcons will be hoping a young group of corners can continue to develop. **A.J. Terrell**, Atlanta's first-round pick in 2020, played 84% of the defensive snaps last season. He ranked 112th among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. But given the struggles of most rookie corners last year, that ranking isn't too bad.

Kendall Sheffield was a fourth-round pick in 2019, played 48.5% of the defensive snaps over 13 games, and ranked 143rd among those corners in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. **Isaiah Oliver** split his time between the slot and outside, played 76.7% of the snaps overall, and ranked 119th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Atlanta signed **Fabian Moreau** to a cheap one-year deal in free agency. Moreau lost time in Washington's defensive rotation last season (just 15% of the defensive snaps) but flashed when he was on the field. Moreau ranked 20th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap and 48th in 2019.

Atlanta's safety group has completely changed over from what it looked like throughout the Dan Quinn era. **Jaylinn Hawkins** is the only player in the group who played defensive snaps for the Falcons last season and that was just 6.8%. **Erik Harris** was signed as a free agent but the 31-year-old has been inconsistent on the backend of the Raiders' defense. **Duron Harmon** was another free agent signing and he's been solid as a deep safety throughout his career. Harmon will also be 31 years old in 2021. There's an easy path to playing time for 2021 second-round pick **Richie Grant**.

2020 Play Tendencies 61% All Pass % All Pass Rk All Rush % 39% All Rush Rk 24 1 Score Pass % 62% 1 Score Pass Rk 2019 1 Score Pass % 63% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 3 2020 Pass Increase % -1% Pass Increase Rk 15 1 Score Rush % 38% 26 1 Score Rush Rk Up Pass % 61% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 39% Up Rush Rk 26 Down Pass % 63% Down Pass Rk 10 Down Rush % 37% Down Rush Rk 23

| 202 | 0 Down & | Dista | nce T | ende | <u>ncies</u> | Shote | <u>un %</u> : |
|------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % | Under Center | Shotgun |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 3 | 33% | 67% | 0% | 48% | 52% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 15 | 47% | 53% | 47% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 328 | 52% | 48% | 51% | 37% A | VG 63% |
| | XL (11+) | 7 | 43% | 57% | 29% | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 30 | 30% | 70% | 67% | Run | Rate: |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 94 | 55% | 45% | 46% | Under | |
| | Long (8-10) | 101 | 70% | 30% | 44% | Center | Shotgun |
| | XL (11+) | 30 | 87% | 13% | 17% | 59% | 19% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 50 | 58% | 42% | 68% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 59 | 85% | 15% | 49% | | VG 23% |
| | Long (8-10) | 27 | 93% | 7% | 19% | <u>Pass</u> | Rate: |
| | XL (11+) | 25 | 96% | 4% | 32% | Under | 01.4 |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 12 | 67% | 33% | 75% | Center | Shotgun |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% | 41% | 81% |
| | Long (8-10) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | 32% A | VG 77% |
| | | | | | | | |

| 3110tguil /6. |
|-------------------------------|
| Under Center Shotgun |
| 48% 52% |
| 37% AVG 63% |
| Run Rate: |
| Under Shotgun |
| |
| 59% 19% |
| 59% 19% 68% AVG 23% |
| |



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| | <u>2nc</u> | d and Sho | ort Run | |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg |
| 70% | 15 | 67% | 57% | 75% |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | |

Pass 1D

Rate

60%

Pass NFL 1D Avg

59%

NFL Pass

Freq Avg

33%

| Most Frequent Play | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Todd Gurley | 2 | 0% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Todd Gurley | 7 | 43% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Todd Gurley | 72 | 40% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Hayden Hurst | 2 | 50% |
| | | RUSH | Brandon Powell | 2 | 0% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Todd Gurley | 12 | 67% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Calvin Ridley | 16 | 50% |
| | | RUSH | Brian Hill | 16 | 44% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Todd Gurley | 19 | 32% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Russell Gage | 4 | 25% |
| | | | Julio Jones | 4 | 25% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Todd Gurley | 11 | 64% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Russell Gage | 15 | 53% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Russell Gage | 5 | 20% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Russell Gage | 5 | 40% |

| Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | |
| No | Success: 46% | Success: 57% | Success: 48% | | | |
| | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.06 | YPA: 10.7, EPA: 0.43 | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.14 | | | |
| | Rtg: 86.8 | Rtg: 134.3 | Rtg: 97.5 | | | |
| | [Att: 277 - Rate: 41.6%] | [Att: 77 - Rate: 11.6%] | [Att: 354 - Rate: 53.2%] | | | |
| Yes | Success: 45% | Success: 53% | Success: 47% | | | |
| | YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.04 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.05 | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.01 | | | |
| | Rtg: 87.4 | Rtg: 94.6 | Rtg: 89.7 | | | |
| | [Att: 215 - Rate: 32.3%] | [Att: 97 - Rate: 14.6%] | [Att: 312 - Rate: 46.8%] | | | |
| Total | Success: 45% | Success: 55% | Success: 48% | | | |
| | YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.02 | YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.22 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.07 | | | |
| | Rtg: 87.1 | Rtg: 112.4 | Rtg: 93.8 | | | |
| | [Att: 492 - Rate: 73.9%] | [Att: 174 - Rate: 26.1%] | [Att: 666 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | |

Pass

Freq

30%

Pass

Rk

18

| pp Sco EA L 38- AL L 40- EHI L 30- EB L 30- AR L 23- IIIN W 40- ET L 23- AR W 25- | .25 68 (86%) .39 63 (84%) .26 63 (93%) .16 45 (64%) .16 48 (74%) .23 59 (74%) .22 58 (77%) | Hayden Hurst 62 (78%) 49 (65%) 43 (63%) 45 (64%) 54 (83%) 68 (85%) 55 (73%) | Russell Gage 55 (70%) 62 (83%) 12 (18%) 47 (67%) 40 (62%) 51 (64%) 24 (32%) | Todd Gurley 36 (46%) 48 (64%) 35 (51%) 38 (54%) 36 (55%) 46 (58%) 53 (71%) | Julio Jones 65 (82%) 59 (79%) 15 (21%) | Brian Hill 21 (27%) 15 (20%) 23 (34%) 16 (23%) 20 (31%) 21 (26%) | Olamide Z accheaus 11 (14%) 16 (21%) 54 (79%) 53 (76%) 63 (97%) 14 (18%) | Christian Blake 7 (9%) 9 (12%) 6 (9%) 19 (27%) 14 (22%) 15 (19%) | Ito Smith 20 (25%) 11 (15%) 6 (9%) 16 (23%) 9 (14%) |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| AL L 40- CHI L 30- GB L 30- AR L 23- IIN W 40 ET L 23- | 63 (84%) 26 63 (93%) 16 45 (64%) 16 48 (74%) 23 59 (74%) 22 58 (77%) | 49 (65%) 43 (63%) 45 (64%) 54 (83%) 68 (85%) 55 (73%) | 62 (83%) 12 (18%) 47 (67%) 40 (62%) 51 (64%) | 48 (64%) 35 (51%) 38 (54%) 36 (55%) 46 (58%) | 59 (79%) 15 (21%) 64 (80%) | 15 (20%) 23 (34%) 16 (23%) 20 (31%) | 16 (21%) 54 (79%) 53 (76%) 63 (97%) | 9 (12%) 6 (9%) 19 (27%) 14 (22%) | 11 (15%) 6 (9%) 16 (23%) 9 (14%) |
| HI L 30- BB L 30- AR L 23- IIN W 40 ET L 23- | 226 63 (93%) -16 45 (64%) -16 48 (74%) -23 59 (74%) -22 58 (77%) | 43 (63%) 45 (64%) 54 (83%) 68 (85%) 55 (73%) | 12 (18%) 47 (67%) 40 (62%) 51 (64%) | 35 (51%) 38 (54%) 36 (55%) 46 (58%) | 15 (21%) 64 (80%) | 23 (34%) 16 (23%) 20 (31%) | 54 (79%) 53 (76%) 63 (97%) | 6 (9%) 19 (27%) 14 (22%) | 6 (9%) 16 (23%) 9 (14%) |
| GB L 30- AR L 23- IIN W 40 ET L 23- | 45 (64%) -16 48 (74%) -23 59 (74%) -22 58 (77%) | 45 (64%) 54 (83%) 68 (85%) 55 (73%) | 47 (67%) 40 (62%) 51 (64%) | 38 (54%) 36 (55%) 46 (58%) | 64 (80%) | 16 (23%) 20 (31%) | 53 (76%) 63 (97%) | 19 (27%) 14 (22%) | 16 (23%) 9 (14%) |
| AR L 23- IIN W 40 ET L 23- | -16 48 (74%) -23 59 (74%) -22 58 (77%) | 54 (83%) 68 (85%) 55 (73%) | 40 (62%) 51 (64%) | 36 (55%) 46 (58%) | 64 (80%) | 20 (31%) | 63 (97%) | 14 (22%) | 9 (14%) |
| IIN W 40 ET L 23- | -23 59 (74%) -22 58 (77%) | 68 (85%) 55 (73%) | 51 (64%) | 46 (58%) | · · · · · | | | ` ' | |
| ET L 23- | -22 58 (77%) | 55 (73%) | | , , | · · · · · | 21 (26%) | 14 (18%) | 15 (10%) | 44 (440() |
| - | , , | ` ' | 24 (32%) | 53 (71%) | | | 11 (10 /0) | 13 (19%) | 11 (14%) |
| AR W 25 | 17 23 (33%) | | | 00 (1170) | 59 (79%) | 17 (23%) | 11 (15%) | 5 (7%) | 3 (4%) |
| | -17 20 (3370) | 56 (80%) | 39 (56%) | 36 (51%) | 58 (83%) | 25 (36%) | 9 (13%) | 38 (54%) | |
| EN W 34 | -27 | 51 (72%) | 39 (55%) | 44 (62%) | 63 (89%) | 19 (27%) | 52 (73%) | 12 (17%) | |
| IO L 24 | 9 51 (82%) | 54 (87%) | 49 (79%) | 23 (37%) | 22 (35%) | 26 (42%) | 13 (21%) | 37 (60%) | 6 (10%) |
| .V W 43 | 3-6 56 (72%) | 37 (47%) | 69 (88%) | | | 39 (50%) | 12 (15%) | 50 (64%) | 28 (36%) |
| IO L 21- | -16 63 (94%) | 42 (63%) | 52 (78%) | 22 (33%) | 63 (94%) | 11 (16%) | | 3 (4%) | 24 (36%) |
| AC L 20- | -17 48 (84%) | 33 (58%) | 41 (72%) | 19 (33%) | | 9 (16%) | | 13 (23%) | 25 (44%) |
| B L 31- | -27 58 (89%) | 43 (66%) | 59 (91%) | 16 (25%) | | 15 (23%) | | 15 (23%) | 31 (48%) |
| (C L 17- | -14 54 (79%) | 44 (65%) | 62 (91%) | 27 (40%) | | 19 (28%) | | 21 (31%) | 22 (32%) |
| B L 44- | -27 65 (90%) | 49 (68%) | 61 (85%) | 28 (39%) | | 31 (43%) | | 11 (15%) | 13 (18%) |
| and Total | 822 (78%) | 785 (70%) | 762 (68%) | 507 (48%) | 468 (71%) | 327 (29%) | 308 (40%) | 275 (25%) | 225 (23%) |
| 10 | O L 21- C L 20- B L 31- C L 17- B L 44- | O L 21-16 63 (94%) C L 20-17 48 (84%) B L 31-27 58 (89%) C L 17-14 54 (79%) B L 44-27 65 (90%) | O L 21-16 63 (94%) 42 (63%) C L 20-17 48 (84%) 33 (58%) B L 31-27 58 (89%) 43 (66%) C L 17-14 54 (79%) 44 (65%) B L 44-27 65 (90%) 49 (68%) | D L 21-16 63 (94%) 42 (63%) 52 (78%) C L 20-17 48 (84%) 33 (58%) 41 (72%) B L 31-27 58 (89%) 43 (66%) 59 (91%) C L 17-14 54 (79%) 44 (65%) 62 (91%) B L 44-27 65 (90%) 49 (68%) 61 (85%) | O L 21-16 63 (94%) 42 (63%) 52 (78%) 22 (33%) OC L 20-17 48 (84%) 33 (58%) 41 (72%) 19 (33%) B L 31-27 58 (89%) 43 (66%) 59 (91%) 16 (25%) C L 17-14 54 (79%) 44 (65%) 62 (91%) 27 (40%) B L 44-27 65 (90%) 49 (68%) 61 (85%) 28 (39%) | O L 21-16 63 (94%) 42 (63%) 52 (78%) 22 (33%) 63 (94%) IC L 20-17 48 (84%) 33 (58%) 41 (72%) 19 (33%) IS L 31-27 58 (89%) 43 (66%) 59 (91%) 16 (25%) IC L 17-14 54 (79%) 44 (65%) 62 (91%) 27 (40%) IS L 44-27 65 (90%) 49 (68%) 61 (85%) 28 (39%) | O L 21-16 63 (94%) 42 (63%) 52 (78%) 22 (33%) 63 (94%) 11 (16%) IC L 20-17 48 (84%) 33 (58%) 41 (72%) 19 (33%) 9 (16%) B L 31-27 58 (89%) 43 (66%) 59 (91%) 16 (25%) 15 (23%) C L 17-14 54 (79%) 44 (65%) 62 (91%) 27 (40%) 19 (28%) B L 44-27 65 (90%) 49 (68%) 61 (85%) 28 (39%) 31 (43%) | O L 21-16 63 (94%) 42 (63%) 52 (78%) 22 (33%) 63 (94%) 11 (16%) IC L 20-17 48 (84%) 33 (58%) 41 (72%) 19 (33%) 9 (16%) B L 31-27 58 (89%) 43 (66%) 59 (91%) 16 (25%) 15 (23%) C L 17-14 54 (79%) 44 (65%) 62 (91%) 27 (40%) 19 (28%) B L 44-27 65 (90%) 49 (68%) 61 (85%) 28 (39%) 31 (43%) | O L 21-16 63 (94%) 42 (63%) 52 (78%) 22 (33%) 63 (94%) 11 (16%) 3 (4%) C L 20-17 48 (84%) 33 (58%) 41 (72%) 19 (33%) 9 (16%) 13 (23%) B L 31-27 58 (89%) 43 (66%) 59 (91%) 16 (25%) 15 (23%) 15 (23%) C L 17-14 54 (79%) 44 (65%) 62 (91%) 27 (40%) 19 (28%) 21 (31%) B L 44-27 65 (90%) 49 (68%) 61 (85%) 28 (39%) 31 (43%) 11 (15%) |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 61% | 60% | 48% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 15% | 20% | 54% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 12% | 7% | 44% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 6% | 4% | 48% |
| | | | |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 3% | 4% enden | 39% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | | .,, | |
| | ing Te | .,, | |
| Group | ing Te | enden Pass | cies Run |
| Group | ing Te | enden Pass Succ. | cies Run Succ |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 72% 55% | Pass Succ. % 47% 58% | Cies Run Succ. % 49% 48% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Calvin Ridley | 21 | 8 | 3 | 10 |
| Russell Gage | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| Hayden Hurst | 14 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Julio Jones | 10 | 1 | | 9 |
| Ito Smith | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Brandon Powell | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

| <u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u> | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Todd Gurley | 53 | 17 | 7 | 29 |
| Brian Hill | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Ito Smith | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Matt Ryan | 7 | 2 | | 5 |
| Calvin Ridley | 2 | | | 2 |
| Russell Gage | 2 | | | 2 |
| Keith Smith | 1 | | | 1 |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | |
| 20% 23% | 17% 21% NFL AVG | 63% 56% | | |
| | Overall Target Success % | | | |
| Overall | Target Su | ıccess % | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % wr | | |





Smith also loves generating explosive plays off of heavier personnel groupings, with two tight ends on the field. This actually will mesh perfectly with the Falcons, because Matt Ryan was great last year with this. Atlanta just didn't do it enough. Examine the passing splits from Smith's Titans in 2020 and these Falcons when they had 2+ TEs on the field:

Titans: +0.24 EPA/att, 8.0 YPA, 57% success, 8.4 aDOT (234 att) Falcons: +0.24 EPA/att, 8.1 YPA, 58% success, 8.1 aDOT (121 att)

The efficiency similarity is staggering. But the Titans used it on nearly double the attempts, and look at the rate: Tennessee used it on 234 of 529 dropbacks (44%). Atlanta used it on 121 of 667 dropbacks (18%). Without Jones and with Pitts and Hayden Hurst, along with **Lee Smith** and some depth pieces, I fully expect Atlanta to use far more 2+ TE sets than they've done in the past. Motion and personnel diversity will absolutely help the Falcons offense in 2021.

I'm most intrigued to see what Smith does from a rushing perspective given his run game won't be as punchy without **Derrick Henry**. Will he lower the run rate from Tennessee? Will he think he can't use as much play-action without a strong run game? I hope not. Considering how much Ryan needed play-action last year, I hope Smith jacks up the rate of play-action even without Henry in the backfield. Will he continue a higher run-rate when he's leading in the second half, as he was able to do in Tennessee with Henry? Because we know that's what derailed the 2020 Falcons.

The trouble is, this roster is problematic and there's nothing Smith can do about it. He's taking out the trash left at the rental house by his predecessor. I think Smith provides significant upside to the offense but at some point, injury luck won't continue to go their way. At that point, the lack of depth will really show. I'm excited to watch what Smith brings to Atlanta and I'm hopeful, for the sake of the fans, they stop delivering Atlanta-like results, featuring too many games with narrow losses or games where they snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular 2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

01. Games w Halftime Lead

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

02. Avg Halftime Lead

| 3.0 | 03. | W |
|-----|-----|---|

0.19

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.8 | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 6.9 | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 8 | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.7 | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 54% | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 49% | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.13 | | | |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 38% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 55% |
| 46. PA YPA | 9.0 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 3.1% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.23 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 9.4 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 50% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.4 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 3.3% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.05 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.1 |

Men In Box

| 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 | 39% |
| 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 | 45% |
| 59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 46% |
| 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 | 39% |
| 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-vd line | 4.2 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 14 | defFUM | 21 |
|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 0.6 | defFUM Rcvrd | 11 |
| offFUM | 16 | dell-ow Kcvid | 11 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 10 | defFR Rk | 11 |
| offFR% | 62.5% | defFR% | 47.6% |
| offFR Rk | 10 | | 0.0 |
| offFROE | 1.3 | defFROE | -0.6 |
| offFROE Rk | 11 | defFROE Rk | 22 |
| OHEROE KK | 11 | | |

Field Goal Luck

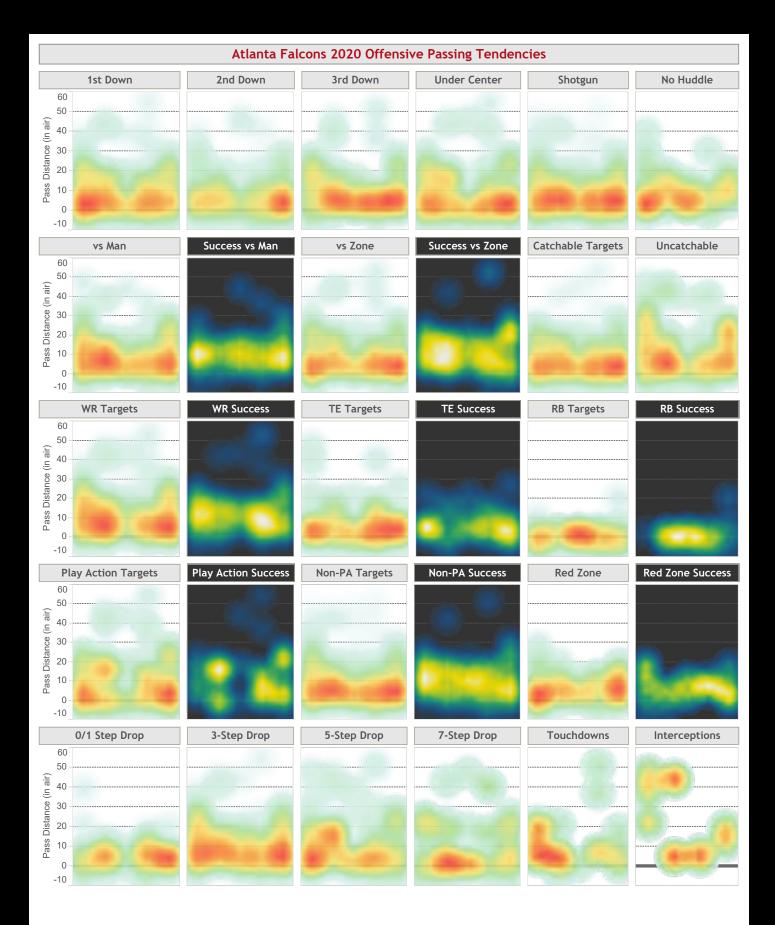
| Net Over Expectation | 3.79 | Opp Att | 28 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 4 | Opp Makes | 24 |
| Own Att | 40 | | |
| Own Makes | 38 | Opp FG % | 86% |
| Own FG % | 95% | Opp Expected Makes | 23.16 |
| Own Expected Makes | 33.37 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 0.84 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 4.63 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 17 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 3 | Opp wake over Expectation KK | 17 |
| | Ü | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 1.51 |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -1.07 | | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 19 | 2019 Opp Rk | 4 |
| | | | |

Player Tracking Data Stats - OBs

OR Pressure

Offensive Metrics

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBS | | Qb Pressure | | Offerisive A | Offensive Metrics | |
|--|--|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Matt Ryan | | Matt Ryan | EPA/Pass | 0.08 | |
| CAY | 7.2 | Pressure % | 34.1 | EPA/Pass Rk | 14 | |
| CAY Rk | 5 | Pressure Rk | 15 | EPA/Rush | -0.10 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 6 | Sack % | 6 | EPA/Rush Rk | 28 | |
| AYTS Rk | 7 | Sack Rk | 18 | On-Target Catch % | 88.7% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 23 | Pressure Accuracy % | 65.1 | _ | | |
| AGG Rk | 24 | Dunantum Annuary Div | 00 | On-Target Catch Rk | 25 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 19 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 20 | Drop% | 6.7% | |
| COMP% | 65 | Rating when Pressured | 68.3 | Drop Rk | 19 | |
| xCOMP% | 64.2 | Pressured Rating Rk | 20 | | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 28 | Clean Accuracy % | 80.7 | YAC/Att | 1.9 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 16 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 12 | YAC/Att Rk | 29 | |
| CPOE% | 0.9 | | | Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.3% | |
| CPOE Rk | 20 | Rating when Clean | 103.8 | | | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 10 | Clean Rating Rk | 18 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 20 | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS | : Air Yards to the Sticks AGG : | Time to Throw | 2.87 | Rush 1st Down % | 20.8% | |
| Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw Rk | 10 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 32 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: John Harbaugh (13 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Greg Roman (2 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Don Martingale (3 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Baltimore Ravens

2021 Forecast

Wins

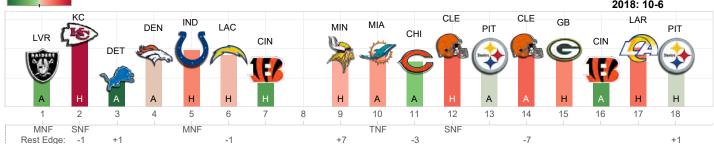
Div Rank

11

#1

Past Records

2020: 11-5 2019: 14-2 2018: 10-6



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Chris Moore (WR) | Texans |
| D.J. Fluker (RG) | Dolphins |
| Jihad Ward (IDL) | Jaguars |
| Mark Ingram (RB) | Texans |
| Matt Judon (EDGE) | Patriots |
| Matt Skura (C) | Dolphins |
| Morgan Cox (LS) | Titans |
| Orlando Brown (RT) | Chiefs |
| Willie Snead (WR) | Raiders |
| Yannick Ngakoue (EDGE) | Raiders |
| De'Anthony Thomas (WR) | TBD |
| DeAndrew White (WR) | TBD |
| Dez Bryant (WR) | TBD |
| Robert Griffin III (QB) | TBD |
| Tramon Williams (CB) | TBD |

| Average Line | # Games Favored | # Games |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------|
| | | |

2021 Baltimore Ravens Overview

Last year's Ravens chapter was a pleasure to write. They were coming off a 14-2 season in 2019. They had the unanimous, 50-0 MVP at quarterback on his rookie deal. They finished first in offensive efficiency. I zigged while most zagged, bet heavy on Lamar Jackson to perform well. I was right, they were wrong. At this time last year they were favored in all 16 games during the 2020 season, by an average of an insane 7.1 points. They were projected to win 11.5 games.

Entering 2020, they had massive perceived edges during a COVID season, including minimal roster turnover, an analytics-heavy approach to team building, playcalling and decision making, and a style of football that seemed it would work well against opponents with less in-person practice and prep time compared to normal seasons.

And then they had the advantage of the 2020 schedule itself. Baltimore's offense dominated in 2019 despite playing the eighth toughest schedule of pass defenses and the 11th toughest schedule of overall defenses. I forecast in last year's book they would play the 27th toughest schedule of pass defenses in 2020, a huge drop from eighth toughest in 2019. I predicted they would play the 29th toughest overall schedule in 2020.

By the end of the 2020 season, the Ravens ended up playing the 26th toughest schedule of pass defenses, nearly identical to my prediction. The Ravens played the 28th toughest overall schedule of opponents in 2020, nearly identical to my prediction. The Ravens were supremely lucky to face the NFC East and AFC South last year, the two worst divisions in the NFL. These divisions went a combined 26-53-1 (0.329) outside their own division last year. The Ravens got half of their season (eight games) against the worst teams in the NFL.

With what this team looked like after 2019, the Ravens should have dominated in 2020.

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Kevin Zeitler (RG) | \$7.5 |
| Alejandro Villanueva (RT) | \$7 |
| Sammy Watkins (WR) | \$5 |
| Josh Oliver (TE) | Trade |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|-----|-----|--|
| 1 | 27 | WR - Rashod Bateman (Minnesota) |
| 1 | 31 | DE - Odafe Oweh (Penn State) |
| 2 | 94 | OG - Ben Cleveland (Georgia) |
| 3 1 | 104 | CB - Brandon Stephens (SMU) |
| 4 | 131 | WR - Tylan Wallace (Oklahoma State) |
| | 160 | CB - Shaun Wade (Ohio State) |
| 5 | 171 | DE - Daelin Hayes (Notre Dame) |
| | 184 | FB - Ben Mason (Michigan) |

With what this 2020 schedule looked like before the season, the Ravens (cont'd - see <u>BAL2</u>) Regular Season Wins:





| 12 | | 79 | 66 | 77 | 70- | 78 | | (5) |
|----------|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|-----------|
| LWR | - | | LG | | 20 | RT | | RWR |
| .Bateman | 14 | R Stanley | | n R Rozeman | RG' | .Villanueva* | 89 | M.Brown |
| Rookie | (14) | K.Stariley | Rookie | D.DOZeman | NEW | .viiianueva NEW | 693 | W.D.OW |
| | SlotWR | | | | | NEW . | TE | |
| | S.Watkins | | | | | м | .Andrews | |
| | NEW | | | | | | and one | |
| | | | | 38 | | | | |
| | | | | 90- | | | | |
| | | - | | QB | | | | |
| | | | | L.Jackson | 27 | | | |
| 80 | 430 6 | 35 7 | <u> </u> | | 7-7 | | | |
| 707 | | | | | RB | | 2020 Ca | p Dollars |
| | WR3 R | B2 QB2 | | | J.Dobbins | | | |
| WR2 | | | | | | | | |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 30 | \$78.61M | 31 |
| QB | 29 | \$4.68M | 29 |
| OL | 12 | \$37.40M | 31 |
| RB | 26 | \$5.91M | 15 |
| WR | 23 | \$17.44M | 28 |
| TE | 6 | \$13.17M | 16 |
| All DEF | 10 | \$98.85M | 3 |
| DL | 12 | \$46.66M | 3 |
| LB | 28 | \$7.97M | 26 |
| СВ | 3 | \$34.26M | 2 |
| S | 21 | \$9.95M | 29 |
| | | | |

BAL-2

should have dominated in 2020. With how this 2020 schedule actually played out (very close to my predicted ease), the Ravens should have dominated in 2020.

And yet they did not. Despite being favored all their first 10 games, they lost four of them (Chiefs, Steelers, Patriots, and Titans).

After averaging 33 ppg in 2019 and covering 69% of games, the Ravens scored under 27 ppg and covered only 44% of games through the first 10 weeks of the

...and then they lost Lamar Jackson to the COVID list for a loss to the Steelers in Week 12

The team ran the table down the stretch, but played the easiest schedule of opponents in the NFL to close the year. Apart from an entertaining game against the Browns, the Ravens beat the 6-10 Cowboys without Dak, the 6-10 Giants, the 4-11-1 Bengals, and the 1-15 Jaguars.

They rolled up points, played the schoolyard bully role, and rolled into the playoffs looking like they had their 2019 mojo back. But they didn't.

Against the NFL's fourth worst defense in the Wild Card round (Titans) the Ravens managed to score just 20 points and snuck out a one-score win after trailing by double digits in the first quarter.

Then, in the wind in Buffalo, conditions that should have massively favored the run-centric Ravens and hurt the pass-centric Bills, Baltimore managed just three points and scored nothing in the entire second half.

An incredible 12 of the Ravens' 16 regular season games were played against defenses that ranked below average. Baltimore played nine games against bottom-10 defenses last year.

And instead of ranking first nearly across the board in offensive efficiency, everything dropped. Overall efficiency dropped from first to 20th. Early Down Success Rate (EDSR) dropped from first to 22nd.

The red flag for the Ravens offense was they could have been even worse in 2020 but they performed extremely well in high-leverage situations. Baltimore, led by Lamar Jackson's legs and a strong run game, ranked fourth in red zone efficiency and fourth in third down efficiency. So despite dropping to below average marks in most other elements of offensive efficiency, being great on

| | B | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| Lamar Jackson | 55% 7.8 105.1 | 42% 6.7 90.5 | 36% 7.1 86.9 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 37% | 50% | 54% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | | | | |
| BAL | 51% 4.5 | 53% 5.7 | 64% 8.0 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 63% | 50% | 46% | | | | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | | | | | | |

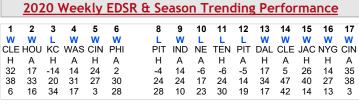
high-leverage plays allowed the Ravens to still win games.

And while the Ravens took a big step back in one-score games (going 2-4 in 2020 after 5-1 in 2019), Baltimore had a huge edge, ranked first in fumble luck and second in field goal luck. Ravens opponents missed the most field goals as compared to expectations of any team in the NFL. These factors certainly benefited Baltimore in a big way.

Looking at the Ravens' week-to-week ability to win the early down battle, it was clear very early in the season this team was a far cry from 2019's version. In 2019, Baltimore won the early down battle in 13 of 16 games. The Ravens went 5-11 in the early down battle in 2020.

They relied far more on their third down conversions and (cont'd - see BAL-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

| | 2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 5- | | | 4 | 4 | | 74 | 12 | | | | 4 | 12 | 6 | |
| 10- 곧 15- | 22 | 16 | | | 20 | | A | 20 | | | | * | | |
| 25 – 25 | 22 | | | | * | | | * | 26 | 24 | | | | |
| 30 – | | | | | | | | | 7 | | | | | |
| | EDSR Off | n Off | e Off | n Off | YPPA Off | YPPT Off | Offensive Efficiency | Pass by Off | Pass Pro iency Off | iff Off | Rush sy Off | Explosive Pass Off | Run | |
| | EDS | 30 & In Off | Red Zone Off | 3rd Down Off | YPP | YPP | Offe | Pass Efficiency Off | Pass Pro Efficiency Off | Pass Eff Off | Rush Efficiency Off | Explo | Explosive Run Off | |
| | | | Ř | -E | | | | <u> </u> | <u>"</u> | RB | <u>ш</u> | | <u> </u> | |





2020 Close Game **Records**

3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency

Red Zone De

All 2019 Wins: 11 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-0** FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-4 1 Score Games Win %: 33% (#26) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 18% (#32)

2020 Critical/Game-Dociding State

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

1

2

1

15

Explosive

8

3

RB Pass Eff Def

12

16

Pass Efficiency Def

Pass Pro

Efficieincy De

| <u>its</u> |
|------------|
| +4 |
| 18 |
| 11 |
| 7 |
| 22 |
| 10 |
| 12 |
| +7 |
| 39 |
| 32 |
| +1 |
| 4 |
| 3 |
| -27 |
| 104 |
| 77 |
| |

5

10

20

25 30 29

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

RESULT

MARGIN

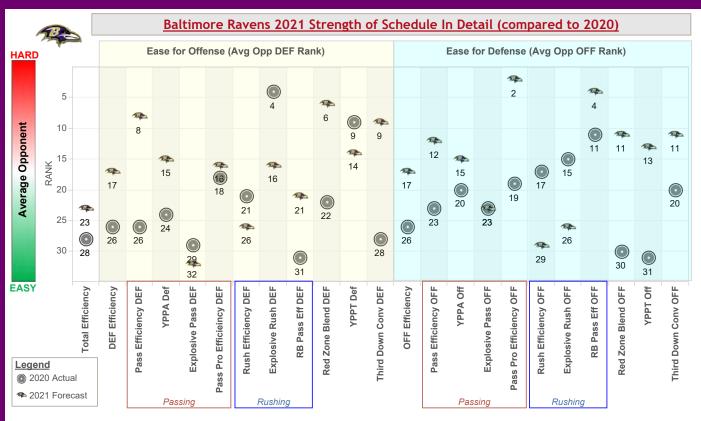
OPP PTS

(high=good) Red=DEF

EDSR Def 30 & In Def

11 11

Rank 15



| | 2021 vs 2020 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 | 7 | 24 | 20 | 6 | 7 | 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

| | | Tean | n Red | cord | s & T | Tren | <u>ds</u> | | 20 | 21 C |)ppo | nent | s by | Divi | <u>sion</u> | 2020 | Орг | oner | nts b | y Divi | <u>sion</u> | Hea | alth | by l | <u>Jnit*</u> |
|-------|----------|------------------|---------|------|--------------|----------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------|------------|------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|---------|------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|--------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 020 F | Rk | 8 |
| | Ave | erage I | ine | | -7.0 | -5 | 5.4 | -2.6 | AF | CN | JEZ | | |)) | | AFCN | I. | ß 🌀 | | (*) | | 2 | 019 F | Rk | 16 |
| | | ige O/L | | | 47.0 | 46 | | 44.8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2020 | v 20 | 19 Rk | 31 |
| | | nt Up R | | | 11-5 | 14 | | 10-6 | | | | _ | | (EX | â | | | | | | | | Off R | | 16 |
| | | e Spre | | | 10-5 | 11 | | 8-7 | AF | CW | Sec. | , CE | > <i>[</i> | → ((i | ذ | | | <u>~</u> 7 | \$ 55 | A | | | | | |
| | | nder F as Fav | | | 7-8 9-5 | 8- 8- | | 6-9 4-6 | | | ' | | , | . 4 | • | AFCS | 2 | | <i>)</i> 🤘 | On A | | [| Def R | k | 6 |
| | | as rav s Unde | | | 1-0 | | -0 | 4-0 | | | | _ | _ | N7 | _ | | | | | | | (| QB R | k | 18 |
| | | ht Up I | | | 5-3 | 7. | - | 6-2 | NF | CN | | ; 🥠 | k (C | \Rightarrow | 100 | | | | | _ | | | RB R | k | 21 |
| | | S Hon | | | 5-3 | 4- | -4 | 3-4 | | | | 6- | | | Y | NEGE | ^ | n | | F | | _ | | | 8 |
| | | Jnder l | | | 4-3 | 3- | | 4-4 | | | | | | | | NFCE | | 1 == | | Contract of the last | CV | | NR R | | |
| | | Home I | | | 5-3 | 3. | | 3-4 | AF | CE | 5 | • | | | | | | | | | | | TE R | k | 29 |
| - 1 | | a Hon | | 3 | 0-0 6-2 | 1· 7· | | 0-0 4-4 | | | Topopol | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | line I | ₹k | 17 |
| | | ΓS Awa | | | 5-2 | 7. | | 5-3 | | | | | | | | AFCE | | | | | | D | line F | ₹k | 15 |
| | | Under | | | 3-5 | 5. | | 2-5 | AF | cs | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | LB R | l, | 8 |
| | | way Fa | | | 4-2 | 5- | -1 | 1-2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Away | | | 1-0 | 2- | | 4-0 | | | | | | | | | - | | | | | | DB R | k | 8 |
| | | Tease | | | 12-4 | | 1-2 | 13-3 | NE | cw | 1773 | 1 | | | | AFCW | | | | | | *Pac | od o | n the w | ork of |
| | | nt Teas | | | 12-4 13-3 | 14 15 | | 13-3 14-2 | | | Q. | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | l Outsi | |
| rei | i Politi | Tease | er Reco | oru | | | | | . 442 | - I - | | | | | | | | | | Ham | - 1 | | 01001 | | |
| | | | | | <u> 20</u> |)21 V | veek | ly be | ettin | g Lir | <u>ies</u> | | | | | | | | | <u>Hom</u> | e Lin | <u>ies</u> | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 18 |
| LVR | KC | DET | DEN | IND | LAC | CIN | MIN | MIA | CHI | CLE | PIT | CLE | GB | CIN | LAR | PIT | 0 KC | -4 IND | -5.5 | | | | 5.5 | -3 | -5.5 |
| -4.0 | +0.0 | -7.5 | -3.5 | -4.0 | -5.5 | -10.0 | -7.0 | -3.0 | -3.5 | -3.5 | -2.5 | +2.5 | -5.5 | +6.5 | -3.0 | -5.5 | | | LAC | -10 CIN | MIN | JĻE | GB | l Avg | = -4.9 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | _ | | | | | | CIIV | • | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>*</i> | | | | | | | | | | | A | | Α | | | | | | Road | d Lin | es | | | |
| Avg = | -3.5 | Α | A | JH S | H | Н | H | A | A | H | (4) | | Н | | Avg | = -3.5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 11 | | , | 14 | 16 |
| 6 | | | A road | U | | | U.S. | Paper | | | | | 0 | | - | (- | | , J | 4 | 10 | 11 | 13 | , | 14 | |
| | | | | | | 13 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | -4 | -7.5 | -3.5 | | -3.5 | | 5 | 2.5 Cl Avg | 6.5 CIN = -1.9 |
| 21 | 51.5 | 48 | 45 | 49 | 49 | 48 | 49 | 48 | 15.5 | 46.5 | 45.5 | 46.5 | 47 | 47.5 | 12.5 | 44 | LV,R | DET | DĒN | MIA | CĤI | Pi | | | |





red zone greatness in 2020 than they had to in 2019.

So specifically, what went wrong for the Ravens offense?

Opposing defenses took Lamar Jackson out of the run game unless the Ravens were in three-wide sets. The Ravens missed TE **Hayden Hurs**t far more than expected and didn't receive nearly the level of receiving production from TE **Mark Andrews** that he provided in 2019. The Ravens couldn't utilize 13 personnel which was their most efficient grouping in 2019. Running back pass efficiency dropped off massively. Teams played a lot less man coverage and a lot more zone against the Ravens offense. In part due to significantly worse pass protection, deep passing efficiency wasn't there. In concert with the pass protection issues, any drop longer than 3-steps saw tremendous decline in efficiency. The Ravens shifted from one of the most between-the-tackles run teams to a team that ran far more to the edges, and runs between the tackles were far less efficient. Baltimore passed the ball far more often on second-and-long, which saw less success. Many other things declined as compared to 2019.

Let's first tackle the run game, considering the Ravens are the NFL's most run-heavy team.

In 2019, the Ravens used 11 or 10 personnel (which feature three and four wide receivers) on only 41% of offensive plays on early downs in the first three quarters. That ranked fifth-lowest in the NFL. They also ranked fifth-lowest in 2020. Lamar Jackson is brilliant in the run game from 11 personnel.

Last year Jackson averaged 8.9 YPC, 62% success, and 0.56 EPA/att when running out of 11 personnel. While you might assume that most of these runs are designed pass plays which become scrambles, only 38% of his runs were on designed pass plays, and the efficiency on those plays was far worse than the QB designs:

Designed run from 11: 9.7 YPC, 66% success, 0.63 EPA/att Scramble on designed pass from 11: 7.8 YPC, 56% success, 0.50 EPA/att

The problem was, while Lamar was also dominant on designed runs out of heavy groupings in 2019, that was not the case in 2020.

Looking at non-scrambles, removing a couple QB sneaks, and focusing just on Lamar's runs from every other grouping other than 11, such as 22, 21, 12, 13, etc:

2019: 7.4 YPC, 75% success, +0.29 EPA/att on 64 runs 2020: 4.2 YPC, 47% success, -0.01 EPA/att on 49 runs

After a 2019 season which featured Jackson running wild from both 11 personnel and all the heavy sets the Ravens use at the fifth highest rate in the NFL, defenses took all of those runs away from Lamar. If the Ravens were in heavy sets, they tried to stop Lamar on the ground, first and foremost.

Even if you add scrambles back to the mix, and look at every run from Jackson out of anything but 11 personnel other than QB kneels and sneaks, it's was a huge decline:

2019: 7.8 YPC, 73% success, 0.34 EPA/att on 90 runs 2020: 4.6 YPC, 45% success, -0.05 EPA/att on 71 runs

If you remove Lamar from the mix and look at every other run play from non-11 personnel, the Ravens RBs actually were very productive from heavy personnel groupings in 2020: 4.8 YPC, 60% success, 0.10 EPA/att.

Compare these numbers to the NFL average for RBs in non-11 personnel rushes: 4.2 YPC, 49% success, -0.04 EPA/att.

Defenses took away Lamar, left the Ravens RBs to put up well above average numbers, but refused to let Lamar beat them on the ground in personnel groupings that didn't scream pass play.

One way to combat defenses that are focusing substantial attention to the quarterback on the ground in non-11 personnel sets is to increase the pass rate on these plays, when defenses may be spying Lamar. Last year the Ravens were 67% run when not in 11 personnel, which was the most run-heavy in the NFL. Even last year's less explosive and less efficient passing offense was more efficient passing from 21, 12, and 22 than it was from 11 personnel. Additionally, to still access Lamar's brilliance on the ground the Ravens could run Lamar even more often from 11 personnel, where he was absolutely dominant.

We know the Ravens entered 2020 without **Marshal Yanda**, who retired. They also suffered offensive line injuries during the season and ranked 17th in offensive line health (third in 2019), The biggest loss was stud LT **Ronnie Stanley** after just six games to a torn ACL. That played a role in run blocking as well. Because of that, the Ravens chose to run far less often between the tackles in 2020.

(cont'd - see BAL-4)

| (seine 666 <u>=</u>) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| S | trength of S | cheduled Gan | ne Timing: Ar | nalyzing Rest | & Prep Ineq | uality in the | 2021 Sched | dule | | | | |
| _ | | | | | • | | | | | | | |
| | | | 202 | 1 gamas whar | _ | | | | | | | |
| 2021 games where | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponent has less than a week to prep | k Difference | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a rest advantage | Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team plays o road SNF or M | | | | | |
| 3 | 3 | - | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | |
| | Strengt | th of Schedule | ed Game Timi | ing: Baltimore | Ravens Rai | nking vs NFL | <u>Average</u> | | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge | Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank | | Rest Rank | Short We | eek Road Games Rank | Games off Road S Rank | SNF/MNF N | egated Bye Rank | | | | |
| 21 | 21 9 | | 19 | | 12 | 11 | | 1 | | | | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

B

Why Bet the Over

- The Ravens finished high in multiple luck categories last season, which could regress and negatively affect their win total. Not only did the Ravens fumble the most on offense in the NFL but they recovered 75% of their own fumbles, the highest rate in the NFL. They also allowed the lowest opponent field goal percentage in the NFI
- Jackson is always one bad hit away from a major injury due to his heavy rushing exposure. The Ravens have quite possibly the worst backup QB situation in the NFL with Trace McSorley and Tyler Huntley. As we saw last season when Jackson missed the Steelers game, the Ravens could have one of the worst offenses in the NFL in that scenario.
- The Ravens faced a top five easiest schedule in the NFL last season. This year they are set to face a top 10 difficult schedule and have to play the fifth toughest set of opponent offenses, based on EPA. With a 17th game added this season, the Ravens are tasked with facing the Rams

- Baltimore has been a model of consistency for many years and have won at least 10 games in eight of John Harbaugh's 13 seasons with the Ravens.
- Lamar Jackson is 30-7 as a starter in the NFL and the Ravens have only lost two games by more than six points in his starts.
- The Ravens took a step back last season on offense, going from the top ranked DVOA offense in 2019 to the 11th last season. The passing game was the biggest culprit (first in pass DVOA in 2019 down to 17th in 2020) and Baltimore has brought in free agent Sammy Watkins and rookie Rashad Bateman to bolster the offense.

| Baltimore Ravens Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 24 | 9 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | |

Not much needs to be said about our ranking of Lamar Jackson. Votes ranged from fifth to eighth, and he's solidly among the upper tier of quarterbacks.

Baltimore's backfield received votes ranging from fifth to 17th. The difference of opinions likely stems from difficulty separating the backfield talent from the benefit of playing with Jackson. Defenses have to approach the Ravens' run game differently, and the running backs benefit from the confusion Jackson creates.

The lowest-ranked unit on the roster is the receiving corps, though rookie **Rashod Bateman** should help. Excluding targets behind the line of scrimmage, **Marquise Brown** had a 15.3% drop rate last season—inexcusable for a number-one weapon. If he cleans that up, or Bateman supplants him as the top weapon, this unit will be much improved.

The offensive line has been a strength in recent years, though there has been significant shakeup this offseason. Left tackle **Ronnie Stanley** will likely be the only starter returning to his position from a season ago, though center **Bradley Bozeman** (played guard in 2020) also returns.

Baltimore's philosophy is that pass rushers are replaceable, which is why they let **Matt Judon** and **Yannick Ngakoue** walk. That theory will be tested more than usual this year, as those two accounted for 25% of the team's pressures, and only rookie **Odafe Oweh** was the only notable reinforcement added.

Our top-ranked secondary split the first-place votes with Denver, and finished no worse than third on any ballot. Not only is the unit anchored by high-end production from **Marlon Humphrey** and **Marcus Peters**, but the depth is as strong as any in the league.

Entering his 14th season, John Harbaugh remains in the elite tier of coaches. His willingness and ability to adapt the offense to fit Lamar Jackson's strengths has notably set him apart from many of his peers in recent years.

BAL-4

In 2019, the Ravens ran behind their guards or center on 68% of runs, a rate well above average (54%). But in 2020, Baltimore ran between tackles on only 47% of runs, not only a huge 21% decrease from 2019, but shifting them from well above average to well below average. Production suffered dramatically as well, as these runs were far less efficient as compared to 2019. Baltimore's right side of the line has been overhauled, with offseason additions of RT **Alejandro Villanueva** and RG **Kevin Zeitler**. They get Stanley back at LT. We will see if the revamped offensive line allows the Ravens to get more efficiency out of runs between the tackles and if they increase their directional run rate as a result.

The offensive line played a role in Lamar's pressure rate as well, which impacted passing efficiency, particularly on deeper drops. Jackson went from being pressured on 19.9% of his dropbacks in 2019 to 30.4% last season while his sack rate went from 5.4% up to 7.2%.

The Ravens couldn't use as many deeper drops or creative designs due to pressure on the quarterback. Compare 5- and 7-step drops by year:

2019: 0.41 EPA/att, 60% success, 24% pressure rate, 0 sacks, 57 attempts 2020: -0.10 EPA/att, 32% success, 49% pressure rate, 5 sacks, 36 attempts

Now compare designed rollouts:

2019: 0.18 EPA/att, 46% success, 46% pressure rate, 4 sacks, 61 attempts 2020: -0.02 EPA/att, 42% success, 54% pressure rate, 5 sacks, 32 attempts

<u>BAL-5</u>

0

2017 Wins

2018 Wins

While protection issues at times are the fault of a quarterback, and Lamar Jackson can continue to improve in avoiding pressure, the Ravens' 2020 offensive line allowed too much pressure which impacted not only play efficiency but playcalling itself, as OC Greg Roman opted to call fewer plays which he knew would expose his line's pass blocking issues.

Jackson needs to continue to work on his deep accuracy. He showed strides in passes over 20 yards, recording higher accuracy in 2020 than in 2019, but the results in production were worse. The mid-range accuracy, on passes 11-20 air yards (particularly 16-20) dropped by 6% points, from 71.8% accuracy in 2019 to 65.6% in 2020. The Ravens went from averaging 0.82 EPA/att and 12.4 YPA on these passes in 2019 to 0.32 EPA/att and 9.3 YPA in 2020.

The additions of wide receivers **Rashod Bateman** (Round 1) and Tylan Wallace (Round 4) along with **Sammy Watkins** (free agency) give the Ravens considerably more juice in that position than they had in Jackson's career to date. The hope is a rebuilt receiving corps will bring fewer drops. The Ravens had the seventh-lowest drop rate in 2019, but it increased by over 2.5% in 2020 and was fifth-worst.

Another significant negative for the Ravens in 2020 was the lack of tight end production. Hayden Hurst was never truly replaced from 2019. The Ravens anticipated **Nick Boyle** would step into that role, but he was lost to injury in November after playing in only nine games. But he was nowhere near the receiving threat that Hurst was. Hurst's 0.70 EPA/attempt in 2019 led all Ravens. In addition, because he wasn't actually replaced, the Ravens were unable to run 13 personnel in 2020.

In 2019, only one other team used more 13 personnel when passing than the Ravens. It was by far Baltimore's most efficient grouping to use when passing. They averaged 0.58 EPA (first), 11.2 YPA (first), 70% success (first), and 91% accuracy (first). Jackson had an absurd 19% TD rate when passing from 13. Lamar's EPA/att on passes from 13 was over double that of any other personnel grouping used in 2019 over 10 times. The Ravens threw 33 passes from 13 personnel in 2019. In 2020, they threw just one.

(cont'd - see BAL-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 W IF 6 6 4 4 2 2

Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

2019 Wins

2020 Wins



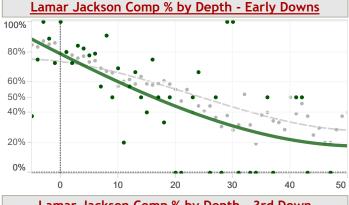
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

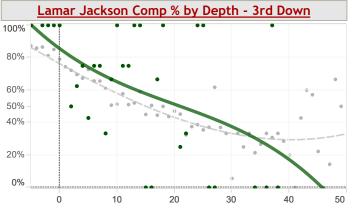


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | | |
| | J.K. Dobbins | 24% | | 52% | 7% | 17% | | | | | | | |
| | Gus Edwards | | | 64% | | 36% | | | | | | | |
| | Marquise Brown | 6% | 5% | 61% | 13% | 16% | | | | | | | |
| | Mark Andrews | 7% | 6% | 52% | 13% | 22% | | | | | | | |
| PASS | Mark Ingram | 13% | 13% | 75% | | | | | | | | | |
| " | Willie Snead | 4% | 6% | 67% | 6% | 16% | | | | | | | |
| | Miles Boykin | 9% | | 57% | 14% | 20% | | | | | | | |
| | Devin Duvernay | 4% | 12% | 62% | 4% | 19% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 8% | 5% | 59% | 10% | 19% | | | | | | | |
| | J.K. Dobbins | 1% | 3% | 65% | 8% | 23% | | | | | | | |
| | Gus Edwards | 3% | 4% | 52% | 14% | 27% | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Marquise Brown | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| ₽ | Mark Ingram | 4% | 3% | 49% | 8% | 36% | | | | | | | |
| | Devin Duvernay | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 3% | 3% | 57% | 11% | 26% | | | | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Brown Devin Duvernay Dobbins Andrews Edwards Snead Miles Boykin Ingran Marquise Mark Willie Z. Gus 7% **PASS** 27% RUSH 39% 41% 18% 24% 23% ALL





0

Forecast 2021

Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-0 [3WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| PASS | 42%, -0.05 (290) | 52%, 0.16 (61) | 59%, 0.12 (39) | 50%, 0.14 (50) | 42%, -0.27 (19) | 67%, 1.27 (6) | 0%, -0.52 (1) | 100%, 3.79 (1) | | | 46%, 0.02 (467) |
| RUSH | 52%, 0.27 (190) | 53%, 0.04 (120) | 60%, 0.03 (125) | 43%, -0.14 (42) | 44%, 0.03 (72) | 50%, -0.24 (2) | 0%, -0.07 (1) | | 0%, -0.67 (1) | 100%, -0.03 (1) | 52%, 0.10 (554) |
| All | 46%, 0.07 (480) | 53%, 0.08 (181) | 60%, 0.05 (164) | 47%, 0.02 (92) | 44%, -0.03 (91) | 63%, 0.89 (8) | 0%, -0.30 (2) | 100%, 3.79 (1) | 0%, -0.67 (1) | 100%, -0.03 (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] | 4 Grp Total | | | | | | | | |
| TE | Mark Andrews | 49% (63) 6.7, -0.04 | 43% (14) 6.1, 0.16 | 55% (11) 7.5, 0.29 | 49% (88) 6.7, 0.03 | | | | | | | | |
| | Nick Boyle | 67% (3) 4.3, 0.38 | 0% (1) -1.0, -1.17 | 44% (9) 6.1, 0.02 | 46% (13) 5.2, 0.01 | | | | | | | | |
| WR | Marquise Brown | 52% (50) 8.8, 0.34 | 60% (20) 10.8, 0.37 | 42% (12) 6.7, 0.31 | 52% (82) 9.0, 0.34 | | | | | | | | |
| | Willie Snead IV | 56% (50) 8.6, 0.47 | 100% (4) 9.3, 0.95 | | 59% (54) 8.6, 0.50 | | | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Jackson | 60% (72) | 44% (32) | 36% (28) | 41% (17) | 50% (149) |
| Lamar | 9.1, 0.55 | 3.4, -0.15 | 5.3, 0.06 | 2.9, -0.10 | 6.4, 0.23 |
| Edwards | 51% (35) | 66% (41) | 79% (39) | 40% (10) | 64% (125) |
| Gus | 6.0, 0.08 | 3.7, 0.08 | 4.7, 0.27 | 2.4, -0.48 | 4.5, 0.10 |
| Dobbins | 50% (42) | 71% (31) | 50% (32) | 63% (8) | 57% (113) |
| J.K. | 6.2, 0.27 | 7.6, 0.38 | 3.7, -0.05 | 10.1, 0.36 | 6.2, 0.22 |
| Ingram | 43% (28) | 65% (17) | 42% (12) | 33% (6) | 48% (63) |
| Mark | 4.3, -0.07 | 5.8, 0.12 | 2.8, -0.20 | 2.7, -0.25 | 4.3, -0.06 |
| Griffin III Robert | | 0% (1) -1.0, -0.59 | 0% (2) -1.0, -0.88 | | 0% (3) -1.0, -0.79 |
| Hill Justice | 33% (3) 8.3, 0.29 | | | | 33% (3) 8.3, 0.29 |

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

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QB | State at | Pass | Run | Run Types | |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 57% (275) 6.9, 0.21 | 3 Step | 52% (176) 8.9, 0.21 | Planted | | % (286) 5, 0.16 | Power | 55% (108) 4.6, 0.08 | |
| | 54% (275) | Curl | 62% (52) 7.8, 0.29 | | | 0/1 Step | 56% (124) | Moving | 7. | 4% (89) 0, 0.19 | Inside | 48% (62) | |
| Zone | 8.0, 0.19 | Out | 50% (34) 4.50.14 | Level 2 | 39% (80) 8.5, 0.22 | | 6.1, 0.17 39% (36) | Shuffling | | 7% (53) 1, 0.08 | Zone | 3.7, -0.08 50% (38) | |
| | | | 48% (31) | Level 3 | 32% (28) | 5 Step | 8.6, 0.16 | | Play Action | | | 5.0, -0.07 | |
| M2M | 47% (77) 6.5, 0.21 | Slant | 7.7, 0.24 | | 11.2, -0.21 | Designed Rollout Right | 44% (32) 4.9, 0.13 | | Play Action | No P/A | Lead | 74% (35) 6.9, 0.43 | |
| | | Dig | 61% (23) 10.0, 0.34 | Sidearm | 64% (22) 8.6, 0.37 | Basic Screen | 33% (9) | Under Center | 50% (2) 0.5, 0.11 | 17% (6) 2.5, 0.19 | Stretch | 53% (30) | |
| Screen | 41% (22) 5.2, 0.03 | | | | | 449/ (0) | Buolo Goldon | 4.2, -0.25 | Shotgun | 51% (146) 7.7, -0.01 | 44% (313) 7.1, 0.04 | Ctroton | 5.7, 0.20 |
| 23.0011 | | Drag | 44% (18) 6.0, 0.04 | Shovel | 44% (9) 1.6, -0.13 | 7 Step | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.63 | ALL | 51% (148) 7.6, -0.01 | 44% (319) 7.0, 0.04 | Pitch | 17% (6) 1.7, -0.28 | |

BAL-6

Mark Andrews, by far the most targeted Raven of 2019, saw his EPA drop from 0.29/att to 0.12 in 2020. It will be interesting to see if new tight end acquisition **Josh Oliver** (a second-round pick by the Jaguars in 2019, who has been limited to 117 snaps in his two-year career due to injury) can be effective for the Ravens and help replace the upside that Hurst brought the offense, both in terms of receiving production as well as ability use more 13 personnel.

Another position group that fell off tremendously in 2020 compared to 2019 was running back targets out of the backfield. In 2019, RB-targets delivered 0.42 EPA/att with 59% success. In 2020, they delivered 0.01 EPA/att and 40% success. The primary decline came in targets from 11 personnel on early downs, which is when the Ravens primarily targeted their backs. In 2019, the Ravens got 0.42 EPA/att and 68% success on these targets. In 2020, that dipped to 42% success and 0.07 EPA/att.

Running back deployment in personnel groupings when rushing may also be something the Ravens can look at further to improve total efficiency. Both lead backs were outstanding when running out of 22 personnel. But in any other run play with a fullback on the field, **Gus Edwards** (0.24 EPA/att, 71% success, 5.3 YPC) was substantially better than **J.K. Dobbins** (-0.06 EPA/att, 48% success, 3.9 YPC). And in any single-back set, Dobbins (0.25 EPA/att, 54% success, 6.9 YPC) was substantially better than Edwards (-0.06 EPA/att, 49% success, 5.1 YPC).

There are many other areas the Ravens need to improve on in 2021. One final one to mention is the increase of pre-snap motion. The Ravens already used it at the second-highest rate of any team in the NFL last year. But look at the edge it delivered when passing the ball. Looking at the first three quarters of games, without pre-snap motion the Ravens averaged -0.27 EPA/att. With it, +0.18 EPA/att. They increased YPA from 6.1 without pre-snap motion to 7.8 YPA with it. Baltimore should continue to push the envelope and use as much pre-snap motion as possible.

I've made many observations as to the dropoff of the mighty Ravens offense from 2019 to 2020, and it may seem like we're being overly hard on the team. Many other offenses are far worse, so why cite all the issues for the Ravens? Because it's what they're doing at 1 Winning Drive at the Under Armour Performance Center. And because it's warranted.





Baltimore still is one of the best teams in the NFL. But against the fifth-easiest schedule of opponents last year, they underwhelmed based on our high expectations. They'll now face a more difficult schedule in 2021, particularly as it relates to pass defenses faced (a projected ninth-toughest schedule). The Ravens absolutely must address all of these problems, many of which were too numerous to mention, if they want to win a Super Bowl in Lamar's rookie deal. They have high expectations of this team and so do I. Many of these issues are fixable.

That leads us to a positive. The good news is, the Ravens are still in Lamar Jackson's rookie deal which means they can spend elsewhere. From 2014-2021, only one other team has played a three-year stretch where they spent less in total cap space on quarterbacks than the Ravens did from 2019-2021 — the Cowboys from 2017-2019. During that span, there have been 224 three-year stretches and the Ravens rank 222 of those 224.

This theoretically should provide a huge advantage. The three-year cap spending on the quarterback position is \$54 million on average for all 32 teams. Baltimore has spent only \$15 million. Very soon, Baltimore will have to pay Lamar Jackson. And while I expect him to sign a long-term deal which provides several team-friendly cap years to start, it's going to be a big change from a roster building perspective. That pending shift makes 2021 a more important year to make a Super Bowl run.

Immediate Impact of Baltimore Ravens 2021 Draft Class

Baltimore needed to give Lamar Jackson a reliable downfield weapon, and WR Rashod Bateman (first round) should be the perfect fit.

Ravens receivers caught only 63% of Jackson's catchable throws 15 or more yards downfield last season, which ranked 29th out of 35 quarterbacks. Bateman had a 78% catch rate on catchable targets at that distance during his college career.

With former left guard Bradley Bozeman moving to center, OL Ben Cleveland (third round) is likely to start at left guard.

Cleveland spent his entire career at Georgia on the right side of the line (both guard and tackle) but free agent addition **Kevin Zeitler** is likely to remain at right guard, where he's played his entire career.

The 6'6", 343-pound Cleveland played a key role in Georgia's running game over the last few seasons, and looks like an ideal fit for Baltimore's run-heavy offense.

Due to a well-constructed roster, it's tough to envision anyone else from this class making a substantial impact. EDGE **Odafe Oweh**_(first round) will likely see some reps as a pass-rush specialist, though he is raw and survived on elite athletic traits at Penn State. Much has been made of Oweh's zero sacks in 2020, but don't read too much into that number. Versus three-step dropbacks, Oweh generated an incredible 27.9% pressure rate—a strong indication his sack numbers will rise as the coaching staff refines his technique.

Baltimore may have leaned more heavily on a needs-based approach to the draft than usual, but none of their selections can be considered an unjustifiable reach. This draft class appears capable of contributing in 2021, while also offering some long-term developmental value.

Baltimore Ravens 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

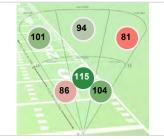
Through natural regression from their 2019 efficiency, to lack of weaponry, injuries, and declining offensive line play, the Baltimore passing game took a step backwards in 2020. After ranking ninth in success rate (48%), fifth in passing EPA (149.1 points), second in EPA per dropback (.318), and 10th in yards per pass play (6.9 yards) in 2019, the Ravens ranked 27th in success rate (44%), 24th in EPA (36.4 points), 22nd in EPA per dropback (.083), and 21st in yards per pass play (6.2 yards) in 2020. Lamar Jackson went from being pressured on 19.9% of his dropbacks in 2019 to 30.4% last season while his sack rate went from 5.4% up to 7.2%. This offseason the Ravens have added Rashod Bateman, Sammy Watkins, and Tylan Wallace to their pass-catching corps while they will be getting Ronnie Stanley back on the offensive line

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Lamar Jackson | 273 | 424 | 64% | 3,098 | 7.3 | 26 | 11 | 37 | 96 | 19 |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | |

| 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----|
| QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success Gains Success % Success Gains Gain | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lamar Jackson | 46% | 49% | 42 | 10.0% | 19 | 4.0% | 6.3 | 5.0 | 20 | 5% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Lamar Jackson Rating

<u>Lamar Jackson Rating</u> <u>Early Downs</u>



| 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% | 3.8% | 4.2% | 0.0% | 3.7% | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 5.6% | 0.0% | 2.0% | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 2.7% | 2.2% | 4.2% | | 2.8% | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | |
| Total | 2.4% | 1.2% | 4.3% | 0.0% | 2.4% | | | |

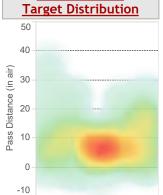
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | |
| Lamar Jackson | 9.2 | 6.3 | -2.9 | 74% | 18 | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | |

| | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|----------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | |
| | 56% | 44% | 15 | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Ravens were 17th (7.0 yards) and 19th (7.9 yards) in yards per target to their tight ends and wide receivers in 2020. No team used and got less out their wide receiving unit in 2020 than the Ravens. Baltimore wide receivers collectively tallied 8.6 receptions for 108.1 yards on 13.8 targets per game, all league lows for a wide receiver corps while ranking 27th in success rate (50%) targeting the position. The Ravens only had one semi-reliable option at the position in second-year wideout **Marquise Brown**. Brown accounted for 45.3% of the wide receiver targets, which was the second-highest wideout target behind Davante Adams at 51.2%. Adding Bateman, Watkins, and Wallace, Baltimore has improved their wide receiver depth.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------|-----|
| Marquise Brown | 102 | 60% | 8.0 | 95.9 | 48% | 107 | 108 | 49 | 86 | 7 |
| Mark Andrews | 95 | 59% | 6.6 | 90.9 | 49% | 95 | 91 | 105 | 14 | 6 |



Mark Andrews



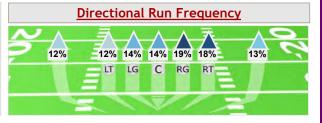
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Despite their passing struggles, Baltimore led the NFL in EPA rushing (116.8 points) and were sixth in success rate (54%). While Lamar Jackson is a large contributor to the team's performance on the ground, Baltimore backs also do a good amount of lifting on their own, ranking 11th in the league as a group in yards from scrimmage per game (140.6 yards) in 2020. 2020 second-round pick **J.K. Dobbins** showed plenty of electricity with 6.0 yards per carry and 6.1 yards per touch as he turned in 925 yards from scrimmage on just 152 total touches as a rookie. The team also has a reliable contributor in **Gus Edwards**, who has 139, 140, and 153 touches over his first three seasons in the league with over 5.0 yards per carry in each season.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Lamar Jackson | 184 | 6.4 | 51% | 49 | 70 | 85 | 6 | 46% | 71 | 8 |
| Gus Edwards | 162 | 5.0 | 63% | 3 | 3 | 55 | 17 | 57% | 10 | 6 |
| J.K. Dobbins | 153 | 5.8 | 58% | 11 | 32 | 81 | 9 | 56% | 15 | 10 |
| Mark Ingram | 72 | 4.2 | 50% | 52 | 15 | 47 | 66 | 50% | 45 | 2 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Buy any dip on Lamar Jackson as a threat to be the Fantasy QB1

The 2020 Ravens were a team carrying a large signal for regression based on their torrid 2019 efficiency and health offensively. 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 prior from 2000-2018 had 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. The Ravens were no exception as they dipped down to scoring on 47.5% of their possessions. But even with that, they were still ninth in the league. This is still a high-scoring offense to buy into for fantasy.

It all starts with Lamar Jackson. After setting a record for fantasy points per game in 2019, Jackson dipped to 10th a year ago (22.2) as the inevitable passing regression he was due took him from 17.1 passing points per game in 2019 down to 13.1 per game last season. Jackson still is the best dual-threat option when all is working and has a terrific floor, becoming the first quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons.

After a slow start to the season, the upside of Jackson showed up in the back half of the year as he averaged 24.8 points per game over his final seven games played with six QB1 scoring weeks after just three QB1 scoring weeks over his opening eight games.

With the retirement of Marshall Yanda and Ronnie Stanley playing in just six games after suffering an ACL injury, Baltimore was out two high-level offensive lineman from the year prior. Lamar Jackson went from being pressured on 19.9% of his dropbacks in 2019 to 30.4% last season while his sack rate went from 5.4% up to 7.2%.

Getting Stanley back (who is under contract through 2025) and adding veteran **Kevin Zeitler** on a three-year contract are immediate upgrades to account for. 2020 starting center **Matt Skura** left via free agency, but backup **Patrick Mekari** logged 280 snaps last season and graded out higher than Skura per Pro Football Focus. The team also has moved on from **D.J. Fluker**, who allowed a pressure on 10.2% of his pass blocking snaps, the highest rate in the league among all tackles with 100-plus pass blocking reps.

The Ravens also have provided Jackson more to work with in terms of pass catchers. After Marquise Brown (100 targets) and Mark Andrews (88), the only Raven to receive more than 33 targets on the season was **Willie Snead** with 48 targets.

A former four-star recruit, **Rashod Bateman** has outside and inside experience. In 2019, Bateman racked up 37.0% of the receiving yards and 28.3% of the receptions playing alongside Johnson while playing outside (just a 12.7% slot rate). In 2020, he accounted for 47.4% of the Minnesota receptions and 45.7% of the yardage in his games played while playing 61.2% of his snaps in the slot. In just five games played due to COVID, Bateman cleared 100 yards in three of them. His 3.69 yards per team pass attempt this past season are third in this class, while his 3.77 yards per attempt in 2019 would have been second among prospects a year ago.

Surrendered +Success Map Baltimore Ravens Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel **Def Tendencies** 50 Personnel **Grand Total** % Rk 293 plays (73%) 404 plays (100%) 5 plays (1%) 103 plays (25%) 1 plays (0%) Success: 80% Success: 42% Success: 41% Success: 100% Success: 43% 40 1-1 [3WR] EPA: -0.16 EPA: 0.01 EPA: 0.83 EPA: -0.11 EPA: 0.39 20% 22 Base 50 plays (51%) 41 plays (41%) 99 plays (100%) 8 plays (8% 61% 15 Nickel 30 Success: 46% Success: 49% Success: 45% 1-2 [2WR] EPA: 0.08 EPA: -0.31 EPA: -0.28 EPA: -0.11 16% 13 Dime+ 20 plays (77%) 5 plays (19%) 1 plays (4%) 26 plays (100%) 20 2-1 [2WR] Rush 3 6% 15 Success: 60% Success: 0% EPA: -0.39 Success: 50% Success: 50% EPA: 0.05 EPA: 0.08 EPA: 0.27 54% 30 Rush 4 5 plays (83%) 6 plays (100%) 10 l plays (17%) 2-2 [1WR] Success: 40% Success: 33% Rush 5 32% 1 EPA: -0.20 EPA: -0.50 EPA: -0.25 0 9 Rush 6+ 7% 80 plays (15%) 340 plays (64%) 112 plays (21%) 535 plays (100%) Grand Success: 39% Success: 100% Success: 49% Success: 43% Success: 43% Total EPA: -0.10 39% 1 EPA: 0.08 EPA: -0.01 Blitz% EPA: -0.17 EPA: 0.83

Defensive Outlook

Calais Campbell will be 35 years old at the start of the 2021 season and he hasn't shown signs of significantly slowing down. He only played 12 games in 2020 but still had four sacks, 10 quarterback hits, and six passes defensed. His pressure rate was sixth-highest among interior defenders. Derek Wolfe played the most snaps on the end of Baltimore's three-man line at 58.4%.

The rest of the defensive line heavily rotated and it's likely to continue that way. Brandon Williams played a third of the snaps, Justin Ellis was at 33.5%, and Justin Madubiuke played 24.3%. As a whole, the Ravens defense ranked seventh in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate.

Both **Matt Judon** and **Yannick Ngakoue** were allowed to leave in free agency after making up for nine of the team's 39 sacks (23%). The Ravens compensated **Tyus Bowser** with a new deal that will place him as Baltimore's top edge rusher a season after he ranked 14th in pressure rate among edge rushers in 2020. Like the interior defensive line, the Ravens kept a heavy rotation on the edge. **Pernell McPhee** played 43% of the snaps and **Jaylon Ferguson** played 28.3%. Bowser got 50.7%. **Odafe Oweh** was drafted in the second round and his athleticism plays well with what Baltimore wants to do on the edge.

Baltimore took a big swing with **Patrick Queen** in the first round last year but that didn't exactly pay off in Year 1. Queen had some flash plays, but that didn't make up for some of the overall lapses in both tackling and coverage. No linebacker had more missed tackles than Queen last season, who tied with Zack Cunningham for the league lead. But Queen still has the athleticism to build around in the middle of the defense.

Marcus Peters and Marlon Humphrey make for one of the best corner duos in the league. Humphrey actually played more snaps in the slot during the 2020 season while Jimmy Smith played on the outside. Humphrey can have success anywhere and turned into one of the league's best slot corners when he lined up there. Tavon Young has flashed whenever he was on the field, but injury issues have derailed a promising career. His loss in the slot sparked Humphrey's move to the slot.

The Ravens retooled their safety room on the fly when **Earl Thomas** was released and they came out ahead. **DeShon Elliott**, a 2018 sixth-round pick, started all 16 games and 98% of the defensive snaps after playing a total of 40 defensive snaps in 2019. He played an effective center field and the Ravens ranked sixth in DVOA against deep passes. **Chuck Clark** played all around the defense. Clark and Elliott were two of 13 safeties across the entire league to see at least 30 targets with 30 or more pass rushes.

| 2020 Play Tendencies | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| All Pass % | 46% | | | | | | |
| All Pass Rk | 32 | | | | | | |
| All Rush % | 54% | | | | | | |
| All Rush Rk | 1 | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 44% | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 32 | | | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 44% | | | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 32 | | | | | | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -1% | | | | | | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 12 | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 56% | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 1 | | | | | | |
| Up Pass % | 48% | | | | | | |
| Up Pass Rk | 30 | | | | | | |
| Up Rush % | 52% | | | | | | |
| Up Rush Rk | 3 | | | | | | |
| Down Pass % | 44% | | | | | | |
| Down Pass Rk | 32 | | | | | | |
| Down Rush % | 56% | | | | | | |
| Down Rush Rk | 1 | | | | | | |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 8 | 38% | 63% | 75% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 14 | 21% | 79% | 79% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 341 | 38% | 62% | 50% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 14 | 64% | 36% | 50% | | | |
| | 35 | 1 | 0% | 100% | 0% | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 38 | 16% | 84% | 82% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 112 | 49% | 51% | 52% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 97 | 63% | 37% | 39% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 40 | 73% | 28% | 20% | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 52 | 15% | 85% | 79% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 66 | 71% | 29% | 48% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 37 | 70% | 30% | 46% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 24 | 71% | 29% | 25% | | | |
| | 35 | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 6 | 17% | 83% | 83% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |



32% **AVG** 77%

Baltimore Ravens 2020 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd | and | Short | Run | |
|-----|-----|-------|-----|--|
| | | | | |

| Run | Run | NFL Run | Run 1D | Run NFL |
|------|-----|----------|--------|---------|
| Freq | Rk | Freq Avg | Rate | 1D Avg |
| 97% | 1 | 67% | 75% | 75% |

2nd and Short Pass

| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 3% | 32 | 33% | 100% | 59% |

| <u>Most Frequent Play</u> | | | | | |
|---|-------------|------|----------------|----|------|
| Down Distance Type Player Plays Success | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | J.K. Dobbins | 2 | 100% |
| Dwn | | | Gus Edwards | 2 | 50% |
| | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Lamar Jackson | 3 | 67% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | J.K. Dobbins | 61 | 48% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Mark Andrews | 3 | 100% |
| | | RUSH | J.K. Dobbins | 3 | 33% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Gus Edwards | 13 | 85% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Mark Andrews | 17 | 53% |
| | | RUSH | Gus Edwards | 17 | 35% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Lamar Jackson | 13 | 38% |
| | , | | J.K. Dobbins | 13 | 46% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Marquise Brown | 8 | 38% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Gus Edwards | 20 | 95% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Lamar Jackson | 15 | 67% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Lamar Jackson | 9 | 33% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Marquise Brown | 4 | 25% |

| Offen | Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | |
| No | Success: 39% | Success: 47% | Success: 41% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.14 | YPA: 5.3, EPA: -0.54 | YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.20 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 86.4 | Rtg: 36.3 | Rtg: 78.3 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 157 - Rate: 33.6%] | [Att: 30 - Rate: 6.4%] | [Att: 187 - Rate: 40.0%] | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 48% | Success: 52% | Success: 49% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.22 | YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.18 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 99.1 | Rtg: 111.9 | Rtg: 104.5 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 162 - Rate: 34.7%] | [Att: 118 - Rate: 25.3%] | [Att: 280 - Rate: 60.0%] | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 44% | Success: 51% | Success: 46% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: -0.01 | YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.02 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 93.0 | Rtg: 97.0 | Rtg: 94.3 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 319 - Rate: 68.3%] | [Att: 148 - Rate: 31.7%] | [Att: 467 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | |

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Marquise Brown | Mark Andrews | Miles Boykin | Willie Snead | J.K. Dobbins | Nick Boyle | Devin Duvernay | Gus Edwards | Mark Ingram | Dez Bryant |
| 1 | CLE | W 38-6 | 37 (63%) | 42 (71%) | 40 (68%) | 39 (66%) | 23 (39%) | 39 (66%) | 11 (19%) | 15 (25%) | 21 (36%) | |
| 2 | HOU | W 33-16 | 44 (68%) | 38 (58%) | 48 (74%) | 41 (63%) | 20 (31%) | 51 (78%) | 6 (9%) | 20 (31%) | 27 (42%) | |
| 3 | KC | L 34-20 | 44 (79%) | 44 (79%) | 46 (82%) | 47 (84%) | 24 (43%) | 26 (46%) | 7 (13%) | 13 (23%) | 18 (32%) | |
| 4 | WAS | W 31-17 | 43 (75%) | 37 (65%) | 31 (54%) | 32 (56%) | 21 (37%) | 38 (67%) | 16 (28%) | 22 (39%) | 14 (25%) | |
| 5 | CIN | W 27-3 | 54 (86%) | 43 (68%) | 36 (57%) | 38 (60%) | 18 (29%) | 39 (62%) | 18 (29%) | 25 (40%) | 19 (30%) | |
| 6 | PHI | W 30-28 | 62 (85%) | 37 (51%) | 33 (45%) | 49 (67%) | 30 (41%) | 56 (77%) | 26 (36%) | 32 (44%) | 9 (12%) | |
| 8 | PIT | L 28-24 | 77 (94%) | 51 (62%) | 33 (40%) | 59 (72%) | 54 (66%) | 50 (61%) | 37 (45%) | 26 (32%) | | |
| 9 | IND | W 24-10 | 55 (86%) | 38 (59%) | 23 (36%) | 34 (53%) | 36 (56%) | 50 (78%) | 26 (41%) | 24 (38%) | | 2 (3%) |
| 10 | NE | L 23-17 | 62 (94%) | 50 (76%) | 19 (29%) | 45 (68%) | 29 (44%) | 31 (47%) | 36 (55%) | 15 (23%) | 17 (26%) | |
| 11 | TEN | L 30-24 | 47 (72%) | 56 (86%) | 15 (23%) | 48 (74%) | 41 (63%) | | 13 (20%) | 13 (20%) | 6 (9%) | 35 (54%) |
| 12 | PIT | L 19-14 | 42 (78%) | | 18 (33%) | | | | 41 (76%) | 28 (52%) | | 32 (59%) |
| 13 | DAL | W 34-17 | 45 (82%) | | 48 (87%) | | 21 (38%) | | 44 (80%) | 18 (33%) | 11 (20%) | |
| 14 | CLE | W 47-42 | 52 (87%) | 40 (67%) | 42 (70%) | 48 (80%) | 37 (62%) | | 9 (15%) | 16 (27%) | 1 (2%) | |
| 15 | JAC | W 40-14 | 52 (79%) | 34 (52%) | 35 (53%) | 43 (65%) | 35 (53%) | | 4 (6%) | 27 (41%) | | 18 (27%) |
| 16 | NYG | W 27-13 | 43 (63%) | 45 (66%) | 42 (62%) | 12 (18%) | 35 (51%) | | 23 (34%) | 34 (50%) | | 19 (28%) |
| 17 | CIN | W 38-3 | 43 (58%) | 42 (57%) | 37 (50%) | | 32 (43%) | | 30 (41%) | 19 (26%) | 17 (23%) | 23 (31%) |
| | Grand | Total | 802 (78%) | 597 (65%) | 546 (54%) | 535 (64%) | 456 (46%) | 380 (65%) | 347 (34%) | 347 (34%) | 160 (23%) | 129 (34%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| <u>Perso</u> | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 47% | 60% | 46% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 18% | 7% | 53% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 16% | 4% | 60% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 9% | 20% | 47% |
| 2-0 [3WR] | 9% | 1% | 44% |
| | | | |
| Group | illig i e | <u>enden</u> | cies |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 42% | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] | Pass Rate 60% 34% | Pass Succ. % 42% 52% | Run Succ. % 52% 53% |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] | Pass Rate 60% 34% 24% | Pass Succ. % 42% 52% 59% | Run Succ. % 52% 53% 60% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Receiver | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Mark Andrews | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | |
| Marquise Brown | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| Willie Snead | 8 | | 4 | 4 | |
| Justice Hill | 3 | | 1 | 2 | |
| Nick Boyle | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Devin Duvernay | 2 | | 1 | 1 | |
| J.K. Dobbins | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Mark Ingram | 2 | | | 2 | |

| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
|----------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Lamar Jackson | 36 | 3 | 14 | 19 | |
| J.K. Dobbins | 31 | 10 | 5 | 16 | |
| Gus Edwards | 27 | 10 | 7 | 10 | |
| Mark Ingram | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | |
| Justice Hill | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Patrick Ricard | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Robert Griffin | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Tyler Huntley | 1 | | | 1 | |

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

| Ш | <u>Early Down Target Rate</u> | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------|----------|--|--|
| | RB | TE | WR | | |
| П | 18% | 28% | 53% | | |
| | 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% | | |
| ш | | | | | |
| | <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % | | |
| | Overall RB | Target Su | WR | | |
| | | | | | |
| | RB | TE | WR | | |

| 21. | PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3 |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 22. | PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs |
| 23. | PA Improvement Success |
| 24. | PA Improvement YPA |



| 33. | Run Rate Into / Man Box |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 34. | Run Rate into 6- Man Box |
| 35. | Total Defensive Efficiency |

01. Games w Halftime Lead

| ı | | |
|---|----|--|
| ı | 12 | |

02. Avg Halftime Lead



03. Wins

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

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)

| 36. PSM YPA | 7.8 |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 8.4 |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 6.1 |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.0 |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 53% |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 47% |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.18 |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.27 |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 45. PA Success Rate | 54% |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| | 34 /0 |
| 46. PA YPA | 7.7 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 8.2% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.0 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 9.8 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 50% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.5 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 8.6% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.05 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.8 |

Men In Box

| 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 | 55% |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.7 |
| 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 | 49% |
| 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 | 24% |
| 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 | 5.3 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

13

| Net FROE Rk | 1 | defFUM | 30 |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 8.6 | defFUM Rcvrd | 19 |
| offFUM | 27 | dell-divi Revid | 19 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 21 | defFR Rk | 26 |
| offFR% | 77.8% | defFR% | 36.7% |
| offFR Rk | 1 | -I | 0.4 |
| offFROE | 6.3 | defFROE | 2.4 |
| offFROE Rk | 1 | defFROE Rk | 3 |
| OIII ROL IKK | l l | | |

Field Goal Luck

| N-4 O F 4-4i | F 00 | | 0.4 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation | 5.88 | Opp Att | 24 |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 2 | Opp Makes | 16 |
| Own Att | 29 | | 070/ |
| Own Makes | 26 | Opp FG % | 67% |
| Own FG % | 90% | Opp Expected Makes | 19.75 |
| Own Expected Makes | 23.86 | Opp Make Over Expectation | -3.75 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 2.14 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 32 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 10 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 3.21 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 0.55 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 2 | 2019 Opp Rk | 11 |
| | | | |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

QB Pressure

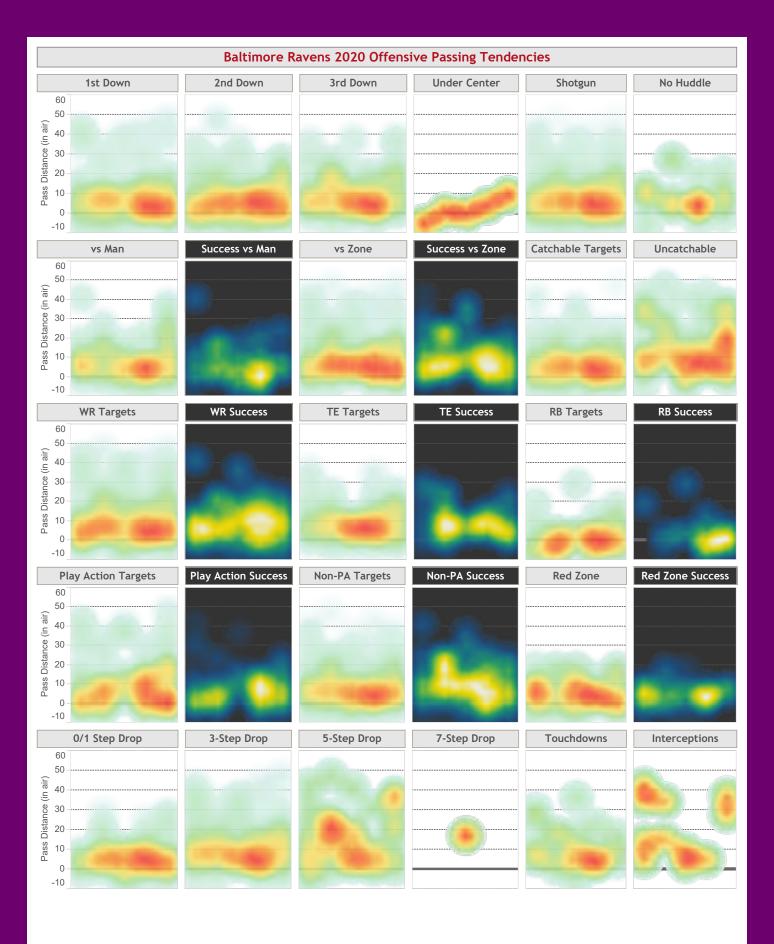
Offensive Metrics

| | Lamar Jackson |
|----------------|---------------|
| CAY | 6.6 |
| CAY Rk | 12 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 10 |
| AYTS Rk | 15 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 6 |
| AGG Rk | 26 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 28 |
| COMP% | 64.4 |
| xCOMP% | 64.9 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 21 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 12 |
| CPOE% | -0.6 |
| CPOE Rk | 25 |
| 2019 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

| QD I Tessure | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--|--|
| | Lamar Jackson | | |
| Pressure % | 37 | | |
| Pressure Rk | 10 | | |
| Sack % | 6.3 | | |
| Sack Rk | 16 | | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 68.5 | | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 13 | | |
| Rating when Pressured | 79.2 | | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 11 | | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 76.9 | | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 28 | | |
| Rating when Clean | 107 | | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 13 | | |
| Time to Throw | 2.98 | | |
| Time to Throw Rk | 4 | | |

| 011011511011 | 10 01 105 |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| EPA/Pass | 0.07 |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 15 |
| EPA/Rush | 0.10 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 1 |
| On-Target Catch % | 87.5% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 31 |
| Drop% | 8.8% |
| Drop Rk | 28 |
| YAC/Att | 2.5 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 8 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 17.9% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 5 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 29.8% |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 2 |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Sean McDermott (4 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Brian Daboll (3 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Leslie Frazier (3 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Buffalo Bills

2021 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

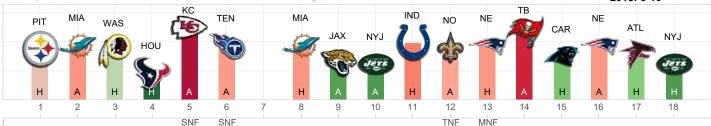
Div Rank

11

#1

Past Records

2020: 13-3 2019: 10-6 2018: 6-10



Key Players Lost

-3

-3

Rest Edge:

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Andre Roberts (WR) | Texans |
| Brian Winters (RG) | Cardinals |
| Dean Marlowe (S) | Lions |
| John Brown (WR) | Raiders |
| Lee Smith (TE) | Falcons |
| Quinton Jefferson (IDL) | Raiders |
| Ty Nsekhe (RT) | Cowboys |
| Tyler Kroft (TE) | Jets |
| E.J. Gaines (CB) | TBD |
| Josh Norman (CB) | TBD |
| Matt Barkley (QB) | TBD |
| T.J. Yeldon (RB) | TBD |
| Trent Murphy (EDGE) | TBD |

2021 Buffalo Bills Overview

-3

+3

-1

(cont'd - see BUF2)

+6

You tune in to this book for me to expel my primary takeaways from months of analysis of every team, their successes and failures of the prior season, and my outlook of the upcoming season.

For the Bills, it's impossible to analyze their 2020 season and walk away without thinking Brian Daboll should have been hired as a head coach after the season ended.

One thing I've grown to appreciate after studying teams in detail for well over two decades and betting on games extensively during that time – coaches that are willing to make changes swiftly, decisively, and in a well-coordinated manner.

Daboll made his first sweeping wave of changes mid-season in 2019, moving from field level to the booth, dramatically increasing usage of 11 personnel and installing a no-huddle offense.

Then, during the pandemic offseason — quietly, thoughtfully and with excellent foresight — Daboll implemented more sweeping changes to be used for the 2020 season.

The 2019 Bills shifted from 59% 11 personnel on early downs over the first 10 weeks of the season to 77% from Week 11 onward, the highest rate in the league over that time. However, they were still a run-first offense.

Buffalo's pass rate on early downs during the first three quarters of games from 2019 Week 11 to the end of the season was down at 46%. They were still the sixth-most run-heavy team to close the season. Yes, they shifted to more 11 personnel and went faster, but they stuck with the ground game.

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|------------------------|----------|
| Emmanuel Sanders (WR) | \$6 |
| Mitchell Trubisky (QB) | \$2.5 |
| Matt Haack (P) | \$1.8 |
| Efe Obada (EDGE) | \$1.5 |
| Bobby Hart (RT) | \$1.10 |
| Forrest Lamp (LG) | \$1.10 |
| Jacob Hollister (TE) | \$1.10 |
| Matt Breida (RB) | \$1.10 |
| Tyrell Adams (LB) | \$1.10 |
| | |

Key Free Agents/

Trades Added

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) | |
|----|-----|---|--|
| 1 | 30 | DE - Gregory Rousseau (Miami (FL)) | |
| 2 | 61 | DE - Carlos Basham Jr. (Wake Forest) | |
| 3 | 93 | OT - Spencer Brown (Northern Iowa) | |
| 5 | 161 | OT - Tommy Doyle (Miami (OH)) | |
| | 203 | WR - Marquez Stevenson (Houston) | |
| 6 | 212 | S - Damar Hamlin (Pittsburgh) | |
| | 213 | CB - Rachad Wildgoose (Wisconsin) | |
| 7 | 236 | OG - Jack Anderson (Texas Tech) | |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Games

Favored

15

Average

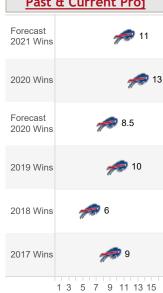
Line

-4.9

Games

Underdog

2





| 13 LWR G.Davis | SLOTWR C.Beasley* | 73 74 LG D.Dawkins C.Ford | C RG | 100 | 14- RWR S.Diggs TE D.Knox |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| WR2 E.Sanders* | 19 20 20 RB | 2 QB2 | J.Allen 26 RB D.Singletary | 1111 | 2020 Cap Dollars * = 30+ years old |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|--------|------|-----------|---------|
| II OFF | 18 | \$89.61M | 11 |
| QB | 21 | \$11.12M | 25 |
| OL | 8 | \$42.30M | 8 |
| RB | 25 | \$6.06M | 23 |
| WR | 13 | \$25.08M | 3 |
| TE | 31 | \$5.05M | 12 |
| II DEF | 2 | \$106.61M | 2 |
| DL | 8 | \$48.18M | 5 |
| LB | 2 | \$25.67M | 11 |
| СВ | 17 | \$15.43M | 12 |
| s | 10 | \$17.34M | 7 |

BUF-2

On first downs only, the 2019 Bills were a below-average 44% pass.

There were signals during that stretch that the Bills should lean more on the passing attack. Josh Allen's splits by down in 2019 (first three quarters of games):

First down: 8.1 YPA, 56% success, 0.14 EPA/att Second down: 5.1 YPA, 33% success, -0.15 EPA/att Third down: 5.7 YPA, 29% success, -0.21 EPA/att

In the offseason, Daboll considered these numbers. To most people, Josh Allen was a quarterback you win in spite of, not because of. His 6.7 YPA in Year 2 wasn't anything to write home about. Daboll coached his completion percentage up from 52.8% his rookie year to 58.5% in 2019, but while the improvement was solid, the end result still wasn't something special.

But Daboll realized this simple truth - if you build your offense to limit your quarterback, he'll invariably be throwing most of his passes in obvious passing situations, the exact thing you're trying to avoid putting him in. The truth is, the best time to pass is when the defense is expecting a run. And for every team in the NFL, and especially the Josh Allen-led Bills, that time is on first down.

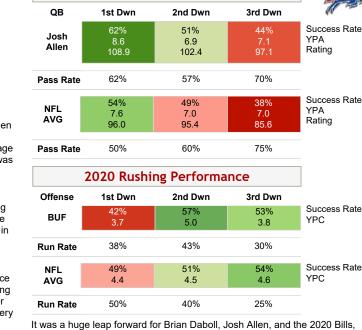
Ironically, taking a quarterback with limited success and empowering them to pass on first down has a massive psychological effect as well. Their confidence is boosted, knowing you're entrusting the game to them. The opposite - limiting him, passing only when necessary, working around your quarterback – further reinforces his lack of confidence knowing that even you (the playcaller) has very little confidence in him.

So the Bills shifted during the pandemic to a pass-first offense.

During the first two weeks of the season, Buffalo was 66% pass on first downs in the game's first three quarters. That continued for the entire season. Buffalo ended the 2020 season as the most pass-heavy team on first down.

It wasn't just first down either. Buffalo was the second-most pass-heavy team on early downs in the NFL last year. They were 22nd in 2019.

Buffalo wasn't just a high volume pass offense, it was efficient. The Bills ranked third in early down pass efficiency.



2020 Passing Performance

considering they ranked 31st in early down pass efficiency in 2019.

Daboll decided to pass more often, and he crafted an offense that would excel when passing with a quarterback who ranked below average in passing in his first two NFL seasons.

That ability doesn't grow on trees. Not many offensive coordinators could get that level of improvement from a quarterback. It's extremely valuable. And it's part of the reason I believe Daboll should have been coveted as a head coach this offseason

Behind the first down passing and overall early down efficiency, the Bills (cont'd - see BUF-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics



| | <u>202</u> | 20 | <u>Wee</u> | kly | ED: | SR & | <u> Se</u> | aso | <u>n Tr</u> | rending | <u>Pe</u> | rfo | <u>rma</u> ı | <u>nce</u> | |
|-----|------------|----|------------|-----|-----|------|------------|-----|-------------|---------|-----------|-----|--------------|------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| W | W | W | W | L | L | W | W | W | L | W | W | W | W | W | w |
| NYJ | MIA | LA | LV | TEN | KC | NYJ | NE | SEA | ARI | LAC | SF | PIT | DEN | NE | MIA |
| Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Н | Н | Α | Н | Ν | Н | Α | Α | Н |
| 10 | 3 | 3 | 7 | -26 | -9 | 8 | 3 | 10 | -2 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 29 | 29 | 30 |
| 27 | 31 | 35 | 30 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 24 | 44 | 30 | 27 | 34 | 26 | 48 | 38 | 56 |
| 17 | 28 | 32 | 23 | 42 | 26 | 10 | 21 | 34 | 32 | 17 | 24 | 15 | 19 | 9 | 26 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |





WEEK **RESULT** OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

5

10

15

13

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

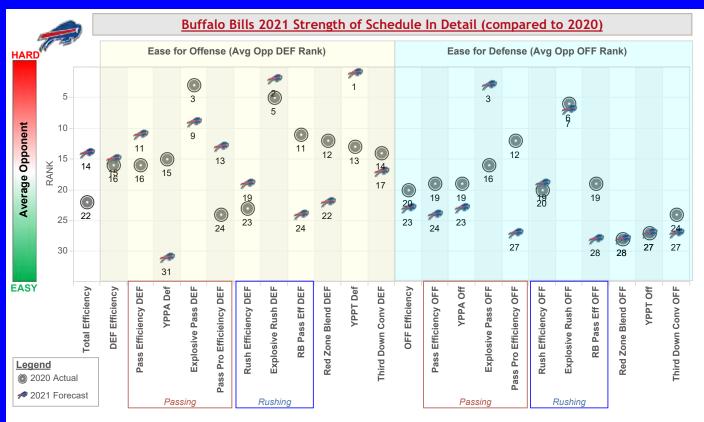
2020 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 13 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-1** FG Games Win %: 75% (#5) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 23% (#16)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-1 Score Games Win %: 83% (#2) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 38% (#28)

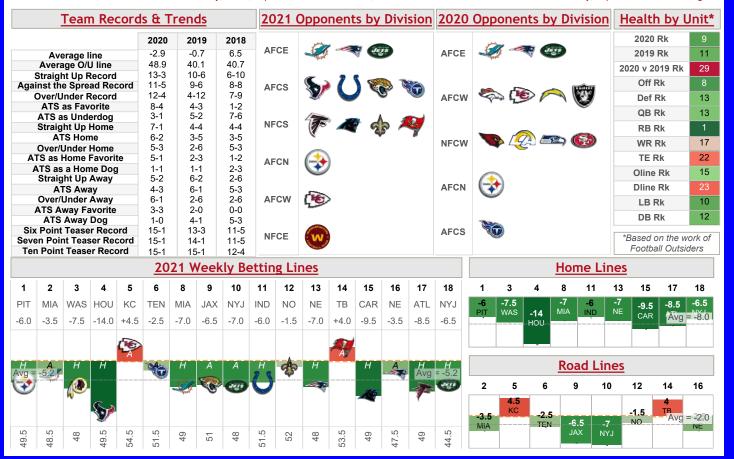
2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +4 TO Given 22 INT Given 11 **FUM Given** 11 TO Taken 26 **INT Taken** 15 **FUM Taken** 11 Sack Margin +11 38 Sacks Sacks Allow 27 Return TD Margin +4 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -16 Penalties 102 **Opponent Penalties** 86

Explosive



| | 2021 vs 2020 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 | 23 | 12 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 15 | 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







gained 20 first downs in every game of the season. In the annals of NFL history, such a feat has been accomplished only one other time, by the 2012 Patriots.

Buffalo punted only 42 times the entire season. There has been only one other team since the NFL shifted to 16 games to punt less than 42 times (1990 Oilers)

The Bills were not just a very good offense. They were historical in many of the key respects that we know matter in today's game — not giving the ball back (punting) and gaining first downs. To see the shift in passing production from 2019 to 2020 was a thrill.

It allowed the Bills to win the AFC East for the first time since 1995 and to make their first AFC Championship game since 1993.

It was a BIG DEAL in Buffalo.

Aside from just passing more often on first down, Daboll obviously did a number of other things to jump start offensive efficiency.

First, it was a heavy usage of 10 personnel. The Bills used 10 personnel on four snaps in 2019. They used 186 snaps of 10 personnel in 2020 and gained 0.19 EPA/att from it, with success coming in the air and on the ground.

In last year's book, I suggested the Bills needed to increase their usage of play-action in 2020.

The 2019 Bills had the NFL's worst passing offense when not using play-action (6.2 YPA, 42% success, -0.12 EPA/att), and they were one of three offenses that were below average passing without play-action and above average passing with play-action. But they used it on only 21% of their passes.

In 2020, the Bills used play-action on 34% of their passes, the second-highest rate of any team in the NFL. When using play-action, the Bills averaged 8.5 YPA, 56% success, and 0.22 EPA/att. The Bills not only used play-action more in 2020, but their 2020 efficiency with play-action was both higher than in 2019 and higher than the NFL average (8.1 YPA, 56% success, and 0.10 EPA/att).

Buffalo increased play-action by 12.9% in 2020. No team in the last several years has increased play-action that much in one offseason.

Some teams also see more sacks on play-action and shy away from them. Buffalo dropped its sack rate on play-action from 6.5% in 2019 down to 2.8% in 2020.

Last offseason I also suggested the Bills incorporate more pre-snap motion in 2020. Buffalo was seven percentage points more successful with pre-snap motion than without it, and Allen's EPA skyrocketed from -0.07 EPA/att up to 0.11 EPA/att when using it.

Daboll took note and increased the Bills' rate of pre-snap motion substantially in 2020. Over the past three seasons, the average NFL has used pre-snap motion on 44% of offensive snaps during the first three quarters. The Bills went from 28% usage in 2019 to 45% usage in 2020. Once again, like play-action, shifting from below average usage to above average usage.

However, unlike play-action, more pre-snap motion didn't have the intended benefit of increasing efficiency, and is definitely an area to refine for the Bills offense this offseason.

League-wide, examine the early down pre-snap motion splits in 2020:

With pre-snap motion: 0.07 EPA/att, 7.4 YPA, 55% success Without pre-snap motion: 0.03 EPA/att, 7.3 YPA, 54% success

But for the Bills, they got worse with pre-snap motion:

With pre-snap motion: 0.15 EPA/att, 6.9 YPA, 56% success Without pre-snap motion: 0.23 EPA/att, 9.0 YPA, 62% success

Using pre-snap motion ahead of rushes for the Bills was a mixed bag. It dropped YPC by 0.5 yards and dropped EPA by 0.01 but increased the success rate by three percentage points.

(cont'd - see BUF-4)

| (conta 300 <u>25: .</u> , | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| S | trength of | Scheduled Gan | ne Timing: An | nalyzing Rest | & Prep Ineq | uality in the | 2021 Sched | ule | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 202 | 1 games where | e | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponent h less than a w to prep | | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a rest advantage | Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team plays of road SNF or MN | | | |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Buffalo Bills Ranking vs NFL Average | | | | | | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge | Rank | Prep Rank Rest Rank | | k Short We | eek Road Games Rank | Games off Road S Rank | SNF/MNF Ne | gated Bye Rank | | |
| 16 | | 28 | 25 | | 26 | 11 | | 1 | | |

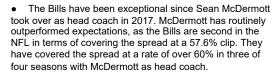
Forecast 2021 Wins

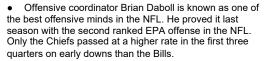
Why Bet the Under

- QB **Josh Allen** made a gigantic leap last season, especially on deep throws. He went from only a 30.9% adjusted completion percentage on 20+ yard throws in 2019 all the way up to 47.2% last season. Was 2020 the aberration or the new normal?
- Buffalo went 5-1 (83%) in one-score games last season and finished with a Pythagorean win expectation of 10.9 wins. The 2.1 wins over expected metric was the third most in the NFL.
- The Bills have weathered major injury concerns in back-to-back seasons, ranking 11th and ninth in adjusted games lost due to injury, according to Football Outsiders.
- Last season the Bills were fortunate to face three west coast teams having to play a 1pm EST Sunday game, the most in the NFL. This season they don't get that luxury with none scheduled.

11

Why Bet the Over





• Although the Bills finished fourth in overall DVOA last season, they ended the season as the number one ranked overall team in the NFL based on Football Outsiders' weighted DVOA metrics. They did not lose any significant pieces on their roster this off season.



| Buffalo Bills Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | | |
| 7 | 16 | 26 | 7 | 17 | 2 | 6 | | | | | |

Josh Allen's unprecedented improvement as a downfield passer led to a rise into the top-10 of the QB ranks. Allen generated +48.6 EPA on throws 15+ yards downfield, a truly incredible turnaround from his -2.6 EPA over the course of his first two seasons.

Buffalo's backfield ranked in the bottom half of the league on every ballot, but with a wide range (18th to 29th). Though the backfield lacks a star, the depth of **Zack Moss, Devin Singletary**, and **Matt Breida** is strong.

The receiving corps was mostly a two-man show—Stefon Diggs and Cole Beasley_combined for 48% of the targets—but the addition of Emmauel Sanders and the potential improvement of second-year pro Gabriel Davis gives this seventh-ranked unit an even higher ceiling in 2021.

The offensive line ranks in the middle of the pack, but an area that must improve is the run blocking. In 2020, Bills running backs were contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage on 43% of their carries, the worst rate in the league. Based on this stat, perhaps we undervalued the running backs, who would certainly look more impressive with better blocking.

Buffalo's front seven features two aging pass-rushers (**Jerry Hughes** and **Mario Addison**) and two rookies (**Gregory Rousseau** and **Carlos Basham Jr.**), making it a difficult unit to evaluate. As a result, ballots ranged from ninth to 29th. If Hughes and Addison remain effective while the rookies catch on quickly, the high end of that spectrum is within reach.

Tre'Davious White, who allowed -0.16 EPA per target in 2020, anchors our second-ranked secondary, which returns every starter.

Sean McDermott didn't burst onto the scene as a star head coach, but by leading a steady improvement in Buffalo and overseeing the development of Allen, he's earned our respect. Among coaches with less than five years experience, only Sean McVay ranks higher.

BUF-4

While Daboll made some noticeable adjustments to the Bills' offensive strategy in the offseason, such as dramatically increasing all of the following: early down pass rate, usage of 10 personnel, play-action rate and pre-snap motion rate.... the Bills also improved even when not being aided by such edges.

For example, examine the passing splits when the Bills didn't use either play-action or pre-snap motion:

2019: 6.2 YPA, 38% success, -0.12 EPA/att on 387 att 2020: 8.3 YPA, 58% success, 0.26 EPA on 330 att

There is no simple crutch to support this level of passing improvement. This improvement comes from a combination of everything. All the work this offseason away from Orchard Park that Josh Allen put in, better scheme, more intelligent decisions from Daboll on when to call passes, and better personnel.

Speaking of the improvement from Allen, we can easily see that not just on the +EV simple throws Daboll was calling as replacement for run plays. We can also see it on the deeper throws. Using Sports Info Solutions charting of throw type, they group throws based on trajectory. Level 1 is a throw on a line (typically 3-8 yards downfield), Level 2 is an up-and-down throw (usually over the LBs but in front of the DBs, typically 10-20 yards downfield), and Level 3 is a high-arc pass that's usually reserved mainly for deep balls (typically 25-35 yards downfield).

Allen improved across the board, but Level 1 throws don't require the same mechanical improvement to see a leap in success. In 2019, Allen averaged 0.12 EPA/att on the Level 2, up -and-down throws over LBs but in front of DBs. In 2020, he improved to 0.40 EPA/att.

(cont'd - see BUF-5)

BUF-5

Allen's Level 3 throws improved from -0.23 EPA/att in 2019 to 0.22 EPA/att in 2020.

Another thing that Daboll did was to change up the run game entirely. It still didn't have strong results (ranked 21st in efficiency) but had they stuck with an approach based on power runs, like 2019, it would have been a disaster. The 2019 Bills' top four run types were power, inside zone, outside zone, and lead. In 2020, Daboll dropped power to fourth on the list, ran a lot more outside zone, and introduced stretch runs. The team ran just four stretch run concepts all season in 2019, but in 2020, they ran 55 of them for 0.08 EPA, 53% success, and 4.4 YPC. Based on EPA, it was their most efficient run concept.

In 2019, prior to Daboll shifting to the booth in Week 11, on early downs in the first three quarters the Bills ran into light boxes (six or fewer box defenders) only 37% of the time they were presented. These runs were very productive (0.18 EPA/att, 61% success, 5.6 YPC). Daboll's shift to the booth allowed him to help Allen get into these run plays easier, and the Bills ran the ball 53% of the time light boxes were presented.

In 2020, we know the Bills were terrible running the ball in general. But when faced with these light boxes, Buffalo ran the ball only 31% of the time. Here are the splits if we remove QB runs:

RB runs: 3.9 YPC, 42% success, -0.09 EPA/att Passes: 7.9 YPA, 58% success, 0.18 EPA/att

The Bills were right to pass more against light boxes due to how terrible their rushing attack was, but Buffalo absolutely must figure out how to run against light boxes this offseason if they want to maximize their chances to win a Super Bowl this year.

That's because defenses over the course of the year saw the high pass rate from the Bills and completely changed their philosophy to dare the Bills to run the ball.

(cont'd - see BUF-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

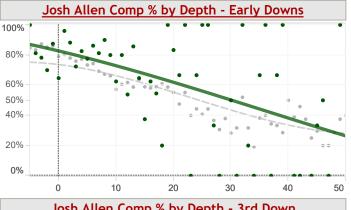


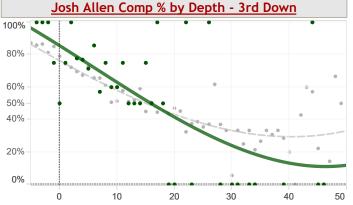


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | Down Big (9-13) One Score | | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | | |
| | Devin Singletary | 2% | 3% | 69% | 6% | 19% | | | | | | | |
| | Stefon Diggs | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Zack Moss | | 2% | 64% | 12% | 23% | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Gabriel Davis | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| | Isaiah McKenzie | 8% | 8% | 42% | 17% | 25% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 1% | 3% | 66% | 9% | 21% | | | | | | | |
| | Devin Singletary | 3% | | 81% | 9% | 7% | | | | | | | |
| | Stefon Diggs | 4% | 6% | 68% | 11% | 11% | | | | | | | |
| | Zack Moss | | 5% | 77% | 5% | 14% | | | | | | | |
| ,, | Cole Beasley | 4% | 9% | 71% | 3% | 12% | | | | | | | |
| PASS | John Brown | 1% | 3% | 63% | 4% | 28% | | | | | | | |
| - | Gabriel Davis | 9% | 4% | 65% | 6% | 16% | | | | | | | |
| | Dawson Knox | 6% | 6% | 69% | 2% | 17% | | | | | | | |
| | Isaiah McKenzie | 8% | 3% | 56% | 3% | 31% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 5% | 5% | 69% | 7% | 15% | | | | | | | |







Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 55%, 0.17 (550) | 54%, 0.21 (137) | 52%, 0.24 (33) | 86%, 0.11 (7) | 100%, 1.04 (6) | | 50%, 0.33 (2) | | 55%, 0.19 (745) |
| RUSH | 53%, 0.01 (310) | 57%, 0.13 (49) | 45%, -0.04 (58) | 14%, -0.73 (29) | 0%, -2.40 (2) | 0%, -0.70 (8) | 100%, 0.65 (2) | 100%, 1.01 (1) | 49%, -0.05 (463) |
| All | 54%, 0.11 (860) | 55%, 0.19 (186) | 47%, 0.07 (91) | 28%, -0.56 (36) | 75%, 0.18 (8) | 0%, -0.70 (8) | 75%, 0.49 (4) | 100%, 1.01 (1) | 53%, 0.10 (1,208) |

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 | Devin Singletary | 51% (43) 5.4, 0.06 | 46% (13) 3.8, -0.11 | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.17 | 51% (57) 5.0, 0.02 | | | | | | | |
| TE | Dawson Knox | 48% (46) 5.5, -0.05 | | 50% (8) 7.4, 0.44 | 48% (54) 5.8, 0.02 | | | | | | | |
| WR | Stefon Diggs | 65% (153) 9.3, 0.43 | 57% (35) 9.5, 0.42 | 100% (5) 12.8, 0.77 | 65% (193) 9.4, 0.43 | | | | | | | |
| | Cole Beasley | 67% (95) 8.9, 0.52 | 68% (25) 9.6, 0.35 | | 68% (120) 9.1, 0.48 | | | | | | | |
| | John Brown | 50% (54) 7.3, 0.06 | 67% (15) 10.1, 0.71 | 0% (1) -2.0, -1.13 | 53% (70) 7.8, 0.18 | | | | | | | |
| | Gabriel Davis | 53% (43) 9.0, 0.20 | 58% (19) 8.8, 0.35 | 43% (7) 18.4, 0.86 | 54% (69) 9.9, 0.31 | | | | | | | |
| | Isaiah McKenzie | 70% (23) 6.9, 0.58 | 63% (8) 9.1, 0.67 | 50% (4) 4.5, 0.02 | 66% (35) 7.1, 0.54 | | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Singletary Devin | 48% (135) 4.0, -0.05 | 29% (14) 6.8, 0.00 | | | 46% (149) 4.3, -0.04 |
| Moss Zack | 52% (83) 4.5, -0.03 | 46% (24) 4.0, -0.11 | 0% (1) -4.0, -0.78 | 100% (1) 3.0, 1.01 | 50% (109) 4.3, -0.05 |
| Allen Josh | 63% (71) 5.4, 0.14 | 80% (5) 7.2, -0.10 | 0% (7) -1.0, -0.69 | | 59% (83) 5.0, 0.05 |
| McKenzie Isaiah | 44% (9) 2.2, 0.05 | 0% (2) -2.0, -0.71 | | | 36% (11) 1.5, -0.09 |
| Yeldon T.J. | 70% (10) 6.7, 0.29 | 0% (1) 3.0, -0.26 | | | 64% (11) 6.4, 0.24 |

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

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | rerage heme | Route | | Level 1 | 64% (449) 7.4, 0.30 | 0/1 Step | 66% (273) 7.1, 0.32 | Planted | | % (464) 4, 0.35 | Outside Zone | 41% (75) 5.0, -0.01 |
| | 0.40/ (0.40) | Curl | 79% (106) 8.2, 0.46 | | | 3 Step | 54% (201) | Shuffling | Shuffling 44% 7.1 | | Inside | 58% (62) |
| Zone | 64% (342) 8.7, 0.30 | Out | 67% (54) | Level 2 | 56% (156) 9.6, 0.40 | Союр | 9.3, 0.31 | Moving | | % (109) 8, 0.20 | Zone | 4.3, 0.03 |
| | | | 7.1, 0.39 | | 37% (51) | 5 Step | 59% (70) 9.5, 0.47 | | Play Action | | | 53% (55) 4.4, 0.08 |
| M2M | 56% (245) 8.2, 0.34 | Dig 71% (38) 8.9, 0.63 | Level 3 | 12.5, 0.22 | 7 Step | 56% (34) 11.6, 0.53 | | Play Action | No P/A | Power | 48% (40) 4.5, -0.07 | |
| | 0.2, 0.0 . | Clant | 81% (31) | Sidearm | 75% (12) 6.7, 0.51 | | 38% (24) | Under Center | 52% (93) 9.1, 0.22 | 47% (15) 9.3, 0.24 | | 13% (15) |
| | 57% (72) | Slant 12.1, 0.83 | | 0.7, 0.51 | Basic Screen | 6.2, 0.14 | Shotgun | 56% (154) 8.1. 0.22 | 55% (483) 7.5, 0.17 | Lead | 1.4, -0.45 | |
| | 6.6, 0.24 | Drag | 60% (25) 6.8, 0.25 | Shovel | 70% (10) 5.3, 0.25 | Designed Rollout Right | 56% (16) 6.1, 0.30 | ALL | 55% (247) 8.5, 0.22 | 55% (498) 7.6, 0.18 | Pitch | 67% (6) 4.8, 0.17 |

BUF-6

The Chiefs defense, which used light boxes 33% of the time, upped that to 81% when they played the Bills in Week 6 (and 73% in the playoff game). The Baltimore defense used light boxes on 19% of offensive plays prior to meeting the Bills in the playoffs, and upped their rate to 67% against Buffalo.

Overall in 2020, on these early down plays in the first three quarters of games, 53% of the Bills' plays saw defenses play them with light boxes. The NFL average was 36% light boxes. Only two teams saw lighter boxes more often than the Bills.

Let's examine a team like the Chiefs. They're nearly as pass-heavy as the Bills and they too saw light boxes nearly as often (52% of the time). They, too, didn't change their philosophy and jack up the run rate just because the box was light. The Chiefs still had a 72% pass rate, nearly identical to the Bills' 69% pass rate. But when the Chiefs ran with running backs, they were productive: 59% success, 6.1 YPC, and 0.10 EPA/att. They punished offenses that decided to use light boxes with efficient runs. The Bills' 2020 run game was so bad they couldn't do that.

Buffalo doesn't necessarily need to run more often into these light boxes in 2021, but they cannot gain just 3.9 YPC, 42% success, and -0.09 EPA when they do hand the ball off.

Although it doesn't happen nearly as often, Buffalo needs to modify their run game when defenses load the box. On early down plays in the first three quarters, defenses loaded the box with 8+ defenders when the Bills inserted fewer than three wide receivers. The Bills still ran the ball at a 75% clip. These runs generated -0.89 EPA/att with 0.7 YPC. Again, compare that to a team like the Chiefs, whose run rate was down at 59% and their runs gained 4.9 YPC with only -0.03 EPA/att.

As discussed in the Cardinals chapter, it's important to remove quarterback runs from the calculus when evaluating the Bills' rushing struggles of 2020. And with the Bills, and their huge leads for many games, it's also important to remove fourth quarter garbage time.

The Bills ran their running backs from sets with two or fewer wide receivers on 34 plays in the fourth quarter up by two or more scores. These runs gained 0.14 EPA/att, 5.5 YPC, and 53% success. They ran their backs from those same sets with fewer than three receivers on 26 plays outside of fourth quarter garbage time. Those gained -0.25 EPA/att, 3.2 YPC, and 28% success. Buffalo had no success running their backs from anything other than spread (contral - see BUF-7)





formations

The Bills will miss receiver **John Brown**, but will get a boost from a healthy **Emmanuel Sanders**, one of my favorite underrated receivers in the NFL. Why is he underrated? Take a look at the QBs who have thrown him passes the last five years:

168 passes - Trevor Siemian 100 passes - Case Keenum 79 passes - Drew Brees 61 passes - Jimmy Garappolo 44 passes - Joe Flacco

32 passes - Paxton Lynch 29 passes - Brock Osweiler

17 passes - Taysom Hill

The Bills are unlikely to go 5-1 in one-score games again in 2020, but aside from that, this team really didn't win "lucky" in 2020. They were just +4 in overall turnover margin. They ranked 26th in field goal luck, seeing opponent's make the fifth-most field goals over expectation (after 2019 saw opponents miss the most). They ranked 23rd in fumble luck.

Buffalo is a team a lot like Baltimore in my mind. They're at the precipice of being truly great, but they don't have much time left before their quarterback gets paid big money. While you can still win after paying a quarterback, it absolutely gets harder and the margin for error is smaller. This is a massively important year for the Bills and they must capitalize on it.

It won't be easy. I forecast the Bills to face the 12th toughest schedule of pass defenses and their schedule gets much harder than it was in 2019, and not just from an opponent perspective. Buffalo plays five games when their opponent has over a week to prepare for them. Buffalo also plays two short-week road games.

While it should get easier to play defense with halftime leads in 13 of 16 games, Buffalo's defense fell off in 2019, dropping from 12th to 27th in EDSR defense. They fell from fifth to 15th against the pass. That was despite playing a below average schedule of opposing passing offenses. Buffalo addressed the defense with their first two picks in the draft and the Bills need improvement on that side of the ball.

Opposing defenses have a better idea of what to expect from the Buffalo offense. The Bills don't need to run more often, but they need to be more efficient when they do run. They need to punish defenses that use light boxes against them. They need to figure out a better approach when in heavier personnel groupings. They need to get better improvement when running to the right of center, as these runs were a train wreck in 2020.

Like the Ravens offense coming off of the 2019 season, it's easy to point out all the greatness that we saw unfold and the huge leap forward in so many elements of the team. But like the Ravens offense found in 2020, defenses adjust and you need to step your game up even after a great season if you want to reach the ultimate goal. After tasting the AFC Championship last year, I can tell you, the Bills won't be satisfied without a trip to Los Angeles for Super Bowl LVI in February.

Immediate Impact of Buffalo Bills 2021 Draft Class

Buffalo probably didn't land an immediate starter in its draft class, but **Gregory Rousseau** (first round) should have a role in the defensive line rotation. Rousseau is an effective edge rusher, but in 2019 he actually lined up at defensive tackle on 34% of his pass-rush snaps—and generated a 19.3% pressure rate in that role.

With Rousseau's versatile skill set, it should be easy for HC Sean McDermott and DC Leslie Frazier to move him around in various sub-packages, creating opportunities for him to get after the guarterback.

Carlos Basham Jr. (second round) does not have as much experience as a versatile weapon (only 13% of snaps on the interior line), but at 6'4", 274 pounds, he likely has the skill set required to offer depth along the line.

By drafting a pair of 6'8" offensive tackles—Spencer Brown (third round) and Tommy Doyle (fifth round)—it appears Buffalo has an image of what their ideal protection for Josh Allen looks like in the future. But neither is likely to win a starting job as a rookie.

Damar Hamlin (sixth round) will probably be limited to special teams duties early in his career, but don't rule out him eventually winning a job in Buffalo. At Pittsburgh, coaches raved about his football intelligence. A special teams contributor with elite intelligence is the perfect Day 3 pick.

Through the first five rounds, Buffalo came away with two defensive linemen and two offensive tackles, none of whom are likely to win starting roles this fall. That was a surprising choice for a team hoping to compete for a Super Bowl, but clearly Buffalo chose to focus more on their future needs.

Pass-rushers **Jerry Hughes** and **Mario Addison** are both over the age of 33, and right tackle **Daryl Williams** could potentially be cut loose after the 2021 campaign. So while this class may not produce much as rookies, it's conceivable three starters could emerge in 2022.

Buffalo Bills 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

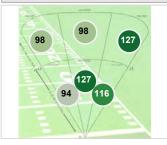
The Bills were the breakout passing offense of 2020, ending the season third in passing EPA, second in success rate (54%), fourth in yards per pass attempt (8.0), and seventh in yards per completion (11.7 yards). After completing 56.3% of his passes for 5,163 yards, and 30 touchdown passes through two NFL seasons, **Josh Allen** made a seismic jump as a passer in his third season, completing 69.2% of his passes, throwing for 4,544 yards and 37 touchdowns. The Bills were one of the league's most aggressive pass offenses, throwing a league-high 62% of the time on first down play calls. The team also used 10 personnel (4WR) on 186 plays (second in the league) after just four such plays in 2019. Allen could not have picked a better time to explode as he enters 2021 in the final season of his rookie contract.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | | |
| Josh Allen | 473 | 692 | 68% | 5,363 | 7.8 | 42 | 11 | 34 | 105 | 6 | | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | | |

| 2020 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 | 55% | 57% | 71 | 10.0% | 22 | 3.0% | 6.5 | 4.8 | 35 | 5% | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | |

Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 10 -10

Josh Allen Rating Early Downs



| <u>In</u> | 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% | 2.1% | | 1.9% | | | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.0% | | 0.8% | | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 0.3% | 6.9% | 0.0% | | 1.5% | | | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 7.7% | 4.3% | 0.0% | | 3.8% | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.6% | 3.2% | 1.3% | 0.0% | 1.5% | | | | | | | | |

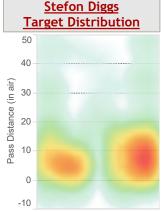
| 3rd Down I | Passing Passing | - Short | of Stic | <u>ks Anal</u> | <u>ysis</u> |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk |
| Josh Allen | 9.1 | 6.3 | -2.8 | 70% | 17 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | |

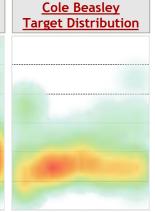
| | Air Y | 'ds vs | YAC |
|------|--------------|----------|-----|
| t Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
| 7 | 57% | 43% | 12 |
| | 52% | 48% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Buffalo was in either a 3, 4 or 5WR set on 88% of their offensive snaps in 2020, the highest rate in the league. **Stefon Diggs** led the league with 127 receptions and 1,535 receiving yards with at least six passes in every game but one. **Cole Beasley** led the NFL with 948 receiving yards from the slot. The team also hit on fourth-round pick **Gabriel Davis** last offseason, who tied for second among all rookies with seven touchdowns while his 17.1 yards per reception led the team. They replaced **John Brown** with **Emmanuel Sanders**. In seven games with Michael Thomas inactive, Sanders caught 40 passes for 511 yards and two scores on 22.9% of team targets. In his seven other games with Thomas active, Sanders only managed a 21-215-3 line.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% RK | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Stefon Diggs | 186 | 73% | 9.1 | 112.3 | 63% | 13 | 21 | 61 | 80 | 10 |
| Cole Beasley | 115 | 77% | 8.7 | 106.4 | 67% | 4 | 6 | 90 | 26 | 4 |
| John Brown | 71 | 61% | 7.7 | 92.7 | 52% | 76 | 103 | 77 | 35 | 3 |
| Gabriel Davis | 68 | 54% | 9.8 | 98.0 | 51% | 79 | 59 | 4 | 115 | 7 |
| Devin Singletary | 58 | 74% | 5.1 | 85.2 | 50% | 93 | 119 | 124 | 10 | 0 |
| Dawson Knox | 52 | 62% | 6.1 | 104.6 | 48% | 104 | 3 | 107 | 101 | 4 |





2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

In 2020, the Bills swerved completely into being an aggressive, pass-first offense and flourished. Buffalo running backs combined for just 21.5 touches per game (30th in the league) for 106.7 yards from scrimmage per game (28th), but their backs did average 5.0 yards per touch, which ranked 12th in the league. **Zack Moss** played 13 games as a rookie, turning 126 touches into 576 yards and five touchdowns. Moss was out-touched by **Devin Singletary** 142-126 in their games played together, but Moss had more scoring opportunities inside of the 5-yard line (8-3 in those games played). The team added **Matt Breida** as a big-play component to this group. The Bills also get significant input on the ground from **Josh Allen**, the first quarterback in league history to rush for seven or more touchdowns in three straight seasons.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Devin Singletary | 172 | 4.4 | 47% | 71 | 65 | 67 | 24 | 47% | 65 | 2 |
| Josh Allen | 127 | 4.4 | 54% | 31 | 85 | 13 | 39 | 54% | 26 | 9 |
| Zack Moss | 119 | 4.2 | 51% | 42 | 28 | 41 | 45 | 50% | 45 | 4 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Josh Allen made a seismic jump as a passer in his third season, throwing for 4,544 yards and 37 touchdowns. After zero career 300-yard passing games through two seasons, he had eight in 2020. It is rare for a quarterback that struggled with accuracy and production to start their career. So how did Buffalo propel maxing out their franchise investment?

Allen's growth was aided by the addition of **Stefon Diggs** and a complete revamp of how the Bills played offense. First, they deployed a hyper-aggressive offensive approach throwing the football. Buffalo threw a league-high 62% of the time on first down play calls. 48.8% of Allen's pass attempts came on first down, the highest rate in the league. On those first down passes, Allen averaged 8.9 yards per attempt as opposed to 7.0 on all other downs.

The Bills also used play-action for 34.4% of Allen's dropbacks. That was the fourth-highest rate in the league and up from 23.1% in 2019 (23rd) and 25.5% in 2018 (13th). Using play-action, Allen averaged 8.7 Y/A, throwing 17 touchdowns to just three interceptions.

The Bills also reeled in Allen's dependency on vertical throws. After averaging 11.5 yards and a 9.8 yards per target downfield his first two seasons, Allen posted a 9.1 yards aDOT in 2020. The lack of forcing the ball downfield greatly improved his efficiency there. Just 17.7% of Allen's throws came over 15 yards downfield, down from a 22.1% rate in 2019 and a 30.0% rate as a rookie in 2018. In turn, Allen completed 48.6% of those passes after 32.8% over his first two seasons in the league.

Allen was the highest-scoring fantasy quarterback last season, which has been tough to run back. Over the past nine seasons, we have had eight different quarterbacks pace the position in overall scoring. The last time a quarterback was the QB1 in overall scoring in back-to-back seasons was Drew Brees in 2011-2012 and the last time a passer was the QB1 in points per game in consecutive seasons was Daunte Culpepper in 2003-2004.

Now, Allen's 6.5% touchdown rate is just an objectively strong bet to recoil in 2021 to play a role in his overall production coming down some. Since the NFL merger there have been 133 seasons in which a quarterback has played 10-plus games and posted a touchdown rate of 6.0% or higher and then come back and started another 10-plus games the following season. Out of those 133 seasons, just 18 posted a higher touchdown rate the following season with an average loss of 2.4%. Another area where Allen still struggled was against pressure. Allen went from 8.6 Y/A when kept clean to 6.6 Y/A under pressure. That ranked 13th in the league, but that 2.0 yards difference was the 25th largest differential in the league.

The good news is that all regression is something to run away from. Allen may not have great odds in repeating as the QB1 in overall scoring, but we already have a strong sample of Allen being a top fantasy option even when he was a terrible passer. Even if he cratered all the way to those levels (which is unlikely), we still have a strong fantasy asset. That is because even if his passing stats recoil, he also is paired with a tremendous rushing upside. Allen has ranked first (111.1 points), second (105), and fifth (90.1) in rushing points among quarterbacks in his three seasons while being the first quarterback in league history to rush for seven or more touchdowns in three straight seasons.

| E | Buffalo Bills De | efense: Numbe | r of DBs vs Per | rsonnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|----------------|--|---|--|--|---------|-------|-------|--|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ | DI | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 2 plays (0%) Success: 100% | 552 plays (97%) Success: 48% | 15 plays (3%) Success: 33% | 569 plays (100%) Success: 48% | | % | Rk | 40 |
| | EPA: 1.64 | EPA: -0.01 | EPA: -0.03 | EPA: -0.01 | Base | 6% | 30 | and the same of th |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 7 plays (7%) Success: 86% | 88 plays (93%) Success: 47% | | 95 plays (100%) Success: 49% | Nickel | 91% | 1 | 30 |
| | EPA: 0.61 | EPA: -0.04 | | EPA: 0.01 | Dime+ | 1% | 26 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 13 plays <i>(52%)</i> Success: 62% EPA: 0.23 | 11 plays <i>(44%)</i> Success: 36% EPA: -0.59 | 1 plays <i>(4%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.89 | 25 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 48% EPA: -0.18 | Rush 3 | 1% | 31 | 20 - |
| | | LI A0.09 | LI A0.09 | | Rush 4 | 67% | 10 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 4 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.30 | | | 4 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.30 | Rush 5 | 23% | 8 | 10- |
| | 26 plays (4%) | 651 plays (94%) | 16 plays (2%) | 693 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 8% | 5 | 0 |
| Grand Total | Success: 69% EPA: 0.36 | Success: 48% EPA: -0.02 | Success: 31% EPA: -0.08 | Success: 48% EPA: -0.01 | Blitz% | 31% | 8 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Ed Oliver started all 16 games but with a heavy defensive line rotation, played the same 54% of the defensive snaps that he played during his rookie season. Oliver was 17th among defensive tackles in pressure rate, according to Sports Info Solutions, Justin Zimmer flashed as a pass rusher when he was on the field for 25% of the defensive snaps. The 28-year-old had previously bounced around practice squads, and though he only had one sack, he totaled seven quarterback hits and ranked 20th in pressure rate among defensive tackles. Vernon Butter and Harrison Phillips were more run stoppers, though the Bills only ranked 24th in Run Stop Win Rate. Star Lotuleilei opted out for the 2020 season and will return.

Entering his age 33 season, **Jerry Hughes** remains one of the most underrated edge rushers in the league. Hughes ranked 22nd among edge rushers in pressure rate and second in Pass Rush Win Rate. He's on the final year of his deal and even with his production played under 60% of the defensive snaps for the first time since 2013.

Mario Addison was just 71st in pressure rate among edge rushers and played 56.6% of the defensive snaps and he's also on the final year of his contract. Last year's second-round pick A.J. Epenesa was on the field for 27% of the defensive snaps but totaled just four quarterback hits and one sack. Epenesa played inside and outside, but had a lower pressure rate than Addison, Oliver, and Zimmer.

In the first round of the draft, the Bills selected Gregory Rousseau, who could see immediate action on the edge.

The Bills live in nickel personnel. They used it on 91% of defensive snaps last season, the highest rate in the league per SIS. **Matt Milano** plays a huge part in that and while Buffalo still stuck to nickel personnel when he missed six games this season, his absence was felt. The Bills allowed -0.01 EPA per play without Milano but -0.08 with him on the field. The split was even bigger against the pass: 0.02 without him and -0.09 with him in 2020. Though it looked like Milano was primed to leave in free agency, he returned with a four-year deal before free agency officially started. 2018 first-round pick **Tremaine Edmunds** is the other piece of that duo and he played 85% of the defensive snaps last season.

Tre'Davious White ranked 24th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap (which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions) last season and remained one of the top corners in the league. Taron Johnson had the second-most snaps among Buffalo corners and was the Bills' slot defender in nickel. He ranked 62nd among 148 corners in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. At the other outside spot, the Bills rotated through Josh Norman, who is no longer on the roster, and Levi Wallace. Wallace is currently slated to take on the starting outside role, Also of note: Dane Jackson, last year's seventh-round pick, flashed with five passes defensed and an interception on just 126 coverage snaps.

As is the case with linebackers, the Bills rely on their top two players to be on the field for nearly every snap. Luckily, unlike linebacker, the Bills were able to stay healthy there in 2020 and over the past few seasons. **Jordan Poyer** played 94.3% of the defensive snaps and **Micah Hyde** played 87.5%.

2020 Play Tendencies All Pass % 64% All Pass Rk All Rush % 36% All Rush Rk 29 1 Score Pass % 64% 1 Score Pass Rk 4 2019 1 Score Pass % 55% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 24 2020 Pass Increase % 9% Pass Increase Rk 3 36% 1 Score Rush % 1 Score Rush Rk 29 Up Pass % 64% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 36% Up Rush Rk 28 Down Pass % 66% Down Pass Rk 4 Down Rush % 34% Down Rush Rk 29

| <u>202</u> | 0 Down & | Dista | nce T | ende | <u>ncies</u> |
|------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 10 | 50% | 50% | 50% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 14 | 57% | 43% | 71% |
| | Long (8-10) | 396 | 65% | 35% | 55% |
| | XL (11+) | 10 | 80% | 20% | 10% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 57 | 47% | 53% | 56% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 93 | 56% | 44% | 60% |
| | Long (8-10) | 110 | 67% | 33% | 55% |
| | XL (11+) | 34 | 79% | 21% | 44% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 57 | 49% | 51% | 63% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 53 | 91% | 9% | 49% |
| | Long (8-10) | 30 | 83% | 17% | 30% |
| | XL (11+) | 19 | 79% | 21% | 16% |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 9 | 44% | 56% | 78% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% |
| | | | | | |

| <u>ncies</u> | Shotg | <u>un %</u> : |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Play uccess % | Under Center | Shotgun |
| 50% | 28% | 72% |
| 71% | | |
| 55% | 37% A | /G 63% |
| 10% | | |
| 56% | Run | Rate: |
| 60% | Under | Shotgun |
| 55% | Center | |
| 44% | 67% | 19% |
| 63% | 68% A | /G 23% |
| 49% | Pass | Rate: |
| 30% | Under | |
| 16% | Center | Shotgun |
| 78% | 33% | 81% |
| 100% | 32% A | /G 77% |
| | | |



Short Yardage Intelligence:

67%

2nd and Short Run NFL Run Run 1D Run NFL Run Rk 1D Avg Freq Avg Rate

72%

75%

| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg |
| 40% | 9 | 33% | 59% | 59% |

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Josh Allen | 3 | 67% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Stefon Diggs | 2 | 50% |
| | | | Gabriel Davis | 2 | 50% |
| | | | Dawson Knox | 2 | 50% |
| | | RUSH | Josh Allen | 2 | 100% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Devin Singletary | 69 | 41% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Cole Beasley | 3 | 33% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Devin Singletary | 18 | 67% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Devin Singletary | 19 | 63% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Stefon Diggs | 20 | 60% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Gabriel Davis | 7 | 57% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | Stefon Diggs | 12 | 50% |
| Dwn | | RUSH | Josh Allen | 12 | 58% |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | Stefon Diggs | 14 | 50% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Stefon Diggs | 9 | 33% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Isaiah McKenzie | 3 | 33% |

| <u>Offen</u> | sive Performance | w Motion (Pre Sn | ap & Play Action) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 58% | Success: 57% | Success: 58% |
| | YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.26 | YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.23 | YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.25 |
| | Rtg: 107.5 | Rtg: 97.5 | Rtg: 104.8 |
| | [Att: 330 - Rate: 44.3%] | [Att: 120 - Rate: 16.1%] | [Att: 450 - Rate: 60.4%] |
| Yes | Success: 49% | Success: 53% | Success: 51% |
| | YPA: 6.3, EPA: 0.01 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.22 | YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.10 |
| | Rtg: 96.3 | Rtg: 126.6 | Rtg: 109.5 |
| | [Att: 168 - Rate: 22.6%] | [Att: 127 - Rate: 17.0%] | [Att: 295 - Rate: 39.6%] |
| Total | Success: 55% | Success: 55% | Success: 55% |
| | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.18 | YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.22 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.19 |
| | Rtg: 103.7 | Rtg: 112.4 | Rtg: 106.7 |
| | [Att: 498 - Rate: 66.8%] | [Att: 247 - Rate: 33.2%] | [Att: 745 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Run

Freq

60%

| | | | | | 2020 V | Veekly | Snap R | <u>ates</u> | | | | |
|----|-------|---------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Stefon Diggs | Gabriel Davis | Cole Beasley | Devin Sin gletary | Dawson Knox | John Brown | Zack Moss | Tyler Kroft | Isaiah McKenzie | Jake Kumerow |
| 1 | NYJ | W 27-17 | 82 (94%) | 43 (49%) | 55 (63%) | 51 (59%) | 56 (64%) | 81 (93%) | 39 (45%) | 4 (5%) | 16 (18%) | |
| 2 | MIA | W 31-28 | 48 (79%) | 22 (36%) | 41 (67%) | 34 (56%) | 22 (36%) | 56 (92%) | 28 (46%) | 31 (51%) | 7 (11%) | |
| 3 | LA | W 35-32 | 61 (98%) | 46 (74%) | 38 (61%) | 55 (89%) | | 29 (47%) | | 44 (71%) | 17 (27%) | |
| 4 | LV | W 30-23 | 56 (92%) | 36 (59%) | 18 (30%) | 54 (89%) | 29 (48%) | 52 (85%) | | 20 (33%) | 21 (34%) | |
| 5 | TEN | L 42-16 | 60 (83%) | 72 (100%) | 44 (61%) | 45 (63%) | 25 (35%) | | | 35 (49%) | 22 (31%) | |
| 6 | KC | L 26-17 | 51 (96%) | 33 (62%) | 34 (64%) | 40 (75%) | | 51 (96%) | 13 (25%) | 30 (57%) | 7 (13%) | |
| 7 | NYJ | W 18-10 | 72 (97%) | 70 (95%) | 61 (82%) | 40 (54%) | | | 35 (47%) | 58 (78%) | 15 (20%) | |
| 8 | NE | W 24-21 | 53 (91%) | 35 (60%) | 36 (62%) | 28 (48%) | | 47 (81%) | 31 (53%) | 37 (64%) | 6 (10%) | |
| 9 | SEA | W 44-34 | 60 (88%) | 32 (47%) | 46 (68%) | 31 (46%) | 25 (37%) | 53 (78%) | 38 (56%) | 27 (40%) | 5 (7%) | 3 (4%) |
| 10 | ARI | L 32-30 | 69 (95%) | 37 (51%) | 58 (79%) | 34 (47%) | 51 (70%) | 54 (74%) | 39 (53%) | | 9 (12%) | |
| 12 | LAC | W 27-17 | 60 (97%) | 60 (97%) | 53 (85%) | 25 (40%) | 38 (61%) | | 37 (60%) | | 12 (19%) | 1 (2%) |
| 13 | SF | W 34-24 | 69 (95%) | 71 (97%) | 55 (75%) | 62 (85%) | 49 (67%) | | 11 (15%) | | 11 (15%) | 4 (5%) |
| 14 | PIT | W 26-15 | 70 (93%) | 62 (83%) | 61 (81%) | 30 (40%) | 60 (80%) | | 44 (59%) | | 10 (13%) | 4 (5%) |
| 15 | DEN | W 48-19 | 67 (92%) | 68 (93%) | 45 (62%) | 39 (53%) | 40 (55%) | | 34 (47%) | | 22 (30%) | 5 (7%) |
| 16 | NE | W 38-9 | 56 (78%) | 72 (100%) | 35 (49%) | 35 (49%) | 46 (64%) | | 36 (50%) | 12 (17%) | 32 (44%) | |
| 17 | MIA | W 56-26 | 31 (48%) | 38 (59%) | | 18 (28%) | 46 (72%) | 30 (47%) | 18 (28%) | | 58 (91%) | |
| | Grand | Total | 965 (89%) | 797 (73%) | 680 (66%) | 621 (57%) | 487 (57%) | 453 (77%) | 403 (45%) | 298 (46%) | 270 (25%) | 17 (5%) |
| | Da | d Zone | Target | | | | | Dad Zar | s Duck | | derboa | al |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 71% | 60% | 54% |
| 1-0 [4WR] | 15% | 2% | 55% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 8% | 20% | 47% |
| 4 2 (4)4/D1 | 3% | 4% | 28% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | | | |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Group | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |

| Red Zone | Target: | <u>Leader</u> | board | |
|------------------|---------|---------------|-------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Stefon Diggs | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Dawson Knox | 15 | 7 | 1 | 7 |
| Gabriel Davis | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| John Brown | 11 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| Cole Beasley | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Devin Singletary | 8 | | | 8 |
| Isaiah McKenzie | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Zack Moss | 3 | 2 | 1 | |

| <u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u> | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Zack Moss | 29 | 11 | 4 | 14 |
| Josh Allen | 27 | 12 | 4 | 11 |
| Devin Singletary | 24 | 6 | 3 | 15 |
| Antonio Williams | 3 | 2 | | 1 |
| Isaiah McKenzie | 3 | | | 3 |
| Gabriel Davis | 1 | | 1 | |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 17% | 11% | 72% |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% |
| | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | iccess % |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % |

| ames w Halftime Lead | 13 | 02. Avg Halftime L | .6 |
|----------------------|----|--------------------|----|
|----------------------|----|--------------------|----|

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.4 | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.7 | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 8.2 | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.8 | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 54% | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 61% | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.07 | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.25 | |
| | | |

03. Wins

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 45. PA Success Rate 59% 46. PA YPA 7.9 47. PA Sack Rate 2.8% 48. PA EPA/att 0.2 49. PA Target Depth 8.6 | |
|---|--|
| 47. PA Sack Rate 2.8% 48. PA EPA/att 0.2 | |
| 48. PA EPA/att 0.2 | |
| | |
| 49. PA Target Depth 8.6 | |
| | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate 63% | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA 7.8 | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate 3.3% | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att 0.2 | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth 7.7 | |

| 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 | 32% |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 2.5 |
| 58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 32% |
| 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 | 4.7 |
| 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 | 51% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.7 |

| Net FROE Rk | 23 | defFUM | 24 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | -1.1 | defFUM Rcvrd | 14 |
| offFUM | 18 | dell OW ICCVID | 17 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 8 | defFR Rk | 23 |
| offFR% | 44.4% | defFR% | 41.7% |
| offFR Rk | 23 | defFROE | 0.7 |
| offFROE | -1.8 | defFROE | 0.7 |
| offFROE Rk | 24 | defFROE Rk | 10 |
| | | | |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | -2.54 | Opp Att | 25 |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 26 | Opp Makes | 23 |
| Own Att Own Makes | 34 28 | Opp FG % | 92% |
| Own FG % | 82% | Opp Expected Makes | 20.67 |
| Own Expected Makes | 28.21 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 2.33 |
| Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk | -0.21 18 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 5 |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -0.60 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -5.30 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 18 | 2019 Opp Rk | 32 |

Play

| ver Tracking Data Stats - QBs | QB Pressu | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| | | |

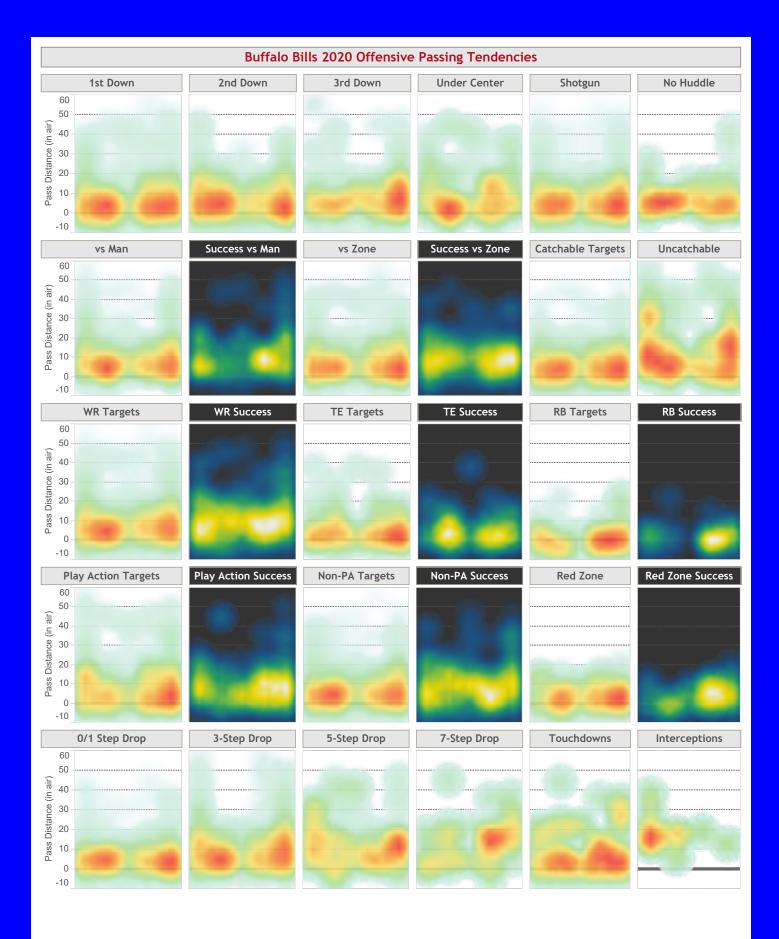
Offensive Metrics

| | Josh Allen |
|----------------|------------|
| CAY | 6.9 |
| CAY Rk | 7 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 14 |
| AYTS Rk | 16 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 6 |
| AGG Rk | 34 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 24 |
| COMP% | 69.2 |
| xCOMP% | 64.6 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 25 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 28 |
| CPOE% | 4.6 |
| CPOE Rk | 2 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 35 |

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

| QD Flessule | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Josh Allen | | | | |
| Pressure % | 37.1 | | | | |
| Pressure Rk | 9 | | | | |
| Sack % | 4 | | | | |
| Sack Rk | 33 | | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 63.5 | | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 28 | | | | |
| Rating when Pressured | 78.8 | | | | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 12 | | | | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 85.8 | | | | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 1 | | | | |
| Rating when Clean | 120 | | | | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 5 | | | | |
| Time to Throw | 3.04 | | | | |
| Time to Throw Rk | 3 | | | | |

| EPA/Pass | 0.24 |
|-----------------------|-------|
| EPA/Pass Rk | 2 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.06 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 20 |
| On-Target Catch % | 93.0% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 5 |
| Drop% | 4.8% |
| Drop Rk | 4 |
| YAC/Att | 2.4 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 12 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 18.3% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 4 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 29.1% |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 4 |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Matt Rhule (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: Joe Brady (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator:** Phil Snow (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

Carolina Panthers

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

7.5

#4

Past Records

2020: 5-11 2019: 5-11 2018: 7-9

+1

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Drafted Players Player (College)

CB - Jaycee Horn (South Car...

\$6 \$5 \$4.79 \$4.5 \$4 \$4 \$3.5

Player Sam Darnold (QB)

Rd Pk

Sam Darnold (QB)
Haason Reddick (EDGE)
Cameron Erving (LG)
David Moore (WR)
Pat Elflein (LG)
DaQuan Jones (IDL)
Morgan Fox (IDL)
A.J. Bouye (CB)
Dan Arnold (TE)
Denzel Perryman (LB)



Key Players Lost

+4

Rest Edge:

| Player | New |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Alex Armah (FB) | Saints |
| Chris Manhertz (TE) | Jaguars |
| Chris Reed (LG) | Colts |
| Curtis Samuel (WR) | Washingt. |
| Efe Obada (EDGE) | Bills |
| Joey Slye (K) | Panthers |
| Michael Palardy (P) | Dolphins |
| Mike Davis (RB) | Falcons |
| Rasul Douglas (CB) | Raiders |
| Stephen Weatherly (EDGE) | Vikings |
| Teddy Bridgewater (QB) | Broncos |
| Tyler Larsen (C) | Washingt. |
| Woodrow Hamilton (IDL) | Titans |
| Zach Kerr (IDL) | 49ers |
| Adarius Taylor (LB) | TBD |
| Kawann Short (IDL) | TBD |
| Michael Schofield (RG) | TBD |
| Natrell Jamerson (S) | TBD |
| Pharoh Cooper (WR) | TBD |
| Russell Okung (LT) | TBD |
| Tahir Whitehead (LB) | TBD |

2021 Carolina Panthers Overview

Year 2 under a new regime typically means a second season for a quarterback in the same system with higher expectations and the ability to build on what worked the prior season and fix what wasn't working.

But for the Panthers, they wanted to start anew with another quarterback.

And it's because David Tepper buys into analytics that he will look for another quarterback next offseason if Sam Darnold is clearly not their guy. Just because the Panthers picked up Darnold's fifth-year option (\$18.9 million for the 2022 season) that does not mean he will be their starter in 2022 if he plays like Teddy Bridgewater did last

Tepper knows that until you have a stud quarterback, you don't have much of a chance of winning a Super Bowl. The only replacement for a stud quarterback is a young quarterback playing above his head and more specifically, above his pay grade during his rookie deal.

Bridgewater wasn't that guy, so the Panthers are paying the Broncos to let Bridgewater play in Denver this season. As it turned out, the Panthers made a mistake to pay as much for Bridgewater as they did.

Time will tell if Darnold is that guy. And if he's not, the Panthers will have paid too much as well. Losing 2022 second-round and fourth-round picks will hurt.

We don't know if Darnold will work in Carolina, but what we do know about Darnold is that he suffered for years at the lap of Adam Gase. Time will tell if separating himself from Gase will allow Darnold to spread his wings and fly, or if he'll stay (cont'd - see CAR2)

+7

| 2 | 59 | WR - Terrace Marshall Jr. (L |
|---|-----|------------------------------|
| 3 | 70 | OT - Brady Christensen (BYU) |
| J | 83 | TE - Tommy Tremble (Notre |
| 4 | 126 | RB - Chuba Hubbard (Oklah |
| 5 | 158 | DT - Daviyon Nixon (Iowa) |
| 3 | 166 | CB - Keith Taylor (Washingto |
| | 193 | OG - Deonte Brown (Alabam |
| 6 | 204 | WR - Shi Smith (South Caroli |
| | 222 | LS - Thomas Fletcher (Alaba |
| 7 | 232 | DT - Phil Hoskins (Kentucky) |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Games

Favored

Average

Line

Games

Underdog

10







2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 25 | \$85.96M | 21 |
| QB | 28 | \$6.71M | 18 |
| OL | 16 | \$35.29M | 14 |
| RB | 10 | \$12.20M | 5 |
| WR | 14 | \$24.43M | 21 |
| TE | 26 | \$7.32M | 31 |
| All DEF | 32 | \$65.08M | 29 |
| DL | 30 | \$26.99M | 19 |
| LB | 17 | \$15.50M | 17 |
| СВ | 23 | \$13.64M | 32 |
| S | 24 | \$8.94M | 17 |
| | | | |

CAR-2

forever chained to the earth, seeking out Bruce Willis to confide secrets about seeing ghosts among the living.

What we do know, however, is that working with Gase didn't amplify any quarterback. The greatest trick Peyton Manning ever pulled was convincing the world Adam Gase was real.

Ryan Tannehill averaged 7.5 YPA with a 36:21 TD:INT ratio and 65.9% completions with Adam Gase, leading his team to an 13-11 record. When Tannehill left Gase, he averaged 8.6 YPA with a 55:13 TD:INT ratio and 67.3% completions, leading the Titans to an 18-8 record.

In five years as a head coach (only two of which were with Sam Darnold), Gase's teams were outscored by 544 points, his teams trailed after the first quarter by 210 total points, 35 of his 48 losses were by double digits, and 27 of his 32 wins were by one score.

During a time when the NFL is more aware than ever about the value of the forward pass... and with 37-year old Frank Gore as RB1, no team called more early down runs when trailing than Gase did with the Jets last year. And he had a top-four run rate on second-and-10... with bottom-five efficiency.

These are not the type of numbers one would want on a resume.

Now, instead of Adam Gase, RB Frank Gore and a receiving corps led by Jamison Crowder, Braxton Berrios, and Breshad Perriman, Sam Darnold gets Joe Brady, Christian McCaffrey, and a receiving corps led by D.J. Moore, Robby Anderson, and Terrace Marshall Jr. in Carolina.

When you consider the context of his career, the Panthers were wise to roll the dice with Darnold. The only NFL offenses Darnold has been in were led by playcallers Jeremy Bates, Adam Gase, and Dowell Loggains. His top two leading receivers each year were:

2020: Jamison Crowder + Braxton Berrios

2019: Crowder + a running back

LV

Н

30

2018: Robby Anderson + a tight end

Along with that, the Jets offensive injury luck was terrible on an annual basis:

| | 2020 Passing Performance | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | |
| Teddy Br idgewate r | 52% 7.3 85.4 | 46% 7.8 100.2 | 38% 7.7 88.0 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 64% | 74% | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | _ | | | | |
| CAR | 50% | 52% | 48% | Success Rate | | | | |

| | | 2020 11451111 | | | |
|-----|------------|---------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| | Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| CAR | | 50% 4.3 | 52% 3.9 | 48% 4.1 | Success Rate YPC |
| F | Run Rate | 50% | 36% | 26% | |
| | NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| F | Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |
| | | | | | |

2020: 11th worst 2019: second worst 2018: 10th worst

5

10

15

20

25

30

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

RESULT

MARGIN

19

Def

EDSR I

15 15

30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency

If we're going to paint the upside we also have to consider the downside The Jets played the NFL's 14th easiest schedule of pass defenses last year and eighth-easiest schedule of overall defenses. Darnold was one of three quarterbacks to have negative EPA from a clean pocket.

As our Dan Pizzuta wrote in researching Sam Darnold, intermediate throws have been the most valuable in the NFL, but Darnold was among the worst on those throws last season. Among 30 quarterbacks with at least 40 attempts of 11-19 air yards outside of the red zone,

(cont'd - see CAR-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

13

Explosive Pass Def

20 21

RB Pass Eff Def

Pass Pro

19



2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 10 11 12 16 17 W ATL ΤB LAC ARI DEN GB CHI NO ATL KC ΤB MIN WAS NO DET A -2 A -14 Α Н A 7 Н Α Н Н Н Α Н A -8 A 7 Н 5 -3 10 -23 -5 27 -26 7 -7 -8 20 -1 21 17 31 23 27 16 17 31 23 16 24 20 20 33 31 16 21 16 23 27 25 33 46 0 28 32 24 13

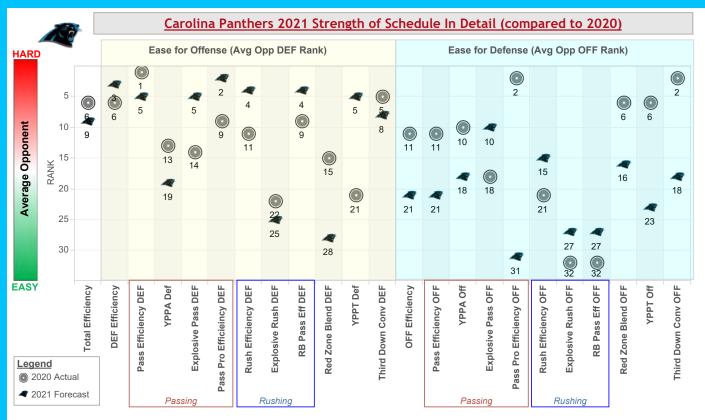


2020 Close Game **Records** All 2019 Wins: 5

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 0-3 FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

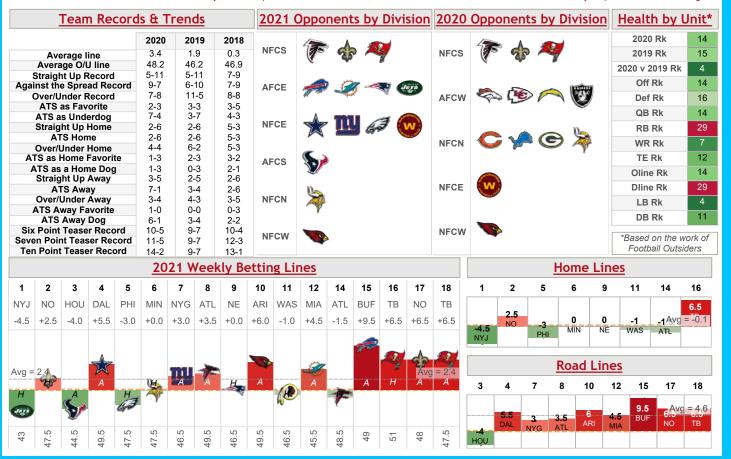
Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-8 Score Games Win %: 27% (#29) EDSR by Wk 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 60% (#15)

Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Efficieincy Def **Explosive** 2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin TO Given 21 **INT Given** 16 **FUM Given** 5 TO Taken 22 **INT Taken** 7 15 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -8 28 Sacks Sacks Allow 36 Return TD Margin +2 **Ret TDs** 3 Ret TDs Allow 1 **Penalty Margin** -10 Penalties 95 **Opponent Penalties** 85



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | |
| 22 | 16 | 6 | 13 | 27 | 27 | 8 | 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







Darnold was the only one with negative EPA.

Making matters more interesting was this quote from new head coach Matt Rhule in late May: "He comes from a different system where they were kind of static. We're more of a move up in the pocket, slide up in the pocket, throw on rhythm type of a team. We really don't want him holding the ball and letting it rip. We want him to play in progression, play in timing. So that's new to him."

It was originally speculated in GM Scott Fitterer's post-trade presser that Darnold would bring more downfield ability and big play potential. But that seems to be at odds with Rhule's comments.

Sure enough, with Bridgewater last year, the Panthers threw 59% of pass attempts within five yards of the line of scrimmage. The NFL average was 52%. Only 28% of the Panthers pass attempts traveled beyond 10 yards.

On shorter passes, thrown 1-10 air yards, Darnold displayed substantially worse accuracy (81%) than Bridgewater (91%) and the Jets offense had substantially worse results:

Jets: 5.6 YPA, 52% success, -0.01 EPA/att Panthers: 7.6 YPA, 62% success, 0.28 EPA/att

Also concerning has been any throw from Darnold other than Level 1 trajectory throws. Level 1 throws, as defined by Sports Info Solutions, are throws on a line. These are shorter throws, generally within five yards of the line of scrimmage although they can be up to 15 on occasion. Darnold has been sufficient in completing those throws and gaining reasonable efficiency.

But Level 2 throws are up-and-down throws (usually over the LBs but in front of the DBs). And Darnold has been terrible on these, particularly as it compared to Bridgewater. Compare Darnold's last two years to Bridgewater's year in Carolina:

Darnold: 43% success, 7.8 YPA, -0.07 EPA/att Bridgewater: 50% success, 10.6 YPA, 0.12 EPA/att

Gase's offense required more Level 2 throws than Brady's, but Darnold was substantially worse than Bridgewater on deeper, Level 3 trajectory throws as well (high-arch passes usually reserved for deep balls):

Darnold: 31% success, 8.3 YPA, -0.01 EPA/att Bridgewater: 48% success, 20.7 YPA, 1.12 EPA/att

Focusing more on what the Panthers offense was with Joe Brady making the transition from LSU to the NFL, I'm quite curious how things will play out with a different quarterback at the helm.

That's because, the 2020 offense, despite making major acquisitions and spending to acquire a new quarterback (Bridgewater) a new left tackle (**Russell Okung**), and a solid deep threat (**Robby Anderson**), took a step back in many areas which Scott Turner & backup QB **Kyle Allen's** offense saw success in during the 2019 season.

The first would be first down passing. Kyle Allen gained 8.1 YPA, 55% success, and 0.09 EPA/att while Bridgewater gained just 7.3 YPA, 52% success, and 0.00 EPA/att.

The second would be play-action passing. Turner's offense generated 0.09 EPA/att with a 50% success rate while Brady's generated -0.06 EPA/att with a 44% success rate.

The reason these two elements stand out are these two are slam dunk strategies to improve a quarterback's efficiency and get more production out of a passing offense. In both cases, Brady wasn't getting any +EV passing out of his quarterback.

Interestingly, however, is that the combination of the two – first down play-action – was quite successful for Brady's offense: 8.4 YPA, 51% success, and 0.16 EPA/att over 70 passes. But Brady used play-action on just 70 of 222 first down pass attempts (31.5%). That was well below the NFL average (38.6%).

(cont'd - see CAR-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated prep game to prep 0 0 +3 0 +3 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Carolina Panthers Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank** Rank Rank 2 12

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- It is possible that Darnold just isn't a good quarterback and may never be one. He ranked dead last out of 36 qualified QBs last season in EPA per play.
 Even from a clean pocket, Darnold ranked dead last in QB rating and 38th out of 39 in yards per attempt.
- The Panthers did not do a good job replacing veteran LT Russell Okung, who graded out as a top 20 pass blocking tackle, according to PFF. They are currently relying on Greg Little and Cam Erving to play left tackle. Both players, along with starting LG Dennis Daley, graded under 70 in pass blocking last season.
- Carolina received some fortunate bounces of the ball last season, ranked number one in opponent fumble recovery percentage and gained the fourth most EPA due to defensive turnovers.

7.5

Why Bet the Over



- Last season, the Panthers were tasked with facing the second toughest schedule in the NFL. Even against that schedule, the Panthers played the second most one -core games at 11. They went 3-8 in those one-score games.
- Carolina will lead the NFL in net rest advantage this season, at +12 games. This is also the highest rest advantage of any NFL team since 2002. Carolina doesn't have to face an opponent coming off of a bye and also gets to play two games against opponents coming off a Monday night game.
- Carolina's opponents made a league leading 93.5% of field goal attempts against the Panthers. Opposing kickers only missed two field goals on 31 attempts last season. The season prior, opponents only made 77% of their attempts.
- QB Sam Darnold is finally surrounded by good offensive talent and coaching to succeed. In his three seasons with the Jets, Darnold played behind offensive lines that ranked 32nd, 30th, and 14th in PFF's pass blocking efficiency. The Panthers' offensive line ranked 10th best in pass blocking efficiency and the team has good weapons on offense including RB Christian McCaffrey plus WRs Robby Anderson, D.J. Moore, and rookie Terrace Marshall.

| Carolina Panthers Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | backs Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | 29 | 4 | 14 | 10 | 24 | 19 | | | |

When running back is your highest-ranked unit, your roster is probably not in a good place. There's still a lot of work to be done in this rebuilding project.

The addition of **Sam Darnold** gives Carolina some hope at quarterback. Based on his lack of development in New York, this is our 30th ranked unit, but it's reasonable to place much of the blame on Adam Gase and the Jets talentless roster. Perhaps OC Joe Brady can unlock the potential Darnold showed at USC.

The backfield ranks fourth, but would likely be higher if **Christian McCaffrey** wasn't coming off an injury-plagued year. The loss of backup **Mike Davis** is also significant, as this unit has arguably the worst depth in the league.

The receiving corps earned votes ranking from ninth to 17th, demonstrating our uncertainty following the loss of **Curtis Samuel** and the addition of rookie **Terrace Marshall Jr.** In 2020, **D.J. Moore**, **Robby Anderson**, Samuel, and Davis accounted for 80% of the team's targets. That lack of depth does not appear to have been fixed.

Carolina's worst unit is the offensive line, which ranks 29th. The decision to draft a first-round cornerback (**Jaycee Horn**) rather than an offensive lineman (**Rashawn Slater**) is still hard to understand. Attempting to protect Darnold with this group appears to be a Jets-like mistake.

The front seven might be a bright spot for Carolina. Recent first-round picks DE **Brian Burns** (14.9% pressure rate) and DT **Derrick Brown**, appear to be developing into stars. On targets 15+ yards downfield, the Panthers secondary allowed a disturbing 51.9% completion rate. Perhaps the addition of Horn helps, but this unit is still a weak link in the otherwise improving defense.

It's hard to judge a coach off only one year, but of the five coaches hired in the 2020 offseason, Matt Rhule ranks fourth. His heavily defensive-minded approach to team building has been a questionable way to start his career in the NFL.

CAR-4

That leads to another key difference between the two offenses: Brady used the fifth-least amount of play-action in the first three quarters of games, while Turner had used the fifth-most.

We also saw the Panthers' first half early down pass rate drop from sixth-highest in 2019 to 15th in 2020, and that was despite the Panthers not having Christian McCaffrey for most of the 2020 campaign. Surely without your workhorse running back, one would think the pass rate should increase.

Brady successfully used significant amounts of pre-snap motion (seventh-highest rate) and ran into 8+ man boxes at a slightly below-average rate. Ideally this rate will drop further, but given the return of McCaffrey in 2021, that is TBD. What the Panthers also could do is run more often into light boxes, as the efficiency on these runs was among the best in the NFL.

There were clearly some things I felt Brady's offense did well and others it did not and needs to show improvement. Two concerning areas that relate back to a quote this offseason relate to red zone and end of game situations.

After being traded to the Broncos, Teddy Bridgewater came out and said:

"I'll just say this, for Joe Brady's growth, that organization, they'll have to practice different things in different ways. One of the things we didn't do much of when I was there, we didn't practice two-minute, really. We didn't practice red zone."

<u>CAR-5</u>

Based on the aftermath of that quote, it's clear that Brady did practice both two-minute and red zone offense. But he didn't do it as much as Bridgewater hoped.

If you want to take it to the court of analytics, Bridgewater is right.

Let's start with the red zone. The Panthers ranked 29th in red zone passing efficiency and 24th in red zone rushing efficiency in the first half of games. In full games, the Panthers ranked third-worst in EPA/att on all standard down plays, and fourth-worst if you include fourth down plays. Clearly, this was a weakness of the Panthers.

In terms of end of game situations:

The Panthers had seven games last year (most in the NFL) when they started a drive down one-score with under six minutes left in the fourth quarter. They had nine total drives in these games (most in the NFL). The results?

- · never scored a single point
- · lost all seven games

Based on Bridgewater's comments and the Panthers' stats in both categories, it's clear there is something to his claim. That said, there absolutely is blame on Bridgewater himself in both categories. He's not guilt-free. But clearly, both areas were quite problematic for Brady's offense.

So, was season one of the new era a success? Forget the fact the Panthers went 5-11 after going 5-11 the final season of Ron Rivera's 2019 tenure.

We know that there is a high level of randomness in one-score results. Sure, sometimes a team was up big and let their opponent back into the game with a late score and the final score was closer than the actual game. But often, narrow wins are only due to factors other than being significantly better. Turnovers, field goals, field position, mistakes, etc. And they often show regression from one year to the next.

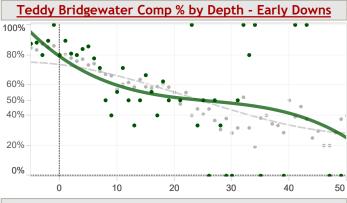
Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2017 Wins 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

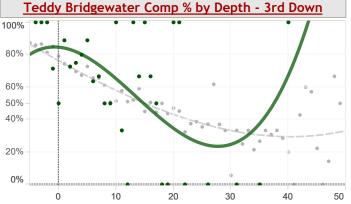


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| _ | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | |
| | Mike Davis | 7% | 8% | 68% | 4% | 14% | | |
| | Robby Anderson | | | 100% | | | | |
| _ | Curtis Samuel | 7% | 10% | 68% | 2% | 12% | | |
| RUSH | D.J. Moore | 50% | | | | 50% | | |
| L. | Christian McCaffrey | 25% | 24% | 51% | | | | |
| | Rodney Smith | 10% | 17% | 59% | 2% | 12% | | |
| | Total | 11% | 12% | 63% | 3% | 11% | | |
| | Mike Davis | 10% | 13% | 66% | 4% | 6% | | |
| | Robby Anderson | 11% | 10% | 69% | 4% | 7% | | |
| | Curtis Samuel | 8% | 9% | 72% | 3% | 8% | | |
| PASS | D.J. Moore | 13% | 10% | 61% | 5% | 12% | | |
| a. | Christian McCaffrey | 16% | 21% | 63% | | | | |
| | Rodney Smith | 29% | | 43% | | 29% | | |
| | Total | 11% | 11% | 66% | 4% | 8% | | |

| Share of Offensive Plays by Type | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| Mike Davis | | Robby Anderson | Curtis Samuel | D.J. Moore | Christian McCaffrey | Rodney Smith | | | |
| RUSH | H 53% 1% | | 13% | 1% | 19% | 13% | | | |
| PASS | 16% 31% | | 21% | 26% | 4% | 2% | | | |
| ALL | 32% | 19% | 18% | 15% | 11% | 7% | | | |





Successful Play Rate

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| PASS | 46%, 0.04 (406) | 44%, -0.04 (79) | 56%, -0.08 (27) | 31%, -0.50 (26) | 20%, -0.58 (5) | 50%, 0.31 (10) | 36%, 0.20 (14) | 60%, 0.61 (5) | 0%, -0.78 (4) | 45%, 0.00 (577) |
| RUSH | 51%, 0.05 (161) | 48%, -0.06 (89) | 58%, 0.03 (40) | 65%, 0.20 (23) | 38%, -0.33 (42) | 43%, -0.06 (30) | 60%, -0.24 (5) | 67%, 0.25 (3) | 0%, -0.71 (3) | 50%, -0.02 (397) |
| All | 47%, 0.04 (567) | 46%, -0.05 (168) | 57%, -0.01 (67) | 47%, -0.17 (49) | 36%, -0.36 (47) | 45%, 0.04 (40) | 42%, 0.08 (19) | 63%, 0.48 (8) | 0%, -0.75 (7) | 47%, -0.01 (974) |

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

| | Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| POS | POS Player 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 1-0 [4WR] 4 Grp T | | | | | | | | | | |
| RB | Mike Davis | 44% (54) 5.4, -0.17 | 67% (9) 6.1, 0.18 | 100% (1) 8.0, 0.78 | 0% (1) 1.0, -0.37 | 48% (65) 5.4, -0.11 | | | | | |
| | Christian McCaffrey | 58% (12) 9.5, 0.76 | 25% (4) 4.0, -0.33 | 67% (3) 5.3, -0.98 | | 53% (19) 7.7, 0.26 | | | | | |
| TE | Ian Thomas | 50% (22) 4.1, -0.21 | 75% (4) 5.8, 0.64 | | | 54% (26) 4.4, -0.08 | | | | | |
| WR | Robby Anderson | 53% (101) 8.7, 0.31 | 29% (17) 4.2, -0.21 | 60% (5) 8.2, 0.38 | 60% (5) 12.6, 0.99 | 51% (128) 8.2, 0.27 | | | | | |
| | DJ Moore | 53% (72) 11.0, 0.19 | 48% (23) 9.7, 0.04 | 78% (9) 10.7, 0.62 | 0% (2) 0.0, -0.87 | 53% (106) 10.5, 0.17 | | | | | |
| | Curtis Samuel | 57% (69) 9.6, 0.48 | 56% (9) 9.8, 0.45 | 100% (1) 16.0, 0.99 | 67% (3) 7.3, 0.37 | 57% (82) 9.6, 0.48 | | | | | |
| | Seth Roberts | 50% (6) 5.2, -0.12 | | | | 50% (6) 5.2, -0.12 | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | (Zedderbodra) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total | | | | | | | |
| Davis Mike | 51% (51) | 47% (47) | 36% (22) | 30% (20) | 44% (140) | | | | | | | |
| | 4.0, -0.11 | 4.1, 0.01 | 3.0, -0.22 | 3.9, -0.29 | 3.9, -0.11 | | | | | | | |
| McCaffrey | 48% (29) | 22% (9) | 90% (10) | 100% (4) | 56% (52) | | | | | | | |
| Christian | 3.0, 0.10 | 3.3, -0.19 | 6.8, 0.29 | 6.0, 0.20 | 4.0, 0.09 | | | | | | | |
| Bridgewate | 58% (33) | 50% (4) | 100% (1) | 0% (9) | 47% (47) | | | | | | | |
| r Teddy | 6.7, 0.19 | 4.8, 0.03 | 5.0, -0.06 | -0.6, -0.77 | 5.1, -0.01 | | | | | | | |
| Smith | 62% (21) | 67% (12) | 33% (3) | 100% (2) | 63% (38) | | | | | | | |
| Rodney | 4.1, 0.23 | 4.6, -0.12 | 2.7, -0.25 | 4.5, 0.81 | 4.2, 0.11 | | | | | | | |
| Samuel | 36% (11) | 40% (5) | | 100% (1) | 41% (17) | | | | | | | |
| Curtis | 8.0, 0.10 | 2.0, -0.89 | | 5.0, 0.06 | 6.1, -0.19 | | | | | | | |
| Bonnafon | 67% (3) | 0% (2) | 100% (2) | 0% (2) | 44% (9) | | | | | | | |
| Reggie | 6.7, 0.41 | 2.5, -0.20 | 18.0, 1.30 | 1.5, -0.31 | 7.1, 0.31 | | | | | | | |
| Cannon Trenton | 25% (4) 2.3, -0.39 | 75% (4) 6.0, 0.17 | | | 50% (8) 4.1, -0.11 | | | | | | | |

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

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

| Pass | Passing by Passing by | | sing by | Throw Types | | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | |
|--------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | verage heme | Re | oute | Level 1 | 51% (390) 6.4, 0.10 | 3 Step | 53% (152) 8.9, 0.16 | Planted | | % (410) 6, 0.24 | Inside Zone | 49% (95) 3.6, -0.04 |
| | E40/ (270) | Curl | 66% (64) 7.3, 0.32 | | | 0/1 Step | 54% (148) | Shuffling | | 5% (75) 8, -0.31 | Outside | 44% (62) |
| Zone | 51% (270) 7.8, 0.14 | Out | 60% (52) | Level 2 | 50% (82) 10.6, 0.14 | ол опор | 6.5, 0.14 | Moving | | 2% (59) 8, -0.26 | Zone | 4.3, -0.06 |
| | | | 8.2, 0.27 | | 46% (35) | 5 Step | 48% (118) 9.4, 0.28 | | Play Action | | | 55% (42) 4.1, 0.09 |
| M2M | 51% (144) 8.9, 0.26 | Slant | 60% (47) 8.6, 0.29 | Level 3 | 18.3, 0.76 | 7 Step | 58% (33) 12.3, 0.51 | | Play Action | No P/A | Lead | 55% (22) 3.1, -0.10 |
| | 0.3, 0.20 | B | 45% (31) | Sidearm | 40% (10) | Designed | | Under Center | 47% (91) 8.3, 0.01 | 53% (32) 8.3, 0.23 | | |
| | 0.40/ (50) | Drag | 7.3, 0.14 | | 7.6, 0.09 | Designed Rollout Right | 45% (22) 5.7, -0.07 | Shotgun | 33% (27) | 45% (431) | Stretch | 57% (21) 5.9, -0.01 |
| Screen | 34% (58) 4.7, -0.21 | Dig | 50% (28) 8.4, 0.17 | Shovel | 80% (5) 7.8, 0.55 | Basic Screen | 24% (21) 3.5, -0.52 | ALL | 5.1, -0.31 44% (118) 7.6, -0.06 | 7.5, 0.00 46% (463) 7.5, 0.02 | Pitch | 67% (15) 4.3, 0.17 |

CAR-6

Last year, five teams had 15 games that were wins or one-score losses. Every team made the playoffs (Chiefs, Ravens, Packers, Saints, and Seahawks).

Last year, six teams had 14 games that were wins or one-score losses. Most of these teams you won't be surprised to see, including the Buccaneers, Bills, Steelers, Rams, Dolphins, and Chargers.

Last year, six teams had 13 games that were wins or one-score losses. Again, several of these teams were playoff teams. But the one that might seem shocking to see was the 5-11 Carolina Panthers.

In fact, the Panthers are just the seventh team in the last 17 years to win five or fewer games but play at least 13 games that were wins or losses by one-score.

In addition to bad outcomes in these one-score games, the Panthers were unlucky with fumbles (28th) and field goals (31st) and saw opponents make the most field goals over expectation in the NFL. But that's about where the terrible luck ended.

The Panthers were +1 in turnover margin after being -14 in 2019. They were +2 in return touchdown margin after being -3 in 2019.

There are things to look forward to in 2021 for the Panthers. For starters, the Panthers have the benefit of receiving the NFL's easiest scheduled timing from schedule makers. They have the most net rest of any team in the NFL. It would have been beautiful if the Panthers played their 2021 division schedule in 2020, as they would have faced the terrible NFC East in their worst year of all time along with the AFC East.

That said, many teams in those divisions are rebuilding, as are the Texans, and those are positives for 2021.





Carolina should start off well the first six weeks of the season, playing four of six games at home and being underdogs in just two of these six games. In fact, it's the easiest schedule in the NFL through Week 6. But from Week 7 onward, the Panthers have the third-toughest schedule in the NFL. Weeks 7 through 14 are not terrible from a pure schedule strength perspective, but they feature four road games in six weeks. Weeks 15 through 18, on the other hand, are brutal. Three road games in four weeks, including to Buffalo in December, along with trips to the Saints and Buccaneers.

I fully expect the Panthers and OC Joe Brady will be working hard this offseason to clean up their issues with efficiency and doing their best to build around Sam Darnold's skill set. The other good news for the Panthers is that they've survived the hard part. They had a rookie college head coach with a college offensive coordinator trying to install an offense during a pandemic using virtual sessions with a new quarterback and seeing their workhorse running back go down with a season ending injury early. This team had all the reasons to be terrible last year. And yet... 13 games the Panthers either won, or lost by one score. I'm extremely intrigued to see what 2021 holds for this resilient squad.

Immediate Impact of Carolina Panthers 2021 Draft Class

After an entire draft of defensive players in 2020, the Panthers went back for more with CB Jaycee Horn (first round).

Horn will start immediately, but it won't necessarily be an easy transition to DC Phil Snow's defense. Horn dominated at South Carolina in man coverage, which accounted for 60% of his career snaps. Carolina, however, played man at the lowest rate in the league in 2020.

Perhaps the selection of Horn signals a desire to incorporate more man coverage into the defense, but zone was heavily favored by Snow and head coach Matt Rhule during their time together at Baylor also.

In zone coverage, Horn allowed an unimpressive 6.7 yards per target over the course of his career, likely because it diminishes his ability to overpower receivers with his physical style of play.

WR Terrace Marshall Jr. (second round) primarily lined up in the slot at LSU and could help fill the void left by Curtis Samuel, who was in the slot on 77% of his routes last season.

WR **Shi Smith** (sixth round) could also help replace Samuel, and is actually a better comparison to Samuel in terms of his size and skill set. South Carolina focused on getting Smith the ball in space, with 25% of his targets coming on screens and jet sweeps, while Marshall saw just 8% of his targets on those routes at LSU.

TE **Tommy Tremble** (third round) could also compete for playing time, although his best role in the NFL remains somewhat unclear. At Notre Dame, Tremble was primarily used as a blocking tight end in the run game. When on the field on passing downs, however, he ran routes 85% of the time. He'll compete with lan Thomas and Dan Arnold for snaps, and could emerge as the best pass-catching weapon of the underwhelming group.

OT **Brady Christensen** (third round) will likely begin his career providing depth at both guard and tackle. Although Rhule has stated a belief he's ultimately a better fit a guard.

With Christian McCaffrey coming off multiple injuries in 2020, the selection of RB Chuba Hubbard (fourth round) potentially carries some significance.

Last year's backup Mike Davis is gone, so Hubbard will compete for that role and, given McCaffrey's recent injuries, could see a decent workload to keep McCaffrey fresh.

This looks like a solid draft class for the Panthers. The decision to draft Horn in the first round, however, may have sent them down the path of drafting for need on Day 2, especially in the third round with Christensen and Tremble.

If the offensive line struggles to protect Sam Darnold, and OT Rashawn Slater thrives with the Chargers, they may regret the decision to pass over Slater in the first round.

Carolina Panthers 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

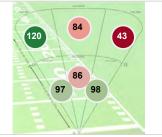
The Panthers ended the 2020 season 21st in passing EPA, 24th in success rate (45%), 14th in yards per pass attempt (7.5 yards), and 28th in passing touchdowns (16). After signing Teddy Bridgewater to a three-year contract last offseason, Carolina moved him to the Broncos and traded for Sam Darnold to be their quarterback in 2021. Darnold still has much to answer on his own merit as his 6.3 yards per pass attempt from a clean pocket last season was ahead of only Mike Glennon and Nick Foles. Darnold also helmed a passing offense that was not only dead last in passing EPA in 2020 at -43.1 points while the next closest team was at -22.5 points. With upgraded playmakers and a potential laterally poor offensive line, Darnold will look to restart his career under Joe Brady.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Teddy Bridgewater | 340 | 493 | 69% | 3,725 | 7.6 | 15 | 11 | 31 | 92 | 27 | |
| Phillip Walker | 32 | 56 | 57% | 358 | 6.4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 45 | 49 | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | |

| | 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|-----|------|-----------------|--|--|
| QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success % Success % Success % Sains Success Gains Success % Success Sains Success % Success Sains Success Success Sains Success Sains Success Su | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Teddy Bridgewater | 46% | 49% | 49 | 10.0% | 19 | 4.0% | 5.2 | 5.8 | 24 | 5% | | |
| Phillip Walker | 37% | 45% | 5 | 9.0% | 2 | 4.0% | 7.0 | 4.2 | 4 | 7% | | |
| NITI Ava | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | | |
| NFL Avg | 4170 | 3070 | 33.3 | 0.070 | 12.0 | 3.070 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4 70 | | |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Teddy Bridgewater Rating**

Early Downs



| <u>In</u> | 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% | 1.5% | 2.6% | 0.0% | 1.8% | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 3.3% | 0.0% | 3.2% | | 2.5% | | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 6.3% | 8.3% | | 5.6% | | | | | | | |
| Total | 3.0% | 1.1% | 2.3% | 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 | Yo | | | | |
| Teddy Bridgewater | 9.0 | 5.1 | -3.9 | 75% | 36 | 4 | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | 5 | | | | |

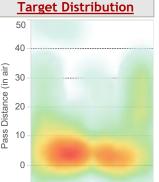
-10

| <u> </u> | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ort Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | | |
| 36 | 48% | 52% | 35 | | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | | |

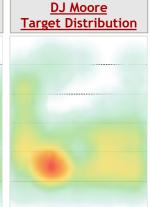
2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Panthers used three or more wideouts on 70% of their offensive snaps, while they targeted their wideouts 71% of the time, which ranked third in the league. They closed 10th in the league in yards per target (8.8 yards) when throwing to their wideouts and fourth in receiving yards per game (205.8) as a group, but ranked 28th in the league in collective touchdown receptions with just 10. D.J. Moore (66-1193-4), Robby Anderson (95-1,096-3), and Curtis Samuel (77-851-3) all were strong contributors while running backs added another 90 receptions. Samuel left in free agency while the team added David Moore in free agency and selected rookie Terrace Marshall 59th overall. The team added Dan Arnold coming off a career-best 31-438-4 season.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Robby Anderson | 133 | 70% | 8.0 | 95.0 | 50% | 94 | 116 | 34 | 103 | 3 |
| D.J. Moore | 110 | 55% | 9.7 | 65.8 | 52% | 78 | 85 | 3 | 121 | 4 |
| Curtis Samuel | 88 | 83% | 9.1 | 111.3 | 57% | 44 | 25 | 73 | 64 | 3 |
| Mike Davis | 68 | 84% | 5.5 | 93.1 | 49% | 101 | 61 | 109 | 34 | 2 |



Robby Anderson



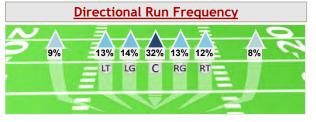
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Carolina ranked 13th in rushing EPA and 12th in success rate (52%) on the ground in 2020, but ranked 20th in yards per attempt (4.2 yards). Signing a huge contract extension last offseason, Christian McCaffrey only appeared in three games in 2020, but still was the same player when active. In those games, McCaffrey handled 44.7% of the team touches and produced 28.8% of the team yardage and 66% of the team touchdowns in those games. That touchdown share would have paced the position while the share of team touches and yards would have been second to only Derrick Henry over a full season last year. Losing Mike Davis (who led the team with 224 touches to go with 1,015 yards), Carolina added Chuba Hubbard in the fourth round to join Trenton Cannon, Rodney Smith, Reggie Bonnafon and Darius Clark.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Mike Davis | 165 | 3.9 | 50% | 57 | 53 | 31 | 69 | 50% | 45 | 6 |
| Christian McCaffrey | 59 | 3.8 | 56% | 16 | 7 | 11 | 75 | 54% | 26 | 5 |
| Teddy Bridgewater | 53 | 5.3 | 51% | 44 | 81 | 10 | 89 | 53% | 33 | 5 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Can Sam Darnold Turn Things Around?

Sam Darnold has not been afforded much (if any) help during his rookie contract, but was only ahead of Dwayne Haskins in passing points per attempt (.281) this past season. Darnold has been the QB34, QB26, and QB39 in points per game through his three seasons in the league. His 6.3 yards per pass attempt from a clean pocket last season were ahead of only Mike Glennon and Nick Foles in 2020. In his trade to Carolina, Darnold will attempt to restart his career with an upgrade in weaponry. Last season, Darnold's top targets were Jamison Crowder (60 targets), Braxton Berrios (48), Breshad Perriman (41), and Chris Herndon (39). Now he has D.J. Moore, a reunion with Robby Anderson, Christian McCaffrey, and Terrace Marshall as his top four targets to go along with Dan Arnold.

Darnold still has plenty to prove on his own merit, but we should immediately get a feel for what we can expect from Darnold early in the season as he draws three stellar streaming matchups we piggy-backed on a year ago against the Jets, Texans, and Cowboys. Dallas is the most improved of those defenses this offseason, but still are littered with question marks as far as their secondary. Darnold is a target in 2QB formats or those punting on the position and chasing early-season matchups.

Terrace Marshall Can Make An Impact Year 1

Marshall slipped to pick No. 59 overall in the draft, but we have seen strong early contributors from this area of the draft in **A.J. Brown**, **D.K. Metcalf**, and **Diontae Johnson** over the past two seasons. There have been plenty of misses in that area as well, but Marshall has an immediate path to opportunity reuniting with college offensive coordinator Joe Bradv.

The Panthers used three or more wideouts on 70% of their offensive snaps, while they targeted their wideouts 71% of the time, which ranked third in the league. This was still while targeting running backs 22% of the time, which ranked seventh in the league. Even with **Christian McCaffrey** returning, the Panthers third wideout should have plenty of involvement while Marshall only has to press **David Moore** for snaps to start the season for that role. Should either **D.J. Moore** or **Robby Anderson** miss any time, Marshall's year one involvement can take another spike. Marshall was a five-star recruit with 24 offers coming out of high school. Playing as the third wheel at wide receiver next to **Ja'Marr Chase** and **Justin Jefferson**, Marshall did not break out to their levels in 2019, but he was still elevated by the machine that LSU offense was, catching 46 passes for 671 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Injuring his foot in the fourth game of 2019, Marshall even had more touchdowns (six) than both Chase and Jefferson (five each) and as many receptions (20) as Chase prior to that injury. With Jefferson going pro and Chase opting out for the 2020 season, Marshall finally got his opportunity to shine and not only did he deliver, he also delivered through a quarterback change from **Joe Burrow** leaving and multiple quarterbacks playing for LSU in 2020. In seven games played before he also opted out to prepare for the draft, Marshall tallied a 48-731-10 line, producing 27.5% of the receptions, 33.3% of the receiving yardage, and 58.8% of the team receiving touchdowns on 24.2% of the team targets. 21.7% of Marshall's career receptions went for touchdowns, the highest rate in this class.



Defensive Outlook

Derrick Brown was Carolina's seventh overall pick last season. Brown didn't have a high pressure rate as a defensive tackle (ranked 47th of 102 qualified defensive tackles per Sports Info Solutions) but the snaps he did get to the quarterback were impactful. Brown had 12 quarterback hits, which is the sixth-most for a rookie defensive tackle in a season since 2006, per Stathead. **Bravvion Roy** was selected in the sixth round of last year's draft, started six games, and played 39.6% of the defensive snaps. Carolina signed **DaQuon Jones**, who has started all 16 games in each of the past three seasons for the Tennessee Titans. The 320-pound Jones has been a plus run defender as a nose tackle but had his best season rushing the passer in 2020 — 45th at the position in pressure rate with sixth guarterback hits.

From leaning into Tite Fronts, the Panthers rushed three at the second-highest rate in the league last season at 20%.

Brian Burns turned into a top-tier pass rusher in Year 2. Burns was fourth among edge rushers in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and 18th in pressure rate per SIS. The 2019 first-round pick played 70.8% of the defensive snaps, a long way from being used as a special teams gunner during his rookie season. The Panthers added another explosive pass rusher with Haason Reddick on a one-year deal after he ranked 30th in pressure rate in 2020. He's now reunited with his college coach, Matt Rhule, who will keep him playing a role similar to where he excelled at Temple.

Due to Phil Snow's defensive scheme both of those players will also drop back in coverage quite a bit and both have the athleticism to do so.

Shaq Thompson played 97.4% of the team's defensive snaps and had to cover a lot of ground without much around him. Only 41.4% of Thompson's tackles came before a first down was gained, which ranked 41st among 59 linebackers with at least 40 tackles. Thompson was often the only true linebacker on the field as the Panthers used the third-highest rate of dime or lighter personnel in 2020 (41%). After ranking 22nd in EPA per play against the pass, the Panthers reworked their secondary. Jaycee Horn was selected with the eighth overall pick and A.J. Bouye was signed after a down year in Denver that included a six-game suspension. Bouye ranked 109th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

There were some developments in young corners. **Donte Jackson** held up quite well in his third season as a second-round pick, 50th among 1 in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Fourth-round pick **Troy Pride**, ranked 57th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap — a ranking that should be celebrated for a rookie corner.

Jeremy Chinn had some inconsistencies but some huge splash plays as a rookie second-round pick. Chinn was used as a modern versatile safety with snaps in the box, the slot, and deep. He'll continue to develop in that role in his second season. Juston Burris also played all over the defense with most of his snaps coming deep. With Tre Boston gone, Burris could be in line to start as the team's deep safety.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 59% |
| All Pass Rk | 15 |
| All Rush % | 41% |
| All Rush Rk | 18 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 59% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 11 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 63% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 5 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -3% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 23 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 41% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 22 |
| Up Pass % | 58% |
| Up Pass Rk | 11 |
| Up Rush % | 42% |
| Up Rush Rk | 22 |
| Down Pass % | 57% |
| Down Pass Rk | 29 |
| Down Rush % | 43% |
| Down Rush Rk | 4 |







Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | | | |
| 69% | 16 | 67% | 85% | 75% | | | | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | | |
| 31% | 17 | 33% | 78% | 59% | | | | | | |

| Most Frequent Play | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Mike Davis | 2 | 0% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Mike Davis | 2 | 50% |
| | | | Curtis Samuel | 2 | 100% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Mike Davis | 66 | 50% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | D.J. Moore | 2 | 100% |
| | | RUSH | Curtis Samuel | 2 | 0% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Mike Davis | 11 | 82% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Mike Davis | 13 | 46% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Robby Anderson | 15 | 47% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Robby Anderson | 8 | 38% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Mike Davis | 7 | 57% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Robby Anderson | 11 | 45% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Curtis Samuel | 7 | 57% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Robby Anderson | 5 | 20% |

| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | |
| No | Success: 45% | Success: 43% | Success: 45% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.01 | YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.07 | YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.02 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 80.2 | Rtg: 97.6 | Rtg: 83.4 | | | | |
| | [Att: 221 - Rate: 38.0%] | [Att: 47 - Rate: 8.1%] | [Att: 268 - Rate: 46.1%] | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 46% | Success: 45% | Success: 46% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 8.7, EPA: -0.06 | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.02 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 91.7 | Rtg: 90.0 | Rtg: 91.4 | | | | |
| | [Att: 242 - Rate: 41.7%] | [Att: 71 - Rate: 12.2%] | [Att: 313 - Rate: 53.9%] | | | | |
| Total | Success: 46% | Success: 44% | Success: 45% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.02 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: -0.06 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.00 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 86.2 | Rtg: 93.2 | Rtg: 87.6 | | | | |
| | [Att: 463 - Rate: 79.7%] | [Att: 118 - Rate: 20.3%] | [Att: 581 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | |

| 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | D.J. Moore | Robby Anderson | lan Thomas | Curtis Samuel | Chris Manhertz | Christian McCaffrey | Seth Roberts |
| 1 | LV | L 34-30 | 58 (87%) | 55 (82%) | 44 (66%) | 50 (75%) | 36 (54%) | 65 (97%) | 5 (7%) |
| 2 | TB | L 31-17 | 65 (89%) | 54 (74%) | 40 (55%) | 51 (70%) | 36 (49%) | 47 (64%) | 19 (26%) |
| 3 | LAC | W 21-16 | 45 (88%) | 40 (78%) | 35 (69%) | 33 (65%) | 24 (47%) | | 17 (33%) |
| 4 | ARI | W 31-21 | 55 (71%) | 44 (57%) | 45 (58%) | 36 (47%) | 59 (77%) | | 8 (10%) |
| 5 | ATL | W 23-16 | 51 (78%) | 47 (72%) | 42 (65%) | 48 (74%) | 32 (49%) | | 10 (15%) |
| 6 | CHI | L 23-16 | 64 (94%) | 59 (87%) | 47 (69%) | | 33 (49%) | | 15 (22%) |
| 7 | NO | L 27-24 | 42 (91%) | 40 (87%) | 32 (70%) | 22 (48%) | 20 (43%) | | 19 (41%) |
| 8 | ATL | L 25-17 | 48 (89%) | 45 (83%) | 40 (74%) | 41 (76%) | 19 (35%) | | |
| 9 | KC | L 33-31 | 81 (98%) | 69 (83%) | 59 (71%) | 60 (72%) | 30 (36%) | 59 (71%) | |
| 10 | TB | L 46-23 | 43 (90%) | 35 (73%) | 29 (60%) | 34 (71%) | 26 (54%) | | |
| 11 | DET | W 20-0 | 61 (86%) | 50 (70%) | 40 (56%) | 48 (68%) | 42 (59%) | | |
| 12 | MIN | L 28-27 | 59 (91%) | 53 (82%) | 43 (66%) | 42 (65%) | 25 (38%) | | |
| 14 | DEN | L 32-27 | | 57 (85%) | 47 (70%) | 53 (79%) | 29 (43%) | | |
| 15 | GB | L 24-16 | 56 (81%) | 62 (90%) | 50 (72%) | 58 (84%) | 26 (38%) | | |
| 16 | WAS | W 20-13 | 55 (81%) | 52 (76%) | 40 (59%) | 38 (56%) | 37 (54%) | | |
| 17 | NO | L 33-7 | 52 (84%) | 42 (68%) | 41 (66%) | 44 (71%) | 30 (48%) | | |
| | Grand | Total | 835 (87%) | 804 (78%) | 674 (65%) | 658 (68%) | 504 (48%) | 171 (77%) | 93 (22%) |

| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. % |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1-1 [3WR] | 57% | 60% | 47% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 17% | 20% | 46% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 7% | 7% | 57% |
| 0-1 [4WR] | 5% | 1% | 47% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 5% | 4% | 36% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 45% |
| Group | ing Te | <u>enden</u> | <u>cies</u> |
| Group Personnel | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| | | Pass | Run |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel | Pass Rate 72% | Pass Succ. % 46% | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 0-1 [4WR] | Pass Rate 72% 47% | Pass Succ. % 46% 44% | Run Succ. % 51% 48% |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] | Pass Rate 72% 47% 40% | Pass Succ. % 46% 44% 56% | Run Succ. % 51% 48% 58% |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Robby Anderson | 14 | 1 | 2 | 11 |
| Curtis Samuel | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| D.J. Moore | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Ian Thomas | 5 | 1 | | 4 |
| Christian McCaffrey | 1 | | 1 | |
| Colin Thompson | 1 | | 1 | |
| Reggie Bonnafon | 1 | 1 | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Mike Davis | 41 | 11 | 11 | 19 | |
| Teddy Bridgewater | 19 | 4 | 5 | 10 | |
| Christian McCaffrey | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | |
| Curtis Samuel | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | |
| Rodney Smith | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | |
| | | | | | |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 23% 23% | 7% 21% | 70% 56% |
| | NFL AVG | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % |
| Overall RB | | ICCESS % |

01. Games w Halftime Lead

6

02. Avg Halftime Lead

0.0

03. Wins

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 7.6 | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.1 | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 6.7 | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 6.9 | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 48% | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 48% | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.05 | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.03 | | | |

| Pla | v Action | (Quarters | 1-3 on | Early | Downs) |
|-----|----------|--------------------|--------|--------------|----------|
| | , , | / Q a a | | _~, | 20111101 |

| 45. PA Success Rate 51% 46. PA YPA 7.8 47. PA Sack Rate 5.4% 48. PA EPA/att 0.1 49. PA Target Depth 8.3 50. Non-PA Success Rate 50% | 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 30% |
|---|------------------------------------|-------|
| 47. PA Sack Rate 5.4% 48. PA EPA/att 0.1 49. PA Target Depth 8.3 | 45. PA Success Rate | 51% |
| 48. PA EPA/att 0.1 49. PA Target Depth 8.3 | 46. PA YPA | 7.8 |
| 49. PA Target Depth 8.3 | 47. PA Sack Rate | 5.4% |
| 0 1 | 48. PA EPA/att | 0.1 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate 50% | 49. PA Target Depth | 8.3 |
| | 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 50% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA 6.8 | 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.8 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate 5.2% | 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 5.2% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att -0.05 | 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.05 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth 6.6 | 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.6 |

Men In Box

| 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 | 50% |
| 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 | 43% |
| 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 | 4 |
| 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 | 57% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-vd line | 5.2 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 28 | defFUM | 22 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | -3.3 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 |
| offFUM | 13 | dell OW ICCVID | 0 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 8 | defFR Rk | 1 |
| offFR% | 61.5% | defFR% | 63.6% |
| offFR Rk | 14 | | 4.0 |
| offFROE | 0.9 | defFROE | -4.2 |
| | | defFROE Rk | 32 |
| offFROE Rk | 13 | GOII NOL IN | 52 |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | -4.56 | Opp Att | 31 |
|------------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 31 | Opp Makes | 29 |
| Own Att | 36 | • | 94% |
| Own Makes | 29 | Opp FG % | |
| Own FG % | 81% | Opp Expected Makes | 25.71 |
| Own Expected Makes | 30.27 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 3.29 |
| Own Make over Expectation | -1.27 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 1 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 25 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 0.21 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -1.88 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 13 | 2019 Opp Rk | 26 |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

| QB | P | re | SSI | ıır | 0 |
|-----|---|----|-----|-----|---|
| Qυ. | | | 33 | ш | _ |

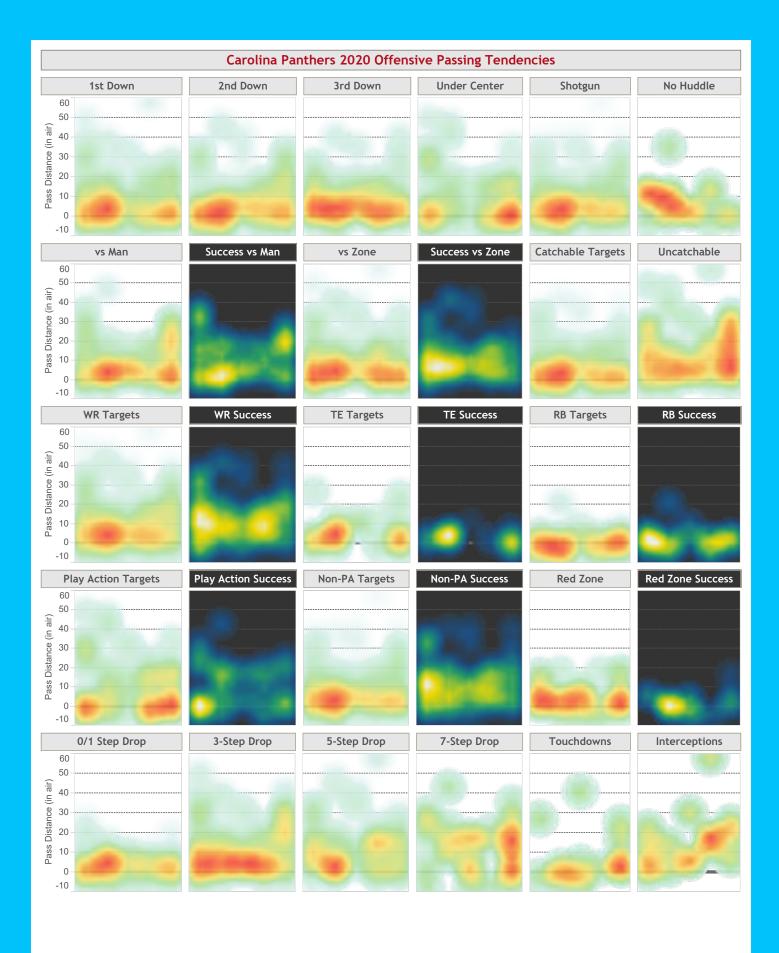
Offensive Metrics

| | Teddy Bridgewater |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CAY | 5.1 |
| CAY Rk | 33 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 36 |
| AYTS Rk | 32 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 39 |
| AGG Rk | 38 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 32 |
| COMP% | 69.1 |
| xCOMP% | 66.8 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 9 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 4 |
| CPOE% | 2.3 |
| CPOE Rk | 13 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 13 |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AY | TS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: |

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

| Qb Pressure | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| | Teddy Bridgewater | | | |
| Pressure % | 30.9 | | | |
| Pressure Rk | 23 | | | |
| Sack % | 5.5 | | | |
| Sack Rk | 19 | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 76.8 | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 1 | | | |
| Rating when Pressured | 52.7 | | | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 28 | | | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 80.4 | | | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 13 | | | |
| Rating when Clean | 105.3 | | | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 15 | | | |
| Time to Throw | 2.6 | | | |
| Time to Throw Rk | 30 | | | |

| EPA/Pass | 0.01 |
|-----------------------|-------|
| EPA/Pass Rk | 20 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.02 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 9 |
| On-Target Catch % | 91.2% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 15 |
| Drop% | 6.4% |
| Drop Rk | 15 |
| YAC/Att | 2.4 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 11 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 18.4% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 3 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 27.0% |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 11 |



Coaches (Prior Yrs) 2021 Forecast **Chicago Bears Head Coach**: Wins **Div Rank** Matt Nagy (3 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: 7.5 #3 Bill Lazor (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator: Past Records** Sean Desai (DB coach) (new) 2020: 8-8 Hard Easy 2019: 8-8 2018: 12-4 LAR CLE BAL GB SEA MIN MIN PIT ARI LVR NYG DET DET 8 9 10 11 13 14 15 16 18 17 SNF MNF TNF SNF MNF Rest Edge: +1 -3 +3 -4 -1 -3

| Key P | layers | Lost |
|-------|--------|------|
|-------|--------|------|

| Player | New |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Barkevious Mingo (EDGE) | Falcons |
| Bobby Massie (RT) | Broncos |
| Brent Urban (IDL) | Cowboys |
| Cordarrelle Patterson (WR) | Falcons |
| DeAndre Carter (WR) | Washingt |
| Eddy Pineiro (K) | Colts |
| James Vaughters (EDGE) | Bears |
| John Jenkins (IDL) | Dolphins |
| Kyle Fuller (CB) | Broncos |
| Mitchell Trubisky (QB) | Bills |
| Rashaad Coward (RG) | Steelers |
| Roy Robertson-Harris (IDL) | Jaguars |
| Taylor Gabriel (WR) | Retired |
| Buster Skrine (CB) | TBD |
| Daniel McCullers (IDL) | TBD |
| Demetrius Harris (TE) | TBD |
| Dwayne Harris (WR) | TBD |
| Jason Spriggs (LT) | TBD |
| Sherrick McManis (CB) | TBD |

2021 Chicago Bears Overview

After starting out 5-1, the 2020 Chicago Bears were on a three-game losing streak heading into their biggest game of the season. Sitting at 5-4, they hosted the Minnesota Vikings in their only Monday night game of the season. A win, and they would be 6-4 heading into the bye. A loss, and they fall to 5-5 before the bye.

The team installed the offense. It was Matt Nagy's offense, as it had been since he was hired in 2018. The offense was never phenomenal. It progressively got worse under his watch. In 2018, Nagy's offense ranked 20th in efficiency. In 2019, it ranked 25th in efficiency. In 2020, through the first nine weeks, it ranked 28th in efficiency. The passing offense ranked 25th, the rushing offense ranked 31st. Even isolating passing or rushing individually, Nagy's Chicago offense never ranked top-15 in either discipline by season's end.

Despite the offensive struggles, the Bears went 12-4 in Nagy's inaugural 2018 campaign and squeaked out a .500 record in his second season after winning five of their final eight games.

The jokes about the Bears' 2019 offense were never about Matt Nagy. They were always about **Mitchell Trubisky**. Seemingly all offensive blame was heaped on Trubisky's feet after every bad offensive performance. It was rarely criticism of Nagy's offense.

Average Line # Games Favored Underdog

2.6 # Games Underdog

After all, the first stories we heard about Nagy in Chicago, before the team took their first snap under his watch, was his "Beautiful Mind" whiteboard concept he lifted from Andy Reid. Nagy had the team construct a 10-foot high by 16-foot wide whiteboard that he called the "Beautiful Mind" board, a reference to the 2001 film starring Russell Crowe as a mathematical genius who saw the world through a prism of equations and formulas. The purpose, as legend has it, is ideation, creation, and a

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Andy Dalton (QB) | \$10 |
| Angelo Blackson (IDL) | \$2.79 |
| Jeremiah Attaochu (EDGE) | \$2.79 |
| Damien Williams (RB) | \$1.5 |
| Christian Jones (LB) | \$1.2 |
| Marquise Goodwin (WR) | \$1.2 |
| Desmond Trufant (CB) | \$1.10 |
| Elijah Wilkinson (RT) | \$1.10 |
| Austin Calitro (LB) | \$0.90 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | 11 | QB - Justin Fields (Ohio State |
| 2 | 39 | OT - Teven Jenkins (Oklahoma State) |
| 5 | 151 | OT - Larry Borom (Missouri) |
| | 217 | RB - Khalil Herbert (Virginia Tech) |
| 6 | 221 | WR - Dazz Newsome (North Carolina) |
| | 228 | CB - Thomas Graham Jr. (Oregon) |
| 7 | 250 | DT - Khyiris Tonga (BYU) |
| 6 | 151 217 221 228 | (Oklahoma State) OT - Larry Borom (Missouri) RB - Khalil Herbert (Virginia Tech) WR - Dazz Newsome (North Carolina) CB - Thomas Graham Jr. (Oregon) |

Regular Season Wins: Lineup & Cap Hits





| LWR A.Robinson | 10 SlotWR D.Byrd NEW | 72 LT T.Jenkins C. Rookie | LG | 67 C fustipher | 68 RG J.Daniels | 74 RT G.lfedi | 85 TE C.Kmet | 11 RWR D.Mooney |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 17 WR2 A.Miller | 83 29 WR3 RB2 D.Newsome Rookie | QB2 | j | QB J.Fields Rookie | 24 RB Iontgomer | y - | | ap Dollars |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 22 | \$87.17M | 20 |
| QB | 13 | \$15.10M | 17 |
| OL | 31 | \$20.88M | 21 |
| RB | 18 | \$8.47M | 24 |
| WR | 7 | \$29.49M | 7 |
| TE | 5 | \$13.23M | 13 |
| All DEF | | \$99.66M | 4 |
| DL | 1 | \$62.48M | 2 |
| LB | 14 | \$16.23M | 19 |
| СВ | 31 | \$10.26M | 10 |
| S | 20 | \$10.70M | 22 |
| S | 20 | \$10.70M | 22 |

1

W DET

A 4 27

23

never-ending quest to uncover new concepts, plays, and wrinkles. That was the summer of 2018.

So when the Bears went 12-4 in the 2018 season after stories of Nagy's genius saturated the offseason, it was inevitable that any failure in future years wouldn't

But after the 8-8 season, 2020 was very important for the trajectory of Nagy's tenure. The 5-1 start signaled the team was on track, even though Nagy's then 24th ranked offense wasn't. But as the team lost three straight games, Nagy made a bold move.

He installed the Week 10 game plan against the Vikings. He worked with the team all week in practice. And then on Friday late afternoon, approximately 72 hours before kickoff, Nagy dropped a bombshell. He would step down from calling plays and allow new 2020 offensive coordinator Bill Lazor to call plays.

Lazor, of course, jumped at the opportunity, but was in a difficult position himself. Was Nagy giving Lazor a chance to prove himself or was Nagy sacrificing someone other than himself to the wolves?

It seemed if a change was to be made with the offensive coordinator, the best time to make that change would be Tuesday morning, after the Week 10 Monday night game against the Vikings, considering the team was entering a bye week. The new playcaller would have almost two weeks to get his team ready with a new style of offense. A new style certainly was needed, considering the current style resulted in the fifth-worst offense in the NFL.

The second-best time to make the change would have been Monday morning, after the third straight loss, at least giving the new playcaller almost a week to implement the offense.

Changing the playcaller Friday night was peculiar, though it wasn't the most peculiar aspect of the Bears' season.

In last year's Bears chapter, one of the recommendations I made was to increase the pass rate. On first downs in the first three quarters of games, the Bears were 50% pass. But passing generated 0.17 EPA/att with a 57% success rate and 7.0 YPA. Runs generated -0.11 EPA/att with a 44% success rate and 3.9 YPC.

2020 Passing Performance QB 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 60% Mitchell 5.5 Trubisky , .. 110.9 Rating 62.3 54% 60% 83% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.0 AVG Rating 95.4 96.0 **Pass Rate** 50% 60% 75%

| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| СНІ | 45% 4.2 | 47% 4.2 | 56% 3.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 46% | 40% | 17% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

Did the Bears increase the pass rate? No. The team still was at near 50/50 split (51% pass) even though passes were even more successful and runs were even worse:

First down passes: 59% success, 7.4 YPA, 0.01 EPA/att First down rushes: 31% success, 3.1 YPC, -0.14 EPA/att

How in the world did the Bears still call runs half the time with that type of split? It was criminal.

But that wasn't it. If we really want to dive deep, I'll showcase a number of three offensive changes the 28th ranked offense could have implemented to three offensive changes the 28th ranked one is could have been made in the offseason (cont'd - see CHI-3)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

Pass Efficiency Def

Pass Pro

Efficieincy De

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics 5 12 12 10 17 15 24 24 25 20 25 25 25 28 25 31 30 Offensive Efficiency Pass Efficiency Off Pass Pro Efficiency Off Rush Efficiency Off Explosive Pass Off **EDSR Off** 30 & In Off 3rd Down Off RB Pass Eff Of Red Zone Off YPPA Off YPPT Off Explosive

| <u>202</u> | 2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 2 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| W | W | L | W | w | L | L | L | L | L | L | W | W | W | L |
| NYG | ATL | IND | TB | CAR | LA | NO | TEN | MIN | GE | B DET | THOU | MIN | JAC | GB |
| Н | Α | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н |
| 4 | 4 | -8 | 1 | 7 | -14 | -3 | -7 | -6 | -10 | 6 -4 | 29 | 6 | 24 | -19 |
| 17 | 30 | 11 | 20 | 23 | 10 | 23 | 17 | 13 | 25 | 30 | 36 | 33 | 41 | 16 |
| 13 | 26 | 19 | 19 | 16 | 24 | 26 | 24 | 19 | 41 | 34 | 7 | 27 | 17 | 35 |



Defensive Efficiency 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Red Zone De EDSR 2020 Close Game **Records** WFFK

> All 2019 Wins: 8 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-1** FG Games Win %: **50% (#14)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 13% (#22)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 6-5 Score Games Win %: 55% (#12) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 75% (#7)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats**

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

RB Pass Eff Def

22

Explosive

| TO Margin | -4 |
|--------------------|----|
| TO Given | 22 |
| INT Given | 16 |
| FUM Given | 6 |
| TO Taken | 18 |
| INT Taken | 10 |
| FUM Taken | 8 |
| Sack Margin | -1 |
| Sacks | 35 |
| Sacks Allow | 36 |
| Return TD Margin | +0 |
| Ret TDs | 2 |
| Ret TDs Allow | 2 |
| Penalty Margin | +7 |
| Penalties | 88 |
| Opponent Penalties | 95 |

10

15

20

25

30

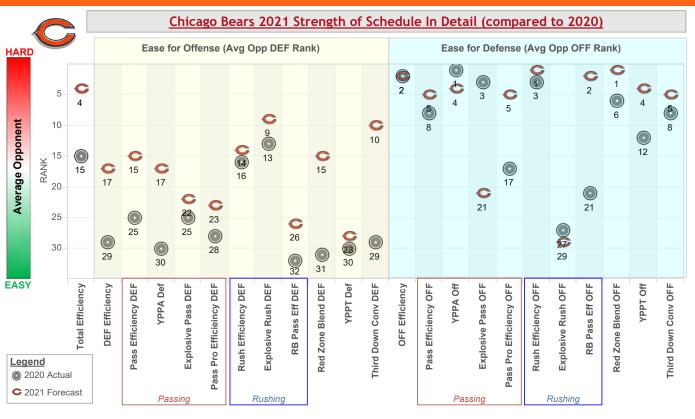
RESULT OPP

SITE MARGIN

PTS

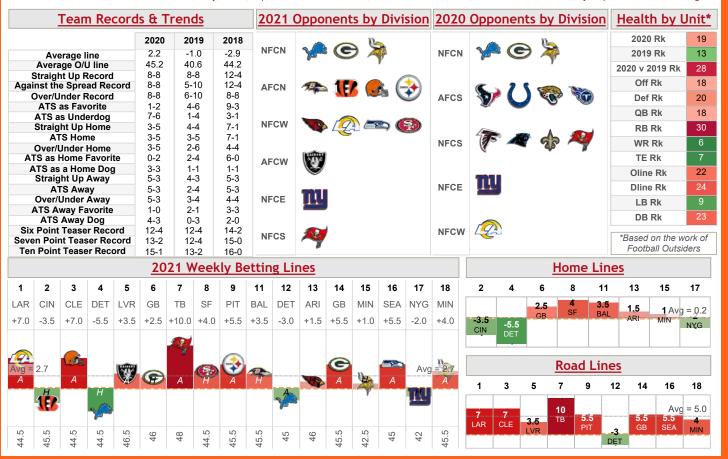
OPP PTS

Def



| 2021 vs 2020 Schedule Variances* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|--|--|--|--|
| Pass DEF Rk | 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 | 15 | 10 | 14 | 18 | 14 | 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







based on an in-depth analysis of the 2019 season results.

1. The Bears should have turned to 12 personnel far more often to pass the ball on early downs.

Look at the Bears passing splits when **Nick Foles** took over as a starter:

11 personnel: 49% success, 5.5 YPA, -0.20 EPA/att, 40% pressure rate 12 personnel: 80% success, 10.9 YPA, 0.52 EPA/att, 26% pressure rate 01 personnel: 53% success, 7.6 YPA, -0.06 EPA/att, 35% pressure rate

These splits are massive. The Bears passed from 11 and 01 personnel (3+ WR sets) on 80% of attempts, even though passing from 12 was significantly more efficient. The same was true in 2019 as well. Chicago was a heavy-11 personnel team on early down passes, but passing from 12 personnel was more efficient:

11 personnel: 50% success, 6.2 YPA, 0.02 EPA/att, 28% pressure rate

12 personnel: 58% success, 8.0 YPA, 0.06 EPA/att, 23% pressure rate

The Bears made substantial investments in the tight end position, rostering what felt like a dozen tight ends, and in 2020, signing **Jimmy Graham** in the offseason and then drafting **Cole Kmet** with their first pick of the draft. Even after that investment and while putting two tight ends on the field provided substantial upside in 2020, the Bears rarely did so.

2. The Bears continued to send Nick Foles on three-step drops in 11 personnel, but he was terrible with these drops and the pressure rates were incredibly high.

When Foles used three-step drops from 11 personnel, the results were terrible: 33% success, 5.3 YPA, -0.23 EPA/att, 62% pressure rate, and 13% sack rate. But they continued to use these drops over and over again.

3. The Bears continually would design short passes off of early down play-action, but short passes off play-action don't take advantage of the purpose of play action which is to hold or pull up linebackers and other defenders in the secondary.

Foles on early down play-action based on target depth:

under 5 yards: 48% success, 4.3 YPA, -0.29 EPA/att over 5 yards: 75% success, 12.1 YPA, 0.66 EPA/att

Even if you eliminate passes when Foles was pressured, which may have forced a short pass, and looked instead at clean pocket, the offense threw short far too often with negative EPA produced and under 5.0 YPA, while passes over five yards recorded 0.75 EPA/att and over 12 YPA.

When Lazor took over playcalling on Friday night before Week 10's game, there was little chance to implement many of the key changes to improve the offense. The Bears lost to the Vikings 19-13.

Following that game, however, Lazor was able to modify a few more elements and the Bears offense did something it never did under Matt Nagy in the prior 2.5 years.

Nagy's Bears had never scored over 24 points in four straight games... until Bill Lazor took over playcalling. With Lazor on the headset, Chicago scored over 24 points in five straight games, without getting a single defensive point in any of those games. After the Week 11 bye, Chicago came out and put up 25, 30, 36, 33, and 41 points in consecutive weeks. They should have gone 4-1 in those five games. The offense built a 30-20 lead over the Lions, but the Bears defense allowed two touchdowns in the final three minutes of the fourth quarter to lose at home, so the Bears went 3-2 instead.

Thanks to the late surge by the offense in those final weeks of the season, the Bears made the playoffs at 8-8 before being dispatched promptly by the Saints. The late surge coincided with the return of Mitchell Trubisky as quarterback and the benching of Nick Foles.

While it might be easy to point to Trubisky being the reason, rather than Lazor, it's important to realize three factors. First, quarterbacks will always be tightly linked to their playcaller, and it's hard for a bad quarterback to perform well without good playcalling. Second, the Bears played several bad defenses along the way which helped everyone. including Lazor and Trubisky. Third, and perhaps most important, over those final six games, Lazor got Trubisky to exceed 68% completions in every single game.

(cont'd - see CHI-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game to prep prep 5 6 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Chicago Bears Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank** Rank Rank 30 28 27 26 25 24

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The Bears are expected to face the toughest set of opposing offenses in the NFL this season. They will face eight offenses that ranked in the top 11 in offensive EPA per play last year.
- Chicago has the second worst net rest advantage in the NFL at 14 games. Their road schedule is extremely difficult as they have to travel to face the Rams, Seattle, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Tampa Bay on top of their annual trips to Green Bay and Minnesota.
- The Bears defense took a hit in the secondary with the loss of CB **Kyle Fuller**, who has posted 70+ PFF coverage grades in four of his last five seasons. He was replaced by veteran **Desmond Trufant**, who was atrocious last season. He graded out as the 133rd worst cornerback in coverage by PFF, out of 136 qualified CBs.

7.5



Why Bet the Over

- If QB Justin Fields turns out to be another Deshaun Watson, his presence alone can improve this offense enough to exceed their win total. The Bears offense has ranked 24th and 27th in EPA per play the last two seasons.
- Under QBs Nick Foles and Mitch Trubisky, the Bears' offense ranked dead last in third down conversions over expected. Fields's talent should help improve the third down numbers enough to extend more drives and increase scoring opportunities.
- Foles and Trubisky ranked sixth and 10th, respectively, in PFF's turnover worthy throws on deep passes.

| Chicago Bears Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21 26 24 25 7 22 23 | | | | | | | | | | |

The Bears' quarterback room probably has the most potential to dramatically outperform our ranking. Though we have to keep modest expectations for rookies, **Justin Fields's** elite athleticism gives him the potential to immediately change the direction of this franchise.

David Montgomery is a steady downhill runner, but he lacks the explosive ability to make this a dangerous backfield. When running outside the tackles, Montgomery picked up just 4.1 yards per carry (ranked 26th).

Few teams have a number-one weapon as talented as **Allen Robinson**, but the depth is atrocious. Non-Robinson receivers and tight ends averaged just 6.0 yards per target in 2020. With free agent **Damiere Byrd** and rookie **Dazz Newsome** as the most notable offseason additions, this is likely to remain among the league's worst units.

The Bears' offensive line appeared to take a nice step forward with the addition of rookie **Teven Jenkins**, but the post-draft release of LT **Charles Leno** erased any progress. The unit now likely opens the season with a rookie left tackle (Jenkins) and potentially a rookie right tackle (**Larry Borom**).

Khalil Mack anchors a strong front seven, which ranks in the top 10, but a lack of depth holds the unit back from reaching an elite level. On third-and-long, the Bears ranked 25th with a pressure rate of 43.8%—so while Mack is great, teams can shut down Chicago's pass rush when needed.

The secondary was dealt a significant blow by the loss of **Kyle Fuller**, and **Desmond Trufant** is not an adequate replacement. Trufant has been torched in consecutive seasons, allowing 10.3 yards per target in 2019 and 8.4 in 2020. This unit is trending in the wrong direction fast.

We've seen enough of Matt Nagy through his three years in Chicago to know the offensive genius tag bestowed upon him in Kansas City was unwarranted. The offense taking a noticeable step forward when OC Bill Lazor took over playcalling duties was a damning indictment of Nagy, and his bottom-10 ranking feels fairly locked in at this stage of his career.

<u>CHI-4</u>

While that may seem like a low threshold, Trubisky had exceeded 68% completions for more than two games in a row just one other time in his career (mid-2018) when he did it for four games in a row. He did it in five games in a row only once — all under Lazor. Considering Trubisky was 51-for-86 (59%) with 6.5 YPA under Nagy earlier in 2020 against three below-average pass defenses to start the season (Lions, Falcons, and Giants), Lazor's ability to get 74% completions and 7.6 YPA out of him the final five weeks of the year is absolutely notable.

But that's all in the past, as Matt Nagy took back playcalling duties this offseason and will once again lead the charge in 2021.

Nagy could take some tips from Lazor. During those final five games, Lazor used play-action on 53% of early down plays in the first three quarters of games. That was the second highest rate of any team in the NFL down the stretch. In his games, Nagy used play-action on 45% of early down plays (still above average but not nearly the rate of Lazor). The splits for play-action in general were massive for the Bears (substantially better with it) and Chicago needs to implement more of it in 2021.

In addition to significantly more play-action, Lazor increased the usage of pre-snap motion. Look at the splits:

Nagy: 35% usage, -0.13 EPA/play, 41% success, 4.9 yards/play Lazor: 42% usage, 0.08 EPA/play, 55% success, 6.1 yards/play

<u>CHI-5</u>

Lazor also unlocked efficiency from 11 personnel. Let's scrap fourth quarter garbage time and compare Nagy's first nine weeks with Lazor after the bye (six weeks) from 11 personnel:

Nagy: 5.0 YPA, 39% success, -0.33 EPA/att Lazor: 8.2 YPA, 58% success, 0.23 EPA/att

Going back to Nagy's outstanding 2018 first season and looking only at 11 personnel with Mitchell Trubisky (since that's who Lazor worked with) from 2018-2020 with Nagy calling plays:

Nagy: 6.7 YPA, 46% success, 0.01 EPA/att

Another thing that Lazor unlocked which Nagy could not was getting efficiency out of passes to running backs. Splits:

Nagy: 5.3 YPA, 47% success, 0.00 EPA/att Lazor: 8.1 YPA, 66% success, 0.43 EPA/att

To summarize: Lazor used more play-action and pre-snap motion, and got more out of each. Lazor got substantially more out of Mitchell Trubisky, and had significantly more success when calling plays in 11 personnel. Lazor got much more out of passes to running backs, despite not having **Tarik Cohen** to work with. There were many other things that were more efficient under Lazor (passes to WRs, TEs, etc) but I wanted to hit on those with the largest variance

Frankly, having seen the way 2019 went and then seeing the first half of 2020 as compared to the second half, I have to say: if the goal is the most efficient offense possible, I don't know why Matt Nagy is taking back playcalling duties.

We know it's a team effort designing the offense, so certainly there will be things that Lazor introduced down the stretch that worked and will bleed into the 2021 Bears offense. I don't know how much control Lazor will have, despite being labeled the offensive coordinator, but I can

(cont'd - see CHI-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

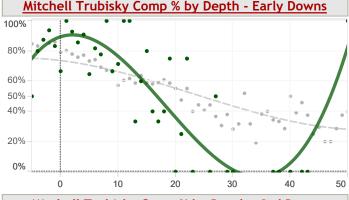


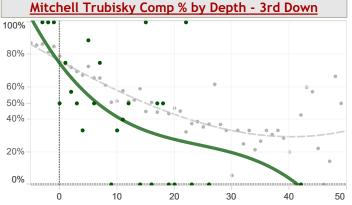
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--|-----|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4 | | Being Blown Out (14+) Down Big (9-13) | | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | |
| | David Montgomery | 11% | 8% | 69% | 5% | 7% | | | | | |
| | Allen Robinson | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| _ | Darnell Mooney | | | 75% | | 25% | | | | | |
| RUSH | Cordarrelle Patterson | 9% | 8% | 69% | 8% | 6% | | | | | |
| " | Anthony Miller | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| | Cole Kmet | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 10% | 8% | 70% | 5% | 7% | | | | | |
| | David Montgomery | 28% | 19% | 42% | 4% | 6% | | | | | |
| | Allen Robinson | 21% | 10% | 57% | 5% | 7% | | | | | |
| | Darnell Mooney | 24% | 15% | 54% | 5% | 2% | | | | | |
| PASS | Cordarrelle Patterson | | 13% | 71% | 13% | 4% | | | | | |
| A | Anthony Miller | 21% | 13% | 59% | 4% | 4% | | | | | |
| | Jimmy Graham | 31% | 13% | 52% | 1% | 3% | | | | | |
| | Cole Kmet | 7% | 9% | 57% | 13% | 15% | | | | | |
| | Total | 21% | 13% | 55% | 5% | 5% | | | | | |





2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 46%, -0.08 (433) | 58%, 0.16 (97) | 42%, -0.15 (59) | 50%, -0.35 (26) | 63%, 0.28 (32) | 33%, 0.00 (9) | 60%, 0.59 (5) | 33%, -0.92 (3) | | 48%, -0.05 (665) |
| RUSH | 54%, 0.00 (179) | 44%, -0.02 (111) | 47%, -0.19 (30) | 26%, -0.24 (42) | 46%, -0.03 (24) | 20%, -0.15 (5) | 25%, -0.39 (8) | 100%, 0.64 (1) | 100%, 2.90 (1) | 46%, -0.05 (401) |
| All | 49%, -0.06 (612) | 50%, 0.06 (208) | 44%, -0.16 (89) | 35%, -0.28 (68) | 55%, 0.15 (56) | 29%, -0.06 (14) | 38%, -0.01 (13) | 50%, -0.53 (4) | 100%, 2.90 (1) | 48%, -0.05 (1,066) |

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

| | Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| POS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RB | David Mont gomery | 53% (55) 6.2, 0.06 | 100% (5) 7.4, 0.55 | 33% (3) 10.3, 0.72 | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.57 | 55% (64) 6.4, 0.10 | | | | | | |
| | Tarik Cohen | 33% (9) 4.6, -0.06 | | | | 33% (9) 4.6, -0.06 | | | | | | |
| TE | Jimmy Graham | 58% (43) 6.4, -0.04 | 67% (18) 7.4, 0.46 | | | 61% (61) 6.7, 0.11 | | | | | | |
| WR | Allen Robinson | 59% (100) 8.3, 0.17 | 54% (24) 9.0, 0.20 | 67% (3) 9.0, 0.49 | | 58% (127) 8.4, 0.18 | | | | | | |
| | Darnell Mooney | 44% (61) 5.7, -0.01 | 63% (16) 7.9, 0.12 | | | 48% (77) 6.2, 0.01 | | | | | | |
| | Anthony Miller | 44% (63) 6.1, 0.05 | 100% (2) 8.5, 0.18 | | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.25 | 45% (66) 6.1, 0.03 | | | | | | |
| | Cordarrelle Patterson | 33% (6) 3.8, -0.45 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.67 | | | 29% (7) 3.3, -0.48 | | | | | | |

| Rushing Success b | у То | p-4 | Personnel | Groupings |
|-------------------|-------|------|------------------|------------------|
| | (Lead | erbo | ard) | |

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Montgomer | 55% (132) | 41% (88) | 100% (1) | 0% (2) | 49% (223) |
| y David | 4.8, -0.02 | 4.3, -0.03 | 11.0, 0.76 | 1.0, -0.46 | 4.6, -0.03 |
| Trubisky | 62% (26) | 80% (5) | | 50% (2) | 64% (33) |
| Mitchell | 6.8, 0.16 | 2.6, 0.46 | | 5.5, 0.28 | 6.1, 0.21 |
| Cohen Tarik | 75% (8) 7.6, 0.45 | 20% (5) 2.0, -0.31 | | | 54% (13) 5.5, 0.16 |
| Foles Nick | 0% (2) | 100% (1) | 0% (6) | 0% (1) | 10% (10) |
| | 1.0, -0.54 | 1.0, 1.02 | -1.0, -0.94 | 2.0, -0.43 | -0.1, -0.61 |
| Patterson | 0% (3) | 60% (5) | 100% (1) | | 44% (9) |
| Cordarrelle | 1.0, -0.53 | 3.0, -0.07 | 3.0, 1.76 | | 2.3, -0.02 |

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 | | Passing by Route | | Throw Types | | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | Level 1 | 58% (445) 6.1, 0.10 | 3 Step | 48% (225) 6.7, 0.07 | Planted | | % (431) 1, 0.15 | Outside Zone | 45% (127) 4.2, -0.07 |
| | | Curl | 68% (96) 6.6, 0.24 | | | 0/1 Step | 58% (172) | Moving | | 47% (103) 4.5, -0.26 | | 57% (86) |
| Zone | 56% (356) 6.8, 0.05 | Out | 46% (67) | Level 2 | 45% (109) 8.2, 0.08 | or r otep | 5.9, 0.11 | Shuffling 39% (101) 5.2, -0.10 | | Zone | 5.0, 0.04 | |
| | | | 4.9, -0.01 | | | 5 Step | 48% (67) 8.2, 0.04 | | | , | Stretch | 49% (45) 4.5, 0.00 |
| | 48% (187) | Slant | 67% (51) | Level 3 | 25% (44) 8.7, -0.20 | Basimand | 53% (53) | | Play Action | | | 43% (21) |
| M2M | 6.5, 0.11 | | 7.7, 0.43 | | | Designed Rollout Right | 5.2, -0.07 | | Play Action | No P/A | Lead | 2.8, -0.03 |
| | | Dig | 35% (20) | Sidearm | 46% (13) 4.6, -0.29 | _ | 63% (19) | Under Center | 59% (109) 8.6, 0.29 | 48% (27) 6.0, -0.16 | | 35% (20) |
| | 38% (45) | Dig | 5.4, -0.60 | | 60% (5) 3.6, 0.17 | 7 Step | 10.7, 0.40 | Shotgun | 56% (82) 6.7, 0.00 | 45% (455) 5.8, -0.13 | Pitch | 3.2, -0.32 |
| Screen | 3.6, -0.24 | Drag | 33% (18) 4.9, -0.39 | Shovel | | Basic Screen | 17% (12) 2.8, -0.86 | ALL | 58% (191) 7.8, 0.16 | 45% (482) 5.8, -0.13 | Power | 50% (18) 4.8, 0.10 |

<u>CHI-6</u>

imagine Nagy will (at worst) take a variety of things Lazor was successful with and improve the Bears offense.

This is not to take a knock at Nagy as a head coach. After all, since 2018, the Bears have 42 wins or one-score losses. The only teams with more? The Chiefs, Ravens, Seahawks, and Saints. That's extremely impressive, especially when you consider those quarterbacks (**Patrick Mahomes**, **Lamar Jackson**, **Russell Wilson**, and **Drew Brees**). Nagy was getting it done with Mitchell Trubisky and Nick Foles. Nagy should be far from being on the hot seat, but I absolutely would have kept playcalling with Bill Lazor for the 2021 season.

What is the worst that happens? The playcalling falls off the rails during the year and Nagy reclaims it at that point? At least he buys himself more time. There is no move, no other out at this point. He's already given up playcalling duties once and saw his assistant upstage him. If the offense sputters now, it's goodbye Matt Nagy. For a variety of reasons, it was a bad choice for Nagy to take back playcalling duties this offseason.

But let's talk about a good choice, and that was when the Bears traded up to draft **Justin Fields**. The only thing I disliked about the Bears' draft was they gave up the second-most 2022 draft capital of any team in the NFL. That's about it. If you see a potential franchise quarterback staring you in the face, you absolutely must go grab him, so I understand why the Bears made the move to get Fields. I think there's a great chance he'll breathe some life into this Bears offense, assuming Nagy spends the offseason focusing on what has worked and what hasn't over the last two years and optimizes things for Fields.

Only three college quarterbacks since 2004 have two seasons where they ranked top-15 in QBR, and Justin Fields is one of them. Two top-five picks, **Baker Mayfield** and **Tua Tagovailoa**, are the others.

According to our Dan Pizzuta, Fields's 73% completion percentage in 2020 on throws between 11-19 yards past the line of scrimmage was the third-highest figure among 542 quarterback seasons with at least 35 such attempts since 2016. He ranked 18th in 2019. He is the only quarterback with two seasons in the top-20 since 2016.

The Bears did not get success downfield from either Nick Foles or Mitchell Trubisky. Justin Fields solves that problem. Not only was he great in that mid-range as mentioned above, but his career average depth of target (10.7 yards) and average depth of completion (8.6 yards) were both first

(cont'd - see CHI-7)





among the top-five guarterbacks drafted in the 2021 class.

Fields also adds a tremendous element on the ground which gives a creative play designer a ton to work with.

So yes, it's fair to be optimistic in Chicago. But it's also fair to hate the 2021 schedule with a passion. That's because it's brutal from both a strength of opponent and strength of timing standpoint.

The Bears have the third worst net rest edge in games. They rank 28th in my prep metric, facing a NFL-high six opponents that have over a week to prepare for them. They rank 27th in my rest metric, playing an NFL-high five games with a rest disadvantage. Their bye week is negated by their opponent coming off long rest with a Thursday night game the week prior and they play two short-week road games, most in the NFL. The Bears play four straight games (Weeks 13-16) where they are at a rest disadvantage.

The strength of opponent is also terrible. The Bears play the sixth toughest schedule based on forecasted win totals and the toughest schedule based on opponent 2020 efficiency rankings. The Bears passing attack played the 25th toughest schedule of pass defenses last year, something I was nearly dead-on accurate predicting (I predicted they would face the 23rd toughest schedule). This year, I project they will face the seventh-toughest schedule of pass defenses, making it one of the most difficult increases in schedule strength for any team in the NFL.

If there is hope in the schedule, it's that the Bears could start off well. In their first five games, they play the fifth-easiest schedule and play zero games with a rest disadvantage. But from Week 6 onward, they play the NFL's second-toughest schedule and are at a rest disadvantage in five games.

Immediate Impact of Chicago Bears 2021 Draft Class

Predictably, the GM/HC duo on the hottest seat went all-in on their 2021 draft class, but came away with a strong class after a series of aggressive moves.

Even if QB **Justin Fields** (first round) doesn't take over immediately, we'll almost certainly see him on the field this fall. He brings a level of athleticism the franchise has never seen at the quarterback position. Bears fans should be thrilled to have Fields as their quarterback of the future, but they should keep immediate expectations in check.

One concern with Fields is his inability to handle pressure. In 2020, Fields took a sack or threw an interception on 22.3% of his dropbacks versus pressure, easily the worst rate of the first-round quarterbacks.

If the Indiana and Northwestern defenses were giving him trouble, he's going to make some rookie mistakes in the NFL.

An area where Fields should immediately excel is on the deep ball. On throws 20 or more yards downfield, he generated an on-target rate of 67.7% last season. For some context, **Mitchell Trubisky's** rate during his final collegiate season was 57.3%.

OT Teven Jenkins (second round) likely has the left tackle job locked up, following the release of longtime starter Charles Leno.

This is a surprising development, as Jenkins was a three-year starter on the right side at Oklahoma State. However, Jenkins tested extremely well for his size, indicating he has the athleticism teams prefer on the left side. With Jenkins shifting to left tackle, OT **Larry Borom** (fifth round) may also have a shot at a starting job at right tackle.

Borom is coming off a breakout year—his first full season at right tackle—and could prove to be a late-round steal. Against Missouri's toughest opponents, Alabama and Georgia, Borom committed just one blown block in 74 snaps in pass protection.

WR **Dazz Newsome** (sixth round) was a productive slot receiver at North Carolina, averaging 13.9 yards per target on 167 targets in the slot over the last two seasons.

Anthony Miller has been rumored to be on the trade block this offseason, which could create an easy path to playing time for Newsome if Miller is eventually moved.

This has the potential to be a franchise-altering draft class for Chicago, mostly because of Fields. However, a valid criticism of their process would be the cost of trading up for Fields and Jenkins, which left them with only five draft picks in 2022.

If things go sideways in 2020, the Bears will be in a terrible position next offseason. That said, that feels more like a failure on the part of ownership than by GM Rvan Pace.

It has been widely assumed Pace and head coach Matt Nagy are fighting for their jobs this season, so it's entirely understandable they would go all-in and sacrifice the future for the 2021 season.

The trade up for Fields was justified, but if Pace and Nagy had more job security, perhaps they would have handled the rest of the draft differently and protected their future assets.

Chicago Bears 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

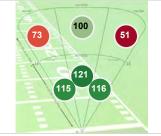
The Chicago passing game once again bordered on disaster in 2020 as the Bears closed the season 23rd in EPA passing, 27th in yards per pass attempt (6.4 yards), and 30th in yards per completed pass (9.8 yards). Starting Mitchell Trubisky for nine games and Nick Foles for seven, the Bears appeared to be heading into 2021 on a similar path of kicking the can on pedestrian quarterback play when they signed Andy Dalton this offseason, but the team provided new hope trading up to the No. 11 spot for Justin Fields. Fields enters the NFL ranking in the 97th percentile in career TD/INT rate (7.4:1), 94th percentile in career completion rating (68.4%), and 93rd percentile in career yards per pass attempt (9.2 Y/A) for all prospects since 2000 while also coming out in the 85th percentile in career rushing output among the same group.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Mitchell Trubisky | 217 | 325 | 67% | 2,250 | 6.9 | 17 | 8 | 19 | 94 | 23 | |
| Nick Foles | 202 | 312 | 65% | 1,853 | 5.9 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 81 | 36 | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| ks | Rating | Rk | -10 |
|----|--------|----|-----|
| 9 | 94 | 23 | |
| 3 | 81 | 36 | |
| | 90.1 | | |
| | | | |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10

Mitchell Trubisky Rating **Early Downs**



Air Yds vs YAC

| 2020 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 % |
| Nick Foles | 44% | 50% | 24 | 8.0% | 7 | 2.0% | 5.3 | 3.9 | 16 | 5% |
| Mitchell Trubisky | 53% | 60% | 20 | 6.0% | 4 | 1.0% | 5.2 | 5.2 | 6 | 2% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

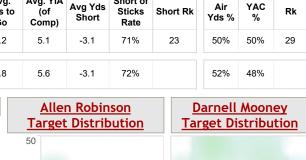
| <u>In</u> | Interception Rates by Down | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4th Dwn | Total | | | | | | |
| 1 & 2 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4.2% | 0.0% | 1.7% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 2.3% | 6.1% | 0.0% | 3.7% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.7% | 3.4% | 7.7% | 0.0% | 2.5% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| Total | 1.5% | 1.7% | 4.4% | 0.0% | 2.3% | | | | | | |

| <u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | |
| Mitchell Trubisky | 8.2 | 5.1 | -3.1 | 71% | 23 | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Attached to Trubisky and Foles, it is no surprise that Chicago ranked 26th in yards per target to their wide receivers (7.1 yards) and 31st to their tight ends (5.6 yards). That said, no matter the quarterback, **Allen Robinson** just continues to produce. Robinson dominated opportunities as he received 151 targets (third in the NFL). Darnell Mooney ended the season fifth among all rookies in receptions (61) and seventh in yardage (631 yards) to go along with four touchdowns. Cole Kmet only played 34.4% of the Chicago snaps through nine games, catching six passes over that span on eight targets. For the rest of the season, Kmet played 84.6% of the team snaps, catching 22-of-36 targets (5.1 per game) for 164 yards and a touchdown.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Allen Robinson | 153 | 68% | 8.0 | 91.5 | 58% | 33 | 29 | 39 | 71 | 6 |
| Darnell Mooney | 93 | 61% | 6.3 | 81.0 | 48% | 102 | 109 | 69 | 63 | 3 |
| Anthony Miller | 78 | 64% | 6.3 | 74.4 | 42% | 122 | 113 | 115 | 44 | 2 |
| Jimmy Graham | 75 | 67% | 6.1 | 105.9 | 57% | 38 | 48 | 50 | 55 | 9 |
| David Montgomery | 67 | 79% | 6.3 | 102.9 | 55% | 56 | 98 | 99 | 30 | 2 |



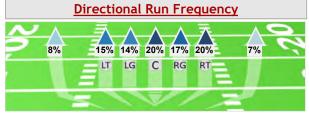
40 Pass Distance (in air) 30 20 10 0 -10

2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Chicago was 18th in the NFL in rushing expected points in 2020 and 30th in rushing success rate (46%). They have gotten solid production from David Montgomery over the opening two seasons of his rookie contract. After 1,074 yards and seven scores as a rookie (4.0 yards per touch), Montgomery produced 1,508 yards and 10 touchdowns (5.0 yards/touch) in 2020. Montgomery closed the 2020 season with eight touchdowns with over 100 yards in each of those games. The jump for Montgomery stemmed from a workload spike. He averaged 20.1 touches per game (seventh) and handled a league-high 89.1% of the Chicago backfield touches. After Tarik Cohen was injured, Montgomery went from running a pass route on 37.8% of the team drop backs up to 69.0% afterward. Damien Williams was added this offseason.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| David Montgomery | 259 | 4.3 | 47% | 70 | 51 | 73 | 31 | 45% | 73 | 8 |
| Cordarrelle Patterson | 64 | 3.6 | 50% | 52 | 19 | 8 | 85 | 50% | 45 | 1 |





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Can Justin Fields Break the Cycle of Bad Bears Quarterbacks?

The Bears have had as long of running ineptitude at the quarterback position as any team in the league and that rolls right over into fantasy. The last time the Bears have had a top-12 scoring fantasy quarterback for fantasy was Erik Kramer back in 1995.

With Justin Fields, the Bears have their best shot at cracking that streak, but can it happen in 2021?

Fields enters the NFL ranking in the 97th percentile in career TD/INT rate (7.4:1), 94th percentile in career completion rating (68.4%), and 93rd percentile in career yards per pass attempt (9.2 Y/A) for all prospects since 2000 while also coming out in the 85th percentile in career rushing output among the same group.

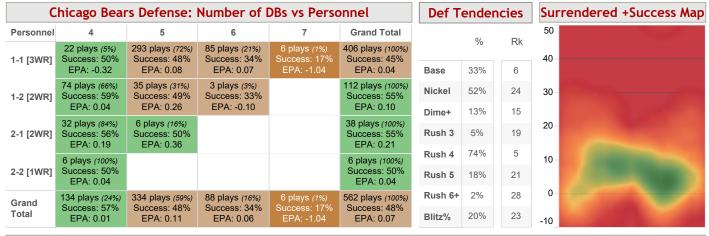
The latter point is the point of emphasis here. Among the 11 quarterbacks this past season to average at least 20 fantasy points per game, only Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady had single-digit percentage of their fantasy production come via rushing while the average among those players was 20.1% even including those two veteran passers. Among the top-12 scorers in rushing points per game at quarterback, the only ones that were not top-12 scorers in points per game were Cam Newton, Carson Wentz, and Teddy Bridgewater. Fields may not end up as a top-12 scorer over the full season if he does not start the season, but when he does start, can immediately be a top-12 per game scorer due to his rushing floor and passing ability. So when does Fields start?

Fields should immediately push **Andy Dalton** to start as early as Week 1. Since 2008, we have had 39 quarterbacks selected in the first round. 17 of them started immediately in Week 1. 26 of those players were starting for their organizations by Week 4 of the season. 29 of those players started more than half of the team games as a rookie. The only first-round rookie quarterbacks to actually not start a game in their rookie season out of those 39 players were Jake Locker in 2011 and Jordan Love a year ago.

Throw a Dart on Darnell Mooney

Although he was the 24th rookie wide receiver selected last season in the draft, Mooney ended the season fifth among all rookies in receptions (61) and seventh in yardage (631 yards) to go along with four touchdowns. As a 4.38 speedster, Mooney only averaged just 10.3 yards per reception as a rookie, however because nobody could get him the ball downfield. Mooney received 23 targets on throws over 20 yards downfield (tied for 15th in the NFL), but connected on just four of those targets (17.4%). Just six were deemed catchable per Pro Football Focus (28.6%), which was 52nd in the league.

With the selection of **Justin Fields**, the Bears and Mooney get attached to one of the most prolific deep-ball prospects to enter the league over the past five years. Fields ranks sixth among all prospects since 2016 in on-target rate (67.7%) on those throws 20 or more yards in the air.



Defensive Outlook

Individually, the Bears have one of the best interior defensive lines for creating pressure. **Akiem Hicks** was 15th among all defenders in quarterback hits and 18th in pressure rate among defensive tackles, according to SIS. He wasn't even the best on a per-play basis. **Mario Edwards** was fourth and **Bilal Nichols** was 12th. That pressure didn't always come quickly off the snap, but there is the upside for pressure there. All three return for 2021, as does **Eddie Goldman**, who opted out of the 2020 season.

Khalil Mack was just 59th among edge rushers in pressure rate. He did come in fifth among edge rushers in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate, so that's something. **Robert Quinn** was brought in on a five-year deal last offseason and after a few years on the Pass Rush Win Rate leaderboard, he was 61st in pressure rate. As a team, the Bears were 20th in pressure rate and relied on a four-man rush at the fifth-highest rate in the league last season at 74%.

Trevis Gipson has some upside as a 2020 fifth-round pick but got on the field for just 7% of the defensive snaps in his rookie season. Jeremiah Attaochu was brought in as some depth after five sacks with the Broncos last season. He ranked 35th in pressure rate. Roquan Smith is still one of the best off-ball linebackers in the league while he played 95% of the defensive snaps. It was not as good outside of him. Danny Trevethan played 77% of the defensive snaps and looked slow, especially in coverage. He allowed 10.73 yards per target in coverage, which was the worst among 59 linebackers with at least 20 targets charted at them, per SIS. That figure was also a yard more than the second-worst linebacker at 9.74.

Trevathan was particularly picked on by the Packers and Lions in those four divisional games. When the teams that know the opposing personnel the best are picking on a specific player, that's a sign.

Jaylon Johnson had a number of flashes as a rookie. He was tied for sixth among defenders in passes defensed. But there were some lapses and he finished 109th among 148 qualified cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. That's still impressive for a rookie as many other first-year corners, especially the highly-drafted ones, were down toward the bottom.

There are a number of question marks behind him. To save cap space, the team chose to part ways with **Kyle Fuller**. That leaves **Desmond Trufant**, who signed in the offseason after he ranked 117th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap with the Lions last season. **Artie Burns** is likely to man the slot when he's healthy. Burns was originally signed last offseason but suffered a torn ACL in training camp and missed all of 2020. **Eddie Jackson** had been one of the league's best young safeties but his ability to play a do-it-all type role was hindered by his need to do it all. **Tashon Gipson** played 98% of the defensive snaps and he re-signed after the draft. Gibson will be the first defensive backfield partner for Jackson to return for a second season since **Adrian Amos** was allowed to hit free agency. Behind them, **Deon Bush** (6.2% of the defensive snaps played) and **DeAndre Houston-Carson** (8.5%) are the next in line.

2020 Play Tendencies All Pass % 60% 12 All Pass Rk All Rush % 40% All Rush Rk 21 1 Score Pass % 57% 1 Score Pass Rk 17 2019 1 Score Pass % 62% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 2020 Pass Increase % -5% Pass Increase Rk 27 1 Score Rush % 43% 1 Score Rush Rk 16 Up Pass % 55% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 45% Up Rush Rk 14 Down Pass % 64% Down Pass Rk 8 Down Rush % 36% Down Rush Rk 25

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 7 | 43% | 57% | 29% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 13 | 23% | 77% | 69% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 315 | 50% | 50% | 51% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 7 | 57% | 43% | 43% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 46 | 41% | 59% | 76% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 97 | 61% | 39% | 54% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 79 | 62% | 38% | 42% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 37 | 78% | 22% | 35% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 48 | 52% | 48% | 58% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 55 | 96% | 4% | 36% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 27 | 100% | 0% | 15% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 21 | 100% | 0% | 14% | | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 6 | 33% | 67% | 67% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 4 | 50% | 50% | 50% | | | | |



34% 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 | | | | | | |
| 69% | 17 | 67% | 83% | 75% | | | | | | |
| | 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | | |

33%

73%

59%

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | PASS | Allen Robinson | 2 | 50% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | David Montgomery | 6 | 83% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | David Montgomery | 92 | 39% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Darnell Mooney | 2 | 0% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | David Montgomery | 23 | 78% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | David Montgomery | 23 | 52% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | David Montgomery | 21 | 29% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Allen Robinson | 8 | 63% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | David Montgomery | 14 | 64% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Anthony Miller | 12 | 33% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Allen Robinson | 5 | 0% |
| | | | Anthony Miller | 5 | 20% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | David Montgomery | 5 | 0% |

| Offen | sive Performance | w Motion (Pre Sn | Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | | | | |
| No | Success: 47% | Success: 53% | Success: 48% | | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.09 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.05 | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.06 | | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 80.0 | Rtg: 89.5 | Rtg: 81.9 | | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 364 - Rate: 54.1%] | [Att: 89 - Rate: 13.2%] | [Att: 453 - Rate: 67.3%] | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 39% | Success: 62% | Success: 50% | | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 5.6, EPA: -0.27 | YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.26 | YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.02 | | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 98.2 | Rtg: 108.3 | Rtg: 103.9 | | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 118 - Rate: 17.5%] | [Att: 102 - Rate: 15.2%] | [Att: 220 - Rate: 32.7%] | | | | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 45% | Success: 58% | Success: 49% | | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.13 | YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.16 | YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.05 | | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 84.1 | Rtg: 100.2 | Rtg: 88.7 | | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 482 - Rate: 71.6%] | [Att: 191 - Rate: 28.4%] | [Att: 673 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | | | | |

31%

16

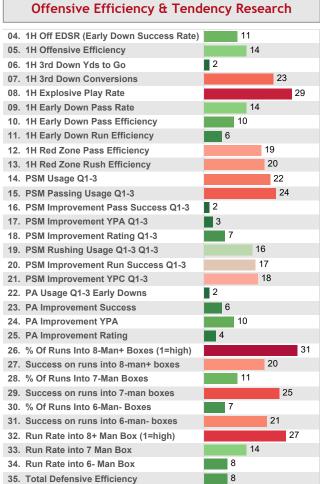
| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Allen Robinson | Darnell Mooney | David Mon tgomery | Jimmy Graham | Cole Kmet | Anthony Miller | Javon Wims | Demetrius Harris | Tarik Cohen |
| 1 | DET | W 27-23 | 53 (82%) | 21 (32%) | 29 (45%) | 52 (80%) | 20 (31%) | 27 (42%) | 23 (35%) | 26 (40%) | 30 (46%) |
| 2 | NYG | W 17-13 | 53 (82%) | 39 (60%) | 35 (54%) | 40 (62%) | 22 (34%) | 26 (40%) | 29 (45%) | 36 (55%) | 21 (32%) |
| 3 | ATL | W 30-26 | 64 (78%) | 51 (62%) | 46 (56%) | 55 (67%) | 26 (32%) | 47 (57%) | 23 (28%) | 34 (41%) | 26 (32%) |
| 4 | IND | L 19-11 | 55 (89%) | 46 (74%) | 53 (85%) | 41 (66%) | 15 (24%) | 43 (69%) | 10 (16%) | 23 (37%) | |
| 5 | TB | W 20-19 | 55 (87%) | 41 (65%) | 51 (81%) | 48 (76%) | 21 (33%) | 26 (41%) | 17 (27%) | 28 (44%) | |
| 6 | CAR | W 23-16 | 58 (88%) | 44 (67%) | 56 (85%) | 45 (68%) | 23 (35%) | 44 (67%) | 13 (20%) | 24 (36%) | |
| 7 | LA | L 24-10 | 50 (79%) | 51 (81%) | 52 (83%) | 48 (76%) | 20 (32%) | 37 (59%) | 18 (29%) | 18 (29%) | |
| 8 | NO | L 26-23 | 68 (97%) | 65 (93%) | 59 (84%) | 44 (63%) | 30 (43%) | 53 (76%) | 9 (13%) | 5 (7%) | |
| 9 | TEN | L 24-17 | 73 (95%) | 67 (87%) | 50 (65%) | 50 (65%) | 36 (47%) | 53 (69%) | | 6 (8%) | |
| 10 | MIN | L 19-13 | 45 (90%) | 46 (92%) | | 29 (58%) | 35 (70%) | 24 (48%) | | 3 (6%) | |
| 12 | GB | L 41-25 | 64 (94%) | 58 (85%) | 58 (85%) | 24 (35%) | 54 (79%) | 47 (69%) | | 1 (1%) | |
| 13 | DET | L 34-30 | 51 (74%) | 56 (81%) | 52 (75%) | 34 (49%) | 54 (78%) | 39 (57%) | 28 (41%) | 6 (9%) | |
| 14 | HOU | W 36-7 | 45 (75%) | 45 (75%) | 40 (67%) | 29 (48%) | 51 (85%) | 33 (55%) | 25 (42%) | 3 (5%) | |
| 15 | MIN | W 33-27 | 57 (89%) | 53 (83%) | 56 (88%) | 34 (53%) | 64 (100%) | 16 (25%) | 21 (33%) | 1 (2%) | |
| 16 | JAC | W 41-17 | 49 (68%) | 53 (74%) | 60 (83%) | 33 (46%) | 65 (90%) | 30 (42%) | 36 (50%) | | |
| 17 | GB | L 35-16 | 71 (95%) | 45 (60%) | 62 (83%) | 30 (40%) | 67 (89%) | 39 (52%) | 41 (55%) | 1 (1%) | |
| | Grand | Total | 911 (85%) | 781 (73%) | 759 (75%) | 636 (60%) | 603 (56%) | 584 (54%) | 293 (33%) | 215 (21%) | 77 (37%) |

| <u>Perso</u> | <u>nnei (</u> | <u>Ji Oup</u> | 55 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 56% | 60% | 49% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 19% | 20% | 50% |
| 0-1 [4WR] | 8% | 1% | 44% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 6% | 4% | 35% |
| 0-2 [3WR] | 5% | 1% | 55% |
| Group | | | |
| Group | ing Te | enden Pass | cies Run |
| | ing Te | enden | cies Run |
| Group | ing Te | enden Pass Succ. | cies Run Succ. |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | enden Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 46% | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 71% 47% | Pass Succ. % 46% 58% | Cies Run Succ. % 54% 44% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| Jimmy Graham | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | | | | |
| Allen Robinson | 17 | 5 | 4 | 8 | | | | |
| David Montgomery | 11 | 2 | 2 | 7 | | | | |
| Anthony Miller | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | | | | |
| Darnell Mooney | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | | | | |
| Cole Kmet | 7 | 1 | 5 | 1 | | | | |
| Cordarrelle Patterson | 3 | | | 3 | | | | |
| Demetrius Harris | 3 | | 1 | 2 | | | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| David Montgomery | 48 | 14 | 9 | 25 |
| Mitchell Trubisky | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Cordarrelle Patters | 8 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Tarik Cohen | 3 | | | 3 |
| Nick Foles | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Artavis Pierce | 1 | 1 | | |
| Cole Kmet | 1 | 1 | | |
| Darnell Mooney | 1 | | | 1 |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | | |
| 16% | 27% | 58% | | | | |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% | | | | |
| | | Overall Target Success % | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | iccess % | | | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | vR | | | | |
| RB 53% | TE 54% | WR 52% | | | | |
| RB | TE | WR | | | | |



| Pre-Snap Mot | cion (Quarters 1-3) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 36. PSM YPA | 7.8 |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 5.9 |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 6.1 |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.7 |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 57% |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 49% |

02. Avg Halftime Lead 0.0

0.04

-0.1

01. Games w Halftime Lead 8

42. PSM EPA/att

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 49% | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate 63% | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 8.4 | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate 4.5% | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att 0.2 | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth 8.2 | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate 55% | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA 6.5 | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate 4.9% | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.05 | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.2 | | |
| Men In Box | | | |

| Men In Box | |
|--|-----|
| 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 | 45% |
| 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 | 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 | 4.2 |
| 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 | 49% |
| 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 | 4 | defFUM | 18 |
| Net FROE | 2.7 | | |
| offFUM | 19 | defFUM Rcvrd | 10 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 13 | defFR Rk | 15 |
| offFR% | 68.4% | defFR% | 44.4% |
| offFR Rk | 3 | defFROE | 0.0 |
| offFROE | 2.6 | defFROE Rk | 16 |
| offFROE Rk | 4 | GEIL KOL KK | 10 |

| Field Goal Luck | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation | 3.78 | Opp Att | 35 |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 5 | Opp Makes | 29 |
| Own Att Own Makes | 32 30 | Opp FG % | 83% |
| Own FG % | 94% | Opp Expected Makes | 30.18 |
| Own Expected Makes | 27.41 | Opp Make Over Expectation | -1.18 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 2.59 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 29 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 7 -1.46 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -2.46 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 21 | 2019 Opp Rk | 28 |
| | | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | Nick Foles | Mitchell Trubisky |
| CAY | 5.3 | 5.1 |
| CAY Rk | 28 | 33 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | | 31 |
| AYTS Rk | 25 | 11 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | | 23 |
| AGG Rk | 5 | 4 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | | 13 |
| COMP% | 64.7 | 67 |
| xCOMP% | 63.4 | 65.7 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 29 | 13 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | | 18 |
| CPOE% | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| CPOE Rk | 16 | 17 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | | 21 |
| | | |

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

| QB Pressure | | |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| | Nick Foles | Mitchell Trubisky |
| Pressure % | 35.2 | 24.9 |
| Pressure Rk | 13 | 35 |
| Sack % | 5.4 | 5.4 |
| Sack Rk | 21 | 21 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 70.1 | 62.7 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 9 | 30 |
| Rating when Pressured | 68.9 | 84.8 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 19 | 8 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 74.4 | 74.3 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 34 | 35 |
| Rating when Clean | 86.2 | 95.6 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 37 | 28 |
| Time to Throw | 2.51 | 2.66 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 37 | 24 |

| Offensive Metrics | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| EPA/Pass -0.05 | | |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 24 | |
| EPA/Rush | -0.04 | |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 15 | |
| On-Target Catch % 93.7% | | |
| On-Target Catch Rk 3 | | |
| Drop% 4.0% | | |
| Drop Rk 2 | | |
| YAC/Att 2.5 | | |
| YAC/Att Rk 7 | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle % 16.0% | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk 7 | | |
| Rush 1st Down % 23.4% | | |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 23 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Zac Taylor (2 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Taylor calls plays (2 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Lou Anarumo (2 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Cincinnati Bengals

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

6.5

#4

Past Records

2020: 4-12 2019: 2-14 2018: 6-9-1



Key Players Lost

Rest Edge:

| New |
|-----------|
| Cardinals |
| Texans |
| Patriots |
| Steelers |
| Bills |
| Jets |
| Dolphins |
| Chargers |
| Buccanee |
| Giants |
| Vikings |
| Lions |
| Texans |
| Cardinals |
| Washingt |
| TBD |
| |

<u>Average</u> # Games # Games **Underdog** <u>Line</u> **Favored**

15 3.7

2021 Cincinnati Bengals Overview

+7

No team has underperformed more often than the Cincinnati Bengals. For five straight years, they've gone under their win total. No other team is on such a streak. These projected win totals didn't present a high bar to clear:

9.5 wins in 2016 8.5 wins in 2017 7 wins in 2018 6 wins in 2019 5.5 wins in 2020

+3

Every single year, linemakers dropped the projected win total. Every single year, the Bengals failed to meet the projection. How are they so bad at meeting these projections before the season? Linemakers know the team is bad, they set lines knowing the team is bad, and the team is worse than bad every year. How?

One reason relates to their ability to be "clutch" or play well when it matters most. In the Bengals' last 20 games decided by one-score, they've won just two. This dates back to mid-2018.

Over the last five years, no team has a worse win rate in games decided by one-score than the Bengals (24% wins) and no team has won fewer games (nine wins in 39 games).

Bad teams will lose more one-score games than good teams. But to compete in games where the final score is close and to lose at this rate is not to be brushed off and blamed on a cursed franchise. It can be improved. It must be improved by Zac Taylor if he's going (cont'd - see CIN2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

+1

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Trey Hendrickson (EDGE) | \$15 |
| Riley Reiff (LT) | \$7.5 |
| Chidobe Awuzie (CB) | \$7.29 |
| Larry Ogunjobi (IDL) | \$6.20 |
| Mike Hilton (CB) | \$6 |
| Ricardo Allen (S) | \$1.5 |
| Thaddeus Moss (TE) | \$0.80 |
| Trent Taylor (WR) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 5 | WR - Ja'Marr Chase (LSU) |
| 2 | 46 | OT - Jackson Carman (Clemson) |
| 3 | 69 | DE - Joseph Ossai (Texas) |
| | 111 | DE - Cameron Sample (Tulane) |
| 4 | 122 | DT - Tyler Shelvin (LSU) |
| | 139 | OT - D'Ante Smith (East Carolina) |
| 5 | 149 | K - Evan McPherson (Florida) |
| 6 | 190 | C - Trey Hill (Georgia) |
| 202 | 202 | RB - Chris Evans (Michigan) |
| 7 | 235 | DE - Wyatt Hubert (Kansas State) |

to keep his job Regular Season Wins:

| <u>Past</u> | & Current Proj |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Forecast 2021 Wins | 6.5 |
| 2020 Wins | 118 4 |
| Forecast 2020 Wins | 5.5 |
| 2019 Wins | [] 2 |
| 2018 Wins | 18 6 |
| 2017 Wins | 7 |
| | 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 |





2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 17 | \$89.69M | 16 |
| QB | 22 | \$11.05M | 27 |
| OL | 23 | \$31.96M | 24 |
| RB | | \$12.50M | 8 |
| WR | 16 | \$22.96M | 1 |
| TE | 10 | \$11.23M | 14 |
| All DEF | 13 | \$97.09M | 16 |
| DL | 13 | \$44.55M | 21 |
| LB | 31 | \$6.47M | 27 |
| СВ | 4 | \$33.01M | 5 |
| S | 16 | \$13.06M | 13 |

CIN-2

In Zac Taylor's tenure as Cincinnati's head coach over the past two years, the Bengals have remarkably held a lead at some point in 24 of their 32 games. But they won a total of six games in the two years combined. No team since at least 2000 has led in more games in a two-year span but won fewer than Zac Taylor's Bengals.

I'm perfectly fine with giving Taylor a pass on his Year 1 results in 2019 with Andy Dalton starting 13 games and the team going 2-14, because those results landed the first overall pick, Joe Burrow.

I'm perfectly fine with giving Taylor a pass on his Year 2 results in 2020 with Burrow going down in Week 11 and the team losing four of their six without him to drop to 4-11-1 on the season, because the injury is out of Taylor's control and the Bengals now landed WR Ja'Marr Chase with the fifth overall pick.

But there are no more excuses to be made.

As bad as the Bengals franchise has been, there has been only one coach in the last 30 years to win just six games combined in back-to-back years, David Shula in 1993-94. He, like Taylor, was brought back for a third year. He improved, but only to 7-9, and he was fired mid-season in his fourth year when the team started off poorly.

While a couple bad years in a row totaling to six wins or less seems like it could be a fairly common occurrence in the NFL, it is not.

I looked back at the last 30 years for every team. That's 960 team-seasons. Only 19 times has a franchise produced two straight bad years in a row like the

I already mentioned the other time for the Bengals. That leaves 18 other cases.

Frankly, based on history, Zac Taylor is lucky he wasn't fired after the 2020 season.

Of the 18 other cases, seven saw a coach fired after the first terrible season (usually a coach who had been there for a few years) and a new coach take over and have a bad first season. So those situations get removed from the study, since it's not the same coach with back-to-back terrible years.

| | 152 | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| Joe Burrow | 47% 5.9 78.6 | 52% 6.9 103.7 | 36% 7.0 75.3 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 52% | 62% | 77% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |
| | | | | |
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| | 100/ | 100/ | 400/ | Success Data |

| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| CIN | 46% 4.2 | 49% 4.0 | 48% 2.9 | Success Rat YPC |
| Run Rate | 48% | 38% | 23% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rat YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

That leaves 11 other cases.

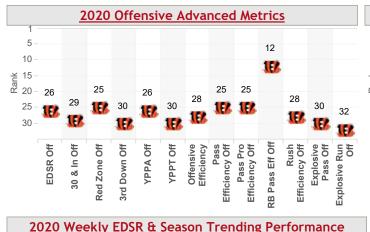
In 10 of the 11 cases, the coach was fired after his second bad season. The lone exception was Hue Jackson, who went 1-15 in 2016 (his first year as coach with the Browns), 0-16 in 2017 (his second year) and was brought back in 2018 but was fired mid-season.

The bottom line: when a team is terrible in back-to-back years, winning only six games combined, the head coach is fired either after the first year on occasion, but most always after the second year.

The fact Taylor earned a third year is a huge exception to the rule. If 2021 starts off poorly, almost every other owner would be looking to fire the coach. (cont'd - see CIN-3)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

20



23 30 27 27 Rush Efficiency Def Pass RB Pass Eff Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Efficiency Def **Efficieincy Def**

2020 Close Game

Records

E E

18

19

22

2 12 10 11 13 14 15 16 W L JAC BAL L L L L PIT WASNYG MIA DAL LAC CLE PIT PHI IND CLE TEN HOU BAL H -3 13 A -5 30 A 0 Н Α Н Н A -26 Н Α Н Н Α Н -24 3 -23 7 -2 6 8 -4 -3 -11 -12 7 10 11 -35 23 33 27 17 27 3 34 10 9 37 31 25 30 17 16 35 23 27 31 37 20 36 20 19 19 31 38

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

RESULT

MARGIN

OPP PTS

5

10

15 12

20

25

E

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

All 2019 Wins: 4 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-3** FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Wins): 50% (#18)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-5 Score Games Win %: 29% (#28) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

| 2020 Critical/Game- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <u>Deciding Stats</u> | | | | | | | |
| TO Margin | -7 | | | | | | |
| TO Given | 24 | | | | | | |
| INT Given | 11 | | | | | | |
| FUM Given | 13 | | | | | | |
| TO Taken | 17 | | | | | | |
| INT Taken | 11 | | | | | | |
| FUM Taken | 6 | | | | | | |
| Sack Margin | -31 | | | | | | |
| Sacks | 17 | | | | | | |
| Sacks Allow | 48 | | | | | | |
| Return TD Margin | -1 | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs | 1 | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs Allow | 2 | | | | | | |
| Penalty Margin | +16 | | | | | | |
| Penalties | 83 | | | | | | |
| Opponent Penalties | 99 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

2020 6-44--1/6

B

8

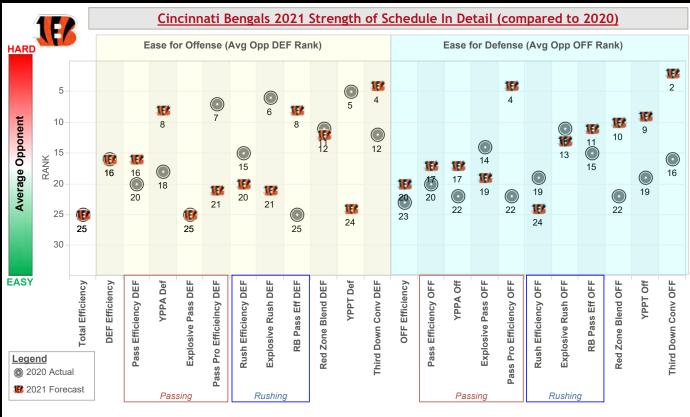
E

20

24

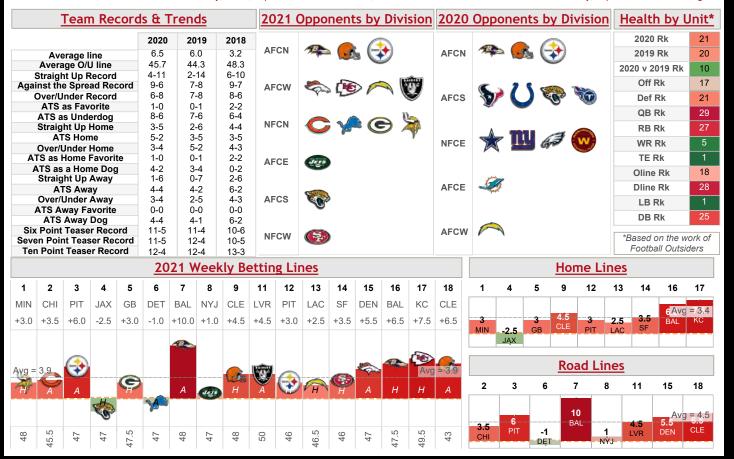
Explosive Pass Def

Explosive



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 18 | 24 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 24 | 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







Negated Bye Rank

Given Mike Smith holding onto Shula for an extra season before firing him, there is a chance Taylor could stick around for 2022 if the team bats around .500 this year. But that's absolutely not guaranteed.

And considering linemakers are predicting the Bengals win only 6.5 games this year, and that the Bengals have fallen under that linemaker projection for five straight years, let's just say it's not looking good for Taylor — unless the Bengals turn it around in 2021.

In last year's book, I was highly critical of two things from Zac Taylor's first season: lack of personnel diversity, particularly with injuries to receivers, and far too much predictability based on actual personnel on the field (81% pass if **Tyler Eifert** was on the field, increasing to 90% pass across 330 plays if he was the only tight end on the field).

Taylor improved both areas in 2020. He was more diverse with personnel deployment, particularly when Burrow was healthy through Week 11. He also removed some of the frustrating player-snap tells which plaqued the team in 2019.

That said, there were a number of elements which still were frustrating about watching the Bengals offense with Burrow at the helm, things Taylor and Burrow need to improve in 2021 if Taylor has plans to retain his job.

One of the reasons there was room for some optimism around the Bengals 2020 team was not only Burrow, but the prospects of facing a much easier schedule of defenses. In 2019, the Bengals played the 10th toughest schedule of opponents. But in last year's book, I predicted the 2020 Bengals would face the 25th toughest schedule of opponents. Looking back at the 2020 season, my prediction was dead-on accurate – the Bengals did in fact face the 25th toughest schedule of opponents. Cincinnati was fortunate to play the NFC East in their worst year ever along with the tepid AFC South.

While Burrow was healthy (Week 1 through the ACL injury in Week 11) the Bengals played the NFL's eighth-easiest schedule of opposing pass defenses. The Bengals played only three of 10 games against pass defenses which finished top-15 and played six of 10 games against bottom-10 pass defenses.

Yet Cincinnati's only wins in those 10 games came against the No. 31 pass defense of the Jaguars and the No. 30 pass defense of the Titans.

We know the most optimal time for quarterbacks, particularly younger quarterbacks, to throw the ball is when the defense is expecting a run. That often comes on first down. Looking only at Joe Burrow's starts, and despite the fact the Bengals played the eighth-easiest schedule of pass defenses, the Bengals were the NFL's worst first down passing offense.

First down dropbacks averaged 5.9 YPA, 48% success and -0.11 EPA/play.

No team was worse. The NFL average was 7.6 YPA, 55% success, and 0.08 EPA. The NFL average for first down passing efficiency was predictably much better than second down or third down.

Right off the bat, something doesn't seem right.

That's because just before Burrow came out of LSU before the draft, I looked at his first down passing. I went back to 2014 and I compiled a list of every single quarterback to throw at least 75 pass attempts on first down in the first half of games.

There were 313 quarterbacks in the analysis.

The leader in YPA? Joe Burrow, with 13.9 YPA

Net Rest Edge Rank

The leader in completion rate? Joe Burrow, at 82.1%

The leader in touchdowns thrown? Joe Burrow, with 18 touchdowns

Burrow delivered a 12.9% TD rate (ninth of 313) with a miniscule 0.7% INT rate.

Prep Rank

Burrow's performance on first downs was significantly better than every first-round quarterback drafted in that time range (since the 2015 draft of 2014 prospects onward).

(cont'd - see CIN-4) Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage is negated advantage game prep to prep 0 +2 0 +3 O

| | Strength of Scheduled G | ame ilming: | <u>Cincinnati Bengais Ka</u> | nking vs NFL Average | 3 |
|------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | | | Short Wook Boad Games | Games off Road SNF/MNF | |
| D I- | Danie Danie | Darak Darah | Short week Road Gailles | Gailles Oll Road Sixt/Will | |

Rest Rank

2 2 2 1 1 1 1

Rank

Rank

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The Bengals did not do much to improve their offensive line outside of signing RT Riley Reiff. The line last season ranked 31st in adjusted line yards and 25th in adjusted sack rate. They need to protect Burrow much better than last season in order to keep him healthy. That risk will loom all season.
- Cincinnati will have to exceed their win total while facing the fifth toughest schedule of opponents this season.
- Zac Taylor might just be the worst head coach in the NFL. He is now 6-25-1 as a head coach, including an abysmal 2-13-1 in one score games, since taking over in 2010.
- The Bengals defense ranked 25th in EPA per drop back allowed last season. In the offseason, the Bengals replaced top coverage cornerback William Jackson with Trae Waynes, who missed last season due to injury and was graded as the 70th best coverage cornerback in 2019 by PFF.

6.5



Why Bet the Over

- Prior to the Joe Burrow season-ending injury, the Bengals faced six playoff teams in nine games started and finished by Burrow. They only went 2-6-1 in those games but lost four games by one score or less.
- If top pick WR Ja'Marr Chase is as good as advertised, the Bengals could have one of the top receiving corps in the NFL with Chase, Tee Higgins, and Tyler Boyd.
- The Bengals were unlucky in many categories, including ranking 28th in recovering their own fumbles and 30th in red zone TD percentage. Cincinnati ranked in the bottom seven in EPA gained on defense and in the top five in EPA lost on offense from turnovers.
- Cincinnati gets the second highest net rest edge, plus 11 games, in the NFL. The Bengals have to play only one road game in the final 49 days of the season, travel the fourth fewest miles of any team in the NFL and don't have to face a single team coming off their bye week all season.

| Cincinnati Bengals Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | |
| 16 | 29 | 17 | 11 | 29 | 18 | 28 | | |

Based on an average of the unit rankings, Cincinnati is our 25th-ranked team, which isn't terrible considering where they are in the rebuilding process. Among the six teams which won four or fewer games last season, Cincinnati's roster ranks the highest. Led by **Joe Burrow**, the Bengals' quarterback situation lands in the middle of the pack at 16th overall. Burrow will likely look better with an improved receiving corps. As a rookie, Burrow ranked 28th out of 29 qualified quarterbacks in completion percentage on throws 15+ yards downfield (34.2%). However, his catchable pass rate on those throws ranked 10th (71.8%).

With **Gio Bernard** gone, expect **Joe Mixon** to dominate touches in the Bengals backfield. **Samaje Perine**, **Trayveon Williams**, and rookie **Chris Evans** will provide depth, but likely won't challenge Mixon for serious playing time.

Votes for the Bengals receiving corps ranged from seventh to 17th, which is understandable considering how much they'll rely on rookie **Ja'Marr Chase**. If he immediately produces at a high level, this is a top-10 unit; if he looks like a rookie, the low end of that spectrum is more realistic.

The Bengals' offensive line is the worst unit on the roster (tied with the front seven), which is why many were surprised they selected Chase over OT **Penei Sewell**. Left tackle **Jonah Williams** needs to take a major step forward. In 2020, Williams ranked 73rd out of 80 qualified tackles in Sports Info Solutions' Points Above Average metric.

The loss of **Carl Lawson** hurts the Bengals front seven, but if we prove to be too low on the unit, it will be because of the addition of **Trey Hendrickson**. In 2020, with New Orleans, Hendrickson generated a 20.3% pressure rate when quarterbacks took a 3+ step dropback, second best in the league. **Jessie Bates** has emerged as one of the top safeties in the game, leading a solid secondary. Replacing **William Jackson**, however, will be a challenge.

Head coach Zac Taylor might be the weakest link on this team. He is our lowest-ranked non-rookie head coach, and even ranked lower than four from this year's rookie class.

CIN-4

Burrow had the second-highest pass rate of them, as well, passing the ball on 63.4% of first downs (only **Patrick Mahomes** operated a more pass-heavy offense on first down).

Burrow couldn't have just become terrible on first down passes overnight. The jump to the NFL couldn't have thrown him off that much. What was the problem?

Let's start with the fact that the Bengals were in 11 personnel on 79% of Burrow's first downs plays, and when passing on first down, did so from 11 personnel on 83% of snaps. The NFL average was 62%. No other team was close, not even the Bills or the 11-personnel loving Adam Gase. It's not inherently a bad thing to almost always choose to be in 11 personnel when you want to pass on first down... so long as it works. If it doesn't work, you have to investigate why.

And for the Bengals, it didn't work. Dropbacks from 11 personnel delivered 5.6 YPA, 46% success, -0.17 EPA/play, and a completion rate of just 58%. Remember. Burrow averaged 82% completions and 13.9 YPA at LSU.

One notable observation about first down passes from 11 personnel was the target depth. For the Bengals, it was 9.0 yards, the fourth-highest in the NFL. And then there was the pressure rate, which was 35%, the fourth-highest in the NFL.

If we look only at first half first downs, to avoid any first down play calls resulting from being down huge late in the game, we see that 11 personnel passes didn't look much different: 8.4 aDOT and a 35% pressure rate. But what we do notice is the only other grouping he used on these downs more than a

CIN-5

couple times was 12 personnel. In 12 personnel, Burrow was dominant. Look at the first half splits:

11 personnel: 5.8 YPA, 46% success, -0.11 EPA/att 12 personnel: 8.9 YPA, 73% success, 0.38 EPA/att

What was different, aside from the results? Burrow's target depth from 12 personnel was only 5.4 yards downfield, and he was pressured on only 18% of dropbacks. Save that for now, let's keep looking at 11 personnel.

As we dig deeper, we notice that the deeper the drop for Burrow in 11 personnel, the worse his performance. Everything got worse along the way, including EPA/att, success rate, pressure rate, etc. Look at success rate, for example:

0/1-step: 59% 3-step: 41% 5-step: 25% 7-step: 0%

Burrow had much more success reading the defense pre-snap and getting the ball out of his hands quickly with his brilliant accuracy. Taking deeper drops on first downs invited more pressure and was very unsuccessful.

The pressure element was big, too, as it relates to the 12 personnel. Using 12 personnel gave the allure of a run play. With those looks, defenses adjusted their own personnel and scheme, played run more often, and allowed Burrow to dominate on these passes.

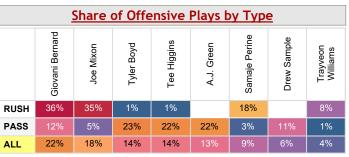
One final observation on first down passes from 11 personnel. Burrow was substantially worse passing outside the numbers and substantially better passing between the numbers:

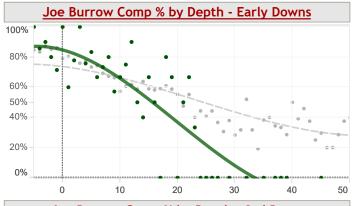
(cont'd - see CIN-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 IER IF 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2017 Wins 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

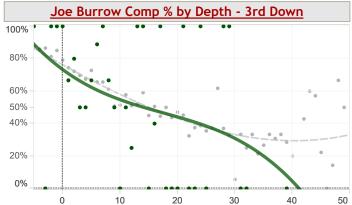


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | B | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | |
| | Giovani Bernard | 6% | 6% | 73% | 10% | 6% | | | |
| | Joe Mixon | 20% | 2% | 73% | 3% | 2% | | | |
| _ | Tyler Boyd | 20% | | 20% | 40% | 20% | | | |
| RUSH | Tee Higgins | | | 60% | 40% | | | | |
| LE. | Samaje Perine | 19% | 21% | 49% | 11% | | | | |
| | Trayveon Williams | 65% | | 35% | | | | | |
| | Total | 18% | 7% | 65% | 8% | 3% | | | |
| | Giovani Bernard | 12% | 20% | 61% | 5% | 2% | | | |
| | Joe Mixon | 31% | 12% | 54% | 4% | | | | |
| | Tyler Boyd | 15% | 14% | 64% | 7% | 1% | | | |
| | Tee Higgins | 9% | 21% | 62% | 6% | 2% | | | |
| PASS | A.J. Green | 13% | 12% | 71% | 4% | | | | |
| " | Samaje Perine | | 25% | 75% | | | | | |
| | Drew Sample | 11% | 26% | 60% | 2% | | | | |
| | Trayveon Williams | 60% | | 40% | | | | | |
| | Total | 13% | 17% | 64% | 5% | 1% | | | |







Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings



| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 46%, -0.03 (504) | 54%, 0.06 (54) | 26%, -0.44 (39) | 55%, -0.23 (11) | 50%, -0.69 (8) | 100%, 2.28 (1) | 100%, 0.69 (2) | 33%, 0.39 (3) | 100%, 2.13 (1) | 46%, -0.05 (623) |
| RUSH | 48%, -0.13 (281) | 45%, -0.07 (96) | 50%, 0.71 (8) | 100%, 2.09 (5) | 71%, -0.23 (7) | 0%, -0.79 (8) | 60%, 0.46 (5) | | | 47%, -0.08 (411) |
| All | 46%, -0.07 (785) | 48%, -0.02 (150) | 30%, -0.25 (47) | 69%, 0.50 (16) | 60%, -0.48 (15) | 11%, -0.45 (9) | 71%, 0.53 (7) | 33%, 0.39 (3) | 100%, 2.13 (1) | 46%, -0.06 (1,034) |

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 | 41% (51) 6.4, 0.08 | 75% (4) 5.0, -0.09 | 0% (2) 4.0, -0.94 | | 42% (57) 6.2, 0.03 | | | | |
| | Joe Mixon | 40% (20) 4.7, -0.05 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.74 | 100% (1) 19.0, 2.73 | 100% (1) 14.0, 1.21 | 43% (23) 5.5, 0.10 | | | | |
| TE | Drew Sample | 57% (44) 6.5, 0.09 | 67% (6) 7.7, 0.42 | 100% (1) 11.0, 0.62 | | 59% (51) 6.7, 0.14 | | | | |
| WR | Tee Higgins | 55% (85) 8.6, 0.34 | 69% (13) 9.2, 0.58 | 67% (6) 9.7, 1.23 | | 58% (104) 8.7, 0.42 | | | | |
| | Tyler Boyd | 58% (93) 8.0, 0.28 | 50% (4) 6.8, -0.60 | 17% (6) 2.7, -0.57 | | 55% (103) 7.6, 0.20 | | | | |
| | A.J. Green | 45% (82) 5.7, -0.02 | 40% (10) 5.1, -0.04 | 0% (9) 0.0, -1.21 | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.16 | 41% (102) 5.1, -0.12 | | | | |
| | Auden Tate | 60% (15) 7.2, 0.24 | | 40% (5) 8.4, -0.58 | | 55% (20) 7.5, 0.04 | | | | |

| Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|--|--|--|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp To | | | |

| | 1-1 [3WK] | 1-2 [2WK] | 2-1 [2WK] | 2-2 [1WK] | 4 Grp Total |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Bernard | 45% (82) | 45% (38) | 100% (2) | | 46% (122) |
| Giovani | 3.4, -0.18 | 2.9, -0.08 | 9.5, 0.49 | | 3.3, -0.14 |
| Mixon Joe | 47% (91) 3.6, -0.10 | 45% (22) 4.1, -0.18 | | 0% (1) -4.0, -0.93 | 46% (114) 3.6, -0.12 |
| Perine | 41% (46) | 46% (13) | 0% (2) | | 41% (61) |
| Samaje | 4.5, -0.07 | 6.1, 0.18 | 1.0, -0.99 | | 4.7, -0.05 |
| Burrow | 48% (23) | 67% (3) | 100% (1) | 0% (4) | 45% (31) |
| Joe | 3.9, -0.17 | 4.0, 0.42 | 2.0, 3.31 | -1.0, -0.76 | 3.2, -0.08 |
| Williams Trayveon | 50% (18) 6.1, -0.50 | 57% (7) 4.4, 0.09 | | | 52% (25) 5.6, -0.34 |

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

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

| _ | sing by | _ | ing by | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Coverage Ro Scheme | | oute | Level 1 | 56% (385) 6.4, 0.18 | 3 Step | 45% (241) 6.6, 0.07 | Planted | | % (432) 0, 0.14 | Inside Zone | 50% (116) 4.0, -0.10 |
| | 51% (309) | Curl | 73% (81) 7.5, 0.39 | | | 0/1 Step | 58% (190) | | 4.: | 5% (71) 2, -0.21 | Outside | 44% (104) |
| Zone | 6.8, 0.13 | Slant | 62% (65) 7.8, 0.35 | Level 2 | 46% (132) 8.3, 0.11 | | 7.1, 0.25 49% (43) | Shuffling | | 0% (70) 7, 0.06 | Zone | 3.8, -0.13 43% (30) |
| | | | 50% (56) | Level 3 | 16% (37) | | 7.6, 0.11 | | Play Action | on | Power | 3.3, -0.09 |
| M2M | 53% (182) 6.7, 0.11 | Out | 4.8, 0.09 | | 5.4, -0.44 | Basic Screen | 48% (25) 8.3, 0.11 | | Play Action | No P/A | Pitch | 28% (29) 2.7, -0.25 |
| | | Dig | 57% (37) 8.1. 0.06 | Shovel | 0% (3) -1.0, -2.12 | 7 Step | 38% (16) | Under Center | 54% (69) 7.5, -0.02 | 20% (5) 1.4, -0.32 | Stretch | 44% (9) |
| Screen | 46% (54) | | | | 4000((4) | | 4.7, -1.00 | Shotgun | 54% (70) 7.1, 0.01 | 43% (479) 6.4, -0.06 | | 8.8, 0.30 |
| Soleen | 6.4, 0.05 | Drag | 54% (13) 5.2, -0.49 | Sidearm | 100% (1) 16.0, 1.84 | Designed Rollout Right | 60% (15) 5.7, 0.21 | ALL | 54% (139) 7.3, -0.01 | 43% (484) 6.4, -0.06 | Lead | 100% (4) 3.5, -0.03 |

CIN-6

Outside the numbers: 4.9 YPA, 41% success, -0.31 EPA/att, 48% completions, and 69% accuracy with 10.7 aDOT Between the numbers: 6.7 YPA, 61% success, 0.07 EPA/att, 72% completions, and 84% accuracy with 7.6 aDOT

This actually carried over to all downs (not just first down) for Burrow's rookie year:

Outside the numbers: 6.3 YPA, 45% success, 0.05 EPA/att, 59% completions, and 74% accuracy with 9.4 aDOT Between the numbers: 7.8 YPA, 61% success, 0.36 EPA/att, 76% completions, and 85% accuracy with 7.2 aDOT

Many young quarterbacks struggle to throw between the numbers. That's not the case with Burrow. Of 35 QBs with 50+ attempts to the middle of the field from 11 personnel, Burrow's 0.36 EPA/att on his 180 attempts ranked fifth.

Taylor must analyze everything he was doing on first down to see what he can do to turn Burrow back into the stud that he was at LSU. Burrow still has that capability. But between the pressure, personnel, drop types and throw locations, Taylor was dialing up too much that was suboptimal.

Speaking of suboptimal, there are a couple of other observations which deserve to be addressed: play-action and pre-snap motion.

The Bengals ranked 25th in play-action usage in the game's first three quarters in 2020. That, despite the fact that with play-action, they were more successful, more efficient, and had a lower sack rate. In fact, the Bengals saw the seventh-largest improvement in success rate with play-action.

The Bengals ranked 26th in pre-snap motion usage in the game's first three quarters in 2020. That, despite the fact that with pre-snap motion, the Bengals gained 0.07 EPA/att vs -0.11 EPA/att without it. It was the fourth-largest move towards efficiency for any team last year.





These are easy fixes, but first we have to know why Taylor reduced the frequency of both from 2019 to 2020.

Finally, if the Bengals are looking to turn these one-score losses into wins, they simply must be better in the red zone. After ranking eighth in red zone passing in 2019 and 14th in red zone rushing, the Bengals in 2020 dropped to 27th in red zone passing and 31st in red zone rushing.

With a quarterback as accurate and mobile as Joe Burrow, no team led by him should rank 27th in red zone passing. Taylor must do a better job of drawing up red zone plays and getting better execution out of the offense.

With the insertion of Ja'Marr Chase and a bit more help along the offensive line, the Bengals are capable of improving. But does Zac Taylor take the steps necessary to refine his offense to get the most out of Joe Burrow? Can he get some semblance of a run game to support Burrow's arm? Does Burrow return fully healthy and looking sharp as ever? There are a lot of questions, and very few expectations for the 2021 Bengals. But I can't wait to watch Burrow and Chase together, while hoping Taylor has taken enough strides to maximize this offense and save his job.

Immediate Impact of Cincinnati Bengals 2021 Draft Class

Since WR **Ja'Marr Chase** (first round) is the only offseason addition to the Bengals receiving corps, and he's already familiar with **Joe Burrow** from their days at LSU, it's safe to assume he steps right into **A.J. Green's** role in the offense. Green looked like a shell of his former self in 2020, but he still commanded a 19.2% target share from Burrow.

OL Jackson Carman (second round) spent the past two seasons protecting Trevor Lawrence's blind side, but will shift inside to guard for the Bengals. The former five-star recruit has impressive traits, but never fully met expectations at Clemson. In pass protection, Carman had a team-high blown-block rate of 2.2% last season and led the ACC with four holding penalties. Carman likely competes with Michael Jordan, Xavier Su'a-Filo, and Quinton Spain for a starting spot.

EDGE **Joseph Ossai** should help replace **Carl Lawson's** pass-rush production. Lawson accounted for 32% of the team's QB pressures a season ago. Ossai split his snaps between playing in a two and three-point stance, so he'll bring some valuable versatility to Cincinnati's front seven.

DL Cameron Sample (fourth round) primarily played as pass-rushing linebacker at Tulane, but at 273 pounds is more likely to play a tra role in the Bengals rotation.

DT **Tyler Shelvin** (fourth round) is a pure nose tackle who offers zero value as a pass-rusher. Even in the fourth round, that was a moderately surprising selection given the diminished value of the immobile, space-eating nose tackle in today's pass-heavy game. Expect Shelvin to be used in certain run-stopping packages immediately.

Presumably, the Bengals envision K **Evan McPhearson** (fifth round) beating out Austin Seibert for the starting job. If he doesn't produce immediately, it's an inexcusable waste of a pick.

This was a solid overall haul for the Bengals, who landed a couple players who should produce as rookies and a few others with long-term potential. However, this class will ultimately be graded based on Chase's production and a comparison between him and OT **Penei Sewell** (Lions first-round selection). The Bengals needed to improve the offensive line and receiving corps, and they opted to address the far more volatile position group first. It could pay off given Burrow's familiarity with Chase, but it was undeniably the greater risk.

TEX.

Yards to Go

1 & 2

3. 4. 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Total

Cincinnati Bengals 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

As the first overall draft pick in 2020, Joe Burrow completed 65.3% of his passes for 6.7 yards per pass attempt over his 10 starts as a rookie. He threw 13 touchdown passes to five interceptions. Burrow suffered a torn ACL and MCL in Week 10 and had reconstructive knee surgery in December. Prior to his injury, the Bengals were 19th in success rate through the air (49%) and then dropped all the way down to 30th afterward (40%). The Bengals allowed a sack on 7.6% of the team dropbacks, which was 25th in the league. Burrow was hit on 10.4% of his dropbacks, which was the 11th-highest rate in the league. Burrow continues to trend positively towards starting the season, but Week 1 is still only roughly nine months from the injury, leaving little wiggle room for any setback and still the potential that Burrow may not have full mobility to start the season.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Joe Burrow | 264 | 404 | 65% | 2,688 | 6.7 | 13 | 5 | 32 | 90 | 29 | |
| Brandon Allen | 90 | 142 | 63% | 925 | 6.5 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 82 | 35 | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | |

2020 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd 20+ Air Avg. Air Avg. 30+ Yd Success **Passing** 20+ Yd 20+ Air QΒ **Pass Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd % Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp % Joe Burrow 47% 23 4 9 2% 49% 6.0% 1.0% 5.7 4.5 47% 50% 33.3 5.2 4% 8.6% 12.0 3.0% 5.9 14.9 NFL Ava

Total

7.1%

0.0%

1.2% 0.9%

0.0%

1.1%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis Avg. Avg. YIA Short of Ava Yds Yds to (of Sticks Short Go Comp) Rate 9.0 72% 31 -3.5 8.8 5.6 -3.1 72%

QB Short Rk Joe Burrow NFL Avg

Air Yds vs YAC Air YAC Rk Yds % % 44% 17 56% 48% 52%

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.7%

0.0%

1.2%

1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 4th Dwn

0.0%

3.2%

5.3%

0.0%

2.9%

The Bengals were a wide receiver driven offense, With Burrow under center, Cincinnati targeted their wideouts 69% of the time, which was fifth in the league. On those targets, however, they ranked just 16th in success rate (56%) and 29th in yards per target (7.5 yards) since they fed so many inefficient targets to A.J. Green, who had just a 41% success rate when targeted, fourth-lowest in the NFL for all wideouts with 50 or more targets. Tyler Boyd was at 57% and rookie Tee Higgins was at 55%. The team replaced Green's role in reuniting Burrow with his former LSU teammate Ja'Marr Chase who turned in a massive 84-1,780-20 season in 2019 at age-19 before sitting out last season due to COVID. The Bengals targeted TEs 28th in the NFL

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % сотр | YPA | Rating | % Saccess | Success | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Tyler Boyd | 110 | 72% | 7.6 | 90.8 | 57% | 40 | 49 | 91 | 25 | 4 |
| Tee Higgins | 107 | 63% | 8.5 | 104.4 | 55% | 57 | 53 | 24 | 108 | 6 |
| A.J. Green | 104 | 45% | 5.0 | 55.1 | 40% | 123 | 121 | 88 | 18 | 2 |
| Giovani Bernard | 59 | 80% | 6.0 | 101.6 | 42% | 121 | 117 | 110 | 77 | 3 |
| Drew Sample | 53 | 75% | 6.6 | 90.8 | 57% | 49 | 75 | 121 | 19 | 1 |

2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Bengals ranked 31st in the NFL in expected points added via their rushing game (-28.7 points) as they ranked 28th in the league as a backfield in yards per touch (4.5 yards) and 26th in success rate (48%) running the ball. Despite the ineffectiveness overall, the Bengals were sixth yards to success rate (41%) and 11th in missed YPA (1.6 yards). It also did not help the cause that Joe Mixon missed the final 10 games of the season with a foot injury. Prior to injury, Mixon was 11th in yards from scrimmage per game (94.3). This offseason, the Bengals have already let Giovani Bernard go from the roster while they only added Chris Evans (pick No. 202) and Pooka Williams (undrafted free agent) through the draft. This leaves the depth chart as Samaje Perine, Trayveon Williams, and Jacques Patrick to go with those to two longer-play rookies.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Giovani Bernard | 124 | 3.4 | 48% | 67 | 41 | 9 | 83 | 47% | 65 | 3 |
| Joe Mixon | 119 | 3.6 | 46% | 73 | 60 | 37 | 57 | 47% | 65 | 3 |
| Samaje Perine | 63 | 4.8 | 43% | 88 | 47 | 92 | 12 | 43% | 83 | 3 |



Target

Distribution

Joe Burrow Rating **Early Downs**

100

50

40

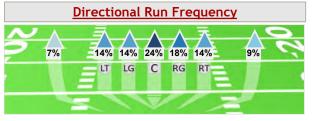
30

20

10 0 -10 **Postive**

Play %





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Buying Back in on Joe Mixon

Fantasy gamers have long chased the potential of what Joe Mixon could be if used as a three-down back. The lack of tangible depth played a role in offensive coordinator Brian Callahan stating after the draft that he does not want Mixon to leave the field. While that gives some "we are going to give C.J. Spiller the ball until he pukes" flashbacks, Mixon was already trending in this direction last year.

Mixon missed the final 10 games of the season with a foot injury, but prior to the injury Mixon had the most touches in the NFL (140) and was second in touches per game (23.2) behind Derrick Henry (26.2). At that time, Mixon was the RB11 in PPR points per game (16.6) and 11th in yards from scrimmage per game (94.3). In the passing game, Mixon was running a career-high 21.3 pass routes per game and averaging a career-high 6.8 receiving points per game. While fantasy players have been let down by Mixon in the past, he still is a scarce commodity as a three-down running back.

Enough Targets to Go Around in Cincy

With the selection of Ja'Marr Chase at No. 5 overall, the Bengals are replacing a high rate of inefficient targets that went to A.J. Green in 2020. Joe Burrow targeted Green on 19.2% of his passes last season, but the duo connected on just 45.3% of those passes for 4.7 yards per target and one touchdown. Targeting other Bengals options, Burrow completed 72.8% of his passes for 7.4 yards per target with 12 scores. On throws over 15 yards downfield, Burrow and Green connected on just 3-of-27 targets (11.1%) while Burrow was 21-of-47 targeting anyone else with those downfield targets (44.6%).

While the addition of Chase may scare some gamers off either or both Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd. there is plenty in this offense available for all three wideouts to be successful. The Bengals deployed a third wide receiver on the field for 82% of their snaps in 2020, which was second in the league. This after 78% in 2019, which was first in the league. Even if Chase comes in and takes over the target rate Green had from Burrow, Higgins received 7.9 targets per game Weeks 2-10 when he was inserted as a regular player while Boyd was at 8.7 targets per game prior to Burrow's injury.

Higgins was fourth among rookie wideouts in fantasy points last year while ranking third among first year wideouts in receptions (67) and yards (908) to go along with six touchdowns. Prior to Burrow's injury, Higgins had 62 or more yards in six straight games while averaging 16.9 PPR points Weeks 3-10. Over that span, Higgins was the WR11 in overall fantasy scoring at the position. After 113 targets over his first two seasons, Boyd has at least 108 targets in each of the past three seasons. Although his yards per receptions and touchdowns have dropped from the previous season since his 2018 breakout, Boyd was a productive player prior to Burrow's injury as well. From Weeks 1-10, Boyd was the WR13 in overall scoring and was seventh among wideouts in receptions (60). From Week 11 on, Boyd averaged just 5.7 targets, 3.2 receptions, 36.0 yards and 7.9 PPR points per game. Even with the addition of Chase, both Higgins and Boyd are strong fantasy options themselves.

| Cine | cinnati Bengal: | s Defense: Nun | nber of DBs vs | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map | | | |
|----------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|---------|-------|--------------------------|------|--|----|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ Dk | | 50 | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 11 plays <i>(3%)</i> Success: 64% | 305 plays <i>(77%)</i> Success: 51% | 82 plays <i>(21%)</i> Success: 41% | 398 plays (100%) Success: 49% | | % Rk | | | | 40 |
| | EPA: 0.21 | EPA: 0.16 | EPA: -0.07 EPA: 0.11 | | Base | 21% | 18 | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 23 plays <i>(24%)</i> Success: 52% | 68 plays <i>(71%)</i> Success: 65% | 5 plays (5%) Success: 40% | 96 plays (100%) Success: 60% | Nickel | 62% | 12 | 30 - | | |
| | EPA: 0.27 | EPA: 0.29 | EPA: 0.05 | EPA: 0.27 | Dime+ | 13% | 15 | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 18 plays <i>(62%)</i> Success: 56% EPA: -0.14 | 11 plays <i>(38%)</i> Success: 36% EPA: 0.00 | | 29 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.08 | Rush 3 | 7% | 12 | 20 - | | |
| | 6 plays (86%) | 1 plays (14%) | | 7 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 64% | 18 | 10 - | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 50% EPA: -0.12 | Success: 0% EPA: -0.12 | | Success: 43% EPA: -0.12 | Rush 5 | 20% | 16 | | | |
| 0 | 58 plays (11%) | 385 plays (73%) | 87 plays (16%) | 530 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 9% | 3 | 0 | | |
| Grand Total | Success: 55% EPA: 0.09 | Success: 53% EPA: 0.18 | Success: 41% EPA: -0.06 | Success: 51% EPA: 0.13 | Blitz% | 29% | 10 | -10 | | |

Defensive Outlook

D.J. Reader came over to Cincinnati as a free agent from the Houston Texans last season. He was immediately a good run stopper as a nose tackle, but he was lost for the season with a quad injury in Week 5. Cincinnati signed **Larry Ogunjobi** after a down 2020 in Cleveland. He put up at least 10 quarterback hits and 10 tackles for loss in both 2018 and 2019 seasons, but those figures were just five tackles for loss and six quarterback hits in 2020. **Mike Daniels** played and started 11 games but in that time had only one tackle for loss and one quarterback hit.

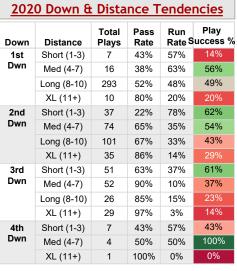
On the edge, **Carl Lawson** was allowed to leave in free agency and as a replacement, the team signed **Trey Hendrickson**. Hendrickson had a breakout season in 2020. He started 15 games for the Saints with 25 quarterback hits (t-8th) and 13.5 sacks (third). He was also fourth in pressure rate among edge rushers, per SIS. **Sam Hubbard** had a disappointing year as a pass rusher — ranked 72nd among edge rushers in pressure rate. But Hubbard was one of the best run defending edge rushers in the league — he ranked first at the position in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate.

The Bengals have taken multiple low-risk swings at linebacker. **Germaine Pratt** is now the veteran of the group and he was a 2019 third-round pick. He played 64.7% of the defensive snaps last season. Pratt had one of the highest broken tackles rates among linebackers during the season. In the 2020 draft, Cincinnati took **Logan Wilson** in the third round, **Akeem Davis-Gaither** in the fourth round, and **Markus Bailey** in the seventh round. Wilson and Davis-Gaither hovered around 30% of the defensive snaps played as rookies.

Few positions have been turned over more in one offseason than the Bengals' cornerbacks. **Darius Phillips**, a 2018 fifth-round pick, played 55% of the defensive snaps and ranked 69th among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. The rest of the group will be new in 2021. **Trae Waynes** was signed last offseason but missed all of 2020 with a torn pec. **Chidobe Awuzie** ranked 136th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap last season, but has shown flashes throughout his career with the Cowboys. **Mike Hilton** is an intriguing add as one of the top slot corners in the league over the past few seasons. Hilton ranked fourth in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap last season and was one of the most dangerous slot blitzers.

Jessie Bates might be the league's best deep safety. He was sixth among all defenders in passes defensed last season and the Bengals were one of the league's best defenses against deep passes. Von Bell was a free agent signing last offseason and he played well as the versatile box safety while Bates often played as the single-high in the defense. Bates played 99% of the defensive snaps last season and Bell played 100%. That again will be the safety duo Cincinnati rolls out on as many snaps as possible. The Bengals also used dime or lighter personnel on 13% of defensive snaps, which was 17th in the league and given the depth in the secondary is a rate that could increase.

2020 Play Tendencies 62% All Pass % All Pass Rk All Rush % 38% All Rush Rk 26 1 Score Pass % 60% 1 Score Pass Rk 8 2019 1 Score Pass % 61% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 9 2020 Pass Increase % -1% Pass Increase Rk 13 1 Score Rush % 40% 1 Score Rush Rk 25 Up Pass % 55% Up Pass Rk 17 Up Rush % 45% Up Rush Rk 16 Down Pass % 65% Down Pass Rk 5 35% Down Rush % Down Rush Rk 28



| Shotg | <u>un %</u> : |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 24% | 76% |
| 37% A | VG 63% |
| Run | Rate: |
| | itacc. |
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| Under | |
| Under Center 70% | Shotgun |
| Under Center 70% | Shotgun 28% |

Cincinnati Bengals 2020 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| | 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | | | | |
| 78% | 6 | 67% | 64% | 75% | | | | | | | |
| | <u>2nc</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | | | | |

| Under Center | Shotgun | Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg |
|-----------------|---------|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 30% | 72% | 22% | 27 | 33% | 57% | 59% |
| 32% A | VG 77% | | | 23.0 | | |

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | PASS | Tyler Boyd | 2 | 0% | | | | | |
| Dwn | | RUSH | Joe Mixon | 2 | 0% | | | | | |
| | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Giovani Bernard | 5 | 60% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Giovani Bernard | 51 | 41% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Giovani Bernard | 2 | 50% | | | | | |
| | | | Tee Higgins | 2 | 0% | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Giovani Bernard | 9 | 56% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Joe Mixon | 13 | 54% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Tee Higgins | 13 | 54% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | A.J. Green | 8 | 13% | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | Tyler Boyd | 8 | 75% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | A.J. Green | 15 | 40% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | A.J. Green | 6 | 17% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Giovani Bernard | 5 | 0% | | | | | |

| Offen | sive Performance | w Motion (Pre Sn | ap & Play Action) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 41% | Success: 55% | Success: 44% |
| | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.11 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.16 | YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.12 |
| | Rtg: 86.7 | Rtg: 84.7 | Rtg: 86.3 |
| | [Att: 355 - Rate: 57.0%] | [Att: 74 - Rate: 11.9%] | [Att: 429 - Rate: 68.9%] |
| Yes | Success: 49% | Success: 52% | Success: 50% |
| | YPA: 6.1, EPA: 0.08 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.17 | YPA: 6.5, EPA: 0.11 |
| | Rtg: 84.9 | Rtg: 101.1 | Rtg: 90.4 |
| | [Att: 129 - Rate: 20.7%] | [Att: 65 - Rate: 10.4%] | [Att: 194 - Rate: 31.1%] |
| Total | Success: 43% | Success: 54% | Success: 46% |
| | YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.06 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.01 | YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.05 |
| | Rtg: 86.2 | Rtg: 92.6 | Rtg: 87.6 |
| | [Att: 484 - Rate: 77.7%] | [Att: 139 - Rate: 22.3%] | [Att: 623 - Rate: 100.0%] |

| Wk | Орр | Score | Drew Sample | A.J. Green | Tee Higgins | Tyler Boyd | Giovani Bernard | Joe Mixon | Mike Thomas | Alex Erickson | C.J. Uzomah | John Ross |
|----|-------|---------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 | LAC | L 16-13 | 24 (35%) | 45 (66%) | 15 (22%) | 55 (81%) | 20 (29%) | 40 (59%) | 15 (22%) | 4 (6%) | 49 (72%) | 57 (84%) |
| 2 | CLE | L 35-30 | 54 (59%) | 57 (62%) | 60 (65%) | 78 (85%) | 42 (46%) | 46 (50%) | 32 (35%) | 8 (9%) | 47 (51%) | 28 (30%) |
| 3 | PHI | T 23-23 | 64 (89%) | 55 (76%) | 57 (79%) | 54 (75%) | 18 (25%) | 52 (72%) | 16 (22%) | 6 (8%) | | |
| 4 | JAC | W 33-25 | 64 (85%) | 53 (71%) | 43 (57%) | 58 (77%) | 13 (17%) | 62 (83%) | 25 (33%) | 7 (9%) | | |
| 5 | BAL | L 27-3 | 63 (94%) | 28 (42%) | 54 (81%) | 46 (69%) | 16 (24%) | 51 (76%) | 33 (49%) | 2 (3%) | | |
| 6 | IND | L 31-27 | 55 (75%) | 58 (79%) | 59 (81%) | 57 (78%) | 35 (48%) | 39 (53%) | 26 (36%) | 3 (4%) | | 1 (1%) |
| 7 | CLE | L 37-34 | 73 (97%) | 65 (87%) | 63 (84%) | 60 (80%) | 57 (76%) | | 16 (21%) | | | |
| 8 | TEN | W 31-20 | 62 (85%) | 62 (85%) | 57 (78%) | 55 (75%) | 47 (64%) | | 6 (8%) | 1 (1%) | | |
| 10 | PIT | L 36-10 | 57 (88%) | 54 (83%) | 55 (85%) | 52 (80%) | 44 (68%) | | 18 (28%) | | | |
| 11 | WAS | L 20-9 | 57 (84%) | 54 (79%) | 62 (91%) | 56 (82%) | 37 (54%) | | | 5 (7%) | | |
| 12 | NYG | L 19-17 | 38 (78%) | 40 (82%) | 45 (92%) | 40 (82%) | 38 (78%) | | | 8 (16%) | | |
| 13 | MIA | L 19-7 | 45 (87%) | 45 (87%) | 47 (90%) | 24 (46%) | 35 (67%) | | 13 (25%) | 19 (37%) | | |
| 14 | DAL | L 30-7 | 64 (89%) | 63 (88%) | 65 (90%) | 59 (82%) | 17 (24%) | | 6 (8%) | 8 (11%) | | |
| 15 | PIT | W 27-17 | 51 (91%) | 51 (91%) | 56 (100%) | 11 (20%) | 38 (68%) | | 1 (2%) | 28 (50%) | | |
| 16 | HOU | W 37-31 | 66 (87%) | 56 (74%) | 64 (84%) | | 44 (58%) | | 12 (16%) | 62 (82%) | | |
| 17 | BAL | L 38-3 | 31 (72%) | 34 (79%) | 3 (7%) | 41 (95%) | 16 (37%) | | 10 (23%) | 37 (86%) | | |
| | Grand | Total | 868 (81%) | 820 (77%) | 805 (74%) | 746 (74%) | 517 (49%) | 290 (66%) | 229 (23%) | 198 (24%) | 96 (62%) | 86 (39%) |

| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1-1 [3WR] | 76% | 60% | 46% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 15% | 20% | 48% |
| 1-0 [4WR] | 5% | 2% | 30% |
| Croun | | | _• |
| Group | ing i | <u>enden</u> | cies |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Tyler Boyd | 16 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| Drew Sample | 11 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Giovani Bernard | 11 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Tee Higgins | 11 | 5 | | 6 |
| A.J. Green | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| Samaje Perine | 5 | | | 5 |
| Auden Tate | 4 | | | 4 |
| Joe Mixon | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| C.J. Uzomah | 2 | | 1 | 1 |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Giovani Bernard | 19 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| Joe Mixon | 18 | 5 | 2 | 11 |
| Samaje Perine | 15 | 4 | 1 | 10 |
| Joe Burrow | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Ryan Finley | 2 | | | 2 |
| Alex Erickson | 1 | | | 1 |
| Trayveon Williams | 1 | | | 1 |
| Tyler Boyd | 1 | | | 1 |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | |
| 20% 23% | 14% 21% | 66% 56% | | | |
| NFL AVG | | | | | |
| Overall Target Success % | | | | | |
| RB | TE | WR | | | |
| 45% | 57% | 50% | | | |
| #18 | #10 | #27 | | | |

| 01. Games w Halftime Lead |
|---------------------------|
|---------------------------|

| 02. Avg | Halftime Lead |
|---------|---------------|
| | |

| 1.0 | 03. | Win |
|-----|-----|-----|

| 03. Wins | |
|----------|--|
| | |

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.5 | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.1 | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 6.7 | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.5 | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 51% | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 48% | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.07 | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.11 | |
| | | |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 32% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 58% |
| 46. PA YPA | 7.5 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 4.0% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.0 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 8.9 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 51% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.1 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 5.1% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.01 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.5 |

Men In Box

| 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 | 48% |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 5.5 |
| 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 | 31% |
| 60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 2.8 |
| 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 | 51% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-vd line | 4.4 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 30 | defFUM | 14 |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | -4.1 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 |
| offFUM | 19 | dell own iccvia | 0 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 6 | defFR Rk | 18 |
| offFR% | 31.6% | defFR% | 42.9% |
| offFR Rk | 30 | | 0.0 |
| offFROE | -4.4 | defFROE | 0.2 |
| offFROE Rk | 29 | defFROE Rk | 13 |
| | | | |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | -1.67 | Opp Att | 38 |
|------------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 21 | Opp Makes | 33 |
| Own Att | 34 | • | |
| Own Makes | 27 | Opp FG % | 87% |
| Own FG % | 79% | Opp Expected Makes | 31.84 |
| Own Expected Makes | 27.50 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.16 |
| Own Make over Expectation | -0.50 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 14 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 21 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 1 11 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 0.68 |
| | | 2040 Onn Dk | 10 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 9 | 2019 Opp Rk | 10 |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

35. Total Defensive Efficiency

| · injoir ir alone | 5 | |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| | Joe Burrow | Brandon Allen |
| CAY | 5.7 | 4 |
| CAY Rk | 22 | 38 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | | |
| AYTS Rk | 16 | 32 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | | |
| AGG Rk | 3 | 7 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | | |
| COMP% | 65.3 | 63.4 |
| xCOMP% | 61.7 | 65.4 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 37 | 15 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | | |
| CPOE% | 3.7 | -2 |
| CPOE Rk | 6 | 32 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | | |
| | | |

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

OB Pressure

| QB F | i essui e | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------------|
| | Joe Burrow | Brandon Allen |
| Pressure % | 32.2 | 23.2 |
| Pressure Rk | 20 | 40 |
| Sack % | 7.1 | 4.5 |
| Sack Rk | 8 | 29 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 53.5 | 60.9 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 39 | 33 |
| Rating when Pressured | 52.3 | 43.9 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 29 | 38 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 79.3 | 74.1 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 19 | 36 |
| Rating when Clean | 102.5 | 91 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 19 | 34 |
| Time to Throw | 2.65 | 2.51 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 26 | 37 |

Offensive Metrics

| Offensive Metrics | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| EPA/Pass | -0.08 | | | |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 25 | | | |
| EPA/Rush | -0.09 | | | |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 23 | | | |
| On-Target Catch % | 88.6% | | | |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 26 | | | |
| Drop% | 5.6% | | | |
| Drop Rk | 7 | | | |
| YAC/Att | 2.1 | | | |
| YAC/Att Rk | 23 | | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 11.4% | | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 27 | | | |
| Rush 1st Down % | 22.4% | | | |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 28 | | | |
| | | | | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Kevin Stefanski (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: Alex Van Pelt (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator:** Joe Woods (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

Cleveland Browns

2021 Forecast

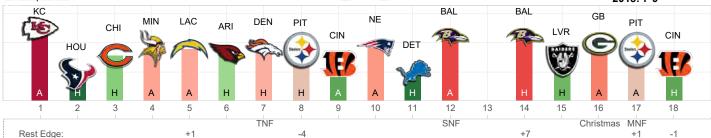
Wins

Div Rank

#2

Past Records

2020: 11-5 2019: 6-10 2018: 7-9



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Karl Joseph (S) | Raiders |
| Kendall Lamm (LT) | Titans |
| Kevin Johnson (CB) | Titans |
| Larry Ogunjobi (IDL) | Bengals |
| Taywan Taylor (WR) | Texans |
| Terrance Mitchell (CB) | Texans |
| Vincent Taylor (IDL) | Texans |
| Adrian Clayborn (EDGE) | TBD |
| Andrew Sendejo (S) | TBD |
| Anthony Fabiano (C) | TBD |
| B.J. Goodson (LB) | TBD |
| Drake Dorbeck (RT) | TBD |
| Marvin Hall (WR) | TBD |
| Olivier Vernon (EDGE) | TBD |
| Sheldon Richardson (IDL) | TBD |
| Trevon Young (EDGE) | TRD |

| Average | # Games | # Games | |
|---------|---------|---------|--|
| Line | Favored | Underdo | |
| 2.4 | 13 | 2 | |

2021 Cleveland Browns Overview

The Browns were my strongest victory last offseason. This team had won seven and then six games in the prior two years and were on yet another new head coach in an offseason with a pandemic, a quarterback who hadn't proven himself, and a very strong

My reasons for jumping on the Browns as I did last offseason can be summed up by two words: scheme and schedule.

I had more confidence than almost anyone that Kevin Stefanski would be the perfect fit for Baker Mayfield. Having studied Mayfield in the Browns offense for years, I knew the first thing he needed was confidence and comfort in the pocket. Having studied Stefanski in Minnesota, I knew his offensive scheme would be a perfect pairing for Mayfield.

My expectations for the Browns were sky high. I was obnoxious about it. I'd fire off tweets in the spring: "Baker needed this" and "Stefanski's building a MUCH different offense which is going to suit Baker Mayfield EXTREMELY well with its protection & versatility and wouldn't shut up tweeting stats to show where Mayfield struggled and how Stefanski could fix those struggles.

Aside from the scheme, I was betting on the schedule. I put a ton of work into schedule analytics every season, before, during, and after the season. My predictions are typically very strong. I predicted that no team would face a tougher increase in schedule difficulty than the Browns from 2018 to 2019. That proved correct. I then predicted that no team would face a larger shift in schedule ease than the Browns from 2019 to 2020. That also proved correct.

After facing the ninth toughest schedule in 2019, I predicted the Browns would face the third easiest. They actually played the easiest. After facing the (cont'd - see CLE2)

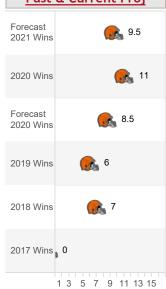
Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|---------------------------|----------|
| John Johnson (S) | \$11.3 |
| Jadeveon Clowney (EDGE) | \$8 |
| Troy Hill (CB) | \$4.5 |
| Takkarist McKinley (EDGE) | \$4.29 |
| Anthony Walker Jr. (LB) | \$3 |
| Damion Square (IDL) | \$1.10 |
| Greg Senat (LT) | \$0.90 |
| Chase McLaughlin (K) | \$0.80 |

Drafted Players

| | Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|---|-----|-------------------------------------|---|
| | 1 | 26 | CB - Greg Newsome II (Northwestern) |
| | 2 | 52 | LB - Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah (Notre Da |
| | 3 | 91 | WR - Anthony Schwartz (Auburn) |
| | 4 | 110 | OT - James Hudson (Cincinnati) |
| | - | 132 | DT - Tommy Togiai (Ohio State) |
| 5 | 153 | LB - Tony Fields II (West Virginia) | |
| | 169 | S - Richard LeCounte (Georgia) | |
| | 6 | 211 | WR - Demetric Felton (UCLA) |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj





| -82- LWR R.Higgins | SLOTWR J.Landry | 71- 75 LT LG J.Wills J.Bito | c | RG W.Teller | 78- RT J.Conklin | 81- 7E A.Hooper | RWR O.Beckham Jr. |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| WR2 D.Peoples-Jos | 10- 27 WR3 leschwartz Rookie | QB2 | QB' B.Mayfield | 24- RB N.Chubb | | | ap Dollars years old |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | | \$141.77M | 7 |
| QB | 12 | \$18.68M | 22 |
| OL | 2 | \$53.38M | 5 |
| RB | | \$12.84M | 20 |
| WR | 4 | \$39.34M | 4 |
| TE | 3 | \$17.53M | 18 |
| All DEF | 31 | \$69.82M | 19 |
| DL | 28 | \$31.01M | 13 |
| LB | 26 | \$8.62M | 25 |
| СВ | 15 | \$18.60M | 14 |
| S | 18 | \$11.58M | 18 |
| | | | |

1

BAL

A -32

6

38

toughest schedule of defenses in 2019, I predicted the Browns offense would play the 24th toughest schedule of defenses. They actually played the 25th toughest. After facing the third toughest schedule of pass defenses in 2019, I predicted the Browns passing offense would face the easiest schedule of pass defenses. They actually played the third easiest. I didn't know how close to being accurate I would be, but knowing how accurate I've generally been, and knowing how large a difference in schedule ease I anticipated for 2020, I was really bullish on the Browns.

Scheme and schedule. Of course, like all things I believe in strongly, I share with my betting clients and put my money where my mouth is. The first bet I loved the most? Browns to make the playoffs at +130. Second bet I loved? The big one: Kevin Stefanski to win Coach of the Year at 33-to-1 and again at 25-to-1. I also got a little on the Browns over 8.5 wins, but the focus was playoffs and Coach of the Year.

The Browns were dominated in Week 1 by the Ravens 38-6 and it didn't look great. But they went on to win four straight. While that sounds good, for the Browns, it was great - Cleveland had won four games in a row just ONE TIME since 1994, and that was in 2009 when the 1-11 Browns won the last four games of the season to finish 5-11 in Eric Mangini's first season. So winning four straight, having done it one other time in the prior 26 years, was huge. The Browns went on to win seven of their last 11 games.

A Week 16 loss to the Jets was embarrassing, and a close win against the Mason Rudolph-led Steelers was not inspiring. But the Browns made the playoffs. And I knew that meant Stefanski would be Coach of the Year.

After all, Stefanski was a rookie head coach during a pandemic, who also calls offensive plays, who was without an offseason/preseason to install a totally new scheme. But that didn't stop the Browns from winning double-digit games and making the playoffs.

In the COVID offseason, Stefanski turned around a team that hadn't posted a winning record since 2007 or made the playoffs since 2002.

Other first-year head coaches? Ron Rivera, Joe Judge, Mike McCarthy, and Matt Rhule. None of them even finished .500. They all had losing records. And here's Stefanski leading a franchise with a terrible track record to 11 wins? It had to be him. And it was.

| 2020 Passing Performance | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| Baker Mayfield | 49% 7.0 93.0 | 54% 8.3 110.9 | 40% 6.0 76.4 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 39% | 61% | 68% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |

| 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| CLE | 52% 5.4 | 45% 3.7 | 56% 4.9 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 61% | 39% | 32% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

Now, this is a regular season coaching award, but Stefanski got extra credit for preparing his team to win a playoff game against the hated-rival Steelers remotely, because he came down with COVID himself. He got his team ready and they worked over the Steelers 48-37 in Pittsburgh.

Everything was not perfect, however. If they want to take the next step, which is an appearance in an AFC Championship, a Super Bowl or walking away with the Lombardi, they must fix a number of things.

But before we address a few negatives, let's focus on the positives.

The first thing that must be contemplated is the brutal stretch of bad weather games the Browns played from Week 8 through Week 11. (cont'd - see CLE-3)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

11

24

Defensive Efficiency

25

Pass Efficiency Def

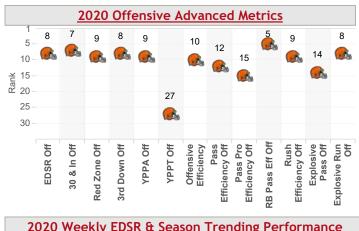
18

Pass Pro

Efficieincy Def

16

22 23



| | <u>ZU</u> | <u> 20 y</u> | <u>vee</u> | <u>KIY</u> | ED: | K d | : <u>26</u> | eason i | ren | <u>allus</u> | Pe | rto | <u>rma</u> | <u>nce</u> | |
|---|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|-----|-----|-------------|---------|-----|--------------|-----|-----|------------|------------|-----|
| - | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | w | - | w | w | Ĺ | w | Ĺ | W | w | | w | L | W | | w |
| _ | CIN | WAS | DAL | IND | PIT | CIN | LV | HOU | PHI | JAC | TEN | BAL | NYG | NYJ | PIT |
| | Н | Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н |
| | 5 | 14 | 11 | 9 | -31 | 3 | -10 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | -5 | 14 | -7 | 2 |
| | 35 | 34 | 49 | 32 | 7 | 37 | 6 | 10 | 22 | 27 | 41 | 42 | 20 | 16 | 24 |
| | 30 | 20 | 38 | 23 | 38 | 34 | 16 | 7 | 17 | 25 | 35 | 47 | 6 | 23 | 22 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



2020 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):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 7-2 Score Games Win %: 78% (#3) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 64% (#12)

2020 Critical/Game-Dociding State

18

RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def 28

Explosive Pass Def

Explosive

11

| Deciding Sta | <u>its</u> |
|--------------------|------------|
| TO Margin | +5 |
| TO Given | 16 |
| INT Given | 8 |
| FUM Given | 8 |
| TO Taken | 21 |
| INT Taken | 11 |
| FUM Taken | 10 |
| Sack Margin | +12 |
| Sacks | 38 |
| Sacks Allow | 26 |
| Return TD Margin | -1 |
| Ret TDs | 2 |
| Ret TDs Allow | 3 |
| Penalty Margin | -16 |
| Penalties | 100 |
| Opponent Penalties | 84 |
| | |

5

10

20

25

30

WFFK **RESULT**

OPP

SITE MARGIN

PTS

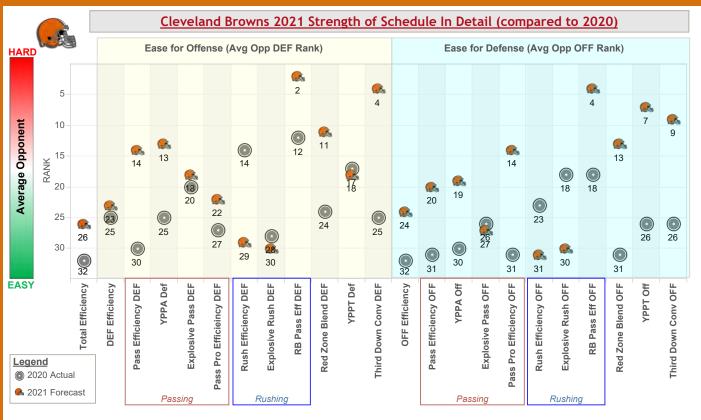
OPP PTS

EDSR Def

21

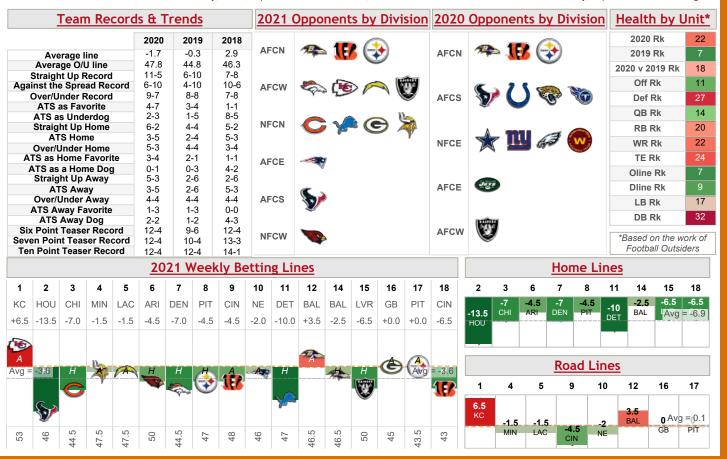
30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def

Rank 15



| | 2021 vs 2020 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 | | | | | |
| 3 | 3 | 30 | 20 | 6 | 6 | 28 | 23 | | | | | |

^{* 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







They played three straight games of high wind, brutal rain, or a combination of both. Games ended 16-6, 10-7, and 22-17. So anyone looking at the season-long rankings shown throughout this chapter needs to realize that nearly 20% of the Browns' regular season games were played in playcall-altering weather conditions which helped the defense and significantly hurt the offense.

One of the biggest changes Stefanski implemented was a much higher rate of 12 personnel. In Mayfield's first two years as a pro (2018 and 2019), the Browns passed from 12 personnel on 156 plays combined. In 2020 alone, the Browns passed from 12 personnel on 169 plays.

It was the most efficient personnel grouping for Mayfield in his first two years, and he averaged 8.2 YPA, 51% success, and 0.14 EPA/att. Stefanski used it more often and with even greater efficiency in 2020, particularly when the Browns were trying to build a first half lead: 8.1 YPA, 55% success, and 0.23 EPA/att. All three metrics were stronger in 2020 than they were in 2018/2019 in the first half of games.

But it wasn't just "use more heavy sets and we'll be a better offense." Stefanski got a ton out of Mayfield in 11 personnel as well. In 2019, Mayfield averaged 6.5 YPA, 39% success, and -0.18 EPA/att in 11 personnel in the first half of games. In 2020 that waw up to 6.9 YPA, 51% success, and 0.17 EPA/att.

While the offense was much better from 11, the increase from 12 was substantial, so it made sense for Stefanski to call over twice as much 12 personnel in 2020 as compared to 2019.

Stefanski also turned 12 personnel into a passing set rather than a rushing set. In 2019, when the Browns were in 12 personnel, they ran the ball on 61% of plays on early downs in the first three quarters. In 2020, that flipped from 61% run to 63% pass (NFL average is 52% run). They changed from the sixth most run-heavy team to the second most pass-heavy team in one virtual offseason.

Baker Mayfield also improved across numerous measures to target depth and drop type. The largest improvement came on Level 2 throws, which are throws that have up-and-down trajectory (usually over LBs and in front of DBs, as defined by Sports Info Solutions). Look at the splits from 2019 to 2020:

2019: 37% success, 6.9 YPA, -0.09 EPA/att on 118 attempts 2020: 52% success, 11.0 YPA, 0.40 EPA/att on 88 attempts

Mayfield improved on both three-, five-, and seven-step drops with numbers that don't even come close to resembling what he was doing under Hue Jackson and Freddie Kitchens. He was also far better against man coverage in Stefanski's scheme (54% success, 8.0 YPA, 0.37 EPA/att) than in 2019 (49% success, 6.6 YPA, 0.01 EPA/att).

Other coaching improvements came with more usage of pre-snap motion and play-action. In 2019, 60% of the Browns' passes were without pre-snap motion or play-action. In 2020, 60% of the Browns' passes featured either pre-snap motion, play-action, or both. The Browns increased their usage of pre-snap motion from 28th most to 11th most.

Stefanski also increased the rate of shotgun passing. In 2019, the Browns used shotgun on an above-average 66% of passes (average was 63%). Even in the first half of games, the Browns were still in shotgun on 68% of snaps, a full five percent above average. The problem? Mayfield was terrible when passing from shotgun, even if you scrap third down passes which are more likely to be from shotgun. Examine Mayfield's 2019 splits in the first half on early downs only:

Shotgun: 73% of snaps, 45% success, 6.9 YPA, -0.01 EPA/att Under Center: 27% of snaps, 53% success, 9.2 YPA, 0.08 EPA/att

Yet the 2019 Browns put Baker in shotgun on three of every four dropbacks. Stefanski changed that completely. Mayfield's 2020 splits in the first half on early downs:

Shotgun: 53% of snaps, 56% success, 6.8 YPA, 0.18 EPA/att Under Center: 47% of snaps, 58% success, 10.7 YPA, 0.29 EPA/att

With a rebuilt offensive line, Mayfield also had substantially more time to throw, moving from a ranking of 23rd in 2019 to second in 2020.

Additionally, Stefanski got a lot more out of Nick Chubb when running from their primary 11 and 12 personnel sets than in 2019.

(cont'd - see CLE-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage is negated advantage game to prep prep 2 0 2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Cleveland Browns Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank** Rank Rank 11 11 12 11

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The Browns finished last season with a negative 11-point differential, the only team in the NFL to not only make the playoffs with a negative point differential but also the only team to win at least nine games.
- Cleveland went 7-2 in one-score games, including tight wins against bad teams like Cincinnati twice, the Jaguars, Texans and a Week 17 game against the Steelers' backups. The Browns can't afford to keep games close against the teams they should easily beat in 2021.
- As noted above, Mayfield had an excellent 2020 season, however, he really struggled when facing pressure, ranked 33rd in yards per attempt and 31st in passer rating. Mayfield could be in for a season of negative regression unless he has a consistent clean pocket.
- The Browns' offensive line was graded as the second best pass blocking efficiency line, according to PFF, and ranked sixth best in adjusted line yards. Their starting offensive line was extremely healthy and only missed a combined seven regular season games. It is difficult to expect a very healthy offensive line in back-to-back seasons.

9.5



Why Bet the Over

- The Browns are expected to face the third easiest schedule in the NFL based on current win totals.
- Cleveland's defense was a problem last year, ranked 23rd in EPA per play allowed and dead last on fourth downs. They also led the NFL in allowing three touchdowns in the final two minutes of the game to reduce the final margin to one score. No team in the NFL improved their talent level in the offseason on defense as the Browns did. There is a chance the Browns will have as many as eight new starters, many of which are studs.
- The Browns' strength last season came by way of the running game, as Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt ranked first and second in explosive run percentage among running backs last season. The entire offensive line is back, and the Browns are expected to face the second easiest run defensive schedule based on EPA per rush allowed.
- Baker Mayfield was very efficient last season under head coach Kevin Stefanski's offense, ranking 11th in EPA per drop back and ninth in completion percentage over expectation. He was even better down the stretch ranking sixth in EPA and third in success rate in the final seven games of the season. And he gets back a major weapon in WR Odell Beckham Jr. to continue his ascension.

| | Cleveland Browns Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | | | |
| 12 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 9 | | | | | | |

Baker Mayfield might lack elite talent in some areas, but he's developed into an extremely smart quarterback. When opposing defenses brought five or more pass-rushers, Mayfield was pressured at the fifth-lowest rate and was the only quarterback under the age of 30 in the top seven. Young quarterbacks often struggle in this area because to avoid pressure on the blitz, they need to anticipate it and react quickly.

The Browns were a unanimous selection for our top backfield. **Nick Chubb** and **Kareem Hunt** are each great in their own right, and complement each other extremely well.

The receiving corps sneaks into the top 10 based on the assumption **Odell Beckham Jr.** returns to full health. Beckham and **Jarvis Landry** are a strong one-two punch but the depth is below average.

The Browns offensive line was also a unanimous number-one selection. There isn't a weak link on the line and the depth only got better with the addition of fourth-round rookie **James Hudson**.

The only potential liability on this roster is the front seven, which suffers from the losses of **Sheldon Richardson**, **Larry Ogunjobi**, and **Olivier Vernon**. **Jadeveon Clowney** might replace some of that pass-rush production, but there's a reason he's on his fourth team in four years. When opponents took at least a three-step dropback, Clowney's pressure rate was just 9.2% last year (Vernon's was 11.3%). The Browns secondary was a mess in 2020, but injuries to **Grant Delpit** and **Greedy Williams** played a role in the issues. In addition to getting them back healthy, slot cornerback **Troy Hill**, safety **John Johnson**, and rookie **Greg Newsome** join the crew. This should be one of the most improved units across the league.

It's tough to evaluate a coach after just one year, but Kevin Stefanski appeared to develop the perfect game plan for his roster and, despite mounting injuries, continued improving throughout the year. For the first time in decades, Cleveland may have a top-tier coach.

CLE-4

As an example, look at Chubb's splits in 11 personnel by year:

2019: 41% success, 5.0 YPC, -0.11 EPA/att on 120 att 2020: 58% success, 6.2 YPC, 0.12 EPA/att on 89 att

But it's not as if everything is gravy in Cleveland. Remember, a key reason we bet on them heavily was the schedule they faced in 2020. Against that easy schedule, the Browns still had to go 7-2 in one-score games, +5 in turnover margin, and +12 in sack margin to go 11-5. Cleveland went 3-3 in games decided by double digits. They went 4-0 in games decided by a field goal or less. This could have been a very different season from a win-loss perspective.

In fact, the Browns went only 6-10 (37.5%) against the spread in 2020. Of the 13 teams that finished with a winning record in the NFL last season, no team had a worse ATS record than the Browns. When favored by over three points, The Browns may have won seven of eight games, but they only covered the spread in two of the eight, winning 5 of 7 by 5 points or less.

So what do the Browns need to improve on in 2021? There are a variety of things.

In 2020, the Browns improved in most every statistic across the board as compared to 2019. But on third down and long, they still ranked 29th, identical to 2019. Certainly this offense, with a top-10 rush and pass offense, shouldn't face extremely long third downs. The lone teams with great offenses that tend to face longer third downs are those offenses that are super pass-heavy. Such great offenses bypass third downs frequently.

(cont'd - see CLE-5)

CLE-5

But because these teams rarely run the ball, they may find themselves, after incompletions or sacks, in third and very long. But it's unusual for a team like the Browns to rank so poorly with a NFL-average 54% pass on early downs in the first half of games and such a good run and pass offense.

For starters, the Browns had massive splits between first and second down. Look at the first half play tendencies:

First down: 57% run (fifth most run-heavy team) Second down: 76% pass (most pass-heavy team)

In the first half, the NFL average is 49% run on first down and 60% pass on second down. The Browns were 8% more run heavy on first down than average and 16% more pass heavy on second down.

On these first half first downs, the Browns were the fifth-most run-heavy team in the NFL. And these runs were not as successful as you might remember. They averaged 48% success, 4.6 YPC, and 0.01 EPA/att. The NFL average was only slightly worse (49% success, 4.4 YPC, and -0.03 EPA/att).

Due to the high run rate and modest success, the Browns actually found themselves on second down with 7.9 yards to go on average. That was second-most in the NFL, behind only the Broncos.

It was perhaps as a result of this distance to go that the Browns went 76% pass on second downs (excluding the weather weeks), but shifting from fifth most run heavy on first down to the most pass heavy on second down seems extreme

That said, Stefanski and Mayfield crushed it on second down passing. Non-bad weather games averaged 63% success, 9.1 YPA, and 0.32 EPA/att on his 124 attempts.

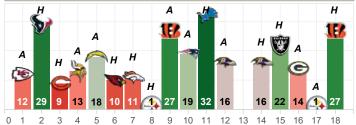
Mayfield ranked first in YPA and fourth in EPA on second down passing in the first half of games. Mayfield displayed uncanny accuracy on these plays.

(cont'd - see <u>CLE-6</u>)

<u>Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection</u>



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



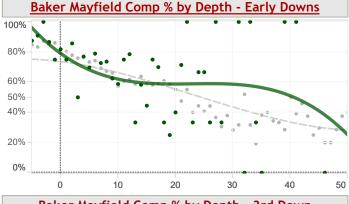
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

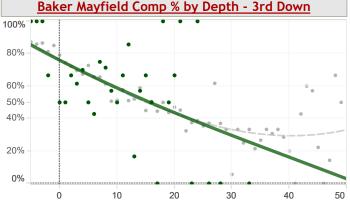


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | Usage R | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Kareem Hunt | 15% | 13% | 59% | 4% | 9% |
| | Nick Chubb | 12% | 20% | 40% | 16% | 12% |
| | Jarvis Landry | 8% | 10% | 62% | 10% | 10% |
| | Austin Hooper | 10% | 7% | 62% | 8% | 13% |
| ဟ | Rashard Higgins | 9% | 9% | 52% | 9% | 21% |
| PAS | Odell Beckham Jr. | 20% | 7% | 68% | 2% | 2% |
| L. | D'Ernest Johnson | 25% | | 75% | | |
| | Harrison Bryant | 3% | 15% | 67% | 6% | 9% |
| | David Njoku | 10% | 32% | 52% | 3% | 3% |
| | Marvin Hall | 50% | 50% | | | |
| | Total | 11% | 12% | 59% | 8% | 11% |
| | Kareem Hunt | 9% | 7% | 55% | 18% | 11% |
| | Nick Chubb | 5% | 6% | 69% | 9% | 11% |
| RUSH | Jarvis Landry | | | 100% | | |
| S. | Odell Beckham Jr. | | | 100% | | |
| | D'Ernest Johnson | 12% | 3% | 30% | 15% | 39% |
| | Total | 7% | 6% | 60% | 13% | 13% |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Beckham Johnson Bryant **Austin Hoope** Chubb Jarvis Landry David Njoku Marvin Hall Kareem Rashard Harrison 'Ernest Sick Odell **PASS** 25% RUSH 45% 47% ALL





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 2-0 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 48%, 0.13 (302) | 52%, 0.15 (183) | 52%, -0.06 (56) | 41%, 0.14 (17) | 41%, -0.32 (34) | | | | 49%, 0.09 (592) |
| RUSH | 56%, 0.12 (199) | 51%, 0.09 (113) | 46%, -0.07 (100) | 37%, -0.32 (78) | 45%, -0.14 (44) | 50%, -1.48 (2) | 0%, -0.22 (1) | 0%, -0.45 (1) | 49%, -0.01 (538) |
| All | 51%, 0.12 (501) | 52%, 0.13 (296) | 48%, -0.06 (156) | 38%, -0.24 (95) | 44%, -0.22 (78) | 50%, -1.48 (2) | 0%, -0.22 (1) | 0%, -0.45 (1) | 49%, 0.04 (1,130) |

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 | Kareem | 45% (33) | 69% (13) | 50% (2) | 52% (48) | | | | | | | |
| | Hunt | 5.5, -0.01 | 7.5, 0.33 | 4.5, 0.11 | 6.0, 0.09 | | | | | | | |
| | Nick Chubb | 46% (13) 8.5, 0.43 | 70% (10) 7.1, 0.23 | 33% (3) 4.3, -0.31 | 54% (26) 7.5, 0.27 | | | | | | | |
| TE | Austin | 55% (29) | 43% (30) | 67% (3) | 50% (62) | | | | | | | |
| | Hooper | 5.7, 0.25 | 5.1, 0.12 | 4.3, -0.06 | 5.4, 0.17 | | | | | | | |
| WR | Jarvis | 53% (74) | 69% (35) | 57% (7) | 58% (116) | | | | | | | |
| | Landry | 7.5, 0.23 | 9.5, 0.65 | 7.3, 0.38 | 8.1, 0.36 | | | | | | | |
| | Odell | 40% (15) | 56% (18) | 14% (7) | 43% (40) | | | | | | | |
| | Beckham | 8.8, 0.11 | 8.5, 0.39 | 1.7, -1.12 | 7.4, 0.02 | | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | | • | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| Chubb | 58% (89) | 56% (45) | 55% (22) | 36% (25) | 54% (181) |
| Nick | 6.2, 0.12 | 7.1, 0.11 | 4.9, 0.05 | 2.9, -0.27 | 5.8, 0.05 |
| Hunt | 57% (70) | 44% (45) | 38% (26) | 56% (18) | 50% (159) |
| Kareem | 4.9, 0.11 | 3.8, -0.10 | 4.1, -0.13 | 4.7, 0.02 | 4.4, 0.00 |
| Mayfield | 62% (21) | 57% (14) | 11% (19) | | 43% (54) |
| Baker | 4.5, 0.32 | 5.2, 0.30 | -0.7, -1.03 | | 2.8, -0.16 |
| Johnson | 27% (11) | 25% (4) | 56% (9) | | 38% (24) |
| D'Ernest | 3.7, -0.16 | 3.8, -0.15 | 5.3, -0.05 | | 4.3, -0.12 |

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)

Line 2: YPA, EPA

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

| Pass | sing by | Passing by | | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | |
|--------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| | verage heme | Re | oute | Level 1 | 57% (413) 6.8, 0.22 | 3 Step | 53% (229) 7.0, 0.20 | Planted | | % (376) 8, 0.23 | Outside Zone | 51% (118) 5.3, 0.01 | |
| | E70/ (207) | Curl | 58% (66) 7.3, 0.29 | | | 5 Step | 55% (86) Moving | | % (120) 2, 0.09 | Power | 62% (91) | | |
| Zone | 57% (307) 7.7, 0.19 | Out | 58% (64) 7.8, 0.33 | Level 2 | 52% (88) 11.0, 0.40 | | 7.9, 0.37 | Shuffling | | 46% (69) 7.3, 0.13 | | 6.1, 0.05 | |
| | | | | 1 | 42% (24) | 0/1 Step | 49% (81) 5.3, -0.05 | | Play Action | on | Lead | 45% (60) 3.4, -0.14 | |
| M2M | 54% (166) 8.0, 0.37 | Dig | 59% (32) 7.9, 0.40 | Level 3 | 15.9, 0.56 | 7 Step | 68% (31) 13.0, 0.41 | | Play Action | No P/A | Stretch | 55% (56) 4.9, 0.07 | |
| | 0.0, 0.01 | Slant | 78% (27) | Shovel | 0% (3) -1.0, -0.96 | Designed | 59% (29) | Under Center | 55% (159) 9.1, 0.17 | 44% (43) 6.2, -0.12 | Inside | 34% (35) | |
| | 52% (44) | Siaiit | 7.6, 0.31 | | -1.0, -0.90 | Rollout Right | 9.8, 0.18 | Shotgun | 70% (10) 10.2, 0.46 | 47% (385) 6.7, 0.07 | Zone | 3.1, -0.08 | |
| Screen | 52% (44) 7.8, 0.24 | | 47% (17) 5.8, -0.17 | Sidearm | 33% (3) 1.3, -0.26 | Basic Screen | 60% (25) 8.2, 0.49 | ALL | 56% (169) 9.1, 0.19 | 47% (428) 6.6, 0.05 | Pitch | 37% (19) 5.5, 0.08 | |

CLE-6

It single handedly offset an average first down rushing attack and allowed for the Browns to bypass third downs on second down gains.

However, the NFL's highest pass rate on second-and-longs (remember, the Browns faced the second-longest yards-to-go on second downs) inevitably leads to some incompletions, which leads, as you guessed, to long third downs.

Although Baker wasn't quite as outstanding on first down passes in the first half of games, he still was far more productive than run plays (53% success, 8.0 YPA, 0.12 EPA/att) and the Browns should consider shading a little more to the passing game on first downs. It ultimately would lead to even fewer third downs (a goal) and shorter yards-to-go when put into third down.

Of the 10 teams with the longest yards-to-go on third downs, the Browns were the only team to have an above average conversion rate. We know that third down conversion rate on a team-level is less stable than the conversion rate based on yards-to-go, so we should expect the Browns to regress on these plays making it more important to reduce the yardage required.

Another area the Browns need to improve in are Baker's 0/1-step drops. In 2019, Baker wasn't very good in 0/1-step drops (44% success, 6.2 YPA, 0.02 EPA/att). But in 2020, he was even worse (49% success, 5.3 YPA, -0.05 EPA/att).

The Browns primarily used 11 and 12 personnel last year, but they also used a diverse set of other heavy packages including 13, 22, and 21 personnel. They called a total of 329 plays from those various heavy sets.

Yet, they were terrible from these sets. They averaged -0.15 EPA/att on these plays and 45% success. If you remove late-game playcalls in the fourth quarter that may have been runs to bleed clock, and look at just the first three quarters, there was some improvement, but still poor performance in 206 plays (-0.06 EPA/att and 47% success). They went 59% run on these plays and those runs recorded only 4.0 YPC, 46% success, and -0.04 EPA/att. Passes had higher YPA when thrown, but Mayfield was pressured on 27% of dropbacks, sacked on 8%, and pass plays netted -0.08 EPA/att. The Browns need to clean up their usage of these non-12 personnel heavier sets.





This year, the Browns face the third-toughest jump in schedule difficulty of opposing pass defenses in 2021. After playing the third-easiest schedule in 2020, I project them to face a league-average schedule in 2021.

On the positive, the Browns are projected to face the second easiest schedule of opponents based on forecast win totals and the seventh easiest schedule based on total efficiency. The Browns also have luck on their side from a schedule timing perspective. They have the 11th best net-rest edge of any team in the NFL. They have the NFL's fifth best prep ranking, with their opponent having less than a week to prepare for them in three games this year. The Browns rank 11th in rest ranking, with a net of +1 games more rest than their opponent.

I really loved what this team did defensively, both in 2020 with a scheme shift and then this offseason. In 2019, the Browns defense ranked fourth in rate of rushing 5 or 6+ defenders, and fourth in blitz rate (35%). In 2020, the Browns ranked 28th in rate of rushing 5, 24th in rate of rushing 6+, and 28th in blitz rate (17%). They blitzed half as often. They also drastically increased the rate of base defense, playing base on 26% of plays, double the rate (13%) in 2019. We will cover the details of their defensive offseason overhaul elsewhere, but suffice it to say, there will be plenty of new and better faces in 2021 for DC Joe Woods to work with.

What is crazy about the Browns this season is they have the NFL's most expensive offense, by FAR, and yet they still have a quarterback on a rookie deal. The Browns' 2021 offensive cap hit as of the time of this publication is \$141.8 million. There is not another team north of \$130 million. The next closest team is Dallas (who just paid Dak Prescott) at \$126 million. After them, the Bucs are at \$118 million. To have a quarterback so cheap (Mayfield is QB15 based on cap hit, clocking in at \$10.6 million) and yet an offense so expensive, it tells you one thing: the Browns are trying to buy themselves a shot to win it all, and they know they have a short window to do so before they pay Mayfield too.

While it's not a trivia nugget you want to be known for, if you're going to meet the first criteria, you might as well try to meet the second. In 2020, the Browns became the only team in NFL history to go from a losing record for over 10 straight seasons to winning over 10 games in a season.

Now, this team is poised to take a deeper run to the playoffs and prove that last year was not just a one-year wonder. The question that deserves to be asked, however, is if my and others' loud support for the Browns caused them to be viewed too kindly by the public and betting markets.

The Browns are favored in 13 games this season. Before last season, they were favored in nine games. The Browns were favored in 11 games last year but went only 4-7 ATS. Time will tell if the 2021 Browns are worthy of the praise we've bestowed on them for months this offseason. But one thing is certain: if they want to reach their goals, they can't rest on the laurels of 2020, they must improve in several key aspects to continue to raise efficiency.

Immediate Impact of Cleveland Browns 2021 Draft Class

Knowing they have to face **Lamar Jackson** at least twice per season likely factored into the selection of LB **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah** (second round). Browns linebackers were ill-equipped to contain Jackson, who ran for 169 yards on just 16 carries against them in 2020.

While Owusu-Koramoah didn't run the 40-yard dash this offseason, it's safe to say his speed will be an upgrade over **Sione Takitaki** (4.63 in the 40), **Anthony Walker** (4.65), **Jacob Phillips** (4.66) and **B.J. Goodson** (4.69).

Owusu-Koramoah played a hybrid safety/linebacker role at Notre Dame, so DC Joe Woods will have some flexibility in how he uses his new defensive weapon. Expect to see him used strategically depending on the matchup.

CB Greg Newsome (first round) will compete with Greedy Williams for the starting job opposite Denzel Ward.

Newsome's inexperience in man coverage (19% of his coverage snaps in 2020) may have been an issue for certain teams, but shouldn't hinder his ability to get on the field in Cleveland. The Browns were in man coverage 21% of the time in DC Joe Woods' first year, among the league's lowest rates.

DT Tommy Togiai (fourth round) should have an opportunity to compete for playing time due to the departures of Larry Ogunjobi and Sheldon Richardson.

Togiai played nose tackle at Ohio State, lining up in the zero or one-tech position on 46% of his snaps. Cleveland rarely used a true nose tackle (Ogunjobi typically played the role when they did), so Togiai will likely get more reps as a three-tech as a rookie.

Though it wasn't his primary role, Togiai was Ohio State's most effective interior pass-rusher when lined up over a guard, generating a pressure rate of 8.5%.

WR **Anthony Schwartz** (third round) was a strange selection. He's a track star with a limited route tree—58% of his targets came within five yards of the line of scrimmage last year. Presumably, Cleveland has an immediate plan to incorporate Schwartz into the offense on jet sweeps and screens, but there's limited upside to a player who needs to be given the ball in space to have an impact.

While Schwartz was probably a reach to fill a need, GM Andrew Berry otherwise was able to plug holes while still getting good value throughout the draft. Owusu-Koramoah was not expected to be available in the late second round, and could have been a justifiable first-round selection for Cleveland.

This looks like another strong class for the Browns, with multiple immediate impact players and future starters.



Cleveland Browns 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Cleveland was effective through the air in 2020 in their first year under Kevin Stefanski. The Browns ended the season 13th in passing EPA and ninth in EPA per passing play while ranking 14th in success rate (49%) through the air. In year three, Baker Mayfield showed more of what he flashed as a rookie then in his second season as the Browns enjoyed their best season since returning to the league in 1999. Mayfield rebounded across the board off his 2019 efficiency numbers in completion rate (62.8%), yards per attempt (7.3 Y/A), and touchdown rate (5.4%). This while Odell Beckham missed nine full games and appeared on just two snaps in another. Mayfield is set up to be the first Cleveland quarterback to start three consecutive Week 1 games since rejoining the NFL and the first since Bernie Kosar over the 1986-1993 seasons.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | | |
| Baker Mayfield | 348 | 556 | 63% | 4,026 | 7.2 | 29 | 9 | 27 | 95 | 21 | | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | | |

| | 2020 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 | 48% | 52% | 51 | 9.0% | 15 | 3.0% | 6.7 | 4.9 | 28 | 5% | | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | | |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10

Baker Mayfield Rating Early Downs



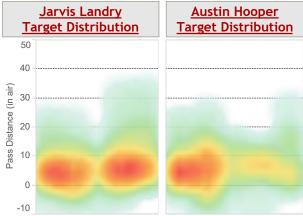
| <u>In</u> | Interception Rates by Down | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4th Dwn | Total | | | | | | | |
| 1 & 2 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 7.1% | 4.8% | 0.0% | 4.9% | | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 0.6% | 1.2% | 9.4% | | 1.7% | | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| 41 | | | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.5% | 1.3% | 3.4% | 0.0% | 1.5% | | | | | | | |

| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | Air \ | <u>ds vs</u> | YAC |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-----|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
| Baker Mayfield | 8.7 | 6.6 | -2.1 | 68% | 9 | 58% | 42% | 11 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | 52% | 48% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Due to the Browns being a run-oriented offense and Odell Beckham missing the majority of the season, Cleveland wideouts closed 2020 25th in the NFL receptions per game (11.3), 19th in receiving yardage per game (162.8 yards), and 16th in receiving touchdowns (14) as a group. Cleveland only targeted their wideouts 17.3 times per game (26th), but from an efficiency point of view, did so effectively as they were sixth in the league in yards per target to their wideouts at 9.1 yards. They only used 11 personnel on 44% of their snaps last season, which was 30th in the league. They did use 12 personnel on 26% of their snaps, which was ninth in the league. They targeted their tight ends 30% of the time (#3), but averaged just 6.4 yards per target (#24).

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Jarvis Landry | 110 | 71% | 8.2 | 102.7 | 57% | 40 | 38 | 68 | 57 | 5 |
| Austin Hooper | 84 | 65% | 5.9 | 96.2 | 52% | 73 | 73 | 116 | 13 | 5 |
| Rashard Higgins | 56 | 68% | 11.6 | 117.2 | 64% | 12 | 34 | 26 | 95 | 3 |

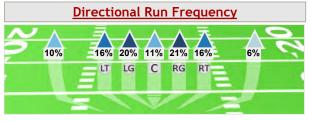


2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

With Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt at the top of the depth chart paired with arguably the best offensive line in the league, it is not surprise that the Browns were sixth in the NFL in yards per running play (4.8 yards) and seventh in the NFL in expected points added via their rushing game (33.1). Chubb enters 2020 in the final season of his rookie contract averaging 5.4, 5.3, and 5.9 yards per touch over his first three seasons in the league, becoming the first running back in league history to average over 5.0 yards per carry in each of his first three seasons in the league while having over 150 carries each year. Hunt signed an extension last offseason that has him on the roster through 2022 to keep this duo locked in for the upcoming season.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Nick Chubb | 221 | 5.5 | 51% | 43 | 43 | 90 | 2 | 50% | 45 | 12 |
| Kareem Hunt | 212 | 4.3 | 51% | 44 | 73 | 27 | 68 | 53% | 33 | 9 |
| Baker Mayfield | 62 | 2.9 | 45% | 78 | 89 | 5 | 78 | 30% | 93 | 1 |

Yards per Carry by Direction 6.9 4.9 5.0 6.1 4.0 4.1 C RG RT



Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Kareem Hunt Has an RB1 Ceiling, but You Have to Pay a Tax For It

Hunt is arguably the best running back 1A option in the league and we know the upside he can have if and whenever **Nick Chubb** were to miss time. When Chubb was down for five games Weeks 4-8, Hunt averaged 17.2 touches per game and racked up 65% of the team backfield touches. That usage paired with upside in a lead-RB role outcome is reflected in Hunt's ADP, which is in the 5-6 round.

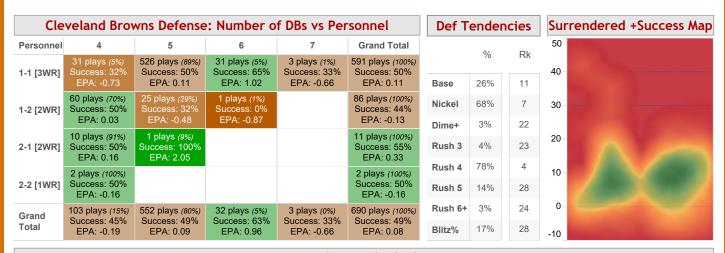
Hunt closed last season as the RB10 in overall scoring, but was the RB22 in points per game (13.7). Once Chubb returned in Week 10, Hunt was the RB29 or lower in five of those eight weeks and was out-touched by Chubb 146-103 over that span. Hunt has just one top-24 scoring week without a touchdown all season, leaving some fragility to his outcome that is not fully baked in when he is being selected among safer wide receiver picks.

Keep Going Back to Odell?

Beckham's fantasy output became even more shrouded last season after he played in just six full games prior to missing the remainder of the season with an ACL injury. Turning 29 years old in 2021, Beckham has not played a season since 2016 that has not been wrapped around some injury-narrative. On the field for the first six games, Beckham gave us a glimpse that he still has WR1 upside with a 38-point game versus the Cowboys, but his per-game averages of 3.8 receptions for 53.2 yards also would have been career-lows would they have held up for a full season. We are now four years removed from Beckham truly paying off his draft cost, and not many will elevate him to true top-20 status, but 2021 will surely see him at the lowest cost point as a WR3 in drafts to make a play for a ceiling that has been fleeting of late.

Can Baker Mayfield Be More Than a Spot Starter?

After a step back during his second season, Mayfield rebounded across the board off his 2019 efficiency numbers in completion rate (62.8%), yards per attempt (7.3 Y/A), and touchdown rate (5.4%). For fantasy, however, Mayfield has struggled to make a huge impact, closing as the QB20, QB28, and the QB25 in points per game to start his career with 14 QB1 scoring weeks in 46 regular season starts. Over his final six starts a year ago, he turned in four QB1 scoring weeks, but three came in obvious streaming spots we would target for most of the league. The biggest bugaboos for Mayfield will be passing volume and lack of high-level rushing output while he still has to get better against handling teams that can pressure the passer. Under pressure, Mayfield dipped down to 4.5 yards per pass attempt as opposed to 8.1 Y/A kept clean. That 3.6 Y/A gap was the 37th largest differential versus pressure in the league.



Defensive Outlook

The Browns have a strong interior rotation. **Andrew Billings** signed a one-year deal with the Browns in the 2020 offseason but opted out and will make his Cleveland debut in 2020. At Cincinnati, Billings developed into a productive run-stopper with some pass rush upside. This offseason, **Malik Jackson** was brought in on a one-year deal and he'll provide more pass rush from the interior. He ranked 11th among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season. 2020 third-round pick Jordan Elliott and 2021 fourth-round pick **Tommy Togiai** also provide depth at the position.

On the edge, **Myles Garrett** is **Myles Garrett** and that would help any pass rush unit. Garrett ranked third in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate, though he was 23rd in quarterback hits and 50th among edge rushers in pressure rate. The disconnect has been finding a consistent threat to put across from Garrett on the line. Per ESPN Stats & Info, Garrett was double-teamed at the third-highest rate among edge rushers last season. The Browns signed **Jadeveon Clowney** and **Takk McKinley** as options for that role.

The Browns got a potential steal with **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah** in the second round, giving this regime their biggest investment at the position — but one that comes with plus coverage skills. **Malcolm Smith** played well in his first year with the Browns and **Sione Takitaki** improved as a downhill player as 2019 fifth-round pick **Mack Wilson** saw his playing time decline. Cleveland also brought in **Anthony Walker** from the Colts, but not at a significant investment — just one year for \$3 million.

At corner, **Denzel Ward** was 54th among 148 qualified cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snaps last season. That came with a few big plays given up as Ward ranked 16th among that group in completion percentage allowed. 29% of passes against first-round pick **Greg Newsome** were completed in 2020, who should immediately fill in on the outside. **Greedy Williams**, a 2019 second-round pick, has the traits to be successful as an outside corner in Joe Woods's defense, but he missed all of 2020 due to a damaged nerve in his shoulder. Williams might not be ready for June minicamps but it is still expected he can be healthy enough to play at corner this season. Inside, the Browns signed one of the league's best slot corners in **Troy Hill**. Hill ranked 17th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap in 2020 and 29th in 2019. He was signed for a two-year deal at just \$9 million.

At safety, **John Johnson** was the big free agent acquisition and his signing could change the entire structure of the Cleveland defense. Due to injuries and ineffectiveness last season, the Browns' safety position was a mess. Johnson brings a skill set that can work all over the defense and last year he was the defensive play-caller for the Rams because he didn't come off the field. Johnson also played the middle of the field when the Rams relied on their dime package.

Ronnie Harrison was picked up for a fifth-round pick in a preseason trade with the Jaguars. He was productive when he was on the field, but managed just 30% of the defensive snaps through 11 games played. Grant Delpit was a 2020 second-round pick who suffered an Achilles injury in training camp and missed the entire season. Delpit was one of the most well-rounded safeties at LSU and his health would be a significant boost to the back end of the secondary that could use more three-safety looks.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 57% |
| All Pass Rk | 22 |
| All Rush % | 43% |
| All Rush Rk | 11 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 55% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 21 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 60% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 12 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -5% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 26 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 45% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 12 |
| Up Pass % | 53% |
| Up Pass Rk | 22 |
| Up Rush % | 47% |
| Up Rush Rk | 11 |
| Down Pass % | 60% |
| Down Pass Rk | 21 |
| Down Rush % | 40% |
| Down Rush Rk | 12 |

| <u>202</u> | 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 11 | 45% | 55% | 36% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 12 | 42% | 58% | 58% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 349 | 42% | 58% | 51% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 14 | 64% | 36% | 29% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 43 | 51% | 49% | 63% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 93 | 59% | 41% | 46% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 99 | 73% | 27% | 54% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 42 | 81% | 19% | 36% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 42 | 52% | 48% | 69% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 56 | 80% | 20% | 50% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 29 | 97% | 3% | 41% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 30 | 73% | 27% | 13% | | | | |
| | 41 | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 9 | 44% | 56% | 56% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 6 | 83% | 17% | 33% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

| % | Under Center | Shotgun |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| | 57% | 43% |
| | 37% A | /G 63% |
| | Run l | Rate: |
| | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 71% | 16% |
| | 68% A | /G 23% |
| | <u>Pass</u> | Rate: |
| | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 29% | 84% |
| | 32% A | /G 77% |

Shotgun %:



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | |
| 57% | 27 | 67% | 64% | 75% | | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFI 1D Avg | | | | |
| 400/ | _ | 000/ | E00/ | E00/ | | | | |

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Kareem Hunt | 5 | 40% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Nick Chubb | 5 | 60% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Nick Chubb | 113 | 50% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Nick Chubb | 4 | 25% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Nick Chubb | 15 | 67% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Nick Chubb | 18 | 33% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Nick Chubb | 16 | 38% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Jarvis Landry | 6 | 67% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Kareem Hunt | 7 | 57% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Jarvis Landry | 12 | 67% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Jarvis Landry | 6 | 33% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Kareem Hunt | 6 | 0% | | | | |

| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 43% | Success: 58% | Success: 46% |
| | YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 9.8, EPA: 0.15 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.07 |
| | Rtg: 87.4 | Rtg: 110.6 | Rtg: 92.5 |
| | [Att: 256 - Rate: 42.9%] | [Att: 76 - Rate: 12.7%] | [Att: 332 - Rate: 55.6%] |
| Yes | Success: 52% | Success: 54% | Success: 53% |
| | YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.07 | YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.21 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.12 |
| | Rtg: 88.5 | Rtg: 129.8 | Rtg: 103.0 |
| | [Att: 172 - Rate: 28.8%] | [Att: 93 - Rate: 15.6%] | [Att: 265 - Rate: 44.4%] |
| Total | Success: 47% | Success: 56% | Success: 49% |
| | YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.05 | YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.19 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.09 |
| | Rtg: 87.8 | Rtg: 121.3 | Rtg: 97.2 |
| | [Att: 428 - Rate: 71.7%] | [Att: 169 - Rate: 28.3%] | [Att: 597 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Jarvis Landry | Austin Hooper | Harrison Bryant | Kareem Hunt | Rashard Higgins | Nick Chubb | Odell Beckham | | Donovan Peoples |
| 1 | BAL | L 38-6 | 52 (71%) | 56 (77%) | 31 (42%) | 36 (49%) | 16 (22%) | 35 (48%) | 55 (75%) | 40 (55%) | |
| 2 | CIN | W 35-30 | 35 (60%) | 57 (98%) | 30 (52%) | 20 (34%) | 5 (9%) | 36 (62%) | 39 (67%) | 33 (57%) | |
| 3 | WAS | W 34-20 | 45 (71%) | 54 (86%) | 40 (63%) | 29 (46%) | | 34 (54%) | 51 (81%) | 35 (56%) | |
| 4 | DAL | W 49-38 | 57 (76%) | 63 (84%) | 52 (69%) | 26 (35%) | | 14 (19%) | 58 (77%) | | 33 (44%) |
| 5 | IND | W 32-23 | 56 (77%) | 58 (79%) | 29 (40%) | 51 (70%) | 40 (55%) | | 63 (86%) | | 10 (14%) |
| 6 | PIT | L 38-7 | 44 (77%) | 40 (70%) | 21 (37%) | 30 (53%) | 34 (60%) | | 48 (84%) | | 3 (5%) |
| 7 | CIN | W 37-34 | 40 (77%) | | 40 (77%) | 47 (90%) | 44 (85%) | | 2 (4%) | | 36 (69%) |
| 8 | LV | L 16-6 | 38 (78%) | | 39 (80%) | 42 (86%) | 35 (71%) | | | 34 (69%) | 4 (8%) |
| 10 | HOU | W 10-7 | 38 (58%) | 55 (85%) | 36 (55%) | 38 (58%) | 38 (58%) | 28 (43%) | | 38 (58%) | 16 (25%) |
| 11 | PHI | W 22-17 | 38 (57%) | 45 (67%) | 39 (58%) | 36 (54%) | 40 (60%) | 30 (45%) | | 48 (72%) | 7 (10%) |
| 12 | JAC | W 27-25 | 41 (61%) | 47 (70%) | 42 (63%) | 28 (42%) | 41 (61%) | 41 (61%) | | 29 (43%) | 11 (16%) |
| 13 | TEN | W 41-35 | 48 (67%) | 54 (75%) | 39 (54%) | 35 (49%) | 49 (68%) | 36 (50%) | | | 41 (57%) |
| 14 | BAL | L 47-42 | 76 (92%) | | 55 (66%) | 39 (47%) | 69 (83%) | 44 (53%) | | | 58 (70%) |
| 15 | NYG | W 20-6 | 45 (70%) | 45 (70%) | 30 (47%) | 21 (33%) | 47 (73%) | 38 (59%) | | 8 (13%) | 36 (56%) |
| 16 | NYJ | L 23-16 | | 59 (73%) | 67 (83%) | 35 (43%) | | 47 (58%) | | | |
| 17 | PIT | W 24-22 | 46 (74%) | 51 (82%) | | 35 (56%) | 44 (71%) | 27 (44%) | | 26 (42%) | 13 (21%) |
| | Grand | Total | 699 (71%) | 684 (78%) | 590 (59%) | 548 (53%) | 502 (60%) | 410 (50%) | 316 (68%) | 291 (52%) | 268 (33%) |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. % |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 44% | 60% | 52% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 26% | 20% | 52% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 14% | 4% | 48% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 8% | 4% | 38% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 7% | 7% | 44% |
| | | | |
| | | - 1 | • |
| <u>Group</u> Personnel | Pass | enden Pass Succ. | Cies Run Succ. |
| | | Pass | Run |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 60% 62% | Pass Succ. % 49% 52% | Run Succ. % 56% 51% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| Jarvis Landry | 21 | 4 | 6 | 11 | | | | |
| Austin Hooper | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | | | | |
| Kareem Hunt | 9 | 1 | 4 | 4 | | | | |
| Rashard Higgins | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| Odell Beckham Jr. | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Harrison Bryant | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Khadarel Hodge | 3 | | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| Nick Chubb | 3 | | 1 | 2 | | | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Kareem Hunt | 49 | 14 | 8 | 27 | |
| Nick Chubb | 38 | 12 | 9 | 17 | |
| Baker Mayfield | 12 | 3 | 7 | 2 | |
| Dontrell Hilliard | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Jarvis Landry | 2 | 1 | | 1 | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------|--|
| RB | TE | WR | |
| 18% 23% | 52% 56% | | |
| | NFL AVG | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | NFL AVG Target Su | ccess % | |
| Overall RB | | ccess % | |

| 01. Games w Halftime Lead | 10 | 02. Avg Halftime Lead | 2.0 | 03. Wins | 11 | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------|----------|----|--|
| Pre-Sn | ар М | otion (Quarters | 1-3) | | | |
| 36. PSM YPA | 36. PSM YPA | | | 7.3 | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 37. PSM Target Depth | | 7.4 | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | | | 7.5 | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | | | 9.0 | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | | | 53% | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | | | 52% | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | | | 0.07 | | | |

0.14

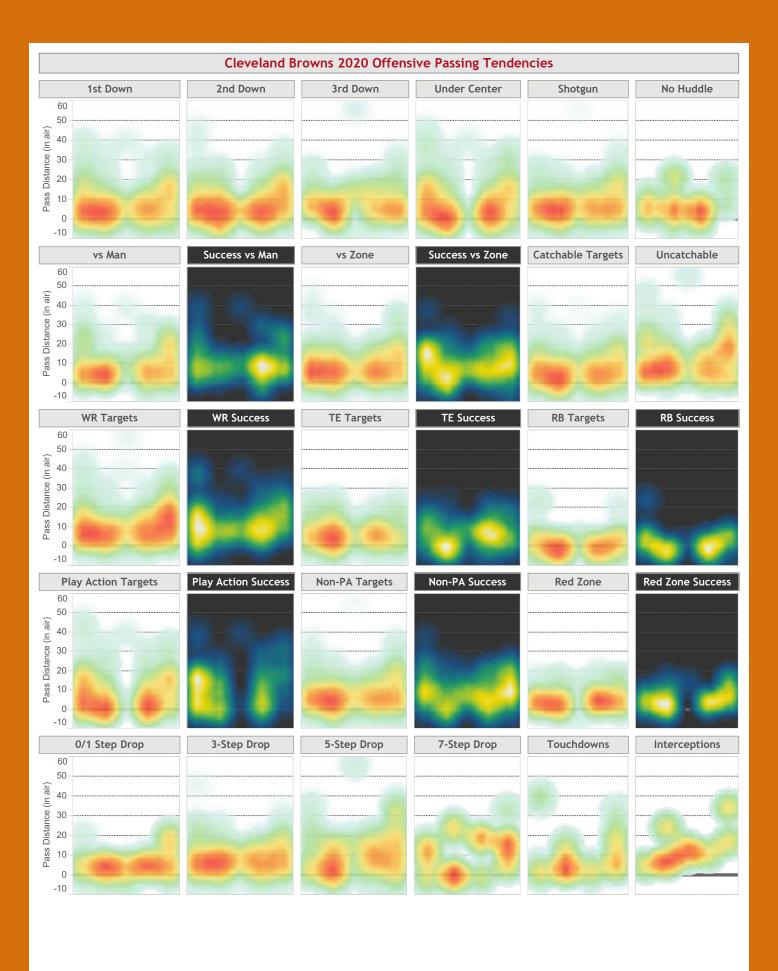
| riay Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | |
|---|------|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 40% | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 60% | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 9.6 | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 6.4% | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.2 | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 8.7 | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 53% | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.7 | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 5.3% | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.02 | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.6 | | |
| | | | |

| Men In Box | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|--|
| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 27% | | | |
| 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 | 48% | | | |
| 60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.9 | | | |
| 61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 19% | | | |
| 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 | 4.7 | | | |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------|-------|
| Net FROE Rk | 13 | defFUM | 21 |
| Net FROE | 0.9 | defFUM Rcvrd | 11 |
| offFUM offFUM Rcvrd | 13 | defFR Rk | 11 |
| offFR% | 61.9% | defFR% | 47.6% |
| offFR Rk offFROE | 13 1.5 | defFROE | -0.6 |
| offFROE Rk | 9 | defFROE Rk | 22 |

| Field Goal Luck | | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--|
| -1.25 | Opp Att | 27 | | |
| 17 | Opp Makes | 23 | | |
| | Opp FG % | 85% | | |
| 79% | Opp Expected Makes | 22.67 | | |
| 19.92 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 0.33 | | |
| | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 21 | | |
| | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -3.46 | | |
| 10 | 2019 Opp Rk | 29 | | |
| | -1.25 17 24 19 79% 19.92 -0.92 23 0.54 | -1.25 17 Opp Att Opp Makes 49 Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes 19.92 Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 23 0.54 Opp Make Over Exp. | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pressure | | Offensive A | Offensive Metrics | |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Baker Mayfield | | Baker Mayfield | EPA/Pass | 0.12 | |
| CAY | 7.4 | Pressure % | 26.4 | EPA/Pass Rk | 11 | |
| CAY Rk | 2 | Pressure Rk | 32 | EPA/Rush | -0.04 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 13 | Sack % | 4.8 | EPA/Rush Rk | 15 | |
| AYTS Rk | 3 | Sack Rk | 24 | On-Target Catch % | 90.3% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 13 29 | Pressure Accuracy % | 70.4 | On-Target Catch Rk | 18 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 9 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 7 | Drop% | 7.5% | |
| COMP% | 62.8 | Rating when Pressured | 47.7 | Drop Rk | 23 | |
| xCOMP% | 62.1 | Pressured Rating Rk | 32 | · | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 36 | Clean Accuracy % | 77.2 | YAC/Att | 2.8 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 27 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 26 | YAC/Att Rk | 2 | |
| CPOE% | 0.7 | Rating when Clean | 108.9 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 19.0% | |
| CPOE Rk | 21 | - | | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 1 | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 33 | Clean Rating Rk | 12 | | · | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw | 3.05 | Rush 1st Down % | 26.9% | |
| | | Time to Throw Rk | 2 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 14 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Mike McCarthy (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: Kellen Moore (2 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Hard

Easy

Dan Quinn (ATL HC) (new)

Dallas Cowboys

2021 Forecast Wins

Div Rank

#1

Past Records

2020: 6-10 2019: 8-8



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Aldon Smith (EDGE) | Seahawks |
| Andy Dalton (QB) | Bears |
| Antwaun Woods (IDL) | Colts |
| Blake Bell (TE) | Chiefs |
| Cameron Erving (LG) | Panthers |
| Chidobe Awuzie (CB) | Bengals |
| Eli Ankou (IDL) | Falcons |
| Greg Senat (LT) | Browns |
| Joe Thomas (LB) | Texans |
| Justin March-Lillard (LB) | Titans |
| Ron'Dell Carter (EDGE) | Retired |
| Xavier Woods (S) | Vikings |
| Chris Jones (P) | TBD |
| Jamize Olawale (FB) | TBD |
| Joe Looney (C) | TBD |
| LP Ladouceur (LS) | TBD |
| Sean Lee (LB) | TBD |
| Tyrone Crawford (IDL) | TBD |

Games

Favored

Average

Line

-0.3

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

2017 Wins

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Games

Underdog

9

2021 Dallas Cowboys Overview

What do we take from the 2020 trainwreck that was the Cowboys? I'm going to buck the trend and say that there's actually some things we can learn about this team, their philosophy, and things that may help us anticipate what is to come in 2021.

Offensively, it doesn't get much more brutal than what we saw in Dallas last season. Their franchise quarterback was lost in the fifth game. Their top tight end who was expected to make a significant impact in the receiving game was lost in the season opener. Their offensive line dropped like flies all season long. RT La'El Collins was hurt in training camp and missed the entire season, LT Tyron Smith played in just two games and RG Zack Martin missed six games.

When Dak Prescott went down, Dallas turned to Andy Dalton. He was believed to be a top-3 backup in the NFL before the season. But he was absolutely horrible. He averaged 5.0 YPA and -0.02 EPA/att in his first start against the Cardinals in Week 5 on Monday Night Football, and the Cowboys were blown out 38-10. The very next week, Dalton averaged 3.9 YPA and -0.51 EPA/att in another loss, this time 25-3 against Washington. Dalton sustained a concussion in the game on a late hit.

His replacement the next week was the great JMU product Ben DiNucci. DiNucci averaged 4.5 YPA and -0.45 EPA/att in a primetime 23-9 loss against the Eagles.

The Cowboys then decided to give Garrett Gilbert a spin. He averaged just 6.4 YPA with -0.17 EPA/att and lost 24-19 to the Steelers.

terrible - even considering the QB rotation, and secondly, (cont'd - see DAL2)

Dallas, sitting at 2-7, crawled into their Week 10 bye to lick their wounds. Two things beyond others stood out: how was this passing offense allowed to be so

Regular Season Wins: Lineup & Cap Hits Past & Current Proj Forecast 2021 Wins 11 2020 Wins 26 30 94 90 Forecast 2020 Wins



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|----------------------|----------|
| Keanu Neal (S) | \$4 |
| Tarell Basham (EDGE) | \$2.79 |
| Brent Urban (IDL) | \$1.8 |
| Carlos Watkins (IDL) | \$1.8 |
| Ty Nsekhe (RT) | \$1.8 |
| Bryan Anger (P) | \$1.2 |
| Jake McQuaide (LS) | \$1.2 |
| Damontae Kazee (S) | \$1.10 |
| Jeremy Sprinkle (TE) | \$1.10 |
| | |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 12 | LB - Micah Parsons (Penn St |
| 2 | 44 | CB - Kelvin Joseph (Kentucky) |
| | 75 | DT - Osa Odighizuwa (UCLA) |
| 3 | 84 | DE - Chauncey Golston (Iowa) |
| | 99 | CB - Nahshon Wright (Orego |
| 4 | 115 | LB - Jabril Cox (LSU) |
| " | 138 | OT - Josh Ball (Marshall) |
| 5 | 179 | WR - Simi Fehoko (Stanford) |
| 6 | 192 | DT - Quinton Bohanna (Kent |
| | 227 | CB - Israel Mukuamu (South |
| 7 | 238 | OG - Matt Farniok (Nebraska) |
| | | |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 2 | \$126.72M | 8 |
| QB | 8 | \$24.84M | 2 |
| OL | 13 | \$36.76M | 23 |
| RB | 3 | \$16.82M | 4 |
| WR | 6 | \$37.70M | 18 |
| TE | 12 | \$10.60M | 22 |
| All DEF | 19 | \$88.64M | 31 |
| DL | 17 | \$42.16M | 27 |
| LB | 7 | \$20.48M | 6 |
| СВ | 16 | \$17.37M | 23 |
| S | 26 | \$8.62M | 31 |
| | | | |

DAL-2

where was Ezekiel Elliott?

The passing game averaged below 4.5 net YPA in three straight games (Arizona, Washington and Philadelphia), two of which were Dalton games . Only two other teams the last two years have gone three straight games with below 4.5 net YPA:

Washington Football Team in 2019 (coaching staff subsequently fired) New York Jets in 2020 (coaching staff subsequently fired)

There's legitimately no excuse to be that terrible for that many weeks without addressing the issues. It typically is a microcosm of something larger involving coaching in addition to just players themselves.

What was this coaching staff doing with Andy Dalton? They had more than a full week to prepare for his first start due to it being on Monday night. Of Dalton's 57 dropbacks, only four used play-action. Of the 57 dropbacks, 56 came with three or more wide receivers on the field. 52 were in 11 personnel.

With 3+ WRs on the field, they were 75% pass. With less than 3 WRs, they were 90% run

There was simply no disguise. The offense moved from a shotgun-based offense 80% of the time with Prescott to 85% shotgun with Dalton.

Plays from under center were runs 76% of the time and plays from shotgun were passes 75% of the time.

Some offensive coordinators may take the approach when passing with a weaker offensive line to spread the field with 3+ WRs and get it out of the quarterback's hands quickly before the pressure can get to him. Other coordinators may add a tight end or back to help the offensive line in pass protection.

Regardless of what the desired approach is, if it's not working, it must be changed... and quickly.

It was clear the offensive line wasn't able to handle the protection with 3+ WRs on the field and yet nothing changed. Andy Dalton was a sitting duck.

The next game against Washington, Dalton was pressured on an insane 44% of his dropbacks in 3+ WR sets.

On his final play of the day, the Cowboys were in 11 personnel, backed up at

2020 Passing Performance 2nd Dwn QB 1st Dwn 3rd Dwn 54% 41% Dak YPA 8.3 Prescott Rating 99.3 113.6 69.2 55% 62% 74% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.0 AVG Rating 95.4 96.0 **Pass Rate** 50% 60% 75%

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | | |
| DAL | 43% 3.7 | 53% 4.8 | 58% 4.4 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 45% | 38% | 26% | | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | | | | |

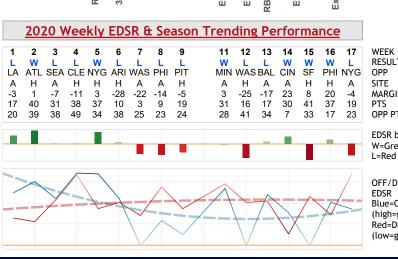
at their own 3-yard line. Dallas didn't have the tight end inline, instead, had him split out in a trips formation to Dalton's left. Washington brought only four rushers, so the lone back didn't chip and instead, ran to the line of scrimmage looking for a pass. Dalton, from the gun, dropped back into his end zone and by the time he reached the back of his drop, the pocket collapsed. He stepped up, scrambled for a 6-yard gain on the third-and-10, and was concussed by a cheap shot from a Washington defender.

After Andy Dalton returned from his concussion, the offense improved and the team won four of its last seven games. But the offense was far from optimized.

For example, Dalton's splits from shotgun were significantly worse than from under center, yet they still used roughly 80% shotgun (cont'd - see DAL-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics







WFFK **RESULT** OPP All 2019 Wins: 6 SITE MARGIN PTS

OPP PTS EDSR by Wk W=Green

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

2020 Close Game **Records**

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 3-1 FG Games Win %: 75% (#5) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 4-4 Score Games Win %: 50% (#13) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

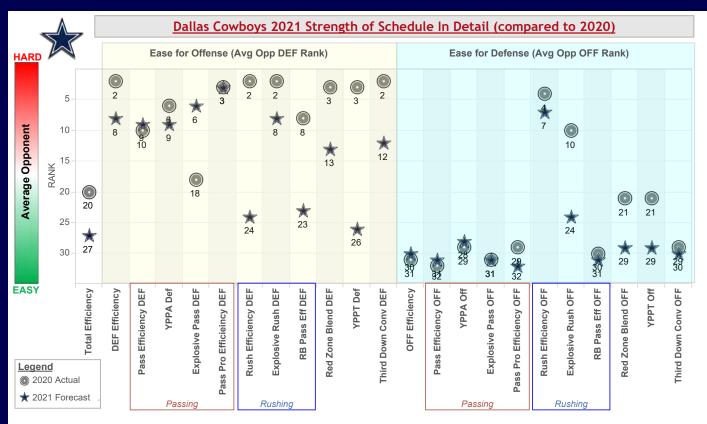
Wins): 67% (#10)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -3 TO Given 26 **INT Given** 13 **FUM Given** 13 TO Taken 23 **INT Taken** 10 **FUM Taken** 13 Sack Margin -13 31 Sacks Sacks Allow 44 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 3 Ret TDs Allow 3 **Penalty Margin** -5 Penalties **Opponent Penalties** 91

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

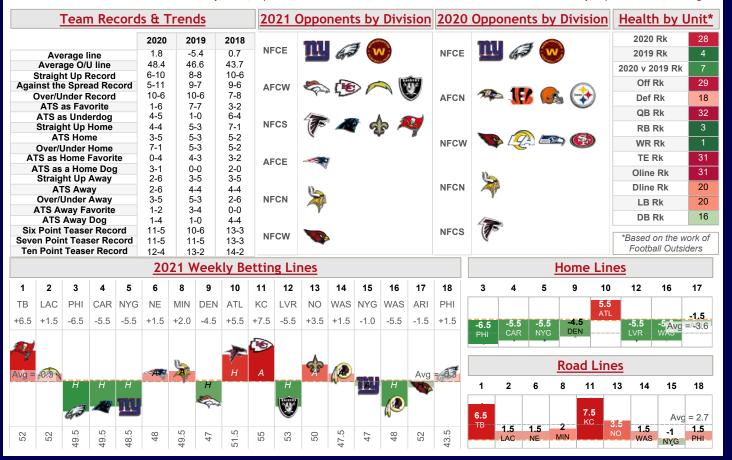
27

Explosive



| | 2021 vs 2020 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 | 32 | 32 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 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





snaps. The team was still far too predictable with play calls based on alignment (70% run from under center, 80% pass from shotgun). Even early downs in the first three quarters (removing predictable pass situations), the Cowboys were 79% pass from shotgun (NFL avg = 66% pass) and 68% run from under center (NFL avg = 63% run). Dalton was more efficient when passing from under center and sacked far less often.

Dalton was far more efficient on early down passes when using play-action, but the team rarely used it. From his Week 10 return onward:

With play-action: 22% usage, 9.0 YPA, 64% success, +0.22 EPA/att Without play-action: 78% usage, 7.0 YPA, 52% success, +0.04 EPA/att

And keep in mind, the NFL average play-action usage on early downs last year was 33%. The Cowboys' 22% usage ranked third-lowest in the NFL, despite the massive spike in efficiency it delivered. This falls on Kellen Moore.

The bottom line: after Prescott's injury it was a tough situation for Dalton as well as the offensive line... but it was not a situation that was made any easier by preparation, planning or adjustments.

The other question: where was Zeke?

There are many arguments that the pro-running back crowd likes to make in support of having a blue chip, highly-drafted back: His production will be special. He can support below average quarterback play. He'll generate yards beyond what his line is blocking. He's so much better than the next guy on deck.

In one season, Zeke undermined all of those arguments. Not that they weren't already debunked by countless other highly-drafted running backs over the years. But I challenge any pro-RB individual to defend their stance after witnessing what happened in Dallas last year.

But first, a quick trip down memory lane where I looked at the last 20 first round running backs drafted, which spanned 2009-2020.

Of the 20:

Most (15 of 20) haven't even led their team in YPC as the primary starter.

Half (10 of 20) haven't even gained above average yards per carry.

Their teams won fewer games the following three years than the year prior to drafting the RB.

Their teams made fewer trips to the playoffs than they did prior to drafting the RB.

With that understood, let's examine Zeke. When the team needed him most, he didn't perform. But why? What made Zeke great in the past but not this year?

For starters, let's examine the quarterback splits: with and without Prescott in 2020.

Prep Rank

With Dak: 4.1 YPC, 56% success, +0.00 EPA/att Without Dak: 3.9 YPA, 48% success, -0.12 EPA/att

Let's also look at where runs typically have the most value, which are those in the red zone:

With Dak: 3.0 YPC, 71% success, +0.27 EPA/att Without Dak: 1.8 YPC, 37% success, -0.10 EPA/att

Net Rest Edge Rank

It's almost as if a great running back can't magically support below-average quarterback play. It's also almost as if the presence of a good passing game helps rushing efficiency.

The offensive line was problematic for several games while Dak was still healthy, and yet Zeke's drop off didn't come with Dak and without the line... it came after Prescott was hurt. That said, the offensive line certainly was a large part of Zeke's struggles later in the season.

The offensive line ranked top-10 in run blocking in three of Zeke's prior four seasons and has been one of the very best in the NFL for years. But in 2020, it dropped to 29th. And although still healthy, Zeke saw his production fall off immensely.

It's almost as if the offensive line is responsible for most of a running back's production. It's almost as if having a great offensive line is more important than having a great running back.

We've discredited every pro-RB argument there is, except for one: "He'll be so much better than the next guy on deck." Surely, with all the other excuses RB-truthers would make for Zeke, there's no chance Tony Pollard could upstage Zeke. After all, Pollard is playing with the same terrible quarterbacks and

(cont'd - see DAL-4)

Negated Bye Rank

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage is negated advantage game to prep prep 2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Dallas Cowboys Ranking vs NFL Average

Rank

Rest Rank

Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF

Rank

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The defense was poor last season, ranking 25th in EPA per play allowed, against the single easiest schedule of opposing offenses in the NFL. They will need to rely on first round rookie LB Micah Parsons and second round pick CB Kelvin Joseph to play important snaps and help solve the defensive issues. That is a tall task and there is no reason they won't struggle again.
- The Cowboys are slated to face six quarterbacks that ranked in the top 10 last season in EPA per play. That is tied for the most in the NFL.
- While Dallas is thrilled to have Prescott back in the lineup this season, it remains to be seen that he will be 100% following such a devastating leg injury.
- Dallas is always overhyped and their futures lines are always inflated betting them under their win total since 2000 has gone 14-7 (67%).

9.5



Why Bet the Over

- Prior to Dak Prescott's season-ending injury, the Dallas offense ranked second in the NFL in success rate on offense but only 17th on an EPA per play basis. This is mainly due to the fact that the Cowboys turned the ball over 11 times in five games, the most in the NFL. They fumbled on offense eight times, the second most in the NFL, but only were able to recover one of those fumbles. The offense should continue its excellent play as long as they can avoid those lost fumbles.
- The NFC East is expected to be the worst division in the NFL, as it was last year, and overall the Cowboys are expected to face the seventh-easiest schedule in the NFL based on win totals.
- The Cowboys had bad injury luck and ranked fifth in adjusted games lost by Football Outsiders. Not only did they lose Prescott but they ranked second in the most adjusted games lost due to injury on the offensive line. LT Tyron Smith, RT La'el Collins and RG Zack Martin only played a combined 12 games after only missing a combined four games in 2019.

| Dallas Cowboys Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 23 | 25 | 19 | | | | |

If the Cowboys turn things around in 2021, they'll need to win some shootouts. Every offensive unit ranks in our top 10, but both defensive units rank in the bottom 10

If the supporting cast is healthy, Dak Prescott should lead an elite offense in Dallas. The Cowboys are the only team with every offensive unit ranked in the top 10.

The backfield took a step backward in 2020, but still ranks ninth overall. Ezekiel Elliott averaged a career-low 1.4 yards before contact per attempt, but much of that can likely be attributed to the injury-plagued offensive line.

The receiving corps returns 97% of its targets from 2020, as well as starting tight end Blake Jarwin who suffered a season-ending injury in Week 1. With elite depth and experience in the offense, it was an easy choice to rank this among the top units—they appeared in the top five on every ballot.

Ranking the offensive line was somewhat difficult due to last year's injuries but, when healthy, there's little doubt this unit belongs among the best. Even with last year's injuries, Cowboys quarterbacks were pressured on just 32.6% of dropbacks (ranked 13th).

The Cowboys' front seven was among the worst in every aspect of the game, especially versus the run. Even when stacking the box with 7+ defenders, opponents picked up 4.7 yards per carry (ranked 30th). Five draft picks spent on the front seven should help, but it won't be a quick fix.

Rookie Kelvin Joseph might help a struggling secondary, but the unit will remain in the bottom tier as long as Trevon Diggs is a liability. Diggs allowed 1.6 yards per coverage snap, ranked 80th out of 82 qualified cornerbacks.

If head coach Mike McCarthy grew as a coach from his year away from football it was hard to tell during his first season in Dallas. Although, it's fair to wonder how things may have been different with a healthy roster. Among coaches with at least three years experience, only Jon Gruden ranks lower than McCarthy.

DAL-4

behind the same terrible offensive line. Pollard is a fourth-rounder, Zeke was drafted fourth overall.

And yet, Pollard's EPA/att was -0.02 (on 80 att) after Dak's injury compared to Zeke's -0.12 (on 137 att). On the season overall, Pollard gained 0.13 yards above expectation, nearly double Zeke's 0.07.

Against standard seven-man boxes after Dak's injury, the splits weren't close:

Elliott: 3.3 YPC, 46% success, -0.18 EPA/att Pollard: 4.9 YPC, 52% success, +0.04 EPA/att

Against light boxes, Pollard was gaining +0.14 EPA/att compared to Zeke's -0.09 EPA/att. The only place Zeke was better was, unsurprisingly, against stacked boxes (although Zeke was still averaging -0.07 EPA/att against those stacked boxes). We know Elliott is the better pedigree back with more talent in his prime. But these stats do make you wonder what Zeke will deliver over the next six years of his current contract.

At this point, we could ask the question of how great is Zeke? In 2019, his highest touchdown season since his rookie year, he finished 18th in player tracking metric Rushing Yards Over Expectation, per NFL Next Gen Stats. In 2018, his best season as a pro since that rookie year, he ranked 15th.

Zeke also has 21 fumbles in his five year career, seven more than the next highest running back in that time, including 15 in his last three years. And is coming off a year with six fumbles, a career high.

DAL-5

No one would have expected the Cowboys to make the playoffs without Prescott. But seven wins were enough to win the NFC East. What better way to show that elite running backs matter than by putting the team on his back, supporting below average quarterback play and a banged up offensive line?

But in his 10 games after Prescott's injury, Elliott exceeded the NFL average in YPC (4.4 yards) just twice. One of which was vs the No. 27 run defense of the Vikings and the other, a Week 16 win over the Eagles, which saw him gain 4.1 YPC on 18 runs and 31 yards on a 19th run to up his average from 4.1 YPC to 5.5 YPC.

If Elliott needs elite quarterback performance to have success as well as an elite offensive line, he's absolutely not worth \$90 million and especially not worth \$14 million cap hits — which is what he'll hit the Cowboys cap for in each of the next three years and in five of the next six — particularly when a second-year player drafted in the fourth-round is outproducing him.

Here's a sobering thought: running back Ezekiel Elliott's total cap hit the next two years is higher than Tom Brady's. Elliott's cap hit this year is higher than the hits for both Patrick Mahomes and Tom Brady...the quarterbacks that won the last three Super Bowls.

At the end of the day, I was left with two thoughts that I think can be taken away from the Cowboys offense in 2020 despite the injuries: I walked away more disappointed in their coaching (from a playcalling, adjustments, and game planning perspective) and more convinced paying Ezekiel Elliott won't be worth it and was a mistake.

My colleague, Rich Hribar, advocates buying Elliott in fantasy football this year if his price is depressed off of last season's failure, envisioning a stronger, healthier offensive line and the return of Prescott. I agree that a healthier line and better passing game certainly will help his performance, because the absence of both hindered his performance tremendously.

Both of these things spill over into 2021. But the good news is, Prescott is back and the Cowboys' offensive line should be much better than it was in 2020. Let's keep in mind, however, that the Dallas offensive line continuity (cont'd - see DAL-6)

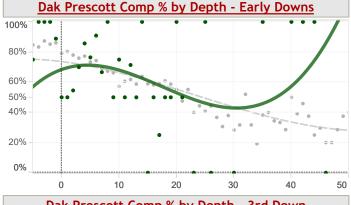
Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

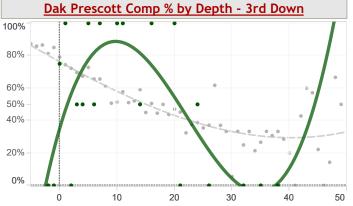
| R | lan | k o | f 2 | 021 | l De | efe | nsi | ve | Rus | sh E | ffic | cie | ncy | Fa | ced | d b | y W | /eek |
|----|-----|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|-----|----------------|------|------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| | | Α | | | | A | 9 | A | н | | A | AUS. | , | | | | | |
| | 1 | | A | Н | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | A | Н | | | V | 4 | a ₃ | | | | Δ | Α | н | н | |
| | | | Н | 6 | iù | | | | | | | | | | M | | | A |
| | A | • | (grant | | | | | | | H | | | Α | | | | | Contract of the Contract of th |
| ١, | | 28 | 12 | 21 | 16 | 32 | | 27 | 25 | 6 | 29 | 31 | do | 13 | 16 | 13 | 14 | 12 |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |

2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | Usage R | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| V | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Ezekiel Elliott | 18% | 7% | 66% | 9% | |
| | Tony Pollard | 18% | 7% | 62% | 11% | 3% |
| RUSH | Amari Cooper | | 13% | 88% | | |
| 2 | CeeDee Lamb | 10% | 10% | 60% | 20% | |
| | Cedrick Wilson | | | 100% | | |
| | Total | 17% | 7% | 65% | 10% | 1% |
| | Ezekiel Elliott | 37% | 11% | 48% | 4% | |
| | Tony Pollard | 28% | 8% | 60% | 3% | 3% |
| | Amari Cooper | 25% | 12% | 56% | 8% | |
| PASS | CeeDee Lamb | 25% | 7% | 64% | 4% | |
| A | Michael Gallup | 22% | 9% | 64% | 5% | |
| | Dalton Schultz | 28% | 7% | 62% | 3% | |
| | Cedrick Wilson | 43% | 11% | 46% | | |
| | Total | 27% | 9% | 59% | 5% | 0% |

| | Share of Offensive Plays by Type | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Ezekiel Elliott | Tony Pollard | Amari Cooper | CeeDee Lamb | Michael Gallup | Dalton Schultz | Cedrick Wilson | | | | | | |
| RUSH | 65% | 30% | 2% | 3% | | | 1% | | | | | | |
| PASS | 13% | 7% | 23% | 19% | 18% | 15% | 5% | | | | | | |
| ALL | 33% | 16% | 14% | 12% | 11% | 9% | 3% | | | | | | |





Successful Play Rate 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 2-0 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 51%, -0.01 (513) | 48%, 0.00 (77) | 35%, -0.05 (20) | 50%, -0.53 (4) | 29%, -0.52 (7) | 100%, 0.37 (1) | 0%, -1.76 (2) | 25%, -0.18 (4) | 0%, -3.07 (2) | 49%, -0.03 (630) |
| RUSH | 51%, 0.09 (216) | 51%, -0.18 (144) | 33%, 0.36 (3) | 39%, -0.17 (18) | 50%, -0.01 (2) | 83%, 0.58 (6) | 0%, -1.20 (4) | 0%, -0.61 (1) | 67%, 0.47 (3) | 50%, -0.02 (397) |
| All | 51%, 0.02 (729) | 50%, -0.11 (221) | 35%, 0.00 (23) | 41%, -0.23 (22) | 33%, -0.40 (9) | 86%, 0.55 (7) | 0%, -1.39 (6) | 20%, -0.26 (5) | 40%, -0.95 (5) | 50%, -0.03 (1,027) |

Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays) **Format**

| | 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 | Ezekiel Elliott | 54% (56) 5.2, -0.17 | 43% (7) 3.1, -0.99 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.78 | | 52% (64) 4.9, -0.27 | | | | | | |
| TE | Dalton Schultz | 62% (78) 6.8, 0.16 | 60% (5) 4.2, 0.02 | | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.60 | 61% (84) 6.6, 0.14 | | | | | | |
| | Blake Jarwin | 100% (1) 12.0, 0.49 | | | | 100% (1) 12.0, 0.49 | | | | | | |
| WR | Amari Cooper | 65% (92) 8.7, 0.39 | 70% (20) 12.3, 0.53 | 50% (4) 4.0, -1.00 | | 66% (116) 9.2, 0.37 | | | | | | |
| | CeeDee Lamb | 54% (95) 9.0, 0.22 | 0% (4) 0.0, -0.32 | 20% (5) 7.2, 0.20 | | 50% (104) 8.5, 0.20 | | | | | | |
| | Michael Gallup | 52% (66) 8.6, 0.31 | 42% (19) 6.4, 0.14 | 40% (5) 10.6, 0.11 | 0% (1) 1.0, -0.39 | 48% (91) 8.2, 0.25 | | | | | | |

| Rushin | Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total | | | | | | | |
| Elliott Ezekiel | 47% (116) 3.9, -0.07 | 56% (91) 4.5, -0.10 | 100% (4) 3.0, 0.86 | 50% (2) 4.5, -0.01 | 52% (213) 4.1, -0.07 | | | | | | | |
| Pollard Tony | 52% (52) 5.5, 0.17 | 42% (36) 2.8, -0.26 | 100% (1) 7.0, 0.47 | | 48% (89) 4.4, 0.00 | | | | | | | |
| Dalton Andy | 63% (16) 5.7, 0.71 | 33% (3) 2.3, -1.74 | | | 58% (19) 5.2, 0.32 | | | | | | | |
| Prescott Dak | 50% (12) 5.8, 0.24 | 0% (1) 1.0, -0.55 | | | 46% (13) 5.4, 0.18 | | | | | | | |

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

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

| Passing by Coverage Scheme | | Passing by Route | | Throw | Types | QB Drop | QB Drop Types | | State at | Pass | Run Types | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | Level 1 | 58% (436) | | | Planted | | % (433) 6, 0.20 | Outside Zone | 48% (116) 4.0, -0.12 |
| | | Curl | 63% (103) 6.7, 0.22 | 201011 | 6.4, 0.12 | | 7.4, 0.06 | Moving | | 9% (79) | Zone | <u> </u> |
| | 57% (303) | | 0.7, 0.22 | | 47% (97) | 0/1 Step | 60% (120) 7.0, 0.24 | Woving | | 9, 0.08 | Inside Zone | 52% (93) 4.1, -0.01 |
| Zone | 7.8, 0.14 | Out | 70% (74) | Level 2 | 10.2, 0.30 | 30 49 | 7.0, 0.24 | Shuffling | | 5% (73) 4, -0.30 | Zone | 4.1, -0.01 |
| | | Out | 7.3, 0.22 | | | 5 Step | 49% (61) 8.1, 0.15 | | _ | | Stretch | 41% (22) 4.7, -0.34 |
| | | | 63% (56) | Level 3 | 36% (25) 15.7, 0.57 | (25) | 0.1, 0.10 | | Play Action | | | 4.7, -0.54 |
| M2M | 53% (159) 7.3, 0.23 | Slant | 9.3, 0.35 | | 15.7, 0.57 | Designed Rollout Right | 58% (36) 7.1, 0.16 | | Play Action | No P/A | Power | 55% (20) 3.5, 0.02 |
| | , | | 55% (31) | Shovel | 17% (6) | Ronout Right | | Under | 54% (76) | 44% (32) | | <u> </u> |
| | | Dig | 7.0, 0.17 | Silovei | 1.7, -1.16 | Basic Screen | 50% (20) 7.4, 0.16 | Center | 8.3, 0.09 52% (61) | 6.5, 0.01 48% (462) | Pitch | 38% (16) 3.0, -0.05 |
| Screen | 47% (58) | | 500((O.1) | | 00/ /4) | | | Shotgun | 8.0, -0.12 | 6.9, -0.05 | | |
| Screen | 5.2, -0.07 | Drag | 50% (24) 5.5, -0.05 | Sidearm | 0% (4) 3.3, -0.56 | 7 Step | 56% (18) 12.7, 0.71 | ALL | 53% (137) 8.2, 0.00 | 48% (494) 6.9, -0.04 | Lead | 80% (5) 2.4, 0.48 |

wasn't even 10th-worst in the NFL last year. Although they did suffer the second-most games lost due to injury, they did have stretches with the same starters. While some teams went only two consecutive games with the same line, the Cowboys went five games (something that 16 teams can't claim to have done).

But though this line will still have many of the names we recognize, they aren't as productive as they once were. LT Tyron Smith is in his 11th season and has been plagued by neck and back injuries. From November 2018 thru December 2020 (just over two years) Smith missed 19 games, with almost all of them related to his neck or back. RT La'el Collins returns from hip surgery and needed his agent to tweet that "no, my client is not retiring." According to reports having discussions with NFL executives and scouts, some believe the importance of a center has eclipsed the left tackle, due to today's complex defenses and the center's need to make the right line calls. While I don't know if I completely agree, I can say the center position has been underrated for a while. And we've taken advantage of that from a betting perspective for several years now. The downgrade from former center Travis Fredrick to Tyler Biadasz is measurable.

One thing that never fell off in 2020 and is here to stay in 2021 is the stud receiving corps. Amari Cooper, Michael Gallup, and CeeDee Lamb played all 16 games last year and return to do the same this year.

Dallas is also hoping the removal of one-and-done defensive coordinator Mike Nolan in exchange for former Falcons head coach Dan Quinn makes a difference. We shall see if that helps, but it certainly can't hurt. Here are Dan Quinn's defensive ranks in Atlanta based on EDSR (Early Down Success Rate):

2015: 31

2016: 27

2017: 30

2018: 29

2019: 32 (before firing himself from calling plays)

A completely new set of players, with substantial investment on the defensive side of the ball, has the potential to help Quinn. The Cowboys invested their first six draft picks from 2021 into their defense, and their four highest paid players signed in this year's free agent class were all defenders. Dallas knows they won't win the NFC East with offense and a terrible defense, and they've set out to improve on it in 2021 via personnel and coaching.

(cont'd - see DAL-7)





Your outlook for the 2021 Cowboys depends on what area you want to focus on most. This offense should be just as impressive as they were to start the season last year with Dak, but they're unlikely to be a fully optimized unit. I haven't loved most of what I've seen from Kellen Moore but I certainly don't see him as an extreme liability or a bottom-third offensive coordinator.

That said, there were countless times I scratched my head at either individual play calls, strategies or lack of adjustments and wondered if Moore is going to eventually get better at this. While this is just a mere drop in the bucket, it's an interesting anecdote. As bad as the Cowboys were the first 16 weeks of the season, despite sitting at 6-9, they were alive to win the NFC East if they beat the Giants in Week 17 and got some help. But in that must-win game, through 24 minutes, Dallas had just two passing yards. Two! There's simply no way, even with Andy Dalton, that a reasonable offensive coordinator could allow that to happen.

Remembering the good times, with the supercharged offense at the beginning of the season, the question is: where did that supercharged offense get them with a healthy Prescott? They went 2-3 with him as the starter. One win came against the 4-12 Falcons by one point, which required Dallas to outscore Atlanta 30-10 in the second half including an insane onsides kick blunder by Atlanta. The second was a 3-point win over the 6-10 Giants. At the end of the day, they must find a way to consistently win against decent NFL teams.

In Prescott's starts, 93% of the Cowboys' drives began when the game was tied or they were trailing, fourth-most in the NFL behind only the Jets, Jaguars and Washington. That's not in the games he missed, that's when Dak played!

This defense cannot be worse prepared or coached than they were for most of last season, but there's no assurance the players and new coaches they're adding will help boost the defense meaningfully.

The schedule bodes well for the Cowboys. I forecast them to play the sixth-easiest schedule, predominantly due to the fact that they face a considerable number of bad offenses outside their own subpar division. This could help their defense significantly (although they played bad offenses in 2019 as well). The largest shift for them comes from run defenses. Last year, Elliott and company faced the NFL's second-toughest schedule of run defenses. I predict they will face the ninth-easiest schedule of run defenses in 2020. The 2021 Cowboys need to improve in a lot of different areas but there is a reasonable path forward for this team to finally meet expectations.

The Cowboys 2021 win total is 9.5. In 21 seasons since 2000, Dallas has exceeded it's win total the second least often of any team. "America's Team" has exceeded pre-season expectations only seven times in those 21 years (33%). Only the Jacksonville Jaguars have done worse.

Dallas has been favored to win in 18 games the last two years with Dak Prescott in the lineup. "America's Team" is just 9-9 straight up and 7-11 ATS (38.9%). Only the Jets, Falcons and Panthers have done worse winning games they were favored in, but those teams were favored by two points fewer per game on average, meaning they shouldn't win as many of the games.

They say everything is bigger in Texas, and that applies to the perception of the Cowboys. We'll see if a return to health, a new defensive coordinator and a very easy schedule will be enough to take Dallas to the playoffs in 2021.

Immediate Impact of Dallas Cowboys 2021 Draft Class

It's widely believed the Cowboys hoped to land a cornerback in the first round (either **Patrick Surtain II** or **Jaycee Horn**) but were forced to adjust when neither were on the board. As a result, they may not get as much production from this draft class as originally planned.

LB **Micah Parsons** (first round) could see immediate playing time, but the extent of his role may depend on the health of **Leighton Vander Esch**, who has missed 13 games over the last two seasons.

Parsons played defensive end in high school and only played two years at Penn State (he opted out in 2020), and is understandably still raw in his coverage ability. During his final college season, Parsons blitzed on 20.5% of snaps and he's clearly more comfortable in that role.

If Vander Esch is healthy, we may see Parsons used more frequently in sub-packages as a pass-rusher, while he develops the rest of his game.

Parsons may also have competition for playing time from LB **Jabril Cox** (fourth round) who excels in coverage. Cox allowed 0.2 yards per coverage snap last season at LSU after transferring from North Dakota State, and had almost as many passes defensed and interceptions (eight) as completions allowed (12).

Due to the Cowboys' depleted secondary CB **Kelvin Joseph** (second round) may take on a starting role, but immediate expectations for the developmental prospect should be held in check.

On throws at least seven yards downfield, Joseph allowed a deserved catch rate (the rate at which DBs allow catches on catchable targets, accounting for drops) of 81.8%, among the worst rates in the SEC.

Surprisingly, the rookie with the most obvious path to playing time might be DT Quinton Bohanna (sixth round) at nose tackle.

Last year Dallas primarily used **Dontari Poe** (released in October) and **Antwuan Woods** (released after the draft) when lining up with a true nose tackle on the defensive line.

New defensive coordinator **Dan Quinn** relied on **Tyeler Davison** for that role with the Atlanta Falcons last season, with Davison playing 402 snaps in either a zero or one-tech position (nose tackle). So it's safe to assume someone will need to step up to fill that spot in Dallas.

DT **Osa Odighizuwa** (third round) weighed in at just 282 pounds at his pro day, so he's ill-suited for nose tackle. However, The 6'4", 327-pound Bohanna is the nose tackle prototype and played 429 snaps as the zero or one-tech in Kentucky's defense in 2020.

DE Chauncey Golston (third round) could factor into the pass-rush mix, potentially helping to replace Aldon Smith and Tyrone Crawford. Golston generated a 16% pressure rate versus three and five-step dropbacks, ranking seventh in the Big Ten.

CB **Nahshon Wright** (third round) was a surprising name to hear called on Day 2, but has the ideal profile of a cornerback in Quinn's defense. With his size (6'4"), Quinn will hope to develop him into a physical outside corner.

While Dallas was probably disappointed to miss out on Surtain and Horn, they were smart to trade down from their original spot and acquire some extra picks. There are some decisions to quibble with—primarily whether any off-ball linebacker has value worthy of a top-12 pick—but the sheer quantity of potential starters helps balance out the risks in this draft class.



Yards to Go

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Dallas Cowboys 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Through five games with Dak Prescott last year, Dallas had scored a touchdown on 32.8% of its offensive drives (10th in the league) while averaging 32.6 points per game. After Prescott was injured, the Cowboys scored a touchdown on 16.9% of their drives (31st) and averaged 21.1 points per game (24th). From a passing stance, prior to Prescott's injury, he was leading the league in dropbacks per game (48.0) while Dallas had a 55% success rate through the air in Prescott's starts compared to a 45% success rate afterward. After playing 2020 on the franchise tag, Dallas and Prescott came to a four-year agreement this offseason to end the questions on his future with the team. Dallas suffered the second-most adjusted games missed across their offensive line in 2020 at 46.4 per Football Outsiders and will enter 2021 healthy there as well.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Andy Dalton | 235 | 366 | 64% | 2,378 | 6.5 | 16 | 8 | 26 | 88 | 30 | |
| Dak Prescott | 151 | 222 | 68% | 1,855 | 8.4 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 100 | 12 | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | |

2020 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. 20+ Air Avg. Air 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Success **Passing** 20+ Air QΒ **Pass Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp % 56% 60% 11.0% 9 Dak Prescott 25 4.0% 6.7 5.6 11 5% **Andy Dalton** 47% 52% 23 6.0% 12 3.0% 5.0 5.2 8 2% 47% 50% 33.3 8.6% 3.0% 5.2 4% 12.0 5.9 14.9 NFL Ava

Total

0.0%

2.9%

3.9%

0.8%

0.0%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis Avg. Avg. YIA Short of Ava Yds QB Yds to (of Sticks Short Short Go Comp) Rate **Dak Prescott** 8.5 72% 5 -2.0 NFL Avg 8.8 5.6 -3.1 72%

| Total | 1.0% | 2.5% | 2.3% | 0.0% | 1.7% | MEAVY | 0.0 | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook | | | | | | | | | | |
| of Dak Prescot receivers (64% (9.9 yards) and in yards per tar | t. Through t) and 14th t l 11th to tigl get (7.1 yai | five weeks, targeting ti ht ends (7.5 rds) to wide | the Cowb ght ends (5 9 yards). Feouts and 2 | oys were fi 56%) while For the rem 23rd to tigh | fth in succe sixth in yar nainder of th t ends (6.6 | is based on the availal ess rate targeting wide ds per target to wideo ne season, Dallas was yards). Dallas arguab eDee Lamb, and Mich | uts 27th ly has | | | |

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------|------------|-----|
| Amari Cooper | 130 | 71% | 8.6 | 96.8 | 63% | 14 | 9 | 43 | 67 | 5 |
| CeeDee Lamb | 109 | 68% | 8.6 | 102.0 | 51% | 81 | 70 | 32 | 114 | 5 |
| Michael Gallup | 106 | 56% | 8.0 | 97.3 | 47% | 110 | 120 | 36 | 94 | 5 |
| Dalton Schultz | 89 | 71% | 6.9 | 95.5 | 61% | 21 | 11 | 97 | 27 | 4 |
| Ezekiel Elliott | 73 | 71% | 4.6 | 72.7 | 51% | 90 | 99 | 113 | 4 | 2 |

Gallup. They will also be getting Blake Jarwin back off of missing all but 25 snaps a year ago.

Jarwin has turned in 8.8 yards per target and 11.6 yards per grab over his early-career sample

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

5.9%

3 2%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

33.3%

0.0%

0.0%

1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 4th Dwn

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

14.3%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

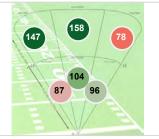
Dallas ended the 2020 season 12th in rushing EPA, but 20th in success rate (49%) on the ground in 2020. Ezekiel Elliott averaged a career-low 4.4 yards per touch in 2020 and carried a 47% success rate, but backup Tony Pollard also felt the sting of the deteriorating offensive elements a year ago as his 41% success rate on the ground was the fifth-lowest in the league among all backs with 50-plus attempts. Dallas played last season basically down both starting offensive tackles as Tyron Smith played in just two games due to a neck injury while La'El Collins missed the entire season dealing with hip and groin injuries in training camp. With both tackles out, All-Pro right guard Zach Martin also missed six games himself in 2020. With the offensive line healthy entering the season and Prescott back under center, the run game should rebound.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Ezekiel Elliott | 244 | 4.0 | 49% | 59 | 16 | 66 | 70 | 47% | 65 | 6 |
| Tony Pollard | 113 | 4.5 | 48% | 65 | 66 | 56 | 37 | 44% | 78 | 6 |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10

Dak Prescott Rating Early Downs

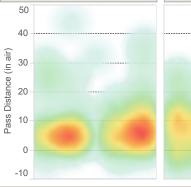
0 -10



| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
|----|--------------|----------|----|
| | 54% | 46% | 20 |
| | 52% | 48% | |

Air Yds vs YAC

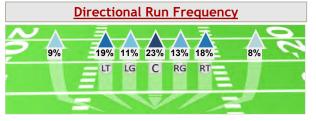
CeeDee Lamb **Target Distribution**



Amari Cooper

Target Distribution





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Buy any dip with Ezekiel Elliott

Elliott averaged a career-low 4.4 yards per touch, but was still a workhorse, averaging 19.7 touches per game, which was eighth among all running backs in 2020. Impacted by the injury of Dak Prescott, Elliott had six touchdowns and 22.3 PPR points per game in the five games with Prescott active compared to just two touchdowns and 11.2 points per game after Prescott was lost for the season.

On top of losing Prescott, Elliott played behind a bludgeoned offensive line. Dallas played last season down both starting offensive tackles as Tyron Smith played in just two games due to a neck injury while La'El Collins missed the entire season dealing with hip and groin injuries in training camp. With both tackles out, All-Pro right guard Zach Martin also missed six games. All in all, Dallas suffered the second-most adjusted games missed across their offensive line in 2020 at 46.4 per Football Outsiders. Dallas is still committed to Elliott as he carries \$36.9 million and \$23.2 million dead cap hits over the next two seasons. As a workhorse back, Elliott is one of just three backs (Alvin Kamara and Austin Ekeler) with at least 50 receptions the past two seasons. With Prescott back and the offensive line healthy, Elliott should remain a pick in the front half of the first round of drafts and a potential bargain anywhere afterwards.

Are There Value Plays In The Dallas Offense?

Everyone loves the top of the Dallas offense as Elliott, Amari Cooper, and CeeDee Lamb will all be selected among the top-50 players in the majority of leagues this season. If you want a piece of the Dallas passing game, that is the capital required. But because of the quarterback position carrying variance per draft, you may be able to catch a discount on Dak Prescott still. After being the QB3 in points per game in 2019 (21.1 points), Prescott was pacing the position a year ago at 26.9 points per game through five games prior to missing the remainder of the season with a gruesome ankle injury. Prescott was averaging a career-high 5.5 rushing points per game, so we will have to wait on the impact of the injury for his rushing performance.

After Prescott you will have a large gap to other Dallas selections, but both Michael Gallup and Blake Jarwin offer potential for their costs. After 66-1,107-6 in 2019, Gallup took a step back in 2020, catching 59-of-105 targets for 843 yards and five touchdowns. Gallup did close the season on a positive note, with seven or more targets in six of his final nine games and a touchdown in three of his final five games. Gallup has bounce back potential with an unaccounted value spike should either Cooper or Lamb miss any time during the season. Jarwin made it just 25 snaps into the season before suffering an ACL injury after signing a contract extension. His replacement, Dalton Schultz, then went on to rank ninth among all tight ends in targets (89), but was largely a replacement level producer on those looks with 6.9 yards per target and 9.8 yards per catch. Jarwin has turned in 8.8 yards per target and 11.6 yards per grab over his early-career sample. Jarwin needs to prove his health, but that is factored into his ADP which is lower than where it was as a popular target at this time a year ago.

| Da | allas Cowbo | ys Defense: | Number of | DBs vs Pers | onnel | Def Tendencies | | | Surrendered +Success Map | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|------|----|--------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|-----|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | 0/ | D. | 50 | | | | | | | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 7 plays (2%) Success: 57% | 284 plays (83%) Success: 45% | 48 plays (14%) Success: 38% | 3 plays (1%) Success: 33% | 342 plays (100%) Success: 44% | | % Rk | | % | | % | | % | | % | | 40- |
| | EPA: -0.79 | EPA: 0.01 | EPA: -0.27 | EPA: -0.73 | EPA: -0.05 | Base | 18% | 26 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 34 plays (38%) Success: 59% | 52 plays (58%) Success: 54% | 2 plays (2%) Success: 0% | 1 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 100% | | Nickel | 70% | 5 | 30 | | | | | | | | |
| | EPA: 0.30 | EPA: 0.29 | EPA: -0.76 | EPA: 2.17 | EPA: 0.29 | Dime+ | 9% | 18 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 16 plays (43%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.44 | 21 plays (57%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.12 | | | 37 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.12 | Rush 3 | 11% | 8 | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 plays (50%) | 3 plays (50%) | | | 6 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 67% | 10 | 10 – | | | | | | | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 33% EPA: 0.00 | Success: 67% EPA: -1.05 | | | Success: 50% EPA: -0.53 | Rush 5 | 17% | 22 | | | | | | | | | |
| Grand | 60 plays (13%) | 360 plays (76%) | 50 plays (11%) | 4 plays (1%) | 474 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 2% | 28 | 0 – | | | | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 57% EPA: 0.19 | Success: 46% EPA: 0.04 | Success: 36% EPA: -0.29 | Success: 50% EPA: -0.01 | Success: 47% EPA: 0.02 | Blitz% | 19% | 26 | -10 | | | | | | | | |

Defensive Outlook

The Dallas defense was so troublesome in 2020, the team used eight of 11 2021 draft picks on that side of the ball. Injuries decimated the Cowboys' interior before it really got going last season. **Gerald McCoy** never got on the field, Trysten Hill tore his ACL, and Donrari Poe only lasted half a season. With a lack of pass rush in the interior, the Cowboys also matched that with not being able to stop the run. Dallas ranked 31st in Run Stop Win Rate, according to ESPN.

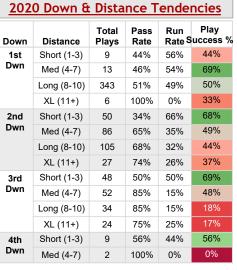
Demarcus Lawrence was again one of the better pass rushers in the league, ranked 10th in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. But as a team, the Cowboys only ranked 28th. Aldon Smith returned from his four-year suspension to start all 16 games for 14 quarterback hits and five sacks, but the 31-year-old was not re-signed. Randy Gregory was after only playing 25% of the defensive snaps. Among 124 edge rushers with at least 150 pass rushes, Gregory ranked 11th in pressure rate. Lawrence ranked 13th. Leighton Vander Esch only played 10 games in 2020 after nine games played in 2019. Even when on the field, lingering injury issues slowed him down a bit and he hasn't been able to match the promise of his rookie season over the past two years. Jaylon Smith has been able to stay healthy with all 16 games played over the past two seasons but there have been some inconsistencies in his game, especially when Vander Esch is not also on the field.

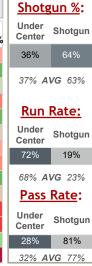
With coverage and health questions in the middle of the defense, the Cowboys signed **Keanu Neal**, who was expected to play linebacker. But then, Dallas drafted **Micah Parsons** in the first round. Under Dan Quinn, Last year's Falcons played 75% of their defensive snaps in nickel, the fourth-highest rate in the league, with no snaps in dime or lighter personnel.

Among 148 cornerbacks with at least 100 coverage snaps in 2020, **Trevon Diggs** ranked 127th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap, which adjusts for touchdowns and interceptions. Diggs was also one of the most targeted corners when he was on the field, ranked 138th in targets per coverage snap among that same group. There were a number of rookies in the same area as Diggs in both targets and adjusted yards allowed. To Diggs's credit, he had the best completion percentage allowed of that group at 55.4%.

At safety, **Xavier Woods** played nearly 90% of the Dallas defensive snaps but after some poor play in 2020, he was allowed to leave in free agency. **Donovan Wilson** played well as he split his time between playing deep and in the box. After him, there are some questions, especially given Quinn's history in Cover 3. Wilson might not be a great single-high fit consistently. **Damonte Kazee** has played that role for Quinn, but is coming off a torn Achilles in Week 4. The league could be moving to more two-high looks but Quinn's background leans toward a more traditional use of a single-high deep safety and that type of player isn't currently on the roster.

2020 Play Tendencies 59% All Pass % All Pass Rk 14 All Rush % 41% All Rush Rk 19 1 Score Pass % 58% 1 Score Pass Rk 15 2019 1 Score Pass % 60% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 14 2020 Pass Increase % -2% Pass Increase Rk 18 1 Score Rush % 42% 1 Score Rush Rk 18 Up Pass % 52% Up Pass Rk 24 48% Up Rush % Up Rush Rk Down Pass % 62% Down Pass Rk 14 Down Rush % 38% Down Rush Rk 19







Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | |
| 64% | 22 | 67% | 83% | 75% | | | | |
| | 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | NFL Pass | Pass 1D | Pass NFL | | | | |

Rate

50%

Freq Avg

33%

1D Avg

59%

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Ezekiel Elliott | 5 | 40% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | RUSH Ezekiel Elliott | | 43% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Ezekiel Elliott | 105 | 42% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | CeeDee Lamb | 2 | 50% |
| | | | Michael Gallup | 2 | 50% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Ezekiel Elliott | 23 | 74% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Ezekiel Elliott | 16 | 50% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Ezekiel Elliott | 16 | 25% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Ezekiel Elliott | 4 | 25% |
| | | | CeeDee Lamb | 4 | 50% |
| | | | Michael Gallup | 4 | 50% |
| | | RUSH | Tony Pollard | 4 | 0% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Ezekiel Elliott | 11 | 82% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | CeeDee Lamb | 16 | 63% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Michael Gallup | 7 | 43% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Michael Gallup | 5 | 0% |

| Offen | Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | | |
| No | Success: 49% | Success: 51% | Success: 49% | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.03 | YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.11 | YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.00 | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 90.8 | Rtg: 76.0 | Rtg: 87.6 | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 270 - Rate: 42.8%] | [Att: 75 - Rate: 11.9%] | [Att: 345 - Rate: 54.7%] | | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 48% | Success: 56% | Success: 50% | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.13 | YPA: 10.6, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: -0.08 | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 91.5 | Rtg: 127.1 | Rtg: 99.6 | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 224 - Rate: 35.5%] | [Att: 62 - Rate: 9.8%] | [Att: 286 - Rate: 45.3%] | | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 48% | Success: 53% | Success: 49% | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.04 | YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.00 | YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.03 | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 91.1 | Rtg: 99.4 | Rtg: 92.9 | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 494 - Rate: 78.3%] | [Att: 137 - Rate: 21.7%] | [Att: 631 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | | |

Freq

36%

Rk

11

| | | | | 202 | 20 Weekl | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Michael Gallup | Dalton Schultz | Amari Cooper | Ezekiel Elliott | CeeDee Lamb | Tony Pollard | Blake Bell | Cedrick Wilson | | | | | | |
| 1 | LA | L 20-17 | 69 (96%) | 50 (69%) | 68 (94%) | 63 (88%) | 59 (82%) | 10 (14%) | 8 (11%) | 3 (4%) | | | | | | |
| 2 | ATL | W 40-39 | 75 (91%) | 57 (70%) | 75 (91%) | 76 (93%) | 68 (83%) | 8 (10%) | 33 (40%) | 4 (5%) | | | | | | |
| 3 | SEA | L 38-31 | 70 (85%) | 55 (67%) | 65 (79%) | 80 (98%) | 49 (60%) | 6 (7%) | 27 (33%) | 24 (29%) | | | | | | |
| 4 | CLE | L 49-38 | 67 (82%) | 63 (77%) | 63 (77%) | 63 (77%) | 62 (76%) | 22 (27%) | 28 (34%) | 18 (22%) | | | | | | |
| 5 | NYG | W 37-34 | 64 (97%) | 58 (88%) | 42 (64%) | 54 (82%) | 36 (55%) | 15 (23%) | 18 (27%) | 15 (23%) | | | | | | |
| 6 | ARI | L 38-10 | 72 (81%) | 72 (81%) | 79 (89%) | 54 (61%) | 60 (67%) | 32 (36%) | 19 (21%) | 25 (28%) | | | | | | |
| 7 | WAS | L 25-3 | 51 (91%) | 45 (80%) | 42 (75%) | 37 (66%) | 31 (55%) | 19 (34%) | 20 (36%) | 20 (36%) | | | | | | |
| 8 | PHI | L 23-9 | 69 (87%) | 75 (95%) | 59 (75%) | 62 (78%) | 37 (47%) | 17 (22%) | 41 (52%) | 19 (24%) | | | | | | |
| 9 | PIT | L 24-19 | 68 (94%) | 69 (96%) | 59 (82%) | 47 (65%) | 38 (53%) | 23 (32%) | 31 (43%) | 11 (15%) | | | | | | |
| 11 | MIN | W 31-28 | 57 (86%) | 60 (91%) | 54 (82%) | 46 (70%) | 44 (67%) | 21 (32%) | 14 (21%) | 14 (21%) | | | | | | |
| 12 | WAS | L 41-16 | 45 (76%) | 51 (86%) | 50 (85%) | 39 (66%) | 42 (71%) | 21 (36%) | 18 (31%) | 12 (20%) | | | | | | |
| 13 | BAL | L 34-17 | 74 (94%) | 71 (90%) | 69 (87%) | 50 (63%) | 48 (61%) | 31 (39%) | 18 (23%) | 20 (25%) | | | | | | |
| 14 | CIN | W 30-7 | 48 (94%) | 49 (96%) | 42 (82%) | 32 (63%) | 26 (51%) | 19 (37%) | 15 (29%) | 7 (14%) | | | | | | |
| 15 | SF | W 41-33 | 38 (66%) | 51 (88%) | 45 (78%) | | 33 (57%) | 52 (90%) | 22 (38%) | 16 (28%) | | | | | | |
| 16 | PHI | W 37-17 | 58 (83%) | 65 (93%) | 51 (73%) | 37 (53%) | 36 (51%) | 33 (47%) | 30 (43%) | 13 (19%) | | | | | | |
| 17 | NYG | L 23-19 | 78 (95%) | 80 (98%) | 80 (98%) | 47 (57%) | 61 (74%) | 34 (41%) | 16 (20%) | 7 (9%) | | | | | | |
| | Grand | Total | 1,003 (87%) | 971 (85%) | 943 (82%) | 787 (72%) | 730 (63%) | 363 (33%) | 358 (31%) | 228 (20%) | | | | | | |

| Personnel Groupings | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. | | | | | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 71% | 60% | 51% | | | | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 21% | 20% | 50% | | | | | | |
| 1-0 [4WR] | 2% | 2% | 35% | | | | | | |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 2% | 4% | 41% | | | | | | |
| Grouping Tendencies | | | | | | | | | |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies | | | | | | |
| <u>Group</u> Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | | | | | | |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. | | | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | | | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 51% | Run Succ. % | | | | | | |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| Amari Cooper | 16 | 8 | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| Michael Gallup | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | | | | |
| Dalton Schultz | 13 | 2 | 2 | 9 | | | | |
| CeeDee Lamb | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | | | | |
| Tony Pollard | 8 | | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| Ezekiel Elliott | 7 | | 1 | 6 | | | | |
| Cedrick Wilson | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| Blake Bell | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | | | |
| Dak Prescott | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Ezekiel Elliott | 45 | 26 | 6 | 13 |
| Tony Pollard | 17 | 5 | 1 | 11 |
| Dak Prescott | 6 | 4 | | 2 |
| Andy Dalton | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Blake Bell | 2 | 2 | | |
| Rico Dowdle | 2 | | | 2 |
| CeeDee Lamb | 1 | | | 1 |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | |
| 22% | 17% | 60% | | | |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% | | | |
| | Overall Target Success % | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | iccess % | | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % | | | |
| | | | | | |
| RB | TE | WR | | | |

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

| (|)2. | Avg | Halftime | Lead |
|---|-----|-----|----------|------|
| | | | | |

| -4.0 | |
|------|--|
| | |

0.08

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 7.8 | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 6.0 | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.7 | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.1 | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 55% | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 53% | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.06 | | |

| Play | Action | (Quarters | 1-3 on | Early | Downs) |
|------|--------|-------------|--------|-------|---------|
| | Accion | (Quai cci s | | | <i></i> |

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 33% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 59% |
| 46. PA YPA | 9.0 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 7.7% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.0 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.4 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 59% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 7.5 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 4.8% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.07 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.2 |

Men In Box

| 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 | 37% |
| 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 | 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 | 4.3 |
| 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 | 43% |
| 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 | 32 | defFUM | 21 |
|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Net FROE | -8.0 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 |
| offFUM | 19 | deiruw Rovia | 0 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 6 | defFR Rk | 2 |
| offFR% | 31.6% | defFR% | 61.9% |
| offFR Rk | 30 | | 0.0 |
| offFROE | -4.4 | defFROE | -3.6 |
| | | defFROE Rk | 31 |
| offFROE Rk | 29 | dell ROL RR | 01 |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | -0.18 | Opp Att | 27 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 15 | Opp Makes | 24 |
| Own Att | 41 | | |
| Own Makes | 34 | Opp FG % | 89% |
| Own FG % | 83% | Opp Expected Makes | 22.69 |
| Own Expected Makes | 32.88 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.31 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 1.12 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 12 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 14 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -2.53 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -1.78 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 24 | 2019 Opp Rk | 25 |
| | | | |

Player Tracking Data Stats - OBs

35. Total Defensive Efficiency

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBS | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|
| | Andy Dalton | Dak Prescott | | |
| CAY | 5.2 | 6.8 | | |
| CAY Rk | 30 | 9 | | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 17 | 3 | | |
| AYTS Rk | 31 | 21 | | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 21 | 4 | | |
| AGG Rk | 22 | 21 | | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 5 | 13 | | |
| COMP% | 64.9 | 68 | | |
| xCOMP% | 64.9 | 65.3 | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 21 | 17 | | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 31 | 28 | | |
| CPOE% | 0 | 2.7 | | |
| CPOE Rk | 23 | 10 | | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 30 | 6 | | |
| | | | | |

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

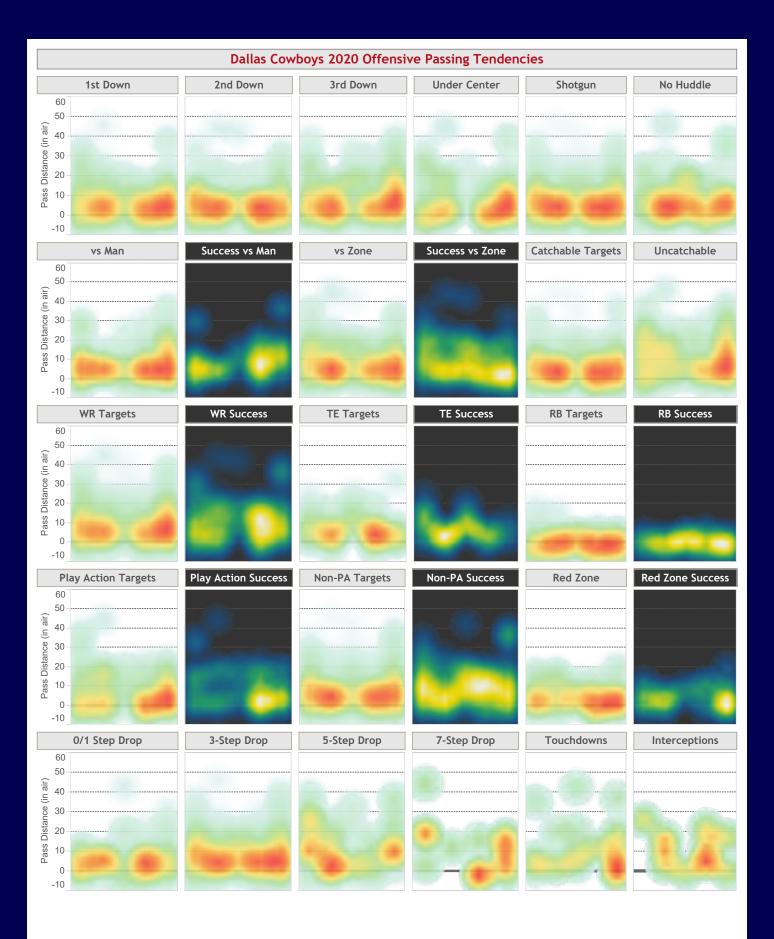
OB Pressure

23

| QD P | ressure | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Andy Dalton | Dak Prescott |
| Pressure % | 29.5 | 27.9 |
| Pressure Rk | 25 | 29 |
| Sack % | 6.4 | 4.2 |
| Sack Rk | 15 | 31 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 76.7 | 65.2 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 2 | 19 |
| Rating when Pressured | 74.4 | 44.8 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 15 | 37 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 76.1 | 81.6 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 32 | 9 |
| Rating when Clean | 91 | 117.2 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 34 | 7 |
| Time to Throw | 2.5 | 2.77 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 39 | 16 |

Offensive Metrics

| EPA/Pass | -0.03 |
|-----------------------|-------|
| EPA/Pass Rk | 23 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.03 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 13 |
| On-Target Catch % | 89.7% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 20 |
| Drop% | 7.8% |
| Drop Rk | 25 |
| YAC/Att | 2.4 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 10 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.1% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 22 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 26.8% |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 15 |
| | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Vic Fangio (2 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Pat Shurmur (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:

Ed Donatell (2 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Denver Broncos

2021 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

8.5

#3

Past Records

2020: 5-11 2019: 7-9 2018: 6-10



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| A.J. Bouye (CB) | Panthers |
| Alijah Holder (CB) | Lions |
| Austin Calitro (LB) | Bears |
| DeMarcus Walker (IDL) | Texans |
| Elijah Wilkinson (RT) | Bears |
| Jeff Driskel (QB) | Texans |
| Jeremiah Attaochu (EDGE) | Bears |
| Joseph Jones (LB) | Buccanee. |
| Nick Vannett (TE) | Saints |
| Phillip Lindsay (RB) | Texans |
| Will Parks (S) | Chiefs |
| Anthony Chickillo (EDGE) | TBD |
| De'Vante Bausby (CB) | TBD |
| Demar Dotson (RT) | TBD |
| Jake Butt (TE) | TBD |
| Jurrell Casey (IDL) | TBD |
| Kevin Toliver II (CB) | TBD |
| Kyle Peko (IDL) | TBD |
| Sylvester Williams (IDL) | TBD |
| Troy Fumagalli (TE) | TBD |

2021 Denver Broncos Overview

It sounds funny now, but following the 2019 season, the **Drew Lock** train not only picked up steam, it was also close to capacity. Talk show hosts, media personalities and, of course, the Broncos faithful were all enthralled with Lock's 4-1 record in his five starts.

But I was not. Because I was looking deeper, at the strength of opponents as well as Lock's actual performance in those games. Lock's starts primarily came in perfect weather conditions save for one: great temps and no wind at all in all four wins. Most games came against absolutely terrible pass defenses, and most were at home.

Then came the performance itself. Lock struggled to complete a pass beyond 15 yards. His accuracy was terrible on these passes.

Lock had the ninth-highest expected completion rate in 2019, a Next Gen Stats metric which is based on player tracking data and accounts for receiver separation, location on the field, separation the passer had at the time of throw from the nearest pass rusher, and so forth. Despite the ninth-highest expected completion rate, Lock ranked 27th in completion percentage over expectation. In other words, he should have ranked ninth in completion rate, but by ranking far worse, he was one of the worst quarterbacks in the NFL in actual completion rate compared to the expectation.

These things gave me a big pause on the young Lock. Then when I looked into my forecast for the Broncos' 2020 schedule coupled with what I found from first-year playcaller Pat Shurmur, I decided I would fade the Lock train and bet against the 2020 Broncos in the futures markets. Naturally, I wrote about my concerns and reasons for not liking the Broncos in last year's book. I shared the Broncos under bet with subscribers to our futures package.

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|------------------------|----------|
| Teddy Bridgewater (QB) | \$11.5 |
| Ronald Darby (CB) | \$10 |
| Kyle Fuller (CB) | \$9.5 |
| Shamar Stephen (IDL) | \$2 |
| Eric Saubert (TE) | \$1 |
| Bobby Massie (RT) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|--|
| 1 | 9 | CB - Patrick Surtain II (Alabama) |
| 2 | 35 | RB - Javonte Williams (North Carolina) |
| 3 | 98 | C - Quinn Meinerz (Wisconsin–Whitewater) |
| ٠ | 105 | LB - Baron Browning (Ohio State) |
| 5 | 152 | S - Caden Sterns (Texas) |
| 3 | 164 | S - Jamar Johnson (Indiana) |
| 6 | 219 | WR - Seth Williams (Auburn) |
| | 237 | CB - Kary Vincent Jr. (LSU) |
| 7 | 239 | DE - Jonathon Cooper (Ohio State) |
| | 253 | DE - Marquiss Spencer (Mississippi State) |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Games

Favored

9

Average

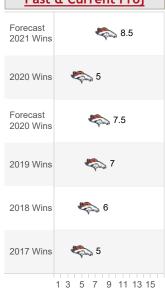
Line

0.2

Games

Underdog

8



Lineup & Cap Hits SS J.Simmons B.Browning Rookie 31 RCB R.Darby NEW B.Callahan V.Miller D.Jones S.Harris B.Chubb S.Harris B.Chubb G1 61



2021 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see DEN2)



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 31 | \$78.44M | 32 |
| QB | 27 | \$7.18M | 30 |
| OL | | \$30.44M | 28 |
| RB | 5 | \$14.06M | 12 |
| WR | 20 | \$20.19M | 30 |
| TE | 29 | \$6.58M | 20 |
| All DEF | 4 | \$105.01M | 1 |
| DL | | \$49.84M | 1 |
| LB | 24 | \$9.49M | 30 |
| СВ | 5 | \$31.77M | 13 |
| S | 13 | \$13.92M | 1 |
| | | | |

DEN-2

As such, it didn't shock me to see what I predicted last offseason come to reality. Let's start with the schedule itself. I predicted the 2020 Broncos offense, after facing the 29th toughest schedule of defenses in 2019, would face the 17th toughest schedule defenses in 2020, a huge step up in class. Sitting here today, we know the Broncos actually played the 18 toughest schedule of defenses, so my pre-season prediction was incredibly accurate. Similarly, I predicted that Drew Lock would move from playing the 22nd toughest schedule of pass to the 11th toughest. He actually played the 13th toughest schedule of pass defenses. I anticipated a brutal increase in difficulty and that came to fruition.

Looking at Drew Lock, he was even worse than expected, and I wasn't expecting nearly as much as most people given what I saw in 2019 and the schedule I predicted he would face in 2020. Nearly across the board, Lock was worse in almost every meaningful advanced metric.

It wasn't pretty.

But let's first look at a couple stats that stood out to me from 2019: passes beyond 15 yards and expected completion rate.

In 2020, only 49% of the passes Lock threw over 15 yards were catchable. Of the 38 quarterbacks with over 30 attempts over 15 yards downfield, Lock's rate of throwing a catchable ball ranked fifth worst, ahead of only **Dwayne Haskins**, **Mitchell Trubisky**, **Carson Wentz**, and **Sam Darnold**. Of the 18 quarterbacks with over 75 attempts, Lock was worst. He did improve his rate by 10% over 2019, but still was 10% worse than average.

Deeper throws to his right have been the worst for Lock – his career catchable rate is only 40% and nearly 17% below average. Of 35 quarterbacks with at least 35 attempts to the right beyond 15 yards, Lock's catchable rate ranked dead last.

Unfortunately, it's not a variance issue with Lock, where there's some high-end plays to make up for the poor ones. Lock's *best* stuff deep is generally league average. His typical deep throw is well below average, and he gradually drops further below average the deeper down the field he targets.

Lock's average depth of target was 9.1 in 2020, fourth highest in the NFL. But his average depth of completion was just 6.1 yards. That differential of -3.0 was fourth-worst in the NFL, behind only the two Jets quarterbacks (**Joe Flacco** and **Sam Darnold**) and **Dwayne Haskins**.

| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | A-01 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Drew Lock | 46% 6.4 86.8 | 40% 6.1 64.6 | 35% 7.1 69.9 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 49% | 54% | 79% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |

| | | 2020 Rushi | | | |
|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| | Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| DEN | | 39% 3.7 | 47% 4.9 | 56% 5.7 | Success Rate YPC |
| | Run Rate | 51% | 46% | 21% | |
| | NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| | Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

This was very different from 2019, when the Broncos were still operating an offense with training wheels over the final weeks of the season with Lock. In 2019, Lock's aDOT was only 6.9, which ranked 33rd of 39 quarterbacks. That's a massive swing from seventh-lowest in 2019 to fourth-highest in 2020.

A metric that saw big swing as compared to 2019 for Lock was his aggressiveness. Aggressiveness is pulled from player tracking data and measures the rate at which a quarterback passes into tight coverage, where there is a defender within one yard of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion.

14

Pass Efficiency Def

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def

Ret TDs

Penalties

Ret TDs Allow

Penalty Margin

Opponent Penalties

27

YPPT Def

Defensive Efficiency

In 2019, Lock's aggressiveness was 30th of 39 quarterbacks.

9

(cont'd - see <u>DEN-3</u>)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

21

25

RB Pass Eff
Def
Rush
Efficiency Def
Explosive
Pass Def

18

Explosive

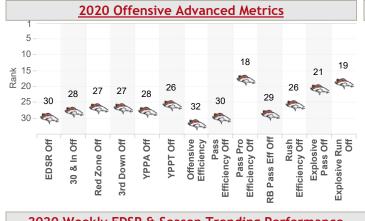
1

4

+25

81

106



| | | | | | | | | | | | ~ | _ | | Ш | |
|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|---------|
| | <u>202</u> | <u>20 \</u> | <u> Veek</u> | dy EDS | SR 8 | t Se | aso | n T | renc | ding | , Pe | rfo | rma | <u>nce</u> | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 W | 6 W | 7 | 8 W | 9 | 10 | 11 W | 12 | 13 | 14 W | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| TEN | PIT | ТВ | NYJ | NE | KC | LAC | ATL | LV | MIA | NO | KC | • • • | BUF | LAC | LV |
| H -2 | A -5 | H -18 | Α | A 6 | H -27 | H 1 | A -7 | A -25 | H 7 | H -28 | A | A 5 | Н | A | H -1 |
| -2 14 | -5 21 | 10 | 9 37 | 18 | -27 16 | 31 | -7 27 | -25 12 | 7 20 | -28 3 | -6 16 | 5 32 | -29 19 | -3 16 | 31 |
| 16 | 26 | 28 | 28 | 12 | 43 | 30 | 34 | 37 | 13 | 31 | 22 | 27 | 48 | 19 | 32 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | _ | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | _ | | | | | | \wedge | \wedge | | | |
| | | = | | | | | | | | \rightarrow | | | | | 7 |
| | | \searrow | | | | | | | 4 | | _ | | | _ | |

WEEK
RESULT
OPP
All 2019 Wins: 5
SITE
FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-3

13

Red Zone De

15

3rd Down Del YPPA Del

5

10

15

20

25

30

MARGIN

EDSR by Wk

W=Green

OFF/DFF

Blue=OFF

Red=DEF

(high=good)

(low=good)

EDSR

L=Red

PTS OPP PTS

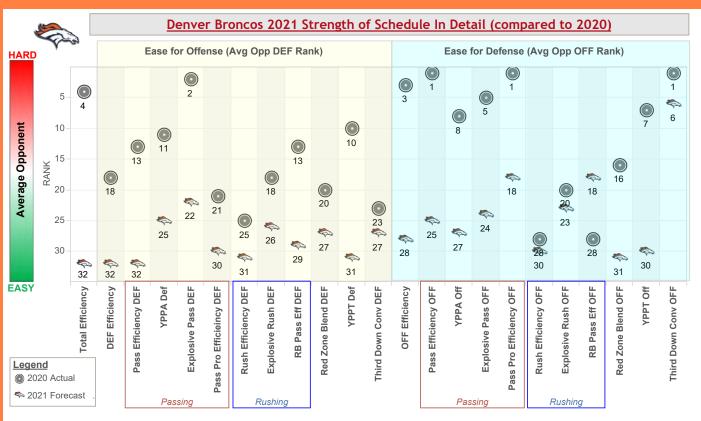
EDSR Def 30 & In Def

All 2019 Wins: **5**FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-3**FG Games Win %: **25% (#23)**FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **20% (#17)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **4-6** 1 Score Games Win %: **40% (#22)** 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **80% (#5)**

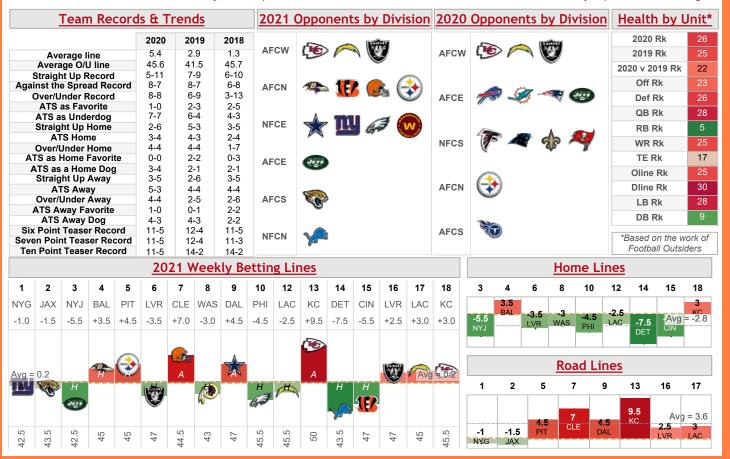
2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin -16 TO Given 32 23 **INT Given FUM Given** 9 TO Taken 16 **INT Taken** 10 **FUM Taken** 6 Sack Margin +10 42 Sacks Sacks Allow 32 -3 Return TD Margin

150



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 26 | 29 | 30 | 32 | 17 | 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







While there are obviously some terrible quarterbacks that weren't aggressive, some of the quarterbacks that ranked right around Lock in 2019 were Patrick Mahomes, Derek Carr, Drew Brees, Kirk Cousins, and Aaron Rodgers. It's important to be able to fit the ball into tight windows, but if you're doing it frequently, it's a sign that either you're not reading the defense well, you're too overconfident in your abilities, your receivers are terrible at separating, or the offense is poorly designed. It could also be a combination of any of those factors.

In 2020, Lock shifted from 30th in aggressiveness up to eighth as his rate increased by 5.5%. Since the NFL started tracking and sharing this metric, no quarterback has increased their aggressiveness by that rate unless they changed schemes.

There are 114 instances over the last five years where we can compare a quarterback's year-over-year aggressiveness. In 2020, Lock saw the third-highest increase of the 114 quarterbacks. The only two quarterbacks with higher year-over-year aggressiveness increases were **Matthew Stafford** from 2018 to 2019 and **Ryan Tannehill** from 2018 to 2019. The Lions changed their offensive coordinator that offseason, and Stafford was in Year 1 with Darrell Bevell in 2019. Ryan Tannehill was traded from the Dolphins in the 2019 offseason, joined the Titans in 2019, and worked with Arthur Smith. Both of those changes make sense.

Some of the highest aggressiveness we've seen in the NFL over the last five years have come from quarterbacks like: **Jared Goff** (2016), **Carson Wentz** (2017), **Cam Newton** (2016), and **Blake Bortles** (2016). Other quarterbacks in the top of the rankings have been Haskins, **Case Keenum**, **Blaine Gabbert**, **Daniel Jones**, and **Jay Cutler**. It's certainly not the best company to be in.

While Lock wasn't to their level of aggressiveness, it certainly isn't great to show the highest leap in aggressiveness when working with the same coordinator in the history of the metric.

The other concern as it relates to comparing Lock's increase to Stafford's and Tannehill's is completion percentage over expectation, or CPOE. Lock's CPOE in 2019 was bad, 27th out of 39 quarterbacks. In 2020, Lock's COPE fell by 2.2%. He had the NFL's third-worst COPE in 2020, completing passes at a rate 3.9% below expectation. Only Dwayne Haskins and Carson Wentz were worse.

How this relates to Stafford and Tannehill is that in both seasons where their aggressiveness jumped with a new OC, they massively improved their CPOE. Tannehill's jumped 9.1%, the largest for any QB in the 114 year-over-year sample. Stafford's jumped by 3.8%. Aggressiveness doesn't have a high correlation with CPOE at all. Just because a quarterback is more aggressive does not mean their CPOE will be bad. There is a slight negative correlation, in that the more aggressive you are the lower your CPOE. But Lock is up in the quadrant of highly aggressive with poor CPOE among peers such as Jeff Driskel, Josh Rosen, DeShone Kizer, Blake Bortles, Dwaine Haskins among others. The closest non-disaster QB that Lock ranked closely with was Eli Manning's 2017 season when he went 3-12 as a starter.

In addition to being inaccurate, several other factors impacted the Broncos passing game in 2020: drops and coaching.

The Broncos' on-target catch percentage ranked last in the NFL and they had the highest drop rate in the league. Compare that to 2019, when the Broncos ranked 23rd in drop rate but 10th in on-target catch rate. Almost everyone had problems. **Jerry Jeudy**, their leading receiver, had an 18% drop rate and **K.J. Hamler** was at 14%, both were over double the NFL average of 6.6%. Only **Noah Fant** and **Tim Patrick** were better than average. As a team, Denver had a 10.3% drop rate in 2020, which was the worst for any team since 2017.

The 2019 Bills are an interesting case study for the Broncos. With a perceived inaccurate quarterback in **Josh Allen**, the Bills had a 9.2% drop rate. Offensive coordinator Brian Daboll completely overhauled the offensive system over the offseason and improved many aspects of the playcalling. Allen worked on his mechanics a lot over the offseason and the GM brought in **Stefon Diggs**. Buffalo's drop rate in 2020 fell to 4.8% which was fourth-best in the NFL.

Denver will get back the services of WR1 Courtland Sutton, who was lost early in the season. Sutton is no Diggs, but his presence will help this receiving corps. Lock obviously needs to work on his mechanics. But my biggest reason for skepticism is coaching.

In last year's book, I mentioned the following concerns with regard to the 2019 offense:

- fifth-lowest early down pass rate in the first half contributed to the fifth-worst early down success in the first half
- too many runs into stacked boxes
- too much reliance on 11 personnel to pass the ball with terrible results

The Broncos fired their 2019 OC and brought in Pat Shurmur to call the offense in 2020. Did he notice these glaring weaknesses and fix them?

No, he did not. In fact, not only were all of those still big concerns, even more concerns arose as to the competence of the game planning and playcalling.

(cont'd - see DEN-4)

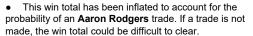
Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game prep to prep 0 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Denver Broncos Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank Negated Bye Rank Rank Rank 12 11 12

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

8.5

Why Bet the Over



- Even though Bridgewater is a veteran quarterback, he clearly has his limitations. In his final five games, he only threw two touchdown passes with four interceptions. He ranked 30th in average depth of target and won't
- Projected starting RT Ja'Wuan James tore his achilles tendon during the offseason and was released.
 Veteran Bobby Massie is projected to start and has been mediocre his entire career, with only one season with a PFF pass block grade above 71.

push the ball down the field often.



- Denver had a rash of injuries and games lost due to COVID last season. Not only did they lose star OLB Von Miller just a few days before the season even started but they also lost WR Courtland Sutton for all but one game. The bad luck also hit the quarterback room last season, with the Broncos having to start backups Jeff Driskel, Brett Rypien, and the infamous Kendall Hinton due to injuries and a COVID outbreak.
- Last season, Denver faced the fifth toughest schedule in the NFL. This season, the schedule should ease up very nicely and based on current win totals is projected to be the second easiest schedule in the NFL. They received a gift in having to face the Lions as their 17th opponent.
- No team in the NFL lost more in EPA due to turnovers than the Broncos. They lost the second most in EPA in the NFL on offense and gained the third fewest on defense.
- **Drew Lock** was terrible last season, ranking 30th out of 36 QBs in EPA per dropback and dead last in completion percentage over expectation. **Teddy Bridgewater** brings a steady veteran presence to the offense and ranked seventh in completion percentage over expectation. He also was tied for first in adjusted completion percentage on short throws. Lock couldn't even make the simple throws, ranking 33rd.

| Denver Broncos Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|---|---|----|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 21 | | | |

Have they traded for **Aaron Rodgers** yet? If not, Denver's QB room clearly ranks near the bottom. **Drew Lock** earned -1.0 EPA or worse on 20.5% of his throws 10+ yards downfield, third worst rate in the league. Unless he dramatically tones down that risk-taking, there's no path to him emerging as a reliable starter.

There was no consensus on our view of Denver's backfield, with votes ranging from 10th to 29th. **Melvin Gordon** and **Javonte Williams** appear to have excellent complementary skill sets. But if you're expecting the 28-year-old Gordon to show signs of aging, it's reasonable to have doubts about this unit due to a lack of depth beyond those two.

The receiving corps falls in the middle of the pack, but it's easy to envision this unit making a substantial leap if the quarterback play were to improve. Additionally, having a healthy **Courtland Sutton** back on the field should provide a boost to **Jerry Jeudy** in his second year.

The offensive line remains mostly intact from a season ago, with **Bobby Massie** expected to step in at right tackle. Denver's quarterbacks were pressured at the fifth-highest rate in 2020, so the lack of turnover isn't necessarily a positive.

Denver's front seven cracks the top 10, in large part due to edge-rushers **Von Miller** and **Bradley Chubb**. If Miller can stay healthy, it could be one of the top units. However, the depth is noticeably lacking. Without Miller last season (ankle injury), too much was on Chubb's shoulders, as he accounted for 31% of the team's QB pressures. We're extremely optimistic about Denver's rebuilt secondary, which added **Ronald Darby**, **Kyle Fuller**, and rookie **Patrick Surtain**. With **Bryce Callahan** deserving of a role as well, this looks like the deepest cornerback depth chart in the league.

This defensive-focused team was definitely built in Vic Fangio's image, so maybe he'll prove to be the right man for the job. But through two seasons in Denver, he's done little to elevate his reputation as a head coach.

<u>DEN-4</u>

Last year, Denver's early down pass rate in the first half was still fifth-lowest in the NFL, identical to 2019. Results were even worse. The team was dead last in early down success in the first half, dead last in EPA, and had the longest yardage to go on third downs in the first half as well. They ranked fifth-worst in converting these into first downs. As a result, they rarely drove into the red zone. Only 29.7% of their first half drives resulted in points (second-worst). And when they did drive into the red zone, they were terrible at scoring touchdowns.

No team scored fewer first half touchdowns (11) or scored less frequently on first half drives (12%) than the Broncos. Part of this obviously was Drew Lock (who had the second highest rate of first half drives end with interceptions at 9.9%) but a large part was Shurmur.

Why is the first half so important? As we know, halftime leads create halftime adjustments for opponents and racing to a first half lead has value beyond the lead itself (teams win 80% of games when leading at halftime). Denver took a substantial drop in halftime margin in 2020.

Denver went from an average halftime lead of three points in 2019 to an average halftime deficit of six points in 2020. That was, by far, the largest swing for any team year-over-year in 2020. In fact, it was the single largest year-over-year downturn of the last five years and the third-largest of the last decade. It was massive.

Continuing to examine poor coaching decisions, let's dig deeper into the passing game. Denver used play-action on only 30% of early down passes, which was 10th-least of any team. Yet their splits were dramatic:

<u>DEN-5</u>

With play-action: 7.8 YPA, 52% success, 0.00 EPA/att Without play-action: 5.6 YPA, 43% success, -0.25 EPA/att

No team improved their success rate more with the use of play-action and the improvement in EPA with play-action was second-best in the NFL. Looking only at the first three quarters, the splits were even more dramatic.

If we're talking about struggling to score in the red zone, particularly in the first half, we might as well look at play action. Look at the first half splits for Lock in the red zone:

With play-action: 5.2 YPA, 73% success, 0.48 EPA/att, and 5:0 TD:INT Without play action: 1.8 YPA, 23% success, -1.26 EPA/att, and 0:2 TD:INT

Denver should have been maximizing play-action all over the field, but instead, they used it less often in 2020 than they did in 2019.

The lack of pre-snap motion was also notable. In 2019, the Broncos used the eighth-most pre-snap motion ahead of passes. When Shurmur took over in 2020, they dropped to 28th. This came despite the fact they showed the fourth best improvement in success rate and fifth best improvement in EPA/att when using pre-snap motion ahead of passes.

In 2019, 44% of Denver's passes came without either pre-snap motion or play-action. Those plays produced -0.07 EPA/att with a 42% success rate. Meanwhile, passes that featured both pre-snap motion and play-action produced 0.25 EPA/att and 58% success. But the Broncos used both on just 10.5% of passes.

If that seems terrible, it is. But under Shurmur in 2020, it got worse.

In 2020, a massive 57% of Denver's passes came without either pre-snap motion or play-action, an increase of 13 percentage points (and nearly 100 more attempts). These plays averaged -0.14 EPA/att and 39% success. Meanwhile, passes that featured both pre-snap motion and play-action

(cont'd - see DEN-6)

ALL



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



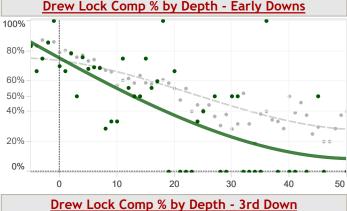
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

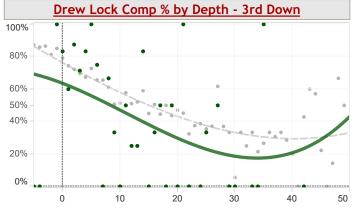


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| & | Page | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | |
| | Melvin Gordon | 20% | 7% | 73% | 0% | | | | | |
| _ | Phillip Lindsay | 18% | 2% | 66% | 11% | 2% | | | | |
| RUSH | K.J. Hamler | 22% | 11% | 67% | | | | | | |
| _ | Royce Freeman | 43% | 9% | 43% | 6% | | | | | |
| | Total | 21% | 6% | 68% | 4% | 1% | | | | |
| | Melvin Gordon | 25% | 5% | 70% | | | | | | |
| | Phillip Lindsay | 18% | 9% | 73% | | | | | | |
| | Jerry Jeudy | 23% | 15% | 59% | 2% | 1% | | | | |
| ,, | Noah Fant | 22% | 15% | 63% | | | | | | |
| PASS | Tim Patrick | 20% | 5% | 67% | 7% | 1% | | | | |
| | K.J. Hamler | 44% | 8% | 46% | 2% | | | | | |
| | Royce Freeman | 38% | 8% | 54% | | | | | | |
| | DaeSean Hamilton | 25% | 20% | 50% | 2% | 2% | | | | |
| | Total | 26% | 11% | 60% | 2% | 1% | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Royce Freeman Melvin Gordon Phillip Lindsay Jeudy Patrick Hamler DaeSean Hamilton Noah Fan Jerry Тiп 9% RUSH 56% 32% 2% PASS 25%





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 40%, -0.16 (442) | 43%, -0.05 (107) | 40%, 0.38 (10) | 33%, -0.68 (18) | 0%, -1.02 (3) | 50%, 0.47 (2) | | | 40%, -0.15 (582) |
| RUSH | 48%, 0.03 (237) | 41%, -0.12 (113) | 26%, -0.74 (31) | 40%, -0.32 (20) | 33%, -0.16 (30) | 0%, -0.23 (1) | 0%, -0.08 (1) | 100%, 0.13 (1) | 43%, -0.09 (435) |
| All | 43%, -0.09 (679) | 42%, -0.09 (220) | 29%, -0.47 (41) | 37%, -0.49 (38) | 30%, -0.23 (33) | 33%, 0.23 (3) | 0%, -0.08 (1) | 100%, 0.13 (1) | 41%, -0.12 (1,017) |

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 | Melvin Gordon | 31% (32) 3.9, -0.44 | 13% (8) 2.4, -0.36 | 33% (3) 3.0, -0.34 | | 28% (43) 3.6, -0.42 | | | | | |
| | Phillip Lindsay | 9% (11) 0.5, -0.52 | 100% (2) 6.0, 0.17 | 100% (1) 11.0, 0.89 | | 29% (14) 2.0, -0.32 | | | | | |
| | Royce Freeman | 40% (10) 7.1, 0.40 | 50% (2) 2.5, -0.93 | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.05 | | 46% (13) 6.2, 0.17 | | | | | |
| TE | Noah Fant | 54% (69) 7.6, 0.07 | 45% (20) 5.7, 0.11 | 50% (2) 8.5, 0.08 | | 52% (91) 7.2, 0.08 | | | | | |
| WR | Jerry Jeudy | 35% (93) 7.2, -0.07 | 43% (14) 9.4, 0.25 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.76 | 100% (1) 41.0, 2.47 | 37% (109) 7.7, -0.01 | | | | | |
| | DaeSean Hamilton | 49% (41) 6.8, -0.07 | 50% (2) 6.5, 0.08 | | | 49% (43) 6.8, -0.06 | | | | | |
| | Courtland Sutton | 40% (5) 13.2, -0.81 | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.65 | | | 33% (6) 11.0, -0.95 | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| Gordon | 45% (118) | 42% (52) | 47% (17) | 22% (9) | 43% (196) |
| Melvin | 5.2, 0.02 | 3.7, -0.11 | 6.1, 0.11 | 2.1, -0.33 | 4.8, -0.02 |
| Lindsay | 44% (55) | 38% (45) | 25% (4) | 60% (5) | 41% (109) |
| Phillip | 5.0, -0.07 | 4.0, -0.16 | 2.3, -0.23 | 6.4, -1.07 | 4.5, -0.16 |
| Lock Drew | 61% (28) | 60% (5) | 0% (1) | 100% (1) | 60% (35) |
| | 5.5, 0.19 | 2.4, 0.14 | -2.0, -1.00 | 3.0, 0.78 | 4.8, 0.17 |
| Freeman | 52% (21) | 17% (6) | 0% (2) | 40% (5) | 41% (34) |
| Royce | 4.9, 0.01 | 1.8, -0.20 | 4.0, -0.60 | 5.2, 0.22 | 4.3, -0.03 |
| Driskel Jeff | 75% (4) 5.8, 0.72 | 100% (1) 2.0, 0.16 | | | 80% (5) 5.0, 0.61 |

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 | | Passing by | | Throw | Throw Types | | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | |
|------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 47% (349) 5.7, -0.04 | 3 Step 41% (239) 7.3, 0.00 | | Planted | | % (370) 1, 0.03 | Outside Zone | 38% (78) 3.6, -0.14 | |
| | 100/ (0==) | Curl | 58% (64) 5.9, 0.05 | | | 0/1 Step | 45% (132) | Moving | Moving | | % (105) 6, -0.16 | Inside | 42% (76) |
| Zone | 48% (277) 7.1, 0.11 | | 53% (43) | Level 2 | 42% (131) 9.1, 0.07 | o/i otep | 6.0, -0.09 | Shuffling | | 7% (76) 3, -0.23 | Zone | 3.8, -0.22 | |
| | | Dig 9.0, 0.08 | | | 000/ (40) | 5 Step | 42% (62) 6.6, -0.01 | | | , | Power | 40% (53) 6.0, 0.07 | |
| M2M | 40% (183) | Out | 48% (42) 5.9, -0.10 | | | 65% (52) | | Play Action | No P/A | Stretch | 56% (25) | | |
| IVIZIVI | 6.4, -0.15 | | | | 50% (4) | Rollout Right | 9.9, 0.31 | Under | 54% (80) | 32% (22) | Stretch | 5.1, 0.07 | |
| | | Slant | 40% (30) 5.9, -0.25 | Sidearm | 5.5, 0.17 | 7 Step | 41% (17) | Center | 8.2, 0.08 | 5.5, -0.33 | Lead | 33% (12) | |
| | 26% (23) | | | | | . стор | 4.1, -0.26 | Shotgun | 37% (54) 7.6, -0.13 | 38% (428) 6.2, -0.18 | | 5.6, 0.09 | |
| Screen | 36 -067 | | Drag | 36% (28) 5.7, 0.02 | Shovel | 50% (2) 4.5, -1.17 | Basic Screen | 30% (10) 5.0, -0.20 | ALL | 47% (134) 7.9, -0.01 | 38% (450) 6.2, -0.19 | Pitch | 38% (8) 3.5, -0.10 |

DEN-6

produced +0.19 EPA/att and a 54% success rate. But Denver only used both on 11% of their total attempts (65 in total).

Clearly, there was no way Shurmur studied how much the offense struggled in 2019 without motion, because he dangerously decreased it in 2020 with tragic results. The splits with and without motion are not even close, yet he continued to reject using motion on pass plays.

Another frustration came from watching Lock in the shotgun. On pure shotgun passes (all downs, all game) Lock had substantial splits compared to passing from under center:

Shotgun: 6.4 YPA, 38% success, -0.15 EPA/att Under center: 7.2 YPA, 51% success, 0.03 EPA/att

If you remove third downs, the splits get even larger (due to Lock being even better on early downs from under center and worse on early downs from shotgun).

There was a simple fix to Lock in shotgun staring at Shurmur all season long, he just never used it, and it was to use more shotgun play-action. Look at Lock's shotgun splits with and without play-action:

Shotgun play-action: 8.4 YPA, 41% success, 0.10 EPA/att, and 82% accuracy Shotgun no play-action: 6.2 YPA, 40% success, -0.18 EPA/att, and 69% accuracy

But Shurmur only had Lock in shotgun with play-action on 10% of his shotgun snaps. The NFL average is 15% of shotgun snaps with play-action, some coaches raise that rate much higher.

Andy Reid uses play-action on 28% of Patrick Mahomes's shotgun snaps and Mahomes is much better on these snaps.

(cont'd - see DEN-7)





Brian Daboll used it on 25% of Josh Allen's shotgun snaps. Matt LaFleur used it on 18% of Aaron Rodgers's shotgun snaps. Kliff Kingsbury used it on 28% of Kyler Murray's shotgun snaps. Greg Roman used it on 33% of Lamar Jackson's shotgun snaps. Just to name a few.

There is nothing that should prevent you from doing it if you can see the massive benefit it delivers. There was no reason for Shurmur to use shotgun play-action at a 10% clip, a full 5% below average, when it was so beneficial and when other playcallers are using it at a 25-30% rate and getting similar great benefits from it

It was also frustrating to watch the rate at which the Broncos ran into stacked boxes. On early downs in the game's first three quarters, Denver had a 50% run rate. Denver used heavier sets a fair amount to run the ball as well. Many times, defenses will counter heavier personnel by crowding the box with defenders.

When the Broncos were in any set with less than 3-WRs (such as 12, 21, 13, etc), defenses put 8+ defenders in the box on 55% of these plays. Denver still ran the ball 63% of the time, producing -0.17 EPA/att, 31% success, and 3.2 YPC. Considering how bad Denver was on the ground, they must find a way to check out of runs when defenses crowd the box pre-snap.

Additionally, Denver's desire to run the ball on second down just to run it was frustrating and highly inefficient. Last year, Denver had the NFL's longest yardage-to-go on second down. Let's zoom into the first half to begin this discussion.

Denver averaged 8.2 yards-to-go on second downs, worst in the NFL. No other team was worse than 7.9 yards.

Yet Denver was tied for the third-highest run rate in the NFL.

It made zero sense at all. These runs averaged a paltry and below-average 4.4 YPC.

What good did all of these runs do? Not much. Denver averaged 7.9 yards-to-go on third downs, the worst in the NFL (no other team was worse than 7.5).

Zooming back out to the full game, Denver was still worst in the NFL on second-and-longs, yet they ran the ball at a 46% rate, which was tied for sixth-most in the NFL. This, despite the fact they went 5-11 on the season and were losing most of these games.

Pat Shurmur isn't helping his offense by trying to set up third and manageable by running on second-and-long at a high rate. This is dinosaur thinking.

Imagine interviewing for an offensive coordinator position and saying "I've got a strategy. On first downs, we're going to run the ball over 50% of the time, even though we'll put up bottom-five yards per carry. Then, facing the longest yardage to go on second down, we'll run at one of the highest rates in the NFL to try and set up a third and manageable for our young, struggling quarterback."

No offensive coordinator would say that in an interview because it's idiotic, but that's what Shurmur did.

No head coach would hire that guy and sign up for such a plan, but Fangio didn't change anything that Shurmur was doing.

In fact, Denver's run rate on first half second down from Week 12 onward skyrocketed from an above average 42% all the way up to a borderline insane 57%. Denver won just one of their final six games with this strategy.

Over these final six games, looking at the full game, Denver ran the ball on 52% of second downs. The NFL average was 40% run. The Broncos lost five of these six games. Yet they ran the ball 12% above average and third-most in the NFL. The only teams that ran the ball more often? The Patriots and Ravens – two teams with running quarterbacks in Cam Newton and Lamar Jackson.

(cont'd - see <u>DEN-8</u>)

Immediate Impact of Denver Broncos 2021 Draft Class

Based on Denver's roster construction this offseason, it appears as though the team might be trying to build around a strong defense and a power running game. If this is the case, **Javonte Williams** (second round) fits in perfectly as the downhill runner, while Melvin Gordon still offers some burst on the outside.

In 2020, Gordon averaged 3.8 yards per carry between the tackles—below the NFL average for running backs of 4.3 yards per attempt. Meanwhile at North Carolina, Williams picked up 6.1 yards per carry between the tackles, which ranked ninth in the nation.

Williams's Rookie of the Year odds (+2900) might be worth taking a chance on. He's likely to see more goal line touches than Gordon and these awards are driven by stats.

Patrick Surtain II (first round) is also likely to compete for immediate playing time in a crowded secondary. Denver played the 10th highest rate of man coverage last year, and Surtain played 47% of his college snaps in man, among the highest rates in this year's draft class.

As good as Surtain might be this season, don't bet on him to win Defensive Rookie of the Year. His odds (+1100 on FanDuel) might look interesting, but cornerbacks only win when they post gaudy interceptions numbers—which requires a bit of luck. Surtain had just four interceptions in his college career, and a corner hasn't won the award with fewer than five since Willie Buchanon in 1972.

Guard/center **Quinn Meinerz** (third round), linebacker **Baron Browning** (third round), and slot CB **Kary Vincent Jr.** (7th round) also appear to have an inside track to valuable backup roles.

Overall, this looks like one of the strongest draft classes in 2021 for both immediate and long-term production.

Denver Broncos 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Denver closed 2020 near the bottom of the league in every passing category. The Broncos ranked 26th in passing EPA, 24th in yards per pass attempt (6.6 yards), 30th in success rate (40%), all while throwing a league-high 23 interceptions. The Broncos went 4-9 in Drew Lock's 13 starts while Lock's completion rate (57.3%), touchdown rate (3.6%), and interception rate (3.4%) were all worse in his second season than his small sample as a rookie. Lock's adjusted completion percentage of 68.7% was the lowest in the league among all 29 quarterbacks to play at least 50% of the team snaps. Per Next Gen Stats, Lock's -3.9% completion rate below expected rate was higher than only Carson Wentz and Dwayne Haskins last season. Denver has added Teddy Bridgewater this offseason to push and compete with Lock. If Lock cannot improve and limit turnovers in Year 3, it should not take Bridgewater's play style long to appeal to a defensive-minded coach.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drew Lock | 254 | 443 | 57% | 2,933 | 6.6 | 16 | 15 | 19 | 75 | 43 | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----|--|--|
| QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success % Success % Success % Success Gains Success % Success % Success Gains Success % Success % Success Gains Success % Success Gains Success % Success Gains | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drew Lock | 41% | 43% | 38 | 9.0% | 16 | 4.0% | 6.0 | 5.6 | 18 | 4% | | |
| Jeff Driskel | 33% | 37% | 6 | 9.0% | 1 | 2.0% | 8.1 | 4.2 | 2 | 3% | | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | | |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 10 0 -10

Drew Lock Rating Early Downs



Air Yds vs YAC

| <u>Interception Rates by Down</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 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% | 50.0% | 3.4% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 6.8% | 2.5% | 0.0% | 4.8% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.8% | 4.3% | 9.1% | 0.0% | 3.2% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| Total | 1.7% | 4.2% | 3.9% | 10.0% | 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 | | | | | | |
| Drew Lock | 8.9 | 5.9 | -3.0 | 67% | 19 | | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | | |

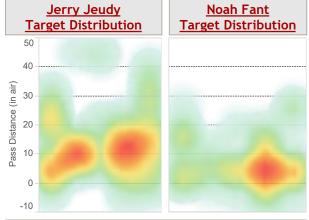
| QB Avg. Yds to Go Avg. YIA (of Comp) Avg Yds Short Short of Sticks Rate Short Rk Rate Air Yds % YAC % Rk Orew Lock 8.9 5.9 -3.0 67% 19 52% 48% 27 NFL Avg 8.8 5.6 -3.1 72% 52% 48% | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|-----|---------|--------|----------|--------------|-----|----|
| | ΩВ | Yds to | (of | Avg Yas | Sticks | Short Rk | Air Yds % | | Rk |
| NFL Avg 8.8 5.6 -3.1 72% 52% 48% | Drew Lock | 8.9 | 5.9 | -3.0 | 67% | 19 | 52% | 48% | 27 |
| | IFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | 52% | 48% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Attached to bottom-rung quarterback play, Denver ranked 21st in yards per target to wide receivers (7.7 yards), 22nd to tight ends (6.6 yards), and 31st to running backs (3.8 yards). From a depth perspective, Denver has one of the deepest pools of young talent at wide receiver and tight end if they can get them the football. Jerry Jeudy's 58.2% catchable target rate was the second-lowest among all wideouts with 50-plus targets on the season behind A.J. Green.

Courtland Sutton was lost for the season in Week 2 to an ACL injury. In 2019, Sutton was fourth among all wideouts in yards per team passing attempt (2.21) playing with three quarterbacks. Noah Fant led the team with 62 receptions in 2020.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% RK | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Jerry Jeudy | 108 | 47% | 7.8 | 59.8 | 37% | 128 | 127 | 18 | 124 | 3 |
| Noah Fant | 82 | 66% | 7.4 | 85.7 | 49% | 98 | 112 | 85 | 79 | 2 |
| Tim Patrick | 75 | 64% | 9.7 | 105.9 | 56% | 52 | 93 | 35 | 82 | 6 |
| K.J. Hamler | 52 | 56% | 7.3 | 74.0 | 38% | 126 | 124 | 64 | 125 | 3 |



2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Not only a struggle in the passing game, but Denver was also 25th in the expected points added via rushing in 2020 while they had a 43% success rate on rushing plays, which was tied for the lowest rate in the league. Melvin Gordon turned 247 touches into 1,144 yards and 10 touchdowns in his first season with the Broncos, but had a wide range of splits when sharing the backfield or not. In seven games when Phillip Lindsay missed or exited early, Gordon averaged 20.1 touches as opposed to 13.3 touches with Lindsay active. With Lindsay leaving via free agency, Denver traded up in the second round to select Javonte Williams at pick No. 35. Williams (5'9" and 212 pounds) showed plenty of acumen as a receiver (50-539-4 over his three seasons), is two years younger than Najee Harris and over a year younger than Travis Etienne.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Melvin Gordon | 212 | 4.6 | 43% | 85 | 77 | 82 | 23 | 42% | 85 | 9 |
| Phillip Lindsay | 121 | 4.2 | 40% | 92 | 84 | 70 | 28 | 41% | 86 | 1 |





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Will Javonte Williams Usurp Melvin Gordon?

No back helped his draft stock more in 2020 than Williams. After 1,391 yards and 11 touchdowns over his first two seasons at North Carolina, Williams exploded for 1,445 yards and 22 scores last year while catching 25 passes for 305 yards and three scores as part of the production. A tackle-breaking machine in 2020, Pro Football Focus credited Williams with 0.48 broken tackles per attempt, the most by a back since they have been charting. The only knock on Williams is that he has never been a workhorse in college, with 183 and 182 touches over those past two seasons, playing alongside **Michael Carter**. A consistent committee-back in college, Williams appears to be right in another one this season with **Melvin Gordon**.

In seven games where **Phillip Lindsay** missed or exited early in 2020, Gordon averaged 20.1 touches as opposed to 13.3 touches with Lindsay active. In the eight games that the two played together in full, Gordon received 29.2% of the team touches compared to 23.4% for Lindsay. Gordon accounted for 43% of the team carries compared to 36% for Lindsay. In the passing game, Gordon will surely have a 2021 edge. In the games he and Lindsay played together last year, Gordon ran a pass route on 47.5% of the team dropbacks compared to 29.3% for Lindsay. We saw a similar layout a year ago for a number of rookie backs selected alongside a veteran back on an expiring contract in **D'Andre Swift, Jonathan Taylor**, and **J.K. Dobbins**. Williams may start in a timeshare and be a FLEX -only option to start the season, but can make an end of the season push to take over in season and have his role extended as the season heads down the stretch.

We Want Teddy to be the Denver Quarterback

After a 4-1 record with **Drew Lock** under center to close 2019, Denver gave Lock the opportunity in 2020 to prove that he can be the future of the franchise under center. The Broncos went 4-9 in Lock's 13 starts while Lock's completion rate (5.7.3%), touchdown rate (3.6%), and interception rate (3.4%) were all worse in his second season than his small sample as a rookie. Lock's adjusted completion percentage of 68.7% was the lowest in the league among all 29 quarterbacks to play at least 50% of the team snaps. Per Next Gen Stats, Lock's -3.9% completion rate below expected rate was higher than only Carson Wentz and Dwayne Haskins last season.

Factoring in the time that both **Jeff Driskel** and **Brett Rypien** also played, the Denver quarterbacks combined for a 68.8% catchable target rate, the lowest rate in the league. Just 63.7% of the Denver wide receiver targets were deemed catchable, the lowest rate in the league. The biggest hit came from targets to rookie **Jerry Jeudy**, whose 58.2% catchable target rate was the second-lowest among all wideouts with 50-plus targets on the season behind A.J. Green.

Under **Teddy Bridgewater**, Carolina players had a 79.8% catchable target rate (third in the league) while wide receivers had a 75.7% rate, which ranked eighth. While Bridgewater never climbed to more than a streamable fantasy asset, he can get the ball to the players we care about. Carolina had three top-30 scoring wide receivers in fantasy last season per game. Denver has one of the deepest pools of young receiving talent in Jeudy, **Courtland Sutton**, **Noah Fant**, **Tim Patrick**, and **K.J. Hamler**, we just need a more accurate passer to get them the football.

| De | nver Broncos | Defense: Numb | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map | | |
|-----------|--|--|---|--|---------|--------------------------|----|------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ | D. | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 21 plays (5%) 370 plays (81%) 67 plays (15%) 458 plays (100%) Success: 67% Success: 46% Success: 34% Success: 45% EPA: 0.39 EPA: 0.01 EPA: -0.14 EPA: 0.01 | | % Rk | | RK | 40 | | |
| | | | EPA: -0.14 | EPA: 0.01 | Base | 25% | 13 | 100 |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 49 plays <i>(59%)</i> Success: 53% | 32 plays (39%) Success: 50% | 2 plays (2%) Success: 0% | 83 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 51% | Nickel | 65% | 9 | 30 |
| | EPA: 0.18 EPA: 0.07 EPA: -2.69 EPA: 0.07 | | EPA: 0.07 | Dime+ | 9% | 18 | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 11 plays <i>(61%)</i> Success: 64% EPA: -0.06 | 6 plays (33%) Success: 33% EPA: 0.08 | 1 plays (6%) Success: 0% EPA: -0.48 | 18 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 50% EPA: -0.04 | Rush 3 | 6% | 15 | 20 - |
| | 3 plays (75%) | 1 plays (25%) | 2.7 0.10 | 4 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 66% | 14 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 67% EPA: -0.21 | Success: 0% EPA: -0.42 | | Success: 50% EPA: -0.26 | Rush 5 | 21% | 14 | |
| Grand | 84 plays (15%) | 409 plays (73%) | 70 plays <i>(12%)</i> | 563 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 6% | 11 | 0 - |
| Total | Success: 58% EPA: 0.19 | | | Success: 46% EPA: 0.01 | Blitz% | 27% | 15 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Dre'Mont Jones developed in his second year as a third-round pick. Jones played 51.5% of the defensive snaps and added pass rush ability as a smaller interior lineman. Jones had a top-30 pressure rate among interior defenders, per SIS, and added 11 quarterback hits with seven tackles for loss. **Shelby Harris** was also a top interior pass rusher with a top-20 pressure rate and 11 quarterback hits of his own.

Denver still ranked 29th in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate as a team so in an attempt to shore up the run defense, the Broncos signed **Shamar Stephen**. Stephen is more of a space sucker than an impact player in the middle but that's a role the Broncos didn't really have with many sub-300-pound interior defenders. The rest of the line is still fairly deep with the likes of **DeShawn Williams**, **Mike Purcell**, and **McTelvin Agim**.

Von Miller missed all of last season with a dislocated ankle tendon, an injury suffered in the lead-up to Week 1. That derailed a Broncos pass rush that wasn't particularly deep without the top option. Denver ranked 24th in Pass Rush Win rate as a team, though 17th in pressure rate per SIS. Bradley Chubb was the lone producer as he ranked ninth among edge rushers in pressure rate. Malik Reed played 72% of the defensive snaps, but ranked 70th.

The most surprising part of the 2020 Denver defense might have been what they got out of the off-ball linebackers. **Alexander Johnson** played 97.2% of the defensive snaps and **Josey Jewell** played 92.9%. Jewell got his first run as a full-time starter after being a fourth-round pick in 2018. Johnson was 16th among linebackers in the rate of tackles that were short of a first down. Jewell ranked 22nd. In coverage, Johnson was 22nd in yards allowed per target among 95 linebackers with at least 10 charted targets in coverage, per SIS. Jewell ranked 28th.

Denver completely reworked its cornerback depth chart with a few moves in free agency and through the draft. The first one was to bring in **Ronald Darby**. Darby had a bit of a bounce-back season with Washington after years of inconsistency with the Eagles. The biggest addition came almost by accident when the Chicago Bears released **Kyle Fuller** and he reunited with Vic Fangio about 15 minutes later. Fuller was 49th among cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

In the first round of the draft, the Broncos selected **Patrick Surtain**, a physical press corner who excelled at both man and zone coverage. That's all in addition to returning talent that was already impressive last season. **Bryce Callahan**, who reunited with Fangio after playing with him in Chicago, ranked third in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. He's been one of the league's best slot corners over multiple seasons. Undrafted rookie **Essag Bassey** played 35% of the snaps and ranked 12th in AYA/CS. 2020 third-round pick **Michael Ojemudia** played nearly 80% of the defensive snaps, but struggled as rookie corners typically do.

There were questions surrounding the returns of both **Justin Simmons** and **Kareem Jackson**, but both will return. Simmons played 100% of the defensive snaps last season and Jackson played 99.5%, though the Broncos did rank just 25th in EPA per play allowed on deep passes in 2020.

| 2020 Play Tendencies | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| All Pass % | 56% | |
| All Pass Rk | 23 | |
| All Rush % | 44% | |
| All Rush Rk | 10 | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 53% | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 27 | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 57% | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 20 | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -3% | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 24 | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 47% | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 6 | |
| Up Pass % | 49% | |
| Up Pass Rk | 28 | |
| Up Rush % | 51% | |
| Up Rush Rk | 5 | |
| Down Pass % | 61% | |
| Down Pass Rk | 16 | |
| Down Rush % | 39% | |
| Down Rush Rk | 17 | |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 6 | 50% | 50% | 83% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 6 | 50% | 50% | 67% |
| | Long (8-10) | 301 | 45% | 55% | 42% |
| | XL (11+) | 9 | 67% | 33% | 0% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 32 | 28% | 72% | 59% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 67 | 52% | 48% | 58% |
| | Long (8-10) | 116 | 52% | 48% | 35% |
| | XL (11+) | 39 | 82% | 18% | 23% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 35 | 54% | 46% | 63% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 43 | 84% | 16% | 44% |
| | Long (8-10) | 39 | 90% | 10% | 41% |
| | XL (11+) | 36 | 92% | 8% | 14% |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 3 | 67% | 33% | 0% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% |

| | Shote | <u>un %</u> : |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| % | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 32% | 68% |
| | 37% A | V G 63% |
| | Run | Rate: |
| | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 71% | 28% |
| | 68% A | VG 23% |
| | <u>Pass</u> | Rate: |
| | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 29% | 72% |
| | 32% A | VG 77% |

Denver Broncos 2020 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | |
| 68% | 18 | 67% | 67% | 75% | | |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | |

33%

60%

59%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Melvin Gordon | 2 | 50% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Melvin Gordon | 2 | 100% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Melvin Gordon | 81 | 37% | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Melvin Gordon | 12 | 50% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Melvin Gordon | 16 | 69% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Melvin Gordon | 30 | 37% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Noah Fant | 8 | 38% | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Drew Lock | 7 | 100% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Jerry Jeudy | 8 | 25% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Jerry Jeudy | 10 | 50% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Noah Fant | 7 | 0% | | |

| <u>Offen</u> | Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | |
| No | Success: 39% | Success: 41% | Success: 39% | | | |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.14 | YPA: 8.4, EPA: -0.20 | YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.15 | | | |
| | Rtg: 68.8 | Rtg: 94.4 | Rtg: 72.9 | | | |
| | [Att: 333 - Rate: 57.0%] | [Att: 69 - Rate: 11.8%] | [Att: 402 - Rate: 68.8%] | | | |
| Yes | Success: 35% | Success: 54% | Success: 42% | | | |
| | YPA: 4.6, EPA: -0.32 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.19 | YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.14 | | | |
| | Rtg: 63.7 | Rtg: 107.4 | Rtg: 79.6 | | | |
| | [Att: 117 - Rate: 20.0%] | [Att: 65 - Rate: 11.1%] | [Att: 182 - Rate: 31.2%] | | | |
| Total | Success: 38% | Success: 47% | Success: 40% | | | |
| | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.19 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: -0.01 | YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.15 | | | |
| | Rtg: 67.5 | Rtg: 101.0 | Rtg: 75.0 | | | |
| | [Att: 450 - Rate: 77.1%] | [Att: 134 - Rate: 22.9%] | [Att: 584 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | |

32%

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Jerry Jeudy | Tim Patrick | Noah Fant | Melvin Gordon | DaeSean Hamilton | K.J. Hamler | Phillip Lindsay | Royce Freeman | Courtland Sutton |
| 1 | TEN | L 16-14 | 44 (75%) | 50 (85%) | 43 (73%) | 37 (63%) | 47 (80%) | | 19 (32%) | 6 (10%) | |
| 2 | PIT | L 26-21 | 44 (57%) | 50 (65%) | 61 (79%) | 61 (79%) | 34 (44%) | 48 (62%) | | 16 (21%) | 31 (40%) |
| 3 | TB | L 28-10 | 46 (73%) | 53 (84%) | 53 (84%) | 39 (62%) | 12 (19%) | 58 (92%) | | 24 (38%) | |
| 4 | NYJ | W 37-28 | 48 (69%) | 53 (76%) | 35 (50%) | 56 (80%) | 57 (81%) | 14 (20%) | | 14 (20%) | |
| 6 | NE | W 18-12 | 47 (73%) | 59 (92%) | | | 38 (59%) | | 40 (63%) | 25 (39%) | |
| 7 | KC | L 43-16 | 58 (75%) | 51 (66%) | 54 (70%) | 46 (60%) | 27 (35%) | 30 (39%) | 14 (18%) | 18 (23%) | |
| 8 | LAC | W 31-30 | 58 (89%) | | 51 (78%) | 36 (55%) | 61 (94%) | 52 (80%) | 29 (45%) | | |
| 9 | ATL | L 34-27 | 61 (84%) | 60 (82%) | 57 (78%) | 44 (60%) | 27 (37%) | 55 (75%) | 28 (38%) | 1 (1%) | |
| 10 | LV | L 37-12 | 61 (86%) | 42 (59%) | 60 (85%) | 40 (56%) | 31 (44%) | 62 (87%) | 21 (30%) | 10 (14%) | |
| 11 | MIA | W 20-13 | 41 (63%) | 54 (83%) | 49 (75%) | 34 (52%) | 15 (23%) | 38 (58%) | 27 (42%) | 4 (6%) | |
| 12 | NO | L 31-3 | 22 (51%) | 31 (72%) | 30 (70%) | 35 (81%) | 18 (42%) | 28 (65%) | 14 (33%) | 13 (30%) | |
| 13 | KC | L 22-16 | 49 (74%) | 59 (89%) | 54 (82%) | 35 (53%) | 12 (18%) | 42 (64%) | 26 (39%) | 4 (6%) | |
| 14 | CAR | W 32-27 | 45 (74%) | 50 (82%) | 5 (8%) | 28 (46%) | 13 (21%) | 37 (61%) | 29 (48%) | 4 (7%) | |
| 15 | BUF | L 48-19 | 56 (88%) | 57 (89%) | 44 (69%) | 34 (53%) | 11 (17%) | 49 (77%) | 23 (36%) | 7 (11%) | |
| 16 | LAC | L 19-16 | 61 (79%) | 69 (90%) | 64 (83%) | 51 (66%) | 61 (79%) | 8 (10%) | | 18 (23%) | |
| 17 | LV | L 32-31 | 64 (80%) | 12 (15%) | 72 (90%) | 51 (64%) | 69 (86%) | | | 28 (35%) | |
| | Grand ' | Total | 805 (74%) | 750 (75%) | 732 (72%) | 627 (62%) | 533 (49%) | 521 (61%) | 270 (38%) | 192 (19%) | 31 (40%) |

| <u>Perso</u> | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 66% | 60% | 43% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 22% | 20% | 42% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 29% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 4% | 7% | 37% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 3% | 4% | 30% |
| | | enden | cies |
| Group | | enden | cies |
| | | Pass Succ. | Run |
| Group | ing Te | Pass Succ. | Run Succ |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ % 48% |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 65% 49% | Pass Succ. % 40% 43% | Run Succ % 48% 41% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Noah Fant | 11 | | 3 | 8 |
| Tim Patrick | 10 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Jerry Jeudy | 8 | | 2 | 6 |
| DaeSean Hamilton | 6 | | 1 | 5 |
| Albert Okwuegbunam | 4 | | 3 | 1 |
| Melvin Gordon | 4 | | 2 | 2 |
| Royce Freeman | 4 | | | 4 |
| K.J. Hamler | 3 | 1 | | 2 |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Melvin Gordon | 29 | 8 | 10 | 11 |
| Drew Lock | 9 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Phillip Lindsay | 7 | 3 | | 4 |
| Royce Freeman | 3 | 1 | | 2 |
| Brett Rypien | 1 | | | 1 |
| Jeff Driskel | 1 | | | 1 |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate |
|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 15% | 31% | 54% |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% |
| | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % |
| RB 33% | TE 51% | WR 43% |
| RB | TE | WR |





Examine the efficiency of such second down runs over the course of the entire game those last six weeks:

#1 run rate: Ravens – 57% run, 5.7 YPC, 52% success, 0.05 EPA/att #2 run rate: Patriots – 53% run, 5.5 YPC, 52% success, -0.01 EPA/att #3 run rate: Broncos – 52% run, 3.7 YPC, 38% success, -0.08 EPA/att

It was a complete joke. That strategy only led to being in third and long more than any other team in the NFL. Is that how you help your young, struggling quarterback? By taking the ball out of his hands on the easiest downs to pass, and putting it in his hands on third and long and hoping he converts?

The strategy was completely backwards yet was Shurmur's go-to approach.

Clearly, there is a lot to be concerned about from Denver's quarterback and offensive coaching situation. The question is, is there enough elsewhere to still produce a successful season? If the Broncos added Aaron Rodgers, they would improve in a heartbeat. But they still would be handicapped (in a smaller capacity) by Shurmur.

A few things I love about Denver: their schedule and their offseason. As much as I anticipated a huge drop in 2020 production due to a huge increase in schedule difficulty, the opposite is true for 2021. I predict Denver will have the third easiest increase in pass defenses faced this year compared to last, and will play the NFL's easiest schedule of pass defenses in 2021. I also predict they will face the easiest overall schedule of defenses. On the defensive side of the ball, I show them facing the biggest jump in ease of schedule for any team in 2021, moving from the third-toughest 2020 schedule of offenses to the fifth-easiest.

Out of their AFC West division, Denver will play five games against the seven teams with the worst record in the NFL last year: the Jaguars, Jets, Bengals, Eagles, and Lions. Denver also faces the rest of the NFC East, which won't be as bad as it was in 2020 but still isn't as good a division as it's been in recent years. Denver will surely struggle vs the best teams from the AFC North, but the good news is most of those games are on the road, saving the opponents Denver stands a better chance of beating for home games. Denver also plays the Chiefs in Week 18 at home. If the Chiefs have as good a year as some expect, that game could be meaningless for Kansas City. In terms of total strength, Denver is playing the second easiest schedule in the NFL through the first 15 weeks

Denver also ranks 12th in net rest edge, has a rest disadvantage in only one game (when the Chiefs are coming off of a bye), and play zero short-week road games. The only thing hurting the Broncos is the fact they play Week 1 and 2 on the road. Home games at Denver's elevation the first couple weeks of the season have been close to automatic wins over the last 20 years.

I've also been very impressed by Denver's offseason. Between one of the best drafts in the NFL to the additions of **Kyle Fuller** and **Ronald Darby** in free agency to getting **Von Miller** back from his ankle injury suffered before Week 1 last year, this Broncos defense should be improved. The team added **Teddy Bridgewater**, who has substantial flaws, but remains one of the best underdog quarterbacks we've ever seen in the NFL. When he was in Minnesota, people credited his great ATS cover rate to Mike Zimmer's defense. When he was in New Orleans, people credited his great ATS cover rate to Sean Payton's offense. People joked about my mentioning Teddy's cover rate before he went to Carolina, crediting Teddy's other coaches and suggesting we'll really see how good he is in Carolina, only to see Teddy cover 67% of his games as an underdog in 2020 in Carolina. He's now 24-8 (75%) ATS as a dog.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular 2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

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

| Pre-Snap Mot | ion (Quarters 1-3) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.0 |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.7 |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 6.5 |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.3 |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 46% |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 39% |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.04 |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.21 |

02. Avg Halftime Lead

03. Wins

01. Games w Halftime Lead

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 38% | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 53% | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 7.6 | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 7.3% | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.0 | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 9.0 | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 38% | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 5.3 | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 5.8% | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.32 | | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 8.6 | | | |

| Men In Box | |
|--|---------------|
| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | e 27% |
| 56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5 | 5-yd line 32% |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd | line 3.3 |
| 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 48% |
| 60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd li | ne 4.9 |
| 61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 25% |
| 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 3.9 |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|--|--|
| Net FROE Rk | 11 | defFUM | 16 | | |
| Net FROE | 1.1 | | | | |
| offFUM | 22 | defFUM Rcvrd | 10 | | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 12 | defFR Rk | 24 | | |
| offFR% | 54.5% | defFR% | 37.5% | | |
| offFR Rk | 18 | defFROE | 1.1 | | |
| offFROE | 0.0 | defFROE Rk | 8 | | |
| offFROE Rk | 18 | UEIFRUE KK | 0 | | |

35. Total Defensive Efficiency

| Field Goal Luck | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|-------|--|
| Net Over Expectation | -1.40 | Opp Att | 42 | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 19 | Opp Makes | 39 | |
| Own Att Own Makes | 35 28 Opp FG % 80% Opp Expected Makes | | 93% | |
| Own FG % | | | 36.05 | |
| Own Expected Makes | 26.44 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 2.95 | |
| Own Make over Expectation | 1.56 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 3 | |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 12 1.48 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 1.13 | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 8 | 2019 Opp Rk | 6 | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pressure | | Offensive A | Offensive Metrics | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Drew Lock | | Drew Lock | EPA/Pass | -0.14 | |
| CAY | 6.1 | Pressure % | 33.1 | EPA/Pass Rk | 29 | |
| CAY Rk | 18 | Pressure Rk | 18 | EPA/Rush | -0.10 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 36 | Sack % | 3.9 | EPA/Rush Rk | 28 | |
| AYTS Rk | 3 | Sack Rk | 34 | On-Target Catch % | 86.5% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 30 8 | Pressure Accuracy % | 48.6 | On-Target Catch Rk | 32 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 30 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 40 | Drop% | 10.3% | |
| COMP% | 57.3 | Rating when Pressured | 26.2 | Drop Rk | 32 | |
| xCOMP% | 61.2 | Pressured Rating Rk | 41 | · | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 39 | Clean Accuracy % | 75.7 | YAC/Att | 2.2 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 9 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 33 | YAC/Att Rk | 21 | |
| CPOE% | -3.9 | Rating when Clean | 95.8 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 14.7% | |
| CPOE Rk | 39 | _ | | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 10 | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 27 | Clean Rating Rk | 27 | Masii bioneii iachie Nh | 10 | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT | | Time to Throw | 2.87 | Rush 1st Down % | 21.3% | |
| Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expec Actual completion percentage ov | ted completion percentage CPOE: | Time to Throw Rk | 10 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 31 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Dan Campbell (NO TE) (new) Offensive Coordinator: Anthony Lynn (LAC HC) (new)

Defensive Coordinator:

Aaron Glenn (NO DB) (new)

Easy Hard



Detroit Lions

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

#4

Past Records

2020: 5-11 2019: 3-13 2018: 6-10



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Chase Daniel (QB) | Chargers |
| Christian Jones (LB) | Bears |
| Danny Shelton (IDL) | Giants |
| Darryl Roberts (CB) | Washingt |
| Desmond Trufant (CB) | Bears |
| Duron Harmon (S) | Falcons |
| Jamal Agnew (CB) | Jaguars |
| Jarrad Davis (LB) | Jets |
| Justin Coleman (CB) | Dolphins |
| Kenny Golladay (WR) | Giants |
| Kerryon Johnson (RB) | Eagles |
| Marvin Jones (WR) | Jaguars |
| Matt Prater (K) | Cardinals |
| Matt Stafford (QB) | Rams |
| Miles Killebrew (LB) | Steelers |
| Mohamed Sanu (WR) | 49ers |
| Oday Aboushi (LG) | Chargers |
| Reggie Ragland (LB) | Giants |
| Adrian Peterson (RB) | TBD |
| Danny Amendola (WR) | TBD |
| Everson Griffen (EDGE) | TBD |
| Jesse James (TE) | TBD |
| Joe Dahl (LG) | TBD |
| Russell Bodine (C) | TBD |
| Tony McRae (CB) | TBD |

2021 Detroit Lions Overview

Where did things go wrong with Detroit? How have they fallen to a team projected to finish with the second-worst record this season and a coach that evokes cannibalism in his opening presser?

I guess three years of Matt Patricia as head coach will make anyone else seem like a great hire.

Truly, that's where it went wrong. Not that it ever was really right. The Lions haven't won a playoff game since 1991 with Wayne Fontes and Barry Sanders.

But we have to judge the Lions on a slightly different standard. From 2000 through 2013, the Lions finished last or second to last in their division in 13 of the 14 years.

In that span, they ran through five different head coaches: Bobby Ross, Marty Mornhinweg, Steve Mariucci, Rod Marinelli, and Jim Schwartz. They ran through 12 different starting quarterbacks. Not even a Detroit native would correctly answer who started the first game for the Lions in 2000. It was Stoney Case. Since Case, the team started Charlie Batch, Ty Detmer, Mike McMahon, Joey Harrington, Jeff Garcia, Jon Kitna, Dan Orlovsky, Daunte Culpepper, Drew Stanton, Shaun Hill and eventually, Matthew Stafford

<u>Average</u> Line

6.0

Forecast

2021 Wins

2020 Wins

Forecast 2020 Wins

2019 Wins 1

2018 Wins

2017 Wins

Games **Favored**

Games Underdog

16

There was one winning season after 2000 and one 0-16 season sprinkled in.

But then 2014 arrived. The Lions fired Jim Schwartz and hired Jim Caldwell. In Year 1, the team won 11 games, the most since 1991. The best years of Calvin Johnson were in the past, but at least for the Lions faithful, this team was winning games and finally making the playoffs, as they did in 2014 and again in 2016. (cont'd - see DET2)

Regular Season Wins: Lineup & Cap Hits Past & Current Proj SLOTCB C.Elder NEW 11 72 58 6 68 73 77 LWR RT RWR 14 B.Perrimar NEW T.Decker J.Jackson F.Ragnow H.Vaitai 88 T.Williams Rookie NFW SLOTWR A.St.Brow Rookie T.Hockenson 16 32 10 11 30 12 2020 Cap Dollars WR3 RR2 OR2 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 NFW = 30+ years old

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|------------------------|----------|
| Michael Brockers (IDL) | Trade |
| Tyrell Williams (WR) | \$4 |
| Jamaal Williams (RB) | \$3 |
| Breshad Perriman (WR) | \$2.5 |
| Alex Anzalone (LB) | \$1.8 |
| Charles Harris (EDGE) | \$1.8 |
| Randy Bullock (K) | \$1.8 |
| Darren Fells (TE) | \$1.2 |
| Dean Marlowe (S) | \$1.10 |
| Kalif Raymond (WR) | \$1.10 |
| | |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|---|
| 1 | 7 | OT - Penei Sewell (Oregon) |
| 2 | 41 | DT - Levi Onwuzurike (Washington) |
| | | DT - Alim McNeill (NC State) |
| 3 | 101 | CB - Ifeatu Melifonwu (Syracuse) |
| 4 | 112 | WR - Amon-Ra St. Brown (USC) |
| 4 | 113 | LB - Derrick Barnes (Purdue) |
| 7 | 257 | RB - Jermar Jefferson (Oregon State) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk | |
|---------|------|----------|---------|--|
| All OFF | 32 | \$76.40M | 22 | |
| QB | 15 | \$13.90M | 11 | |
| OL | 18 | \$33.26M | 30 | |
| RB | 29 | \$5.57M | 28 | |
| WR | 31 | \$13.35M | 20 | |
| TE | 14 | \$10.32M | 11 | |
| All DEF | 23 | \$81.77M | 10 | |
| DL | 16 | \$42.41M | 20 | |
| LB | 16 | \$15.91M | 13 | |
| СВ | 19 | \$15.20M | 4 | |
| S | 29 | \$8.24M | 20 | |
| | | | | |

DET-2

But after going 9-7 in 2016 with a loss in the Wild Card round, followed by another 9-7 season and barely missing the playoffs in 2017, the Lions fired

Jim Caldwell's tenure saw him deliver three winning seasons in four years. The Lions franchise did that only one other time since 1971. Once.

And yet, ownership wanted more.

Oddly, GM Bob Quinn, who was brought on in 2016, was not fired. Ownership didn't want to overhaul everything. They just wanted a new coach.

For the GM to keep his job but the coach to lose his, the owner had to believe the ingredients were there to win, but the chef was bad at his job. Keep the ingredients, bring on a new chef.

A new chef should do better than nine wins in 75% of seasons. A new chef should do better than a trip to the playoffs every other year.

But they were sorely mistaken. The new chef, who doubled as a rocket scientist, led the team to just nine wins TOTAL in his first two years combined. The team went 6-10, 3-12-1, and then 5-11.

The Matt Patricia tenure, from 2018-2020, was a disaster.

The Lions won just eight games by over three points since 2018. Eight! The fewest in the NFL.

It may seem crazy to think this now, but after fading the Lions ahead of 2019, watching them win just three games, there were reasons to think the 2020 Lions could be capable of winning seven games and going over their win total.

This was a 2019 team that went 3-8 in one-score games with the ninth-most injured roster and did so against the third-toughest schedule. Matthew Stafford appeared in only eight games. The splits with and without Stafford were measurable.

Based on win totals, the 2020 Lions were projected to face the eighth-easiest schedule. They had everyone back from an offense that showed improvement in Darrell Bevell's first year as offensive coordinator, they added several starters

| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Matthew 55% Stafford 8.3 98.2 | | 45% 6.6 97.4 | 39% 8.6 89.8 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 56% | 60% | 85% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |

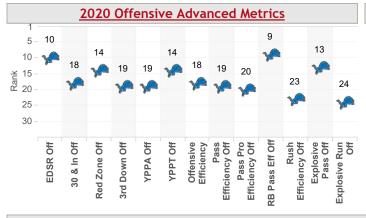
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| DET | 51% 4.2 | 47% 4.2 | 59% 3.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 44% | 40% | 15% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

on defense to help shore up that side of the ball, and drafted a cornerback third overall.

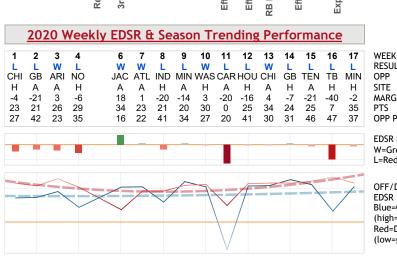
I was complementary of the Lions early in games and their offensive game plans during that time. There were still things that needed to be improved and cleaned up, but again, with the Lions, the bar is relatively low. I criticized the team for continuing to waste draft capital on running backs, but there was reason to believe with a healthy Stafford, the team wouldn't be a complete disaster in 2020.

The Lions should have started off 2020 with a bang. They were up 23-6 over the Bears in the fourth quarter of Week 1. Matt Patricia's defense allowed three fourth quarter touchdowns, including two in the final three minutes.

(cont'd - see DET-3)



2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 10 15 20 17 25 28 Rush Efficiency Def Pass Efficiency Def RB Pass Eff Def Explosive Pass Def Defensive **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Efficiency Pass Pro Efficieincy Def **Explosive**



RESULT OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

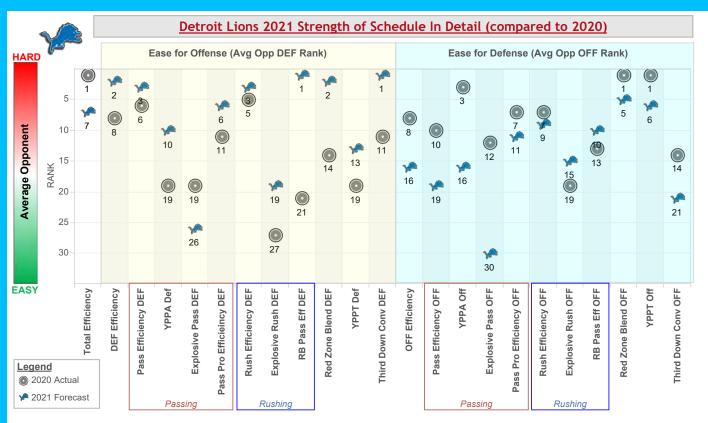
OFF/DFF **EDSR** Blue=OFF (high=good) Red=DEF (low=good)

2020 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 5 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-1** FG Games Win %: **75% (#5)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

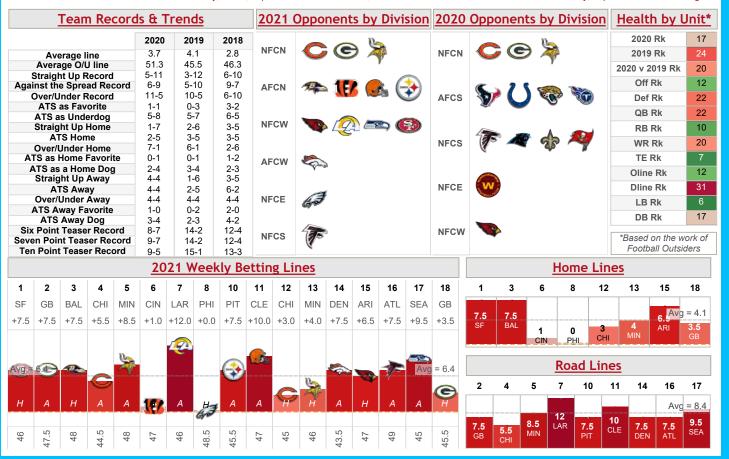
Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 4-4 Score Games Win %: 50% (#13) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 80% (#5)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** -9 TO Margin TO Given 21 INT Given 13 **FUM Given** 8 TO Taken 12 **INT Taken** 7 5 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -18 24 Sacks Sacks Allow 42 -2 Return TD Margin **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 3 **Penalty Margin** +8 Penalties 95 **Opponent Penalties** 103



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | | | | | | | Rush OFF Blend Rk |
| 12 | 14 | 15 | 2 | 25 | 28 | 17 | 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







The Lions lost a heartbreaker.

But through Week 7, the Lions stood at 3-3. Then the season began to unravel. They lost by 14+ points in four of their next five games. Losing by 16 to the terrible Houston Texans was bad. Getting shut out 20-0 against the **P.J. Walker**-led Carolina Panthers was worse.

The offense could have and should have been better. Patricia's defense was a total catastrophe. They allowed 30+ points in the final six games of the season.

Such a feat sounds Lions-esque and is easily dismissed, until it's put into the appropriate historical context.

Only three other times in NFL history has a team allowed 30+ points in six straight games.

Matt Patricia's tenure is best described as coming in like a Lion and going out like a lamb.

Truthfully, the Lions should have lost their final seven games of the season. They didn't deserve a 34-30 win over the Bears in Week 13 which saw them trail by double digits for most of the fourth quarter before scoring two touchdowns in the final 2:30 to win the game.

And so we now look at a new head coach, a new quarterback, and a new offensive coordinator.

There is very little utility in studying the 2020 Lions in too much depth considering the massive overhaul this team underwent in the offseason. This offense won't look anything like what we saw during the past two years under Darrell Bevell. But Bevell is now the offensive coordinator for the Jaguars, so understanding his strengths and weaknesses will be useful in that regard, so we will dig in some.

The quarterback of the last 12 years is gone. The Lions' top-four players in receptions last year were, in order, a WR, a TE, a WR and a RB. Both receivers are gone (Marvin Jones and Danny Amendola). Their best receiver of prior years, but who missed most of 2020 with injury, Kenny Golladay, is also gone.

The 2021 wide receiver corps is arguably the worst of any team in the NFL. The projected starters are **Tyrell Williams** and **Breshad Perriman**. They'll pair them with rookie **Amon-Ra St. Brown**. The only real contributing holdover from 2020 is **Quintez Cephus**. It's a bad unit.

The responsibility of delivering the ball to that bad unit now falls on new Lions quarterback **Jared Goff**. I didn't mind the move for the Lions. They need to rebuild. Goff isn't leading this team to a Super Bowl, but neither was Stafford. However, despite the public perception of the player, I don't think the Lions brought Goff in to tank the season. New Lions GM Brad Holmes was in the Rams front office with Goff. Goff has guarantees of \$27.5 million this year and \$15.5 million next year.

Most importantly, you must ask yourself this simple question: could you see Dan Campbell embracing an analytically sound approach like the Dolphins did to intentionally employ terrible, young players for a year to pick at the top of the draft in order to allow a brand new coach to still get massive buy-in and establish a new culture while losing left and right?

Almost more than any other new coach, the whole key for Campbell's tenure is hard work, blue collar effort, and respecting every teammate and the game itself. I can't imagine he's trying not to win games. It's almost impossible for a coach to save face in the locker room if he's trying to lose. Successful tanking is done in the front office, not on the field of play.

That does not mean the team can win. Their roster, coupled with their schedule, makes it unlikely. But they appear to be building a foundation here, in 2021, from which they can dig out of in the future.

And while I didn't mind the move for a team building perspective, Goff is a significant step down for the Lions offense. When you factor in the coaching, the decline is even more glaring.

When Goff was with the Rams, head coach Sean McVay had to scheme most everything open. McVay had to rely heavily on play-action and motion to get matchups and create space for Goff to attack. That window to attack was very narrow.

We can take a look at Goff's ranks in aggressiveness (AGG) and completed air yards (CAY), and keep in mind that aggressiveness is a player tracking metric which tracks the rate at which a quarterback throws into tight coverage, where there is a defender within 1 yard or less of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion. The lower a quarterback ranks, the more open the average throw.

(cont'd - see DET-4) Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated to prep game prep +2 +2

| | Strength of Sched | ned dame mining. | Detroit Lions Rank | ing vs NFL Average | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Net Rest Edge Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Short Week Road Games Rank | Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
| 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 1 |

Strongth of Schodulad Gamo Timing: Datroit Lions Panking vs NEL Avorago

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The Lions are clearly in tank mode and will most likely position themselves to draft a top quarterback in 2022. Will they field a roster in an attempt to win late this season if the No. 1 pick is on the line?
- Goff relied heavily on Sean McVay with the Rams and won't have a QB guru in his helmet. He also will try to outscore opponents with the worst receiving corps in the NFL after Kenny Golladay and Marvin Jones both left in free agency. Breshad Perriman ranked 80th among wide receivers last season in yards per route run and Tyrell Williams missed all of last season with a shoulder injury.
- Detroit will be facing the fourth-toughest schedule based on win totals. They also have to play outdoors in cold environments late in the season including at Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Denver, and Seattle.

5



Why Bet the Over

- The Lions recovered the lowest percentage of available fumbles in the NFL last season, at 33%, and the lowest by any team since 2014. They ranked third worst in recovering their own fumbles and last in recovering opponent fumbles. You would hope they'd get some better bounces in 2021.
- They have nowhere to go but up on defense. Last season, the Lions ranked dead last in total DVOA defense, DVOA pass defense, EPA per play, and dropback EPA. They also ranked last in pressure rate in the NFL. Expect a much better season from last year's top pick, CB Jeffrey Okudah, who graded out as the worst coverage corner in the NFL by PFF. He was immediately thrown into the fire as the Lions' No. 1 corner and had to face the fourth toughest set of opposing pass offenses. They also added CB Corn Elder, who graded out as the 38th best coverage CB and allowed the 17th lowest yards per snap among CBs last season to help the secondary.
- The strength of this roster is clearly the offensive line. They boast the 11th highest-graded PFF tackle in Taylor Decker, the No. 2 ranked center in Frank Ragnow, along with seventh overall draft pick Penei Sewell. QB Jared Goff has historically played much better with a clean pocket as compared to most other NFL QBs. His passer rating with a clean pocket versus pressure is the fifth highest in the NFL.
- The Lions benefit from having the second biggest net rest advantage with plus 11 games.

| | | Detroit Lio | ns Positional Un | it Rankings | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach |
| 27 | 11 | 22 | 31 | 29 | 28 | 31 |

Former GM Bob Quinn and head coach Matt Patricia left this roster in shambles. Based on an average of the seven units we ranked, this is the third worst roster in the NFL. Though we saw a respectable peak from **Jared Goff** in Los Angeles, his recent struggles led to Detroit's QB situation landing 27th overall. A concerning trend has been Goff's increasingly conservative average depth of throw, which sat at 8.8 yards downfield in 2018, dropped to 7.6 in 2019, and landed at 6.5 in 2020. There's a low ceiling for anyone who isn't challenging defenses downfield.

D'Andre Swift is the most dynamic runner in Detroit's 22nd-ranked backfield, but newcomer **Jamaal Williams** will likely play a role as the more physical downhill runner. If Swift can take a step forward in his second year, perhaps we've undervalued this unit.

The Lions receiving corps is tied with Houston for last in our rankings. **Tyrell Williams** and **Breshad Perriman** have both been productive deep threats when used as complementary pieces, but it's difficult to imagine either emerging as a number-one threat at this stage of their careers. Rookie **Amon-Ra St. Brown** probably has the most potential of the group.

The strength of this roster is the offensive line, which is a good place to start a rebuilding project. **Taylor Decker** and rookie **Penei Sewell** should give Goff excellent protection on the outside and **Frank Ragnow** anchors a steady interior line.

Detroit added some nice talent to the defensive line in the draft (**Levi Onwuzurike**, **Alim McNeill**) but neither is likely to offer a substantial upgrade to the pass rush. 12 Lions saw at least 75 pass-rush snaps in 2020 and only **Romeo Okwara** (re-signed) and **Everson Griffen** (not re-signed) generated a pressure rate over 10 percent. This unit won't scare anyone. For the secondary to outplay our expectations, 2020 first-rounder **Jeff Okudah** needs to take a big step forward. Okudah allowed the offense to gain +1.0 EPA on 43.2% of his targets in coverage, the worst rate in the league

Dan Campbell is our 31st-ranked head coach and was one of three coaches to receive at least one last-place vote. We'll soon find out if his old school approach can work in 2021.

DET-4

2020: 36th in AGG, 35th in CAY

2019: 35th in AGG, 21th in CAY

2018: 33rd in AGG, fifth in CAY

2017: 37th in AGG, 19th in CAY <- McVay's first year as coach

2016: second in AGG, 40th in CAY <- Goff's rookie year

Jared Goff's rookie season was one of the worst we've seen. Goff was chucking the ball into tight windows and averaged just 4.9 air yards per completion. He was a disaster. McVay built a system around Goff such that Goff could find easy completions to receivers that were open and this helped Goff immensely. Recall the 2018 season when McVay had Goff use tremendous tempo and never left 11 personnel. This kept the defense on the field without substitutions and allowed McVay to be in Goff's headset, making the checks for Goff and finding the open receivers as the quarterback got to the line before the snap.

The 2018 season was Rams' magical trip to the Super Bowl that fell short, but since that point in time, Goff hasn't been able to generate explosiveness in the passing game and the Rams passing attack became less vertical, less threatening, and less effective. But in every single season, Goff was always one of the five least-aggressive quarterbacks in the NFL.

The other problem will be pressure. When under pressure the last three years, Goff ranked 29th of 35 quarterbacks in EPA per dropback (-0.43) while Stafford ranked eighth. The Lions' best unit is probably their offensive line, so that should theoretically help Goff where he needs it most. That said, it's absolutely disheartening that when pressure will get to him, the Lions will now be substantially worse than they've been the last several years with Stafford at the helm.

(cont'd - see DET-5)

<u>DET-5</u>

New offensive coordinator Anthony Lynn has been a head coach the last four years, but had the pleasure of working with **Phillip Rivers** and **Justin Herbert**. If there's one thing that the Chargers offense didn't focus on much was scheming up open receivers like the Rams. Herbert ranked 12th in aggressiveness last year. Rivers always ranked above average in aggressiveness and completed air yards when he was on the Chargers. I don't know that I love the upside in the shift from the Shanahan/McVay system to that which Lynn will be running.

And speaking of running, Lynn came out in April and said, "People tend to think that I'm ground-and-pound. But I think if you look at my track record, I'm going to do whatever it takes."

This is great coachspeak, but as we saw from his time as head coach of the Chargers, sometimes a head coach ends up negatively influencing a pla caller to be more conservative or run-heavy than is optimal. Even if Lynn was an Andy Reid air-it-out disciple, with Dan Campbell as head coach, there would be an element of toning things down. Campbell himself already said that he likes running the ball because "there's a mentality to it." The last time Lynn called plays was 2016 in Buffalo, and the team ran the ball at the sixth-highest rate on early downs in the first three quarters. Additionally, immediately after he was hired, Lynn said:

"It will be an emphasis to run the ball and run it well. Defenses are too good to be one dimensional. You have to be balanced in your attack and approach. That's going to be our intention. I believe the more ways you can run it, the more ways you can pass it."

However, this wasn't the case in 2020 in Detroit. For whatever reason, Bevell couldn't stop using **Adrian Peterson**. And no matter how many ways he ran it, he was always worse than rookie running back **D'Andre Swift**. Whether the box was light, standard, or heavy, Swift was superior in EPA/att and success rate. Whether it was inside or outside zone, counter, stretch, power ,or lead, the story was the same, with the lone exception of several Peterson touchdowns weighing into the EPA.

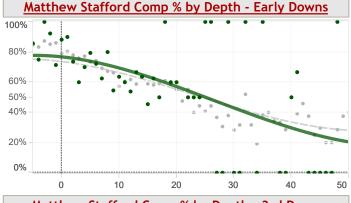
(cont'd - see DET-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

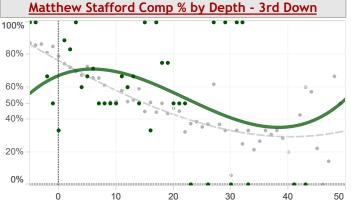


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3 | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | Adrian Peterson | 9% | 18% | 62% | 3% | 8% | | | | | | |
| | D'Andre Swift | 21% | 12% | 54% | 3% | 11% | | | | | | |
| _ | T.J. Hockenson | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Kerryon Johnson | 10% | 17% | 60% | 10% | 4% | | | | | | |
| œ | Danny Amendola | 100% | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Marvin Hall | | | | | 100% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 14% | 16% | 58% | 4% | 9% | | | | | | |
| | Adrian Peterson | 11% | 22% | 50% | 11% | 6% | | | | | | |
| | D'Andre Swift | 33% | 8% | 44% | 6% | 10% | | | | | | |
| | Marvin Jones | 22% | 21% | 48% | 3% | 6% | | | | | | |
| | T.J. Hockenson | 22% | 22% | 48% | 4% | 4% | | | | | | |
| 'n | Kerryon Johnson | 38% | 19% | 35% | 8% | | | | | | | |
| PASS | Danny Amendola | 23% | 22% | 49% | 2% | 5% | | | | | | |
| Δ. | Kenny Golladay | 16% | 3% | 66% | 3% | 13% | | | | | | |
| | Quintez Cephus | 19% | 19% | 53% | 9% | | | | | | | |
| | Marvin Hall | 43% | 3% | 40% | 10% | 3% | | | | | | |
| | Ty Johnson | 100% | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 25% | 17% | 48% | 5% | 5% | | | | | | |

| | | Shar | e of | Offen | sive | Plays | by T | ype | | |
|------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | Adrian Peterson | D'Andre Swift | Marvin Jones | T.J. Hockenson | Kerryon Johnson | Danny Amendola | Kenny Golladay | Quintez Cephus | Marvin Hall | Ty Johnson |
| RUSH | 48% | 35% | | 0% | 16% | 0% | | | 0% | |
| PASS | 4% | 11% | 23% | 21% | 6% | 14% | 7% | 7% | 7% | 0% |
| ALL | 22% | 21% | 13% | 13% | 10% | 8% | 4% | 4% | 4% | 0% |





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| PASS | 47%, 0.02 (474) | 53%, 0.18 (77) | 44%, -0.17 (27) | 67%, 0.62 (9) | 36%, -0.07 (11) | 33%, -0.13 (12) | 60%, 0.65 (5) | 25%, -0.30 (4) | | 48%, 0.04 (621) |
| RUSH | 53%, 0.04 (179) | 53%, -0.17 (81) | 43%, -0.04 (44) | 44%, -0.05 (39) | 46%, -0.57 (13) | 0%, -0.47 (2) | | | 0%, -2.58 (1) | 50%, -0.06 (362) |
| All | 49%, 0.02 (653) | 53%, 0.00 (158) | 44%, -0.09 (71) | 48%, 0.08 (48) | 42%, -0.34 (24) | 29%, -0.18 (14) | 60%, 0.65 (5) | 25%, -0.30 (4) | 0%, -2.58 (1) | 49%, 0.00 (983) |

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

| | Receiv | ing Succe | ss by Top- (Leaderbo | | nel Groupi | ngs |
|-----|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| POS | Player | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| RB | D'Andre Swift | 46% (50) 6.1, 0.09 | 60% (5) 5.4, -0.09 | | 50% (2) 11.5, 0.45 | 47% (57) 6.3, 0.08 |
| | Kerryon Johnson | 45% (22) 7.3, 0.29 | 67% (3) 6.7, 0.12 | | 0% (1) 6.0, -0.56 | 46% (26) 7.2, 0.24 |
| TE | T.J. Hockenson | 57% (76) 7.5, 0.14 | 36% (14) 6.0, -0.33 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.84 | | 53% (91) 7.2, 0.06 |
| WR | Marvin Jones | 58% (83) 7.6, 0.14 | 67% (21) 10.6, 0.51 | 75% (8) 13.4, 0.93 | 100% (1) 21.0, 2.62 | 61% (113) 8.7, 0.29 |
| | Danny Amendola | 50% (64) 8.2, 0.18 | 100% (1) 28.0, 1.49 | | 50% (2) 3.0, -0.21 | 51% (67) 8.3, 0.19 |
| | Kenny Golladay | 53% (19) 10.8, 0.76 | 50% (4) 13.3, 0.46 | 50% (4) 8.8, 0.19 | | 52% (27) 10.9, 0.63 |
| | Mohamed Sanu | 67% (21) 7.5, 0.54 | 100% (1) 21.0, 1.07 | | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.23 | 65% (23) 7.7, 0.49 |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Peterson | 43% (61) | 38% (39) | 42% (24) | 52% (23) | 43% (147) |
| Adrian | 4.0, -0.09 | 3.3, -0.50 | 3.8, 0.01 | 4.9, 0.22 | 3.9, -0.14 |
| Swift | 59% (63) | 58% (24) | 47% (15) | 50% (6) | 56% (108) |
| D'Andre | 4.3, 0.07 | 6.6, 0.19 | 3.3, -0.10 | 5.5, -0.02 | 4.7, 0.07 |
| Johnson | 48% (25) | 79% (14) | 50% (4) | 50% (4) | 57% (47) |
| Kerryon | 3.9, 0.02 | 3.4, -0.09 | 3.8, 0.03 | 3.0, 0.13 | 3.7, 0.00 |
| Stafford | 63% (19) | 75% (4) | | 0% (5) | 54% (28) |
| Matthew | 5.1, 0.32 | 5.3, 0.52 | | -1.4, -0.85 | 4.0, 0.14 |

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

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

| _ | sing by | _ | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | /erage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 55% (401) 6.7, 0.12 3 Step | | 56% (206) 7.5, 0.15 | Planted | | % (449) 0, 0.23 | Inside Zone | 47% (85) 4.3, -0.07 |
| | | Out | 53% (62) 6.1, 0.15 | | | 5 Step | 52% (134) | Shuffling | | 8% (76) 0, -0.03 | Outside | 38% (60) |
| Zone | 54% (307) 8.4, 0.22 | Curl | 67% (61) | Level 2 | 60% (88) 12.9, 0.64 | | 9.9, 0.44 | Moving | | % (49) 7, -0.10 | Zone | 2.9, -0.16 |
| | | Oun | 6.9, 0.24 | | 27% (41) | 0/1 Step | 50% (101) 5.2, -0.10 | | Play Actio | | Power | 56% (43) 4.2, -0.11 |
| 14014 | 51% (162) | Dig | 62% (53) 8.9, 0.44 | Level 3 | 11.6, 0.16 | | 55% (53) | | Play Action | No P/A | | 53% (38) |
| M2M | 6.9, 0.15 | | <u> </u> | | 200/ (24) | 7 Step | 10.8, 0.33 | Under | 55% (91) | 29% (38) | Lead | 4.7, -0.11 |
| | | Slant | 59% (34) 8.3, 0.35 | Sidearm | 38% (24) 3.4, -0.20 | Basic Screen | 35% (23) | Center 8.5, 0.14 5.6, -0.23 | | 1 | Stretch | 53% (19) |
| | 44% (57) | | , | | | | 6.3, -0.02 | Shotgun | 62% (50) 9.8, 0.43 | 46% (442) 7.3, 0.00 | | 3.9, -0.08 |
| Screen | 6.6, -0.05 | Drag | 44% (18) 4.9, 0.05 | Shovel | 75% (4) 6.5, 0.09 | Designed Rollout Right | 44% (18) 4.8, 0.02 | ALL | 57% (141) 9.0, 0.24 | 45% (480) 7.2, -0.02 | Pitch | 45% (11) 3.0, -0.35 |

DET-6

Another confounding thing about the Lions' run game was their run rate out of heavy personnel. In a game's first three quarters, they ran the ball on 60% of plays. The NFL average was 55%. Feel free to run the ball more often if you're productive with it, but look at the Lions splits on these plays:

Lions Runs: -0.20 EPA/att, 4.1 YPC, 51% success (NFL avg = -0.03 EPA/att) Stafford Passes: 0.10 EPA/att, 8.0 YPA, 48% success (NFL avg = 0.08 EPA/att)

The Lions were significantly worse than average when running the ball but better than average when passing, and yet they ran at a much higher rate than average.

Another thing that I picked up on in 2019 which continued in 2020, and which should absolutely be incorporated into our Jaguars analysis this year, was how much better Bevell's offense was in the first quarter as compared to all other quarters.

In each of the last two seasons, the 8-23-1 Lions led or were tied at the end of the first quarter in 19 of 32 games (53%). The Jets, a team with more wins than the Lions, led/tied at the end of the first in only 15 games. Washington, another team with more wins than the Lions, led/tied at the end of the first in only 14 games. Panthers? More wins, yet led/tied in 17 games after one quarter. Same for the Giants.

This made the Lions a perfect fade for in-game betting. I can't tell you the number of in-game bets we won by fading the Lions after their script wore off the last couple years.

Their record when tied or leading after the first quarter? 4-14-1. Leading by an average score of 8.2 points to 2.6, the Lions were outscored in the final three quarters by an average of over 10 points the rest of the way: 26.5 opponent points to 16.2 Lions points.

We're analyzing at the macro level by looking at game results and points scored. On the play-by-play level, it clearly showed up (which is where I discovered it in the first place).

(cont'd - see DET-7)





Look at the Lions splits in 2020:

First quarter passes: 0.18 EPA/att, 51% success, 7.8 YPA Rest of game passes: 0.01 EPA/att, 47% success, 7.5 YPA

First quarter rushes: 0.02 EPA/att, 57% success, 5.0 YPC Rest of game rushes: -0.11 EPA/att, 47% success, 3.7 YPC

It factored more in the run game, but was still clearly apparent in the pass game as well. Bevell did a better job of scripting runs, using personnel and setting up the runs in the first quarter. After the script wore off, so did the rushing efficiency.

Last two years combined:

First quarter passes: 0.22 EPA/att, 52% success, 8.7 YPA Rest of game passes: -0.01 EPA/att, 44% success, 7.2 YPA

First quarter rushes: 0.00 EPA/att, 55% success, 4.4 YPC Rest of game rushes: -0.11 EPA/att, 47% success, 3.9 YPC

A large part of the problem hinged on first downs and the run game. Look at the splits just on first-and-10 runs:

First quarter: 0.05 EPA/att, 62% success, 6.3 YPC Rest of game: -0.09 EPA/att, 42% success, 3.7 YPC

(cont'd - see DET-8)

Immediate Impact of Detroit Lions 2021 Draft Class

The Lions likely had OT **Penei Sewell** graded as the top non-quarterback on their draft board, so to land him seventh overall was an incredible steal. Sewell will be making the transition from left to right tackle, so there may be some growing pains. However, he got an early start and was already training to play on the right side prior to the draft, likely anticipating a position switch if he landed in Detroit.

Between LT **Taylor Decker** and Sewell on the right side, the Lions' offensive line has an elite ceiling in the years to come, which could be critical to the development of a new franchise quarterback if **Jared Goff's** career doesn't quickly take off again.

DT Levi Onwuzurike could potentially take a significant step forward now that he'll be playing in a better system for his skill set in Detroit. In 2019 at Washington (he opted out in 2020), the 290-pound Onwuzurike played 46% of his snaps out of position at nose tackle.

Detroit also plans to play Onwuzurike at defensive end, shifting him inside in sub-packages. Presumably this means we'll primarily see him on the edge versus the run, and inside on passing downs. In his limited opportunities lined up as a 3-tech, Onwuzurike was a productive pass-rusher, generating a 7.4% pressure rate.

To help ensure Onwuzurike sticks at a more natural position, the Lions also added NT **Alim McNeill** (third round). McNeill played 91% of his snaps at nose tackle for NC State in 2020.

Based on Sports Info Solutions' Points Saved metric (based on the EPA framework), McNeill graded out at +16.1 versus the run, making him the second most valuable nose tackle in the Power 5 conferences. McNeill likely plays a significant role on defense, possibly coming off the field on passing downs when Onwuzurike shifts inside.

DB Ifeatu Melifonwu (third round) was a traits-based selection (9.69 Relative Athletic Score) but is probably too raw to impact the team in 2021.

In 2020 at Syracuse, Melifonwu allowed a 50% completion rate when targeted at least 10 yards downfield (ranked 36 out of 41 qualified ACC DBs).

Detroit also landed one of the most promising Day 3 steals in WR **Amon-Ra St. Brown** (fourth round). St. Brown primarily played in the slot in 2019 at USC before shifting outside in 2020, and thrived in both roles. He's an efficient route runner with excellent hands (5.6% drop rate in 2019-20 seasons) and should be able to fill any role asked of him in Detroit.

There's not much more GM Brad Holmes could have done in his first draft at the helm in Detroit. He landed at least three immediate contributors and laid a solid foundation for the team's rebuilding process.

VA.

Detroit Lions 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Detroit was mid-pack in passing EPA (15th) and success rate (20th) through the air last season. That was with longtime face of the franchise **Matthew Stafford**, who they traded this offseason in a deal that involved bringing in **Jared Goff** as the new quarterback for the Lions. Over the 2017-2018 seasons, Goff's 60 touchdown passes were the fourth-most in the NFL. His 5.8% touchdown rate was eighth in the league over that span among all quarterbacks with over 100 dropbacks while he averaged 8.2 yards per pass attempt (sixth) and 12.8 yards per completion (fifth). The wheels then began to loosen as Goff threw 42 touchdown passes (18th) over the past two seasons as his touchdown rate fell down to 3.6%, which was 41st among passers with over 100 dropbacks. Goff's Y/A fell to 7.3 yards (24th) and his yards per completion dipped to 11.2 yards (23rd).

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|----|---|----|------|----|--|--|
| QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Matthew Stafford | 337 | 524 | 64% | 4,076 | 7.8 | 26 | 9 | 38 | 98 | 16 | | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | | |

| | | | 2020 A | dvanced | l Passin | ig Table | 2 | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 | 48% | 51% | 54 | 10.0% | 18 | 3.0% | 6.8 | 5.3 | 25 | 5% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Matthew Stafford Rating

Early Downs 91 134 91 135

| <u>In</u> | tercep | tion Ra | tes by | <u>Down</u> | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|---------|--------|-------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 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% | 5.0% | 0.0% | 3.8% | | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 2.4% | 0.0% | 4.8% | 0.0% | 2.2% | | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| Total | 2.2% | 0.6% | 2.7% | 0.0% | 1.8% | | | | | | | |

| 3rd Down I | <u>Passing</u> | - Short | of Stic | <u>ks Anal</u> | <u>ysis</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk |
| Matthew Stafford | 8.9 | 6.7 | -2.2 | 65% | 10 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | |

Pass Distance (in air)

-10

| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | |
|------|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| t Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | |
|) | 56% | 44% | 16 | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The cupboard has been cleaned here at the wide receiver position and what the Lions currently have in place is an expansion team-level wide receiving outfit. With **Kenny Golladay**, **Marvin Jones**, and **Danny Amendola** all moving on from the team in free agency this offseason, the only wide receiver on the current roster that had a target on the team last season is 2020 fifth-round pick **Quintez Cephus**. New additions are **Tyrell Williams**, who missed all of the 2020 season due to a torn labrum and has not had more than 43 receptions in a season since 2016. **Breshad Perriman**, who is on his fifth team in as many seasons, averaging 16.5 yards per catch for his career, but has not had more than 36 catches in any of his five seasons in the league.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Marvin Jones | 103 | 64% | 8.4 | 100.2 | 57% | 39 | 71 | 56 | 51 | 8 |
| T.J. Hockenson | 97 | 67% | 7.3 | 91.6 | 54% | 65 | 66 | 67 | 84 | 6 |
| Danny Amendola | 65 | 66% | 9.0 | 88.1 | 54% | 63 | 56 | 48 | 56 | 0 |
| D'Andre Swift | 52 | 81% | 6.6 | 106.9 | 48% | 104 | 111 | 104 | 33 | 2 |



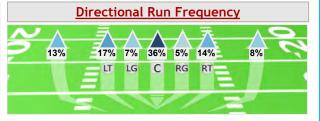
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Detroit ranked 24th in total rushing EPA in 2020, but were 16th in success rate on the ground. The team used their second-round pick last season on **D'Andre Swift**, but it was veteran **Adrian Peterson** who led the team with 156 rushing attempts compared to 114 for the rookie back. Swift only had six games during his rookie season in which he played at least 50% of the snaps, with all coming Week 8 or later. Peterson had just a 47% success rate per carry while Swift checked in at 53%. New addition **Jamaal Williams** was at 61%, which ranked third in the NFL in 2020. The team also went and added **Penei Sewell** at No. 7 overall this spring to bolster an offensive line that now has three first-round picks to go along with **Taylor Decker** and **Frank Ragnow**.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Adrian Peterson | 156 | 3.9 | 46% | 74 | 56 | 51 | 52 | 45% | 73 | 7 |
| D'Andre Swift | 114 | 4.6 | 54% | 33 | 64 | 48 | 33 | 54% | 26 | 8 |
| Kerryon Johnson | 52 | 3.5 | 54% | 29 | 14 | 4 | 90 | 55% | 20 | 2 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



T.J. Hockenson Is Set Up for a Year Three Breakout

Hockenson took a large step forward in year two. After averaging 2.7 receptions for 30.6 yards per game as a rookie, he turned 6.3 targets per game (eighth among tight ends) into 4.2 receptions (sixth) for 45.2 yards per game (seventh) in 2020 while raising his touchdown total from two to six (tied for ninth). With the Lions having no clear direction in terms of wide receiving depth and an expansion-level wide receiver room entering the draft, they could have added a number of prospects to come in and play immediately in the draft. Instead, they went offensive line and defense with their four draft picks over the first two days, solely adding Amon-Ra St. Brown in the fourth round with their seven draft picks in total. So exiting the draft, Hockenson has this group of players to contend with as 2021 target competition...

- Quintez Cephus: 20 catches as a rookie.
- Tyrell Williams: Has not had more than 43 receptions in a season since 2016.
- Breshad Perriman: Has not had more than 36 catches in any of his five seasons in the league.
- Kalif Raymond: 19 career receptions in five seasons.
- Geronimo Allison: Has not had more than 34 catches in any of his four seasons in the league.
- St. Brown: Just 10 WRs selected in the fourth round or later reached 75 targets in their rookie season (St. Brown is a solid bet to do so, however) over the past decade.
- Jonathan Adams, Javon McKinley, and Sage Surratt as undrafted rookie signings.

The only intermediate targets on this team led by Jared Goff outside of Hockenson are St. Brown and the running backs. Hockenson should be expected to take a major stride forward in year three.

Is D'Andre Swift Ready to Push RB1 status in Year 2?

Selected at pick No. 35 overall last spring, Swift only had six games during his rookie season in which he played at least 50% of the snaps, with all coming Week 8 or later. His 114 carries were second on the team behind 156 carries for Peterson, who out-touched the rookie 168-160 on the season. Swift missed three games outright and had a concussion scare late in 2020, but got back on the field for the final four games of the season. When Swift did play 50% or more of the team snaps, however, he averaged 15.6 points per game. Swift led all rookie backs in receptions per game (3.53), something of note considering the concern over the state of the Lions franchise as a whole capping his upside. The team did add Jamaal Williams as insurance and a compliment to Swift this offseason. Through four seasons, Williams has yet to rush for 600 yards in a season or clear 178 touches, but he has been a proven back that can play an ancillary role, contribute to the passing game, and handle opportunity when needed in relief should Swift miss any time. Williams has caught at least 25 passes in every season of his career. Anthony Lynn has talked about Williams this offseason and the coach has not shied away from compartmentalizing backs before in Buffalo and with the Chargers. Williams may be enough to keep Swift with ADP as a RB2 this summer, but Swift has dual-usage appeal at a position with limited all-purpose options to give him plenty of upside at that cost to be early on a breakout.



Defensive Outlook

On the interior, the trio of **John Penisini**, **Nick Williams**, and **Da'Shawn Hand** finished no higher than 84th among interior linemen in pressure rate per SIS. The problem with having all of these run-stopping defensive tackles is that Detroit wasn't great — or even good — at stopping the run. The Lions ranked 25th in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate as a team and 27th in EPA per play. **Michael Brockers** (10 quarterback hits) was brought in via trade while **Levi Onwuzurike** and **Alim McNeill** were brought in during the draft.

On the edge, Romeo Okwara had a breakout season in a contract year with a 10-sack season and he ranked 29th among edge rushers in pressure rate. Okwara, who still won't turn 26 years old until June, re-signed with the Lions this offseason on a three-year deal.

Trey Flowers was the major free agent signing in 2019, but he appeared in just seven games during 2020. Flowers suffered a hairline fracture in his forearm in Week 8 and was placed on injured reserve. Production wasn't there before the injury, just 112th in pressure rate among 124 edge rushers with at least 100 pass rushes.

Jamie Collins has a skill set that is somehow exclusively unlocked by Bill Belichick. Collins has been at his best in a hybrid role that allows him to rush the passer at a high rate. He did that 14.5% of the time last season, which was lower than Jarrad Davis. Collins's pressure rate was also below Davis's last season. Though Collins had the seventh-highest rate of tackles that came before a first down among linebackers. Jahlani Tavai, a 2019 second-round pick, played 55% of the snaps but struggled some in coverage. Alex Anzalone was brought in after a productive career with the Saints.

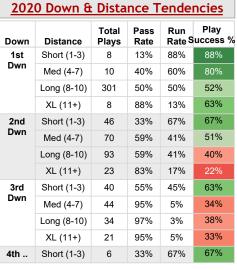
Jeff Okudah was a promising cornerback prospect but the third overall pick struggled heavily on the field. Okudah was 146th of 148 cornerbacks with at least 100 coverage snaps in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Okudah also had a groin injury that ended his season early. There's hope that health, a full offseason, and a year under his belt will lead to a bounce-back in production.

Quinton Dunbar struggled in his one season with the Seattle Seahawks following a trade from Washington and signed a one-year deal with the Lions. Dunbar ranked 122nd among those corners in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. **Amari Oruwariye** ranked 110th. **Corn Elder** was brought over as a free agent and as the slot corner for the Panthers last season, ranked 47th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

Tracy Walker was 34th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap among 35 safeties who were charted with at least 30 targets. Will Harris, a 2019 third-round pick, would be in line to start opposite Walker with 28% of the defensive snaps played last season and 58% played in his rookie year.

There is talent here and it's likely the defensive scheme with Aaron Glenn as defensive coordinator will be better than what the scheme and coverage concepts previously were.

2020 Play Tendencies 59% All Pass % All Pass Rk 17 All Rush % 41% All Rush Rk 16 1 Score Pass % 56% 1 Score Pass Rk 19 2019 1 Score Pass % 58% 19 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 2020 Pass Increase % -1% Pass Increase Rk 16 1 Score Rush % 44% 1 Score Rush Rk 14 Up Pass % 57% Up Pass Rk 13 Up Rush % 43% Up Rush Rk 20 Down Pass % 60% Down Pass Rk 20 40% Down Rush % Down Rush Rk 13





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 | | | | | |
| 71% | 14 | 67% | 67% | 75% | | | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | |

33%

70%

59%

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Adrian Peterson | 3 | 67% |
| Dwn | | | D'Andre Swift | 3 | 100% |
| | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Adrian Peterson | 3 | 100% |
| | | | D'Andre Swift | 3 | 100% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Adrian Peterson | 66 | 45% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | D'Andre Swift | 2 | 100% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Adrian Peterson | 15 | 67% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Adrian Peterson | 15 | 53% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Adrian Peterson | 19 | 16% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | D'Andre Swift | 6 | 17% |
| | | | Danny Amendola | 6 | 50% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | Danny Amendola | 6 | 50% |
| Dwn | | RUSH | Adrian Peterson | 6 | 67% |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | T.J. Hockenson | 10 | 50% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Marvin Jones | 8 | 75% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | T.J. Hockenson | 3 | 0% |
| | | | Marvin Jones | 3 | 33% |

| Offen | sive Performance | w Motion (Pre Sn | ap & Play Action) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | |
| No | Success: 43% | Success: 56% | Success: 45% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.05 | YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.25 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.00 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 88.2 | Rtg: 108.1 | Rtg: 91.6 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 314 - Rate: 50.6%] | [Att: 59 - Rate: 9.5%] | [Att: 373 - Rate: 60.1%] | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 48% | Success: 59% | Success: 52% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 9.6, EPA: 0.24 | YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.11 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 98.6 | Rtg: 105.8 | Rtg: 101.1 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 166 - Rate: 26.7%] | [Att: 82 - Rate: 13.2%] | [Att: 248 - Rate: 39.9%] | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 45% | Success: 57% | Success: 48% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.02 | YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.24 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.04 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 91.9 | Rtg: 106.8 | Rtg: 95.5 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 480 - Rate: 77.3%] | [Att: 141 - Rate: 22.7%] | [Att: 621 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | |

29%

19

| Wk | Орр | Score | Marvin Jones | T.J. Hocke nson | Jesse James | Danny Amendola | D'Andre Swift | Quintez Cephus | Kerryon Johnson | Kenny Golladay | Jamal Agnew |
|----|---------|---------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | CHI | L 27-23 | 71 (91%) | 50 (64%) | 39 (50%) | 43 (55%) | 34 (44%) | 62 (79%) | 20 (26%) | | 15 (19%) |
| 2 | GB | L 42-21 | 53 (90%) | 41 (69%) | 30 (51%) | 33 (56%) | 20 (34%) | 39 (66%) | 19 (32%) | | 9 (15%) |
| 3 | ARI | W 26-23 | 61 (91%) | 55 (82%) | 33 (49%) | 30 (45%) | 6 (9%) | 10 (15%) | 20 (30%) | 49 (73%) | 14 (21%) |
| 4 | NO | L 35-29 | 54 (89%) | 46 (75%) | 30 (49%) | 34 (56%) | 23 (38%) | 6 (10%) | 11 (18%) | 50 (82%) | 11 (18%) |
| 6 | JAC | W 34-16 | 62 (81%) | 46 (60%) | 42 (55%) | 27 (35%) | 29 (38%) | | 17 (22%) | 57 (74%) | 19 (25% |
| 7 | ATL | W 23-22 | 56 (90%) | 44 (71%) | 25 (40%) | 33 (53%) | 28 (45%) | | 14 (23%) | 52 (84%) | 13 (21% |
| 8 | IND | L 41-21 | 60 (98%) | 45 (74%) | 20 (33%) | 41 (67%) | 38 (62%) | | 11 (18%) | 18 (30%) | 7 (11%) |
| 9 | MIN | L 34-20 | 71 (95%) | 57 (76%) | 25 (33%) | 48 (64%) | 30 (40%) | 31 (41%) | 25 (33%) | | |
| 10 | WAS | W 30-27 | 51 (86%) | 39 (66%) | 32 (54%) | 23 (39%) | 43 (73%) | 30 (51%) | 9 (15%) | | |
| 11 | CAR | L 20-0 | 50 (89%) | 37 (66%) | 29 (52%) | | | 17 (30%) | 39 (70%) | | 28 (50% |
| 12 | HOU | L 41-25 | 68 (83%) | 60 (73%) | 38 (46%) | | | 25 (30%) | 39 (48%) | | 25 (30% |
| 13 | CHI | W 34-30 | 64 (94%) | 53 (78%) | 24 (35%) | 33 (49%) | | 31 (46%) | 30 (44%) | | 16 (24% |
| 14 | GB | L 31-24 | 60 (88%) | 57 (84%) | 26 (38%) | 35 (51%) | 36 (53%) | 33 (49%) | 15 (22%) | | 11 (16% |
| 15 | TEN | L 46-25 | 58 (89%) | 52 (80%) | 32 (49%) | 27 (42%) | 42 (65%) | 29 (45%) | 7 (11%) | | 10 (15% |
| 16 | TB | L 47-7 | 50 (94%) | 46 (87%) | 12 (23%) | 31 (58%) | 36 (68%) | 20 (38%) | 11 (21%) | | 12 (23% |
| 17 | MIN | L 37-35 | 53 (91%) | 39 (67%) | 28 (48%) | 24 (41%) | 33 (57%) | 32 (55%) | 9 (16%) | | 11 (19% |
| | Grand ' | Total | 942 (90%) | 767 (73%) | 465 (44%) | 462 (51%) | 398 (48%) | 365 (43%) | 296 (28%) | 226 (69%) | 201 (22% |

| <u>Perso</u> | | up | _ |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 66% | 60% | 49% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 16% | 20% | 53% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 7% | 7% | 44% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 5% | 4% | 48% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 2% | 4% | 42% |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| Group | ing Te | | |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. | Run |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 47% | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 73% 49% | Pass Succ. % 47% 53% | Run Succ. % 53% 53% |

| Red Zone | Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| T.J. Hockenson | 17 | 8 | 1 | 8 | | | | |
| Marvin Jones | 13 | 2 | 2 | 9 | | | | |
| D'Andre Swift | 9 | | 3 | 6 | | | | |
| Danny Amendola | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| Jesse James | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| Kenny Golladay | 5 | | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| Jamal Agnew | 3 | | | 3 | | | | |
| Quintez Cephus | 3 | | 2 | 1 | | | | |

| Red Zolle R | Red Zolle Rusiles Leader Doard | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| Adrian Peterson | 35 | 15 | 4 | 16 | | | | |
| D'Andre Swift | 20 | 11 | 6 | 3 | | | | |
| Kerryon Johnson | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | | | | |
| Matthew Stafford | 7 | | | 7 | | | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | | | |
| 21% 23% | 22% 21% NFL AVG | 56% 56% | | | | | |
| Overall Target Success % | | | | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ccess % | | | | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | ccess % wr | | | | | |





Making things even more frustrating when we look at those runs against first-and-10 passes in the final three quarters.

First-and-10 passes Q2-4: +0.05 EPA/att, 55% success, 8.3 YPA First-and-10 runs Q2-4: -0.09 EPA/att, 42% success, 3.7 YPC

There were many other issues I noticed with the Lions offense that Bevell could correct when he goes to Jacksonville, but these are some that may linger and are useful knowledge for handicapping the Jaguars.

As it relates to the 2021 Lions, they won't have to worry about Bevell's playcalling, they can now focus on Lynn. The Lions have the NFL's least expensive offense in 2021, clocking in at a cool \$76 million in total dollars. They have one of the toughest schedules in the NFL, with their offense playing what I predict will be the second-toughest schedule of opposing defenses. They aren't favored in a single game in 2021.

If overall performance is primarily dictated by offensive efficiency, this will be a tough season for the Lions and their fans. I wish I could preach patience, but I don't know if I have long-term confidence in this staff to even optimize a re-build with the first overall draft pick in 2022, should they finish 2021 with the worst record. The most optimistic I can get is: it can't get much worse than the Patricia era. Godspeed Lions fans.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular

2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

| 01. Ga | ames w | Halftime | Lead |
|--------|--------|----------|------|
| | | | |

| ad | 4 | 02. Avg Halftime Lead |
|----|---|-----------------------|
| | | |

| _4 N |
|------|
| |

| 03. Wins | 5 |
|----------|---|
| | |

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 8.1 | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.3 | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.8 | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.7 | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 55% | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 50% | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.13 | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.07 | | |
| DI 1 1 10 10 | | | |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 45. PA Success Rate 56% 46. PA YPA 9.1 47. PA Sack Rate 0.9% 48. PA EPA/att 0.2 49. PA Target Depth 9.9 50. Non-PA Success Rate 53% 51. Non-PA YPA 7.2 52. Non-PA Sack Rate 3.8% | 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 37% |
|--|------------------------------------|------|
| 47. PA Sack Rate 0.9% 48. PA EPA/att 0.2 49. PA Target Depth 9.9 50. Non-PA Success Rate 53% 51. Non-PA YPA 7.2 | 45. PA Success Rate | 56% |
| 48. PA EPA/att 0.2 49. PA Target Depth 9.9 50. Non-PA Success Rate 53% 51. Non-PA YPA 7.2 | 46. PA YPA | 9.1 |
| 49. PA Target Depth 9.9 50. Non-PA Success Rate 53% 51. Non-PA YPA 7.2 | 47. PA Sack Rate | 0.9% |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate 53% 51. Non-PA YPA 7.2 | 48. PA EPA/att | 0.2 |
| 51. Non-PA YPA 7.2 | 49. PA Target Depth | 9.9 |
| | 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 53% |
| 52 Non-PA Sack Rate 3.8% | 51. Non-PA YPA | 7.2 |
| oz. Non-i A duck Nate | 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 3.8% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att 0.05 | 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.05 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth 7.3 | 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.3 |

Men In Box

| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 17% |
|--|-----|
| 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 | 5.9 |
| 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 | 46% |
| 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 | 37% |
| 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 | 4.3 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 12 | defFUM | 18 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 0.9 | defFUM Rcvrd | 13 |
| offFUM | 13 | acii om itevia | 10 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 5 | defFR Rk | 30 |
| offFR% | 38.5% | defFR% | 27.8% |
| offFR Rk | 26 | defFROE | 3.0 |
| offFROE | -2.1 | deirkoe | 3.0 |
| offFROE Rk | 26 | defFROE Rk | 1 |
| | | | |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | -0.38 | Opp Att | 20 | | |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 16 | Opp Makes | 16 | | |
| Own Att Own Makes | 28 21 | Opp FG % | 80% | | |
| Own FG % | 75% | Opp Expected Makes | 16.38 | | |
| Own Expected Makes | 21.75 | Opp Make Over Expectation | -0.38 | | |
| Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk | -0.75 22 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 24 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Expectation Rk | 0.37 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -2.14 | | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 11 | 2019 Opp Rk | 27 | | |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

| - (| 0) | RI | Pr | 9 | 22 | Hr | ·e |
|-----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| • | ч. | _ | | - | - | ч. | _ |

Offensive Metrics

| | Matthew Stafford |
|----------------|------------------|
| CAY | 6.8 |
| CAY Rk | 9 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 1 |
| AYTS Rk | 7 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 1 |
| AGG Rk | 17 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 1 |
| COMP% | 64.2 |
| xCOMP% | 65.3 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 17 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 38 |
| CPOE% | -1.1 |
| CPOE Rk | 28 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 5 |

| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks A | GG: |
|--|-------|
| Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage | CPOE: |
| Actual completion percentage over expectation | |

| Q5 1 1 G | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Matthew Stafford |
| Pressure % | 28.5 |
| Pressure Rk | 28 |
| Sack % | 6.7 |
| Sack Rk | 13 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 64.3 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 24 |
| Rating when Pressured | 91.8 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 2 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 76.2 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 31 |
| Rating when Clean | 97.6 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 26 |
| Time to Throw | 2.65 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 26 |

| • | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| EPA/Pass | 0.06 |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 16 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.11 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 31 |
| On-Target Catch % | 89.4% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 21 |
| Drop% | 8.4% |
| Drop Rk | 27 |
| YAC/Att | 2.0 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 25 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 9.0% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 32 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 25.3% |
| | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Matt LaFleur (2 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Nathaniel Hackett (2 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:** Joe Barry (LAR LB) (new)

Hard

Easy

Green Bay Packers

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

10.5

#1

Past Records

2020: 13-3 2019: 13-3 2018: 6-10



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|------------------------|----------|
| Christian Kirksey (LB) | Texans |
| Corey Linsley (C) | Chargers |
| Jamaal Williams (RB) | Lions |
| Lane Taylor (LG) | Texans |
| Montravius Adams (IDL) | Patriots |
| Parry Nickerson (CB) | Vikings |
| Tramon Williams (CB) | Retired |
| Billy Winn (IDL) | TBD |
| Damon Harrison (IDL) | TBD |
| James Burgess (LB) | TBD |
| Jared Veldheer (RT) | TBD |
| John Lovett (TE) | TBD |
| Ricky Wagner (RT) | TBD |
| Tavon Austin (WR) | TBD |
| Tyler Ervin (RB) | TBD |

| Average | # Games | # Games |
|---------|---------|----------|
| Line | Favored | Underdog |
| -0.4 | 9 | 7 |

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

(10.5

@ 9

(13

(13

Forecast

2021 Wins

2020 Wins

Forecast

2020 Wins

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

2017 Wins

2021 Green Bay Packers Overview

In a perfect storm of a 2021 season, Aaron Rodgers's performance rocketed out of Green Bay's atmosphere and may never return.

The leap that Rodgers made from 2019 to 2020 was so massive it alone sent the Packers back to the NFC Championship game.

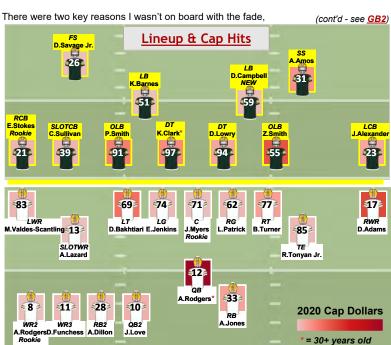
This team had all the markers that screamed regression in 2020, save for the fact that they had Rodgers at quarterback.

Look at what this team did in 2019 first – they improved from 6-10 to 13-3. Over the last 30 years, there were 52 teams that improved by 6+ wins from one year to the next. Zero had won at least 12 games or more the following year.

Did the 2019 Packers improve in their performance or in the record book? Because they are two different things. From an efficiency standpoint, there was not much improvement in 2019 on offense. The key difference was performance in metrics that tend to have poor year-over-year correlation:

The Packers went 8-1 in one-score games. They improved their turnover margin to +12. They were the 14th healthiest team in the NFL. Their defensive schedule was littered with backup quarterbacks, rookie quarterbacks, and mediocre quarterbacks.

For these reasons, a lot of people were on the Packers regression bandwagon for 2020. I thought the NFC North would take a step back, but I didn't join the cries to fade the Packers. Instead, I faded the Vikings.



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|--|
| 1 | 29 | CB - Eric Stokes (Georgia) |
| 2 | 62 | C - Josh Myers (Ohio State) |
| 3 | 85 | WR - Amari Rodgers (Clemson) |
| 4 | 142 | OG - Royce Newman (Ole Miss) |
| 5 | 173 | DT - Tedarrell Slaton (Florida) |
| 3 | 178 | CB - Shemar Jean-Charles (Appalachian State) |
| 6 | 214 | OG - Cole Van Lanen (Wisconsin) |
| • | 220 | LB - Isaiah McDuffie (Boston College) |
| 7 | 256 | RB - Kylin Hill (Mississippi State) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|------|--|--|
| | \$115.16M | 6 |
| 1 | \$42.31M | 10 |
| | \$29.56M | 3 |
| 19 | \$7.86M | 18 |
| 10 | \$27.79M | 12 |
| 25 | \$7.64M | 27 |
| 26 | \$80.92M | 11 |
| 10 | \$47.19M | 6 |
| 32 | \$6.20M | 22 |
| 21 | \$14.33M | 24 |
| 15 | \$13.21M | 10 |
| | 5 1 27 19 10 25 26 10 32 21 | 5 \$115.16M 1 \$42.31M 27 \$29.56M 19 \$7.86M 10 \$27.79M 25 \$7.64M 26 \$80.92M 10 \$47.19M 32 \$6.20M 21 \$14.33M |

← 7

6

GB-2

although I didn't anticipate them winning 13 games again:

First, it was already priced into the number. Linesmakers hung a 9-win total on the Packers for 2020, anticipating them regressing. There was no value in betting under that, and regardless of what you conclude from a review of all your pre-season work, if it's already priced into the number, there isn't value and you have to pass.

Second, I actually saw a lot of upside for Matt LaFleur's offense to grow, because I saw a lot of efficiency being left on the table.

For starters, the Packers ranked just 17th in early down efficiency and their first down performance was well below average.

Compare Rodgers on first down by year:

2017: 0.17 EPA/att, 7.5 YPA, 59% success 2018: 0.15 EPA/att, 6.8 YPA, 53% success 2019: 0.12 EPA/att, 6.3 YPA, 50% success <- Matt LaFleur's first year in Green

LaFleur's lone year as offensive coordinator in Tennessee was 2018, and while Marcus Mariota was not a great quarterback, LaFleur was able to design first downs to get a ton of efficiency. Mariota's problem was throwing interceptions, but if you don't look at EPA (which is where INTs make a massive impact), there's a better picture:

Mariota in 2018: 8.5 YPA, 59% success on 120 attempts

Mariota threw five interceptions and had a negative EPA, but the point was, for a quarterback like Rodgers, averaging 50% success with 6.3 YPA on first down was an anomaly.

You might ask "how much difference can being a bit better on first downs really make?" Keep reading, I assure you, you'll see.

Additionally, the RPO game was broken in 2019. No one in the NFL threw more RPOs than Rodgers did in 2019, but Rodgers had the NFL's worst success rate. That was a huge drop from what Rodgers did in 2018, when he had the NFL's second-highest RPO success.

| | 2020 Passing Performance | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | |
| Aaron Rodgers | 62% 7.5 115.9 | 53% 7.7 124.8 | 48% 9.8 118.0 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 49% | 54% | 79% | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | | | | | |

| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| GB | 54% 4.7 | 55% 4.8 | 65% 5.2 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 51% | 46% | 21% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

Compare by year:

2018: 0.12 EPA/att, 5.5 YPA, 63% success 2019: -0.03 EPA/att, 4.1 YPA, 45% success

I thought these were likely to rebound in 2020. With RPOs playing such a huge role in the Packers attack (11.4% of all early down passes were RPOs, highest rate in the NFL), I anticipated an improvement there playing into the Packers success.

If first down passing efficiency had an abnormally down year and RPOs had an abnormally down year in 2019, the toughout would be that performance there should regress in a positive manner. Especially for Green Bay, these (cont'd - see <u>GB-3</u>)

| 1 - | | 2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|---------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 5- | 12 | (P) | (2) | (2) | 6 | (2) | (| (2) | <u>\$</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>\$</u> | 6 | |
| 10 – 25 – 25 – 25 – 25 – 25 – 25 – 25 – 2 | © | | | | | | | | | | | | 19 © |
| 30 — | #. | JJO | Off | #C | JH. | JH. | ve | SS | 2 ₩ | Off | sh Off | ve Off | tun |
| | EDSR Off | 30 & In O | Red Zone O | 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 |

| | 2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| W | W | W | W | L | w | L | W | W | L | W | W | W | W | W | w |
| MIN | DET | NO | ATL | TB | HOU | MIN | SF | JAC | IND | CHI | PHI | DET | CAR | TEN | CHI |
| Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Н | Н | Α | Н | Н | Α |
| 9 | 21 | 7 | 14 | -28 | 15 | -6 | 17 | 4 | -3 | 16 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 26 | 19 |
| 43 | 42 | 37 | 30 | 10 | 35 | 22 | 34 | 24 | 31 | 41 | 30 | 31 | 24 | 40 | 35 |
| 34 | 21 | 30 | 16 | 38 | 20 | 28 | 17 | 20 | 34 | 25 | 16 | 24 | 16 | 14 | 16 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(high=good) (low=good)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 ((0 10 e 8 **(** 9 15- 🕞 **6** 12 e **©** 14 14 C 20 15 15 18 19 25 e **©** 29 30 25 Pass Efficiency Def Pass Pro Efficieincy Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Red Zone De

| RESULT | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| OPP | All 2019 Wins: 13 |
| SITE | FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 0-1 |
| MARGIN | FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) |
| PTS | FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): |
| OPP PTS | 0% (#27) |

2020 Close Game Records

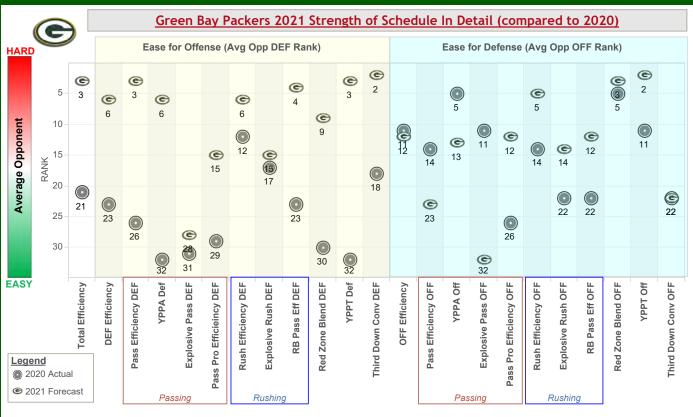
1 Score Games Win %: 67% (#8) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 31% (#29)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 4-2 EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red OFF/DFF **EDSR** Blue=OFF

| 2020 Critical/Ga | ame- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Deciding Stats | | | | | | | | |
| TO Margin | +7 | | | | | | | |
| TO Given | 11 | | | | | | | |
| INT Given | 5 | | | | | | | |
| FUM Given | 6 | | | | | | | |
| TO Taken | 18 | | | | | | | |
| INT Taken | 11 | | | | | | | |
| FUM Taken | 7 | | | | | | | |
| Sack Margin | +20 | | | | | | | |
| Sacks | 41 | | | | | | | |
| Sacks Allow | 21 | | | | | | | |
| Return TD Margin | -1 | | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs Allow | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Penalty Margin | -5 | | | | | | | |
| Penalties | 84 | | | | | | | |
| Opponent Penalties | 79 | | | | | | | |

WFFK RES

Red=DEF



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 8 | 4 | 25 | 22 | 5 | 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

| | | Tren | <u>ds</u> | | 20 |)21 C |)ppo | nent | s by | Divi | sion | 2020 | Орр | onen | ts by | Divis | sion | <u>Healt</u> | h by | Unit* | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|-----------|------------|------|----------|------------|------------|------|----------|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|-------|----------------|--------|--------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|--------|---------------------|
| | Average line | | | 2020 | 20 |)19 | 2018 | | | | | 11 | | | | | | 17- | | | 202 | Rk | 15 | |
| | | | | -5.0 | -3 | 3.8 | -2.4 | NFCN | :CN | | | | | NFCN | | | | | | 2019 Rk | | 14 | | |
| | Average O/U line | | | | 51.1 | 45 | 5.1 | 48.0 | | | | · | | | | | | | | | 2020 v 2019 Rk | | 6 | |
| | Straight Up Record | | | | 13-3 | | 3-3 | 6-9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Against the Spread Record | | | 10-6 | | 0-6 | 6-10 | AF | CN | 1 | 16 | L (| & (* | (| | | . 7 | SS997 | | _ | Off | Rk | 26 | |
| | Over/Under Record | | | | 7-7 | | 10 | 8-8 | | | * | | | a / | | AFCS | 3. | |) 🧐 | | | Det | Rk | 4 |
| ATS as Favorite ATS as Underdog | | | | 8-5 2-1 | | -5 -1 | 4-5 2-5 | | | | | | | | | - | | | | | QB | Rk | 1 | |
| Straight Up Home | | | | 7-1 | | -1 -1 | 5-2 | NF | cw | 1 | . 10 |) /= 3 | (| 3 | | | | | | | RB Rk | | 19 | |
| | ATS Home | | | | 5-3 | | -3 | 4-4 | | | | | | | | | 43 | | | | | | | |
| Over/Under Home | | | | 2-5 | | -5 | 4-4 | | | | | | | | NFCS | | | | | | WR Rk | | 29 | |
| A. | ATS as Home Favorite | | | | 5-3 | 5- | -3 | 3-4 | ٨٥ | cw | The second | | | | | | - | | • | | | TE | Rk | 18 |
| ATS as a Home Dog | | | | 0-0 | | -0 | 1-0 | Ar | CVV | (16) | , | | | | | | | | | | Olin | e Rk | 21 | |
| Straight Up Away | | | | 6-2 | | -2 | 1-7 | | | | | | | | | 1 | ₹ | | | | | | | |
| ATS Away | | | | 5-3 | | -3 | 2-6 | | | w | | | | | NFCE | GF . | | | | Dline Rk | | 5 | | |
| Over/Under Away | | | | 5-2 | | -5 | 4-4 | NF | CE | | | | | | | | | | | LB Rk | | 19 | | |
| ATS Away Pag | | | | 3-2 2-1 | 3. | -2 | 1-1 1-5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DB Rk | | 5 | |
| ATS Away Dog Six Point Teaser Record | | | | | 13-3 | | - I 1-5 | 1-5 9-6 | | | A | | | | | | | 3) | | | l. | | | |
| Seven Point Teaser Record | | | | 13-3 | | 1-5 | 11-4 | T T NE | | NFCS | | | | INI | NFCW | | | | | *Based on the work | | vork of | | |
| Ten Point Teaser Record | | | | 14-2 | | 3-3 | 13-3 | | • | | | | | | | | | | | Football Outsiders | | iders | | |
| 2021 Weekly Betting Lines | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Home Lines | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 2 3 4 5 | | | | | | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 12 | — 14 | 16 | 17 |
| | | _ | | | 6 | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | <i>'</i> | | | 14 | | |
| NO | DET | SF | PIT | CIN | CHI | WAS | ARI | KC | SEA | MIN | LAR | CHI | BAL | CLE | MIN | DET | | -2.5 | -4 | -3 | LAR | -5.5 | CL/Fvc | = _{N7} 3,1 |
| +3.0 | -7.5 | +5.0 | -2.5 | -3.0 | -2.5 | -4.0 | +3.0 | +7.0 | -3.0 | +3.0 | +1.0 | -5.5 | +5.5 | +0.0 | -3.0 | 0.5 | -7.5 | PļŢ | WAS | SEA | | -G.6 CHI | | -1/1/5/4 1 |
| _ | | . 0.0 | | -0.0 | 2.0 | | | | | | | -0.0 | ±0.5 | +0.0 | -3.0 | -3.5 | | | | | | | | |
| | | . 0.0 | | -0.0 | 2.0 | | | | | - | | -0.0 | +5.5 | +0.0 | -3.0 | -3.5 | DET | | , | | | | | |
| | | | 2.0 | -0.0 | 2.0 | | | | | | | -0.0 | ₹5.5 | +0.0 | -3.0 | -3.5 | | | , | | | | | |
| A | | (E) | 2.0 | -0.0 | 2.0 | | | _ | | <i>b</i> | | -0.0 | 75.5 | +0.0 | -3.0 | -3.5 | | | | | | | | |
| Avg = | | | 2.0 | -0.0 | 2.0 | | A | _ | | A | | | 75.5 A | +0.0 | | -3.5 = -0.4 | | | | Road | Line | | | |
| Avg = | | (F) | | | | Н. | A | _ | H | A | | Н | The second | +0.0 | | | | 3 | | | | | 15 | 18 |
| Avg = | -0.4 H | (F) | | 168 | | | A | _ | H | A | | | The second | +0.0 | | | DET | 3 | , | | 8 | 9 11 | 15 | 18 |
| AVg = | -0.4 | (F) | | | | | A | _ | | A | | | The second | +0.0 | | | DET | 5 | , | 6 | 8 | 9 11 | | |
| Avg = | -0.4 H | (F) | | | | Į. | A | _ | | A | | | The second | +0.0 | | | 1 3 | | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 11 | 5 Av | = 1.9 |
| Avg = | -0.4 H | (F) | | | | 44.5 | A A | _ | | 47 | | | The second | 42 | | | DET | 5 SF | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 11 | 5 Av | |





elements are big factors in the overall outcomes of games.

So first, you had zero value in fading the Packers in 2020. While you had a number of markers that should regress to the mean against the Packers (turnover margin, one-score results, etc) you should have a number of passing game factors which would go in their favor.

But with a nearly identical roster in 2020, against a projected tougher schedule, I absolutely did not think the Packers would deliver a 13-3 season.

Let's examine two of the things that I identified that regressed in 2020 and I expected to rebound.

First, Rodgers on first down.

Rodgers bounded back huge on first down in 2020, which made everything for the Packers offense go so much smoother.

2019: 0.12 EPA/att, 6.3 YPA, 50% success 2020: 0.21 EPA/att, 7.5 YPA, 63% success

What did LaFleur and Rodgers do to improve so much on first down?

Much of it hinged on a more aggressive game from shotgun. First, examine the shotgun splits for Rodgers on first down, by year:

2019 shotgun first down attempts: 0.05 EPA/att, 5.2 YPA, 48% success (163 att) 2020 shotgun first down attempts: 0.22 EPA/att, 7.8 YPA, 63% success (166 att)

Rodgers was much better in the gun. Specifically, look at his splits when throwing over 10 yards downfield:

2019: -0.45 EPA/att, 3.1 YPA, 13% success (39 att) 2020: 0.29 EPA/att, 13.9 YPA, 41% success (44 att)

Rodgers simply was not connecting on these passes to **Davante Adams** or **Marquez Valdes-Scantling** in 2019. And they were dominant in 2020. Look at this comparison:

Rodgers threw three touchdowns to Adams/MVS on shotgun first downs in 2020. On shotgun first downs in 2019, Rodgers threw one on-target ball to both of them combined.

Then, there were the RPOs. Our Dan Pizzuta studied these in 2019 and found the anomaly in their lack of success, despite LaFleur ramping up the usage of it in his first season as Packers coach.

But they absolutely perfected their use in the offseason after LaFleur and Rodgers made adjustments, because look at the splits from 2019 to 2020:

2019: -0.03 EPA/att, 4.1 YPA, 45% success (49 att) 2020: 0.13 EPA/att, 6.0 YPA, 61% success (61 att)

No quarterback attempted more RPOs in 2020 than Rodgers. Andy Reid and Patrick Mahomes still got the most efficiency out of it, but the improvement shown by the Packers offense from 2019 was considerable.

What was the impact of the significant improvement on first down?

First, it was bypassing third downs.

In 2019, the Packers gained only 320 first downs but attempted 203 third downs. In 2020, the Packers gained 358 first downs and attempted only 180 third downs. That's a significant shift.

Second, it was facing more makeable third downs.

(cont'd - see GB-4)

| <u>S</u> | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | | 202 | 1 games where | e | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponent has less than a week to prep | Difference | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a rest advantage | Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team plays off road SNF or MNF | Team's bye week is negated | | | |
| 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | | |

| Strength of Scheduled Game | Timing: Green Ba | <u>ay Packers Rankin</u> | g vs NFL Average |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|

| Net Rest Edge Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Short Week Road Games Rank | Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 25 | 17 | 19 | 26 | 11 | 1 |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

10.5

Why Bet the Over

- The big elephant in the room is Rodgers's unhappiness in Green Bay. If **Jordan Love** becomes the starting QB this season, the Packers could be in for a world of hurt.
- The Packers defense only ranked 27th in pressure rate but were able to convert 32% of those pressures into sacks, the second highest rate in the NFL. It will be hard for this defense to continue to pressure at such a low rate but be able to convert those into sacks at such a high rate. This was the second straight season that the Packers ranked above 20th in pressures.
- The Packers offensive line was graded as the top ranked line in the NFL, according to PFF. They will be hard pressed to repeat this feat as they lost PFF's top graded center **Corey Linsley** in free agency and let starting RT **Rick Wagner** walk as well, PFF's 25th ranked overall tackle. Replacing Linsley will be **Elgton Jenkins**, who started only five games at center last season, and produced three of his eight lowest grades of

the season in those starts.



- Green Bay produced elite offensive numbers last year, ranking first in EPA per play, red zone touchdown percentage and DVOA offense. Assuming Aaron Rodgers is on the roster, the Packers will continue to produce excellent offensive numbers and win lots of games.
- The Packers had an excellent season last year but lost in the NFC Championship game mainly because of multiple breakdowns in the secondary from **Kevin King**. Opposite PFF's top ranked coverage cornerback **Jaire Alexander**, King ranked 95th among NFL CBs in coverage grade. Green Bay could see an improvement in the secondary with the drafting of round one CB **Eric Stokes** from Georgia.
- Head coach Matt Lafleur has proven himself to be an aggressive coach when it comes to fourth down conversions, absent the NFC title game. Green Bay ranked first in fourth down aggressiveness last season according to rbsdm.com and that positive EV strategy should help continue to pay off in terms of wins.

| Green Bay Packers Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|----|----|---|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 20 | 7 | 10 | | | | | |

Despite the offseason drama with **Aaron Rodgers**, we ranked Green Bay's quarterback room based on the assumption he's there. As a result, the unit ranked in the top four on every ballot.

Though the team has arguably over-invested in the position, it's led to a strong running back room. **Aaron Jones** is a rare ball carrier who excels even versus a stacked box. Over the last two seasons, Jones averaged 5.1 yards per attempt versus 8+ men in the box, which has accounted for 49% of his carries.

The receiving corps generated mixed reviews on ballots (ranks between 11 and 21), likely because it's difficult to account for both the elite number-one weapon (**Davante Adams**) and the poor depth. On targets 10+ yards downfield, non-Adams receivers had a pathetic 48.5% catch rate and 16.1% drop rate.

The Packers offensive line lands in our top 10, but only actually received one top-10 vote (second overall). Though the line has been strong in recent years, the loss of center **Corey Linsley** leaves a major question mark in the middle.

When opponents took a 3+ step dropback, Green Bay generated a pressure rate of just 39.8%, ranked 27th. With the front seven remaining largely unchanged, their inability to get pressure likely remains an issue holding back this defense.

The secondary was easily Green Bay's best unit on defense in 2020, but cornerback **Kevin King_**was often a weak link—as evidenced by his playoff performance versus Tampa Bay. Perhaps first-round pick **Eric Stokes** will be the upgrade the unit needs to elevate to a truly elite level.

Matt LaFleur cracks the top 10 in our coach rankings, though he's a difficult evaluation. Separating his influence on the offense from Aaron Rodgers' production is nearly impossible.

<u>GB-4</u>

In 2019, the Packers faced an average of 7.9 yards-to-go on third down. That was third-highest in the NFL. In 2020, the Packers faced an average of 6.5 yards-to-go on third down. That was seventh-lowest in the NFL.

Fewer yards to go on third down allowed for a higher conversion rate. The Packers led the NFL in third down conversion rate if you include the playoffs, converting 51% of third downs into first downs.

In 2019? With considerably longer to go on average, the Packers ranked 19th, converting only 37.6% of third downs into first downs.

So when you ask "what is the big deal with being better on first downs?" you have your answer. By improving on first downs, the Packers:

- Avoided third downs more often
- When they did infrequently face third downs, the yards-to-go was much shorter
- Their third down conversion rate was much better as a result

The shift in all three of those metrics were the best improvements of any team in the NFL last year. And at the center, was the Packers' improved first down passing.

<u>GB-5</u>

When we talk specifically about third downs, Rodgers was dynamite deep in 2020, and this unfortunately is more likely to regress.

How good was he in 2020?

Rodgers was the best of any quarterback in the NFL over the last five years. Remember how insane **Carson Wentz** was in 2017 when he led the Eagles to their Super Bowl? That was the fourth-best mark of any quarterback over the last five years.

No. 3 was Mahomes in 2020. No. 2 was Rodgers back in 2016. No. 1 was Rodgers in 2020.

He was absolutely operating with laser-like precision. 80% of his throws were catchable, the highest rate of any quarterback over the last five years with at least 25 of these 20+ yard third down attempts.

Just compare year-over-year for Rodgers on third down throws 20+ air yards:

2019: +0.22 EPA/att, 9.3 YPA, 30% success, 61% catchable rate 2020: 1.23 EPA/att, 19.8 YPA, 50% success, 80% catchable rate

He was operating last year on another planet when trying to go deep on third downs. While first down and early down efficiency is less likely to regress, this type of third down performance is likely to.

Speaking of regression, what ended up happening with the 2020 Packers in all of the low-hanging fruit metrics that everyone who faded them latched onto?

Their record in one-score games dropped from 8-1 in 2019 to 4-2 in 2020. Their record in games decided by a field goal dropped from 2-0 in 2019 to 0-1 in 2020. Turnover margin dropped from +12 in 2019 to +7 in 2020. Injury rate dropped from 14th best in 2019 to 15th best in 2020. Their defensive schedule of opposing quarterbacks stayed at 14th, identical to 2019.

(cont'd - see GB-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



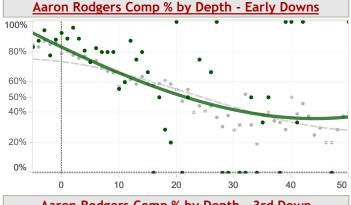
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

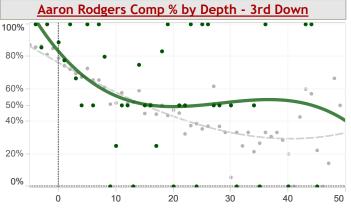


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 9 | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | Aaron Jones | 2% | 2% | 65% | 17% | 14% | | | | | | |
| | Jamaal Williams | 5% | 1% | 59% | 9% | 26% | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Marquez Valdes-Sca | | | 50% | | 50% | | | | | | |
| R | A.J. Dillon | 9% | 4% | 36% | 16% | 35% | | | | | | |
| | Allen Lazard | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 4% | 2% | 59% | 14% | 21% | | | | | | |
| | Aaron Jones | 2% | 8% | 64% | 21% | 6% | | | | | | |
| | Jamaal Williams | 5% | 5% | 62% | 14% | 14% | | | | | | |
| | Davante Adams | 8% | 2% | 63% | 10% | 16% | | | | | | |
| PASS | Marquez Valdes-Sca | 5% | 1% | 64% | 16% | 13% | | | | | | |
| A | Robert Tonyan Jr. | 11% | 2% | 64% | 13% | 11% | | | | | | |
| | A.J. Dillon | | 33% | 33% | | 33% | | | | | | |
| | Allen Lazard | 2% | 2% | 69% | 17% | 11% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 6% | 3% | 64% | 14% | 13% | | | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Jamaal Williams Davante Adams Robert Tonyan Jones Lazard Dillon des-Scan 늗. Aaron RUSH 53% 33% **PASS** 35% ALL





Successful Play Rate

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 52%, 0.21 (397) | 68%, 0.30 (126) | 53%, 0.18 (86) | 43%, -0.31 (7) | 64%, 0.69 (11) | 100%, 1.67 (1) | 100%, 1.49 (1) | 100%, 0.82 (1) | 0%, -0.43 (1) | 56%, 0.23 (632) |
| RUSH | 60%, 0.19 (220) | 55%, 0.02 (148) | 51%, -0.06 (71) | 29%, -0.45 (34) | 22%, -0.06 (9) | 0%, -0.71 (2) | | | | 54%, 0.05 (488) |
| All | 54%, 0.20 (617) | 61%, 0.15 (274) | 52%, 0.07 (157) | 32%, -0.42 (41) | 45%, 0.35 (20) | 33%, 0.08 (3) | 100%, 1.49 (1) | 100%, 0.82 (1) | 0%, -0.43 (1) | 55%, 0.15 (1,120) |

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 | 36% (39) 4.3, -0.17 | 69% (13) 7.9, 0.35 | 59% (17) 5.8, 0.13 | | 48% (69) 5.3, 0.00 | | | | | | |
| | Jamaal Williams | 52% (23) 6.6, 0.29 | 100% (3) 10.0, 0.60 | 33% (9) 4.3, -0.28 | | 51% (35) 6.3, 0.17 | | | | | | |
| TE | Robert Tonyan | 71% (35) 8.6, 0.66 | 90% (21) 9.9, 0.83 | 50% (4) 12.3, 0.19 | | 77% (60) 9.3, 0.68 | | | | | | |
| WR | Davante Adams | 62% (119) 8.6, 0.41 | 71% (38) 7.9, 0.29 | 79% (14) 9.4, 0.25 | | 65% (171) 8.5, 0.37 | | | | | | |
| | Marquez Valdes-Sc | 52% (50) 12.4, 0.55 | 50% (16) 5.6, -0.24 | 50% (8) 14.8, 0.66 | 100% (1) 8.0, 1.67 | 52% (75) 11.2, 0.41 | | | | | | |
| | Allen Lazard | 63% (43) 9.3, 0.51 | 67% (6) 14.0, 0.80 | 89% (9) 13.7, 1.51 | | 67% (58) 10.5, 0.69 | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | | • | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| Jones | 55% (101) | 62% (84) | 45% (22) | 0% (1) | 57% (208) |
| Aaron | 5.3, 0.12 | 6.8, 0.17 | 3.7, -0.11 | 0.0, -0.56 | 5.7, 0.11 |
| Williams | 61% (64) | 49% (37) | 54% (28) | 50% (2) | 56% (131) |
| Jamaal | 4.5, 0.09 | 3.6, -0.08 | 4.5, -0.02 | 10.5, 0.46 | 4.4, 0.02 |
| Dillon A.J. | 67% (21) | 40% (15) | 46% (13) | 50% (2) | 53% (51) |
| | 7.6, 0.47 | 3.2, -0.17 | 3.7, -0.13 | 6.5, 0.99 | 5.3, 0.15 |
| Rodgers | 74% (23) | 33% (3) | 100% (2) | | 71% (28) |
| Aaron | 5.8, 0.63 | 1.7, -1.78 | 4.5, 0.06 | | 5.3, 0.33 |

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

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

| Pass | | | Passing by | | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run Types | |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 65% (410) 6.6, 0.27 | 3 Step | 57% (196) 8.8, 0.35 | Planted | | % (351) 6, 0.47 | Inside Zone | 62% (137) 5.9, 0.18 |
| | 2007 (200) | Out | 70% (46) 5.7, 0.28 | | | 5 Step | 56% (122) | Shuffling | | % (166) 1, 0.13 | Outside | 51% (110) |
| Zone | 63% (280) 9.3, 0.44 | Curl | 58% (36) | Level 2 | 57% (94) 13.0, 0.72 | Союр | 9.1, 0.42 | Moving | | 0% (88) 1, 0.12 | Zone | 4.8, -0.03 |
| | | | 7.7, 0.48 | | 37% (51) | 0/1 Step | 0/1 Step 59% (71) 7.0, 0.23 | | Play Action | | | 63% (54) 4.8, 0.05 |
| M2M | 60% (185) | Drag | 79% (29) 9.5, 0.53 | Level 3 | 16.5, 0.67 | 7 Step | 64% (39) | | Play Action | No P/A | Stretch | 47% (38) |
| | 8.6, 0.42 | | 59% (27) | Sidearm | 73% (11) | • | 13.1, 0.71 | Under Center | 65% (109) 8.2, 0.34 | 55% (44) 8.0, 0.33 | | 3.9, -0.09 |
| | | Slant | 6.3, -0.30 | Oldcariii | 9.8, 0.46 | Designed Rollout Right | 68% (34) 6.6, 0.40 | Shotgun | 71% (87) | 49% (394) | Power | 50% (18) 4.8, 0.03 |
| Screen | 59% (78) 5.9, 0.07 | Dig | 79% (19) 12.5, 1.11 | Shovel | 56% (9) 6.7, 0.09 | Basic Screen | 50% (16) 7.6, 0.09 | ALL | 8.5, 0.44 68% (196) 8.3, 0.39 | 8.0, 0.14 50% (438) 8.0, 0.16 | Lead | 30% (10) 3.3, -0.05 |

<u>GB-6</u>

So while most of these metrics did regress some, the net effect of the efficiency boosts coupled with the overall stellar season from Rodgers kept this team at 13 wins.

It was also aided by a ridiculously easy schedule of opposing defenses — particularly against the pass.

Last year, the Packers faced the seventh easiest schedule of opposing pass defense. They faced seven teams that ranked bottom-10 in pass defense and swept those teams. Of the eight teams they faced that ranked top-half in pass defense, they lost three (their only losses of the season).

This year, the story will be different. The Packers will play 12 games against pass defenses that ranked in the top-half of the league last season, including eight that ranked top-10. They only play four games against teams that ranked bottom-10 last year. Time will tell how these pass defenses look this year, but on the surface, the schedule looks daunting.

Out are the weaker NFC South defenses like the Falcons and Panthers, and all of the soft AFC South defenses (save for the Colts, who beat the Packers last year). In are the stingy AFC North defenses, the NFC West defenses, plus top-10 defenses of Washington and New Orleans.

How do you improve on an offense that neared perfection last year? (You've noticed I haven't discussed the elephant in the room, but I promise I will later.) You build off of what worked so well last year. Two things that were incredibly productive were efficiency on first down passing and passing out of heavier sets, specifically, 12 personnel.

We know how incredible the Packers were when passing the ball on first downs last year. They could lean into that even more. The Packers were 52% pass on first down in the game's first three quarters last year. That was consistent with 2019, LaFleur's first year. While the first down run game has been productive in both seasons, the Packers could lean a little more into the pass. Their 52% pass rate tied with the Cowboys and Falcons for seventh highest in the NFL. The three teams directly above them were the Eagles, Dolphins, and Washington.

When you lay out those quarterbacks from last year, it's fair to think the Packers should be looking to increase their pass rate.





When Aaron Rodgers's pass rate is identical or less frequent than Tua Tagovailola, Alex Smith, Andy Dalton, Carson Wentz and Matt Ryan, it may be possible to squeeze more juice from that stellar pass efficiency.

Additionally, the Packers saw tremendous efficiency out of 12 personnel when passing the ball. They upped the usage of 12 when calling pass plays, from 14% in 2019 to 20% in 2020. And why not? It's not as if the Packers have a stacked wide receiving corps behind Davante Adams. We'll touch on the injuries momentarily, but even when healthy, I think the Packers would be an awesome 12 personnel pass team if they leaned into it more.

Look at the 2020 splits by personnel for the only three groupings they really used to pass from:

11 personnel: 0.21 EPA/att, 8.1 YPA, 52% success (397 att) 12 personnel: 0.30 EPA/att, 8.0 YPA, 68% success (126 att) 21 personnel: 0.18 EPA/att, 7.8 YPA, 53% success (86 att)

With the emergence of **Robert Tonyan** and the lack of wide receiver depth, passing out of 12 has benefits other than just the efficiency witnessed in 2020. Rodgers was pressured and sacked much less frequently when the Packers passed out of 12.

Even if you strip out third downs, when the Packers are more likely to use 11 personnel, look at early down pressure rate:

11 personnel: 27% pressure, 11 sacks (4.5% sack rate) 12 personnel: 23% pressure, 1 sack (0.8% sack rate)

And the splits on early downs from 12 are even larger than all three downs:

11 personnel early downs: 0.13 EPA/att, 7.0 YPA, 54% success 12 personnel early downs: 0.34 EPA/att, 8.1 YPA, 69% success

LaFleur could lean into more first down passing and more 12 personnel and see if that further raises the ceiling of this 2021 Packers offense.

In terms of the Packers' wide receiver depth, what makes things even more remarkable for Rodgers in his 2020 season was the fact that, no, the Packers haven't really focused on enhancing his receiver depth and yes, this receiving corps is always one of the most injured in the NFL.

It's not enough that the Packers haven't brought on talent at the wide receiver position... what they have at the position hasn't been healthy. The last three seasons in games lost to injury, the Packers receivers ranked:

2020: 29th 2019: 26th 2018: 26th

(cont'd - see GB-8)

Immediate Impact of Green Bay Packers 2021 Draft Class

Buccaneers WR Scotty Miller burning CB **Kevin King** down the field at the end of the first half of the NFC Championship game was probably the last straw that convinced Green Bay an upgrade was needed at cornerback.

Though King was re-signed, his one-year contract doesn't indicate much support and CB **Eric Stokes** (first round) will likely be given every opportunity to win the starting job opposite **Jaire Alexander**.

Stokes's speed and ability to locate the ball made him a strong downfield defender at Georgia. Over the last two seasons, when in coverage 10 or more yards downfield, Stokes's Ball Hawk Rate (percentage of targets on which the DB makes a play on the ball) matched his completion rate allowed (31.8%).

Meanwhile in Green Bay, King allowed a completion rate of 57.9% in coverage 10+ yards downfield, with an astonishing 0.0% Ball Hawk Rate in 2020.

C **Josh Myers** (second round) is likely to replace **Corey Linsley** at center, though he's also being given work at guard this offseason to give Green Bay some flexibility in figuring out their revamped offensive line.

Myers may be joined on the offensive line by OG **Royce Newman** (fourth round), who is expected to be given an opportunity to compete for a starting job at right guard. Newman has experience at both guard and tackle (10 career starts at RT, 12 starts at OG), so he'll provide valuable depth at both positions if he doesn't win a starting role.

OL Cole Van Lanen (sixth round), who played left tackle at Wisconsin, may also factor into the offensive line competitions. However, he's more likely to provide depth at multiple positions along the line.

WR Amari Rodgers (third round) is also likely to see the field immediately, likely playing a role in the slot similar to Randall Cobb when he was a favorite target of Aaron Rodgers.

In 2020 at Clemson, 33% of Rodgers's targets came on screens and jet-sweeps. During Cobb's final season in Green Bay, he saw 28% of his targets on screens and jet-sweeps.

So while Rodgers enters the league with an underdeveloped route tree, that may not be an issue given what Green Bay likely expects from him.

Green Bay landed a solid haul in this class, with as many as four players potentially playing significant roles as rookies. However, one of the goals of this class should have been upgrading the weapons around Aaron Rodgers, and an undersized slot receiver with mediocre speed wasn't enough.

So while this class was not a failure by any means, it also didn't do anything to quell Rodgers's understandable frustrations with the organization.

Green Bay Packers 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

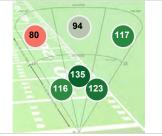
Green Bay was second in the NFL in passing EPA and first in the NFL in success rate through the air at 55%. After questioning a potential decline over the previous three seasons and the Packers drafting his potential replacement in the first round this past season, Aaron Rodgers roared back as the league's MVP, setting career-highs in completion rate (70.7%), touchdown passes (48). and touchdown rate (9.1%). Rodgers turns 38 years old this December and has been at odds with the organization the entire offseason, but is still under contract and on the roster. As of now, we are handling things as if Rodgers and the Packers eventually come together for the 2021 season. If not, last year's first-round pick Jordan Love was the first quarterback selected in the first round to not start a single game as a rookie since Jake Locker in 2011.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Aaron Rodgers | 427 | 609 | 70% | 4,934 | 8.1 | 53 | 6 | 25 | 119 | 1 | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 2020 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 | 55% | 58% | 67 | 11.0% | 30 | 5.0% | 5.4 | 6.1 | 36 | 6% | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Aaron Rodgers 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% | 2.0% | 0.0% | 1.0% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.0% | 0.0% | 0.7% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 7.1% | 0.0% | 0.7% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 7.7% | 6.7% | 0.0% | | 5.1% | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.4% | 0.5% | 2.5% | 0.0% | 0.9% | | | | | | |

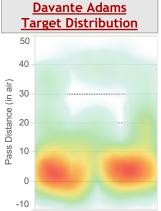
| <u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u> | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | |
| Aaron Rodgers | 8.5 | 5.4 | -3.1 | 75% | 22 | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | |

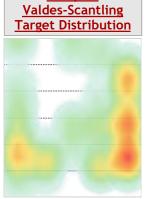
| | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|----------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ₹k | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | |
| | 47% | 53% | 36 | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Packers' receiving corps is still anchored by Davante Adams, who has developed into arguably the league's top receiver. Doing nearly all of the lifting in 2020, Adams accounted for 51.2% of all the targets allocated to the Green Bay wide receivers, which was the highest rate in the league for a wideout compared to his fellow wide receiver room. Adams racked up 30.9% of the team receptions (second) and another 31.9% of the team receiving yardage (fourth) despite essentially missing three games during the season. The team only added slot receiver **Amari** Rodgers in the third round at receiver, leaving a lot of lifting still left for Adams. Robert Tonyan broke out with 52 catches for 586 yards and 11 touchdowns, which matched Travis Kelce.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------|-----|
| Davante Adams | 164 | 77% | 8.9 | 135.3 | 67% | 3 | 4 | 45 | 73 | 20 |
| Marquez Valdes-Sca | 76 | 54% | 11.0 | 112.8 | 51% | 82 | 97 | 1 | 127 | 7 |
| Aaron Jones | 66 | 73% | 5.4 | 95.2 | 47% | 112 | 106 | 101 | 16 | 2 |
| Robert Tonyan Jr. | 64 | 89% | 10.2 | 148.6 | 75% | 1 | 1 | 53 | 66 | 11 |
| Allen Lazard | 54 | 65% | 10.2 | 115.7 | 65% | 10 | 51 | 14 | 83 | 4 |





Marquez

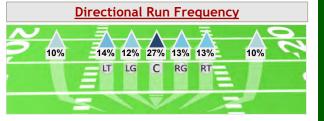
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Efficient in all offensive departments, Green Bay closed 2020 sixth in rushing EPA and first in rushing success rate (56%). Aaron Jones has averaged 5.2, 5.9, 5.5, and 5.9 yards per touch over his first four seasons in the league. 2020 second-round pick A.J. Dillon managed just 48 touches as a rookie (and just two receptions), but averaged 5.3 yards per carry on his limited work. With Jamaal Williams leaving via free agency, his role will be elevated in Year 2. The Packers were one of the strongest offensive line units in the league based on performance in 2020, ranking first in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate (74%), but did lose Corey Linsley via free agency while All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari tore his ACL on December 30 last season and it is currently unknown when he will be ready to return to the field.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Aaron Jones | 221 | 5.6 | 59% | 7 | 11 | 69 | 5 | 60% | 2 | 10 |
| Jamaal Williams | 138 | 4.3 | 59% | 5 | 5 | 20 | 64 | 57% | 10 | 2 |
| A.J. Dillon | 55 | 5.2 | 56% | 15 | 27 | 25 | 44 | 51% | 41 | 2 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Rodgers or Not, There Will Be Regression in Green Bay

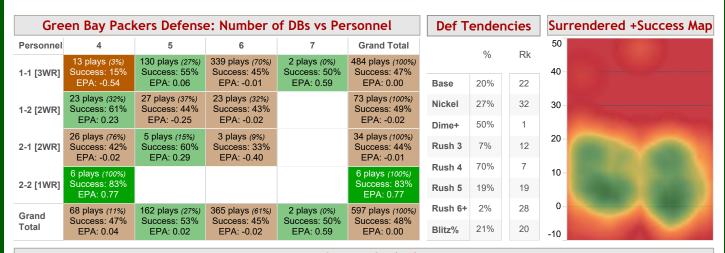
There would certainly be a major downgrade for this offense should the schism between **Aaron Rodgers** and the organization remain at a standstill late in the summer, but even if Rodgers is back on board the Packers will have a hard time operating at the elite efficiency they did a year ago. The Packers scored on 53.7% of their drives, the seventh-highest rate for an NFL team since 2000. They also scored a touchdown on 43.0% of those drives, which trails only the 2007 Patriots (43.7%) over the same span while there has been just one other team (the 2019 Chiefs) to score a touchdown on at least 40% of their offensive possessions. Those other two teams scored 26 and 20 fewer offensive touchdowns the following season while shedding 9.1% and 9.5% on their rate of scoring drives in total.

Rodgers himself will be a mark to have some recoil if he is back. After questioning a potential decline over the previous three seasons and the Packers drafting his potential replacement in the first round this past season, Rodgers set career-highs in completion rate (70.7%), touchdown passes (48), and touchdown rate (9.1%). Even for Rodgers, we should anticipate those rate stats coming down while his rushing yardage per game has dropped from the season prior in four straight seasons.

Another easy mark is tight end **Robert Tonyan**. Tonyan broke out with 52 catches for 586 yards and 11 touchdowns, which matched Travis Kelce for the league lead. Hyper-efficient tied to the league's MVP, just seven of the 59 targets Tonyan received were incomplete as that 88.1% catch rate was the highest ever for a tight end with more than 50 targets in a season. Not to be outdone on just pulling in targets, Tonyan's 18.6% rate of receptions resulting in touchdowns trails only Julius Thomas in 2014 (19.4%) among tight ends who have caught 20 or more passes in a season. Averaging just 3.3 receptions per game (16th) and 36.6 yards per game (15th), Tonyan is a sound bet for regression in 2021.

Aaron Jones Freed For More Passing Work

Jones has averaged 5.2, 5.9, 5.5, and 5.9 yards per touch over his first four seasons in the league while he's still yet to get a workload like some of the previous backs. Jones has been 10th and fifth in yards from scrimmage per game among backs the past two seasons despite being 14th and 12th in touches per game. A way he can run into more touches like his ADP peers is through the loss of **Jamaal Williams** in free agency. Williams was still running a pass route on 35% of the Green Bay dropbacks in 2020. In three games without Williams active a year ago, Jones ran a pass route on 62% of the team dropbacks compared to 50% in the other weeks sharing two-minute situations and passing work. As long as Jones still holds the goal line work over **A.J. Dillon**, he should flirt with 300 touches for the first time in his career.



Defensive Outlook

In the past, the Packers have asked a lot of the interior defensive line. With all else focused on stopping the pass, the interior needed to hold the gaps to defend the run. Green Bay finished 24th in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate. **Kenny Clark** signed an extension through 2025 before last season and remained one of the league's best defensive tackles. **Dean Lowry** is signed for the next two seasons and was on the field for 58% of the team's defensive snaps. Behind them, **Tyler Lancaster** and **Kingsley Keke** rotated in between 30-40% of the snaps.

The Packers had an interesting split between how often they got pressure on the quarterback and how often they took the opposing quarterback down. Green Bay ranked 27th in pressure rate but ranked sixth in sack rate. After a 2019 season when the Packers ranked eighth in pressure rate, the dominance off the edge wasn't the same.

Green Bay also relied on a four-man rush at one of the highest rates in the league, 70%, which tied for the eighth-highest mark.

Some development from **Rashan Gary** was a plus and he led this group in pressure rate, but that ranked just 46th among edge rushers, according to Sports Info Solutions. **Za'Darius Smith** ranked 52nd a year after he was third in pressure rate. **Preston Smith** bounced between dropping into coverage significantly more than he did in 2019 and not rushing the passer as well as he did in his first season with the Packers.

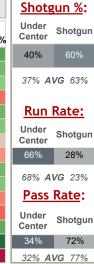
Mike Pettine didn't really care about off-ball linebacker and a free agent shot at **Christian Kirksey** didn't work out for more than a season. New defensive coordinator Joe Barry has a long history in the NFL coaching linebackers, but just came from a successful defense with the Rams, who also put more emphasis on defensive backs over linebackers. **Krys Barnes** played about as well as you could expect an undrafted rookie to play and **Oren Burks** remains a player with athletic upside. This is clearly the weakest position on the defense, but to this point, that has been by design.

Jaire Alexander has developed into one of the league's best cornerbacks. He ranked 24th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap in 2020 with the lowest completion percentage allowed (40%) among 148 cornerbacks with at least 100 coverage snaps on the season. Chandon Sullivan has also become one of the league's more underrated slot corners, ranked 34th in AYA/CS. Production dips after those two. Josh Jackson ranked 77th and Kevin King ranked 81st. Those were slightly below average ranks, but as was the case with King, the lows were quite low.

First-round pick **Eric Stokes** is likely primed to be an outside starter after leading the draft class in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. No team used six or more defensive backs on the field more than the Packers' 50% of defensive snaps last season. Joe Barry just came from a Rams team that used Dime+ personnel on 25% of defensive snaps, which still ranked eighth in the league. **Adrian Amos** and **Darnell Savage** have combined to be one of the league's best safety duos. Both Amos and Savage have moved around the defense by playing deep, in the box, and in the slot. Amos played 98% of the defensive snaps in 2020 and Savage behind at 85%.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 58% |
| All Pass Rk | 18 |
| All Rush % | 42% |
| All Rush Rk | 15 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 58% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 14 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 60% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 13 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -2% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 20 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 42% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 19 |
| Up Pass % | 56% |
| Up Pass Rk | 14 |
| Up Rush % | 44% |
| Up Rush Rk | 19 |
| Down Pass % | 62% |
| Down Pass Rk | 13 |
| Down Rush % | 38% |
| Down Rush Rk | 20 |

| <u>202</u> | 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 12 | 42% | 58% | 75% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 15 | 53% | 47% | 67% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 344 | 51% | 49% | 59% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 14 | 71% | 29% | 29% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 51 | 37% | 63% | 69% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 112 | 46% | 54% | 62% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 102 | 68% | 32% | 48% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 27 | 89% | 11% | 37% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 61 | 66% | 34% | 67% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 48 | 83% | 17% | 63% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 27 | 100% | 0% | 33% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 19 | 84% | 16% | 26% | | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 15 | 60% | 40% | 73% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |





Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | |
| 65% | 21 | 67% | 75% | 75% | | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | |
| 35% | 12 | 33% | 77% | 59% | | | | |

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Aaron Jones | 4 | 100% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Aaron Jones | 5 | 40% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Aaron Jones | 84 | 60% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Marquez Valdes-Sca | 3 | 33% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Aaron Jones | 20 | 65% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Aaron Jones | 33 | 55% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Davante Adams | 17 | 71% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Aaron Jones | 6 | 33% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | Davante Adams | 14 | 64% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Davante Adams | 11 | 73% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Davante Adams | 7 | 43% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Aaron Jones | 3 | 0% |
| | | RUSH | Aaron Rodgers | 3 | 33% |

| _ | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 47% | Success: 70% | Success: 51% |
| | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.21 | YPA: 9.8, EPA: 0.43 | YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.25 |
| | Rtg: 104.5 | Rtg: 139.7 | Rtg: 112.3 |
| | [Att: 256 - Rate: 40.4%] | [Att: 54 - Rate: 8.5%] | [Att: 310 - Rate: 48.9%] |
| Yes | Success: 54% | Success: 67% | Success: 60% |
| | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.09 | YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.37 | YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.21 |
| | Rtg: 110.2 | Rtg: 137.7 | Rtg: 127.2 |
| | [Att: 182 - Rate: 28.7%] | [Att: 142 - Rate: 22.4%] | [Att: 324 - Rate: 51.1%] |
| Total | Success: 50% | Success: 68% | Success: 56% |
| | YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.16 | YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.39 | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.23 |
| | Rtg: 106.8 | Rtg: 140.9 | Rtg: 119.9 |
| | [Att: 438 - Rate: 69.1%] | [Att: 196 - Rate: 30.9%] | [Att: 634 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Marquez Valdes-S | Davante Adams | Robert Tonyan Jr. | Aaron Jones | Allen Lazard | Jamaal Williams | Equanime ous St. B | Tyler Ervin | Tavon Austin |
| 1 | MIN | W 43-34 | 42 (54%) | 70 (90%) | 48 (62%) | 42 (54%) | 68 (87%) | 31 (40%) | | 14 (18%) | |
| 2 | DET | W 42-21 | 46 (63%) | 38 (52%) | 44 (60%) | 35 (48%) | 61 (84%) | 31 (42%) | | 28 (38%) | |
| 3 | NO | W 37-30 | 57 (92%) | | 39 (63%) | 44 (71%) | 59 (95%) | 19 (31%) | | 23 (37%) | |
| 4 | ATL | W 30-16 | 61 (97%) | | 42 (67%) | 33 (52%) | | 36 (57%) | | 23 (37%) | |
| 6 | TB | L 38-10 | 53 (84%) | 52 (83%) | 37 (59%) | 36 (57%) | | 32 (51%) | 11 (17%) | | |
| 7 | HOU | W 35-20 | 51 (82%) | 57 (92%) | 31 (50%) | | | 55 (89%) | 3 (5%) | | |
| 8 | MIN | L 28-22 | 62 (83%) | 71 (95%) | 46 (61%) | | | 64 (85%) | 22 (29%) | 20 (27%) | |
| 9 | SF | W 34-17 | 59 (89%) | 50 (76%) | 41 (62%) | 40 (61%) | | | 4 (6%) | 22 (33%) | |
| 10 | JAC | W 24-20 | 60 (92%) | 53 (82%) | 40 (62%) | 41 (63%) | | 31 (48%) | 31 (48%) | 8 (12%) | |
| 11 | IND | L 34-31 | 51 (85%) | 57 (95%) | 44 (73%) | 30 (50%) | 36 (60%) | 30 (50%) | 15 (25%) | | |
| 12 | CHI | W 41-25 | 56 (79%) | 63 (89%) | 41 (58%) | 38 (54%) | 33 (46%) | 33 (46%) | 38 (54%) | | |
| 13 | PHI | W 30-16 | 46 (75%) | 54 (89%) | 38 (62%) | 40 (66%) | 42 (69%) | 21 (34%) | 11 (18%) | 4 (7%) | |
| 14 | DET | W 31-24 | 47 (70%) | 62 (93%) | 41 (61%) | 47 (70%) | 46 (69%) | 20 (30%) | 17 (25%) | | 4 (6%) |
| 15 | CAR | W 24-16 | 40 (65%) | 60 (97%) | 39 (63%) | 56 (90%) | 48 (77%) | 4 (6%) | 11 (18%) | | 4 (6%) |
| 16 | TEN | W 40-14 | 41 (62%) | 47 (71%) | 39 (59%) | 25 (38%) | 41 (62%) | | 18 (27%) | | 17 (26%) |
| 17 | CHI | W 35-16 | 22 (48%) | 41 (89%) | 28 (61%) | 32 (70%) | 36 (78%) | 12 (26%) | 15 (33%) | | 5 (11%) |
| | Grand | Total | 794 (76%) | 775 (85%) | 638 (61%) | 539 (60%) | 470 (73%) | 419 (45%) | 196 (25%) | 142 (26%) | 30 (12%) |

| | Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. % |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 55% | 60% | 54% |
| + | 1-2 [2WR] | 24% | 20% | 61% |
| | 2-1 [2WR] | 14% | 7% | 52% |
| - | 1-3 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 32% |
| | | | | |
| _ | Group | ing T | anden | cies |
| | <u>Group</u> Personnel | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| | | | Pass | Run |
| | | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| | Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| | Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | |
| Davante Adams | 36 | 13 | 13 | 10 | | | |
| Aaron Jones | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | | | |
| Allen Lazard | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | | | |
| Marquez Valdes-Scan | 7 | 2 | | 5 | | | |
| Jamaal Williams | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | | | | |
| Aaron Jones | 46 | 13 | 12 | 21 | | | | | | | |
| Jamaal Williams | 32 | 8 | 9 | 15 | | | | | | | |
| Aaron Rodgers | 8 | 2 | 4 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| A.J. Dillon | 5 | | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| Tyler Ervin | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Marquez Valdes-Sc | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Tim Boyle | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | | | | | |
| 24% | 19% | 57% | | | | | | | |
| 23% | 21% | 56% | | | | | | | |
| 23% | NFL AVG | 0070 | | | | | | | |
| 2070 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2070 | NFL AVG | | | | | | | | |
| Overall | NFL ÁVG Target Su | ccess % | | | | | | | |





They've had the most injured wide receiver corps in the NFL. Watching Rodgers deliver that MVP performance last season with the fourth-most injured wide receiver corps was just extraordinary.

So, now we get to the elephant in the room. Will Rodgers play in Green Bay in 2021? Unfortunately, that's where my crystal ball goes dark. I have no clue. My gut says no. And I wish that were not the case, for starters because I want to see how he builds on the MVP season and what he and LaFleur can do in 2021. Could they get even better?

Selfishly, I also want to see great quarterbacks in the NFC to battle with **Tom Brady**. Do we have a great quarterback in the NFC East? Only if **Dak Prescott** regains health and balls out, and while I like Dak, and think he's been awesome, he's not in that "great" category yet for me. In the NFC North? No, not if Rodgers leaves. In the NFC South? Aside from Brady? No. In the NFC West? **Russell Wilson**. And he's being yanked around from "sure, go pass the ball a lot" to "nope, that was a mistake, we need to run more." Could a rookie drafted by the Bears or 49ers eventually become great? Sure, but who knows. I'm talking about Hall of Famer potential. Other than Brady, it's Russ and that's it for the time being.

So what do we think of the Packers if Rodgers leaves? As of right now, that's another big question mark because we didn't see **Jordan Love** in the 2020 preseason, regular season, or playoffs. He was inactive for every game and, due to COVID, there was no preseason.

What should our expectations be if he's not there? Most likely, it's for the Packers to record a losing season in 2021. The schedule of pass defenses is daunting even if Rodgers plays – it's the largest shift from 2020 difficulty to 2021 difficulty for any offense in the NFL. I would be shocked if Rodgers put up numbers like 2020 even if he were back. Rodgers threw 48 touchdowns to five interceptions. That's a career high in touchdowns and a career high 9.1% touchdown rate. His completion rate of 70.7% was also a career-high. He's very unlikely to break those records again when he's playing the third toughest schedule of pass defenses in 2021 rather than the 26th toughest schedule from 2020.

We should also expect the Packers to run the ball more. Not that they should, but it's likely that any coach, including Matt LaFleur, would. That alone will also lower this offense's ceiling. They're very likely to not be +20 in sack margin, as they were in 2020. That means more drives falling apart and more punts. Speaking of game changing plays, they won't throw nearly the infinitesimal interception rate as Rodgers had in 2020. It's absolutely insane how well Rodgers takes care of the ball.

Of quarterbacks to throw at least 1,000 attempts the last three years, Rodgers's 0.65% interception rate is far and away the best. Drew Brees was 1.19% at No. 2, Patrick Mahomes was 1.39% at No. 3, and Wilson was 1.67% at No. 4.

Let's add historical context. Only seven times in NFL history has a quarterback thrown 500+ attempts with five or fewer interceptions. As quarterback to do it more than once. He owns FOUR of those seven seasons!

Even more insane: he's done it THREE YEARS IN A ROW, 2018, 2019, and 2020.

If Love is the starter, we'll see more interceptions and more sacks and those alone typically spell disaster. Even Rodgers himself, in his first season starting for Green Bay, threw 13 interceptions (his career-high). And that was back in 2008. But it was actually no more than Favre threw in 2007. Or 2006. Or 2005...

...or any year that Favre started for the Packers. See, Favre was a totally different type of quarterback. He threw at least 13 interceptions every single season in Green Bay. His final three seasons in Green Bay?

2005: 20 TDs, 29 INTs 2006: 18 TDs, 18 INTs 2007: 28 TDs, 15 INTs

Favre was badly on the downside of his career. Those three years, he averaged 61% completions, 3.8% TDs, 3.5% INTs, and 6.8 YPA.

Rodgers the last three years? 99 TDs to 11 INTs, 65% completions, 5.9% TDs, 0.7% INTs, and 7.5 YPA.

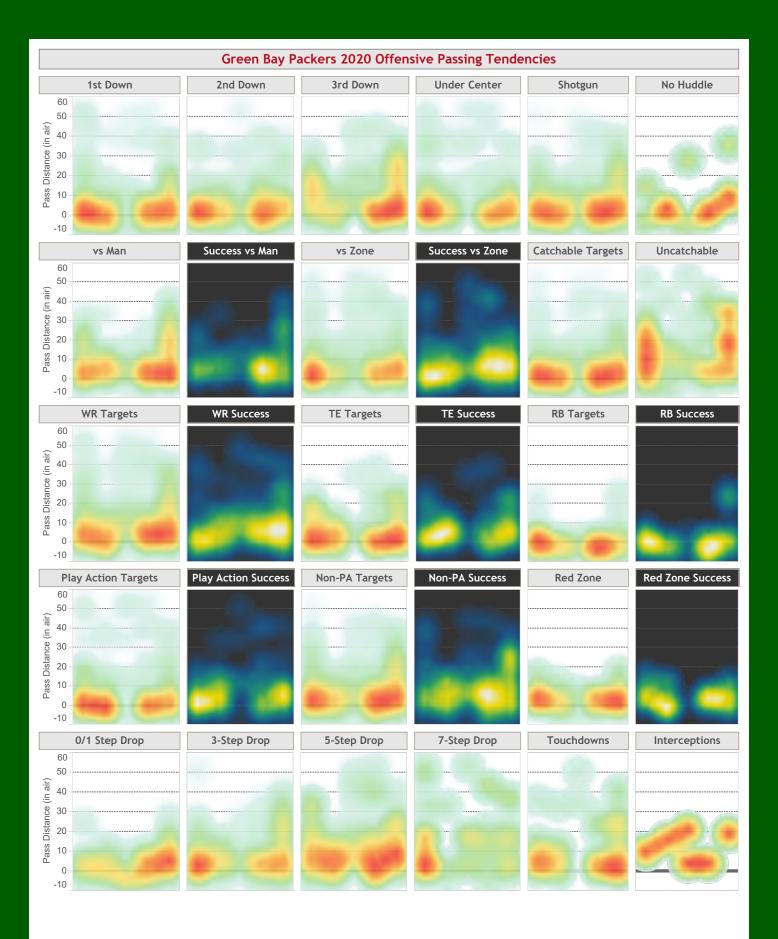
That's what makes this whole thing so insane. The Packers' front office seemed to make this seem common, like a natural progression. They seemed to think the same type of thing happened to Favre and so it will happen to Rodgers. OK, fine. But not when he's playing like this. Not anytime soon.

If the Packers management runs Rodgers out of town when he's playing like this, because they didn't do enough to make him feel loved, wanted, incorporated, etc, they should all be fired on the spot. If Rodgers is out, so are they. I don't care how good Love will become. I hope he is great for the sake of our sport. He's not going to come close to delivering the efficiency that Rodgers has delivered in recent years. And that means a step back in 2021 if he's the 17-game starter.

The fact there's only one premium pass catcher will become far more apparent. Rodgers covered up that issue. It will be exposed with Love. Getting the team into the perfect play at the line won't be happening. Playing as clutch on the road with crowd noise this year (which was absent last year) will be a big problem. Rodgers threw 25 touchdowns on the road last year, in part thanks to no crowd noise. The Packers play nine road games this year, being they're in the NFC and are forced on the road for an extra game this season with the 17th going to AFC teams. Love isn't likely to even throw 20 touchdowns on the road and he'll have an extra game.

I'm a big believer in coaching up young passers, building their confidence, optimizing the game plan for their skill sets, entrusting them rather than taking the ball out of their hands, and getting performance from them. I've witnessed it work with **Josh Allen**. And I was lower on Allen coming out of Wyoming than I was of Love. Love at least has a solid infrastructure around him with a better-than-average roster. But he won't fill the Aaron Rodgers-sized hole in this offense. I see the Packers struggling to win eight games without Rodgers at the helm in 2021. But I hope he returns. To be continued...

| Player Trackin | g Data Stats - QBs | QB Pre | essure | Offensive A | Offensive Metrics | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| | Aaron Rodgers | | Aaron Rodgers | EPA/Pass | | | |
| CAY | 5.5 | Pressure % | 23.7 | EPA/Pass Rk | | | |
| CAY Rk | 26 | Pressure Rk | 38 | EPA/Rush | | | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 27 | Sack % | 3.5 | EPA/Rush Rk | | | |
| AYTS Rk | 20 | Sack Rk | 36 | On-Target Catch % | (| | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 6 40 | Pressure Accuracy % | 64.6 | On-Target Catch Rk | | | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 29 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 22 | Drop% | | | |
| COMP% | 70.7 | Rating when Pressured | 89.3 | · | | | |
| COMP% | 66.4 | Pressured Rating Rk | 3 | Drop Rk | | | |
| cCOMP% Rk | 11 | Clean Accuracy % | 84.6 | YAC/Att | | | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 21 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 2 | YAC/Att Rk | | | |
| CPOE% | 4.4 | Rating when Clean | 129.7 | Rush Broken Tackle % | | | |
| CPOE Rk | 3 | | 120.7 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | | | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 27 | Clean Rating Rk | 1 | D 1 1 1 D 0 | | | |
| | TS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: | Time to Throw | 2.72 | Rush 1st Down % | 2 | | |
| Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expe Actual completion percentage of | ected completion percentage CPOE: | Time to Throw Rk | 21 | Rush 1st Down Rk | | | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs) 2021 Forecast **Houston Texans Head Coach**: Wins **Div Rank** David Culley (BAL pass coord.) (new) Offensive Coordinator: #4 4.5 Tim Kelly (2 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator: Past Records** Lovie Smith (HC Illinois) (new) 2020: 4-12 Easy Hard 2019: 10-6 2018: 11-5 CLE BUF IND LAR IND SEA SF TEN TEN LAC ARI CAR JAX JAX NYJ

| Key Pla | yers Lost |
|---------|-----------|
|---------|-----------|

Rest Edge:

3

TNF

+3

| Player | New |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| A.J. McCarron (QB) | Falcons |
| Andrew Brown (IDL) | Colts |
| Benardrick McKinney (LB) | Dolphins |
| Brennan Scarlett (LB) | Dolphins |
| Bryan Anger (P) | Cowboys |
| Carlos Watkins (IDL) | Cowboys |
| Cullen Gillaspia (FB) | Giants |
| Damion Ratley (WR) | Lions |
| Darren Fells (TE) | Lions |
| J.J. Watt (IDL) | Cardinals |
| Mark Fields (CB) | 49ers |
| Nick Martin (C) | Raiders |
| Tyrell Adams (LB) | Bills |
| Will Fuller (WR) | Dolphins |
| Zach Fulton (LG) | Giants |
| Brent Qvale (RT) | TBD |
| Chad Hansen (WR) | TBD |
| Duke Johnson (RB) | TBD |
| Dylan Cole (LB) | TBD |
| Eddie Vanderdoes (IDL) | TBD |
| Gareon Conley (CB) | TBD |
| Josh McCown (QB) | TBD |
| Kyle Emanuel (LB) | TBD |
| Michael Thomas (S) | TBD |

2021 Houston Texans Overview

10

11

+7

12

13

14

I want to write objectively about the Texans. I want to go in-depth and analyze their team like I do all others. Point out positives and negatives from 2020. Look ahead to 2021. Share what they need to improve on for a successful season. Things I do with all teams.

But I can't. At least not before I get this out:

8

What the hell?

5

6

+1

The Texans went out and built both the NFL's oldest roster and the NFL's worst roster. This once was a team with promise.

For the purposes of this chapter, I'm assuming **Deshaun Watson** won't be starting for the Texans in 2021. I don't know if that's right or wrong, but that's the assumption we're making.

In last year's Texans chapter, I predicted defensive regression. I explained how the Texans were not as good as their 10-win record in 2019 indicated.

The 2019 Texans "were not a team that should have won 10 games. They were able to go 5-1 in games decided by a field goal. They went 4-5 in games they trailed at halftime last year, despite Watson going 0-8 in games trailing at halftime in his first two years. They went 4-4 when trailing entering the fourth quarter."

This was due for massive regression.

And it happened:

WR2

Rookie

WR3

RR2

* P.Lindsay J.Driskel

OR2

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

-3

17

18

16

-3

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Shaq Lawson (EDGE) | Trade |
| Marcus Cannon (RT) | Trade |
| Tyrod Taylor (QB) | \$5.5 |
| Maliek Collins (IDL) | \$5 |
| Kevin Pierre-Louis (LB) | \$3.5 |
| Terrance Mitchell (CB) | \$3.29 |
| Christian Kirksey (LB) | \$3 |
| Desmond King (CB) | \$3 |
| Jordan Jenkins (LB) | \$3 |
| Andre Roberts (WR) | \$2.79 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|------------------------------------|
| 3 | 67 | QB - Davis Mills (Stanford) |
| J | 89 | WR - Nico Collins (Michigan) |
| 5 | 147 | TE - Brevin Jordan (Miami (FL)) |
| J | 170 | LB - Garret Wallow (TCU) |
| 6 | 195 | DT - Roy Lopez (Arizona) |

7.2

Games

Favored

Average

Line

Games

Underdog

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj





2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | | \$107.26M | 10 |
| QB | 9 | \$23.58M | 19 |
| OL | 19 | \$32.54M | 9 |
| RB | 4 | \$14.86M | 1 |
| WR | 8 | \$28.16M | 10 |
| TE | 22 | \$8.12M | 25 |
| All DEF | 12 | \$97.11M | 14 |
| DL | 26 | \$32.40M | 16 |
| LB | 5 | \$23.12M | 8 |
| СВ | 6 | \$28.98M | 15 |
| S | 17 | \$12.61M | 27 |
| | | | |

D.Johnson

= 30+ years old

HOU-2

Record in games decided by a field goal:

2019: 5-1 2020: 1-2

Record in games decided by one score:

2019: 8-3 2020: 2-8

Record in games when trailing at halftime:

2019: 4-5 2020: 0-10

Record in games when trailing entering the fourth quarter:

2019: 4-4 2020: 0-9

The Texans fell back down to earth in a huge way.

Their 0-4 start led to the firing of head coach/general manager Bill O'Brien.

The Texans finished the season 4-12. They weren't as bad as that record showed. Incredibly, the Texans had two turnovers inside the Colts' 5-vard line with seconds left in each game this year, down one-score, and lost both games. The Texans should have done better than 2-8 in one-score games. If they did, they would have finished with more than four wins.

Whatever good that the Texans did in 2020, it almost exclusively was tied to Deshaun Watson being a brilliant quarterback.

Watson ranked first in the NFL in passing efficiency on early downs (min 200 att). Just look at where he stacked up along with other top-5 quarterbacks in the NFL last year on early downs:

Deshaun Watson: 0.23 EPA/att, 9.2 YPA, 60% success Josh Allen: 0.17 EPA/att, 7.8 YPA, 58% success Aaron Rodgers: 0.13 EPA/att, 7.0 YPA, 54% success Philip Rivers: 0.13 EPA/att, 7.4 YPA, 55% success Patrick Mahomes: 0.12 EPA/att, 7.2 YPA, 55% success

2020 Passing Performance QB 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn Success Rate 61% 57% 38% Deshaun 8.4 8.3 Watson 116.3 Rating 116.5 88.8 59% 61% 75% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.0 AVG Rating 95.4 96.0 **Pass Rate** 50% 60% 75%

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | | |
| HOU | 47% 4.7 | 41% 3.9 | 57% 3.9 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 41% | 39% | 25% | | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | | | | |

Watson's EPA was way up there. Even more impressive was his insanely high YPA. He was an absolute beast. This came despite his receiving corps not being fully healthy. They ranked league-average in health at the wide receiver position. Brandin Cooks missed a game, Will Fuller missed five games, Keke Coutee missed eight games, and Randall Cobb missed six

It wasn't just on early downs during the entire game, either. What about when the team needed him in the second half?

Watson ranked first in the NFL in passing efficiency when trailing in the second half, recording 0.45 EPA/att, 10.5 YPA, and 61% success. Examine how much better he was in EPA/att than the other top-5 quarterbacks

> (cont'd - see HOU-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

> > Explosive Pass Def

Run Def

Explosive

13

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def

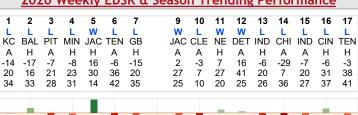
Pass Efficiency Def Defensive Efficiency

26

Pass Eff Def

RB







Red Zone 3rd Down 2020 Close Game **Records** WFFK **RESULT**

27

Def Def

All 2019 Wins: 4 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-2** FG Games Win %: **33% (#22)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 25% (#12)

YPPA Def

YPPT Def

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-8 Score Games Win %: 20% (#30) EDSR by Wk 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 50% (#18)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats**

Rush Efficiency Def

| -9 |
|-----|
| 18 |
| 7 |
| 11 |
| 9 |
| 3 |
| 6 |
| -16 |
| 34 |
| 50 |
| +0 |
| 1 |
| 1 |
| -4 |
| 80 |
| 76 |
| |

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

5

10

15

20

25

30

OPP

SITE

PTS

MARGIN

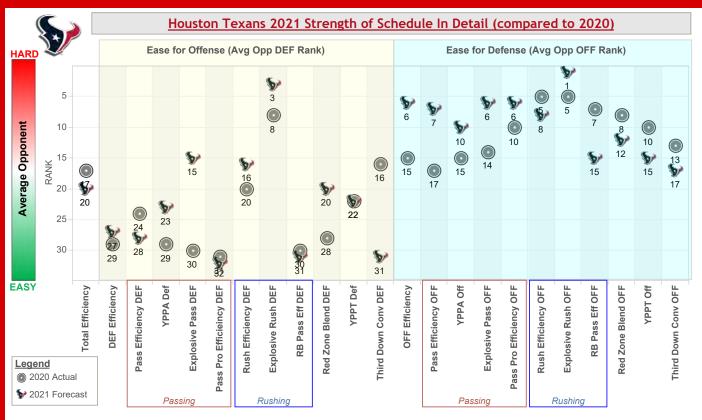
OPP PTS

W=Green

L=Red

24

EDSR Def 30 & In Def



| 2021 vs 2020 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 Blend Rk | | | | | | |
| 22 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 9 | 8 | 19 | 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 | | | | | 20 | 2021 Opponents by Division | | | | 2020 Opponents by Division | | | | | ion | Health by Unit* | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|---------|------|------------|----------|------|----------------------------|-----------|-------|------------|----------------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|------|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | 2 5 | C4(5) | 700 | | | | 7 | CONTRACT | 7 | | | 202 | 0 Rk | 7 |
| | Ave | rage I | ine | | 1.4 | -0 | .3 | -3.0 | AF | CS | | 60 | 7 | \bigcirc | | AFCS | | | | D) | | 201 | 9 Rk | 19 |
| | Avera | | | | 50.9 | 48 | | 44.4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2020 v | 2019 RI | (12 |
| | Straigh | | | | 4-12 | 10 | | 11-5 | | | | يلىقى | | | | | | | | | | | Rk | 3 |
| | nst the | | | | 6-10 | 8- | - | 8-7 7-9 | AF | CE | | 1 | 1 - | 🤝 🥑 | 77 | | 79 | 46 | | · (A) | | | | |
| - ' | Over/U | nder F as Fav | | | 7-8 2-4 | 6- 3- | | 7-9 5-6 | | | 44 | -date | ` | | | AFCN | | ≥ 1 5 | | |) | De | f Rk | 17 |
| | ATS a | | | | 2-4 4-6 | 5- | | 3-0 3-1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | QE | Rk | 1 |
| | Straig | | | | 2-6 | 5- | - | 6-2 | NF | cw | Y | 10 |) <i>(</i> | (| 3 | | | | | | | DD | Rk | 17 |
| | | S Hon | | | 3-5 | 2- | | 4-4 | | | | | - | | | | | A | | , <i>P</i> | | | | |
| | Over/L | | | | 3-5 | 4- | .3 | 3-5 | | | | | | | | NFCN | | | | / 🧇 | 4 | WF | Rk | 15 |
| A' | TS as F | lome | Favori | te | 1-2 | 1- | -5 | 4-4 | ΔF | CN | | | | | | | | | | , | | TE | Rk | 1 |
| - | TS as | | | 3 | 2-3 | 1- | | 0-0 | | 014 | | | | | | | | | | | | Olin | e Rk | 2 |
| | Straig | | | | 2-6 | 4- | - | 5-3 | | | | | | | | AFCE | - | 3 | | | | | | 14 |
| | | S Awa | | | 3-5 | 5- | | 4-3 | | | | | | | | AFCE | | | | | | Dline Rk | | |
| | Over/L ATS Av | | | | 4-3 1-2 | 2- 1- | | 4-4 1-2 | AF | CW | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | LB Rk | | 21 |
| | | way ra Away | | | 2-3 | 4- | - | 3-1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DB Rk | | 19 |
| Six | Point | | | ord | 11-5 | 11 | | 14-2 | NFCS | | FCS 🍂 | | | | | AFCW | w 🧐 | | | | | | | |
| | n Poin | | | | 11-5 | 12 | - | 14-1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | *Based on the work of | | |
| Ter | Point | Tease | r Reco | ord | 12-4 | 12 | -4 | 15-1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Football Outsiders | | siders |
| | | | | | 20 | 21 W | /eek | ly Be | ettin | g Lir | <u>nes</u> | | | | | | | | <u> </u> | lome | Line | <u> </u> | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 1 | 2 1 | 3 14 | 16 | 18 |
| JAX | CLE | CAR | BUF | NE | IND | ARI | LAR | MIA | TEN | NYJ | IND | SEA | JAX | LAC | SF | TEN | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3.5 | | | A۷ | g = 5.2 |
| +3.0 | +13.5 | +4.0 | +14.0 | +6.0 | +11.5 | +10.5 | +8.5 | +7.5 | +8.5 | +1.0 | +7.0 | +7.0 | +4.0 | +4.5 | +13.5 | +6.0 | 3 | 4 | 6 | ΔP | IN | 7 D SE | 4.5 | 6 |
| | | | _ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | JAX | CAR | NE | 1 N | | D SE/ | LAC | TEN |
| | | | M. A.S. | | 15 | _ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | _ | | | | |
| Avg = | 7.6 | | | | \smile | | | _سند_ | TO | | 2 6 | | | | Ava | = 7.6 | | | _ | Road | <u>Line</u> | <u>s</u> | | |
| | | | | ~ | | | ~ | | | | | | | | | TO | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 17 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | | Δνο | = 10.4 |
| H | Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Α | Julia | Н | Н | Α | Н | Α | Н | 13.5 | 14 | 44.5 | | | | 7.09 | 13.5 |
| 2 | (0 | 2 | 72 | 2 | | 0 | _ | 2 | | _ | | 2 | (0 | | (0 | | CLE | BUF | 11.5 IND | 10.5 ARI | 7.5 | 8.5 | 4 | SF |
| 45.6 | 46 | 44.5 | 49.6 | 46.6 | 48 | 49 | 47 | 46.5 | 20 | 47 | 49 | 48.6 | 46 | 47 | 46 | 47 | | | | 7,11,11 | MIA | TEN | JAX | |





in the NFL last year:

Watson: 0.45 EPA/att Brees: 0.31 EPA/att

Allen/Mahomes/Jackson: 0.29 EPA/att

Watson improved virtually everywhere compared to 2019, despite the fact that in 2019, he played with **DeAndre Hopkins** all year and had a healthier Will Fuller, Keke Coutee, and **Kenny Stills**. Some of the critical areas of improvement included significantly better production when passing against zone coverage and on Level 2 throws (those with an up-and-down trajectory over a linebacker and in front of the secondary), and throwing when moving:

vs zone in 2020: 0.46 EPA/att, 10.2 YPA, 68% success vs zone in 2019: 0.39 EPA/att, 8.8 YPA, 60% success

Level 2 in 2020: 0.66 EPA/att, 13.1 YPA, 62% success Level 2 in 2019: 0.46 EPA/att, 13.1 YPA, 55% success

When moving in 2020: 0.46 EPA/att, 9.0 YPA, 60% success When moving in 2019: 0.19 EPA/att, 6.2 YPA, 50% success

To really explain the season Watson had, just think about this:

In 2019, Watson was top-10 in completion percentage above expectation and completed air yards. In 2020, he improved in both. His completion percentage above expectation rose from 10th to first. His completed air yards moved from 10th to third.

This, despite the fact his passes were thrown in more difficult windows and his receivers had less separation.

Watson was pressured on 36% of his dropbacks, the 13th highest rate in the NFL and 20.3% of those pressures turned into sacks (also 13th).

So, if the plan is to assume that Watson is NOT the quarterback of the Texans in 2021, why are we talking so much about Watson?

Because the offensive coordinator Tim Kelly is still there. This will be his third year in Houston as the offensive coordinator. In 2019, Bill O'Brien called plays. Like all coaches do in order to preserve their job before getting fired, they prolong their tenure by giving up playcalling. That's what O'Brien did last February, and formally announced he was giving up playcalling to Kelly.

Kelly saw what the offense did and looked like in 2019, put his touches on it and called the plays in 2020, and Watson did, in fact, look better despite worse talent and worse results in the standings.

In the summer before the 2020 season, Watson seemed optimistic about the change, primarily sharing that with O'Brien being the head coach, there were a lot of times he was unable to meet with Watson due to his other responsibilities.

Offensively, the 2020 Texans improved from 17th in efficiency in 2019 to 13th in 2020. They improved from 15th in passing efficiency in 2019 to seventh in 2020. These both were obviously solid.

What wasn't solid was the rushing offense cratering from 11th in 2019 to 32nd in 2020. Bill O'Brien traded for **David Johnson**. It wasn't pretty. Although Johnson had some explosive runs along the way, his success rate on early downs and all downs was terrible, ranked 86th among running backs in both metrics.

With RB1 and RB2 on each team totaling to 64 RBs, Johnson's ranking put him in RB3 territory.

(Remember: O'Brien traded Andre Johnson for RB3 David Johnson)

And that led to the early down efficiency cratering as well, as the Texans shifted from fifth in EDSR in 2019 to 23rd in 2020. Moving from top-5 to bottom-10 is going to leave a mark on the record.

(cont'd - see HOU-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game prep to prep 2 0 2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Houston Texans Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank** Rank Rank 10 11

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- Not much needs to be said about **Deshaun Watson's** troubles off the field, but on it he produced top 10 QB play the last few seasons. Assuming Watson is not on the field at all in 2021, veteran **Tyrod Taylor** will take over. Taylor has taken 169 snaps since 2018 and ranks 56th out of 62 QBs in EPA per play.
- The roster is by far the worst in the NFL and the team did not make any major moves with big free agents to potentially set up a tank situation.
- Houston is expected to face the third most difficult schedule in the NFL, including opponents from the tough NFC West along with the Browns and Chargers.

4.5



Why Bet the Over

- A 4.5-win total in a 17 game season is essentially equivalent to a four win total in a 16 game season. The last two team win totals as low as four, the Jets in 2017 and the Dolphins in 2019, both exceeded those win totals that season.
- The Texans suffered some bad luck last season in close games, losing 8-of-10 one score games. There were three separate occasions that the Texans lost with a chance to tie or win inside their opponents' 5-yard line with under two minutes left. That's really difficult to repeat.
- The Texans went 4-12 but based on point differential they should have been expected to win at least six games. That 2.1 wins below expected ranked third most in the NFI

| Houston Texans Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | |
| 32 | 27 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 32 | | | | |

This dumpster fire of a roster ranks in the bottom three at every position with the exception of the offensive line, which ranks 27th.

Due to the uncertain situation with **Deshaun Watson**, we ranked Houston's QB room based on the assumption he's not in it. As a result, **Tyrod Taylor**, **Davis Mills**, and **Jeff Driskel** ranked 32nd on every ballot.

The best thing that can be said about the backfield is there's some depth, with **David Johnson** backed up by **Phillip Lindsay**, **Mark Ingram**, and **Rex Burkhead**. However, only Lindsay is under the age of 29, so it's likely much-needed depth to keep everyone fresh and healthy.

Houston invested in the receiving corps in the draft, adding WR **Nico Collins** (third round) and TE **Brevin Jordan** (fifth round). So at least there's some youth to develop in this 31st-ranked unit, unlike most of the roster.

The offensive line looks like the best unit on the depth chart due to LT **Laremy Tunsil**. If RT **Tytus Howard** takes a step forward in his third year, this unit could potentially emerge as a legitimate strength.

If our evaluation of their front seven proves too harsh, it will likely be due to offseason addition **Shaq Lawson**, who generated a pressure rate of 17% in Miami last season. That should help replace **J.J. Watt**, who's pressure rate sunk to 8.9% in 2020.

When the quarterback was not pressured, Houston allowed 8.5 yards per attempt last season (ranked 29th). This 30th-ranked secondary unit does not appear capable of improving, despite adding corners **Terrance Mitchell** and **Desmond King**.

If Houston exceeds expectations it may be due to our 32nd-ranked head coach David Culley, who is well-liked by players and may be capable of getting this team to play hard even as the losses mount.

HOU-4

In many ways, the 2020 Texans and Falcons were similar in this respect:

Both wanted to improve their run game

Both added former Pro-Bowl running backs (Todd Gurley & David Johnson)

Both saw their rushing efficiency plummet (HOU to 32nd, ATL to 29th)

Both saw their early down success plummet

Both won only four games

Houston's early down rush efficiency in 2019 ranked seventh. Houston's early down rush efficiency in 2020 ranked 29th. It was a huge decline.

So, what did Kelly do for the Texans last year that O'Brien was not?

The biggest change was the simplest one – he called more pass plays. And I'm not just talking about volume, because of course he had to pass more on a 4-12 team than a double-digit win team.

<u>HOU-5</u>

Examine the Texans' pass rate in the first half of games on early downs the last three years.

2018: 48% pass, 28th 2019: 53% pass, 19th 2020: 60% pass, third

The NFL average was 54% pass. Houston was below average every year before Kelly took over playcalling. What made it so frustrating from an outsider's perspective was the Texans did not have a bad quarterback. They had Watson! I don't care who the running back is, you're not going to get more efficiency out of a handoff when your quarterback is Watson.

O'Brien had that old school mentality of quarterback preservation. O'Brien wanted a very balanced, if not run-first, approach because his quarterback was under pressure a ton and taking too many hits.

Far too often, coaches say, "we've got to help our quarterback." And to do that, they think they need to pass less on early downs when the exact opposite is true. More passing on early downs means more passing when the defense might be playing the run. That means fewer pass rushers. It also means more of a chance to avoid third downs. You know, those predictable passing situations where the defense knows a pass is coming and can send the pressure.

Passing often with Deshaun Watson at quarterback made a lot of sense.

Bill O'Brien didn't do it.

Running less often with the running back trio of 29-year old **Carlos Hyde**, 27-year old **Lamar Miller**, and 29-year old David Johnson made a lot of sense.

Bill O'Brien didn't do it.



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



9

10 11

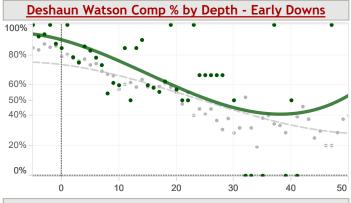
12 13 14

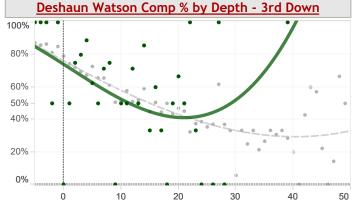
15 16

2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 9 | | Being Blown Out (14+) | | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | David Johnson | 17% | 14% | 65% | 2% | 2% | | | | | | |
| | Duke Johnson | 18% | 3% | 79% | | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Will Fuller | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| | Jordan Akins | | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 17% | 11% | 69% | 2% | 1% | | | | | | |
| | David Johnson | 20% | 13% | 65% | 3% | | | | | | | |
| | Brandin Cooks | 14% | 13% | 71% | 3% | | | | | | | |
| | Duke Johnson | 27% | 13% | 60% | | | | | | | | |
| PASS | Will Fuller | 21% | 4% | 71% | 3% | 1% | | | | | | |
| Ā | Randall Cobb | 33% | 19% | 48% | | | | | | | | |
| | Jordan Akins | 23% | 9% | 67% | | | | | | | | |
| | Keke Coutee | 6% | 12% | 79% | 3% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 20% | 11% | 67% | 2% | 0% | | | | | | |

| | Share of Offensive Plays by Type | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|) | David Johnson | Brandin Cooks | Duke Johnson | Will Fuller | Randall Cobb | Jordan Akins | Keke Coutee | | | | | | |
| RUSH | 69% | | 30% | 0% | | 0% | | | | | | | |
| PASS | 11% | 29% | 8% | 20% | 13% | 11% | 9% | | | | | | |
| ALL | 33% | 18% | 16% | 13% | 8% | 7% | 5% | | | | | | |





Successful Play Rate

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| PASS | 54%, 0.17 (424) | 58%, 0.21 (129) | 58%, 0.31 (12) | 55%, -0.34 (11) | | 50%, 0.48 (2) | 80%, 1.46 (5) | 100%, 3.48 (1) | 54%, 0.19 (591) |
| RUSH | 43%, -0.08 (176) | 50%, -0.05 (135) | 67%, 0.24 (9) | 25%, 0.54 (4) | 0%, -0.84 (10) | 67%, 0.02 (6) | 50%, -0.49 (2) | 0%, -0.52 (1) | 45%, -0.08 (343) |
| All | 51%, 0.09 (600) | 54%, 0.08 (264) | 62%, 0.28 (21) | 47%, -0.11 (15) | 0%, -0.84 (10) | 63%, 0.13 (8) | 71%, 0.90 (7) | 50%, 1.48 (2) | 51%, 0.09 (934) |

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 | David Johnson | 57% (28) 8.7, 0.15 | 62% (13) 3.9, -0.06 | | 0% (1) 4.0, -0.41 | 57% (42) 7.1, 0.07 | | | | | | |
| | Duke Johnson | 39% (18) 3.9, -0.32 | 67% (9) 11.1, 0.50 | 100% (3) 9.3, 0.44 | 60% (5) 10.0, 0.60 | 54% (35) 7.1, 0.09 | | | | | | |
| TE | Jordan Akins | 65% (40) 8.9, 0.40 | 60% (10) 4.6, 0.03 | | | 64% (50) 8.1, 0.33 | | | | | | |
| WR | Brandin Cooks | 57% (82) 8.4, 0.26 | 75% (32) 12.9, 0.52 | 100% (1) 8.0, 1.49 | | 63% (115) 9.6, 0.34 | | | | | | |
| | Will Fuller V | 69% (52) 12.9, 0.83 | 67% (15) 9.9, 0.46 | 40% (5) 3.0, -0.58 | | 67% (72) 11.6, 0.66 | | | | | | |
| | Randall Cobb | 70% (43) 9.5, 0.56 | 75% (4) 4.5, 0.03 | | | 70% (47) 9.1, 0.52 | | | | | | |
| | Keke Coutee | 63% (35) 10.1, 0.42 | 100% (1) 8.0, 0.76 | | 100% (2) 16.0, 1.01 | 66% (38) 10.4, 0.46 | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| , , | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total | | | | | | |
| Johnson | 40% (75) | 50% (64) | 0% (1) | 50% (4) | 44% (144) | | | | | | |
| David | 4.5, -0.08 | 5.0, 0.06 | 2.0, -0.24 | 5.5, -0.07 | 4.7, -0.02 | | | | | | |
| Watson | 55% (47) | 65% (26) | 0% (9) | 100% (2) | 54% (84) | | | | | | |
| Deshaun | 5.3, 0.26 | 6.0, -0.12 | -1.0, -0.91 | 9.5, 1.07 | 5.0, 0.04 | | | | | | |
| Johnson | 35% (34) | 42% (36) | | 67% (3) | 40% (73) | | | | | | |
| Duke | 2.5, -0.35 | 3.6, -0.22 | | 4.7, 0.09 | 3.1, -0.27 | | | | | | |
| Prosise C.J. | 17% (6) 1.5, -1.20 | 25% (4) 2.5, -0.16 | | | 20% (10) 1.9, -0.79 | | | | | | |

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

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

| | sing by | | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop Types | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | rerage neme | 71% (66) | | Level 1 | 63% (386) 7.8, 0.31 | 3 Step | 62% (229) 8.3, 0.36 | |
| Zone 68% (276) 10.2, 0.46 | Out | 7.0, 0.25 | Level 2 | 62% (92) | 5 Step | 61% (116) 11.7, 0.59 | | |
| | 10.2, 0.46 | Curl | 79% (61) 8.6, 0.31 | Level 2 | 13.1, 0.66 | 0/1 Step | 59% (80) 8.1, 0.23 | |
| 8.3, Ò. | 54% (178) 8.3, 0.31 | Dig | 61% (38) 8.2, 0.42 | Level 3 | 42% (36) 15.5, 0.50 | Designed Rollout Right | 68% (22) 9.5, 0.43 | |
| | | Slant | 65% (37) 8.0, 0.46 | Sidearm | 80% (5) 10.2, 0.35 | 7 Step | 58% (19) 9.7, 0.08 | |
| | 48% (44) 7.2, 0.15 | Drag | 85% (20) 8.5, 0.55 | Shovel | 33% (3) 2.0, 0.01 | Basic Screen | 25% (8) 1.9, -0.45 | |

| QI | QB State at Pass | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Planted | | 61% (387) 9.5, 0.36 | | | | | | | |
| Moving | | 60% (96) 9.0, 0.46 | | | | | | | |
| Shuffling | l | | 3% (56) 1, 0.07 | | | | | | |
| Play Action | | | | | | | | | |
| | Play | Action | No P/A | | | | | | |
| Under Center | | % (40) , -0.14 | 53% (15) 9.9, 0.43 | | | | | | |
| Shotgun | | % (84) , 0.35 | 54% (452) 8.6, 0.18 | | | | | | |
| ALL | | 6 (124) , 0.19 | 54% (467) 8.7, 0.19 | | | | | | |

| | Rur | Run Types | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Inside Zone | 45% (105) 3.8, -0.14 | | | | | | | |
| | Outside Zone | 30% (54) 4.4, -0.11 | | | | | | | |
| | Power | 40% (35) 3.2, -0.18 | | | | | | | |
| 5) 3 2) | Stretch | 50% (16) 5.0, -0.29 | | | | | | | |
| 8 7) 9 | Lead | 44% (16) 4.4, -0.04 | | | | | | | |

HOU-6

But there were things that Kelly did that didn't make as much sense.

Examine play action rates on early downs:

2018: 29% 2019: 29% 2020: 27%

Their play action rate ranked 29th in 2020.

Pre-snap motion rates in the first three quarters:

2018: 20% 2019: 35% 2020: 39%

Houston's pre-snap motion rate usage ranked 24th in 2020.

In an odd sense for the 2020 season only, it was good these rates were not higher, because the efficiency received from using play-action and pre-snap motion was not only below average, but worse than when not using either motion.

Play-action gained 0.17 EPA/att whereas non-play-action gained 0.26 EPA/att. Using pre-snap motion ahead of passes earned 0.12 EPA/att, whereas not using pre-snap motion earned 0.24 EPA/att.





This is obviously quite abnormal – but it was the second-straight year Watson was better without play-action than with it. When Watson uses play-action, his pressure rate increases by 10% over the last three years.

While Watson didn't show improvement, it's likely that **Tyrod Taylor** would show substantial improvement. As such, Kelly needs to incorporate it more into the offensive strategy.

And that brings us to thinking about the 2021 Texans.

I'm worried. First, let's zoom in and just talk about the offense. All of the greatness that Watson delivered as a passer last year? The stuff he improved on from 2019? The stuff that made him top-5 in the NFL in countless metrics? That's the stuff that allowed the team to shy away from the run game so much.

If the Texans' pass game stinks without Watson, which is a very likely outcome, they may be forced to run the ball more. That would be a disaster. Last year, the Texans led at halftime in only five games and obviously won only four on the season. That was with Watson being the best quarterback when trailing in the entire NFL. If the Texans can't jump out to more leads, why should we expect them to come back to win more games without Watson than with him?

Beyond the offense, just look at what this team has done this offseason.

Thanks to Bill O'Brien, they had their least draft capital in franchise history. That was just before the draft. Then they made multiple trade ups just to land a fifth-round linebacker. They traded up multiple other times, including a steep trade up for wide receiver **Nico Collins** in the third round, further squandering draft capital.

They turned two 5x Pro-Bowlers DeAndre Hopkins & J.J. Watt (also a 3x DPOY) into a running back and a nose tackle.

Just gaze your eyes on the Houston Texans' first- and second-round picks over last four years:

2018 1st: -2018 2nd: -2019 1st: Tytus Howard
2019 2nd: Lonnie Johnson Jr
2019 2nd: Max Scharping
2020 1st: -2020 2nd: Ross Blacklock
2021 1st: -2021 2nd: --

Good luck, Houston. Everything is bigger in Texas, and that includes the problems with the Texans.

Immediate Impact of Houston Texans 2021 Draft Class

Without a pick until the third round, it wasn't reasonable to expect much from this Houston draft class.

WR Nico Collins (third round) likely has the inside track to take over the Will Fuller role as the deep threat starting opposite Brandin Cooks. When active, Fuller commanded 27% target share on throws 15 or more yards downfield in 2020.

During his final season at Michigan in 2019, Collins saw 25 targets (just over two per game) at 15-plus yards downfield, including five touchdowns.

At 6'4", Collins also brings some much needed size to the Houston receiving corps. He hauled in eight of 10 catchable targets in the end zone during his career at Michigan, and will likely be used as a weapon near the goal line for the Texans as well.

TE **Brevin Jordan** (fifth round) appears to have a path to immediate playing time, but he's a tough player to project due to his role in the Miami offense. His most commonly targeted route in 2020 was a screen pass (21% of his targets)—an unusual role for a tight end. Jordan may have a steep learning curve at a position that is already difficult for rookies to adjust to in the NFL.

QB **Davis Mills** (third round) might be the long-term answer at quarterback, but don't bet on being impressed if he gets on the field this fall. Mills made just 11 career starts in David Shaw's ultra-conservative offense at Stanford. Mills had an average depth of throw of just 7.3 yards downfield last season, which ranked 12 out of 14 qualified Pac-12 quarterbacks. **Deshaun Watson** ranked fifth in the NFL with an average depth of 8.7 yards.

Houston essentially punted on this draft when it traded a massive haul of picks in the **Laremy Tunsil/Kenny Stills** trade. The merits of that trade have been debated at length elsewhere, but it clearly put the organization in a terrible spot this offseason.

However, the most absurd decision the Texans made on draft weekend was trading three picks (two fourths and a fifth) to move up for Collins in the third round. The arrogance required to believe you've identified a player so valuable in the late third-round that he's worth parting with three mid-round picks—while you're in the middle of a full rebuild. no less—is astonishing.

Factoring in these transactions, no team gained less from their 2021 draft capital than Houston.

Houston Texans 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

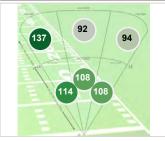
Houston was sixth in the NFL in passing EPA last season and third in pass success rate (54%), but the Texans are in a tough spot here with everything orbiting Deshaun Watson. Watson has expressed he does not want to play another down with the team, but also no team is willing to acquire him with the ongoing off-field allegations surrounding him. At this time, we do not know if Watson will even be available to play for anyone in 2021 and the Texans have semi-accounted for that with the acquisitions of Tyrod Taylor and Jeff Driskel to go along with the selection of Davis Mills at 67 overall. Knowing that they are basically punting the 2021 season, the team will surely take a look at Mills at some stretch during the year.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Deshaun Watson | 381 | 543 | 70% | 4,794 | 8.8 | 33 | 7 | 48 | 112 | 2 |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | |

| 2020 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 | 54% | 59% | 68 | 13.0% | 26 | 5.0% | 7.3 | 5.3 | 28 | 5% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **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% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4.3% | 0.0% | 1.7% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.3% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 8.3% | | 2.6% | | | | | | |
| Total | 1.6% | 0.0% | 2.1% | 0.0% | 1.2% | | | | | | |

| <u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB Avg. Avg. YIA (of Comp) Avg Yds Short of Sticks Rate | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deshaun Watson | 8.7 | 7.2 | -1.4 | 63% | 1 | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | |

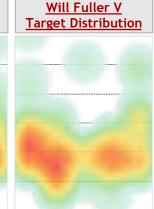
| nal | <u>ysis</u> | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------|----------|----|--|--|--|
| rt of cks ite | Short Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | |
| % | 1 | 58% | 42% | 9 | | | |
| !% | | 52% | 48% | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Houston ranked first in yards per target to their wide receivers (9.9 yards), second to tight ends (9.0 yards), and fourth to running backs (6.7 yards) last season, but have the absence of Watson clouding things while also losing Will Fuller via free agency. The team still has Brandin Cooks. After his first disappointing NFL season in 2019 (42-583-2), Cooks bounced right back in his first season with the Texans, catching 81-of-119 targets for 1,150 yards and six touchdowns. **Randall Cobb** will be 31 years old at the start of the season. He appeared in 10 games in his first year in Houston and has not played a full season since 2015. The team added wideout Nico Collins and tight end Brevin Jordan during the draft to go along with a stable of misfit toys.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | Comp % | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------|-----|
| Brandin Cooks | 111 | 68% | 9.8 | 102.1 | 60% | 22 | 26 | 10 | 110 | 6 |
| Will Fuller | 75 | 71% | 11.7 | 134.3 | 65% | 7 | 22 | 7 | 113 | 8 |



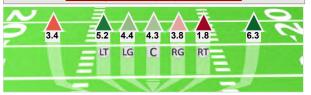


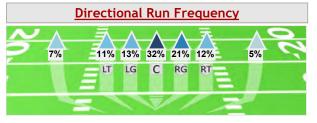
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

No backfield averaged fewer touches per game than the Texans last season at 20.7 per game. Texans backs were 11th in yards per touch (5.0 yards) despite the low workload. Houston is well aware of their roster situation and multi-year plan of rebuilding. They restructured the contract of David Johnson (who will turn 30 years old this December) while adding Mark Ingram (who will be 32 years old in December), Phillip Lindsay, and Rex Burkhead on one-year contracts. This gives them a stable of viable bodies immediately to use as a committee and none of these backs are signed beyond the 2021 season. Johnson averaged a career-high 4.7 yards per carry, but once again saw his receiving volume remain depressed, with just 2.8 receptions per game. Johnson was still effective in the receiving game (9.5 Y/R), but wasn't used often.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| David Johnson | 157 | 4.5 | 43% | 86 | 22 | 91 | 25 | 41% | 86 | 6 |
| Deshaun Watson | 90 | 4.9 | 53% | 34 | 74 | 22 | 77 | 57% | 10 | 3 |
| Duke Johnson | 67 | 3.3 | 48% | 66 | 54 | 6 | 88 | 45% | 73 | 1 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





The Texans are entering 2021 with what is the equivalent to the roster of an expansion team. The team has a bunch of veteran players that are looking for one final opportunity signed to short-term deals and seemingly an ambiguous depth chart at every position. Paired with the likelihood at the time that they also will not have **Deshaun Watson** in some capacity, this is the worst offensive roster in the NFL.

At quarterback, **Tyrod Taylor is** on a one-year deal and should start the season under center, but it is doubtful that Houston will be able to pull off enough wins to prevent them from looking at **Davis Mills** after selecting him with the 67th pick in the draft. With Stanford only playing six games in 2020 and two career ACL tears, Mills has just 491 career dropbacks on his resume for a four-year player. On that resume, Mills enters the NFL in the 78th percentile in career completion rate, the 52nd percentile in yards per pass attempt, and the 40th percentile in touchdown-to-interception rate.

At running back, we are going to see a committee of veteran backs between **David Johnson**, **Phillip Lindsay**, **Mark Ingram**, and **Rex Burkhead**. Johnson managed 1,005 yards and eight scores on 180 touches in 12 games played. He was the RB16 in points per game (14.9) and averaged a career-high 4.7 yards per carry, but once again saw his receiving volume remain depressed, with just 2.8 receptions per game. Johnson was still effective in the receiving game (9.5 Y/R). With Houston's pending surplus of negative game scripts, Johnson's pass catching ability still makes him the most appealing of a bad group.

Lindsay's yards per touch have gone down every year in the league while he has been relegated to an ancillary rushing option while being an afterthought in the pass game. Lindsay has just 25 receptions over his past 22 games played while averaging just 6.0 yards per catch three years in the league. He can press Johnson for rushing attempts, but the lack of goal line and receiving potential make his role a tough sell on a potentially poor offense.

Brandin Cooks is a bright spot here. After his first disappointing NFL season in 2019 (42-583-2), Cooks bounced right back in his first season with the Texans, catching 81-of-119 targets for 1,150 yards and six touchdowns. Cooks became just the second player to have 1,000 yards receiving with four different teams. He has done so now with Drew Brees, Tom Brady, Deshaun Watson, and a strong Jared Goff season as part of that sample. The one year he was attached to subpar quarterback play in 2019, Cooks was the WR70 in points per game, testing his ability to overcome the expected quarterback he will have this season with Watson out.

The Texans did add a pair of rookies that should run into an initial opportunity to make an impact in Year 1 given the state of the roster. The first is **Nico Collins**, who the team traded up for in the third round. Collins turned 16.7% of his receptions at Michigan into touchdowns (ninth in this class) while averaging 17.8 yards per reception (11th). At worst, Collins can threaten to be a boundary and red zone option next level with his size (6'4" and 222 pounds), something the Houston receiving depth chart does not have outside of him. The team also added tight end **Brevin Jordan** in the fifth round. Expecting anything from a late round rookie tight end is a lot to ask, but Jordan was just 20 years old when drafted and improved on his per game output all three seasons at Miami. Closing things down in 2020, Jordan accounted for 22.4% of the Miami receptions, 27.8% of the receiving yardage, and 43.8% of their touchdowns. Currently, his main road block is only **Jordan Akins**.



Defensive Outlook

J.J. Watt played 90% of the defensive snaps last season and with him gone, there will be a void to fill both inside and outside along the defensive line — one that is likely to have four down linemen more often than not in a switch to a Lovie Smith defense. At 280 pounds, 2019 fifth-round pick **Charles Omenihu** has the ability to play on both the interior and on the edge. Omenihu was able to have some pass rush upside last season bouncing between the two spots with 16 quarterback hits. **Ross Blacklock** was the team's second-round selection in 2020 (and the team's first selection of the draft) but he got on the field for just 23% of the snaps.

After a year with the Miami Dolphins, **Shaq Lawson** was traded to the Texans and could become their No. 1 pass rusher. Lawson was aided a bit by the exotic looks and blitzing of the Dolphins' defense, but he ranked fourth in pressure rate among edge rushers in 2020, according to Sports Info Solutions.

Whitney Mercilus played 55% of the defensive snaps but ranked just 92nd among edge rushers in pressure rate. Jacob Martin, acquired in the Jadeveon Clowney trade, was more impactful when he got on the field. Martin played 33.8% of the defensive snaps and ranked 52nd in pressure rate.

As a team, the Texans ranked 25th in pressure rate last season, even though they blitzed at the eighth-highest rate in the league.

After signing a massive extension last offseason, **Zach Cunningham** had a slight drop in production. He still led the NFL in tackles and a league-high 62% of them came before a first down but his coverage left a bit to be desired. Cunningham ranked 41st among 59 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap and 58th in yards allowed per target, according to data from SIS. The trio of **Kamu Grugier-Hill**, **Christian Kirksey**, and **Kevin Pierre-Louis** were brought in to flank Cunningham on a defense that's likely to use a lot of base personnel if comments from Lovie Smith are to be believed. The Texans already tied for the third-highest rate of base defense (35%) in the league last season.

Bradley Roby was one of the few on-field bright spots for the Texans. But with some disciplinary and injury issues, he played just 10 games in 2020. While he was on the field, Roby ranked 30th among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. **Vernon Hargreaves** ranked 132nd among that cornerback group in 2020. While the Texans made multiple handfuls of depth signings in the offseason, one did come with some quality. The one-year/\$3 million deal for **Desmond King** is perfect for a defensive back that can play all over the secondary. King ranked 34th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

Justin Reid has developed into one of the league's better safeties, though 2020 was not his best and a hand injury cut his season short after 13 games. Reid blitzed more in 2020 and had the fourth-highest pressure rate among safeties with at least 30 pass rushes on the season. **Lonnie Johnson** converted to safety and his play there was better than it was at corner during his rookie year. Johnson is expected to stick at safety with a chance to develop there.

2020 Play Tendencies 62% All Pass % All Pass Rk All Rush % 38% All Rush Rk 27 1 Score Pass % 63% 1 Score Pass Rk 5 2019 1 Score Pass % 56% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 23 2020 Pass Increase % 7% Pass Increase Rk 1 Score Rush % 38% 28 1 Score Rush Rk Up Pass % 65% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 35% Up Rush Rk 29 Down Pass % 62% Down Pass Rk 12 Down Rush % 38% Down Rush Rk 21

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 8 | 50% | 50% | 38% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 12 | 67% | 33% | 50% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 282 | 55% | 45% | 53% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 12 | 75% | 25% | 58% | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 43 | 49% | 51% | 74% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 72 | 54% | 46% | 53% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 78 | 65% | 35% | 45% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 34 | 76% | 24% | 44% | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 50 | 54% | 46% | 66% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 49 | 90% | 10% | 41% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 22 | 91% | 9% | 36% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 22 | 82% | 18% | 23% | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 6 | 83% | 17% | 50% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | | |





Short Yardage Intelligence:

| | 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Run Run NFL Run Run 1D Run NF Freq Rk Freq Avg Rate 1D Avg | | | | | | | | | |
| 50% | 29 | 67% | 59% | 75% | | | | | |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | | | |

NFL Pass

Freq Avg

33%

Pass 1D

Rate

82%

Pass NFL

1D Avg

59%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | David Johnson | 2 | 50% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | David Johnson | 4 | 75% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | David Johnson | 69 | 38% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Brandin Cooks | 2 | 100% | | | | |
| | | | Darren Fells | 2 | 50% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | David Johnson | 12 | 67% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | David Johnson | 18 | 39% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | David Johnson | 14 | 14% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) PASS | | Brandin Cooks | 4 | 50% | | | | |
| | | RUSH | Deshaun Watson | 4 | 50% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | David Johnson | 9 | 89% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Jordan Akins | 7 | 29% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Will Fuller | 4 | 75% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Deshaun Watson | 4 | 25% | | | | |

| _ | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | No Yes | | |
| No | Success: 56% | Success: 52% | Success: 55% | |
| | YPA: 9.4, EPA: 0.25 | YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.24 | |
| | Rtg: 117.1 | Rtg: 114.6 | Rtg: 116.8 | |
| | [Att: 343 - Rate: 58.0%] | [Att: 48 - Rate: 8.1%] | [Att: 391 - Rate: 66.2%] | |
| Yes | Success: 48% | Success: 61% | Success: 53% | |
| | YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.01 | YPA: 10.3, EPA: 0.23 | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.09 | |
| | Rtg: 88.0 | Rtg: 131.9 | Rtg: 104.9 | |
| | [Att: 124 - Rate: 21.0%] | [Att: 76 - Rate: 12.9%] | [Att: 200 - Rate: 33.8%] | |
| Total | Success: 54% | Success: 57% | Success: 54% | |
| | YPA: 8.7, EPA: 0.19 | YPA: 9.8, EPA: 0.19 | YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.19 | |
| | Rtg: 109.2 | Rtg: 125.5 | Rtg: 112.7 | |
| | [Att: 467 - Rate: 79.0%] | [Att: 124 - Rate: 21.0%] | [Att: 591 - Rate: 100.0%] | |

Pass

Frea

50%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Pass

Rk

4

| Wk | Орр | Score | Brandin Cooks | Will Fuller | David Johnson | Darren Fells | Jordan Akins | Randall Cobb | Duke Johnson | Keke Coutee | Chad Hansen | Kenny Stills |
|----|-------|---------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | KC | L 34-20 | 31 (53%) | 47 (80%) | 48 (81%) | 25 (42%) | 48 (81%) | 46 (78%) | 14 (24%) | | | 22 (37%) |
| 2 | BAL | L 33-16 | 53 (90%) | 37 (63%) | 56 (95%) | 24 (41%) | 49 (83%) | 40 (68%) | | 5 (8%) | | 28 (47%) |
| 3 | PIT | L 28-21 | 41 (87%) | 44 (94%) | 45 (96%) | 24 (51%) | 32 (68%) | 34 (72%) | | | | 8 (17%) |
| 4 | MIN | L 31-23 | 61 (94%) | 50 (77%) | 36 (55%) | 52 (80%) | 19 (29%) | 48 (74%) | 25 (38%) | | | 27 (42%) |
| 5 | JAC | W 30-14 | 48 (83%) | 48 (83%) | 45 (78%) | 50 (86%) | | 35 (60%) | 17 (29%) | | | 16 (28%) |
| 6 | TEN | L 42-36 | 63 (88%) | 66 (92%) | 56 (78%) | 63 (88%) | | 44 (61%) | 19 (26%) | | | 16 (22%) |
| 7 | GB | L 35-20 | 55 (81%) | 67 (99%) | 54 (79%) | 53 (78%) | | 49 (72%) | 20 (29%) | | | 22 (32%) |
| 9 | JAC | W 27-25 | 58 (91%) | 56 (88%) | 7 (11%) | 33 (52%) | 22 (34%) | 36 (56%) | 52 (81%) | | | 15 (23%) |
| 10 | CLE | L 10-7 | 55 (96%) | 55 (96%) | | 34 (60%) | 24 (42%) | 32 (56%) | 54 (95%) | | | 8 (14%) |
| 11 | NE | W 27-20 | 57 (93%) | 60 (98%) | | 21 (34%) | 31 (51%) | 5 (8%) | 47 (77%) | 35 (57%) | | 4 (7%) |
| 12 | DET | W 41-25 | 49 (88%) | 47 (84%) | | 28 (50%) | 26 (46%) | | 42 (75%) | 28 (50%) | | |
| 13 | IND | L 26-20 | 53 (83%) | | 37 (58%) | 27 (42%) | 45 (70%) | | 34 (53%) | 48 (75%) | 59 (92%) | |
| 14 | CHI | L 36-7 | | | | 40 (61%) | 36 (55%) | | 30 (45%) | 49 (74%) | 53 (80%) | |
| 15 | IND | L 27-20 | 68 (99%) | | 55 (80%) | 18 (26%) | 40 (58%) | | | 55 (80%) | 63 (91%) | |
| 16 | CIN | L 37-31 | 50 (96%) | | 50 (96%) | 20 (38%) | 17 (33%) | | | 33 (63%) | 50 (96%) | |
| 17 | TEN | L 41-38 | 60 (95%) | | 62 (98%) | 26 (41%) | 16 (25%) | | | 39 (62%) | 59 (94%) | |
| | Grand | Total | 802 (88%) | 577 (87%) | 551 (75%) | 538 (54%) | 405 (52%) | 369 (61%) | 354 (52%) | 292 (59%) | 284 (91%) | 166 (27%) |

| | % | Avg | % | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1-1 [3WR] | 64% | 60% | 51% | | | | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 28% | 20% | 54% | | | | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 2% | 7% | 62% | | | | | | |
| Grouping Tendencies | | | | | | | | | |
| <u> </u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | | | | | | |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. | | | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | | | | | | |

Personnel Groupings

Personnel

NFL

Succ.

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| David Johnson | 12 | 3 | 2 | 7 | | | | |
| Brandin Cooks | 11 | 3 | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| Keke Coutee | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | | | | |
| Jordan Akins | 8 | 1 | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| Will Fuller | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | | |
| Duke Johnson | 7 | | 3 | 4 | | | | |
| Randall Cobb | 7 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | | | |
| Darren Fells | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | |

| Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| David Johnson | 20 | 12 | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| Deshaun Watson | 18 | 7 | 1 | 10 | | | | |
| Duke Johnson | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| Gregory Howell | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate |
|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 16% 23% | 19% 21% NFL AVG | 66% 56% |
| | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % wr |

| 01. Ga | mes w | Halftime | Lead |
|--------|-------|----------|------|
| | | | |

02. Avg Halftime Lead

-4.0

03. Wins

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 8.4 | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.3 | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 8.8 | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.5 | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 57% | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 60% | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.12 | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.24 | |
| | | |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 29% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 61% |
| 46. PA YPA | 9.6 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 9.7% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.17 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 10.6 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 66% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 8.4 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 6.0% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.26 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.7 |

Men In Box

| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 24% |
|--|-----|
| 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 | 5.8 |
| 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 | 34% |
| 60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 3.9 |
| 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 | 48% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-vd line | 4.6 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 26 | defFUM | 11 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | -2.6 | defFUM Rcvrd | 5 |
| offFUM | 21 | dell OW ICCVIA | 3 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 10 | defFR Rk | 4 |
| offFR% | 47.6% | defFR% | 54.5% |
| offFR Rk | 22 | | 4.4 |
| offFROE | -1.5 | defFROE | -1.1 |
| offFROE Rk | 23 | defFROE Rk | 25 |
| OIII KOL KK | 20 | | |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | 2.16 | Opp Att | 31 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 10 | Opp Makes | 25 |
| Own Att | 31 | Opp FG % | 81% |
| Own Makes | 27 | Орр го % | |
| Own FG % | 87% | Opp Expected Makes | 26.09 |
| Own Expected Makes | 25.93 | Opp Make Over Expectation | -1.09 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 1.07 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 28 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 15 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -0.44 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 0.31 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 16 | 2019 Opp Rk | 13 |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

| QB Pressure | |
|-------------|--|
|-------------|--|

Offensive Metrics

| | Deshaun Watson |
|----------------|----------------|
| CAY | 7.3 |
| CAY Rk | 3 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 10 |
| AYTS Rk | 5 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 6 |
| AGG Rk | 25 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 22 |
| COMP% | 70.2 |
| xCOMP% | 65.4 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 15 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 7 |
| CPOE% | 4.8 |
| CPOE Rk | 1 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 10 |
| | |

| 2019 CFOE KK | 10 | |
|--------------|--|--|
| | AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AG xpected completion percentage ge over expectation | |

| ~ | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| | Deshaun Watson | |
| Pressure % | 36 | |
| Pressure Rk | 12 | |
| Sack % | 7.5 | |
| Sack Rk | 5 | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 64 | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 26 | |
| Rating when Pressured | 87.7 | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 6 | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 83.1 | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 4 | |
| Rating when Clean | 121 | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 4 | |
| Time to Throw | 2.85 | |
| | | |

| EPA/Pass | 0.21 |
|-----------------------|-------|
| EPA/Pass Rk | 4 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.10 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 28 |
| On-Target Catch % | 91.8% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 9 |
| Drop% | 5.0% |
| Drop Rk | 5 |
| YAC/Att | 2.2 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 20 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 11.9% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 24 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 24.1% |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 20 |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Easy

Hard

Head Coach: Frank Reich (3 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Marcus Brady (QB coach) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** Matt Eberflus (3 yrs)

Indianapolis Colts

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

#1

Past Records

2020: 11-5 2019: 7-9 2018: 10-6



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Anthony Castonzo (OT) | Retired |
| Anthony Walker Jr. (LB) | Browns |
| Denico Autry (EDGE) | Titans |
| George Odum (S) | Colts |
| Jacoby Brissett (QB) | Dolphins |
| Le'Raven Clark (RT) | Eagles |
| Philip Rivers (QB) | Retired |
| Tavon Wilson (S) | 49ers |
| Tremon Smith (CB) | Texans |
| Chaz Green (RT) | TBD |
| Justin Houston (EDGE) | TBD |
| Malik Hooker (S) | TBD |
| Trey Burton (TE) | TBD |

2021 Indianapolis Colts Overview

What can you say about Frank Reich? Coaches can't guarantee wins, but they can put their team in the best position to win games.

On a weekly basis, that starts with how a coach prepares his team, the game plan he installs, the strategy he plans to employ, his teaching points to the team, and the messaging he delivers. It is the script he uses at the beginning of games. It is the strategy he uses to try and build leads.

Lead building. We often talk about team building. But lead building is vital. Too many coaches look to come out with a good script and "play hard all four quarters" type coachspeak. The true focus should be on jumping on your opponent with a lead.

Teams with a halftime lead win 80% of their games. If you want to talk about small leads, we can talk about small leads. How often do you think a team could overcome a halftime deficit of one point? Two points? One field goal? It shouldn't be the end of the world to be down 17-14 at halftime.

Yet teams with a halftime lead of 1-3 points have won over 62% of their games the last five years.

Teams with any one-score lead at halftime? Again, it doesn't seem that hard to overcome, but they win over 71% of their games.

Every coach goes into halftime and makes adjustments, whether they are leading or trailing. Some coaches are much better than others. There isn't much time at halftime to make adjustments, but offenses that are trailing, even by a score, tend to overcompensate in adjustments. They swing more for the fences. (cont'd - see IND2)

Trey Burton (TE)

Average

Line

-2.4

Games **Favored**

Games Underdog

12

4

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

| Past | a Current Proj |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Forecast 2021 Wins | U 10 |
| 2020 Wins | U 11 |
| Forecast 2020 Wins | U 9 |
| 2019 Wins | U 7 |
| 2018 Wins | U 10 |
| 2017 Wins | U 4 |
| | 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 |

Lineup & Cap Hits K Willis 58 53 OLB K.Paye Rookie RCB SLOTCB K.Moore (.Rhodes 51 57 26 27/ 23/ 79 720 113 110 56 78 640 LWR LT LG RG 110 Q.Nelson R.Kelly M.Glowinski B.Smith 84 T.Hilton *SLOTWR* P.Campbell

J.Doyle*

2020 Cap Dollars

= 30+ years old

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|------------------------|----------|
| Carson Wentz (QB) | Trade |
| Eric Fisher (LT) | \$8.40 |
| Isaac Rochell (IDL) | \$2.5 |
| Sam Tevi (LT) | \$2.5 |
| Chris Reed (LG) | \$1.10 |
| Julie'n Davenport (LT) | \$1.10 |
| Sean Davis (S) | \$1.10 |
| Malik Jefferson (LB) | \$0.90 |
| Andrew Brown (IDL) | \$0.80 |
| | |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|---|
| 1 | 21 | DE - Kwity Paye (Michigan) |
| 2 | 54 | DE - Dayo Odeyingbo (Vanderbilt) |
| 4 | 127 | TE - Kylen Granson (SMU) |
| 5 | 165 | S - Shawn Davis (Florida) |
| 6 | 218 | QB - Sam Ehlinger (Texas) |
| 7 | 229 | WR - Mike Strachan (Charleston (WV)) |
| ' | 248 | OG - Will Fries (Penn State) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | 2020 Rk | |
|---------|------|-----------|----|
| All OFF | | \$117.25M | 1 |
| QB | 10 | \$22.72M | 1 |
| OL | 3 | \$50.33M | 2 |
| RB | 14 | \$9.12M | 22 |
| WR | 17 | \$22.15M | 14 |
| TE | 7 | \$12.94M | 10 |
| All DEF | 22 | \$82.30M | 20 |
| DL | 14 | \$43.70M | 8 |
| LB | 22 | \$11.35M | 23 |
| СВ | 13 | \$19.68M | 18 |
| s | 30 | \$7.58M | 24 |
| | | | |

25

RR2

10

WR3

14

19 (

28

J.Taylor

If the third guarter doesn't start off well, they implement even larger changes which inherently produce less consistency but higher variance in search of a

So how does this relate to Reich? Let's look at the teams with the most halftime leads over the last three years. Most of these won't be surprising:

34 - Ravens

31 - Chiefs

30 - Saints

29 - Colts

28 - Packers

Wait a minute, you're probably thinking, as you see the two best teams in the AFC over the last three years on the list, and the two best teams in the NFC on the list. But how are the Colts on there as well?

To answer, let's examine these team's records with halftime leads:

The Ravens were 31-3 (91%) when leading at halftime in their 34 games. The Chiefs turned their 31 halftime leads into a 29-2 (94%) W-L record. The Saints went 29-1 (97%) when leading at halftime over the last three years. The Packers went 23-4-1 (85%). These teams knew the importance of getting out quickly and building leads. All were aggressive on offense. Ask any of their playcallers and they will tell you that executing early and putting up points has been critical to their ability to win games. Reich would say something similar. He's gotten his team to execute early extremely well.

But the reason you are surprised to see the Colts on this list is because they haven't been one of the best teams in the NFL the last several years. That's largely because they haven't been able to hold onto these leads. They haven't won 97% of games they led at halftime like the Saints, or just over 90% like the Chiefs or Ravens. They haven't won 85% like the Packers. They haven't even won 80% like the NFL average. The Colts are 21-8 (72%) with a halftime lead.

Reich can't do everything. He'd be the first to tell you he needs to be better in the second half of some of these games, too. But his players need to help as well.

When we talk about doing the things coaches need during the week to put their team in position to win, Reich is doing them. He's preparing his team,

| | 2020 Passir | ng Performa | nce | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| QB | 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | |
| Philip Rivers | 58% 7.6 101.2 | 51% 7.4 94.5 | 39% 7.5 90.8 | Success Rat YPA Rating | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 49% | 55% | 76% | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rat YPA Rating | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | | | | |

| | 2020 Rushi | ng Performa | nce | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| IND | 46% 4.4 | 50% 5.3 | 46% 2.7 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 51% | 45% | 24% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

installing sound game plans and strategies, crafting a solid script, and when the games have kicked off, he's coached his team to the fourth-most halftime leads of any team in the NFL.

What is especially impressive is that unlike the Packers with Aaron Rodgers, the Saints with Drew Brees, the Chiefs with Patrick Mahomes, or the Ravens with Lamar Jackson, Reich has gotten it done with a different quarterback every single year. Andrew Luck in 2018. Jacoby Brissett in 2019. Philip Rivers in 2020. Imagine being able to consistently build halftime leads with a new quarterback every single season. It's truly impressive.

Unfortunately, Reich will have to do it for a fourth straight year, as the Colts traded what they ironically hope will be a first-round draft pick for Carson

(cont'd - see IND-3)

| | 2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 10- 10- 15- 20- 25- 30- | 16 U | 14 U | 13 | 23 U | 8 | U | 14 U | 15 U | 8 | U | 15 U | 2 | 7 |
| ı | 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 |

| | i | | 30 8 | Red Zo | 3rd Do | ΥF | > | 5 | Eff | Efficie | Pa | RB Pass | 9 | ETICIE | Explosi | |
|----------|------------|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| | <u>202</u> | <u> 20 V</u> | Vee | kly | EDSF | 8 | : Se | aso | n Tr | en | ding | Pe | rfo | rma | nce | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| L JAC | W MIN | W NYJ | W CHI | L CLE | W CIN | | W DET | L BAL | W TEN | W GB | L | W HOU | W LV | W HOU | L PIT | W JAC |
| Α | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н | | Α | Н | Α | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Н |
| -7 | 17 | 29 | 8 | -9 | 4 | | 20 | -14 | 17 | 3 | -19 | 6 | 17 | 7 | -4 | 14 |
| 20 | 28 | 36 | 19 | 23 | 31 | | 41 | 10 | 34 | 34 | 26 | 26 | 44 | 27 | 24 | 28 |
| 27 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 32 | 27 | | 21 | 24 | 17 | 31 | 45 | 20 | 27 | 20 | 28 | 14 |
| | | | | | | | | _ | | | | | | | | |
| _ | | | | | | | | | 4 | _ | | | | | Λ | ^ |

| | 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 5 - 10 - 25 - 30 - 30 - 35 - 35 - 35 - 35 - 35 - 3 | U | U | U | U 21 | U | U | U ₈ | Ų | U | U | U | ŭ | U ₃ |
| | EDSR Def | 30 & In Def | Red Zone Def | 3rd Down Def | YPPA Def | YPPT Def | Defensive Efficiency | Pass Efficiency Def | Pass Pro Efficieincy Def | RB Pass Eff Def | Rush Efficiency Def | Explosive Bass Def | Explosive Run Def |

| WEEK | <u>Records</u> |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| RESULT | |
| OPP | All 2019 Wins: 11 |
| SITE | FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-0 |
| MARGIN | FG Games Win %: 100% (#1) |
| PTS | FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): |
| OPP PTS | 9% (#23) |
| | 1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-2 |
| EDSR by Wk | 1 Score Games Win %: 71% (#7) |

2020 Close Game Pacarde

1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

OFF/DFF **EDSR** Blue=OFF (high=good) Red=DEF

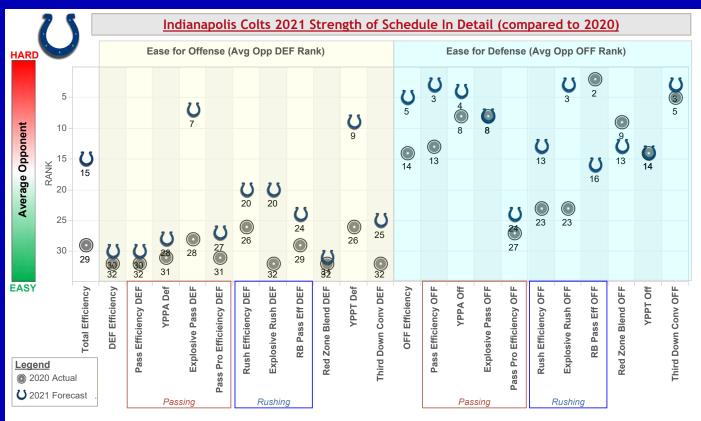
Wins): 45% (#23)

| # # | Ä | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2020 Critical/Game- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deciding Stats | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TO Margin | +10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| TO Given | 15 | | | | | | | | | | |
| INT Given | 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| FUM Given | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| TO Taken | 25 | | | | | | | | | | |
| INT Taken | 15 | | | | | | | | | | |
| FUM Taken | 10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sack Margin | +19 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sacks | 40 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sacks Allow | 21 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Return TD Margin | +3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs | 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs Allow | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penalty Margin | -8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Penalties | 94 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent Penalties | 86 | | | | | | | | | | |

W=Green

(low=good)

L=Red



| | 2021 vs 2020 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 | | | | | |
| 14 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 3 | 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 | | | | 20 | 21 C |)ppo | nent | s by | Divi | <u>sion</u> | <u>2020</u> | Opp | one | nts b | y Div | isior | <u> H</u> | ealth | ı by l | Jnit* | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|---------|---------|------|-------------------------|------|-----------|------------|-------|-------|--|--|----------|----------|-------|----------|------------|---------------|---------------------|----------|--------------|------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | | CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE PA | 700 | | | | | A 65 | | . | | | 2020 | Rk | 13 |
| | Ave | rage li | ine | | -4.0 | -0 | 0.3 | -1.1 | AF | cs | ************************************** | | \$ A | | | AFCS | 3. | / | € | | | | 2019 | Rk | 12 |
| | Avera | ge O/L | Jline | | 48.0 | 45 | | 47.7 | | | | | | | | | - | | | | | 20 | 20 v 20 | 019 Rk | 3 |
| | Straigh | | | | 11-5 | | -9 | 10-6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | nst the | | | | 8-7 | | -7 | 8-7 | AF | CE | 4 | 1 5 | 7 - | ₹ € | ers | | - | . 4 | | | - | | Off F | КК | 21 |
| (| Over/U | | | | 9-7 | | -7 | 8-7 | | | M | Page 1 | e- | • | | AFCN | 12 | = 1 | 3 (| | **) | | Def I | ₹k | 8 |
| | | as Fav | | | 8-4 | 4. | | 5-5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | QB F | 2k | 16 |
| | ATS a | | | | 0-3 | | -2 | 3-2 | NE | cw | To | 1 | \ | ~ 6 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Straig | | | | 6-2 3-4 | 4. | -3 | 6-2 3-4 | 141 | CVV | | | | = | 230 | | | | | _ 0 | | | RB F | Rk | 31 |
| | | S Hon | | | 3-4 3-5 | | -4 -3 | 3-4 4-3 | | | | | | | | NFCN | | <i>></i> 🦖 | / |) | -01C | | WR I | Rk | 27 |
| | Over/L 「S as F | | | to | 3-3 | _ | -3 -3 | 4-3 3-4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | TER |) k | 26 |
| | TS as r | | | | 0-1 | 0. | - | 0-0 | AF | CN | 7 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Straig | | | j | 0-1 5-3 | | - I -6 | 0-0 4-4 | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | Oline | Rk | 4 |
| | | S Awa | | | 5-3 | 3. | - | 5-3 | | | _ | | | | | AFCE | 2/2 | | | | | | Dline | Rk | 7 |
| | Over/l | | | | 6-2 | 4. | | 4-4 | AF | cw | e O | | | | | | | | | | | | LB F | n. | 10 |
| | ATS A | | | | 5-1 | 0. | | 2-1 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Away | | | 0-2 | 3. | -1 | 3-2 | | | | | | | | | 1833 | 111 | | | | | DB F | ₹k | 18 |
| Six | Point | Tease | r Reco | ord | 12-4 | 11 | -5 | 13-3 | | -00 | 8 (6) | | | | | AFCW | 1 | ۴) | | | | | | | |
| Seve | n Poin | nt Teas | er Re | cord | 12-4 | 11 | -5 | 13-3 | NF | cs | | , | | | | 7.1. 011 | (a) | 7 | | | | | | on the w | |
| Ter | Point | Tease | r Rec | ord | 13-3 | 11 | -5 | 15-1 | | | - | | | | | | | | | | | | Footba | all Outsi | ders |
| | | | | | 20 | 21 V | Veek | ly Be | ettin | g Lir | <u>nes</u> | | | | | | | | | Hom | ıe Li | nes | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 17 |
| 054 | | TEN | B 41 A | DAL | | 0.5 | TEN. | NIX/ I | 143/ | DUE | | | NIE | 4 D.I | L) (D | 1437 | -3 | -1.5 | | -3.5 | | | 0 | | |
| SEA | LAR | TEN | MIA | BAL | HOU | SF | TEN | NYJ | JAX | BUF | TB | HOU | NE | ARI | LVR | JAX | SEA | LAR | | TEN | -8.5 | -7.5 | TB | -5.5 | -6 = -5.2 |
| -3.0 | -1.5 | -1.0 | -1.5 | +4.0 | -11.5 | +4.5 | -3.5 | -8.5 | -7.5 | +6.0 | +0.0 | -7.0 | -5.5 | +1.0 | -6.0 | -3.0 | | | -11.5 HOU | | NYJ | JAX | | Avg | 0.2 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HOU | | | • | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 7 | | | | | | W. T. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ayg = | -216 | A | A | A | Н | | ъΗ | Н | H | A | | Α | Н | 1 | Avg | = -2.6 | | | | Roa | <u>d Liı</u> | nes | | | |
| | - | | 12 page | | | | H | | | | | <u> </u> | | | | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 16 | 18 |
| | | | | | _ | | | Jegs | | | | 3.7 | -8 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | $\langle \cdot \rangle$ | | | - | 0 | | | - | | | | | | | 4 | 4.5 | | | | 1 Ava | = 0.4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | -1 TEN | -1.5 | | SF | | | - | ARI | |
| 22 | 2 | 2 | _ | 0 | 00 | 2 | 20 | 00 | _ | 2 | 75 | 49 | 00 | 20 | 2 | 00 | IEIN | IVIIA | ` | | | | -7 ⊣ou | | JĄX |
| 5 | 49. | 49. | 47 | 49 | 48 | 46. | 2 | 48 | 51 | 51. | 51. | 4 | 48 | 2 | 49. | 48 | | | | | | | ,00 | | |





Wentz. They are hoping Wentz will deliver in 2021, paired up with Reich as he was in the 2017 season, when Wentz (a second-year quarterback) drove his team to the playoffs and finished third in MVP voting.

Rivers was obviously a big step up from Brissett. Wentz has big shoes to fill and he has struggled in several areas that Rivers excelled in last year.

The Colts' early down passing improved tremendously under Rivers last year. Indianapolis ranked second in early down passing efficiency in the first half of games last year. Wentz was nowhere close to Rivers's efficiency. Examine the early down passing splits in the first half of games last year:

Philip Rivers: 8.8 YPA, 60% success, 0.27 EPA/att Carson Wentz: 5.7 YPA, 44% success, -0.20 EPA/att

Early down passes early in the game should deliver some of the purest looks with defenses playing run more than they would on third down or in obvious passing situations later in games. But Wentz was terrible in those situations.

Reich's highly efficient early down passing attack passed the ball on 56% of early downs, identical to Wentz's Eagles. So, a shift in pass rate won't be coming to help Wentz.

Comparing the early down run support on the 44% of early downs that were runs, we find the following efficiencies:

Eagles: 4.8 YPC, 53% success, -0.06 EPA/att Colts: 4.5 YPC, 46% success, -0.06 EPA/att

The Eagles were more efficient on early down runs than the Colts, and that holds true even when you strip out runs from Wentz. So, an increase in support from the run game won't be coming to help Wentz, either.

Wentz's accuracy was significantly worse than Rivers's on these passes. Wentz threw a catchable ball on just 67% of his first down passes in the first half of games. The NFL average was 10 percentage points higher, at 77%. Rivers was up at 81%.

Reich is going to have to rebuild Wentz's confidence and potentially tweak mechanics to get Wentz's accuracy where it needs to be in 2021 to get anywhere close to efficiency in the passing game the Colts will need.

On early down passes the last couple of years, whether it was Brissett or Rivers, Reich called a lot of 3-step drops. Roughly 41% of all drops were 3-step. The NFL average is down at 36%.

The last two years, the Eagles were down at 31% 3-step drops. They were below average largely because Wentz was terrible with them. Instead, the Eagles were above average in 0/1 step drops (35%) because that's what Wentz was best at. Look at Wentz's splits the last two years on early downs in the first half of games:

0/1 step: 59% success, 6.8 YPA, 0.04 EPA/att 3-step: 38% success, 5.6 YPA, -0.38 EPA/att 5-step: 43% success, 6.3 YPA, -0.12 EPA/att

19

Wentz threw a catchable ball on 83% of his drops from 0/1 step with an aDOT of 5.2 yards and the offense was efficient. He was still pressured on 26% of these drops, a ridiculously high rate considering the drop is so short. But on 3-step drops, Wentz was pressured on 42% of drops and threw a catchable ball on only 64% of attempts with an aDOT of 9.7 yards.

There are two quick fixes for Reich if he wants Wentz to take more 3-step drops. First, the Colts will protect him better. The Eagles have seen their offensive line ravaged by injuries in both of the last two years. It's been laughable. On Rivers's 3-step drops last year, he was pressured on just 23% of attempts. That was a lower rate than Wentz on 0/1 step drops.

Second, the Colts will lower Wentz's aDOT. Rivers had an aDOT of just 7.3 yards on these 3-step drops. That was well below average (8.7). The last two years, Wentz was up at 9.7. Last year, when the bottom fell out, Wentz was up at an aDOT of 10.3 on early down passes with 3-step drops, a full three yards deeper than Rivers. Reducing the target depth should help increase accuracy while reducing pressure, two things Wentz is sorely in need of improving.

(cont'd - see IND-4)

24

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game prep to prep 2 3 +2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Indianapolis Colts Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank** Rank Rank

12

25

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- As mentioned above, the Colts do end the season with the easiest schedule in the NFL. However, the beginning of the season is absolutely brutal. In their first eight games, the Colts will face six teams that are favored to make the playoffs and a seventh team (Miami) that has a win total of 9. That's a difficult start with a new quarterback.
- Indianapolis has a gigantic hole at left tackle with the surprise retirement of **Anthony Costanzo**, who has been graded as a top 21 pass blocking tackle by PFF in every season since 2014. They did nothing to immediately fill that gap besides signing veteran **Eric Fisher**, who is coming off a torn achilles and may not be back until mid-season. Even then, Fisher has just been ok, grading as the 41st, 33rd, and 31st ranked tackle in pass blocking the last three seasons in Kansas City.
- While Wentz could return to form under Reich, it is really hard to ignore just how brutally awful he was last season in Philadelphia. He ranked 38th in EPA per play and 37th in completion percentage over expected. To clear a double-digit win total, Wentz must improve.

10

Why Bet the Over

- The Colts faced the single easiest schedule in the NFL last season and are expected to face the sixth easiest this season. If Indianapolis can survive a difficult start to the season, the Colts will face the easiest schedule in the final six weeks of the season.
- Indianapolis benefited greatly in the turnover category.
 They led the NFL in net EPA gained from turnovers. They were the only team in the NFL to rank in the top five on both offense and defense in EPA benefitted from turnovers.
- New QB Carson Wentz struggled last season in Philadelphia but undoubtedly his best season of his career occurred in 2017 when Reich was the offensive coordinator with the Eagles. He finished fourth in EPA per play and led the NFL in TD percentage and QBR.
- Indianapolis boasts one of, if not, the best combination of front office and coaching staffs in the NFL. Since he became the Colts head coach in 2018, Frank Reich is ranked in the top 10 for most aggressive in fourth down situations.

| | | Indianapolis (| Colts Positional I | Unit Rankings | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach |
| 25 | 8 | 5 | 27 | 15 | 16 | 12 |

Based on our unit ranks, the Colts appear to be planning to win with defense and a strong running game in 2021.

When throwing from a clean pocket last season, **Carson Wentz** ranked dead last with an on-target rate of 74.9%. How do you go about fixing a quarterback who's struggled even in a clean pocket? Without an obvious solution to Wentz's struggles, Indy's QB room ranked no higher than 23rd on any ballot.

The backfield should be the strength of the Colts offense, as the unit cracked the top eight on every ballot. While **Jonathan Taylor** looks like the workhorse, having three backups with proven production certainly contributes to our positive outlook for this unit.

Indy's receiving corps needed an upgrade, but was mostly ignored this offseason. This unit could elevate its production significantly if **Parris Campbell** stays healthy and lives up to expectations. Campbell has produced a negative EPA per target in each of his first two seasons.

Our ranking of the Colts' offensive line reflects confidence in **Eric Fisher's** ability to replace **Anthony Castonzo** at left tackle. However, if he's still affected by his season-ending Achilles injury, this unit could take a step back.

The Colts' front seven was tough to evaluate, earning votes between ninth and 27th. To reach the high end of that spectrum, rookie **Kwity Paye** likely needs to exceed **Justin Houston's** 9.4% pressure rate from a season ago. If interior lineman **DeForest Buckner** leads the team in pressure rate again (11.5%), it probably means the front seven fell short of those expectations. The secondary landed in the middle of the pack, but it's anchored by one of the best in **Xavier Rhodes**. In 2020, Rhodes led the league in NFL Next Gen Stats' Catch Rate Over Expected metric.

Frank Reich ranks in the upper half of coaches, but this will be a critical year for him, as he tries to replicate some magic he had with Wentz in Philadelphia. Resurrecting Wentz's career could lead to a bump up the list next offseason.

<u>IND-4</u>

The reason we're focusing on early down passes in the first half of games is because the Colts have ranked top-10 in every year under Reich and Wentz was terrible in that department last year.

Getting efficiency out of Wentz on early downs will be the most important task of all for Reich. If he's successful, this offense will operate without much of a dropoff from 2020.

Another area where Wentz can improve is on his seam passes. The Eagles offense in both 2020 and 2019 didn't have Wentz attack the seams nearly as much as Reich's offenses have.

Wentz the last two years: 41% of passes to the seams Rivers last year: 52% of passes to the seams

And look at the efficiency disparity:

Wentz: 47% success, 5.8 YPA, -0.08 EPA/att, 69% catchable rate Rivers: 59% success, 8.2 YPA, 0.32 EPA/att, 85% catchable rate

IND-5

It's a huge efficiency gap. Wentz had been productive on these passes in the past. As recently as 2018 he was averaging over 8.0 YPA with an 80% catchable rate. Is this something that Reich can fix? Is there nothing to fix and it was all just Doug Pederson's offense coupled with personnel?

At the end of the day, we know Reich will want to target the seams and we know Wentz will need to deliver a catchable ball to produce efficient offense. Can Reich get that out of him or not this year, that is the question.

What was odd about the 2020 Colts offense was their lack of play-action usage and success off of it. They used play-action on only 25% of attempts in the first three quarters, which ranked seventh-lowest in the NFL.

What was odd was in 2019, the Colts used play-action on 33% of attempts, which ranked sixth-highest in the NFL.

The 2020 Colts offense was bad with play-action. In fact, their EPA/att and success rate both decreased when using play-action, which is atypical. Understandably, in that situation, a team would reduce its use. This could have been a Rivers preference, in which case, we might assume play action would increase in 2021 with Carson Wentz.

After all, the Eagles have used one of the highest rates of play-action of any team in the NFL the last several years. They've used it at a 31% clip the last three years, which ranks sixth-highest in the NFL, behind only the Titans, 49ers, Chiefs, Ravens, and Rams.

The most puzzling of all of the Carson Wentz falloff in 2020 was with play-action. His entire career saw him benefit from the usage of play-action, which is why the Eagles felt good about running it so often.

With play-action, 2018-2019: 8.4 YPA, 52% success, 0.14 EPA/att Without play-action, 2018-2019: 6.5 YPA, 48% success, -0.03 EPA/att

Clearly, play-action was exceedingly valuable for Wentz.

(cont'd - see IND-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



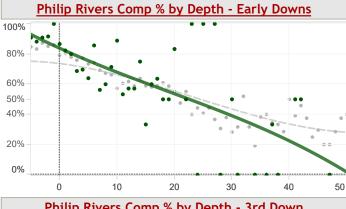
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

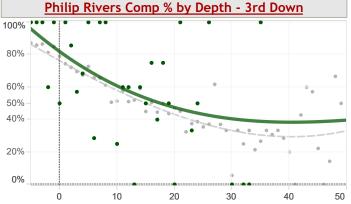


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | J | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | Jonathan Taylor | 6% | 4% | 73% | 9% | 8% | | | | | | |
| | Nyheim Hines | 9% | 6% | 66% | 9% | 8% | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Jordan Wilkins | 5% | 6% | 49% | 11% | 30% | | | | | | |
| 2 | Michael Pittman | | | 75% | | 25% | | | | | | |
| | Trey Burton | 50% | | | | 50% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 7% | 5% | 66% | 10% | 13% | | | | | | |
| | Jonathan Taylor | 5% | 3% | 85% | 5% | 3% | | | | | | |
| | Nyheim Hines | 8% | 10% | 66% | 9% | 6% | | | | | | |
| | Jordan Wilkins | 19% | 6% | 63% | 13% | | | | | | | |
| | T.Y. Hilton | 12% | 10% | 67% | 8% | 3% | | | | | | |
| PASS | Michael Pittman | 15% | 3% | 66% | 7% | 9% | | | | | | |
| A | Zach Pascal | 16% | 7% | 60% | 9% | 9% | | | | | | |
| | Trey Burton | 10% | 21% | 65% | 4% | | | | | | | |
| | Jack Doyle | 5% | 10% | 80% | | 5% | | | | | | |
| | Mo Alie-Cox | 10% | 5% | 75% | 3% | 8% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 11% | 9% | 69% | 7% | 5% | | | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Taylor Wilkins Michael Pittman Hines Pascal Burton Doyle Mo Alie-Cox Hilton Jonathan Nyheim Jordan lack Zach Trey 58% RUSH 22% PASS ALL





Successful Play Rate 0% 100% 100% 100%



Run Types

49% (140)

4.5, 0.04

47% (101) 4.0, -0.08

45% (44)

4.3, -0.03

47% (30)

4.6, 0.07

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 50%, 0.15 (496) | 47%, -0.08 (77) | 68%, 0.35 (22) | 57%, 0.49 (7) | 0%, -1.79 (4) | 67%, 0.73 (3) | 0%, -0.50 (1) | 0%, -0.56 (1) | 50%, 0.12 (612) |
| RUSH | 50%, 0.04 (266) | 49%, -0.06 (155) | 34%, -0.20 (62) | 33%, -0.20 (3) | | | 0%, -0.78 (2) | | 47%, -0.03 (488) |
| All | 50%, 0.11 (762) | 48%, -0.06 (232) | 43%, -0.06 (84) | 50%, 0.28 (10) | 0%, -1.79 (4) | 67%, 0.73 (3) | 0%, -0.69 (3) | 0%, -0.56 (1) | 49%, 0.05 (1,100) |

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 | 56% (66) 6.3, 0.18 | 20% (5) 3.0, -0.38 | 50% (4) 9.0, 0.23 | | 53% (75) 6.2, 0.14 | | | | | | | |
| TE | Trey Burton | 49% (37) 5.4, -0.02 | 43% (7) 3.4, -0.74 | | | 48% (44) 5.1, -0.13 | | | | | | | |
| | Jack Doyle | 59% (29) 7.0, 0.22 | 67% (12) 8.8, 0.45 | | | 61% (41) 7.5, 0.29 | | | | | | | |
| | Mo Alie-Cox | 72% (32) 11.0, 0.51 | 67% (6) 11.7, 0.31 | | | 71% (38) 11.1, 0.48 | | | | | | | |
| WR | T.Y. Hilton | 51% (85) 7.4, 0.23 | 57% (7) 8.4, -0.66 | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.34 | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.32 | 51% (94) 7.4, 0.15 | | | | | | | |
| | Zach Pascal | 50% (62) 7.6, 0.29 | 75% (12) 13.8, 0.78 | | | 54% (74) 8.6, 0.37 | | | | | | | |
| | Michael Pittman Jr. | 49% (67) 8.4, 0.14 | 40% (5) 5.6, -0.06 | | | 49% (72) 8.2, 0.12 | | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | | (LCuuci | boul u) | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| Taylor Jonathan | 55% (121) 6.4, 0.18 | 50% (100) 3.5, -0.07 | 50% (2) 0.5, -0.19 | | 52% (223) 5.0, 0.06 |
| Hines Nyheim | 43% (80) 4.5, -0.12 | 45% (11) 6.2, 0.09 | 0% (1) 1.0, -0.20 | | 42% (92) 4.7, -0.10 |
| Wilkins Jordan | 45% (47) 3.9, -0.15 | 42% (26) 3.2, -0.32 | | | 44% (73) 3.6, -0.21 |
| Brissett Jacoby | 100% (3) 2.3, 0.52 | 67% (9) 1.4, 0.49 | | 0% (2) -1.0, -0.78 | 64% (14) 1.3, 0.32 |
| Rivers Philip | 0% (2) 3.0, -0.22 | 0% (3) 0.0, -0.58 | | | 0% (5) 1.2, -0.44 |
| Mack Marlon | 100% (3) 9.7, 0.54 | 0% (1) -3.0, -1.01 | | | 75% (4) 6.5, 0.15 |

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

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Rur |
|--------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 56% (409) | 3 Step | 57% (226) 7.1, 0.17 | Planted | | % (448) .9, 0.24 | Inside |
| | 53% (293) | Curl | 70% (74) 7.1, 0.26 | | 6.9, 0.19 | | 49% (155) | Shuffling | | 3% (111) .5, 0.02 | Zone |
| Zone | 7.5, 0.16 | 0.14 | 59% (51) | Level 2 | 53% (116) 9.9, 0.38 | 5 Step | 9.5, 0.35 | Moving | 37 | 7% (30) 3, -0.22 | Outside Zone |
| | 55% (185) | Out | 8.8, 0.49 | | | 0/1 Step | 56% (79) 6.4, 0.15 | | | , | |
| M2M | 8.1, 0.32 | Dig | 52% (46) | Level 3 | 32% (38) 10.3, 0.07 | | 54% (48) | | Play Acti | | Stretch |
| | 500((74) | | 8.9, 0.37 | | | 7 Step | 9.0, 0.20 | | Play Action | No P/A | |
| Screen | 53% (74) 7.0, 0.15 | Drag | 59% (41) | Sidearm | 40% (5) 5.2, 0.03 | Di- 0 | 50% (36) | Under Center | 56% (50) 9.9, 0.28 | 38% (8) 5.5, 0.05 | Power |
| | | | 9.2, 0.14 | | | Basic Screen | 7.6, 0.19 | Shotgun | 42% (89) 6.7, -0.17 | 51% (466) 7.3, 0.16 | |
| Combo | 0% (1) 15.0, 0.26 | Slant | 50% (28) 6.0, 0.07 | Shovel | 75% (4) 5.5, 0.02 | Designed Rollout Right | 33% (3) 6.7, -0.24 | ALL | 47% (139) 7.9, -0.01 | 51% (474) 7.3, 0.16 | Pitch |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

IND-6

But compare 2020's play-action with prior years:

2020 play-action: 5.8 YPA, 38% success, -0.26 EPA/att 2018-19 play-action: 8.4 YPA, 52% success, 0.14 EPA/att

Wentz completely fell off the map with play-action in 2020, to the point that he was worse with play-action than without it, and the Eagles could have stood to use even less of it as a result.

This is going to be yet another task for Reich: fix Wentz in play-action. Remember, the 2020 Colts were worse with play-action than without it. So Reich lowered it when it didn't make sense for the offense. But Wentz isn't Rivers. Wentz has never been good without play-action. Over the last three years without play-action, Wentz has averaged 6.4 YPA, 46% success, and -0.09 EPA/att.

Can Reich get Wentz to play well without play-action for the first time since 2017? Will Reich use more play action in 2021 than he used in 2020? Will Wentz rebound from his 2020 head scratcher and play better with play-action? It's impossible to say right now, but it will be fascinating to watch.

As alluded to earlier, the Eagles have been ridiculously unlucky with injuries along the offensive line. They ranked 32nd in offensive line health last year. The Colts should be in much better shape there, returning four of five starters on a top-10 pass protection line last year. However, they lost one of their most important pieces in left tackle **Anthony Castonzo** when he retired after the 2020 season.

There was rampant speculation the Colts would replace him with a tackle in the draft, but when EDGE **Kwity Paye** was available at the 21st overall pick in the 2021 draft, they snagged him. Then in the second round, they doubled down by taking DE **Dayo Odeyingbo**.

At that point, while there was criticism that the Colts didn't address the hole, I knew savvy GM Chris Ballard had to have something up his sleeve. That something was free agent LT **Eric Fisher**. The former blindside protector of Patrick Mahomes tore his Achilles in the AFC Championship game, and the Chiefs quarterback was destroyed by pressure in the Super Bowl loss. Fisher may not be ready by the start of the season, but when he does return, (cont'd - see <u>IND-7</u>)





if close to 100%, he would be a significant upgrade over LT **Sam Tevi**, who was signed this offseason. It will be vital to keep Wentz comfortable with the likely higher rate of 3-step dropbacks.

Reich's offense improved in so many areas with Rivers at the helm, including passing against man coverage, efficiency out of 5-step drops, production from under center play-action, and the ability to use a more diverse passing game rather than throwing such a high rate of screen passes, which is what Brissett was doing throughout 2019.

The ground game still needs to take another step. They dipped from eighth in 2019 rushing efficiency to 15th last year. They dipped from fourth in 2019 EPA/att to 15th last year. This, despite drafting **Jonathan Taylor** 41st overall in the 2020 draft. Taylor was outstanding running the ball from 11 personnel (55% success, 6.4 YPA, and 0.18 EPA/att) and outstanding on fourth downs (100% conversion rate, 1.91 EPA/att).

But he, and the rest of the Colts, were terrible running out of 12 personnel. Even if you remove fourth quarter runs and look at runs from 12 on early downs, Taylor put up -0.07 EPA/att and 4.0 YPC compared to 0.07 EPA/att and 6.3 YPC from 11 personnel. The entire Colts roster produced -0.05 EPA/att and 3.9 YPC on these early down runs from 12 personnel, so this is an area for the Colts to address and improve upon this offseason.

The 2021 Colts are fortunate to face what I predict will be terrible defenses which should help Wentz get his feet wet in this offense. Last year at this time, I predicted the Colts would face the second easiest schedule of defenses and the third easiest schedule of pass defenses. I was almost dead-on accurate, and by the end of the year, they actually played the easiest schedule of both. This year, I forecast the Colts to play the third easiest schedule of both pass defenses and total defenses.

On the other side of the ball, it will be more challenging for the defense, as I forecast they will play a top-5 schedule of opposing offenses after playing a near-league average schedule in each of the last two years.

Speaking of schedule, Indianapolis continues to get the short end of the stick. Over the last five years, the Indianapolis Colts have played in 14 primetime games: two home and 12 road. Since 2017, it's one at home and nine on the road! This year, the Colts play in three primetime games and one on Christmas. The league made zero adjustments in their pursuit of unfairly screwing the Colts, and put three of these four games on the road.

No team starts with a more brutal schedule than the Colts, who begin the season with not only the toughest schedule of opponents in Weeks 1-5, but they endure a three-game road trip in that span as well.

Immediate Impact of Indianapolis Colts 2021 Draft Class

It looks like the Colts stuck to their board rather than reaching for needs, which resulted in a draft class that may not generate much immediate production.

DE Kwity Paye (first round) is the exception, as he will likely be their most effective pass-rusher as a rookie.

In 2020, the Colts brought just four pass-rushers 82% of the time, so having a dangerous threat on the edge is critical. Paye fits the bill, as he led the Big Ten with a 25% pressure rate when rushing as one of just four pass-rushers in his final year at Michigan.

DL **Dayo Odeyingbo** (second round) is rehabbing from a torn Achilles in January, so it's unclear if he offers any immediate help. In the long term, he likely plays in the defensive line rotation, possibly shifting to the interior line on passing downs.

WR **Mike Strachan** (seventh round) is easily the most exciting Day 3 pick from this class. He posted impressive workout numbers for a 6'5" receiver. The transition from D-II Charleston won't be easy, but he looks like a fun prospect for the coaches to groom alongside **Michael Pittman Jr**.

With only one prospect from this class who appears destined for a starting role, it's tough to be excited about this draft haul for Indy. This looks like a bottom tier class, unless some Day 3 picks shock us and develop into impact players.



Indianapolis Colts 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Indianapolis closed last season out seventh in the NFL in EPA via passing offense, ninth in yards per pass attempt (7.6 yards), 12th in success rate (50%), and 14th in yards per completion (11.3 yards). Getting effective play from **Philip Rivers**, the veteran passer retired after the season. As a countermeasure, the Colts traded for **Carson Wentz**, reuniting him with Frank Reich, who was Wentz's offensive coordinator his first two seasons in the league. Reclamation on Wentz will be required since has steadily declined since his 2017 breakout. Wentz has dipped below 7.0 yards per pass attempt in each of the past two seasons while he is coming off a career-low 57.4% completion rate. From a clean pocket, Wentz averaged just 6.5 yards per pass attempt in 2020, which was 40th in the league.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|--|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | | | |
| Philip Rivers | 397 | 590 | 67% | 4,478 | 7.6 | 26 | 11 | 19 | 97 | 17 | | | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | | | |

| | | | 2020 A | dvanced | d Passir | ng Table | 2 | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 | 51% | 55% | 61 | 10.0% | 17 | 3.0% | 5.2 | 6.1 | 22 | 4% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Philip Rivers Rating

<u>Early Downs</u> 92 96 102

| <u>In</u> | tercep | tion Ra | tes by I | <u>Down</u> | |
|-------------|---------|---------|----------|-------------|-------|
| 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% | 4.3% | 0.0% | 2.6% |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 1.4% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 1.5% |
| 10 - 14 | 1.4% | 2.4% | 6.1% | 0.0% | 2.1% |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| Total | 1.2% | 1.5% | 3.2% | 0.0% | 1.8% |

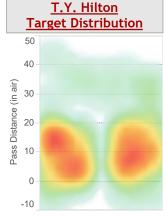
| 3rd Down I | assing | 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|---|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | | | | | |
| Philip Rivers | 9.0 | 5.2 | -3.9 | 74% | 34 | | | | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | | | | |

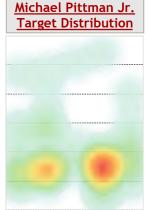
| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | |
| | 46% | 54% | 38 | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Colts wide receivers ranked 26th in receptions (10.9) and 22nd in yardage per game (148.4 yards) while they tied for 26th in the league with 11 touchdown catches as a group. **Nyheim Hines** led the team with 63 receptions followed by **T.Y. Hilton** (56). No player hit 100 targets on the season with Hilton leading the way at 93 targets. The Colts targeted their tight ends 23% of the time (11th in the league), ranking ninth in success rate (59%) and 11th in yards per target (7.6 yards) to the position. Although not having an individual star, **Trey Burton**, **Mo Alie-Cox**, and **Jack Doyle** all chipped in over the season. The Colts will hope to get more out of Pittman in Year 2 and get **Parris Campbell** back after 63 snaps in 2020.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% RK | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| T.Y. Hilton | 92 | 59% | 7.9 | 88.3 | 52% | 75 | 123 | 46 | 53 | 5 |
| Nyheim Hines | 77 | 82% | 6.2 | 109.9 | 53% | 67 | 40 | 114 | 23 | 4 |
| Zach Pascal | 70 | 60% | 8.4 | 94.2 | 53% | 70 | 83 | 63 | 50 | 4 |
| Michael Pittman | 67 | 64% | 8.6 | 90.0 | 51% | 88 | 80 | 52 | 99 | 1 |





2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

This was one busy backfield in 2020. Last season, Indianapolis backs averaged 32.7 touches per game, which was second in the league. On all of those touches, their backfield collectively led the NFL in yards from scrimmage per game (174.9 yards) and were sixth in the league with 5.4 yards per touch. After a slow start to the season, **Jonathan Taylor** gave us a glimpse of the explosive player he was in college, when he closed the season with 133 touches for 837 yards and eight touchdowns over the final six games of the regular season. **Nyheim Hines** has increased his yards per touch and yards per reception in each of his three NFL seasons. The Colts also have **Jordan Wilkins** in the final season of his rookie deal while they brought back **Marlon Mack** on a one-year contract after he tore his Achilles in Week 1 of last season.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Jonathan Taylor | 253 | 4.9 | 51% | 40 | 21 | 79 | 16 | 50% | 45 | 12 |
| Nyheim Hines | 95 | 4.8 | 44% | 82 | 82 | 84 | 13 | 46% | 71 | 3 |
| Jordan Wilkins | 84 | 3.7 | 45% | 77 | 68 | 34 | 81 | 47% | 65 | 1 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



The Colts have Jonathan Taylor.... And what else for fantasy?

Jonathan Taylor closed the season rewarding fantasy teams still alive and needing him. Taylor reeled off six straight RB1 scoring weeks to close the season with 133 touches for 837 yards and eight touchdowns over that span. 36 receptions as a rookie answered any questions as a tangible pass catcher, although he still has a roadblock in **Nyheim Hines** capping his target ceiling.

Taylor is a consensus Round 1 pick in fantasy drafts based on the close to his rookie season, but the Colts do not currently have another player on the team with an average draft position in the top-100 of drafts. Hines has increased his yards per touch and yards per reception in each of his three NFL seasons. That receiving role is still his path to fantasy floor output as 69.6% of his career fantasy output has come via receiving work. But we also know that even an injury to Taylor is unlikely to vault Hines into any helicow status

The Colts did not get much from their wide receivers last season, ranking 26th in receptions (10.9) and 22nd in yardage per game (148.4 yards) while coming in tied for 26th in the league with 11 touchdown catches as a group. 31-year-old **T.Y. Hilton** managed 3.7 receptions for 50.8 yards per game. He did show some signs of life to end the season with 60 or more yards in five of his final seven games. **Parris Campbell** has appeared in just seven and two games over his first two seasons. After opening the season with a promising 6-71-0 game on nine targets, Campbell tore both his MCL and PCL just two snaps into Week 2.

In 13 games as a rookie, **Michael Pittman** caught 40-of-61 targets for 503 yards and just one touchdown. When we last saw Pittman on the field, he led the team with 5-90-0 on 10 targets in the postseason. With Hilton approaching age 32, the team is looking for both Pittman and Campbell to take a significant step forward in 2021. Fourth-year wideout **Zach Pascal** has hit 600 yards and averaged over 14.0 yards per catch to go along with five touchdowns in each of the past two seasons as well, but has been a top-40 scoring wideout in 9-of-32 games. Pittman and Campbell both are value bench plays in hopes of breaking out since they will be leaned on, but this still largely projects to be a sum of parts receiving corps with the sum being below league average.

At tight end, the team still is leaning on **Jack Doyle** and **Mo-Alie Cox**. Despite leading all Indianapolis tight ends with 31 receptions and 394 yards, Alie-Cox still shared time and never caught more than three passes in a game outside of his apparent Week 2 breakout.

On top of all the uncertainty, the biggest x-factor here is **Carson Wentz**. Wentz has dipped below 7.0 yards per pass attempt in each of the past two seasons while he is coming off a career-low 57.4% completion rate. From a clean pocket, Wentz averaged just 6.5 yards per pass attempt in 2020, which was 40th in the league. He has closed the past three seasons as the QB18, QB15, and QB21 in fantasy points per game. Now, Wentz will look to channel the magic he and Frank Reich had in 2017 while his current supporting cast in Indianapolis still leaves a lot of question marks on the table on elevating him back to QB1 status or even match the passing efficiency the Colts received from **Philip Rivers** a year ago.

| Ind | Indianapolis Colts Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel | | | | | | Tendencies Surrendered +Success Map | | |
|-----------|--|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------|-------------------------------------|----|------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | % | Rk | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 4 plays (1%) Success: 50% | 432 plays (98%) Success: 49% | 5 plays (1%) Success: 40% | 1 plays <i>(0%)</i> Success: 100% | 442 plays (100%) Success: 49% | | % | RK | 40 |
| | EPA: -0.65 | EPA: -0.02 | EPA: 0.12 | EPA: 1.40 | EPA: -0.02 | Base | 21% | 18 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 37 plays <i>(35%)</i> Success: 57% | 69 plays (65%) Success: 57% | | | 106 plays (100%) Success: 57% | Nickel | 78% | 3 | 30 - |
| | EPA: 0.30 | EPA: 0.10 | | | EPA: 0.17 | Dime+ | 1% | 26 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 17 plays (81%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.25 | 4 plays (19%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.07 | | | 21 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.19 | Rush 3 | 2% | 29 | 20 - |
| | 14 plays (100%) | 2.7 0.0. | | | 14 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 82% | 2 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 43% EPA: -0.04 | | | | Success: 43% EPA: -0.04 | Rush 5 | 11% | 30 | |
| Grand | 72 plays (12%) Success: 51% | 505 plays (87%) Success: 50% | 5 plays (1%) Success: 40% | 1 plays (0%) Success: 100% | 583 plays (100%) Success: 50% | Rush 6+ | 4% | 21 | 0 |
| Total | EPA: 0.17 | EPA: 0.00 | EPA: 0.12 | EPA: 1.40 | EPA: 0.02 | Blitz% | 15% | 30 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

The Colts traded a first-round pick for **DeForest Buckner** and that swing worked out pretty well. Buckner ranked fourth among defensive tackles in pressure rate, according to SIS. He also ranked seventh among all defenders in quarterback hits.

Grover Stewart played 56.3% of the defensive snaps last season and had his best season with six tackles for loss, five quarterback hits, and ranked 34th among defensive tackles in pressure rate per SIS. The Colts let Justin Houston leave on the EDGE, but drafted Kwity Paye in the first round. Paye had the highest true pressure rate in the draft class, per SIS. There are still questions elsewhere on the edge. Tyquan Lewis played 40% of the defensive snaps all across the line with most on the outside but came to just six quarterback hits and four sacks. Lewis was 95th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season, per SIS. Both Kemoko Turay and Ben Banogu were super athletic prospects who haven't been able to turn that into pass rush production for a number of reasons.

So much of what the Colts are able to do on defense runs through the ability to have outstanding play from the linebackers in the middle of the defense. **Darius Leonard** has given that since his rookie season. The same can be said for **Bobby Okereke**. Both players had to do a bit of clean-up duty last season. Only 35.7% and 35.1% of their tackles, respectively, came before a first down was gained. That ranked 57th and 58th among 59 linebackers. Only two teams played nickel more often than the Colts last season and they also had the 18th-highest rate of base personnel played, so having linebackers on the field is a big key for that defense.

A move to more off coverage and a Cover 2 base helped rejuvenate the career of **Xavier Rhodes**. Rhodes signed a one-year deal with the Colts last offseason and while he finished 58th among cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap, he allowed the ninth-lowest completion percentage among 148 corners with at least 100 coverage snaps, per SIS.

Kenny Moore was a standout in the slot last season. He finished 15th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Moore had a career-high 13 passes defensed with four interceptions and he added two sacks. 2019 second-round pick Rock Ya-Sin ranked 94th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Ya-Sin struggled early in the year before missing the final games with a concussion. T.J. Carrie was much better as an outside corner in his first year with the Colts. The soon-to-be 31-year-old played 34.1% of the defensive snaps and ranked 32nd in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap and had the 15th-lowest completion percentage allowed.

Julian Blackmon was a third-round pick in 2020 and played 88.8% of the defensive snaps for the Colts. Blackmon played deep, but the Colts allowed the highest EPA per play against deep passes. Khari Willis split snaps between the box and deep. The 2019 fourth-round pick played 82% of the defensive snaps. The Colts will get the upside of Marvel Tell returning from a 2020 opt-out. Tell played 24% of the defensive snaps as a rookie in 2019 and the uber-athletic defensive back has the versatility to play safety and corner.

2020 Play Tendencies 56% All Pass % All Pass Rk 24 All Rush % 44% All Rush Rk 9 1 Score Pass % 56% 1 Score Pass Rk 18 2019 1 Score Pass % 52% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 31 2020 Pass Increase % 5% Pass Increase Rk 6 44% 1 Score Rush % 1 Score Rush Rk 15 Up Pass % 55% Up Pass Rk 20 Up Rush % 45% Up Rush Rk 13 Down Pass % 59% Down Pass Rk 24 Down Rush % 41% Down Rush Rk 9

| Down | Distance | Total | Pass | | |
|------|-------------|-------|------|---------------|------------------|
| | | Plays | Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % |
| | Short (1-3) | 8 | 38% | 63% | 50% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 13 | 31% | 69% | 46% |
| | Long (8-10) | 350 | 49% | 51% | 52% |
| | XL (11+) | 8 | 75% | 25% | 50% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 40 | 25% | 75% | 70% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 84 | 44% | 56% | 50% |
| | Long (8-10) | 101 | 70% | 30% | 48% |
| | XL (11+) | 33 | 85% | 15% | 30% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 46 | 41% | 59% | 50% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 57 | 86% | 14% | 51% |
| | Long (8-10) | 28 | 96% | 4% | 46% |
| | XL (11+) | 22 | 95% | 5% | 5% |
| | 38 | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 13 | 15% | 85% | 77% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 2 | 100% | 0% | 50% |



Center

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 | | | | | |
| 72% | 11 | 67% | 87% | 75% | | | | | |
| | 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | |

33%

44%

59%

| Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Jonathan Taylor | 3 | 67% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Jonathan Taylor | 7 | 43% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Jonathan Taylor | 98 | 47% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Nyheim Hines | 2 | 0% | | | | |
| | | | T.Y. Hilton | 2 | 50% | | | | |
| | | | Zach Pascal | 2 | 100% | | | | |
| | | RUSH | Jonathan Taylor | 2 | 50% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Jonathan Taylor | 18 | 78% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Jonathan Taylor | 23 | 57% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Nyheim Hines | 15 | 60% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Nyheim Hines | 6 | 17% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Jonathan Taylor | 16 | 50% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | T.Y. Hilton | 9 | 67% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | PASS T.Y. Hilton | | 50% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | T.Y. Hilton | 5 | 20% | | | | |

| Offen | sive Performance | w Motion (Pre Sn | ap & Play Action) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | | | |
| No | Success: 50% | Success: 49% | Success: 50% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.14 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.07 | YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.13 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 96.8 | Rtg: 90.8 | Rtg: 95.8 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 356 - Rate: 58.1%] | [Att: 74 - Rate: 12.1%] | [Att: 430 - Rate: 70.1%] | | | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 53% | Success: 45% | Success: 50% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.22 | YPA: 8.3, EPA: -0.11 | YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.10 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 102.5 | Rtg: 93.1 | Rtg: 99.2 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 118 - Rate: 19.2%] | [Att: 65 - Rate: 10.6%] | [Att: 183 - Rate: 29.9%] | | | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 51% | Success: 47% | Success: 50% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.16 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: -0.01 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.12 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 98.2 | Rtg: 91.8 | Rtg: 96.8 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 474 - Rate: 77.3%] | [Att: 139 - Rate: 22.7%] | [Att: 613 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | | | |

28%

21

| 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Zach Pascal | Michael Pittman | T.Y. Hilton | Jack Doyle | Jonathan Taylor | Mo Alie-Cox | Nyheim Hines | Trey Burton | Marcus Johnson | Marlon Mack |
| 1 | JAC | L 27-20 | 46 (62%) | 39 (53%) | 59 (80%) | 54 (73%) | 26 (35%) | 29 (39%) | 39 (53%) | | | 11 (15%) |
| 2 | MIN | W 28-11 | 59 (81%) | 67 (92%) | 42 (58%) | | 49 (67%) | 49 (67%) | 9 (12%) | | | |
| 3 | NYJ | W 36-7 | 56 (93%) | 35 (58%) | 31 (52%) | 32 (53%) | 24 (40%) | 36 (60%) | 20 (33%) | | | |
| 4 | CHI | W 19-11 | 54 (75%) | | 54 (75%) | 45 (63%) | 33 (46%) | 33 (46%) | 25 (35%) | 36 (50%) | 34 (47%) | |
| 5 | CLE | L 32-23 | 51 (91%) | | 53 (95%) | 34 (61%) | 31 (55%) | 21 (38%) | 21 (38%) | 25 (45%) | 30 (54%) | |
| 6 | CIN | W 31-27 | 58 (92%) | | 59 (94%) | 39 (62%) | 37 (59%) | | 21 (33%) | 35 (56%) | 40 (63%) | |
| 8 | DET | W 41-21 | 58 (75%) | 45 (58%) | 28 (36%) | 45 (58%) | 26 (34%) | 32 (42%) | 16 (21%) | 39 (51%) | 48 (62%) | |
| 9 | BAL | L 24-10 | 41 (60%) | 59 (87%) | | 22 (32%) | 21 (31%) | 35 (51%) | 23 (34%) | 29 (43%) | 60 (88%) | |
| 10 | TEN | W 34-17 | 47 (67%) | 57 (81%) | 47 (67%) | | 17 (24%) | 46 (66%) | 39 (56%) | 37 (53%) | 18 (26%) | |
| 11 | GB | W 34-31 | 51 (61%) | 67 (80%) | 51 (61%) | 45 (54%) | 47 (56%) | 43 (51%) | 28 (33%) | 24 (29%) | 38 (45%) | |
| 12 | TEN | L 45-26 | 53 (72%) | 64 (86%) | 54 (73%) | 22 (30%) | | 38 (51%) | 48 (65%) | 27 (36%) | 26 (35%) | |
| 13 | HOU | W 26-20 | 55 (80%) | 58 (84%) | 43 (62%) | 38 (55%) | 33 (48%) | 44 (64%) | 23 (33%) | 25 (36%) | 1 (1%) | |
| 14 | LV | W 44-27 | 41 (67%) | 55 (90%) | 41 (67%) | 42 (69%) | 34 (56%) | 20 (33%) | 22 (36%) | 25 (41%) | 8 (13%) | |
| 15 | HOU | W 27-20 | 47 (87%) | 45 (83%) | 35 (65%) | 41 (76%) | 38 (70%) | 25 (46%) | 16 (30%) | 19 (35%) | | |
| 16 | PIT | L 28-24 | 61 (88%) | 50 (72%) | 47 (68%) | 38 (55%) | 40 (58%) | 23 (33%) | 29 (42%) | 34 (49%) | | |
| 17 | JAC | W 28-14 | 56 (84%) | 58 (87%) | 44 (66%) | 43 (64%) | 55 (82%) | 29 (43%) | 12 (18%) | 20 (30%) | | |
| | Grand | Total | 834 (77%) | 699 (78%) | 688 (68%) | 540 (57%) | 511 (51%) | 503 (49%) | 391 (36%) | 375 (43%) | 303 (44%) | 11 (15%) |

| 1 0130 | IIIIC I V | Ji Oup | 11153 |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 69% | 60% | 50% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 21% | 20% | 48% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 8% | 4% | 43% |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 65% | 50% | 50% |
| | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 33% | 47% | 49% |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | | |
| Nyheim Hines | 13 | 1 | 4 | 8 | | | | | |
| Zach Pascal | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | | | | | |
| Michael Pittman | 12 | 1 | 2 | 9 | | | | | |
| T.Y. Hilton | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | | | | | |
| Jack Doyle | 8 | | 3 | 5 | | | | | |
| Jonathan Taylor | 6 | 1 | | 5 | | | | | |

| <u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | | |
| Jonathan Taylor | 53 | 18 | 9 | 26 | | | | | |
| Nyheim Hines | 28 | 8 | 8 | 12 | | | | | |
| Jordan Wilkins | 8 | 2 | | 6 | | | | | |
| Jacoby Brissett | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Philip Rivers | 3 | | | 3 | | | | | |
| Trey Burton | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| De'Michael Harris | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Michael Pittman | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | |
| 27% 23% | 23% 21% | 50% 56% | | |
| | NFL AVG | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | NFL AVG Target Su | ccess % | | |
| Overall RB | | ccess % | | |

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

2.0

03. Wins

1.

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|--|
| | | | |
| 36. PSM YPA | 8.8 | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.3 | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.6 | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 7.0 | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 54% | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 53% | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.2 | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.18 | | |
| | | | |

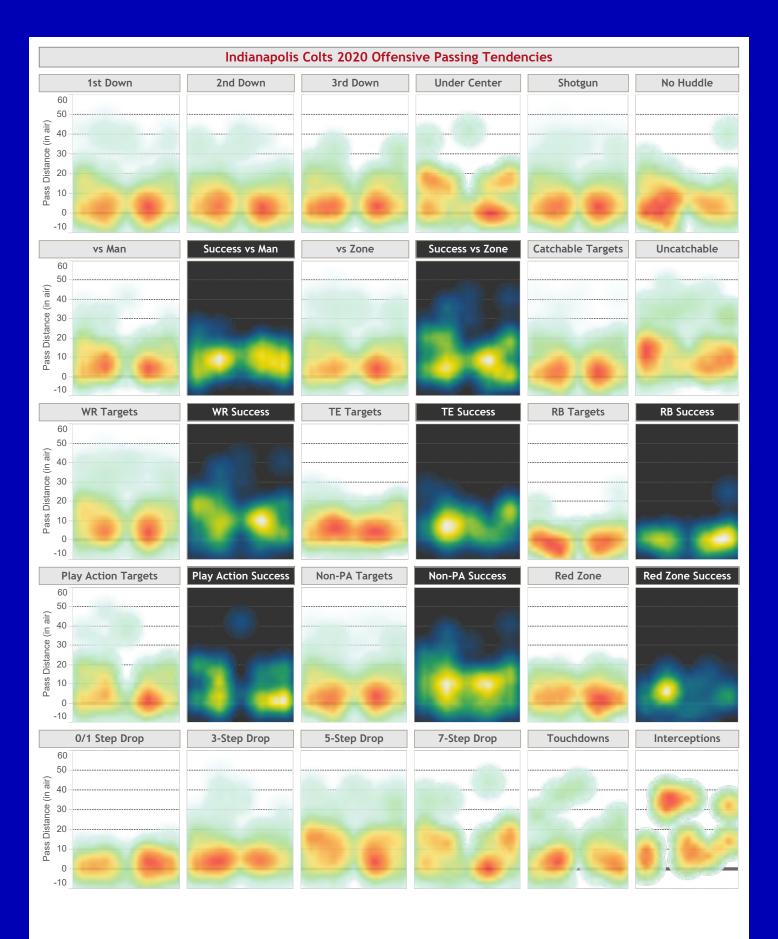
| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | |
|---|------|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 32% | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 51% | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 7.6 | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 5.7% | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.0 | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 7.1 | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 59% | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 8 | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 2.7% | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.26 | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.5 | | |

| Men In Box | | |
|--|-----|--|
| 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 | 44% | |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.4 | |
| 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 | 50% | |
| 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 | 37% | |
| 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) | | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|-------|--|
| Net FROE Rk | 22 | defFUM | 19 | |
| Net FROE | -0.9 | defFUM Rcvrd | 9 | |
| offFUM | 8 | | - | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 5 62.5% | defFR Rk | 5 | |
| offFR Rk | 10 | defFR% | 52.6% | |
| offFROE | 0.6 | defFROE | -1.5 | |
| offFROE Rk | 15 | defFROE Rk | 26 | |

| Field Goal Luck | | | | |
|--|------------|------------------------------|-------|--|
| Net Over Expectation | -0.08 | Opp Att | 23 | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 14 | Opp Makes | 19 | |
| Own Att Own Makes | 37 32 | Opp FG % | 83% | |
| Own FG % | 86% | Opp Expected Makes | 18.81 | |
| Own Expected Makes | 31.90 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 0.19 | |
| Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk | 0.10 17 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 22 | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Expectation Rk | -3.61 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 2.72 | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 31 | 2019 Opp Rk | 1 | |
| | | | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pre | ssure | Offensive A | Offensive Metrics | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Philip Rivers | | Philip Rivers | EPA/Pass | 0.12 | |
| CAY | 5.2 | Pressure % | 23.6 | EPA/Pass Rk | 10 | |
| CAY Rk | 30 | Pressure Rk | 39 | EPA/Rush | -0.04 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 17 | Sack % | 3.4 | EPA/Rush Rk | 15 | |
| AYTS Rk | 34 | Sack Rk | 37 | On-Target Catch % | 94.3% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 16 20 | Pressure Accuracy % | 70.2 | On-Target Catch Rk | 1 | |
| AGG Rk 2019 AGG Rk | 16 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 8 | | 5.8% | |
| COMP% | 68 | Rating when Pressured | 83.5 | Drop% | | |
| xCOMP% | 66.3 | Pressured Rating Rk | 9 | Drop Rk | 9 | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 12 | Clean Accuracy % | 78.5 | YAC/Att | 2.4 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 19 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 23 | YAC/Att Rk | 9 | |
| CPOE% | 1.6 | Rating when Clean | 100.5 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.0% | |
| CPOE Rk | 14 | Clean Rating Rk | 23 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 23 | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk 8 | | Time to Throw | 2.52 | Rush 1st Down % | 28.1% | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw Rk | 36 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 8 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:

Easy

Urban Meyer (OSU HC) (new) Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Bevell (DET OC) (new)

Defensive Coordinator:

Joe Cullen (BAL DL) (new)

Hard

Jacksonville Jaguars

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

6.5

#3

Past Records

2020: 1-15 2019: 6-10

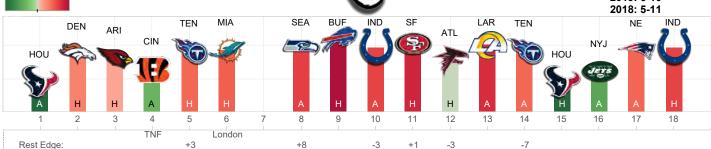
Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

AAV (MM)

\$13.3 \$8.80

\$7.79 \$6.29

Trade \$4.79



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Al Woods (IDL) | Seahawks |
| Chris Conley (WR) | Texans |
| Eric Saubert (TE) | Broncos |
| Greg Mabin (CB) | Titans |
| Joe Giles-Harris (LT) | Bills |
| Josh Oliver (TE) | Ravens |
| Josiah Scott (CB) | Eagles |
| Keelan Cole (WR) | Jets |
| Mike Glennon (QB) | Giants |
| Quenton Meeks (S) | Titans |
| Rashaan Melvin (CB) | Panthers |
| Ryquell Armstead (RB) | Giants |
| Stephen Hauschka (K) | Retired |
| Aaron Lynch (EDGE) | TBD |
| Abry Jones (IDL) | TBD |
| Caraun Reid (IDL) | TBD |
| Chris Thompson (RB) | TBD |
| D.J. Hayden (CB) | TBD |
| Dede Westbrook (WR) | TBD |
| Dontavius Russell (IDL) | TBD |
| Doug Middleton (S) | TBD |
| Tyler Eifert (TE) | TBD |

<u>Average</u> # Games # Games <u>Underdog</u> <u>Line</u> **Favored** 14 3.1

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

2021 Jacksonville Jaguars Overview

Shad Khan bought the Jaguars in January of 2012. Since that time, only two teams have won fewer than 50 regular season games. The Browns have won only 44... but they had an 0-16 season preceded by a 1-15 season. But there is a team that hasn't even won 40 games since 2012 — the Jaguars, who are 39-105. Fewest wins and most losses is not something you want to be known for.

Since that time, the Jaguars have made nine picks in the top-10 of the draft, the most in

In 2020, oddsmakers set a very low 4.5 win total on the Jaguars. As bad as this team had been, they had won at least five games in three straight years. Some were betting the over on such a low 4.5 win total. Instead, I bet the Jaguars to lose the most games of any team at +275 odds.

I couldn't believe what I saw when the opening whistle blew for the first game of the COVID season.

The Colts took a lead early, but the Jaguars continued to throw punches with Indianapolis. Gardner Minshew completed 19-of-20 passes for 8.7 YPA and three touchdowns as the Jaguars pulled off the upset in Week 1. The Colts dominated the game, whether looking at a 27-17 edge in first downs or a 5-2 edge in trips to the red zone, or the fact the Colts didn't punt the ball once.

The very next week, the Jaguars trailed the Titans 24-10 in the third quarter, but rallied to tie the game at 30 with seven minutes to go in the fourth quarter before losing 33-30.

Jacksonville lost that game...

Player Shaquill Griffin (CB) Rayshawn Jenkins (S) Roy Robertson-Harris (IDL) Marvin Jones (WR) Malcom Brown (IDL) Jamal Agnew (CB) Chris Manhertz (TE) C.J. Beathard (QB) Jihad Ward (IDL) Carlos Hyde (RB) Rudy Ford (S) \$3.29 \$2.5 \$2.5 \$2.29 \$2.10

| | _ | |
|----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
| 1 | 1 | QB - Trevor Lawrence (Clemson) |
| ' | 25 | RB - Travis Etienne (Clemson) |
| 2 | 33 | CB - Tyson Campbell (Georgia) |
| | 45 | OT - Walker Little (Stanford) |
| 3 | 65 | S - Andre Cisco (Syracuse) |
| 4 | 106 | DT - Jay Tufele (USC) |
| • | 121 | DE - Jordan Smith (UAB) |
| 5 | 145 | TE - Luke Farrell (Ohio State) |
| 6 | 209 | WR - Jalen Camp (Georgia |

Drafted Players

(cont'd - see JAC2)



2021 Unit Spending

Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 RI |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 23 | \$87.01M | 30 |
| QB | 30 | \$4.49M | 32 |
| OL | 1 | \$53.40M | 18 |
| RB | 23 | \$6.74M | 29 |
| WR | 25 | \$15.38M | 26 |
| TE | 28 | \$7.00M | 21 |
| All DEF | 11 | \$98.20M | 28 |
| DL | 25 | \$33.54M | 32 |
| LB | 1 | \$30.18M | 3 |
| СВ | 11 | \$21.01M | 17 |
| S | 14 | \$13.46M | 30 |

| | - |
|------------------------|---|
| Forecast 2021 Wins 6.5 | |
| 2020 Wins 1 | |
| Forecast 2020 Wins 4.5 | |
| 2019 Wins 6 | N |
| 2018 Wins 5 | ١ |

2017 Wins

10

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



JAC-2

and lost every game they played for the rest of the season. That Week 1 victory was their only win. Fortunately. Now the franchise gets a fresh start, a reboot, a No. 1 overall pick quarterback, and a new head coach.

Since 2010, there have been just three other teams that have a new coach and the No. 1 overall pick for a quarterback at the same time: 2019 Cardinals (Kliff Kingsbury & Kyler Murray), 2012 Colts (Chuck Pagano & Andrew Luck), and 2011 Panthers (Ron Rivera & Cam Newton). 2021 will add the Jaguars with Urban Meyer & Trevor Lawrence.

In terms of a true No. 1 franchise quarterback, that's something the Jaguars have lacked for years upon years, and I never understood it.

If there's one thing the Jaguars and Khan had going for them all these years, it's a small but extremely loyal fan base that deserves better than they've received. Since 2008, the Jaguars have picked in the top-10 a total of 13 times. No other team has done so more than eight times.

Their draft picks prior to this year's draft?

DE Derrick Harvey T Eugene Monroe

DT Tvson Alualu

QB Blaine Gabbert

WR Justin Blackmon

T Luke Joeckel

QB Blake Bortles

OLB Dante Fowler

CB Jalen Ramsey

RB Leonard Fournette

LB Josh Allen

5

10

15

20

25

26 27

28

CB CJ Henderson

If you weren't already depressed thinking about the Jaguars franchise, that should put you over the top.

For a franchise that lacked a true franchise quarterback, how do you run the Jaguars, lose this many games, have this much draft capital at the top of the draft, and never do anything to package other picks to draft a true, franchise

29

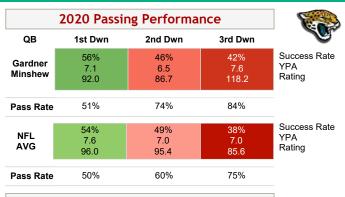
16

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics

19

25

21 22



| | 2020 Rushii | ng Performai | Performance | | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | |
| JAC | 47% 4.6 | 46% 4.7 | 64% 3.5 | Success Rate YPC | | |
| Run Rate | 49% | 26% | 16% | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | |

quarterback?

It's been beyond frustrating to watch as an outsider, so I can only imagine how it has been for fans.

But the wait is over. The future is here.

Before we look forward, we need to look backward if only to learn about the players and playcallers. Eventually they make their way to new teams or stay part of the Jaguars and it's important to learn what we can about them.

You can say the Jaguars were tanking last year and the team was happy to win only one game to land Trevor Lawrence.

(cont'd - see JAC-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 10 15 20 25 23 23 29 Pass Efficiency Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro **Efficieincy Def** Explosive



2020 Close Game **Records**

RESULT All 2019 Wins: 1 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-4** FG Games Win %: **0% (#25)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): MARGIN OPP PTS

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 1-6 Score Games Win %: 14% (#32) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 100% (#1)

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

| 2020 Critical/Game- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|
| Deciding Stats | | | | | |
| TO Margin | -8 | | | | |
| TO Given | 25 | | | | |
| INT Given | 16 | | | | |
| FUM Given | 9 | | | | |
| TO Taken | 17 | | | | |
| INT Taken | 12 | | | | |
| FUM Taken | 5 | | | | |
| Sack Margin | -26 | | | | |
| Sacks | 18 | | | | |
| Sacks Allow | 44 | | | | |
| Return TD Margin | +3 | | | | |
| Ret TDs | 3 | | | | |
| Ret TDs Allow | 0 | | | | |
| Penalty Margin | -29 | | | | |
| Penalties | 107 | | | | |

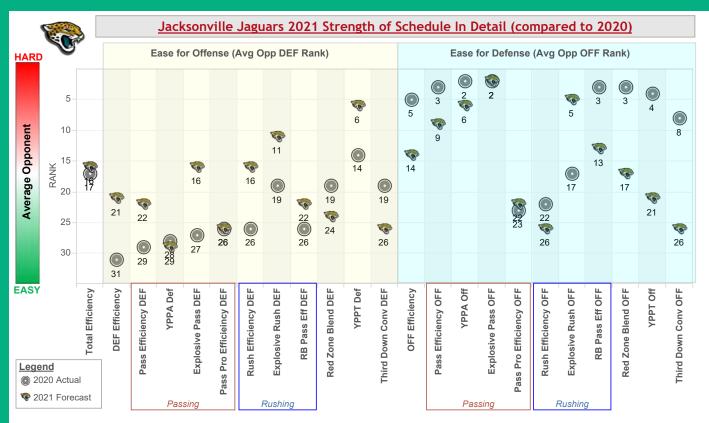
Opponent Penalties

WFFK

OPP

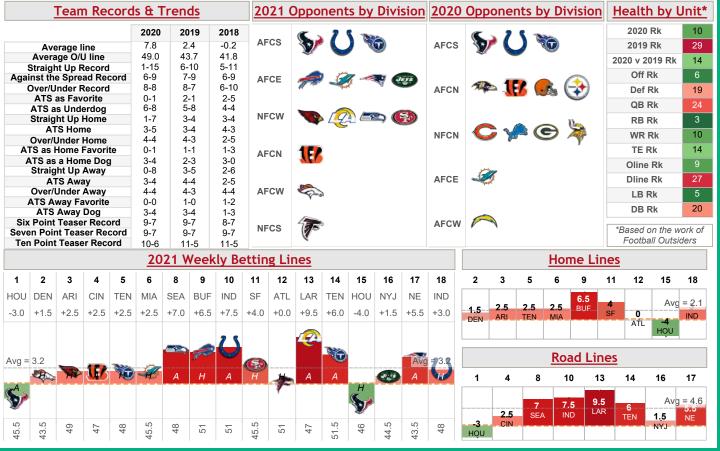
SITE

PTS



| 2021 vs 2020 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 |
| 6 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 20 | 19 | 22 | 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







You can say that, if by "the Jaguars" you mean only Khan. There is no chance that anyone making day-to-day football decisions wanted to go 1-15 last year.

GM David Caldwell? Fired, and now working in the Eagles personnel department

HC Doug Marrone? Fired, and now a positional coach at Alabama (offensive line)

OC Jay Gruden? Fired, and now unemployed within college or the NFL

DC Todd Wash? Fired, and now a position coach with the Lions (defensive line)

Certainly, Jaguars starting QB Gardner Minshew wasn't trying to lose games. He is no longer a starter, and likely soon will no longer be a Jaguar.

The same is true for every other player on the roster. Losing gets people fired, both players and coaches. Losing like the Jaguars did helps ownership and his hand-picked new coach. It's a painful tonic for fans but ultimately may be well worth it.

Beyond those individuals, losing doesn't help careers.

The Jaguars lost last year because they were terrible. But were there any redeeming qualities? Was there no chance they could have been better?

The purpose of this book every offseason is to dig deep into every single team to try and understand their plan, their prior year successes or failures, their makeup, and their future potential. The Jaguars always make this interesting.

Last year in researching the 2019 Jaguars season, when they were coached by OC John DeFilippo, I uncovered how brilliant Gardner Minshew was when passing on first downs and how terrible the Jaguars were when running on them.

The 2019 Jaguars saw the following splits on first down play calls in the first three quarters:

Runs: 34% success, 3.8 YPC, -0.10 EPA/att

Minshew passes: 53% success, 6.7 YPA, 0.08 EPA/att

And yet the Jaguars ran the ball on 51% of these plays. The Jags' rushing efficiency was dead last in the NFL. The offense would have been far better served to slant more towards the pass, given these splits.

DiFilippo's playcalling cost him his job, he was fired after the season, and Jay Gruden took over. I'm not sure what Gruden studied before taking over the playcalling of the 2020 Jaguars, but it certainly wasn't their first down run/pass splits, balance, or performance.

The 2020 Jaguars saw the following splits on first down play calls in the first three quarters:

Runs: 47% success, 4.2 YPC, -0.02 EPA/att

Minshew passes: 53% success, 7.0 YPA, 0.11 EPA/att

And yet the Jaguars ran the ball on 55% of these plays. Even more running than in 2019, despite the fact the team was losing these games by a larger margin.

How high is a 55% run rate on these plays? Only seven teams ran the ball more often, and these teams all were both better at running and were leading in more of these games.

Gruden started right from the opening snap. The Jaguars ran the ball on first down in the first quarter at an insane 69% rate. The only two teams that ran the ball more often were teams that had a running quarterback with a rushing offense built around him: the Ravens with **Lamar Jackson** (70% run) and the Patriots with **Cam Newton** (70% run). No other team was above 65% run, not even the **Derrick Henry**-led Titans, except for the Jaguars. Examine those splits:

Runs: 52% success, 5.0 YPC, 0.04 EPA/att

Minshew passes: 56% success, 8.9 YPA, 0.24 EPA/att

These runs weren't terrible, but each additional run over a typical balance (NFL average was 55%) was another pass that wasn't thrown. And Minshew was dangerously good when passing on first downs, just like he was in 2019.

(cont'd - see JAC-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated to prep prep game 0

| Strength of Scheduled Game | Timing: Jacksonville | e Jaguars Ranking vs NFL Average | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | |

| Net Rest Edge Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Short Week Road Games Rank | Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank | Negated Bye Rank | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 16 | 16 9 | | 12 | 1 | 1 | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- Meyer has already turned some people off with the pursuit of TE Tim Tebow. In addition, Meyer's college ra-ra style may not win over players and cause a potential early disaster right away. It also remains to be seen if Meyer's college spread offense can even work in the NFL.
- Much of the positive regression mentioned as reasons to be the over is already baked into a win total of 6.5 games following a 1-15 season.
- The Jacksonville secondary was a major issue last season, allowing the highest success rate and second highest EPA per drop back to opposing QBs. The only major addition to the secondary was the signing of free agent Shaquill Griffin from Seattle. Griffin was graded as the 54th ranked coverage CB by PFF and may not be a big impact to the secondary.

6.5



Why Bet the Over

- It remains to be seen if new head coach Urban Meyer has what it takes to completely turn around this Jaguars franchise but recent Year 1 examples of coaches coming from college has been positive. The last seven head coaches who made the jump from college to the pros improved their team's win total by an average of nearly four wins the next year and three of the seven teams made the playoffs in their first year.
- The Jaguars finished 1-6 (14% win percentage) in one-score games last season. Since 2016, there have been 12 teams that finished with a one-score win percentage below 20% and those teams in aggregate won 41% of their one score games the following season. Because of the poor close game win percentage, the Jaguars' Pythagorean win expectation above actual wins was the second lowest in the NFL at -2.7 last year.
- Trevor Lawrence is coming into the NFL as the most heralded top pick since Andrew Luck. Luck led a Colts team that was 2-14 the prior season to an 11-5 campaign in his rookie year. Since 2000, there have been 10 QBs selected number one overall who then started at least 10 games in their rookie season. The average win percentage in their rookie seasons has 39%, which equates to 6.6 wins in a 17-game season.

| Jacksonville Jaguars Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | |
| 19 | 23 | 14 | 26 | 31 | 26 | 30 | | |

Quarterback is the Jaguars second-highest ranked unit, which says a little about our expectations for **Trevor Lawrence** and a lot about the state of Jacksonville's roster. In five of the seven units we ranked, the Jags landed in the bottom 10.

The top ranked unit is running back, though only because they over-invested in the position by drafting **Travis Etienne** in the first round. Between Etienne and **James Robinson**, they have an excellent one-two punch. Robinson excels as a downhill runner (5.0 yards per attempt between the tackles), while Etienne's speed makes him more of a big-play threat on the edge.

The receiving corps has a couple proven weapons (**D.J. Chark**, **Marvin Jones**), and **Laviska Shenault Jr.** should be a good fit for Urban Meyer's offense. However, without a true number-one weapon, it was hard to justify ranking this unit any higher.

The Jaguars have some high-end talent on the offensive line, unfortunately it's all on the interior. Based on Sports Info Solutions' Points Above Average metric, which works off the EPA framework, tackles **Cam Robinson** and **Jawaan Taylor** ranked 64th and 66th (out of 66) among offensive tackles.

The front seven features three recent first-round picks (**K'Lavon Chaisson**, **Josh Allen**, and **Taven Bryan**) and still ranks 31st. Allen showed promise last year (11.8 percent pressure rate) but the rest of the defensive line needs work. Myles Jack remains steady at linebacker, holding opponents to -2.7 EPA in coverage in 2020. The 26th ranked secondary may struggle this year, but at least there's youth to develop. 2020 first-round pick C.J. Henderson allowed 8.6 yards per target in coverage, but perhaps the new staff can get him on track. Rookies Tyson Campbell and Andre Cisco could also compete for playing time.

By the end of Urban Meyer's college career, he was no longer running a cutting-edge offense as the sport had caught up to him, but continued to win based on his recruiting empire. Despite all the talent, his stubborn unwillingness to adjust his offense to fit his players led to some major upset losses and disappointing finishes down the stretch at Ohio State. Now that he can't recruit, he must evolve as a coach and tweak his scheme to fit his roster.

JAC-4

In 2020, of 40 quarterbacks that threw at least 50 first down passes, Minshew (on 132 attempts) ranked eighth in EPA/att. This was an improvement over 2019, but he was still very solid as a rookie in 2019 on these passes and ranked sixth in success rate.

Another completely puzzling element of this offense was the extreme lack of play-action. Once again, this would take one day of watching film or 30 seconds looking at the statistics to see that Gardner Minshew absolutely thrived using play-action. Examine his splits in 2019, which Gruden could have done as well:

2019 with play-action: 10.2 YPA, 58% success, 0.38 EPA/att 2019 without play-action: 6.1 YPA, 39% success, -0.15 EPA/att

Even if you eliminate third downs (as you should) when studying play-action efficiency, Minshew's 2019 without play-action gained 5.6 YPA with -0.07 EPA/att. Using play-action numbers didn't change (as Minshew never used play-action on third down).

But incredibly, DeFilippo used play-action on just 20% of Minshew's early down passes, well below the NFL average. It would have provided massive improvement for the Jaguars offense, but went largely untapped. Keep in mind, the NFL average for early down play action was 33%.

So now Gruden takes over, and what does he do?

<u>JAC-5</u>

He uses play-action at the second-lowest rate in the NFL despite massive pro-play- action splits. Minshew with Gruden:

2020 with play-action: 8.8 YPA, 58% success, 0.20 EPA/att 2020 without play-action: 6.3 YPA, 49% success, 0.02 EPA/att

It made no sense to use play-action so infrequently when it provided such a boost in efficiency. The team as a whole (all quarterbacks throughout the 2020 season) improved drastically on early downs when using play-action: an increase of 2.8 YPA (from 5.8 without to 8.6 with), an increase of seven percentage points in success rate (from 48% without to 55% with), and an increase of 0.27 EPA/att (from -0.10 without to 0.17 with).

Gruden didn't study 2019's failed season, didn't care to make adjustments to optimize the 2020 offense, and like DeFilippo, lost his own job after just one season.

Minshew showed improvement from his rookie year in terms of consistency downfield. Minshew spiked on efficiency in the 25-30 yard range in 2019, and while that regressed some, he was far more consistent in the 5-20 yard range in 2020. He took strides in delivering a more accurate ball when clean, but also when he was pressured. His on-target rate improved from 56% when pressured in 2019 to 68% in 2020.

He was also solid when the defense blitzed. He was substantially better at diagnosing and delivering an accurate ball compared to his rookie season. His on-target rate improved from 66% in 2019 to 76% in 2020, with his EPA skyrocketing from 0.07 to 0.22.

Lastly, Minshew showed tremendous improvement on third downs as well, from accuracy (63% in 2019 to 76% in 2020) to first down conversion rate (32% in 2019 to 45% in 2020) to EPA/att.

Minshew also showed tremendous improvement in completion percentage over expectation (CPOE), which uses player tracking data such as

(cont'd - see JAC-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



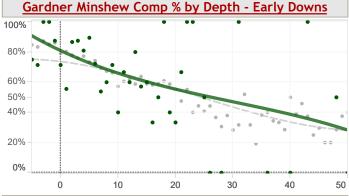
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

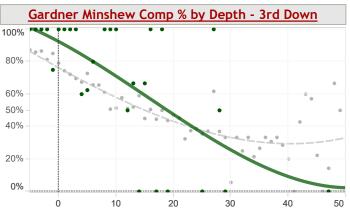


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| E | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | | | |
| | James Robinson | 21% | 6% | 72% | 1% | | | |
| | Laviska Shenault Jr. | 22% | 6% | 61% | 11% | | | |
| RUSH | Keelan Cole | | | 100% | | | | |
| ₽ | Dare Ogunbowale | 22% | 22% | 53% | 3% | | | |
| | Chris Thompson | 43% | | 57% | | | | |
| | Total | 22% | 7% | 69% | 2% | | | |
| | James Robinson | 30% | 5% | 65% | | | | |
| | Laviska Shenault Jr. | 40% | 8% | 51% | 1% | | | |
| | D.J. Chark | 30% | 13% | 54% | 2% | | | |
| | Keelan Cole | 36% | 8% | 56% | | | | |
| " | Chris Conley | 32% | 12% | 57% | | | | |
| PASS | Tyler Eifert | 32% | 5% | 59% | 4% | | | |
| - | Dare Ogunbowale | 42% | 16% | 37% | 5% | | | |
| | James O'Shaughnes | 35% | 11% | 51% | 3% | | | |
| | Chris Thompson | 52% | | 48% | | | | |
| | Collin Johnson | 20% | 7% | 70% | 3% | | | |
| | Total | 34% | 9% | 56% | 2% | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type James O'Shaughnessy James Robinson Shenaul Chris Thompson Collin Johnson Conley Keelan Cole Ogunbowale Chark Eifer Ξ. Tyler _aviska RUSH 81% **PASS** ALL





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| PASS | 46%, -0.10 (545) | 42%, -0.12 (50) | 35%, -0.43 (20) | 38%, -0.21 (13) | 47%, 0.45 (17) | 67%, -0.41 (3) | 63%, 0.11 (8) | 100%, 0.54 (2) | 45%, -0.10 (658) |
| RUSH | 53%, 0.03 (180) | 49%, 0.02 (68) | 50%, -0.16 (34) | 40%, -0.02 (25) | 50%, 0.47 (4) | 21%, -0.88 (14) | 25%, -0.21 (4) | 60%, 0.04 (5) | 49%, -0.03 (335) |
| All | 47%, -0.07 (725) | 46%, -0.04 (118) | 44%, -0.26 (54) | 39%, -0.09 (38) | 48%, 0.45 (21) | 29%, -0.79 (17) | 50%, 0.00 (12) | 71%, 0.18 (7) | 47%, -0.08 (993) |

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 | James Robinson | 48% (46) 5.9, 0.04 | 57% (7) 5.6, 0.21 | 50% (2) 4.5, -0.17 | 0% (2) 2.5, -0.14 | 47% (57) 5.7, 0.05 | | | | | | |
| TE | Tyler Eifert | 49% (51) 5.5, -0.09 | 50% (4) 10.3, -0.93 | | | 49% (55) 5.8, -0.15 | | | | | | |
| | James O' Shaughne | 61% (28) 7.4, 0.33 | 100% (2) 6.5, 0.44 | | 100% (3) 7.7, 0.60 | 67% (33) 7.4, 0.37 | | | | | | |
| WR | DJ Chark Jr | 47% (76) 7.4, 0.09 | 56% (9) 8.3, 0.06 | 33% (3) 8.7, 0.07 | 0% (2) 0.0, -1.64 | 47% (90) 7.4, 0.05 | | | | | | |
| | Keelan Cole | 58% (79) 7.4, 0.23 | 33% (3) 5.7, 0.02 | 100% (1) 12.0, 2.39 | | 58% (83) 7.4, 0.25 | | | | | | |
| | Laviska Shenault | 52% (61) 7.1, 0.13 | 40% (5) 5.0, 0.10 | 50% (2) 18.0, 1.38 | 67% (3) 13.3, 0.53 | 52% (71) 7.5, 0.18 | | | | | | |
| | Chris Conley | 59% (54) 7.7, 0.17 | 60% (5) 3.4, -0.24 | 100% (1) 28.0, 3.31 | | 60% (60) 7.7, 0.19 | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Robinson | 53% (119) | 49% (59) | 39% (18) | 27% (11) | 49% (207) |
| James | 5.2, 0.03 | 4.2, -0.01 | 3.4, -0.06 | 2.0, -0.70 | 4.6, -0.03 |
| Ogunbowal | 41% (22) | 0% (3) | 60% (5) | | 40% (30) |
| e Dare | 4.1, -0.09 | 1.0, -0.43 | 8.8, 0.30 | | 4.6, -0.06 |
| Minshew | 68% (22) | 100% (1) | 0% (1) | 0% (3) | 59% (27) |
| Gardner | 6.5, 0.47 | 10.0, 1.06 | -1.0, -0.60 | -1.0, -1.51 | 5.5, 0.23 |
| Thompson Chris | 50% (6) 2.8, -0.32 | | | | 50% (6) 2.8, -0.32 |

Format Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays) L

Line 2: YPA, EPA

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Run Types | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Coverage Scheme | | Route | | Level 1 | 55% (424) 6.2, 0.07 | 3 Step | 49% (220) 6.3, 0.00 | Planted | | 52% (443) 6.8, 0.08 | | 55% (76) 4.8, -0.01 |
| | | Curl | 66% (80) 6.6, 0.18 | | | 5 Step | 49% (170) | Shuffling | | 0% (97) 2, -0.05 | Zone | 40% (72) |
| Zone | 55% (312) 7.4, 0.11 | Out | 65% (71) | Level 2 | 42% (107) 7.3, -0.08 | остер | 7.3, 0.08 | Moving | | 3% (74) 7, -0.21 | Zone | 4.0, -0.04 |
| | | Jui | 7.8, 0.36 | | 400/ (4E) | 0/1 Step | 57% (89) 6.2, 0.19 | | Dlay Activ | on l | Lead | 44% (32) 4.1, -0.19 |
| 14014 | 47% (188) | Drag | 44% (41) 4.2. 0.11 | Level 3 | 40% (45) 11.7, 0.46 | | 48% (54) | | Play Action | No P/A | | 40% (30) |
| M2M | 6.0, 0.04 | | | | 0% (3) | 7 Step | 8.8, 0.12 | Under | 54% (78) | 45% (22) | Power | 3.6, -0.17 |
| | | Slant | 66% (35) 6.7, 0.06 | Shovel | 2.3, -0.47 | Designed Rollout Right | 82% (17) 7.4, 0.31 | Center | 9.1, 0.17 59% (37) | 5.8, -0.15 43% (521) | Stretch | 48% (29) 5.1, 0.02 |
| Screen | 43% (51) | | 570((00) | | 070/ (0) | Kollout Kigiit | | Shotgun | 7.1, 0.05 | 6.0, -0.15 | | · · |
| Coreen | 5.3, 0.00 | Dig | 57% (30) 8.2, -0.14 | Sidearm | 67% (3) 8.0, 0.23 | Basic Screen | 27% (15) 3.5, -0.31 | ALL | 56% (115) 8.4, 0.13 | 43% (543) 6.0, -0.15 | Pitch | 50% (4) 5.8, 0.02 |

JAC-6

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 to determine probability of completion.

In 2019, he ranked 38th (second-worst) in the NFL, with a completion percentage 5.2% below expectation. Only **David Blough** was worse. In 2020, Minshew ranked eighth, with a completion percentage 2.9% above expectation.

Minshew also showed dramatic improvement in Air Yards to the Sticks, which measures the Air Yards ahead or behind the first down marker on all attempts for a passer. The metric indicates if the passer is attempting his passes past the first down marker, or if he is relying on his skill position players to make yards after catch. In 2019, Minshew ranked 29th of 39 quarterbacks. In 2020, Minshew ranked 16th of 41.

I think there is more to Minshew than what we've seen so far in the NFL. Time will tell if he actually can have a career beyond a backup QB, but think about his context for a bit:

He's played on the worst team in the NFL over the last two years with poor talent and poor coaching. He was a sixth-round rookie in 2019, was buried on the depth chart most of the offseason, and got third string reps. But he was inserted Week 1 after Nick Foles broke his clavicle and that was how his career started. His second year in the NFL was a COVID offseason spent learning a new offense from Jay Gruden via Zoom meetings.

Two far less than ideal seasons with two playcallers who are no longer calling plays anywhere on any level – I think the production we saw from Minshew is well worth a look from a team with better coaching and better strategies.

The Jaguars are in a great place with Lawrence and can look forward to what could be a promising career. Hopefully he'll get solid protection from his offensive line. After ranking 18th in cap space devoted to the offensive line in 2019, the Jaguars have the most expensive offensive line in 2021. Guard **Andrew Norwell** is the most expensive player on the Jaguars roster based on 2021 cap hit. Left tackle **Cam Robinson**, who was franchise tagged after being with the Jaguars on his rookie deal, is their second-most expensive player. Center **Brandon Linder** is fifth-most expensive and guard **A.J. Cann** is sixth-most expensive.

(cont'd - see JAC-7)





It sounds like a good thing to have the most expensive offensive line in front of Lawrence, but the fact is, this is the exact same line that Minshew, **Mike Glennon**, and **Jake Luton** had in front of them. They are one of just a handful of teams that is bringing back the same exact offensive line from 2020. As we know, that offensive line was below average in both pass blocking and run blocking. Now they're the most expensive line in the NFL.

To put it in perspective: the Cleveland Browns have the second most expensive offensive line in 2021, one spot below the Jaguars. Like the Jaguars, the Browns bring back all five starters from 2020. But the Browns line ranked first in run blocking and first in pass blocking in 2020. The Jaguars ranked 25th and 19th, respectively.

I also wasn't overly thrilled by the Jaguars drafting running back **Travis Etienne** in the first round of the 221 draft. Does Etienne make the offense better? Of course. But could the Jaguars have done something even more impactful with that pick? Of course.

The Jaguars struck gold last year. They found an undrafted 21-year-old running back in **James Robinson** who outplayed their prior first-round running back (**Leonard Fournette**) and gained the most scrimmage yards of ANY UNDRAFTED ROOKIE in NFL history. Instead of rejoicing...they went out and drafted another first-round round running back four month later.

They also went out and signed **Carlos Hyde** in free agency. Their stated plan is to use Robinson and Hyde as a "1-2 punch" with Etienne as a third-down back. Etienne was taking most of his snaps as a wide receiver in rookie mini-camp. If they convert Etienne into a receiver or throw him the ball on early down passes, I'm more OK with that usage. They certainly are likely to use Etienne on early downs in some capacity – there's no way they could justify a first-round pick on him otherwise. But after Robinson's insanely good season, limited by Gruden's playcalling, it seemed excessive to invest so much into the backfield.

Taking over the playcalling will be former Lions OC Darrell Bevell. I'm interested to see how much he changes his style based on how Urban Meyer wants to run the offense. If you want to read more about Bevell, I highly encourage you to check out the Lions chapter because I wrote extensively about his playcalling.

A key takeaway: the Lions were a great first quarter team due to Bevell's scripting. They were shockingly good on the scoreboard and in play-by-play data. But after the script wore off, Bevell's play calls were not nearly as good. A small snippet of the analysis from the Lions chapter:

First quarter passes: 0.18 EPA/att, 51% success, 7.8 YPA Rest of game passes: 0.01 EPA/att, 47% success, 7.5 YPA

First quarter rushes: 0.02 EPA/att, 57% success, 5.0 YPC Rest of game rushes: -0.11 EPA/att, 47% success, 3.7 YPC

The Lions were a great "bet-on" team in the first quarter and a great "bet-against" team in-game after the first quarter over the past two years.

In terms of Meyer, one thing is certain — he's likely to have a long leash. As bad as the Jaguars have been since he took over, Khan has given all his coaches ample time at the helm. Doug Marrone got four full years. Gus Bradley was in his fourth year before being fired in-season. Jack Del Rio was in his fourth year before being fired-in season. The only coach who didn't get the four-year treatment was Mike Mularkey, who went 2-14 and was fired after one season. That's not happening with Meyer. My prediction is the only way Meyer is done before four years is if he himself wants out. Otherwise, he'll be the Jaguars head coach at least as long as Trevor Lawrence is in his rookie deal. if not longer.

The Jaguars' 2021 schedule is the fourth-easiest based on opponent win totals. They play the 21st toughest schedule of defenses and 14th toughest schedule of offenses. They spent a lot in free agency to reconstruct their defense. Their offense will look completely new. Prior to their Week 7 bye, they play the second easiest schedule in the NFL. It gets tougher in the mid-point, but from Week 12 onward, they play multiple teams in transition like the Falcons, Jets and Texans. It's been a long time since I could say this, but I am legitimately excited to watch their on-field product in 2021 and hope the Jaguars can bring their fans some success that they so desperately deserve.

Immediate Impact of Jacksonville Jaguars 2021 Draft Class

Trevor Lawrence (first round) will obviously have the most significant impact, good or bad, on the Jaguars 2021 season.

As talented as Lawrence is, he doesn't have a ton of experience making decisions in the pocket—24% of his throws last season were screen passes. Ideally, head coach Urban Meyer and offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell take what Lawrence did well at Clemson and make that a significant portion of the playbook during his rookie year.

At +270, Lawrence is the Rookie of the Year favorite, but that's probably not a smart bet to place at those odds. Six of the nine quarterbacks to win this award won at least seven games, and Jacksonville doesn't look like a team ready to flirt with a .500 record.

Meyer's track record of creating touches in space for his playmakers (Percy Harvin, Curtis Samuel, Braxton Miller, etc) bodes well for **Travis Etienne** (first round) having a nice rookie year. Etienne averaged 4.4 yards per carry when the defense stacked seven or more defenders in the box last season, compared to 6.3 with six or fewer. Expect **James Robinson** to maintain his role as the downhill runner, while they create ways for Etienne to touch the ball in more favorable situations.

Many others in this class look strong as well, but are unlikely to see significant playing time early this fall. CB **Tyson Campbell** (second round), OT **Walker Little** (second round), and DT **Jay Tufele** (fourth round) are particularly exciting high-upside prospects, but lacked the college production to indicate they're ready for an impact role as a rookie.

Jacksonville likely landed multiple starters from this class, but the decision to take a running back in the first round—when it wasn't even a glaring need—certainly raises some questions about their process. Additionally, they selected multiple players with a recent history of injuries, most notably Little and **Andre Cisco** (third round).

So while there's a lot of talent in this class, Meyer and GM Trent Baalke also took a lot of unnecessary risks and probably didn't maximize the value of their draft capital.



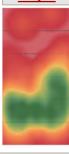
Jacksonville Jaguars 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Jaguars were 27th in the NFL in expected points added via their passing game in 2020 (3.9 points), 27th in yards per pass attempt (6.4 yards), and 29th in yards per completed pass (10.2 yards). They ran through multiple starts from all of **Gardner Minshew**, **Mike Glennon**, and **Jake Luton** over the course of the season. Quarterback was a major need and with the No. 1 pick, the Jaguars were a no-brainer to take **Trevor Lawrence**. Lawrence started 15 games as a freshman in 2018, completing 65.2% of his passes for 8.3 Y/A to with a 30-to-4 touchdown to interception ratio, closing that age 19 season down by throwing for 347 yards (10.8 Y/A) and three touchdowns against Alabama. From that point on, Lawrence raised his completion rate, yards per pass attempt, and adjusted yards per attempt in each of the following two seasons.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Gardner Minshew | 216 | 327 | 66% | 2,259 | 6.9 | 16 | 5 | 27 | 96 | 18 | |
| Mike Glennon | 111 | 179 | 62% | 1,072 | 6.0 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 80 | 39 | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

20 10 0 10 0 18 18 39

Postive Play %





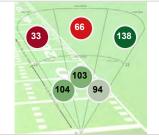
Target

Distribution

50

40

30



| | 2020 Advanced Passing Table | |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
| EDED | | |

| 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 | 48% | 51% | 27 | 8.0% | 6 | 2.0% | 5.5 | 5.0 | 12 | 4% |
| Mike Glennon | 43% | 48% | 13 | 7.0% | 3 | 2.0% | 5.9 | 3.8 | 6 | 3% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

| <u>In</u> | Interception Rates by Down | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4th Dwn | Total | | | | | | | |
| 1 & 2 | 0.0% | 6.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.7% | | | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4.2% | 0.0% | 1.3% | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.7% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.6% | | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | | | |
| Total | 1.5% | 1.6% | 1.2% | 0.0% | 1.4% | | | | | | | |

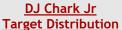
| 3rd Down I | 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | | | |
| Gardner Minshew | 8.4 | 5.2 | -3.2 | 74% | 25 | | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | | |

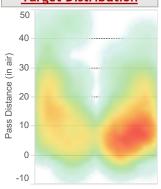
| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| t Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 52% | 48% | 25 | | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

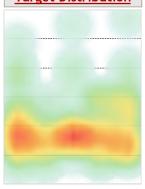
Jacksonville targeted their wide receivers 62% of the time in 2020 (14th), but ranked 23rd in yards per target (7.6 yards). Not much went right for **D.J. Chark** in 2020. He missed three games to injury while seeing his receptions per game (4.1), yardage per game (54.3), and touchdowns (five) all decline from his 2019 breakout. 2020 second-rounder **Laviska Shenault** caught 58-of-79 targets for 600 yards. Jacksonville added **Marvin Jones** this offseason after he caught 76-of-115 targets for 978 yards and nine touchdowns. Jacksonville tight ends combined for 68 catches and two touchdowns in 2020 as the team was 29th in yards per target (5.9 yards). They're thin again with only **Luke Farrell**, **Tim Tebow**, and **Chris Manhertz** in 2021.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwo | YPA | Rating | % % | Success | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|-------|-----|--------|--------|---------|------------------|-------|-------------|-----|
| D.J. Chark | 89 | 55% | 7.3 | 73.9 | 46% | 117 | 105 | 16 | 97 | 5 |
| Keelan Cole | 84 | 63% | 7.4 | 100.3 | 58% | 31 | 76 | 54 | 54 | 5 |
| Laviska Shenault Jr. | 73 | 73% | 7.6 | 117.2 | 56% | 51 | 57 | 23 | 102 | 5 |
| Chris Conley | 60 | 65% | 7.6 | 86.7 | 60% | 24 | 36 | 58 | 38 | 1 |
| James Robinson | 57 | 81% | 5.7 | 102.2 | 49% | 97 | 58 | 119 | 31 | 2 |
| Tyler Eifert | 56 | 59% | 5.3 | 55.5 | 46% | 114 | 89 | 120 | 15 | 2 |





Keelan Cole Target Distribution



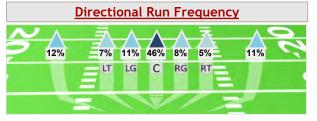
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

In a season that yielded few positives, the Jaguars were capable on the ground, ranking 17th in the league in rushing EPA and 12th in yards per carry (4.5 yards), although they ranked just 23rd in success rate (48%). After releasing **Leonard Fournette** late in the summer, undrafted rookie back **James Robinson** racked up 1,414 yards from scrimmage on 289 touches with 10 touchdowns in 14 games played. Those yards produced (on a 1-15 team) were the third-most in NFL history for an undrafted rookie and the most since 1962. The Jaguars added veteran **Carlos Hyde**, who has ties to both general manager Trent Baalke and new head coach Urban Meyer and used their second first-round pick (No. 25 overall) on Trevor Lawrence's teammate, **Travis Etienne**, who racked up over 1,500 yards in each of his final three seasons at Clemson.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| James Robinson | 240 | 4.5 | 49% | 60 | 26 | 43 | 55 | 48% | 60 | 7 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



What Are We Getting From The Jaguars Offense?

Bringing in Urban Meyer, the Jaguars are going to have an extremely different look in 2021. Meyer has called his offense "power football with a spread set." Adding Darrell Bevell as the offensive coordinator, we should anticipate the Jaguars to be a team that attempts to run the football as much as game script can allow.

Quarterbacks were used in Meyer's run game often in college and **Trevor Lawrence** is no slouch in athleticism, either. While he did not have the rushing resume of other top quarterbacks in this class, Lawrence is still in the 56th percentile in career rushing output for all prospects since 2000. Lawrence added 177, 563, and 203 rushing yards over his three seasons at Clemson with 18 touchdowns on the ground. That goes with his stellar passing resume. No stranger to playing in big games, Lawrence appeared in five college playoffs games in three seasons, throwing for 8.3 Y/A with 10 touchdowns and one interception in those games to go along with three rushing scores.

For a team we are anticipating to lean on the run first, the Jaguars have strong options in the backfield. **James Robinson** racked up 1,414 yards from scrimmage on 289 touches with 10 touchdowns in 14 games played. As we have learned recently with Phillip Lindsay and Thomas Rawls is that these situations can be fragile for backs with low leverage in terms of draft capital. Robinson was already going to be hard-pressed to sustain his rate of 84.8% of the Jacksonville backfield carries and 85.8% of their backfield touches in 2021, but the addition of **Travis Etienne** hinders his volume and pass-catching role from a market share stance no matter how we slice it. Robinson is going to need goal line looks to mitigate sharing more touches.

There has been an early push that Etienne could be used like players such as Curtis Samuel or Percy Harvin were in Meyer offenses of the past, but Etienne is a running back first-hand compared to those players and it isn't even close. Etienne exits Clemson coming off three-straight 1,500 yards seasons while scoring 13 or more touchdowns all four seasons. Etienne was kept at 244 touches or fewer in every season, but offers dual-usage ability (102 catches at college) and splash-play ability to impact games. He scored at least one touchdown in 46 of his 55 career games while 24 of his touchdowns came from outside of the red zone and 17 from 40 yards or longer.

Wide receiver has some ambiguity, especially if Jacksonville can run successfully.

D.J. Chark missed three games to injury while seeing his receptions per game (4.1), yardage per game (54.3), and touchdowns (five) all decline from his 2019 breakout. Dating back to midseason of 2019, Chark has now been a top-30 scorer in six of his past 23 games played with just seven games over that span reaching 60 yards. He also could be seeing the best quarterback play of his career to help channel the player we saw at the start of the 2019 season. **Marvin Jones** appeared in all 16 games for the first time since 2017. Jones showed there are still ceiling moments in his range of outcomes with four top-five scoring weeks, but also his volatility, having 11 other weeks as the WR35 or lower. At age 31, Jones is following Bevell to Jacksonville, where he has a bit of an overlap to D.J. Chark in terms of skill set, but Jones does have nine receiving touchdowns in three of his past four seasons played. **Laviska Shenault** caught 58-of-79 targets for 600 yards and five touchdowns and tacked on 91 yards on the ground. Shenault is surprisingly not getting the Harvin/Samuel parallels drawn to him. Shenault's 1.55 yards per route run exceeded Chark (1.48) in 2020, but his 10.3 yards per catch and not having more than six touchdown receptions in a season dating back through college, leave us needing a lot more volume for Shenault to truly break out.

| Jack | sonville Jagua | rs Defense: Nu | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------|----|------------------|------|----|----|------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ 5 | | % F | | 0/ | | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 14 plays (4%) Success: 43% | 287 plays (89%) Success: 55% | 23 plays (7%) Success: 26% | 324 plays (100%) Success: 53% | 70 | | 70 | | 00%) | | Rk | 40 - |
| | EPA: 0.16 | EPA: 0.20 | EPA: -0.19 | EPA: 0.17 | Base | 40% | 1 | and property and | | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 99 plays (84%) Success: 57% | 18 plays <i>(15%)</i> Success: 61% | 1 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 100% | 118 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 58% | Nickel | 55% | 19 | 30 | | | | |
| | EPA: 0.21 | EPA: 0.16 | EPA: 0.48 | EPA: 0.20 | Dime+ | 3% | 22 | | | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 27 plays (64%) Success: 63% EPA: 0.34 | 15 plays <i>(36%)</i> Success: 33% EPA: 0.13 | | 42 plays (100%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.26 | Rush 3 | 4% | 23 | 20 | | | | |
| | 6 plays (100%) | | | 6 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 67% | 10 | 10 - | | | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 50% EPA: -0.14 | | | Success: 50% EPA: -0.14 | Rush 5 | 23% | 8 | | | | | |
| Grand | 146 plays (30%) | 320 plays (65%) | 24 plays (5%) | 490 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 6% | 11 | 0 – | | | | |
| Total | Success: 56% EPA: 0.21 | Success: 55% EPA: 0.19 | Success: 29% EPA: -0.16 | Success: 54% EPA: 0.18 | Blitz% | 29% | 10 | -10 | | | | |

Defensive Outlook

Taven Bryan was a first-round pick in 2018 but he hasn't really lived up to that status. He ranked just 90th in pressure rate among defensive tackles in 2020. **DaVon Hamilton** played 36% of the defensive snaps as a third-round rookie in 2020. At 320 pounds, Hamilton is more of a big run stopper, but he ranked better than Bryan in pressure rate (71st among defensive tackles) and added five quarterback hits.

Caraun Reid has been a player who has been able to get pressure, but not many sacks, as a rotational interior player. Malcolm Brown was signed as a free agent this offseason, but he's another big run stopper that doesn't add much to the pass rush.

The Jaguars tried to pair two first-round picks on the edge, but Year 1 of that did not go as planned. 2019 first-round pick **Josh Allen** only played in eight games due to a knee injury. He missed two games early in the season, returned, but went on injured reserve for the final six games of the season. He ranked 41st among edge rushers in pressure rate. 2020 first-round pick **K'Lavon Chaisson** played all 16 games but only got three starts and played 51% of the total defensive snaps. Chaisson's pressure rate ranked just 91st among edge rushers. His nine quarterback hits suggest there should have been more than one sack on his ledger but the down-to-down consistency still wasn't there for the rookie.

Myles Jack was great in 2020. 55.9% of his tackles came before a first down was gained, which ranked fourth among linebackers in 2020. He was also 16th in yards allowed per coverage snap. Joe Schobert was an odd five-year signing for the Jaguars last offseason and he didn't do much to warrant that type of investment. He was 10th in the rate of tackles made before a first down but just 38th in yards allowed per coverage snap.

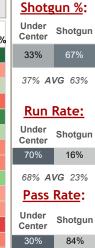
Shaquill Griffin was Jacksonville's big get in free agency, though he has been inconsistent over the past few seasons and ranked 74th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap among a group of 148 corners with at least 100 coverage snaps.

C.J. Henderson was the ninth overall pick last season but his rookie year only lasted eight games. Henderson suffered a groin injury and was placed on injured reserve. The play up to that point wasn't great, as was the case for most rookie corners in 2020. Henderson ranked 140th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. It's slightly more concerning than the typical rookie since Henderson's college charting wasn't all that great either, but he was a super fast and athletic prospect.

Jacksonville's other corners in **Tre Herndon**, **Chris Claybrooks**, and **Sidney Jones** all underwhelmed to some degree in 2020. Jones had a wild split in coverage. He ranked 142nd in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap but had the 14th-lowest completion rate allowed. **Rayshawn Jenkins** was another free agent add for the Jaguars this offseason. Jenkins played 83% of the defensive snaps for the Chargers last season and spent most of it in the box. **Jarrod Wilson** played deep safety and he's currently in line to get that role again. **Andrew Wingard** and **Josh Jones** both filled in for snaps both deep and in the box.

| 2020 Play Tend | 2020 Play Tendencies | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| All Pass % | 61% | | |
| All Pass Rk | 10 | | |
| All Rush % | 39% | | |
| All Rush Rk | 23 | | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 59% | | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 12 | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 58% | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 18 | | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | 1% | | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 8 | | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 41% | | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 21 | | |
| Up Pass % | 56% | | |
| Up Pass Rk | 15 | | |
| Up Rush % | 44% | | |
| Up Rush Rk | 18 | | |
| Down Pass % | 63% | | |
| Down Pass Rk | 11 | | |
| Down Rush % | 37% | | |
| Down Rush Rk | 22 | | |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 1 | 0% | 100% | 100% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 5 | 80% | 20% | 40% |
| | Long (8-10) | 298 | 44% | 56% | 51% |
| | XL (11+) | 11 | 55% | 45% | 27% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 22 | 45% | 55% | 86% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 94 | 59% | 41% | 52% |
| | Long (8-10) | 92 | 78% | 22% | 35% |
| | XL (11+) | 26 | 81% | 19% | 35% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 38 | 66% | 34% | 58% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 60 | 87% | 13% | 42% |
| | Long (8-10) | 28 | 96% | 4% | 39% |
| | XL (11+) | 24 | 96% | 4% | 17% |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 6 | 50% | 50% | 33% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 6 | 100% | 0% | 33% |



32% **AVG** 77%

Jacksonville Jaguars 2020 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | |
| 43% | 32 | 67% | 73% | 75% | |
| | 2nd and Short Pass | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | |
| | IXN | i icq Avg | itato | .D Avg | |

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | |
| 1st Dwn | Long (8-10) | RUSH | James Robinson | 135 | 47% | |
| DWII | XL (11+) | RUSH | James Robinson | 3 | 67% | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | James Robinson | 9 | 78% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | James Robinson | 28 | 54% | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | James Robinson | 12 | 17% | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Dare Ogunbowale | 4 | 0% | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | James Robinson | 9 | 89% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Keelan Cole | 12 | 67% | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | D.J. Chark | 5 | 20% | |

| Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | |
| No | Success: 45% | Success: 59% | Success: 46% | | | |
| | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.14 | YPA: 9.7, EPA: 0.24 | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.10 | | | |
| | Rtg: 78.7 | Rtg: 100.0 | Rtg: 80.8 | | | |
| | [Att: 438 - Rate: 66.6%] | [Att: 49 - Rate: 7.4%] | [Att: 487 - Rate: 74.0%] | | | |
| Yes | Success: 36% | Success: 53% | Success: 43% | | | |
| | YPA: 5.4, EPA: -0.16 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.05 | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.08 | | | |
| | Rtg: 85.0 | Rtg: 108.3 | Rtg: 93.9 | | | |
| | [Att: 105 - Rate: 16.0%] | [Att: 66 - Rate: 10.0%] | [Att: 171 - Rate: 26.0%] | | | |
| Total | Success: 43% | Success: 56% | Success: 45% | | | |
| | YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.15 | YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.10 | | | |
| | Rtg: 79.9 | Rtg: 104.7 | Rtg: 84.2 | | | |
| | [Att: 543 - Rate: 82.5%] | [Att: 115 - Rate: 17.5%] | [Att: 658 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | |

| 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|----------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Keelan Cole | D.J. Chark | James Robinson | Laviska Shenault | Tyler Eifert | Chris Conley | Dare Ogun bowale | Chris Tho mpson | Eric Saubert |
| 1 | IND | W 27-20 | 33 (66%) | 42 (84%) | 34 (68%) | 31 (62%) | 28 (56%) | 16 (32%) | | 12 (24%) | |
| 2 | TEN | L 33-30 | 51 (68%) | 59 (79%) | 38 (51%) | 43 (57%) | 45 (60%) | 34 (45%) | | 31 (41%) | |
| 3 | MIA | L 31-13 | 50 (76%) | | 30 (45%) | 45 (68%) | 40 (61%) | 53 (80%) | 5 (8%) | 30 (45%) | |
| 4 | CIN | L 33-25 | 50 (74%) | 58 (85%) | 52 (76%) | 37 (54%) | 46 (68%) | 21 (31%) | | 16 (24%) | |
| 5 | HOU | L 30-14 | 60 (80%) | 50 (67%) | 43 (57%) | 52 (69%) | 46 (61%) | 24 (32%) | | 30 (40%) | |
| 6 | DET | L 34-16 | 48 (75%) | 57 (89%) | 44 (69%) | 47 (73%) | 5 (8%) | 15 (23%) | | 20 (31%) | |
| 7 | LAC | L 39-29 | 48 (76%) | 55 (87%) | 57 (90%) | 47 (75%) | | 16 (25%) | 6 (10%) | | 1 (2%) |
| 9 | HOU | L 27-25 | 47 (68%) | 59 (86%) | 50 (72%) | 10 (14%) | 38 (55%) | 49 (71%) | 3 (4%) | 19 (28%) | |
| 10 | GB | L 24-20 | 52 (81%) | 56 (88%) | 53 (83%) | | 40 (63%) | 55 (86%) | 10 (16%) | 1 (2%) | |
| 11 | PIT | L 27-3 | 47 (81%) | 50 (86%) | 41 (71%) | | 24 (41%) | 37 (64%) | 13 (22%) | | 31 (53%) |
| 12 | CLE | L 27-25 | 61 (94%) | | 63 (97%) | 59 (91%) | 39 (60%) | | | | 9 (14%) |
| 13 | MIN | L 27-24 | 49 (69%) | 62 (87%) | 60 (85%) | 25 (35%) | 51 (72%) | 8 (11%) | 10 (14%) | | 17 (24%) |
| 14 | TEN | L 31-10 | 61 (86%) | 64 (90%) | 40 (56%) | 53 (75%) | 45 (63%) | 9 (13%) | 22 (31%) | | 9 (13%) |
| 15 | BAL | L 40-14 | 43 (74%) | 49 (84%) | 36 (62%) | 43 (74%) | 37 (64%) | 23 (40%) | 14 (24%) | | 12 (21%) |
| 16 | CHI | L 41-17 | 40 (73%) | 41 (75%) | | 48 (87%) | 28 (51%) | 27 (49%) | 39 (71%) | | 4 (7%) |
| 17 | IND | L 28-14 | 45 (69%) | | | 45 (69%) | 36 (55%) | 52 (80%) | 63 (97%) | | 10 (15%) |
| | Grand | Total | 785 (76%) | 702 (84%) | 641 (70%) | 585 (65%) | 548 (56%) | 439 (46%) | 185 (30%) | 159 (29%) | 93 (19%) |

| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. % |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1-1 [3WR] | 73% | 60% | 47% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 12% | 20% | 46% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 5% | 4% | 44% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 4% | 7% | 39% |
| 1-0 [4WR] | 2% | 2% | 48% |
| | ing Te | enden | cies |
| | | enden Pass | cies Run |
| | Pass Rate | | Run Succ. |
| Group | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run |
| Group | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 75% 42% | Pass Succ. % 46% 42% | Run Succ. % 53% 49% |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| D.J. Chark | 11 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Tyler Eifert | 11 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Keelan Cole | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Laviska Shenault Jr. | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| Chris Conley | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Collin Johnson | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| James Robinson | 5 | | 3 | 2 |
| Chris Thompson | 4 | | | 4 |

| Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| James Robinson | 31 | 6 | 7 | 18 |
| Dare Ogunbowale | 3 | 1 | | 2 |
| Gardner Minshew | 2 | | 1 | 1 |
| Laviska Shenault Jr. | 2 | | | 2 |
| Chris Thompson | 1 | | 1 | |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate |
|----------------|----------------|----------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 20% | 20% | 60% |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% |
| | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % |
| | _ | |
| RB | TE | WR |

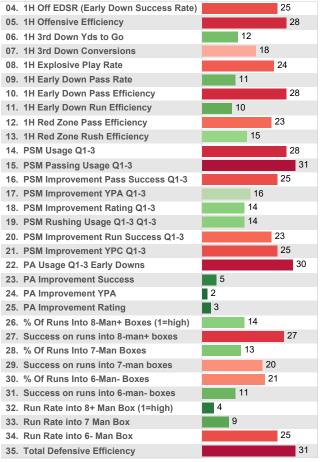
01. Games w Halftime Lead



02. Avg Halftime Lead

-8.0

03. Wins



| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA 6.6 | | | | | |
| 7.6 | | | | | |
| 6.7 | | | | | |
| 7.8 | | | | | |
| 48% | | | | | |
| 50% | | | | | |
| -0.05 | | | | | |
| -0.08 | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 29% | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 58% | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 8.6 | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 6.9% | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.2 | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 11.3 | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 49% | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 5.5 | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 3.8% | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.13 | | | |
| 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 | 21% |
| 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 | 3.1 |
| 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 | 47% |
| 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 | 30% |
| 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 | 5.7 |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|--|--|--|
| Net FROE Rk | 18 | defFUM | 18 | | | |
| Net FROE | 0.3 | | | | | |
| offFUM | 16 | defFUM Rcvrd | 13 | | | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 6 | defFR Rk | 30 | | | |
| offFR% | 37.5% | defFR% | 27.8% | | | |
| offFR Rk | 27 | defFROE | 3.0 | | | |
| offFROE | -2.7 | | 0.0 | | | |
| offFROE Rk | 28 | defFROE Rk | 1 | | | |

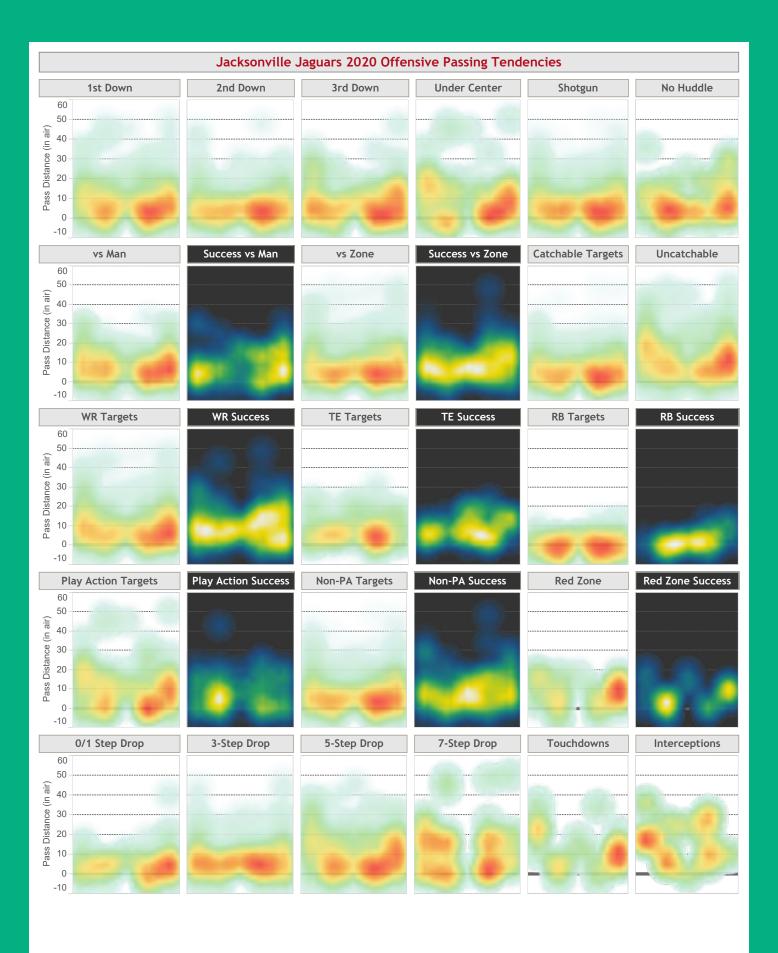
| Field Goal Luck | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Net Over Expectation -1.43 Opp Att 39 | | | | | | | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 20 | Opp Makes | 31 | | | | |
| Own Att Own Makes | 18 | 25 18 Opp FG % | | | | | |
| Own FG % | 72% | | | | | | |
| Own Expected Makes | 20.16 | Opp wake over Expectation | | | | | |
| Own Make over Expectation | -2.16 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 26 | | | | |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 29 3.62 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -0.84 | | | | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 1 | 2019 Opp Rk | 19 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| | Gardner Minshew | Mike Glennon | | | |
| CAY | 5.6 | 5.9 | | | |
| CAY Rk | 23 | 19 | | | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 20 | | | | |
| AYTS Rk | 16 | 11 | | | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 29 | | | | |
| AGG Rk | 16 | 1 | | | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 23 | | | | |
| COMP% | 66.1 | 62 | | | |
| xCOMP% | 63.1 | 63 | | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 31 | 33 | | | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 9 | | | | |
| CPOE% | 2.9 | -1 | | | |
| CPOE Rk | 8 | 27 | | | |
| 2019 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 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Gardner Minshew | Mike Glennon | | | | |
| Pressure % | 34.4 | 25 | | | | |
| Pressure Rk | 14 | 34 | | | | |
| Sack % | 7.1 | 4.7 | | | | |
| Sack Rk | 8 | 26 | | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 69.3 | 54.5 | | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 11 | 38 | | | | |
| Rating when Pressured | 82.2 | 51.9 | | | | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 10 | 30 | | | | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 77.1 | 76.7 | | | | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 27 | 29 | | | | |
| Rating when Clean | 101.2 | 87.5 | | | | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 22 | 36 | | | | |
| Time to Throw | 2.77 | 2.58 | | | | |
| Time to Throw Rk | 16 | 31 | | | | |

| Offensive A | Metrics | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| EPA/Pass | -0.10 | | | | |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 27 | | | | |
| EPA/Rush | -0.04 | | | | |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 15 | | | | |
| On-Target Catch % | 91.3% | | | | |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 12 | | | | |
| Drop% | 5.4% | | | | |
| Drop Rk | 6 | | | | |
| YAC/Att | 2.6 | | | | |
| YAC/Att Rk | 6 | | | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 16.6% | | | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 6 | | | | |
| Rush 1st Down % | 23.7% | | | | |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 22 | | | | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Andy Reid (8 yrs) Offensive Coordinator:

Hard

Easy

Eric Bieniemy (3 yrs)

Defensive Coordinator: Steve Spagnuolo (2 yrs)

Kansas City Chiefs

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

12.5

#1

Past Records

2020: 14-2 2019: 12-4 2018: 12-4



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Antonio Hamilton (CB) | Buccanee. |
| Damien Williams (RB) | Bears |
| Damien Wilson (LB) | Jaguars |
| Darrel Williams (RB) | Chiefs |
| Deon Yelder (TE) | Washingt. |
| Eric Fisher (LT) | Colts |
| Patrick Sherman (FB) | Retired |
| Sammy Watkins (WR) | Ravens |
| Tanoh Kpassagnon (EDGE) | Saints |
| Alex Okafor (EDGE) | TBD |
| Anthony Sherman (FB) | TBD |
| Austin Reiter (C) | TBD |
| Bashaud Breeland (CB) | TBD |
| Daniel Kilgore (C) | TBD |
| Kelechi Osemele (LG) | TBD |
| Le'Veon Bell (RB) | TBD |
| Mike Pennel (IDL) | TBD |
| Mitchell Schwartz (RT) | TBD |
| Ricky Seals-Jones (TE) | TBD |
| Stefen Wisniewski (LG) | TBD |

2021 Kansas City Chiefs Overview

Greatness tends to be consistent. The Chiefs were great in 2019 and they had one of the most consistent offseasons of any team last year. Despite winning the Super Bowl, they returned nearly everyone for 2020's run. They didn't lose any key coaches. And if there ever was an offseason where consistency was important, it was last offseason.

Last year there were only eight playcallers paired with his quarterback for at least three years. Andy Reid with Patrick Mahomes, Brian Daboll with Josh Allen, Sean Payton with Drew Brees, and Brian Schottenheimer with Russell Wilson were four of the eight. They all went 12-4 or better and finished with the top-2 seeds in the AFC and two of the top-3 seeds in the NFC.

Such an edge won't exist this year.

That's OK – the Chiefs have the talent and coaching to do just about anything they want to do this year. They've made considerable investments on both sides of the ball this offseason to strengthen their 2020 weaknesses.

But they still must improve in multiple areas in order to optimize their chances of making a third straight trip to a Super Bowl and walk away with another Lombardi.

Every year many new playcallers enter the NFL. I always suggest they study Andy Reid before they call a single play in the NFL. He has the most talented quarterback in the **Underdog** NFL, and perhaps of all-time when it's all said and done. Reid doesn't have to do everything he does to make the offense as efficient as it is. He could have a pregame talk, tell Mahomes to go win the game, sit back and enjoy the show and Mahomes probably would get it done more often than not. But Reid's offense is built around making life easy on his quarterback and efficient offense. (cont'd - see KC2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|----------------------|----------|
| Joe Thuney (LG) | \$16 |
| Jarran Reed (IDL) | \$5.5 |
| Mike Hughes (CB) | Trade |
| Blake Bell (TE) | \$1.10 |
| Austin Blythe (C) | \$1 |
| Jerick McKinnon (RB) | \$1 |
| Michael Burton (FB) | \$1 |
| Orlando Brown (RT) | Trade |
| Will Parks (S) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| | Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|---|----|-----|--|
| 2 | 2 | 58 | LB - Nick Bolton (Missouri) |
| | 2 | 63 | C - Creed Humphrey (Oklahoma) |
| | 4 | 144 | DE - Joshua Kaindoh (Florida State) |
| | 5 | 162 | TE - Noah Gray (Duke) |
| 3 | 3 | 181 | WR - Cornell Powell (Clemson) |
| | 6 | 226 | OG - Trey Smith (Tennessee) |

Regular Season Wins: Pact & Current Proj

Games

Favored

16

Average

Line

-6.4

Games

| Past | & Current Proj |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Forecast 2021 Wins | 12.5 |
| 2020 Wins | 14 🌘 |
| Forecast 2020 Wins | 11.5 |
| 2019 Wins | (12 |
| 2018 Wins | 12 |
| 2017 Wins | 10 |
| | 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 |



| | | - | _ | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| LWR D.Robinson | 17- SŁOTWR M.Hardman | 57 -LT O.Brown* NEW | 62 LG J.Thuney NEW | 66 C A.Blythe | RG K.Long* N | 75 RT M.Remmers* | 87 - <i>TE</i> T.Kelce* | 10 RWR T.Hill |
| 13- WR2- B.Pringle | 14 - 31 WR3- C.Powell Rookie | 2 QB2 | | -QB- P.Mahomes | -RB-dwards-Heli | aire | 2020 Ca * = 30+ y | p Dollars |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 27 | \$84.49M | 9 |
| QB | 23 | \$10.38M | 28 |
| OL | 28 | \$27.70M | 12 |
| RB | 20 | \$7.31M | 25 |
| WR | 9 | \$28.08M | 2 |
| TE | 11 | \$11.01M | 7 |
| All DEF | 3 | \$106.44M | 6 |
| DL | 4 | \$50.46M | 11 |
| LB | 10 | \$18.39M | 4 |
| СВ | 27 | \$11.47M | 29 |
| S | 2 | \$26.13M | 3 |

KC-2

Three easy things Andy Reid does that all offenses should do more of:

The Chiefs ranked first in early down pass rate in the first three quarters, as they did in 2019. Early down passes early in the game are far more efficient handing the ball off on these plays.

The Chiefs have used above average rates of play-action and pre-snap motion, but they shifted even more in that direction last year. They lowered their rate of plays that feature no pre-snap motion nor play-action from 35% in 2019 down to 30% in 2020, and raised their rate of plays that use both from 16% in 2019 up to 24% in 2020.

The Chiefs refuse to run into heavy boxes. Kansas City's run rate when the defense had more than seven men in the box has been the lowest in the NFL the last two years. It sounds obvious – if the defense is playing the run, why should the offense run it. But defenses, primarily reacting to personnel, put 8+ men in the box on 17% of offensive plays. And offenses still run into these boxes at a 64% rate on average. The Chiefs do it least often, a full 10% below average. The Packers' offense is similarly intelligent, running into these boxes infrequently. Teams that ran into these boxes the most? Jay Gruden's Jaguars and Adam Gase's Jets.

All of these things help and are foundational for Reid and the Chiefs. But doing these things doesn't ensure victory. It just raises the floor of an offense and gives his team a head start. One thing the Chiefs need to focus on this season is more production earlier in games.

In 2018, the Chiefs led by 6.9 points on average at halftime and held 11 halftime leads

In 2019, the Chiefs led by 7.5 points on average at halftime and held 11 halftime leads.

But in 2020, the Chiefs led by only $3.5\ \mathrm{ppg}$ at halftime and held only nine halftime leads.

With games far more in doubt at halftime in 2020 than in prior years, the Chiefs had to do two things they haven't done in decades.

First, their defense (behind defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo) had to hold opponents to only 1.75 ppg in the third quarter.

| | 2020 Passi | ng Performa | nce | I HA |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4 |
| Patrick Mahome s | 56% 7.3 96.4 | 55% 8.4 115.7 | 45% 8.2 108.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 54% | 68% | 75% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |
| | 2020 Rushi | ng Performa | ince | |
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | _ |
| кс | 53% 4.7 | 53% 3.9 | 55% 5.0 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 46% | 32% | 25% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |

Researching back 30+ years, the Chiefs have never held opponents to such futile production in the third quarter. In fact, Kansas City's third quarter defense was not only the best in the NFL, but it was the second-best third quarter points allowed since 2010 and the 11th best of any team of the last 30 years.

40%

25%

Second, their offense had to score 8.5 ppg in the fourth quarter. No Chiefs team in the Andy Reid era scored that many fourth quarter points. The last Chiefs team to score as many points in the fourth quarter was back in 2004. The 2020 Chiefs posted their franchise's third-best fourth quarter points scored of the last 30 years.

(10)

12

Pass Efficiency Def

(10)

19

(10)

19

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def

The Chiefs had to do both of those things just to play in the exact

50%

Run Rate

5

10

15

20

30 - 25

WEEK RESULT OPP

SITE MARGIN

PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green

(low=good)

25 – 🐌

EDSR Def 30 & In Def

20 20

Ded

Red Zone

(cont'd - see KC-3)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

(19)

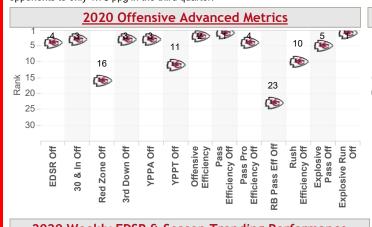
4

(1)

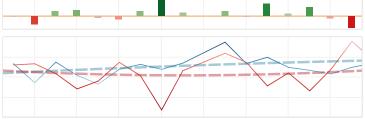
17

Explosive Pass Def

Explosive



| | <u>202</u> | <u> 20 Y</u> | <u>vee</u> | <u>kly</u> | <u>EDS</u> | R 8 | t Se | <u>ason</u> | Trend | ding | <u> </u> | <u>rtor</u> | <u>ma</u> | <u>nce</u> | |
|-----|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----|------|-------------|-------|------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| W | W | W | W | L | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | W | L |
| HOU | LAC | BAL | NE | LV | BUF | DEN | NYJ | CAR | LV | TB | DEN | MIA | NO | ATL | LAC |
| Н | Α | Α | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Н |
| 14 | 3 | 14 | 16 | -8 | 9 | 27 | 26 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | -17 |
| 34 | 23 | 34 | 26 | 32 | 26 | 43 | 35 | 33 | 35 | 27 | 22 | 33 | 32 | 17 | 21 |
| 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 40 | 17 | 16 | 9 | 31 | 31 | 24 | 16 | 27 | 29 | 14 | 38 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



2020 Close Game Records

16

3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency

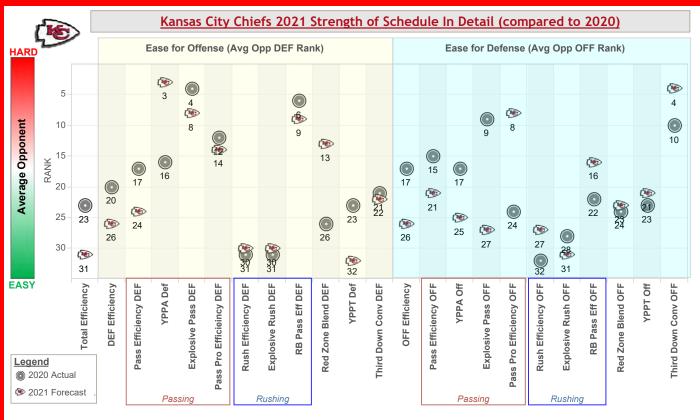
All 2019 Wins: 14 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 5-0 FG Games Win %: 100% (#1) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 36% (#10)

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **8-1** 1 Score Games Win %: **89% (#1)** 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **57% (#17)**

| 2020 Critical/Game- Deciding Stats | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| TO Margin | +6 | | | | | | | |
| TO Given | 16 | | | | | | | |
| INT Given | 7 | | | | | | | |
| FUM Given | 9 | | | | | | | |
| TO Taken | 22 | | | | | | | |
| INT Taken | 16 | | | | | | | |
| FUM Taken | 6 | | | | | | | |
| Sack Margin | +9 | | | | | | | |
| Sacks | 32 | | | | | | | |
| Sacks Allow | 23 | | | | | | | |
| Return TD Margin | +3 | | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs | 4 | | | | | | | |
| Ret TDs Allow | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Penalty Margin | -8 | | | | | | | |
| Penalties | 105 | | | | | | | |
| Opponent Penalties | 97 | | | | | | | |

L=Red Wins): 57% (#17)

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



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 21 | 11 | 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 | | | | 20 | 2021 Opponents by Division | | | | 2020 Opponents by Division | | | | <u>ion</u> | Health by Unit* | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------|------|------------|----------------------------|----------|------------|--|----------------------------|--------------|-------|--------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------|------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | 1 | | | W | | | | | , in | Д | | 202 | 0 Rk | 11 |
| | Ave | rage I | ine | | -7.5 | -5 | 5.1 | -5.0 | AF | CW | Con Section | | → (@) | 27 | | AFCW | S. | - /- | → (@) | | | 201 | 9 Rk | 18 |
| | Avera | ge O/l | J line | | 51.6 | | 0.3 | 54.0 | | | | | ~ | | | | | | | | | 2020 v | 2019 Rk | 21 |
| | Straigh | | | | 14-2 | | 2-4 | 12-4 | | | | _ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | nst the | | | | 6-10 | | 0-6 | 8-6 | AF | CN | | · JE | e (iii | £ (+- | | | _ | سر 🚗 | " | | | On | Rk | 24 |
| - (| Over/U | | | | 7-7 | | -8 | 9-6 | | | 4- | 1 | | | | AFCE | 11 | 7 | | A Case | • | Def | Rk | 1 |
| | | as Fav | | | 5-9 | | -5 | 5-6 | | | | | | | _ | | ** | , | | | | OB | Rk | 1 |
| | ATS a | | | | 1-1 | | -1 | 3-0 7-1 | NE | CE | | - 111 | | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Straig | nt Up 'S Hon | | | 6-2 3-5 | | -3 -4 | 7-1 4-4 | 141 | OL. | | 101 | 3 G7 | × 🦠 | | | 45 | | - A | A | . | RB | Rk | 14 |
| | | | | | 3-5 3-4 | | -4 -3 | 4-4 2-5 | | | , , | | | | | NFCS | (A) | 5' 🖊 | P 9 | ଚ 🙈 | 7 | WR | Rk | 18 |
| | Over/U | | | to | 3-4 | | -3 -3 | 2-5 4-4 | | | | | | | | | 4 | | 4 | | | TE | Rk | 1 |
| | TS as i | | | | 0-1 | - | -3 -1 | 0-0 | AF | CE | 1 | , | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| , | Straig | | | 1 | 8-0 | | -i -i | 5-3 | | | 44 | | | | | | | | | | | Olin | e Rk | 30 |
| | | S Awa | | | 3-5 | - | -2 | 4-2 | | | | | | | | AFCN | 74 | | | | | Dlin | e Rk | 3 |
| | Over/l | | | | 4-3 | _ | -4 | 7-1 | AF | cs | | | | | | | | | | | | LD | Rk | 13 |
| | ATS A | | | | 2-5 | 4 | -2 | 1-2 | | | | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Away | | | 1-0 | 1. | -0 | 3-0 | | | | | | | | | | · | | | | DB | Rk | 6 |
| Six | Point | Tease | r Reco | ord | 11-5 | 13 | 3-3 | 14-2 | NIE. | CN | | | | | | AFCS | 8 | property and the second | | | | | | |
| | n Poir | | | | 11-5 | 13 | 3-2 | 14-1 | NF | CN | © | , | | | | | 20 | | | | | | on the | |
| Ter | Point | Tease | r Rec | ord | 14-2 | 14 | 1-2 | 16-0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Footi | oall Outs | siders |
| | | | | | <u>20</u> | 21 V | Veek | ly B | ettin | g Lir | <u>ies</u> | | | | | | | | | Home | Line | <u>es</u> | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 9 | 9 1 | 1 13 | 14 | 16 |
| CLE | BAL | LAC | PHI | BUF | WAS | TEN | NYG | GB | LVR | DAL | DEN | LVR | LAC | PIT | CIN | DEN | -6.5 | | -4.5 | | , _ | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | CLE | -7.5 LAC | | -10 G | | | -10.5 | -8.5 |
| -6.5 | +0.0 | -7.5 | -8.0 | -4.5 | -6.5 | -4.5 | -10.0 | -7.0 | -7.5 | -7.5 | -9.5 | -10.5 | -6.5 | -8.5 | -7.5 | -3.0 | | LAC | 1 | NYG G | DF | " DE1 | | PIT = -7.9 |
| | Λ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Н | | Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Н | A | Н | H | H | Α | Н | Α | Δ. | | | | | | | | |
| П | , | П | ^ | | ^ | A | " | " | ^ | " | " | П | ^ | | | A . | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | _ | | NO. | | | | | | | | | | Contract of the second | | | | Road | Line | <u>s</u> | | |
| Avg = | -6.8 | | | 11-2 | | | | | \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ | | | | | | Avg | = -6.8 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 15 | 17 | 18 |
| | | | 4 | | W | | | | | 25 | | | ľ ` | | 11 | | | | | | | | | -3 |
| | | | | | | | | | _ | , | Charlest Col | SOF. | | | | | BAL | | -6.5 | -4.5 TEN | -7.5 | -6.5 | -7.5 | DEN |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | -8 PHI | WAS | TEN | LVR | LAC | | = -5.4 |
| 53 | 22 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 24 | 49 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 20 | 53 | 52 | 20 | 9.5 | ιΩ | | | | | | F | 7.09 | |
| 2 | 51. | 52. | 50. | 54. | 50. | Ú | 4 | 52. | 53. | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 49. | 45. | | | _ ′ | | <u> </u> | | - | |





same number of one-score games as the 2019 Chiefs. The difference was the 2019 Chiefs went 5-4 in those one-score games. The 2020 Chiefs, thanks to their third quarter defense and fourth quarter offense, went 8-1 in those games.

To expect the Chiefs defense will be as good in the third quarter is unlikely considering the historic nature of the point totals allowed. After all, they allowed 9.2 fourth quarter ppg, fifth-most in the NFL. We might expect the Chiefs offense to continue to put up points in the fourth quarter like they did in 2020, but considering it was the best of any Andy Reid team, it's hardly bankable.

The better solution – the one that would take pressure off the offense in what is going to be a historically long season and give Reid and Chiefs fans fewer gray hairs – is to work on being more productive in the first half like they were in 2018 and 2019 so they are leading games at halftime by larger margins and have less pressure on themselves in the second half.

The goal is to reduce margin of error.

After all, the 2020 Chiefs went 5-0 in games decided by a field goal. That has almost no chance of happening again. Their great 2019 team that won the Super Bowl went 1-1 in games decided by a field goal and 5-4 on one-score games.

The last team to go better than 5-0 in one-score games was all the way back in 2003 (Panthers, 7-0).

It rarely happens, and the odds it happens in 2021 are very slim. Reducing the number of games decided by a field goal is critical, and to do that, jumping out to a larger, early lead is vital.

A great place to start will be not losing offensive linemen before the season starts. Starting guard **Laurent Duvernay-Tardif** opted out shortly before the start of Chiefs' training camp because of concerns about COVID-19. Starting guard **Kelechi Osemele** (lost in Week 5) and starting tackle **Mitchell Schwartz** (lost in Week 6) were lost for the season with injuries early in the year. And in the AFC Championship game, starting tackle **Eric Fisher's** season ended because of a torn Achilles tendon.

As a result, the starting lineup for the Super Bowl was:

LT Mike Remmers (who hadn't played LT since 2016 and began the season as a backup)

LG Nick Allegretti (began the season as a backup, drafted in the seventh round)

C Austin Reiter (the only Week 1 starter in his position for the Chiefs)

RG Stefen Wisniewski (began the season on the Steelers and was cut by them in November)

RT Andrew Wylie (a UDFA guard, who started the season but as a guard)

We knew this could be part of the Chiefs undoing in the Super Bowl. Even though, from Week 1 of 2019 through Week 17 of 2020, Mahomes was the only quarterback in the NFL with positive EPA when pressured. But as I said in my Super Bowl report distributed the week before the game, "It's not fair to assume Mahomes can keep this up at this pace.... He's pushed the boundaries of plays that can be made." My primary key for the Chiefs winning the Super Bowl hinged on "how will the Chiefs offensive line hold up in pass protection?"

We know how that went. Mahomes was pressured the most of any quarterback in Super Bowl history — 29 of 56 dropbacks. Meanwhile, Tom Brady faced the fewest pressures (four) in any Super Bowl of his career. The Bucs were up 21-6 at halftime and coasted to a 31-9 win, not allowing a single touchdown. It was the first game in Mahomes's NFL career that his Chiefs didn't score a touchdown.

Knowing they have the NFL's most talented quarterback and one of the best offensive coaches of all time, it had to frustrate the Chiefs to no end to see all the hard work they put into the season get them to the Super Bowl, but fail while there because the quarterback couldn't drop back.

As soon as the Chiefs could do something about it, they did. Kansas City released Eric Fisher and Mitchell Schwartz. They then signed guard **Joe Thuney** in free agency for \$16 million per year. Thuney, 28, became one of the best guards in the NFL during his time in New England. The Chiefs also signed guard **Kyle Long** from retirement and they'll get the return of Duvernay-Tardif from his opt-out. Additionally, the Chiefs signed center **Austin Blythe**. Then, in the draft, the Chiefs completed the overhaul of the line. They sent pick 31 to the Ravens to land left tackle **Orlando Brown Jr.** They then drafted center **Creed Humphrey** in the second round and they also added another guard in the sixth round.

The only thing the Chiefs don't have going for them is continuity, but they have a brand new LT, LG, C and RG, as well as some added depth. This unit is significantly better than the one Mahomes was dealing with most of last season, particularly starting in Week 5.

(cont'd - see KC-4)

| | | | | | | | | | | (COIN a - 366 <u>110-4</u>) | | |
|--|--|---------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>S</u> | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2021 games where | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponer less than to pr | a week | Difference | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a readvantage | st Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team play road SNF o | | Team's bye week is negated | | |
| 2 | 4 | | +2 | 1 | 5 | +4 | 1 | 2 | | 0 | | |
| | <u>Str</u> | ength o | of Schedule | d Game Timi | ng: Kansas | City Chiefs Ra | nking vs NFL | Average | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank | | | Rest Rank | Short | Week Road Games Rank | Games off Road S Rank | SNF/MNF | Negat | ted Bye Rank | | | |
| 5 | | | 2 | 1 | | 12 | 25 | | | 1 | | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- In case Mahomes ever is injured for a prolonged period, backup Chad Henne is not likely to lead the Chiefs to many victories.
- The AFC West could be loaded this season with Justin Herbert and the Chargers on the rise and the Broncos fielding a top 10 talented roster in the NFL. Even the Raiders have given the Chiefs trouble in the past and were very close to a two-game sweep last season. Add in games against the difficult AFC North as well as Tennessee and Green Bay and the Chiefs will not have an easy time this season.
- The Chiefs were 8-1 in one-score games last season and finished with just the sixth-highest point differential in the NFL. Only two other teams in NFL history had a point differential lower than the Chiefs' 111 and won 14 or more games. Their 3.3 Pythagorean wins over expected led the NFL.

12.5



Why Bet the Over

- When you have the best quarterback in the NFL like Patrick Mahomes, you will always be in contention to clear your win total. He ranks number one in EPA per dropback among NFL QBs since becoming the Chiefs' full-time starter. The Chiefs are 38-8 with Mahomes as a starter.
- The Chiefs have gone over their pre-season win total in each of Andy Reid's eight seasons as head coach.
- Kansas City has the luxury of playing three teams coming off a Monday Night Football game, the most in the NFL. The Chiefs only play one game on Monday night themselves
- The Chiefs were decimated along the offensive line in the Super Bowl. Kansas City fortified that weakness by trading for LT Orlando Brown Jr., signing free agent guard Joe Thuney, and getting back guard Laurent Duvernay-Tardif from an opt-out last year. All three were graded in the top 30 at their position in pass blocking in their respective last season.

| Kansas City Chiefs Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | |
| 1 | 6 | 20 | 3 | 18 | 15 | 2 | | | | |

Predictably, the Chiefs are buoyed by their offense in our unit rankings, falling in the top six at quarterback, receiving corps, and offensive line.

There's not much to be said about quarterback, as **Patrick Mahomes** ranked atop every ballot. The receiving corps, due to **Tyreek Hill** and **Travis Kelce**, also ranked no worse than fifth on any ballot.

The offensive line ranking might be surprising considering they'll be inserting four new starters, but the combination of experience and depth is impressive. The projected starters have a combined 335 career starts, and the depth includes **Laurent Duvernay-Tardif** (57 career starts) and second-round pick **Creed Humphrey**.

The only moderately weak link on offense is running back, which ranks 20th overall. For this unit to improve, **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** needs to become a more reliable weapon in the passing game. Edwards-Helaire ranked a disappointing 28th among running backs with -0.8 EPA per target.

Kansas City's lowest ranked unit on defense is the front seven, but a case could be made we're undervaluing the pass-rush. In 2020, the unit generated a 54% pressure rate when opposing quarterbacks took a 3+ step dropback, ranked sixth in the league.

The secondary allowed 6.3 yards per coverage snap in 2020, placing 11th overall. However, the loss of Bashaud Breeland possibly lowered our confidence in the unit. Breeland ranked 14th (out of 94) cornerbacks allowing 0.7 yards per coverage snap when lined up on the outside.

Andy Reid's continued willingness to innovate made him an easy choice for top coach, non-Belichick division.

<u>KC-4</u>

It was clear: the focus of free agency? Protect Mahomes. The focus of the draft? Protect Mahomes.

If they can protect Mahomes, this offense is on it's way to being the best in the NFL. And what is truly mind-blowing is the NFL's best offense is also the fifth-cheapest. This was largely because the offensive line at this time last year accounted for \$43 million and is now down to \$27 million. And while Patrick Mahomes signed a \$450 million contract, his cap hit this year is only \$7.4 million.

But here's the catch: While Mahomes's new deal counted just \$5 million against the cap last year and \$7 million this year, next year it's up to \$36 million. Moving forward, it's \$45 million on an almost annual basis. The Chiefs took their quarterback's cheap four-year rookie deal which ran from 2017-2020, didn't play him his rookie year, but were able to sign him after three years to a long-term deal which bought them one extra year (2021) of a cheap cap hit. Technically, Mahomes's rookie-deal window was up when he signed that \$450 million contract before 2020. But practically speaking, the Chiefs still have this season before that salary cap savings window closes.

With money being spent on the offense, the Chiefs were also able to make some moves to shore up the defense. In 2019, the Chiefs' defense was fourth-cheapest in the NFL. Last year, it was sixth-most expensive. This year, it's the second-most expensive defense in the NFL.

Sadly, the Chiefs didn't get their money's worth out of the 2020 defense. Even though it was \$40 million more expensive, the Chiefs finished worse in total defensive efficiency in 2020 as compared to 2019, as well as in Early Down Success Rate (EDSR) defense, pass defense, third down defense, red zone defense, and the list continues. Hopefully, the additional money and personnel devoted to the defense will improve the efficiency to make life slightly easier

(cont'd - see KC-5)

<u>KC-5</u>

on Mahomes.

If we want to look at offensive performance in 2020 to find changes Reid made after the Super Bowl, the first was first down passes were shorter and less efficient while second down passes were more efficient.

The most interesting change in first down passing was target depth. Looking only at the first three quarters of games, Mahomes's 2019 first down target depth was 9.4 yards. In 2020, that dropped to only 7.1, a decrease of over two full yards. For context, the NFL average is 7.7 yards. So Mahomes shifted from well above-average to below-average. Part of this could be attributed to pressure. In 2019, Mahomes was pressured on 25% of these dropbacks. In 2020, with the offensive line issues, pressure rate increased to 32%. On almost 100 passes to wide receivers, Mahomes's aDOT decreased from 13.0 to 10.3. On over 50 passes to tight ends, it decreased from 9.5 to 6.7.

What changed most about second downs was performance on throws outside the numbers. The splits were not even close. In 2020, the Chiefs threw with greater purpose and deeper outside the numbers on second down and the target depth, as well as the efficiency, was night and day:

2019: 46% success, 7.0 YPA on 6.6 aDOT, +0.16 EPA/att 2020: 64% success, 9.4 YPA on 9.9 aDOT, +0.45 EPA/att

Andy Reid changed up his strategy with heavy personnel on these plays. In 2019, when he was in 12, 21 or 22 personnel, the Chiefs threw short all the time. Their target depth was less than 3.5 yards. They still had success on these passes, but they were shorter passes outside the numbers. In 2020, when Reid put 12, 21 or 22 on the field, they threw deep. The sub-3.5 aDOT increased to 14.8. They turned +0.10 EPA/att into +0.53, and 7.2 YPA into 10.5, by going big and passing downfield to the perimeter.

On all second downs, regardless of pass direction, when the Chiefs were in heavier personnel in 2020 they had a 11.4 aDOT as compared to 5.3 in 2019. And these passes were much more productive from an EPA and YPA

(cont'd - see KC-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



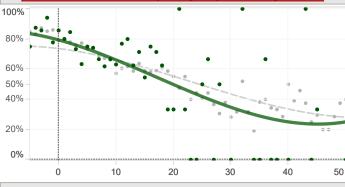
2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ç | | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | Clyde | Edwards-Helai | 3% | 2% | 66% | 11% | 19% | | | | | | |
| | Tyreel | k Hill | | 6% | 88% | | 6% | | | | | | |
| | Darrel | Williams | 1% | | 60% | 15% | 24% | | | | | | |
| I | Le'Veon Bell | | | | 83% | 9% | 8% | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Mecole Hardman | | | 17% | 67% | | 17% | | | | | | |
| œ | Sammy Watkins | | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| | Darwir | Thompson | 15% | 19% | 48% | | 19% | | | | | | |
| | DeAnd | dre Washington | | | | | 100% | | | | | | |
| | Total | | 3% | 3% | 67% | 10% | 18% | | | | | | |
| | Clyde | Edwards-Helai | 7% | 5% | 68% | 7% | 12% | | | | | | |
| | Travis | Kelce | 6% | 10% | 65% | 10% | 9% | | | | | | |
| | Tyreel | k Hill | 5% | 4% | 63% | 16% | 12% | | | | | | |
| | Darrel | Williams | 21% | 3% | 66% | 5% | 5% | | | | | | |
| ဟ | Le'Ved | on Bell | | | 78% | 11% | 11% | | | | | | |
| PASS | Mecol | e Hardman | 3% | 8% | 62% | 12% | 15% | | | | | | |
| | Demai | rcus Robinson | 8% | 10% | 61% | 18% | 3% | | | | | | |
| | Samm | y Watkins | 2% | 2% | 72% | 8% | 16% | | | | | | |
| | Darwir | Thompson | 27% | 9% | 55% | | 9% | | | | | | |
| | DeAnd | dre Washington | | | | | 100% | | | | | | |
| | Total | | 6% | 6% | 65% | 12% | 11% | | | | | | |

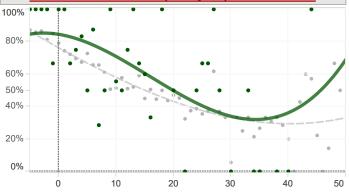
Share of Offensive Plays by Type

| | Share of offensive rays by rype | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Clyde Edwards-Helaire | Travis Kelce | Tyreek Hill | Darrel Williams | Le'Veon Bell | Mecole Hardman | Demarcus Robinson | Sammy Watkins | Darwin Thompson | DeAndre Washington | | | | |
| RUSH | 51% | | 4% | 18% | 17% | 2% | | 0% | 7% | 1% | | | | |
| PASS | 9% | 28% | 25% | 6% | 3% | 10% | 10% | 8% | 2% | 0% | | | | |
| ALL | 25% | 17% | 17% | 10% | 8% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 4% | 0% | | | | |

Patrick Mahomes Comp % by Depth - Early Downs



Patrick Mahomes Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down



Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 53%, 0.18 (643) | 56%, 0.26 (106) | 50%, -0.03 (4) | 63%, 0.22 (8) | 67%, 0.45 (9) | 100%, 1.65 (3) | 0%, -0.60 (4) | 100%, 3.18 (1) | 54%, 0.20 (778) |
| RUSH | 54%, 0.11 (276) | 55%, -0.04 (108) | 20%, -0.54 (41) | 59%, 0.17 (22) | 65%, -0.01 (20) | 100%, 1.00 (1) | | | 52%, 0.02 (468) |
| All | 53%, 0.16 (919) | 55%, 0.11 (214) | 22%, -0.50 (45) | 60%, 0.18 (30) | 66%, 0.13 (29) | 100%, 1.49 (4) | 0%, -0.60 (4) | 100%, 3.18 (1) | 53%, 0.13 (1,246) |

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 | Clyde Edwards | 43% (49) 4.8, -0.10 | 29% (7) 5.1, -0.18 | 100% (1) 7.0, 0.40 | | 42% (57) 4.9, -0.10 | | | | | | | |
| TE | Travis Kelce | 66% (155) 9.6, 0.43 | 65% (26) 8.6, 0.31 | 100% (2) 18.0, 1.26 | | 67% (183) 9.6, 0.42 | | | | | | | |
| WR | Tyreek Hill | 59% (131) 9.1, 0.44 | 65% (26) 13.9, 0.80 | 100% (2) 18.0, 1.55 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.94 | 60% (160) 9.9, 0.50 | | | | | | | |
| | Mecole Hardman | 52% (65) 8.0, 0.32 | 57% (7) 8.1, 0.38 | | | 53% (72) 8.0, 0.33 | | | | | | | |
| | Demarcus Robinson | 55% (51) 7.0, 0.16 | 82% (11) 12.3, 0.64 | | | 60% (62) 7.9, 0.25 | | | | | | | |
| | Sammy Watkins | 68% (47) 8.2, 0.31 | 60% (5) 7.4, 0.22 | | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.54 | 66% (53) 8.0, 0.29 | | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Edwards- | 51% (109) | 58% (62) | 43% (7) | 50% (10) | 53% (188) |
| Helaire Cl | 4.9, 0.04 | 4.5, 0.03 | 3.3, -0.21 | 3.6, -0.22 | 4.6, 0.01 |
| Mahomes | 72% (46) | 38% (8) | 0% (20) | 100% (1) | 49% (75) |
| Patrick | 7.0, 0.59 | 4.4, -0.02 | -1.1, -0.86 | 17.0, 0.76 | 4.7, 0.14 |
| Williams | 52% (46) | 55% (11) | 40% (5) | 100% (2) | 53% (64) |
| Darrel | 4.8, 0.17 | 2.8, -0.27 | 3.2, 0.09 | 9.0, 1.19 | 4.5, 0.12 |
| Bell | 46% (35) | 56% (16) | 50% (2) | 67% (3) | 50% (56) |
| Le'Veon | 4.2, -0.19 | 2.9, -0.16 | 4.0, -0.12 | 4.3, 0.42 | 3.8, -0.14 |
| Thompson | 44% (16) | 50% (6) | 50% (2) | 33% (3) | 44% (27) |
| Darwin | 3.4, -0.55 | 5.5, 0.04 | 1.0, -0.31 | 2.3, 0.17 | 3.6, -0.32 |
| Hill Tyreek | 64% (11) 6.5, 0.10 | 67% (3) 9.0, 0.57 | | 100% (1) 32.0, 2.65 | 67% (15) 8.7, 0.36 |

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

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

| | ing by | Passing by | | Т |
|--------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|----|
| | rerage neme | Ro | oute | Le |
| | | Curl | 69% (106) 7.4, 0.30 | Le |
| Zone | 59% (396) 8.0, 0.26 | | 66% (59) | Le |
| | 570/ (400) | Out | 9.6, 0.52 | |
| M2M | 57% (188) 9.2, 0.45 | Slant | 71% (35) 9.4, 0.51 | Le |
| | 57% (72) | | | |
| Screen | 6.2, 0.11 | Dig | 48% (21) 7.2, 0.15 | Si |
| Combo | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.51 | Drag | 70% (20) 7.5, 0.52 | Sh |

| Γhrow | Types | QB Drop | Types | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| evel 1 | 62% (510) 7.4, 0.29 | 3 Step | 60% (256) 7.8, 0.27 | | |
| evel 2 | 48% (120) 10.5, 0.40 | 5 Step | 47% (146) 9.7, 0.34 | | |
| evel 3 | 29% (48) | 0/1 Step | 62% (98) 7.0, 0.22 | | |
| evel 3 | 10.2, -0.09 | Designed Rollout Right | 61% (51) 7.5, 0.38 | | |
| idearm | 47% (30) 8.7, 0.31 | 7 Step | 61% (36) 11.8, 0.37 | | |
| hovel | 88% (17) 8.1, 0.77 | Basic Screen | 38% (32) 5.4, 0.01 | | |

| Planted | | 62% (452) 8.9, 0.39 | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Moving | | 47% (167) 6.3, 0.14 | | | | | | | |
| Shuffling | | 45% (130) 6.4, 0.00 | | | | | | | |
| Play Action | | | | | | | | | |
| | Play | Action | No P/A | | | | | | |
| Under Center | | % (58) , -0.07 | 55% (11) 4.3, 0.61 | | | | | | |
| Shotgun | | 6 (197) , 0.29 | 52% (512) 7.6, 0.18 | | | | | | |
| ALL | | 6 (255) , 0.21 | 52% (523) 7.6, 0.19 | | | | | | |

OB State at Pass

| | Rur | Types |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|
| | Inside Zone | 57% (95) 4.5, 0.05 |
| | Outside Zone | 43% (72) 3.9, -0.08 |
| | Stretch | 44% (57) 4.0, -0.09 |
| | Power | 56% (41) 3.8, -0.04 |
|) | Pitch | 74% (19) 5.3, 0.22 |
|) | Lead | 60% (5) 3.6, -0.46 |

KC-6

perspective.

The Chiefs also dramatically increased their play-action passing rate. I noted in last year's book how Mahomes is so uniquely talented, he didn't really even need play-action to see success at the highest levels, unlike most quarterbacks in the NFL. The Chiefs used play-action on only 39% of early down passes in the game's first three quarters in 2019. The NFL average was 36%. Multiple teams were up in the 50% range. The 2020 Chiefs upped that to 44%. Mahomes started to show the benefits of it, seeing much larger splits than in 2019 in everything, including EPA/att, YPA, and success rate.

Another change was significantly more 11 personnel. Instead of using 11 personnel on 70% of passes in the first three quarters, the Chiefs used it on 81% of passes. And 2-WR sets (exclusively 12 and 21 personnel) were used less often and more to run the ball. The Chiefs decreased those plays from 255 in 2019 to 169 in 2020. And the pass rate decreased from 58% pass in 2019 to 49% pass in 2020.

Another observation was that in each of the last two years, a fundamental shift has occurred which adjusted Reid's pass rate for the rest of the season.

In 2019, the Chiefs started off pass heavy. They exceeded 65% pass in all six of their first six games to start the season, with an average of 70% pass, by far tops in the NFL (No. 2 was down at 60% pass). But then Mahomes was injured and for the rest of the season, the Chiefs averaged 61% pass from Week 7 through the Super Bowl.

In the first seven games of 2020, the Chiefs went 56% pass on early downs in the first three quarters. This was 3% above average (53%) and ranked 10th highest in the NFL. It was nearly 10% lower than they started the 2019 season, and was even lower than their more run-based close to the 2019 season. But when the Chiefs faced the tougher run defense of the Jets in Week 8, they went 79% pass on these downs, and won easily (35-9). From that Week 8 game onward, the Chiefs went 69% pass on early downs in the first three quarters, the most pass-heavy team in the NFL. For comparison:

Average pass rate the first stretch of 2019: 70% pass, 6 of 6 games exceeding 65% pass Average pass rate the first stretch of 2020: 56% pass, 0 of 7 games exceeding 65% pass





Average pass rate down the stretch of 2019: 61% pass, 2 of 13 games exceeding 65% pass Average pass rate down the stretch of 2020: 69% pass, 9 of 11 games exceeding 65% pass

Three things the Chiefs need to improve in 2021: their red zone offense, production on Mahomes Level 3 throws, and efficiency when passing to running backs.

In 2018, the Chiefs scored touchdowns in the red zone 73% of trips, good for No. 2 in the NFL, a few tenths of a percent behind the league-leading Steelers at 73% as well. In 2019, that rate dropped to 60%, and was 11th. In 2020, that rate dropped to 58.9%, and was good for a league-average 16th ranking. Just 0.08% above the Washington Football Team, a team led for over half the year by Dwayne Haskins and Kyle Allen.

Variance in the red zone is to be expected. Dropping for two straight years from nearly the best rate in the NFL at 73% down to a league-average 59% that's tied with a team with Dwayne Haskins at quarterback is a concern.

The Chiefs' rushing efficiency has declined in the red zone for two straight years, from 60% success in 2018 to 50% in 2019 to 49% in 2020. Their +0.10 EPA/att in 2019 dipped to -0.01 EPA/att in 2020.

They shifted to significantly more 11 personnel in 2020, as they did in most areas of the field as well. In 2018, the Chiefs EPA/att from 11 was +0.33. In 2019, that dropped to -0.20. In 2020, it was back up to +0.11, which was a positive.

But they struggled to run from 11 personnel. Examine the Chiefs' performance in red zone rushing from 11 personnel the last three years:

2018: 67% success and +0.17 EPA/att (39 att) 2019: 50% success and +0.09 EPA/att (30 att)

2020: 38% success and -0.06 EPA/att (42 att)

With a quarterback as good as Mahomes and a playcaller as good as Reid, I have zero concern that the Chiefs can't improve in this highly variant area of the field. But you can absolutely bet Reid and his staff are working on red zone strategies and play calls this offseason.

Sports Info Solutions defines throws based on trajectory, and Level 3 throws are high-arc passes that are usually reserved for deep balls (consider the term "launched"). Look at the splits on these passes in 2019 vs 2020:

2019: +0.81 EPA/att, 14.3 YPA, 42% success, aDOT of 29.2, 7.2% of total attempts 2020: -0.02 EPA/att, 10.1 YPA, 31% success, aDOT of 31.1, 4.8% of total attempts

Thankfully, I have confidence this will positively regress in the Chiefs favor. Deep balls do have more variance. Results are one thing – process is another. In 2020, Mahomes had a 59% on-target rate with these passes. That was up from 46% in 2019. The Chiefs receivers just did a worse job on their end. Like red zone touchdowns, I think these deep balls will result in more success in 2021, but that doesn't mean the Chiefs won't be working like hell this offseason to improve the results.

Lastly, running back passes haven't delivered results for the Chiefs in a few years now. YPA on RB passes from Mahomes have declined from 9.5 in 2018 to 6.1 in 2019 to 5.2 in 2020. EPA/att has declined from +0.63 in 2018 to +0.15 in 2019 to -0.02 in 2020. Like red zone production, this decline has been continual and immense. But these numbers have less variance than red zone production and must be improved by the Chiefs this offseason.

For years, Reid had been one of the best at designing effective RB passes. He's still able to draw up great RB passes at opportune moments, but far too many of them lately have delivered -EV. The creative first down passes to backs which often have caught opponents off guard haven't worked of late. YPA is down from 9.0 in 2018 to 4.9 in 2020. EPA/att is down from +0.44 to -0.06. And the Chiefs threw more to backs on first down in 2020 than they did in either 2018 or 2019. (cont'd - see KC-8)

Immediate Impact of Kansas City Chiefs 2021 Draft Class

The Chiefs might not get much immediate production from this draft class because there just weren't many holes to fill, but **Nick Bolton** (second round) should at least be in the rotation at linebacker.

Bolton's strength is his run defense, making him a strong complementary addition to last year's second round selection **Willie Gay**, who excels in coverage. In the short term, Bolton is likely to back up Mike linebacker **Anthony Hitchens**—potentially being groomed as his replacement.

Four Chiefs linebackers played at least 250 snaps last year, and **Damien Wilson** is not returning, so there should be room for Bolton to see the field, even in a reserve role.

Creed Humphrey (second round) also has the potential to compete with Austin Blythe for the starting center job, and may be Kansas City's long-term solution there.

Trey Smith (sixth round) slid due to injury risks, but the former five-star prospect has elite potential and could be Kyle Long's eventual replacement at right quard.

Since the Chiefs primarily drafted for depth at positions of need, there isn't a ton of upside in this draft class, but there weren't any glaring mistakes either. It looks like a solid middle-of-the-pack draft haul.

(

Kansas City Chiefs 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

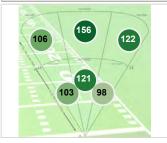
The Chiefs remained one of the league's premiere passing offenses in 2020. They closed the season third in EPA passing, sixth in yards per pass attempt (7.9 yards), tied for third in passing touchdowns (40), and fourth in success rate (53%). **Patrick Mahomes** continued his sensational play, completing 66.3% of his passes for 4,740 yards (8.1 yards per attempt), 38 touchdowns, and just six interceptions. Their only weak spot in the passing game was the offensive line depth, which was finally exploited in the Super Bowl. Taking an immediate course correction, the Chiefs went out and added **Orlando Brown**, **Joe Thuney**, **Austin Blythe**, and **Kyle Long** while **Laurent Duvernay-Tardif** and 2020 third-round pick **Lucas Niang** have opted back in for the upcoming season.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Patrick Mahomes | 465 | 705 | 66% | 5,585 | 7.9 | 41 | 8 | 24 | 105 | 7 | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | |

| 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|------|-------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----------------|
| OB Page Page Ydg ngr γΔ(: ngr γα | | | | | | | | | | 20+ Air Yd % |
| Patrick Mahomes | 53% | 55% | 76 | 11.0% | 26 | 4.0% | 6.1 | 6.1 | 25 | 4% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 10 -10





| <u>In</u> | tercep | tion Ra | tes by | <u>Down</u> | |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------|
| 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% | 1.3% | 2.2% | 50.0% | 2.2% |
| 10 - 14 | 1.1% | 0.0% | 3.2% | 0.0% | 1.0% |
| 15+ | 7.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 2.1% |
| Total | 1.3% | 0.4% | 1.3% | 10.0% | 1.1% |

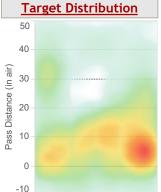
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Avg. YIA Yds to (of Go Comp) | | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | |
| Patrick Mahomes | 8.8 | 5.8 | -3.0 | 71% | 20 | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | |

| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | 26 | | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Kansas City ranked eighth in success rate throwing to their wide receivers (58%) and fourth in success throwing to tight ends (62%) anchored by elite playmakers in **Tyreek Hill** and **Travis Kelce**. The duo combined for 45.8% of the team targets, 45.7% of the receiving yards, 53.8% of the receiving yards, and 65% of the receiving touchdowns. While those two are influential and locked in, the Chiefs did not get a lot out of anyone else as **Mecole Hardman** was third on the team in targets. With no significant additions, Hardman will be asked to take a larger step in year three than in his second season. Hardman improved on his rookie line in targets, receptions and yardage but his explosive plays (20.7 yards per catch in 2019) dropped (13.7 in 2020).

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | Comp % | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------|------------|-----|
| Travis Kelce | 174 | 74% | 9.8 | 119.6 | 66% | 5 | 17 | 37 | 74 | 13 |
| Tyreek Hill | 155 | 68% | 10.2 | 125.7 | 61% | 18 | 45 | 12 | 118 | 14 |
| Mecole Hardman | 66 | 70% | 9.2 | 118.5 | 55% | 59 | 7 | 66 | 105 | 4 |
| Demarcus Robinson | 61 | 74% | 7.6 | 98.0 | 57% | 36 | 77 | 93 | 85 | 3 |
| Clyde Edwards-Helai | 57 | 67% | 5.5 | 79.3 | 46% | 118 | 90 | 95 | 32 | 1 |
| Sammy Watkins | 50 | 68% | 7.5 | 103.3 | 66% | 6 | 2 | 47 | 52 | 2 |



Tyreek Hill



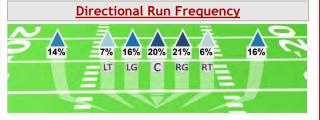
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Chiefs threw the ball on 60% of their first or second down snaps, which ranked fifth in the league in 2020, but they still found some success running the ball. Kansas City closed ninth in rushing EPA and seventh in success rate (54%). Rookie **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** rushed 181 times for 803 yards in his 13 games played, while his 60% success rate rushing ranked fifth in the league. The rookie back did struggle in short yardage situations. He converted just 54.8% of his carries needing three or fewer yards, which ranked 71st among 84 players to have double-digit attempts in those situations. Edwards-Helaire also converted just 2-of-10 carries for touchdowns inside of the 5-yard line. The team retained **Darrel Williams** and only added **Jerick McKinnon**, leaving Edwards-Helaire to carry this backfield in 2021.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssəɔɔnS | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Clyde Edwards-Helaire | 196 | 4.5 | 56% | 20 | 29 | 24 | 26 | 56% | 15 | 5 |
| Patrick Mahomes | 76 | 4.7 | 51% | 41 | 91 | 3 | 67 | 47% | 65 | 4 |
| Darrel Williams | 67 | 4.5 | 57% | 14 | 2 | 35 | 43 | 54% | 26 | 2 |
| Le'Veon Bell | 84 | 3.8 | 54% | 29 | 31 | 33 | 53 | 56% | 15 | 1 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Can Clyde Edwards-Helaire be a value in 2021?

After being selected in the first round at pick No. 31 to the Kansas City Chiefs, Edwards-Helaire springboarded up in rank. Then when veteran back **Damien Williams** opted out of the 2020 season in July, the expectations for the rookie runner could not be tempered as Edwards-Helaire became a first round fantasy pick.

With that, anything short of an RB1 season from Edwards-Helaire as a rookie was set to be a letdown based on expectations and although he closed the season with 1,100 yards from scrimmage and five touchdowns, the rookie back was the RB22 in overall PPR point scored and the RB23 in points per game.

While in totality, Edwards-Helaire left gamers disappointed based on lofty expectations, he started the year out as a solid fantasy asset. Through six weeks of the season, Edwards-Helaire was delivering near advertisement, delivering a viable floor with three RB1 scoring weeks despite finding the end zone just one time. At that time, he was playing 64.6% of the team snaps and had accounted for 78.0% of the Kansas City backfield touches.

The team then acquired **Le'Veon Bell** after he was released by the Jets and we immediately saw Edwards-Helaire begin to be compromised as he was thriving off volume since he was not scoring touchdowns. After acquiring Bell, Edwards-Helaire dipped down to 51.2% of the team snaps and 53.7% of the backfield touches in the games he was active. He averaged 21.3 touches per game through six weeks and then 11.9 per game afterwards.

So far this offseason, Bell remains an unrestricted free agent. The team retained **Darrel Williams** on a one-year deal and also brought in Jerick McKinnon. That is not a daunting rogues gallery for Edwards-Helaire to clear and get back to controlling this backfield from an overall touch stance.

We can expect Edwards-Helaire to control the touches, but he still needs to improve in third down usage and near the goal line to get over the hump to be a weekly RB1. As a rookie, just 13 of Edwards-Helaire's 217 regular-season touches came on third downs. That 5.9% touch rate ranked 62nd at the position while his 13 touches were tied for 42nd.

Inside of the 5-yard line, Edwards-Helaire converted just 2-of-10 carries for touchdowns while the league average was 44.9%. In the first game of the year, he had six of those opportunities, failing to cash any of them in. Nearly all of those were no true fault of his own and just entirely blown up, but the Chiefs decidedly changed their approach in that area of the field moving forward. For the remainder of the season, the Chiefs threw the ball 54.5% of the time inside of the five (the fourth-highest rate in the league) while increasing their use of motion and gadget plays in that area of the field. For the remainder of the season, Edwards-Helaire received just six of the 22 team opportunities in that area of the field in his games played.

Edwards-Helaire's rookie season was better than given credit for, he is a second-year player that comes with high draft capital, is attached to the league's best offense, and the Chiefs have an objectively improved offensive line entering 2021. That is more than enough to not overthink things and buy in on the dip in year two with upside should he have better touchdown fortune and expand his usage in passing situations.

| Kan | sas City Ch | iefs Defense | : Number o | of DBs vs Per | rsonnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|-----------|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | 0/ | DI | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 3 plays (1%) Success: 67% | 194 plays (41%) Success: 43% | 276 plays (58%) Success: 46% | 1 plays <i>(0%)</i> Success: 100% | 474 plays (100%) Success: 45% | | % | Rk | 40 |
| | EPA: 1.12 | EPA: -0.09 | EPA: 0.02 | EPA: 4.42 | EPA: -0.01 | Base | 22% | 17 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 35 plays (39%) Success: 46% | 41 plays (46%) Success: 59% | 13 plays <i>(15%)</i> Success: 31% | | 89 plays (100%) Success: 49% | Nickel | 41% | 29 | 30 - |
| | EPA: 0.14 | EPA: 0.06 | EPA: -0.49 | | EPA: 0.01 | Dime+ | 35% | 4 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 21 plays (42%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.04 | 27 plays (54%) Success: 59% EPA: 0.09 | 2 plays <i>(4%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 0.36 | | 50 plays (100%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.08 | Rush 3 | 4% | 23 | 20 - |
| | | 2171.0.00 | E171. 0.00 | | | Rush 4 | 61% | 20 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 17 plays (100%) Success: 53% EPA: -0.28 | | | | 17 plays (100%) Success: 53% EPA: -0.28 | Rush 5 | 20% | 16 | 10- |
| Grand | 76 plays (12%) | 262 plays (42%) | 291 plays (46%) | 1 plays (0%) | 630 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 14% | 1 | 0- |
| Total | Success: 47% EPA: 0.06 | Success: 47% EPA: -0.05 | Success: 46% EPA: 0.00 | Success: 100% EPA: 4.42 | Success: 47% EPA: -0.01 | Blitz% | 34% | 5 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Chris Jones signed a massive extension before the 2020 season and remained the best non-Aaron Donald interior defensive lineman in the league. He was first in pressure rate and second in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. He's good and should be for a while — his extension runs through 2023. Tershawn Wharton was 37th among defensive tackles in pressure rate and showed some flashes when he was on the field. The undrafted rookie played 48% of the team's defensive snaps. Derrick Nnadi, a 2018 third-round pick, has turned into a dominant run stopper — he was second behind Quinnen Williams in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate among defensive tackles — but enters 2021 on the final year of his rookie deal.

Frank Clark hasn't been the top-tier pass rusher that his trade cost or contract would suggest, with just 15 quarterback hits and six sacks. He ranked 63rd among 124 qualified edge rushers in pressure rate, according to Sports Info Solutions. **Taco Charlton** was signed on a one-year deal for 2020 but appeared in just seven games for a total of 8.4% of the defensive snaps due to a fractured ankle. He was re-signed for another one-year deal.

The Chiefs make up for the lack of impactful edge rushers by blitzing at a high rate. Last season, they ranked fifth in blitz rate and no team rushed six players or more at a higher rate than the Chiefs (14%), according to SIS.

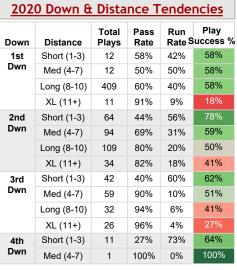
There is a wide range of how often the Chiefs use their linebackers. Kansas City used base personnel 22% of the time, which ranked 17th. They also had dime+ personnel on 35% of their defensive snaps, which was the fourth-highest rate in the league.

Willie Gay was a second-round pick last season and spent most of the year on special teams before he got more run on defense at the end of the season. Nick Bolton was a second-round pick in 2021 and could serve a similar path.

On the surface, there's not a lot invested at cornerback but the Chiefs have done an incredible job at finding value. **Charvarius Ward**, an undrafted free agent, was acquired in a preseason player swap in 2018. **Rashad Fenton** was a 2019 sixth-round pick. **L'Jarius Sneed** was a college safety drafted in the fourth round of the 2020 draft. With that group, Kansas City was 12th in EPA per play against the pass.

Tyrann Mathieu was again all over the field as a deep safety, linebacker, slot corner, and pass rusher. He remains the skeleton key that allows all the other positions to work. Juan Thornhill, a 2019 second-round pick, played in all 16 games, but rarely looked fully comfortable while recovering from a torn ACL suffered at the end of the 2019 season. On the plus side, Thornhill's best game of the season was the Divisional Round game against the Bills. Daniel Sorensen spent most of his time in the box and played as a pseudo-linebacker. He was re-signed on a one-year deal for 2021. 2020 fourth-round pick Armani Watts also has some versatility to play multiple positions in the secondary.

2020 Play Tendencies 66% All Pass % All Pass Rk 2 All Rush % 34% All Rush Rk 31 1 Score Pass % 65% 1 Score Pass Rk 2 2019 1 Score Pass % 65% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 1 2020 Pass Increase % 0% Pass Increase Rk 10 1 Score Rush % 35% 1 Score Rush Rk 31 Up Pass % 66% Up Pass Rk 3 Up Rush % 34% Up Rush Rk 30 Down Pass % 67% Down Pass Rk 3 33% Down Rush % Down Rush Rk 30





73%

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% | 26 | 67% | 76% | 75% | | | |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avq | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | |

33%

73%

59%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | PASS | Travis Kelce | 2 | 50% | | |
| Dwn | | | Tyreek Hill | 2 | 50% | | |
| | | RUSH | Clyde Edwards-Helai | 2 | 50% | | |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | Travis Kelce | 3 | 33% | | |
| | | RUSH | Clyde Edwards-Helai | 3 | 100% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Clyde Edwards-Helai | 71 | 56% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Travis Kelce | 4 | 0% | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Clyde Edwards-Helai | 18 | 78% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Clyde Edwards-Helai | 18 | 67% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Travis Kelce | 18 | 72% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Tyreek Hill | 7 | 57% | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Darrel Williams | 8 | 63% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Travis Kelce | 17 | 53% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Travis Kelce | 7 | 14% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Travis Kelce | 5 | 60% | | |
| | | | Tyreek Hill | 5 | 0% | | |

| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 50% | Success: 47% | Success: 49% |
| | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.14 | YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.06 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.10 |
| | Rtg: 91.5 | Rtg: 93.4 | Rtg: 91.9 |
| | [Att: 237 - Rate: 30.5%] | [Att: 66 - Rate: 8.5%] | [Att: 303 - Rate: 38.9%] |
| Yes | Success: 54% | Success: 60% | Success: 57% |
| | YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.23 | YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.31 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.26 |
| | Rtg: 108.1 | Rtg: 118.3 | Rtg: 112.2 |
| | [Att: 286 - Rate: 36.8%] | [Att: 189 - Rate: 24.3%] | [Att: 475 - Rate: 61.1%] |
| Total | Success: 52% | Success: 57% | Success: 54% |
| | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.19 | YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.21 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.20 |
| | Rtg: 100.6 | Rtg: 111.9 | Rtg: 104.4 |
| | [Att: 523 - Rate: 67.2%] | [Att: 255 - Rate: 32.8%] | [Att: 778 - Rate: 100.0%] |

43%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| Wk | Орр | Score | Tyreek Hill | Travis Kelce | Demarcus Robinson | Clyde Edwards | Sammy Watkins | Mecole Hardman | Nick Keizer | Darrel Williams | Byron Pringle |
|----|-------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 | HOU | W 34-20 | 59 (86%) | 61 (88%) | 33 (48%) | 46 (67%) | 55 (80%) | 20 (29%) | 30 (43%) | 23 (33%) | 6 (9%) |
| 2 | LAC | W 23-20 | 69 (90%) | 74 (96%) | 48 (62%) | 48 (62%) | 45 (58%) | 50 (65%) | 11 (14%) | 10 (13%) | 7 (9%) |
| 3 | BAL | W 34-20 | 60 (80%) | 61 (81%) | 41 (55%) | 52 (69%) | 65 (87%) | 29 (39%) | 20 (27%) | 16 (21%) | 3 (4%) |
| 4 | NE | W 26-10 | 52 (93%) | 43 (77%) | 23 (41%) | 41 (73%) | 46 (82%) | 26 (46%) | 19 (34%) | 15 (27%) | |
| 5 | LV | L 40-32 | 63 (88%) | 64 (89%) | 49 (68%) | 43 (60%) | 26 (36%) | 50 (69%) | 17 (24%) | 29 (40%) | 10 (14% |
| 6 | BUF | W 26-17 | 67 (92%) | 65 (89%) | 69 (95%) | 49 (67%) | | 29 (40%) | 21 (29%) | 23 (32%) | 28 (38% |
| 7 | DEN | W 43-16 | 37 (73%) | 40 (78%) | 34 (67%) | 27 (53%) | | 22 (43%) | 12 (24%) | 1 (2%) | 31 (61% |
| 8 | NYJ | W 35-9 | 50 (76%) | 50 (76%) | 36 (55%) | 33 (50%) | | 45 (68%) | 19 (29%) | 8 (12%) | 37 (56% |
| 9 | CAR | W 33-31 | 59 (95%) | 57 (92%) | 50 (81%) | 25 (40%) | | 42 (68%) | 13 (21%) | | 19 (31% |
| 11 | LV | W 35-31 | 72 (92%) | 69 (88%) | 63 (81%) | 40 (51%) | | 17 (22%) | 29 (37%) | 20 (26%) | 40 (51% |
| 12 | TB | W 27-24 | 68 (86%) | 68 (86%) | 57 (72%) | 47 (59%) | 57 (72%) | 24 (30%) | 20 (25%) | 8 (10%) | |
| 13 | DEN | W 22-16 | 61 (95%) | 57 (89%) | 37 (58%) | | 48 (75%) | 21 (33%) | 13 (20%) | 31 (48%) | |
| 14 | MIA | W 33-27 | 57 (92%) | 56 (90%) | 33 (53%) | 46 (74%) | 54 (87%) | 19 (31%) | 12 (19%) | 5 (8%) | |
| 15 | NO | W 32-29 | 84 (86%) | 78 (80%) | 50 (51%) | 45 (46%) | 80 (82%) | 32 (33%) | 33 (34%) | 22 (22%) | 6 (6%) |
| 16 | ATL | W 17-14 | 43 (64%) | 56 (84%) | 41 (61%) | | 51 (76%) | 41 (61%) | 13 (19%) | 47 (70%) | 7 (10%) |
| 17 | LAC | L 38-21 | | | 47 (89%) | | | 32 (60%) | 20 (38%) | 4 (8%) | 45 (85% |
| | Grand | Total | 901 (86%) | 899 (86%) | 711 (65%) | 542 (59%) | 527 (74%) | 499 (46%) | 302 (27%) | 262 (25%) | 239 (31% |

| Personnel Groupings | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. | | | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 73% | 60% | 54% | | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 18% | 20% | 56% | | | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 21% | | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 3% | 7% | 60% | | | | |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 2% | 4% | 66% | | | | |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies | | | | |
| Group | ing Te | | | | | | |
| Group | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. | Run | | | | |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 54% | Run Succ. % | | | | |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 69% 49% | Pass Succ. % 54% 56% | Run Succ. % 54% 55% | | | | |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] | Pass Rate 69% 49% 7% | Pass Succ. % 54% 56% 67% | Run Succ % 54% 55% 18% | | | | |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Receiver | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Travis Kelce | 30 | 5 | 12 | 13 | | |
| Tyreek Hill | 20 | 6 | 5 | 9 | | |
| Sammy Watkins | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | | |
| Demarcus Robinson | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | | |
| Clyde Edwards-Helaire | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Le'Veon Bell | 6 | | 2 | 4 | | |
| Darrel Williams | 5 | | 1 | 4 | | |
| Mecole Hardman | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Byron Pringle | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |

| <u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u> | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Clyde Edwards-Hel | 31 | 10 | 6 | 15 | | |
| Patrick Mahomes | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | | |
| Le'Veon Bell | 11 | 3 | 3 | 5 | | |
| Darrel Williams | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | | |
| Darwin Thompson | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | |
| Chad Henne | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| DeAndre Washingt | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Mecole Hardman | 2 | | | 2 | | |

| Early [| own Targe | et Rate |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 19% | 28% | 53% |
| 23% | 21% | 56% |
| 23% | NFL ÁVG | |
| | | ccess % |
| | NFL AVG | ccess % |
| <u>Overall</u> | NFL AVG Target Su | |





The hope is that with a healthier offensive line in 2021, these passes will improve. But keep in mind, there was a big drop in RB-pass efficiency from 2018 to 2019 as well, and that was when the line was healthier.

If the Chiefs improve in red zone efficiency (both per-play and conversion rate), improve production on deeper passes, and gain more efficiency on RB-passes, this offense will undoubtedly take a massive step forward in 2021. That is extremely scary.

That step forward will increase their average halftime lead and ultimately keep them out of one-score games. That will help take the pressure off Mahomes and this offense in late-game situations, which will be massive in the war of attrition that will be the 17-game, 2021 season. I project the Chiefs to face an easier schedule of both opposing offenses and defenses this year than they faced in 2020. They also rank fifth in net rest edge on the season, and are top-two in ranking of games with rest advantage and short-weeks for opponents. The Chiefs play five games this season where they have a rest edge over their opponent. They play four games this year where their opponent has less than a week to prepare for them. These may prove to be massive edges for a team that only needs a few tweaks and a healthy season to take another trip back to the Super Bowl. This time, for the last time Mahomes has a cheap cap hit, it's important they get the job done and hoist the Lombardi.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular 2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO C LEARN MORE LEA

CLICK TO LEARN MORE 01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

03. Wins

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 8.1 | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 6.9 | | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.4 | | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.3 | | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 58% | | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 54% | | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.25 | | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.09 | | | | |
| DI 4 (1 (0) | 42 5 1 5) | | | | |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 43% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 62% |
| 46. PA YPA | 8.9 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 2.0% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.3 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.4 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 58% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 7.1 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 3.7% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.15 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.3 |

Men In Box

| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 14% |
|--|-----|
| 56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 63% |
| 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 | 32% |
| 59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 56% |
| 60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 5.4 |
| 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 | 62% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 6.4 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 16 | defFUM | 14 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 0.4 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 |
| offFUM | 18 | dell OW ICCVID | 0 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 10 | defFR Rk | 18 |
| offFR% | 55.6% | defFR% | 42.9% |
| offFR Rk | 17 | | |
| offFROE | 0.2 | defFROE | 0.2 |
| | | defFROE Rk | 13 |
| offFROE Rk | 17 | dell ROL RR | 10 |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | 3.86 | Opp Att | 26 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 3 | Opp Makes | 18 |
| Own Att | 27 | | |
| Own Makes | 25 | Opp FG % | 69% |
| Own FG % | 93% | Opp Expected Makes | 20.02 |
| Own Expected Makes | 23.16 | Opp Make Over Expectation | -2.02 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 1.84 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 31 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 11 | | ٠. |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 2 21 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -1.33 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 4 | 2019 Opp Rk | 23 |
| | | | |

Rush 1st Down Rk

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

| OE | l D | ro | CC | ur | Δ. |
|----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| ٧Ŀ | , , | | 33 | uı | _ |

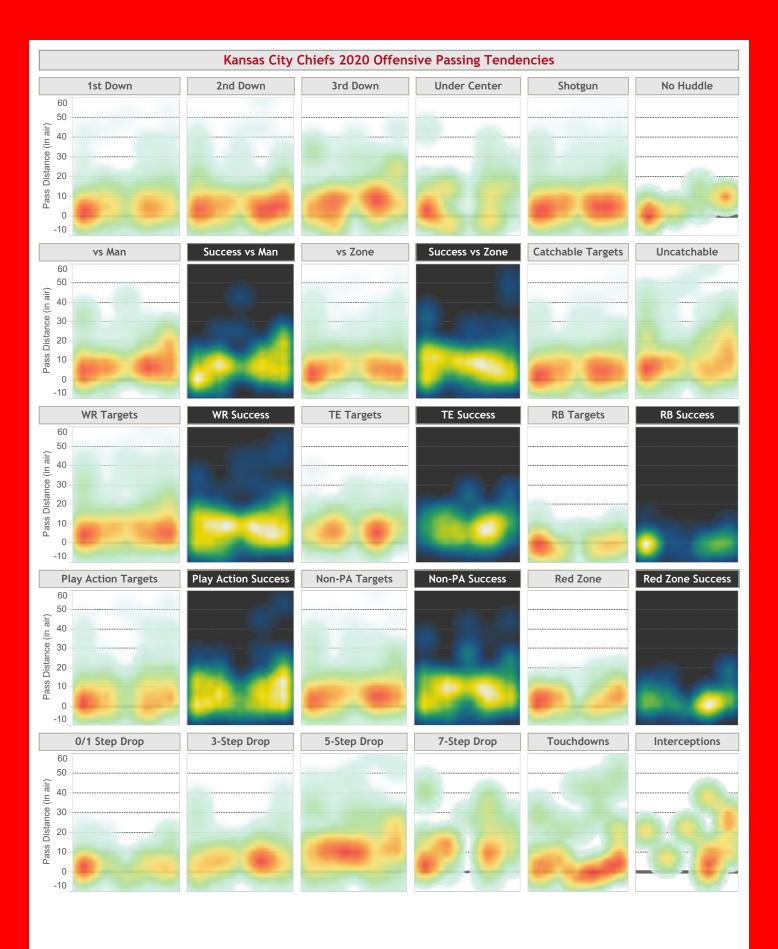
Offensive Metrics

| | Patrick Mahomes |
|----------------|-----------------|
| CAY | 6.3 |
| CAY Rk | 15 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 14 |
| AYTS Rk | 16 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 16 |
| AGG Rk | 39 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 36 |
| COMP% | 66.3 |
| xCOMP% | 67.2 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 8 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 5 |
| CPOE% | -0.9 |
| CPOE Rk | 26 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 20 |

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

| QB Pres | ssure |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Patrick Mahomes |
| Pressure % | 34 |
| Pressure Rk | 16 |
| Sack % | 3.4 |
| Sack Rk | 37 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 64.9 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 21 |
| Rating when Pressured | 78.5 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 13 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 81.1 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 11 |
| Rating when Clean | 121.1 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 3 |
| Time to Throw | 2.89 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 7 |

| EPA/Pass | 0.23 |
|-----------------------|-------|
| EPA/Pass Rk | 3 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.03 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 13 |
| On-Target Catch % | 88.6% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 26 |
| Drop% | 7.4% |
| Drop Rk | 22 |
| YAC/Att | 2.0 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 28 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 13.6% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 12 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 27.5% |
| | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Jon Gruden (3 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Greg Olson (3 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:

Hard

Easy

Gus Bradley (LAC DC) (new)

Las Vegas Raiders

2021 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

7

#4

Past Records

2020: 8-8 2019: 7-9 2018: 4-12



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Andre James (C) | Raiders |
| Arden Key (IDL) | 49ers |
| Devontae Booker (RB) | Giants |
| Erik Harris (S) | Falcons |
| Gabe Jackson (RG) | Seahawks |
| Jason Witten (TE) | TBD |
| | Retired |
| Lamarcus Joyner (S) | Jets |
| Maliek Collins (IDL) | Texans |
| Maurice Hurst (IDL) | 49ers |
| Nelson Agholor (WR) | Patriots |
| Raekwon McMillan (LB) | Patriots |
| Rodney Hudson (C) | Cardinals |
| Takkarist McKinley (EDGE) | Browns |
| Trent Brown (RT) | Patriots |
| Tyrell Williams (WR) | Lions |
| Chris Smith (EDGE) | TBD |
| Daryl Worley (CB) | TBD |
| Jeff Heath (S) | TBD |
| Jeremiah Valoaga (EDGE) | TBD |
| Kyle Wilber (LB) | TBD |
| Nick O'Leary (TE) | TBD |
| Sam Young (RT) | TBD |
| Ukeme Eligwe (LB) | TBD |
| Vic Beasley (LB) | TBD |

2021 Las Vegas Raiders Overview

The year was 2018. The Raiders had just one winning season in their last 15 years. They and the Browns were the only two teams that could claim such a feat.

The Raiders hired Jon Gruden. They gave him a 10-year, \$100 million deal. In his opening press conference, he said:

"I really get excited when we win and I get really upset when we don't. I hope that still has a place in the NFL. That's how this organization rolls. It's about winning"

That hasn't happened.

What has happened is three more years have elapsed without a winning record.

Since 2003, the Raiders have just one winning season, the worst in the NFL.

Since Gruden was last with the Raiders in the late 1990s, they ran through nine other coaches. Gruden is the 10th. Of the other nine, six were fired before their third season started and one was fired during his third season. There were only two coaches that lasted until the end of their third season were Jack Del Rio and Tom Cable.

Heading into his Week 17 game in 2020, Jon Gruden had a worse record than both Jack Del Rio and Tom Cable.

The most recent Raiders coaches that also lasted to the end of their third year:

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Yannick Ngakoue (EDGE) | \$13 |
| Kenyan Drake (RB) | \$5.5 |
| John Brown (WR) | \$3.79 |
| Quinton Jefferson (IDL) | \$3.29 |
| Solomon Thomas (IDL) | \$3.29 |
| Casey Hayward (CB) | \$2.5 |
| Nick Martin (C) | \$1.3 |
| Karl Joseph (S) | \$1.10 |
| Willie Snead (WR) | \$1.10 |
| Matt Dickerson (IDL) | \$1 |
| Rasul Douglas (CB) | \$1 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | PK | Player (College) |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 17 | OT - Alex Leatherwood (Alabama) |
| 2 | 43 | S - Trevon Moehrig (TCU) |
| , | 79 | DE - Malcolm Koonce (Buffalo) |
| 3 | 80 | S - Divine Deablo (Virginia Tech) |
| 4 | 143 | S - Tyree Gillespie (Missouri) |
| 5 | 167 | CB - Nate Hobbs (Illinois) |
| 7 | 230 | C - Jimmy Morrissey (Pittsburgh) |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

Games

Favored

Average

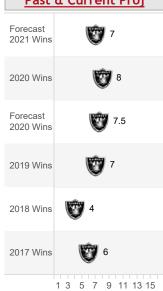
Line

2.0

Games

Underdog

10







2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 9 | \$102.78M | 2 |
| QB | 7 | \$26.65M | 4 |
| OL | 15 | \$35.45M | 1 |
| RB | 7 | \$12.83M | 14 |
| WR | 24 | \$17.27M | 17 |
| TE | 13 | \$10.57M | 3 |
| All DEF | 20 | \$88.38M | 22 |
| DL | 15 | \$42.45M | 24 |
| LB | 6 | \$21.73M | 12 |
| СВ | 20 | \$14.78M | 27 |
| S | 23 | \$9.42M | 4 |

LV-2

Del Rio: 25-23, 52.1% Cable: 17-27, 38.6% Gruden: 18-29, 38.3%

Both Del Rio and Cable were fired at the conclusion of their third season.

In Week 17, the Raiders trailed the hapless Broncos 31-24 with :24 left. It was fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line. One shot to shift from 7-9 to 8-8.

Don't convert the fourth down and it's back-to-back 7-9 seasons and Gruden falls to 18-30 (37.5%).

The Raiders converted and scored the touchdown. Now, a two-point attempt.

Don't convert the two-point conversion and back-to-back 7-9 seasons and Gruden falls to $18\text{-}30\ (37.5\%)$.

The Raiders converted the two-point attempt.

Gruden shifted to 19-29 (39.6%), a hair better than Cable, but still way worse than Del Rio. Yet Gruden was the only coach who was retained into his fourth season

In the storied history of the Raiders, do you know how many coaches have made it to their fourth season?

Just four: John Madden, Tom Flores, Art Shell, Jon Gruden Part 1, and Jon Gruden Part 2.

Want to know their records through three seasons, to merit them staying around for a fourth season?

John Madden: 28-9-5 (75.7%) Tom Flores: 27-21 (56.3%) Art Shell: 28-20 (58.3%)

Jon Gruden Part 1: 28-20 (58.3%) Jon Gruden Part 2: 19-29 (39.6%)

It's not even close.

2020 Passing Performance QΒ 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 48% Derek 6.6 9.2 Carr 106.5 99.0 43% 63% 76% Pass Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.0 AVG 96.0 95.4 85.6 **Pass Rate** 50% 60% 75%

| | 2020 Rushi | ng Performa | nce | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| LV | 46% 4.1 | 55% 4.2 | 60% 5.3 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 57% | 37% | 24% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

The 2017 team that Gruden inherited for his first season (2018) ranked 13th in offensive efficiency, 29th in defensive efficiency and won six games. Here's how he's transformed the team based on these metrics:

2017: 13th offense, 29th defense, six wins 2018: 25th offense, 30th defense, four wins 2019: ninth offense, 31st defense, seven wins 2020: 15th offense, 28th defense, eighth wins

From an efficiency perspective, this team hasn't actually improved very much in his tenure. From a talent perspective, I'd say the 2021 squad could actually be worse than the 2017 squad.

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics 8 10 5 11 W 14 15 W 10 16 18 19 15 25 20 25 30 Offensive Pass ficiency Off Pass Pro ficiency Off Rush iciency Off Explosive Pass Off EDSR Off 30 & In Off YPPT Off ass Eff Of d Zone Off Down Off YPPA Off Efficiency

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 10 W Rank 15 11 20 25 30 26 Pass Efficiency Def Pass Pro Efficieincy Def Defensive Efficiency RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def YPPT Def YPPA Def **Explosive**

| | | | ., | Rei | 3rd | | | | | Effi | E | RBP | 991 | | Exp | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <u>202</u> | <u> 20 \</u> | <u>Vee</u> | <u>kly</u> | EDS | R 8 | t Se | <u>aso</u> | n Tr | en | <u>ding</u> | <u>Pe</u> | rfo | <u>rma</u> | <u>nce</u> | |
| 1 W CAR A 4 34 30 | 2 W NO H 10 34 24 | 3 L NE A -16 20 36 | 4 L BUF H -7 23 30 | 5 W KC A 8 40 32 | | 7 L TB H -25 20 45 | 8 W CLE A 10 16 6 | 9 W LAC A 5 31 26 | 10 W DEN H 25 37 12 | 11 L KC H -4 31 35 | 12 L ATL A -37 6 43 | 13 W NYJ A 3 31 28 | 14 L IND H -17 27 44 | 15 L LAC H -3 27 30 | 16 L MIA H -1 25 26 | 17 W DEN A 1 32 31 |
| -> | | | | | | | | | 7 | | V | | | | | |

 WEEK
 RESULT

 OPP
 All 2019 Wins: 8

 SITE
 FG Games (<=3</td>

 MARGIN
 FG Games Wins

 PTS
 FG Games Wins

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

OPP PTS

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

2020 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **8**FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2**FG Games Win %: **50% (#14)**FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **25% (#12)**

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-4 1 Score Games Win %: 56% (#11) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 63% (#14)

2020 Critical/Game-Deciding Stats TO Margin -11 TO Given 26

(cont'd - see LV-3)

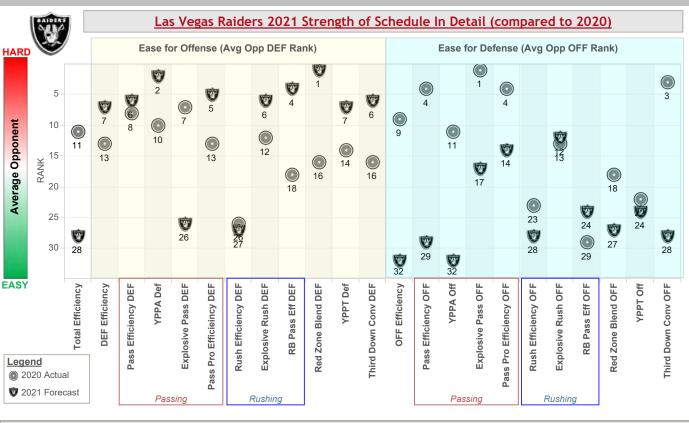
YPA

Rating

Rating

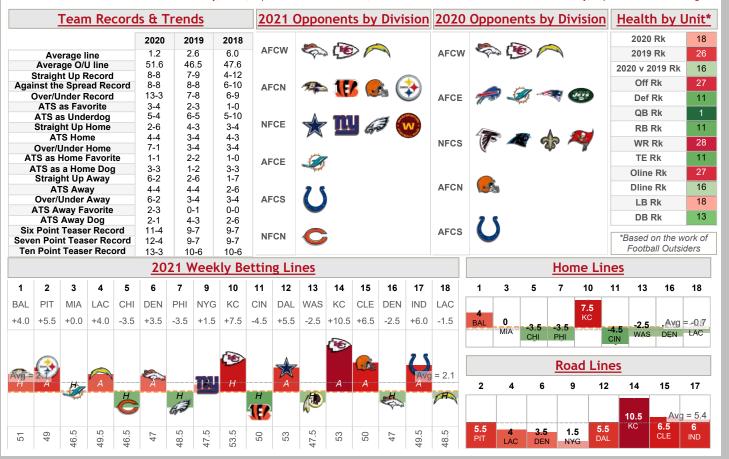
Success Rate

TO Given 26 **INT Given** 10 **FUM Given** 16 TO Taken 15 **INT Taken** 10 5 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -7 21 Sacks Sacks Allow 28 Return TD Margin -3 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 3 **Penalty Margin** -3 Penalties 98 **Opponent Penalties** 95



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 20 19 7 32 31 24 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







Same quarterback, Derek Carr, but:

2017 WRs: Amari Cooper, Michael Crabtree, Seth Roberts 2021 WRs: Henry Ruggs III, John Brown, Hunter Renfrow

2017 OLine: Donald Penn, Kelechi Osemele, Rodney Hudson, Gabe Jackson, Marshall Newhouse 2021 OLine: Kolton Miller, Richie Incognito, Andre James, Denzelle Good, Alex Leatherwood

The upgrades at tight end is notable, with **Darren Waller** being superior to **Jared Cook**, although I always have believed Cook to be a better tight end than he gets credit for... but he's not in Waller's zip code from a talent perspective.

Sure, running back is better, but how important is that if the offensive line is a significant downgrade?

Perhaps this is the year the Raiders can finally produce a winning record. We know they can't finish 8-8 again, so at least there is that.

Gruden has always been a better chef than shopper, but with his power and influence, the roster talent has declined and the play hasn't improved enough either.

A few examples of their issues as it relates to being capable of running a team and making personnel decisions that will lead to winning:

First: in the span of a few weeks, they eviscerated one of the best offensive lines in the NFL, gutting:

Rodney Hudson (31 starts in the last two years) Gabe Jackson (27 starts) Trent Brown (16 starts)

And they got a fifth-round pick back in return.

Second: two years ago the Raiders signed these coveted players to four-year deals in free agency:

Most expensive free agent WR...

Most expensive free agent OL...

Second most expensive free agent S...

...and they're all on different teams now, two years into four-year deals.

Third: the Raiders spent more on their secondary than any other team in the last five years:

4 first-round picks (most in NFL)

6 picks in the first two rounds (most in NFL)

10 picks in the first four rounds (most in NFL)

yet their pass defense has ranked...

2017: 31

2018: 32

2019: 31

2020: 26

The talent evaluation process has been absolutely horrendous to devote this much capital to the position and get virtually no improvement for years.

We can stop there, because you get the point. To any rational person outside the Raiders organization, Gruden should be on the hot seat, if he's lucky, because most coaches would have already been fired if they promised a "franchise turnaround," the team is entering Year 4, and has zero winning seasons

(cont'd - see <u>LV-4</u>)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game to prep prep 0

| Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Las Vegas Raiders Ranking v | vs NFL Average |
|--|----------------|
|--|----------------|

| Net Rest Edge Rank | ank Prep Rank Rest Rank | | Short Week Road Games Rank | Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
|--------------------|-------------------------|----|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 16 | 17 | 27 | 26 | 11 | 1 |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The main reason the Raiders will not exceed their win total is because of their schedule which ranks as the most difficult in the NFL, based on opponent win totals. They have 13 games against teams with a win total of at least 8 games.
- The Raiders' strength the last two seasons has been their offensive line. They have ranked in the top 10 in lowest adjusted sack rate in both seasons but traded center Rodney Hudson, guard Gabe Jackson, and RT Trent Brown. Hudson has graded as a top 11 center by PFF in each of the last five years, Brown finished as a top 40 pass blocking tackle and Jackson finished as a top 25 pass blocking guard.

7



Why Bet the Over

- The Raiders fumbled the fourth most in the NFL last year but recovered those fumbles at a poor 28.6% rate, the second lowest in the NFL. They also lost the fourth most EPA in the NFL on offense due to turnovers.
- Las Vegas boasted a top 10 ranked offense overall in success rate but only 23rd in red zone TD percentage. They were sixth best in success at every other portion of the field outside of the red zone. They were the only top 10 overall offense to rank in the bottom 10 in the red zone. You would hope a little better playcalling and efficiency in the red zone leads to more scoring opportunities.
- The Raiders were excellent overall on offense but defensively ranked 29th in EPA and were dead last on third downs, allowing 11.1% conversion rate over expected. Las Vegas is hopeful free agent additions in edge rusher Yannick Ngakoue and CB Casey Hayward can help improve a young defense to respectability.

| Las Vegas Raiders Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coad | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 22 | 12 | 23 | 27 | 32 | 21 | | | |

Though **Derek Carr** often draws heat from fans, his consistency may be the best thing the Raiders have going for them. Based on ESPN's QBR metric, Carr's 71.0 mark was the highest of his career and represented his second consecutive season taking a big step forward. Though he barely cracks the top half of our rankings, it's fair to wonder if a better supporting cast might significantly alter our opinion of him.

Josh Jacobs has failed to fully live up to first-round expectations, but that may not entirely be his fault. In 2020, he ran into a box with 8+ defenders 37% of the time, the fifth-highest rate among backs with at least 150 carries. So while Las Vegas's run-game production doesn't match our ranking of the backfield, that's on the coaching staff—there's talent here if they choose to use it correctly.

Las Vegas's failure to upgrade the receiving corps was one of the more surprising non-moves this offseason. Raiders receivers ranked 22nd with an on-target catch rate of 84% on targets 10+ yards downfield, and had the fourth-worst drop rate (10.4%) on those plays. **Henry Ruggs** and **Bryan Edwards** have talent, but neither appears suited to be a number-one weapon. The offensive line undoubtedly would have ranked higher last season, but an offseason fire sale gutted the unit. Without proven replacements stepping in for **Rodney Hudson** and **Gabe Jackson**, it's tough to trust their line entering the season.

Clelin Ferrell improved his pressure rate from 8.9% to 11.0% last year, but he'll need to take another significant leap forward for the Raiders front seven to earn respect. This unit survives more on depth than high-end talent right now.

Over the last three drafts, the Raiders have spent four first- or second-round picks on the secondary and have nothing to show for it. Perhaps rookie safety **Trevon Moehrig** will buck the trend, but so far Mike Mayock and Jon Gruden are churning out busts. To have our 32nd-ranked secondary with that much draft capital invested in the unit is beyond inexcusable.

Despite improving in the win column every season, we have little faith in Jon Gruden. Among coaches with at least three years experience, no one ranks lower.

<u>LV-4</u>

to show for it.

Last year's offense regressed in efficiency, but I expected and predicted that in last year's Raiders chapter when forecasting their schedule. I predicted that after facing the ninth easiest schedule of defenses in 2019 the Raiders would face the seventh toughest schedule in 2020, including the second toughest pass defenses. It turned out to not be as difficult as I predicted, but it was a jump (they played the 13th toughest schedule of defenses and the eighth toughest schedule of pass defenses).

The first issue for the Raiders last season was their offensive line, which is somewhat ironic because the line's struggles with injury limited the upside of the Raiders' offense last year. They still let a lot of key pieces leave this offseason despite that.

Starting RT **Trent Brown** was on and off the COVID/Reserve list and played only five games last year. RT **Sam Young** played in 10 games, starting seven. From a starter reliability perspective, the Raiders got 14+ games from LT Kolton Miller, C Rodney Hudson, and RG Gabe Jackson. Their only other issue came at LG. Starter Richie Incognito tore his Achilles after just two starts and missed the rest of the season. In his place stepped LG Denzelle Good.

Goode was bad, ranking 56th out of 80 guards per PFF. Young likewise was bad, ranking 68th out of 79 tackles.

To identify how this impacted the offense, just look at the production from **Josh Jacobs**. In 2019, Jacobs gained 6.2 YPC running behind the RT. It was the most productive direction Jacobs ran. In 2020, that dropped down to 4.3 YPC. In 2019, the Raiders gained 4.5 YPC, 51% success, and -0.04 EPA/att running

(cont'd - see LV-5)

<u>LV-5</u>

outside zone. In 2020, that dropped down to 3.2 YPC, 43% success, and -0.20 EPA/att.

The loss in efficiency running outside zone was massive because it was the Raiders' most efficient run type in both 2019 and 2020. In 2019, they ran 149 outside zone runs, and their next most frequent was run only 56 times (lead). In 2020, they still ran outside zone more than any other run type, but they dramatically reduced the frequency, dropping it from 149 attempts down to 105. Instead, they jacked up inside zone runs, from 50 in 2019 up to 89 in 2020. This was largely because, with their personnel, outside zone was so much less effective they couldn't rely upon it like they did in 2019.

Josh Jacobs's efficiency was notably worse from 11 personnel runs as well. In 2019, he averaged 5.5 YPC and 0.07 EPA/att when running out of 11 personnel. Those numbers fell to 4.1 YPC and -0.08 EPA/att in 2020.

Jacobs, in general, was substantially worse. His 3.9 YPC ranked 31st out of 33 running backs with at least 125 attempts. The only backs with worse YPC? Broken down **Todd Gurley** with knee issues and 73-year old ironman **Frank Gore**. That doesn't bode well for the 23-year old Jacobs playing in just his second season in the NFL after being the Raiders first-round draft pick in 2019.

Was this more on the offensive line than the running back? You could excuse your way out of it. The problem, however, is that either way you slice it, the line now is not better than it was, which means this could still be an issue in 2021 as well.

Gruden tweaked a few things in the passing game compared to 2019. One of the more obvious ones was a huge increase in pre-snap motion.

In 2019, Gruden used pre-snap motion in quarters 1-3 at a 35% rate, which ranked 25th in the NFL.

In 2020, Gruden upped pre-snap motion usage to 54%, which ranked #8.

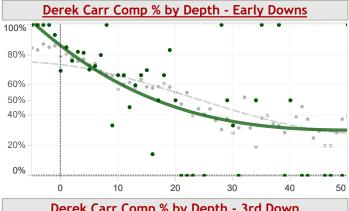
(cont'd - see LV-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

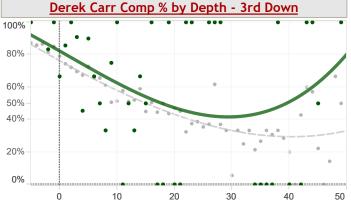


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|
| (| | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | |
| | Josh Jacobs | 2% | 9% | 86% | 2% | 1% | | | | |
| | Devontae Booker | 8% | 5% | 74% | 3% | 10% | | | | |
| RUSH | Henry Ruggs | 11% | | 89% | | | | | | |
| _ | Jalen Richard | 41% | | 59% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 6% | 8% | 82% | 2% | 3% | | | | |
| | Josh Jacobs | 7% | 14% | 79% | | | | | | |
| | Darren Waller | 9% | 10% | 80% | 1% | | | | | |
| | Devontae Booker | 24% | 14% | 57% | 5% | | | | | |
| PASS | Hunter Renfrow | 24% | 12% | 64% | | | | | | |
| Ā | Nelson Agholor | 5% | 16% | 78% | | | | | | |
| | Henry Ruggs | 5% | 14% | 81% | | | | | | |
| | Jalen Richard | 27% | 18% | 55% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 12% | 13% | 74% | 0% | | | | | |

| | Share of Offensive Plays by Type | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|--|--|--|--|
| | Josh Jacobs Darren Waller Devontae Booker Hunter Renfrow Henry Ruggs | | | | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | 69% | | 23% | | | 2% | 6% | | | | |
| PASS | 10% | 33% | 5% | 18% | 18% | 10% | 5% | | | | |
| ALL | 39% | 17% | 14% | 9% | 9% | 6% | 5% | | | | |





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 51%, 0.11 (348) | 50%, 0.09 (101) | 50%, -0.16 (44) | 53%, 0.09 (38) | 46%, 0.12 (35) | 0%, -0.86 (1) | 50%, 0.08 (567) |
| RUSH | 53%, -0.01 (165) | 52%, 0.00 (98) | 48%, -0.13 (84) | 46%, 0.14 (46) | 49%, -0.04 (45) | 25%, -0.09 (4) | 50%, -0.02 (443) |
| All | 51%, 0.07 (513) | 51%, 0.05 (199) | 48%, -0.14 (128) | 49%, 0.12 (84) | 48%, 0.03 (80) | 20%, -0.25 (5) | 50%, 0.04 (1,010) |

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

| | Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| POS | POS Player 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 4 Grp To | | | | | | | | | | |
| RB | Josh | 60% (25) | 40% (5) | 0% (5) | 49% (35) | | | | | | |
| | Jacobs | 6.9, 0.17 | 5.0, 0.01 | 0.8, -0.59 | 5.8, 0.04 | | | | | | |
| | Jalen | 40% (20) | 100% (1) | 0% (1) | 41% (22) | | | | | | |
| | Richard | 6.0, -0.29 | 12.0, 1.57 | 1.0, -0.39 | 6.0, -0.21 | | | | | | |
| TE | Darren | 65% (75) | 63% (32) | 67% (6) | 65% (113) | | | | | | |
| | Waller | 9.0, 0.48 | 8.0, 0.23 | 12.7, 0.50 | 8.9, 0.41 | | | | | | |
| WR | Nelson | 51% (55) | 59% (17) | 67% (3) | 53% (75) | | | | | | |
| | Agholor | 9.6, 0.27 | 16.1, 0.81 | 15.3, 0.71 | 11.3, 0.41 | | | | | | |
| | Hunter Renfrow | 56% (68) 8.6, 0.36 | 60% (5) 6.8, 0.43 | | 56% (73) 8.5, 0.36 | | | | | | |
| Zay Jones 64% (11) 40% (5) 100% (2) 61% 4.8, 0.01 13.5, 0.95 8.6, 0.95 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Rushing S | Top-4 P Leaderboar | l Groupings |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | | |

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Jacobs | 48% (91) | 50% (56) | 52% (56) | 52% (31) | 50% (234) |
| Josh | 4.1, -0.08 | 3.9, -0.06 | 3.5, -0.11 | 4.4, -0.07 | 4.0, -0.08 |
| Booker | 48% (33) | 54% (26) | 36% (14) | 50% (8) | 48% (81) |
| Devontae | 4.4, -0.14 | 4.3, 0.06 | 2.4, -0.14 | 9.4, 0.29 | 4.5, -0.03 |
| Carr Derek | 71% (14) 6.6, 0.17 | 57% (7) 4.7, 0.06 | 0% (7) -1.3, -1.03 | | 50% (28) 4.1, -0.16 |
| Richard | 57% (14) | 40% (5) | 100% (1) | 50% (2) | 55% (22) |
| Jalen | 7.1, 0.48 | 2.8, -0.07 | 4.0, -0.04 | 3.0, -0.17 | 5.6, 0.27 |
| Mariota | 100% (4) | 100% (2) | 100% (2) | | 100% (8) |
| Marcus | 10.5, 1.25 | 10.0, 1.01 | 12.0, 0.95 | | 10.8, 1.12 |
| Riddick | 50% (2) | 0% (1) | 0% (1) | 0% (2) | 17% (6) |
| Theo | 3.0, 0.13 | 0.0, -0.47 | 3.0, -0.12 | 2.5, -0.25 | 2.3, -0.14 |

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

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

| _ | sing by | _ | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------|--|-------------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 60% (370) | 3 Step | 61% (171) 9.3, 0.38 | Planted | | % (404) 7, 0.26 | Outside Zone | 43% (105) 3.2, -0.20 | | | | |
| | | Curl | 65% (62) 7.9, 0.41 | | 7.0, 0.17 | | 50% (130) | Moving | | 1% (88) 6, 0.11 | Inside | 52% (89) | | | | |
| Zone | 63% (284) 9.2, 0.38 | | 61% (49) | Level 2 | 48% (95) 10.6, 0.41 | 0/1 Step | 6.3, 0.04 | Shuffling | 43 | 3% (49) | Zone | 4.7, 0.04 | | | | |
| | , | Out | 6.8, -0.03 | | | 5 Step | 52% (123) 10.4, 0.35 | _ | | 0, -0.03 | Lead | 52% (63) 3.2, -0.06 | | | | |
| | 450/ (400) | Dig | 59% (32) | Level 3 | 38% (42) 16.6, 0.66 | 7 Step | | | | | Play Action | on | | | | |
| M2M | 45% (168) 7.7, 0.15 | J.g | 9.5, 0.06 | | | | | | 7 Step | 7 Step | 7 Step | 7 Step | 7 Step | 50% (30) 8.6, 0.32 | | Play Action |
| | | Slant | 59% (32) | Sidearm | 50% (6) 8.0, 0.40 | Designed | 54% (26) | Under Center | 46% (85) 5.5, -0.05 | 57% (56) 9.4, 0.34 | | 50% (18) | | | | |
| | 52% (44) | | 6.9, 0.11 | | 0.0, 0.10 | Rollout Right | 4.3, 0.08 | Shotgun | 67% (51) 7.4, 0.11 | 48% (382) 8.4, 0.06 | Pitch | 5.6, 0.03 | | | | |
| Screen | 5.7, -0.05 | Drag | 68% (19) 7.5, 0.63 | Shovel | 25% (4) 2.0, -0.33 | Basic Screen | 50% (10) 6.0, -0.09 | ALL | 54% (136) 6.2, 0.01 | 49% (438) 8.5, 0.10 | Stretch | 39% (18) 3.0, -0.13 | | | | |

<u>LV-6</u>

He increased it for both passes and runs.

Gruden increased pre-snap motion from a 48% rate in 2019 to 63% in 2020. The impact was marginally noticeable, but it did help some. When passing, Gruden literally doubled the number of attempts with pre-snap motion in 2020, from 98 to 200. The Raiders went from using it ahead of 25% of dropbacks to using it ahead of 47% of dropbacks.

While rushing took a huge step back in 2020, in part on account of the offensive line, the other thing that fell off completely was play-action from under center.

Gruden is not a huge proponent of using play-action. He ranked 21st in usage rate in 2019 and ranked 23rd last year. But when he does use it, he prefers using play-action from under center.

In 2019, 77% of play-action dropbacks were from under center. In 2020, that dropped down to 59%. They still used it, but not as often. Why? Examine the efficiency in play-action from under center (early downs, quarters 1-3):

2019: 0.23 EPA/att, 7.9 YPA, 59% success 2020: -0.09 EPA/att, 6.0 YPA, 41% success

Interestingly, targeting wide receivers on this shotgun play-action still produced positive results (9.4 YPA, 0.23 EPA/att, though only 44% success, but these were deeper targets (12.9 aDOT).

When Carr targeted tight ends, those passes averaged an average depth much shorter, only 5.2 air yards. Passes to running backs, naturally, were even shorter (1.7 aDOT).

To have success on these targets off shotgun play-action, often it's going to require more out of your offensive line to help block, not just on the pass rush, but also getting to second level defenders. Compare efficiency by position with the worse 2020 offensive line:

(cont'd - see LV-7)





2019 TE targets: 0.59 EPA/att, 10.2 YPA, 77% success 2020 TE targets: 0.03 EPA/att, 5.0 YPA, 50% success

2019 RB targets: 0.03 EPA/att, 4.4 YPA, 53% success 2020 RB targets: -0.12 EPA/att, 3.8 YPA, 33% success

Carr wasn't pressured more on these under center play-action dropbacks in 2020 than he was in 2019, so the immediate pressure wasn't the issue. But there is no doubt it impacted the development of these plays and the lack of receiving upside.

Anyone who studies Carr knows he's much worse when pressured. When things aren't ideal in the pocket, and he has to throw on the move, his production has dropped tremendously.

Examine his 2020 splits based on state at pass:

Planted: +0.26 EPA/att, 8.7 YPA, 57% success Moving: +0.11 EPA/att, 6.6 YPA, 41% success Shuffling: -0.03 EPA/att, 5.0 YPA, 43% success

These were similar to 2019 numbers, meaning they didn't get worse, but it's a feature with Carr. Some quarterbacks thrive on the move. Others have drop-offs like this. Thus, a worse offensive line that forces him to move off his spot on dropbacks could play a big role in whether this offense can reach it's ceiling in 2021.

Carr also faced more man coverage and struggled in 2020 compared to 2019. Splits:

2019 vs man: 0.57 EPA/att, 11.5 YPA, 63% success 2020 vs man: 0.15 EPA/att, 7.7 YPA, 45% success

It wasn't all bad news for Carr. He actually had a very underrated season last year and pushed the ball down the field more often. Completed air yards with Gruden:

2018: 4.9 (31st) 2019: 4.9 (35th) 2020: 5.9 (19th)

Here is Carr's ranking in Air Yards to the Sticks (where the ball goes relative to the first down marker on all passes) over the past three years under Gruden:

2018: -2.0 (34th) 2019: -2.3 (37th) 2020: 0.0 (ninth)

Carr also got a lot more aggressive on his throws. Looking at the percentage of throws into tight coverage:

(cont'd - see LV-8)

Immediate Impact of Las Vegas Raiders 2021 Draft Class

Mike Mayock has already stated a desire to start Alex Leatherwood (first round) at right tackle and he draws a strong endorsement from offensive line coach Tom Cable.

While working for the Seattle Seahawks, Cable also talked the team into reaching for James Carpenter in the first round—a very similar player to Leatherwood—so that's not exactly an endorsement you want, but at least we know the coaching staff is invested in his development.

Prior to the draft, Mayock mentioned 2020 undrafted free agent Jaryd Jones-Smith, as a candidate to start at right tackle. Jones played 14 snaps, all on special teams, so Leatherwood should have no issue locking down that job.

Malcolm Koonce (third round) played almost exclusively in a two-point stance on the edge at Buffalo, which should make the transition to Gus Bradley's defense easier. Koonce has some comparable traits to Melvin Ingram, who excelled as a stand-up pass-rusher for Bradley the past few seasons with the Chargers.

Between Trevon Moehrig (second round), Divine Deablo (third round), and Tyree Gillespie (fourth round), Las Vegas probably found a starting safety (most likely Moehrig in the free safety role). But this was a comical overinvestment in the position, especially considering the free agency addition of Karl Joseph.

Mayock and Gruden simply don't know how to play the draft game to maximize the value of their draft capital. They'll get some production from this class, but given their poor use of resources, the overall haul easily falls in the bottom tier of 2021 draft classes.



Yards to Go

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

Las Vegas Raiders 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Raiders passing offense has been better than given credit for the past two seasons and once again in 2020, they ranked 12th in EPA passing and 10th in success rate (50%) through the air. Derek Carr is coming off arguably his best season as a passer. His 7.94 yards per pass attempt were a career high as his 5.2% touchdown rate was his highest rate in a season since 2015. Carr's average depth of target (8.5 yards) significantly spiked from his 6.9 aDOT in 2019 and 7.1-yard mark in 2018 as the Raiders incorporated more vertical passing into their offense last season. The offense heavily leaned on Darren Waller in the passing game and maxed out what they had thrown out around him. The losses of Trent Brown, Gabe Jackson, and Rodney Hudson put them down three starters from their line a year ago.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Derek Carr | 348 | 517 | 67% | 4,102 | 7.9 | 27 | 9 | 26 | 101 | 11 |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | |

2020 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd 20+ Air Avg. Air Avg. 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Success **Passing** 20+ Air QΒ Pass **Pass** Yds per YAC per Νd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp % **Derek Carr** 50% 54 10.0% 21 4.0% 25 5% 53% 5.9 5.9 47% 50% 33.3 8.6% 3.0% 5.9 5.2 4% 12.0 14.9 NFL Avg

Total

5.6%

1.1%

Missed YPA Rk

13

18

YAS 9

62

60

2

YTS. ₹

65

62

128

TDs

8

2

Success Rk

20

27

0.0%

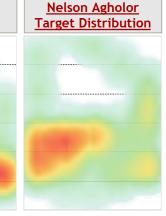
0.0%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis Avg. Avg. YIA Short of Ava Yds QB Yds to (of Sticks Short Rk Short Go Comp) Rate 12

6.7

| 9.7 receptions | | 1 101 | 50 | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|---------|---------|-------|--------|---------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-------------|---|
| | In 2020, Raiders wide receivers averaged just 14.9 targets per game, which ranked 31st in the league, ahead of only the Ravens. With marginal opportunity, Las Vegas wideouts combined for | | | | | | | | Target Distribution | | |
| | 2020 |) Recei | ving Re | cap & | 2021 O | <u>utlook</u> | | Dar | ren Wa | <u>ller</u> | |
| Total | 2.1% | 1.0% | 2.1% | 0.0% | 1.7% | | | | | | _ |
| 15+ | 14.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 4.2% | NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.7% | 1.7% | 0.0% | | 1.6% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.9% | | 0.7% | Derek Carr | 8.3 | 5.8 | -2.4 | 72% | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.3% | 0.0% | 1.1% | | | | | | |

40 Pass Distance (in air) 30 20 10 0 -10



Nelson Agholor 59% 11.4 118.5

Comp

73%

74%

7.8

88

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

forward. Everything still runs through Darren Waller

134

74

Player *Min 50 Targets **Darren Waller**

Hunter Renfrow

1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 4th Dwn

2.3%

efficient targeting their wideouts at 9.9 yards per target, which was second in the league. A large

part of that efficiency stemmed from Nelson Agholor, who led the wide receivers with 82 targets, 896 yards, and eight touchdowns. With Agholor gone, the Raiders added veteran John Brown, but need their pair of second-year wideouts in Henry Ruggs and Bryan Edwards to take a step

Rating

106.1

1097

% %

61%

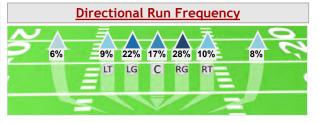
59%

Las Vegas closed last season 15th in rushing EPA and 13th in success rate (51%) on the ground despite ranking 21st in yards per rush (4.2 yards). The team got another solid season out of Josh Jacobs, who added 1,065 yards on the ground. Jacobs only averaged 3.9 yards per carry, but his 51% success rate rushing was 13th among all backs with 150 or more carries on the season. The team went out and paid up to add Kenyan Drake to contribute alongside Jacobs. Drake set career-highs a year ago with 955 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns, but his 4.1 yards per touch were a career-low while his receiving role evaporated down to 1.7 receptions per game. The offensive line changes are a concern here, but Las Vegas was already 27th in the league in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate at 69% in 2020.

2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Josh Jacobs | 273 | 3.9 | 51% | 48 | 36 | 21 | 58 | 51% | 41 | 12 |
| Devontae Booker | 93 | 4.5 | 46% | 72 | 33 | 86 | 27 | 43% | 83 | 3 |

Yards per Carry by Direction 2.9 3.9 4.0 4.0 4.3 LG C RG RT



Derek Carr Rating Early Downs

Target

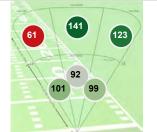
Distribution

40

30

Postive

Play %



Air

Yds %

50%

52%

Air Yds vs YAC

YAC

%

50%

48%

Rk

30

Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

Just Keep Jamming on Darren Waller



After his massive breakout in 2019 (90-1,145-3), Waller doubled down in 2020 and improved across the board, catching 107-of-145 targets for 1,196 yards and nine touchdowns. He closed the season on an impressive five-game tear (43-654-4) that gave playoff gamers a punch back option versus **Travis Kelce**-led teams.

Waller has finished third (22.4%) and first (26.4%) in team target share in each of the past two seasons. With the Raiders losing **Nelson Agholor** and still not knowing what they have (or how to use him) in **Henry Ruggs** and the rest of the wide receiving unit, there is no reason to not believe that Waller leads this team in targets again in 2021.

Not just a volume producer, Waller was second among tight ends in receiving yards per team pass attempt the past two seasons. Considering his health (16 games played each year) and lack of surrounding target threats, Waller has already jumped **George Kittle** as the TE2 and can still challenge for the TE1 spot.

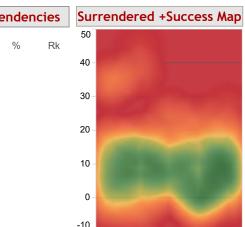
How do Josh Jacobs and Kenyan Drake Fit Together?

Jacobs has turned in 1,316 and 1,303 yards over his first two NFL seasons with seven and 12 touchdowns. After backup **Devontae Booker** signed with the Giants earlier in free agency, the Raiders went and brought in **Kenyan Drake** to fill and improve on that void behind Jacobs. A career committee back with stints of being a bellcow prior to last season, Drake set career-highs a year ago with 955 rushing yards and 10 touchdowns on 264 touches, but his 4.1 yards per touch were a career-low while his receiving role evaporated down to 1.7 receptions per game. In the 15 games that Jacobs played a year ago, other Raiders running backs averaged 9.1 touches per game (6.6 rushes and 2.5 receptions).

The 27-year-old Drake is rumored to be thought of as a "joker" and receiving compliment to Jacobs, but Drake has left a lot of meat on the bone as a receiver over the course of his career. Drake averaged 0.89 yards per route run with Arizona in 2019, which ranked 35th at running back per Pro Football Focus. He then came back last season and dropped down to 0.55 yards per route, which ranked 54th out of 58 backs that qualified and was below that of both Booker and **Jalen Richard**, as well as Jacobs himself. Drake had a season in 2018 in which he ranked 13th in yards per route run among backs (1.42), but also was 51st of 55 qualifiers in the same area in 2017 (0.91). Drake does cap the overall upside of Jacobs, but is more of a handcuff himself than someone that has standalone value.

Jacobs improved on his receiving game usage in 2020 (33-238) but was still largely a one-note producer with 77.2% of his fantasy points stemming solely from rushing. That is hard to see moving much while Drake could command a few more touches than those 9.1 opportunities per game Jacobs shared a year ago. Jacobs is still an RB2 that is not as dead as some believe due to the Drake signing, but Jacobs is still easier to pass over among his ADP peers for steadier wide receivers since he is still expected to be reliant on rushing and scoring prowess to carry his lines. In his games with a touchdown, Jacobs is averaging 23.0 points per game as opposed to 9.9 per game when he fails to reach the end zone.

| Las | Def | Te | nden | cie | | | | |
|----------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | | % | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 13 plays <i>(3%)</i> Success: 54% EPA: 0.19 | 395 plays (89%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.16 | 35 plays (8%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.55 | 443 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.19 | | | % | R |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 52 plays (68%) Success: 37% EPA: -0.15 | 25 plays <i>(32%)</i> Success: 48% EPA: 0.05 | | 77 plays (100%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.08 | | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 13 plays <i>(59%)</i> Success: 31% EPA: -0.27 | 9 plays <i>(41%)</i> Success: 67% EPA: 0.62 | | 22 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: 0.10 | | | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 4 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 75% EPA: 0.46 | | | 4 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 75% EPA: 0.46 | | | | |
| Grand Total | 82 plays <i>(15%)</i> Success: 40% EPA: -0.08 | 429 plays (79%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.16 | 35 plays <i>(6%)</i> Success: 46% EPA: 0.55 | 546 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.15 | | | | |



Defensive Outlook

On the interior, **Jonathan Hankins** didn't add much pass rush upside, but for that, the Raiders signed **Quinton Jefferson**, who has been in the top-10 of ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate among defensive tackles in each of the past two seasons. Jefferson didn't break through the rotation in Buffalo last season, but should have a chance for more playing time. Las Vegas also added former third overall pick **Solomon Thomas**, who suffered a torn ACL in Week 2 of 2020.

The Raiders were surprisingly adequate in creating pressure last season. They ranked 12th in pressure rate, per SIS, and 16th in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. Still, there wasn't much of a difference-maker, so they went out and signed **Yannick Ngakoue** in free agency. Ngakoue hasn't been the dominant pass rusher some of his sack totals would suggest (he was 32nd in pressure rate last season), but he does bring a threatening presence on the outside. **Maxx Crosby**, a 2019 fourth-round pick, has been a pleasant surprise and has significantly outplayed the fourth overall pick from that draft, **Clelin Ferrell**. Crosby was 34th in pressure rate among edge rushers last season. Ferrell did have some improvement in Year 2, ranked 42nd in pressure rate.

The big free agency investment at linebacker last offseason did not return positive results in 2020. **Cory Littleton** struggled early in the season and missed three midseason games on the COVID/Reserve list. He still played 77.8% of the defensive snaps. Littleton does have a history of being a top coverage linebacker, so the hope is a more normal offseason and better health will lead to a return to form. **Nick Kwiatkowski** was closer to expectations but was also out-snapped by **Nick Morrow**, 66.4% to 59.8%.

After the draft, the Raiders signed cornerback **Casey Hayward**, who spent his previous four seasons with the Chargers. In Year 2, cornerback **Trayvon Mullen** had a bit of a jump in play from 86th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap during his rookie season to 53rd in 2020. The hope will be that 2020 first-round pick **Damon Arnette** will have a similar, or better, jump. Arnette ranked 135th among 148 qualified cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap, though a ton of highly drafted rookie corners struggled in 2020.

The main outside corner opposite Mullen was **Nevin Lawson**, who ranked 88th in AYA/CS. There should also be hope in development from 2020 fourth-round pick **Amik Robertson**, who only found his way into eight games and 3.2% of the defensive snaps. 2019 fourth-round pick **Isaiah Johnson** struggled in limited time, ranked 130th in AYA/CS.

Few players have been more disappointing relative to draft position than **Johnathan Abram**. The 2019 first-round pick saw his rookie season cut short and did not fare well during his 13 games played in 2020. No safety had more missed tackles than Abram in 2020, according to SIS. The Raiders used a second-round pick on TCU safety **Trevon Moehrig**, who was widely viewed as the top player at his position. As depth, **Jeff Heath** was a pleasant surprise in the first year of his two-year deal in 2020 when he was on the field for 38% of the defensive snaps. The Raiders also re-signed former first-round pick **Karl Joseph** after he played 2020 in Cleveland.

2020 Play Tendencies 57% All Pass % All Pass Rk 21 All Rush % 43% All Rush Rk 12 1 Score Pass % 54% 1 Score Pass Rk 24 2019 1 Score Pass % 62% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 6 2020 Pass Increase % -8% Pass Increase Rk 30 1 Score Rush % 46% 1 Score Rush Rk 9 Up Pass % 51% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 49% Up Rush Rk Down Pass % 62% Down Pass Rk 15 Down Rush % 38% Down Rush Rk 18

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 10 | 40% | 60% | 70% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 14 | 14% | 86% | 43% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 313 | 44% | 56% | 51% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 6 | 50% | 50% | 83% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 47 | 30% | 70% | 74% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 86 | 67% | 33% | 56% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 97 | 75% | 25% | 42% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 19 | 74% | 26% | 47% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 48 | 60% | 40% | 58% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 47 | 94% | 6% | 53% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 34 | 91% | 9% | 32% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 14 | 93% | 7% | 14% | | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 12 | 17% | 83% | 83% | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |





Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | |
| 72% | 11 | 67% | 74% | 75% | | | | |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | NFL Pass | Pass 1D | Pass NFI | | | | |

Rate

67%

1D Avg

59%

Freq Avg

33%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 6 | 83% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 8 | 50% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 103 | 47% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 2 | 100% | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 25 | 64% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 17 | 53% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 19 | 53% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Nelson Agholor | 5 | 60% | | | | | |
| | | RUSH | Josh Jacobs | 5 | 20% | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | Darren Waller | 12 | 75% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Darren Waller | 10 | 70% | | | | | |
| | | | Hunter Renfrow | 10 | 80% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Nelson Agholor | 7 | 29% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Jalen Richard | 3 | 0% | | | | | |

| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 49% | Success: 55% | Success: 50% |
| | YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.06 | YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.14 | YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.03 |
| | Rtg: 109.1 | Rtg: 86.2 | Rtg: 105.2 |
| | [Att: 261 - Rate: 45.5%] | [Att: 51 - Rate: 8.9%] | [Att: 312 - Rate: 54.4%] |
| Yes | Success: 49% | Success: 53% | Success: 50% |
| | YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.16 | YPA: 6.4, EPA: 0.09 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.14 |
| | Rtg: 101.7 | Rtg: 88.1 | Rtg: 97.2 |
| | [Att: 177 - Rate: 30.8%] | [Att: 85 - Rate: 14.8%] | [Att: 262 - Rate: 45.6%] |
| Total | Success: 49% | Success: 54% | Success: 50% |
| | YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.10 | YPA: 6.2, EPA: 0.01 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.08 |
| | Rtg: 106.1 | Rtg: 87.4 | Rtg: 101.5 |
| | [Att: 438 - Rate: 76.3%] | [Att: 136 - Rate: 23.7%] | [Att: 574 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Freq

28%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Rk

21

| 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Darren Waller | Nelson Agholor | Josh Jacobs | Henry Ruggs | Hunter Renfrow | Jason Witten | Zay Jones | Foster Moreau | Devontae Booker |
| 1 | CAR | W 34-30 | 56 (89%) | 12 (19%) | 49 (78%) | 42 (67%) | 30 (48%) | 28 (44%) | 9 (14%) | 12 (19%) | 8 (13%) |
| 2 | NO | W 34-24 | 74 (93%) | 15 (19%) | 53 (66%) | 49 (61%) | 40 (50%) | 26 (33%) | 18 (23%) | 32 (40%) | 11 (14%) |
| 3 | NE | L 36-20 | 56 (95%) | 50 (85%) | 35 (59%) | | 39 (66%) | 15 (25%) | 27 (46%) | 15 (25%) | 4 (7%) |
| 4 | BUF | L 30-23 | 70 (95%) | 67 (91%) | 50 (68%) | | 50 (68%) | 19 (26%) | 66 (89%) | 10 (14%) | 6 (8%) |
| 5 | KC | W 40-32 | 64 (91%) | 55 (79%) | 45 (64%) | 45 (64%) | 24 (34%) | 38 (54%) | 9 (13%) | 12 (17%) | 15 (21%) |
| 7 | TB | L 45-20 | 59 (91%) | 51 (78%) | 32 (49%) | 49 (75%) | 35 (54%) | 21 (32%) | 10 (15%) | 11 (17%) | 15 (23%) |
| 8 | CLE | W 16-6 | 57 (79%) | 56 (78%) | 48 (67%) | 54 (75%) | 15 (21%) | 38 (53%) | 10 (14%) | 31 (43%) | 10 (14%) |
| 9 | LAC | W 31-26 | 44 (88%) | 42 (84%) | 28 (56%) | 39 (78%) | 29 (58%) | 21 (42%) | 5 (10%) | 13 (26%) | 13 (26%) |
| 10 | DEN | W 37-12 | 64 (89%) | 43 (60%) | 43 (60%) | 45 (63%) | 34 (47%) | 37 (51%) | 8 (11%) | 25 (35%) | 26 (36%) |
| 11 | KC | L 35-31 | 55 (93%) | 44 (75%) | 44 (75%) | 32 (54%) | 20 (34%) | 33 (56%) | 5 (8%) | 17 (29%) | 15 (25%) |
| 12 | ATL | L 43-6 | 61 (97%) | 42 (67%) | 38 (60%) | 42 (67%) | 41 (65%) | 17 (27%) | 13 (21%) | 8 (13%) | 22 (35%) |
| 13 | NYJ | W 31-28 | 74 (95%) | 52 (67%) | | 63 (81%) | 52 (67%) | 16 (21%) | 7 (9%) | 20 (26%) | 33 (42%) |
| 14 | IND | L 44-27 | 66 (97%) | 45 (66%) | 29 (43%) | 41 (60%) | 38 (56%) | 20 (29%) | 16 (24%) | 13 (19%) | 19 (28%) |
| 15 | LAC | L 30-27 | 69 (91%) | 64 (84%) | 52 (68%) | | 13 (17%) | 37 (49%) | 53 (70%) | 20 (26%) | 9 (12%) |
| 16 | MIA | L 26-25 | 63 (98%) | 49 (77%) | 32 (50%) | 44 (69%) | 39 (61%) | 22 (34%) | 6 (9%) | 2 (3%) | 15 (23%) |
| 17 | DEN | W 32-31 | 60 (87%) | 44 (64%) | 38 (55%) | 36 (52%) | 51 (74%) | 16 (23%) | 26 (38%) | 14 (20%) | 17 (25%) |
| | Grand | Total | 992 (92%) | 731 (68%) | 616 (61%) | 581 (67%) | 550 (51%) | 404 (37%) | 288 (26%) | 255 (23%) | 238 (22%) |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. % |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 50% | 60% | 51% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 19% | 20% | 51% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 12% | 4% | 48% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 8% | 4% | 49% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 8% | 7% | 48% |
| | | enden | cies |
| Group | | enden | cies |
| | | enden Pass Succ. % | Run |
| Group | oing To | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 68% 51% | Pass Succ. % 51% 50% | Run Succ. % 53% 52% |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] | Pass Rate 68% 51% 34% | Pass Succ. % 51% 50% | Run Succ. % 53% 52% 48% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | | |
| Darren Waller | 23 | 6 | 5 | 12 | | | | | |
| Nelson Agholor | 13 | 2 | 6 | 5 | | | | | |
| Hunter Renfrow | 8 | 3 | | 5 | | | | | |
| Jason Witten | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | | | | |
| Josh Jacobs | 3 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| Zay Jones | 3 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| Henry Ruggs | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |

| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
|-----------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Josh Jacobs | 65 | 21 | 14 | 30 |
| Devontae Booker | 17 | | 5 | 12 |
| Jalen Richard | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Marcus Mariota | 3 | 1 | | 2 |
| Alec Ingold | 1 | | | 1 |
| Theo Riddick | 1 | | | 1 |
| | | | | |

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | |
| 23% 23% | 31% 46% 21% 56% NFL AVG | | | |
| | NFL AVG | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ccess % | | |
| Overall RB | | ccess % | | |





2018: 13.2% (32nd) 2019: 11.7% (38th) 2020: 16.2% (18th)

Being aggressive does not necessarily mean being good. Many offenses are intentionally designed so the quarterback targets the open player and doesn't need to force throws into coverage where the defender is within one-yard. But it is notable considering for years (such as 2016 and 2017, pre-Gruden) Carr was throwing 18-20% of his passes into tight windows. Gruden dropped that down considerably when he arrived in 2018. But in 2020, that rate ramped back up. Was Gruden encouraging Carr to target guys even if the coverage was tight? Were guys having a more difficult time getting open? Will his higher rate of throws into tight coverage stay high in 2021? It will be interesting to track this metric this upcoming season.

The best thing going for the Raiders in 2021 will be the offenses they are projected to face. Look at the rankings of offenses from a strength of schedule perspective that the Raiders defense has played since Gruden took over:

2018: fifth toughest schedule 2019: 20th toughest schedule 2020: ninth toughest schedule

In 2021, I project the Raiders to face the NFL's easiest schedule of offenses. Take a look at who they get:

The entire NFC East, with the lone exception of the Cowboys, has below average offense. The Dolphins could be better but it hinges on **Tua Tagovailoa**. The Colts have a great coach but does **Carson Wentz** rebound? Who is the Bears quarterback in Week 5, **Andy Dalton** or rookie **Justin Fields**? Then you have the AFC North. The Bengals? And then there's **Drew Lock** on the Broncos, who the Raiders get to face twice a year. All in all, when you're drawing a non-division schedule of offenses, this one is pretty good for a struggling defense to draw.

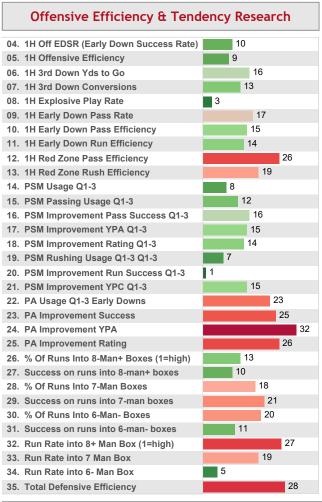
The bar is set relatively low for the Raiders in 2021. In a 17-game season, the Raiders are only projected to win 7.5 games. They are projected to play the third toughest schedule in the NFL. Many of the bad offenses they will face have good defenses. Last year, the Raiders went 1-5 against defenses that ranked top-13 in efficiency and went 7-3 against everyone else. They do have a nice stretch in 2021 where they face the Eagles, Giants, Bengals, and Cowboys in a five-game run. All of those defenses ranked below-average in 2020.

But the bar has been set relatively low for the Raiders for years. In fact, they've had win totals set at or above 7.5 only four other times t they went over (2015, 2020) and two times they went under (2012, 2018).

If the Raiders can get more from their defense with new defensive coordinator Gus Bradley and can get their offensive line to come together, it's reasonable to see this team come close to exceeding their low win total.

The problem, however, is their division. The Chiefs are the Chiefs, but the Chargers and Broncos have both made considerable strides in roster building to overtake the process that occurred under Gruden in Las Vegas. The problem for Denver is they have a Drew Lock-sized hole at quarterback, but apart from him, that roster is solid. The Chargers aren't far behind, plus they have what looks to be a stud quarterback in **Justin Herbert** and a new head coach bringing a new-school approach to their defense.

Meanwhile, the Raiders feel like they're treading water and trying to avoid drowning. They've got Jon Gruden trying to convince his kids the new toys the neighbors are playing with outside really aren't that great... "Now stop staring out the window <cracks open a Corona> and come play me in electric football."



| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 8.3 | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.9 | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.6 | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 6.7 | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 55% | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 54% | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.17 | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.14 | | | |

02. Avg Halftime Lead

-1.0

03. Wins

8

01. Games w Halftime Lead

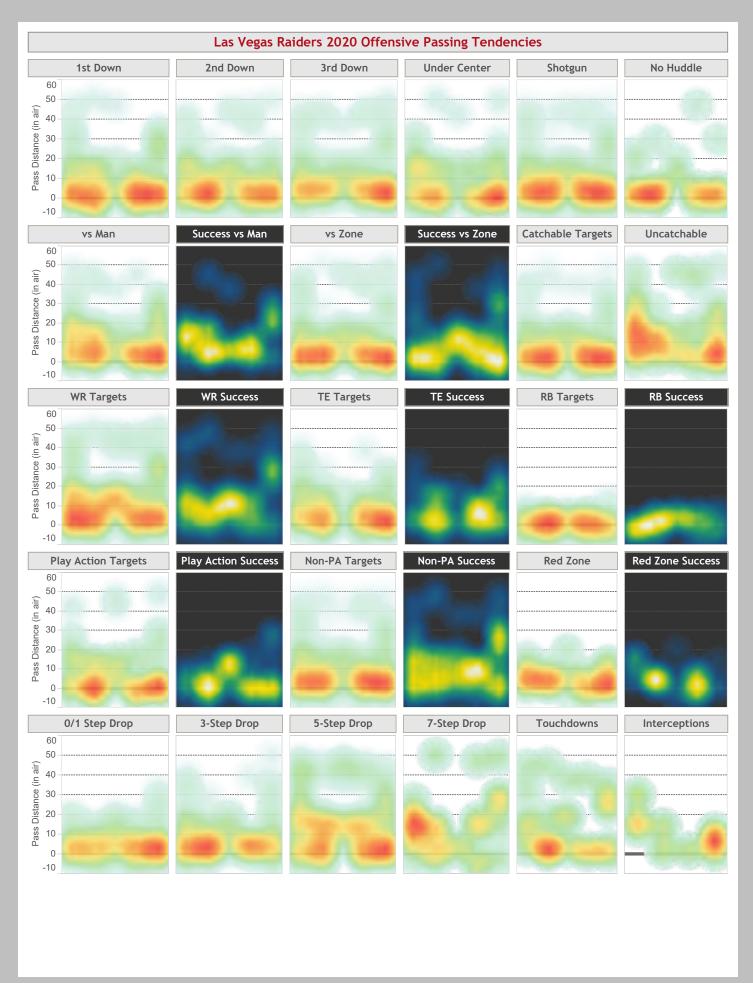
| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | |
|---|------|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 34% | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 54% | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 6.8 | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 3.0% | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.04 | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.4 | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 58% | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 8.4 | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 4.4% | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.13 | | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 8.0 | | | |
| | | | | |

| Men In Box | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|
| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 22% | | |
| 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 | 3.5 | | |
| 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 | 46% | | |
| 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 | 32% | | |
| 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 | 4.8 | | |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|--|--|
| Net FROE Rk | 31 | | | | |
| | | defFUM | 10 | | |
| Net FROE | -5.6 | defFUM Rcvrd | 5 | | |
| offFUM | 24 | don om Rovid | 0 | | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 8 | defFR Rk | 9 | | |
| offFR% | 33.3% | defFR% | 50.0% | | |
| offFR Rk | 29 | defFROE | -0.5 | | |
| offFROE | -5.1 | delFROE | -0.5 | | |
| offFROE Rk | 31 | defFROE Rk | 21 | | |

| Field Goal Luck | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------|--|
| Net Over Expectation | 3.29 | Opp Att | 39 | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 8 | Opp Makes | 32 | |
| Own Att Own Makes | 34 33 | Opp FG % | 82% | |
| Own FG % | 97% | Opp Expected Makes | 32.76 | |
| Own Expected Makes | 30.46 | Opp Make Over Expectation | -0.76 | |
| Own Make over Expectation | 2.54 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 27 | |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 9 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -1.33 | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. 2019 Own Rk | -3.10 30 | 2019 Opp Rk | 24 | |
| 2019 OWII KK | 30 | 2019 Opp KK | 24 | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pressure | | Offensive A | Offensive Metrics | |
|--|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Derek Carr | | Derek Carr | | 0.09 | |
| CAY | 5.9 | Pressure % | 30 | EPA/Pass Rk | 13 | |
| CAY Rk | 19 | Pressure Rk | 24 | EPA/Rush | -0.02 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 35 | Sack % | 4.6 | EPA/Rush Rk | 9 | |
| AYTS Rk | 9 | Sack Rk | 28 | On-Target Catch % | 90.9% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 37 18 | Pressure Accuracy % | 66.7 | On-Target Catch Rk | 16 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 38 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 16 | Drop% | 6.1% | |
| COMP% | 67.3 | Rating when Pressured | 70.2 | Drop Rk | 13 | |
| xCOMP% | 64.5 | Pressured Rating Rk | 18 | | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 26 | Clean Accuracy % | 81.8 | YAC/Att | 2.3 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 2 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 7 | YAC/Att Rk | 18 | |
| CPOE% | 2.8 | Rating when Clean | 112.1 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.5% | |
| CPOE Rk | 9 | _ | | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 17 | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 7 | Clean Rating Rk | 10 | | | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw | 2.78 | Rush 1st Down % | 26.5% | |
| | | Time to Throw Rk | 15 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 16 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:

Hard

Easy

Brandon Staley (LAR DC) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:

Joe Lombardi (NO QB) (new)

<u>Defensive Coordinator:</u>

Renaldo Hill (DEN DB) (new)

Los Angeles Chargers

2021 Forecast

Wins

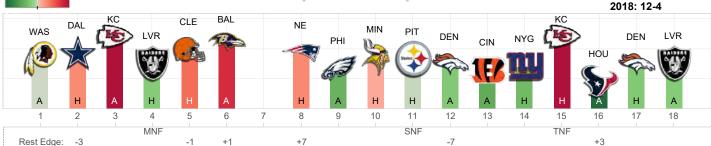
Div Rank

9

#2

Past Records

2020: 7-9 2019: 5-11 2018: 12-4



Key Players Lost

| New |
|----------|
| Titans |
| Chargers |
| Raiders |
| Texans |
| Browns |
| Jets |
| Panthers |
| Bills |
| Patriots |
| Colts |
| Steelers |
| Colts |
| TBD |
| Retired |
| Vikings |
| Jaguars |
| Colts |
| Chargers |
| Texans |
| TBD |
| |

2021 Los Angeles Chargers Overview

How does a team with **Philip Rivers** and **Justin Herbert** lose a season's worth of games by one-score in a two-year span?

Over the last 30 years, only two other franchises have done it.

The Lions, in 2001 and 2002 combined, lost 17 games by one-score. But they had guys like Joey Harrington, Charlie Batch, Ty Detmer, Mike McMahon all make multiple starts, and they were widely considered the worst team in football.

Washington did it in 1994 and 1995 (lost 16 games by one-score), but again, they had guys like Heath Shuler, John Friesz, and Gus Frerotte taking snaps. None of these ever were or ever would be solid starting quarterbacks.

The Chargers had Philip Rivers in 2019, who currently holds the record for the most career touchdown passes without winning a Super Bowl at 421, one ahead of Dan Marino.

And they had rookie phenom Justin Herbert in 2020, the sixth overall pick who shattered records as a rookie passer. He threw the most touchdown passes of any rookie in NFL history, despite the fact he was the second most pressured of any quarterback in the NFL. Herbert, the 2020 Offensive Rookie of the Year, became the fourth rookie quarterback to throw for over 4,000 yards.

Over the past two years, the Chargers were forecast to be solid. The team was projected to win 17 games (8.5 wins/season), and they had one of the more talented rosters in the

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Corey Linsley (C) | \$12.5 |
| Matt Feiler (RT) | \$7 |
| Jared Cook (TE) | \$4.5 |
| Oday Aboushi (LG) | \$1.60 |
| Kyler Fackrell (EDGE) | \$1.5 |
| Ryan Smith (CB) | \$1.5 |
| Chase Daniel (QB) | \$1.10 |
| Christian Covington (IDL) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) | | |
|----|-----|---|--|--|
| 1 | 13 | OT - Rashawn Slater (Northwestern) | | |
| 2 | 47 | CB - Asante Samuel Jr. (Florida State) | | |
| 3 | 77 | WR - Josh Palmer (Tennessee) | | |
| J | 97 | TE - Tre' McKitty (Georgia) | | |
| 4 | 118 | DE - Chris Rumph II (Duke) | | |
| 5 | 159 | OT - Brenden Jaimes (Nebraska) | | |
| 6 | 185 | LB - Nick Niemann (Iowa) | | |
| | 198 | RB - Larry Rountree III (Missouri) | | |
| 7 | 241 | S - Mark Webb (Georgia) | | |

Average Line # Games Underdog -0.4 11 6

0.4







2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|------|----------------------------|--|
| 14 | \$96.02M | 18 |
| 26 | \$7.81M | 21 |
| 21 | \$32.07M | 19 |
| 15 | \$9.01M | 17 |
| 5 | \$38.17M | 15 |
| 20 | \$8.96M | 2 |
| 18 | \$89.20M | 9 |
| | \$49.16M | 9 |
| 27 | \$8.40M | 14 |
| 9 | \$24.92M | 9 |
| 32 | \$6.72M | 21 |
| | 14 26 21 15 5 20 18 7 27 9 | 14 \$96.02M 26 \$7.81M 21 \$32.07M 15 \$9.01M 5 \$38.17M 20 \$8.96M 18 \$89.20M 7 \$49.16M 27 \$8.40M 9 \$24.92M |

LAC-2

W CIN L KC

A 3 H -3 Н A -7 A -3

16 20 16

CAR ΤB

-5

NO

This team was so far different from the terrible Detroit teams of the early-2000s or the terrible Washington teams of the mid-1990s.

So again I ask, how did this Chargers team, with Rivers and Herbert and a forecasted above average team composed of solid talent, lose 16 games (a full season's worth) by one-score in a two-year span?

You could say simple bad luck... and with the Chargers, you might not be far off. After all, the 2019 Chargers ranked 25th in field goal luck and followed that up by ranking 30th in 2020. In addition, they ranked 32nd in fumble luck.

But beyond luck, the first place you have to look is coaching. What is this team doing late in games? How aggressively are they trying to win? What is their go/no-go situation like? How often are they calling their best plays? How often are they being too conservative?

Unfortunately, former head coach Anthony Lynn failed miserably across most all of these critical elements since he became coach.

The lowest hanging fruit is he went for it on fourth downs in recommended situations only 25% of the time since becoming head coach in 2017, which ranked ninth-lowest in the NFL.

When the numbers are in your favor, and the analytics suggest you listen, you really need to do a better job than fading the numbers three out of every four plays

Since 2018, the four teams that have been the most aggressive in fourth down situations when it's +EV are the Ravens, Packers, Browns, and Eagles. The four teams that most ignore the analytics and punt the ball instead are the Broncos, Jaguars, Washington, and the Lions. I think it's pretty easy to decide which set of teams are doing the best. Aspire to be like those smart teams.

Lynn did not. And it led to many games with small leads that were blown as a result.

Over the last two years, while they were losing so many one-score games, the Chargers had 16 games with a halftime lead. Typically, teams win 80% of those games. The Chargers went 9-7 (56%). It was the most losses by any team in the NFL over that span, and the worst win percentage for any of the 23 teams with at least 12 games in their sample.

| 7 | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| QB | 3 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn | | | | | |
| Justin Herbert | 47% 6.7 97.8 | 53% 7.8 102.2 | 43% 7.6 100.0 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | |
| Pass Rate | 47% | 61% | 81% | | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | | |
| | | | | _ | | |

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | | | |
| LAC | 42% 3.9 | 53% 4.4 | 52% 3.1 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 53% | 39% | 19% | | | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | | | | | |

Similarly, the Chargers went only 9-5 (64%) in games they entered the fourth quarter with a lead. Teams typically win 83% of these games. Only two teams were worse than the Chargers' 64% win rate, Lions and Bengals.

In the NFL, it's tough to get a lead. It's tough to win games. If you've earned a lead at halftime, you absolutely must figure out how to hold onto it. You cannot be blowing halftime and fourth quarter leads at the highest rates in the NFL.

Let's examine the Chargers' 2020 offense and see what else may have led to the firing of Anthony Lynn and the hiring of first time head coach Brandon Staley, the former Rams defensive coordinator.

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics



2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

JAC DEN LV

30 26

Н Α Н Α Н A -10 Н Н A 3 Н A 17

10 -1 -5 -8

10 11 12 13

MIA

NYJ BUF

17

6

34

W ATL W LV

3

ΝE

-45

0 20 W W

3

30 19 38

30 & In Def **EDSR Def** 3rd Down Def Red Zone De 2020 Clo Records WFFK

20

RESULT OPP All 2019 Wins: 7 SITE FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 4-3 MARGIN FG Games Win %: 57% (#13) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): OPP PTS 57% (#2)

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

| lose | Ga | <u>me</u> | | 202 | 0 Cr | itica | ıl/Ga | me- |
|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| YPPA Def | YPPT Def | Defensive Efficiency | Pass Efficiency Def | Pass Pro Efficieincy Def | RB Pass Eff Def | Rush Efficiency Def | Explosive Pass Def | Explosive Run Def |
| | 29 | | | | | 28 | | 24 |
| | | 22 | | 22 | | | | 24 |
| | | | 18 | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | O | |

| 1 Score C | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|----------|
| 1 Score C | Sames | Win %: | 42% (#21 |
| 1 Score C | Sames | Wins (% | of Total |
| Wins): 71 | % (#9) | | |
| | | | |

Deciding Stats TO Margin +3 TO Given 16 **INT Given** 10 **FUM Given** 6 TO Taken 19 **INT Taken** 12 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -7 27 Sacks Sacks Allow 34 Return TD Margin -1 **Ret TDs** 2 **Ret TDs Allow** 3 **Penalty Margin** +9 Penalties 85 **Opponent Penalties**

94

(cont'd - see LAC-3)

| 13 | 23 | 21 | 38 | 30 | 29 | 31 | 31 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 45 | 17 | 27 | 16 | 21 | OPP PTS |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| _ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 7 | | OFF/DEF EDSR Blue=OFF (high=good) Red=DEF (low=good) |

5

10

15 Rank

20

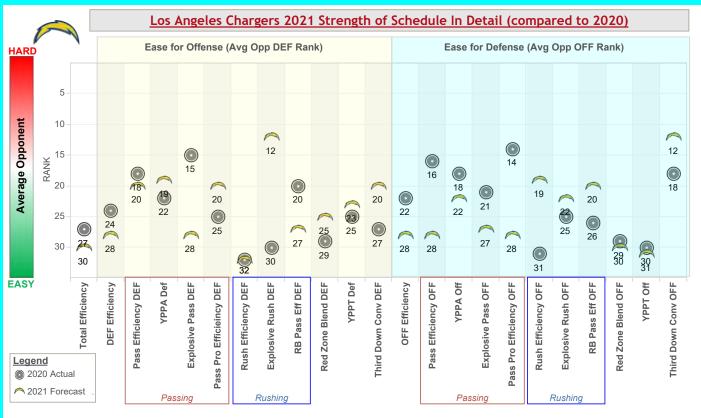
25

30

PTS

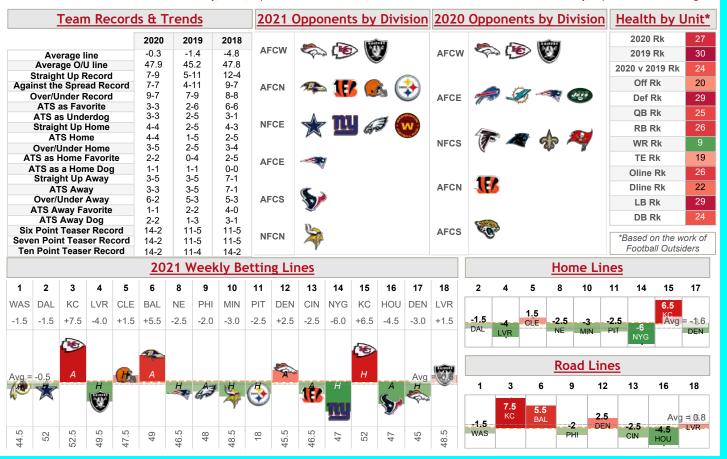
9

24



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 25 | 18 | 12 | 28 | 25 | 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







The offense in 2020 was directed by offensive coordinator Shane Steichen, who was in his first year with that title after being elevated from quarterbacks coach. When Steichen took over mid-2019, the offense did become more efficient. But there were things in 2020 which made me question his process. (Steichen is now the offensive coordinator of the Philadelphia Eagles.)

The biggest thing that jumps out when looking at the Chargers' 2020 stats compared to 2019 was the huge drop in Early Down Success Rate (EDSR). The Chargers were sixth in 2019 and fell down to 24th in 2020. Their overall offensive efficiency, however, stayed league-average (16th in 2019, 17th in 2020).

So why were the Chargers much worse at avoiding third downs with poor early down offense? For starters, they ran the ball significantly more in 2020 than 2019. And secondly, their run game was much worse (21st in 2019, 31st in 2020).

On first downs, the Chargers ran the ball 5% more often in 2020 than 2019. They shifted from a 52% first down pass rate in 2019 to 47% in 2020. While that may seem small, it's substantial. The 2019 Chargers, at 52%, were the eighth most pass-heavy team on first downs. The 2020 Chargers, at 47%, dropped to the eighth most run-heavy team.

The Chargers' first down runs were terrible. They gained 3.9 YPC, 41% success, and -0.09 EPA/att. No team that ranked top-15 in first down run rate was worse than the Chargers when running the ball.

If running too often with terrible efficiency wasn't bad enough, Justin Herbert and the Chargers' passing attack also struggled on first down. There were notable first down splits when Herbert lined up in shotgun. Examine Herbert on first down:

From shotgun: 5.5 YPA, 44% success, -0.07 EPA/att Under center: 8.4 YPA, 51% success, 0.19 EPA/att

This wasn't just a play-action split — when the Chargers threw from under center without play-action and Herbert averaged 0.22 EPA/att. Likewise, they threw from shotgun with play-action, and Herbert averaged -0.43 EPA/att. It also wasn't a first half vs second half thing — the splits were even larger when you look only at the first half. What the Chargers were doing on first down, Herbert did it much better from under center.

The lack of efficiency on first down forced the Chargers to average 7.9 yards-to-go on second down, which was fourth-worst in the NFL last year.

Herbert performed much better on second downs, but the Chargers were still much more run-heavy than they were in 2019. The Chargers ran the ball on 39% of second downs in 2020, compared to 31% in 2019.

But when they passed on second down, their aDOT was significantly lower than first down, particularly when you ignore late-game situations and focus only on the first half. First down aDOT? 8.4 yards. Second down aDOT? 5.0 yards. It was the second-lowest aDOT in the NFL on second downs in the first half of games. The only team that threw shorter on second down? The Saints, with **Drew Brees's** arm that was about to fall off and some attempts from **Taysom Hill**. The NFL average saw a 7.7-yard first down aDOT and a 6.9-yard second down aDOT, a decline of only 0.8 yards. The Chargers aimed their second down passes 3.4 yards shorter than first down passes. That was with a healthy, strong armed Herbert.

The combination of first down playcalling, the fourth-most yards-to-go on second down, and the second-shortest target depth on second downs did one thing – forced the Chargers into many, many third downs.

The Chargers had 114 third downs in the first half of games last year, the third most of any team in the NFL. Their 95 third down passes in the first half were the most of any team. Looking at the full game, the Chargers threw 181 third down passes, the most of any team. Their 223 total third down plays was second most.

One of the fastest ways to victory in the NFL is by avoiding third downs. The Chargers needed to optimize their early down playcalling to minimize third downs.

The forensic analysis thus far describes why the Chargers were in so many third downs, both in the first half and late in the game, but that cuts against the fact that the Chargers held halftime leads in 10 games last year. How could a team so inefficient on early downs hold so many halftime leads?

The answer is uncanny efficiency from a rookie quarterback. On third downs in the first half, Justin Herbert delivered 0.39 EPA/att, which ranked first in the NFL. Exactly half of his third down passes converted first downs, which also ranked first of all quarterbacks.

He was simply incredible. Unfortunately, the young stud couldn't play Superman all game long.

(cont'd - see <u>LAC-4</u>)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference over a week to Difference less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage is negated advantage game prep to prep 3 0 3 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Los Angeles Chargers Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank** Rank Rank 14 17 15 1

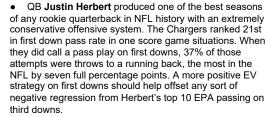
Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- One of the most unstable statistics from year-to-year at quarterback is performance when under pressure.
 Herbert did the unthinkable and led the NFL in passer rating when under pressure as a rookie. Odds are low that his numbers will be as good against pressure this season leading to potential regression overall.
- The Chargers defense ranked 20th in DVOA last season but in this off season lost edge rush veteran Melvin Ingram, their top graded linebacker Denzel Perryman and veteran cornerback Casey Hayward. They do get back safety Derwin James, but he has only played five total games since the beginning of 2019.

9

Why Bet the Over



- New head coach Brandon Staley brings with him an innovative defensive strategy. The Rams finished top four in both defensive passing and rushing DVOA last season.
- The Chargers' offseason included an overhaul of an offensive line that finished 29th in adjusted line yards and 28th in PFF's pass blocking efficiency last season. The Chargers drafted LT Rashawn Slater in the first round and signed PFF's top graded center in Corey Linsley as well as PFF's 23rd best pass blocking guard in Matt Feiler.



| Los Angeles Chargers Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | |
| 9 | 15 | 13 | 18 | 26 | 19 | 24 | | | | |

Justin Herbert's rookie year was special, and won over everyone on our panel. The Chargers QB room ranked no worse than 11th on any ballot. If Herbert gets better protection—he was pressured on 47% of his 3+ step dropbacks—he could be capable of elite production in 2021.

The Chargers backfield benefits from its depth, but no one is capable of carrying the load at an elite level. When Chargers running backs were contacted within two yards of the line of scrimmage, they averaged just 1.9 yards per carry (29th in the league). So while there's some talent here, it isn't a unit that can make up for deficiencies elsewhere.

Keenan Allen and **Mike Williams** would likely rank higher if we were strictly evaluating the top two weapons, but without any depth behind them the receiving corps is always one injury away from sinking towards the bottom of the league. Rookie **Josh Palmer**, who saw an average depth of target of 15.5 yards at Tennessee, could potentially help stretch the field and be the depth they need.

This was one of the worst offensive lines in 2020, but center **Corey Linsley** and rookie left tackle **Rashawn Slater**, could offer massive upgrades. If Slater immediately lives up to expectations, our rank for this unit may actually be too low.

Despite investing in the front seven with first-round picks in 2019 and 2020, this is the Chargers' lowest-ranked unit. In the 12 games he played, **Joey Bosa** generated 25% of the team's QB pressures, and is probably being asked to shoulder too much of the pass-rush burden.

The secondary ranks in the bottom half of the league, but a healthy **Derwin James** could easily push them up the board this year. With just five games played in two years, however, it was difficult to rank them higher based solely on an assumption of good health.

Brandon Staley is the highest ranked head coach among this year's rookies. With just one year under his belt as a defensive coordinator and only five years removed from coaching at D-III John Carroll University, his career is on a meteoric rise and this ranking could look foolishly low a year from now.

LAC-4

After halftime, Herbert's third down EPA dropped from 0.38/att to -0.13/att, which ranked ninth worst in the NFL. His 36% conversion rate on passes likewise ranked ninth worst.

The Chargers will hope Herbert can excel on third downs in the second half in 2021, but they are unlikely to get the level of clutch play he delivered on third downs in the first half next year. As such, the Chargers will need new offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi to look to bypass more third downs when possible and put more on the plate of Herbert early on in games.

It is understandable that Steichen may have been reluctant to entrust Herbert with too much early on. After all, Herbert surprised everyone inside and outside the NFL with his incredible play last season, particularly when you consider the context. He took backup snaps as a second-string rookie in a pandemic offseason. Set to backup **Tyrod Taylor** against the Chiefs in Week 2, Taylor had his lung punctured by a pain injection minutes before kickoff and Herbert had to be inserted against the defending Super Bowl champions and without any first-team reps the week leading up to the game, and with a game plan designed to Taylor's strengths. Steichen had to figure out Herbert's strengths during the season and tailor a game plan to him.

There were solid things that Steichen did which hopefully Lombardi will build on (and which Steichen will likely take to the Eagles). The Chargers used the 11th most play-action on early downs in the first three quarters and the Chargers offense ranked second in improvement of success rate, fourth in YPA improvement, and ninth in EPA/att improvement. As a percentage of total runs, only 16% of the Chargers' runs went into loaded boxes, which ranked 10th least (a good thing). 49% of the Chargers' runs went into light boxes of six men or fewer, which was the highest rate in the NFL (a good thing).

LAC-5

But if the Chargers passed the ball more on first down, optimized their passing attack, and didn't reduce their second down aDOT to a league-low, they would have been even more efficient and stood a better chance of leading more games at halftime by larger margins.

I highly encourage as many of you reading this as possible to go back and rewatch the Chargers games as I did. Although he lost, Justin Herbert's games against the Bucs and Saints early in the season were absolutely incredible. My biggest takeaway from rewatching the Chargers in 2020 was a sense of joy. A sense of happiness. For Herbert, for the Chargers, for their fans... but also for the NFL. It was as if a star was born that we didn't expect. We expected **Joe Burrow** to take the league by storm. **Tua Tagovailoa** was injured and had lower expectations to start the season. But Justin Herbert was almost an afterthought, especially early in the season. Then here comes this kid, leading the NFL in EPA on third downs, being one of the best quarterbacks under pressure, and being able to take a hit and keep on ticking. It was amazing.

Herbert delivered down the field by producing a ridiculous number on Level 3 throws. Sports Info Solutions studies pass trajectory and classifies throws. Level 3 is a high-arc pass that's usually reserved mainly for deep balls (think "launched"). Of the 32 quarterbacks with at least 30 Level 3 attempts in 2020, Justin Herbert's 0.65 EPA/att ranked second, behind only MVP **Aaron Rodgers**. That is some fine company! It was a substantial upgrade over Philip Rivers, whose EPA/att was only 0.15 in 2019.

I've spoken about "eye-talent" with multiple offensive coordinators before. I'm sure there's a scientific name for the ability to have better motion tracking, coupled with depth perception, coupled with quick brain processing, but to be good on deep balls requires more than just deep accuracy. You could line up 20 college quarterbacks and ask them to throw the ball 30 yards downfield into a net and pick out the 10 who do it most consistently. Those guys are more accurate. But not all of those guys will be able to make those same accurate throws with a moving receiver, moving cornerback, and moving safety rotating over as they slide themselves outside the pocket with pressure around them.

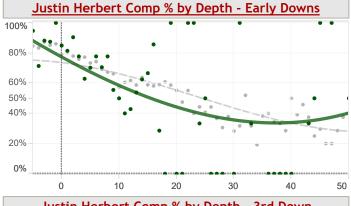
(cont'd - see LAC-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

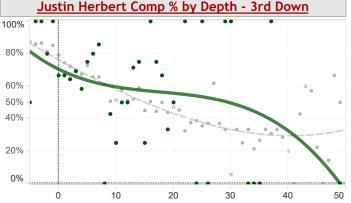


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| P | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | -45 | | | | | |
| | Austin Ekeler | 5% | 9% | 81% | 4% | | | | | | | |
| | Keenan Allen | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| | Joshua Kelley | 5% | 7% | 75% | 11% | 2% | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Kalen Ballage | 10% | 9% | 60% | 14% | 5% | 2% | | | | | |
| 2 | Mike Williams | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| | Justin Jackson | | | 59% | 24% | 17% | | | | | | |
| | Jalen Guyton | | | 100% | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 6% | 7% | 71% | 11% | 4% | 1% | | | | | |
| | Austin Ekeler | 16% | 21% | 61% | 2% | | | | | | | |
| | Keenan Allen | 8% | 10% | 69% | 6% | 6% | 2% | | | | | |
| | Joshua Kelley | 8% | 8% | 79% | 4% | | | | | | | |
| ဟ | Kalen Ballage | 11% | 4% | 52% | 19% | 11% | 4% | | | | | |
| PAS: | Hunter Henry | 4% | 13% | 76% | 5% | 2% | | | | | | |
| | Mike Williams | 11% | 10% | 59% | 14% | 4% | 2% | | | | | |
| | Justin Jackson | | | 88% | 8% | 4% | | | | | | |
| | Jalen Guyton | 16% | 12% | 55% | 8% | 6% | 2% | | | | | |
| | Total | 9% | 11% | 67% | 7% | 4% | 1% | | | | | |

| | 9 | Share (| of Offe | ensive | Plays b | у Тур | 2 | |
|------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Austin Ekeler | Keenan Allen | Joshua Kelley | Kalen Ballage | Hunter Henry | Mike Williams | Justin Jackson | Jalen Guyton |
| RUSH | 31% | 0% | 29% | 23% | | 0% | 16% | 1% |
| PASS | 12% | 29% | 5% | 5% | 17% | 17% | 5% | 10% |
| ALL | 20% | 17% | 15% | 13% | 10% | 10% | 9% | 6% |





Successful Play Rate 2020 Detailed Analytics Summary 100% Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 1-3 [1WR] 0-1 [4WR] 0-0 [5WR] 1-0 [4WR] Type ALL PASS 47%, 0.09 (518) 49%, 0.23 (75) 62%, 0.27 (39) 56%, 0.02 (9) 50%, 0.73 (2) 100%, 2.67 (1) 48%, 0.12 (658) 50%, 0.00 (281) 100%, 0.60 (1) 47%. -0.06 (461) RUSH 54%, -0.12 (65) 39%, -0.15 (62) 33%. -0.10 (36) ΔII 48%, 0.06 (799) 51%, 0.07 (140) 48%, 0.01 (101) 38%, -0.08 (45) 67%, 0.69 (3) 50%, 0.87 (2) 0%, 0.09 (1) 47%, 0.05 (1.119)

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 | Austin | 50% (48) | 40% (5) | 73% (11) | 53% (64) | | | | | | |
| | Ekeler | 6.0, 0.15 | 3.8, -0.07 | 7.7, 0.45 | 6.1, 0.18 | | | | | | |
| | Kalen | 35% (20) | 40% (5) | 50% (2) | 37% (27) | | | | | | |
| | Ballage | 2.9, -0.36 | 6.0, 0.14 | 6.0, 0.31 | 3.7, -0.22 | | | | | | |
| | Justin | 47% (19) | 50% (2) | 50% (2) | 48% (23) | | | | | | |
| | Jackson | 6.5, 0.16 | 5.0, 0.19 | 16.0, 0.86 | 7.2, 0.23 | | | | | | |
| TE | Hunter | 53% (73) | 50% (12) | 0% (1) | 52% (86) | | | | | | |
| | Henry | 6.8, 0.23 | 6.8, 0.21 | 0.0, -1.86 | 6.7, 0.20 | | | | | | |
| WR | Keenan | 54% (133) | 44% (9) | 67% (3) | 54% (145) | | | | | | |
| | Allen | 6.8, 0.15 | 6.0, -0.15 | 5.3, 0.58 | 6.8, 0.14 | | | | | | |
| | Mike | 51% (75) | 100% (2) | 67% (3) | 53% (80) | | | | | | |
| | Williams | 9.5, 0.39 | 9.0, 0.89 | 7.0, 0.12 | 9.4, 0.39 | | | | | | |

| Rushin | Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total | | | | | | | |
| Ekeler | 44% (70) | 52% (23) | 33% (15) | 33% (3) | 44% (111) | | | | | | | |
| Austin | 4.6, 0.01 | 6.0, 0.11 | 2.9, -0.14 | 1.3, -0.39 | 4.5, 0.00 | | | | | | | |
| Kelley | 39% (64) | 73% (15) | 41% (17) | 40% (10) | 44% (106) | | | | | | | |
| Joshua | 3.3, -0.20 | 2.9, -0.27 | 4.9, -0.27 | 1.5, 0.08 | 3.3, -0.19 | | | | | | | |
| Jackson | 49% (39) | 29% (7) | 50% (10) | 0% (1) | 46% (57) | | | | | | | |
| Justin | 5.8, 0.05 | 0.7, -0.38 | 3.2, -0.06 | 3.0, -0.08 | 4.7, -0.02 | | | | | | | |
| Herbert | 57% (30) | 100% (5) | 0% (1) | 21% (14) | 50% (50) | | | | | | | |
| Justin | 6.5, 0.28 | 6.0, 0.28 | 4.0, -0.18 | -0.2, -0.15 | 4.5, 0.15 | | | | | | | |
| Pope | 55% (11) | 0% (2) | 100% (1) | | 50% (14) | | | | | | | |
| Troymaine | 6.2, 0.21 | 1.5, -0.57 | 6.0, 0.03 | | 5.5, 0.09 | | | | | | | |
| Taylor Tyrod | 33% (3) 1.7, -0.88 | | 0% (1) 3.0, -0.21 | | 25% (4) 2.0, -0.71 | | | | | | | |

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

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | sing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | verage heme | R | oute | Level 1 | 55% (459) 6.3, 0.18 | 3 Step | 48% (186) 6.7, 0.20 | Planted | | % (433) 0, 0.26 | Inside Zone | 55% (108) 4.1, -0.03 |
| 7 | 51% (292) | Curl | 68% (100) 7.5, 0.43 | | | 0/1 Step | 47% (155) | Shuffling | | % (114) 6, 0.01 | Outside | 45% (94) |
| Zone | 7.8, 0.23 | Out | 48% (50) 4.5, -0.25 | Level 2 | 46% (101) 10.0, 0.26 | 0/1 Step | 5.3, -0.01 | Moving | | 3% (76) 8, 0.21 | Zone | 3.5, -0.14 |
| M2M | 46% (199) 6.5, 0.17 | | | Level 3 | 32% (41) | 5 Step | 51% (122) 9.7, 0.42 | | Play Action | | | 30% (27) 2.2, -0.30 |
| | 0.0, 0.17 | Slant | 56% (36) 7.2, 0.25 | Level 3 | 14.2, 0.60 | 7 Step | 58% (60) 12.0, 0.46 | | Play Action | No P/A | Power | 37% (27) 2.7, -0.29 |
| Screen | 60% (75) 6.7, 0.19 | Drag | 30% (33) | Shovel | 0% (3) -1.7, -0.71 | Designed | 53% (34) | Under Center | 54% (122) 9.3, 0.21 | 41% (27) 6.8, 0.20 | Otrestala | 33% (21) |
| | 4000/ (4) | | 4.7, -0.11 | | | Rollout Right | 5.8, 0.04 | Shotgun | 57% (51) 7.4, 0.04 | 45% (459) 6.7, 0.10 | Stretch | 3.7, -0.16 |
| Combo | 100% (1) 10.0, 0.58 | Dig | 60% (25) 8.4, 0.31 | Sidearm | 67% (3) 6.7, 0.21 | Basic Screen | 67% (24) 7.9, 0.38 | ALL | 55% (173) 8.8, 0.16 | 45% (486) 6.8, 0.10 | Pitch | 33% (18) 4.9, 0.10 |

LAC-6

There's a lot to process on a deep throw in a short period of time and it relates to how quarterbacks "see" and calculate where the ball needs to be thrown coupled by the ability to make the throw accurately to the spot he thinks it should be.

Herbert might have both abilities. It certainly looked that way in 2020. While I'm incredibly high on Herbert and I thought he was one of the single most refreshing revelations of the COVID 2020 season, I want to see it all again in 2021. Normally, quarterbacks take a jump in Year 2. I've wondered if that jump will be even larger this season, with a more normal offseason, than what we have seen in the past. Herbert has that potential going for him, which is scary, because he was outstanding as a rookie.

My concern is simply grounded in the excellent performance in a few key areas of play that often (not always) show regression. Two that stand out are third down performance and performance under pressure. I mentioned earlier Herbert's performance on those third downs in the first half, where he ranked first in the NFL in both EPA/att and conversion rate. In layman's terms, these things regress because there's not an "added skill" to third down passing that might make some quarterbacks better than others. Mobility helps avoid pressure, but would be beneficial on early downs as well, not just third down. Arm talent to throw deeper helps, but likewise helps on early downs and most often we're talking third-and-10 at worst, so throwing 10 does not take special arm talent.

Great quarterbacks tend to be great on all downs and bad quarterbacks bad on all downs. Some seasons, due to variance, sample sizes, and other factors, a great quarterback might have a subpar year on third downs and a bad quarterback might have a solid year on third downs. Expecting that performance to be identical the following year is unwise. These quarterbacks will regress to their natural talent level in the absence of spectacular coaching or supporting cast changes. It is unlikely Herbert can be as good on third downs in 2021 as he was in 2020. In fact, we saw it when his second-half third down performance wasn't close to his first-half third down performance.

Additionally, there is performance under pressure. Herbert was under pressure on 226 dropbacks but had the third-best EPA/att of 90 quarterbacks with over 30 attempts, which was still just -0.04 EPA per dropback. All quarterbacks struggle more under pressure. This is why throwing on early downs and other times the defense may expect a run is so important. It provides a massive edge. There are degrees of bad when pressured. Some of the best quarterbacks are "not too bad" under pressure. Some are "pretty bad." Others are "really bad." I have no doubt that Herbert's mobility coupled with the courage to stand





strong and still deliver are positives that will continue with him well beyond his rookie year and will help his floor when under pressure. But to expect he'll be the third-best quarterback in Year 2 is unlikely.

He'll probably regress some from being the best third-down quarterback and he regresses some from being the third-best under pressure. How can the Chargers offset that?

They can call more efficient plays on early downs to reduce the number of third downs faced and by having better protection so he's not under pressure as often. The Chargers upgraded massively at center this offseason when they signed **Corey Linsley** to replace **Dan Feeney**, they drafted tackle **Rashawn Slater** in the first round, and they added **Matt Feiler** via free agency as well. The fifth-worst offensive line in pass blocking efficiency should see a nice improvement in 2021.

The Chargers are faced with a simple decision with the run game: improve it or run less. The Chargers run game from anything but 11 personnel was tragic, and it was not great from 11 personnel. **Austin Ekeler** wasn't good and **Joshua Kelley** was worse. First down running back runs in the first three quarters averaged 3.6 YPC, 38% success, and -0.14 EPA/att. Running back runs from non-11 personnel gained 3.1 YPC, 41% success and -0.18 EPA/att on over 150 carries. These ranked 32nd in YPC, 30th in success rate, and 30th in EPA/att.

The Chargers need to enjoy their time with a quarterback on a rookie deal and capitalize on it. The Chargers have the seventh-lowest cap hit for a starting quarterback this year. In 2019, Rivers's last season, they were seventh-highest. For the prior half decade, they varied between top-5 (2013, 2015) and above average (2014, 2016-2018). Being able to build a team without having to pay top money to the quarterback position is extremely valuable. This window will close soon, but the Chargers are lucky to have several more years of quarterback savings compared to quarterback performance. They must act aggressively and immediately to make every +EV decision possible from roster and coaching perspectives to maximize their window.

Overall this year, the Chargers face the 11th easiest schedule based on win totals. From Week 9 onward, they play the easiest schedule in the NFL. From a rest perspective, they play the 14th best schedule in net rest edge and are one of the only teams that does not have to play any short week road games or games off a road Sunday or Monday night game. Their three primetime games are all home games.

Last year before the season I predicted the Chargers would face the ninth toughest schedule of defenses and they did just that. This year, I predict they will face the fifth-easiest schedule of defenses. What is truly scary is the Chargers were absolutely terrible running the football despite playing the easiest schedule of run defenses. This year, I similarly project they will face the easiest schedule of run defenses, but, to take advantage, this team absolutely must improve their run offense.

Immediate Impact of Los Angeles Chargers 2021 Draft Class

Prior to the draft, Chargers GM Tom Telesco stated he was "bullish" on Trey Pipkins, but it now appears that may have simply been an effort to project confidence in case the draft didn't fall their way.

Head coach Brandon Staley has already stated a desire to keep Rashawn Slater (first round) on the left side, where he started in 2019 at Northwestern.

Justin Herbert was pressured on 35.6% of his dropbacks when the defense brought four or fewer pass-rushers, the fourth highest rate in the league. So improved stability at left tackle should allow Herbert to remain more comfortable in the pocket this fall.

Asante Samuel Jr. (second round) was also a strong selection, but is probably best suited to play in the slot, where **Chris Harris Jr.** currently resides. It was a smart pick, but less likely to provide instant production.

Josh Palmer (third round) should also see some playing time as a deep threat for Herbert. 38% of his targets came at least 15 yards downfield in 2020 at Tennessee, so this is a role that will be comfortable for him.

Chris Rumph II (fourth round) will likely get on the field as a situational pass-rusher, after leading the ACC in pressure rate a season ago.

Los Angeles did a fantastic job blending value and need in these selections. This was easily among the top-10 classes of 2021.

Los Angeles Chargers 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Chargers ended 2020 eighth in passing EPA. Right after losing a franchise quarterback in Philip Rivers last offseason, the Chargers did not waste any time finding their next long-term passer as Justin Herbert crushed his immediate expectations. After being pressed into the starting role by accident in Week 2, Herbert set a rookie record with 31 passing touchdowns, completing 66.6% of his passes with 10.9 yards per completion. He did this while saddled with a coaching staff that limited aggression through the air until pressed. The Chargers ranked 23rd in passing rate on first down play calls (47%) while Herbert led the NFL with 253 pass attempts on second-fourth down with seven or more yards to go, which was 42.5% of his passes (second-highest rate in the league). Revamping the coaching staff with Joe Lombardi as offensive coordinator and Shane Day as passing coordinator, Herbert is being placed in better hands than he was in Year 1.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Justin Herbert | 396 | 595 | 67% | 4,336 | 7.3 | 31 | 10 | 32 | 98 | 15 | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ Air 20+ Yd 30+ Yd 20+ Air Success **Passing** QΒ **Pass Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp % Justin Herbert 48% 51 9.0% 15 3.0% 23 4% 50% 5.1 5.8 47% 50% 33.3 8.6% 12.0 3.0% 5.9 5.2 4% 14.9 NFL Avg

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Justin Herbert Rating**

Early Downs

| 132 61 118 | |
|------------|--|
| 97 | |
| | |

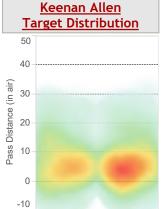
| <u>In</u> | Interception Rates by Down | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4th Dwn | Total | | | | | | |
| 1 & 2 | 0.0% | 16.7% | 4.0% | 0.0% | 5.3% | | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4.3% | 0.0% | 2.5% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 1.0% | 2.5% | 50.0% | 2.1% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 0.5% | 0.0% | 4.3% | 0.0% | 0.9% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.5% | 0.9% | 3.5% | 10.0% | 1.6% | | | | | | |

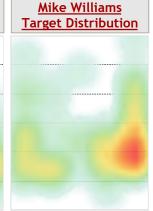
| 3rd Down | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------|----------|----|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
| Justin Herbert | 8.8 | 4.9 | -3.9 | 75% | 35 | 47% | 53% | 37 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | 52% | 48% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Keenan Allen has secured 100, 104, 97, and 102 receptions over his past four seasons. Allen scored eight touchdowns (his most since his rookie season) while averaging 12.2 targets per game in his 11 full games played with Herbert. **Mike Williams** has yet to clear 90 targets in an NFL season, but has been limited by Allen being such a target magnet. Both **Jalen Guyton** (18.3 yards per catch) and Tyron Johnson (19.9 yards per catch) flashed upside last season when called upon, while the team selected Josh Palmer in the third round this spring. After losing Hunter Henry early in free agency, the Chargers added Jared Cook to the fold to work with Donald Parham

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwo | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|-------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Keenan Allen | 144 | 69% | 6.8 | 91.6 | 53% | 66 | 43 | 112 | 11 | 8 |
| Hunter Henry | 85 | 65% | 6.4 | 89.7 | 51% | 92 | 55 | 111 | 47 | 3 |
| Mike Williams | 83 | 55% | 8.8 | 95.2 | 51% | 91 | 104 | 27 | 96 | 5 |
| Austin Ekeler | 61 | 82% | 6.3 | 103.8 | 54% | 62 | 41 | 126 | 17 | 2 |





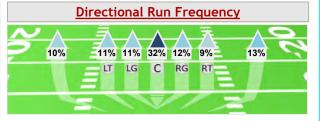
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

No team used their backfield more in 2020 than the Chargers (see above) as their backs combined to average 33.3 touches per game, the most in the league despite ranking 23rd in yards per touch (4.7 yards) as a group. After signing Austin Ekeler to an offseason contract extension through 2023, Ekeler missed six games due to a hamstring injury, but when on the field he averaged a career-high 17.0 touches per game for 93.3 yards per game. **Joshua Kelley** handled 134 touches in his first season, but averaged just 3.7 yards per touch and played 19 snaps or fewer in his final six games active on the season. The team still has Justin Jackson in the mix, but has been active for just 29 games over his first three years in the league. They also added another big body in Larry Rountree in the sixth round.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Austin Ekeler | 116 | 4.6 | 43% | 87 | 48 | 87 | 51 | 44% | 78 | 1 |
| Joshua Kelley | 111 | 3.2 | 41% | 90 | 63 | 54 | 76 | 39% | 90 | 2 |
| Kalen Ballage | 91 | 3.3 | 57% | 13 | 12 | 12 | 62 | 55% | 20 | 3 |
| Justin Jackson | 59 | 4.6 | 46% | 76 | 79 | 75 | 19 | 44% | 78 | 0 |
| Justin Herbert | 55 | 4.3 | 49% | 61 | 80 | 30 | 56 | 49% | 54 | 5 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





Right after losing a franchise quarterback in **Philip Rivers** last offseason, the Chargers did not waste any time finding their next long-term passer as **Justin Herbert** crushed his immediate expectations. After being pressed into the starting role by accident in Week 2, Herbert then set a rookie record with 31 passing touchdowns, completing 66.6% of his passes with 10.9 yards per completion.

Herbert did all that while being placed in an unfriendly passing climate and a miserable offensive line. First, the coaching situation. Last year's staff had him throw just 35.1% of his passes on first down (which was 39th in the league) while Herbert led the NFL with 253 pass attempts on second-fourth down with seven or more yards to go, which was 42.5% of his passes (second-highest in the league behind Jimmy Garoppolo). What was impressive is that he was able to do that behind the offensive line the Chargers put on the field last season. Herbert was pressured on 36.6% of his dropbacks (12th highest) and hit on 10.7% of his dropbacks (eighth highest). The Chargers finished 2020 31st in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (47%). Despite that, Herbert averaged 7.6 yards per pass attempt under pressure as a rookie, which was the NFL's fourth-highest rate.

The Chargers had just three offensive lineman (Forrest Lamp, Dan Feeney, and Sam Tevi) play more than 10 games last season as those three players were the only offensive lineman to play more than 50% of the team snaps. All three were subpar options at their position and are no longer with the team. After already adding Corey Linsley and Matt Feiler via free agency, the Chargers landed offensive tackle Rashawn Slater with the No. 13 overall selection, completely re-tooling this offensive front to go with the coaching changes.

Austin Ekeler is Just Goal Line Carries Away From Being a Top-5 Running Back

Expected regression in efficiency and scoring found Ekeler in 2020 while he also missed six games due to a hamstring injury, but when on the field he averaged a career-high 17.0 touches per game for 93.3 yards per game. He averaged a career-high 12.7 rushing attempts per game when fully active (his attempts have risen each season in the NFL) while he also averaged 7.1 targets per game in those nine full games, which would have matched Alvin Kamara for the league-lead over the full season.

Now, Ekeler gets to play in an offensive scheme under Joe Lombardi that has printed running back points for fantasy football. There have been 10 different top-12 seasons in points per game from backs on teams Lombardi has been a part of in New Orleans and Detroit. That said, Ekeler only managed three RB1 scoring weeks last season despite the largest workload of his career. The only bugaboo for Ekeler preventing him from joining the top of the dual-usage backs is that he has consistently been removed from the goal line. Last season, Ekeler only had two total carries inside of the 5-yard line, giving away those carries to the likes of **Kalen Ballage** and **Joshua Kelley**. For his career, the 200-pound back has just 15 total carries in that area of the field, converting just four for scores. While in Detroit, Lombardi favored removing similar backs of Ekeler's archetype in that area of the field in Reggie Bush and Ameer Abdullah, but those teams had a productive banger in Joique Bell to call on. The big backs on this Charger roster are only Kelley and rookie **Larry Rountree**. It takes a step of faith in believing Ekeler can get those touches, but if he does then the runway for a top-five season and potentially even the RB1 overall are attainable.

| Los A | ngeles Charge | ers Defense: Nu | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map | | | | |
|----------------|--|---|--------------------------------|---|---------|--------------------------|----|------|--|-----|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | % Rk | | 50 | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 1 plays (0%) Success: 0% | 325 plays (77%) Success: 45% | 97 plays (23%) Success: 36% | 423 plays (100%) Success: 43% | | | | | | 40- |
| | EPA: -0.75 | EPA: 0.01 | EPA: 0.06 | EPA: 0.02 | Base | 21% | 18 | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 17 plays <i>(32%)</i> Success: 53% | 34 plays <i>(64%)</i> Success: 65% | 2 plays (4%) Success: 0% | 53 plays (100%) Success: 58% | Nickel | 65% | 9 | 30 - | | |
| | EPA: 0.22 EPA: 0.57 EPA: -0.63 | EPA: 0.42 | Dime+ | 13% | 15 | | | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 19 plays (90%) Success: 42% EPA: -0.11 | 2 plays <i>(10%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.56 | | 21 plays (100%) Success: 38% EPA: -0.15 | Rush 3 | 4% | 23 | 20 - | | |
| | | | | | Rush 4 | 82% | 2 | 10 - | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 15 plays (94%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.07 | 1 plays <i>(6%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.46 | | 16 plays (100%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.09 | Rush 5 | 11% | 30 | 10- | | |
| | 52 plays (10%) | 362 plays (71%) | 99 plays (19%) | 513 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 3% | 24 | 0 – | | |
| Grand Total | Success: 46% EPA: 0.00 | Success: 46% EPA: 0.06 | Success: 35% EPA: 0.04 | Success: 44% EPA: 0.05 | Blitz% | 14% | 32 | -10 | | |

Defensive Outlook

The Chargers brought **Linval Joseph** in on a two-year deal last offseason and the veteran defensive tackle was an effective run stopper in the middle of the line for 70% of the defensive snaps. He was often lined up next to **Jerry Tillery**, who has yet to live up to his draft status of a first-round pick, but did rank 23rd among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season. Brandon Staley's use of Tite and other three-man fronts could help both of them in 2021. 2018 second-round pick **Justin Jones** was also on the field for 51% of the defensive snaps in 2020. Jones had five tackles for loss in 2020 as a good run stopper.

When **Joey Bosa** is on the field, he's easily one of the best pass rushers in the NFL. The problem has been keeping him on the field. Bosa has played 16 games just twice in his five-year career and played in 12 games last season. But to the on-field point, he was sixth in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and 17th in pressure rate among edge rushers, per SIS. With **Melvin Ingram** still a free agent, the No. 2 pass rusher is currently 2018 second-round pick **Uchenna Nwosu**. Nwosu has flashed when he's been on the field, but his career-high in snaps played is 37%. He played 34% last season. In that limited time, he ranked 16th in pressure rate among edge rushers.

The Chargers used a first-round pick on **Kenneth Murray** last season and there were some predictable ups and downs with the rookie in the middle of the defense. 52.8% of Murray's tackles came before a first down was gained, 12th among linebackers, but his 3.7% tackle for loss rate was 54th among the group. Murray also ranked 56th of 59 linebackers by vards allowed per target in coverage. **Kyzir White** and **Drue Tranquill** provide the depth behind him.

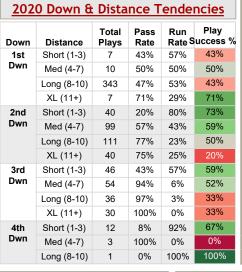
The Chargers have reworked some of the cornerback group over the past few seasons. **Casey Hayward** is gone, but the Chargers drafted **Asante Samuel** in the second round. Samuel was one of the best zone corners in college football and could thrive in Staley's coverage schemes.

The big veteran addition last season was **Chris Harris Jr.** Harris stuck to the slot and ranked 66th among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. **Michel Davis** played 92.4% of the defensive snaps and ranked 79th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. **Tevaughn Campbell** (36th in AYA/CS) flashed in limited playing time as the 28-year-old former CFL player made his NFL debut.

At safety, **Derwin James** is a star who hasn't been able to stay healthy. James was an All-Pro as a rookie but lasted just five games in 2019 and missed all of 2020. James could thrive in a Brandon Staley defense and could specifically play a star position similar to how **Jalen Ramsey** was used early in the 2020 season as a middle-of-the-field and slot defender.

There are depth questions behind him. **Nasir Adderly** played the single-high deep safety in 2020. But given how Staley favored an excelled in two-high looks, the Chargers will need development from either 2020 sixth-round pick **Alohi Gilman** or 2021 seventh-round pick **Mark Webb**.

2020 Play Tendencies 59% All Pass % All Pass Rk 13 All Rush % 41% All Rush Rk 20 1 Score Pass % 58% 13 1 Score Pass Rk 2019 1 Score Pass % 65% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 2 2020 Pass Increase % -7% 29 Pass Increase Rk 1 Score Rush % 42% 1 Score Rush Rk 20 Up Pass % 56% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 44% Up Rush Rk 17 Down Pass % 61% Down Pass Rk 17 39% Down Rush % Down Rush Rk 16





Los Angeles Chargers 2020 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | | |
| 83% | 4 | 67% | 72% | 75% | | | | | |
| | 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | |

33%

17%

59%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Kalen Ballage | 3 | 33% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Mike Williams | 2 | 50% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Austin Ekeler | 52 | 31% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Keenan Allen | 2 | 50% | | | | | |
| | | RUSH | Austin Ekeler | 2 | 100% | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Austin Ekeler | 9 | 100% | | | | | |
| Dwn | | | Joshua Kelley | 9 | 78% | | | | | |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | Keenan Allen | 19 | 63% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Keenan Allen | 16 | 50% | | | | | |
| | | | Hunter Henry | 16 | 56% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Keenan Allen | 10 | 20% | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Kalen Ballage | 9 | 56% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Keenan Allen | 15 | 67% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Keenan Allen | 7 | 71% | | | | | |
| | | | Mike Williams | 7 | 43% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Jalen Guyton | 7 | 29% | | | | | |

| The state of the s | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | | | |
| No | Success: 45% | Success: 58% | Success: 48% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.11 | YPA: 10.0, EPA: 0.26 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.14 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 90.2 | Rtg: 114.3 | Rtg: 95.2 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 316 - Rate: 48.0%] | [Att: 83 - Rate: 12.6%] | [Att: 399 - Rate: 60.5%] | | | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 44% | Success: 52% | Success: 47% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.09 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.06 | YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.08 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 97.0 | Rtg: 107.4 | Rtg: 100.6 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 170 - Rate: 25.8%] | [Att: 90 - Rate: 13.7%] | [Att: 260 - Rate: 39.5%] | | | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 45% | Success: 55% | Success: 47% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.10 | YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.16 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.12 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 92.6 | Rtg: 110.7 | Rtg: 97.3 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 486 - Rate: 73.7%] | [Att: 173 - Rate: 26.3%] | [Att: 659 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | | | |

17%

29

| | | | | <u>2</u> | 020 We | ekly Sna | ap Rates | | | | |
|----|-------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Jalen Guyton | Hunter Henry | Keenan Allen | Mike Williams | Austin Ekeler | Kalen Ballage | Justin Jackson | Virgil Green | Stephen Anderson |
| 1 | CIN | W 16-13 | 47 (64%) | 59 (80%) | 70 (95%) | 58 (78%) | 50 (68%) | | 11 (15%) | 24 (32%) | 11 (15%) |
| 2 | KC | L 23-20 | 44 (53%) | 71 (86%) | 81 (98%) | 74 (89%) | 47 (57%) | | | 35 (42%) | 4 (5%) |
| 3 | CAR | L 21-16 | 63 (81%) | 69 (88%) | 75 (96%) | 40 (51%) | 56 (72%) | | | 12 (15%) | 5 (6%) |
| 4 | TB | L 38-31 | 45 (85%) | 45 (85%) | 50 (94%) | | 3 (6%) | | 21 (40%) | 25 (47%) | 3 (6%) |
| 5 | NO | L 30-27 | 65 (92%) | 67 (94%) | 12 (17%) | 55 (77%) | | | 42 (59%) | 25 (35%) | |
| 7 | JAC | W 39-29 | 54 (67%) | 62 (77%) | 69 (85%) | 61 (75%) | | | 31 (38%) | 20 (25%) | 8 (10%) |
| 8 | DEN | L 31-30 | 76 (87%) | 84 (97%) | 85 (98%) | 76 (87%) | | | 41 (47%) | | 1 (1%) |
| 9 | LV | L 31-26 | 69 (87%) | 78 (99%) | 78 (99%) | 73 (92%) | | 31 (39%) | 3 (4%) | | 3 (4%) |
| 10 | MIA | L 29-21 | 44 (70%) | 59 (94%) | 55 (87%) | 48 (76%) | | 46 (73%) | | | 1 (2%) |
| 11 | NYJ | W 34-28 | 69 (84%) | 75 (91%) | 78 (95%) | 68 (83%) | | 55 (67%) | | | 6 (7%) |
| 12 | BUF | L 27-17 | 63 (76%) | 78 (94%) | 78 (94%) | 67 (81%) | 60 (72%) | | | | 6 (7%) |
| 13 | NE | L 45-0 | 64 (89%) | 41 (57%) | 62 (86%) | 59 (82%) | 43 (60%) | 27 (38%) | | | 15 (21%) |
| 14 | ATL | W 20-17 | 61 (84%) | 66 (90%) | 57 (78%) | 2 (3%) | 44 (60%) | 23 (32%) | 11 (15%) | | 3 (4%) |
| 15 | LV | W 30-27 | 53 (80%) | 59 (89%) | 24 (36%) | 28 (42%) | 41 (62%) | 21 (32%) | | | 4 (6%) |
| 16 | DEN | W 19-16 | 52 (91%) | | | 48 (84%) | 37 (65%) | 16 (28%) | 8 (14%) | | 25 (44%) |
| 17 | KC | W 38-21 | 50 (70%) | | | 42 (59%) | 30 (42%) | 25 (35%) | 22 (31%) | | 43 (61%) |
| | Grand | Total | 919 (79%) | 913 (87%) | 874 (83%) | 799 (71%) | 411 (56%) | 244 (43%) | 190 (29%) | 141 (33%) | 138 (13%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Re | ed Zone | Targets | Leader | board | | Red | Zone Ru | ishes Le | aderbo | ard |

| <u>Perso</u> | met c | Ji Oup | 5- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. | | | | | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 71% | 60% | 48% | | | | | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 12% | 20% | 51% | | | | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 9% | 7% | 48% | | | | | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 38% | | | | | | |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 2% | 4% | 26% | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Grouping Tendencies | | | | | | | | | |
| Group | | enden Pass | cies Run | | | | | | |
| <u>Group</u> Personnel | Pass Rate | | | | | | | | |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. | | | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | | | | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | | | | | | |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 65% 54% | Pass Succ. % 47% 49% | Run Succ. % 50% 54% | | | | | | |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | | |
| Keenan Allen | 16 | 1 | 4 | 11 | | | | | |
| Hunter Henry | 12 | 5 | 2 | 5 | | | | | |
| Mike Williams | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | | | | | |
| Austin Ekeler | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| Donald Parham | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| Jalen Guyton | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | | | | |
| Gabe Nabers | 3 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | |
| Joshua Kelley | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| K.J. Hill | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | |
| Justin Jackson | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Tyron Johnson | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | |

| Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Rusher | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| Kalen Ballage | 23 | 8 | 5 | 10 | | | | |
| Joshua Kelley | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | | | | |
| Justin Herbert | 20 | 8 | 6 | 6 | | | | |
| Austin Ekeler | 18 | 2 | 8 | 8 | | | | |
| Justin Jackson | 5 | | | 5 | | | | |
| Joe Reed | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| Troymaine Pope | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | | | |
| 30% | 20% | 50% | | | | | |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% | | | | | |
| Overall Target Success % | | | | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % | | | | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | VR | | | | | |

03. Wins

16%

46%

3.0 25%

45%

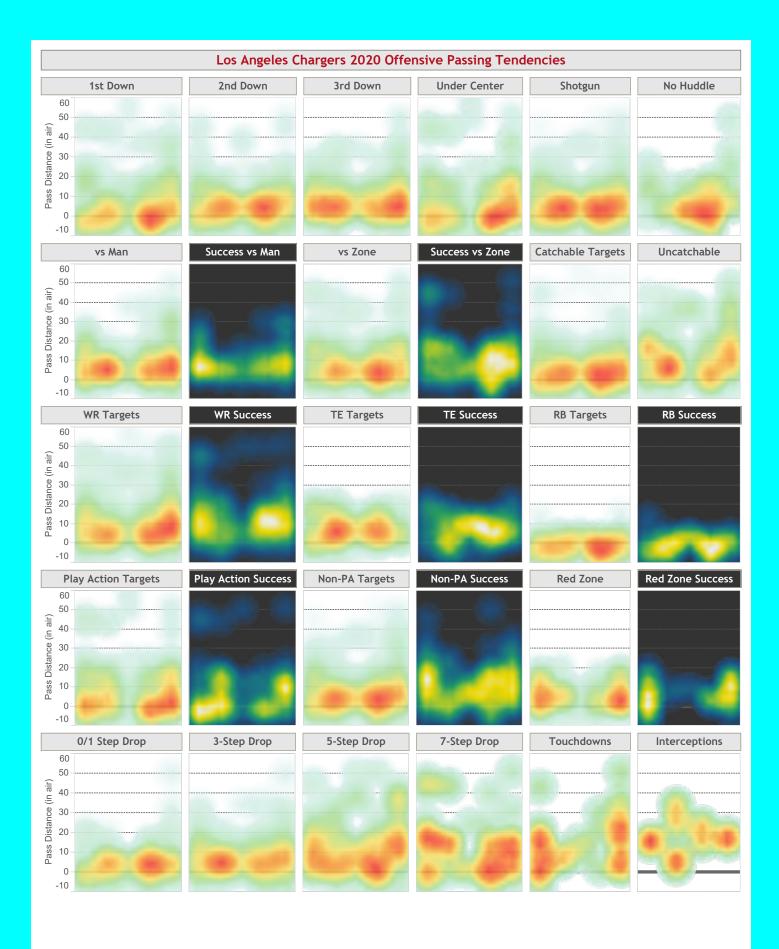
3.4

52%

49%

| Fumble Luck | (Fumble Re | covery Over Ex | pectation) | Field Goal Luck | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|------------|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net FROE Rk | 10 | defFUM | 14 | Net Over Expectation | -4.49 | Opp Att | 32 |
| Net FROE | 1.5 | | | Net Over Expectation Rank | 30 | Opp Makes | 28 |
| offFUM | 16 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 | Own Att Own Makes | 33 24 | Opp FG % | 88% |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 10 | defFR Rk | 18 | Own FG % | 73% | Opp Expected Makes | 26.48 |
| offFR% | 62.5% | defFR% | 42.9% | Own Expected Makes | 26.97 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.52 |
| offFR Rk | 10 | | 0.0 | Own Make over Expectation | -2.97 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 10 |
| offFROE | 1.3 | defFROE | 0.2 | Own Make over Expectation Rk 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 31 -2.13 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -4.10 |
| offFROE Rk | 11 | defFROE Rk | 13 | 2019 Own Rk | 23 | 2019 Opp Rk | 31 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Player Track | king Data Sta | ts - QBs | QB | Pressure | | Offensive Metrics | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pressure | | Offensive Metrics | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------|--|
| | Justin Herbert | | Justin Herbert | EPA/Pass | 0.13 | |
| CAY | 5.2 | Pressure % | 36.6 | EPA/Pass Rk | 7 | |
| CAY Rk | 30 | Pressure Rk | 11 | EPA/Rush | -0.09 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | | Sack % | 4.9 | EPA/Rush Rk | 23 | |
| AYTS Rk | 28 | Sack Rk | 23 | On-Target Catch % | 91.3% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 12 | Pressure Accuracy % | 71.4 | On-Target Catch Rk | 12 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 12 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 5 | Drop% | 5.9% | |
| COMP% | 66.6 | Rating when Pressured | 99.4 | | | |
| xCOMP% | 65.1 | Pressured Rating Rk | 1 | Drop Rk | 11 | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 19 | Clean Accuracy % | 77.7 | YAC/Att | 2.1 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | | Clean Accuracy Rk | 25 | YAC/Att Rk | 22 | |
| CPOE% | 1.5 | Rating when Clean | 97.7 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.9% | |
| CPOE Rk 2019 CPOE Rk | 15 | Clean Rating Rk | 25 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 15 | |
| | (TO A: V. I I II O' I ATT | Time to Throw | 2.69 | Rush 1st Down % | 23.9% | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw Rk | 22 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 21 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs) 2021 Forecast **Los Angeles Rams Head Coach**: Wins Div Rank Sean McVay (4 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: 10.5 #2 Kevin O'Connell (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator: Past Records** Raheem Morris (ATL DC) (new) 2020: 10-6 Easy Hard 2019: 9-7 2018: 13-3 SEA SEA GB BAL SF SF TEN MIN ARI NYG JAX DFT 5 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 18 SNF TNF SNF MNF MNF Rest Edge: +3 -1

| <u>Key Players Lost</u> | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Player | New | | | | |
| Austin Blythe (C) | Chiefs | | | | |
| Derek Rivers (EDGE) | Texans | | | | |
| Gerald Everett (TE) | Seahawks | | | | |
| Jake McQuaide (LS) | Cowboys | | | | |
| Jared Goff (QB) | Lions | | | | |
| John Johnson (S) | Browns | | | | |
| Josh Reynolds (WR) | Titans | | | | |
| Malcolm Brown (RB) | Dolphins | | | | |
| Michael Brockers (IDL) | Lions | | | | |
| Morgan Fox (IDL) | Panthers | | | | |
| Samson Ebukam (EDGE) | 49ers | | | | |
| Troy Hill (CB) | Browns | | | | |
| Blake Bortles (QB) | TBD | | | | |

2021 Los Angeles Rams Overview

I totally commiserate with Sean McVay and his desire to jettison **Jared Goff** to bring in a potential franchise quarterback. McVay couldn't get enough out of Goff, and every year, it progressively declined.

We know how valuable early leads can be and how good McVay has been at dialing up early offense.

Examine early down passing efficiency in the game's first half since 2018, when the Rams went to the Super Bowl:

2018: 0.22 EPA/att (third), 8.6 YPA (8.8 aDOT) 2019: 0.19 EPA/att (fourth), 7.6 YPA (7.1 aDOT) 2020: -0.10 EPA/att (29th), 6.9 YPA (5.5 aDOT)

This translated onto the scoreboard, as most passing metrics do. Average halftime lead by season:

2018: up by 5.2 points 2019: up by 1.1 points 2020: down by 0.4 points

Average Line # Games Underdog

-3.2 13 3

The Rams also scored less in the second half last year than in either of the two prior years.

So then, how did they win 10 games last year? The defense was phenomenal, they played very weak offenses, and they held these opposing teams (cont'd - see <u>LA2</u>)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj Forecast 2021 Wins 10.5 2020 Wins 10 Forecast 2020 Wins 8.5 2019 Wins 9 2018 Wins 11 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|---------------------|----------|
| Matt Stafford (QB) | Trade |
| DeSean Jackson (WR) | \$4.5 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) | | | | |
|----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | 57 | WR - Tutu Atwell (Louisville) | | | | |
| 3 | 103 | LB - Ernest Jones (South Carolina) | | | | |
| | 117 | DT - Bobby Brown III (Texas A&M) | | | | |
| 4 | 130 | CB - Robert Rochell (Central Arkansas) | | | | |
| | 141 | WR - Jacob Harris (UCF) | | | | |
| 5 | 174 | DE - Earnest Brown IV (Northwestern) | | | | |
| | 233 | RB - Jake Funk (Maryland) | | | | |
| 7 | 249 | WR - Ben Skowronek (Notre Dame) | | | | |
| | 252 | LB - Chris Garrett (Concordia–St. Paul) | | | | |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 28 | \$84.05M | 19 |
| QB | 11 | \$22.30M | 5 |
| OL | 29 | \$24.96M | 29 |
| RB | 32 | \$4.80M | 27 |
| WR | 18 | \$21.87M | 22 |
| TE | 15 | \$10.12M | 5 |
| All DEF | 29 | \$73.58M | 26 |
| DL | 22 | \$39.06M | 10 |
| LB | 30 | \$6.72M | 31 |
| СВ | 14 | \$19.48M | 20 |
| S | 28 | \$8.32M | 28 |
| | | | |

LA-2

to an average of only 6.7 second half points.

In the last seven years, only two other defenses out of 224 total held opponents to 6.7 second half points or lower, it's that rare and that great.

One specific phase of the passing game that regressed was Goff's performance with play-action. He was bad without play-action for a few seasons, but using play-action stopped having the +EV that it once delivered. By design, McVay's offense has one of the highest play-action rates in the NFL, so when it's not producing benefits, that takes away a huge edge the team is accustomed to getting. Examine Goff's performance with play-action the last three years:

2018: 0.32 EPA/att, 9.6 YPA (11.0 aDOT) 2019: 0.13 EPA/att, 7.9 YPA (7.9 aDOT) 2020: 0.05 EPA/att, 7.8 YPA (6.1 aDOT)

Keep in mind, the NFL average is 0.11 EPA/att and 8.3 YPA. Goff regressed tremendously.

Last year, 55% of Goff's passing yardage came after the catch and only 45% came from air yards. That ranked 40th in the NFL. This was substantially worse than 2019 (52% was from air yards) even though Goff still ranked one of the worst (26th) in air yards as a percentage of total yards.

Another phase that regressed was Goff's ability to throw outside the numbers with accuracy. Look at the splits by year on passes outside the numbers that traveled 14 or more yards past the line of scrimmage:

2018: 0.29 EPA/att, 11.5 YPA, 43% success, 59% on-target rate 2019: 0.18 EPA/att, 9.9 YPA, 41% success, 52% on-target rate 2020: -0.15 EPA/att, 8.4 YPA, 33% success, 43% on-target rate

His average aDOT was consistent across the three years when we isolate for just these mid-range to deeper throws.

Additionally, all Level 3 throws fell off as well, those that Sports Info Solutions deep have launched trajectory and are high-arc passes usually reserved for deep balls.

| | 2020 Passing Performance | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | |
| Jared Goff | 59% 7.3 90.8 | 49% 6.6 96.5 | 44% 7.8 90.1 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 48% | 57% | 71% | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | | | | | | |

| | 2020 Rushi | ng Performa | nce | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| LA | 53% 4.9 | 51% 3.6 | 39% 3.8 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 52% | 43% | 29% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

Compare Goff to the NFL average in just 2020:

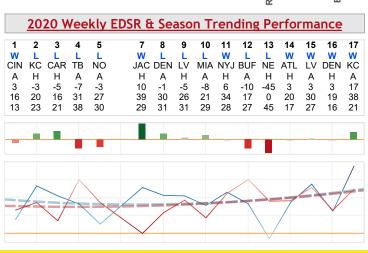
Goff: -0.25 EPA/att, 6.6 YPA, 26% on-target rate Avg: 0.24 EPA/att, 12.3 YPA, 46% on-target rate

Goff's aDOT was consistent with the NFL average, he just was considerably worse when attempting these passes.

We already discussed how this translated to a worse halftime scoreboard margin. But it also translated into fewer points scored than projected.

Way fewer.

| | | | | | | | | | (co |
|--|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|----------|
| 2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics | <u>20</u> | 020 | Defe | <u>ensi</u> v | ve A | dva | nced | l Meti | rics |
| 1 10 8 2 2 1 5 | Q | | | 4 | _ | | 192 | | 4 |
| 10 12 5 2 | 2 2 | Q. | 4 | 1 | | 44 | 3 | | |
| 18 18 18 18 | | 6 | Ċ | | 5 | 5 | | 5 | 7 |
| € 23 | | | | | | | | 1 | 14 |
| 20 22 25 29 25 25 29 25 25 25 29 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 - 30 - | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | | | | | |
| R Off n Off n Off A Off A Off S S Pro S S Pro S S Pro Off S S Off S S Off C S S Off D S S S Off C S S Off | Def Def | Def | Def | Def | Def | ive Cy | ass | Pro | Defush |
| EDSR Off 30 & In Off d Zone Off YPPA Off YPPA Off YPPA Off Pass Ciency Off Pass Eff Of Rush Ciency Off Explosive Explosive Pass Off Explosive Fass Off Cosive Run | EDSR 0 & In | Red Zone Def | 3rd Down Dei | YPPA | YPPT | Defensive Efficiency | P. P. | ass l | 3 🗠 |
| EDSR 30 & In Red Zone 3rd Down YPPT Offens Efficiency B Pass Eff Efficiency Efficiency Explosive R Explosive F | 30 8 | d Zc | S P | Ϋ́ | ¥ | De | ≡fficienc | Pa Efficiein RB Pa | - |
| Red 3 3rd Efflic Efflic Efflic Explo | | Re | 3rc | | | | Eff | Effi | - |



WFFK **RESULT** OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

2020 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 10 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-3** FG Games Win %: **40%** (#20) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 20% (#17)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 4-4 Score Games Win %: 50% (#13) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 40% (#27)

RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def 2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** -3 **TO Margin** TO Given 25 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 11 TO Taken 22 **INT Taken** 14 8 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +28 53 Sacks Sacks Allow 25 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs Ret TDs Allow** 4 **Penalty Margin** +7 71 Penalties **Opponent Penalties** 78

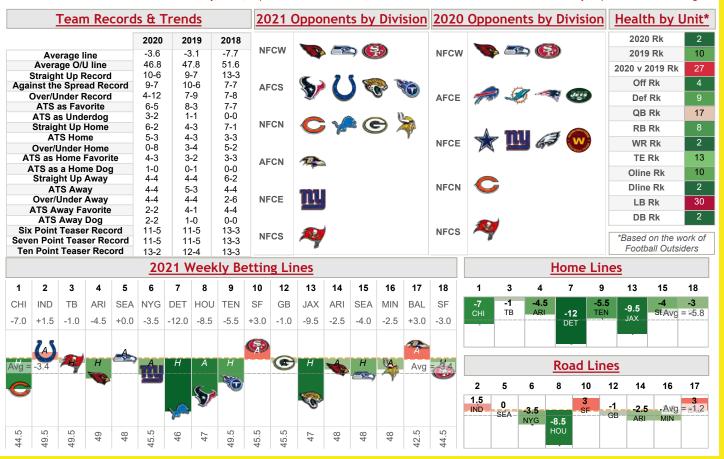
(cont'd - see LA-3)

Explosive Pass Def Explosive



| 2021 vs 2020 Schedule Variances* | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----|----|---|---|-------------|-------------------|--|
| Pass DEF Rk | ass 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 | 27 | 22 | 28 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 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







When the linemakers set lines on a game, they set a spread and a total — which team should win, by how many points, and how many total points will be scored. They then do the math to calculate team totals, the total points each team is projected to score. Linemakers generally do some "work" on these to get them just above or below key point totals and adjust the juice accordingly. If we forget the "work" and just look at the gameday spread and total, we can calculate unadulterated team totals.

Last year, on average, teams exceeded their projected point total in 8.3 games, as scoring was up. Only three teams exceeded their projected point total in no more than five of 16 games: the Eagles, the Texans, and the Rams.

The Rams offense underwhelmed last year, scoring less than their projected point total in 11 of 16 games, tied for worst in the NFL.

Over the last two years, the Rams scored fewer than their projected point totals in 19 of their 32 regular season games, fourth worst in the NFL.

McVay clearly believed there wasn't much more he could do with Goff at quarterback. He couldn't build off the run game with play-action nor could he threaten defenses deep. These are two fundamental things for the Rams (and really any) offense. That, coupled with inefficient early down passing, caused problems for the Rams and McVay wanted something with much more upside.

Enter Matthew Stafford, a tough, deep passing quarterback who never truly had a strong support system in Detroit. He'll get that, and more, in Los Angeles.

Stafford has been a pro for 12 years, and the Lions were led by a defensive minded head coach for eight of them. While QB Winz are not stats to judge performance, one of the biggest swipes at Stafford is "he's not a winner" and "look at the Lions' records with Stafford." So, it is interesting to note Stafford led the Lions to a 36-28 record (56%) with his offensive minded head coach in that four-year span. With the defensive minded head coaches, the Lions went 38-62-1 (38%).

I went on at length about how Jim Caldwell shouldn't have been fired and how the Lions, with him at the helm, were their best version in decades. So I won't go on about that here. But the bottom line is, with a talented offense and an offensive playcaller, Stafford led these Lions to their best run in years. In Los Angeles, he's got an even better offensive playcaller running the show.

In trying to forecast what the 2021 Rams offense will look like, I went back to see how McVay evolved his offenses from 2018 to 2019 to 2020. I can conclude that the best thing about the Rams' 2021 offense is we really don't know what to expect. That makes it tough on opposing defenses from the NFC West and potentially exciting for us, fans of the NFL.

I personally believe the Rams return to the 11 personnel heavy system from earlier in McVay's tenure. But what did that look like and how did it evolve?

In 2018, McVay was in 11 personnel on 93% of early downs in the first three quarters. He took the NFL by storm and marched to the Super Bowl but lost to the Patriots. When **Cooper Kupp** went down with injury, McVay continued 11 personnel at a 90%+ clip.

In 2019, he dropped the 11 personnel rate down to 69%, using 12 personnel at a 25% clip. But this was not some comprehensive plan that developed in the offseason. Examine the different spurts of high usage of 3+ WR sets by week:

Weeks 1-4: 3+ WRs at 95%, 1-2 WRs at 5% (all WRs healthy)

Weeks 5-7: 3+ WRs at 56%, 1-2 WRs at 44% (all WRs healthy)

Weeks 8-10: 3+ WRs at 95%, 1-2 WRs at 5% (Brandin Cooks is out with injury)

Week 11: 3+ WRs at 14%, 1-2 WRs at 86% (Brandin Cooks and Robert Woods out with injury)

Week 12: 3+ WRs at 96%, 1-2 WRs at 4% (all WRs healthy)

Weeks 13-17: 3+ WRs at 63%, 1-2 WRs at 37% (all WRs healthy, TE Gerald Everett out with injury)

Since we have the hindsight benefit of tracking player availability, personnel deployment, AND efficiency delivered, we can safely question some of these decisions. In 2018, McVay thought he could continue to use high rates of 11 even without Kupp and win the Super Bowl. It almost worked. I could see what he was thinking. But had he studied efficiency delivered by grouping on a weekly basis, he would have seen he could have used more 12. He likely gets more out of his offense down the stretch and wins that Super Bowl if he does.

In 2019, I completely get the return to high rates of 3-WR sets with his receiving corps healthy to start the season. But I couldn't tell you why, in Weeks 5-7 in two losses and a win, McVay lowered 11 personnel sharply. I couldn't tell you why, when Cooks was injured in Weeks 8-10 (a win and a 5-point loss), McVay jacked up 3+ WR sets even though Cooks was out. Week 11 and 12 obviously make sense. But I couldn't tell you why, when Everett was out with injury to close the season, McVay jacked up the rate of 12 and **Johnny Mundt** at a high rate.

(cont'd - see LA-4)

| | (com a coo <u></u>) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <u>S</u> | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2021 games where | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponent has less than a weel to prep | c Difference | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a rest advantage | Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team plays road SNF or M | | | | | |
| 2 | 2 | - | 1 | 3 | +2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | | | | |
| | Strengt | th of Schedule | ed Game Timi | ing: Los Angel | les Rams Rai | nking vs NFL | <u>Average</u> | | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge | e Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Short We | ek Road Games Rank | Games off Road S Rank | SNF/MNF | legated Bye Rank | | | | |
| 5 | | 9 | 4 | | 12 | 11 | | 1 | | | | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- It will be difficult for the Rams to repeat last seasons' fourth ranked DVOA performance. Not only did the Rams lose star defensive coordinator Brandon Staley to the Chargers but they also lost multiple key secondary starters in safety **John Johnson** and cornerback **Troy Hill**. Johnson was PFFs third highest graded safety last season and Hill the 18th ranked CB. They did not add any new starters on the defense.
- The Rams ranked number one in EPA per play on defense, but they also ranked fifth in the NFL in EPA gained from turnovers. Their four defensive touchdowns tied for second most in the NFL.
- The Rams' win total of 10.5 is tied for the fourth highest in the NFL. Historically, betting the over on a double-digit win total has not been a good bet. When excluding the Patriots, since they have been an extreme outlier with **Tom Brady** at quarterback, double digit win totals have only gone over at a rate of 45.6%.
- Los Angeles not only lost Staley but lost multiple other position coaches this offseason including OL coach Aaron Kromer, LB coach Joe Barry, pass game coordinator Shane Waldron, and run game coordinator Andy Dickerson.

10.5



Why Bet the Over

- The upgrade from QB Jared Goff to Matthew Stafford has a chance to be significant given the Sean McVay system. The Rams won in spite of Goff. While Goff was one of the worst quarterbacks in the NFL when dealing with pressure, ranking 32nd in yards per attempt and 29th in passer rating, Stafford ranked top five in both categories. In addition, Stafford's ability to push the ball downfield is a massive upgrade. He ranked 11th in deep attempt percentage and threw seven touchdowns with no interceptions on deep throws. Goff was awful there in 2020, ranked 37th in deep attempt percentage and 32nd in passer rating on deep throws.
- The Rams finished second in adjusted games lost due to injury and covid last season. Normally, the assumption would be regression is coming this year but they have finished second, first, eighth, fourth, first, and first in the last six seasons. There is clearly more to it than injury "luck" for the Rams to continuously buck that trend.
- The Rams are tied for fourth in net rest differential at +9 games.

| Los Angeles Rams Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | uarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coa | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 | | | | |

The Rams are the only team to rank no worse than 11th in any category in our unit ranks.

In a reversal of recent years, quarterback is now the highest-ranked unit on the Rams offense. The most significant upgrade **Matthew Stafford** provides is his ability to throw downfield. On throws of 10 yards or more, Stafford generated an on-target rate of 69.7% (sixth overall), compared to 60.0% for **Jared Goff** (26th overall).

The backfield checks in at 11th, as we're putting a lot of faith in **Cam Akers** building upon his strong playoff production. During the regular season, Akers generated negative EPA on run plays in nine of 11 games, before breaking out for a combined 3.84 EPA in two postseason contests.

The depth at receiver has taken a hit with the losses of **Brandin Cooks** and **Josh Reynolds** in consecutive offseasons. **Van Jefferson** will need to take a significant step forward to fill the void. The wildcard in this unit is second-round pick **Tutu Atwell**—it's unlikely they invested in him without a plan to immediately incorporate him into the offense. The offensive line returns four of five starters, led by 39-year-old **Andrew Whitworth**, who continues to perform at a high level. Center **Brian Allen**, who started nine games in 2019, should take over at center, giving them quality experience at every position.

In 2020, the Rams' front seven featured four players with at least 100 pass-rush snaps and a pressure rate over 10%. Samson Ebukam is gone, but Terrell Lewis (13.3% pressure rate on 80 pass-rush snaps) is likely ready to help replace his production. Among outside cornerbacks, Jalen Ramsey and Darious Williams ranked fifth and sixth, respectively, in yards per coverage snap. So while Los Angeles needs to replace safety John Johnson and slot corner Troy Hill, this should remain an elite unit.

Considering what Sean McVay accomplished with Goff, expectations are sky high after the addition of Stafford. He's our top-ranked head coach with fewer than five years of experience.

<u>LA-4</u>

In the games in 2019 where the personnel deployment made sense and meshed with availability and McVay's desired 3+ WR sets, the Rams went 4-2. When the personnel deployment didn't seem to mesh as well with availability, the Rams went 5-5.

But 2020, on the other hand, was more predictable and made more sense. We actually forecast in last year's book that McVay would use more 12 personnel and fewer 3+ WR sets. This hinged around the loss of Brandin Cooks in free agency and the lack of a true replacement (the only real WR addition was **Van Jefferson**).

McVay gave Van Jefferson more run in the first two weeks of 2020, which came at Josh Reynolds's expense. But after that, McVay reduced Jefferson's role substantially, and Reynolds resumed his role as WR3. But McVay was significantly more consistent with personnel deployment. Instead of being all over the map on a week-to-week basis, there was far more consistency in McVay's agenda in 2020:

Simplify, stay consistent, use significantly more 12 personnel with occasional 13.

On early downs in a game's first three quarters (same samples we pulled from 2018 and 2019), McVay reduced his personnel groupings from five various groupings in 2018 and 2019 down to three. And none of the three used 4-WRs. In the playoffs, like the regular season, McVay was simple — either 11 personnel or 12 personnel. On those early downs he didn't have a single snap from anything other than 11 or 12.

Remember how often McVay was rolling out 95% usage of 3+ WRs in 2018 and 2019?

<u>LA-5</u>

He didn't have a single game with 90% usage. After Week 2, when he realized Van Jefferson wasn't ready for primetime, there were only three games where McVay exceeded 75% usage of 11 personnel. All three games were losses when the Rams were down big:

Week 3 vs the Bills where the Rams trailed by 25 points

Week 12 vs the 49ers where the Rams trailed by 14 points

Week 15 vs the Jets where the Rams trailed by 17 points

Those were the only games McVay even exceeded 75% usage of his 3-wide sets, and it was only because of those margins.

Other than those games, this was a McVay team that used the most 12 personnel of any team in the NFL, calling for it on 42% of early downs in the first three quarters. The Eagles used it 41% of the time, the Titans 39%, but no team used it more than McVay except in those three blowout games.

I appreciated two things about his usage of 12 personnel. First, he tested 11 personnel for a couple of weeks with Van Jefferson, and even though the team won those games, he wasn't satisfied with Jefferson's contributions and shifted decisively towards the 12 personnel packages. Second, he made the move based on personnel and performance, rather than sticking to what he had done with success in the past.

The only problem with the usage of 12 personnel was the frequency at which the Rams ran from it, and the success of those runs.

The league average run rate from 12 personnel is 51% over the course of the first three quarters. Only three teams used 12 personnel to run the ball at least 60% of plays: the Jets, the Colts, and the Rams.

All three probably regret it. Examine rushing efficiency delivered by 12 for these teams:

(cont'd - see LA-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week 7

10 11 12 13

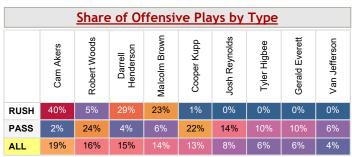
6

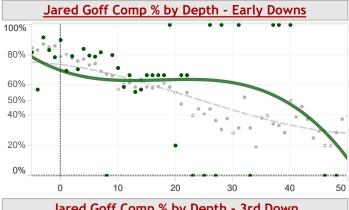
8 9



2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | Usage R | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 4 | Z | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Cam Akers | 9% | 6% | 62% | 10% | 13% |
| | Robert Woods | 16% | 8% | 56% | 8% | 12% |
| | Darrell Henderson | 9% | 7% | 64% | 9% | 9% |
| | Malcolm Brown | 11% | 3% | 65% | 18% | 4% |
| RUSH | Cooper Kupp | | | 50% | 25% | 25% |
| S | Josh Reynolds | | | 100% | | |
| | Tyler Higbee | | | 100% | | |
| | Gerald Everett | | | 100% | | |
| | Van Jefferson | | | 100% | | |
| | Total | 10% | 6% | 63% | 12% | 10% |
| | Cam Akers | 7% | 7% | 71% | | 14% |
| | Robert Woods | 14% | 6% | 70% | 6% | 3% |
| | Darrell Henderson | 13% | | 65% | 17% | 4% |
| | Malcolm Brown | 11% | 17% | 60% | 9% | 3% |
| PASS | Cooper Kupp | 13% | 8% | 68% | 7% | 4% |
| Ā | Josh Reynolds | 16% | 8% | 67% | 7% | 1% |
| | Tyler Higbee | 15% | 5% | 70% | 8% | 2% |
| | Gerald Everett | 14% | 8% | 68% | 3% | 7% |
| | Van Jefferson | 16% | 3% | 81% | | |
| | Total | 14% | 7% | 69% | 7% | 3% |







Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



(192) -0.04

(76)-0.01 (42) -Ò.14 (18)0.21

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 50%, -0.01 (522) | 53%, 0.09 (129) | 55%, -0.23 (11) | 33%, -1.89 (3) | | 50%, 0.67 (2) | 0%, -2.92 (2) | 51%, -0.01 (669) |
| RUSH | 58%, 0.07 (260) | 49%, -0.16 (220) | 28%, -0.34 (50) | | 0%, -0.88 (3) | | | 51%, -0.07 (533) |
| All | 53%, 0.02 (782) | 50%, -0.06 (349) | 33%, -0.32 (61) | 33%, -1.89 (3) | 0%, -0.88 (3) | 50%, 0.67 (2) | 0%, -2.92 (2) | 51%, -0.03 (1,202) |

Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays) **Format**

| | Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| POS | Player | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 4 Grp Total | | | | | | |
| TE | Tyler Higbee | 61% (49) 8.1, 0.36 | 57% (14) 9.7, 0.63 | | 60% (63) 8.4, 0.42 | | | | | | |
| | Gerald Everett | 46% (39) 6.1, -0.04 | 57% (23) 7.0, -0.06 | | 50% (62) 6.5, -0.05 | | | | | | |
| WR | Robert Woods | 54% (114) 7.0, 0.07 | 63% (30) 7.3, 0.19 | 100% (1) 12.0, -4.00 | 57% (145) 7.1, 0.07 | | | | | | |
| | Cooper Kupp | 58% (125) 7.8, 0.17 | 63% (8) 8.4, 0.42 | | 58% (133) 7.8, 0.19 | | | | | | |
| | Josh Reynolds | 59% (70) 8.3, 0.21 | 62% (13) 8.0, 0.15 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.79 | 58% (84) 8.1, 0.19 | | | | | | |

| Rushin | g Success I | oy Top-4 Pe (Leaderboard | | roupings |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Tota |

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Akers Cam | 58% (77) 5.1, -0.02 | 48% (98) 4.2, -0.20 | | 53% (175) 4.6, -0.12 |
| Henderson | 64% (69) | 46% (61) | | 55% (130) |
| Jr Darrell | 5.3, 0.14 | 4.2, -0.07 | | 4.8, 0.04 |
| Brown | 47% (74) | 52% (29) | | 49% (103) |
| Malcolm | 4.4, -0.02 | 3.7, -0.19 | | 4.2, -0.07 |
| Goff Jared | 58% (19) | 53% (15) | 0% (3) | 51% (37) |
| | 4.6, 0.09 | 2.1, -0.06 | -1.0, -0.88 | 3.1, -0.05 |
| Woods | 73% (15) | 50% (10) | | 64% (25) |
| Robert | 7.8, 0.34 | 3.5, -0.55 | | 6.1, -0.01 |

Format

Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)

Line 2: YPA, EPA

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

| Pas | sing by | | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QI | 3 State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | /erage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 58% (474) 7.1, 0.12 | 3 Step | 55% (287) 7.8, 0.21 | Planted | | 1% (463) .5, 0.14 | Outside Zone | 53% (192 4.6, -0.04 |
| | | Curl | 70% (86) 7.8, 0.33 | | | 0/1 Step | 57% (83) | Moving | | 7% (106) .7, 0.07 | Inside | 58% (76) |
| Zone | 59% (340) 8.3, 0.20 | Out | 65% (66) | Level 2 | 53% (104) 9.4, 0.33 | o/i Step | 5.2, -0.05 | Shuffling | | 8% (69) 7, -0.21 | Zone | 4.2, -0.01 |
| | | | 7.1, 0.34 | | | Designed Rollout Right | 61% (64) 8.6, 0.07 | Play Action | | | Stretch | 38% (42) 4.1, -0.14 |
| M2M | 52% (169) 6.4, 0.09 | Dig | 61% (28) 9.9, 0.19 | Level 3 | 7.5, -0.19 | 5 Step | 55% (60) 9.0, 0.30 | | Play Action | No P/A | Power | 61% (18) 7.0, 0.21 |
| | 0.4, 0.09 | Claut | 68% (28) | Shovel | 50% (2) | _ | 45% (55) | Under Center | 57% (187) 7.9, 0.04 | 43% (28) 5.8, -0.07 | | 27% (15) |
| | 41% (71) | Slant | 10.3, 0.49 | | -1.0, -0.17 | 7 Step | 6.9, -0.07 | Shotgun | 43% (21) | 48% (433) 6.9, -0.03 | Pitch | 2.7, -0.34 |
| Screen | 5.7, -0.09 | Drag | 38% (16) 5.1, -0.30 | Sidearm | 0% (1) -3.0, -2.00 | Basic Screen | 45% (31) 6.1, -0.08 | ALL | 56% (208) 7.6, 0.04 | 48% (461) 6.9, -0.03 | Lead | 60% (10) 5.4, -0.04 |

<u>LA-6</u>

Rams: -0.10 EPA/att, 4.2 YPC, 49% success Jets: -0.19 EPA/att, 3.3 YPC, 43% success Colts: -0.02 EPA/att, 3.6 YPC, 54% success

The Rams actually got above average success from 12 personnel runs on first down, but used 12 to run the ball often on second and even some on third down. And those efficiencies were terrible. Especially when you consider what the Rams were getting out of 12 personnel when passing the ball:

Passes: 0.30 EPA/att, 7.2 YPA, 64% success Rushes: -0.34 EPA/att, 2.2 YPC, 46% success

Overall, the Rams on the season received more efficiency when passing from 12 than passing from 11. Any which way you slice it, whether looking at early downs, all four downs, first half, first three quarters, full game, etc - the Rams were more efficient when passing from 12 personnel.

And the Rams were much more efficient when running from 11 personnel. Regardless of running back or situation, when the Rams tried to run the ball from 12 or even 13 personnel, it was a disaster. Particularly when they were so efficient from 11.

Examine the rushing splits by personnel for the full game:

11 personnel: 0.07 EPA/att, 5.2 YPC, 59% success (229 att)

12 personnel: -0.16 EPA/att, 3.9 YPC, 47% success (193 att)

13 personnel: -0.32 EPA/att, 1.4 YPC, 29% success (48 att)

The Rams rushed more times out of 12 and 13 personnel combined (241 attempts) than they did out of 11 personnel, but recorded significantly worse production. (cont'd - see LA-7)





As an aside, it is rare that I generally disagree with the DVOA metric from Football Outsiders, but in that metric, the Rams rushing offense ranked fourth in rushing DVOA in 2020, and seventh when not adjusting for quality of opponent. This was not a top-5 rushing offense in 2020. Most other advanced metrics don't get you there. In fact, only one subset of one metric does:

Looking at RB runs, the Rams ranked 26th in EPA/att, 13th in success rate and 17th in YPC.

Looking at all runs, the Rams ranked 24th in EPA/att, 15th in success rate, and 17th in YPC.

Looking at only early down runs in the first three quarters, the Rams ranked 16th in EPA/att, seventh in success rate and 12th in YPC.

So while the Rams were seventh (same as unadjusted DVOA) in early down rushing success in the first three quarters of games, they still were nearly average in EPA and YPC in those same situations.

And when you zoom out further, this team absolutely appeared to be considered not much more than an average rushing attack in 2020. That said, it could have been top-10 had they shifted more 12 personnel runs to 11 personnel. And perhaps McVay will do that more in 2021.

That brings us to the question of what we can expect McVay to do from a personnel deployment in 2021 with a brand new quarterback, without tight end **Gerald Everett** and with the infusion of wide receiver **DeSean Jackson** via free agency and their first pick in the draft (second round), wide receiver **Tutu Atwell**.

While McVay wasn't hesitant to put Johnny Mundt out on the field at times and go to 2-WR sets even with three solid WR options healthy, I don't see that being the case in 2021. The Rams are spending a lot of time this spring and early summer trying to figure out who that second tight end could be. Fourth-round receiver-turned-tight end **Jacob Harris** has been exclusively working with the tight ends this offseason, but Harris had just nine total reps as an in-line TE in college. Expecting him to blossom and play regularly as a rookie while making the position transition so well as to push DeSean Jackson off the field is very optimistic. There was also mention of college receiver **Ben Skowronek** transitioning to a FB/TE role. And then there's **Brycen Hopkins**, a fourth-round tight end from the 2020 draft class who played only two offensive snaps last season.

It's smart to try to find someone, as it's a long season and you never know if one of your top-3 WRs goes down with injury. But if **Robert Woods**, Cooper Kupp, and DeSean Jackson are healthy, I just don't see McVay pulling one of them off for a project tight end. To do that, McVay really must have seen the light that 2-TE sets are the way to go.

While it made sense to go more 12 when Kupp was injured in 2018 (though McVay stuck with 11) or when Cooks left the team in 2020 (and McVay transitioned to 12), I predict 3+ WRs on the field at a 90% clip in 2021, which will be a massive change from what we saw in 2020, where the Rams used the most 12 personnel in the NFL after Week 2, save for three losses that were blowouts at points.

The one thing a shift back to 11 would help with is the over-running from 12 personnel which resulted in heavy boxes that still were run into at a high rate.

We're talking a really high rate.

In 2020, the Rams ran the ball into 8+ man boxes on 251 runs, 40% of their total rushing attempts. The only other team that came close to that was

(cont'd - see LA-8)

Immediate Impact of Los Angeles Rams 2021 Draft Class

Without a first-round pick due to the **Jalen Ramsey** trade, and with few holes to fill, the Rams likely failed to land any significant early contributors in this draft class.

Los Angeles had an opportunity to land an impact player in the second round, but instead added 155-pound receiver Tutu Atwell.

As an undersized receiver, one would think Atwell would make a living as a dangerous playmaker on underneath routes, but that wasn't always the case at Louisville.

In 2020, Atwell averaged just 5.2 yards per target on routes within five yards of the line of scrimmage, ranked 84th out of 127 qualified receivers. In 2019, however, he ranked fourth (behind Jaylen Waddle, CeeDee Lamb and Tylan Wallace) with 10.4 yards per target.

The obvious explanation for these differences is Atwell is a scheme-dependent playmaker. Louisville's offense took a significant step backwards in 2020, and Atwell was no longer getting easy touches in the open field. If Sean McVay and staff can create opportunities for Atwell, he can be a productive complementary piece in the offense, but that is likely his ceiling.

LB **Ernest Jones** (third round) was not a particularly productive playmaker at South Carolina. His 10.4% broken/missed tackle rate in 2020 stands out as a red flag. Jones is also a significant liability in coverage. Opponents gained 0.9 EPA per target when throwing at Jones last season.

However, the Rams struggled to replace Cory Littleton after his departure last offseason so, despite these concerns, Jones could be in the mix for that job.

DT **Bobby Brown III** (fourth round) will provide depth behind **Aaron Donald**, potentially easing Donald's workload to keep him fresh as he ages. Brown generated an 8.5% pressure rate last season, the fifth best among interior pass-rushers in the SEC.

The Rams also added some size to the receiving corps with WR/TE **Jacob Harris** (fourth round) and WR **Ben Skowronek** (seventh round). There won't be many targets available, but there could be some select situations where the 6'3" Skowronek and 6'5" Harris are used.

Factoring in the acquisition of Jalen Ramsey, the Rams didn't completely waste their draft capital from this class. However, it would not be shocking to look back on this class in three years and see Los Angeles failed to land a single starter.

If Atwell adds a new dynamic to the offense and others provide valuable depth on a championship team in the next few seasons, this class could be viewed as a success. Otherwise, it's hard to imagine Los Angeles feeling satisfied with this underwhelming haul.



Los Angeles Rams 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Rams closed 2020 20th in the NFL in EPA passing, 20th in yards per pass attempt (7.1 yards), and 23rd in yards per completion (10.7 yards). After ranking fifth in passing EPA during their Super Bowl run in 2018, the team has sagged down to 15th and 20th the past two seasons, forcing them to make a significant splash this offseason in moving on from **Jared Goff** in favor of **Matthew Stafford**. Stafford ranked 15th in EPA per pass attempt in 2020 while Goff was 28th. The Rams should also have a new look in the switch and should be expected to get more vertical in 2021. In 2020, Stafford threw the seventh-most pass attempts that traveled at least 20 air yards and he ranked 12th in on-target rate among 36 quarterbacks with at least 20 attempts. Goff threw the 21st-most deep passes and ranked 32nd in on-target rate.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Jared Goff | 400 | 598 | 67% | 4,272 | 7.1 | 22 | 13 | 29 | 91 | 28 | |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | | |

| | 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----|--|
| QB Success % Passing Success % Pass gains Success % Pass gains Success % Pass % | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jared Goff | 51% | 55% | 52 | 9.0% | 22 | 4.0% | 4.8 | 5.8 | 14 | 2% | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Jared Goff Rating

Early Downs 144 50 91 109 94

| <u>In</u> | Interception Rates by Down | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4th Dwn | Total | | | | | | | |
| 1 & 2 | 0.0% | 7.1% | 0.0% | 33.3% | 5.1% | | | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.7% | 0.0% | 0.9% | | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 3.0% | 4.3% | 0.0% | 3.5% | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.7% | 0.0% | 3.2% | 0.0% | 1.5% | | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 7.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.9% | | | | | | | |
| Total | 1.6% | 1.9% | 2.4% | 11.1% | 2.1% | | | | | | | |

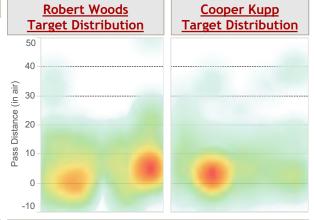
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----|------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Avg. YIA (of Comp) | | | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | | | |
| Jared Goff | 8.5 | 4.8 | -3.7 | 76% | 33 | | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | | |

| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| t Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | |
| 3 | 45% | 55% | 40 | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

With the offense limited to quick-passing and low depth of target scheme last season, they ranked 25th in yards per target (7.5 yards) to wide receivers. In addition to having both Robert Woods (90-936-6), Cooper Kupp (92-974-3), and a second season of Van Jefferson (19-220-1), the Rams focused on adding speed to their wide receivers this offseason with the additions of DeSean Jackson and Tutu Atwell. Jackson will be 35 years old this season, but has averaged over 15.0 yards per catch in all of his seasons in the league but two. Atwell was just 155-pounds, but ran a 4.32 40-yard dash at his pro day. At tight end, the team lost Gerald Everett, pushing Tyler Higbee into more of a similar role that he closed the 2019 season in.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwo | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|-------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Robert Woods | 140 | 69% | 7.0 | 90.7 | 54% | 61 | 78 | 74 | 49 | 6 |
| Cooper Kupp | 129 | 71% | 7.8 | 91.5 | 57% | 37 | 47 | 57 | 61 | 3 |
| Josh Reynolds | 83 | 64% | 8.1 | 87.1 | 57% | 48 | 31 | 41 | 78 | 2 |
| Tyler Higbee | 60 | 72% | 7.7 | 116.3 | 58% | 31 | 19 | 40 | 104 | 4 |
| Gerald Everett | 59 | 66% | 6.6 | 83.2 | 51% | 84 | 72 | 84 | 40 | 1 |



2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Rams were 10th in the league in rushing yardage per game (126.1 yards) and 14th in yards per carry (4.3 yards) using multiple backs all season long. The Rams used a second-round pick (52nd overall) on **Cam Akers** a year ago. Through nine games of his rookie season, Akers had managed just 62 touches for 312 yards and two scores. The Rams then turned the offense over to the rookie as Akers amassed 143 touches for 708 yards and three scores over the final six games of the season. **Darrell Henderson** was a third round pick (70th overall) in 2019 and a capable complement and fill-in that made a jump in his second season. After a nearly invisible rookie season with 43 touches for 184 yards (4.3 yards per touch), Henderson jumped up to 154 touches for 783 yards (5.1 Y/T) in 2020 with six touchdowns.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Cam Akers | 191 | 4.4 | 50% | 50 | 49 | 60 | 47 | 53% | 33 | 4 |
| Darrell Henderson | 138 | 4.5 | 55% | 25 | 35 | 50 | 14 | 55% | 20 | 5 |
| Malcolm Brown | 110 | 4.1 | 48% | 64 | 87 | 61 | 80 | 52% | 39 | 5 |
| Jared Goff | 56 | 1.9 | 38% | 93 | 93 | 1 | 93 | 33% | 92 | 4 |





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



A New-look Rams Offense

The transition for **Jared Goff** to **Matthew Stafford** means we will see a new version of the offense Sean McVay had maxed out with Goff. After finishing fifth in the NFL in passing EPA in 2018, the Rams dipped down to 15th and then 20th over the past two seasons.

Over the past two seasons, the Rams were dead last in the NFL in passing touchdowns on throws over 15 yards downfield with just four. The next closest team has six over that span. This past season, they had just three touchdown passes on those throws, which was tied with New England and ahead of only San Francisco and Cincinnati, who had two each.

Scoring through the air outside of the red zone has been a struggle. The Rams have just nine passing touchdowns from outside of the red zone over the past two seasons, which is tied for the fewest in the league. Stafford himself has 17 touchdown passes from outside of the red zone the past two seasons. In 2020, the Rams had just five touchdown strikes from outside of the red zone, ahead of only the Giants (four) and Bengals (three).

Adding Stafford not only allows McVay to push the ball downfield again, but also be more aggressive in the red zone. This past season, the Rams ran the ball 60.5% of the time in the red zone (fourth) and kept the ball on the ground 72.3% of the time inside of the 10-yard line, which was behind only the Patriots. Inside of the 10-yard line, the Rams called 60 run plays to just 23 passing plays. A run-first approach near the end zone paired with the lack of vertical, quick-striking touchdown passes the offense produced, the Rams only had 52.4% of their offensive touchdowns come via passing in 2019 (31st) and 51.3% this past season (27th). Combined, that 51.9% touchdown rate through the air was 30th in the league over the past two seasons.

McVay also helps Stafford as well. Under McVay since 2017, Goff used play-action on 33.1% of his dropbacks, where he averaged 9.1 Y/A compared to 7.0 Y/A without the use of play-action. Over the past four seasons, Stafford has used play-action on just 21.5% of his dropbacks despite averaging 9.6 Y/A on those throws as opposed to 7.1 Y/A without. Stafford's highest use of play-action came in 2019, when 26.9% of his dropbacks were under play-action and averaged 12.0 Y/A on those attempts. With the Rams looking to open up their offense vertically and adding speed in **DeSean Jackson** and **Tutu Atwell**, look for bounce back seasons from **Cooper Kupp** and **Tyler Higbee** with the middle of the field being less congested than a year ago.

Kupp was already looking like a potential buy for progression. In their 16 games played together this season, Kupp out-targeted Woods 134-to-131 with 96 catches for 1,052 yards on those targets compared to 90 receptions for 947 yards for Woods, but Kupp scored a career-low three touchdowns this season while Woods scored a career-high eight (six receiving) in creating the fantasy scoring difference between the two. This with both players each seeing the same amount of end zone targets (four) on the season.

Higbee not only gets a quarterback upgrade, but also returns to his late-season 2019 role with **Gerald Everett** moving on in free agency that saw him close the season as the top fantasy tight end, ending that season scorching hot on a five-game tear that seen him catch 43 passes for 522 yards and two touchdowns.

| Los | Angeles Rams | Defense: Num | ber of DBs vs I | Personnel | Def T | ender | icies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | % | | Rk | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 7 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 29% | 261 plays (60%) Success: 49% | 170 plays <i>(</i> 39% <i>)</i> Success: 33% | 438 plays (100%) Success: 42% | | 70 | FK | 40- |
| | EPA: -0.10 | EPA: -0.05 | EPA: -0.39 | EPA: -0.18 | Base | 16% | 27 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 30 plays <i>(26%)</i> Success: 53% | 69 plays <i>(59%)</i> Success: 48% | 18 plays <i>(15%)</i> Success: 39% | 117 plays (100%) Success: 48% | Nickel | 59% | 18 | 30 - |
| | EPA: 0.04 | EPA: -0.19 | EPA: -0.36 | EPA: -0.16 | Dime+ | 25% | 8 | The second second |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 13 plays <i>(52%)</i> Success: 54% EPA: 0.02 | 12 plays <i>(48%)</i> Success: 50% EPA: 0.33 | | 25 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 52% EPA: 0.17 | Rush 3 | 4% | 23 | 20 – |
| | | 1.11 | | | Rush 4 | 70% | 7 | 10 – |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 1 plays <i>(20%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.95 | 4 plays <i>(80%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.78 | | 5 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.82 | Rush 5 | 22% | 11 | 10- |
| Grand | 51 plays (9%) | 346 plays (59%) | 188 plays (32%) | 585 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 2% | 28 | 0 - |
| Total | Success: 49% EPA: -0.01 | Success: 48% EPA: -0.07 | Success: 34% EPA: -0.39 | Success: 44% EPA: -0.17 | Blitz% | 24% | 18 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Having **Aaron Donald** is a pretty cool thing that would help any defensive line. Of course, there is no other Aaron Donald. Donald was first among interior defenders in Pass Rush Win Rate and second in pressure rate. With Donald wrecking the pocket as a pass rusher, the Rams had a dominant run defender next to him in **Sebastian Joseph-Day**, who ranked fifth in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate. Joseph-Day is likely to get some more snaps in 2020 (he played around 40%) last season as the Rams look to fill the spot vacated by the **Michael Brockers** trade.

For the past few seasons, the Rams worked the buy-low option on the edge and got production from the position. This offseason, they paid a high price to keep one of those fliers in **Leonard Floyd**. Floyd only ranked 40th in pressure rate among edge rushers but it resulted in 10.5 sacks. He signed a four-year deal to stay in Los Angeles this offseason.

With **Obo Okoronkwo** and **Tyrell Lewis**, the Rams have athletic upside to put at the other edge spot, but neither played more than 15% of the defensive snaps last season. The Rams cycled through **Micah Kiser**, **Troy Reeder**, and **Kenny Young** at off-ball linebacker to mixed results. None of those three really excelled in coverage. 45.3% of Kiser's tackles came before a first down, which ranked 33rd among linebackers, but he had no tackles for loss.

Jalen Ramsey moved around the defense more often than he had in previous seasons and that only added to what he brought as an elite outside shutdown cornerback. Ramsey ranked 19th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap and seventh in completion percentage allowed.

Darious Williams developed into a top outside corner opposite Ramsey. He ranked 16th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap with the fifth-lowest completion percentage allowed among 148 corners with at least 100 coverage snaps in 2020. The Rams were high on fourth-round FCS corner Robert Rochell.

The Rams will have to figure out what to do in the slot with the loss of **Troy Hill**. Hill had been one of the league's best slot corners but he was a free agent and signed with the Cleveland Browns.

The loss of **John Johnson** is going to be the hardest to make up. Johnson played every defensive snap for the Rams last season and had the communication line to the defensive coaches as the on-field playcaller. But, there has also been depth added on at the position.

Jordan Fuller was a hit in the sixth round of last year's draft and he's going to play more in his second season and potentially take over Johnson's role. Taylor Rapp only got into nine games last season and 35% of the defensive snaps, but the 2019 second-round pick should be healthier as has the range and athleticism to be a versatile player in the backend of the secondary. Terrell Burgess, last season's third-round pick, also had injuries with a broken ankle that cost him the second half of the season.

| 2020 Play Tendencies | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|
| All Pass % | 59% | | | | |
| All Pass Rk | 16 | | | | |
| All Rush % | 41% | | | | |
| All Rush Rk | 17 | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 59% | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 10 | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 61% | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 8 | | | | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -2% | | | | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 19 | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 41% | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 23 | | | | |
| Up Pass % | 59% | | | | |
| Up Pass Rk | 9 | | | | |
| Up Rush % | 41% | | | | |
| Up Rush Rk | 24 | | | | |
| Down Pass % | 57% | | | | |
| Down Pass Rk | 28 | | | | |
| Down Rush % | 43% | | | | |
| Down Rush Rk | 5 | | | | |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 11 | 9% | 91% | 64% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 19 | 26% | 74% | 63% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 386 | 51% | 49% | 56% | | |
| | XL (11+) | 9 | 78% | 22% | 33% | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 55 | 25% | 75% | 64% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 99 | 58% | 42% | 59% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 102 | 71% | 29% | 43% | | |
| | XL (11+) | 39 | 72% | 28% | 26% | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 54 | 57% | 43% | 69% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 70 | 91% | 9% | 43% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 36 | 89% | 11% | 28% | | |
| | XL (11+) | 25 | 72% | 28% | 24% | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 10 | 30% | 70% | 60% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 2 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 0% | | |





Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | |
| 77% | 7 | 67% | 73% | 75% | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFI 1D Avg | | | |
| 220/ | 26 | 330/ | 60% | 50% | | | |

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Malcolm Brown | 5 | 80% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Cam Akers | 5 | 80% | | | | | |
| | | | Darrell Henderson | 5 | 60% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Cam Akers | 67 | 57% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Cooper Kupp | 3 | 33% | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Cam Akers | 17 | 71% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Cam Akers | 20 | 70% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Cooper Kupp | 17 | 53% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Robert Woods | 6 | 50% | | | | | |
| | | RUSH | Cam Akers | 6 | 17% | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Cam Akers | 9 | 33% | | | | | |
| Dwn | | | Malcolm Brown | 9 | 89% | | | | | |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | Cooper Kupp | 18 | 50% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Robert Woods | 8 | 38% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Malcolm Brown | 6 | 17% | | | | | |

| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | | | |
| No | Success: 49% | Success: 65% | Success: 52% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.24 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.08 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 92.0 | Rtg: 115.5 | Rtg: 96.5 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 327 - Rate: 48.9%] | [Att: 78 - Rate: 11.7%] | [Att: 405 - Rate: 60.5%] | | | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 46% | Success: 50% | Success: 48% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.21 | YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.07 | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.14 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 81.9 | Rtg: 83.3 | Rtg: 82.6 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 134 - Rate: 20.0%] | [Att: 130 - Rate: 19.4%] | [Att: 264 - Rate: 39.5%] | | | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 48% | Success: 56% | Success: 51% | | | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.03 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.01 | | | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 89.1 | Rtg: 95.4 | Rtg: 91.1 | | | | | | | |
| | [Att: 461 - Rate: 68.9%] | [Att: 208 - Rate: 31.1%] | [Att: 669 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | | | |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Robert Woods | Cooper Kupp | Tyler Higbee | Josh Reynolds | Gerald Everett | Malcolm Brown | Cam Akers | Van Jeffersor |
| 1 | DAL | W 20-17 | 61 (84%) | 62 (85%) | 65 (89%) | 37 (51%) | 24 (33%) | 44 (60%) | 24 (33%) | 33 (45%) |
| 2 | PHI | W 37-19 | 59 (86%) | 59 (86%) | 59 (86%) | 42 (61%) | 30 (43%) | 37 (54%) | 3 (4%) | 26 (38%) |
| 3 | BUF | L 35-32 | 67 (97%) | 62 (90%) | 50 (72%) | 62 (90%) | 28 (41%) | 34 (49%) | | 8 (12%) |
| 4 | NYG | W 17-9 | 54 (95%) | 49 (86%) | 48 (84%) | 30 (53%) | 33 (58%) | 35 (61%) | | 3 (5%) |
| 5 | WAS | W 30-10 | 59 (87%) | 56 (82%) | 56 (82%) | 49 (72%) | 30 (44%) | 26 (38%) | 13 (19%) | 18 (26%) |
| 6 | SF | L 24-16 | 57 (95%) | 55 (92%) | 45 (75%) | 50 (83%) | 30 (50%) | 27 (45%) | 1 (2%) | 3 (5%) |
| 7 | CHI | W 24-10 | 65 (90%) | 62 (86%) | | 53 (74%) | 55 (76%) | 29 (40%) | 3 (4%) | 3 (4%) |
| 8 | MIA | L 28-17 | 88 (93%) | 92 (97%) | 57 (60%) | 77 (81%) | 52 (55%) | 57 (60%) | 20 (21%) | 14 (15%) |
| 10 | SEA | W 23-16 | 56 (80%) | 37 (53%) | 59 (84%) | 56 (80%) | 43 (61%) | 29 (41%) | 18 (26%) | 13 (19%) |
| 11 | TB | W 27-24 | 68 (94%) | 52 (72%) | 52 (72%) | 65 (90%) | 41 (57%) | 27 (38%) | 12 (17%) | 4 (6%) |
| 12 | SF | L 23-20 | 62 (100%) | 55 (89%) | 38 (61%) | 61 (98%) | 29 (47%) | 25 (40%) | 17 (27%) | |
| 13 | ARI | W 38-28 | 62 (75%) | 54 (65%) | 70 (84%) | 38 (46%) | 60 (72%) | 13 (16%) | 52 (63%) | 40 (48%) |
| 14 | NE | W 24-3 | 49 (78%) | 39 (62%) | 55 (87%) | 35 (56%) | 53 (84%) | 6 (10%) | 50 (79%) | 19 (30%) |
| 15 | NYJ | L 23-20 | 53 (90%) | 48 (81%) | 49 (83%) | 45 (76%) | 27 (46%) | 16 (27%) | 36 (61%) | 14 (24%) |
| 16 | SEA | L 20-9 | 68 (91%) | 60 (80%) | 52 (69%) | 48 (64%) | 52 (69%) | 44 (59%) | | 14 (19%) |
| 17 | ARI | W 18-7 | 72 (99%) | | 60 (82%) | 55 (75%) | 49 (67%) | 23 (32%) | 48 (66%) | 44 (60%) |
| | Grand | Total | 1,000 (89%) | 842 (80%) | 815 (78%) | 803 (72%) | 636 (56%) | 472 (42%) | 297 (32%) | 256 (24% |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 65% | 60% | 53% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 29% | 20% | 50% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 5% | 4% | 33% |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| | | | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|
| Receiver | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | |
| Cooper Kupp | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 | | | |
| Robert Woods | 12 | 2 | 1 | 9 | | | |
| Gerald Everett | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Josh Reynolds | 5 | 3 | | 2 | | | |
| Tyler Higbee | 5 | 3 | | 2 | | | |
| Darrell Henderson | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Malcolm Brown | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Van Jefferson | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |

| Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | AII | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Cam Akers | 38 | 10 | 13 | 15 |
| Darrell Henderson | 32 | 11 | 10 | 11 |
| Malcolm Brown | 20 | 9 | 4 | 7 |
| Jared Goff | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Robert Woods | 4 | 2 | | 2 |
| John Wolford | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Gerald Everett | 1 | 1 | | |
| Josh Reynolds | 1 | | | 1 |

| Early D | Early Down Target Rate | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | |
| 13% 23% | 22% 21% | 65% 56% | | | |
| | NFL AVG | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | NFL AVG Target Su | ıccess % | | | |
| Overall RB | / c | ICCESS % WR | | | |





the Tennessee Titans.

40% of total runs go into 8+ man boxes ranked first in the NFL, tied with the Titans. 251 total runs into 8+ man boxes ranked second in the NFL, behind only the Titans.

These runs produced -0.10 EPA/att with only 3.9 YPC and a 51% success rate.

The vast majority of those runs came in 12 personnel (with some in 13). Compare the rushing efficiency for the Rams last year when they faced 8+ man boxes in 11 personnel vs 8+ man boxes with multiple TEs on the field:

11 personnel: 0.15 EPA/att, 5.4 YPC, 71% success 12/13/22 personnel: -0.21 EPA/att, 3.4 YPC, 43% success

When the Rams had multiple TEs on the field and the defense dropped 8+ men in the box, the Rams still ran the ball 77% of the time.

I discussed earlier how the Rams' rushing efficiency was terrible from 12, and a large component of that was so many runs into loaded boxes that they didn't check out for better looks.

The Rams generated a ton of efficiency running from 11 but were terrible from 12. If they resort back to 11 more often as an offense in 2021, that will help the run game. They can still use some 12, but it would be wise to have a high pass rate from 12 and use 11 to run. Both **Cam Akers** and **Darrell Henderson** were substantially better running from 11 than they were from 12.

With the Rams being one of the healthiest teams in the NFL the last two years, and having a tremendous defense, there is optimism that the team will be much better with a quarterback like Stafford. The futures market has gone crazy with Rams love. They are favored in 13 games this year and dogs in only three (one is a pick'em). Last year at this time, they were favored in only nine games and dogs in seven.

I forecast them to face the 10th-most difficult schedule based on win totals, which features one of the largest jumps in difficulty passing offenses faced. Last year, the Rams played the tenth-easiest schedule of pass defenses, this year they play the sixth-toughest. If McVay could get a little more aggressive on fourth downs, if the offense shifts to more 11 personnel and reduces runs out of 12 personnel, if the Rams can get more potent in the passing game, get play-action to work again, and pass better outside the numbers, this team will once again be in the playoffs and will be a force to reckon with in 2021.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

 ${\sf NFL\ Totals},\,{\sf Sides\ and\ College\ Football}$

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular

2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

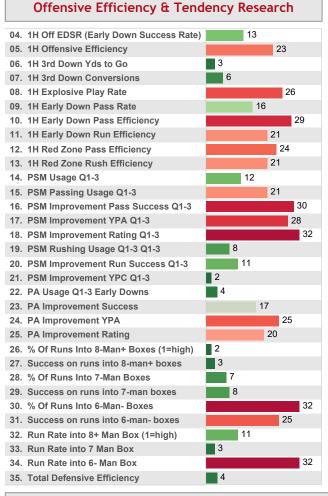
2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE



| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.5 | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 6.1 | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.3 | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.1 | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 50% | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 55% | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.16 | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.1 | |

02. Avg Halftime Lead

0.0

03. Wins

01. Games w Halftime Lead

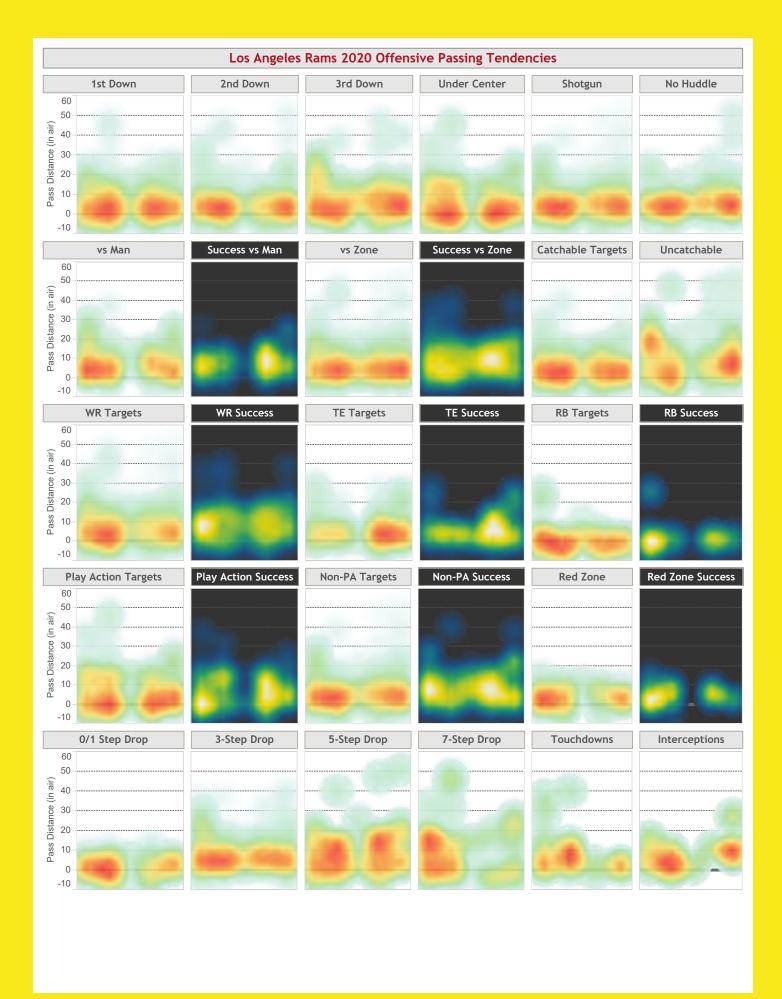
| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | |
|---|-------|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 45% | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 57% | |
| 46. PA YPA | 7.6 | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 2.4% | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.0 | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.4 | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 56% | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.9 | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 4.7% | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.02 | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 5.8 | |
| | | |

| Men In Box | | |
|--|-----|--|
| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 36% | |
| 56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 57% | |
| 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 | 43% | |
| 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 | 4.8 | |
| 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 | 47% | |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 6.2 | |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|
| Net FROE Rk | 27 | defFUM | 16 |
| Net FROE | -2.7 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 |
| offFUM | 18 | | _ |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 8 | defFR Rk | 9 |
| offFR% | 44.4% | defFR% | 50.0% |
| offFROE | -1.8 | defFROE | -0.9 |
| offFROE Rk | 24 | defFROE Rk | 24 |

| Field Goal Luck | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| -2.51 | Opp Att | 26 | |
| 24 | | 22 | |
| | | 85% | |
| 80% | | 21.08 | |
| 25.59 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 0.92 | |
| | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 16 | |
| | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -0.27 | |
| 25 | 2019 Opp Rk | 16 | |
| | -2.51 24 30 24 80% 25.59 -1.59 27 -2.78 | -2.51 Opp Att 24 Opp Makes 30 24 Opp FG % 80% Opp Expected Makes 25.59 Opp Make Over Expectation -1.59 Opp Make over Expectation Rk 27 -2.78 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pres | ssure | Offensive A | Metrics |
|--|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Jared Goff | | Jared Goff | EPA/Pass | 0.00 |
| CAY | 4.8 | Pressure % | 29.5 | EPA/Pass Rk | 21 |
| CAY Rk | 35 | Pressure Rk | 25 | EPA/Rush | -0.07 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 20 | Sack % | 3.9 | EPA/Rush Rk | 21 |
| AYTS Rk | 35 | Sack Rk | 34 | On-Target Catch % | 93.3% |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 23 36 | Pressure Accuracy % | 62.9 | On-Target Catch Rk | 4 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 35 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 29 | Drop% | 5.7% |
| COMP% | 67 | Rating when Pressured | 45.9 | | 8 |
| xCOMP% | 66.6 | Pressured Rating Rk | 33 | Drop Rk | - |
| xCOMP% Rk | 10 | Clean Accuracy % | 83.3 | YAC/Att | 1.8 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 5 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 3 | YAC/Att Rk | 31 |
| CPOE% | 0.4 | Rating when Clean | 105.6 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 11.8% |
| CPOE Rk | 22 | Clean Rating Rk | 14 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 26 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 34 | - | | Rush 1st Down % | 26.0% |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw | 2.76 | | |
| | | Time to Throw Rk | 18 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 17 |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Brian Flores (2 yrs) Offensive Coordinator:

George Godsey (TE coach) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Josh Boyer (2 yrs)

Easy Hard

Miami Dolphins

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

9

#2

Past Records

2020: 10-6 2019: 5-11 2018: 7-9



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Bobby McCain (S) | Washingt |
| Calvin Munson (LB) | Retired |
| Davon Godchaux (IDL) | Patriots |
| Ereck Flowers (LG) | Washingt |
| Julie'n Davenport (LT) | Colts |
| Kamu Grugier-Hill (LB) | Texans |
| Kyle Van Noy (EDGE) | Patriots |
| Matt Breida (RB) | Bills |
| Matt Haack (P) | Bills |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick (QB) | Washingt |
| Shaq Lawson (EDGE) | Texans |
| Ted Karras (C) | Patriots |
| DeAndre Washington (RB) | TBD |
| Isaiah Ford (WR) | TBD |
| Jake Rudock (QB) | TBD |
| Kavon Frazier (S) | TBD |

| Average | # Games | # Games |
|---------|---------|----------|
| Line | Favored | Underdog |
| -0.1 | 8 | 8 |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

| Forecast 2021 Wins | 9 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2020 Wins | 10 |
| Forecast 2020 Wins | 6.5 |
| 2019 Wins | 5 |
| 2018 Wins | 3 7 |
| 2017 Wins | 6 |
| | 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 |

2021 Miami Dolphins Overview

We know the COVID pandemic offseason was brutal for everyone. But it especially was brutal for rookies, particularly rookie quarterbacks. Joe Burrow was more in a unique situation because that the offense was designed for him on Day 1. Jordan Love sat the entire season in Green Bay. Jalen Hurts got some run late in the year and though there were flashes to take from his performance, he struggled. There were two quarterbacks from this class who played early in offenses designed for a different Week 1 starter. One was great and set records. The other was Tua Tagovailoa.

Measuring Tua against Justin Herbert is hardly fair from several key perspectives.

First, Herbert wasn't rehabbing all offseason for an injury that ended the final season of his college career. That injury wasn't a broken finger either. He dislocated his hip mid-game, had to be carted off, x-rayed, and then the hip was popped back into place. Tua also suffered a posterior wall fracture of the hip socket. He had surgery two days following the injury.

Second, Tua was playing backup to **Ryan Fitzpatrick** and the Dolphins hired Chan Gailey, who was the last offensive coordinator that Fitzpatrick worked with when he played for the Jets in 2016. Gailey retired following that season and Fitzpatrick left to play in Tampa Bay. Miami lured Gailey from retirement and paired him with his old buddy Fitzpatrick. Gailey spent the offseason tailoring the entire offense for Fitzpatrick, his Day 1 starter

Tua, while rehabbing during a COVID offseason, was learning an offense optimized for Fitzpatrick. The Dolphins came out of the bye in Week 8 against the Rams to give Tua his debut. It was great planning and thanks to an incredible defensive plan, the Dolphins dispatched Sean McVay's offense and Tua didn't have to do much. But in that game, both running back **Mvles Gaskin** and receiver **Isiah Ford** were lost. (cont'd - see <u>MIA2</u>) both running back Myles Gaskin and receiver Isiah Ford were lost.

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Will Fuller (WR) | \$10.6 |
| Benardrick McKinney (LB) | Trade |
| Jacoby Brissett (QB) | \$5 |
| Adam Butler (IDL) | \$3.79 |
| Cethan Carter (TE) | \$2.60 |
| Justin Coleman (CB) | \$2.29 |
| Malcolm Brown (RB) | \$1.8 |
| Matt Skura (C) | ¢1 0 |

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 6 | WR - Jaylen Waddle (Alabama) |
| 1 | 18 | DE - Jaelan Phillips (Miami (FL)) |
| | 36 | S - Jevon Holland (Oregon) |
| 2 | 42 | OT - Liam Eichenberg (Notre Dame) |
| 3 | 81 | TE - Hunter Long (Boston College) |
| 7 | 231 | OT - Larnel Coleman (UMass) |
| , | 244 | RB - Gerrid Doaks (Cincinnati) |
| | | |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 12 | \$97.83M | 29 |
| QB | 18 | \$12.54M | 20 |
| OL | 30 | \$21.21M | 27 |
| RB | 24 | \$6.54M | 21 |
| WR | 1 | \$45.38M | 27 |
| TE | 9 | \$12.16M | 28 |
| All DEF | 9 | \$99.26M | 5 |
| DL | 29 | \$28.96M | 14 |
| LB | 11 | \$18.05M | 21 |
| СВ | 1 | \$41.18M | 3 |
| S | 19 | \$11.08M | 8 |

| Bourrain | J-Holaid Rookid Rookid | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| | 222 | L J.Bj | ker | B.McI Ni | SS E.Rowe Kinney | | |
| RCB B.Jones | SLOTCB J.Coleman NEW | DE J.Phillips Rookie | DT C.Wilkins | DT R.Davis | DE E.Ogbah | LCB X.Howard | |
| 0 | | 1 | | | 1 | 0 | |

| LWR W.Fuller NEW | 17: | 73 74 LT LG A.JacksorL.Eicher Rook | C nberg M.Skura | 68 RG R.Hunt | 77 RT J.Davis | 88- | RWR D.Parker |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | SlotWR J.Waddle Rookie | | 0 | | - | TE M.Gesicki | |
| 1 | | 0 | QB T.Tagovailoa | 37 | | | |
| WR2 P.Williams | WR3 RB3 L.Bowden M.Bro | QB2 | | <i>RB</i> M.Gaskin | | 2020 Ca | p Dollars |
| r.williams | NEV | | | | | * = 30+ y | ears old |

MIA-2

The skill player with the most on-field snaps of that game (**Preston Williams**) was lost to injury during next week's game against Arizona. Just over one game into his stint as QB, Tua was without RB1 and WR2.

Following the win in Tua's first start over the Rams in Week 8, the Dolphins had to spike the usage of **Jakeem Grant** and other tight ends.

During Fitzpatrick's starts, when passing, the Dolphins used 11 personnel on 63% of snaps, and 12 personnel on only 19%. But in Tua's first three starts, the Dolphins switched to a 12 personnel offense, when they used 12 to pass on 37% of snaps and dropped the percentage of passes that came from 11 personnel to 52%.

Miami won all three games, but all were close, one-score margins save for the Week 8 game against the Rams.

Then came the first bit of controversy, Week 11 in Denver. The Dolphins got out early thanks to a **Drew Lock** interception on the Denver 22-yard line, and five plays later, Tua threw a three-yard touchdown to take a 7-0 lead. The game eventually was tied at 10 before Denver kicked a field goal seconds before halftime to go up 13-10. Miami's first drive in the second half went three-and-out. Denver scored a touchdown thereafter.

Miami, down 20-10, started a drive on their own 25-yard line. Tua led the team to the Denver 40-yard line. By this point in the season, **Salvon Ahmed** was the Dolphins lead running back. He was an rookie undrafted free agent who was signed then cut by the 49ers and promoted to the Dolphins' active roster in October.

The fateful sequence went:

1&10 at Denver 40: offensive holding 1&20 at midfield: Tua sacked 2&22 at MIA 48: Tua pass to Ahmed 3&16 at DEN 46: false start by Gesicki

3&21 at MIA 49: Tua sacked 4&30 at MIA 40: punt

After the game, Brian Flores said his benching of Tua after the sack on third-and-21 was not for injury reason, but performance reasons. And it's hard

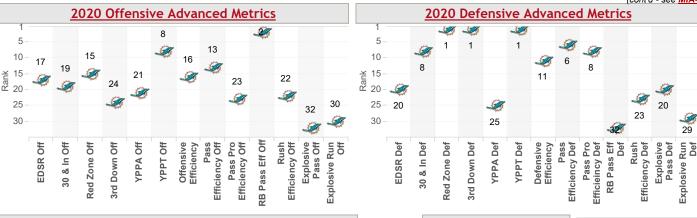
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | The state of the s | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Tua Tag ovailoa | 56% 6.7 91.9 | 50% 6.8 96.7 | 28% 4.7 64.4 | Success Rate YPA Rating | |
| Pass Rate | 55% | 57% | 68% | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | |

| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| MIA | 53% 3.9 | 52% 3.9 | 52% 4.1 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 45% | 43% | 32% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

not to blame Flores. Tua went 11-of-20 for 83 yards in the game. It was brutal.

But it was also against Vic Fangio. In his career as defensive coordinator as well as head coach in 2019, Fangio's defenses held rookie quarterbacks to 125-of-208 (60% completions), 1,344 yards (192 yards/game and 6.5 YPA), 6:5 TD:INT, and 14 sacks (two per game) for 75 lost yards with a 81.2 passer rating. In that light, Tua's 55% completions, 1:0 TD:INT day wasn't terrible. But six sacks for 33 yards showed a clear sign that Tua was struggling with protections. Tua was pressured on 39% of dropbacks and sacked on 23% of them.

(cont'd - see MIA-3)



2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 2 10 11 12 13 16 17 W NE W LV W SF BUF LA ARI ĸC ΝE JAC SEA NYJ BUF LAC DEN CIN NYJ A -10 H -3 A 18 Н A 26 Н Н Α Н Α A 17 Н Н Н Α A -30 -8 -7 10 24 11 3 8 12 -6 1 28 23 27 22 31 43 24 13 20 19 26 26 11 28 34 29 12 21 31 13 31 17 0 17 31 21 20 3 7 33 25 56

WEEK RESULT OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

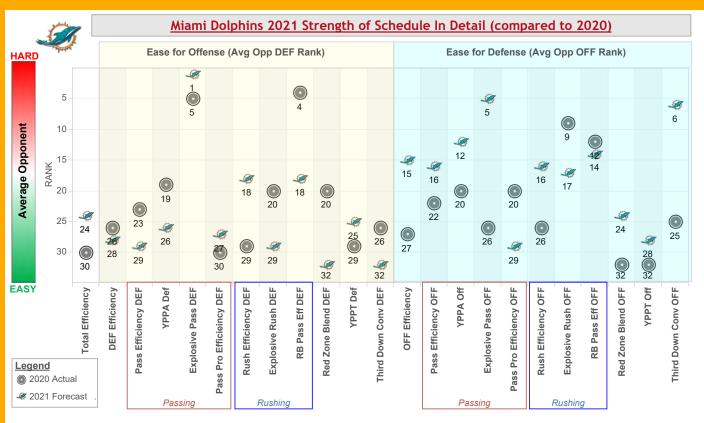
OFF/DEF EDSR Blue=OFF (high=good) Red=DEF (low=good)

2020 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: 10 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 2-1 FG Games Win %: 67% (#8) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 20% (#17)

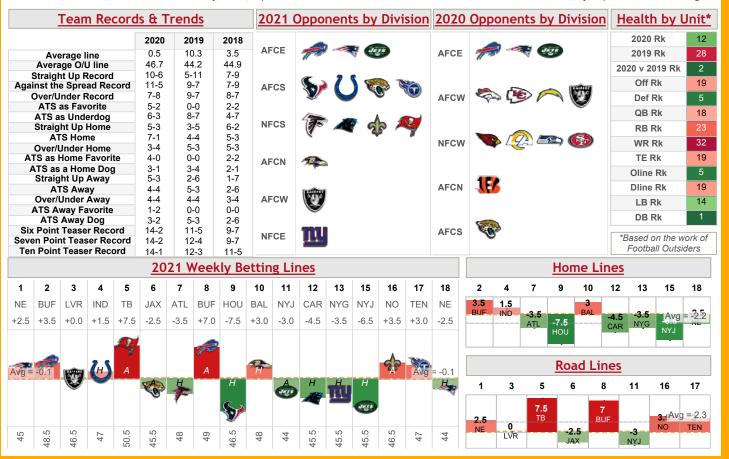
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-4 1 Score Games Win %: 43% (#19) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 30% (#30)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +9 TO Given 20 INT Given 13 **FUM Given** TO Taken 29 18 **INT Taken FUM Taken** 11 Sack Margin +7 41 Sacks Sacks Allow 34 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 3 Ret TDs Allow 3 **Penalty Margin** +11 Penalties 74 **Opponent Penalties** 85



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 23 | 3 | 23 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 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







But what was strange about that game with the Broncos was the sudden change in personnel deployment for Tua.

Miami suddenly switched to throwing 85% of their passes using 11 personnel. Tua dropped back only twice from 12 personnel and 22 times from 11 personnel. All six of Tua's sacks came from 11 personnel.

The move to heavy 11 vs Fangio made zero sense. Look at Tua's splits in his first three starts:

11 personnel: -0.12 EPA/att, 41% success, 6.3 YPA, 39% pressure rate, three sacks on 41 dropbacks 12 personnel: +0.41 EPA/att, 72% success, 8.2 YPA, 20% pressure rate, one sack on 29 dropbacks

Tua absolutely crushed in 12 personnel. He was pressured twice as often in 11 personnel and took a massive step back in efficiency. Even if you strip out late game or third down and focus only on early downs in the first three quarters, examine the splits:

11 personnel: -0.05 EPA/att, 51% success, 8.1 YPA, 29% pressure rate, 2 sacks on 21 dropbacks 12 personnel: 0.24 EPA/att, 65% success, 8.1 YPA, 25% pressure rate, 1 sack on 20 dropbacks

Tua was better passing from 12.

And Fangio's defense was worse vs 12. Look at Fangio's splits:

vs 11 personnel: 0.01 EPA/att, 45% success, 7.2 YPA vs 12 personnel: 0.07 EPA/att, 51% success, 8.4 YPA

Even if you strip out late game or third down and focus only on early downs in the first three quarters, Fangio's defense:

vs 11 personnel: 0.11 EPA/att, 49% success, 7.5 YPA vs 12 personnel: 0.17 EPA/att, 54% success, 9.4 YPA

It wasn't clear to me why there was a heavy usage of 11, but it certainly backfired and made Tua look terrible. He hadn't played with that much 11 personnel in any game on the season. To insert it that often against Fangio? Puzzling, to say the least.

Miami lost that game. Immediately after, Flores said Tua was still the starting quarterback. However, Tua injured his left thumb in practice that Wednesday and missed Miami's Week 12 game vs the Jets.

The terrible Jets lost the game, but it's not as if Fitzpatrick came in and lit the world on fire. He averaged 6.6 YPA, with 51% success and 0.10 EPA/att. He, too, was pressured on 35% of his dropbacks behind the terrible Dolphins line and was sacked four times.

Tua then returned to the lineup and won two of the next three games, beating the Bengals and Patriots while losing to the Chiefs by only six points.

Looking at those three games and first isolating early downs in the first three quarters, Tua was again much better from 12 personnel. Splits:

11 personnel: -0.06 EPA/att, 55% success, 5.8 YPA 12 personnel: 0.30 EPA/att, 68% success, 9.5 YPA

Full game, all down splits showed the same:

11 personnel: -0.08 EPA/att, 52% success, 6.1 YPA 12 personnel: 0.29 EPA/att, 67% success, 9.4 YPA

But Gailey had made the change to 11 personnel more pronounced. Tua threw from 11 personnel on 68% of attempts and from 12 only 23% of attempts. It was a significant departure from when Tua threw from 12 personnel 37% of attempts in his first three starts of the season.

(cont'd - see MIA-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game to prep prep 3 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Miami Dolphins Ranking vs NFL Average

| l | Net Rest Edge Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Short Week Road Games Rank | Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | 27 | 23 | 19 | 12 | 25 | 1 |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- Miami's defense benefitted from tremendous luck and is due for negative regression. Miami forced the most turnovers in the NFL, recovered opponent fumbles at the third-highest percentage in the league and ranked number one by a mile in lowest third down conversion over expected rate in the NFL.
- The massive number of turnovers masked that the Dolphins were only 24th in yards per play allowed. Miami led the NFL in EPA gained from turnovers forced on defense.
- Although the team is hopeful Tua turns things around, there is certainly no guarantee. He won't have Ryan Fitzpatrick to bail him out this season if not. Tagovailoa ranked 30th in the NFL in yards per attempt while Fitzpatrick ranked eighth.

9



Why Bet the Over

- Tua Tagovailoa really struggled as a rookie, ranking 27th in EPA per dropback. Some of it was most likely due to rust after coming back from a major injury at Alabama and some of it was Tua admitting that he was not totally prepared to start mid-way last season. The Dolphins will need a breakout season to clear nine wins
- To help Tagovailoa, the Dolphins really added to their receiving corps by signing deep threat Will Fuller and drafting Jaylen Waddle sixth overall. Miami boasted only one receiver, DeVante Parker, who graded as a top 50 WR last season. Fuller ranked sixth in explosive play rate among receivers last season. The Dolphins will be much more explosive on offense overall.
- The Dolphins schedule is favorable. Not only will the Dolphins face the fourth-easiest expected schedule based on opponent win totals, but they will sport the longest stretch of days with just one road game of any team in the NFL, with 57 between November 1 and December 26.

| | Miami Dolphins Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | |
| 17 | 28 | 30 | 17 | 19 | 4 | 13 | | | |

Despite the obvious talent, we're not quite sold on **Tua Tagovailoa** just yet. The Dolphins' QB room earned only one vote in the upper half (15th overall). Unfortunately Tagovailoa still doesn't have a ton of support around him, despite an obvious effort to upgrade his weapons this offseason.

Starting RB Myles Gaskin ranked 32nd out of 34 running backs in EPA per attempt last season, and the depth behind him (Malcolm Brown, Salvon Ahmed, and seventh-round rookie Gerrid Doaks) is among the worst in the league.

Free agent addition **Will Fuller** and rookie **Jaylen Waddle** gives the receiving corps significantly more speed. However, without a true number-one weapon, this group will still likely struggle in matchups with the league's better secondaries.

Four of the Dolphins five projected offensive line starters have been drafted by the team since 2019, so there's plenty of young talent to develop. But the unit needs to take a step forward to help Tagovailoa, especially LT **Austin Jackson**. Based on Sports Info Solutions' Points Above Average metric, which works off the EPA framework, Jackson ranked 24th out of 31 qualified left tackles.

The front seven will rely heavily on rookie **Jaelan Phillips**, after losing **Kyle Van Noy** and **Shaq Lawson**. This unit received just one vote in the upper half of the league.

The top unit on this roster is the secondary, which ranked in the top six on every ballot. **Xavien Howard** has emerged as one of the best in the league, forcing opponents into -1.0 EPA or worse on 30% of his targets in coverage, the third best rate in the league.

Among coaches with two or fewer years of experience, Brian Flores is our third-ranked head coach. With nothing to play for in 2019, this team still played hard for him, and then he led a dramatic improvement in 2020. Year 3 could be special if Flores and staff can continue to develop Tagovailoa.

<u>MIA-4</u>

Over the course of the season, Tua's splits by personnel:

11 personnel: -0.17 EPA/att, 49% success, 6.3 YPA

12 personnel: 0.25 EPA/att, 62% success, 7.9 YPA

Fitzpatrick was, of course, better from 12 personnel than even Tua, and was by far the best quarterback for the Dolphins last year. But I believe the water is tainted with the consensus selective memory bias of Tua. The impression that Fitzpatrick entered many games late to pull out wins. That happened one time.

In addition to not using enough 12 personnel to pass the ball with both quarterbacks, Gailey made major mistakes with his misuse of heavier personnel to run the ball

A huge 54% of the Dolphins runs came in heavy personnel with two or fewer WRs on the field. Examine the Dolphins splits:

Heavier (2 or less WRs): -0.20 EPA/att, 47% success, 3.0 YPC (232 runs) Light (3 or more WRs): 0.11 EPA/att, 57% success, 5.0 YPC (194 runs)

<u>MIA-5</u>

The Dolphins offense could have been significantly more efficient, regardless of the quarterback, if it employed a simple concept that many of the more modern coaches are using: spread to run and condense to pass.

Often, the best efficiency for runs will come from 3+ WR spread sets and the best efficiency for passes will come from heavier personnel groupings to dictate coverage.

It was frustrating to watch the Dolphins in the red zone.

Passes from 3+ WR sets: -0.58 EPA/att, 38% success (42 attempts) Passes from 2- WR sets: 0.23 EPA/att, 49% success (33 attempts)

Runs from 3+ WR sets: 0.14 EPA/att, 68% success (44 attempts) Runs from 2- WR sets: -0.17 EPA/att, 46% success (61 attempts)

These splits are game changing. Yet Miami passed more from the less efficient sets and ran more from the less efficient sets.

Even if we remove third downs and look only at early downs:

Passes from 3+ WR sets: -0.23 EPA/att, 44% success (25 attempts) Passes from 2- WR sets: 0.29 EPA/att, 54% success (24 attempts)

This was a game deciding edge they were not studying nor factoring into their play calling.

We've discussed the general misuse of personnel by Gailey, but there were other things that stood out to me as being -EV that, if studied intently during the season, could have resulted in more success.

For one a lack of motion.

The NFL average is to use some type of motion (pre-snap, play-action

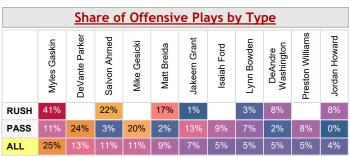


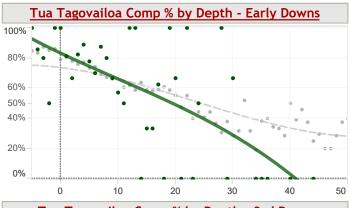


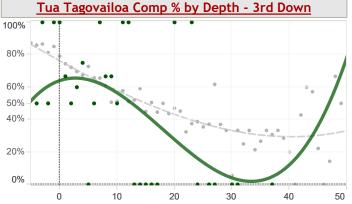


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | Usage R | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Myles Gaskin | 3% | 4% | 54% | 11% | 29% |
| | Salvon Ahmed | 5% | 1% | 80% | 11% | 3% |
| | Matt Breida | | 3% | 61% | 8% | 27% |
| RUSH | Jakeem Grant | | 33% | 33% | | 33% |
| 2 | Lynn Bowden | 11% | | 67% | | 22% |
| | DeAndre Washington | 7% | 7% | 43% | 25% | 18% |
| | Jordan Howard | | 11% | 82% | | 7% |
| | Total | 3% | 4% | 62% | 10% | 20% |
| | Myles Gaskin | 11% | 9% | 60% | 2% | 19% |
| | DeVante Parker | 14% | 4% | 61% | 11% | 11% |
| | Salvon Ahmed | 27% | 36% | 36% | | |
| | Mike Gesicki | 13% | 13% | 54% | 8% | 12% |
| | Matt Breida | | | 80% | | 20% |
| PASS | Jakeem Grant | 2% | 6% | 80% | 4% | 9% |
| A | Isaiah Ford | 23% | 20% | 50% | 3% | 5% |
| | Lynn Bowden | 37% | 13% | 47% | 3% | |
| | DeAndre Washington | 11% | | 56% | 33% | |
| | Preston Williams | 3% | 6% | 66% | | 26% |
| | Jordan Howard | | | 100% | | |
| | Total | 13% | 9% | 60% | 6% | 11% |







Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 48%, -0.07 (383) | 59%, 0.23 (144) | 61%, 0.18 (18) | 50%, 0.39 (2) | 50%, 0.16 (16) | 38%, -0.12 (8) | 50%, 0.25 (6) | 0%, -1.86 (1) | 100%, 1.54 (2) | 51%, 0.02 (589) |
| RUSH | 59%, 0.12 (181) | 52%, -0.25 (136) | 42%, -0.08 (31) | 37%, -0.15 (41) | 44%, -0.33 (16) | 67%, 1.27 (3) | 50%, 0.61 (2) | 100%, 0.47 (2) | | 52%, -0.06 (424) |
| All | 51%, -0.01 (564) | 56%, 0.00 (280) | 49%, 0.01 (49) | 37%, -0.13 (43) | 47%, -0.08 (32) | 45%, 0.26 (11) | 50%, 0.34 (8) | 67%, -0.31 (3) | 100%, 1.54 (2) | 51%, -0.01 (1,013) |

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 | Myles Gaskin | 56% (32) 8.0, 0.32 | 62% (13) 8.5, 0.30 | 100% (1) 16.0, 0.95 | | 59% (46) 8.3, 0.33 | | | |
| TE | Mike Gesicki | 55% (53) 8.0, -0.03 | 68% (22) 8.9, 0.47 | 100% (1) 15.0, 1.60 | 100% (1) 22.0, 1.70 | 60% (77) 8.6, 0.16 | | | |
| WR | DeVante Parker | 51% (61) 7.3, 0.13 | 66% (29) 9.9, 0.40 | 50% (6) 7.5, 0.06 | | 55% (96) 8.1, 0.21 | | | |
| | Jakeem Grant | 54% (39) 7.0, 0.13 | 50% (12) 7.2, 0.09 | 50% (2) 4.0, 0.07 | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.12 | 54% (54) 6.9, 0.12 | | | |
| | Isaiah Ford | 61% (41) 6.4, 0.12 | | | | 61% (41) 6.4, 0.12 | | | |
| | Antonio Callaway | 50% (4) 5.0, 0.12 | | | | 50% (4) 5.0, 0.12 | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Gaskin | 50% (48) | 57% (49) | 36% (22) | 58% (12) | 51% (131) |
| Myles | 4.7, -0.01 | 4.3, -0.26 | 2.6, -0.22 | 4.3, 0.02 | 4.2, -0.13 |
| Ahmed | 67% (39) | 56% (27) | 100% (1) | | 63% (67) |
| Salvon | 5.1, 0.13 | 3.7, -0.12 | 1.0, 0.40 | | 4.4, 0.03 |
| Breida | 67% (27) | 63% (16) | 33% (3) | 30% (10) | 57% (56) |
| Matt | 5.4, 0.06 | 3.3, -0.24 | 4.3, -0.04 | 2.7, -0.25 | 4.3, -0.09 |
| Tagovailoa | 69% (16) | 40% (15) | 40% (5) | | 53% (36) |
| Tua | 5.4, 0.48 | 1.6, -0.56 | -0.4, -0.35 | | 3.0, -0.07 |
| Howard | 33% (3) | 50% (8) | 43% (7) | 14% (7) | 36% (25) |
| Jordan | 1.3, 0.02 | 1.9, -0.22 | 0.6, 0.24 | 1.1, -0.28 | 1.2, -0.08 |
| Washingto n DeAndre | 42% (12) 4.0, -0.18 | 42% (12) 2.8, -0.15 | 0% (1) -1.0, -0.22 | | 40% (25) 3.2, -0.17 |
| Fitzpatrick | 67% (18) | 33% (3) | 0% (2) | 100% (1) | 58% (24) |
| Ryan | 6.6, 0.55 | 1.0, -0.57 | -1.0, -0.66 | 7.0, 0.45 | 5.3, 0.30 |

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

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

| _ | sing by | Passing by | | | | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Coverage Scheme | | Route | | Level 1 | 58% (406) 6.2. 0.07 | 3 Step | 56% (276) 7.4, 0.11 | Planted | | % (386) 5, 0.13 | Inside Zone | 55% (106) 4.1, -0.10 |
| | | Curl | 67% (92) 7.4, 0.28 | | | 0/1 Step | 58% (80) | Shuffling | | 0% (98) 1, 0.10 | Outside | 49% (82) |
| Zone | 58% (255) 7.3, 0.18 | Slant | 58% (76) | Level 2 | 55% (96) 11.3, 0.48 | 0/1 Step | 7.5, 0.17 | Moving | | 2% (71) 3, 0.12 | Zone | 4.3, -0.11 |
| | | Siant | 7.0, 0.16 | | | 5 Step | 47% (66) 8.1, 0.08 | | | | Power | 45% (38) 2.5, -0.18 |
| | 55% (216) | Out | 62% (37) | Level 3 | 28% (29) 8.6, -0.03 | | | | Play Action | | | · |
| M2M | 7.2, 0.12 | | 6.6, 0.29 | | | Basic Screen | 50% (24) 5.3, 0.04 | | Play Action 53% (40) | No P/A 33% (15) | Lead | 47% (32) 2.4, 0.00 |
| | | Dig | 47% (36) | Shovel | 50% (10) 6.9, 0.20 | Designed | 46% (13) | Under Center | 8.0, 0.11 | 3.2, -0.11 | | 42% (24) |
| | 39% (49) | | 7.0, -0.23 | | | Rollout Right | 3.4, -0.05 | Shotgun | 57% (104) 6.2, 0.08 | 50% (432) 7.3, 0.01 | Stretch | 3.5, -0.13 |
| Screen | 5.9, 0.02 | Drag | 43% (21) 3.9, -0.29 | Sidearm | 50% (2) 17.5, 0.97 | 7 Step | 78% (9) 13.3, 1.14 | ALL | 56% (144) 6.7, 0.09 | 50% (447) 7.2, 0.00 | Pitch | 50% (2) 3.5, -0.42 |

<u>MIA-6</u>

or both) on 52% of offensive plays. Miami used it on only 48% of plays, which ranked 20th in the NFL. This, despite improved efficiency when using motion.

Another issue – predictability from player deployment. In many cases due to injury, but in some cases due to a preference for package variety, the former offensive coordinator loved to rotate guys in and out of the game. The problem was, his combinations were highly predictable. The resulting gains were therefore extremely terrible. Here are just a few examples of plays where just one or two players on the field dictated playcalls at a rate all defensive coordinators should love:

If fullback **Chandler Cox** was in the game, it was a run play 75% of the time. These runs averaged 2.3 YPC. When running back **Jordan Howard** was on the field with Cox, the Dolphins ran the ball 90% of the time and these runs averaged 0.95 YPC.

If running back Patrick Laird was on the field, the Dolphins passed the ball 76% of the time. These passes averaged 4.6 YPA.

If tight end **Mike Gesicki** was on the field, the Dolphins passed the ball 71% of the time. If Laird and Gesicki were on the field together, the Dolphins passed the ball 85% of the time and these passes averaged 6.5 YPA.

If tight ends Adam Shaheen and Durham Smythe were on the field without Mike Gesicki, it was a run 78% of the time. These runs gained 2.0 YPC.

We will hope these issues discussed thus far with Dolphins playcalling leave with Gailey.

For Tua to reach his apex as quickly as he can during this rookie deal, he must have optimal playcalling. But he also must improve in many areas. One of them is deeper passing. This is a team effort and a Tua effort. The offensive line needs to be better. Playcalling needs to be better. His teammates need to get better separation. And Tua needs to improve.





Perhaps surprisingly, on passes within 10 yards of the line of scrimmage, Tua was more efficient than Fitzpatrick:

Tagovailoa: 6.0 YPA, 58% success, 0.10 EPA/att on 204 att Fitzpatrick: 5.7 YPA, 56% success, 0.03 EPA/att on 192 att

Tua was likewise more efficient just inside of 15 yards. But when you move to 15+ air yards, that's when Tua struggled and Fitzpatrick was clearly better:

Tagovailoa: 8.9 YPA, 39% success, -0.02 EPA/att on 49 att Fitzpatrick: 17.0 YPA, 68% success, 0.78 EPA/att on 44 att

One issue the Dolphins had last season was receiver separation, or lack thereof. Using Next Gen Stats, we know the amount of cushion a receiver had at the time of snap on a play they were to be targeted. We also know the amount of separation that receiver had at the time they either caught the ball or it went past them as an incompletion.

Some offenses create cushion by design. The Cardinals are one such offense. Others did not, like the Dolphins. But creating cushion isn't the be-all and end-all. Ideally, and more importantly, the receiver is getting separation when the ball arrives. This signals two things – one, the team has receivers that are getting open and two, the quarterback is finding one of them.

The top five teams in separation:

- 1. Packers
- 2. Chiefs
- 3 Cardinals
- 4. Bills
- 5. Rams

The Dolphins ranked 32nd.

The Dolphins ranked 30th in cushion as well. So even before the snap, the receiver that was to be targeted didn't have as much space as some teams generated. Again, this isn't essential, as the Packers, Bills, and Browns all were bad with pre-snap cushion as well. But they were able to get separation with the combination of receiver speed, offensive design, and quarterback's read of the defense.

Another thing that's capable of being calculated is "space erased" – a metric which takes the pre-snap cushion and subtracts the separation at time of catch to see how much space the defensive player in coverage was able to erase from the receiver.

It should be no surprise that teams who lost the least space on targets were the Packers, Chiefs, Bills, Browns, and 49ers. These offenses were designed by some of the best offensive minds in the game and have receivers capable of gaining separation and quarterbacks capable of finding the open receiver.

But the Dolphins ranked eighth worst in this metric.

(cont'd - see MIA-8)

Immediate Impact of Miami Dolphins 2021 Draft Class

The Dolphins wanted to make **Tua Tagovailoa** more comfortable, so they went out and landed his slot receiver from college. In 2019 at Alabama, Tagovailoa targeted the slot on 40% of his throws, averaging 12.0 yards per attempt. As a rookie in Miami, he continued throwing to the slot (39 percent of his attempts) but ranked 33rd out of 35 quarterbacks with just 6.5 yards per attempt. **Jaylen Waddle** lined up in the slot on 68% of his career snaps, and should immediately step into that role in Miami.

Jaelan Phillips (1st round) was arguably the most physically gifted pass-rusher in this draft class but slid slightly due to injury concerns (concussions) and some clashes with the UCLA medical/coaching staffs which led to a brief retirement and eventual transfer to Miami FL.

Miami traded **Shaq Lawson** and cut **Kyle Van Noy**, who accounted for 29% of the team's QB pressures in 2020. After ignoring the position in free agency, it was a glaring need entering the draft and Phillips should have an immediate role as one of the Dolphins' primary pass-rushers.

As strong as the Dolphins defense was at times in 2020, they allowed 9.0 yards per target to slot receivers, which ranked 27th in the league. Enter **Jevon Holland** (second round), who was among the most effective slot corners in the country in 2019 (he opted out in 2020).

Holland is expected to compete for the starting job at free safety, but Brian Flores has already been gushing about his versatility. Expect to see him do a bit of everything in Miami's secondary this season.

Liam Eichenberg (second round) should provide immediate depth on the offensive line, and Flores has stated he could play guard or tackle. That vague answer makes it sound as though there's no immediate plan for Eichenberg, although Miami's mediocre offensive line play in 2020 would seem to indicate he has a chance to win a job with a strong camp.

Hunter Long (third round) is a well-rounded tight end, who could get on the field in 12 personnel packages as a rookie. 32% of Miami's designed runs came in 12 personnel, so Long's production as a run blocker could have immediate value, though **Durham Smythe** and **Adam Shaheen** will compete for those snaps as well

It's rare to find a draft class that has five players positioned to make an immediate impact—especially when the team is expected to compete for a playoff berth. This looks like one of the better draft hauls of 2021, both in terms of immediate and long-term value.



Miami Dolphins 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

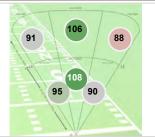
Miami made a controversial change over to **Tua Tagovailoa** after their Week 7 bye last season and the results were a complete mixed bag. On one hand, Miami posted a 6-3 record in Tagovailoa's nine starts, but on the other hand, they also pulled him from two games during that span while the rookie had plenty of his own struggles. Tagovailoa managed just 6.3 yards per pass attempt (37th) with 11 touchdown passes. We are still left with questioning how much Alabama's supreme talent depth at receiver played a role in elevating Tagovailoa as prospect, but Miami did not offer much offensively for the rookie passer to work with as a supporting cast. Miami's moves this offseason in adding **Will Fuller** and **Jaylen Waddle** signal they do not see him as an immediate sunk cost and are committed to giving him as much as they can in maxing out his sophomore season.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick | 183 | 267 | 69% | 2,091 | 7.8 | 13 | 8 | 14 | 96 | 20 |
| Tua Tagovailoa | 186 | 290 | 64% | 1,814 | 6.3 | 11 | 5 | 20 | 87 | 31 |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | 2020 A | dvance | d Passir | ig Table | 2 | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 | 54% | 60% | 24 | 9.0% | 9 | 3.0% | 6.4 | 5.0 | 11 | 4% |
| Tua Tagovailoa | 47% | 53% | 15 | 5.0% | 3 | 1.0% | 5.2 | 4.5 | 10 | 3% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10 Tua Tagovailoa Rating

Tua Tagovailoa Rating <u>Early Downs</u>



| <u>In</u> | 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% | 4.0% | | 1.9% | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 8.7% | 0.0% | 3.1% | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.7% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 1.2% | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | |
| Total | 1.6% | 0.0% | 4.1% | 0.0% | 1.6% | | | |

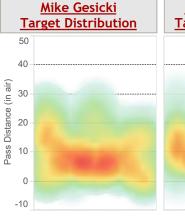
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | |
| Tua Tagovailoa | 8.5 | 5.2 | -3.3 | 76% | 27 | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | |

| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | |
| | 54% | 46% | 23 | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Miami came into 2020 with limited talent at wide receiver and lost a number of those bodies they had along the way. Albert Wilson and Allen Hurns opted out for the season while DeVante Parker (two games), Preston Williams (eight games), and Jakeem Grant (two games) each missed multiple games in season. By the end of the season, Miami wideouts ranked 17th in receptions (12.6) and 27th in receiving yards per game (140.0 yards) while 27th in touchdown receptions (11) as a group. Adding team speed and separators, Miami added Will Fuller via free agency and selected Jaylen Waddle with the No. 6 pick overall. Prior to suspension last year, Fuller had career-highs with 4.8 receptions and 79.9 yards per game with eight touchdowns.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dшоე | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| DeVante Parker | 103 | 61% | 7.7 | 90.0 | 54% | 60 | 32 | 70 | 48 | 4 |
| Mike Gesicki | 85 | 62% | 8.3 | 97.3 | 58% | 35 | 42 | 19 | 91 | 6 |
| Jakeem Grant | 54 | 67% | 6.9 | 77.2 | 54% | 64 | 52 | 92 | 42 | 1 |





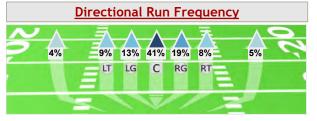
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Dolphins came out of 2020 ranking 29th in expected points added via their rushing game. Their backfield ranked 23rd in touches (24.9) per game, 18th in yards from scrimmage per game (123.3 yards) and 14th in yards per touch (5.0 yards). **Myles Gaskin** was a surprise hit for Miami. In 10 games played, Gaskin turned 183 touches into 972 yards and five scores. His 18.3 touches per game were ninth at the position while his 97.2 yards per game were 10th. A smaller-framed back at 200-pounds, Gaskin converted just 3-of-9 carries inside of the 5-yard line. The team added **Gerrid Doaks** (228 pounds) late in the draft and veteran **Malcom Brown** in free agency, who has converted 8-of-15 carries inside of the 5-yard line for touchdowns for his career.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Myles Gaskin | 142 | 4.1 | 54% | 32 | 10 | 29 | 74 | 58% | 7 | 3 |
| Salvon Ahmed | 75 | 4.3 | 59% | 8 | 40 | 19 | 41 | 60% | 2 | 3 |
| Matt Breida | 59 | 4.3 | 56% | 16 | 34 | 15 | 73 | 53% | 33 | 0 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Tua Tagovailoa can take a large step in Year 2

Tagovailoa had nearly no support last season as he struggled through his rookie season. Tua's top receivers on the season were **Mike Gesicki** (29 receptions), **Lynn Bowden** (27), **DeVante Parker** (23), and **Jakeem Grant** (21).

While we are still left with questioning how much Alabama's supreme talent depth at receiver and offensive talent pool played a role in elevating Tagovailoa as a prospect, the Dolphins needed to continue to invest in playmakers to answer that question. Parker was ahead of only A.J. Green in average separation target (1.7 yards) and Gesicki was next ahead of only those two (2.0 yards). Preston Williams was at just 2.1 yards.

The team emphasized getting Tua speed and players who can get open. First adding Will Fuller via free agency (3.0 yards average separation in 2020). Prior to suspension last year, Fuller had career-highs with 4.8 receptions and 79.9 yards per game with eight touchdowns. Fuller still has to serve one more game on that suspension last season to kick off 2021, but his addition does give Tagovailoa a significant separator at the position and a tutor to the addition of Jaylen Waddle, who Miami took with the No. 6 overall selection in the draft. Over the opening four weeks to the 2020 season prior to injury, Waddle had more receiving yardage than the future Heisman Trophy Winner DeVonta Smith (557 to 483).

Miami also added a solid tight end prospect in **Hunter Long** in the third round. Long closed out his career at Boston College with a 57-685-5 line and led all collegiate tight ends with 88 targets in 2020. Long accounted for 23.6% of the Boston College receptions, 21.9% of their receiving yardage, and 2.17% of their touchdowns. Those team shares of reception and yardage marks for Long were tops among all tight ends in this class over the full season. With his added sprinkling of mobility (109 yards and three scores rushing), the added speed on offense. Tagovailoa is in line to take a step forward as a QB2 option in 2021.

Myles Gaskin is the Miami RB1

Gaskin was a surprise hit for Miami in 2020. Despite signing **Jordan Howard** in free agency and then trading for **Matt Breida** during the NFL Draft last offseason, it was Gaskin who led the Miami backfield. In 10 games played, Gaskin turned 183 touches into 972 yards and five scores. His 18.3 touches per game were ninth at the position while his 97.2 yards per game were 10th. Effective in the passing game, Gaskin was fifth at the position with 4.1 receptions per game while his 9.5 yards per reception were second among all running backs with 20 or catches on the year.

An excellent pass catcher in 2020, the only question surrounding Gaskin is that he is a smaller-framed back at 200-pounds back who converted just 3-of-9 carries inside of the 5-yard line. That role still could go to a bigger body in 2021. The team added Doaks (228 pounds) late and veteran Malcom Brown has converted 8-of-15 carries inside of the 5-yard line for touchdowns. Even if Gaskin concedes short scores, he came out ahead post-draft to be in the RB2 conversation for fantasy and could even be a potential fantasy draft arbitrage on someone like Austin Ekeler pending where his ADP settles in at.

| W. | iami Dolphi | ns Defense: | Number of | DBs vs Pers | onnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|-----------|---|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | % | Rk | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 24 plays (6%) Success: 67% | 237 plays (57%) Success: 48% | 146 plays (35%) Success: 43% | 8 plays (2%) Success: 0% | 418 plays (100%) Success: 46% | | % | KK | 40 |
| [01114] | EPA: 0.14 | EPA: -0.14 | EPA: -0.24 | EPA: -1.30 | EPA: -0.20 | Base | 27% | 10 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 45 plays (63%) Success: 53% | 23 plays (32%) Success: 52% | 3 plays (4%) Success: 0% | | 71 plays (100%) Success: 51% | Nickel | 47% | 27 | 30 - |
| | EPA: 0.23 | EPA: -0.03 | EPA: -1.00 | | EPA: 0.10 | Dime+ | 24% | 9 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 30 plays (83%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.10 | 6 plays (17%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.16 | | | 36 plays (100%) Success: 56% EPA: 0.11 | Rush 3 | 17% | 3 | 20 – |
| | 2 plays (100%) | 217 0.10 | | | 2 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 52% | 32 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 0% EPA: -1.02 | | | | Success: 0% EPA: -1.02 | Rush 5 | 20% | 16 | |
| Grand | 101 plays (19%) Success: 55% | 266 plays (50%) Success: 49% | 149 plays (28%) Success: 42% | 8 plays (2%) Success: 0% | 527 plays (100%) Success: 47% | Rush 6+ | 8% | 5 | 0 |
| Total | EPA: 0.15 | EPA: -0.12 | EPA: -0.25 | EPA: -1.30 | EPA: -0.14 | Blitz% | 28% | 14 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

The Dolphins have a defense in which many of the defensive positions merge. There are players who line up along the defensive line and those who stand up behind them. Then there are plays when everyone is up. **Christian Wilkins** ranked sixth in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate among defensive tackles last season. Adam Butter was signed in the offseason and he ranked seventh among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season, according to Sports Info Solutions. 2020 second-round pick **Raekwon Davis** struggled a bit early in the season but came on as the year progressed. **Zach Seiler**, 2018 seventh-round pick of the Baltimore Ravens, was waived by Baltimore in the 2019 season and signed with the Dolphins. He had 3.5 sacks with 11 tackles for loss and 11 quarterback hits.

Linebackers for the Dolphins have to be able to do a little bit of everything. **Emmanuel Ogbah** (98.4% rush rate) and **Shaq Lawson** (90.9%) were the two main edge rushers. **Jerome Baker** was the closest to the prototypical off-ball linebacker and he still rushed the passer on 21.1% of his pass snaps. Everyone else was somewhere in between.

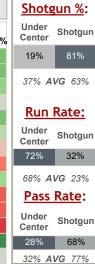
With so many players rushing the passer, it might be expected that the Dolphins had one of the highest blitz rates in the league. But that wasn't the case. Miami blitzed at the 14th-highest rate in the league. The kicker is the Dolphins rushed four (52%) at the lowest rate in the league. The question for opposing offenses was constantly not just how many rushers are coming, but also which players will be the ones rushing. With **Kyle Van Noy** gone (43.9% rush rate), there will be more playing time for 2019 fifth-round pick **Andrew Van Ginkel**. Van Ginkel played 46.4% of the defensive snaps, rushed the passer on 69.2% of his pass snaps, and finished with the seventh-highest pressure rate among edge rushers. In the first round, the Dolphins selected **Jaelan Phillips**, who will be a more traditional edge rusher — he rushed on 94% of his pass snaps in 2020.

There's so much talent in the secondary and Miami ranked fourth in EPA per play against the pass. **Xavien Howard** was one of the league's best cornerbacks last season. He ranked eighth among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap and allowed the third-lowest completion percentage among that group. **Byron Jones** was merely slightly above average (72nd among those cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap) but that was more than enough while playing opposite Howard. Jones only had four passes defensed in coverage but had his first multi-interception season of his career.

2020 first-round pick **Noah Igbinoghene** had his rookie struggles as he spelled Howard or Jones on the outside. 2019 undrafted free agent **Nik Needam** was the team's main slot corner and ranked 99th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap in 2020. Miami took a low-cost shot at a bounce-back from **Justin Coleman**, who was one of the league's best slot cornerbacks with the Seattle Seahawks before two down seasons with the Detroit Lions. **Eric Rowe** bounced all around the secondary last season, but his coverage didn't always hold up. Among 34 safeties with at least 400 coverage snaps, Rowe ranked 31st in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. **Bobby McCain** was released late in the offseason, which leaves an opening at safety likely to be filled by 2021 second-round pick **Jevon Holland**, who has experience at safety and in the slot.

2020 Play Tendencies 61% All Pass % All Pass Rk All Rush % 39% All Rush Rk 22 1 Score Pass % 59% 1 Score Pass Rk 9 2019 1 Score Pass % 55% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 26 2020 Pass Increase % 4% Pass Increase Rk 41% 1 Score Rush % 1 Score Rush Rk 24 Up Pass % 60% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 40% Up Rush Rk 25 Down Pass % 65% Down Pass Rk Down Rush % 35% Down Rush Rk 26

| <u>202</u> | 0 Down & | Dista | nce T | ende | <u>ncies</u> |
|------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 11 | 36% | 64% | 64% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 11 | 45% | 55% | 64% |
| | Long (8-10) | 310 | 55% | 45% | 57% |
| | XL (11+) | 8 | 88% | 13% | 50% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 44 | 39% | 61% | 64% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 87 | 57% | 43% | 52% |
| | Long (8-10) | 84 | 67% | 33% | 48% |
| | XL (11+) | 26 | 85% | 15% | 31% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 46 | 54% | 46% | 54% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 45 | 93% | 7% | 24% |
| | Long (8-10) | 29 | 90% | 10% | 24% |
| | XL (11+) | 21 | 76% | 24% | 14% |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 7 | 14% | 86% | 86% |
| Dwn | Long (8-10) | 2 | 100% | 0% | 50% |
| | | | | | |





Short Yardage Intelligence:

| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sh | ort Run | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg |
| 67% | 19 | 67% | 68% | 75% |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | |
| Pass | Pass | NFL Pass | Pass 1D | Pass NFL |

Freq Avg

33%

Rate

36%

1D Avg

59%

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Jordan Howard | 3 | 33% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Myles Gaskin | 4 | 50% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Myles Gaskin | 51 | 51% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Durham Smythe | 2 | 50% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Myles Gaskin | 13 | 77% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | DeVante Parker | 11 | 55% |
| | | RUSH | Myles Gaskin | 11 | 55% |
| | | | Salvon Ahmed | 11 | 64% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | DeVante Parker | 12 | 67% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | DeVante Parker | 4 | 25% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Myles Gaskin | 5 | 20% |
| Dwn | | | Salvon Ahmed | 5 | 40% |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | DeVante Parker | 9 | 33% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | DeVante Parker | 5 | 40% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Myles Gaskin | 3 | 0% |
| | | | Isaiah Ford | 3 | 33% |
| | | RUSH | Tua Tagovailoa | 3 | 0% |

| Offen | sive Performance | w Motion (Pre Sn | ap & Play Action) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 50% | Success: 53% | Success: 50% |
| | YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.03 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.12 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.00 |
| | Rtg: 85.5 | Rtg: 94.9 | Rtg: 87.1 |
| | [Att: 311 - Rate: 52.6%] | [Att: 60 - Rate: 10.2%] | [Att: 371 - Rate: 62.8%] |
| Yes | Success: 49% | Success: 57% | Success: 52% |
| | YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.07 | YPA: 6.2, EPA: 0.07 | YPA: 6.5, EPA: 0.07 |
| | Rtg: 96.3 | Rtg: 107.1 | Rtg: 100.4 |
| | [Att: 136 - Rate: 23.0%] | [Att: 84 - Rate: 14.2%] | [Att: 220 - Rate: 37.2%] |
| Total | Success: 50% | Success: 56% | Success: 51% |
| | YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.00 | YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.09 | YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.02 |
| | Rtg: 88.8 | Rtg: 102.0 | Rtg: 92.1 |
| | [Att: 447 - Rate: 75.6%] | [Att: 144 - Rate: 24.4%] | [Att: 591 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Rk

13

Frea

33%

| | | | | | 2020 V | Veekly | Snap R | <u>ates</u> | | | | |
|----|-------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | DeVante Parker | Mike Gesicki | Myles Gaskin | Durham Smythe | Isaiah Ford | Jakeem Grant | Adam Shaheen | Lynn Bowden | Preston Williams | Matt Breida |
| 1 | NE | L 21-11 | 23 (37%) | 45 (73%) | 39 (63%) | 13 (21%) | 46 (74%) | 33 (53%) | 12 (19%) | | 56 (90%) | 14 (23%) |
| 2 | BUF | L 31-28 | 66 (88%) | 41 (55%) | 49 (65%) | 35 (47%) | 48 (64%) | 10 (13%) | 17 (23%) | 4 (5%) | 61 (81%) | 16 (21%) |
| 3 | JAC | W 31-13 | 56 (92%) | 30 (49%) | 46 (75%) | 42 (69%) | 27 (44%) | 8 (13%) | 24 (39%) | | 35 (57%) | 11 (18%) |
| 4 | SEA | L 31-23 | 57 (80%) | 45 (63%) | 46 (65%) | 29 (41%) | 45 (63%) | 28 (39%) | 20 (28%) | 4 (6%) | 43 (61%) | 17 (24%) |
| 5 | SF | W 43-17 | 53 (79%) | 30 (45%) | 42 (63%) | | 24 (36%) | 14 (21%) | 38 (57%) | 10 (15%) | 40 (60%) | 21 (31%) |
| 6 | NYJ | W 24-0 | 46 (82%) | 37 (66%) | 39 (70%) | 19 (34%) | 18 (32%) | 20 (36%) | 16 (29%) | 5 (9%) | 40 (71%) | 16 (29%) |
| 8 | LA | W 28-17 | 29 (59%) | 28 (57%) | 43 (88%) | 32 (65%) | 17 (35%) | 16 (33%) | 16 (33%) | | 44 (90%) | 8 (16%) |
| 9 | ARI | W 34-31 | 55 (90%) | 43 (70%) | | 25 (41%) | | 29 (48%) | 24 (39%) | | 17 (28%) | |
| 10 | LAC | W 29-21 | 53 (91%) | 28 (48%) | | 39 (67%) | | 44 (76%) | 22 (38%) | | | |
| 11 | DEN | L 20-13 | 63 (97%) | 43 (66%) | | 13 (20%) | | 55 (85%) | 13 (20%) | | | 7 (11%) |
| 12 | NYJ | W 20-3 | 67 (94%) | 50 (70%) | | 30 (42%) | | 24 (34%) | 25 (35%) | 22 (31%) | | 23 (32%) |
| 13 | CIN | W 19-7 | 55 (79%) | 49 (70%) | 50 (71%) | 41 (59%) | | 39 (56%) | 26 (37%) | 31 (44%) | | |
| 14 | KC | L 33-27 | 27 (33%) | 43 (52%) | | 36 (43%) | | 31 (37%) | 37 (45%) | 59 (71%) | | |
| 15 | NE | W 22-12 | | | | 42 (58%) | 54 (74%) | | 43 (59%) | 66 (90%) | | 19 (26%) |
| 16 | LV | W 26-25 | | 45 (71%) | 48 (76%) | 30 (48%) | 33 (52%) | 19 (30%) | 15 (24%) | 58 (92%) | | |
| 17 | BUF | L 56-26 | 76 (92%) | 64 (77%) | 51 (61%) | 23 (28%) | 63 (76%) | | 19 (23%) | 78 (94%) | | |
| | Grand | Total | 726 (78%) | 621 (62%) | 453 (70%) | 449 (45%) | 375 (55%) | 370 (41%) | 367 (34%) | 337 (46%) | 336 (67%) | 152 (23%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Re | d Zone | Target | s Leade | rboard | | | Red Zor | ne Rush | es Lea | derboa | rd |

| 1 0.50 | | 5. 0 u.p | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 55% | 60% | 51% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 28% | 20% | 56% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 5% | 7% | 49% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 37% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 3% | 4% | 47% |
| | | 401 | 000/ |
| 2-0 [3WR] Group | 2% oing Te | 1% enden | cies |
| | ing Te | | |
| | | enden | cies Run |
| Group | ing To | enden Pass Succ. | cies Run Succ. |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 68% 51% | Pass Succ. % 48% 59% | Cies Run Succ. % 59% 52% |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] | Pass Rate 68% 51% 37% | Pass Succ. % 48% 59% 61% | Cies Run Succ. % 59% 52% 42% |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone | Targets | <u>Leader</u> | board | ! |
|------------------|---------|---------------|-------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Mike Gesicki | 16 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| DeVante Parker | 14 | 8 | | 6 |
| Preston Williams | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Isaiah Ford | 3 | | | 3 |
| Mack Hollins | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Lynn Bowden | 1 | | | 1 |
| Patrick Laird | 1 | | | 1 |
| Salvon Ahmed | 1 | | 1 | |

| <u>ked Zone k</u> | kusnes | Leade | rboar | <u>a</u> |
|-------------------|--------|----------|-------|----------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Myles Gaskin | 36 | 11 | 10 | 15 |
| Salvon Ahmed | 21 | 5 | 4 | 12 |
| Jordan Howard | 10 | 9 | | 1 |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Tua Tagovailoa | 9 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| Matt Breida | 8 | | 1 | 7 |
| DeAndre Washingt | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Lynn Bowden | 3 | | 1 | 2 |

| Early D | own Targ | <u>et Kate</u> |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 20% | 25% | 55% |
| 23% | 21% | 56% |
| 23/6 | NFL AVG | |
| | NFL AVG Target Su | ıccess % |
| | | ICCESS % WR |
| Overall | Target Su | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | WR |





What makes matters worse is that the other teams that ranked ahead of them all had solid cushion pre-snap such that when they lost space, while suboptimal, wasn't a death knell. For the Dolphins, on the other hand, it was terrible.

As a result of the lack of separation, both Tua and Fitzpatrick ranked top-6 in the NFL in aggressiveness, another player tracking metric which tracks the percentage of passing attempts a quarterback makes that are into tight coverage, where there is a defender within one yard of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion.

The Dolphins knew they needed to fix this problem, and the best way to do that was to bring in two tremendous space creators.

First, they gave the bag to **Will Fuller** in free agency. We know how incredible a quarterback **Deshaun Watson** is, but he had major splits with and without Fuller on the field. Since 2017, Watson with...

Fuller on the field: 0.22 EPA/att Fuller off the field: 0.06 EPA/att

There were nearly equal splits in dropbacks (1,204 with Fuller, 1,215 without Fuller). Yet Watson gained nearly 200 more total EPA with Fuller on the field.

Tua's depth of target was 8.0 yards on the season, which was tied for 26th in the NFL. Just 14.8% of Tua's pass attempts as a rookie came on throws over 15 yards downfield, which ranked 35th among 44 passers with at least 100 pass attempts in 2020. On those downfield passes, Tagovailoa completed just 39.5% (17-of-43), which ranked 27th out of 42 passers with 20 or more of those attempts.

While Tua didn't throw deep often and was poor when doing so, depth of target belongs more to the WR than the QB. That should translate into more deep targets this year thrown by Tua, a deeper average target depth and hopefully, improvement in the efficiency of these targets.

Second, the Dolphins added **Jaylen Waddle** in the draft with the sixth overall pick. I love explosive receivers who returned punts in college, and that's exactly what Waddle did, averaging 19.3 yards per punt return with two touchdowns on 38 career returns. Waddle averaged 21.1 yards per reception last season. He's explosive, gets open quickly, has long speed and can separate. Essentially, he should fill a major void for the Dolphins last year.

Keep in mind, Tua's top receivers in 2020 in order of receptions were TE Mike Gesicki, WR Lynn Bowden, and WR DeVante Parker.

This year, he clearly keeps Gesicki and Parker, but adds Fuller and Waddle. It should make for a big improvement in the caliber of the ryear, the Dolphins had the NFL's 27th most expensive wide receiver corps. This year, it's the most expensive.

Another issue for Tua was performance under pressure. When clean, he wasn't that much worse than Fitzpatrick. But when pressured, the results weren't close:

Fitzpatrick under pressure: 0.11 EPA/att, 52% success, 9.6 YPA Tagovailoa under pressure: -0.35 EPA/att, 34% success, 5.5 YPA

While Fitzpatrick's performance isn't sustainable, the Dolphins must do a better job with protection and Tua must improve in this metric.

Flores did an exceptional job with the defense in 2020. His 2020 Dolphins became the NFL's first team to record a defensive takeaway in every single game of the season since the 2012 Patriots. But the team will play stronger offenses this year. Even if the Dolphins defense improves some, it's unlikely for them to do much better than they did last year in points allowed. That is because they were the NFL's top defense on third downs and the best defense in the red zone. On average, the Dolphins held opponents to 2.5 points per game fewer than expected. That ranked third-best in the NFL.

I'm optimistic that Tua will look decidedly better this year. I think the offense can improve from a playcalling perspective. There were rampant issues which bled into passing and rushing efficiencies for Tua. I think a full and healthy offseason as QB1 will be huge for him. I think they added the right weapons to assist his performance. The Dolphins' future this year hinges on whether Tua can get protection and consistently deliver.

Defensively, I'm very bullish on Flores and another year for many of these players in his system. The division isn't getting any easier, but Miami is more likely to take a step in the right direction in 2021 than they are to get worse.

02. Avg Halftime Lead



03. Wins

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.5 |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 6.0 |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.8 |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 7.8 |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 53% |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 54% |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.04 |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.01 |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 36% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 58% |
| 46. PA YPA | 6.9 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 2.6% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.2 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 5.8 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 62% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 8.2 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 6.0% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.11 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.3 |

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 | 50% |
| 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 | 33% |
| 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 | 3.9 |
| 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 | 53% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

11 11

17

15

31

| Net FROE Rk | 20 | defFUM | 19 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | -0.4 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 |
| offFUM | 18 | dell-own Kcvid | 0 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 12 | defFR Rk | 3 |
| offFR% | 66.7% | defFR% | 57.9% |
| offFR Rk | 4 | defFROE | -2.5 |
| offFROE | 2.2 | delFROE | -2.5 |
| offFROE Rk | 6 | defFROE Rk | 30 |
| | | | |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | 6.25 | Opp Att | 23 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 1 | Opp Makes | 17 |
| Own Att | 39 | | |
| Own Makes | 36 | Opp FG % | 74% |
| Own FG % | 92% | Opp Expected Makes | 18.84 |
| Own Expected Makes | 31.59 | Opp Make Over Expectation | -1.84 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 4.41 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 30 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 4 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -1.71 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 0.27 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 22 | 2019 Opp Rk | 14 |
| | | | |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes

33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box

34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box35. Total Defensive Efficiency

31. Success on runs into 6-man-boxes32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)

| rayer rracking bata stats Qbs | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Tua Tagovailoa | Ryan Fitzpatrick | |
| 5.3 | 6.5 | |
| 28 | 13 | |
| | 5 | |
| 24 | 21 | |
| | 10 | |
| 6 | 2 | |
| | 4 | |
| 64.1 | 68.5 | |
| 65.5 | 65.1 | |
| 14 | 19 | |
| | 23 | |
| -1.4 | 3.5 | |
| 30 | 7 | |
| | 26 | |
| | Tua Tagovailoa 5.3 28 24 6 64.1 65.5 14 | |

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

OB Pressure

| QB Pressure | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Tua Tagovailoa | Ryan Fitzpatrick |
| Pressure % | 29.1 | 32.8 |
| Pressure Rk | 27 | 19 |
| Sack % | 6.1 | 4.7 |
| Sack Rk | 17 | 26 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 55.9 | 74.6 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 37 | 4 |
| Rating when Pressured | 45.6 | 74.6 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 35 | 14 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 79.2 | 79.6 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 21 | 17 |
| Rating when Clean | 99.3 | 103.9 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 24 | 17 |
| Time to Throw | 2.55 | 2.38 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 34 | 40 |

Offensive Metrics

| Officialite A | ic ci ics |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| EPA/Pass | 0.04 |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 18 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.07 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 21 |
| On-Target Catch % | 92.1% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 8 |
| Drop% | 6.5% |
| Drop Rk | 18 |
| YAC/Att | 2.1 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 24 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.9% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 15 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 23.4% |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 23 |
| | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs) 2021 Forecast **Minnesota Vikings Head Coach**: Wins **Div Rank** Mike Zimmer (7 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: #2 8.5 Klint Kubiak (QB coach) (new) **Defensive Coordinator: Past Records** Adam Zimmer (1 yr) 2020: 7-9 Hard Easy 2019: 10-6 2018: 8-8 SEA CLE BAL GB LAR GB LAC ARI СНІ СНІ CAR DET DET 7 8 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 SNF TNF MNF SNF Rest Edge: -7 -3 +3

| <u>Key Players Lost</u> | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--|
| Player | New | |
| Anthony Harris (S) | Eagles | |
| Chris Jones (CB) | Titans | |
| Eric Wilson (LB) | Eagles | |
| Hardy Nickerson (LB) | Texans | |
| Ifeadi Odenigbo (EDGE) | Giants | |
| Jaleel Johnson (IDL) | Texans | |
| Mike Hughes (CB) | Chiefs | |
| Riley Reiff (LT) | Bengals | |
| Shamar Stephen (IDL) | Broncos | |
| Brett Jones (C) | TBD | |
| Dan Bailey (K) | TBD | |
| George Iloka (S) | TBD | |
| Sean Mannion (QB) | TBD | |
| Todd Davis (LB) | TBD | |

2021 Minnesota Vikings Overview

Last year we faded the Minnesota Vikings. It made perfect sense to do so. The 2020 Vikings accumulated the most draft capital and drafted 15 players... in a terrible year to integrate rookies or get as much impact from them given the lack of practices, minicamps, etc. They completely overhauled their defense, allowing most of their starting secondary to walk, as well as multiple players along the defensive line. Gone were **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). Their offensive line and defensive lines were both in the bottom-five for the cheapest units in the NFL.

And this was a team due for a ton of regression. The 10-win, 2019 Vikings were:

- · Healthiest team in the NFL (after being 12th in 2018)
- Fourth in sack margin at +20 (after being +10 in 2018)
- · Fifth in turnover margin at +11 (after being even 0 in 2018)
- Seventh in fumble recovery luck (after being 32nd in 2018)
- Eighth in field goal luck (after being 32nd in 2018)

Also, there were two massive losses: offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski and wide receiver **Stefon Diggs**. Diggs was substantially more explosive and more efficient than **Adam Thielen**. There was very little redundancy at WR – with Thielen age 30 and no Diggs, who was around if rookie **Justin Jefferson** didn't have a great rookie campaign? **Bisi Johnson? Tajae Sharpe?**

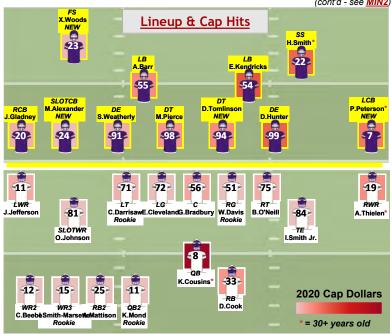
Average Line # Games Underdog

-0.1 9 7

The Vikings defense from 2019 played an extremely fortunate schedule of backups and bad quarterbacks, and that wasn't likely to be the case in 2020.

(cont'd - see MIN2)

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj Forecast 2021 Wins RCB J.Gladney 2020 Wins Forecast 2020 Wins 11 2019 Wins LWR J.Jeffersor 81 SLOTWR O.Johnson 2018 Wins 2017 Wins 12 15 WR3 RR2 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Dalvin Tomlinson (IDL) | \$10.5 |
| Patrick Peterson (CB) | \$8 |
| Stephen Weatherly (EDGE) | \$2.5 |
| Nick Vigil (LB) | \$1.8 |
| Xavier Woods (S) | \$1.8 |
| Mackensie Alexander (CB) | \$1.10 |
| Mason Cole (C) | Trade |
| Parry Nickerson (CB) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 23 | OT - Christian Darrisaw (Virgi. |
| | 66 | QB - Kellen Mond (Texas A& |
| 3 86 | 78 | LB - Chazz Surratt (North Ca |
| | 86 | OG - Wyatt Davis (Ohio State) |
| | 90 | DE - Patrick Jones II (Pittsbu |
| | 119 | RB - Kene Nwangwu (Iowa S. |
| 4 | 125 | CB - Camryn Bynum (Califor |
| | 134 | DE - Janarius Robinson (Flor |
| 5 | 157 | WR - Ihmir Smith-Marsette (I |
| 9 | 168 | TE - Zach Davidson (Central |
| 6 | 199 | DT - Jaylen Twyman (Pittsbu |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 29 | \$82.40M | 25 |
| QB | 3 | \$33.27M | 13 |
| OL | 32 | \$20.12M | 32 |
| RB | 17 | \$8.53M | 16 |
| WR | 27 | \$15.07M | 19 |
| TE | 30 | \$5.41M | 9 |
| All DEF | 7 | \$102.73M | 21 |
| DL | 19 | \$42.02M | 31 |
| LB | 3 | \$25.62M | 2 |
| СВ | 12 | \$20.20M | 28 |
| S | 11 | \$14.90M | 2 |

MIN-2

And lastly, there was the home field element during COVID. Since 2016, Minnesota had a 24-9 record and was 21-9-3 ATS (70%) at home, which was the best home cover rate in the NFL. The lack of fans would mean a lack of reflection of their noise waves off the acoustically designed roof back down onto the playing surface. I forecast this would absolutely hurt the Vikings' home field. And while the Vikings had the best cover rate in the NFL at home since 2016, they were just 16-17-1 on the road, covering only 15 of 34 games.

This was an extremely buttoned up case for a team that was projected to win 9 to 9.5 games, depending on the sportsbook.

When the Vikings started off 1-5 and headed into their bye, we knew this win was just a formality - considering the Vikings were highly unlikely to win nine of their final 10 games. But Minnesota came out strong and went 5-1 out of the bye, before they dropped three straight and stepped back like we all anticipated.

There is a way to still look pessimistically at the Vikings. Their seven wins in 2020 came against:

the 1-15 Jaguars (in overtime)

the 4-12 Texans (by one score)

the 5-11 Panthers (by one point, which required an 18-point fourth quarter in a come-from-behind win)

the 5-11 Lions (twice)

the 8-8 Bears (by one-score)

the 13-3 Packers (by one-score)

This was a team that played only seven games on the season against teams with a winning record and they went 1-6, losing by an average of eight points per game.

But there also are a lot of positives to take away from the season, as well as things I predicted would happen, which won't happen in 2021.

Let's start with home field. I mentioned the Vikings had the NFL's best home cover rate in the NFL (70%) since moving into their new stadium. I predicted that without fans, Minnesota would regress. And that, they surely did. The Vikings went 3-5 at home and covered only two of eight games (25%). With the 49ers not actually playing eight games at home last year, no team had a worse home cover rate in 2020 than the Vikings.

2020 Passing Performance QB 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 49% 36% Kirk 7.6 7.5 Cousins 112.6 Rating 99.0 99.1 49% 52% 74% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.0 AVG Rating 95.4 96.0 **Pass Rate** 50% 60% 75%

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | |
| MIN | 56% 5.3 | 52% 4.3 | 54% 4.9 | Success Rate YPC | | | | |
| Run Rate | 51% | 48% | 26% | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | |

But that won't happen in 2021. Fans will be back in Minnesota, as they will around the NFL, and I expect they will play a major role in their home games. That could be a huge factor, considering the strength of opponents the Vikings face at home.

Minnesota plays seven non-division games in 2021 against teams projected to exceed eight wins. Of those seven games, four will come at home (Cleveland, Dallas, Pittsburgh, LA Rams). Those games will be critical in their ability to bounce back this season, and hosting most of these teams with fans in the stands will be of massive importance.

Offensively, the two critical losses were offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski and wide receiver Stefon Diggs. The Vikings last year saw Gary Kubiak call

13

Pass Efficiency Def

27

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

18

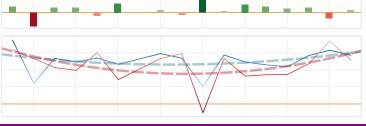
Defensive Efficiency

(cont'd - see MIN-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

Explosive



| | <u> 20</u> 2 | <u> 20 </u> | <u>wee</u> | <u> KIY</u> | <u>ED21</u> | (tt 26 | aso | <u>n 11</u> | <u>ren</u> | aing | Pe | rtor | <u>'ma</u> | <u>nce</u> | : |
|----|--------------|--|------------|-------------|-------------|---------|-----|-------------|------------|------|-----|------|------------|------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| L | L | L | W | L | L | W | W | W | L | W | W | L | L | L | w |
| GB | IND | TEN | IHOU | SEA | ATL | GB | DET | CHI | DAL | CAR | JAC | TB | CHI | NO | DET |
| Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Н | Н | Н | Α | Н | Α | Α |
| -9 | -17 | -1 | 8 | -1 | -17 | 6 | 14 | 6 | -3 | 1 | 3 | -12 | -6 | -19 | 2 |
| 34 | 11 | 30 | 31 | 26 | 23 | 28 | 34 | 19 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 14 | 27 | 33 | 37 |
| 43 | 28 | 31 | 23 | 27 | 40 | 22 | 20 | 13 | 31 | 27 | 24 | 26 | 33 | 52 | 35 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



2020 Close Game **Records**

9

3rd Down Def

30

YPPA Def YPPT Def

All 2019 Wins: 7 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-3** FG Games Win %: **50% (#14)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 6-4 Score Games Win %: 60% (#10) EDSR by Wk 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 86% (#3)

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

W=Green

L=Red

5

10

15

20

25

30 28

WFFK **RESULT** OPP

SITE MARGIN

PTS OPP PTS

EDSR Def

17

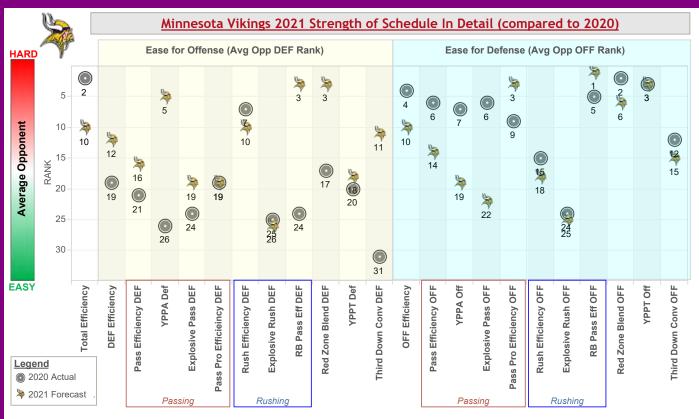
30 & In Def

24

Red Zone Def

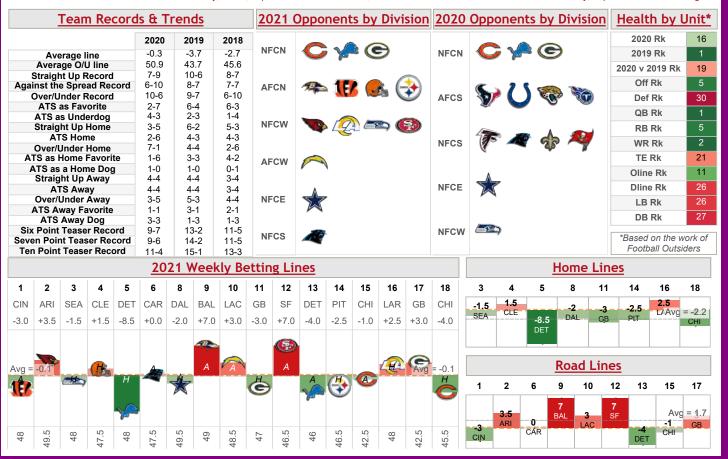
2020 Critical/Game-

| Deciding Sta | <u>ts</u> |
|---------------------|-----------|
| TO Margin | -1 |
| TO Given | 23 |
| INT Given | 13 |
| FUM Given | 10 |
| TO Taken | 22 |
| INT Taken | 15 |
| FUM Taken | 7 |
| Sack Margin | -17 |
| Sacks | 22 |
| Sacks Allow | 39 |
| Return TD Margin | -4 |
| Ret TDs | 0 |
| Ret TDs Allow | 4 |
| Penalty Margin | +1 |
| Penalties | 82 |
| Opponent Penalties | 83 |
| | |



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 4 | 23 | 8 | 23 | 24 | 19 | 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







their plays and this year that duty will be passed down to his son, Klint Kubiak.

Before 2020, I predicted the Vikings offense would play the 23rd toughest schedule of pass defenses. They actually played the 21st toughest schedule, so a close but not perfect prediction, but a schedule that was certainly easier than average. This was in increase in difficulty after playing the 28th toughest schedule of pass defenses in 2019.

In terms of pass protection, after ranking 14th in adjusted sack rate and 27th in pass block grade in 2019, the Vikings dropped to 24th in adjusted sack rate and 29th in pass block grade in 2020. Their overall pressure rate did not substantially decline, but their efficiency was slightly worse.

So, how did the offense actually perform in 2020, despite a tougher schedule, the pass protection getting worse, the coordinator change and the loss of Diggs?

Better in 2020 than 2019.

The Vikings had a more efficient pass game and run game, and they also passed the ball more often on first down.

In 2019, the Vikings passed the ball on first downs in the first three quarters of games at a 43% rate and ran it 57% of the time, which was seventh-most in the NFL. In 2020, they shifted to 48% pass and 52% run. It was still an above-average run rate, but the 6% shift towards the pass was notable.

The efficiency of both passes and runs was notable as well.

Passes increased 0.6 YPA compared to 2019 as both EPA/att and success rate improved.

Runs increased from 4.3 YPC to 5.1 YPC, success rate improved from 44% to 53%, and EPA improved from -0.07 to 0.03. Specifically, **Dalvin Cook** looked much different. Look at his first down splits:

2019: 4.0 YPC, 44% success, -0.06 EPA/att 2020: 5.2 YPC, 56% success, 0.04 EPA/att

The Vikings used a lot more outside zone on first downs and Cook was incredible running from outside zone. They also ran more pitches which got Cook on the perimeter and he excelled there as well. In fact, one suggestion for 2021 would be to run to the perimeter even more and use less inside zone.

Because passing and rushing efficiency on first down improved, the Vikings faced fewer yards to go on second down in 2020 as compared to 2019.

However, that's where the efficiency ended. Instead of building on the efficiency of first down, the Vikings shifted massively to the run on second down.

The Vikings ran on 48% of second downs, which was 7% above the NFL average. It was the third-most run-heavy team in the NFL. The only teams that ran more often than the Vikings were the Ravens and Patriots – two teams with running quarterbacks in **Lamar Jackson** and **Cam Newton**. Second down runs gained a below-NFL-average 4.3 YPC. Compare the efficiency on second down passes to second down runs for the Vikings in the first three quarters of games:

Passes: 8.0 YPA, 50% success, 0.07 EPA/att Runs: 4.1 YPC, 51% success, -0.09 EPA/att

28

The high rate of running on second down coupled with the poor performance of these runs completely screwed the Vikings on third down. The Vikings faced the fourth-longest distance to go on third down in the NFL, ahead of only the Lions, Broncos, and Giants.

Minnesota went from the fourth-shortest distance to go on second downs (7.2 yards) to the fourth-longest distance to go on third downs (7.2 yards).

The Vikings, significantly better on first down in 2020 compared to 2019, can also improve second down performance in 2021 if they simply pass the ball more often, much like they did on first down.

Another positive for the Vikings in 2020 was they finished top-10 in efficiency targeting all three positions: wide receivers (sixth at 60% success), tight ends (eighth at 60% success), and running backs (seventh at 51% success). In 2019, they likewise finished top-10 in all three positions, so these did not drop off from 2019 to 2020.

(cont'd - see MIN-4)

| <u>S</u> | trength of Sch | eduled Gar | me Timing: Ar | nalyzing Rest | & Prep Inec | quality in the | 2021 Schedu | <u>ıle</u> | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------|--|--|
| 2021 games where | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponent has less than a week to prep | Difference | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a rest advantage | Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team plays off road SNF or MNF | | | |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | | |
| | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Minnesota Vikings Ranking vs NFL Average | | | | | | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge | Rank Pr | rep Rank | Rest Rani | k Short We | ek Road Games Rank | Games off Road S | SNF/MNF Neg | ated Bye Rank | | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- Minnesota's offense ranked 11th in EPA per play and fifth in success rate last season. However, when garbage time statistics are eliminated (win probability <10%), the Vikings offense drops to 14th in EPA. The Vikings' core four offensive stars, QB Kirk Cousins, RB Dalvin Cook, and WRs Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson, were extremely healthy and only missed a combined three games.
- Although Peterson is a big-name veteran acquisition, his play on the field lately has not matched his prior production. He graded out as the 91st ranked coverage CB by PFF, 102nd in yards per attempt allowed and led all NFL CBs in penalties with 12. He even led all CBs with four declined penalties.
- The Vikings still are lacking a good enough pass rush to impact opposing passing games. Last season, Minnesota applied the fourth lowest pressure rate in the NFL and, outside of getting Hunter back, did not acquire another edge rusher to help the pass rush.

8.5



Why Bet the Over

- The Vikings defense, which is normally a calling card of head coach Mike Zimmer, took a major hit with multiple injuries. Premiere edge rusher Danielle Hunter, who was second in the NFL in pressures and fifth in sacks in 2019, missed the entire season. Starting linebackers Anthony Barr and Eric Kendricks, the number one graded overall LB by PFF in 2019, missed a combined 19 games as well. In addition, Minnesota will welcome back DT Michael Piece, who opted out last season due to COVID. Pierce has graded out as a top 15 run defender in three of his last four seasons.
- The secondary performed really poorly last season, ranking 27th in success rate allowed per dropback. They were extremely inexperienced at CB, and it showed. Cameron Dantzler and Jeff Gladney led all Vikings CBs in coverage snaps, both as rookies in 2020. The Vikings tried to rectify the issue by signing veteran free agents Patrick Peterson and Bashaud Breeland.
- The Vikings have historically exceeded expectations on a game-by-game basis. Since Mike Zimmer took over as head coach in 2014, the Vikings have not only won at the eighth highest rate in the NFL, but they have covered the spread at the second highest rate, at 58.6%.
- Maybe no team will welcome fans back to home stadiums more than the Vikings. Minnesota had been 35-15 at home under Zimmer and won at least 50% of their home games in each of those seasons before posting a 3-5 home record.

| Minnesota Vikings Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | |
| 14 | 21 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 17 | 15 | | | |

Kirk Cousins ranked in the top half of the league on every ballot, but no higher than 12th. That seems like a fair representation of his career: always decent, never great

The backfield is ranked second due entirely to **Dalvin Cook**, who accounted for 74% of the team's handoffs in 2020. Hopefully he stays healthy with such an extreme usage rate, because the depth is weak. Backup **Alexander Mattison** generated -3.1 EPA last season, though rookie **Kene Nwangwu** could challenge him for that role

Adam Thielen and Justin Jefferson carry a receiving corps that is elite at the top but lacks any depth beyond those two. Tight end Irv Smith Jr. is the third option in the receiving corps and could earn a larger role with Kyle Rudolph out of the picture.

The offensive line is Minnesota's lowest-ranked unit, though it could take a significant step forward with the addition of rookie LT **Christian Darrisaw** and OG **Wyatt Davis**. Darrisaw will start immediately and Davis is a strong candidate to win the right guard job.

The Vikings' front seven landed in the top seven, but the pass rush needs to improve to live up to that ranking. When Minnesota brought four or fewer pass rushers, it generated a league-worst pressure rate of 26%. The team added four draft picks to the front seven, but none before the third round, so immediate production is unlikely. **Eric Kendricks** leads a strong group of linebackers. The secondary underwent an offseason makeover, leading to votes ranging from 11th to 25th. Those who are optimistic believe cornerback **Patrick Peterson** and safety **Xavier Woods** will provide the necessary upgrades. Opponents threw 10+ yards downfield 11.9 times per game versus Minnesota (seventh most) and completed 56% of those throws (fifth highest), so clearly there's work to be done.

Minnesota has been one of the most stable organizations over the last decade, as Mike Zimmer enters his eighth year. Though he hasn't built a high-end contender yet, he ranked in the upper half of the league on all but one ballot.

<u>MIN-4</u>

What the Vikings did, however, was adjust how often they threw to running backs. In 2019, the offense threw 36% of passes to running backs and only 39% to wide receivers. This undoubtedly related to Thielen's injury in Week 7 and he missed the better part of the rest of the season. In 2020, Thielen played all but one game and Justin Jefferson played all 16. The Vikings were able to target wide receivers on a healthier 55% of attempts.

Minnesota upped their usage of pre-snap motion as compared to 2019 and saw improvement in that as well. They saw the seventh-best improvement in success rate and EPA/attempt and the sixth-best improvement in YPA when using pre-snap motion ahead of passes.

Another thing that was a positive was the Vikings kept 12 personnel as a passing look. Many coaches taking over playcalling, like Gary Kubiak did, might still try to use similar personnel grouping rates that worked in the past, but could be tempted to turn it into more of a run down. The Vikings passed on 65% of plays from 12 personnel, the highest rate in the NFL (average = 47%). Minnesota was dominant passing from 12 personnel, where they recorded their highest success rate of any grouping and gained more EPA/att and YPA than passes from 11 personnel.

Earlier this chapter, we discussed the concerns of the passing game for 2020 after losing Diggs. Would Justin Jefferson step up? Because if he did not, there wasn't much behind Jefferson from a wide receiver perspective.

They didn't have to worry — Jefferson was a breath of fresh air. He set the NFL record for most receiving yards by a rookie (1,400) and his jersey and gloves are now in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He also broke Randy Moss's record for most receptions by a rookie (88). What makes Jefferson's records so special is that the Vikings finished 27th in passing attempts in 2020.

<u>MIN-5</u>

Simply put, Jefferson was exceptional. What was frustrating, though, was the Vikings didn't even utilize him in the first two weeks of the season. Jefferson didn't start the first two games (both losses) and was targeted only three times in each game. He started every single game from Week 3 onward and was targeted an average of 8.5 times per game.

Jefferson could prove to be such a special talent that the Vikings need to rethink their offensive strategy.

After the season, Cousins said: "In this offense we're going to run the football, so that's going to open up a lot of explosive plays for Justin, but he also has to stay patient because [there's] going to be times where we're running the ball well and we're not throwing it to him every play. He did a great job this year of being ready when his number was called and just continuing to show up for us. And it's also impressive to look back and realize that the role he had for us Week 1 and Week 2 was not the same role he had Week 3 and beyond. That's encouraging as well to think what he could have done with two more weeks as the 'X."

The last part obviously is true. But what is discouraging is the first part about running the ball to open up explosive pass plays. You don't need to run to open up explosive pass plays. By getting into heavy personnel, the Vikings already dictate box count.

Justin Jefferson scored seven touchdowns last season. Only one of those touchdowns came on 57 targets when the defense was in a light box (6 men or fewer). But four touchdowns came on 21 targets when the defense was in a heavy box (8+ men). The Vikings got those heavy box counts not from 11 personnel, but from 12 and 21 personnel.

The Vikings don't need to establish their run to take these shots from heavy personnel, they just need to get into heavy personnel. Jefferson delivered his highest EPA/att (0.71) and highest success rate (71%) when he was targeted with the defense in heavy box counts.

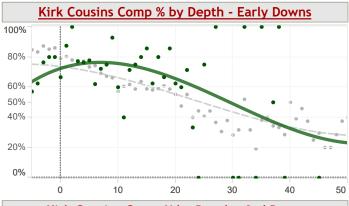
(cont'd - see MIN-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

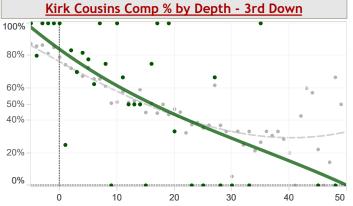


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | Usage R | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| No. | * | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Dalvin Cook | 10% | 14% | 65% | 10% | |
| | Justin Jefferson | 15% | 18% | 62% | 3% | 2% |
| | Alexander Mattison | 36% | 14% | 43% | 7% | |
| PASS | Adam Thielen | 13% | 13% | 67% | 5% | 2% |
| _ | Irv Smith Jr. | 18% | 33% | 41% | 8% | |
| | Kyle Rudolph | 19% | 22% | 51% | 8% | |
| | Total | 15% | 18% | 60% | 6% | 1% |
| | Dalvin Cook | 4% | 16% | 72% | 4% | 4% |
| | Justin Jefferson | | 100% | | | |
| RUSH | Alexander Mattison | 6% | 9% | 68% | 4% | 13% |
| _ | Adam Thielen | | | 100% | | |
| | Total | 5% | 15% | 71% | 4% | 6% |

| Share of Offensive Plays by Type | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Dalvin Cook | Justin Jefferson | Alexander Mattison | Adam Thielen | Irv Smith Jr. | Kyle Rudolph | | | | |
| PASS | 14% | 32% | 4% | 29% | 11% | 10% | | | | |
| RUSH | 76% | 0% | 23% | 1% | | | | | | |
| ALL | 47% | 15% | 14% | 14% | 5% | 5% | | | | |





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 44%, -0.06 (193) | 56%, 0.29 (100) | 58%, 0.14 (147) | 64%, 0.56 (14) | 53%, 0.31 (72) | 36%, -0.04 (11) | 25%, -0.35 (8) | 0%, -1.25 (1) | 51%, 0.12 (550) |
| RUSH | 48%, -0.02 (101) | 60%, 0.02 (168) | 52%, 0.00 (79) | 45%, -0.05 (82) | 67%, 0.95 (3) | 41%, 0.08 (17) | 100%, 1.00 (1) | | 53%, 0.01 (459) |
| All | 45%, -0.05 (294) | 59%, 0.12 (268) | 56%, 0.09 (226) | 48%, 0.04 (96) | 53%, 0.34 (75) | 39%, 0.03 (28) | 33%, -0.20 (9) | 0%, -1.25 (1) | 52%, 0.07 (1,009) |

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 | Dalvin | 48% (27) | 47% (15) | 44% (9) | 47% (51) | | | | | | |
| | Cook | 8.0, 0.23 | 6.5, 0.17 | 5.8, -0.85 | 7.1, 0.02 | | | | | | |
| TE | Irv Smith | 50% (8) 6.3, 0.59 | 53% (19) 8.0, 0.57 | 67% (3) 9.7, 0.57 | 53% (30) 7.7, 0.58 | | | | | | |
| | Kyle | 57% (14) | 86% (7) | 43% (7) | 61% (28) | | | | | | |
| | Rudolph | 8.4, 0.20 | 8.0, -0.39 | 7.0, 0.10 | 7.9, 0.03 | | | | | | |
| WR | Justin | 48% (40) | 75% (36) | 71% (24) | 63% (100) | | | | | | |
| | Jefferson | 8.0, 0.26 | 11.2, 0.55 | 16.3, 0.80 | 11.2, 0.49 | | | | | | |
| | Adam | 43% (30) | 68% (31) | 80% (25) | 63% (86) | | | | | | |
| | Thielen | 5.0, -0.16 | 7.0, 0.22 | 14.2, 0.92 | 8.4, 0.29 | | | | | | |
| | Olabisi | 46% (13) | 67% (3) | 100% (3) | 58% (19) | | | | | | |
| | Johnson | 8.8, -0.33 | 10.0, 0.26 | 10.3, 0.21 | 9.3, - 0.15 | | | | | | |
| | Tajae Sharpe | 0% (1) 0.0, -2.62 | | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.69 | 0% (2) 0.0, -1.65 | | | | | | |

| Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | |

| | | <u> </u> | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|
| | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| Cook | 61% (127) | 48% (66) | 43% (46) | 54% (48) | 54% (287) |
| Dalvin | 5.1, -0.02 | 4.8, 0.05 | 5.4, 0.10 | 4.0, -0.04 | 4.9, 0.01 |
| Mattison | 56% (27) | 33% (18) | 63% (24) | 25% (20) | 46% (89) |
| Alexander | 5.6, 0.10 | 5.3, -0.14 | 5.3, 0.08 | 2.4, -0.15 | 4.7, -0.01 |
| Cousins | 100% (3) | 63% (8) | 10% (10) | 100% (5) | 54% (26) |
| Kirk | 5.0, 0.39 | 5.3, 0.01 | -0.5, -1.11 | 9.8, 0.87 | 3.9, -0.21 |
| Boone | 67% (3) | 50% (2) | 0% (1) | 80% (5) | 64% (11) |
| Mike | 4.0, 0.21 | 5.5, -1.64 | 1.0, -0.25 | 7.0, 0.22 | 5.4, -0.16 |
| Abdullah Ameer | 50% (2) 8.5, 0.61 | 67% (6) 4.2, 0.31 | | | 63% (8) 5.3, 0.38 |

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

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

| Pass | Passing by Passing by | | ing by | Throw Types | | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run Types | |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | /erage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 57% (339) | 3 Step | 58% (196) 8.8, 0.35 | Planted | lanted 60% 9.3, | | Outside Zone | 55% (119) 5.2, 0.10 |
| | 000/ (050) | Curl | 62% (58) 7.6, 0.30 | Level | 7.2, 0.25 | 5 Step | | Shuffling | | 3% (90) 0, 0.09 | Lead | 58% (103) |
| Zone | 62% (258) 8.8, 0.27 | Out | 73% (51) 8.1. 0.32 | Level 2 | 65% (122) | Союр | 9.0, 0.33 | Moving | | 8% (85) 6, -0.04 | Loud | 4.3, -0.02 |
| | | | , , , , , , | Level 2 | 12.2, 0.51 | 0/1 Step | 59% (56) 6.8, 0.13 | | Play Action | | Pitch | 55% (53) 5.6, -0.03 |
| M2M | 57% (147) 9.2, 0.44 | Dig | 69% (32) 12.0, 0.69 | | 33% (24) | 7 Step | 57% (47) 11.6, 0.37 | | Play Action | No P/A | Inside Zone | 49% (53) 3.4, -0.16 |
| | | Slant | 65% (31) | Level 3 | 12.0, -0.05 | Designed | 60% (42) | Under Center | 55% (143) 10.4, 0.24 | 58% (125) 6.8, 0.08 | | 50% (26) |
| | 40% (42) | | 8.5, 0.20 | | 100% (1) | Rollout Right | | | 27% (11) 2.9, -0.58 | 48% (271) 8.1, 0.10 | Power | 6.7, 0.25 |
| Screen | 6.9, -0.11 | Drag | 53% (19) 6.1, 0.38 | Shovel | 20.0, 1.72 | Basic Screen | 41% (29) 8.0, 0.12 | ALL | 53% (154) 9.9, 0.19 | 51% (396) 7.7, 0.10 | Stretch | 40% (20) 3.8, -0.13 |

MINIG

Even though the 2020 Vikings came out on first downs and passed 6% more often than they did in 2019, their conservative approach on second down and desire to stay focused on the run actually shifted the Vikings to a more run-heavy team in neutral situations, despite their worse record.

In one-score games, the 2020 Vikings ran the ball on 50% of their plays, the third highest rate in the NFL. This, despite the fact that passes in one-score games averaged 8.4 YPA, second highest in the NFL.

This was a 4% increase in run rate over the 2019 Vikings, even though Minnesota led by one score far more often in 2019 with their 10-6 record than they did in 2020 with their 7-9 record.

If Minnesota continues to run the ball at such a high rate despite all the metrics showing how efficient their passing game is, and despite having the phenomenal talent of Justin Jefferson out wide, they will not reach their goals in the 2021 season.

The Vikings will be approaching their first season without tight end **Kyle Rudolph** (now with the Giants). Considering how often the Vikings are in heavier sets, they absolutely need another tight end to step up. **Irv Smith Jr.** was second on the team in red zone targets last year. But Mike Zimmer came out in June and said Smith would not have a bigger role. He said it quite bluntly: "Honestly, I don't think it's any bigger role for him whatsoever. I think it's a bigger role for **Tyler Conklin**. He's kind of emerged as a guy that's moving upward and with those two guys, we have a lot of weapons there. Irv always has been able to do what he's been able to do whether Kyle was here or not. We're excited about these two young tight ends that we have."

If the Vikings can replace the comfort level **Kirk Cousins** had in Rudolph, and continue to use their heavy sets as a way to pass the ball downfield, they won't miss a beat without Rudolph.

The 2020 Vikings won only seven games, down from 10, but consider how many things they gave up in the critical stats department which decide games. They were +11 in turnover margin in 2019 but dropped to -1 in 2020. They were +20 in sack margin in 2019 but dropped to -17 in 2020. They were +2 in return touchdown margin in 2019 but dropped to -4 in 2020.





If Minnesota can get positive regression in those metrics, they are set up for a strong rebound season. But it won't be easy. Schedule makers did them no favors. Remember, the schedule makers don't decide who you play, but they do decide when you play them. Minnesota has the fourth-worst net rest edge of any team. They play five teams who have over a week to prepare for them. They are at a rest disadvantage in four games (and a rest advantage in only one). Their bye week was negated. They play some ridiculously strong teams with a rest disadvantage, including the Ravens, the Rams, and the Packers.

Immediate Impact of Minnesota Vikings 2021 Draft Class

The Vikings needed a new left tackle and managed to trade down while still landing their guy, **Christian Darrisaw** (first round). There doesn't appear to be any serious competition for Darrisaw on the roster; he should start immediately. Darrisaw was a one-year wonder, which is always a red flag, but his dominant performance in 2020 demonstrated an elite ceiling.

It's also worth pointing out Virginia Tech was an extremely run-heavy offense (Darrisaw only had 269 reps in pass protection), so his dominance came in a relatively small sample size.

Darrisaw could be joined on the left side of the line by fellow rookie OG **Wyatt Davis** (third round). Davis was a two-year starter at right guard at Ohio State, but is likely to be given an opportunity to compete for the job at left guard.

QB Kellen Mond (third round) was a bizarre selection given his skill set and the presence of Kirk Cousins, who has two years remaining on his contract.

Mond is far from ready to compete with Cousins for a starting job and, given his weakness as a downfield passer, it's hard to envision him taking over for Cousins when his contract runs out after 2022.

Mond was one of the worst downfield passers in college football and showed zero development throughout his career. Here's Mond's on-target rate at throws 15+ yards downfield during his career at Texas A&M:

2017 - 50.9%

2018 - 54.8%

2019 - 53 5%

2020 - 49.2%

Mond's 49.2% on-target rate in 2020 ranked 63rd out of 79 qualified quarterbacks.

LB **Chazz Surratt** (third round) likely won't start immediately, but he'll provide some depth and could contribute as a pass-rusher in some sub-packages. In 2020, Surratt generated an incredible 37.9% pressure rate on blitzes.

Minnesota's recent track record of developing front-seven talent certainly bodes well for Surratt who is only a few years removed from playing quarterback at North Carolina.

DE **Patrick Jones II** (third round) and DE **Janarius Robinson** (fourth round) will likely factor into the defensive line rotation, but they're two vastly different types of prospects.

Jones did not test well and lacks ideal length, but was extremely productive at Pitt, tallying 91 QB pressures over the last two seasons (4.1 per game). His ceiling might be as a backup, but he's ready to contribute.

Robinson is an impressive athlete (9.33 Relative Athletic Score) with rare length (35.25" arms), but did not consistently produce, generating only 48 QB pressures over the last two years (2.2 per game).

Perhaps Mike Zimmer and staff can develop Robinson in the same way they did **Danielle Hunter**, who was also a dominant athlete with underwhelming college production.

Ignoring the Kellen Mond selection, this looks like a strong class for Minnesota. GM Rick Spielman has often played the game of the draft well, and never more so than with his trade down to acquire Darrisaw, a player they were targeting all along.

The Vikings likely landed multiple immediate starters and some exciting developmental projects.

The selection of Mond, however, is a bit of a dark cloud hanging over this draft. The list of Day 2 quarterback busts is long, and there's good reason to believe Mond will join it. It was likely a wasted pick at a time when Minnesota did not need to draft Cousins's replacement.



Minnesota Vikings 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Vikings continued to have one the league's most efficient passing games in 2020, ranking seventh in success rate (49%) and eighth in EPA per passing play (.254) but once again were at the bottom of the league in passing volume, ranked 27th in the league in overall pass attempts and 27th in passing rate (54.3%). **Kirk Cousins** was third in the NFL in yards per pass attempt (8.3 Y/A) and fourth in yards per completion (12.2 yards). Cousins has thrown 25 or more touchdown passes in six straight seasons and has thrown for over 8.0 yards per pass attempt in each of the past two seasons but has been tethered to pedestrian volume in this offensive philosophy as Cousins has been 29th and 26th in pass attempts per game over those seasons.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Kirk Cousins | 350 | 517 | 68% | 4,265 | 8.2 | 35 | 13 | 39 | 105 | 5 |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | |

| 2020 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 | 51% | 56% | 58 | 11.0% | 20 | 4.0% | 6.6 | 5.6 | 23 | 4% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Kirk Cousins Rating

Early Downs 145 100 121 117 88

Air

Yds %

54%

52%

| <u>In</u> | 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 | 20.0% | 0.0% | 3.0% | 0.0% | 2.8% | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 2.1% | 0.0% | 0.8% | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 2.3% | 6.8% | 3.3% | 0.0% | 3.1% | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 100.0% | 2.7% | | | | |
| Total | 2.5% | 1.8% | 2.2% | 7.1% | 2.3% | | | | |

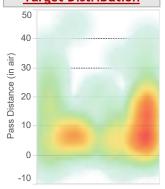
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | |
| Kirk Cousins | 8.9 | 6.4 | -2.5 | 70% | 13 | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Vikings ranked top-five in the league in yards per attempt to their wide receivers (9.5 yards), tight ends (8.4 yards) and running backs (6.9 yards). Minnesota hit an absolute home run with **Justin Jefferson** last season at pick 22 as the fifth wide receiver taken. With an 88-1,400-7 line, Jefferson had the most receiving yardage for a player in his first season since 1960. **Adam Thielen** was still productive with 74 receptions for 925 yards and a career-high 14 touchdowns in 2020. Jefferson and Thielen are locked into the starting wide receiver positions. With **Kyle Rudolph** released this offseason, **Irv Smith Jr.** will finally get a true opportunity to be the primary tight end for the Vikings after they selected him in the second round in 2019.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % дшо | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% RK | TDs |
|------------------------|------|-------|------|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Justin Jefferson | 114 | 70% | 11.4 | 113.8 | 61% | 16 | 54 | 20 | 111 | 7 |
| Adam Thielen | 105 | 69% | 8.7 | 119.2 | 62% | 15 | 44 | 29 | 100 | 13 |

Adam Thielen Target Distribution



<u>Justin Jefferson</u> Target Distribution

Air Yds vs YAC

YAC

%

46%

48%

Rk

22

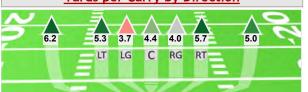


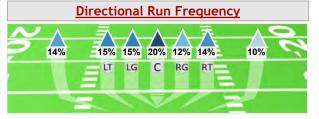
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Vikings ranked eighth in the NFL in EPA rushing in 2020, fourth in yards per attempt (4.9 yards) and fifth in success rate (54%). The Vikings gave **Dalvin Cook** a five-year extension last offseason and Cook has earned that extension through his play, averaging over 5.0 yards per touch in each of his first four seasons in the NFL. The 26-year-old has yet to play a full season through four years, but has 1,654 yards and 13 touchdowns and 1,918 yards and 17 scores in each of the past two seasons. Even with Cook missing time in every season, Minnesota has a capable backup in **Alexander Mattison** that still has two seasons on his rookie contract remaining. Outside of a potential late round depth addition, Minnesota is set at the top of their running back depth chart for multiple seasons.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Dalvin Cook | 312 | 5.0 | 55% | 23 | 20 | 64 | 38 | 55% | 20 | 16 |
| Alexander Mattison | 96 | 4.5 | 47% | 69 | 50 | 88 | 49 | 48% | 60 | 2 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Buy in on a concentrated fantasy offense

The Vikings are one of the league's most favorable fantasy offenses not only because they have been hyper-efficient despite low play volume, but also have arguably the league's most concentrated offense. In 2020, **Dalvin Cook** (356 touches), **Justin Jefferson** (89), and **Adam Thielen** (77) accounted for 63.4% of the Minnesota offense's touches. The only other Viking to touch the ball more than 32 times was **Alexander Mattison** (109 touches). In 2019, only four players logged 50 or more touches for their offense.

Minnesota used 11 personnel at a league-low 29% in 2020. The league average rate was 60% and the next closest team (the Titans) was at 38%. In 2019, that rate was 25%, which was also at the bottom of the league. Some of that influence may be impacted by the lack of talented depth at the position, but also is impacted by offensive philosophy. When the Vikings drop back to pass, they rarely have a third wide receiver on the field, which leaves a high rate of their targets to be funneled to Jefferson and Thielen.

Jefferson is coming off a historic rookie season. With 88-1,400-7 receiving, Jefferson had the most receiving yardage for a player in his first season since 1960 and the fifth most PPR points for any rookie wide receiver. Jefferson caught 23-of-34 targets (67.6%) of throws over 15 yards downfield, the highest rate for any player with over 25 such targets (league average was 43.8%).

Thielen was last season's WR10, catching 74 passes for 925 yards and a career-high 14 touchdowns. That touchdown production did some masking overall that his 4.9 receptions and 61.7 yards per game were far from the 2017-2018 pace he was at while touchdowns alone accounted for 33.1% of Thielen's fantasy production, the highest rate among the top-90 scoring wideouts in the league while his receptions per game were 28th and 29th. We should see regression for the 31-year-old if he cannot sustain his touchdown output, but this passing game largely is still just for him and Justin Jefferson to share.

We should see **Irv Smith Jr**. make a push to be used as the feature tight end this season after sharing his first two seasons in the league with **Kyle Rudolph**. With Rudolph sidelined the final four weeks of 2020, Smith Jr. caught 15-of-20 targets for 183 yards and three touchdowns.

Dalvin Cook has yet to play a full season through four years, but the 26-year-old has been the RB2 and RB3 in points per game the past two seasons with 1,654 yards and 13 touchdowns and 1,918 yards and 17 scores.

Even Kirk Cousins has been a reliable QB2 for fantasy, ranking as the QB13, QB16, and QB11 in fantasy scoring over his three seasons in Minnesota.

| Min | Minnesota Vikings Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel | | | | | | | Surrendered +Success Map | | |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|---------|-----|-----|--|--|--|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ | DI: | 50 | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 12 plays <i>(3%)</i> Success: 67% | 358 plays <i>(95%)</i> Success: 48% | 8 plays (2%) Success: 38% | 378 plays (100%) Success: 49% | | % | Rk | 40 | | |
| | EPA: 0.38 | EPA: 0.06 | EPA: -0.50 | EPA: 0.06 | Base | 35% | 3 | array and the same of the same | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 64 plays (83%) Success: 66% | 11 plays <i>(14%)</i> Success: 55% | 2 plays (3%) Success: 50% | 77 plays (100%) Success: 64% | Nickel | 62% | 12 | 30 - | | |
| | EPA: 0.37 | EPA: 0.21 | EPA: 0.57 | EPA: 0.35 | Dime+ | 1% | 26 | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 15 plays <i>(48%)</i> Success: 87% EPA: 0.52 | 14 plays <i>(45%)</i> Success: 57% EPA: 0.32 | 2 plays (6%) Success: 0% EPA: -2.28 | 31 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 68% EPA: 0.25 | Rush 3 | 5% | 19 | 20 - | | |
| | | LI 71. 0.02 | LI 72.20 | | Rush 4 | 70% | 7 | 10 - | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 8 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.68 | | | 8 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.68 | Rush 5 | 19% | 19 | 10- | | |
| Grand | 99 plays (20%) | 383 plays (78%) | 12 plays (2%) | 494 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 5% | 17 | 0 – | | |
| Total | Success: 68% EPA: 0.42 | Success: 49% EPA: 0.08 | Success: 33% EPA: -0.62 | Success: 52% EPA: 0.13 | Blitz% | 24% | 18 | -10 | | |

Defensive Outlook

The interior defensive line got a makeover with the signing of Dalvin Tomlinson and the return of Sheldon Richardson, who spent 2018 in Minnesota. Last year, the Vikings ranked 32nd as a team in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate and EPA per play allowed on the ground. Help on run defense will also come from nose tackle Michael Pierce, who opted out of the 2020 season after signing a three-year deal with the Vikings last offseason.

On the edge, Danielle Hunter reworked his contract to return. But he's also recovering from a neck injury that forced him to miss the entire 2020 season. Hunter still won't turn 27 years old until the end of October and put up 14.5 sacks in his previous two seasons played. The question is who will line up across from Hunter on the defensive line. Jalyn Holmes, **Stephen Weatherly**, **D.J. Wonnum**, and **Kenny Wilekes** are underwhelming rotational options.

Eric Kendricks has fully cemented himself as one of the league's best coverage linebackers. Kendricks allowed just 5.3 yards per target with three interceptions against no touchdowns allowed in 2020, according to SIS. Anthony Barr tore his pec and only appeared in two games during the 2020 season but is expected to return at full health.

After one of the worst pass defenses on a Mike Zimmer coached team (0.10 EPA/play allowed), the Vikings also retooled the secondary. Free agent signings included **Patrick Peterson, Bashaud Breeland**, and **Mackensie Alexander**.

Peterson ranked 52nd in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap last season, so while he's not *Patrick Peterson*, he still has coverage ability to be an above-average coverage corner. He only signed for a one-year deal.

Minnesota double-dipped at corner in the 2020 draft with picks in the first and third rounds. Third-round pick **Cameron Dantzler** was the better of the two. He was highly targeted and allowed four touchdowns in coverage but had a better-than-average completion rate allowed. **Mike Hughes** missed most of the 2020 season with a neck injury but the 2018 first-round pick is still just 24 years old and has previously had an above-average play in coverage.

After a slightly down year while playing on the franchise tag, **Anthony Harris** became a free agent and only got a one-year deal for \$5 million from the Eagles. Harris will be replaced by **Xavier Woods**, who had his own down season in the poorly schemed Cowboys defense last year. Woods has the ability to be a plus player in a better structure. There's not much investment in Woods, who signed for one year and \$1.75 million this offseason.

Harrison Smith still plays as one of the better all-around safeties in the league. Smith had his best season as a blitzer with a 34.3% pressure rate, which ranked second among 24 safeties with at least 30 pass rushes, according to SIS.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>lencies</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|
| All Pass % | 54% |
| All Pass Rk | 28 |
| All Rush % | 46% |
| All Rush Rk | 5 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 52% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 29 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 61% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 11 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -9% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 31 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 48% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 4 |
| Up Pass % | 51% |
| Up Pass Rk | 27 |
| Up Rush % | 49% |
| Up Rush Rk | 6 |
| Down Pass % | 59% |
| Down Pass Rk | 25 |
| Down Rush % | 41% |
| Down Rush Rk | 8 |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 10 | 30% | 70% | 50% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 13 | 38% | 62% | 62% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 328 | 48% | 52% | 56% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 7 | 57% | 43% | 29% | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 55 | 11% | 89% | 69% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 65 | 66% | 34% | 51% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 99 | 59% | 41% | 45% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 26 | 77% | 23% | 15% | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 35 | 43% | 57% | 71% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 37 | 95% | 5% | 43% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 31 | 87% | 13% | 39% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 27 | 85% | 15% | 11% | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 9 | 33% | 67% | 67% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 2 | 100% | 0% | 100% | | | |



39% 77%

32% AVG 77%





59%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | |
| 86% | 2 | 67% | 63% | 75% | | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | |

33%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------|------------------|-----|------|--|--|
| Down Distance Type Player Plays Plays Plays | | | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 6 | 50% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 6 | 83% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 123 | 57% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Justin Jefferson | 2 | 100% | | |
| | | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 2 | 0% | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 37 | 57% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 16 | 63% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 30 | 37% | | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 5 | 0% | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Dalvin Cook | 15 | 87% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Adam Thielen | 9 | 33% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Justin Jefferson | 6 | 50% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Justin Jefferson | 9 | 22% | | |

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | |
| No | Success: 49% | Success: 49% | Success: 49% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.05 | YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.06 | YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.05 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 93.1 | Rtg: 114.3 | Rtg: 98.0 | | | | |
| | [Att: 243 - Rate: 44.2%] | [Att: 72 - Rate: 13.1%] | [Att: 315 - Rate: 57.3%] | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 53% | Success: 56% | Success: 54% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.17 | YPA: 10.9, EPA: 0.30 | YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.22 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 105.6 | Rtg: 132.2 | Rtg: 118.0 | | | | |
| | [Att: 153 - Rate: 27.8%] | [Att: 82 - Rate: 14.9%] | [Att: 235 - Rate: 42.7%] | | | | |
| Total | Success: 51% | Success: 53% | Success: 51% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.10 | YPA: 9.9, EPA: 0.19 | YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.12 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 97.9 | Rtg: 123.9 | Rtg: 106.4 | | | | |
| | [Att: 396 - Rate: 72.0%] | [Att: 154 - Rate: 28.0%] | [Att: 550 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|---------------|--------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Adam Thielen | Justin Jefferson | Dalvin Cook | Kyle Rudolph | Irv Smith Jr. | Tyler Conklin | C.J. Ham | Chad Beebe | Olabisi Johnson |
| 1 | GB | L 43-34 | 50 (96%) | 36 (69%) | 30 (58%) | 32 (62%) | 31 (60%) | 8 (15%) | 12 (23%) | | 33 (63%) |
| 2 | IND | L 28-11 | 48 (89%) | 29 (54%) | 43 (80%) | 38 (70%) | 35 (65%) | 3 (6%) | 12 (22%) | | 42 (78%) |
| 3 | TEN | L 31-30 | 61 (94%) | 51 (78%) | 48 (74%) | 48 (74%) | 36 (55%) | 10 (15%) | 27 (42%) | 22 (34%) | 5 (8%) |
| 4 | HOU | W 31-23 | 58 (88%) | 51 (77%) | 49 (74%) | 48 (73%) | 41 (62%) | 8 (12%) | 32 (48%) | 16 (24%) | 11 (17%) |
| 5 | SEA | L 27-26 | 81 (93%) | 70 (80%) | 36 (41%) | 64 (74%) | 59 (68%) | 10 (11%) | 29 (33%) | 27 (31%) | 8 (9%) |
| 6 | ATL | L 40-23 | 52 (93%) | 50 (89%) | | 38 (68%) | 44 (79%) | 7 (13%) | 8 (14%) | 22 (39%) | 11 (20%) |
| 8 | GB | W 28-22 | 47 (90%) | 34 (65%) | 46 (88%) | 39 (75%) | 41 (79%) | 11 (21%) | 22 (42%) | 11 (21%) | 2 (4%) |
| 9 | DET | W 34-20 | 50 (86%) | 35 (60%) | 38 (66%) | 42 (72%) | 22 (38%) | 25 (43%) | 34 (59%) | 17 (29%) | 8 (14%) |
| 10 | CHI | W 19-13 | 72 (99%) | 61 (84%) | 59 (81%) | 57 (78%) | | 46 (63%) | 35 (48%) | 22 (30%) | 2 (3%) |
| 11 | DAL | L 31-28 | 57 (89%) | 59 (92%) | 52 (81%) | 45 (70%) | 33 (52%) | 11 (17%) | 35 (55%) | 17 (27%) | 4 (6%) |
| 12 | CAR | W 28-27 | | 72 (99%) | 46 (63%) | 57 (78%) | | 48 (66%) | 22 (30%) | 35 (48%) | 58 (79%) |
| 13 | JAC | W 27-24 | 83 (91%) | 82 (90%) | 79 (87%) | 64 (70%) | | 59 (65%) | 44 (48%) | 28 (31%) | 8 (9%) |
| 14 | TB | L 26-14 | 71 (90%) | 68 (86%) | 54 (68%) | | 28 (35%) | 45 (57%) | 40 (51%) | 34 (43%) | 19 (24%) |
| 15 | CHI | L 33-27 | 64 (94%) | 66 (97%) | 52 (76%) | | 56 (82%) | 45 (66%) | 20 (29%) | 20 (29%) | 9 (13%) |
| 16 | NO | L 52-33 | 56 (88%) | 58 (91%) | 37 (58%) | | 56 (88%) | 55 (86%) | | 23 (36%) | 11 (17%) |
| 17 | DET | W 37-35 | 76 (95%) | 64 (80%) | | | 63 (79%) | 57 (71%) | 32 (40%) | 20 (25%) | 8 (10%) |
| | Grand | Total | 926 (92%) | 886 (81%) | 669 (71%) | 572 (72%) | 545 (65%) | 448 (39%) | 404 (39%) | 314 (32%) | 239 (23%) |
| | Grand Total 926 (92%) 886 (81%) 669 (71%) 572 (72%) 545 (65%) 448 (39%) 404 (39%) 314 (32%) 239 (23%) | | | | | | | | | | |

| 1 6130 | IIIIei (| <u> </u> | |
|---|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 29% | 60% | 45% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 26% | 7% | 59% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 22% | 20% | 56% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 9% | 4% | 48% |
| 0-2 [3WR] | 7% | 1% | 53% |
| | | 4% | 39% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 3% oing Te | | |
| 1-3 [1WR] Group | | | |
| | | | |
| Group | ing Te | enden Pass Succ. | Cies Run Succ. |
| Group | Pass Rate | enden Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 44% 56% | Cies Run Succ. % 48% 60% |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 66% 37% 65% | Pass Succ. % 44% 56% 58% | Cies Run Succ. % 48% 60% 52% |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Adam Thielen | 19 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| Irv Smith Jr. | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| Justin Jefferson | 10 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| Kyle Rudolph | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Chad Beebe | 4 | | 1 | 3 |
| C.J. Ham | 3 | | | 3 |

| Red Zolle Rusiles Leader Doal d | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Dalvin Cook | 64 | 26 | 9 | 29 |
| Alexander Mattison | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Kirk Cousins | 9 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Mike Boone | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| C.J. Ham | 4 | | 2 | 2 |
| Adam Thielen | 1 | | 1 | |
| Ameer Abdullah | 1 | | 1 | |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | |
| 22% | 23% | 55% | | |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% | | |
| Overall Target Success % | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | iccess % | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | vr | | |
| | - | | | |

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

| 01. Games | w | Halftime | Lead |
|-----------|---|----------|------|
| | | | |

| 02. | Avg | Halftime | Lead |
|-----|-----|----------|------|
| UZ. | Avg | панине | Lead |

| -2.0 | (|
|------|---|
| | |

03. Wins

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA 9.0 | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.5 | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 6.6 | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.2 | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 56% | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 51% | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.19 | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.05 | | | |
| | | | | |

| Play Action (Quarte | ers 1-3 on Early Downs) |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | |
| D-4- O4 0 Eb- D | 0.00/ |

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 38% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 56% |
| 46. PA YPA | 9.9 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 7.0% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.2 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 9.6 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 56% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 7.6 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 2.3% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.05 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.5 |
| | |

Men In Box

| 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 | 55% |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.4 |
| 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 | 56% |
| 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 | 22% |
| 62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 44% |
| 63 YPC on runs into 6-man- hoves Early Downs O1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.8 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 5 | defFUM | 18 |
|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 2.0 | defFUM Rcvrd | 12 |
| offFUM | 22 | dell om Revid | 12 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 12 | defFR Rk | 29 |
| offFR% | 54.5% | defFR% | 33.3% |
| offFR Rk | 18 | defFROE | 2.0 |
| offFROE | 0.0 | defFROE | 2.0 |
| offFROE Rk | 18 | defFROE Rk | 4 |
| | | | |

Field Goal Luck

| - | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation | -5.69 | Opp Att | 39 |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 32 | Opp Makes | 35 |
| Own Att Own Makes | 22 15 | Opp FG % | 90% |
| Own FG % | 68% | Opp Expected Makes | 32.34 |
| Own Expected Makes | 18.03 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 2.66 |
| Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk | -3.03 32 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 4 |
| 2019 Own Make Over Expectation Rk | 2.06 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 0.89 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 6 | 2019 Opp Rk | 9 |

Player Tracking Data Stats - ORs

| (| QE | 3 F | ٦r | es | Sι | ıre | |
|---|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|--|
| | | | | | | | |

Offensive Metrics

0.01

91.4% 10

> 3 2.7

18.8%

29.7%

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pressure | | Offensive | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| | Kirk Cousins | | Kirk Cousins | EPA/Pass | |
| CAY | 6.8 | Pressure % | 38.6 | EPA/Pass Rk | |
| CAY Rk | 9 | Pressure Rk | 4 | EPA/Rush | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 17 | Sack % | 6.8 | EPA/Rush Rk | |
| AYTS Rk | 21 | Sack Rk | 12 | On-Target Catch % | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 22 19 | Pressure Accuracy % | 69.8 | On-Target Catch Rk | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 34 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 10 | Drop% | |
| COMP% | 67.6 | Rating when Pressured | 72 | Drop Rk | |
| xCOMP% | 63.3 | Pressured Rating Rk | 17 | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 30 | Clean Accuracy % | 82.3 | YAC/Att | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 22 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 6 | YAC/Att Rk | |
| CPOE% | 4.3 | Rating when Clean | 121.7 | Rush Broken Tackle % | |
| CPOE Rk | 4 | - | 2 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 3 | Clean Rating Rk | | Duch dat Daves 9/ | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw | 2.88 | Rush 1st Down % | |
| | | Time to Throw Rk | 8 | Rush 1st Down Rk | |
| | | | | | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Bill Belichick (21 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Josh McDaniels (9 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Steve Belichick (2 yrs)

Hard

Easy

New England Patriots

2021 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

9

#3

Past Records

2020: 7-9 2019: 12-4 2018: 11-5



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Adam Butler (IDL) | Dolphins |
| Brandon Copeland (LB) | Falcons |
| Damiere Byrd (WR) | Bears |
| Donte Moncrief (WR) | Texans |
| J.C. Jackson (CB) | Retired |
| Jason McCourty (CB) | Dolphins |
| Joe Thuney (LG) | Chiefs |
| Marcus Cannon (RT) | Texans |
| Marqise Lee (WR) | 49ers |
| Najee Toran (RG) | Retired |
| Quincy Adeboyejo (WR) | Retired |
| Ryan Izzo (TE) | Texans |
| Terrence Brooks (S) | Texans |
| Beau Allen (IDL) | TBD |
| Cassh Maluia (LB) | TBD |
| Jermaine Eluemunor (RG) | TBD |
| John Simon (EDGE) | TBD |
| Julian Edelman (WR) | TBD |
| Michael Barnett (IDL) | TBD |
| Rex Burkhead (RB) | TBD |
| Shilique Calhoun (LB) | TBD |

| Rex Burkhead | I (RB) | TBD |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Shilique Calhe | oun (LB) | TBD |
| | | |
| Average Line | # Games Favored | # Games Underdog |
| 0.2 | 7 | 9 |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

| rast | a current Proj |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Forecast 2021 Wins | 9 |
| 2020 Wins | 7 |
| Forecast 2020 Wins | 9 |
| 2019 Wins | 12 |
| 2018 Wins | ≪ ₹ 11 |
| 2017 Wins | 13 |
| | 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 |

2021 New England Patriots Overview

In my opinion, far too many teams try to build an offense without a strong, receiving tight end.

There are only four teams to rank top-5 in passing efficiency multiple times in the last four years: The Chiefs (three times), the Patriots, Chargers, and Saints twice.

The Chiefs did so with **Travis Kelce**. The Patriots did so with **Rob Gronkowski**. The Chargers did so with **Antonio Gates** and **Hunter Henry**. The Saints were slightly unique, in that they did it still utilizing relative heavy tight end targets, but not Hall of Famers (their No. 3 receiver in 2018 was **Ben Watson** and their No. 3 receiver in 2019 was **Jared Cook**).

If you zoom out and look at top-10 rankings in passing efficiency, there are only two teams to do so in each of the last four years (aforementioned Chiefs and Chargers) and four teams that did it three of the last four years (Saints, Bucs, Packers, and Seahawks).

Certainly, the priority is having a top-tier quarterback and a stud perimeter wide receiver. But you can count on one hand the teams over the last few years that excelled in the air without deriving a ton of value from utilizing a tight end in the passing game.

Fundamentally, the Patriots were always a team that wanted to utilize the tight end in the passing game. Even as far back as 1991, Bill Belichick was enthralled by what a tight end brought to the PASSING game rather than just an overall offensive asset. Here were his scouting notes from 1991 on what he wanted out of a tight end:

"TE #1 has to be a catcher (Ozzie Newsome, Keith Jackson types). Don't need the offensive line type guy in a tight end's jersey. Take what we can get (cont'd - see NE2)



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| AAV (MM) |
|----------|
| \$13.6 |
| \$12.5 |
| \$12.5 |
| Trade |
| \$7.5 |
| \$6 |
| \$6 |
| \$5 |
| \$3.5 |
| \$3 |
| |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 15 | QB - Mac Jones (Alabama) |
| 2 | 38 | DT - Christian Barmore (Alabama) |
| 3 | 96 | DE - Ronnie Perkins (Oklahoma) |
| 4 | 120 | RB - Rhamondre Stevenson (Oklahoma) |
| 5 | 177 | LB - Cameron McGrone (Michigan) |
| 6 | 188 | S - Joshuah Bledsoe (Missouri) |
| | 197 | OT - William Sherman (Colorado) |
| 7 | 242 | WR - Tre Nixon (UCF) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk | |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|--|
| All OFF | 20 | \$89.03M | 27 | |
| QB | 25 | \$7.94M | 31 | |
| OL | 20 | \$32.40M | 11 | |
| RB | 11 | \$9.61M | 6 | |
| WR | 19 | \$21.50M | 16 | |
| TE | 2 | \$17.58M | 32 | |
| All DEF | 1 | \$117.35M | 12 | |
| DL | 23 | \$34.70M | 29 | |
| LB | 9 | \$18.45M | 32 | |
| СВ | 2 | \$34.63M | 1 | |
| s | 1 | \$29.56M | 12 | |

NE-2

from him in the blocking – just get in the way and tie up. We can work around his blocking ability. [Priority is] Catch, run, block. #2 or #3 TE needs to be the blocker for situational running situations – can also be the "in betweener" – not quite a tight end but not fast enough to be a wide receiver (Novachek/Houlihan type guy). 6'3", 235 minimum type guy, needs to be big enough to get in the way. Good measure of a tight end is what he does with the ball after the catch. <u>Don't let the lack of blocking ability eliminate a good player</u>."

Keep in mind, this was the height of the running era of football. Football didn't shift to a passing league for nearly two decades. Yet Belichick knew then that blocking from a tight end is secondary. Catching and running with the ball are the traits to be valued from a tight end.

During the height of the Patriots dynasty, Daniel Graham was the team's fourth-leading receiver. Then, in 2004, the Patriots spent their first round pick on Benjamin Watson. I encourage everyone to go back and watch highlights of Watson with the Patriots in the mid-to-late 2000s. He literally was Rob Gronkowski before Rob Gronkowski.

Belichick absolutely loved Watson. And we already know how much he loved tight ends. So it should have come as no surprise when Watson left after the 2009 season, Belichick would go after a replacement. He found that replacement in the early second-round of the 2010 draft: Rob Gronkowski. But due to both Gronk's injury history and desire to really attack the tight end position and take advantage of the efficiency that position delivers, in the early fourth round, Belichick drafted Aaron Hernandez.

The tandem burst onto the scene in 2010, ranking third and fourth in receptions for the Patriots. New England marched to a 14-2 record, tied for the second-best record in the Brady-Belichick era. But they made even more impact in 2011, when they each had over 75 receptions and ranked second and third in receptions.

For a few years, the Patriots were taking advantage of the tight end position unlike any other team in the game.

In 2013, Gronkowski was injured and Hernandez was no longer with the Patriots. The Patriots adapted and dominated, as they always seem to do, but did not make it to the Super Bowl.

| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cam Newton | 50% 7.3 85.6 | 51% 7.9 86.0 | 31% 6.1 74.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 42% | 51% | 62% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | _ |

| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| NE | 49% 4.5 | 56% 5.8 | 58% 3.4 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 58% | 49% | 38% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

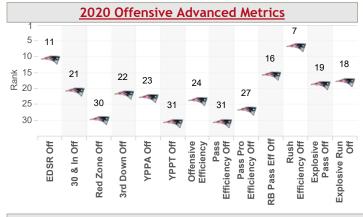
In 2014, a healthy Gronkowski was the team's leading receiver, as he was in three of the next four years. The Patriots won the Super Bowl in 2014, 2016, and 2018 with a pass-first attack which was optimized by the inability for defenses to handle Gronk in the passing game.

From 2014-2018 (his final year in New England) Rob Gronkowski led the Patriots in touchdowns (37, next closest was **Julian Edelman** with 20), receiving yards (4,606, next closest was Edelman with 3,620), and had more yards per target than anyone else who played in at least 15 games.

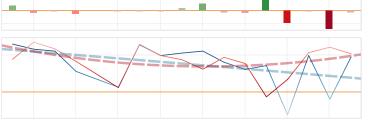
Gronk's dominance at the tight end position was irreplaceable.

So when Gronkowski retired following the 2018 season, Tom Brady had to

(cont'd - see NE-3)



| | 2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| W | L | W | L | L | L | L | W | W | L | W | W | L | L | L | W |
| MIA | SEA | LV | KC | DEN | SF | BUF | NYJ | BAL | HOU | ARI | LAC | LA | MIA | BUF | NYJ |
| Н | Α | Н | Α | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Α | Н | Н |
| 10 | -5 | 16 | -16 | -6 | -27 | -3 | 3 | 6 | -7 | 3 | 45 | -21 | -10 | -29 | 14 |
| 21 | 30 | 36 | 10 | 12 | 6 | 21 | 30 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 45 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 28 |
| 11 | 35 | 20 | 26 | 18 | 33 | 24 | 27 | 17 | 27 | 17 | 0 | 24 | 22 | 38 | 14 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |





 RESULT
 All 2019 Wins: 7

 SITE
 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 2-1</td>

 MARGIN
 FG Games Win %: 67% (#8)

 PTS
 FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

 OPP PTS
 29% (#11)

2020 Close Game

Records

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-4
EDSR by Wk
1 Score Games Win %: 43% (#19)
W=Green
L=Red
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total
Wins): 43% (#24)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin +3 TO Given 19 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 5 TO Taken 22 **INT Taken** 18 **FUM Taken** 4 Sack Margin -13 24 Sacks Sacks Allow 37 Return TD Margin +2 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 2

+20

82

Penalty Margin

Opponent Penalties

Penalties

313

WEEK

OFF/DFF

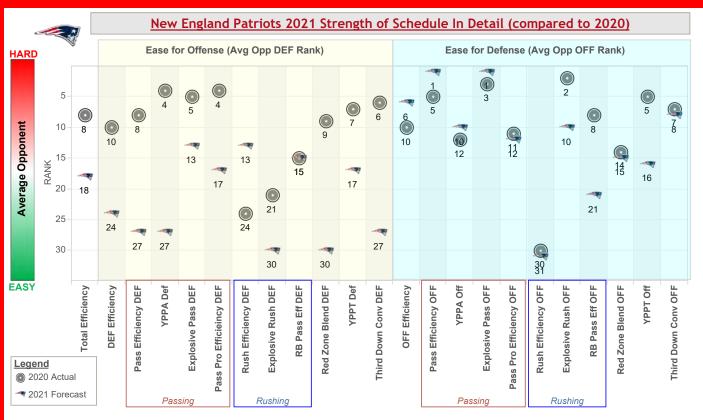
Blue=OFF

Red=DEF

(high=good)

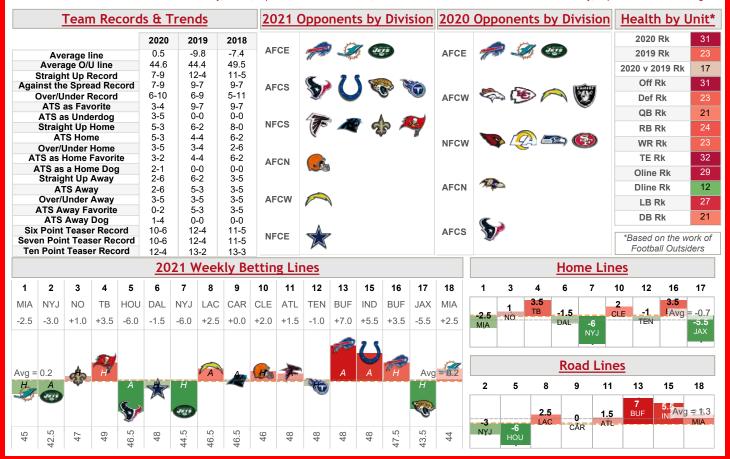
(low=good)

EDSR



| 2021 vs 2020 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 R | | | | | | Rush OFF Blend Rk | | |
| 30 | 31 | 3 | 16 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 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







work around his absence. In 2019, the Patriots had no real threats at the tight end position. Belichick knew he needed to replace Gronk, so he made two moves. First, he re-signed Benjamin Watson in free agency and paid Watson more than any other free agent he signed. But Watson (then 39 years old) was not the same as he once was, and started only eight games with only 17 receptions. Secondly, he signed **Matt LaCosse** in free agency. LaCosse started the other eight games for the Patriots at tight end, but he only caught 13 passes on the season and was slowed thanks to a nagging ankle problem.

Although Belichick tried to replace Gronk with a couple free agent additions, they didn't work and the 2019 Patriots were led by virtually Julian Edelman all by himself. The second and fourth receivers in receptions were both running backs (**James White** and **Rex Burkhead**). Phillip Dorsett would catch only 54% of targets and 29 receptions as receiver No. 3.

The talk of the offseason was whether Brady had lost it... if his career was over... if he couldn't throw downfield any longer. Go figure – the Patriots' No. 1 receiver in yards per target was tight end Rob Gronkowski, who retired, and now Brady "can't throw the ball downfield".

Hungry to figure out a solution to the tight end problem in 2020, Belichick made several strong moves. First, the plan was for Matt LaCosse to take over as the No. 1 tight end. But Belichick went back to his strategy from the 2010 draft, a decade later. He drafted two tight ends, both in the third round. The first, **Devin Asiasi** was coached by Chip Kelly, who said of Asiasi: "His versatility is what a lot of teams in the NFL coveted, and obviously Bill saw that himself. The one thing I knew in coaching that league is there aren't a lot of guys out there, no matter what year it is, who are as big and athletic. The combination of Devin's size and athletic ability, I knew it was going to make him unique, not just in this class but any class."

With Cam Newton their new quarterback to replace Tom Brady, Belichick hoped the offense would be supported by a strong but unglamorous presence of LaCosse, Asiasi, and fellow third-round rookie Dalton Keene.

But then LaCosse opted out of the 2020 season due to COVID concerns. Suddenly, in an offseason which was brutally difficult to integrate rookies due to lack of in-person work and practice time, the Patriots' depth chart was headlined by two rookies plus **Ryan Izzo**. Izzo was a seventh-rounder from 2018 who missed the entire season with injury in 2018 and missed most of the 2019 season with injuries as well, making only six appearances and catching only six passes.

The problems didn't stop there. Izzo became the starting tight end as Asiasi was slow to develop. Although the Patriots played Asiasi in the first five games of the season, he wasn't targeted once and played on less than 17% of snaps in most of those games. He then was inactive for two games and was placed on IR for the following five weeks. Through Week 12, Asiasi played in only five of 12 games, without a single target and very few snaps. Keene was no better. He was inactive or on IR in 10 of his first 12 games. He played in only one game through Week 12, a 33-6 loss to the 49ers, and caught one pass for eight yards.

Without support behind him, Izzo failed to take control of his opportunities. Although he started the first 13 weeks of the season, with a high snap count in almost every game, he rarely distinguished himself. He totaled 13 catches on only 20 targets. Then, he was injured and placed on IR for the final four weeks of the season.

At the end of the season, the team that had received the most upside from the tight end position for the prior decade plus, threw only 8% of all passes to tight ends in 2020. It was the lowest rate for any team in the NFL average being 21% of all targets going to tight ends.

Clearly, this stung Belichick to the core.

There is a reason we spend so much time on the Patriots tight end situation since Belichick took over. They were winning Super Bowls with a tight end. They drafted one in the first round at the height of their dynasty. The very offseason he (Watson) left, the Patriots drafted both Gronkowski and Hernandez in the same draft. As soon as Gronk left, the Patriots tried to offset his absence first using modest spending in free agency (in 2019) followed by using two third-round draft picks (2020).

Neither strategy was successful.

But that backstory sets the stage with context for what happened next. Belichick did something in 2021 that he's never done before in his coaching tenure: he went on a huge free agency Day 1 shopping spree.

And he didn't do it at just any position. He spent like crazy at tight end.

Free agency officially began March 17 at 4:00pm ET. But starting at 12:00pm ET on Monday, March 15, teams are permitted to contact and enter into contract negotiations during a period known as "legal tampering" or more technically, the NFL's "open negotiating period".

Within the first hour of legal tampering on March 15, the Patriots signed former Titans TE Jonnu Smith to a four-year/\$50 million deal that included

(cont'd - see NE-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage is negated advantage to prep prep game

| Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: New England Patriots Ranking vs NFL Average |
|--|
|--|

| Net Rest Edge Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Short Week Road Games Rank | Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 32 | 23 | 27 | 12 | 1 | 24 |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The Patriots still have major questions at the most important position in sports. Maybe COVID really affected Newton but maybe he just isn't very good anymore. He produced a poor -0.6% completion percentage over expected in the first three games prior to COVID and a -1.2% the rest of the season.
- Yes, the Patriots spent a lot of money in free agency but that doesn't necessarily equate to success on the field. Bourne ranked 71st in yards per route run last season and has never gained more than 667 yards in a season. Agholar had a career season in 2020 but prior to that had never finished in the top 40 in yards per route run. It remains to be seen if these receivers can turn the Patriots into a top offense.
- New England really got screwed with the schedule. They will have the worst net rest differential in the NFL this season, at -15 games. They lead the NFL in playing three opponents coming off of their bye week.

9

Why Bet the Over



- Last season, no team was hurt more by opt-outs and in season games missed due to COVID than the Patriots. New England had eight total opt-outs, the most in the NFL. Four of the Patriots' opt-outs were expected starters Marcus Cannon, Matt LaCosse, Dont'a Hightower, and Patrick Chung. In-season, New England lost Cam Newton prior to their game against the Chiefs and reportedly Newton suffered from brain fog at points for the remainder of the season.
- New England desperately needed to replenish the roster. No team spent as much in free agency as the Patriots. They inked receivers Nelson Agholar and Kendrick Bourne along with tight ends Hunter Henry and Jonnu Smith to bolster a passing game that ranked dead last in touchdowns.
- The run defense for New England was their biggest
 Achilles heel on defense. Adding Hightower, Kyle Van Noy, free agent acquisition Davon Godcheaux, and second-round pick
 Christian Barmore at DT should help.
- Bill Belichick. Despite leading the NFL in opt-outs, suffering through Newton's bout and aftermath with COVID and not having any actual talent in the receiving game, Belichick was able to squeeze out seven wins. With an influx in talent, New England can squarely exceed their win total.

| New England Patriots Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|----|---|---|--|--|
| Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | 5 | 25 | 28 | 14 | 9 | 1 | | |

The Patriots appear to have excellent depth at quarterback with two potential starters, **Cam Newton** and rookie **Mac Jones**. However, we don't know what to expect from either in 2021. The issue for Newton appears to be a drop in arm strength, limiting his ability to throw downfield. When in the pocket with no pressure, Newton's average depth of throw was just 6.7 yards last season.

New England's backfield has depth but, as is usually the case, it's unclear how the touches will be divided. **Damien Harris** is an adequate starter, but his inability to make defenders miss limited his upside. In 2020, Harris forced 2.7 missed or broken tackles per 25 carries, ranked 45th out of 63 running backs (minimum 75 attempts).

The receiving corps is the lowest ranked unit on the roster, and will likely rely heavily on **Jakobi Meyers's** ability to elevate his game in his third season. If Meyers's game doesn't ascend and **Nelson Agholor** becomes the default number-one weapon, this could quickly turn into the worst unit in the league. The addition of tight ends **Hunter Henry** and **Jonnu Smith** appears to indicate a desire to run more 12 personnel, and likely lean more heavily on the tight ends in the passing game. The offensive line is the highest ranked unit, other than head coach, which may allow the backfield to produce at a higher level than its ranking. In 2020, Patriots running backs picked up at least two yards before contact on 51% of their carries, the third highest rate in the league.

Votes for the rebuilt front seven ranged from fifth to 24th. **Chase Winovich** was the only reliable pass-rusher in 2020 (17.7% pressure rate) but will be joined by newcomer **Matt Judon** and a returning **Kyle Van Noy**. The upgraded depth increases the ceiling of this unit considerably. The secondary lands in the top 10, but that's subject to change based on **Stephon Gilmore's** status—he's reportedly been on the trade block all offseason. Otherwise, the entire secondary returns.

Bill Belichick was a unanimous choice as our top-ranked coach. His inability to win without Tom Brady may have propped the door open slightly for someone to take the throne, but we'll need to see more than one down year to make a change at the top.

<u>NE-4</u>

over \$31 million fully guaranteed. That was a shock to many, as Belichick had never gone after any player like that.

In the prior decade, the largest skill position free agent contract was **Danny Amendola** in 2013 (\$28.5 million at \$5.7 million per year). The largest contract for any position was to a DB in 2017 (\$65 million to Stephon Gilmore at \$13 million/yr).

On an annual basis, the Patriots spent less than any other team in free agency for years and years.

Suddenly, they snagged Smith for \$50 million. The reaction all over the football world was a massive "WOW." But Belichick wasn't done yet.

Early the next morning, and less than 24 hours into the legal tampering window, Belichick inked former Chargers TE **Hunter Henry** to a three-year, \$37.5 million deal that included \$25 million guaranteed.

The football world was in shambles. Belichick still wasn't done yet. Before free agency officially started, in the two days of legal tampering, look at what the Patriots spent in free agency:

Prior 10 years total: \$359,886,620 First two days of 2021: \$227,500,000

<u>NE-5</u>

Belichick added **Matt Judon** for \$54.5 million, **Jalen Mills** for \$24 million, and **Nelson Agholor** for \$22 million.

Not all the moves were smart or with costs in mind. There are many good reasons to not go crazy spending in free agency, foremost among them is because you overpay for players, particularly on Day 1 of free agency — let alone during legal tampering. The Raiders, a terribly run organization, had rented Nelson Agholor for \$1 million in 2020, the veteran minimum. After playing 10 games in perfect weather conditions in a dome last year when his team was often trailing and getting ample targets (82 but catching only 48) the Patriots gave him 22 times that the next two years.

Getting back to the very first sentence of this chapter:

Far too many teams try to build an offense without a strong, receiving tight end.

Bill Belichick, considered the best coach in the NFL today, if not all of history, absolutely loves using the tight end position more than any other coach out there. To build his tight end dominance, he's used first-, second-, and third-round picks on the position. He's double-dipped in multiple drafts, taking two tight ends in the top four rounds in the same draft twice.

If there is a lesson to be learned, it's that far more teams need to focus on the value provided by this position.

And the secondary lesson is the 2021 Patriots are getting back to basics by addressing the tight end position and ensuring their war chest at that position is stocked for the next several years.

How will it factor into 2021? Well we know the Patriots will be getting more talented at not just the tight end position, but many others. Factoring in their COVID opt outs, the Patriots had the second-most injured roster in 2020. If you exclude COVID, they ranked 16th. Of the 67 players that opted out around the NFL, a league-high eight were on the Patriots.

(cont'd - see NE-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



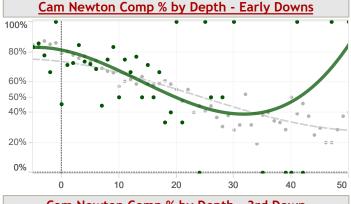
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

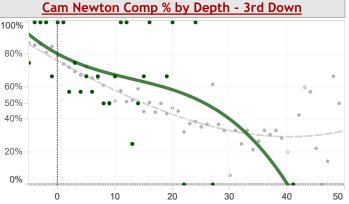


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----|--|--|--|
| 4 | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | 45 | | | |
| | Damien Harris | 12% | 9% | 69% | 2% | 7% | | | | |
| | Rex Burkhead | 4% | 22% | 69% | 4% | | | | | |
| | James White | 29% | 11% | 57% | 3% | | | | | |
| _ | Sony Michel | 13% | | 66% | 5% | 13% | 4% | | | |
| RUSH | Damiere Byrd | | | 100% | | | | | | |
| œ | Jakobi Meyers | 50% | | | | 50% | | | | |
| | N'Keal Harry | | | 100% | | | | | | |
| | Julian Edelman | | | 100% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 13% | 10% | 67% | 3% | 6% | 1% | | | |
| | Damien Harris | 14% | 43% | 43% | | | | | | |
| | Rex Burkhead | 12% | 6% | 76% | 6% | | | | | |
| | James White | 14% | 3% | 81% | | 2% | | | | |
| " | Sony Michel | 13% | | 75% | | 13% | | | | |
| PASS | Damiere Byrd | 17% | 15% | 63% | 1% | 4% | | | | |
| | Jakobi Meyers | 20% | 8% | 63% | 1% | 7% | | | | |
| | N'Keal Harry | 11% | 13% | 62% | 9% | 5% | | | | |
| | Julian Edelman | 15% | 21% | 59% | 5% | | | | | |
| | Total | 15% | 11% | 66% | 3% | 4% | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Edelman Damien Harris Meyers Burkheac White Damiere Byrd Harry Sony Michel James 1 N'Keal I Jakobi 1 Julian Rex 1% RUSH 42% 21% 24% PASS 17% 21% 21% 15% ALL





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| PASS | 42%, -0.18 (314) | 54%, 0.08 (112) | 38%, -0.62 (8) | 58%, 0.52 (12) | | | 45%, -0.11 (473) |
| RUSH | 51%, 0.07 (199) | 54%, 0.06 (249) | 57%, 0.34 (14) | 50%, 0.54 (2) | 42%, -0.32 (12) | 0%, -0.77 (1) | 52%, 0.06 (495) |
| All | 45%, -0.09 (513) | 54%, 0.06 (361) | 50%, -0.01 (22) | 57%, 0.53 (14) | 42%, -0.32 (12) | 0%, -0.77 (1) | 49%, -0.02 (968) |

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 | James White | 48% (46) 6.7, 0.11 | 43% (7) 5.9, 0.01 | 0% (2) 5.0, -0.95 | | 45% (55) 6.5, 0.06 | | | | |
| | Rex Burkhead | 45% (22) 6.6, 0.06 | 25% (4) 4.0, 0.02 | 50% (2) 11.0, 0.64 | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.03 | 45% (29) 6.5, 0.09 | | | | |
| WR | Jakobi Meyers | 52% (46) 8.7, 0.12 | 69% (29) 8.9, 0.42 | | | 59% (75) 8.8, 0.24 | | | | |
| | Damiere Byrd | 45% (38) 7.8, 0.11 | 64% (28) 8.1, 0.16 | 0% (2) 3.5, -0.81 | 0% (2) 0.0, -0.63 | 50% (70) 7.6, 0.08 | | | | |
| | N'Keal Harry | 45% (44) 5.1, -0.16 | 50% (8) 4.1, 0.02 | 100% (3) 13.3, 1.27 | | 49% (55) 5.4, -0.05 | | | | |
| | Julian Edelman | 45% (31) 7.9, -0.18 | 75% (4) 10.8, 0.49 | 100% (1) 8.0, 1.41 | 50% (2) 3.0, -0.21 | 50% (38) 7.9, -0.07 | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Harris | 54% (121) | 75% (8) | 0% (1) | 100% (1) | 55% (131) |
| Damien | 5.2, 0.06 | 5.4, 0.18 | 2.0, -0.41 | 5.0, 0.01 | 5.2, 0.07 |
| Newton | 57% (42) | 57% (65) | 75% (8) | 0% (5) | 56% (120) |
| Cam | 3.4, 0.13 | 5.9, 0.20 | 3.0, 0.68 | -1.0, -1.04 | 4.5, 0.16 |
| Michel | 50% (48) | 46% (24) | 33% (3) | 100% (3) | 50% (78) |
| Sony | 6.5, 0.05 | 4.9, 0.02 | 1.7, -0.22 | 3.3, 0.37 | 5.7, 0.04 |
| Burkhead | 61% (18) | 52% (44) | 50% (2) | | 55% (64) |
| Rex | 3.3, -0.08 | 4.2, 0.05 | 7.0, 0.19 | | 4.0, 0.02 |
| White James | 100% (2) 2.5, 0.52 | 31% (32) 3.4, -0.31 | | | 35% (34) 3.3, -0.26 |

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

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

| Pass | sing by Passing by | | Throw Types | | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | | |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | verage heme | eme Level 1 52% (329) 3 Step 48% (152 | | 48% (152) 7.0, 0.08 | Planted | | % (312) 7, 0.09 | Power | 55% (75) 5.6, 0.09 | | | |
| | 53% (210) | Curl | 59% (59) 7.0, 0.13 | | | 5 Step | 44% (87) | Shuffling | 5.0 | 9% (75) 6, -0.15 | Lead | 51% (59) |
| Zone | 8.1, 0.14 | Out | 59% (39) 6.7, 0.07 | Level 2 | 57% (63) 11.3, 0.38 | | 8.8, -0.07 60% (78) | Moving | | % (49) 4, -0.24 | | 6.4, 0.10 |
| | | | 59% (32) | Level 3 | 26% (19) | . , | | | Play Action | | Pitch | 4.9, 0.16 |
| M2M | 47% (135) 6.5, -0.17 | Dig | 10.9, 0.16 | | 8.3, -0.57 | Basic Screen | 51% (35) 7.4, 0.25 | | Play Action 44% (93) | No P/A 56% (50) | Inside Zone | 38% (39) 2.9, -0.18 |
| | | Slant | 48% (31) 6.0, 0.12 | Shovel | 0% (3) 1.7, -0.84 | 7 Step | 52% (25) | Under Center | 7.8, -0.30 | 7.0, 0.16 | Outside | 41% (37) |
| Screen | 48% (58) | | 050((00) | | 00/ /4) | • | 7.8, -0.04 | Shotgun | 54% (54) 7.9, 0.19 | 41% (276) 6.7, -0.15 | Zone | 4.0, -0.09 |
| 3376611 | 6.2, 0.13 | Drag | 65% (20) 7.1, 0.39 | Sidearm | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.70 | Designed Rollout Right | 54% (13) 5.1, 0.20 | ALL | 48% (147) 7.8, -0.12 | 44% (326) 6.8, -0.10 | Stretch | 40% (20) 3.8, -0.02 |

<u>NE-6</u>

Players that are returning in 2021 include LB Dont'a Hightower, TE Matt LaCosse, FB Danny Vitale, and RB Brandon Bolden.

The Patriots added all the aforementioned players in free agency plus a handful of others who could make an impact, namly WR **Kendrick Bourne** and former Patriots LB **Kyle Van Noy**. This is a restocked team.

Their defense will be notably improved.

In last year's Patriots chapter for this book, I predicted a Patriots defensive regression. It was largely on account of the easy schedule faced in 2019. After the 2019 Patriots started 8-0, their final eight games featured offenses with an average ranking of 27th in offensive efficiency. The 2019 Patriots defense, having played the NFL's easiest schedule of offenses, was not as good as their No. 1 ranking.

Last year, the Patriots played the 10th-toughest schedule of offenses. That, coupled with several opt-outs, spelled disaster. No defense fell off as much as the Patriots from 2019 to 2020. They dropped from first or second in most key metrics including total defensive efficiency, pass defense, Early Down Success Rate (EDSR) defense, and third down defense. In 2020, they ranked no better than a below-league-average 18th in all of those metrics.

This year, the Patriots must hope their improvement in defensive personnel translates on the field because I project them to play the NFL's sixth-toughest schedule of offenses.

In terms of schedule itself, the NFL's schedule makers did the Patriots no favors with scheduling their games. While schedule makers don't decide who a team plays, they do decide when the games are played. The Patriots have the worst net rest edge differential of any team in the NFL. This year, they play four teams with over a week to prepare for them and are at a rest disadvantage in four total games, in addition to having their bye week negated.

The biggest question for the Patriots, beyond how the free agent frenzy pays off... beyond how the defense looks... beyond how the schedule shakes out... is who is under center for the better part of the season?

(cont'd - see NE-7)





With Cam Newton last year, the Patriots naturally shifted to a more run-centric approach. The run game itself was vastly different than it was in prior years thanks to the efficiency of quarterback runs coupled with the other runs that opened up due to the threat of Newton keeping the football.

I was curious as to how much the Patriots would use pre-snap motion, as it was something that always would help Brady get a sense for the defense ahead of pass plays. The answer was to scale back pre-snap motion. New England called 41% of their plays without any motion whatsoever in 2020. That number was just 29.8% in 2019. But the Patriots did jack up their usage of play-action, from 22% to 31%.

The problem for Newton was that while play-action helped from a YPA perspective, it still didn't even make this an efficient passing offense. Here are Newton's splits on early downs in the first three quarters with and without play-action:

With play-action: 8.6 YPA, 51% success, -0.09 EPA/att Without play-action: 6.7 YPA, 53% success, 0.01 EPA/att

The Patriots had the fourth-worst EPA/att on play-action of any team last year.

Additionally, the only way for Newton to be successful in the passing game was to have deception of the run game. Even if you strip out the fourth quarter or third down, which tend to be more obvious pass situations, and look at the rest of his work on the season, by grouping:

11 personnel: 7.7 YPA, 50% success, -0.15 EPA/att (129 att) 21 personnel: 7.3 YPA, 58% success, 0.17 EPA/att (67 att) 20 personnel: 9.7 YPA, 55% success, 0.55 EPA/att (11 att)

The difficult part about evaluating Newton in this offense is the parts of the offense, themselves. To illustrate my point, I'm going to post two stat lines, both reflect early down passes in a game's first three quarters:

A: 7.6 YPA, 52% success, -0.03 EPA/att B: 6.6 YPA, 47% success, -0.02 EPA/att

Player A is Cam Newton in 2020. Player B is Tom Brady in 2019.

Both players were in New England's offense. Brady was there for decades in an offense he was familiar with. Cam Newton was in his first year with the team, in a COVID offseason without nearly enough time for proper reps with a new team and no preseason. Tom Brady had 16 games with Julian Edelman. Cam Newton had only six. Cam Newton caught COVID during after just three games, had to miss Week 4, and struggled in his return from COVID, throwing for less than 175 yards per game for three straight games, including no touchdowns and five total interceptions.

This is not to argue that Newton is better than Brady, because he's obviously not, nor is it to say there was nothing wrong with Newton's 2020 season and absolve him from all responsibilities. But the point is, Tom Brady couldn't do anything with the Patriots weapons in 2019... and the Patriots weapons in 2020 were even worse, so what should we have realistically expected from Newton?

(cont'd - see NE-8)

Immediate Impact of New England Patriots 2021 Draft Class

No one in New England's rookie class is guaranteed a job, but DT Christian Barmore (second round) should at least participate in the defensive line rotation.

Although he has the size to play nose tackle, and often did at Alabama, he moves well for a big man and could improve New England's interior pass rush. Barmore led the SEC with a 16.5% pressure rate generated as an interior pass-rusher in 2020.

DE Ronnie Perkins (third round) also figures to contribute as a pass-rusher, but it's a crowded position due to Kyle Van Noy, Chase Winovich, Anfernee Jennings, Matt Judon, and others also competing for playing time in similar roles.

Perkins primarily lined up as a traditional defensive end at Oklahoma, but has the athletic profile of someone capable of playing a hybrid end/linebacker role in New England's defense. That versatility should help him find a role.

LB Cameron McGrone (fifth round) is a former five-star recruit and an exciting developmental prospect with elite traits, but don't expect to see him on the field much except for special teams duties.

McGrone has elite range and was a dominant run defender in 2020, with zero missed tackles—traits which bode well for a strong special teams performance. However, his inconsistent coverage production will likely hold him back from a bigger role early in his career.

Of course, the wild card of this draft class is QB **Mac Jones** (first round). **Cam Newton** is likely to maintain the starting job at first, but if Jones eventually takes over, he has the traits to make an immediate impact.

One thing Jones does especially well is avoid negative plays. When faced with pressure, Jones threw an interception or took a sack just 14.4% of the time, the seventh lowest rate (out of 75 QBs) and the lowest rate among the first-round quarterbacks in this draft class.

It's also worth pointing out, Bill Belichick selected two players from Alabama at the top of this draft. Belichick's relationship with Nick Saban is well documented and he also has two coaches on staff (Vinnie Sunseri and Joe Houston) who were at Alabama for parts of Jones's and Barmore's college careers.

We knew some teams were going to rely more heavily on their college connections this year due to the limited information available on prospects, and New England certainly appeared to go that route.

It's tough to get too excited about a class that probably doesn't feature a single immediate starter. And it would not be surprising if Jones is the only player from this class to emerge as an eventual full-time starter. However, if Jones proves to be the answer at quarterback, this draft will be viewed as a success.

New England Patriots 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

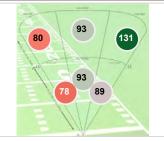
The Patriots struggled through the air in 2020, ranking 26th in passing EPA, 23rd in yards per pass attempt (7.1 yards), and had just 12 passing touchdowns, tied for the fewest in the NFL. **Cam Newton** is coming off a season in which he threw just eight touchdown passes and did not throw more than one touchdown in a game until Week 17. Under Newton, the Patriots ran just 61.2 plays per game (29th) with a 48.7% passing rate (31st). New England added **Mac Jones** with the 15th overall pick to inevitably take over if he does not start the season. Last year, Jones completed 77.4% of his passes for 11.2 Y/A to go with 41 touchdowns and just four interceptions. The only quarterbacks to hit those same thresholds of 70% completions and over 10.0 Y/A to go with 40-plus touchdowns in their final season were **Joe Burrow** a year ago and **Baker Mayfield** in 2017.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Cam Newton | 242 | 368 | 66% | 2,657 | 7.2 | 8 | 10 | 31 | 83 | 33 |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | |

| 2020 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 % |
| Cam Newton | 45% | 50% | 31 | 8.0% | 12 | 3.0% | 5.6 | 5.4 | 14 | 4% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Cam Newton Rating

Cam Newton 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% | 11.1% | | 5.9% | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 6.0% | 6.5% | | 6.0% | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 2.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.4% | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 6.7% | 0.0% | | 2.6% | | | | |
| Total | 1.9% | 2.9% | 3.2% | 0.0% | 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 | | |
| Cam Newton | 9.2 | 5.3 | -3.9 | 72% | 37 | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | |

-10

| <u> </u> | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| ort Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | |
| 37 | 51% | 49% | 28 | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | |

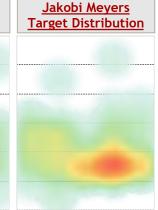
2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Not many teams got less out of their wide receiving unit in 2020 than the Patriots, who combined for a league-low four touchdown receptions and 128.9 receiving yards per game (31st). When your top two targets are **Jakobi Meyers** and **Damiere Byrd**, you need to go out and add pass catchers. Not only did the Patriots add **Nelson Agholor** and **Kendrick Bourne** at wide receiver, but the team also went out and added both **Jonnu Smith** and **Hunter Henry** to change the identity of this passing game after their tight ends received just 33 total targets, catching just 18 passes for 254 yards and a single touchdown in 2020.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | Comp % | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Damiere Byrd | 72 | 61% | 8.1 | 73.8 | 51% | 80 | 65 | 78 | 43 | 1 |
| Jakobi Meyers | 71 | 73% | 8.7 | 87.6 | 59% | 29 | 35 | 98 | 60 | 0 |
| James White | 58 | 78% | 5.6 | 88.4 | 40% | 125 | 122 | 117 | 70 | 1 |
| N'Keal Harry | 55 | 56% | 5.3 | 68.1 | 47% | 109 | 107 | 127 | 3 | 2 |

Target Distribution 50 40 40 20 20 10 0

Damiere Byrd



2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Patriots running game was strong in totality last season, rushing for 2,346 yards (fourth in the league) and 20 touchdowns (sixth), but **Cam Newton** was the crux of the output, tying for the team lead in carries (137) and accounting for 12 of the scores. The backfield was a mixed bag. After just four touches as a rookie, **Damien Harris** matched Newton's 137 carries while averaging 5.0 yards per carry. 71.8% of Harris's touches came on first down, the highest rate in the league. Harris had just five receptions among those touches and did not even have a single touch on third down all season. **Sony Michel** enters the final season of his rookie contract, 29-year-old **James White** coming off a season with just 84 touches for 496 yards and three touchdowns, his lowest totals for usage in a season since 2015. **Rhomondre Stevenson** was added in the fourth round.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssəɔɔnS | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Cam Newton | 137 | 4.3 | 54% | 28 | 76 | 77 | 18 | 51% | 41 | 12 |
| Damien Harris | 137 | 5.0 | 53% | 37 | 18 | 62 | 20 | 53% | 33 | 2 |
| Sony Michel | 79 | 5.7 | 56% | 19 | 4 | 80 | 11 | 56% | 15 | 1 |
| Rex Burkhead | 67 | 4.1 | 55% | 24 | 52 | 7 | 82 | 53% | 33 | 3 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





Revamping the TE Position

While Mac Jones was the biggest addition for New England this offseason, the most money the team went out and spent to alter their offensive approach came from signing both Jonnu Smith and Hunter Henry at the onset of free agency.

In 2019, no team threw fewer passes (52) to their tight ends than the Patriots, resulting in a combined effort of 36 receptions for 418 yards and two touchdowns. This past season, Patriots' tight ends received just 33 total targets, catching just 18 passes for 254 yards and a single touchdown. No team ran less 12 personnel last season than the Patriots at 2% of their plays. That is absolutely going to change in 2021 as they should challenge to lead the NFL in packages with multiple tight ends on the field.

In an era where more teams are transitioning to added defensive back sub packages as their base defense, the Patriots are going to force teams to play more traditional base defense where they can attack via the run and pass. While that is great for improvement from the team in reality, in fantasy it still leaves us with a quagmire in sorting out if we can trust either Smith or Henry for fantasy while each player caps the potential ceiling for the other.

The lowest-hanging branch is that New England is attempting to recreate the Rob Gronkowksi and Aaron Hernandez dynamic. That 2011 pairing was also one of just two times that two teammates at the tight end both finished as TE1 options in fantasy. The Patriots are attempting to offer more versatility offensively than last season, but their offensive approach does hurt both Smith and Henry from becoming set-and-forget TE1 fantasy options that will carry weekly volatility with their talent upside.

Is Nelson Agholor Undervalued?

Agholor was already a big winner in free agency after signing with the Patriots, but with the Patriots only adding one wide receiver in the draft (Tre Nixon in Round 7), he is set to be their lead wideout. In 2020, the Raiders moved Agholor back outside for 67% of his routes, where he thrived. With a career-high 15.7-yard average depth of target, Agholor's 18.7 yards per catch were a career-high while he produced the fourth-most points in the league on throws over 15 yards downfield (108.3).

Whether Agholor's 2020 season was a revolution or just an anomaly remains a question, Cam Newton was actually solid pushing the ball downfield when they did throw deep. Newton completed 52.7% (29-of-55) of his passes on throws over 15 yards downfield, which was fifth among all quarterbacks with 50 or more such attempts on the season. With the selection of Mac Jones, Agholor also gets another hyper-efficient passer downfield when Jones gets inserted into the lineup. Jones was on target for 74.4% of his deep passes At Alabama, which was second among all quarterback prospects since 2016.

Agholor is due touchdown regression this season (his 16.7% touchdown rate in 2020 is not sustainable), but he should easily press his 82 targets from 2020 while he offers big-play upside. Being selected as a deep WR5 option on fantasy benches, Agholor carries bottom-rung pricing with little to no risk in adding him to your receiving corps.

| New | England Pat | triots Defen | se: Number | Def Tendencies | | | Surrendered +Success Map | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------|----|------|-----|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | % | DI | 50 | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 5 plays (1%) Success: 60% | 115 plays <i>(31%)</i> Success: 53% | 147 plays (40%) Success: 52% | 103 plays (28%) Success: 38% | 372 plays (100%) Success: 49% | | | Rk | 40 | |
| | EPA: -0.06 | EPA: 0.03 | EPA: 0.05 | EPA: -0.24 | EPA: -0.03 | Base | 4% | 32 | | - W |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 1 plays (1%) Success: 0% | 76 plays (86%) Success: 57% | 6 plays (7%) Success: 17% | 5 plays (6%) Success: 40% | 88 plays (100%) Success: 52% | Nickel | 47% | 27 | 30 | |
| | EPA: -1.15 | EPA: 0.10 | EPA: -0.35 | EPA: -0.04 | EPA: 0.05 | Dime+ | 47% | 2 | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 4 plays (31%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.35 | 9 plays <i>(69%)</i> Success: 89% EPA: 0.96 | | | 13 plays (100%) Success: 77% EPA: 0.77 | Rush 3 | 22% | 1 | 20 - | |
| | 1 11 | | | | | Rush 4 | 56% | 26 | 10 - | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 2 plays (29%) Success: 100% EPA: 0.67 | 5 plays (71%) Success: 60% EPA: 0.57 | | | 7 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 71% EPA: 0.59 | Rush 5 | 15% | 26 | 10 | |
| 0 | 12 plays (3%) | 205 plays (43%) | 153 plays (32%) | 108 plays (23%) | 480 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 6% | 11 | 0 – | |
| Grand Total | Success: 58% EPA: 0.11 | Success: 56% EPA: 0.11 | Success: 51% EPA: 0.03 | Success: 38% EPA: -0.23 | Success: 50% EPA: 0.01 | Blitz% | 21% | 20 | -10 | |

Defensive Outlook

The Patriots had one of the league's worst run defenses, 24th by EPA per play, in 2020. In response, they spent part of their free agent spree on interior defenders. Davon Godchaux only played five games last season due to a biceps injury, but he is a massive nose tackle who had four tackles for loss and seven quarterback hits with the Dolphins in 2019. Henry Anderson ranked third among interior defenders in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate last season with the Jets. Those additions should allow players such as Lawrence Guy, Byron Cowart, and Deatrich Wise to me more rotational pieces on the inside. Second-round pick Christian Barmore brings a pass rush threat from the interior.

Few teams, if any, have a thinner line between their dedicated pass rushers and off-ball linebackers. Chase Winovich rushed on 89% of his pass snaps in 2020 (and finished first in the league among pass rushers in pressure rate, per SIS) but he was really New England's only full-time pass rusher.

That's part of the reason Matt Judon should fit so well in this defense. Judon rushed the passer on 72% of his pass snaps in Baltimore last season (and was fifth in pressure rate when he did). That meshes with players like the recently returned Kyle Van Noy, who rushed on 43% of his pass snaps with the Patriots in 2018 then 78.4% in 2019 but then back to 43.9% with the Miami Dolphins last year. Even Dont'a Hightower, who will be a big return from a 2020 opt-out, rushed the passer on 59% of his pass snaps in 2019 as the team's middle linebacker.

Even the rotational players are splitting time between pass rushing and coverage. Josh Uche was considered more of an edge and rushed the passer 66% of the time last season. Anfernee Jennings was more of an off-ball linebacker but still rushed on 31.4% of his pass snaps. Both players had dual roles in college. Third-round pick Ronnie Perkins is a more traditional pass rusher, but has the athleticism to translate to a more hybrid role.

With J.C. Jackson and Stephon Gilmore, the Patriots have one of the best outside corner duos in the league. Jackson is the type of player who has routinely been able to turn his ball skills into interceptions and now has 16 over the past two seasons. Jonathan Jones was about average in the slot, by adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap, and Joejuan Williams and Myles Bryant flashed in multiple areas.

No team in the NFL used defensive backs more than the Patriots last season. They used dime on 47% of their defensive snaps per SIS, and more than half (54%) of the entire league's defensive snaps with seven defensive backs on the field came from the Patriots. Everything said about the Patriots' cornerbacks applies to safeties. Devin McCourty continues to hold down the back end and played 94.5% of the team's defensive snaps last season, but he'll be 34 years old in August. Adrian Phillips played 73% of the snaps alongside him and Kyle Duggar got on the field for about half of the team's defensive snaps in the linebacker-safety hybrid role. Jalen Mills was better as a safety in his transition from cornerback last season with the Eagles and could slot in multiple roles in the secondary.

| 2020 Play Tendencies | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|--|--|--|--|
| All Pass % | 47% | | | | |
| All Pass Rk | 31 | | | | |
| All Rush % | 53% | | | | |
| All Rush Rk | 2 | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 48% | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 31 | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 63% | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 4 | | | | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -15% | | | | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 32 | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 52% | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 2 | | | | |
| Up Pass % | 45% | | | | |
| Up Pass Rk | 32 | | | | |
| Up Rush % | 55% | | | | |
| Up Rush Rk | 1 | | | | |
| Down Pass % | 49% | | | | |
| Down Pass Rk | 31 | | | | |
| Down Rush % | 51% | | | | |
| Down Rush Rk | 2 | | | | |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 3 | 0% | 100% | 0% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 12 | 17% | 83% | 75% | |
| | Long (8-10) | 289 | 38% | 62% | 50% | |
| | XL (11+) | 10 | 80% | 20% | 40% | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 39 | 18% | 82% | 69% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 91 | 48% | 52% | 64% | |
| | Long (8-10) | 78 | 51% | 49% | 38% | |
| | XL (11+) | 33 | 82% | 18% | 36% | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 36 | 36% | 64% | 72% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 53 | 75% | 25% | 40% | |
| | Long (8-10) | 24 | 83% | 17% | 13% | |
| | XL (11+) | 19 | 74% | 26% | 11% | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 6 | 17% | 83% | 67% | |
| | | | | | | |

| Shote | <u>un %</u> : |
|-----------------|--|
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 52% | 48% |
| 37% A | VG 63% |
| Run | Rate: |
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 69% | 22% |
| 68% A | VG 23% |
| <u>Pass</u> | Rate: |
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| | Under Center 52% 37% A Run Under Center 69% 68% A Pass Under |

32% AVG 77%



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sh | ort Run | |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg |
| 79% | 5 | 67% | 77% | 75% |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg |
| 21% | 28 | 33% | 44% | 59% |

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Cam Newton | 3 | 0% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Damien Harris | 5 | 60% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Damien Harris | 74 | 54% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Jakobi Meyers | 2 | 50% |
| | | | Damiere Byrd | 2 | 50% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Damien Harris | 13 | 85% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Sony Michel | 14 | 57% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Damien Harris | 10 | 30% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Damiere Byrd | 5 | 60% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Cam Newton | 11 | 91% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Damiere Byrd | 8 | 25% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Rex Burkhead | 3 | 0% |
| | _ , , | | Damiere Byrd | 3 | 33% |
| | | | N'Keal Harry | 3 | 0% |
| | | RUSH | Cam Newton | 3 | 0% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | James White | 4 | 0% |

| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 40% | Success: 46% | Success: 42% |
| | YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.17 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.17 | YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.17 |
| | Rtg: 70.5 | Rtg: 67.2 | Rtg: 69.6 |
| | [Att: 192 - Rate: 40.6%] | [Att: 65 - Rate: 13.7%] | [Att: 257 - Rate: 54.3%] |
| Yes | Success: 49% | Success: 49% | Success: 49% |
| | YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.00 | YPA: 8.1, EPA: -0.08 | YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.03 |
| | Rtg: 96.9 | Rtg: 99.0 | Rtg: 97.7 |
| | [Att: 134 - Rate: 28.3%] | [Att: 82 - Rate: 17.3%] | [Att: 216 - Rate: 45.7%] |
| Total | Success: 44% | Success: 48% | Success: 45% |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.10 | YPA: 7.8, EPA: -0.12 | YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.11 |
| | Rtg: 81.6 | Rtg: 85.1 | Rtg: 82.7 |
| | [Att: 326 - Rate: 68.9%] | [Att: 147 - Rate: 31.1%] | [Att: 473 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | | | | <u>2</u> | 020 We | ekly Sna | ap Rates | | | | |
|----|-------|---------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Damiere Byrd | Jakobi Meyers | Ryan Izzo | N'Keal Harry | Jakob Johnson | James White | Rex Burkhead | Julian Edelman | Sony Michel |
| 1 | MIA | W 21-11 | 56 (88%) | 7 (11%) | 63 (98%) | 51 (80%) | 21 (33%) | 19 (30%) | 19 (30%) | 37 (58%) | 19 (30% |
| 2 | SEA | L 35-30 | 62 (86%) | 8 (11%) | 70 (97%) | 61 (85%) | 17 (24%) | | 51 (71%) | 52 (72%) | 15 (21% |
| 3 | LV | W 36-20 | 66 (96%) | 7 (10%) | 43 (62%) | 46 (67%) | 18 (26%) | | 32 (46%) | 56 (81%) | 26 (38% |
| 4 | KC | L 26-10 | 73 (97%) | | 64 (85%) | 57 (76%) | 23 (31%) | 40 (53%) | 26 (35%) | 46 (61%) | |
| 6 | DEN | L 18-12 | 55 (96%) | | 35 (61%) | 51 (89%) | 11 (19%) | 31 (54%) | 18 (32%) | 43 (75%) | |
| 7 | SF | L 33-6 | 48 (92%) | 41 (79%) | 23 (44%) | 11 (21%) | 21 (40%) | 10 (19%) | 25 (48%) | 31 (60%) | |
| 8 | BUF | L 24-21 | 65 (100%) | 64 (98%) | 48 (74%) | | 16 (25%) | 31 (48%) | 32 (49%) | | |
| 9 | NYJ | W 30-27 | 80 (99%) | 80 (99%) | 76 (94%) | | 45 (56%) | 21 (26%) | 34 (42%) | | |
| 10 | BAL | W 23-17 | 42 (72%) | 57 (98%) | 54 (93%) | 35 (60%) | 37 (64%) | 10 (17%) | 20 (34%) | | |
| 11 | HOU | L 27-20 | 62 (90%) | 68 (99%) | 56 (81%) | 52 (75%) | 19 (28%) | 39 (57%) | 12 (17%) | | |
| 12 | ARI | W 20-17 | 45 (85%) | 50 (94%) | 51 (96%) | 26 (49%) | 34 (64%) | 20 (38%) | | | 1 (2%) |
| 13 | LAC | W 45-0 | 52 (78%) | 56 (84%) | 43 (64%) | 34 (51%) | 28 (42%) | 19 (28%) | | | 22 (33% |
| 14 | LA | L 24-3 | 52 (88%) | 59 (100%) | | 36 (61%) | 24 (41%) | 27 (46%) | | | 15 (25% |
| 15 | MIA | L 22-12 | 53 (96%) | 53 (96%) | | 36 (65%) | 21 (38%) | 27 (49%) | | | 23 (42% |
| 16 | BUF | L 38-9 | 50 (100%) | 50 (100%) | | 30 (60%) | 19 (38%) | 16 (32%) | | | 19 (38% |
| 17 | NYJ | W 28-14 | 40 (62%) | 65 (100%) | | 58 (89%) | 19 (29%) | 20 (31%) | | | 41 (63% |
| | Grand | Total | 901 (89%) | 665 (77%) | 626 (79%) | 584 (66%) | 373 (37%) | 330 (38%) | 269 (40%) | 265 (68%) | 181 (329 |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 53% | 60% | 45% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 37% | 7% | 54% |
| 2-0 [3WR] | 5% | 1% | 42% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 2% | 20% | 50% |
| | | | |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| Group | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 42% | Run Succ. % 51% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | | |
| 6 | | 3 | 3 | | |
| 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 2 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| 2 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| | AII 10 6 4 2 | All Inside 5 10 3 6 4 1 2 1 | All Inside 5 6-10 10 3 2 6 3 4 1 1 2 1 | | |

| <u>Red Zone F</u> | Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Cam Newton | 42 | 22 | 9 | 11 | | |
| Damien Harris | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | | |
| Rex Burkhead | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | | |
| Sony Michel | 12 | 2 | 2 | 8 | | |
| J.J. Taylor | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| James White | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Jarrett Stidham | 2 | | | 2 | | |

| Early D | own Targe | et Rate |
|----------------|----------------|---------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 29% | 8% | 63% |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ccess % |
| | | |
| RB | TE | WR |





Likely uncertain about Newton themselves, the Patriots drafted quarterback **Mac Jones** 15th overall. Looking at two areas the Patriots struggled immensely in 2020 were in the red zone (30th) and on third down (22nd). Jones was known for strong decision making and accuracy, two things that would be very useful in the red zone and on third down.

The Patriots absolutely will look to give Newton a shot to start the season. The problem for Newton, however, is three of the Patriots' first four games are against pass defenses that ranked top-6 in the NFL last year (Dolphins, Saints, and Buccaneers). It's the toughest schedule of pass defenses the first month of the season. Should Newton struggle in those games, it will be easy for Belichick to give Jones his first start of the year Week 5 in Houston against one of the worst teams in the NFL. But if Newton plays well enough to survive as the starter in those first four games, it's unlikely he'll struggle soon thereafter, because starting with that Texans game in Week 5, the Patriots face the third easiest schedule of pass defenses over the next month.

The direction of the Patriots offense obviously changes massively as to whether it's Newton or Jones behind center. That makes it difficult to project what this offense looks like over 17 games unless we know who starts. That will hinge on how quickly Jones picks up the offense and how he looks in the preseason games this year, as well as whether or not Newton struggles against a brutal schedule over the first month of the season.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular

2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE



| 01. Games w Halftime Lea | d |
|--------------------------|---|
|--------------------------|---|

| _ | | | | 10 | |
|-----|---|---|--------|----------|-------|
| ead | ၁ | _ | z. Avg | Halftime | e Lea |
| | | | | | |

03. Wins

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA 7.3 | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 5.4 | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.4 | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 6.6 | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 50% | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 47% | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.07 | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.21 | | | |
| | | | | |

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Down | s) |
|---|----|
|---|----|

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 44% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 53% |
| 46. PA YPA | 8.4 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 4.8% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | -0.1 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.6 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 55% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.8 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 5.3% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.04 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.2 |
| | |

Men In Box

| 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 | 59% |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.7 |
| | 37% |
| 58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | |
| 59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 46% |
| 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 | 23% |
| 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-vd line | 4.7 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 2 | defFUM | 11 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 5.5 | defFUM Rcvrd | 8 |
| offFUM | 19 | dell OW IXCVId | 0 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 14 | defFR Rk | 32 |
| offFR% | 73.7% | defFR% | 27.3% |
| offFR Rk | 2 | | |
| offFROE | 3.6 | defFROE | 1.9 |
| offFROE Rk | 2 | defFROE Rk | 5 |
| OIII KOL KK | | | |

Field Goal Luck

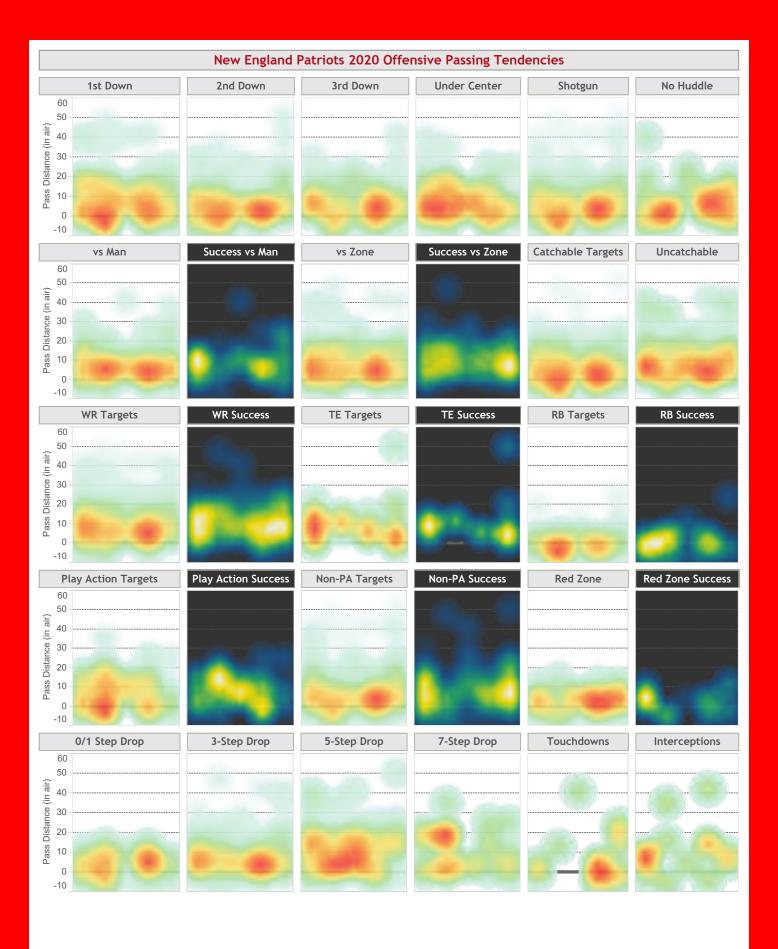
| Tieta Goat Eack | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
| Net Over Expectation | 2.10 | Opp Att | 26 | | | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 11 | Opp Makes | 22 | | | |
| Own Att | 28 | | 0.50/ | | | |
| Own Makes | 26 | Opp FG % | 85% | | | |
| Own FG % | 93% | Opp Expected Makes | 21.54 | | | |
| Own Expected Makes | 23.44 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 0.46 | | | |
| Own Make over Expectation | 2.56 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 20 | | | |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 8 | | | | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -2.95 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 1.15 | | | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 29 | 2019 Opp Rk | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

| QB | P | re | SSI | ıır | 0 |
|-----|---|----|-----|-----|---|
| QD. | | | 33 | ш | _ |

Offensive Metrics

| r layer Tracking Data Stats - QDS | | QDTTessure | | Offerisive Metrics | |
|---|--|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------|
| | Cam Newton | | Cam Newton | EPA/Pass | -0.10 |
| CAY | 5.6 | Pressure % | 31 | EPA/Pass Rk | 26 |
| CAY Rk | 23 | Pressure Rk | 22 | EPA/Rush | 0.04 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | | Sack % | 7.4 | EPA/Rush Rk | 3 |
| AYTS Rk | 37 | Sack Rk | 6 | On-Target Catch % | 94.0% |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 35 | Pressure Accuracy % | 66.7 | On-Target Catch Rk | 2 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 16 | Drop% | 6.4% |
| COMP% | 65.8 | Rating when Pressured | 45.8 | Drop Rk | 15 |
| xCOMP% | 68.3 | Pressured Rating Rk | 34 | · | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 4 | Clean Accuracy % | 81.3 | YAC/Att | 2.4 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | | Clean Accuracy Rk | 10 | YAC/Att Rk | 14 |
| CPOE% | -2.6 | | 94.7 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.4% |
| CPOE Rk | 34 | Rating when Clean | | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 19 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | | Clean Rating Rk | 29 | Rusii Biokeii Tackie Rk | 19 |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: | | Time to Throw | 2.84 | Rush 1st Down % | 28.5% |
| Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expert Actual completion percentage or | cted completion percentage CPOE: ver expectation | Time to Throw Rk | 14 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 5 |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Sean Payton (15 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Pete Carmichael (12 yrs)

Defensive Coordinator: Dennis Allen (6 yrs)

Easy Hard

New Orleans Saints

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

9

#2

Past Records

2020: 12-4 2019: 13-3 2018: 13-3



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Alex Anzalone (LB) | Lions |
| Drew Brees (QB) | Retired |
| Emmanuel Sanders (WR) | Bills |
| Jake Kumerow (WR) | Bills |
| Janoris Jenkins (CB) | Titans |
| Jared Cook (TE) | Chargers |
| Josh Hill (TE) | TBD |
| | Retired |
| Justin Hardee (WR) | Jets |
| Malcom Brown (IDL) | Jaguars |
| Michael Burton (FB) | Chiefs |
| Sheldon Rankins (IDL) | Jets |
| Trey Hendrickson (EDGE) | Bengals |
| Austin Carr (WR) | TBD |
| Bennie Fowler (WR) | TBD |
| Cole Wick (TE) | TBD |
| Craig Robertson (LB) | TBD |
| D.J. Swearinger (S) | TBD |
| Johnson Bademosi (CB) | TBD |
| Kwon Alexander (LB) | TBD |
| Nick Easton (C) | TBD |
| Thomas Morstead (P) | TBD |

Games

Favored

11

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

Average

Line

-1.2

Forecast 2021 Wins

2020 Wins

Forecast

2020 Wins

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

Games

Underdog

6

12

10.5

2021 New Orleans Saints Overview

I wrote last year about the need for the Saints to get WR2 production for years.

From 2017-2019, the Saints had Michael Thomas as WR1 and Ted Ginn as WR2. As good as Michael Thomas is, this duo arguably ranked league average or worse when it comes to top receiver duos. The Saints finally found a competent WR2 to play opposite Thomas when they signed **Emmanuel Sanders** in free agency.

For one week, it was bliss. Sanders scored a touchdown in his first game, a Saints win 34-23 over Tom Brady's Buccaneers. But it was short lived. In that game, Thomas was injured and missed the next six games. Sean Payton had to adjust.

The injury was uncommon - in his career to that point, Thomas had played in 63 of a possible 64 games and was clearly the focal point of the passing game.

In the first game without Thomas, Drew Brees played pitch-and-catch with Alvin Kamara (nine targets, nine receptions) and used Tre'Quan Smith as WR1 (seven targets, five receptions) with Sanders catching only one of three targets. The Saints lost by double digits in Las Vegas.

The next game did see Sanders get more involvement (five targets, four receptions, one touchdown) but it was again the Kamara show (14 targets, 13 receptions). It was a home loss to the Packers

From that point onward, the Saints made a distinct goal to get the ball in Sanders's hands more often. After receiving a team-high nine targets with six catches for 93 yards in a Week 4 win against the Lions, Sanders received a team-high 14 targets with 12 catches for 122 yards in a Week 5 win over the Chargers. (cont'd - see NO2)

Lineup & Cap Hits LCB DE 22 93



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Nick Vannett (TE) | \$2.70 |
| Tanoh Kpassagnon (EDGE) | \$2.29 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 28 | DE - Payton Turner (Houston) |
| 2 | 60 | LB - Pete Werner (Ohio State) |
| 3 | 76 | CB - Paulson Adebo (Stanford) |
| 4 | 133 | QB - Ian Book (Notre Dame) |
| 6 | 206 | OT - Landon Young (Kentucky) |
| 7 | 255 | WR - Kawaan Baker (South Alabama) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 26 | \$84.76M | 15 |
| QB | 19 | \$11.58M | 6 |
| OL | 11 | \$37.67M | 25 |
| RB | 9 | \$12.49M | 9 |
| WR | 21 | \$18.53M | 24 |
| TE | 32 | \$4.50M | 6 |
| All DEF | 28 | \$77.26M | 27 |
| DL | 27 | \$32.03M | 25 |
| LB | 18 | \$13.32M | 16 |
| СВ | 25 | \$13.42M | 16 |
| s | 8 | \$18.48M | 26 |

2017 Wins 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

NO-2

Н

11

34

Getting the ball to Sanders was working. Brees's target depth was stronger. After average target depths of 5.1 and 4.8 yards in Week 2 and Week 3 losses, the Saints worked Sanders into the game and started pushing the ball downfield more regularly. Brees's Week 4 target depth was 9.0 yards. His Week 5 was 7.2

But then disaster struck again. Sanders caught COVID. Since most of the time we didn't hear about these details, it was interesting to hear Sanders's story.

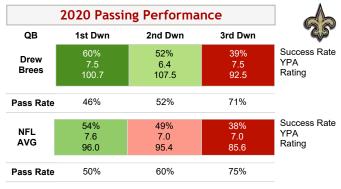
The Saints had a bye week in Week 6. After the bye week, Sanders practiced on Wednesday, but that day his wife said she couldn't taste or smell anything. Sanders went to practice on Thursday but wasn't feeling well. He started running routes, but self-reported to trainers. He was feeling "loopy." When he told them of his wife's loss of taste and smell, they gave him another COVID test which came back positive. Because he had symptoms, he had to miss two games.

The Saints were without WR1 and WR2, as Thomas was still out. Sean Payton had to dig deeper into his bag of tricks. The easy part is giving Kamara targets, but he needed another receiver to step up. Week 7 it was Marquez Callaway, who had five catches on the season to that point. Callaway was targeted 10 times and caught eight of them. The Saints narrowly won without their top two receivers. But their Week 7 workhorse, Callaway, injured his ankle and he was unable to play the following week.

Week 8 arrived and the Saints were without Thomas, Sanders, and now Callaway. Once again, Payton had to dig even deeper into his bag. The Saints again overloaded targets to Kamara (13 targets, nine receptions) but turned to Jared Cook (seven targets, five receptions, one touchdown) as well as Smith (seven targets, five receptions). They also used Taysom Hill more in the receiving game, tossing him two passes which were both caught, one of which went for a touchdown. The margin was even closer, as the Saints won in overtime by a field goal.

Without Sanders and Thomas in Week 7, Brees's target depth plummeted to 5.1 yards. Week 8, without both top receivers and Callaway, it plummeted further to 4.6 yards.

Things finally got better for the Saints in Week 9, a rematch with Brady's Bucs. New Orleans was back to full power. They got back the services of Thomas, Sanders and Callaway. Sanders wasn't yet 100% and played on a season-low 30% of snaps, but still caught four of five targets and had solid usage in



| | 2020 Rushi | ng Performa | nce | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| NO | 57% 5.1 | 48% 4.1 | 65% 3.8 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 54% | 48% | 29% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

those 22 snaps. The bottom line was, the Saints didn't need him much. They won with ease, 38-3 over the Bucs, in a game that was over at halftime with the Saints up 31-0.

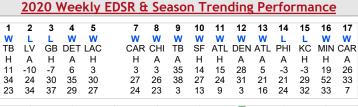
Ignore the second half entirely and Brees's target depth was back up to 7.0 yards in the Week 9 win with the full complement of receivers.

One week after getting the receiving corps back, Week 10 against the 49ers saw a competitive game, but disaster struck again. Brees was sacked by 49ers DL Kentavius Street late in the second half. He toughed it out during the two minute drive, but sat out the entire second half with the injury. Brees would be lost for the next four games, only to return in Week 15. At the time, what we knew was that Brees suffered a myriad of rib fractures and

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

(cont'd - see NO-3)







WFFK **RESULT** MARGIN

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

OPP

SITE

PTS

OPP PTS

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

de 5 4 2 10 5 ক্ত 9 ব্য 15 11 14 20 25 ক্ত 30 28 Pass Efficiency Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Red Zone Def **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro Efficieincy Def **Explosive**

2020 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 12 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-2** FG Games Win %: **60% (#12)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins) 25% (#12)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-3 Score Games Win %: 63% (#9) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 42% (#26)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +9 TO Given 17 **INT Given** 8 **FUM Given** 9 TO Taken 26 **INT Taken** 18 **FUM Taken** 8 Sack Margin +16 45 Sacks Sacks Allow 29 Return TD Margin +1

0

-34

98

64

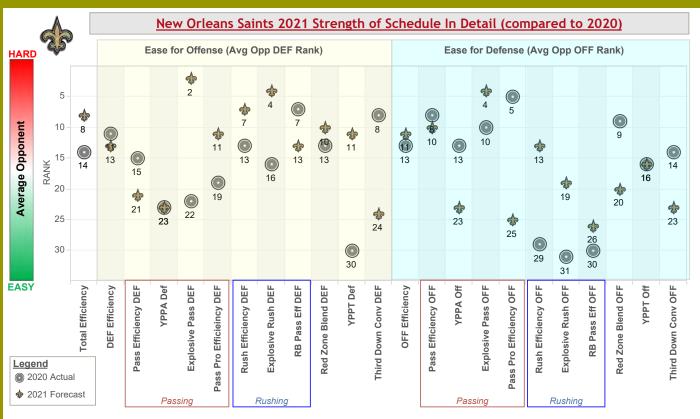
Ret TDs

Penalties

Ret TDs Allow

Penalty Margin

Opponent Penalties



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 23 | 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 | | | | | 20 | 21 (|)ppo | nent | s by | Divi | <u>sion</u> | 2020 | Орр | one | nts b | y Div | <u>risior</u> | <u>H</u> | ealth | by l | Unit* | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|--------|--------------|------|------------|--|-------------|------------|-------|-------|------------|-------------|------|----------|------|--------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | | | _ | _ | | | | | | ~ | | | 2020 | Rk | 4 |
| | Ave | rage I | ine | | -4.9 | -4 | 1.3 | -5.6 | NF | cs | 1 | | | 7 | | NFCS | (1) | 5 🕢 | P | 4 | | | 2019 | Rk | 8 |
| | Avera | | | | 48.8 | | 7.7 | 52.6 | | | 4 | | | ø | | | 4 | | | ø | | 20 | 20 v 21 | 019 Rk | 25 |
| | | | Record | | 12-4 | | 3-3 | 13-3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 |
| | | | ad Red | | 10-6 | | 1-5 | 10-6 | AF | CE | - | | 7 - | ₹ € | ers | | | | > ~ | <u> </u> | OF U | | Off I | | |
| | | | Record | | 10-6 | | -7 | 7-9 | | | (No. | - Park | | • | | AFCW | 4 | S 6 | > / | J 6 | 2 | | Def I | ₹k | 3 |
| | | as Fav | | | 8-6 2-0 | | -4 -1 | 7-6 3-0 | | | | | _ | | | | | | | , | | | QBI | Rk | 26 |
| | ATS a | | | | 2-0 6-2 | | -1 -2 | 3-0 6-2 | NF | CE | | · 110 | 1 | # | | | | | | | | | | | 16 |
| | Straig | S Hon | | | 5-3 | - | -2 -4 | 0-2 4-4 | | | | 11. | a Gr | ~ 4 | | | | | <u> </u> | \ | <u> </u> | | RB F | КК | |
| | Over/L | | | | 6-2 | | -4 | 5-3 | | | | | | | | NFCN | | 🥒 🏋 | ~ (C | 9 | | | WR | Rk | 19 |
| | | | Favori | e | 4-3 | | -4 | 3-4 | | -00 | 1 | | | | | | | • | | | y | | TEF | 2 k | 16 |
| | | | ne Doc | | 1-0 | 1. | -0 | 1-0 | AF | cs | T |) | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| - | Straig | | | | 6-2 | | -1 | 7-1 | | | | | | | | | | 3 | | | | | Oline | | |
| | | S Awa | | | 5-3 | 7- | -1 | 6-2 | | | | | | | | NFCE | Gro | 7 | | | | | Dline | Rk | 18 |
| | Over/l | Jnder | Áway | | 4-4 | 5 | -3 | 2-6 | NF | CN | |) | | | | | | | | | | | LB F | ?k | 1 |
| | | | vorite | | 4-3 | | -0 | 4-2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 |
| | | Away | | | 1-0 | | -1 | 2-0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DB F | КК | <i>'</i> |
| | | | r Reco | | 13-3 | | 3-2 | 12-3 | NF | cw | | n | | | | NFCW | (| 5)) | | | | * | Sacad o | n the v | vork of |
| | | | er Red | | 13-3 | | 1-2 | 13-3 | | • • • | | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | all Outs | |
| rer | Point | rease | r Reco | ora | 14-1 | | 1-2 | 13-2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 7 00100 | in Outs | 14075 |
| | | | | | <u>20</u> |)21 V | <u>Veek</u> | ly Be | ettin | g Lir | <u>nes</u> | | | | | | | | | Hon | ne Li | <u>nes</u> | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 13 | 16 | 17 |
| GB | CAR | NE | NYG | WAS | SEA | ТВ | ATL | TEN | PHI | BUF | DAL | NYJ | ТВ | MIA | CAR | ATL | | | 2.5 | | | .5 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | -3 | -5.5 | ТВ | | | UF. | -3.5 | -3.5 | = -3.0 |
| -3.0 | -2.5 | -1.0 | -5.5 | -1.5 | +3.0 | +2.5 | -6.0 | +2.5 | -3.5 | +1.5 | -3.5 | -3.0 | +7.0 | -3.5 | -6.5 | +1.0 | GB | - 5.5 NYG | | - 6 | | | DAL | M.Avg | CAR |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1110 | | AI | _ | | . | | CAR |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | • |
| | | | | | | A STATE OF THE STA | | D | | | | | Α | | | - | | | | Roa | id Li | nes | | | |
| Ayg = | -1.3 | A | Н | | | | Н | | A | 17 -2 | Н | A | | H | Avg | = -1.3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 15 | 18 |
| | | · | 500 H | | | | - | | 63 | | ** | Vegs | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | - | |
| | | | | | | | 7 | | | | P | | | 7000 | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | 7 | |
| | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | -1 | -1.5 | SEA | 2.5 TEN | | _ | Avg | |
| 5. | 47.5 | 47 | 5. | .5 | 48 | 51.5 | 20 | .5 | 48 | 52 | 20 | .5 | 52 | .5 | 48 | 48 | -2.5 CAR | NE | WAS | JLA | ! EIV | -3.5 | -3 NYJ | | AIL |
| 50. | | 4 | 47 | 46. | 4 | 1 2 | 47 | 49. | 4 | 47 | 47 | 46. | 47 | 46. | 4 | 4 | CAR | 1 | 1 1 | | | PHI | INTJ | | |





a collapsed lung.

We'll come back to games when Brees was absent momentarily, but for the sake of continuing the saga of the 2020 Saints starter availability, Brees was able to return in Week 15. Although they got Brees back, the Saints lost Michael Thomas for the season in Week 14. Thomas played 90% of snaps but battled through an ankle injury and was put on IR.

Although Brees was back, Thomas was lost. Somehow, the Saints lost by only three points to the Chiefs, 32-29, with Brees completing just 15-of-34 passes. He did not look like his normal self in his return. He still tossed three touchdowns and averaged 7.1 air yards, but his accuracy was way down.

After averaging an 81% on target rate over the course of the season, Brees had an on-target rate of just 69.7%. Not only did that pale in comparison to his year-to-date, Brees didn't slowly get worse over the course of the season with his accuracy. It was a steep drop only as a result of the injury, as we can see by looking at the prior games post-bye compared to his first game back from injury:

Week 7: 88.2%

Week 8: 80.5%

Week 9: 80.6%

Week 10: 84.6%* injured

Week 15: 69.7%

Another metric worth comparing is completion percentage above expectation from Next Gen Stats:

Week 7: +9.2%

Week 8: +3.5%

Week 9: +11.4%

Week 10: *didn't qualify due to injury

Week 15: -16.3%

Fortunately, Week 15's performance did not carry forward for Brees. But neither did Tre'Quan Smith. He injured his ankle against the Chiefs and missed the final two games of the season. At the time, he was the Saints' third-leading receiver in yards, behind Kamara and Sanders.

In Week 16, Brees and Payton used a primetime Christmas game to silence the critics.

While the fantasy community was buzzing about Alvin Kamara's absolutely insane day (six rushing touchdowns), the more important marker for the Saints was Brees. He didn't throw a single touchdown, but he did go 19-of-26 for 311 yards. He averaged a target depth of a whopping 10.3 yards, his deepest of the season. Brees did get greedy on a third-and-6 at the Vikings' 20-yard line, throwing an interception when targeting Cook. He threw another interception in the third quarter, but it was absolutely not Brees's fault. The ball was thrown to Sanders, who got two hands on the ball without diving. The ball went right through his hands, was tipped on the way through, and intercepted.

In that Week 16 game, despite the massive increase in target depth to 10.3 yards, Brees was +7.4% in CPOE with a 77.8% on-target rate.

Sitting at 11-4 with one game remaining, the Saints didn't need to play Brees the entire Week 17 game against the tanking Panthers. The Saints led 26-7 entering the fourth quarter, but Payton didn't pull Brees. Through three quarters, Brees averaged a target depth of 7.4 yards. His final on-target rate was 82.8% and his COPE was +3.1%.

The hope of the 2020 season was to see what the Saints would look like with a real WR2 for the first time in years.

By the time the season ended, the Saints played just two games with Drew Brees, Michael Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders on the field for a full game:

Week 1 win over the eventual Super Bowl champion Bucs 34-23

Week 9 win over the eventual Super Bowl champion Bucs 38-3

In between those games, the offense had to change itself many times over. The team played without it's top receivers, sometimes down the top three at once, and won. The team played without it's QB1 and went 4-1 in those five games.

(cont'd - see NO-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage is negated advantage game to prep prep 0 2 2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: New Orleans Saints Ranking vs NFL Average

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- While Brees lost arm strength in recent years and checked down a lot (dead last among 41 QBs in air yards since 2019), he was still very accurate and rarely turned the ball over. He has thrown a combined 23 interceptions in the last four seasons while Winston threw 30 INTs in 2019 alone! Unless Winston has turned over a new leaf, the Saints will have to overcome mistakes that they are not used to.
- The Saints' excellent defense took some hits due to the salary cap. They lost key contributors including Malcolm Brown, Trey Hendrickson, Janoris Jenkins, Alex Anzalone, and Kwon Alexander. Those five players combined to start 57 games last season. The Saints will have to rely on rookies and backups to maintain a top five defense.
- After losing starting TE Jared Cook and WR Emmanuel Sanders in free agency, the Saints will not be able to afford another injury plagued season from WR Michael Thomas. who missed nine games last season. The depth at wide receiver and tight end is lacking as the Saints did not add a single receiving weapon.

9



Why Bet the Over

- The Saints are coming off of four straight seasons of at least 11 wins in a 16-game season. They have gone over in each of those four seasons, clearing the win total figure by an average of over 2.5 wins per season.
- The biggest reason for the win total expectation drop off is clearly due to the loss of Hall of Fame quarterback **Drew Brees. Jameis Winston** is the most likely candidate to start the season at QB. While he isn't likely to become a Hall of Famer, Winston has produced some highly valuable seasons in the past. From 2016 to 2019, Winston ranked 14th in EPA per dropback among 41 qualified QBs. He has produced two top 10 EPA seasons, in 2017 and 2018.
- The Saints defense was excellent last season, ranking fourth in both EPA per play and yards per play allowed.
 However, when opponent offenses reached the red zone, they gave up a high touchdown percentage, ranked fourth-worst in the NFL. No other top five EPA defense ranked even lower than 13th in red zone touchdown percentage.

| New Orleans Saints Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | | |
| 24 | 2 | 3 | 22 | 11 | 14 | 4 | | | | | |

Averaging the seven units ranked places the Saints seventh overall. However, it's tough to set high expectations when quarterback is the team's lowest-ranked unit. We've seen enough of both **Jameis Winston** and **Taysom Hill** to know they won't be the strength of this offense.

Alvin Kamara and Latavius Murray landed the Saints backfield in the top four on every ballot. The 31-year-old Murray hasn't shown signs of slowing down yet, but he'll need to remain productive, as the depth behind these two is unimpressive.

Michael Thomas remains among the best receivers, but there's limited help around him. Tre'Quan Smith enters his fourth year in the league and has yet to carve out a significant role. The loss of tight end Jared Cook hurts, though the Saints hope second-year tight end Adam Trautman emerges as a dangerous weapon.

Our second-ranked offensive line greatly benefits from the stability of the unit, as all five starters return.

Votes for the Saints' front seven ranged from seventh to 23rd. Those on the lower end of the spectrum likely believe the loss of **Trey Hendrickson** will hurt. Though New Orleans has done an excellent job developing players on this unit and rookie **Peyton Turner** may be able to contribute.

The Saints played the highest rate of man coverage last year, but they lack a lockdown corner. **Marshon Lattimore** allowed an EPA of +1.0 or higher on 39.5% of his targets in man, ranked 39th out of 46 qualified corners. He needs to return to the form he showed early in his career for the unit to elevate its production.

Sean Payton's consistency and continued ability to develop young players on both sides of the ball landed him in the top five on every ballot.

<u>NO-4</u>

After the season, Drew Brees's wife said that in addition to his 11 broken ribs and a collapsed lung which he missed time for, Brees also played the entire season with a torn rotator cuff in his shoulder and torn fascia in his foot.

Certainly, the torn rotator cuff affects a quarterback in a massive way. But a torn plantar fascia negatively impacts a quarterback's ability to plant his feet on passes and prevents him from generating the necessary torque to create distance on throws.

I felt extremely strongly that Browns coach Kevin Stefanski should win Coach of the Year in 2020. And he did, but if there was a coach that might have been more deserving from the perspective of having to overcome difficulties in-season and still produce excellence, it was Sean Payton.

While this team was the fourth-healthiest overall, they were well below average at the two most important positions – quarterback and wide receiver. At wide receiver, it was an injury to the clear-cut No. 1 WR with no other receiver a close second, coupled with cluster injuries much of the season.

The Saints went 12-4 despite all the injuries that Brees played through and sat on account of, in addition to all the other key pieces. The mastermind of the offense, Sean Payton, had to manage it along with his other head coaching responsibilities. They had to face the 11th toughest schedule of defenses in the NFL.

<u>NO-5</u>

I haven't heard enough discussion surrounding Sean Payton's coaching job in 2020, so I'm here to reiterate how great a job he did. Payton would only finish sixth in voting for Coach of the Year, with two votes. Ahead of him were Kevin Stefanski (25 votes), Sean McDermott (7), Brian Flores (6), Ron Rivera (4), Matt LaFleur (3), and Andy Reid (3). It's hard to discredit anyone on that list. They all did outstanding jobs, which is why they received votes.

But for my money, the injuries he had to juggle and difficulties faced, I think it was the finest job we've seen from Payton in years.

Looking back on Drew Brees's season and what we saw the last time he laced 'em up in what was an incredible career was a season that absolutely was impacted by his own injuries and those of his teammates.

In terms of his ability to throw downfield, we were still seeing success from him late in the season. His best target depth was that Christmas game. The next strongest aDOT performances were the Week 4 and 5 wins when the team stopped just throwing to Kamara for two straight losses after Michael Thomas was lost. Rounding out his top-5 games with deepest aDOT were Week 15 vs the Chiefs and Week 17 vs the Panthers.

Certainly, Brees looked terrible in the playoffs, but we must consider these games did come against ridiculously strong defenses. The Bears were seventh in defensive efficiency and the Bucs were fourth. Both were top-10 against the pass.

In fact, if we look at the rankings of the pass defenses Brees faced in his final games, we see it was a brutal schedule. Brees played the toughest schedule of pass defenses over the second half of the season:

Week 8: No. 9 Bears (win) Week 9: No. 5 Bucs (win) Week 10: No. 8 49ers (win) Week 15: No. 12 Chiefs (loss) Week 16: No. 13 Vikings (win)

(cont'd - see NO-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



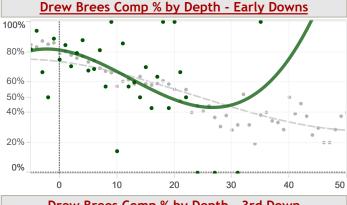
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

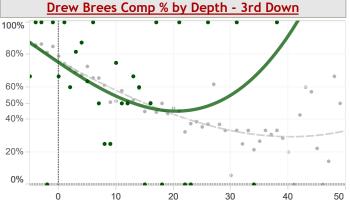


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 0 | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | | |
| | Alvin Kamara | 6% | 3% | 71% | 9% | 11% | | | | | | | |
| | Latavius Murray | 3% | 2% | 61% | 7% | 27% | | | | | | | |
| | Emmanuel Sanders | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Michael Thomas | | | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| S | Tre'Quan Smith | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| | Deonte Harris | 29% | | 71% | | | | | | | | | |
| | Ty Montgomery | | | 39% | 17% | 43% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 5% | 2% | 66% | 9% | 18% | | | | | | | |
| | Alvin Kamara | 6% | 14% | 72% | 3% | 6% | | | | | | | |
| | Latavius Murray | | | 88% | 4% | 8% | | | | | | | |
| | Emmanuel Sanders | 7% | 10% | 58% | 7% | 18% | | | | | | | |
| S | Jared Cook | 1% | 14% | 74% | 7% | 3% | | | | | | | |
| PAS | Michael Thomas | 2% | 5% | 72% | 11% | 11% | | | | | | | |
| п. | Tre'Quan Smith | 2% | 12% | 82% | | 4% | | | | | | | |
| | Deonte Harris | 6% | 3% | 79% | 6% | 6% | | | | | | | |
| | Ty Montgomery | 14% | | 71% | 14% | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 4% | 10% | 72% | 6% | 8% | | | | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Thomas Smith Montgomery -atavius Murray Kamara Deonte Harris Emmanuel Sanders Jared Cook Tre'Quan Michael Alvin ≥ 0% 6% RUSH 55% 36% **PASS** 24% 20% ALL





Successful Play Rate

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 48%, 0.07 (387) | 56%, 0.00 (81) | 65%, 0.25 (62) | 57%, 0.01 (21) | 62%, 0.78 (21) | 33%, -0.46 (15) | 20%, -0.52 (5) | 86%, 0.89 (7) | | 51%, 0.08 (616) |
| RUSH | 55%, 0.07 (248) | 62%, 0.10 (110) | 47%, -0.09 (99) | 42%, -0.29 (48) | 67%, 0.19 (12) | 64%, 0.36 (11) | 75%, 0.58 (4) | 100%, 0.24 (1) | 0%, -0.54 (1) | 54%, 0.03 (548) |
| All | 51%, 0.07 (635) | 59%, 0.06 (191) | 54%, 0.04 (161) | 46%, -0.19 (69) | 64%, 0.56 (33) | 46%, -0.11 (26) | 44%, -0.03 (9) | 88%, 0.81 (8) | 0%, -0.54 (1) | 52%, 0.06 (1,164) |

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% (82) 6.9, 0.03 | 57% (7) 10.4, 0.50 | 62% (13) 7.8, 0.63 | 25% (4) 6.5, 0.06 | 46% (106) 7.2, 0.13 | | | | | | | |
| | Latavius Murray | 58% (12) 7.5, 0.33 | 71% (7) 8.9, 0.78 | 50% (4) 5.0, 0.11 | | 61% (23) 7.5, 0.43 | | | | | | | |
| TE | Jared Cook | 49% (49) 7.2, 0.31 | 60% (10) 10.4, -0.23 | 67% (6) 6.2, -1.21 | 100% (1) 22.0, 1.38 | 53% (66) 7.8, 0.11 | | | | | | | |
| | Josh Hill | 33% (3) 3.0, -0.04 | 33% (3) 4.3, -0.43 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.54 | | 29% (7) 3.1, -0.28 | | | | | | | |
| WR | Emmanuel Sanders | 63% (59) 7.6, 0.39 | 62% (13) 8.5, 0.02 | 82% (11) 9.8, 0.46 | 100% (2) 12.0, 0.69 | 66% (85) 8.1, 0.35 | | | | | | | |
| | Michael Thomas | 54% (39) 6.9, -0.01 | 75% (12) 8.0, 0.45 | 75% (8) 10.9, 0.78 | 100% (2) 25.5, 1.80 | 62% (61) 8.3, 0.24 | | | | | | | |
| | Tre'Quan Smith | 62% (37) 10.6, 0.66 | 33% (6) 7.3, 0.16 | 25% (4) 7.8, -0.07 | 67% (3) 13.0, 1.21 | 56% (50) 10.1, 0.57 | | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kamara | 52% (145) | 59% (29) | 55% (22) | 53% (17) | 53% (213) |
| Alvin | 4.8, 0.03 | 5.9, 0.15 | 7.2, 0.20 | 1.9, -0.06 | 5.0, 0.06 |
| Murray | 69% (32) | 62% (58) | 47% (32) | 50% (14) | 59% (136) |
| Latavius | 5.4, 0.25 | 4.7, 0.05 | 3.4, 0.02 | 2.9, -0.10 | 4.4, 0.07 |
| Hill | 57% (37) | 88% (8) | 54% (28) | 50% (2) | 59% (75) |
| Taysom | 5.0, -0.01 | 8.1, 0.72 | 5.4, -0.20 | 3.0, -0.10 | 5.4, -0.01 |
| Montgomer | 50% (16) | 50% (6) | 0% (1) | | 48% (23) |
| y Ty | 6.8, 0.18 | 0.8, -0.39 | 2.0, -0.53 | | 5.0, 0.00 |
| Winston | 100% (1) | 0% (1) | 0% (3) | 0% (3) | 13% (8) |
| Jameis | 3.0, 0.18 | -1.0, -0.74 | -1.7, -0.87 | -1.0, -1.63 | -0.8, -1.00 |
| Washingto n Dwayne | | 0% (2) 2.5, -0.58 | 0% (3) 1.7, -0.38 | 50% (2) 2.5, -0.26 | 14% (7) 2.1, -0.40 |

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

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run Types | |
|--------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | rerage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 54% (434) 6.2, 0.10 | 3 Step | 54% (197) 6.3, 0.12 | | | % (469) 1, 0.32 | Outside Zone | 60% (125) 5.5, 0.11 |
| | E00/ (222) | Curl | 68% (74) 7.4, 0.30 | | | 5 Step | 56% (183) | Shuffling | | 9% (69) 7, -0.31 | Inside | 53% (98) |
| Zone | 58% (323) 8.0, 0.31 | Out | 62% (60) 7.3, 0.34 | Level 2 | 60% (118) 11.9, 0.59 | | 9.1, 0.40 | Moving | | 3% (50) 3, -0.31 | Zone | 4.5, 0.04 56% (45) |
| | | | 64% (36) | Level 3 | 33% (18) | 7 Step | 63% (64) 10.2, 0.48 | | Play Action | | | 3.7, 0.00 |
| M2M | 55% (152) 6.9, 0.13 | Dig | 11.6, 0.44 | Level o | 12.2, 0.46 | 0/1 Step | 48% (60) 4.6, -0.22 | | Play Action | No P/A | Power | 41% (32) 3.7, -0.01 |
| | | Slant | 68% (28) 6.4. 0.27 | Sidearm | 0% (2) 1.5, -1.06 | Basic Screen | 47% (32) | Under Center | 57% (104) 8.6, 0.20 | 57% (46) 7.7, 0.24 | Pitch | 52% (21) |
| Screen | 38% (65) | | | | | Dasic Screen | 6.7, 0.07 | Shotgun | 30% (20) 6.7, -0.21 | 50% (449) 7.1, 0.05 | FILGH | 5.3, 0.02 |
| Screen | 5.1, -0.16 | Drag | 46% (26) 5.8, 0.08 | Shovel | 100% (1) 14.0, 1.36 | Designed Rollout Right | 45% (29) 5.3, -0.13 | ALL | 52% (124) 8.3, 0.13 | 50% (495) 7.1, 0.07 | Stretch | 63% (16) 4.8, 0.03 |

<u>NO-6</u>

Week 17: No. 23 Panthers (win) Week 18: No. 9 Bears (win) Week 19: No. 5 Bucs (loss)

We know that for Brees's 2020 season, it's overly simplistic to use just full-season stats, but we'll do so here to just look at a snapshot as to how Brees and Payton did have to adjust the passing attack to support his injury status as well as a lack of receiving talent.

Here is Drew Brees's target depth on early downs in the first three quarters slowly declined:

2018: 7.0

2019: 6.2

2020: 5.8

On first downs, it was even more noticeable, dropping from 8.3 in 2018 down to 6.4 in 2020.

In 2019, Drew Brees was (still) a complete freak on first downs. His total EPA earned on first down was the most in the NFL. His success rate of 66% was also first, as was his TD:INT rate, passer rating, and sack rate.

All of that took a step back in 2020, and as a result, the Saints took a step back in early down success, dropping from eighth in EDSR in 2019 to 18th in 2020.

The question now will be what happens to the Saints in the post-Brees era? Can Payton work his magic with another quarterback?

On the positive, in non-Week 17 games, the Saints were 8-2, covering 9-of-10 against the spread. On the negative side, the Saints averaged only 24 points per game, compared to 30 points per game for Brees over the last five years.

(cont'd - see NO-7)





But in those games, the offense had to be changed for one week or a short stretch to operate without Brees, knowing he would soon return. Payton can change whatever he wants with the offense this offseason, and can practice the new offense such that there should be much higher comfort level through repetition during the 2021 season.

The biggest concerns for the Saints will be:

how to maintain efficiency on early downs if passing less often and less consistently executing well on third downs minimizing sacks minimizing turnovers

The one thing I think we can assume the Saints will do well is develop an even more enhanced run game, which should allow them to stay proficient in short yardage and in the red zone — where running tends to be at maximum efficiency. Of course, the times they do throw will have to be accurate, but I believe they have a greater chance of falling off in the other areas than they do in the red zone. Case in point: in the four games Brees missed this year, the Saints scored touchdowns on 10-of-13 (77%) trips to the red zone.

With Brees, the Saints have finished above average in first down pass rate and first down pass efficiency over the last five plus years. Even if you include every single game from every single year (despite the few missed by Brees) since 2016, in the first three quarters the Saints rank:

Sixth in pass frequency First in pass efficiency

Considering we know passes gain more yards than runs, and the Saints not only were one of the most pass-heavy offenses but also were the most efficient when doing so, it's safe to assume they faced less yards-to-go on second downs.

And that is correct.

The Saints averaged the shortest yards-to-go on second down in the NFL over the last five years. They also averaged the shortest yards-to-go on third down.

Not only is first down efficiency beneficial to bypassing third downs altogether, which we know correlates extremely well with winning games, it also reduces yardage-to-go when forced into third downs. Which we know is extremely correlated to conversion rate.

So, averaging the shortest yardage-to-go on third downs over the last five years, it's no surprise that the Saints have the NFL's best conversion rate on third downs in that span.

(cont'd - see NO-8)

Immediate Impact of New Orleans Saints 2021 Draft Class

The Saints are unafraid to ignore the consensus and reach for their guy, and this year was no different. DE **Payton Turner** (first round) was unlikely to land in the first round if New Orleans didn't take him, due to a history of injuries (most notably a torn ACL) and limited production in college.

Turner generated a career-high 14.9% pressure rate in five games in 2020. However, seven of his 13 pressures came against lowly Tulane. Against the more formidable BYU, UCF, and Memphis, Turner's pressure rate was a disappointing 9.3%.

Given his size and length (6'5", 35" arms), you would expect to see more dominance against Group of Five competition. As a rookie, Turner will likely provide depth behind **Cameron Jordan** and **Marcus Davenport**, while the staff tries to develop his impressive raw traits.

LB **Pete Werner** (second round) played a hybrid safety/linebacker role during his time at Ohio State. His lack of speed often caused issues in coverage, but he does have a blend of size and athleticism which could prove valuable in coverage versus most tight ends. Werner was also tremendously effective on blitzes, generating a 33.3% pressure rate last season. Even if Werner technically isn't a starter this season, expect the Saints to use his versatility to their advantage and find ways to get him on the field.

CB **Paulson Adebo** (third round) was a traits-based selection for the Saints, who were likely drawn to his nice blend of speed (4.45 40-yard dash) and height (6'1"). Adebo was dominant as a redshirt-freshman in 2018, but struggled the following year and then opted out in 2020. It's possible the Saints landed an elite steal if they can get him back to his early-career production.

In 2018, Adebo generated a 36.4% Ball Hawk Rate in man coverage, while allowing just 4.4 yards per target. The Saints played the highest rate of man coverage in the league last season, so it's possible they were intrigued by that performance and want to further develop those skills.

QB **Ian Book** (fourth round) is a dual-threat quarterback who will be the third-string quarterback in 2021. He probably lacks the accuracy and arm strength to be anything more than a backup in the league.

It was surprising to see New Orleans wait so long to land an offensive weapon before finally drafting WR **Kawaan Baker** (seventh round). Baker played in the slot at South Alabama, where 49% of his targets came within five yards of the line of scrimmage. He'll be in the mix to replace **Emmanuel Sanders** in that role for the Saints.

The Saints landed plenty of talent with their first three selections, but both Turner and Adebo probably need time to develop before making an impact.

Since teams are rarely able to develop every high-upside prospect they gamble on, it seems likely New Orleans will, at best, come away with only one or two impact players from this class.

Considering they're entering a semi-rebuilding mode in the post-**Drew Brees** era, this was a disappointing haul that doesn't appear to have improved the roster in a meaningful way.

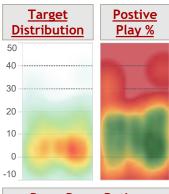


New Orleans Saints 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

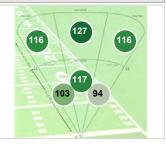
The Saints finished 14th in the league in passing EPA in 2020, their lowest mark since 2005. Their previous low mark in EPA passing since acquiring **Drew Brees** was seventh. With Brees officially retiring after the season, the Saints are turning to either **Jameis Winston** or **Taysom Hill** (or both) to carry this offense into the next phase. The last time Winston was a full starter in 2019, he led the league in passing yards (5,109) and was second in touchdown passes (33), orbiting a league-worst 30 interceptions. When Brees went down mid-season last year, Winston got the immediate call in relief, but the Saints then turned the next four starts without Brees over to Hill. New Orleans went 3-1 with Hill under center last season, but they also scored 24 or fewer points in three of those four games as opposed to scoring more than 24 points in 11 of the 13 games Brees did start.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Drew Brees | 322 | 463 | 70% | 3,341 | 7.2 | 27 | 9 | 13 | 101 | 10 |
| Taysom Hill | 88 | 120 | 73% | 928 | 7.7 | 4 | 2 | 15 | 100 | 13 |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | |

| | 2020 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 | 52% | 56% | 33 | 7.0% | 11 | 2.0% | 5.1 | 5.3 | 9 | 2% | |
| Taysom Hill | 45% | 47% | 13 | 11.0% | 4 | 3.0% | 6.1 | 4.4 | 6 | 5% | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | |



Drew Brees Rating Early Downs



| <u>In</u> | 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% | 5.1% | 0.0% | 2.5% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 3.9% | 2.5% | 0.0% | 3.2% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 2.2% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 1.5% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| Total | 2.1% | 1.3% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 1.9% | | | | | | |

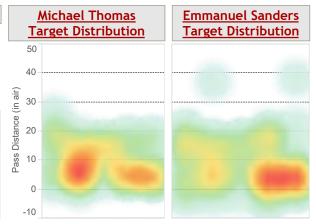
| <u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | | |
| Drew Brees | 8.5 | 5.0 | -3.5 | 73% | 30 | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | |

| | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------|----------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| t Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | |
|) | 49% | 51% | 32 | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

New Orleans ranked 17th in yards per target to their wide receivers (8.1 yards), 12th to tight ends (7.6 yards), and third to running backs (6.8 yards). Alpha wideout **Michael Thomas** missed nine games due to an ankle injury and suspension. Saddled through an early-season ankle injury that was a problem all season long, Thomas had career-lows in receptions (5.7) and yardage (62.6) per game while failing to catch a touchdown pass in the regular season. This passing game has largely run just through Thomas and **Alvin Kamara** the past three seasons and there is little here on the roster to believe that changes immediately with this roster leaving a lot to be desired behind the two. Both veterans **Emmanuel Sanders** and **Jared Cook** left via free agency.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwo | YPA | Rating | Snccess % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % | TDs |
|------------------------|------|-------|------|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------|-----|
| Alvin Kamara | 109 | 78% | 6.9 | 100.0 | 45% | 119 | 118 | 79 | 76 | 4 |
| Emmanuel Sanders | 89 | 73% | 7.9 | 105.1 | 65% | 8 | 12 | 72 | 29 | 5 |
| Jared Cook | 69 | 64% | 7.9 | 109.8 | 51% | 89 | 37 | 82 | 90 | 7 |
| Michael Thomas | 65 | 69% | 7.9 | 84.8 | 60% | 24 | 23 | 83 | 21 | 1 |
| Tre'Quan Smith | 51 | 71% | 10.0 | 141.6 | 57% | 43 | 20 | 65 | 98 | 6 |

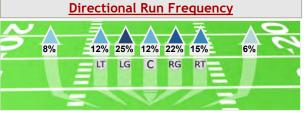


2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Saints are an effective running team, coming out of 2020 as the fifth-ranked team in expected points added via their rushing attack. **Taysom Hill** chips in here as well, but New Orleans has one of the best combo-backs in the league in **Alvin Kamara**, who signed a five-year extension last offseason. Kamara is coming off 1,688 yards and a league-high 21 touchdowns in 2020. Behind Kamara, **Latavius Murray** is a proven backup and ancillary back. Murray still has two years left on his current contract, but is also 31 years old. New Orleans still has one of the best offensive lines in the league. In 2020, they ranked fifth in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (63%) and ninth in Run Block Win Rate (72%) while ranking 13th and eighth at Pro Football Focus in team pass blocking and run blocking grade.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Alvin Kamara | 228 | 4.9 | 55% | 26 | 42 | 78 | 15 | 54% | 26 | 17 |
| Latavius Murray | 150 | 4.4 | 61% | 4 | 8 | 14 | 71 | 59% | 4 | 4 |
| Taysom Hill | 87 | 5.1 | 57% | 12 | 1 | 71 | 46 | 58% | 7 | 6 |





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Transitioning After Drew Brees

The Saints have had in-season success in each of the past two seasons when **Drew Brees** has missed time, positing an 8-1 record. Despite the strong record, there is still a larger picture workaround when losing a future Hall of Fame quarterback for a full season and entirely moving forward. In those games Brees missed over the past two seasons, the Saints have also scored 6.8 fewer points (23.6) per game and have gone from 2.71 points per drive with Brees to 2.04 per drive with him out. New Orleans went 3-1 with Hill under center last season, but they also scored 24 or fewer points in three of those four games as opposed to scoring more than 24 points in 11 of the 13 games Brees did start.

Signing a one-year deal, **Jameis Winston** is expected to be the frontrunner to lead the Saints in 2021, but the team will also let Hill compete for the job after he restructured his deal just days prior to bringing Winston back.

The last time that Winston was a full starter in 2019, he led the league in passing yards (5,109) and was second in touchdown passes (33), orbiting a league-worst 30 interceptions. When **Drew** Brees went down mid-season last year, Winston got the immediate call in relief, but in going 6-of-10 with multiple turnover-worthy plays, the Saints then turned the next four starts without Brees over to Hill.

Hill was serviceable as a spot starter for a four-game stretch, but still has a ton of question marks as a full-time passer. For fantasy, Hill scored 24.4, 17.5, 23.6, and 18.9 in his starts, which is definitely appealing. We also know that even if the team goes with Winston as the starter, Hill's presence, and ability to still be a part of things even if Winston is the starter is a thorn in Winston fully re-emerging as a potential QB1 option. The Saints are also unlikely to be as free-wheeling and in consistently brutal game scripts as those Buccaneers offenses Winston led.

In the games Brees missed, the Saints averaged 9.8 red zone plays per game as opposed to 12.3 per game with him active. This is an area where we would prefer to see Winston over Hill. When the Saints reached the red zone last season in Hill's four starts, they threw the ball on just 35.8% of their plays, which was 28th in the NFL over that span. Prior to Brees's injury, that rate was 47.8%, which was 19th.

We have a 12 game sample of **Michael Thomas** playing without Brees (or Brees missing significant time) and he has remained a target magnet. In those games, Thomas received a gaudy 32.1% of the team targets with seven or more targets in every game but one, which also happened to be the infamous Kendall Hinton game from a year ago. Thomas had at least five receptions in 10 of those 12 weeks with eight or more grabs in eight games. With little on the roster to challenge Thomas for targets, he will remain a PPR maven, but the pending downside of losing Brees is that Thomas has scored just three total touchdowns over that 12-game sample.

Alvin Kamara roared back in 2020 with 1,688 yards and a league-high 21 touchdowns, giving him four straight seasons as a top-eight scoring back on a per game basis. In eight career games without Brees under center, Kamara averages 5.5 targets and 16.9 PPR points per game (a mark that would have still been good for RB10 in 2020) as opposed to 7.0 targets and 22.4 points per game with Brees at the helm.

| New | Orleans Sa | ints Defens | e: Number o | of DBs vs Pe | rsonnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|----------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | 0/ | D. | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 4 plays (1%) Success: 75% | 220 plays (52%) Success: 47% | 196 plays (46%) Success: 36% | 3 plays (1%) Success: 33% | 423 plays (100%) Success: 42% | | % | Rk | 40 |
| | EPA: 0.23 | EPA: 0.01 | EPA: -0.17 | EPA: 0.25 | EPA: -0.07 | Base | 10% | 29 | The second second |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 11 plays (10%) Success: 45% | 91 plays (85%) Success: 47% | 5 plays (5%) Success: 40% | | 107 plays (100%) Success: 47% | Nickel | 60% | 16 | 30 |
| | EPA: 0.12 | EPA: -0.06 | EPA: 0.29 | | EPA: -0.03 | Dime+ | 28% | 5 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 10 plays (29%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.06 | 25 plays (71%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.27 | | | 35 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.17 | Rush 3 | 11% | 8 | 20 - |
| | | | | | | Rush 4 | 60% | 22 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 6 plays (75%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.37 | 2 plays (25%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.01 | | | 8 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 38% EPA: -0.28 | Rush 5 | 21% | 14 | 10 - |
| | 31 plays (5%) | 338 plays (59%) | 201 plays (35%) | 3 plays (1%) | 573 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 6% | 11 | 0 |
| Grand Total | Success: 45% EPA: -0.02 | Success: 48% EPA: 0.01 | Success: 36% EPA: -0.16 | Success: 33% EPA: 0.25 | Success: 43% EPA: -0.05 | Blitz% | 27% | 15 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

David Onyemata was one of the league's best pass-rushing defensive tackles last season. He ranked 10th in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate at the position and was third in pressure rate, according to SIS. Sheldon Rankins and Malcom Brown, who had the second- and third-most snaps inside are both gone. Shy Tuttle was close behind and the third-year undrafted player is likely in for a bigger role next to Onyemata in 2021. Malcolm Roach, an undrafted rookie from Texas, played 22% of the defensive snaps and would like in-line to play more snaps in the rotation.

Cameron Jordan remains one of the NFL's ironmen as an edge rusher. 2020 was the first time in Jordan's nine-year career that he played fewer than 80% of the team's defensive snaps. He still played 78% and started all 16 games. Jordan wasn't the top-tier pass rusher (he ranked 62nd in pressure rate) but was still disruptive off the edge while he ranked ninth at the position in Run Stop Win Rate, per ESPN.

Trey Hendrickson had his breakout season last year and he signed a big contract with the Cincinnati Bengals in free agency. That will force the Saints to rely more on 2018 first-round pick Marcus Davenport. Davenport has been productive when on the field (he was 36th in pressure rate in 2020) but hasn't been able to stay on it consistently. He has yet to appear in more than 13 games in a season and peaked at 50% of the team's defensive snaps in 2019. Carl Granderson was just behind Davenport in pressure rate (38th). The Saints made another surprising first-round pick with the addition of Houston EDGE Payton Turner.

Demario Davis is still one of the league's best all-around linebackers, even as he enters his age 32 season. Davis has been one of the best blitzing linebackers in the league and the Saints might need to turn that up this season — he rushed on 19.1% of his pass snaps in 2020. New Orleans envisioned a similar role for 2020 third-round pick **Zack Baun**, but he played just 8% of the defensive snaps in his rookie season despite appearing in 15 regular season games.

What was once a deep position group currently has four players on the official depth chart. **Marshon Lattimore** has been up and down in coverage throughout his career. That was the case just in 2020 as he ranked 107th among cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap among 148 qualified cornerbacks but also had the 40th-lowest completion rate allowed in that group. **Patrick Robinson** played 24% of the team's defensive snaps in 2020 — a three-year high since his return to New Orleans — and the soon-to-be 34-year-old might have to play more often in 2021. Depth includes **Grant Haley**, **Ken Crawley**, and third-round pick **Paulson Abedo**.

The Saints are still deep and fairly versatile at safety, which helps the backend and can allow for some holes to be filled at corner. **Chauncey Gardner-Johnson** played more often in the slot last season and could continue to piss opposing players off from that spot in 2021.

Marcus Williams was the team's deep safety to great success, 13th in EPA per play allowed on deep passes. Malcolm Jenkins remains a jack-of-all-trades at safety and his play has barely dipped as he enters his 13th NFL season at age 34.

| 2020 Play Tendencies | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| All Pass % | 55% | | | | | |
| All Pass Rk | 27 | | | | | |
| All Rush % | 45% | | | | | |
| All Rush Rk | 6 | | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 55% | | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 22 | | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 61% | | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 10 | | | | | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -6% | | | | | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 28 | | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 45% | | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 11 | | | | | |
| Up Pass % | 52% | | | | | |
| Up Pass Rk | 25 | | | | | |
| Up Rush % | 48% | | | | | |
| Up Rush Rk | 8 | | | | | |
| Down Pass % | 61% | | | | | |
| Down Pass Rk | 18 | | | | | |
| Down Rush % | 39% | | | | | |
| Down Rush Rk | 15 | | | | | |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 8 | 25% | 75% | 88% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 14 | 50% | 50% | 57% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 379 | 47% | 53% | 59% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 8 | 75% | 25% | 38% | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 57 | 32% | 68% | 68% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 100 | 51% | 49% | 49% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 100 | 61% | 39% | 39% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 31 | 84% | 16% | 26% | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 50 | 40% | 60% | 68% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 64 | 92% | 8% | 41% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 29 | 93% | 7% | 41% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 28 | 93% | 7% | 18% | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 7 | 0% | 100% | 86% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 3 | 100% | 0% | 67% | | | |







Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | | |
| 77% | 8 | 67% | 83% | 75% | | | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | |
| 23% | 25 | 33% | 71% | 59% | | | | | |

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Alvin Kamara | 4 | 100% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Alvin Kamara | 6 | 83% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Alvin Kamara | 95 | 58% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Alvin Kamara | 2 | 0% | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Latavius Murray | 16 | 75% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Alvin Kamara | 26 | 42% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Alvin Kamara | 17 | 12% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Alvin Kamara | 7 | 29% | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Taysom Hill | 9 | 33% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Michael Thomas | 10 | 50% | | | | | |
| | | | Jared Cook | 10 | 50% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Alvin Kamara | 5 | 20% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Alvin Kamara | 12 | 17% | | | | | |

| Offen | Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | |
| No | Success: 51% | Success: 60% | Success: 52% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 11.8, EPA: 0.48 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.09 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 92.7 | Rtg: 138.5 | Rtg: 97.9 | | | | |
| | [Att: 366 - Rate: 59.1%] | [Att: 47 - Rate: 7.6%] | [Att: 413 - Rate: 66.7%] | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 50% | Success: 48% | Success: 49% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.15 | YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.08 | YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.06 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 127.2 | Rtg: 81.1 | Rtg: 109.8 | | | | |
| | [Att: 129 - Rate: 20.8%] | [Att: 77 - Rate: 12.4%] | [Att: 206 - Rate: 33.3%] | | | | |
| Total | Success: 50% | Success: 52% | Success: 51% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.07 | YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.08 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 101.6 | Rtg: 102.5 | Rtg: 101.8 | | | | |
| | [Att: 495 - Rate: 80.0%] | [Att: 124 - Rate: 20.0%] | [Att: 619 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | |

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Tre'Quan Smith | Alvin Kamara | Emmanu el Sand | Jared Cook | Adam Trautman | Latavius Murray | Josh Hill | | Marquez Callaway | Taysom Hill |
| 1 | TB | W 34-23 | 44 (65%) | 45 (66%) | 33 (49%) | 44 (65%) | 7 (10%) | 23 (34%) | 36 (53%) | 55 (81%) | | |
| 2 | LV | L 34-24 | 53 (88%) | 41 (68%) | 47 (78%) | 39 (65%) | 8 (13%) | 16 (27%) | 22 (37%) | | 13 (22%) | 14 (23%) |
| 3 | GB | L 37-30 | 61 (100%) | 41 (67%) | 48 (79%) | 21 (34%) | 32 (52%) | 21 (34%) | 20 (33%) | | 2 (3%) | 13 (21%) |
| 4 | DET | W 35-29 | 62 (89%) | 47 (67%) | 51 (73%) | | 19 (27%) | 29 (41%) | 40 (57%) | | 15 (21%) | 20 (29%) |
| 5 | LAC | W 30-27 | 59 (78%) | 58 (76%) | 45 (59%) | 41 (54%) | | 21 (28%) | 28 (37%) | | 52 (68%) | 20 (26%) |
| 7 | CAR | W 27-24 | 57 (81%) | 51 (73%) | | 34 (49%) | 28 (40%) | 23 (33%) | 30 (43%) | | 51 (73%) | 10 (14%) |
| 8 | CHI | W 26-23 | 58 (78%) | 58 (78%) | | 40 (54%) | 16 (22%) | 18 (24%) | 22 (30%) | | | 14 (19%) |
| 9 | TB | W 38-3 | 45 (62%) | 37 (51%) | 22 (30%) | 26 (36%) | 29 (40%) | 29 (40%) | 45 (62%) | 40 (55%) | 17 (23%) | 19 (26%) |
| 10 | SF | W 27-13 | 16 (27%) | 39 (66%) | 34 (58%) | 21 (36%) | 27 (46%) | 24 (41%) | 9 (15%) | 46 (78%) | 6 (10%) | 22 (37%) |
| 11 | ATL | W 24-9 | 45 (68%) | 32 (48%) | 39 (59%) | 25 (38%) | 32 (48%) | 33 (50%) | | 57 (86%) | 8 (12%) | 66 (100%) |
| 12 | DEN | W 31-3 | 31 (48%) | 31 (48%) | 20 (31%) | 19 (30%) | 39 (61%) | 30 (47%) | 39 (61%) | 43 (67%) | 13 (20%) | |
| 13 | ATL | W 21-16 | 63 (81%) | 48 (62%) | 49 (63%) | 28 (36%) | 27 (35%) | 32 (41%) | 42 (54%) | 47 (60%) | | |
| 14 | PHI | L 24-21 | 54 (86%) | 45 (71%) | 53 (84%) | 36 (57%) | 15 (24%) | 20 (32%) | 18 (29%) | 57 (90%) | | |
| 15 | KC | L 32-29 | 24 (44%) | 40 (73%) | 39 (71%) | 32 (58%) | 21 (38%) | 16 (29%) | 7 (13%) | | | |
| 16 | MIN | W 52-33 | | 45 (60%) | 38 (51%) | 40 (53%) | 52 (69%) | 29 (39%) | 1 (1%) | | 42 (56%) | |
| 17 | CAR | W 33-7 | | | 41 (64%) | 20 (31%) | 41 (64%) | | | | 47 (73%) | |
| | Grand ' | Total | 672 (71%) | 658 (65%) | 559 (61%) | 466 (46%) | 393 (39%) | 364 (36%) | 359 (37%) | 345 (74%) | 266 (35%) | 198 (33%) |
| | | ed Zone | T | - 1 4- | | | |) - J 7 | - Db | • | derboa | |

| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1-1 [3WR] | 54% | 60% | 51% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 16% | 20% | 59% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 14% | 7% | 54% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 6% | 4% | 46% |
| 1-0 [4WR] | 3% | 2% | 64% |
| 2-0 [3WR] | 3% | 1% | 32% |
| 4 2 (4)4/D1 | 2% | 4% | 46% |
| 1-3 [1WR] Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| | | | |
| | ing Te Pass Rate | Pass Succ. | Run |
| Group | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ % |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] | Pass Rate 61% 42% | Pass Succ. % 48% 56% | Run Succ % 55% 62% |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 1-0 [4WR] | Pass Rate 61% 42% 39% | Pass Succ. % 48% 56% 65% | Run Succ. % 55% 62% 47% |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] | Pass Rate 61% 42% 39% 30% | Pass Succ. % 48% 56% 65% 57% | Run Succ. % 55% 62% 47% 42% |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Alvin Kamara | 16 | 2 | 1 | 13 | | |
| Jared Cook | 16 | 1 | 3 | 12 | | |
| Emmanuel Sanders | 14 | 2 | 5 | 7 | | |
| Michael Thomas | 13 | 4 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Tre'Quan Smith | 8 | 1 | | 7 | | |
| Marquez Callaway | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| Adam Trautman | 3 | | 2 | 1 | | |
| Deonte Harris | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | |

| <u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u> | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Alvin Kamara | 54 | 19 | 16 | 19 | |
| Latavius Murray | 27 | 3 | 10 | 14 | |
| Taysom Hill | 27 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| Drew Brees | 4 | 3 | | 1 | |
| Deonte Harris | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Ty Montgomery | 2 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Will Clapp | 2 | 2 | | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | | |
| 29% | 18% | 53% | | | | |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% | | | | |
| | Overall Target Success % | | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | iccess % | | | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % | | | | |
| | _ | | | | | |
| RB | TE | WR | | | | |





Stacking it up, and they spill into one another:

Sixth in first down pass frequency
First in first down pass efficiency
First in shortest yards-to-go on second down
First in shortest yards-to-go on third down
First in conversion rate on third down

The sport of football is very complicated, but offensively, if you realize the goal is to move the ball as efficiently as possible down the field, avoiding as many third downs en route to scoring touchdowns rather than field goals, it's clear why the Saints have had so much offensive success.

I am concerned a more run-based attack on first down could compromise their ranking in first down pass rate, and I certainly don't expect (even if it's **Jameis Winston** under center) the Saints to rank first in first down pass efficiency. As such, all of the other markers will inevitably regress as well.

When Drew Brees missed those four games with injury, the Saints went 24-of-55 (44%) on third down. They converted 53% of third downs during the weeks Brees played the entire game (excluding his first week back when he clearly wasn't 100%) and that includes the playoff games against the brutally tough Bears and Bucs defenses.

As an example of my concern, look just at the last three years when Brees was healthy and played the full season (2016-2018). When the Saints had above average pass rates on first down, they were top-5 in third down conversion rate. But in 2017, the year they drafted Alvin Kamara and decided to commit to a dual-headed ground attack on first down behind he and **Mark Ingram**, the Saints were significantly worse on third down conversion rate:

2018: 12th in first down pass rate (51%), fifth in third down conversion rate (45%) 2017: 20th in first down pass rate (46%), 22nd in third down conversion rate (36%) 2016: Fourth in first down pass rate (53%), first in third down conversion rate (49%)

We've covered the first two of my four biggest concerns for the future of the Saints offense. Next is an increase in sacks. They are drive killers.

Over the last five years, Drew Brees ranks second out of 57 quarterbacks in sack rate (3.5%). He's taken only 89 sacks on 2,555 dropps

In addition to simply knowing where to go with the ball and when to get it out, Brees benefits from the shorter yardage to go on these do are not as deep downfield. Should the Saints run into situations where they have longer to go on second and third down this year, inevitably it would lead to more sacks, even if Drew Brees was still the quarterback.

For the record, over the last five years, Jameis Winston's sack rate of 6.6% is nearly double Brees's (and ranks 35th of 57).

If we relax the pass attempts required to qualify down to 100 (previously was using 400), Taysom Hill now qualifies in a sample of 85 total quarterbacks in the last five years.

Taysom Hill's sack rate is 10.7%, which ranks 79th of 85.

Finally, we come to turnovers. Teams win 80% of games when they win the turnover battle. Drew Brees has a 1.5% interception rate the last five years, which ranks ninth in the NFL out of 57 quarterbacks (minimum 400 attempts).

Jameis Winston's is double that, at 3.61%, which ranks 54th of 57 quarterbacks. It should be stated that Winston now has received eye surgery and may be able to see more clearly, which naturally would help in this department.

Taysom Hill again doesn't qualify, but has thrown three interceptions (to four touchdowns) in his career and has a 2.24% interception rate, which ranks 31st if we relax the attempts requirement.

While I truly think the Saints have a roster that's certainly above average in several key positions and play a manageable schedule, it will truly take Payton's best season as a coach to get this Saints team to the postseason, considering how likely they are to take a step back offensively in the four key areas I outlined (early down efficiency despite less passing volume and efficiency, third down conversion rate, sack rate and turnover rate). If the Saints make the 2021 playoffs, count Payton as a strong candidate for Coach of the Year.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

53. Non-PA EPA/att

54. Non-PA Target Depth

02. Avg Halftime Lead

4.0

0

5.3

03. Wins

Vins 12

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.5 | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 5.0 | | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.4 | | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.3 | | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 49% | | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 53% | | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.02 | | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.07 | | | | |
| | | | | | |

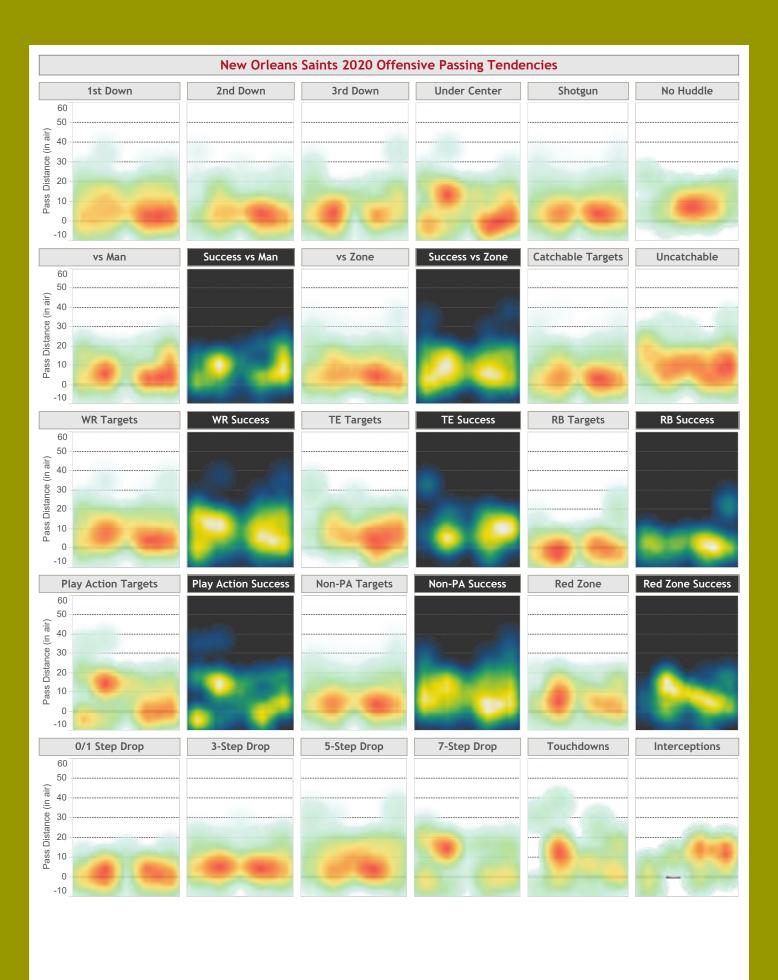
| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | | | |
|---|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs 28% | | | | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 54% | | | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 8.6 | | | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 3.2% | | | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.2 | | | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 7.4 | | | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 55% | | | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.4 | | | | | |
| 52 Non-PA Sack Rate | 3.3% | | | | | |

| Men In Box | |
|--|-----|
| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 22% |
| 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 | 4.7 |
| 58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 36% |
| 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 | 4.8 |
| 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 | 54% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 6.1 |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|--|--|
| Net FROE Rk | 3 | defFUM | 16 | | |
| Net FROE | 3.4 | | | | |
| offFUM | 27 | defFUM Rcvrd | 10 | | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 17 | defFR Rk | 24 | | |
| offFR% | 63.0% | defFR% | 37.5% | | |
| offFR Rk | 9 | defFROE | 1.1 | | |
| offFROE | 2.3 | defFROE Rk | 8 | | |
| offFROE Rk | 5 | dell ROL RK | 0 | | |

| Field Goal Luck | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Net Over Expectation | -2.06 | Opp Att | 26 | | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 22 | Opp Makes | 22 | | |
| Own Att Own Makes | 28 23 | Opp FG % | 85% | | |
| Own FG % | 82% | Opp Expected Makes | 20.41 | | |
| Own Expected Makes | 23.47 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.59 | | |
| Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk | -0.47 20 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 8 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Expectation Rk | 2.25 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 1.55 | | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 3 | 2019 Opp Rk | 3 | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pressure | | Offensive A | Offensive Metrics | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Drew Brees | | Drew Brees | EPA/Pass | 0.12 | |
| CAY | 5.4 | Pressure % | 25.9 | EPA/Pass Rk | 8 | |
| CAY Rk | 27 | Pressure Rk | 33 | EPA/Rush | 0.02 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 30 | Sack % | 3.2 | EPA/Rush Rk | 5 | |
| AYTS Rk | 37 | Sack Rk | 40 | On-Target Catch % | 92.6% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 33 37 | Pressure Accuracy % | 75.9 | On-Target Catch Rk | 7 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 32 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 3 | Drop% | 7.3% | |
| COMP% | 70.5 | Rating when Pressured | 88.5 | Drop Rk | 21 | |
| xCOMP% | 69.3 | Pressured Rating Rk | 4 | · | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 2 | Clean Accuracy % | 80.3 | YAC/Att | 2.3 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 1 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 14 | YAC/Att Rk | 16 | |
| CPOE% | 1.2 | Rating when Clean | 111.8 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 13.4% | |
| CPOE Rk | 19 | _ | 11 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 13 | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 2 | Clean Rating Rk | | Durch 4-4 Daywe 9/ | 20.00/ | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT | | Time to Throw | 2.66 | Rush 1st Down % | 30.0% | |
| Actual completion percentage ov | ted completion percentage CPOE: er expectation | Time to Throw Rk | 24 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 1 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Joe Judge (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
Jason Garrett (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Patrick Graham (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

New York Giants

2021 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

7

#3

Past Records

2020: 6-10 2019: 4-12 2018: 5-11



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|------------------------|------------|
| Alex Tanney (QB) | Retired |
| Antoine Bethea (S) | Retired |
| Colt McCoy (QB) | Cardinals |
| Dalvin Tomlinson (IDL) | Vikings |
| David Mayo (LB) | Washingtor |
| Kevin Zeitler (RG) | Ravens |
| Kyler Fackrell (EDGE) | Chargers |
| Madre Harper (CB) | Giants |
| Wayne Gallman (RB) | 49ers |
| Adrian Colbert (S) | TBD |
| Alfred Morris (RB) | TBD |
| Cameron Fleming (LT) | TBD |
| Cody Core (WR) | TBD |
| Devonta Freeman (RB) | TBD |
| Dion Lewis (RB) | TBD |
| Golden Tate (WR) | TBD |
| Jabaal Sheard (EDGE) | TBD |
| Nate Ebner (S) | TBD |
| Ryan Lewis (CB) | TBD |
| Spencer Pulley (C) | TBD |

2021 New York Giants Overview

In last year's chapter of this book, I had a lot of fun researching the most likely possibilities of the Giants offense under Jason Garrett.

My first conclusion I came away with was inevitably, the Giants would be much more run heavy under Garrett. I wrote: "I would be stunned if Jason Garrett went 55% pass on first half early downs, as they did in 2019. I strongly believe the Giants will go more run-heavy."

On a related note, I wrote about the Giants' foolishness in playcalling against loaded boxes. They ran into these loaded boxes at an extremely high rate with extremely terrible success. I pondered whether "new offensive coordinator Jason Garrett will give quarterback **Daniel Jones** more command at the line of scrimmage... or perhaps Garrett will encourage run plays early and often as he did in Dallas."

Additionally, I wrote about the importance of the Giants increasing shotgun play-action, because Daniel Jones showed in 2019 that he was not at all comfortable turning his back on the defense and using play-action from under center.

I wrote about the importance of improving the chemistry and effectiveness of passes from Daniel Jones to **Evan Engram**.

 Average Line
 # Games Favored
 # Games Underdog

 2.3
 5
 12

All of these things I analyzed, questioned, and cited as easy fixes to get the Giants offense back on track. All they had to do was notice it for themselves.

Just look back at the data from 2019 and [insert Big Cat meme] "FIGURE IT OUT!!!"

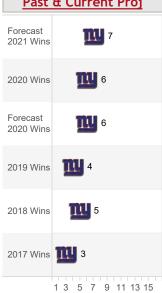
Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|------------------------|----------|
| Kenny Golladay (WR) | \$18 |
| Adoree' Jackson (CB) | \$13 |
| Ifeadi Odenigbo (EDGE) | \$2.5 |
| John Ross (WR) | \$2.29 |
| Mike Glennon (QB) | \$1.39 |
| Zach Fulton (LG) | \$1.2 |
| Danny Shelton (IDL) | \$1.10 |
| Reggie Ragland (LB) | \$1.10 |
| Ryan Anderson (EDGE) | \$1.10 |

Drafted Players

| | Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|-----|----|-----|--|
| | 1 | 20 | WR - Kadarius Toney (Florida) |
| | 2 | 50 | DE - Azeez Ojulari (Georgia) |
| | 3 | 71 | CB - Aaron Robinson (UCF) |
| | 4 | 116 | DE - Elerson Smith (Northern Iowa) |
| | 6 | 196 | RB - Gary Brightwell (Arizona) |
| | | 201 | CB - Rodarius Williams (Oklahoma State) |
| - 1 | | | |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj







2021 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see NYG2)



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 11 | \$98.77M | 17 |
| QB | 24 | \$9.21M | 26 |
| OL | 22 | \$32.05M | 15 |
| RB | 1 | \$17.48M | 2 |
| WR | 15 | \$23.86M | 8 |
| TE | 4 | \$16.17M | 19 |
| All DEF | 14 | \$92.60M | 23 |
| DL | 24 | \$34.11M | 23 |
| LB | 19 | \$12.63M | 10 |
| СВ | 7 | \$28.22M | 19 |
| S | 9 | \$17.64M | 9 |

NYG-2

5

10

15

20

Or, take a short cut. I already identified these things last spring. Take what I wrote and published and discussed with the Giants.com website's TV show before the season. Use a free pass. Duplicate my research to cross-check and ensure I was on to something. Once confirming the issues existed, develop a plan to ensure the same mistakes were not made in 2020.

After all, there was a big press conference on December 31, 2019.

An end of season presser, just two days after the Giants lost to the Eagles 34-17 and capped a 4-12 season with a loss... and just one day after the Giants fired head coach Pat Shurmur.

Dave Gettleman put on quite a show.

He told the world he "hired four computer folks."

He also said he met recently with "a big analytics guy."

All of this would make logical sense if the words were spoken more eloquently and by someone who hadn't spent the first two years of his tenure trashing analytics.

Gettleman took over the Giants in 2018, and the first move he made was to draft running back Saquon Barkley No. 2 overall.

This was a draft that super-smart GM Brandon Beane traded up to land quarterback Josh Allen at No. 7 and super-smart GM Eric DeCosta traded up to land quarterback Lamar Jackson at No. 32.

Gettleman wanted none of that quarterback smoke. Even though Eli Manning went 3-12 in 2017, with career lows in YPA and touchdown rate, and was 37 years old, Gettleman wanted to build his franchise around running back Saquon Barkley paired with the ghost of Eli Manning.

So, when Gettleman drafted Barkley, he hosted a press conference, and said positional value "is a crock." He said studying analytics to evaluate running backs was "nonsense."

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics

26

8

ТŲ

5

10

15

20

22

One year later, before the start of 2019. Gettleman said "if I've become a doddering old fool that hates analytics, that's okay" in reference to

| | 2020 Passi | mu | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| Daniel Jones | 49% 6.9 84.3 | 38% 5.7 65.7 | 37% 7.1 90.9 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 48% | 59% | 81% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | | |
| NYG | 50% 4.5 | 47% 4.7 | 35% 3.5 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 52% | 41% | 19% | | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | | | | |

his disagreement with "the analytic people" that say you can insert anyone at running back and get relatively similar production.

Gettleman mocked analytics and specifically, the people that "do" analytics multiple times over multiple years.

So naturally, when he said he was taking meetings with a "big analytics guy" and was hiring "computer folks" to help the process, it was a huge 180.

Was it a concession that he was wrong in 2018 and 2019 to say what he did? According to Gettleman himself, "no," he wasn't wrong... he was only "kidding around" when he disparaged analytics. He followed by saying: "In terms of the analytics and devaluing the running back and this and that. (cont'd - see NYG-3)

> 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics \mathbf{W} TU 16 18 18 TU

23 24 25 Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Pass Eff Def **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Down Def Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro Red Zone De Efficieincy De YPPA **Explosive**

| 25 – 30 – | 28 | 30 | 31 | 28 | 31 | 28 | 1 | 29 111 | 29 | 27 | | 27 | | П | 25 – 30 – | 21 |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| | 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 | JJO | | EDSR Def |
| <u>2</u> | 020 | Wee | kly | EDS | R & | Sea | son | Tren | ding | g Pe | rfor | mar | <u>ice</u> | | | |
| H A -10 16 1 | L L HI SF | A 7 -8 9 | 5 L DAL A -3 34 37 | 6 W WAS H 1 20 19 | 7 L PHI A -1 21 22 | TB W H -2 23 | 9 1 W W /AS PI A H 3 1 23 2 20 1 | V -II I O 7 | 12 W CIN A 2 19 17 | 13 W SEA A 5 17 12 | 14 L ARI H -19 7 26 | Н | 16 L BAL A -14 13 27 | 17 W DAL H 4 23 19 | WEEK RESUI OPP SITE MARG PTS OPP F | LT |
| | | | | | | | | ı | | | | | | | EDSR W=Gr L=Red | |
| | \neq | | | | | | | | <u></u> | | | | | | Red=I | :OFF =good) |

2020 Close Game **Records** All 2019 Wins: 6

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-3** FG Games Win %: **50% (#14)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

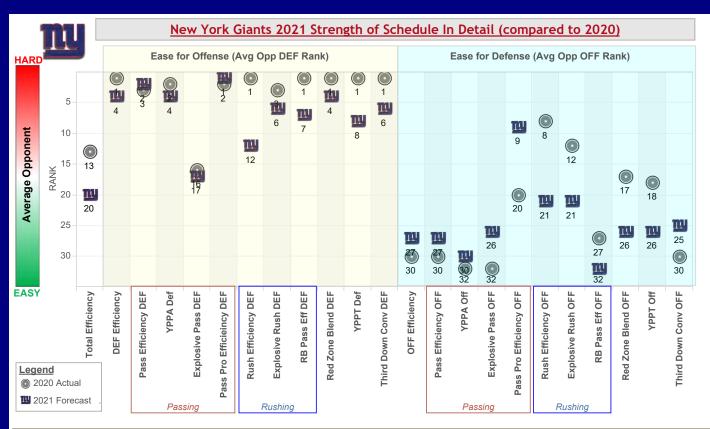
Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-5 Score Games Win %: 50% (#13) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

Wins): 83% (#4)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +0 TO Given 22 **INT Given** 11 **FUM Given** 11 TO Taken 22 **INT Taken** 11 **FUM Taken** 11 Sack Margin -10 40 Sacks Sacks Allow 50 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 2 Ret TDs Allow 2 **Penalty Margin** +7 Penalties 81

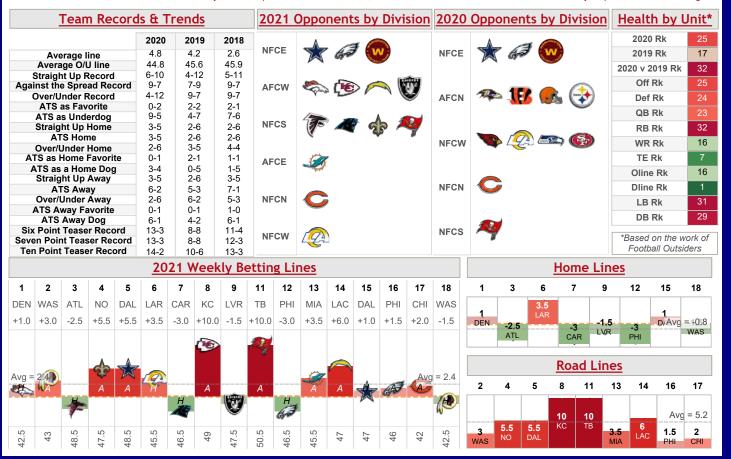
Opponent Penalties

88



| | 2021 vs 2020 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 | 20 | 27 | 27 | 14 | 12 | 31 | 29 | | | | |

^{* 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







Saquon's special, and that's what I should have said. Saquon's special. He's an outlier. We are committed to being forward thinking."

I'll leave my personal opinion of Gettleman's comments aside and let his do-and-say-whatever-to-save-my-job words and actions speak for themselves.

Let's pretend we believe Gettleman is telling us the truth on December 31, 2019 and plans to embrace the "computer folks" and "big analytics guy" and use them to help make "forward thinking" decisions.

This is a BIG time for the future of the Giants. 2020 could be the year they turn everything around. After all, there were so many self-inflicted wounds with the 2019 offense that even an outsider like myself without access to the Giants computer servers could spot a mile away. And they were easily fixable.

Surely a new offensive coordinator, the renowned Jason Garrett, could identify and easily fix these issues, especially when supported by a big analytics guy and computer folks.

Let's lay them out. Four simple ideas to improve efficiency in 2020.

Don't go back to being a run-heavy offense on early downs under Garrett

Don't run into loaded boxes

Don't make Daniel Jones take under center play-action too often (use shotgun)

Do figure out how to improve the chemistry and effectiveness of passes to Evan Engram

Don't go back to being a run-heavy offense on early downs under Garrett

Why not? What's wrong with running a lot on early downs when you have a struggling quarterback like Daniel Jones? Let's minimize his mistakes and his influence over the game, limit his attempts, only ask for a few big throws, and walk away with a win.

Because it's 2020, that's why not. Passing is more efficient due to rules changes. Running on early downs doesn't help a quarterback. It ensures that most of his pass attempts come when the defense is expecting them: on third down. It lowers his confidence when he is dropping back, knowing his own coaches don't trust him. I can go on and on. Look at the "analytics" and you'll quickly want to shift to an offense that does one of two things: either has a running quarterback like the Ravens or drops back a ton to pass on first down like the Bills or Chiefs.

The 2019 Giants, with a relatively healthy (13 of 16 games played) Barkley passed the ball on 55% of early down plays in the first half of games. This ranked 12th in the NFL, and was 1% above average.

I knew once they hired Jason Garrett, they wouldn't come close to hitting 55% in 2020. But even I didn't expect the degree of the swing when you consider the context of Barkley's absence.

Barkley was lost for the season in Week 2. He missed 91% of the season with injury. Would Garrett still run often, even without Barkley?

Why yes, yes he absolutely would. The Giants passed the ball on only 49% of early downs in the first half of games. The NFL average was 54% pass. Only three teams ran the ball more often than the Giants: the running quarterback-led Ravens, the running quarterback-led Patriots and the **Derrick Henry**-led Titans. And then, there were the Giants. Led by neither a running quarterback or a bellcow running back.

If your mind isn't already blown, consider that two of those teams made the playoffs with 11 wins apiece and one finished 7-9. These teams weren't down in games like the 6-10 Giants. More gas on the fire, the Giants held halftime leads in only five of 16 games this season... but you know what their early down run rate was in just the third quarter of games?

Identical to the first half!

The Giants were 49% run on early downs in the third quarter of games, sitting steady as one of the 10 most run-heavy teams in the NFL. Despite losing in nearly 70% of their games.

Jason Garrett's ridiculous insistence on being so run-heavy on early downs translated into one thing for the Giants: the NFL's longest distance to-go on third down, at 7.9 yards on average.

(cont'd - see NYG-4)

| <u>S</u> | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 2021 games where | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponent has less than a week to prep | Difference | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a rest advantage | Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team plays of road SNF or Mi | | | | | |
| 4 | 4 1 3 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | | | | |
| | Strengt | h of Schedul | ed Game Tim | ing: New Yor | k Giants Ran | king vs NFL | <u>Average</u> | | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank | | Rest Rank | Short We | eek Road Games Rank | Games off Road S Rank | SNF/MNF Ne | egated Bye Rank | | | | | |
| 19 | | 23 19 | | | 12 | 25 | | 1 | | | | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- There is a chance Jones just isn't very good and may not ever play well consistently. He ranks 37th in EPA per dropback and 35th in completion percentage over expected since he came into the league in 2019.
 The Giants are facing the toughest schedule of opposing pass defenses based on 2020 EPA defensive passing stats.
- Outside of getting back COVID opt-out **Nate Solder**, the Giants did absolutely nothing to fix the biggest problem with their team last season, the offensive line. The Giants' line ranked 31st in PFF's pass blocking efficiency ranking last season and 21st in adjusted line yards in the run game. New York only had one lineman grade out in the top 130 of qualified players in overall blocking grade, guard **Kevin Zeitler**, and he left for Baltimore in free agency. It is hard to fathom not trying to upgrade such a weak position group and think they will compete for the playoffs.

7



Why Bet the Over

- New York gets back star running back Saquon Barkley from injury and they spent significant resources in the offseason upgrading the overall talent of the team at key positions, including WR Kenny Golladay and CB Adoree' Jackson. Typically, free agency is fools gold but both Golladay and Jackson are still young (both under 28 years old) with plenty of upside. Golladay has graded out as a top 20 WR in three straight seasons by PFF and Jackson was the 21st graded coverage CB in 2019.
- Giant fans are hoping for **Daniel Jones** to make the third-year leap. He struggled last season overall, but adding Golladay to **Sterling Shepherd**, **Darius Slayton**, and **Evan Engram**, he has plenty of weapons. He could use more help since last season his receivers dropped the second highest percentage of passes in the NFL, and he did post the eighth best adjusted completion percentage among qualified quarterbacks.
- The Giants did a good job forcing fumbles last season on defense, generating the fourth-most opponent fumbles. Unfortunately, they were unlucky in only being able to recover 39% of opponent fumbles, ranked 26th in the NFL. They did a poor job recovering their own fumbles as well, ranked 25th on offense. They will need more bounces to go their way this season

| | New York Giants Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | | |
| 28 | 31 | 10 | 19 | 22 | 11 | 25 | | | | | |

GM Dave Gettleman enters his fourth year at the helm and still has a roster that averages out to 24th overall, with just two units ranked in the upper half of the league.

The Giants' QB room ranks 28th overall and this is likely **Daniel Jones's** final opportunity to prove he belongs. To survive, Jones needs to learn how to handle pressure. 21.2% of his dropbacks against pressure resulted in sacks, the fifth worst rate in the league last year.

Saquon Barkley leads the Giants only top-10 unit, but his talent is wasted behind our 31st-ranked offensive line. Prior to his injury last year, Barkley averaged 0.3 yards before contact per attempt—an incredible failure on the part of the offensive line, even in a small sample size.

Kenny Golladay gives the receiving corps a significant boost. In 2020, Giants receivers ranked 29th with an on-target catch rate of 80.2% on targets 10+ yards downfield. Golladay has caught 86.7% of on-target throws at that distance over the last two years. Kadarius Toney, likely lining up in the slot, could also make this a more explosive unit.

The strength of the Giants' front seven was stopping the run. When stacking the box with six or fewer defenders, they allowed 4.7 yards per attempt, the third best rate in the league. The pass rush needs work, however, and second-round pick **Azeez Ojulari** will need to contribute immediately.

The secondary got a nice boost this offseason with the additions of free agent **Adoree' Jackson** and rookie **Aaron Robinson**. **Isaac Yiadom** was the weak link last year (7.9 yards per target) but should see a significantly reduced role.

Among the coaches hired in 2020, Joe Judge ranks last. In fact, only one non-rookie (Cincinnati's Zac Taylor) falls below Judge in our head coach rankings.

NYG-4

Considering we know how yardage-to-go on third down correlates so perfectly to conversion rate, we shouldn't be surprised at all to see the Giants tied for the third-worst third down conversion rate in the NFL.

This is exactly what I said would happen when you try to "help" your quarterback by running on early downs at a high rate. Jason Garrett and the Giants failed to be "forward thinking" on early downs despite that being a clear priority in 2020.

Don't run into loaded boxes

This is similarly so logical you don't even need fancy "analytics" to realize why it's important. The more defenders close to the ball carrier, the easier it is to tackle him. I won't make it any more complicated than that.

As I wrote last year: "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. Barkley was terrible running on first down against loaded boxes – much worse than the NFL average – gaining 2.7 YPC, 27% success, and -0.11 EPA/att. Meanwhile, passes against these loaded boxes gained 8.4 YPA with 52% success, and 0.0 EPA/att."

Jason Garrett surely wouldn't make another brutal blunder and run at a 61% clip into these loaded boxes for huge negative EPA could he?

<u>NYG-5</u>

Why yes, yes he absolutely would. The 2020 Giants actually upped their run rate from 61% to 66% when faced with an 8+ man box on first down in the first three quarters. These runs gained an even worse -0.16 EPA/att (-0.11 in 2019) and averaged 44% success with 4.2 YPC.

All told, the Giants' run rate into 8+ man boxes on all downs in the first three quarters was 70% in 2020. That ranked seventh-highest in the NFL, well above average. They had over 100 runs into 8+ man boxes in the game's first three quarters, sixth-most in the NFL. These runs averaged -0.08 EPA/att with 48% success and 4.0 YPC.

A whopping 36% of the Giants' total runs in the first three quarters of games came against 8+ men boxes. That ranked fourth-highest in the NFL, behind only the Titans, 49ers, and Rams. For comparison, that number was 29% in 2019.

Despite not having Barkley, the Giants not only ran far more often on early downs, they ran far more often another time when running is to be avoided – into loaded boxes. Jason Garrett and the Giants failed to be "forward thinking" against loaded boxes, ignoring that it was a clear problem in 2019.

Don't make Daniel Jones take under center play action too often (use shotgun)

Some quarterbacks are comfortable turning their back on the defense, giving the illusion of a run play via play-action, pulling the ball back out of the belly of the running back, whipping their head around and figuring out how the picture changed from the pre-snap look and targeting the open receiver.

Others are not.

Studying everything about Jones as a rookie quarterback in 2019, this jumped out to me as Jones was substantially better with shotgun play-action and terrible under center:

(cont'd - see NYG-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

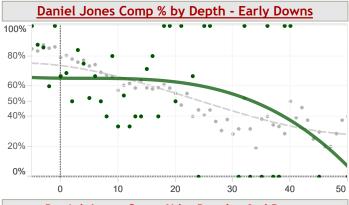


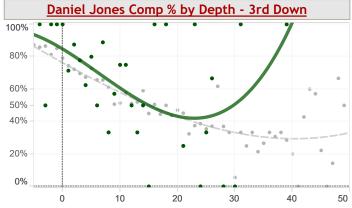
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | u | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | Wayne Gallman | 6% | 5% | 81% | 8% | | | | | | | |
| | Evan Engram | 17% | | 83% | | | | | | | | |
| | Darius Slayton | | | 50% | 50% | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Sterling Shepard | | 17% | 83% | | | | | | | | |
| S | Devonta Freeman | | 6% | 89% | 6% | | | | | | | |
| | Alfred Morris | 11% | | 62% | 27% | | | | | | | |
| | Dion Lewis | 21% | 24% | 48% | 3% | 3% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 7% | 6% | 76% | 11% | 0% | | | | | | |
| | Wayne Gallman | 26% | 4% | 70% | | | | | | | | |
| | Evan Engram | 19% | 5% | 68% | 7% | 1% | | | | | | |
| | Darius Slayton | 20% | 5% | 74% | 1% | | | | | | | |
| S | Sterling Shepard | 21% | 8% | 67% | 4% | | | | | | | |
| PAS | Devonta Freeman | | | 80% | 20% | | | | | | | |
| п. | Alfred Morris | 25% | | 75% | | | | | | | | |
| | Dion Lewis | 17% | 3% | 70% | 10% | | | | | | | |
| | Golden Tate | 17% | 10% | 63% | 10% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 19% | 6% | 69% | 5% | 0% | | | | | | |





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| PASS | 40%, -0.11 (377) | 50%, 0.04 (124) | 44%, -0.30 (39) | 71%, 0.38 (7) | 33%, -0.05 (6) | 0%, -0.98 (3) | 0%, -3.83 (2) | 0%, -2.84 (1) | 100%, 1.86 (1) | 42%, -0.10 (560) |
| RUSH | 48%, -0.04 (151) | 50%, -0.01 (134) | 43%, -0.23 (61) | 36%, -0.16 (47) | 60%, 0.41 (5) | | | | | 47%, -0.06 (398) |
| All | 42%, -0.09 (528) | 50%, 0.02 (258) | 43%, -0.26 (100) | 41%, -0.09 (54) | 45%, 0.16 (11) | 0%, -0.98 (3) | 0%, -3.83 (2) | 0%, -2.84 (1) | 100%, 1.86 (1) | 44%, -0.09 (958) |

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 | 33% (27) 3.5, -0.01 | 67% (3) 10.7, 0.69 | | | 37% (30) 4.2, 0.06 | | | | | |
| | Wayne Ga | 29% (14) 3.3, -0.18 | 55% (11) 6.2, 0.31 | 0% (1) -3.0, -0.78 | | 38% (26) 4.3, 0.00 | | | | | |
| | Devonta F | 67% (6) 7.3. 0.36 | 0% (2) 0.00.52 | | | 50% (8) 5.5. 0.14 | | | | | |
| | Saquon B | 50% (6) 8.8. 0.44 | 0% (1) 4.00.31 | | | 43% (7) 8.1. 0.33 | | | | | |
| TE | Evan Engr | 43% (77) 6.6, -0.04 | 38% (16) 5.0, -0.13 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.45 | | 41% (94) 6.3, -0.06 | | | | | |
| | Kaden Sm | 0% (1) 0.00.74 | 71% (14) 6.7. 0.38 | | | 67% (15) 6.3. 0.31 | | | | | |
| WR | Sterling S | 57% (61) 6.9, 0.22 | 65% (26) 8.1, 0.34 | | | 60% (87) 7.3, 0.26 | | | | | |
| | Darius Sla | 44% (59) 7.5. 0.14 | 50% (26) 6.90.02 | 100% (1) 22.0. 2.01 | | 47% (86) 7.5. 0.11 | | | | | |
| | Golden Ta | 44% (45) 7.5, 0.20 | 67% (3) 11.3, 0.43 | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.19 | 100% (1) 11.0, 1.86 | 46% (50) 7.7, 0.22 | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------|------------------------|
| Gallman | 55% (47) | 53% (59) | 43% (23) | 100% (1) | 52% (130) |
| Wayne | 3.7, -0.13 | 5.9, 0.05 | 3.1, 0.12 | 2.0, 1.96 | 4.6, 0.01 |
| Jones | 56% (36) | 58% (12) | 8% (12) | | 47% (60) |
| Daniel | 8.7, 0.31 | 9.7, -0.23 | -0.9, -0.54 | | 7.0, 0.03 |
| Freeman | 39% (28) | 48% (21) | 0% (1) | 33% (3) | 42% (53) |
| Devonta | 3.0, -0.15 | 3.5, -0.02 | -1.0, -1.87 | 3.7, -0.07 | 3.2, -0.13 |
| Lewis Dion | 41% (17) 4.5, -0.34 | 33% (3) 6.7, -0.02 | | | 40% (20) 4.9, -0.29 |
| Barkley Saquon | 20% (5) 3.0, -0.12 | 0% (2) -1.5, -1.02 | | | 14% (7) 1.7, -0.38 |
| Penny | | 50% (2) | 100% (2) | 100% (1) | 80% (5) |
| Elijhaa | | 4.0, -0.18 | 2.0, 0.15 | 3.0, 0.32 | 3.0, 0.05 |

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 | | ing by | Throw Types | | QB Drop | Types | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | | | |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------|----------|
| | rerage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 48% (398) | 0/1 Step | 0/1 Step 51% (190) 6.1, -0.01 | | | % (380) 1, 0.12 | Inside Zone | 53% (78) 3.9, -0.08 | | |
| | () | Curl | 54% (79) 6.6, 0.24 | Level 1 | 5.7, 0.03 | | 5.7, 0.03 3 Step | 3 Stop 45% (187) | 5% (187) Shuffling | | Shuffling 38% (68) 5.0, -0.01 | | Power | 43% (65) |
| Zone | 53% (278) 7.1, 0.15 | Slant | 45% (51) | Lavala | 58% (55) | о отер | 7.8, 0.19 | Moving | | 3% (61) 8, -0.19 | | 4.0, -0.14 | | |
| | | | 5.2, 0.04 | Level 2 | 11.5, 0.37 | 7 Step 53% (30 8.2, 0.32 | | | Play Actio | on | Outside Zone | 36% (25) 3.7, -0.11 | | |
| M2M | 43% (173) 6.2, -0.01 | Out | 52% (46) 4.7, 0.01 | | 31% (36) | Designed | 32% (28) | | Play Action | No P/A | Lead | 54% (24) | | |
| | 0.2, -0.01 | Dia | 59% (29) | Level 3 | 11.4, 0.29 | Rollout Right | 2.9, -0.36 62% (26) | Under Center | 45% (87) 6.7, -0.19 | 47% (17) 5.0, -0.37 | | 3.2, 0.34 | | |
| | 33% (33) | Dig | 9.5, 0.14 | | 400/ (5) | 5 Step | 8.3, 0.35 | Shotgun | 47% (60) 7.4, 0.01 | 41% (397) 6.4, -0.09 | Pitch | 0.8, -0.92 | | |
| Screen | 4.1, -0.10 | Drag | 57% (23) 8.2, 0.37 | Shovel | 40% (5) 4.4, 0.21 | Basic Screen | 20% (10) 1.0, -0.38 | ALL | 46% (147) 7.0, -0.11 | 41% (414) 6.3, -0.10 | Stretch | 20% (5) 1.0, -0.60 | | |

NYG-6

Shotgun play-action: 8.7 YPA, 52% success, 0.17 EPA/att Under center play-action: 4.7 YPA, 34% success, -0.65 EPA/att

The 2019 Giants wisely used shotgun play-action on 64% of play-action passes due to the massively improved performance. With 90 total play action attempts for Jones, it's one of those things that you flag for review and classify as a "strong opinion, weakly held."

But like everything else I noted last spring, I don't think Jason Garrett and company even bothered to analyze it whatsoever. Would Garrett ignore the 2019 season and continue to ask Jones to run play-action under center, even if it wasn't working?

Why yes, yes he absolutely would. The Giants came out running under center play-action like no one's business. It actually worked for a couple games when Barkley was healthy (even though he was healthy in 2019). But it quickly went off the rails.

Instead of passing more with shotgun play-action (64% of attempts) Jones did in 2019, Garrett ratched up under-center play action. Garrett more than doubled the total number of under center play-action attempts and increased the percentage of play-action throws from 36% under center in 2019 to 57% under center in 2020. Splits:

Shotgun play-action: 7.5 YPA, 46% success, -0.02 EPA/att Under center play-action: 6.8 YPA, 45% success, -0.27 EPA/att

Jones was notably worse in both YPA and EPA/att using under center play-action.

This still doesn't prove that Jones cannot excel using play-action from under center. But that strong opinion is getting held less weakly. Jones might improve in 2021 in that area. But the two-fold concern is:





- 1 The Giants didn't identify this potential problem from 2019 (despite the most glaring splits of any quarterback in the NFL) and went crazy using under center play-action in 2020.
- 2 In the midst of seeing under center play-action perform worse in 2020, the Giants didn't self-scout the 2020 season to-date and stop making Jones take so many play-action fakes from under center.

Do figure out how to improve the chemistry and effectiveness of passes to Evan Engram

I won't belabor this one or dig too deeply. We know that a good, athletic tight end often becomes a quarterback's best friend.

Over the last three years, early down passes thrown within 30 yards of line of scrimmage gain slightly more EPA/att with a slightly higher success rate when thrown to tight ends as compared to wide receivers, despite these passes being thrown an average aDOT of 1.5 yards closer to the line.

The point is not to throw more to tight ends, it's simply that these can be highly efficient targets — particularly if you have an athletic, well-sized tight end. You just need a good offensive system that emphasizes getting him the ball and a quarterback who can execute.

The Giants have one, in Evan Engram. 6'3", 230 pounds as prototypical size is a fact. But his athleticism? It's off the charts. 4.42 40 time? 100th percentile. 120.4 speed score (weight-adjusted 40)? 96th percentile. 10.32-foot catch radius? 93rd percentile.

Look at Engram's splits in 2018 compared to 2019:

2018: 9.0 YPA, 44% success, 0.26 EPA/att on 64 targets 2019: 6.8 YPA, 41% success, 0.07 EPA/att on 69 targets

He provided nearly four times the total EPA to the offense in 2018 as he did in 2019. That was a big problem. I highlighted the need to improve Engram's chemistry with Jones and raise the efficiency because there's no reason a tight end who was capable of delivering 9.0 YPA on over 60 targets should drop off.

This needed to be a focus for Garrett.

But in truth, the only thing that was focused more on Engram was targets... with worse efficiency.

2020: 6.1 YPA, 39% success, -0.19 EPA/att on 108 targets

Engram went from averaging 9.8 YPA with 0.39 EPA/att on first down passes in 2019 to 6.2 YPA and -0.18 EPA/att under Garrett. It was insane to see how inefficient such a first down weapon, even in 2019 for Jones, was once Garrett took over.

(cont'd - see NYG-8)

Immediate Impact of New York Giants 2021 Draft Class

Training camp battles will determine how often EDGE Azeez Ojulari (second round) gets on the field but at a minimum, he should play a significant role as a pass-rush specialist and appears to be the Giants rookie with the best chance to impact the 2021 season.

Last year, Giants pass-rushers lined up from the 5-tech spot or wider (typically what we would classify as an edge-rusher), generated a pressure rate of 11.8%, ranked 24th in the league.

Enter Ojulari, who led the SEC with a pressure rate of 24.8% in those roles.

It's also possible Ojulari will be used to blitz from a more traditional linebacker spot—the role Kyler Fackrell and others played in 2020. While that wasn't his primary pass-rush position at Georgia, he also generated a 22% pressure rate as a traditional linebacker.

WR Kadarius Toney (first round) could step into an immediate role, but there will be competition for snaps in the slot.

Toney was primarily used in the slot and the backfield at Florida, and struggled in limited reps on the outside. Only 13% of his targets came on the outside in 2020, where he averaged a dismal 4.0 yards per target.

In the slot, Toney will likely be competing with Sterling Shephard (53% of his routes from the slot in 2020) and possibly newcomer John Ross (55% from the slot in 2019 with the Cincinnati Bengals).

CB Aaron Robinson (third round) could compete for the starting slot corner job, where he played on 76% of his snaps at UCF. Although it's worth noting GM Dave Gettleman mentioned Robinson's ability to play on the perimeter in his post-draft press conference.

DE Elerson Smith (fourth round) is also worth mentioning, but don't expect to see much of him this fall. Smith is an exciting athlete with elite length, who definitely has the traits to develop into a premier edge rusher. The Northern lowa product is coming from the FCS level and was unable to suit up in 2020 due to the pandemic, so it's tough to expect anything from him immediately.

Gettleman deserves praise for his uncharacteristic trades down in the first and second rounds. The Giants will enter the 2022 draft with 11 selections, including two first-round picks and six in the first three rounds.

So while this class isn't particularly exciting, Gettleman finally used his assets wisely and put the team in position to alter the direction of the franchise in next year's draft.

These future assets are especially important given the uncertain future of Daniel Jones. If Jones fails to take a step forward, the Giants have the picks necessary to acquire his replacement. And if Jones does take a leap forward, they'll be in position to load up on talent around him.

TU

New York Giants 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

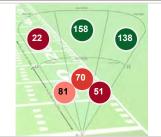
The Giants were at the bottom of the league in nearly every department throwing the ball in 2020. They were 29th in EPA passing, 29th in success rate (42%) per passing play, 29th in completion rate (62.1%), 26th in yards per pass attempt (6.5 yards), and tied for last in the league with just 12 touchdown passes. **Daniel Jones** enters this third season after he managed just 11 touchdown passes after 24 as a rookle. After a 5.2% touchdown rate as a rookle, Jones posted just a 2.5% rate in 2020 and threw 8.6 touchdown passes below his expectation. While 2021 is a big year for Jones proving his development, the Giants are committed to seeing this through with him while adding assets for him offensively this offseason to aid finding out if he is capable of making a significant stride forward in year three.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Daniel Jones | 280 | 449 | 62% | 2,935 | 6.5 | 11 | 10 | 44 | 80 | 38 | |
| Colt McCoy | 40 | 66 | 61% | 375 | 5.7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 75 | 44 | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | 2020 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 | 42% | 44% | 31 | 7.0% | 13 | 3.0% | 6.2 | 4.3 | 18 | 4% | |
| Colt McCoy | 37% | 39% | 5 | 8.0% | 1 | 2.0% | 6.1 | 3.3 | 1 | 2% | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Daniel Jones Rating

<u>Daniel Jones Rating</u> <u>Early Downs</u>



| <u>In</u> | 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% | 14.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 5.0% | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 20.0% | 1.6% | 5.3% | 0.0% | 3.7% | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 0.6% | 3.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.1% | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | | | |
| Total | 1.1% | 3.7% | 1.5% | 0.0% | 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 | | | | | |
| Daniel Jones | 9.3 | 6.2 | -3.0 | 72% | 21 | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | |

| | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|----------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | |
| | 59% | 41% | 4 | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Following suit with their quarterback play, the Giants ranked 24th in yards per target to their wide receivers (7.5 yards), 28th to tight ends (6.0 yards), and 25th to their backs (4.8 yards). The Giants made the biggest free-agent signing at wide receiver in free agency, securing **Kenny Golladay** as their future lead wideout while they used the No. 20 selection overall on **Kadarius Toney**. Golladay's 18.3 yards per reception are the most of any player in the league with 100 or more targets since 2017. Over his past two seasons, Toney produced 44 missed tackles and 60 first downs on just 111 touches. The Giants still have viable pieces in **Evan Engram, Sterling Shepard**, and **Darius Slayton** to give Daniel Jones his best surrounding cast of talent so far.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dшоე | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Evan Engram | 109 | 58% | 6.0 | 55.4 | 38% | 127 | 129 | 108 | 106 | 1 |
| Darius Slayton | 97 | 52% | 7.7 | 79.0 | 47% | 108 | 74 | 59 | 75 | 3 |
| Sterling Shepard | 90 | 73% | 7.3 | 100.0 | 60% | 24 | 8 | 106 | 7 | 3 |
| Golden Tate | 52 | 67% | 7.5 | 94.1 | 44% | 120 | 100 | 94 | 69 | 2 |



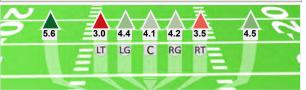


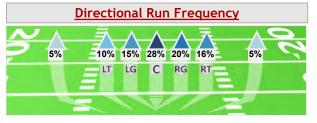
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Giants ranked 20th in EPA rushing and 24th in success rate on the ground at 48%. **Saquon Barkley** suffered an ACL injury in Week 2 and missed the remainder of the season. Attempting to make up for the loss of Barkley, the Giants' leading rusher on the ground was **Wayne Gallman** with 147 carries, while journeymen **Alfred Morris** (55 carries), **Devonta Freeman** (54), and **Dion Lewis** (29) were the next in line. Barkley is still only 24 years old with 2,028 and 1,441 yard seasons on his resume in each of his full two seasons played. Getting him back on the field is a huge plus for a team that starved for big plays on the ground in 2020. He may be eased into things to start the 2021 season, but the team has only added veteran **Devontae Booker** and sixth-round rookie **Gary Brightwell** as depth behind Barkley, leaving much to be desired.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Wayne Gallman | 147 | 4.6 | 54% | 27 | 23 | 42 | 50 | 55% | 20 | 6 |
| Daniel Jones | 65 | 6.5 | 45% | 81 | 92 | 93 | 1 | 50% | 45 | 1 |
| Alfred Morris | 55 | 4.3 | 53% | 36 | 45 | 26 | 65 | 52% | 39 | 1 |
| Devonta Freeman | 54 | 3.2 | 43% | 89 | 61 | 16 | 92 | 40% | 89 | 1 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Everything Hinges On Daniel Jones

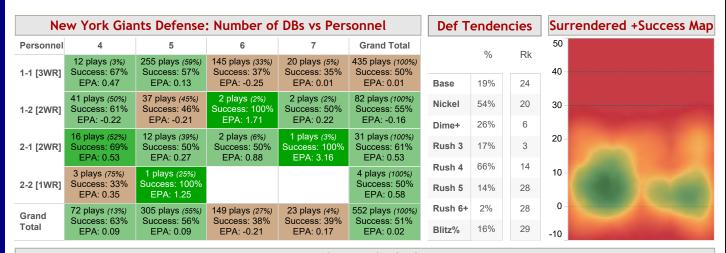
With Saquon Barkley returning to the lineup, adding both Kenny Golladay and Kadarius Toney this offseason, while also having Sterling Shepard, Evan Engram, and Darius Slayton as capable offensive players, this Giants offense is easily the best war chest of assets Daniel Jones has had to work with in his early career. A breakout candidate for many last year, Jones struggled in his second season, managing just 11 touchdown passes after 24 as a rookie. While Jones's touchdown rate (2.5%) was suppressed from his 5.2% mark as a rookie which overshot his peripheral passing stats, his yards per attempt (6.6) and completion rate (62.5%) were right on par with his rookie campaign. He threw 8.6 touchdown passes below his expectation, which trailed only Teddy Bridgewater and Cam Newton. Look for that touchdown rate to bounce back to league baselines, even if falling short of his rookie season rate. Through two seasons, Jones has been the QB16 or lower in 19 of his 26 starts. The one positive for Jones is that he finished with 3.1 and 3.5 rushing points per game through two years. Josh Allen's 2020 turnaround as a passer may give some hope for those believing Jones can still access his ceiling if everything comes together as a post-hype breakout at QB2 pricing.

Kenny Golladay is Being Undervalued

Due to the perception of Jones, **Kenny Golladay** has sagged to WR3 territory in fantasy drafts this summer. Golladay appeared in just five games in 2020. He missed the first two games of the season with a hamstring injury and then left Week 8 with a quad injury that sidelined him for the remainder of the season. Inking a massive deal, Golladay is the unquestioned alpha in the passing game and has shown he can down do damage on little opportunity.

Golladay has only received double-digit targets in six career games, but he still managed to show his upside in 2020 with 16.9 yards per reception and a career-high 10.6 yards per target. Since entering the league in 2017, Golladay's 18.3 yards per reception are the most of any player in the league with 100 or more targets while his 10.3 yards per target rank 10th among the same group. Making his money as a downfield target in Detroit, 33.9% of Golladay's career targets have come on throws over 15 yards downfield, which ranks 10th in the league since 2017 among active players. Despite **Daniel Jones's** shortcomings in 2020 compared to 2019, the one area where he did perform well was when he threw the ball downfield. Jones was actually second in the NFL in completion rate on throws over 15 yards downfield at 56.1% (37-of-66) among all passers with 50-plus such attempts. The league average was 43.8%. Jones also has shown he is willing to throw into tight windows. Jones ranked 13th in the NFL in aggressive throw percentage (17.6%) in 2020 per Next Gen Stats after ranking third in 2019 as a rookie at 22.4%. In Golladay's last full season in 2019, he averaged just 1.9 yards of separation per target, which was the lowest of all qualifying wide receivers.

We also have a sample of Golladay playing without **Matthew Stafford**, when the veteran passer missed the final eight games of 2019, leaving Golladay to play with **Jeff Driskel** and **David Blough**. Over that span, we saw Golladay's per-game output to date that season dip, but he still paced for a 60-1,100-8 line on 108 targets over those eight games. A high-variance WR2, Golladay can have success in New York.



Defensive Outlook

The Patrick Graham defense finally completely unlocked **Leonard Williams** after years of pressure without impactful sacks. Williams was third among all defenders in quarterback hits (30) and put up 11.5 sacks. Williams also spent some time on the edge to make up for a lack of depth there and to get him in some one-on-one matchups. Even **Dexter Lawrence**, one of 2019's three first-round picks, had pass rush upside in Graham's defense last season. He ranked 22nd in pressure rate among defensive tackles in 2020, according to Sports Info Solutions.

In free agency, the Giants signed **Danny Shelton**, who has been a top run-stuffer during his six-year career. He'll fill the role of **Dalvin Tomlinson**, who signed with the Vikings as a free agent.

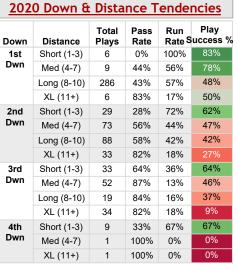
The Giants needed Leonard Williams to generate a pass rush last season because no one else was able to do it. That's why **Azeez Ojulari** was the team's second-round pick. **Lorenzo Carter** (2018) and **Oshane Ximines** (2019) are former third-round picks who were anticipated to develop as pass rushers, but neither has reached that point and both suffered season-ending injuries in 2020. Carter tore his Achilles in Week 2 and Ximines had a shoulder injury in Week 5. In free agency, the Giants took a few low-cost swings in **Ifeadi Odenigbo** and **Ryan Anderson** as depth.

Blake Martinez was one of the Giants' prizes in last year's free agency haul and he was unleashed when freed from the non-structure of Mike Pettine's Packers defense. Martinez ranked third among linebackers in total tackles but only ranked 30th in the rate of tackles that came short of the first down marker.

James Bradberry made an immediate impact as a 2020 free agent signing. Bradberry ranked 28th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Bradberry did that without much help from a pass rush or other cornerbacks. Darnay Holmes, a 2020 fifth-round pick, got his chance in the slot over the second half of the season and made the most of his playing time. He ranked 18th among corners in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. The No. 2 outside spot was a rotating cast in 2020 and not much of it was good. To fix that, the Giants signed Adoree' Jackson to a three-year deal after he was released by the Titans. Jackson has been up-and-down in coverage throughout his career, but should be an upgrade over what the Giants trotted out last year.

Third-round pick **Aaron Robinson** and sixth-round pick Rodarious Williams could also factor into the corner rotation. The Giants used dime or lighter personnel 26% of the time, which ranked sixth in 2020. At full health, this is one of the strongest safety groups in the league. **Logan Ryan** made a transition from corner to safety in his first year with the Giants and was able to make an impact everywhere he lined up. When Ryan was deep, that allowed **Jabrill Peppers** to play in the box to highlight his strength of playing downhill. **Xavier McKinney** missed the first half of the season with a foot injury but he flashed his potential and versatility when he got on the field. Even **Julian Love**, a converted college corner, was a positive impact player in numerous roles in the secondary that got him on the field for two-thirds of the Giants' defensive snaps.

2020 Play Tendencies 55% All Pass % All Pass Rk 26 All Rush % 45% All Rush Rk 1 Score Pass % 54% 1 Score Pass Rk 26 2019 1 Score Pass % 57% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 21 2020 Pass Increase % -3% Pass Increase Rk 22 1 Score Rush % 46% 1 Score Rush Rk 7 Up Pass % 49% Up Pass Rk 29 Up Rush % 51% Up Rush Rk Down Pass % 59% Down Pass Rk 23 Down Rush % 41% Down Rush Rk 10





77%

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% | 10 | 67% | 82% | 75% | | | | | | |
| | <u>2nc</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | | |

33%

50%

59%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Wayne Gallman | 3 | 100% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Alfred Morris | 2 | 100% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Wayne Gallman | 58 | 47% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Evan Engram | 2 | 50% | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Wayne Gallman | 9 | 78% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Wayne Gallman | 14 | 71% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Wayne Gallman | 12 | 42% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Evan Engram | 7 | 14% | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | Sterling Shepard | 7 | 43% | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Sterling Shepard | 9 | 33% | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Golden Tate | 5 | 80% | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Evan Engram | 10 | 0% | | | | | |

| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | |
| No | Success: 40% | Success: 50% | Success: 42% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.11 | YPA: 7.7, EPA: -0.02 | YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.09 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 79.9 | Rtg: 94.9 | Rtg: 83.1 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 331 - Rate: 59.0%] | [Att: 88 - Rate: 15.7%] | [Att: 419 - Rate: 74.7%] | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 46% | Success: 39% | Success: 43% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 5.3, EPA: -0.06 | YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.25 | YPA: 5.5, EPA: -0.14 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 74.7 | Rtg: 80.7 | Rtg: 77.1 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 83 - Rate: 14.8%] | [Att: 59 - Rate: 10.5%] | [Att: 142 - Rate: 25.3%] | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 41% | Success: 46% | Success: 42% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.10 | YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.11 | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.10 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 78.8 | Rtg: 89.2 | Rtg: 81.5 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 414 - Rate: 73.8%] | [Att: 147 - Rate: 26.2%] | [Att: 561 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | |

26%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

23

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Darius Slayton | Evan Engram | Sterling Shepard | Kaden Smith | Golden Tate | Wayne Gallman | Dion Lewis | Levine Toilolo | Devonta Freeman | Damion Ratley |
| 1 | PIT | L 26-16 | 58 (85%) | 64 (94%) | 53 (78%) | 29 (43%) | | 3 (4%) | 6 (9%) | 24 (35%) | | 18 (26%) |
| 2 | CHI | L 17-13 | 58 (89%) | 63 (97%) | 15 (23%) | 31 (48%) | 40 (62%) | | 57 (88%) | 11 (17%) | | 27 (42%) |
| 3 | SF | L 36-9 | 51 (98%) | 44 (85%) | | 16 (31%) | 48 (92%) | 18 (35%) | 20 (38%) | 4 (8%) | 15 (29%) | 18 (35%) |
| 4 | LA | L 17-9 | 66 (97%) | 57 (84%) | | 24 (35%) | 51 (75%) | 10 (15%) | 21 (31%) | 11 (16%) | 37 (54%) | 29 (43%) |
| 5 | DAL | L 37-34 | 64 (94%) | 55 (81%) | | 27 (40%) | 40 (59%) | 12 (18%) | 20 (29%) | 16 (24%) | 37 (54%) | 34 (50%) |
| 6 | WAS | W 20-19 | 40 (83%) | 39 (81%) | | 23 (48%) | 30 (63%) | 4 (8%) | 9 (19%) | 9 (19%) | 35 (73%) | |
| 7 | PHI | L 22-21 | 55 (92%) | 50 (83%) | 46 (77%) | 36 (60%) | 28 (47%) | 32 (53%) | 15 (25%) | 9 (15%) | 12 (20%) | |
| 8 | TB | L 25-23 | 68 (92%) | 61 (82%) | 52 (70%) | 42 (57%) | 38 (51%) | 32 (43%) | 21 (28%) | 21 (28%) | | |
| 9 | WAS | W 23-20 | 65 (84%) | 58 (75%) | 60 (78%) | 41 (53%) | | 44 (57%) | 17 (22%) | 25 (32%) | | |
| 10 | PHI | W 27-17 | 45 (63%) | 49 (69%) | 58 (82%) | 41 (58%) | 27 (38%) | 42 (59%) | 14 (20%) | 21 (30%) | | |
| 12 | CIN | W 19-17 | 56 (69%) | 78 (96%) | 63 (78%) | | 46 (57%) | 51 (63%) | 22 (27%) | 39 (48%) | | |
| 13 | SEA | W 17-12 | 51 (91%) | 40 (71%) | 27 (48%) | 37 (66%) | 18 (32%) | 28 (50%) | 12 (21%) | 32 (57%) | | |
| 14 | ARI | L 26-7 | 47 (96%) | 42 (86%) | 39 (80%) | 23 (47%) | 28 (57%) | 27 (55%) | 16 (33%) | 10 (20%) | | |
| 15 | CLE | L 20-6 | 47 (87%) | 43 (80%) | 38 (70%) | 24 (44%) | 30 (56%) | 23 (43%) | 18 (33%) | 18 (33%) | | |
| 16 | BAL | L 27-13 | 55 (86%) | 50 (78%) | 61 (95%) | 26 (41%) | | 32 (50%) | 24 (38%) | 6 (9%) | | |
| 17 | DAL | W 23-19 | 51 (88%) | 44 (76%) | 49 (84%) | 33 (57%) | | 33 (57%) | 12 (21%) | 19 (33%) | | |
| | Grand | Total | 877 (87%) | 837 (82%) | 561 (72%) | 453 (48%) | 424 (57%) | 391 (41%) | 304 (30%) | 275 (27%) | 136 (46%) | 126 (39%) |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 55% | 60% | 42% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 27% | 20% | 50% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 10% | 4% | 43% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 6% | 4% | 41% |
| | | | |
| | | andan | |
| Group Personnel | ing Te | enden Pass Succ. | |
| Group | ing Te | Pass | cies Run |
| Group | ing Te | Pass Succ. | cies Run Succ. |
| <u>Group</u> Personnel | ing Te | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. % |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Evan Engram | 13 | 1 | 2 | 10 | | |
| Sterling Shepard | 11 | 2 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Darius Slayton | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | | |
| Dion Lewis | 5 | | 1 | 4 | | |
| Golden Tate | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Damion Ratley | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| Kaden Smith | 4 | 1 | | 3 | | |
| Austin Mack | 3 | | 1 | 2 | | |

| Red Zone Rusiles Leader board | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Wayne Gallman | 19 | 10 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Devonta Freeman | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | |
| Dion Lewis | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Alfred Morris | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Daniel Jones | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| Evan Engram | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | |
| Saquon Barkley | 3 | 1 | | 2 | | |

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard

| <u>Early D</u> | own Targ | <u>et Rate</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 17% | 28% | 54% |
| 23% | 21% | 56% |
| | NFL AVG | |
| <u>Overall</u> | NFL AVG Target Su | ıccess % |
| Overall RB | | ICCESS % WR |





These four simple ways to improve the Giants in 2020 were all actually made worse.

It was made worse in a way that showed a lack of awareness or attention. It was as if there was no self-scouting done by the new staff to identify weaknesses of the 2019 offense and steps that could be made to improve them.

Looking back on Garrett's 2020 season, I can see why he gave up/was forced to give up playcalling in Dallas years ago.

In addition to these more aforementioned issues, look at some of these terribly high percentage tells that Garrett gave opposing defenses just based on a couple of players in or out of the game:

Whenever **Dion Lewis** was on the field, the Giants passed the ball on 83% of plays. That's 238 passes and only 49 runs. These predictable passes gained a pathetic 4.3 YPA.

Whenever **Wayne Gallman** was on the field and the Giants took **Darius Slayton** off the field, it was a run on 76% of plays. These predictable runs gained a pathetic 2.7 YPC.

We know the Giants won six games last year, but they won largely thanks to regression in some critical and game-deciding stats.

In 2019, they were -17 in turnover margin. They improved to an even zero in 2020. In 2019 they were -2 in return touchdown margin. That also improved to an even zero in 2020. In 2019 they were 2-5 in one-score games. They improved to 5-5 in 2020.

Their 2020 offense was slightly worse, their defense was essentially even, but because of the flip in these metrics, the Giants gained two wins. That's not much at all. Netting three more wins in one-score games and improving the turnover margin by +17 should result in more than six wins and a two-win improvement over the previous season.

But in their defense, the Giants were the seventh most injured team last year, lost a key cog offensively (Barkley) and had the fourth-most injured defensive back corps. Jones did show some elements of improvement (such as Level 2 throws — over LBs and in front of DBs).

To the second point, I'll add that one look at this chapter compared to the Giants chapter in 2020 and you'll notice a lot of metrics that show 2020 Wowns Gallman performed more efficiently than 2019 Saquon Barkley:

2019 Barkley: -0.07 EPA/att, 43% success, 44% early down success, 0.06 short yardage EPA/att 2020 Gallman: 0.00 EPA/att, 52% success, 53% early down success, 0.13 short yardage EPA/att

Additionally, Gallman was much better vs stacked boxes (0.01 EPA/att vs -0.19 EPA/att).

The primary thing Barkley did better in 2019 was deliver explosiveness in the open field. But it still didn't result in more overall YPC than Gallman.

Fans will suggest the line was better in 2020 and I'll agree... and I'll remind them that the line contributes more to a running back's success than does the back himself. I'm not arguing that Gallman is a superior talent than Barkley. I'm simply sharing statistics. They show quite clearly that Barkley's 2019 was completely replicated, and then some, by Gallman in 2020. Not opinion, just fact.

So where does this leave the 2021 Giants? They get an influx of talent. Barkley returns, **Kenny Golladay** is added to the receiving corps, and **Kadarius Toney** is added with the 20th overall pick in the draft.

There is no doubt the offense is more talented. But this offense will face, by my projection, the second most difficult schedule of pass defenses and fourth most difficult overall schedule of defenses. Look at them all: Rams, Dolphins, Bears, Bucs, Saints, Broncos, Chargers, and Chiefs... not to mention Washington twice a year in-division. It won't be easy.

Will the Giants win the Super Bowl this year? Highly unlikely. In the absence of that, what marks a successful year?

For me, it's meshing great game planning and playcalling around the great new weapons the offense gave Daniel Jones, leaving him with zero excuse not to be great. If he delivers, the Giants finally realize they may have found their franchise quarterback and are darkhorse candidates to win the NFC East. If he can't deliver, the Giants absolutely are hunting for one in the next draft class with solid draft capital.

My concern, however, after seeing Garrett's 2020 season, is the "great game planning and playcalling" won't occur, and the Giants will find themselves a middling team that (best case) fires their offensive coordinator but is left without confirmation if Daniel Jones can be their franchise quarterback in an offseason when they've set themselves up with an extra first-round pick to potentially be in a position to find themselves a new one.

01. Games w Halftime Lead



02. Avg Halftime Lead



03. Wins





| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 5.7 | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 4.9 | | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7 | | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.7 | | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 48% | | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 49% | | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.15 | | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.03 | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 42% | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 50% | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 7.3 | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 9.1% | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | -0.2 | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 8.0 | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 51% | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.4 | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 6.8% | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.07 | | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.2 | | | |
| | | | | |

| Men In Box | | | | |
|--|-----|--|--|--|
| 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 | 44% | | | |
| 57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 4.4 | | | |
| 58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 38% | | | |
| 59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 49% | | | |
| 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 | 23% | | | |
| 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 | 5.2 | | | |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------------|-------|--|--|
| | 0.5 | | | | |
| Net FROE Rk | 25 | defFUM | 26 | | |
| Net FROE | -1.8 | defELIM Desired | 45 | | |
| offFUM | 19 | defFUM Rcvrd | 15 | | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 8 | defFR Rk | 21 | | |
| offFR% | 42.1% | dofFR% | 42.3% | | |

defFROE

defFROE Rk

25

-2.4

27

| 3.39 |
|-------|
| 7 |
| 32 |
| 31 |
| 97% |
| 25.96 |
| 5.04 |
| 1 |
| -2.87 |
| 28 |
| |
| |

| F | Field Goal Luck | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
| | 3.39 | Opp Att | 36 | | | |
| | 7 | Opp Makes | 32 | | | |
| | 32 31 | Opp FG % | 89% | | | |
| | 97% | Opp Expected Makes | 30.36 | | | |
| | 25.96 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.64 | | | |
| n. | 5.04 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 7 | | | |
| ₹k | -2.87 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -1.03 | | | |
| | 28 | 2019 Opp Rk | 21 | | | |
| | | | | | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|--|--|
| | Daniel Jones | | | |
| CAY | 6.4 | | | |
| CAY Rk | 14 | | | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 22 | | | |
| AYTS Rk | 30 | | | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 19 | | | |
| AGG Rk | 13 | | | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 3 | | | |
| COMP% | 62.5 | | | |
| xCOMP% | 63 | | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 33 | | | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 33 | | | |
| CPOE% | -0.5 | | | |
| CPOE Rk | 24 | | | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 17 | | | |

offFR Rk

offFROE

offFROE Rk

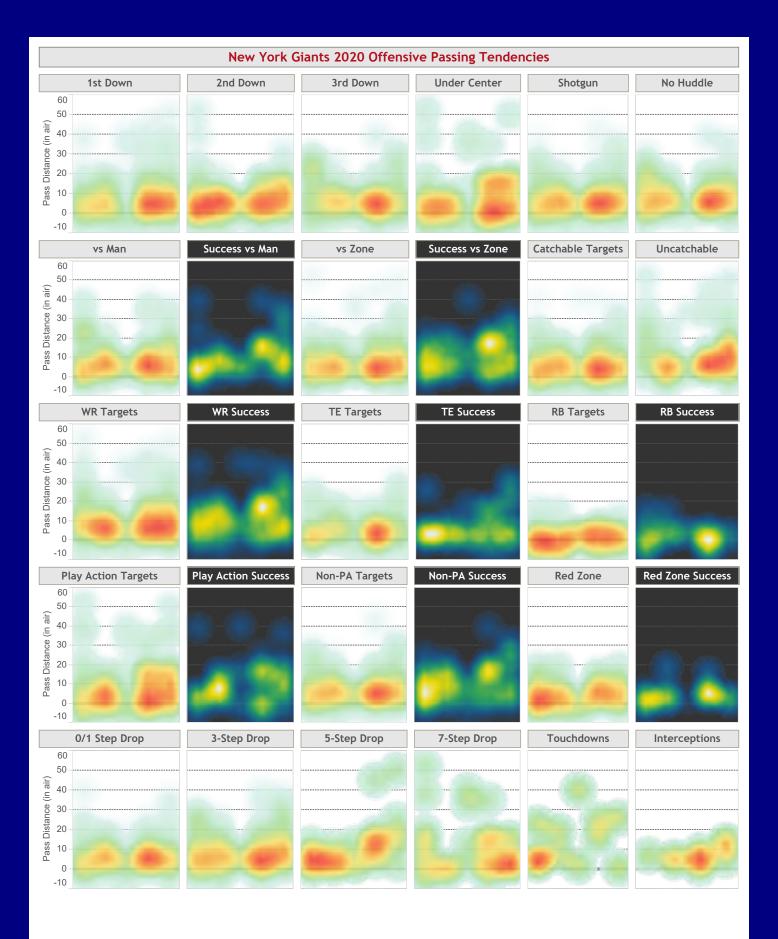
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks A | GG: |
|--|-------|
| Aggressiveness xCOMP : Expected completion percentage | CPOE: |
| Actual completion percentage over expectation | |

| QB Pressure | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Daniel Jones | | | | | | | |
| Pressure % | 40.3 | | | | | | |
| Pressure Rk | 3 | | | | | | |
| Sack % | 8.7 | | | | | | |
| Sack Rk | 2 | | | | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 64.6 | | | | | | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 22 | | | | | | |
| Rating when Pressured | 55.7 | | | | | | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 25 | | | | | | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 79.4 | | | | | | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 18 | | | | | | |
| Rating when Clean | 92.8 | | | | | | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 31 | | | | | | |
| Time to Throw | 2.76 | | | | | | |
| Time to Throw Rk | 18 | | | | | | |

0.6

11

| Offensive Metrics | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| EPA/Pass | -0.11 | | | | | |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 28 | | | | | |
| EPA/Rush | -0.09 | | | | | |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 23 | | | | | |
| On-Target Catch % | 88.5% | | | | | |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 28 | | | | | |
| Drop% | 7.5% | | | | | |
| Drop Rk | 23 | | | | | |
| YAC/Att | 2.0 | | | | | |
| YAC/Att Rk | 27 | | | | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 9.8% | | | | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 31 | | | | | |
| Rush 1st Down % | 22.8% | | | | | |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 27 | | | | | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Defensive Coordinator:

Hard

Robert Saleh (SF DC) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:

Jeff Ulbrich (ATL LB) (new)

Mike LaFleur (SF pass coord.) (new)

Head Coach:

Easy

New York Jets

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

6.5

#4

Past Records

2020: 2-14 2019: 7-9 2018: 4-12



Key Players Lost

Rest Edge:

| Player | New |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Arthur Maulet (CB) | Steelers |
| Breshad Perriman (WR) | Lions |
| Chase McLaughlin (K) | Browns |
| Frankie Luvu (LB) | Panthers |
| Henry Anderson (IDL) | Patriots |
| Joe Flacco (QB) | Eagles |
| Jordan Jenkins (LB) | Texans |
| Josh Andrews (C) | Falcons |
| Matthias Farley (S) | Titans |
| Neville Hewitt (LB) | Texans |
| Pat Elflein (LG) | Panthers |
| Sam Darnold (QB) | Panthers |
| Tarell Basham (EDGE) | Cowboys |
| Bradley McDougald (S) | TBD |
| Brian Poole (CB) | TBD |
| Bryce Hager (LB) | TBD |
| Frank Gore (RB) | TBD |
| Josh Doctson (WR) | TBD |
| Leo Koloamatangi (C) | TBD |
| Patrick Onwuasor (LB) | TBD |
| Ross Travis (TE) | TBD |
| Trevon Coley (IDL) | TBD |

2021 New York Jets Overview

+3

-3

How bad was the Jets offense last year under Adam Gase?

Their leading scorer was... the kicker... who played in only nine games.

Their third-leading scorer was... the backup kicker... who played in only six games.

It's typical that the leading scorer on teams is the kicker. As much as we all want offense to be optimized and for teams to never kick, field goals and extra points are still a big part of football.

In the 2000s, kickers accounted for 31.6% of all points scored. In the 2010s, that number shockingly remained identical to the decimal.

26,016 points off of field goals, 12,277 points off extra points, out of a total 121,167 points = 31.6%.

Last year, we saw it drop to only 29%, the lowest since at least 2000 (I didn't look prior).

But we never see a kicker distance himself in scoring from the rest of the team... when he plays in... only NINE games.

And a backup kicker to finish solidly in third? Ludacris.

Sergio Castillo made only 8-of-13 field goals and 6-of-7 extra points, yet nearly DOUBLED the points scored by the fourth-leading scorer.

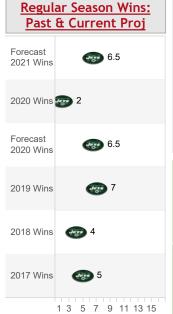
(cont'd - see NYJ2)

= 30+ years old

-3

-7

Average Line # Games Underdog 3.5 4 13





Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Carl Lawson (EDGE) | \$15 |
| Corey Davis (WR) | \$12.5 |
| Jarrad Davis (LB) | \$5.5 |
| Keelan Cole (WR) | \$5.5 |
| Sheldon Rankins (IDL) | \$5.5 |
| Dan Feeney (LG) | \$3.5 |
| Lamarcus Joyner (S) | \$3 |
| Justin Hardee (WR) | \$2.29 |
| Tyler Kroft (TE) | \$2 |
| Vinny Curry (EDGE) | \$1.3 |
| Tevin Coleman (RB) | \$1.10 |
| | |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|---|
| | 2 | QB - Zach Wilson (BYU) |
| 1 | 14 | OG - Alijah Vera-Tucker (USC) |
| 2 | 34 | WR - Elijah Moore (Ole Miss) |
| 4 | 107 | RB - Michael Carter (North Carolina) |
| | 146 | S - Jamien Sherwood (Auburn) |
| 5 | 154 | S - Michael Carter II (Duke) |
| | 175 | CB - Jason Pinnock (Pittsburgh) |
| | 186 | S - Hamsah Nasirildeen (Florida State) |
| 6 | 200 | CB - Brandin Echols (Kentucky) |
| | 207 | DT - Jonathan Marshall (Arkansas) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 10 | \$102.34M | 28 |
| QB | 32 | \$2.47M | 23 |
| OL | | \$44.18M | 20 |
| RB | 27 | \$5.74M | 32 |
| WR | 3 | \$39.92M | 13 |
| TE | 16 | \$10.04M | 24 |
| All DEF | 21 | \$85.05M | 32 |
| DL | 21 | \$39.95M | 28 |
| LB | 12 | \$17.68M | 9 |
| СВ | 32 | \$8.54M | 25 |
| S | 7 | \$18.88M | 19 |
| | | | |

NYJ-2

Gase is gone. But let's back up.

I will confess, I wasn't a big Jeremy Bates fan. I thought Gase could do better in 2019. The bar wasn't high.

The 2018 Bates-led Jets offense ranked 30th in Early Down Success Rate (EDSR) and 31st in overall offensive efficiency.

Adam Gase couldn't be worse, could he?

Indeed, he was.

The 2019 Jets ranked 32nd in EDSR and 31st in overall offensive efficiency.

Gase's 2019 Jets ran the ball on second-and-10+ at the third-highest rate in the

Gase almost exclusively used 11 personnel despite being terrible at using it due to a combination of scheme and talent. Most passing efficiency metrics, including sack rate, ranked bottom-five in the NFL from 11 personnel.

Gase was far too predictable from non-11 personnel situations. In 12 personnel. they were 70% run (third-highest in the NFL), in 13 personnel they were 84% run (third-highest in the NFL), and in 22 personnel they were 93% run (second-highest in the NFL). They were terrible in all of these predictable run groupings that the defense could see coming a mile away.

More than anything, Gase needed to improve Darnold's expected completion percentage. Using player tracking data, we can determine how likely a pass is to be completed 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 time of throw from the nearest pass rusher.

In 2018, Darnold ranked 36th of 39 quarterbacks. In Gase's first year in 2019, Darnold ranked 38th of 39 quarterbacks. Gase didn't get him easier targets to hit.

I chastised Gase in last year's chapter. I referred to him as a wolf in sheep's clothing. He landed the job and was entrusted with the career of a then 21-year old quarterback in January of 2019.

| | 2020 Passing Performance | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 201 | | | | |
| Sam Darnold | 44% 6.3 81.3 | 41% 6.1 66.9 | 30% 5.9 69.9 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 48% | 53% | 81% | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | | | | |

| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| NYJ | 54% 4.6 | 42% 3.4 | 56% 6.2 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 52% | 47% | 19% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

It was a huge responsibility.

The Jets hadn't had a pick as high as third overall since 1996 (22 years prior), when they took Keyshawn Johnson.

The Jets hadn't drafted a quarterback as high as the third overall pick since drafting Joe Namath first overall in 1965.

These top-three picks have incredible value in today's game. To move up from 12th overall to third overall in this year's draft, the 49ers gave the Dolphins pick 12 in 2021, a 2022 first, a 2023 first, and a third in 2022. In 2018, the Colts agreed to drop down just three spots (from pick No. 3 to pick No. 6) so the Jets could draft Darnold.

(cont'd - see NYJ-3)

| # Pass Pro Ffficiency Off Efficiency Off Fxplosive Runh Off Fxplosive | 2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 25 - 32 31 32 32 32 32 31 30 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 | 10- 15- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EDSR Off 30 & In Off Red Zone Off 3rd Down Off YPPA Off YPPA Off YPPT Off Offensive Efficiency Off Pass Pro Efficiency Off RB Pass Eff Off Efficiency Off Efficiency Off Explosive Run Off Explosive Run Off | 25 – | _ | 31 | _ | 32 | | _ | _ | | _ | _ | | _ |
| | | EDSR Off | 30 & In Off | Red Zone Off | 3rd Down Off | YPPA Off | YPPT Off | Offensive Efficiency | Pass Efficiency Off | Pass Pro Efficiency Off | Rush Efficiency Off | Explosive Pass Off | Explosive Run Off |



2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 12 14 15 16 SF ΝĒ LA CLE NE BUF IND DEN ARI MIA BUF KC LAC MIA LV SEA A -29 7 A -10 Н Н Н Н Н A -6 Н H -3 Α A 3 Н Α -18 7 -9 -20 -24 -8 -37 -26 -3 -17 -14 10 27 28 28 3 17 28 0 10 9 3 23 23 13 14 27 31 36 37 30 24 18 35 30 34 20 31 40 20 16 28

RESULT OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

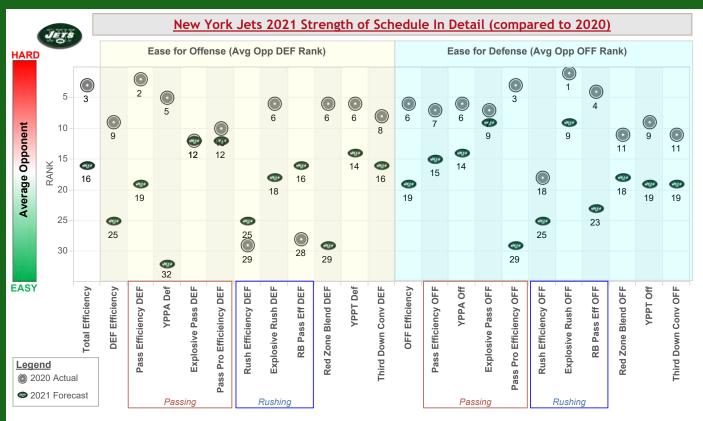
Records

All 2019 Wins: 2 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-2 FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-4 Score Games Win %: 33% (#26) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

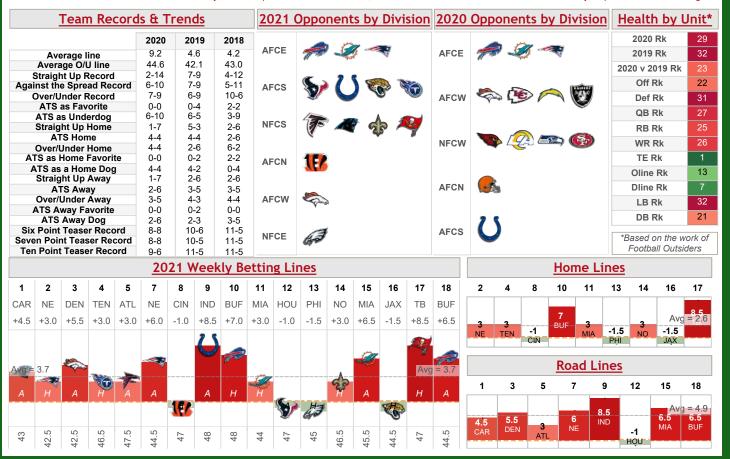
Wins): 100% (#1)

| 2020 Critical/G | <u>iame-</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Deciding Sta | <u>its</u> |
| TO Margin | +0 |
| TO Given | 19 |
| INT Given | 14 |
| FUM Given | 5 |
| TO Taken | 19 |
| INT Taken | 10 |
| FUM Taken | 9 |
| Sack Margin | -12 |
| Sacks | 31 |
| Sacks Allow | 43 |
| Return TD Margin | -2 |
| Ret TDs | 1 |
| Ret TDs Allow | 3 |
| Penalty Margin | -2 |
| Penalties | 101 |
| Opponent Penalties | 99 |



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 12 | 15 | 23 | 28 | 27 | 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







The price of moving those three spots was three second-round picks. It's extremely valuable in today's football to get a guarterback that high.

And obviously, considering how long it was since the Jets picked that high (1996) plus took a quarterback that high (1965) it had a lot of historical value to the franchise as well.

They needed to take care of Darnold — ensure his transition from college to pro was as smooth as possible. Ensure his playcalling was optimized, his coaching was fresh, creative, supportive, and his learning years still made him look good.

It wasn't Gase's fault that the youngest opening-day starting quarterback since the AFL–NFL merger was chewed up and spit out by Bates in Darnold's rookie year. But it was Gase's fault that he did nothing to make Darnold's sophomore 2019 campaign any easier:

Play calling wasn't optimized.

Coaching wasn't fresh, creative or supportive.

Learning the offense didn't make Darnold look good.

Gase had a new opportunity in 2020. I don't know what ownership tasked Gase with. I would have given him one, primary directive: help Sam Darnold.

Period

Optimize your offense, do everything as smart and intelligently as possible to ensure we can properly evaluate our third overall pick.

Ideally, win games. In the absence of that, don't look like a doofus while losing them.

There is zero chance Gase wanted to lose on purpose entering the season. Reason No. 1 – where is he now? Anyone know? Just before this book was released, it was announced Gase was hired as the offensive coordinator for his local high school team. I find it hard to believe he's done in the NFL completely but I'm pretty positive he'll never be a NFL head coach ever again because of how his last two jobs went. There is zero chance Gase wanted to tank

After a 7-9 record in 2019, no **Tom Brady** in the AFC East, and an extra playoff spot in the AFC, Gase and the Jets wanted to produce a winning record and sneak into the playoffs.

But what I will say from studying the Jets is, while I think Gase "tried" to win, the entire season was fogged over by a rain cloud of what can only be a lack of desire to be great from Gase. Forget optimizing the offense, which we'll discuss soon.

We know with certainty that Gase was absolutely not optimizing his offense every week of the season based on the opponent he faced to call the very best plays with the very best personnel to win every single game. He could have and should have done much more.

But there was a fog of incompetence that simultaneously clouded the season. Things that were said and done that clearly no coach who was impassioned with winning would be saying or doing.

Two quick examples of this incompetence before we get into the optimization element.

First, let's walk down memory lane. After the Jets lost to the Broncos and fell to 0-4, Gase (as he tells it) met with his offensive staff about potentially ceding playcalling to offensive coordinator Dowell Loggains. His staff "decided Gase's playcalling wasn't the issue" and Gase continued to call plays. 0-4 turned to 0-5 which turned to 0-6.

After that 24-0 Week 6 loss to the Dolphins, likely trying to save his job, Gase gave the playcalling duties to offensive coordinator Dowell Loggains. As for the reasoning why, Gase said "I was just trying to figure out what's going on, how come we are not consistent and productive. I just felt like it was the time to do it and see how our guys would respond, see what our offensive staff could put together."

Starting Week 7, Loggains called plays. Four losses later, with the Jets sitting at 0-10, they faced the Dolphins. The Jets lost at home by a final score of 20-3. It dropped the Jets to 0-11. The Jets had the NFL's worst offense in the NFL at the time. This was Gase's baby, his side of the ball. When Jets CEO Christopher Johnson hired Gase, he said he was a "brilliant offensive mind." and repeated the claim earlier in 2020.

But the offense scored over 13 points just four times in 11 games.

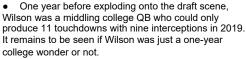
(cont'd - see NYJ-4)

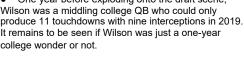
| Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--|
| 2021 games where | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | Opponent has less than a wee to prep | | Team has a rest disadvantage | Team has a rest advantage | Difference | Team plays a short week road game | Team plays of road SNF or MN | | |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: New York Jets Ranking vs NFL Average | | | | | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge | Rank | Prep Rank Rest Rank | | Short We | Short Week Road Games Rank | | SNF/MNF Ne | gated Bye Rank | |
| 21 | | 21 | 19 | | 12 | 1 | | 1 | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

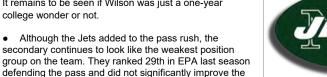
Why Bet the Over





Although the Jets added to the pass rush, the

position at all in the off season.



- route run.
- First round pick QB Zach Wilson has a chance to be special as a rookie and has solid weapons to throw to. Besides keeping excellent slot WR Jamison Crowder, the Jets are hoping for a solid second season from Denzel Mims and welcome second round rookie Elijah Moore as well as high priced free agent Corey Davis to the lineup. While A.J. Brown received all the pub last year with the Titans, Davis quietly finished fifth in the NFL in yards per
 - The Jets were atrocious on offense last season and the production can only improve. Last season, the Jets ranked dead last in red zone touchdown percentage and 30th in third down conversions over expected.
 - New York ranked only 25th in pressure rate on defense last season but look to have a formidable front four this season. To add to rising star Quinnen Williams (17th among DL in PFF pass rush grade) the Jets landed Sheldon Rankins and hit the jackpot in free agency by adding edge rusher Carl Lawson, Lawson produced the fifth-highest pressure rate among edge rushers last

| New York Jets Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | |
| 29 | 24 | 32 | 29 | 21 | 31 | 27 | |

The Jets rank in the bottom half of the league in every category, including four in the bottom five. Clearly this is a multi-year rebuilding project, but at least they have a quarterback to build around.

Zach Wilson has the talent to succeed, but we're not optimistic about his ability to immediately produce against NFL competition. Wilson was pressured on just 23.9% of his dropbacks last year at BYU. Jets quarterbacks were under pressure at a higher rate in all 16 games in 2020.

The Jets own the 32nd-ranked backfield, but GM Joe Douglas deserves credit for taking a smart approach to team building in how he's addressed this unit. Douglas has drafted a running back in the fourth round in consecutive years (La'Mical Perine and Michael Carter), while supporting them with a cheap veteran (Tevin Coleman).

The receiving corps ranks 29th primarily because there isn't a reliable number-one threat, but the depth is strong. If rookie Elijah Moore meets expectations and free agent addition Corey Davis continues building on his breakout 2020 campaign, this group could easily out-play its ranking.

When opponents brought four or fewer pass rushers, Jets' quarterbacks were pressured 36.1% of the time, the second worst rate in the league. The left side of the line is in good shape with Mekhi Becton and rookie Alijah Vera-Tucker, but the overall unit is still a work in progress.

The front seven is New York's top-ranked unit, primarily based on the addition of Carl Lawson, arguably the most talented player on the roster. Though depth is lacking, one elite pass rusher changes how an offense game plans for your defense. The 31st-ranked secondary is likely to struggle again, as there were no significant offseason additions. Brian Poole (not re-signed) was the only cornerback to hold opponents to negative EPA per target in 2020.

Robert Saleh is our 27th-ranked head coach, but placed third out of the seven rookie head coaches.

NYJ-4

At that point in the season, where did the Jets rank among the five lowest scoring offenses in the league based on points per game?

20.6 - Jaguars

19.6 - Bears

19.5 - Giants

19.0 - Broncos

13.8 - Jets

It was embarrassing. After the game, Gase was asked about the playcalling as the Jets looked absolutely pathetic in the 17-point home loss.

Reporter: "Did you take over the playcalling"

Gase: "I didn't take over the playcalling, we've done the same the last four games"

Reporter: "We were watching Dowell through the whole game, he wasn't doing anything... I mean, he was just standing there"

Gase: "He tells me" [stammers]

Gase: "It's not hard. This is not hard. We go through it the drive before. These are the three plays. I do the third downs"

<u>NYJ-5</u>

Reporter: "What happens after the three plays. We were watching a series and Dowell was talking to Frank Pollack, he wasn't calling the plays, you were" Gase: "What part of the game was it?"

Reporter: "The third quarter"

Gase: "When we got down, I was trying to do some of the two minute stuff"

Here is a guy who got the job of head coach for the New York Jets because he was a brilliant offensive mind. Here is a guy who was so terrible, he gave up playcalling duties. Here is a guy whose team was 0-11 because his offense wasn't even averaging 14 points per game when every other team, the worst of the worst, was at or above 19 points per game.

And he's saying playcalling "is not hard." What?!?? He is saying prior to a series, his OC tells him three plays and that's what they call. Calling the process lazy is disingenuous to the word. It was an insult to what real playcallers do during a game.

Absolutely, that's what you would do if you want to tank. But would you get up on stage in a news conference after the game and admit that's what you're doing? No sane person would. That tells me it's not that he is trying intentionally to lose, he's just incompetent and not putting in the effort, attention to detail. or desire to be great. Calling plays "is not hard," but you have the worst playcalling and offense in the entire NFL. Got it.

The second anecdote relates to the fateful loss the very next week to the Raiders, when it appeared the Jets would finally win a game in 2020. The Jets, once trailing 24-13, rallied for a 28-24 lead with 0:35 left in the game. The Raiders needed a touchdown. It was third-and-10 on the Jets' 46-yard line with only 13 seconds left.

As we later find out due to insider interviews, Gregg Williams called a Cover-0 blitz with the Jets in 11 personnel, meaning each cornerback was going to be in man coverage with no safety help over the top at all. This coverage was asinine in the situation. One of the corners on the field was an undrafted rookie corner making his fifth career start who was only playing due to

(cont'd - see NYJ-6)

ALL



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



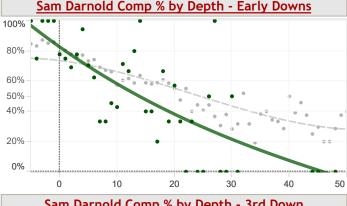
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

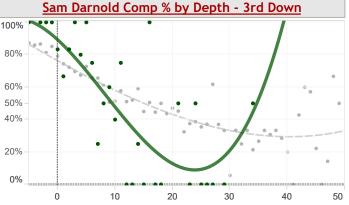


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| ¢ | legs | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | |
| RUSH | Frank Gore | 20% | 14% | 56% | 9% | 1% | | |
| | Jamison Crowder | | | 100% | | | | |
| | Lamical Perine | 28% | 5% | 66% | | 2% | | |
| | Ty Johnson | 30% | 9% | 54% | 7% | | | |
| | Breshad Perriman | | | | 100% | | | |
| | Braxton Berrios | 33% | | 67% | | | | |
| | Josh Adams | 38% | 17% | 45% | | | | |
| | Le'Veon Bell | 42% | 5% | 53% | | | | |
| | Kalen Ballage | 67% | 33% | | | | | |
| | Total | 26% | 12% | 56% | 6% | 1% | | |
| | Frank Gore | 44% | 11% | 44% | | | | |
| | Jamison Crowder | 42% | 9% | 43% | 5% | 1% | | |
| | Lamical Perine | 40% | 7% | 40% | | 13% | | |
| | Ty Johnson | 43% | 21% | 36% | | | | |
| | Breshad Perriman | 31% | 10% | 53% | 3% | 2% | | |
| PASS | Braxton Berrios | 29% | 13% | 58% | | | | |
| | Chris Herndon | 43% | 17% | 36% | 5% | | | |
| | Denzel Mims | 10% | 20% | 71% | | | | |
| | Jeff Smith | 32% | 14% | 54% | | | | |
| | Josh Adams | 88% | | 13% | | | | |
| | Le'Veon Bell | 67% | | 33% | | | | |
| | Kalen Ballage | 30% | 10% | 60% | | | | |
| | Total | 35% | 12% | 49% | 2% | 1% | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Jamison Crowder Lamical Perine Braxton Berrios Kalen Ballage Chris Herndor Denzel Mims Le'Veon Bell Frank Gore Ty Johnson Josh Adams Smith Breshad Perriman Jeff RUSH 0% PASS 2% 21%





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



7% (115) 3.5, **-**0.18 55% (83) 5.0. 0.03 0% (58) .1, -0.05 8% (26) .4, -0.12

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| PASS | 39%, -0.20 (423) | 45%, -0.18 (53) | 40%, -0.16 (5) | 33%, -0.58 (15) | 41%, -0.01 (17) | 31%, -0.07 (16) | 60%, -0.13 (5) | | 39%, -0.20 (538) |
| RUSH | 52%, -0.03 (258) | 46%, -0.13 (99) | 32%, -0.63 (28) | 75%, 0.15 (4) | 0%, 0.69 (1) | 100%, 1.55 (1) | 67%, 0.26 (6) | 67%, 0.04 (3) | 50%, -0.08 (400) |
| All | 44%, -0.13 (681) | 46%, -0.15 (152) | 33%, -0.56 (33) | 42%, -0.43 (19) | 39%, 0.03 (18) | 35%, 0.02 (17) | 64%, 0.08 (11) | 67%, 0.04 (3) | 44%, -0.15 (938) |

Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays) **Format**

| | Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| POS | OS Player 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 1-0 [4WR] 2-1 [2WR] 4 Grp T | | | | | | | | | | |
| RB | Frank Gore | 77% (13) 5.0, 0.18 | 40% (5) 3.8, -0.06 | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.08 | | 68% (19) 4.7, 0.11 | | | | | |
| | Kalen Ballage | 25% (8) 5.3, -0.23 | | | 100% (1) 4.0, -0.01 | 33% (9) 5.1, -0.21 | | | | | |
| TE | Ryan Griffin | 50% (6) 4.8, 0.05 | 50% (4) 11.0, 0.47 | | | 50% (10) 7.3, 0.22 | | | | | |
| WR | Jamison Crowder | 51% (84) 7.8, 0.28 | | | | 51% (84) 7.8, 0.28 | | | | | |
| | Breshad Perriman | 35% (43) 8.1, -0.19 | 50% (4) 17.5, -0.21 | 100% (1) 6.0, 0.14 | 0% (1) -2.0, -0.89 | 37% (49) 8.6, -0.20 | | | | | |
| | Braxton Berrios | 46% (37) 7.2, 0.13 | 60% (5) 9.8, 0.28 | 50% (6) 6.5, 0.21 | | 48% (48) 7.4, 0.15 | | | | | |
| | Chris Hogan | 40% (20) 2.8, -0.56 | 67% (3) 15.0, 0.79 | | 100% (1) 8.0, 0.62 | 46% (24) 4.5, -0.34 | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings

| | | <u> </u> | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| Gore Frank | 48% (118) 3.9, - 0.13 | 35% (51) 3.2, -0.21 | 67% (3) 1.7, -0.19 | 100% (1) 5.0, -0.06 | 45% (173) 3.6, -0.15 |
| Perine La'Mical | 42% (50) 3.3, -0.11 | 55% (11) 5.0, -0.02 | 0% (1) 3.0, -0.30 | 0% (1) 3.0, -0.15 | 43% (63) 3.6, -0.10 |
| Johnson Ty | 43% (30) 3.4, -0.16 | 73% (11) 5.2, 0.20 | 100% (2) 21.0, 1.20 | 100% (1) 9.0, 0.31 | 55% (44) 4.8, 0.00 |
| Darnold Sam | 70% (23) 8.4, 0.51 | 75% (4) 3.8, 0.03 | | | 70% (27) 7.7, 0.44 |
| Adams Josh | 86% (14) 7.6, 0.42 | 58% (12) 4.1, -0.09 | | | 73% (26) 6.0, 0.18 |
| Bell Le'Veon | 64% (11) 5.2, 0.01 | 43% (7) 2.4, -0.37 | | | 56% (18) 4.1, -0.14 |

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

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

| _ | sing by | | ing by | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | 3 State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 50% (331) | 3 Step | 44% (240) 5.9, -0.07 | Planted | | 9% (335) .0, 0.06 | Inside Zone | 47% (115 3.5, -0.18 |
| | | Curl | 48% (56) 4.9, -0.18 | | 6.0, 0.02 | | 47% (92) | Moving | | 2% (90) 4, -0.28 | Outside | 55% (83) |
| Zone | 52% (231) 6.8, 0.01 | Out | 50% (52) | Level 2 | 35% (88) 7.9, -0.21 | 0/1 Step | 6.0, -0.08 | | | 3% (70) 8, -0.36 | Zone | 5.0, 0.03 |
| | | Out | 5.4, -0.18 | | 2007 (24) | 5 Step | 38% (56) 6.7, -0.03 | | Dlay Acti | on | Stretch | 50% (58) 4.1, -0.05 |
| M2M | 37% (169) 5.9, -0.10 | Dig | 50% (32) 8.3, 0.04 | Level 3 | 29% (34) 10.8, 0.20 | 7 Step | 68% (28) 15.6, 0.85 | | Play Action | No P/A | Lead | 58% (26) 4.4, -0.12 |
| | 3.9, -0.10 | 014 | 57% (21) | Shovel | 50% (4) | Designed | | | 42% (86) 8.2, -0.12 | 33% (18) 7.9, 0.01 | | <u> </u> |
| | 440/ (41) | Slant | 7.5, 0.20 | | 1.3, -0.30 | Designed Rollout Right | 5.5, 0.14 | Center | 44% (39) 5.5, -0.24 | 39% (395) 5.8, -0.22 | Power | 29% (24) 3.3, -0.23 |
| Screen | 44% (41) 7.4, 0.01 | Drag | 41% (17) 6.1, -0.22 | Sidearm | 100% (3) 11.7, 1.42 | Basic Screen | 42% (12) 5.3, -0.75 | ALL | 42% (125) 7.3, -0.16 | 38% (413) 5.9, -0.21 | Pitch | 33% (18) 2.8, -0.30 |

<u>NYJ-6</u>

injuries to starters earlier in the year. There was zero reason to run Cover-0 there. Adam Gase, the head coach, can overrule anything that he wants. He can tell Williams to pound sand if he doesn't like the coverage. That's why he's the head coach.

Only one problem - Gase was chatting up another coach on the sideline about something unrelated when Williams was calling the defense. As the story goes, "Gase overheard the word 'zero' and asked another coach why Williams said 'zero'. Another coach told Gase that it was because Williams called Cover-0. Before Gase could react, the ball was being snapped."

Again, this is yet another example of this fog of incompetence. It's not caring enough. There is nothing more important than what play your defensive coordinator calls in during the final 13 seconds of the game. Not paying attention until it is too late to act cost Gase that win. Was Gase tanking? No. He was just incompetent, once again.

Back to the 2019 season, though, and the things the Jets did that were terribly inefficient that Gase could have changed but did not. Did he improve any of them in 2020?

Gase's 2019 Jets ranked 32nd in EDSR and 31st in overall offensive efficiency. The 2020 Jets somehow ranked 32nd in EDSR and 31st in overall offensive efficiency. Exactly the same.

Gase's 2019 Jets ran the ball on second-and-10+ at the third-highest rate in the NFL. And with terrible results. The 2020 Jets ran the ball on second-and-10+ at the fourth-highest rate in the NFL. A one-percent difference and one ranking shift, with similarly terrible results.

Gase's 2019 Jets almost exclusively used 11 personnel despite being terrible at using it due to a combination of scheme and talent. Their 69% usage rate was ninth highest. Their 79% usage on passing plays was fifth highest. This, despite most passing efficiency metrics from 11 personnel ranking bottom-five in the





Yet the 2020 Jets used 11 personnel at even higher rates. Their 72% usage rate was fourth highest. Their 79% usage on passing plays was identical and was seventh highest. When Gase passed the ball in 2020, he used 3+ WRs on an insane 88% of the Jets' passing plays. The Jets passed from formations with two or fewer wide receivers on only 63 out of 538 total attempts.

Gase's 2019 Jets were far too predictable from non-11 personnel situations. Their run rates were far too heavy and defense could see the predictable runs coming a mile away, resulting in terrible efficiency.

Yet the 2020 Jets still ran the ball far too predictably. From any heavy set other than 12 personnel, the Jets ran the ball 81% of the time in 2020. That was down at 74% in 2019. The Jets' EPA/att on all runs with two or fewer receivers on the field was at -0.19 in 2020, even worse than -0.17 from 2019.

In 2020, Gase was objectively worse at key offensive aspects that would have helped his team immensely. He was a liability. He was a competitive disadvantage.

In five years as a head coach:

- his teams were outscored by 544 points
- · his teams trailed after the first quarter by 210 total points
- 35 of his 48 losses were by double-digits
- 27 of his 32 wins were by one score

I will give Gase credit for one thing: he absolutely dealt with the NFL's most injured roster the last two years. Last year, it was fourth-most injured. In 2019, it was the NFL's most injured. Offensively, last year, it was primarily wide receiver (and Darnold missed four games). In 2019, it was primarily offensive line, wide receiver, and tight end (and Darnold missed three games). We also know the Jets didn't have the best talent when Gase was there.

But lack of talent doesn't excuse a coach from making -EV decisions. It doesn't excuse a lack of self-scouting to see what works and what doesn't. I bet Adam Gase never expected outsiders to study his decision making at this depth and catch incompetence red handed. Hell, I bet Adam Gase himself never studied his own decision making at this depth.

Dealing with an injured roster or a less talented roster actually makes properly strategizing and calling a game that much more important, because talent can't make up for coaching or hide mistakes. But alas...

There is no point for the Jets or their fans to worry now about either Adam Gase or Sam Darnold.

It's on to Mike LaFleur and Zach Wilson.

Wilson will make the jump to the NFL with the third most expensive wide receiver corps, something that may come as a shock when you look at the actual depth chart. We ranked the Jets receiving corps (which includes TEs) 29th in talent for this upcoming season. It's a group that includes Corey Davis, Jamison Crowder, Denzel Mims, and rookie Elijah Moore.

(cont'd - see NYJ-8)

Immediate Impact of New York Jets 2021 Draft Class

It's best to keep expectations in check for any rookie quarterback, but it shouldn't be hard for **Zach Wilson** (first round) to immediately make the Jets a more explosive offense.

In 2020, New York completed 64 passes at 10 or more yards downfield, a pathetic average of four per game. At BYU, Wilson more than doubled that, averaging nine completions per game at that distance, at a completion rate of 82.7%, seventh best in the nation.

With weapons like **Denzel Mims**, **Corey Davis**, **Keelan Cole**, and fellow rookie **Elijah Moore** (second round), the Jets offense should have plenty of juice to stretch the field for Wilson.

While Moore has the talent to make an impact, it might be tough for him to find a substantial role early due to the presence of **Jamison Crowder**, who is likely locked into a starting role in the slot. Moore was in the slot on 71% of his targets in 2020 at Ole Miss.

Crowder is in his final contract year, however, so Moore's time is coming.

OL Alijah Vera-Tucker (first round) is the other rookie who appears to have a guaranteed starting job. Vera-Tucker is expected to start at left guard, where he played in 2019 at USC.

Vera-Tucker was dominant in that role with the Trojans, with just one blown block in 482 snaps in pass protection. With Vera-Tucker starting next to 2019 first-round pick **Mehki Becton**, the Jets could potentially develop a dominant left side of the line to protect Wilson.

RB Michael Carter (fourth round) should also see the field early, but likely only as part of a backfield committee.

Expect to see Carter on the field more often when the Jets are looking for a big play. He's a home-run hitter, but can also be indecisive and is prone to negative plays. 64% of Carter's attempts went outside the tackles in 2020, where he averaged 7.5 yards per carry. However, 21.2% of those attempts outside the tackles also went for zero or negative yards. Teammate **Javonte Williams** was stuffed on just 9.4% of his outside attempts, indicating this is an issue specific to Carter's style.

Focusing solely on the players the Jets added, this stands out among the strongest classes in 2020. However, their process does deserve some criticism due to the trade up to acquire Vera-Tucker.

A rebuilding team parting with a pair of third-round picks to move up for an interior offensive lineman is not a move that can be endorsed. Less than 50 percent of first-round guards get a second contract with their original team, so it's foolish to be overconfident in your evaluation of a player like Vera-Tucker.

Jers

New York Jets 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Jets were dead last in the NFL in expected points added via their passing game last season at -43.1 points. Not only was New York the caboose car among NFL passing games, the next closest team (Washington) was at -22.5 EPA via passing for the season, as some context of how poorly things went. The team closed 32nd in yards per pass attempt (6.2 yards) and 32nd in success rate (39%) through the air. With a new coaching regime and a clean slate, the Jets moved on from **Sam Darnold**, using the No. 2 overall selection in the draft on BYU quarterback **Zach Wilson**. Wilson regressed in 2019 and missed time with a shoulder injury, but closed 2020 with by far his best season, completing 73.5% of his passes for 11.0 yards per pass attempt to go with 33 touchdown passes and just three interceptions.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | |
| Sam Darnold | 217 | 364 | 60% | 2,208 | 6.1 | 9 | 11 | 35 | 73 | 46 | |
| Joe Flacco | 74 | 134 | 55% | 864 | 6.4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 81 | 37 | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | 2020 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 | 39% | 42% | 27 | 7.0% | 9 | 2.0% | 4.7 | 5.5 | 10 | 3% | | |
| Joe Flacco | 42% | 48% | 11 | 8.0% | 3 | 2.0% | 6.8 | 4.9 | 7 | 5% | | |
| NFL Avg 47% 50% 33.3 8.6% 12.0 3.0% 5.9 5.2 14.9 4% | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Sam Darnold Rating

Early Downs 102 69 87 75

| <u>In</u> | 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% | 8.7% | 2.3% | 0.0% | 4.2% | | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 50.0% | 2.1% | 8.3% | 0.0% | 6.1% | | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 0.0% | 2.8% | 0.0% | | 0.5% | | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 7.1% | 0.0% | | 3.6% | | | | | | | |
| Total | 0.7% | 4.1% | 4.0% | 0.0% | 2.8% | | | | | | | |

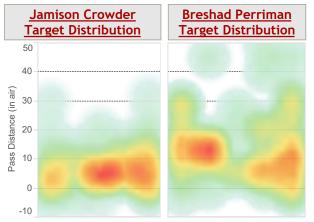
| <u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | | |
| Sam Darnold | 8.8 | 4.7 | -4.2 | 75% | 40 | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | |

| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | | | |
| | 46% | 54% | 39 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

As a group, the Jets wideouts ranked 22nd in receptions (11.8) and 25th in receiving yardage per game (145.0) while tied for 24th in touchdown receptions (12). New York tight ends combined to catch just 43-of-62 targets for 409 yards and three touchdowns. With needs across the board, the team added **Corey Davis** via free agency coming off setting career-highs in catch rate (70.7%), yards per reception (15.1), touchdowns (five), receptions (4.6), and yards per game (70.3). Among all NFL wideouts last season, Davis was fifth in yards per route run (2.58 yards). They drafted **Elijah Moore**. Not only were Moore's 149.1 receiving yards per game in 2020 the most in this draft class but they were the most for any Power-5 prospect in his final season in the 2000s.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Jamison Crowder | 81 | 65% | 7.8 | 98.4 | 52% | 77 | 28 | 71 | 59 | 6 |
| Breshad Perriman | 58 | 50% | 8.3 | 67.0 | 36% | 129 | 125 | 5 | 130 | 3 |
| Braxton Berrios | 52 | 67% | 7.4 | 100.2 | 48% | 104 | 128 | 51 | 58 | 3 |

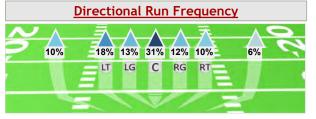


2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Jets' rushing game in 2020 collectively averaged just 4.1 yards per touch, the lowest rate in the league. The team's leading ball carrier was 37-year-old **Frank Gore**, who had 187 carries. They added veteran **Tevin Coleman**, who will be 28 years old and has never received 200 or more touches in any of his six NFL seasons, though his entire career was spent in a similar offensive system as to what the Jets are transitioning to this season. The team also drafted **Michael Carter** in the fourth round, who out-gained No. 35 overall pick **Javonte Williams** in each of the past two seasons. Carter rushed for 1,000 yards in each of those seasons, while tacking on 20-plus receptions in each of his past three.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Frank Gore | 187 | 3.5 | 45% | 80 | 62 | 17 | 86 | 45% | 73 | 2 |
| Lamical Perine | 64 | 3.6 | 44% | 83 | 55 | 83 | 79 | 41% | 86 | 2 |
| Ty Johnson | 54 | 4.7 | 56% | 21 | 71 | 52 | 60 | 58% | 7 | 1 |

Yards per Carry by Direction 4.3 5.0 3.5 3.4 3.4 4.5 3.3 LIT LG C RG RT



Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Is Michael Carter the Back to Buy in New York?

Checking in at 5'8" and 202 pounds, Carter is undersized for a feature back role, but lands in a favorable situation to get immediate opportunity with Tevin Coleman, La'Mical Perine, and Ty Johnson as the backs he has to compete with for touches. New York backs ranked 25th in the league in touches (23.9) per game for just 98.5 yards from scrimmage per game (32nd) and their backfield collectively averaged just 4.1 yards per touch, the lowest rate in the league. Carter has pass-catching ability (over 20 receptions in each of his final three seasons in college) and out-gained **Javonte Williams** in each of the past two seasons at North

Carolina with 1,157 and 1,512 yards.

He immediately is in the conversation as a RB3/FLEX and a potential arbitrage option on the roles and archetypes of more expensive running backs such as Chase Edmonds, Myles Gaskin, and Austin Ekeler.

What are the Jets Getting in Zach Wilson?

As a true freshman at age 19 in 2018, Wilson took over as the starting guarterback just five games into the season. In that freshman year, he completed 65.9% of his passes for 8.7 Y/A with 12 touchdowns to three interceptions. Wilson regressed in 2019 and missed time with a shoulder injury. In his sophomore season, Wilson saw all of his rate stats regress from his freshman season before roaring back in 2020 with by far his best season, completing 73.5% of his passes for 11.0 Y/A and a 33-to-3 TD-to-INT rate. Out of all quarterback prospects since 2000, it was just the eighth time that a quarterback had completed over 70% of his passes to go along with over 10.0 yards per pass attempt and over 30 passing touchdowns in their final collegiate season. Just this past season, Wilson was 20-of-27 on throws over 30 yards in the air.

The biggest slight against Wilson was that playing at BYU, he did not face the level of opposition as his other cohorts at the top of this class outside of Trey Lance. Over the past two seasons, Wilson faced just four total defenses in the top-20 of Bill Connelly's defensive SP+ metric and just seven in the top-50. In those four games against top-20 defenses, Wilson completed 64.7% of his passes for 7.1 Y/A and a 4-to-4 TD-to-INT rate as opposed to a 69.1% completion rate for 9.9 Y/A while throwing 40 touchdowns to eight interceptions in his other 17 games. To his credit, he did shred the best defense he faced in 2020, connecting on 26-of-35 passes for 303 yards and three scores against San Diego State.

Wilson comes with the additional bonus of having mobility in his arsenal to go along with passing upside, checking out in the 50th percentile in career rushing production among all quarterback prospects since 2000. Including sack yardage (because college football is still ridiculous in this regard), Wilson ran for double-digit yardage in 20 of his 28 starts to go along with 15 touchdowns. Jets quarterbacks were pressured on a league-high 43.6% of their dropbacks last season per Pro Football Focus. They ranked 29th in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (50%) and 30th in their Run Block Win Rate (67%). The Jets traded up for Alijah Vera-Tucker and signed Morgan Moses late in the offseason, but that doesn't quarantee a great offensive line. Wilson could still face much messier pockets than what he was accustomed to thanks to a softer strength of schedule at BYU. Wilson has a wide range of outcomes as a rookie, but could provide sneaky upside as a QB2 due to his mobility and potential game scripts.

| N | ew York Jets I | Defense: Numb | er of DBs vs Pe | ersonnel | Def T | ende | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|-----------|--|--|---|---|---------|----------|----------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ | DI: | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 8 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 50% EPA: 0.07 | 380 plays (97%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.10 | 4 plays (1%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.40 | 392 plays (100%) Success: 53% EPA: 0.10 | Base | % 16% | Rk 27 | 40 |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 10 plays (7%) Success: 60% | 129 plays (93%) Success: 52% | LI A. 0.40 | 139 plays (100%) Success: 53% | Nickel | 82% | 2 | 30 - |
| | EPA: 0.50 | EPA: 0.17 | | EPA: 0.19 | Dime+ | 1% | 26 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 32 plays (76%) Success: 59% EPA: 0.17 | 10 plays <i>(24%)</i> Success: 70% EPA: 0.74 | | 42 plays (100%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.31 | Rush 3 | 7% | 12 | 20 - |
| | 2 plays (67%) | 1 plays (33%) | | 3 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 60% | 22 | 10 – |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 0% EPA: 0.41 | Success: 100% EPA: 0.97 | | Success: 33% EPA: 0.60 | Rush 5 | 27% | 4 | |
| Grand | 52 plays (9%) Success: 56% | 520 plays (90%) | 4 plays (1%) | 576 plays (100%) Success: 53% | Rush 6+ | 6% | 11 | 0 – |
| Total | EPA: 0.23 | Success: 53% EPA: 0.13 | Success: 50% EPA: 0.40 | EPA: 0.14 | Blitz% | 33% | 6 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Quinnen Williams ranked fourth in Pass Rush Win Rate and first in Run Stop Win Rate as a defensive tackle, according to ESPN. He was one of three defensive tackles to be in the top-10 of both but the only player to be in the top five. He was eighth in pressure rate among defensive tackles per Sports Info Solutions. Foley Fatikasi ranked fourth in Run Stop Win Rate and he played 44.5% of the defensive snaps. The Jets also added to the defensive line depth in free agency with Sheldon Rankins. Rankins finished 20th among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season, per SIS.

Carl Lawson was the Jets' biggest free agent get and he has the chance to be the team's best pass rusher in years. Lawson ranked 17th among edge rushers in pressure rate and second among all defenders in quarterback hits. Vinny Curry has been a plus rotational edge over the past few seasons. He only played 28% of the defensive snaps for the Eagles last season but still put up 10 quarterback hits and ranked 19th in pressure rate. Jabari Zuniga, a third-round pick in 2020, and Bryce Huff, a 2020 undrafted free agent, could also develop as part of the edge rotation.

C.J. Mosley opted out of the 2020 season and will return in the middle of the Jets defense. His first season with the Jets in 2019 was cut short due to a torn ACL. With the Ravens, Mosley was a well-rounded linebacker who was a plus in coverage. Signing Jarrad Davis was a curious move in free agency. Davis was demoted last season in - he played 29% of the defensive snaps and 30% of the special teams snaps in 14 games during 2020. Davis allowed a 71.4% completion percentage and 11.9 yards per target in coverage during 2019, per SIS.

2019 fifth-round pick Blake Cashman flashed some during his rookie season but made it onto the field for just three defensive snaps in 2020 with two separate stints on injured reserve.

There aren't many — if any — household names at cornerback, but the very young Jets secondary held up quite well in 2020. Blessaun Austin, a 2019 sixth-round pick, ranked 84th among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Bryce Hall, a 2020 fifth-round pick, ranked 77th. Both were just about average by that

Javelin Guidry was part of a stellar 2019 Utah defensive backfield and as a rookie undrafted free agent, he forced four fumbles between just 171 defensive snaps and 90 special teams snaps. 2020 seventh-round pick Lamar Jackson had the most struggles, ranked 145th among those 148 corners in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Marcus Maye turned into the do-it-all safety for the Jets after Jamal Adams was traded away. Maye was second among safeties in yards allowed per coverage snap with 11 passes defensed to go along with two sacks as a pass rusher. Lamarcus Joyner is expected to play more at safety after the Raiders' decision to make him more of a slot corner did not work out as well as planned. There was hope last season for Ashtyn Davis as a versatile safety but there were some rookie struggles for the 2020 third-round pick, who was on the field for 35% of the defensive snaps.

2020 Play Tendencies 55% All Pass % All Pass Rk 25 All Rush % 45% All Rush Rk 8 1 Score Pass % 54% 1 Score Pass Rk 25 2019 1 Score Pass % 53% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 29 2020 Pass Increase % 1% Pass Increase Rk 9 1 Score Rush % 46% 1 Score Rush Rk 8 Up Pass % 53% Up Pass Rk 21 Up Rush % 47% Up Rush Rk 12 Down Pass % 58% Down Pass Rk 26 Down Rush % 42% Down Rush Rk 7

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 3 | 0% | 100% | 33% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 6 | 33% | 67% | 50% | |
| | Long (8-10) | 294 | 47% | 53% | 53% | |
| | XL (11+) | 10 | 60% | 40% | 30% | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 39 | 18% | 82% | 67% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 76 | 54% | 46% | 41% | |
| | Long (8-10) | 85 | 53% | 47% | 36% | |
| | XL (11+) | 31 | 81% | 19% | 26% | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 37 | 59% | 41% | 51% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 63 | 87% | 13% | 41% | |
| | Long (8-10) | 34 | 97% | 3% | 26% | |
| | XL (11+) | 20 | 80% | 20% | 15% | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 6 | 0% | 100% | 50% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% | |
| | | | | | | |

| | Shotg | <u>un %</u> : |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| % | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 40% | 60% |
| | 37% A | VG 63% |
| | Run | Rate: |
| | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 77% | 21% |
| | 68% A | V G 23% |
| | <u>Pass</u> | Rate: |
| | Under Center | Shotgun |
| | 23% | 79% |
| | 32% A | VG 77% |



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | |
| 85% | 3 | 67% | 82% | 75% | | |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | |

33%

40%

59%

| Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|----|-----|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | |
| 1st | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Frank Gore | 3 | 67% | | |
| Dwn | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Frank Gore | 91 | 49% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Breshad Perriman | 2 | 0% | | |
| | | RUSH | Lamical Perine | 2 | 50% | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Frank Gore | 13 | 69% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Frank Gore | 20 | 30% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Frank Gore | 20 | 15% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Braxton Berrios | 5 | 20% | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Frank Gore | 6 | 50% | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Jamison Crowder | 12 | 58% | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Jamison Crowder | 7 | 29% | | |
| | | | Breshad Perriman | 7 | 43% | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Braxton Berrios | 4 | 25% | | |

| <u>Offen</u> | Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | |
| No | Success: 38% | Success: 39% | Success: 38% | | | |
| | YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.19 | YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.25 | YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.20 | | | |
| | Rtg: 79.2 | Rtg: 56.9 | Rtg: 76.0 | | | |
| | [Att: 301 - Rate: 55.9%] | [Att: 49 - Rate: 9.1%] | [Att: 350 - Rate: 65.1%] | | | |
| Yes | Success: 40% | Success: 45% | Success: 42% | | | |
| | YPA: 5.4, EPA: -0.27 | YPA: 7.9, EPA: -0.09 | YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.20 | | | |
| | Rtg: 74.3 | Rtg: 86.6 | Rtg: 79.2 | | | |
| | [Att: 112 - Rate: 20.8%] | [Att: 76 - Rate: 14.1%] | [Att: 188 - Rate: 34.9%] | | | |
| Total | Success: 38% | Success: 42% | Success: 39% | | | |
| | YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.21 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.16 | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.20 | | | |
| | Rtg: 77.9 | Rtg: 74.5 | Rtg: 77.1 | | | |
| | [Att: 413 - Rate: 76.8%] | [Att: 125 - Rate: 23.2%] | [Att: 538 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | |

15%

30

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Breshad Perriman | Jamison Crowder | Denzel Mims | Ryan Griffin | Frank Gore | Jeff Smith | Braxton Berrios | Chris Hogan | Ty Johnson | Trevon Wesco |
| 1 | BUF | L 27-17 | 56 (100%) | 48 (86%) | | 18 (32%) | 14 (25%) | | | 51 (91%) | | 8 (14%) |
| 2 | SF | L 31-13 | 20 (31%) | | | 27 (42%) | 37 (57%) | | 46 (71%) | 59 (91%) | | 24 (37%) |
| 3 | IND | L 36-7 | | | | 18 (28%) | 26 (41%) | | 52 (81%) | 51 (80%) | | 15 (23%) |
| 4 | DEN | L 37-28 | | 65 (84%) | | 21 (27%) | 37 (48%) | 73 (95%) | 8 (10%) | 68 (88%) | | 8 (10%) |
| 5 | ARI | L 30-10 | | 52 (75%) | | 42 (61%) | 23 (33%) | 68 (99%) | 24 (35%) | 45 (65%) | | 16 (23%) |
| 6 | MIA | L 24-0 | 63 (89%) | 63 (89%) | | 26 (37%) | 25 (35%) | 60 (85%) | 16 (23%) | | 4 (6%) | 7 (10%) |
| 7 | BUF | L 18-10 | 54 (95%) | | 45 (79%) | 27 (47%) | 16 (28%) | 12 (21%) | 48 (84%) | | | 9 (16%) |
| 8 | KC | L 35-9 | | | 55 (96%) | 16 (28%) | 22 (39%) | 48 (84%) | 48 (84%) | | 6 (11%) | 9 (16%) |
| 9 | NE | L 30-27 | 45 (98%) | 31 (67%) | 44 (96%) | 22 (48%) | 23 (50%) | 2 (4%) | 7 (15%) | | 2 (4%) | |
| 11 | LAC | L 34-28 | 59 (98%) | 56 (93%) | 54 (90%) | 27 (45%) | 35 (58%) | 7 (12%) | 1 (2%) | | 14 (23%) | |
| 12 | MIA | L 20-3 | 54 (98%) | 44 (80%) | 52 (95%) | 30 (55%) | 32 (58%) | 3 (5%) | 3 (5%) | | 10 (18%) | |
| 13 | LV | L 31-28 | 59 (95%) | 42 (68%) | 50 (81%) | 42 (68%) | 2 (3%) | | 5 (8%) | | 39 (63%) | |
| 14 | SEA | L 40-3 | 53 (100%) | 38 (72%) | | 22 (42%) | 17 (32%) | 33 (62%) | 11 (21%) | | 20 (38%) | 12 (23%) |
| 15 | LA | W 23-20 | 63 (97%) | 49 (75%) | 58 (89%) | 27 (42%) | 40 (62%) | | 3 (5%) | | 22 (34%) | 17 (26%) |
| 16 | CLE | W 23-16 | 69 (100%) | 63 (91%) | 63 (91%) | | 31 (45%) | | 7 (10%) | | 18 (26%) | 8 (12%) |
| 17 | NE | L 28-14 | 56 (89%) | 42 (67%) | 18 (29%) | 26 (41%) | | 12 (19%) | 11 (17%) | | 34 (54%) | 13 (21%) |
| | Grand | Total | 651 (91%) | 593 (79%) | 439 (83%) | 391 (43%) | 380 (41%) | 318 (49%) | 290 (31%) | 274 (83%) | 169 (28%) | 146 (19%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Re | d Zone | Target | s Leade | rboard | 1 | | Red 7or | ne Rush | es Lea | derboa | rd |

| on | Personnel | ream % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| %) | 1-1 [3WR] | 72% | 60% | 44% |
| '%) 3%) | 1-2 [2WR] | 16% | 20% | 46% |
| %) | 1-3 [1WR] | 3% | 4% | 33% |
| 8%) %) | 1-0 [4WR] | 2% | 2% | 42% |
| %) %) | Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| | | | | |
| | Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| | | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| 1%) | Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| 3%) 5%) %) | Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Jamison Crowder | 10 | 1 | 2 | 7 | |
| Denzel Mims | 4 | 1 | | 3 | |
| Braxton Berrios | 3 | | 1 | 2 | |
| Chris Herndon | 3 | | 2 | 1 | |
| Frank Gore | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Jeff Smith | 2 | | 2 | | |

| Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Frank Gore | 26 | 5 | 5 | 16 | | |
| Ty Johnson | 10 | 4 | | 6 | | |
| Lamical Perine | 7 | 2 | | 5 | | |
| Josh Adams | 6 | 4 | | 2 | | |
| Le'Veon Bell | 2 | | | 2 | | |
| Joe Flacco | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Sam Darnold | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Trevon Wesco | 1 | | | 1 | | |

| Early D | own Targ | et Rate |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 19% 23% | 15% 21% | 66% 56% |
| | NFL AVG | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | iccess % |
| Overall RB | | uccess % |





Having a rookie quarterback allows you to spend up to support him during his rookie contract. The Jets' WR1 is Corey Davis, a WR2 for a run-heavy Titans team last year. He scored less than half the touchdows (five) on nearly the same number of receptions as the WR1 **A.J. Brown** (11). And he was surpassed by TE1 Johnnu Smith, who had 8 TDs on 40% fewer targets. Davis had a solid catch rate and yards/target, but has never been put in a situation like this - a bad, losing team that thus had to be pass heavy and relied on him to excel as the WR1. We'll see if he can live up to that.

The likely starting Z receiver may be their most talented, in rookie Elijah Moore. And in the slot will be Jamison Crowder.

It's undoubtedly more talented than anything Sam Darnold had to work with over the last several years. But in ranking the receiving corps, it's far from third. Factoring in the tight and wide receiver starters plus depth, the Jets have a bottom-10 unit for Wilson's rookie season.

That said, a lot of our perception of the current crop is rooted in how Adam Gase used them and how Sam Darnold targeted them. That's likely to change substantially with new offensive coordinator Mike LaFleur (former 49ers passing game coordinator under Kyle Shanahan) and Zach Wilson. Denzel Mims could blossom, Davis could find comfort, and Moore could become a rookie phenom. At which time, as the saying goes, "adjust the ranks" for 2022. Let's hope, for the Jets and their team, that is the case.

Joe Douglas knows what wins games. On offense, it's quarterback, protection, receiving, rushing. In that order. That's exactly what Douglas did with his first four draft picks, looking at the overall pick of the players he drafted:

Second pick: QB Zach Wilson 14th pick: G Alijah Vera-Tucker 34th pick: WR Elijah Moore 107th pick: RB Michael Carter

These were the only picks the Jets had inside the top-125 (partly due to a trade up for Vera-Tucker) and that's how they spent them.

Interestingly, examining the Jets' picks inside the top-125 in Douglas's first draft in 2020, he attacked the exact same areas, but in a different order:

11th pick:: T Mekhi Becton 59th pick: WR Denzel Mims 120th pick: RB La'Mical Perine 125th pick: QB James Morgan

Douglas mixed in a couple defenders at pick Nos. 68 and 79 in 2020, and Douglas knew naturally that a fourth-round quarterback is unlikely to hit but for his roster at that point, it was worth the swing.

Understanding what it takes to win games and then doubling down on those players in consecutive drafts with top-125 picks is something that Jets fans should take comfort in. Not pulling the trigger on a running back in the first or second round is also something that should reassure Jets fans they're in good hands. Both running backs Douglas drafted were Round 4 backs.

Fortunately for the Jets and Wilson, they get a much easier 2021 schedule. After playing the ninth toughest schedule of defenses in 2020, they play the seventh easiest schedule in 2021. Pass defenses drop from second to 19th. They play a road game at a neutral site (against the Falcons in London) thus helping their overall edge. They have two weeks to prepare for the Patriots. They have a three-day rest edge to prepare for the Bills. They have a Week 6 bye to reset things early in the year for Wilson and to make larger adjustments as warranted.

I don't know how much better Wilson will be over Darnold, because it's so difficult to detangle Darnold from Gase. Darnold looked like a fool for saying he was "seeing ghosts" in mid-October, 2019 on national TV, but that's just as much on Gase working with a young quarterback and not having him prepared.

What I do know is that LaFleur cannot be as bad as Gase. With the talent that Joe Douglas is bringing in, the Jets are finally making smart moves. If Wilson is the real deal and LaFluer tailors everything toward making him comfortable and successful, the Jets could absolutely get to where they want to be sooner rather than later.

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Easy

Hard

Head Coach: Nick Sirianni (IND OC) (new) Offensive Coordinator:

Shane Steichen (LAC OC) (new)

Defensive Coordinator:

Jonathan Gannon (IND DB) (new)



Philadelphia Eagles

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

6.5

#4

Past Records

2020: 4-12 2019: 9-7 2018: 9-7



| Key | / Pl | lay | ers | Lost |
|-----|------|-----|-----|------|
|-----|------|-----|-----|------|

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Cameron Johnston (P) | Texans |
| Carson Wentz (QB) | Colts |
| Corey Clement (RB) | Giants |
| DeSean Jackson (WR) | Rams |
| Duke Riley (LB) | Dolphins |
| Jalen Mills (S) | Patriots |
| Marquise Goodwin (WR) | Bears |
| Nate Gerry (LB) | 49ers |
| Nate Sudfeld (QB) | 49ers |
| Rudy Ford (S) | Jaguars |
| Vinny Curry (EDGE) | Jets |
| Cre'Von LeBlanc (CB) | TBD |
| Jason Peters (LT) | TBD |
| Josh Perkins (TE) | TBD |
| Nickell Robey-Coleman (| TBD |
| Richard Rodgers (TE) | TBD |

2021 Philadelphia Eagles Overview

June 1, 2020. The Eagles had one of the NFL's better offensive lines:

LT Andre Dillard LG Isaac Seumalo C Jason Kelce **RG Brandon Brooks** RT Lane Johnson

That group would play zero games together.

In mid-June, RG Brandon Brooks tore his Achilles and would miss the entire season. In August, RT Lane Johnson had ankle surgery. He missed only one game, but played injured for most of the season, missing practices and multiple games during the season, and ultimately played his last snap in Week 11, after which he went on IR and had another ankle surgery.

The planned Pro-Bowl caliber right side of the line was gone before the season even

On August 27th, LT Andre Dillard tore his biceps and would miss the entire season. After playing just one and one-third games, LG Isaac Seumalo injured his knee and was placed on IR. Seumalo wouldn't return until Week 11.

The Eagles' starting roster for Week 1 against the formidable Washington Football Team's pass rush was missing three of these five players. It didn't get much better from

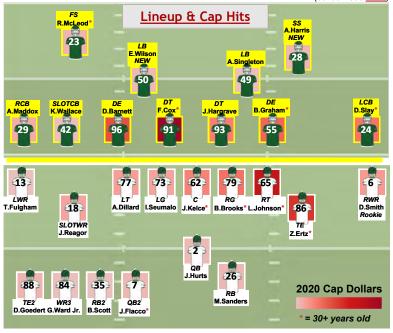
(cont'd - see PHI2)

Games # Games **Average** <u>Underdog</u> Line **Favored** 2.9 14

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj Forecast *4* 6.5 2021 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2020 Wins 2019 Wins 2018 Wins

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2017 Wins



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|----------------------|----------|
| Anthony Harris (S) | \$4 |
| Joe Flacco (QB) | \$3.5 |
| Eric Wilson (LB) | \$2.79 |
| Kerryon Johnson (RB) | \$1.60 |
| Andrew Adams (S) | \$1.10 |
| Josiah Scott (CB) | Trade |
| Le'Raven Clark (RT) | \$0 |
| Ryan Kerrigan (EDGE) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|--|
| 1 | 10 | WR - DeVonta Smith (Alabama) |
| 2 | 37 | C - Landon Dickerson (Alabama) |
| 3 | 73 | DT - Milton Williams (Louisiana Tech) |
| 4 | 123 | CB - Zech McPhearson (Texas Tech) |
| 5 | 150 | RB - Kenneth Gainwell (Memphis) |
| | 189 | DT - Marlon Tuipulotu (USC) |
| 6 | 191 | DE - Tarron Jackson (Coastal Carolina) |
| | 224 | S - JaCoby Stevens (LSU) |
| 7 | 234 | DE - Patrick Johnson (Tulane) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 16 | \$89.73M | 3 |
| QB | 31 | \$3.60M | 15 |
| OL | | \$47.31M | 7 |
| RB | 21 | \$7.01M | 30 |
| WR | 30 | \$14.05M | 5 |
| TE | 1 | \$17.77M | 4 |
| All DEF | 17 | \$89.54M | 30 |
| DL | 3 | \$58.73M | 17 |
| LB | 29 | \$7.00M | 28 |
| СВ | 18 | \$15.41M | 26 |
| S | 27 | \$8.40M | 16 |
| | | | |

PHI-2

The Eagles signed former LT **Jason Peters** to fill in for Brooks at guard when he went down in the summer. But after Dillard went down in August, Peters was moved back to his prior spot at LT. He lasted three games before he injured his foot and was sent to IR. After a brief return later in the season, he suffered another injury and went back on IR.

The Eagles' starting offensive linemen couldn't stay healthy and neither could their backups. The only mainstay was the ultra-dependable **Jason Kelce**.

June 1, 2020. The Eagles had a dynamic WR corps:

WR Alshon Jeffery WR DeSean Jackson Slot WR Jalen Reagor

5

10

19

They would play zero games together.

Alshon Jeffery underwent Lisfranc surgery on December 15, 2019 which ended his season that year and was projected to have a nine-month rehab. It took much longer than planned. Jeffery didn't even get onto the field until Week 10, a full 11 months after surgery. He was a backup and was targeted only once. Jeffery didn't start a game until Week 11, and made only two starts the entire season, never getting fully healthy. After being released by the Eagles, he is still a free agent as of this writing.

Sadly, the story for **DeSean Jackson** was no better. After starting the first three games of the season, Jackson hurt his hamstring and missed three games. He returned Week 7, but injured himself and was placed on IR. He didn't return until Week 16, his final game of the season.

The 21st overall pick of the draft, **Jalen Reagor**, was expected to impress and provide a missing element to the 2020 Eagles offense. But as it was on all rookies, starting fast would be tough due to the highly abnormal offseason. Early in the Week 2 game, Reagor tore a ligament in his thumb and underwent surgery. He missed the next five games before returning. While Reagor scored a touchdown in his first game back, like the rest of the Eagles offense, he struggled over the second half of the season.

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics

20

The Eagles' starting wide receivers couldn't stay healthy.

| 25 – 30 – | GF. | 27 | 24 | 29 | 30 | 20 63 | 29 | 27 | 32 | 25 | 43 | 26 | | | 25 - 30 - | 1 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------|
| | 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 | 5 | | |
| <u>20</u> | 020 | Wee | kly | EDS | R & | Seas | son ⁻ | Tren | ding | g Pe | rfor | <u>man</u> | <u>ce</u> | | | |
| 1 2 L L WAS LA A H -10 -1 17 19 27 3 | TA CIII I H 8 0 | W N SF A 5 3 25 | 5 L PIT A -9 29 38 | 6 L BAL H -2 28 30 | NYG [H 1 | 8 W DAL H 14 23 | 10 L NY A -10 17 27 | G CLE A A 0 -5 7 17 | 12 L E SEA H -6 17 23 | 13 L GB A -14 16 30 | 14 W NO H 3 24 21 | L ARI D A -7 - 26 | 16 L OAL V A 20 17 37 | 17 L VAS H -6 14 20 | WEER RESU OPP SITE MARG PTS OPP | JLT GIN |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | _ | EDSR W=G L=Re | ree |
| | | | | | | | | _ | | | | _ | | | OFF/ EDSR Blue: | ł |

| | 13 | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | (Gran |
| Carson Wentz | 46% 6.5 77.4 | 41% 5.2 71.0 | 32% 6.3 75.5 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 57% | 60% | 75% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | |
| PHI | 52% 4.3 | 50% 5.9 | 57% 5.8 | Success Rate YPC | | | | |
| Run Rate | 43% | 40% | 25% | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | |

With the receiving corps depleted, **Carson Wentz** ordinarily would turn where he turned for most of his professional career. His No. 1 go-to, tight end **Zach Ertz**.

To say Ertz was heavily influential to Wentz and this passing attack would be a huge understatement. Look at how Ertz dominated targets and receptions both of the two prior years:

2019: 135 targets, 88 receptions (No. 2 had 87 targets and 58 receptions) 2018: 156 targets, 116 receptions (No. 2 had 97 targets and 64 receptions)

In 2017, the year the Eagles won the Super Bowl, the passing attack was far more balanced. Ertz still had 110 targets and 74 receptions, but

(cont'd - see PHI-3)



 WEEK
 RECORDS

 RESULT
 All 2019 Wins: 4

 SITE
 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 2-1</td>

 MARGIN
 FG Games Win %: 67% (#8)

 PTS
 FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

 OPP PTS
 50% (#3)

 1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-5</td>

 EDSR by Wk
 1 Score Games Win %: 38% (#23)

 W=Green
 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Wins): 75% (#7)

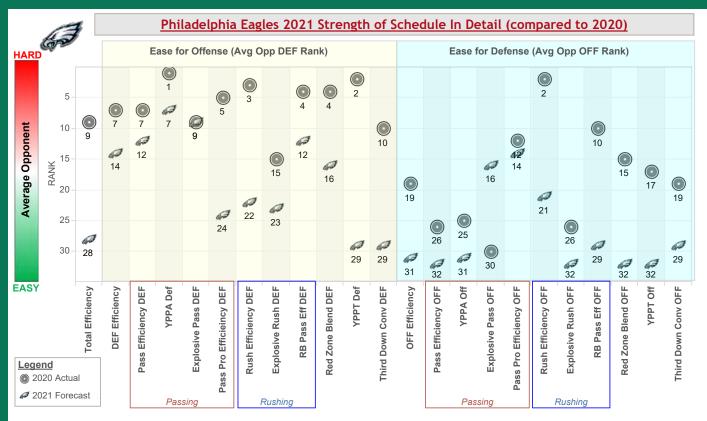
OFF/DEF EDSR Blue=OFF (high=good) Red=DEF (low=good)

2020 Close Game Records 2020 Critical/Game-

| 2020 011010017 0 | aiii e |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Deciding Sta | <u>ts</u> |
| TO Margin | -10 |
| TO Given | 29 |
| INT Given | 20 |
| FUM Given | 9 |
| TO Taken | 19 |
| INT Taken | 8 |
| FUM Taken | 11 |
| Sack Margin | -16 |
| Sacks | 49 |
| Sacks Allow | 65 |
| Return TD Margin | +3 |
| Ret TDs | 4 |
| Ret TDs Allow | 1 |
| Penalty Margin | +5 |
| Penalties | 107 |
| Opponent Penalties | 112 |

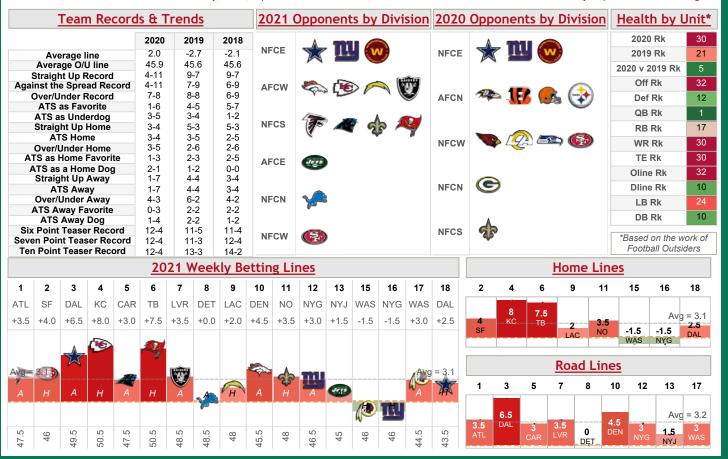
4

16



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 26 | 31 | 31 | 20 | 16 | 32 | 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







two other receivers had 95+ targets and 57+ receptions. They were right there with Ertz in both.

Unfortunately, two big problems arose with the connection of Wentz and Ertz in 2020.

You can probably guess what the first one is. It's the same one that impacted everything else on this offense in a major way. After playing only five full games, Ertz suffered a high ankle sprain in Week 6. He went on IR and wouldn't return until December.

But the second one occurred even prior to that injury mid-October. Father Time appeared to catch up with the nearly 30-year-old Ertz. In his first six games of the season, Ertz recorded less than 3.5 yards per target in four games. Despite 45 total targets (7.5 per game), Ertz totaled only 178 yards, clocking in at less than 30 yards per game.

Ever since the Eagles' 2017 Super Bowl season, Ertz had a similar pre-snap cushion and separation at the time of being targeted. But his catch rate has declined the past two years as did his yards after catch. Ertz's YAC by year:

2017: 3.9

2018: 3.3

2019: 3.2

2020: 2.9

Ertz also saw his drop rate spike to 11.1% in 2020. What made that even worse was when targeting Ertz, Wentz was simply far more erratic than in years past, despite his average target depth (7.6) being much lower than 2019 (8.4). Ertz still caught nearly 88% of on-target throws, but the Wentz-Ertz connection resulted in just a 50.7% completion rate, a sharp decline from years past:

2017: 67.3%

2018: 74.4%

2019: 65.7%

2020: 50.7%

Fortunately for the Eagles, they had another option at tight end, the young buck **Dallas Goedert**. Unfortunately, like everything else for the 2020 Eagles, you already know what I'm about to say next.

Goedert suffered an ankle injury after just two games. He played only six snaps in Week 3 before he got hurt and went on IR. He missed, effectively, six of 16 games in 2020.

The problem at the position was that the Eagles had both their tight ends 100% healthy for two weeks and then again not until Week 14, after Wentz was already benched. For the Doug Pederson Eagles, multiple tight end sets were a huge part of the offense.

In 2018, the Eagles used 12 or 13 personnel on 45% of their early down passes, the most of any team in the NFL and well above the average of only 20%. In 2019, that increased to 57%, in part due to injuries (no shock there) at the wide receiver position. But in 2020, the Eagles had to decrease that rate to 39%.

And that meant more three-receiver sets.... despite not having three worthy and/or healthy receivers to put out on the field at the same time.

The year is 2021. We understand more than ever about what wins games in the NFL. You need a franchise quarterback, you need a reasonably good offensive line, and you need receivers to catch the ball. Everything else is further down the chain. Offense, specifically passing the football, wins games.

The Eagles' reasonably good offensive line on paper in June of 2020 was eradicated due to injuries.

The Eagles' reasonably good wide receiving corps on paper in June of 2020 was eradicated due to injuries.

The Eagles' reasonably good tight end corps on paper in June of 2020 was eradicated due to injuries and aging of Ertz.

Want to know how you go from a Super Bowl win and three consecutive trips to the playoffs to winning only four games? Lose your OL, WRs and TEs. That will do it pretty quickly.

(cont'd - see PHI-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF is negated disadvantage advantage game to prep prep 0 +2

 Net Rest Edge Rank
 Prep Rank
 Rest Rank
 Short Week Road Games Rank
 Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank
 Negated Bye Rank

 4
 5
 4
 1
 11
 1

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

6.5

Why Bet the Over

- Although Hurts did make plays last season, it remains to be seen if he can become a good enough passer. He ranked dead last out of 38 qualified QBs in completion percentage over expected and, according to PFF, Hurts had the sixth highest turnover worthy throw percentage in the NFL.
- The Eagles have plenty of question marks in the secondary. Philadelphia ranked 24th in DVOA pass defense and returning No. 1 CB, **Darius Slay**, had his worst season of his career last season. Slay ranked 115th out of 134 CBs in yards per attempt allowed and 121st in completion percentage allowed. The Eagles did not add anyone of significance to the CB group.
- Nick Sirianni rose from relative obscurity to become the Eagles new coach. As the offensive coordinator of the Colts, Sirianni did not call plays and is a major question mark for the Eagles in 2021.



- QB Jalen Hurts adds an exciting dimension to the offense with his playmaking ability. Excluding the Week 17 tanking session against Washington, the Eagles averaged 22.3 points per game and ranked 17th in EPA offense in his three starts to end the season.
- The Eagles defense catches a break this season, as Philadelphia is expected to face the easiest schedule of opposing offenses in the NFL. Up and coming defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon inherits a defensive front that generated one of the highest pressure rates in the NFL last season.
- Philadelphia was absolutely decimated by injuries to their offense last season. The offensive line especially was beaten up and the Eagles led the NFL in adjusted games lost along the offensive line. It started prior to the season with devastating season ending injuries to LT Andre Dillard and guard Brandon Brooks. Dillard, Brooks, RT Lane Johnson, guard Isaac Seumalo, and veteran tackle Jason Peters combined to miss an astonishing 56 games last year.

| Philadelphia Eagles Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | |
| 25 | 14 | 27 | 30 | 16 | 27 | 29 | | | | |

Following three consecutive playoff appearances, this roster fell apart quickly in 2020. This is the only roster in the NFC East without a top-10 unit.

As a rookie, **Jalen Hurts** excelled when the play broke down. To take the next step, he needs to make plays on script as well. When in the pocket with no pressure, Hurts's on-target rate (75%) ranked 38th out of 41 qualified quarterbacks.

Miles Sanders and Boston Scott return to lead Philly's backfield. The continuity isn't necessarily a strength, as both players earned negative EPA per attempt in 2020

Prior to the selection of **DeVonta Smith**, this was the worst receiving corps by a wide margin. Smith should at least provide some excitement, though it's easy to doubt his ability to make an immediate impact given the lack of complementary pieces around him.

Philly's offensive line is its top-ranked unit, but with three projected starters aged 31 or older, the risk of significant decline exists.

The front seven is also anchored by productive but aging veterans, **Brandon Graham** and **Fletcher Cox**. That duo accounted for 30% of the team's pressures in 2020. This unit might rank higher if not for issues bringing down the ball carrier. The team's 12.9% missed/broken tackle rate ranked 31st in the league.

The Eagles tried to improve the secondary last offseason by betting on **Darius Slay** bouncing back after a change of scenery, but it backfired. Slay allowed 9.6 yards per target and looked washed up. Unfortunately minimal changes were made, and they'll still be relying on Slay.

Nick Siriani's low ranking is simply a reflection of his status as a rookie head coach. He did a nice job producing two top-10 scoring offenses in three seasons as the Colts offensive coordinator and could prove to be the right man for this rebuilding project.

<u>PHI-4</u>

The 2020 Eagles ranked 32nd in offensive line health, 30th in wide receiver health, and 30th in tight end health. No team was worse in offensive line health or collective receiver health than the Eagles.

That begs the chicken-and-the-egg question. Was quarterback Carson Wentz's struggles in 2020 the result of all the injuries or something else? Chris Ballard and Frank Reich are absolutely betting on the former, which is why they went out and traded a first-round pick (potentially) for Wentz.

Before we dig in too deep on Wentz (and we will, soon enough), let's just look at the big picture for the Eagles offense. Their passing offensive efficiency dropped from 17th in 2019 to 27th in 2020. That was the big reason their overall offensive efficiency dropped from 14th in 2019 to 29th in 2020.

The 2019 offense wasn't spectacular – it ranked 14th overall including 17th when passing. But they were able to excel thanks to high leverage situations. The 2019 Eagles offense ranked fourth on third downs and eighth in the red zone.

Performing well in the red zone has a lot to do with play calling, play timing, offensive diversity, strategy, and just getting positive variance.

Performing well on third downs is primarily driven by distance-to-go. The 2019 Eagles were so incredible on third downs (fourth) because they were so incredible on early downs that they averaged just 6.6 yards to go on third downs, the second shortest distance-to-go in the NFL.

The limits of the offense were exposed even more because the 2020 Eagles were terrible on third downs and in the red zone.

<u>PHI-5</u>

The 2020 Eagles ranked 24th in the red zone, down from eighth in 2019. Again, this has some variance in it, but also ties in to strategy, play calling, play timing and, of course, personnel. Having a terrible offensive line and receivers will make your red zone offense struggle immensely.

But the 2020 Eagles also ranked 29th on third downs after ranking fourth in 2019. Again, this relates almost entirely to distance-to-go.

The 2020 Eagles were much worse on early downs and as a result, found themselves in far less advantageous yards-to-go on third down.

2019: second in third down yards-to-go (6.6), fourth in third down conversions 2020: 28th in third down yards-to-go (7.3), 29th in third down conversions

Because the early down offense was so terrible in 2020, the Eagles shifted from second best to fifth worst yards-to-go on third down. That resulted in the team shifting from fourth best to fourth worst third down conversion rate.

The difference was even more extreme when looking only at the first half of games.

In 2019, the Eagles ranked first in yards-to-go on third down. They ranked 12th in early down pass efficiency in the first half of games and used intelligent play calling to ensure that when they couldn't bypass third downs, they were in manageable third down situations.

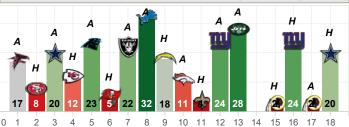
In 2020, they ranked 26th in third down yards-to-go on first downs and, as a result, they ranked 30th in third down conversion rate in the first half. This was largely due to the passing offense struggling as much as it did — the 2020 Eagles ranked 30th in early down pass efficiency.

Many things factored into this. Several of which we already discussed, such as injuries to the offensive line and receivers. Other factors were mentioned in last year's Eagles chapter and carried over to 2020.

(cont'd - see PHI-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



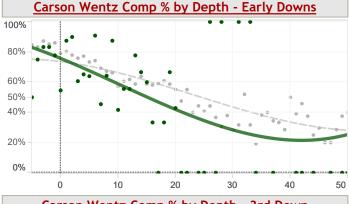
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

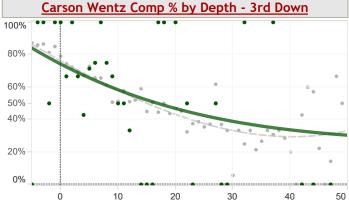


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| G | 3 | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | |
| | Miles Sanders | 10% | 15% | 70% | 4% | 1% | | | | | |
| | Boston Scott | 3% | 10% | 80% | 5% | 3% | | | | | |
| _ | Greg Ward Jr. | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Jalen Reagor | 25% | | 75% | | | | | | | |
| Œ | John Hightower | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| | Jordan Howard | | 14% | 86% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 7% | 13% | 74% | 4% | 1% | | | | | |
| | Miles Sanders | 10% | 28% | 58% | 2% | 2% | | | | | |
| | Boston Scott | 26% | 26% | 40% | 3% | 6% | | | | | |
| | Greg Ward Jr. | 12% | 15% | 64% | 7% | 3% | | | | | |
| | Travis Fulgham | 20% | 25% | 55% | | | | | | | |
| PASS | Zach Ertz | 11% | 23% | 65% | 2% | | | | | | |
| A | Dallas Goedert | 11% | 26% | 56% | 4% | 4% | | | | | |
| | Jalen Reagor | 11% | 30% | 52% | 2% | 4% | | | | | |
| | Richard Rodgers | 10% | 13% | 77% | | | | | | | |
| | John Hightower | 7% | 14% | 69% | 10% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 13% | 23% | 59% | 3% | 2% | | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Richard Rodgers John Hightower Jordan Howard Travis Fulgham Sanders Goeder Reago Boston Scott Ertz **Greg Ward** Zach I Dallas RUSH 64% 31% **PASS** ALL





Successful Play Rate

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Type | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 38%, -0.18 (404) | 41%, -0.23 (217) | 25%, -0.54 (8) | 70%, 0.35 (10) | 44%, -0.03 (9) | 0%, -0.34 (2) | 67%, 1.03 (3) | 0%, -0.88 (1) | 0%, -0.16 (1) | 40%, -0.18 (658) |
| RUSH | 53%, 0.04 (222) | 54%, 0.01 (149) | 36%, -0.55 (11) | 50%, 0.03 (8) | 20%, -0.57 (5) | 17%, -0.54 (6) | 100%, 3.17 (1) | | | 52%, 0.00 (402) |
| All | 43%, -0.10 (626) | 47%, -0.13 (366) | 32%, -0.55 (19) | 61%, 0.21 (18) | 36%, -0.22 (14) | 13%, -0.49 (8) | 75%, 1.56 (4) | 0%, -0.88 (1) | 0%, -0.16 (1) | 44%, -0.11 (1,060) |

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 | Miles Sanders | 35% (34) 3.9, -0.22 | 33% (18) 3.6, -0.80 | | | 35% (52) 3.8, -0.42 | | | |
| | Boston Scott | 42% (31) 6.2, 0.06 | 67% (3) 6.7, 0.15 | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.42 | | 43% (35) 6.1, 0.02 | | | |
| TE | Zach Ertz | 44% (34) 4.9, -0.17 | 35% (34) 4.9, -0.28 | 100% (1) 8.0, 0.64 | 0% (2) -2.0, -0.96 | 39% (71) 4.7, -0.23 | | | |
| | Dallas Goedert | 71% (24) 8.4, 0.39 | 53% (36) 6.5, -0.11 | | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.56 | 59% (61) 7.1, 0.08 | | | |
| WR | Greg Ward | 47% (51) 5.5, 0.11 | 60% (20) 5.6, 0.17 | 60% (5) 3.0, -0.10 | | 51% (76) 5.3, 0.12 | | | |
| | DeSean Jackson | 22% (9) 3.0, -0.32 | 56% (16) 12.5, 0.34 | 100% (1) 9.0, 0.47 | | 46% (26) 9.1, 0.12 | | | |
| | Alshon Jeffery | 36% (11) 8.3, 0.12 | 50% (2) 12.0, 0.56 | | | 38% (13) 8.8, 0.19 | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Sanders | 58% (85) | 53% (73) | 33% (3) | | 55% (161) |
| Miles | 7.1, 0.09 | 3.5, -0.08 | 3.7, -0.18 | | 5.4, 0.01 |
| Scott | 49% (49) | 52% (21) | 50% (4) | 50% (2) | 50% (76) |
| Boston | 4.1, -0.09 | 5.8, 0.13 | 7.3, 0.18 | 6.5, 0.09 | 4.8, -0.01 |
| Hurts | 46% (37) | 61% (23) | | 0% (3) | 49% (63) |
| Jalen | 5.8, 0.10 | 5.8, 0.05 | | -1.3, -0.99 | 5.4, 0.03 |
| Wentz | 58% (31) | 87% (15) | | 0% (1) | 66% (47) |
| Carson | 4.1, -0.10 | 6.4, 0.54 | | -1.0, -0.46 | 4.7, 0.09 |
| Clement Corey | 45% (11) 3.8, -0.05 | 44% (9) 3.4, 0.11 | | | 45% (20) 3.7, 0.02 |
| Howard Jordan | 33% (3) 5.3, 0.11 | 0% (4) 2.8, -0.32 | | | 14% (7) 3.9, -0.14 |

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 Passing by | | sing by | Throw Types | | QB Drop | QB Drop Types | | State at | Run Types | | |
|--------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 49% (408) | 3 Step | 46% (208) 7.2, 0.00 | Planted | | % (414) 0, 0.05 | Inside | 54% (89) |
| | | Out | 51% (88) 6.6, 0.05 | | 5.6, -0.05 | | 47% (176) | Moving | | % (106) 7, -0.17 | Zone | 5.9, 0.09 |
| Zone | 52% (263) 8.2, 0.13 | | 51% (70) | Level 2 | 47% (90) 8.6, 0.08 | 0/1 Step | 5.8, -0.11 | Shuffling | 28 | 3% (74) | Outside Zone | 48% (83) 3.5, -0.16 |
| | ,,,,, | Curl | 5.3, -0.05 | | | 5 Step | 43% (74) 8.3, 0.25 | | | 2, -0.35 | | |
| | 400/ (470) | Slant | 55% (33) | Level 3 | 33% (46) 13.0, 0.41 | | | | Play Action | | Power | 54% (35) 5.4, 0.11 |
| M2M | 43% (178) 5.4, -0.09 | Siant | 5.2, 0.19 | | , . | Designed Rollout Right | 56% (36) 8.3, 0.21 | | Play Action | No P/A | | . , . |
| | | Dig | 59% (27) | Sidearm | 50% (6) 7.3, 0.02 | | 28% (18) | Under Center | 44% (66) 7.5, -0.02 | 50% (14) 7.0, -0.15 | Stretch | 36% (14) 2.4, -0.27 |
| | 400/ (52) | | 8.9, 0.21 | | | Basic Screen | 3.8, 0.05 | Shotgun | 35% (109) 6.0, -0.25 | 40% (469) | | |
| Screen | 40% (53) 4.7, 0.00 | Drag | 60% (15) 7.7, 0.35 | Shovel | 0% (4) 2.0, -0.54 | 7 Step | 45% (11) 9.0, 0.11 | ALL | 38% (175) 6.6, -0.17 | 6.1, -0.19 40% (483) 6.2, -0.19 | Pitch | 29% (7) 2.1, -0.27 |

<u>PHI-6</u>

As mentioned at this time last year, the 2019 Eagles were fortunate to play the 31st ranked schedule of pass defenses in 2019. I predicted they would face tougher pass defenses in 2020. I specifically called attention to the pass rushes, saying last July: "after playing the 29th toughest schedule of pass rushes in 2019, the Eagles will face the second toughest schedule in 2020."

As it turned out, that prediction was quite prescient. The Eagles played the fifth toughest schedule of pass rushes in 2020, a huge increase over what they faced in 2019. That schedule, coupled with the offensive line injuries, caused huge problems with pass protection. But it wasn't just the pass rushes. Overall, the 2020 Eagles played the seventh toughest schedule of pass defenses, up from 31st in 2019.

Take a massively injured offensive line and receiving corps and give them a substantially more difficult schedule of pass defenses and pass rushes, and it's bound to get ugly.

That wasn't all that went wrong in 2020. The floor of the Eagles passing game dropped out due to Wentz. On paper, the offensive structure was consistent, with the same coach and play caller, but there was nothing easy in 2020. There was nothing reliable in 2020. There was nothing the offense could depend on when it came to Wentz in 2020.

Let's start basic and expand from there.

Let's start with first down passing and passing with play-action, the easiest and most productive times to pass the ball.

That can be true especially with a questionable offensive line — allow them to pass the ball when the defense might be playing run.

But once again, there were impediments in both respects.





Examine Wentz's first down passing by year:

2017: 0.08 EPA/att, 50% success, 7.0 YPA, 83% on-target rate 2018: 0.00 EPA/att, 57% success, 8.2 YPA, 82% on-target rate 2019: 0.10 EPA/att, 60% success, 7.8 YPA, 77% on-target rate 2020: -0.19 EPA/att, 43% success, 6.5 YPA, 71% on-target rate

After totaling 36.2 EPA on these throws from 2017 through 2019, Wentz lost 33.2 EPA last season.

First down passing is the most basic of all passing. It's the down that you'll get the best looks, it's the down that should see the most success... and it was completely unproductive in Philadelphia last year.

An offense that cannot get any efficiency on first down is in huge trouble. Particularly one that had been accustomed to such a solid floor from first down passing in years past.

Poor gains on first down lead to everything we discussed above: fewer third downs skipped, longer yards-to-go on third downs, and worse third down conversion rates.

Try to blame pressure? That won't work. Examine Wentz's unpressured first down within 10 yards of the line of scrimmage:

2017: 0.17 EPA/att, 64% success, 6.2 YPA 2018: 0.09 EPA/att, 66% success, 6.1 YPA 2019: 0.17 EPA/att, 68% success, 6.3 YPA 2020: -0.06 EPA/att, 47% success, 4.9 YPA

We're talking bankable, consistent EPA, success, and YPA in 2017, 2018 and 2019... gone in 2020. Not just gone... a liability. Calling a pass play on first down, even if you were lucky enough to not get pressure, resulted in negative EPA. That's shocking.

What about play-action?

Unfortunately, more of the same. Although truth be told, Wentz's play-action started suffering in 2019 before cratering in 2020. Let's start with the very basic first down play-action pass. To show what I mean by already starting to drop off in 2019, let's look at 2018-2020:

Immediate Impact of Philadelphia Eagles 2021 Draft Class

Taking targets from the likes of **Greg Ward** and **Travis Fulgham** shouldn't be hard, and the Eagles will likely move WR **DeVonta Smith** (firs (FBUHd) Serould be make him the focal point of the passing game.

35% of Smith's targets at Alabama came from the slot, so he has plenty of experience inside and outside, giving the Eagles some flexibility in lining him up to find the ideal matchup.

At +1400, Smith is an interesting betting option for the Offensive Rookie of the Year award. This award is historically dominated by running backs, but only one (**Najee Harris**) has better odds than Smith, and there's reason to believe the Pittsburgh Steelers' porous offensive line limits Harris's rookie-year potential.

If you're a believer in **Jalen Hurts**, taking a shot on Smith is justifiable. In his three full games, Hurts attempted 30, 39 and 44 passes—and Smith is likely to see a significant portion of those targets this fall.

OL Landon Dickerson (second round) is coming off a torn ACL and had four of his five college seasons ended by injuries (two ACLs, two ankles) but is likely to start for the Eagles when healthy.

The long-term plan, presumably, is to have Dickerson take over for Jason Kelce at center—the 33-year-old is on a one-year contract.

In the short term, Dickerson could compete with **Isaac Seumalo** for the starting job at left guard. Dickerson started 15 games at guard in college (four at left guard, 11 at right guard).

DT **Milton Williams** (third round) is an exciting interior pass-rusher, but this was a strength of the Eagles defense last season. Players lined up on the interior defensive line generated a 15.2% pressure rate for Philadelphia, the third best rate in the league.

The departure of Malik Jackson opens up some snaps at defensive tackle, so expect Williams to compete for that role as part of the defensive line rotation.

The Eagles secondary needed help at cornerback, but they didn't address the position until Day 3 with Zech McPhearson (fourth round).

McPhearson lacks ideal length (30" arms) so he might be best suited for the slot. However, he did play well on the outside at Texas Tech last season, allowing just 3.4 yards per target.

RB **Kenneth Gainwell** (fifth round) will be a fun weapon for head coach Nick Sirianni to incorporate into the offense. In his final season at Memphis in 2019, Gainwell saw 61 targets, with 26 of them coming while lined up in the slot or out wide.

The success of this draft class rests on Smith's shoulders. Given his dominance at Alabama, it's easy to be optimistic, but it's worth mentioning the league as a whole has been terrible at identifying which undersized receivers will pan out.

Since 2000, the list of receivers drafted in the top 40 who weighed under 180 pounds is horrifying: Marquise Brown, Tavon Austin, Ted Ginn Jr., R. Jay Soward, Dennis Northcut, Dexter McCluster, and Todd Pinktson. Hopefully Smith proves to be an outlier, and not Philly's next Pinkston.

63

Philadelphia Eagles 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

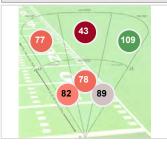
Nothing the Eagles did a year ago was particularly successful, especially in the passing game. For the season, the Eagles checked out of 2020 30th in the league in expected points via their passing game. Starting **Carson Wentz** through 12 games, the Eagles had just a 40% successful passing play rate and averaged 6.1 yards per passing play. The final four week with **Jalen Hurts**, that dipped down to a 37% success per passing play with a spike of 6.6 yards per passing play. With Wentz traded, the Eagles brought in **Joe Flacco** as a veteran signing and the team traded down out of their original pick at No. 6 overall. The early signs all point to the Eagles giving Hurts at least 2021 to audition for the full-time job after selecting him in the second round last season.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Carson Wentz | 251 | 438 | 57% | 2,616 | 6.0 | 16 | 15 | 49 | 73 | 47 |
| Jalen Hurts | 77 | 148 | 52% | 1,061 | 7.2 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 78 | 42 |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | 2020 A | dvance | d Passir | ig Table | 2 | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 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 | 40% | 44% | 27 | 6.0% | 14 | 3.0% | 6.2 | 4.3 | 17 | 4% |
| Jalen Hurts | 39% | 40% | 16 | 11.0% | 9 | 6.0% | 7.5 | 6.2 | 7 | 5% |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% |

Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 10 -10 Carson Wontz Pating

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% | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.7% | 14.3% | 3.0% | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 2.1% | 2.4% | 0.0% | 2.1% | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 4.0% | 3.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.5% | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 5.6% | 0.0% | 33.3% | 4.8% | | | |
| Total | 3.6% | 2.6% | 1.7% | 10.5% | 3.1% | | | |

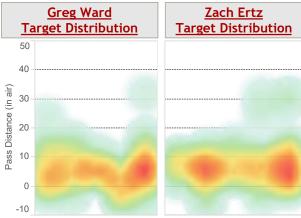
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | |
| Carson Wentz | 9.1 | 6.0 | -3.1 | 71% | 24 | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | |

| <u>'sis</u> | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Short Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | |
| 24 | 59% | 41% | 5 | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Eagles wide receiving unit combined to finish 30th in the league in receptions per game (10.4) and 29th in yardage per game (130.1). The Eagles only targeted their wideouts on 53% of their pass attempts, which was 29th in the league and were 30th in the league in success rate on those targets (47%). **Greg Ward** led the team in targets (79), receptions (53), and touchdowns (six) in 2020 while off-the-street pickup **Travis Fulgham** led the team with 539 yards. Only the Raiders targeted their tight ends more than the Eagles last season at 30% of their passes, but as has been the running theme so far, they still struggled through the air as those targets resulted in a 52% success rate (21st) and 7.1 yards per target (15th).

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------|-------------|-----|
| Greg Ward Jr. | 74 | 66% | 5.5 | 86.8 | 53% | 72 | 63 | 125 | 1 | 4 |
| Travis Fulgham | 65 | 55% | 7.8 | 95.0 | 51% | 87 | 114 | 76 | 20 | 4 |
| Zach Ertz | 65 | 52% | 4.1 | 48.6 | 40% | 124 | 126 | 123 | 9 | 1 |
| Dallas Goedert | 57 | 74% | 8.5 | 109.2 | 61% | 16 | 16 | 31 | 109 | 3 |
| Miles Sanders | 50 | 54% | 3.4 | 44.7 | 34% | 130 | 130 | 118 | 2 | 0 |

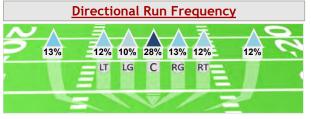


2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Eagles were ninth in the NFL with 2,027 rushing yards and tied for 16th with 16 rushing scores, but their quarterbacks accounted for 31.1% of their rushing yardage and 50% of their rushing scores. The 272 rushing yards for **Jalen Hurts** in his starts were second in league history for a quarterback over his first career four starts behind Lamar Jackson. 2019 second-rounder **Miles Sanders** missed five games due to injury, but still showed off his upside per play with 5.5 yards per touch after 5.8 yards per touch as a rookie. The Eagles added **Kenneth Gainwell** and **Kerryon Johnson** this offseason to go with Sanders, while their offensive line should have more fortune staying healthy after Football Outsiders had the Eagles with 57.1 adjusted games lost due to offensive line injuries. The next closest team (Dallas) was at 46.4.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Miles Sanders | 164 | 5.3 | 55% | 22 | 57 | 57 | 7 | 56% | 15 | 7 |
| Boston Scott | 80 | 4.7 | 49% | 62 | 46 | 58 | 42 | 49% | 54 | 1 |
| Jalen Hurts | 63 | 5.7 | 51% | 46 | 86 | 89 | 35 | 49% | 54 | 3 |
| Carson Wentz | 52 | 5.3 | 63% | 1 | 13 | 40 | 48 | 59% | 4 | 5 |

Yards per Carry by Direction 4.2 6.3 6.2 5.0 4.1 3.6 4.8 LT LG C RG RT



Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Jalen Hurts Has the Upside and Profile of Recent QB1 Breakouts

Pressed into action due to the collapse of the 2020 season for the organization as a whole, Hurts was a mixed bag over his four starts in the NFL as a rookie.

For fantasy purposes, Hurts scored 19.3, 37.8, 18.6, and 16.3 points in his four starts last season after the Philadelphia season was a lost cause. His 272 rushing yards in those starts were second in league history for a quarterback over his first career four starts behind Lamar Jackson. The last time we saw Hurts on the field, he scored 16.3 fantasy points in only three quarters of play for a team actively trying to lose the football game.

After trading away **Carson Wentz**, the Eagles traded out the No. 6 pick overall and still had an opportunity to draft both Justin Fields and Mac Jones in the first round. Not only did they pass on adding another rookie with draft capital in the first round, but the Eagles also did not draft a quarterback at all during the draft.

Philadelphia added to the supporting cast and gave Hurts another weapon by trading up for wide receiver **DeVonta Smith**. The 2020 Heisman Trophy winner turned in a massive 117-1,856-23 line in 2020, becoming the first wideout to win the award since Desmond Howard in 1991. We also have a larger sample with Smith being a hyper-productive player. We can back to his 2019 season when notched a 68-1,256-14 line playing alongside and outproducing two top-15 NFL draft selections in Henry Rugas and Jerry Jeudy.

As a passer during his rookie campaign, Hurts was last in the league in completion rate (52%), but also last in expected completion rate (55.5%). Despite that, he still led all rookie passers in yards per pass attempt (7.7 Y/A) from a clean pocket. The Eagles should have more clean pockets in 2020. No team was as jammed up across the offensive line last season to the degree of the Eagles. Football Outsiders had the Eagles with 57.1 adjusted games lost due to offensive line injuries. The next closest team (Dallas) was at 46.4. Not only did the Eagles add another passing game weapon with Smith in Round 1, but they also came back in Round 2 and added Alabama center Landon Dickerson to insure 33-year-old Jason Kelce.

While Hurts has much to show as a passer coming off his rookie season, the past two QB1 overall scorers in fantasy have been Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen, two other young and athletic quarterbacks that many believed had rushing upside, but lacked passing upside and were not capable of putting together the types of passing seasons that each did in their breakout seasons for fantasy. Hurts was an objectively better collegiate passer than both as well. His yards per pass attempt rose every year of his collegiate career at Alabama and Oklahoma while his 11.3 Y/A in 2019 is the third-highest final season mark for a quarterback invited to the combine over the past 20 seasons. When he was drafted, Hurts entered the NFL ranked in the 91st percentile in career Y/A (9.1), 90th in TD/INT rate (4.0:1), and 77th in completion rate (65.1%) for all collegiate passers since 2000.

Hurts's four rookie-season starts look a lot like Jackson's rookie season run in that he struggled as a thrower and relied on rushing output, but even if there is minimal growth as a passer in year two, Hurts offers a strong fantasy floor due to his legs.

| Phil | Philadelphia Eagles Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel | | | | | | | | Surrendered +Success Map |
|-----------|---|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------|-----|----|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | 0/ | DI | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 12 plays (3%) Success: 58% | 262 plays (69%) Success: 49% | 107 plays (28%) Success: 38% | 1 plays <i>(0%)</i> Success: 0% | 382 plays (100%) Success: 46% | % Rk | | Rk | 40 |
| | EPA: -0.17 | EPA: -0.01 | EPA: 0.08 | EPA: -2.55 | EPA: 0.00 | Base | 24% | 14 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 68 plays (62%) Success: 46% | 37 plays (34%) Success: 59% | 5 plays (5%) Success: 40% | | 110 plays (100%) Success: 50% | Nickel | 53% | 22 | 30 - |
| | EPA: -0.01 | EPA: 0.34 | EPA: 0.37 | | EPA: 0.13 | Dime+ | 15% | 14 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 12 plays <i>(39%)</i> Success: 50% EPA: -0.38 | 19 plays <i>(61%)</i> Success: 53% EPA: 0.03 | | | 31 plays (100%) Success: 52% EPA: -0.13 | Rush 3 | 1% | 31 | 20 - |
| | | L1 7t. 0.00 | | | | Rush 4 | 84% | 1 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 7 plays (100%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.11 | | | | 7 plays (100%) Success: 100% EPA: 1.11 | Rush 5 | 9% | 32 | 10- |
| Grand | 99 plays (19%) | 318 plays (60%) | 112 plays (21%) | 1 plays (0%) | 530 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 6% | 11 | 0 |
| Total | Success: 52% EPA: 0.01 | Success: 50% EPA: 0.03 | Success: 38% EPA: 0.09 | Success: 0% EPA: -2.55 | Success: 48% EPA: 0.03 | Blitz% | 15% | 30 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Inside, Javon Hargrave was a big free agent signing last offseason and was arguably better than could have been expected. He was sixth among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and 10th in pressure rate, per Sports Info Solutions. Though that only led to 4.5 sacks, it did open some things up for Fletcher Cox, who had 6.5 sacks and the 15th-best pressure rate among defensive tackles. Cox will turn 32 years old this season but still has more than enough juice to be a disruptive interior defender. Milton Williams was drafted in the third round and he brings athleticism and pass rush upside to add to the rotation.

For as much that went wrong for the Eagles defense last season, getting pressure wasn't a concern. Philadelphia ranked fourth in pressure rate, according to SIS. **Brandon Graham**, of course, played a big role there. Graham was 32nd among edge defenders in pressure rate and 21st in total pressures, per SIS. **Derek Barnett** ranked 40th with just under half the defensive snaps played. **Josh Sweat** was 98th among 124 qualified edge rushers last season and the former fourth-round pick will have to step into a bigger rotational role.

In the past, the Eagles have ignored off-ball linebacker. Philadelphia signed **Eric Wilson** to a one-year deal. Wilson played 96% of the snaps for the Vikings in 2020, had coverage ability this defense lacked last season, and comes from a scheme defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon coached with the Vikings as a defensive assistant from 2014-2017.

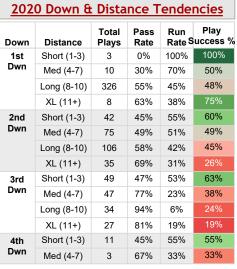
Genard Avery, who the Eagles traded a fourth-round pick for before the season, will convert to linebacker. This is likely a position where the Eagles throw as many bodies as possible at the problem and hope something sticks.

Last offseason, the Eagles made a big swing for a top corner with a trade for **Darius Slay** via trade. That didn't work out too well in Year 1. Slay ranked 124th of 142 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap (which adjusts for touchdowns and interceptions). **Avonte Maddox** moved to play a lot of outside corner. That didn't work out too well, either. Maddox ranked 133rd of those 142 corners. Those are the top two returners from the 2020 squad.

Anthony Harris was one of the league's best safeties during the 2019 season and even with a step back in 2020, he'll be a huge improvement over what was back there last season. But with just one year on the deal, he's not a long-term answer. Rodney McLeod played 79% of the defensive snaps and remained a plus player in the secondary with most of his snaps coming deep in 2020. McLeod will be 31 years old and is recovering from a torn ACL suffered in December.

There is some intriguing young depth in the secondary. **Marcus Epps** played mostly special teams but flashed potential when he got on the field for defensive snaps. **K'Von Wallace** was a do-it-all type safety for Clemson but the 2020 fourth-round pick didn't get on the field often until late in the season. Zech McPhearson was drafted on Day 3 and after the draft, Philadelphia traded for Jacksonville corner **Josiah Scott**, who rarely played as a rookie in 2020.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 58% |
| All Pass Rk | 19 |
| All Rush % | 42% |
| All Rush Rk | 14 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 58% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 16 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 59% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 17 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -1% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 14 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 42% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 17 |
| Up Pass % | 61% |
| Up Pass Rk | 6 |
| Up Rush % | 39% |
| Up Rush Rk | 27 |
| Down Pass % | 58% |
| Down Pass Rk | 27 |
| Down Rush % | 42% |
| Down Rush Rk | 6 |



| otg | <u>un %:</u> |
|------------|----------------|
| | |
| | Shotgur |
|)% | 80% |
| % A | /G 63% |
| un l | Rate: |
| | Shotgur |
|)% | 27% |
| % A | /G 23% |
| <u>ass</u> | Rate: |
| | Shotgui |
| | 73% |
| | /G 77% |
| | der nter 0% AV |



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | |
| 46% | 31 | 67% | 88% | 75% | | |
| | 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | |
| Pass | Pass | NFL Pass | Pass 1D | Pass NFL | | |

33%

37%

59%

| Most Frequent Play | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 2 | 100% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 3 | 0% | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 61 | 52% | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 3 | 67% | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 11 | 82% | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 21 | 57% | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 18 | 61% | |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 4 | 0% | |
| | | | Carson Wentz | 4 | 75% | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Miles Sanders | 9 | 44% | |
| Dwn | | | Carson Wentz | 9 | 89% | |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | Zach Ertz | 6 | 17% | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Greg Ward Jr. | 6 | 83% | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Greg Ward Jr. | 3 | 33% | |
| | | | Travis Fulgham | 3 | 67% | |

| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | | |
| No | Success: 40% | Success: 42% | Success: 41% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.17 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: -0.12 | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.16 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 65.7 | Rtg: 90.7 | Rtg: 70.7 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 334 - Rate: 50.8%] | [Att: 85 - Rate: 12.9%] | [Att: 419 - Rate: 63.7%] | | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 39% | Success: 34% | Success: 37% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.23 | YPA: 5.6, EPA: -0.21 | YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.23 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 79.0 | Rtg: 75.1 | Rtg: 77.5 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 149 - Rate: 22.6%] | [Att: 90 - Rate: 13.7%] | [Att: 239 - Rate: 36.3%] | | | | | |
| Total | Success: 40% | Success: 38% | Success: 40% | | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.19 | YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.17 | YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.18 | | | | | |
| | Rtg: 69.7 | Rtg: 82.8 | Rtg: 73.1 | | | | | |
| | [Att: 483 - Rate: 73.4%] | [Att: 175 - Rate: 26.6%] | [Att: 658 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | | |

54%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Greg Ward Jr. | Zach Ertz | Dallas Goedert | Miles Sanders | Travis Fulgham | Jalen Reagor | Boston Scott | John Hig htower | Alshon Jeffery | DeSean Jackson |
| 1 | WAS | L 27-17 | 30 (44%) | 58 (85%) | 54 (79%) | | | 40 (59%) | 38 (56%) | 27 (40%) | | 37 (54%) |
| 2 | LA | L 37-19 | 13 (18%) | 67 (94%) | 63 (89%) | 55 (77%) | | 60 (85%) | 13 (18%) | 7 (10%) | | 55 (77%) |
| 3 | CIN | T 23-23 | 76 (84%) | 84 (92%) | 6 (7%) | 71 (78%) | | | 13 (14%) | 78 (86%) | | 28 (31%) |
| 4 | SF | W 25-20 | 48 (77%) | 59 (95%) | | 48 (77%) | 37 (60%) | | 9 (15%) | 50 (81%) | | |
| 5 | PIT | L 38-29 | 41 (69%) | 56 (95%) | | 50 (85%) | 46 (78%) | | 7 (12%) | 48 (81%) | | |
| 6 | BAL | L 30-28 | 58 (81%) | 48 (67%) | | 29 (40%) | 58 (81%) | | 35 (49%) | 43 (60%) | | |
| 7 | NYG | W 22-21 | 77 (95%) | | | | 78 (96%) | | 56 (69%) | 30 (37%) | | 39 (48%) |
| 8 | DAL | W 23-9 | 59 (94%) | | 53 (84%) | | 59 (94%) | 46 (73%) | 41 (65%) | 10 (16%) | | |
| 10 | NYG | L 27-17 | 42 (63%) | | 62 (93%) | 48 (72%) | 59 (88%) | 59 (88%) | 18 (27%) | 3 (4%) | 18 (27%) | |
| 11 | CLE | L 22-17 | 46 (68%) | | 68 (100%) | 41 (60%) | 65 (96%) | 63 (93%) | 27 (40%) | 1 (1%) | 5 (7%) | |
| 12 | SEA | L 23-17 | 48 (68%) | | 71 (100%) | 43 (61%) | 37 (52%) | 43 (61%) | 26 (37%) | 19 (27%) | 35 (49%) | |
| 13 | GB | L 30-16 | 44 (71%) | 27 (44%) | 52 (84%) | 35 (56%) | 25 (40%) | 44 (71%) | 16 (26%) | 18 (29%) | 35 (56%) | |
| 14 | NO | W 24-21 | 51 (74%) | 50 (72%) | 59 (86%) | 56 (81%) | 11 (16%) | 47 (68%) | 15 (22%) | | 31 (45%) | |
| 15 | ARI | L 33-26 | 44 (53%) | 62 (75%) | 73 (88%) | 69 (83%) | 26 (31%) | 46 (55%) | 15 (18%) | | 52 (63%) | |
| 16 | DAL | L 37-17 | 66 (90%) | 62 (85%) | 41 (56%) | 57 (78%) | 22 (30%) | 43 (59%) | 8 (11%) | | 26 (36%) | 20 (27%) |
| 17 | WAS | L 20-14 | 48 (71%) | 61 (90%) | | | 29 (43%) | 19 (28%) | 46 (68%) | 12 (18%) | | |
| | Grand ' | Total | 791 (70%) | 634 (81%) | 602 (79%) | 602 (71%) | 552 (62%) | 510 (67%) | 383 (34%) | 346 (38%) | 202 (40%) | 179 (48%) |

| Personnel Groupings | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| cc. % | | | | | | | | |
| 3% | | | | | | | | |
| 7% | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| <u>'S</u> | | | | | | | | |
| un cc. | | | | | | | | |
| un cc. | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | |
| Travis Fulgham | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | | | |
| Zach Ertz | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | |
| Jalen Reagor | 6 | 1 | | 5 | | | |
| Boston Scott | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| Dallas Goedert | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| John Hightower | 3 | | | 3 | | | |
| Richard Rodgers | 3 | | | 3 | | | |
| Alshon Jeffery | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| DeSean Jackson | 2 | | | 2 | | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Miles Sanders | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | | |
| Boston Scott | 13 | 1 | 6 | 6 | | |
| Carson Wentz | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Jalen Hurts | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | |
| Corey Clement | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | |
| Jordan Howard | 1 | | | 1 | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | |
| 18% | 33% | 49% | | | |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% | | | |
| Overall Target Success % | | | | | |
| <u> </u> | Turget Ju | iccess 10 | | | |
| RB | TE | WR | | | |





2018: 0.28 EPA/att, 56% success, 10.4 YPA 2019: 0.18 EPA/att, 53% success, 8.9 YPA 2020: -0.11 EPA/att, 43% success, 6.9 YPA

Where 2019 most notably declined was when Wentz was pressured. He was much better using play-action when under pressure in 2018. If pressure started getting to him in 2019, he struggled.

First, look at unpressured first down play-action:

2018: 0.47 EPA/att, 66% success, 10.5 YPA 2019: 0.41 EPA/att, 61% success, 10.1 YPA 2020: 0.10 EPA/att, 52% success, 7.5 YPA

Wentz went from very stable numbers in two consecutive years to dropping substantially in 2020, even from a clean pocket.

Looking at pressured play-action on all downs (not the best thing to look at but in this case, it will prove a point) we see that Wentz wasn't great in 2019 from a YPA perspective but got even worse in 2020:

2018: -0.48 EPA/att, 38% success, 9.5 YPA 2019: -0.25 EPA/att, 39% success, 5.4 YPA 2020: -0.87 EPA/att, 24% success, 4.3 YPA

When you can't move the ball on first down and you can't get solid results from play-action, even when unpressured, you're going to be in trouble. Your quarterback is going to be passing more often in unfavorable passing downs. He's going to get even more pressure as a result, and with a bad offensive line, that's a disaster. He might have to throw on the move more often, which was the case in 2020, as a lower rate of pass attempts came when planted vs when on the move.

Compare Wentz's passing efficiency at the state of pass the last two years:

2019 planted: 0.02 EPA/att, 50% success, 6.5 YPA (449 att) 2020 planted: 0.03 EPA/att, 48% success, 6.8 YPA (307 att)

These numbers are virtually identical. When planted, Wentz was not spectacular at all. In fact, he ranked 37th of 40 qualifying quarterbacks.

But look at the numbers when Wentz wasn't planted when he threw the ball:

2019 moving: 0.32 EPA/att, 55% success, 6.6 YPA (82 att) 2020 moving: -0.12 EPA/att, 50% success, 5.9 YPA (66 att)

2019 shuffling: 0.31 EPA/att, 55% success, 7.4 YPA (76 att) 2020 shuffling: -0.40 EPA/att, 25% success, 2.3 YPA (61 att)

At times, passing on the move is designed into the structure of the offense, particularly when an offensive line is poor. Getting the quarterback to roll out of the pocket or slide is essential. Sometimes passing on the move is required due to pressure and is not planned pre-snap.

In either case, where Wentz once succeeded in the past, he struggled mightily in 2020. Wentz was absolutely terrible when on the move last year.

To summarize:

- Wentz couldn't pass on first down, even when unpressured
- Wentz couldn't pass with play-action
- The line was bad, so the first two problems were compounded with more passes on the move
- Wentz were terrible when passing on the move

What was the result?

The Eagles trailed more often. That forced the need to perform better in the fourth quarter, but where Wentz was once successful, and was able to win games from behind, he couldn't in 2020:

Examine Wentz's fourth quarter passing by year:

2017: 0.18 EPA/att, 52% success, 6.9 YPA, 76% on-target rate 2018: -0.01 EPA/att, 54% success, 6.7 YPA, 83% on-target rate 2019: -0.04 EPA/att, 51% success, 7.3 YPA, 75% on-target rate 2020: -0.25 EPA/att, 41% success, 5.6 YPA, 70% on-target rate

After totaling 8.1 EPA on these throws from 2017 through 2019, Wentz lost 32.2 EPA last season.

For years, Wentz could rally when down. From 2017-2019, the Eagles went 10-12 in games they trailed after one quarter. In 2020, they went 0-5.

From 2017-2019, the Eagles went 10-13 in games they trailed at halftime. In 2020, they went 1-10.





But now Wentz is gone. So is Doug Pederson. Insert Jalen Hurts and Nick Sirianni.

Are the Eagles in better shape?

The easy answer is no, they are not in better shape than they were last spring. But they are in better shape than they were DURING the 2020 season.

Jalen Hurts may or may not be good, but it's hard to be worse than Wentz was in 2020. The 2021 offensive line, if healthy, is far better than what we saw during the 2020 season. The receiving corps, on paper, looks worse than what we saw on paper last offseason, but it's hard to imagine it could get any more injured than 2020, a season that saw a TOTAL of 20 combined receptions from their planned WR1 and WR2.

Linemakers have the Eagles taking a decisive step back in 2021. After forecasted win totals of 10.5, 10, and 9.5 the last three years, the Eagles are expected to win only 6.5 games in 2021. After being favored in 11, 11, and 8 games in preseason lines the last three years, the Eagles are favored in only two games in 2021 (home games against the Giants and Washington, late in the season).

The Eagles actually play the third easiest schedule in the NFL based on opposing win totals, but because of how bad they are expected to be, they are getting no respect in the futures betting market.

The Eagles faithful don't like to see losing. Anytime a Philly team doesn't win a championship, it's the end of the world. Looking back on recent history, however, this team won two NFC East crowns and a Super Bowl championship between 2017 and 2019. Last year was a catastrophe, but this team isn't in a terrible position for the future.

They will quickly determine whether Hurts is the right quarterback or not. If he is, they have him on a rookie deal for peanuts (no cap hit larger than \$1.9 million through 2023) and can sign him down the road to a long-term deal. If he's not, the Eagles are likely to have one of the top picks of the 2022 NFL draft with plenty of weaponry to use in the draft, including a potential first from the Wentz trade and another future first from Miami in the trade back from pick No. 6 to pick No. 12. Philadelphia currently is projected to have the most draft capital in 2022 with an opportunity to either find a new quarterback or build the next era of the roster around what they currently have in place.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular 2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

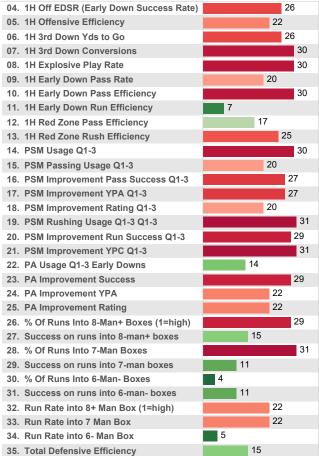
CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE



| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.0 | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.9 | | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7 | | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.0 | | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 44% | | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 47% | | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.15 | | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.14 | | | | |

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 40% | | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 45% | | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 7.0 | | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 8.5% | | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | -0.13 | | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 8.2 | | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 50% | | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 5.9 | | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 4.7% | | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.13 | | | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.6 | | | | |

| 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 | 49% |
| 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 | 31% |
| 59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 51% |
| 60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 6 |
| 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 | 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) | | | | |
|--|-------|---------------|-------|--|
| N-4 EDOE DI- | 7 | | | |
| Net FROE Rk | | defFUM | 21 | |
| Net FROE | 2.0 | defFUM Rcvrd | 10 | |
| offFUM | 30 | dell OW Revid | 10 | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 20 | defFR Rk | 8 | |
| offFR% | 66.7% | defFR% | 52.4% | |
| offFR Rk | 4 | defEDOE | -1.6 | |
| offFROE | 3.6 | defFROE | -1.0 | |
| offFROE Rk | 3 | defFROE Rk | 29 | |

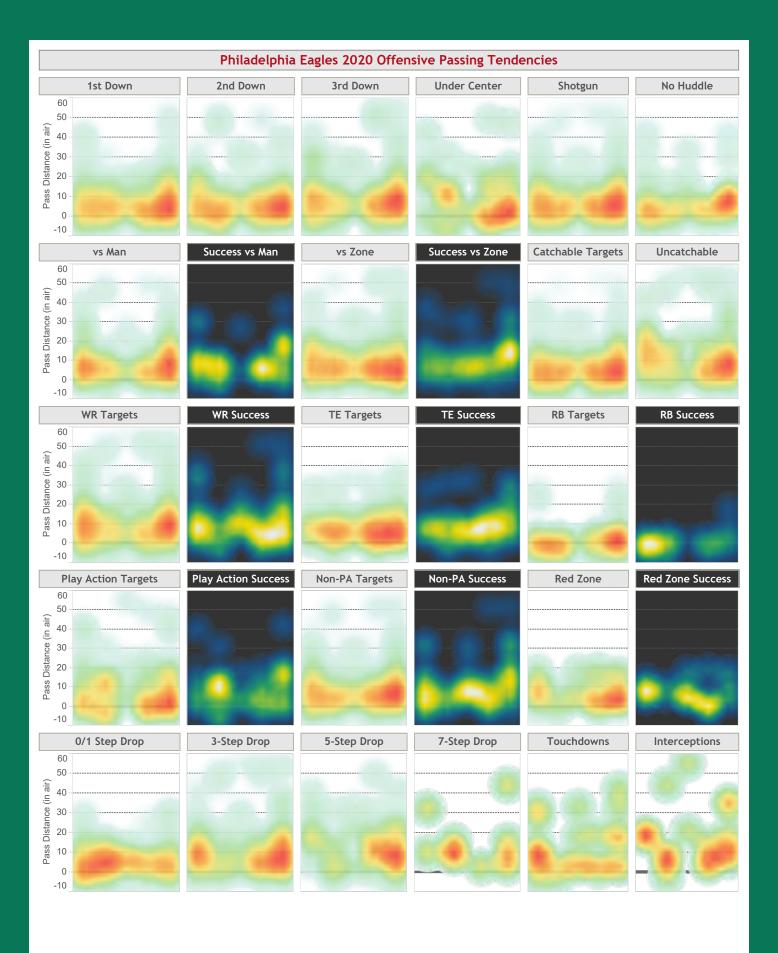
| Field Goal Luck | | | | | |
|--|----------|------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Net Over Expectation | -2.78 | Opp Att | 32 | | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 27 | Opp Makes | 27 | | |
| Own Att Own Makes | 19 14 | Opp FG % | 84% | | |
| Own FG % | 74% | Opp Expected Makes | 25.55 | | |
| Own Expected Makes | 15.33 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.45 | | |
| Own Make over Expectation | -1.33 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 11 | | |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 26 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 1.13 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. 2019 Own Rk | 0.23 | 2019 Opp Rk | 7 | | |
| 2019 OWII RK | 12 | 2019 Opp Nr. | - / | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|--|
| | Carson Wentz | Jalen Hurts | | |
| CAY | 6.3 | 7.8 | | |
| CAY Rk | 15 | 1 | | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 25 | | | |
| AYTS Rk | 11 | 5 | | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 15 | | | |
| AGG Rk | 10 | 28 | | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 21 | | | |
| COMP% | 57.4 | 52 | | |
| xCOMP% | 61.5 | 55.5 | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 38 | 41 | | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 12 | | | |
| CPOE% | -4.1 | -3.4 | | |
| CPOE Rk | 40 | 37 | | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 23 | | | |
| | | | | |

| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: | |
|---|----|
| Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOI | Ε: |
| Actual completion percentage over expectation | |

| QB Pressure | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|--|
| | Carson Wentz | Jalen Hurts | | |
| Pressure % | 37.3 | 37.8 | | |
| Pressure Rk | 8 | 6 | | |
| Sack % | 9.8 | 6.5 | | |
| Sack Rk | 1 | 14 | | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 58.6 | 56.7 | | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 34 | 36 | | |
| Rating when Pressured | 48.6 | 59.1 | | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 31 | 24 | | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 73.8 | 67.7 | | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 39 | 41 | | |
| Rating when Clean | 82.5 | 86.2 | | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 39 | 37 | | |
| Time to Throw | 2.91 | 3.11 | | |
| Time to Throw Rk | 6 | 1 | | |

| Offensive Metrics | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|--|
| EPA/Pass | 0.09 | | |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 13 | | |
| EPA/Rush | -0.02 | | |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 9 | | |
| On-Target Catch % | 90.9% | | |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 16 | | |
| Drop% | 6.1% | | |
| Drop Rk | 13 | | |
| YAC/Att | 2.3 | | |
| YAC/Att Rk | 18 | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.5% | | |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 17 | | |
| Rush 1st Down % | 26.5% | | |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 16 | | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Mike Tomlin (14 yrs) Offensive Coordinator:

Matt Canada (QB coach) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Keith Butler (5 yrs) Hard

Easy

Pittsburgh Steelers

Steelers

Wins

Div Rank

8.5

#3

Past Records

2021 Forecast

2020: 12-4 2019: 8-8 2018: 9-7



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Alejandro Villanueva (RT) | Ravens |
| Bud Dupree (EDGE) | Titans |
| James Conner (RB) | Cardinals |
| Matt Feiler (RT) | Chargers |
| Mike Hilton (CB) | Bengals |
| Olasunkanmi Adeniyi (EDG | Retired |
| Sean Davis (S) | Colts |
| Avery Williamson (LB) | TBD |
| Danny Isidora (RG) | TBD |
| Jayrone Elliott (EDGE) | TBD |
| Jerald Hawkins (RT) | TBD |
| Jordan Dangerfield (S) | TBD |
| Maurkice Pouncey (C) | TBD |
| Steven Nelson (CB) | TBD |

TBD

Average # Games Line **Favored**

-0.2

8

Games

2021 Pittsburgh Steelers Overview

The 8-8 Steelers lost Ben Roethlisberger six quarters into the 2019 season and sat at 0-2. They somehow won eight games with Mason Rudolph and Duck Hodges. This was a peashooter offense. 58% of their passing yards came after the catch, the worst rate in the NFL. They jacked up their run rate by 10% to keep the ball out of the quarterback's hands. The game plan? Don't lose games with mistakes, keep games close, try to squeak out wins. They led at halftime in only six games. 11 of their 16 games were decided by one score, and they went 6-5 in these games.

It was not the recipe for long-term success, but to go 8-8 with those quarterbacks? Not terrible — especially considering they had played the ninth toughest schedule of pass defenses in the NFL, and 11th toughest overall.

So the offseason comes around and you're thinking to yourself, what will this 2020 Steelers team look like?

Ben Roethlisberger is back. The team drafted wide receiver Chase Claypool with their first pick (second round) in the 2020 draft. Their most expensive free agent signing is Eric Ebron. You're wondering, what is this starting to smell like? Perhaps an offensive turnaround?

You check the schedule from my book... yep, one of the easiest in the NFL. At this time last year, I predicted the Steelers would face the second easiest schedule of pass defenses and the easiest overall schedule of defenses. As it turned out, they faced the third easiest schedule of pass defenses and the fifth easiest schedule of overall defenses. Almost right on the money, definitely in the same zip code. This is setting up perfectly.

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|----------------------|----------|
| Joe Haeg (RG) | \$2.29 |
| B.J. Finney (C) | \$1.10 |
| Miles Killebrew (LB) | \$1.10 |
| Rashaad Coward (RG) | \$1 |
| Kalen Ballage (RB) | \$0.90 |
| Arthur Maulet (CB) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | 24 | RB - Najee Harris (Alabama) |
| 2 | 55 | TE - Pat Freiermuth (Penn State) |
| 3 | 87 | OG - Kendrick Green (Illinois) |
| | 128 | OT - Dan Moore (Texas A&M) |
| 4 | 140 | LB - Buddy Johnson (Texas A&M) |
| 5 | 156 | DT - Isaiahh Loudermilk (Wisconsin) |
| 6 | 216 | DE - Quincy Roche (Miami (FL)) |
| 7 | 245 | CB - Tre Norwood (Oklahoma |
| 7 | 254 | P - Pressley Harvin III (Georgia Tech) |
| 3 4 5 | 87 128 140 156 216 245 | State) OG - Kendrick Green (Illinoi OT - Dan Moore (Texas A& LB - Buddy Johnson (Texas A&M) DT - Isaiahh Loudermilk (Wisconsin) DE - Quincy Roche (Miami (FL)) CB - Tre Norwood (Oklahor P - Pressley Harvin III |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj







2021 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see PIT2)



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 24 | \$86.23M | 23 |
| QB | 4 | \$29.85M | 9 |
| OL | | \$29.73M | 17 |
| RB | 31 | \$5.28M | 31 |
| WR | 32 | \$11.47M | 31 |
| TE | 17 | \$9.90M | 15 |
| All DEF | 16 | \$90.92M | 7 |
| DL | 9 | \$47.56M | 4 |
| LB | 21 | \$11.79M | 15 |
| СВ | 10 | \$22.64M | 8 |
| S | 25 | \$8.92M | 23 |

PIT-2

You start buying that this 2020 Steelers run could be special. But then you read my Steelers chapter to confirm I haven't spotted anything you should be concerned about. You're reading about the 2019 squad, how the outperformed expectations, and you think, that must come from good coaching. But then you see that, unless the 2019 Steelers won the turnover battle, they were 0-5. Unless they won the sack battle, they were also 0-5. You get a little nervous. "That sounds like a lot of luck, rather than great coaching," you think to yourself. Then you read how the 2019 Steelers were first in fumble luck (recoveries over expectation), fourth in field goal luck (makes over expectation and opponent misses over expectation), and were 4-0 when scoring a non-offensive touchdown.

You're getting more nervous, but getting Big Ben back outweighs those concerns. You're still feeling OK. But then you read the last page of my chapter:

"Under OC Randy Fitchner, the Steelers were predictable from 11 personnel, didn't used play-action, and rarely used pre-snap motion" "adding Matt Canada as quarterbacks coach has shades of the Browns' Freddie Kitchens/Todd Monken experiment" ... "coaching will be extremely important because the Steelers have the cheapest skill position corps. They literally are spending the 32nd-highest cap hit on wide receivers and 32nd-highest cap hit on running backs. That means youth and inexperience."

Now you're not nervous, you're worried. Finally, you read, "the Steelers offense needs more creativity, less predictability, and a stronger desire to take advantage of the free efficiency that exists in today's game," and you close the book and go out for fresh air.

You have so many mixed emotions. Super easy schedule, return of QB1, additions of multiple starting receivers, and yet huge red flags related to Randy Fichner's playcalling, predictability, creativity and coaching in general.

Then the season kicks off... and the Steelers are winning. But who are they playing? You don't care, they're winning! But you sit down after a Week 11 win by a 27-3 final against the Jaguars and you start researching who, exactly, the Steelers played.

And you find that it's been the absolute easiest schedule in the NFL. (Hey, you think, Warren was right in predicting that.) We're talking:

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics

12

 \bigoplus

No. 31 Jaguars..

5

10

| 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 WEEK W W W W W L L L W L RESUL OPP PI NA A |
|--|
|--|

| | Sieelers | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| Ben Roet hlisberg er | 53% 6.5 98.0 | 51% 6.2 98.6 | 42% 6.3 81.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 59% | 65% | 81% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |
| 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | |
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| PIT | 40% 3.7 | 47% 4.0 | 45% 2.3 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 41% | 35% | 19% | |

51%

4.5

40%

No. 30 Broncos

49%

50%

No. 29 Bengals

NFL

AVG

Run Rate

No. 28 Eagles

No. 25 Giants

No. 24 Texans

No. 22 Cowboys

No. 21 Browns

No. 13 Titans

No. 9 Ravens

10

Then the Steelers stopped playing terrible teams. They got lucky one more time, however - when the Ravens came down with COVID issues across the roster and played without Lamar Jackson and 19 other (cont'd - see PIT-3)

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

Pass Efficiency Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Explosive Run Def **EDSR Def** Pass Pro 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Efficieincy Def Red Zone Der

2020 Close Game **Records** WFFK **RESULT** OPP All 2019 Wins: 12

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-1 FG Games Win %: 50% (#14) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 8% (#26)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 7-2 Score Games Win %: 78% (#3) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

Wins): 58% (#16)

2020 Critical/Game-

Success Rate

YPC

4.6

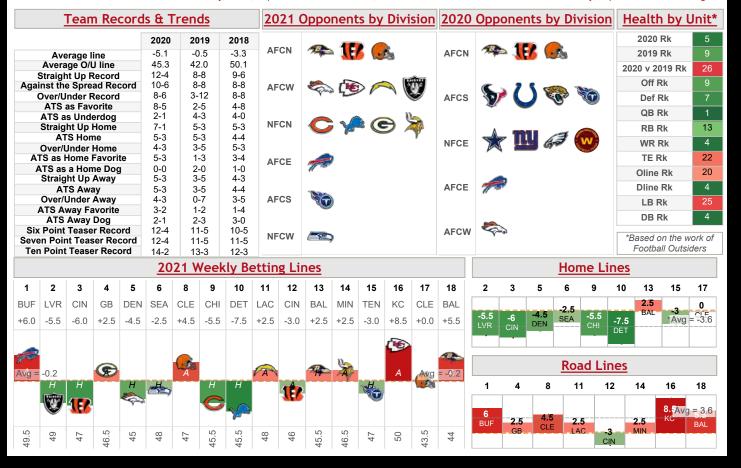
25%

| TO Margin + TO Given 1 INT Given 1 | 8 |
|--|----|
| INT Given 1 | 1 |
| IIII OIIII | |
| | |
| FUM Given 7 | , |
| TO Taken 2 | 7 |
| INT Taken 1 | 8 |
| FUM Taken |) |
| Sack Margin +4 | 12 |
| Sacks 5 | 6 |
| Sacks Allow 1 | 4 |
| Return TD Margin + | 2 |
| Ret TDs 3 | 3 |
| Ret TDs Allow | |
| Penalty Margin +2 | 22 |
| Penalties 8 | 1 |
| Opponent Penalties 10 |)3 |



| 2021 vs 2020 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 R | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | 22 | 27 | 26 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 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







players. The Steelers squeaked out a win.

The Steelers won just one more game all year. A game they were lucky to win – a 14-0 fourth quarter rally to win by four points after trailing 24-7 in the third quarter

How do you go from 11-0 to 1-5 to close the season with a blowout loss in the Wild Card round, particularly when you don't have massive injuries (the Steelers were the fifth-healthiest roster in 2020)?

It was because of the schedule that they started 11-0 and because it got harder they finished 1-5, coupled with an offense that was predictable, lacked creativity, and had bad play calls.

Literally everything I said months before the season came to fruition.

It looked like a choke job by the Steelers, but it was not. They were simply playing above their heads against bad teams the first two months of the season.

I spoke before about offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner. I wasn't a fan. In 2020, many of the same things repeated.

In 2019, the two starting quarterbacks tied for dead last in the NFL with 4.5 completed air yards per attempt each. They were terrible.

So what does Fichtner do in 2020, despite getting Roethlisberger back along with Claypool and Ebron added to the roster?

Roethlisberger averaged 4.6 completed air yards per attempt, virtually no improvement over Rudolph or Hodges in 2019.

A whopping 315 of Roethlisberger's 501 attempts traveled no more than six yards downfield. Defenses eventually just squatted on these routes and dared the Steelers to throw the ball deep.

Want more predictability? 401 of Roethlisberger's 514 dropbacks came from 11 personnel. During the regular season, the Steelers used 11 personnel on 82% of their passes, the second-highest rate in the NFL (behind only the Jaguars).

Using a lot of 11 personnel isn't the worst thing in the world. It's not my ideal offensive system but given the right circumstances, it can work.

Take the 2018 Rams, who used it at a 94% rate and went to the Super Bowl. See the 2020 Chiefs who used it at an 82% rate and went to the Super Bowl.

But you know what both those teams had in common that the Steelers did not? An unabashed, passionate, lustful relationship with motion.

Look at the motion rates on pass plays, either pre-snap or play-action, of those teams compared to the Steelers on early downs in a game's first three quarters:

2020 Steelers: 36% of plays had motion, 64% of plays had no motion 2020 Chiefs: 78% of plays had motion, 22% of plays had no motion 2018 Rams: 52% of plays had motion, 48% of plays had no motion

Just stand there in 11 personnel on 82% of pass plays. Don't motion anyone anywhere. Don't use play-action. What the defense sees, it gets. No attempt to disguise, fool, or gain an advantage. It was gross. How low was the 2020 Steelers rate of motion when passing?

Last year the Jaquars ranked 31st in motion rate, using pre-snap motion or play-action on just 44% of these early down passes in the first three quarters.

The Steelers ranked 32nd, all the way down at 36%.

Criminal.

You want more predictability?

If the Steelers had less than three wide receivers on the field, regardless of the down, they were 70% run. That was the most run-heavy team in the NFL. (cont'd - see PIT-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game prep to prep 6

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Pittsburgh Steelers Ranking vs NFL Average

| Net Rest Edge Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Rank | Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|------|------|------------------|
| 28 | 28 | 25 | 26 | 11 | 24 |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- At 39, **Ben Roethlisberger** has looked every bit his age. On deep passes, Big Ben ranked 31st in completion percentage and 28th in passer rating last season. Overall, he ranked 26th in completion percentage over expected among 32 QBs.
- The Steelers clearly benefited from an easy schedule last season, which ended up ranking second easiest in the NFL. This season they are expected to face the second toughest schedule based on current win totals
- Pittsburgh's biggest issue on the roster has been the offensive line and they did nothing in the offseason to improve the situation. The Steelers ranked dead last in adjusted line yards and faced a schedule of run offenses that ranked 26th in the NFL. Pittsburgh has one starting OL, guard **Kevin Dotson**, who graded as a top 120 lineman by PFF last season.

8.5



Why Bet the Over

- Death, taxes, and the Steelers winning at least eight games. They have done so in every season since 2004.
 The Steelers ooze a winning culture. Even when Mason Rudolph and Duck Hodges take over at quarterback, the team still wins eight games.
- The Steelers defense ranked second in EPA and first in DVOA defense last season. Pittsburgh also ranked number one in sacks and pressure rate. Outside of losing edge rusher **Bud Dupree**, essentially all of the major pieces of this Steelers defense remain and will always give Pittsburgh a chance to win at least nine games.

| Pittsburgh Steelers Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|---|----|---|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | erbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | 32 | 20 | 12 | 2 | 12 | 7 | | | | |

The Steelers entered a downward spiral at the end of the 2020 season and based on our unit ranks, we're expecting it to continue.

After a long run as the AFC North's best quarterback, **Ben Roethlisberger** checks in at 22nd, last in the division. The once strong-armed Roethlisberger now struggles throwing downfield—he ranked 22nd in catchable pass rate on throws 15+ yards downfield.

The run game certainly improved with the selection of **Najee Harris**, but due to his inexperience and mediocre depth **(Benny Snell Jr.** and **Anthony McFarland Jr.**), this unit did not rank higher than 19th on anyone's ballot.

The receiving corps checked in at 12th overall, but it's worth noting the votes ranged from fifth to 20th. For this unit to live up to the high end of those rankings, **Chase Claypool** must develop into a more reliable downfield weapon. As a rookie, Claypool ranked 40th out of 42 receivers with an on-target catch rate of just 72% on targets 10+ yards downfield.

The Steelers' 32nd-ranked offensive line allowed its running backs to be contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage on 42% of their carries, the second worst rate in the league. While they made some much-needed changes, the Steelers will be relying on unproven young linemen to replace C **Maurkice Pouncey** and LT **Alejandro Villanueva**.

Anchored by **T.J. Watt**, we have the most confidence in the front seven, which ranked no worse than third on any ballot. Pittsburgh lacks a lock-down stud in the secondary, but the unit has been strong. In 2020, the Steelers allowed 4.0 yards per coverage snap when the front seven failed to get pressure on the quarterback, tied with the Rams for the leaque's top mark.

Though Mike Tomlin's game management is certainly worthy of occasional criticism, he's our seventh-ranked head coach based partially on an ability to consistently manage the egos of the locker room and maintain a focused and motivated roster.

<u>PIT-4</u>

If the Steelers had three or more wide receivers on the field, they were 72% pass, the fourth-highest rate in the NFL.

Switching from 70% run to over 70% pass based on the number of wide receivers is far too easy for a defense to discern what the offense will likely do. There's a reason not a single other team was more predictable run-pass split based on receivers.

But wait, it gets worse. You want even more predictability?

When the Steelers were under center, they ran the ball 85% of the time. When they were in shotgun, they passed the ball 76% of the time.

Fichtner's run rate when under center was the highest in the NFL. No team's play type was more defined based on where the quarterback stood pre-snap than Pittsburgh's.

You want to see something simply uncalled for?

The Steelers' EDSR ranking (Early Down Success Rate) was BETTER in 2019 with Mason Rudolph and Duck Hodges (EDSR rank of 29th) than it was in 2020 (31st), despite the 2020 team going 12-4.

<u>PIT-5</u>

We all thought it was cool when Bill Parcells said "you are what your record says you are," but there's nothing further from the truth, and the 2020 Steelers season was a perfect example of that.

I wish I wasn't so right before the season because it would be nice for a fan base to not have to endure such an implosion. It was gross and it had to hurt.

Fans of other teams can point and laugh at what happened down the stretch to the Steelers, but the reality is, the Steelers usually beat most of their teams.

The Steelers haven't had a losing season in any of Tomlin's 14 seasons. They've made the playoffs in five of Roethlisberger's last six healthy seasons.

In fact, it's been 17 years since the Steelers posted a losing record. That's far and away the best in the NFL. The next closest teams are the Seahawks and the Chiefs at nine and eight seasons, respectively.

I've had mixed emotions about Tomlin because the Steelers have too much talent to make some of the dumb mistakes they make from a coaching perspective and it gets highly frustrating.

But you can't deny what he's been able to do from a big picture perspective is extremely impressive. Ensuring the Steelers have a solid floor each season? Tremendous. Dealing with headcases like Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown while they were in Pittsburgh, before their true nature exploded outside the Steel City? Phenomenal. Handling the "complicated fella" that is Ben Roethlisberger? Tremendous.

The problem is, the team has gotten further from ultimate success than closer to it of late. In Tomlin's first four years in Pittsburgh, the Steelers played in seven playoff games and won five.

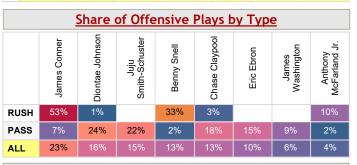
In Tomlin's last four years in Pittsburgh, the Steelers played in two playoff games and won zero.

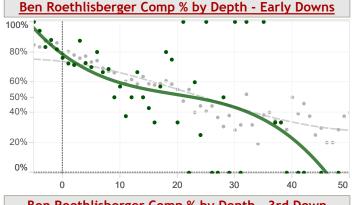
(cont'd - see PIT-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 W 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2017 Wins 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

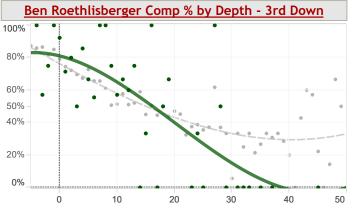


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| (| 3 | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | James Conner | 7% | 4% | 62% | 11% | 16% | | | | | | |
| | Diontae Johnson | | 33% | 67% | | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Benny Snell | 9% | 11% | 55% | 14% | 12% | | | | | | |
| 2 | Chase Claypool | | 10% | 40% | 20% | 30% | | | | | | |
| | Anthony McFarland Jr. | | 12% | 76% | | 12% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 6% | 8% | 60% | 11% | 14% | | | | | | |
| | James Conner | 10% | 6% | 73% | 2% | 8% | | | | | | |
| | Diontae Johnson | 17% | 6% | 58% | 12% | 7% | | | | | | |
| | Juju Smith-Schuster | 18% | 7% | 56% | 10% | 10% | | | | | | |
| | Benny Snell | 25% | | 63% | 6% | 6% | | | | | | |
| PASS | Chase Claypool | 19% | 7% | 59% | 3% | 11% | | | | | | |
| ļ. | Eric Ebron | 16% | 8% | 64% | 5% | 8% | | | | | | |
| | James Washington | 15% | 5% | 65% | 10% | 6% | | | | | | |
| | Anthony McFarland Jr. | | 10% | 70% | 10% | 10% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 16% | 7% | 61% | 8% | 8% | | | | | | |







Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary

Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings



| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-0 [3WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| PASS | 48%, 0.04 (516) | 49%, 0.29 (45) | 62%, 0.35 (52) | 56%, -0.10 (9) | 33%, -0.21 (3) | 0%, -0.49 (5) | | | 0%, -0.95 (1) | 49%, 0.08 (631) |
| RUSH | 42%, -0.10 (223) | 43%, -0.19 (69) | 0%, -0.12 (1) | 38%, -0.20 (37) | 29%, -0.53 (17) | | 100%, 0.65 (4) | 0%, -0.92 (2) | | 42%, -0.14 (353) |
| All | 46%, 0.00 (739) | 46%, 0.00 (114) | 60%, 0.34 (53) | 41%, -0.18 (46) | 30%, -0.48 (20) | 0%, -0.49 (5) | 100%, 0.65 (4) | 0%, -0.92 (2) | 0%, -0.95 (1) | 46%, 0.00 (984) |

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 | James Conner Jaylen | 45% (40) 4.8, -0.05 43% (7) | 40% (5) 7.0, -0.01 100% (1) | | | 44% (45) 5.1, -0.05 50% (8) | | | | | | |
| TE | Samuels Eric Ebron | 4.4, -0.25 50% (56) 6.3, 0.01 | 4.0, 1.21 46% (13) 5.4, 0.06 | 50% (2) 10.0, 0.33 | | 4.4, -0.06 49% (71) 6.2, 0.03 | | | | | | |
| | Vance McDonald | 31% (16) 4.2, -0.44 | 33% (6) 5.3, 0.00 | | | 32% (22) 4.5, -0.32 | | | | | | |
| WR | Diontae Johnson | 50% (115) 6.9, 0.07 | 44% (9) 6.9, 0.42 | 0% (1) 0.0, -1.28 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.95 | 48% (126) 6.8, 0.08 | | | | | | |
| | JuJu Smith- Schuster | 6.8, 0.19 | 86% (7) 8.1, 1.14 | | | 59% (115) 6.9, 0.25 | | | | | | |
| | Chase Claypool | 44% (81) 8.0, 0.37 | 100% (1) 24.0, 2.65 | | | 45% (82) 8.2, 0.40 | | | | | | |
| | James Washington | 50% (52) 7.0, 0.03 | 0% (1) 0.0, -0.50 | | | 49% (53) 6.9, 0.02 | | | | | | |

| Rushin | g Succes | s by Top (Leader | -4 Persoi board) | nnel Gro | upings |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp To |

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Conner | 47% (125) | 47% (34) | 53% (15) | 0% (4) | 47% (178) |
| James | 4.1, -0.02 | 4.4, -0.01 | 5.9, 0.10 | 1.3, -0.53 | 4.2, -0.02 |
| Snell | 40% (52) | 43% (21) | 50% (6) | 43% (7) | 42% (86) |
| Benny | 4.5, -0.15 | 2.6, -0.26 | 1.8, -0.05 | 1.7, -0.55 | 3.7, -0.21 |
| McFarland Jr. Anthony | 27% (22) 3.6, -0.11 | 50% (2) 3.0, -0.56 | | 100% (1) 7.0, 0.13 | 32% (25) 3.7, -0.14 |
| Samuels Jaylen | 29% (7) 3.1, -0.25 | | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.05 | | 38% (8) 3.4, -0.21 |
| Rudolph | 0% (1) | | 0% (3) | 0% (3) | 0% (7) |
| Mason | 1.0, -1.49 | | -1.0, -0.96 | -1.3, -0.70 | -0.9, -0.92 |

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 | | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | 3 State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Coverage Scheme | | Route 48% (60) | | Level 1 55% (451) 6.0, 0.13 | | 3 Step | 48% (290) 7.7, 0.15 | Planted | 6. | % (513) 9, 0.13 | Outside Zone | 31% (67) 3.0, -0.24 |
| | 51% (324) | Drag | 5.5, 0.15 | | 41% (99) | 0/1 Step | 57% (194) 5.9, 0.14 | Shuffling | 5. | 1% (71) 0, 0.00 | Inside Zone | 53% (66) 3.1, -0.02 |
| Zone | 6.6, 0.05 | Curl | 45% (58) 4.7, -0.34 | Level 2 | 8.2, 0.11 | 5 Step | 46% (56) | Moving | | 9% (33) 6, 0.07 | Power | 42% (57) |
| | | % (179) Slant 6.6, 0.28 | 58% (55) | 58% (55) Level 3 6.6, 0.28 | 28% (46) 10.9, 0.22 | О ОТЕР | 6.7, 0.20 | | Play Action | on | rowei | 4.4, -0.06 |
| M2M | 54% (179) 7.3, 0.34 | | | | 10.9, 0.22 | Basic Screen | 35% (20) 3.5, -0.17 | | Play Action | No P/A | Stretch | 63% (8) 3.6, 0.09 |
| | | Out | 63% (51) | Shovel | 27% (11) 3.5, 0.09 | | 46% (13) | Under Center | 52% (21) 7.2, -0.16 | 25% (8) 5.1, 0.20 | | 0% (4) |
| | Screen 41% (73) 4.5, -0.06 | Out | 6.7, 0.13 | | 7 Step | 7.9, -0.23 | Shotgun | 44% (48) | 49% (554) | Pitch | 1.0, -0.61 | |
| | | Dig | 56% (16) 7.2, 0.17 | Sidearm | 50% (6) 4.2, -0.89 | Designed Rollout Right | 17% (6) 2.5, -0.29 | ALL | 4.0, -0.13 46% (69) 4.9, -0.14 | 6.8, 0.10 49% (562) 6.8, 0.10 | Lead | 33% (3) 1.0, -1.05 |

PIT-6

Two Super Bowl trips and one Lombardi in his first four years.

Zero playoff wins in his last four years.

So here we are in 2021, needing to build a team that has one playoff trip in three years and it was a blowout loss... but hasn't had a losing season since 2003.

How do they take the next step?

For starters, they fired Fichtner, and rightfully so. They replaced him with Matt Canada, a move that I saw coming a mile away back when they first hired Canada to be the quarterbacks coach. I literally wrote in last year's book: "I wonder how these two offensive minds will co-exist because I can see Canada justifiably wanting to change up several elements." Canada, in prior stops, has loved motion. He loves crafting offenses to support his personnel. He used spread sets with a dual-threat QB at Northern Illinois, switched to a heavy power rushing attack with Wisconsin and worked in a pro-style system with the Pitt Panthers and at NC State.

Canada loves using lots of personnel groupings, lots of shifts and motions and read options and varied tempo. Do you see why I thought it may not work between Canada and Fichtner?

Canada is the anti-Fichtner.

But because of Fitchner, Canada is being tasked with something that he must do, even if he'd rather not.

The Steelers say they want to get back to the run in 2021. And when I say the "Steelers," I mean it.

Owner Art Rooney, in March of this year, sent a stern message to the Steelers: "We've got to be a lot better in running. We don't want to see the Pittsburgh Steelers being last in the league in rushing again ever. I think it's something our coaches are focused on and we'll be looking for ways (cont'd - see PIT-7)





to improve in the draft. It's something we've got to fix, and we are working on it."

That message resonated when the new offensive coordinator made his first public comments in June at the start of mini-camp: "Mr. Rooney sent out a very clear directive to Mr. [Kevin] Colbert, to coach [Mike] Tomlin and to me. We have to be able to run the ball. We have to run it."

I tried to think back to what years Rooney could be thinking about.

Surely he's not remembering the Bill Cowher-Jerome Bettis glory days back in the late 90s. Bettis's best years, when he averaged the highest efficiency and made Pro Bowls in the 1996 and 1997. That was 25 years ago. Football is WAY different now. Is he thinking about the 2004 and 2005 Steelers, when Roethlisberger was a rookie and Bettis was about to retire and they won a Super Bowl? Passing is far more efficient now, rules are way different now. Additionally, that Steelers offense that won the Super Bowl in 2005 got -0.07 EPA/run play vs 0.20 EPA/dropback. Running didn't win the Super Bowl. Defense and efficient, timely passing did.

So perhaps Rooney isn't thinking about yesteryear. Perhaps he's thinking about the Steelers' most efficient season running the ball of the last decade. Maybe he remembers what Le'Veon Bell looked like running behind the Steelers offensive line and all the efficiency it delivered.

So I found the most efficient rushing season for the Steelers over the last decade...

It was 2015. Pittsburgh as a team averaged 4.4 YPC and had 15 runs of 20+ yards, both metrics ranked first for them of any season this past decade. They averaged 2.5 yards after contact per attempt, third best in the NFL.

That said, their EPA/att was still only 0.00, which was tied for second in the NFL.

Think about that: even in their best rushing season, their EPA/att was 0.00. For the layperson, that means a run play gain is not helpful to score any points. It's not costing them points, but isn't helping them get any, either.

Since that 2015 season, their EPA/att dropped to...

- -0.01 in 2016
- -0.10 in 2017
- -0.04 in 2018
- -0.19 in 2019
- -0.17 in 2020

Do Steelers fans remember what was most interesting about the 2015 season? Starting running back Le'Veon Bell, who was off a 2014 season in which he averaged 4.7 YPC, made the Pro Bowl and was selected First-Team-All Pro... missed 10 of 16 games due to injury. Bell tore his right MCL in early 2015 and missed the remainder of the season. It would be the only year for Bell from 2013 when he was drafted through 2017, his final season in Pittsburgh, where he wouldn't play in at least 12 games.

The year he missed most of the season, the Steelers were more efficient running the ball than any other year he played for the team.

(cont'd - see PIT-8)

Immediate Impact of Pittsburgh Steelers 2021 Draft Class

Based purely on opportunity, **Najee Harris** (first round) is the safe bet to be the Steelers' most impactful rookie. However, Harris's level of production may rely more on Pittsburgh's rebuilt offensive line than his own talent.

When contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage in 2020, Harris averaged 1.7 yards per carry, which ranked 26th out of 78 qualifying running backs. In other words, when the offensive line didn't do its job, Harris remained reasonably productive, but not to such a level we should expect him to carry the Steelers' run game on his own.

Steelers running backs were contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage on 42% of their carries in 2020. For that reason, Harris's ability to make an immediate impact may be partially reliant on center **Kendrick Green** (third round). Green has just four career starts at center, but he'll compete with **J.C. Hassenauer** and **B.J. Finney** for the starting job.

Though Green is inexperienced, Illinois averaged 3.7 yards before contact when running to Green's gap assignment in 2020. If he proves to be a capable run blocker in training camp, he'll likely win the job in what could be a more run-heavy offense than we've seen from Pittsburgh in recent years.

Given the state of the Steelers' offensive line, OT **Dan Moore Jr.** (fourth round) should also be considered a contender to get on the field as a rookie. Moore was a three-year starter at left tackle at Texas A&M and, with 34.5" arms, has the length Pittsburgh typically covets at tackle. **Chukwuma Okorafor** likely gets the first shot at left tackle, but his production on the right side in 2020 gives no indication he'll get the job without a challenge.

With Pittsburgh potentially becoming more run heavy, TE **Pat Freiermuth** (second round) could also see a substantial role despite the presence of veteran **Eric Ebron**.

Ebron has never been known for his run blocking, while Freiermuth was an asset at Penn State. In 2020, Penn State averaged a respectable 2.7 yards before contact when running to Freiermuth's gap.

Punter **Pressley Harvin III** (seventh round) should probably be considered the favorite to land the starting job. **Jordan Berry** has held the position for six years, but teams typically don't draft special teams players unless the plan is for them to start.

There's no doubt Pittsburgh improved their run game through the draft. But does that make them a better football team? It would be difficult to script a less impactful start to the draft than running back, tight end, center. While the Steelers landed some talented players at those positions, they likely won't have a substantial impact on the team's ability to win now or in the future.

This does not appear to be a class capable of altering the downward spiral Pittsburgh entered late in the 2020 season.



Yards to Go

1 & 2

3. 4. 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Total

Pittsburgh Steelers 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Steelers finished last season 11th in EPA passing and 14th in EPA per passing play while 16th in success rate (48%) through the air. Things started out fine in 2020, but the passing game fizzled down the stretch as **Ben Roethlisberger** threw for just 5.6 yards per pass attempt over his final six games of the regular season after 6.8 Y/A prior. Roethlisberger turned 39 years old this March. He had plenty of volume, attempting 40.5 passes per game (second in the league), but he averaged just 6.3 yards per pass attempt (38th), which was a career-low. That went along with a career-low depth of target of 7.4 yards, which was 32nd in the league. The Pittsburgh offensive line aged and deteriorated quickly these past few seasons and will have three new starters on the offensive front.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Ben Roethlisberger | 446 | 675 | 66% | 4,285 | 6.3 | 37 | 14 | 13 | 93 | 25 |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. 20+ Air Avg. Air 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Success **Passing** 20+ Air QΒ **Pass Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Comp Gains Gains Comp Comp % Ben Roethlisberger 50% 48 7.0% 15 3% 52% 2.0% 4.7 4.9 21 47% 50% 33.3 5.2 4% 8.6% 12.0 3.0% 5.9 14.9 NFL Avg

3.6%

2.0%

0.0%

1.9%

8.3%

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 RI | | | | | | |
| Ben Roethlisberger | 8.5 | 4.5 | -4.0 | 78% | 38 | | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | | |

Avg. YIA (of Comp) Avg Yds Short of Sticks Rate Short Rk Rate Air YAC % Rk 4.5 -4.0 78% 38 49% 51% 33 5.6 -3.1 72% 52% 48%

Target

Distribution

Ben Roethlisberger Rating
Early Downs

102

96

Air Yds vs YAC

50

40

30

20 10 0 **Postive**

Play %

89

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

0.0%

0.0%

10.0%

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

2.4%

0.0%

0.0%

9.1%

0.9%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

2.0%

2.2%

1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 4th Dwn

2.0%

0.0%

6.1%

6.3%

2.7%

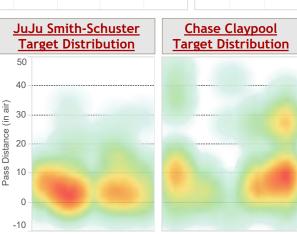
The Steelers have been the best team at drafting and developing wide receiver talent and in 2020, the Pittsburgh wide receiving corps collectively led the league in targets per game (28.7), receptions per game (18.6), and receiving touchdowns (30). They ranked seventh in yardage per game (193.5) due to the nature of the quick passing game. They struck again in the rookie wideout market with **Chase Claypool** in the second round. Claypool led all rookie WRs with 11 touchdowns last yr, catching 62-of-109 targets for 873 yards and nine scores with an additional pair of rushing TDs. **Diontae Johnson** was fifth at the position in targets per game (9.6) and 11th in receptions per game (5.9). The Steelers retained **JuJu Smith-Schuster** on a one-year deal.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % сотр | YPA | Rating | % Saccess | Success | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|-----|--------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Diontae Johnson | 160 | 62% | 6.5 | 87.5 | 49% | 99 | 101 | 81 | 46 | 7 |
| Juju Smith-Schuster | 147 | 75% | 6.7 | 100.9 | 61% | 19 | 39 | 102 | 8 | 10 |
| Chase Claypool | 116 | 58% | 7.9 | 114.8 | 48% | 103 | 69 | 33 | 87 | 11 |
| Eric Ebron | 102 | 62% | 6.1 | 90.3 | 47% | 111 | 67 | 103 | 37 | 6 |
| James Washington | 62 | 56% | 7.5 | 93.8 | 47% | 113 | 88 | 25 | 122 | 5 |

2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Steelers had transitioned to a pass-first team several years ago in Roethlisberger's late stages of his career, but this running game has completely flatlined the past two seasons as they finished dead last in expected points added via rushing in each of the 2019 and 2020 seasons. In 2020, just 28.7% of their runs went for more than five yards, the lowest rate in the NFL. With James Conner leaving via free agency and their gaggle of Round 4-5 draft picks as depth turning in lackluster production to date, they used the No. 24 pick in the draft on Najee Harris. Harris is coming off 1,528- and 1,891-yard seasons at Alabama with 50 total touchdowns the past two seasons. The Steelers have o-line concerns after finishing 24th in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate metric and losing three starters, but their rushing game has nowhere to go but up in 2021.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| James Conner | 180 | 4.2 | 50% | 52 | 58 | 53 | 21 | 48% | 60 | 7 |
| Benny Snell | 113 | 3.4 | 45% | 79 | 67 | 38 | 63 | 44% | 78 | 4 |







Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

This past season, Roethlisberger had plenty of volume, attempting 40.5 passes per game (second in the league), but he averaged just 6.3 yards per pass attempt (عرصر) which was a career-low. That went along with a career-low depth of target of 7.4 yards, which was 32nd in the league.

The big reason he became a volume-based floor play and not a ceiling option is Roethlisberger's deep ball completely deteriorated after he returned from missing nearly the entire 2019 season with an elbow injury. Just 16.3% of Roethlisberger's passes came on throws over 15 yards downfield, which ranked 30th in the league. On those passes, Roethlisberger connected on 35-of-99 (35.4%), which ranked 33rd in the league.

Roethlisberger and this offense coaxing more out of the downfield passing game is needed for the Pittsburgh wideouts to meet their expectations and potentially crash their ceilings if the early signals this offseason of the Steelers running the ball more this season come to fruition and reduce the lofty passing volume this offense had a year ago. The Steelers wideouts largely lived on volume firsthand.

JuJu Smith-Schuster had a career-low 6.0 average depth of target after marks of 9.8, 9.3, and 10.1 yards downfield over his first three seasons in the league. Diontae Johnson was fifth at the wide receiver position in targets per game (9.6) and 11th in receptions per game (5.9), yet ranked 28th in receiving yardage per game (61.5 yards). Rookie wideout Chase Claypool was the one Pittsburgh wideout who lived on touchdown output over volume, but he also profiles as the best deep threat of this trio and was used as such. Claypool received 36 deep targets last season while Smith-Schuster and Johnson combined for 38. Claypool needs to add better deep-ball efficiency to his output to make a DK Metcalf-like jump in Year 2. Claypool and Roethlisberger connected on just 10 of those 36 (27.8%) deep targets in 2020.

Despite Ancillary Concerns, Najee Harris is Set up to see tons of Touches

We have talked about the Pittsburgh offensive line being a potential thorn after finishing 24th in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate metric (69%) and losing four starters from a year ago, but **Najee Harris** is one of the best three-down prospects we have had enter the league and he should dominate the volume here in the backfield.

Harris is coming off 1,528- and 1,891-yard seasons at Alabama with 50 total touchdowns the past two seasons. A true workhorse in every sense, Harris accounted for 66.0% of the Alabama touches in 2020, the highest share of team touches for any running back in this class. Not just a 6'3" and 230-pound power back, Harris offers legitimate receiving chops for his frame, catching 43 passes (9.9 Y/R) in his final season, a mark bested by only Saquon Barkley and Steven Jackson for backs over 225 pounds in their final college season since 2000. Harris should have the immediate workload he can handle if the Steelers can establish anything on the ground compared to the past two seasons. The Steelers had transitioned to a pass-first team several years ago in Roethlisberger's late stages of his career, but with Roethlisberger fading to close the 2020 season and this team closing the past two seasons dead last in the NFL in rushing EPA, the Steelers have to recalibrate their offensive approach. Even if they cannot and have to rely on the quick passing game due to either the offensive line play or Roethlisberger's deep ball, Harris has the receiving pedigree to never come off the field.

| Pitt | sburgh Stee | lers Defens | e: Number o | of DBs vs Pe | rsonnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|----------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | 0/ | D. | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 63 plays (16%) Success: 46% | 172 plays (45%) Success: 46% | 127 plays (33%) Success: 34% | 23 plays (6%) Success: 35% | 386 plays (100%) Success: 41% | | % | Rk | 40 |
| | EPA: 0.06 | EPA: -0.21 | EPA: -0.08 | EPA: 0.04 | EPA: -0.10 | Base | 35% | 3 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 56 plays (58%) Success: 46% | 35 plays <i>(36%)</i> Success: 51% | 5 plays <i>(5%)</i> Success: 0% | | 96 plays (100%) Success: 46% | Nickel | 39% | 31 | 30 |
| | EPA: 0.02 | EPA: 0.07 | EPA: -2.28 | | EPA: -0.08 | Dime+ | 20% | 10 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 6 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 17% EPA: -0.58 | | | | 6 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 17% EPA: -0.58 | Rush 3 | 5% | 19 | 20 - |
| | 2 plays (100%) | | | | 2 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 56% | 26 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 100% EPA: 0.94 | | | | Success: 100% EPA: 0.94 | Rush 5 | 30% | 2 | |
| | 127 plays (26%) | 207 plays (42%) | 132 plays (27%) | 23 plays (5%) | 490 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 8% | 5 | 0 - |
| Grand Total | Success: 46% EPA: 0.02 | Success: 47% EPA: -0.16 | Success: 33% EPA: -0.16 | Success: 35% EPA: 0.04 | Success: 42% EPA: -0.10 | Blitz% | 38% | 3 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Stephon Tuitt was one of the league's best pass-rushing interior defenders last season. He ranked eighth in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate among defensive tackles and finished the year eighth among all defenders with 25 quarterback hits. Tyson Alualu had a stellar season up the middle for the Steelers and after initially deciding to sign with the Jaguars in free agency, he changed course and re-signed with the Steelers on a two-year deal. Cameron Hayward remained a top interior defender with a 12% pressure rate that ranked behind only Aaron Donald and Chris Jones.

T.J. Watt had a legitimate case to be defensive player of the year. He was tops in Pass Rush Win Rate among edge defenders and led the league in quarterback hits (41) with nine more than the second-ranked player. As a team, the Steelers ranked first in Pass Rush Win Rate. **Bud Dupree** was a big part of that in his breakout season when healthy.

Alex Highsmith filled in admirably for Dupree and flashed with a pressure rate that ranked 26th among edge rushers last season. Highsmith is slated to start opposite Watt with Dupree now in Tennessee, but as currently constructed, there isn't much depth behind those two.

The Steelers also had the third-highest blitz rate in the league, which helped add more pressure from the second level and the secondary. Pittsburgh led the league in pressure rate at 56.5% per SIS. No other team was above 50%. **Devin Bush** was thriving before a torn ACL ended his season five games in. **Vince Williams** played the most snaps at inside linebacker and though he was released in the offseason, he eventually re-signed. **Robert Spillane** filled in admirably with seven starts in 12 games played, but is better as an ancillary option.

Joe Haden allowed the 10th-lowest completion rate against him in coverage among 142 corners with at least 100 coverage snaps in 2020. There were rumors the 32-year-old Haden could be a cap casualty earlier in the offseason, but he was kept as the Steelers made their moves elsewhere. Steven Nelson, who played 88% of the defensive snaps, was released and Mike Hilton, who played 45% of the defensive snaps and was an excellent slot blitzer who also ranked fifth in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snaps, was allowed to leave in free agency.

Cam Sutton was re-signed as a free agent this offseason. The 25-year-old played both the slot and outside last season and he indicated the Steelers want to give him a shot to play outside more in 2021. That leaves a question for who will man the slot. 2019 third-round pick Justin Layne and 2020 undrafted free agent James Pierre got time as fill-ins last season, but neither played the slot. Minkah Fitzpatrick was again a big play-making safety when he was on the field, which was all the time — 99.1% of the defensive snaps. While Fitzpatrick has moved around the defense in his career, he spent a majority of his snaps as the deep safety on the 2020 defense. Terrell Edmonds was the safety who bounced around more with a nearly equal share of snaps between the box, slot, and deep. Edmonds played 84% of the defensive snaps. There wasn't much rotated in behind the two starters, but the Steelers did still play the 10th-highest rate of defensive snaps in dime personnel (20%).

2020 Play Tendencies 65% All Pass % All Pass Rk All Rush % 35% All Rush Rk 30 1 Score Pass % 66% 1 Score Pass Rk 1 2019 1 Score Pass % 56% 2019 1 Score Pass Rk 22 2020 Pass Increase % 9% Pass Increase Rk 2 34% 1 Score Rush % 32 1 Score Rush Rk Up Pass % 66% Up Pass Rk Up Rush % 34% Up Rush Rk 31 Down Pass % 65% Down Pass Rk 35% Down Rush % Down Rush Rk 27

| <u>202</u> | 0 Down & | Dista | nce T | ende | <u>ncies</u> |
|------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 14 | 14% | 86% | 50% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 9 | 56% | 44% | 22% |
| | Long (8-10) | 335 | 61% | 39% | 47% |
| | XL (11+) | 13 | 77% | 23% | 23% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 45 | 49% | 51% | 69% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 86 | 60% | 40% | 47% |
| | Long (8-10) | 113 | 73% | 27% | 38% |
| | XL (11+) | 32 | 72% | 28% | 28% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 49 | 53% | 47% | 49% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 59 | 92% | 8% | 44% |
| | Long (8-10) | 46 | 98% | 2% | 33% |
| | XL (11+) | 28 | 96% | 4% | 25% |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 12 | 33% | 67% | 50% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% |
| | | | | | |

| Shots | <u>gun %</u> : |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 17% | 83% |
| 37% A | VG 63% |
| <u>Run</u> | Rate: |
| Under | Shotgun |

Center

15%

32% A

Run Rate: Under Shotgun 85% 23% 68% AVG 23% Pass Rate: Under Shotgun

Run

Freq

46%

| Snotgun | F |
|---------|---|
| 77% | 5 |
| VG 77% | _ |
| | |



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| <u>2nc</u> | d and Sho | ort Run | |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg |
| 30 | 67% | 82% | 75% |

| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg |
| 54% | 3 | 33% | 55% | 59% |

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Benny Snell | 6 | 17% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Benny Snell | 3 | 33% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | James Conner | 79 | 41% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Diontae Johnson | 3 | 67% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | James Conner | 11 | 91% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | James Conner | 21 | 33% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Diontae Johnson | 19 | 42% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Diontae Johnson | 8 | 38% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | PASS | Juju Smith-Schuster | 9 | 33% |
| Dwn | | RUSH | Benny Snell | 9 | 56% |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | Eric Ebron | 16 | 38% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Juju Smith-Schuster | 12 | 58% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Diontae Johnson | 8 | 50% |

| _ | | * | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 53% | Success: 53% | Success: 53% |
| | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.15 | YPA: 6.2, EPA: 0.08 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.15 |
| | Rtg: 106.8 | Rtg: 73.4 | Rtg: 104.2 |
| | [Att: 396 - Rate: 62.8%] | [Att: 34 - Rate: 5.4%] | [Att: 430 - Rate: 68.1%] |
| Yes | Success: 39% | Success: 40% | Success: 39% |
| | YPA: 5.2, EPA: -0.01 | YPA: 3.6, EPA: -0.35 | YPA: 4.9, EPA: -0.07 |
| | Rtg: 81.9 | Rtg: 54.0 | Rtg: 77.1 |
| | [Att: 166 - Rate: 26.3%] | [Att: 35 - Rate: 5.5%] | [Att: 201 - Rate: 31.9%] |
| Total | Success: 49% | Success: 46% | Success: 49% |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.10 | YPA: 4.9, EPA: -0.14 | YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.08 |
| | Rtg: 99.4 | Rtg: 63.6 | Rtg: 95.5 |
| | [Att: 562 - Rate: 89.1%] | [Att: 69 - Rate: 10.9%] | [Att: 631 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | | | | <u>2</u> | 020 We | ekly Sna | p Rates | <u> </u> | | | |
|----|-------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | | Eric Ebron | | Chase Claypool | James Conner | James Wa shington | McDonald | Benny Snell | Jaylen Samuels |
| 1 | NYG | W 26-16 | 55 (86%) | 40 (63%) | 55 (86%) | 19 (30%) | 15 (23%) | 37 (58%) | 38 (59%) | 29 (45%) | 20 (31%) |
| 2 | DEN | W 26-21 | 59 (91%) | 50 (77%) | 54 (83%) | 24 (37%) | 50 (77%) | 31 (48%) | 36 (55%) | 10 (15%) | 5 (8%) |
| 3 | HOU | W 28-21 | 58 (73%) | 60 (75%) | 19 (24%) | 61 (76%) | 53 (66%) | 49 (61%) | 41 (51%) | 15 (19%) | 6 (8%) |
| 5 | PHI | W 38-29 | 57 (76%) | 58 (77%) | 6 (8%) | 52 (69%) | 47 (63%) | 53 (71%) | 42 (56%) | 15 (20%) | 2 (3%) |
| 6 | CLE | W 38-7 | 42 (65%) | 46 (71%) | | 51 (78%) | 43 (66%) | 43 (66%) | 40 (62%) | 14 (22%) | 5 (8%) |
| 7 | TEN | W 27-24 | 65 (82%) | 66 (84%) | 59 (75%) | 51 (65%) | 66 (84%) | 18 (23%) | 35 (44%) | 6 (8%) | 9 (11%) |
| 8 | BAL | W 28-24 | 41 (77%) | 46 (87%) | 41 (77%) | 41 (77%) | 31 (58%) | 10 (19%) | 21 (40%) | | 8 (15%) |
| 9 | DAL | W 24-19 | 63 (91%) | 59 (86%) | 59 (86%) | 56 (81%) | 32 (46%) | 13 (19%) | 20 (29%) | 5 (7%) | |
| 10 | CIN | W 36-10 | 61 (84%) | 62 (85%) | 63 (86%) | 44 (60%) | 64 (88%) | 28 (38%) | | 4 (5%) | 1 (1%) |
| 11 | JAC | W 27-3 | 59 (79%) | 70 (93%) | 60 (80%) | 47 (63%) | 52 (69%) | 21 (28%) | | 10 (13%) | |
| 12 | BAL | W 19-14 | 67 (93%) | 49 (68%) | 65 (90%) | 45 (63%) | | 24 (33%) | 28 (39%) | 51 (71%) | |
| 13 | WAS | L 23-17 | 61 (86%) | 57 (80%) | 57 (80%) | 31 (44%) | | 38 (54%) | 28 (39%) | 33 (46%) | 27 (38%) |
| 14 | BUF | L 26-15 | 57 (100%) | 38 (67%) | 28 (49%) | 38 (67%) | 23 (40%) | 46 (81%) | 19 (33%) | 5 (9%) | 27 (47%) |
| 15 | CIN | L 27-17 | 59 (91%) | 10 (15%) | 53 (82%) | 43 (66%) | | 27 (42%) | 60 (92%) | 51 (78%) | 7 (11%) |
| 16 | IND | W 28-24 | 63 (93%) | 55 (81%) | 56 (82%) | 54 (79%) | 42 (62%) | 18 (26%) | 16 (24%) | 22 (32%) | 4 (6%) |
| 17 | CLE | L 24-22 | 56 (84%) | | 58 (87%) | 35 (52%) | 43 (64%) | 30 (45%) | 59 (88%) | 11 (16%) | |
| | Grand | Total | 923 (84%) | 766 (74%) | 733 (72%) | 692 (63%) | 561 (62%) | 486 (44%) | 483 (51%) | 281 (27%) | 121 (16%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 75% | 60% | 46% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 12% | 20% | 46% |
| 0-1 [4WR] | 5% | 1% | 60% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 5% | 4% | 41% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 2% | 7% | 30% |
| Group | ing T | andan | cies |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. | Run |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 48% | Run Succ. % 42% |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 70% 39% | Pass Succ. % 48% 49% | Run Succ. % 42% 43% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Eric Ebron | 22 | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| Juju Smith-Schuster | 22 | 5 | 5 | 12 |
| Chase Claypool | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Diontae Johnson | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| James Conner | 7 | 1 | | 6 |
| Benny Snell | 3 | 2 | | 1 |
| Vance McDonald | 3 | 2 | | 1 |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|---|----|--|--|
| Rusher All Inside 5 6-10 11-2 | | | | | | |
| James Conner | 29 | 12 | 4 | 13 | | |
| Benny Snell | 21 | 15 | 4 | 2 | | |
| Chase Claypool | 4 | 3 | | 1 | | |
| Jaylen Samuels | 3 | | | 3 | | |
| Anthony McFarland | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Diontae Johnson | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Ray-Ray McCloud | 1 | 1 | | | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| RB | TE | WR | |
| 17% 23% | 17% 21% NFL AVG | 66% 56% | |
| Overall Target Success % | | | |
| Overall | Target Su | ıccess % | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % wr | |





For completeness, in 2013, the year he was drafted, the Steelers averaged -0.17 EPA/att and in 2014, the Steelers averaged -0.08 EPA/att.

From the time they drafted Bell in 2013 through the time he left in 2017, the best year the Steelers ever had running the ball was the year he was injured. And who filled in for Bell that year to run the ball?

A 32-year-old DeAngelo Williams (200 carries) with a dabble of Fitzgerald Toussaint (18 carries), who then took over carries in the playoffs when Williams was injured.

Williams had played nine years in Carolina. He was a dinosaur. Most running backs retire before nine years. But he was cut by the Carolina Panthers in early 2015. He said he was "at peace" with it. He didn't know if he would play again.

The Steelers likely knew that Bell would be suspended for a prior marijuana arrest and miss the start of the 2015 season, so they signed Williams to start a few games and then spell Bell once he returned. Bell missed the first two games of the season, then played six games, then tore up his knee and missed the rest of the year.

How could 2015 be the most efficient season running the ball for the Steelers, not just of Bell's tenure, but of the Steelers last decade? I thought you needed a great, young, efficient running back to be a great running team. Surely a 32-year old, run down running back earning just \$2 million per year couldn't lead a team to be more efficient?

It was partly the fact that running back production is more replicable than you might believe. And it was partly the offensive line.

RG David DeCastro started all 16 games and made his first Pro Bowl and was voted First-Team All Pro.

RT Marcus Gilbert started all 16 games.

LG Ramon Foster started all 16 games.

LT Kelvin Beachum started the first 6 games before tearing his ACL. That paved the way for LT Alejandro Villanueva to make his debut, who didn't disappoint

These were the starters for the 2014 season. Their chemistry was tremendous. The right side of the line featured former first or second rounders. Villanueva was tremendous at LT as well. Offensive line coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was tremendous at LT as well. Offensive line coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group. The only difference was the Coach Mike Munchak was entering his second season with the group.

So now we enter the 2021 season for the Steelers, hellbent on a mission to fix their run game. Let's start with what we know is more important than a specific running back, the offensive line.

Pittsburgh's offensive line got old quickly. And then they left. Maurkice Pouncey retired. Alejandro Villanueva went to Baltimore. LG **Matt Feiler** went to Denver. The Steelers' 2020 Week 1 starting lineup of Villanueva, Feiler, Pouncey, **Stefan Wiśniewski**, and **Zach Banner** are all gone save for Banner. DeCastro was released late in June due to some injury concerns and **Trai Turner** was signed as his replacement.

There is another pattern that is evident which we know integrates into everything but isn't discussed as much as it should be, and that is coaching. Examine the Steelers offensive line's run blocking performance by season per PFF grades:

2012: 28

2013: 22

2014: 14 - hired Mike Munchak as O-Line coach

2015: 11*** best rushing season for Pittsburgh of the last decade

2016: 4

2017: 7

2018: 12 - last year for Mike Munchak in Pittsburgh

2019: 23

2020: 31

Right now, the Steelers don't have the talent along the line they did when they were great, nor do they have the coaching of the line when they were great.

For several years now, the Steelers defense has been absurdly good. In 2019, they ranked third. Last year, they ranked first. But it wasn't long ago (2018 to be precise) when this defense ranked outside the top-10. What carried the Steelers to four-straight playoff appearances from 2014-2017 and four-straight 10+ win seasons wasn't the defense. It wasn't the run game. It was the passing offense.

Examine the Steelers defensive rankings x their strength of schedule:

2018: ranked 14th, played the fifth toughest schedule $\,$

2019: ranked third, played the 18th toughest schedule

2020: ranked first, played the 29th toughest schedule

Guess what I predict the Steelers' defense will face this year? The third toughest schedule. Baltimore's offense will be better. Cleveland won't be worse. Last year, the Steelers played the NFC East and AFC South. This year, they play the NFC North and AFC West. The last time they played the AFC West was 2018 and they went 0-4. They haven't played the NFC North since 2018, and while they won't go 0-4, Pittsburgh is currently underdogs in two of those games. Pittsburgh also plays the Bills, Seahawks, and Titans (who just traded for **Julio Jones**). Every single one of those offenses can be scary good this year.

The bottom line is, I'm glad it's Canada not Fichtner calling plays, but I predict the Steelers defense will regress some, and potentially a fair amount. Even if Canada can build a strong run game around the 24th overall pick **Najee Harris**, that won't be enough. Canada must fix this passing offense. Frankly, there are a lot of easy fixes to be had and I'm optimistic he can make some simple changes to add efficiency. In a competitive division, the Steelers will need every efficiency edge they can get in 2021.

30

32

30

22

9

1

12

| | | | _ |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| | | | |
| Fumble Luck / | Eumble Pecover | y Over Expectation) | |
| I UIIIDIE LUCK (| i uilible Kecovel | y Over Expectation) | |
| | | | |

| Net FROE Rk | 5 | defFUM | 18 |
|--------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 2.0 | deffilled Decord | 40 |
| offFUM | 22 | defFUM Rcvrd | 10 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 14 | defFR Rk | 15 |
| offFR% | 63.6% | defFR% | 44.4% |
| offFR Rk | 7 | -I | 0.0 |
| offFROE | 2.0 | defFROE | 0.0 |
| offFROE Rk | 7 | defFROE Rk | 16 |
| | | | |

Field Goal Luck

57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line

60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line

63. YPC on runs into 6-man-boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line

61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line

59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line

62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line

58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line

| Net Over Expectation | 1.94 | Opp Att | 24 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 12 | Opp Makes | 20 |
| Own Att | 24 | | |
| Own Makes | 23 | Opp FG % | 83% |
| Own FG % | 96% | Opp Expected Makes | 19.31 |
| Own Expected Makes | 20.37 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 0.69 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 2.63 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 19 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 6 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 2.13 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -1.03 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 5 | 2019 Opp Rk | 20 |

Player Tracking Data Stats - OBs

29. Success on runs into 7-man boxes

31. Success on runs into 6-man-boxes

32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)

30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes

33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box

34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box

35. Total Defensive Efficiency

| QB Pressure | • |
|-------------|---|
|-------------|---|

Offensive Metrics

2.9

41%

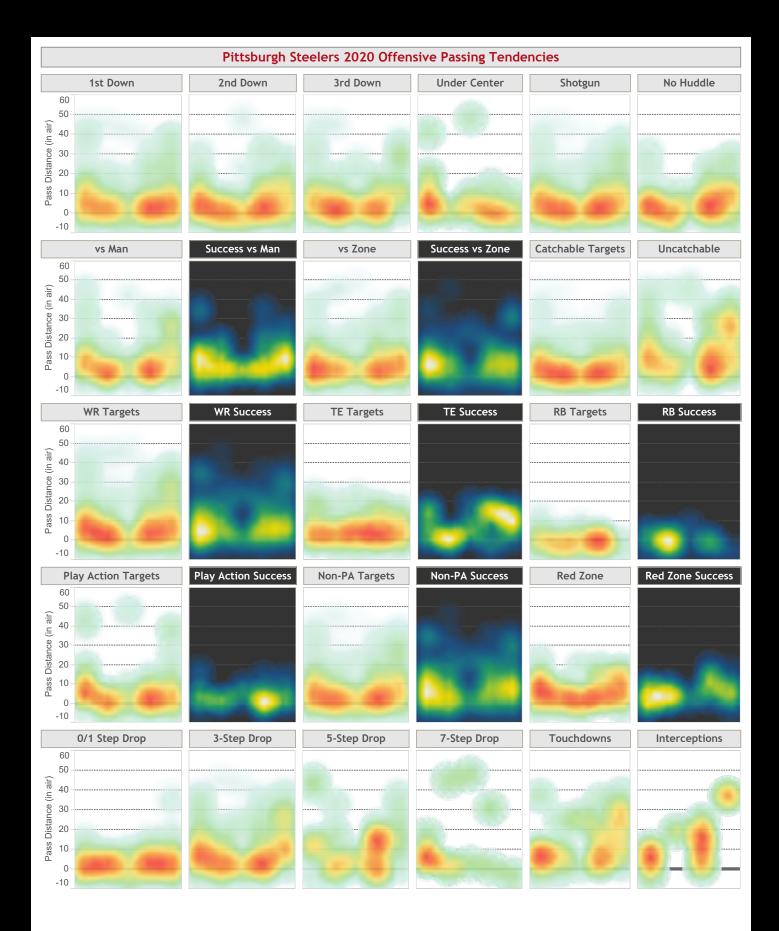
37%

4.3

42%

40%

| Trayer Tracking Data Stats - QDS | | QDTTESSUIE | | Offerialve Metrics | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Ben Roethlisberger | | Ben Roethlisberger | EPA/Pass | 0.03 |
| CAY | 4.6 | Pressure % | 20.9 | EPA/Pass Rk | 19 |
| CAY Rk | 37 | Pressure Rk | 41 | EPA/Rush | -0.17 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | | Sack % | 2.1 | EPA/Rush Rk | 32 |
| AYTS Rk | 28 | Sack Rk | 41 | On-Target Catch % | 87.6% |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 15 | Pressure Accuracy % | 61.8 | On-Target Catch Rk | 30 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 31 | Drop% | 9.1% |
| COMP% | 65.6 | Rating when Pressured | 60.3 | Drop Rk | 31 |
| xCOMP% | 67.4 | Pressured Rating Rk | 23 | • | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 7 | Clean Accuracy % | 78.4 | YAC/Att | 2.0 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | | Clean Accuracy Rk | 24 | YAC/Att Rk | 26 |
| CPOE% | -1.8 | | | Rush Broken Tackle % | 15.3% |
| CPOE Rk | 31 | Rating when Clean | 101.9 | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 8 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | | Clean Rating Rk | 21 | Rush Broken Tackle RK | 0 |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation | | Time to Throw | 2.3 | Rush 1st Down % | 21.7% |
| | | Time to Throw Rk | 41 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 30 |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

leed Cooch

Head Coach: Kyle Shanahan (4 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Offensive Coordinator:
Mike McDaniel (Run coord.) (new)

<u>Defensive Coordinator</u>: <u>DeMeco Ryans (LB coach)</u> (new)



San Francisco 49ers

2021 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

10.5

#1

Past Records

2020: 6-10 2019: 13-3 2018: 4-12



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Ahkello Witherspoon (CB) | Seahawks |
| C.J. Beathard (QB) | Jaguars |
| Jerick McKinnon (RB) | Chiefs |
| Joe Walker (LB) | Washingt. |
| Jordan Reed (TE) | TBD |
| | Retired |
| Kendrick Bourne (WR) | Patriots |
| Kerry Hyder (EDGE) | Seahawks |
| Matt Cole (WR) | Jets |
| Solomon Thomas (IDL) | Raiders |
| Tevin Coleman (RB) | Jets |
| Trent Taylor (WR) | Bengals |
| Ben Garland (C) | TBD |
| Chris Thompson (WR) | TBD |
| Colin Holba (LS) | TBD |
| Dion Jordan (EDGE) | TBD |
| Ezekiel Ansah (EDGE) | TBD |
| Hroniss Grasu (C) | TBD |
| Jamar Taylor (CB) | TBD |
| Mark Nzeocha (LB) | TBD |
| Nick Mullens (QB) | TBD |
| Richard Sherman (CB) | TBD |
| Ronald Blair (EDGE) | TBD |
| Tony Bergstrom (C) | TBD |

2021 San Francisco 49ers Overview

I love Kyle Shanahan as a coach. I think he's one of the best offensive minds in our game.

But winning games isn't easy. Although there are issues every team deals with and things that go wrong that are outside the coach's control, here's why this season is so important for Shanahan:

The 49ers are 29-35 (45%) since hiring Shanahan in 2017, winning six games or less in three of four years.

I was heavily betting the 49ers before the 2019 season, having looked deeply at their 2018 season and saw things I liked. But after last season's results, this 2021 season is vital for him.

Here's the other thin line with coaching. Just at the 49ers:

Kyle Shanahan is 24-9 (73%) with **Jimmy Garoppolo** (18-14-1, 56% ATS), averaging 28.2 ppg.

Kyle Shanahan is 7-27 (21%) without Jimmy Garoppolo (14-20, 41% ATS), averaging 20.0 ppg.

Now look back at the other quarterbacks he's worked with and the results Shanahan has been able to deliver as a coach:

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|----------------------|----------|
| Samson Ebukam (EDGE) | \$6 |
| Alex Mack (C) | \$5 |
| Zach Kerr (IDL) | \$1.2 |
| Mohamed Sanu (WR) | \$1.10 |
| Tavon Wilson (S) | \$1.10 |
| Arden Key (IDL) | \$1 |
| Maurice Hurst (IDL) | \$1 |
| Nate Sudfeld (QB) | \$1 |
| Wavne Gallman (RB) | \$1 |

Drafted Players

| | Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|--|----|-----|---|
| | 1 | 3 | QB - Trey Lance (North Dakota State) |
| | 2 | 48 | OG - Aaron Banks (Notre Dame) |
| | 3 | 88 | RB - Trey Sermon (Ohio State) |
| | 3 | 102 | CB - Ambry Thomas (Michigan) |
| | | 155 | OG - Jaylon Moore (Western Michigan) |
| | 5 | 172 | CB - Deommodore Lenoir (Oregon) |
| | | 180 | S - Talanoa Hufanga (USC) |
| | 6 | 194 | RB - Elijah Mitchell (Louisiana) |

Regular Season Wins:

Games

Favored

14

Average Line

-3.9

Games

Underdog

2







2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|----------|---------|
| All OFF | 13 | \$96.41M | 14 |
| QB | 5 | \$28.76M | 7 |
| OL | 17 | \$34.83M | 16 |
| RB | 16 | \$8.65M | 3 |
| WR | 29 | \$14.65M | 29 |
| TE | 18 | \$9.51M | 17 |
| All DEF | 15 | \$91.37M | 15 |
| DL | 6 | \$49.65M | 15 |
| LB | 25 | \$9.12M | 29 |
| СВ | 24 | \$13.58M | 7 |
| S | 6 | \$19.03M | 14 |
| | | | |

SF-2

2-10 (17%) - CJ Beathard 7-12 (37%) - Brian Hoyer 5-11 (31% - Nick Mullens 19-13 (59%) - Matt Ryan 0-2 (0%) - Johnny Manziel 0-1 (0%) - Connor Shaw 12-16 (43%) - Robert Griffin III 6-10 (37%) - Rex Grossman 5-8 (38%) - Donovan McNabb 1-3 (25%) - Kirk Cousins

0-3 (0%) - John Beck

15-12 (56%) - Matt Schaub

2-3 (40%) – Sage Rosenfels

There are several takeaways from these numbers. For starters, he's worked with three true, solid pro quarterbacks (Matt Ryan, Kirk Cousins, and Garoppolo) and a whole lot of has-beens or never-weres. In the absence of one of those quarterbacks, however, don't expect much from his offenses — at least, not from a win-loss perspective.

But if we want to zoom out to what he's truly in charge of (the offense), here are the rankings of his offenses in what is most correlates with wins or losses, and that is points scored:

2020 - SFO: 21 2019 - SFO: 2 2018 - SFO: 21 2017 - SFO: 20 2016 - ATL: 1 2015 - ATL: 21 2014 - CLE: 27 2013 - WAS: 23 2012 - WAS: 4

2011 - WAS: 26 2010 - WAS: 25

2009 - HOU: 10 2008 - HOU: 17

2020 Passing Performance QB 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn Success Rate 39% Jimmy G 7.4 6.2 aroppolo 116.6 Rating 83.6 69.4 47% 63% 77% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.6 7.0 AVG Rating 96.0 95.4 85.6 **Pass Rate** 50% 60% 75%

| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| SF | 47% 4.3 | 53% 4.2 | 48% 5.2 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 53% | 37% | 23% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

In just two of the last eight years, he's had an offense rank better than 20th in points scored. And when he has, they absolutely kick ass. Both years, they've made the Super Bowl. But when they haven't, they rank below average in point production and they don't even produce a winning record.

Esoterically this is ideal, as you're ensuring better draft capital to build for a magical run. But most owners don't think along those lines. They become impatient if a team isn't winning for years in a row.

So 2021 is important for the 49ers. And it's even more important for Shanahan

Linemakers are expecting it to be a big year for San Francisco with a

(cont'd - see SF-3)

10

15

Explosive Pass Def Explosive

| | | <u>2</u> | 020 | Off | ensi | ve A | dva | ncec | l Me | trics | <u> </u> | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - 5 - | 9 | 10 | 11 | | 12 | | | | 9 | | | | |
| | | 6 | 6 | | 6 | 19 | 18 | | | 18 | 14 | 20 | 17 |
| 지 20 – 20 – | | | | 26 | | 63 | 6 | 22 | | 6 | | 6 | |
| 25 – | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 – | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | EDSR Off | In Off | ne Off | Down Off | YPPA Off | YPPT Off | Offensive Efficiency | Pass cy Off | Pass Pro iency Off | Pass Eff Off | Rush cy Off | Explosive Pass Off | Explosive Run Off |
| | EDS | 30 & In | Red Zone | 3rd Dov | YPF | ΥPI | Offe | Pass Efficiency Off | Pass Pro Efficiency Off | Pass | Rush Efficiency Off | Exp Pa | plosiv |
| | | | <u> </u> | es | | | | ш | ш | RB | ш | | <u> </u> |

| | | <u>2</u> | <u> 2020</u> | Off | <u>ensi</u> | ve A | dva | nced | d Me | tric | 5 | | | | | <u>2</u> (| 020 | Def | <u>ensi</u> | ve A | <u>ldva</u> | nce | <u> 1 Me</u> | etric | <u>5</u> | |
|--------------------|------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1 2 Sank 2 2 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 26 | 12 | 19 | 18 | 22 | 9 | 18 | 14 | 20 | 17 | 10- 10- 20- 25- | 8 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 6 30 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 7 | (|
| 3 | | 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 - | EDSR Def | 30 & In Def | Red Zone Def | 3rd Down Def | YPPA Def | YPPT Def | Defensive Efficiency | Pass Efficiency Def | Pass Pro Efficieincy Def | RB Pass Eff Def | Rush Efficiency Def | Cycloping |
| | 2020 |) We | eklv | EDS | R & | Sea | son ['] | Trer | nding | 2 Pe | rfor | man | ce | | | | 20 | 20 (| Close | e Ga | me | | 202 | n Cr | itica | 1 |

NEEK RESULT OPP SITE MARGIN TS OPP PTS

> DSR by Wk N=Green =Red

OFF/DFF EDSR lue=OFF high=good) Red=DEF low=good)

2020 Close Game **Records**

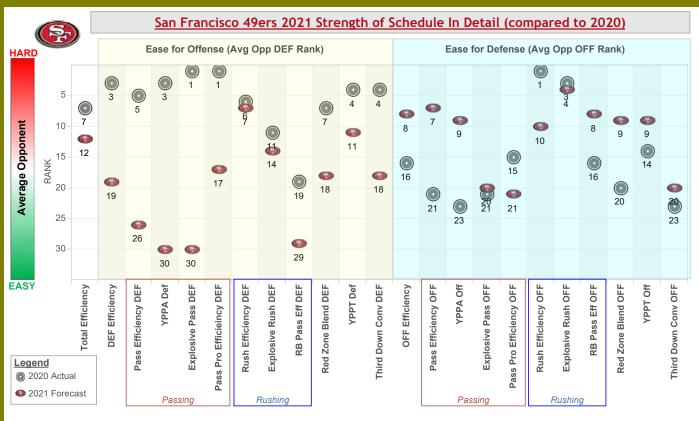
All 2019 Wins: 6 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-1** FG Games Win %: **50% (#14)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 17% (#20)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: **3-5** Score Games Win %: **38% (#23)** 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

Wins): 50% (#18)

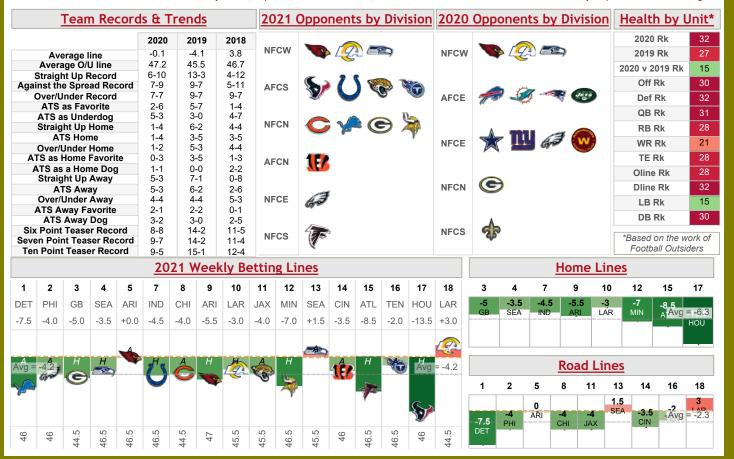
2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin -11 TO Given 31

INT Given 17 **FUM Given** 14 TO Taken 20 **INT Taken** 12 8 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -9 30 Sacks Sacks Allow 39 Return TD Margin -4 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 5 **Penalty Margin** -6 85 Penalties **Opponent Penalties** 79



| | 2021 vs 2020 Schedule Variances* | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Pass DEF Rk | 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 | 19 | 25 | 5 | 11 | 29 | 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







win total of 10.5 this year. That's a huge improvement over their six-win total in 2020. It's the second-largest improvement in wins for any team (Jaguars are projected to improve by 5.5 wins from 1 win to 6.5).

Looking back since 2010, we can run some numbers to show the historical context this puts the 49ers in.

The teams that are projected to have the top-5 improvement in wins do end up winning more games: they win 3.3 more games on average. But they win only 0.3 wins over projection and have exceeded their win total in 34 of 64 cases.

There have been 23 other teams projected to win at least 3.5 more games than they did last year. These teams win 0.7 more games than projected, but only 12 of 23 actually exceed their win total. But none of these teams were projected to win double digit games.

In fact, over the last decade, there has been only one team that was projected to go from a losing record to winning double digit games, the 2018 Packers. They won only six games in 2018 after winning seven in 2017, but they lost **Aaron Rodgers** due to injury.

If we relax the criteria and question how many teams had losing seasons and then were projected to have winning seasons the next year, there were 17 such teams. 10 of the 17 exceeded their win total. On average, these teams went from 6.1 wins to 9.4 wins, but those that did exceed their win total all won 11 or more games. That's what the 49ers would need to do this year to exceed their win total.

The bottom line is, betting against such turnarounds has not been fruitful, but it's exceedingly rare for a team to be projected by the linemakers to go from six wins to winning double-digit games. Yes, there is an extra game to play with this year, but it really shows how strong the perceived rebound is for the 49ers. They are favored in 14 games this year, by an average spread of nearly four points per game. The only games they aren't favored in are road games within their division.

So if Shanahan badly needs a bounce back season, he may very well get one. He tried to make sure of that by trading a ton of future capital for the third overall pick.

To move up from pick No. 12 to pick No. 3, the 49ers traded two future first-round picks plus their 2022 third-round pick. (San Francisco did get three extra third-round selections when the Jets hired Robert Saleh and Washington hired Martin Mahew. They used one and just traded one, so they have one remaining in 2023.)

It was a big investment, but if quarterback **Trey Lance** ends up being what Shanahan thinks he could be, it's well worth the capital. While the rest of the NFL saw it as a huge move, Shanahan himself didn't see it as such, because he has seen the Rams and Seahawks in his own division make such moves in the past.

Per Shanahan: "Seattle trades two first-round picks away for a safety (Jamal Adams), a very good one. The Rams had done it for a corner. They've done it for a quarterback (Matthew Stafford). The three years prior to that they did it every single year for a receiver. ... So you're watching all this stuff, that's why I didn't see it as monumental as everyone else did. I probably would've 10 years ago."

"But I've watched people make these decisions the last two years and it's grown on me. I'm like, you know, this isn't the biggest risk in the history of football like I always thought growing up. Just watching and assessing what the Rams and Seattle have. So when we knew we could move up to get a quarterback, it pumped me up, especially to do it early, so then you can lay out a plan and which direction you want to go..."

As discussed earlier, Shanahan's teams have only hit their ceiling when they've had a bonafide NFL starting quarterback under center. Garoppolo hasn't proven to be durable enough to be that guy. I can absolutely see the frustration in a coach as gifted and brilliant as Shanahan when he's working with QB2s and QB3s. Garoppolo played six or fewer games in three of his four seasons in San Francisco. He simply has been either injury prone or unlucky. Garoppolo was reportedly bulked up this offseason to try and protect his body more than in the past.

It's really difficult to evaluate last year's performance because of the injury situation the 49ers found themselves in. Week 1, while Garoppolo started the season healthy, his top two wide receivers were both out. **Deebo Samuel** missed the game with a foot injury (he had offseason surgery to repair a fractured foot) and **Brandon Aiyuk** missed the game with a hamstring injury. The 49ers lost 24-20 to the Cardinals.

Samuel remained out until Week 4. George Kittle missed Weeks 2 and 3 with injury. Garoppolo missed Weeks 3 and 4 with injury.

(cont'd - see SF-4)

| | (105.11.11 - 105.11.11) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <u>S</u> | Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2021 games where | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Opponent has over a week to prep | over a week to less than a week Difference disadvantage advantage Difference short week road road SNF or MNF is negated | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 3 | +1 | 2 | 4 | +2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | Streng | gth of Scheduled | d Game Timin | ıg: San Franci | isco 49ers R | anking vs NFL | _ Average | | | | | | | |
| Net Rest Edge | e Rank | Prep Rank | Rest Rank | Short We | eek Road Games Rank | Games off Road S Rank | SNF/MNF Ne | gated Bye Rank | | | | | | |
| 7 5 | | | 4 | | 26 | 11 | | 1 | | | | | | |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

Why Bet the Over

While expectations are for the injury luck to reverse itself in 2021, there seems to be an alarming pattern that has formed for the Niners. According to Football Outsiders, the 49ers have finished in the bottom 12 in adjusted games lost for eight straight seasons. There is no assurance that San Francisco will be much healthier in 2021.

Although it is expected that Garoppolo will be the

looming all season. Any sort of friction in the locker room

opening day starting QB, rookie Trey Lance will be

could hurt the Niners win total this season.

- The 49ers are expected to face the single easiest schedule in the NFL based on current win totals.
- San Francisco was battered with tons of bad luck last season, including leading the NFL in adjusted games lost due to injury. Not only did they lose starting quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo for 10 games, but they also lost star tight end George Kittle for eight games, wide receiver Deebo Samuel for nine games and running back Raheem Mostert for eight games. On defense, the injuries were just as devastating as they lost both Nick Bosa and Dee Ford for all but three games and Richard Sherman for 11 games.
- The Niners also were unlucky when it came to turnovers. They led the NFL in EPA lost on offense from turnovers and recovered all fumbles at the third lowest rate in the NFI
- Even with all of these injuries and other bad luck scenarios, the Niners were able to piece together the sixth ranked DVOA defense and the 20th ranked offense. A healthy roster will be extremely competitive in 2021.

San Francisco 49ers Positional Unit Rankings Quarterbacks Offensive Line **Running Backs** Receivers Front 7 Secondary **Head Coach** 12 3 18 19 8 13

San Francisco's QB depth chart ranks in the bottom half of the league because we're focusing solely on the 2021 season. Though Trey Lance's potential is undeniable, even if he beats out Jimmy Garoppolo, we're expecting his inexperience to limit his production as a rookie.

Opinions on the 49ers backfield varied greatly, with votes ranging from 10th to 29th and everywhere in between. If you believe in the peaks we've seen from Raheem Mostert and rookie Trey Sermon, the high end of that spectrum is realistic. But no one in this backfield has ever demonstrated any consistency, except maybe fullback Kyle Juszczyk.

If the 49ers receiving corps ranking looks high, remember George Kittle, Brandon Aiyuk, and Deebo Samuel were only on the field together in four games. In those games, they combined for 765 yards, four touchdowns, and +0.33 EPA per target.

Trent Williams buoys an otherwise unimpressive offensive line, though the addition of veteran center Alex Mack may help. In 2020, when opponents blitzed with 5 or more pass rushers, 49ers quarterbacks were pressured on 46.2% of their snaps, the eighth highest rate.

A healthy Nick Bosa should return the 49ers' front seven to the top of the pack in 2021. Even without Bosa, the team ranked a respectable 13th in pressure

Among the 49ers' primary cornerbacks in 2020, only Ahkello Witherspoon (now in Seattle) held opponents to a negative EPA per target. Jimmie Ward remains a steady influence at safety, but the corners need to elevate their production in a division loaded with talent at wide receiver.

Kyle Shanahan has a reputation as an offensive genius, but not everyone on our panel is buying it. Votes for Shanahan ranged from fourth to 12th. In four years as a head coach, his team has ranked 20th or worse in scoring offense three times. Now that he's landed his hand-picked quarterback (Lance), we'll start to see whether he can live up the reputation.

SF-4

There were only two games the entire season where QB1, TE1, WR1, and WR2 played the entire game:

Week 6 win 24-16 vs LAR Week 7 win 33-6 vs NF

They all started together in a Week 5 loss to the Dolphins by a 43-17 final, but in that game, Garoppolo was in his first game back after missing two games with a sprained ankle. To say he was ineffective would be kind. He was terrible, but he also wasn't 100%. Shanahan benched Garoppolo at halftime and said after the game, "you could tell he was affected by his ankle. I know he doesn't normally throw the ball that way, and he was struggling a little bit because of it."

But it wasn't entirely the ankle. Brian Flores's defense got to Jimmy G. There were other games Jimmy G struggled as well.

Collectively in 2020, Garoppolo posted the NFL's best expected completion rate and the NFL's 38th completion rate over expectation. These are Next Gen Stats based on player tracking data. It's rare that a player ranks that high in expected completion rate and that low in completion percentage over expectation. It's only been done a few times:

Dwayne Haskins in 2020 ranked third in xComp and 40th in CPOE Jimmy Garoppolo in 2020 ranked first in xComp and 38th in CPOE

<u>SF-5</u>

CJ Beathard in 2018 ranked first in xComp and 35th in CPOE Colin Kaepernick in 2016 ranked first in xComp and 36th in CPOE

For starters, understanding that CPOE accounts for probability of a pass completion, based on numerous 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 others, it stands to reason these targets were to players that were far more open than usual and likely at a distance shorter than average.

Bottom line - Shanahan was getting Garoppolo great looks and he wasn't connecting. That wasn't anything new for Shanahan.

Look at where his quarterbacks have ranked in this metric for years:

2020: Garoppolo was first in xComp - 38th in CPOE 2020: Nick Mullens was sixth in xComp - 34th in CPOE 2019: Garoppolo was third in xComp - ninth in CPOE 2018: CJ Beathard was first in xComp - 34th in CPOE 2018: Mullens was 13th in xComp - 25th in CPOE

2017: Garoppolo was ninth in xComp - fifth in CPOE

2017: Beathard was 10th in xComp - 33rd in CPOE

Every single year in San Francisco, Shanahan's scheme has gotten MULTIPLE quarterbacks to rank top-10 in expected completion percentage. The last three years, Shanahan has a quarterback rank top-3 in expected completion percentage. Yet the offense is still not living up to his expectations because these quarterbacks can't execute well enough.

That has to be super frustrating. Continued injury problems coupled with continued well-designed offense getting wasted, and it was time for a change.

That change came in the form of a mobile quarterback, which adds a lot of stress on the defense.

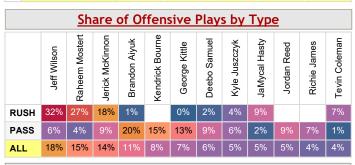
(cont'd - see SF-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

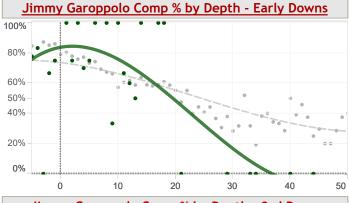
Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week 12 13 9 10 11

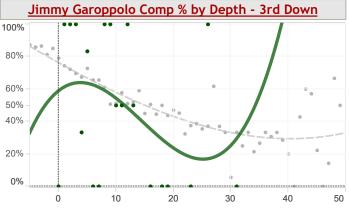


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| (| Ş -) | Being Blown Out (14+) | own Out Down Big One Score | | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | | |
| | Jeff Wilson | 4% | 6% | 77% | 5% | 8% | | | | | | | |
| | Raheem Mostert | 20% | 9% | 64% | 7% | | | | | | | | |
| | Jerick McKinnon | 9% | 1% | 75% | 4% | 11% | | | | | | | |
| | Brandon Aiyuk | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | George Kittle | | | 100% | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 € | Deebo Samuel | 13% | | 63% | 13% | 13% | | | | | | | |
| | Kyle Juszczyk | 16% | | 74% | | 11% | | | | | | | |
| | JaMycal Hasty | 3% | 3% | 51% | 18% | 26% | | | | | | | |
| | Tevin Coleman | 3% | 3% | 60% | 10% | 23% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 10% | 5% | 70% | 7% | 9% | | | | | | | |
| | Jeff Wilson | 21% | 25% | 43% | | 11% | | | | | | | |
| | Raheem Mostert | 16% | 5% | 63% | 11% | 5% | | | | | | | |
| | Jerick McKinnon | 20% | 9% | 65% | 4% | 2% | | | | | | | |
| | Brandon Aiyuk | 26% | 9% | 55% | 1% | 9% | | | | | | | |
| | Kendrick Bourne | 24% | 9% | 55% | 5% | 5% | | | | | | | |
| ဟ | George Kittle | 14% | 3% | 70% | 6% | 6% | | | | | | | |
| PASS | Deebo Samuel | 32% | 7% | 45% | 11% | 5% | | | | | | | |
| _ ₽ | Kyle Juszczyk | 14% | 10% | 66% | 3% | 7% | | | | | | | |
| | JaMycal Hasty | 25% | 25% | 13% | 25% | 13% | | | | | | | |
| | Jordan Reed | 11% | 7% | 72% | 9% | 2% | | | | | | | |
| | Richie James | 34% | 14% | 51% | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tevin Coleman | | | 80% | 20% | | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 22% | 9% | 58% | 5% | 6% | | | | | | | |







Successful Play Rate

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 45%, -0.04 (368) | 50%, 0.05 (139) | 54%, 0.20 (59) | 49%, 0.17 (35) | 50%, -0.06 (2) | | 0%, -1.23 (1) | 48%, 0.02 (604) |
| RUSH | 38%, -0.23 (92) | 52%, -0.03 (205) | 48%, -0.07 (69) | 50%, 0.05 (60) | | 100%, 0.48 (1) | | 48%, -0.07 (429) |
| All | 44%, -0.08 (460) | 51%, 0.00 (344) | 51%, 0.06 (128) | 49%, 0.09 (95) | 50%, -0.06 (2) | 100%, 0.48 (1) | 0%, -1.23 (1) | 48%, -0.02 (1,033) |

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 | Raheem Mostert | 33% (6) 3.0, -0.21 | 60% (10) 11.9, 0.40 | 50% (2) 4.5, 0.07 | | 50% (18) 8.1, 0.16 | | | | | | | | |
| TE | George Kittle | 58% (36) 10.0, 0.26 | 78% (9) 9.6, 0.47 | 90% (10) 13.4, 1.15 | | 67% (55) 10.5, 0.46 | | | | | | | | |
| WR | Brandon Aiyuk | 54% (52) 7.2, 0.20 | 61% (31) 8.2, 0.27 | 63% (8) 9.9, -0.33 | 100% (1) 8.0, 1.58 | 58% (92) 7.8, 0.19 | | | | | | | | |
| | Kendrick Bourne | 65% (51) 10.7, 0.64 | 58% (12) 8.8, -0.14 | 17% (6) 2.0, -0.21 | | 59% (69) 9.6, 0.43 | | | | | | | | |
| | Deebo Samuel | 59% (27) 8.6, 0.18 | 75% (8) 10.3, 0.47 | 50% (8) 9.5, 0.27 | | 60% (43) 9.1, 0.25 | | | | | | | | |
| | Mohamed Sanu | 100% (1) 9.0, 1.32 | | | | 100% (1) 9.0, 1.32 | | | | | | | | |
| FB | Kyle Juszczyk | | 48% (21) 5.0, -0.24 | | | 48% (21) 5.0, -0.24 | | | | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Wilson Jeff | 48% (65) | 50% (24) | 55% (20) | 67% (15) | 52% (124) |
| | 4.3, -0.14 | 4.6, -0.12 | 4.4, 0.04 | 8.4, 0.34 | 4.8, -0.05 |
| Mostert | 54% (57) | 25% (20) | 71% (14) | 45% (11) | 50% (102) |
| Raheem | 5.2, -0.09 | 2.8, -0.33 | 8.1, 0.42 | 5.5, 0.12 | 5.1, -0.04 |
| McKinnon | 48% (31) | 29% (31) | 36% (11) | 67% (6) | 41% (79) |
| Jerick | 5.1, 0.06 | 3.6, -0.34 | 1.5, -0.76 | 4.8, 0.32 | 4.0, -0.19 |
| Hasty | 50% (14) | 100% (4) | 25% (12) | 40% (5) | 46% (35) |
| JaMycal | 5.1, 0.11 | 4.5, 0.12 | 2.4, -0.14 | 3.6, 0.25 | 3.9, 0.04 |
| Coleman | 25% (8) | 25% (4) | 17% (6) | 56% (9) | 33% (27) |
| Tevin | 0.6, -0.36 | 2.8, -0.34 | -1.2, -0.51 | 4.7, 0.11 | 1.9, -0.23 |
| Juszczyk Kyle | 91% (11) 4.6, 0.33 | | | 80% (5) 2.6, 0.02 | 88% (16) 4.0, 0.23 |

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

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

| Pas | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | 3 State at | Pass | Run Types | | |
|--------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| | verage heme | Ro | 54% (65) | Level 1 | 53% (415) 6.8, 0.13 | 3 Step | 50% (199) 7.8, 0.18 | Planted | 8. | % (418) 2, 0.21 | Pitch | 47% (101) 5.6, 0.06 | |
| | 500/ (004) | Curl | 6.6, 0.28 | | | 0/1 Step | 56% (189) Shuffling | | | 6% (88) 1, -0.09 | Outside Zone | 45% (73) | |
| Zone | 53% (324) 7.7, 0.14 | Out | 56% (63) | Level 2 | 55% (97) 10.9, 0.39 | отор | 7.7, 0.30 | Moving | | 53% (59) 6.6, 0.18 | | 4.0, -0.08 | |
| | | Out | 5.7, 0.16 | | | 5 Step | 39% (67) 6.6, -0.37 | | | | Inside Zone | 41% (51) 3.3, -0.36 | |
| | | | 42% (59) | Level 3 | 25% (24) 7.8, -0.37 | | | | Play Action | | | <u> </u> | |
| M2M | 48% (155) 7.5, 0.20 | Dig | 6.8, -0.19 | | 7.0, -0.07 | 7 Step | 53% (30) 10.4, 0.51 | | Play Action | No P/A | Power | 58% (48) 4.8, 0.16 | |
| | , | | 63% (56) | 011 | 57% (14) | | 10.1, 0.01 | Under | 57% (113) | 40% (45) | | 1.0, 0.10 | |
| | | Slant | 9.5, 0.49 | Shovel | 10.2, 0.73 | Designed | 58% (24) 8.5, 0.33 | Center | 9.2, 0.19 54% (50) | 5.1, -0.32 45% (397) | Lead | 56% (43) 3.6, -0.24 | |
| | 56% (54) | | | | | Rollout Right | 6.5, 0.55 | Shotgun | 7.2, 0.18 | 7.4, -0.01 | | 3.0, -0.24 | |
| Screen | 7.9, 0.26 | Drag | 52% (21) 7.4, 0.03 | Sidearm | 50% (2) 5.0, 0.24 | Basic Screen | 50% (16) 8.5, 0.21 | ALL | 56% (163) 8.6, 0.18 | 45% (442) 7.2, -0.05 | Stretch | 36% (22) 3.1, -0.13 | |

SF-6

Certainly, a quarterback in Shanahan's system ideally needs to be accurate, progress quickly, and get the ball out to let the receivers catch in open windows and create with the space that Shanahan is intending them to have upon completion. Yards after catch are a big part of Shanahan's passing game.

Additionally, the running quarterback brings production on the ground and in the passing game due to the threat of the run, even on pass plays.

As Shanahan describes it: "It's that the defense goes, 'Oh, they might keep doing this.' And when they do know you're going to keep doing it, it changes short yardage, it changes all situational football, and it kind of just slows down the game a little bit. But if that's all you're going to do, it's easy to stop. That's why you've got to have a whole other skill set. You've got to be able to play in the pocket too. I think that's what intrigued me about Trey the most. Separate all the running stuff, I really enjoyed watching him as a quarterback. Yeah, it was at a smaller school (North Dakota State) or smaller division and, yes, it was only for one year. But in that one year, there's lots of clips and lots of tape showing him playing the quarterback position at a high level. And everyone knows the bonus of the running. That's what we're trying to get done here. ... He's not going to have all the answers right away. I expect him to get better each year. But I know the stuff that's in him, the horsepower that he has from a mental standpoint and physical standpoint and a throwing standpoint."

Additionally, and it may seem counterintuitive, but for Shanahan, a mobile quarterback also helps deep passing. "Anytime you're pretty much in shotgun or you're in a pistol formation, the defense has to account for the quarterback. When you don't have that, it's 11-on-10 football (because no defender is specifically assigned to a non-running QB). And what I kind of like about the thought of having a quarterback who can attack that way is it changes the defenses you're going against. And sometimes it can make it a lot easier on the O-line, the receivers, just some of the looks that you get because sometimes there's two guys in the middle of the field, sometimes there's one. But when you've got to account for the quarterback, you've got to use that guy. There's never an extra guy, and that actually helps a lot more looks down the field. I think all of our quarterbacks can make the throws down the field, but which guy's going to get the looks?"

He's referring to Lance getting the best looks for downfield passing on account of how the defense has to adjust due to his threat to run the ball. And clearly, if we've learned anything from how Shanahan's offense creates looks, he likes to get guys really open, and he wants the ball thrown to the open guy. That's why his quarterbacks consistently rank so high in xComp and that's why it's going to be so useful for some of those targets to now be deeper but similarly open thanks to the looks that Lance can get.

(cont'd - see SF-7)





The last true mobile, dual threat quarterback Shanahan was able to work with was Robert Griffin III. In his rookie year back in 2012, Griffin ranked third in EPA/att and fifth in CPOE. Griffin's adjusted completion rate ranked second in the NFL. After three straight years of 4, 5 and 6-win seasons, Washington went 10-6 and made the playoffs.

Time will tell how early Shanahan will work Lance into this offense. Personally, I'm curious if we don't get some type of enhanced Lamar Jackson usage when Joe Flacco was QB1, with some gadget type stuff for Lance before turning the team over to him entirely. I think Shanahan will use Lance in more packages sooner than the Ravens did with Jackson, but I bet he establishes something early. The logic is simple: Shanahan loves to keep defenses guessing, and wants to see how they react in order to draw up new things. If he locks up Lance for weeks, he's not learning how to optimize his usage. So I expect more, sooner than we saw with Jackson.

What do we expect for the 49ers this season? Should we be as bullish as linemakers? More bullish? When Shanahan was asked if this year's team can be as good or better than the 2019 team that made the Super Bowl, he responded: "I think our roster gives us a chance to be. But also with that year, it wasn't that our roster was the best in the league, I thought it had the chance to be the best in the league and then we played like it. ... We weren't in a ton of close games because we were able to wear people down and kind of take them over by running the ball and then by our pass rush getting after them. ... We never got beat very bad. ... We had a chance to win all the games we lost, too. Just on tape and people studying us, I think what coaches would say is we were the best team. I felt like that showed up in the Super Bowl until there was about six minutes left. And (the Chiefs) had a couple of key third downs that I thought would've ended the game. And once they did get those key third downs, we missed a couple of key third downs. Once that happened and you do that against a team like Kansas City ... it flipped fast. So you've gotta be the best all the way to the end. And we came up just a little bit short."

What the 49ers have going for them in 2021 is the schedule. No team faces an easier drop in schedule difficulty of defenses than the 49ers. They shift from the third toughest schedule to the 19th toughest schedule. Their pass defense schedule shifts from fifth toughest to 26th toughest. This will help Garoppolo, Lance, or whichever other Shanahan quarterback lines up under center.

The pass defenses Shanahan's quarterbacks have gone up against during his tenure:

Fifth most difficult in 2020 10th most difficult in 2019 12th most difficult in 2018 Most difficult in 2017

If Shanahan truly draws the 26th toughest schedule of pass defenses, this passing attack will look much more effective than what we've seen to date.

(cont'd - see SF-8)

Immediate Impact of San Francisco 49ers 2021 Draft Class

The 49ers obviously view **Trey Lance** (first round) as their quarterback of the future, but it's unclear if he'll have any role in 2021. Obviously, most rookie quarterbacks get on the field early these days, but if San Francisco is winning with **Jimmy Garoppolo**, perhaps they'll buck that trend.

If the 49ers make the switch to Lance, it will likely be due to his mobility. Excluding sacks, sneaks, and kneel downs, Lance averaged 7.9 yards per carry during his college career.

Lance also attempted 26% of his throws from outside the pocket, compared to just 9% by Garoppolo in San Francisco last season.

So when Lance gets on the field, expect to see quite a few new wrinkles in Kyle Shanahan's offense.

OG **Aaron Banks** (second round) might be the team's best bet to contribute immediately, as he's expected to compete for the starting job at right guard, where he could start next to his college teammate **Mike McGlinchey**. Banks started for 2.5 years at left guard for Notre Dame.

RB **Trey Sermon** (third round) might have an easy path to playing time given the mediocre talent in San Francisco's backfield, but Shanahan's revolving door approach to the position makes it difficult to predict a significant role for anyone on the depth chart.

Sermon is an incredibly dangerous runner in the open field, but isn't the type of back who can consistently create for himself without help from the offensive line. At Ohio State, Sermon averaged 10.9 yards per carry when he was untouched after two yards (ranked 11th in nation). However, he gained 0.4 yards when touched at or behind the line (ranked 108th).

CB **Ambry Thomas** (third round) fills a need in the secondary, but he might be more of a developmental prospect than an immediate starter. Thomas has speed (4.41 in the 40) and good length (32.25" arms) which is likely what attracted San Francisco.

However, Thomas was only a one-year starter (opted out in 2020) and will have to transition to a new coverage scheme. Michigan played a high rate of man coverage (42% of Thomas' snaps), while San Francisco used man just 24% of the time in 2020.

S Talanoa Hufanga (fifth round) won't challenge for a starting role, but could get on the field in some sub-packages. Hufanga's coverage skills are lacking, but he was a dominant in-the-box run defender—a skill set which should also make him a valuable special teams contributor.

The success of this class ultimately lives and dies with Trey Lance, especially considering the cost (three first-round picks). Shanahan and GM John Lynch are extremely secure in their jobs at the moment, but those seats will get hot if Lance doesn't pan out.

Outside of Lance, this still looks like a solid draft class, giving San Francisco a solid mix of immediate value and developmental talent.



QΒ

Nick Mullens

NFL Ava

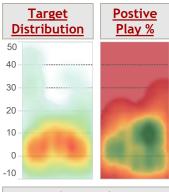
Jimmy Garoppolo

San Francisco 49ers 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

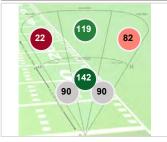
Despite starting all of Nick Mullens (eight games), Jimmy Garoppolo (six), and C.J. Beathard (two) in multiple games San Francisco closed 2020 16th in passing EPA, 18th in adjusted yards per pass attempt (7.1 yards), and 21st in success rate (47%). With Garoppolo starting more than six games just once over his seven-year career, the 49ers made a bold move in trading up to the No. 3 overall spot to select Trey Lance, the youngest quarterback in the draft, a Division II prospect, and one that only has played one game over the past year. That said, Lance offers immense upside at 6'4" and 224 pounds, big arm, and 73.2 rushing yards per game over his college career. This is an archetype of passer Kyle Shanahan has not worked with since Robert Griffin, but one that more coaches and schemes are being built around

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nick Mullens | 232 | 362 | 64% | 2,653 | 7.3 | 14 | 14 | 21 | 83 | 34 | | | | | |
| Jimmy Garoppolo | 94 | 140 | 67% | 1,096 | 7.8 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 92 | 26 | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Advanced Passing Table 30+ Yd Avg. 20+ Air Avg. Air 20+ Yd 30+ Yd 20+ Air **Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Comp Comp Comp 10.0% 8 2.0% 10 5.5 5.9 3% 7.0% 5 4.0% 4.0 7.7 1% 8.6% 3.0% 5.2 12.0 5.9 14.9 4%



Jimmy Garoppolo Rating Early Downs



| <u>In</u> | tercep | tion Ra | tes by | <u>Down</u> | |
|-------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|-------|
| 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% | 7.1% | 0.0% | 4.0% |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% |
| 10 - 14 | 0.0% | 6.3% | 25.0% | | 5.5% |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | 0.0% |
| Total | 0.0% | 1.8% | 9.1% | 0.0% | 3.3% |

EDSR

Passing

Success

%

50%

53%

50%

Success

47%

49%

47%

20+ Yd

Pass

Gains

35

10

33.3

| 3ra Down I | ² assing | - Snort | or Stic | ks Anai | <u>ys1s</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk |
| Jimmy Garoppolo | 8.8 | 3.8 | -5.0 | 78% | 41 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | |

Pass Distance (in air)

0 -10

2 ID D 1 . CL (CC) I A I 1

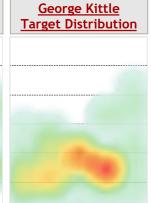
| | Air Y | 'ds vs | YAC |
|------|--------------|----------|-----|
| t Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
| 1 | 34% | 66% | 44 |
| | 52% | 48% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Due to offensive approach, injuries, and a COVID outbreak, the 49ers wide receivers closed 2020 ranked 25th in targets per game (17.4). Deebo Samuel entered the season with a Jones Fracture that forced him to miss the first three weeks of the season then suffered hamstring injuries limited him to just seven total games played and just five games on the field for 50% of the team snaps. His absence did allow first-round rookie Brandon Aiyuk to shine. Aiyuk caught 60-of-96 targets for 748 yards. George Kittle's season was cut short to just eight games with knee and foot injuries. He still ranked third at the position in receptions per game (6.0) and points per game (15.6) while leading all tight ends by being targeted on 28.3% of his routes

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% RK | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Brandon Aiyuk | 97 | 62% | 7.7 | 85.8 | 57% | 47 | 33 | 15 | 93 | 5 |
| Kendrick Bourne | 74 | 66% | 9.0 | 92.6 | 58% | 34 | 27 | 87 | 39 | 2 |
| George Kittle | 63 | 76% | 10.1 | 104.9 | 65% | 9 | 15 | 42 | 72 | 2 |

Brandon Aivuk Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 10



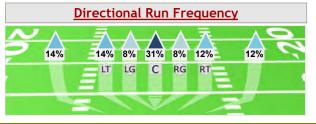
2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

San Francisco remains a backfield-driven offense as they ranked fifth in the league in backfield touches per game (30.6) despite a plethora of injuries and a steady rotation of bodies active over the course of the season. Jeff Wilson led the team with 139 touches, but their offensive performance running the football was largely subpar a year ago as the 49ers ranked 28th in the league in expected points added via their running game (-18.5). Heading into 2021, Raheem Mostert will be 29 years old to start the season and has yet to clear 151 touches in a single season due to his career path and eight missed games in 2020. The team also traded up in the third round for Trey Sermon and then selected Elijah Mitchell in the sixth round to go with free agent Wayne Gallman and Wilson, who is recovering from an offseason injury.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Jeff Wilson | 142 | 4.7 | 53% | 35 | 44 | 44 | 22 | 54% | 26 | 8 |
| Raheem Mostert | 118 | 5.0 | 50% | 52 | 39 | 76 | 4 | 51% | 41 | 2 |
| Jerick McKinnon | 81 | 3.9 | 41% | 91 | 90 | 32 | 91 | 44% | 78 | 5 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Do We Trust Any of the Running Backs?

We always want to look at a Kyle Shanahan backfield for opportunity and this backfield continues to provide that as a whole. 49ers running backs ranked fifth in the league in backfield touches per game (30.6) in 2020 despite a plethora of injuries and a steady rotation of bodies active over the course of the season. This after the 49ers backfield collectively ranked second in the league in touches (31.5) and yards from scrimmage (175.3) among all backfields in 2019.

While collectively Shanahan continues to squeeze production out of the group, we have been left chasing the system as a whole to elevate the individual pieces, which have not always panned out. Shanahan has now been a play caller for 12 NFL seasons in which he was with the same team multiple seasons. Just three times over that stretch has the same player led the team in rushing in back-to-back seasons while nine different backs have led his team in rushing those seasons.

Last season, **Jeff Wilson** led the team with 126 carries for 600 yards as **Raheem Mostert** was in and out the lineup for most of 2020, as he missed eight games outright and was forced from two others on fewer than 30% of the snaps. Despite that, Mostert was still RB28 in points per game (12.5). Even with the missed time, Mostert had more receptions (16) than he did in 2019 (14), but has had more than two receptions in three games over the past two seasons. Entering 2021 at 29 years old, Mostert has yet to surpass 151 touches in an NFL season. Wilson himself is entering the season with a torn meniscus and is not expected to start the season. The team signed **Wayne Gallman**, who is coming off career-highs in touches (168) and yards from scrimmage (796) as depth in free agency. In the draft, the 49ers traded up in the third round to select **Trey Sermon** and then selected **Elijah Mitchell** in the sixth round.

Sermon was a major recruit out of high school, receiving offers from Alabama and Auburn among others before heading to Oklahoma. His best season at Oklahoma was as a sophomore with 1,128 yards and 13 touchdowns and then transferred to Ohio State for his final season after just 62 touches in 10 games as a Junior. At Ohio State, Sermon rushed for 68 yards or fewer in each of his first four games and was stuck in another time share with Master Teague, but then turned it on for 112, 331, and 193 yards over his final three full games with four touchdowns against top level opponents when he was finally given the keys as the feature back. His team investment in a trade, size (6'0" and 213 pounds), his pedigree as a recruit, and production when showcased have him the fantasy favorite to take over as the lead rusher at some stage from Mostert, but Mostert is not just going to melt away without another injury.

Mitchell was the standout of the Louisiana backfield combo of he and Trey Ragas, turning 576 career touches into 3,864 yards (6.7 yards per touch) and 46 touchdowns. Mitchell broke out as a sophomore, averaging 6.7 yards per carry on 146 carries and 17.5 yards per catch on 20 receptions while scoring 16 touchdowns. Mitchell's receptions fell in each of the past two seasons from the season prior, but he closed his career with three-straight seasons over 1,000 yards from scrimmage sharing significant work.

If fully healthy, this projects to be a 2-man backfield featuring Mostert and Sermon with Mitchell potentially working in as a change of pace. With Sermon jumping the field in ADP, Mostert is a strong looking target for Zero-RB and later-round running back drafters.

| San I | Francisco 49e | rs Defense: Nu | mber of DBs vs | Personnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|-----------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------|--|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ | D. | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 17 plays (4%) Success: 47% | 352 plays (93%) Success: 47% | 11 plays (3%) Success: 18% | 380 plays (100%) Success: 46% | | % | Rk | 40 |
| | EPA: -0.25 | EPA: -0.03 | EPA: -0.77 | EPA: -0.06 | Base | 31% | 8 | The same of the sa |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 97 plays <i>(87%)</i> Success: 51% | 14 plays (13%) Success: 57% | | 111 plays (100%) Success: 51% | Nickel | 66% | 8 | 30 - |
| | EPA: -0.03 | EPA: 0.28 | | EPA: 0.01 | Dime+ | 2% | 24 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 18 plays (86%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.03 | 3 plays <i>(14%)</i> Success: 33% EPA: -0.76 | | 21 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.08 | Rush 3 | 2% | 29 | 20 - |
| | 3 plays (75%) | 1 plays (25%) | | 4 plays (100%) | Rush 4 | 64% | 18 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | Success: 67% EPA: 0.39 | Success: 100% EPA: 1.02 | | Success: 75% EPA: 0.55 | Rush 5 | 23% | 8 | |
| Grand | 135 plays (26%) | 370 plays (72%) | 11 plays (2%) | 516 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 9% | 3 | 0 - |
| Total | Success: 50% EPA: -0.04 | Success: 47% EPA: -0.02 | Success: 18% EPA: -0.77 | Success: 47% EPA: -0.04 | Blitz% | 32% | 7 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

After trading **DeForest Buckner** last season, the 49ers drafted **Javon Kinlaw** but it didn't completely click for the rookie in Year 1. Kinlaw was just 66th among defensive tackles in pressure rate, according to SIS, though he did manage to deflect four passes. **D.J. Jones** was the best pass rusher on the interior, ranked 32nd in pressure rate. To help, the 49ers had an underrated one-year signing for **Zach Kerr**, who ranked 16th in pressure rate for the Panthers last season as a 334-pound nose tackle. **Maurice Hurst**, 13th in pressure rate, was also brought in after he was released late in the offseason by the Raiders.

The 49ers will also kick edge rushers, most notably **Arik Armstead**, inside in clear passing situations, so the number of players who could line up inside on a given play is more than the players listed above. **Nick Bosa** only lasted two games before a torn ACL ended his 2020 season. That sapped a bit of what the 49ers wanted to do with their four-man pass rush. After blitzing at one of the lowest rates in the league in 2019, the 49ers had the eighth-highest blitz rate in 2020. It's currently unclear if new defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans will continue with that trend or go back to relying on the front-four to create pressure.

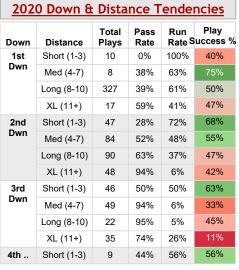
There remains significant investment in that front-four with the top pick of Bosa, last year's extension for Armstead, and the trade/contract for **Dee Ford**. San Francisco also grabbed former Ram **Samson Ebukam** on a two-year deal to add to the pass rush. Ebukam has jumped between edge rusher and linebacker, but he has flashed promise when he's been able to rush the passer. He's likely to do that more often with the 49ers.

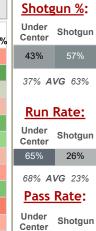
The 49ers have been a defense that relies heavily on the off-ball linebackers. Only seven teams played dime less frequently than San Francisco and they had the ninth-highest rate of base defense played in the league. When **Fred Warner** is one of those linebackers, it works out because there's nothing to lose in coverage. **Dre Greenlaw** has emerged as a productive player alongside Warner and the 2019 fifth-round pick will enter his third season. He played nearly 70% of the defensive snaps last season.

San Francisco faced almost all of their cornerbacks hitting the free agent market and while it was possible to lose all of them, the 49ers kept most of the band together, save for **Richard Sherman**, who is still unsigned. The 49ers could also see an even bigger bounce-back by re-signing the room because there were so many injuries in the secondary throughout 2020. Incredibly the corner who stayed healthiest was **Jason Verrett**, who started 13 games after appearing in four games from 2016-2019. Verrett finished 30th among 142 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Verrett will return as the outside starter along with **Emannuel Mosely** with **K'Waun Williams** in the slot.

Jimmie Ward made it through the season the healthiest with 14 games and 80% of the defensive snaps played. Jaquski Tartt played in just seven games for a total of 36% of the defensive snaps. Marcell Harris and Tarvarius Moore were able to fill in as replacements but that was one place where the injuries did hurt the San Francisco defense — the unit ranked 19th in EPA per attempt on deep passes after ranking second in 2019.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 54% |
| All Pass Rk | 29 |
| All Rush % | 46% |
| All Rush Rk | 4 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 52% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 28 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 54% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 28 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -2% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 17 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 48% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 5 |
| Up Pass % | 53% |
| Up Pass Rk | 23 |
| Up Rush % | 47% |
| Up Rush Rk | 10 |
| Down Pass % | 59% |
| Down Pass Rk | 22 |
| Down Rush % | 41% |
| Down Rush Rk | 11 |





35% 74%

32% AVG 77%

San Francisco 49ers 2020 Play Analysis

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sh | ort Run | |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg |
| 71% | 13 | 67% | 82% | 75% |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg |
| 29% | 20 | 33% | 43% | 59% |

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Jeff Wilson | 6 | 67% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Jeff Wilson | 2 | 100% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Jeff Wilson | 61 | 56% |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Jeff Wilson | 3 | 100% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Jeff Wilson | 10 | 70% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Jeff Wilson | 12 | 58% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Raheem Mostert | 14 | 71% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Kendrick Bourne | 6 | 83% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Kyle Juszczyk | 7 | 71% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Brandon Aiyuk | 8 | 50% |
| | | | Jordan Reed | 8 | 38% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Jordan Reed | 6 | 50% |
| | XL (11+) | RUSH | Jerick McKinnon | 8 | 13% |

| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 45% | Success: 58% | Success: 47% |
| | YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.19 | YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.39 | YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.10 |
| | Rtg: 73.6 | Rtg: 122.1 | Rtg: 81.4 |
| | [Att: 166 - Rate: 27.4%] | [Att: 31 - Rate: 5.1%] | [Att: 197 - Rate: 32.6%] |
| Yes | Success: 45% | Success: 55% | Success: 48% |
| | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 8.7, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.07 |
| | Rtg: 93.5 | Rtg: 104.8 | Rtg: 97.0 |
| | [Att: 276 - Rate: 45.6%] | [Att: 132 - Rate: 21.8%] | [Att: 408 - Rate: 67.4%] |
| Total | Success: 45% | Success: 56% | Success: 48% |
| | YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.05 | YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.18 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.02 |
| | Rtg: 86.0 | Rtg: 108.3 | Rtg: 91.9 |
| | [Att: 442 - Rate: 73.1%] | [Att: 163 - Rate: 26.9%] | [Att: 605 - Rate: 100.0%] |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | | | | | 2020 V | Veekly | Snap R | <u>ates</u> | | | | |
|----|-------|---------|------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Brandon Aiyuk | Kendrick Bourne | Juszczyk | Kittle | Jerick Mc Kinnon | Jeff Wilson | Deebo Samuel | Jordan Reed | Raheem Mostert | Trent Taylor |
| 1 | ARI | L 24-20 | | 57 (92%) | 36 (58%) | 61 (98%) | 19 (31%) | | | 10 (16%) | 37 (60%) | 21 (34%) |
| 2 | NYJ | W 31-13 | 44 (72%) | 45 (74%) | 29 (48%) | | 13 (21%) | 5 (8%) | | 28 (46%) | 13 (21%) | 28 (46%) |
| 3 | NYG | W 36-9 | 56 (73%) | 64 (83%) | 38 (49%) | | 48 (62%) | 23 (30%) | | 18 (23%) | | 30 (39%) |
| 4 | PHI | L 25-20 | 64 (88%) | 50 (68%) | 22 (30%) | 72 (99%) | 67 (92%) | 6 (8%) | 25 (34%) | | | 37 (51%) |
| 5 | MIA | L 43-17 | 62 (97%) | 42 (66%) | 22 (34%) | 64 (100%) | 16 (25%) | 15 (23%) | 57 (89%) | | 31 (48%) | 4 (6%) |
| 6 | LA | W 24-16 | 62 (85%) | 41 (56%) | 22 (30%) | 71 (97%) | 23 (32%) | | 60 (82%) | | 35 (48%) | 6 (8%) |
| 7 | NE | W 33-6 | 50 (76%) | 30 (45%) | 37 (56%) | 60 (91%) | 12 (18%) | 37 (56%) | 41 (62%) | | | 3 (5%) |
| 8 | SEA | L 37-27 | 63 (90%) | 60 (86%) | 27 (39%) | 46 (66%) | 35 (50%) | | | | | 35 (50%) |
| 9 | GB | L 34-17 | | | 23 (40%) | | 42 (74%) | | | 13 (23%) | | 33 (58%) |
| 10 | NO | L 27-13 | 68 (96%) | 41 (58%) | 23 (32%) | | 44 (62%) | | | 31 (44%) | | 4 (6%) |
| 12 | LA | W 23-20 | | 41 (57%) | 31 (43%) | | 18 (25%) | 25 (35%) | 63 (88%) | 31 (43%) | 29 (40%) | |
| 13 | BUF | L 34-24 | 53 (87%) | 30 (49%) | 14 (23%) | | 2 (3%) | 28 (46%) | 58 (95%) | 31 (51%) | 27 (44%) | |
| 14 | WAS | L 23-15 | 74 (91%) | 72 (89%) | 44 (54%) | | | 39 (48%) | 1 (1%) | 33 (41%) | 40 (49%) | |
| 15 | DAL | L 41-33 | 80 (95%) | 42 (50%) | 39 (46%) | | 14 (17%) | 39 (46%) | | 42 (50%) | 25 (30%) | |
| 16 | ARI | W 20-12 | 52 (93%) | 19 (34%) | 30 (54%) | 28 (50%) | 10 (18%) | 39 (70%) | | 10 (18%) | | |
| 17 | SEA | L 26-23 | | 54 (82%) | 35 (53%) | 41 (62%) | 9 (14%) | 55 (83%) | | | | |
| | Grand | Total | 728 (87%) | 688 (66%) | 472 (43%) | 443 (83%) | 372 (36%) | 311 (41%) | 305 (64%) | 247 (35%) | 237 (43%) | 201 (30%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Re | d Zone | Target | s Leade | erboard | 1 | F | Red Zor | ne Rush | es Lea | derboa | rd |

| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1-1 [3WR] | 44% | 60% | 44% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 33% | 7% | 51% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 12% | 20% | 51% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 9% | 4% | 49% |
| Group | ing Te | enden | cies |
| Group | ing Te | | |
| <u>Group</u> Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ % |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 45% | Run Succ. % |
| Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] | Pass Rate 80% 40% | Pass Succ. % 45% | Run Succ. % 38% 52% |

Personnel Groupings

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Brandon Aiyuk | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| Kendrick Bourne | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Kyle Juszczyk | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Jordan Reed | 8 | 4 | | 4 |
| Trent Taylor | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Jerick McKinnon | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| George Kittle | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Deebo Samuel | 2 | | 1 | 1 |

| Red Zolle Rusiles Leader Doard | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Jeff Wilson | 30 | 10 | 7 | 13 |
| Jerick McKinnon | 17 | 4 | 4 | 9 |
| Raheem Mostert | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| JaMycal Hasty | 5 | 3 | | 2 |
| Tevin Coleman | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Deebo Samuel | 2 | | 1 | 1 |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| RB | TE | WR | |
| 27% 23% | 24% 21% NFL AVG | 49% 56% | |
| | MILAVO | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ccess % | |
| Overall RB | | ccess % | |





The 49ers face by far the easiest schedule of opponents based on win totals. They get the AFC South coupled with the Falcons, Bengals, Eagles, and Lions. In case you don't see what that means, they play teams that finished 2020 with the first, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh worst records and received those draft picks for the 2021 draft.

But what is already going against them is injuries. There have been multiple so far, which is ridiculous considering the 49ers injury luck of late. They have been the

Most injured team in 2020 Sixth most injured team in 2019 Fourth most injured team in 2018 10th most injured team in 2017

Shanahan's years in San Francisco have not been met with healthy teams by the end of the year.

If the 49ers can find a way to stay healthy, I'm confident his offensive system will look great once again, particularly against these pass defenses. I can't wait to see how he incorporates Lance into this offense. And I'll be pulling for Shanahan to rebound, to find success and to keep things moving in San Francisco because the NFL is more fun when he's calling offensive plays in the playoffs.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular

2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

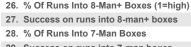


| 12. 1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency | 16 |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 13. 1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency | 18 |
| 14. PSM Usage Q1-3 | 1 |
| 15. PSM Passing Usage Q1-3 | 1 |

| 16. PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3 | 1 |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 17. PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3 | 1 |
| 18. PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3 | 2 |
| 19. PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3 | 1 |
| 20. PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3 | 4 |

| 20. | PSM Improvement Run Success Q |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| 21. | PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3 |
| 22. | PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs |
| 23. | PA Improvement Success |

| 20. | 1 A Improvement odecess |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 24. | PA Improvement YPA |
| 25. | PA Improvement Rating |
| 26. | % Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1 |



| 29. | Success on runs into 7-man boxes |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 30. | % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes |
| 31. | Success on runs into 6-man-boxes |

| 32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high) |
|---------------------------------------|
| 33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box |

| 34. | Run Rate into 6- Man Box |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 35. | Total Defensive Efficiency |

| Pre-Snap | Motion | (Quarters | 1-3) |
|----------|--------|-----------|------|

| 36. PSM YPA | 8.2 |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 6.8 |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 5.9 |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 6.8 |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 53% |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 42% |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.08 |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.31 |

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

| 45. PA Success Rate | 60% |
|-------------------------|-------|
| | 33,0 |
| 46. PA YPA | 8.8 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 9.4% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.15 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.4 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 49% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 7.6 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 6.5% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | -0.08 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.5 |

Men In Box

| 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 | 54% |
| 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 | 41% |
| 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 | 5.4 |
| 61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 20% |
| 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 | 3.8 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 29 | defFUM | 22 |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | -3.6 | defFUM Rcvrd | 14 |
| offFUM | 19 | dell OW ICCVID | 14 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 5 | defFR Rk | 27 |
| offFR% | 26.3% | defFR% | 36.4% |
| offFR Rk | 32 | | 4.0 |
| offFROE | -5.4 | defFROE | 1.8 |
| | | defFROE Rk | 6 |
| offFROE Rk | 32 | dell ROL RK | 0 |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | -2.45 | Opp Att | 37 |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 23 | Opp Makes | 33 |
| Own Att Own Makes | 26 22 | Opp FG % | 89% |
| Own FG % | 85% | Opp Expected Makes | 29.78 |
| Own Expected Makes | 21.23 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 3.22 |
| Own Make over Expectation | 0.77 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 2 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | 16 -2.87 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 0.99 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 27 | 2019 Opp Rk | 8 |

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

| r layer rrack. | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | Nick Mullens | Jimmy Garoppolo |
| CAY | 5.6 | 3.9 |
| CAY Rk | 23 | 39 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | | 27 |
| AYTS Rk | 39 | 40 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | | 38 |
| AGG Rk | 26 | 30 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | | 25 |
| COMP% | 64.7 | 67.1 |
| xCOMP% | 67.8 | 70.7 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 6 | 1 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | | 3 |
| CPOE% | -3.1 | -3.6 |
| CPOE Rk | 35 | 38 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | | 9 |

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

QB Pressure

23

25

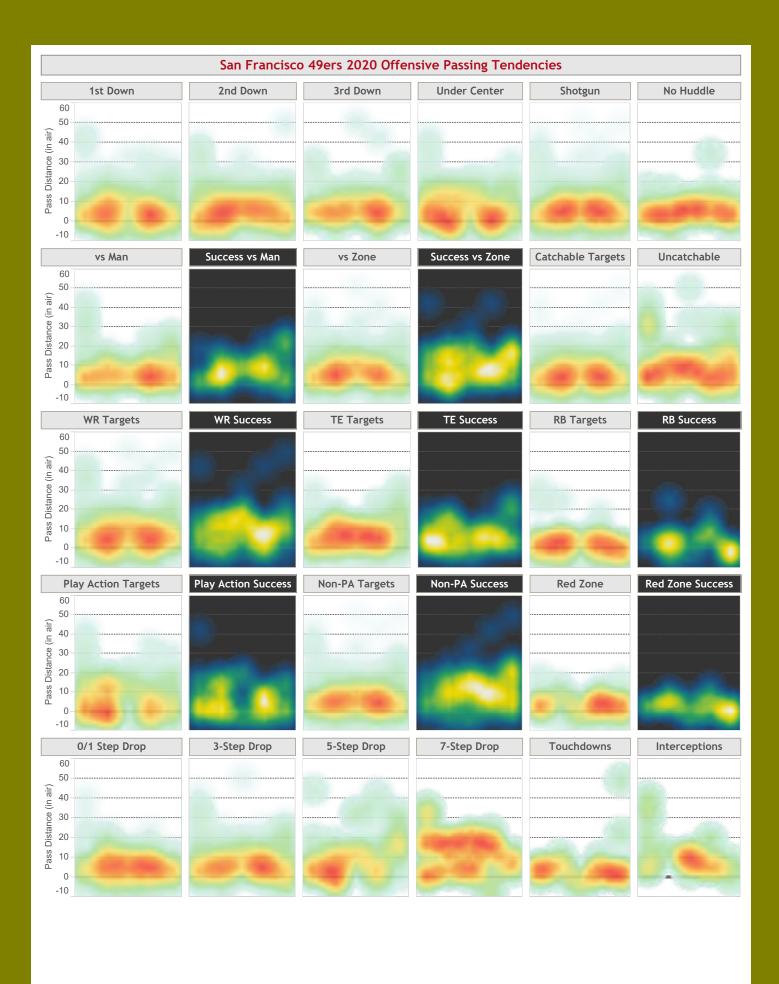
20

18

| QD 1 1 C33 G1 C | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|--|
| | Nick Mullens | Jimmy Garoppolo | |
| Pressure % | 37.6 | 24.5 | |
| Pressure Rk | 7 | 36 | |
| Sack % | 5.5 | 7.1 | |
| Sack Rk | 19 | 8 | |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 67.7 | 66.7 | |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 15 | 16 | |
| Rating when Pressured | 45.2 | 87.8 | |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 36 | 5 | |
| Clean Accuracy % | 79.1 | 76.3 | |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 22 | 30 | |
| Rating when Clean | 104.2 | 93.4 | |
| Clean Rating Rk | 16 | 30 | |
| Time to Throw | 2.63 | 2.57 | |
| Time to Throw Rk | 28 | 32 | |

Offensive Metrics

| 011011511011 | 10 11 105 |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| EPA/Pass | -0.01 |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 22 |
| EPA/Rush | -0.09 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 23 |
| On-Target Catch % | 89.1% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 23 |
| Drop% | 8.8% |
| Drop Rk | 28 |
| YAC/Att | 2.3 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 17 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 11.2% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 28 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 22.9% |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 26 |
| | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Seattle Seahawks

Head Coach:

Pete Carroll (11 yrs)

Offensive Coordinator:

Shane Waldron (LAR pass coord.) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Ken Norton (3 yrs)

Hard

Easy



2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

#3

Past Records

2020: 12-4 2019: 11-5 2018: 10-5-1



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|------------------------|----------|
| Carlos Hyde (RB) | Jaguars |
| David Moore (WR) | Panthers |
| Delano Hill (S) | Panthers |
| Greg Olsen (TE) | TBD |
| | Retired |
| Jacob Hollister (TE) | Bills |
| Jarran Reed (IDL) | Chiefs |
| Jonathan Bullard (IDL) | Falcons |
| Linden Stephens (CB) | Washingt |
| Mike lupati (OG) | Retired |
| Phillip Dorsett (WR) | Jaguars |
| Quinton Dunbar (CB) | Lions |
| Shaquill Griffin (CB) | Jaguars |
| Branden Jackson (EDGE) | TBD |
| Bruce Irvin (LB) | TBD |
| Chad Wheeler (RT) | TBD |
| Chance Warmack (LG) | TBD |
| Damontre Moore (EDGE) | TBD |
| K.J. Wright (LB) | TBD |
| Luke Willson (TE) | TBD |
| Mike lupati (LG) | TBD |
| Neiko Thorpe (CB) | TBD |
| Shaguem Griffin (LB) | TBD |

2021 Seattle Seahawks Overview

Run more, score less, hope for the best... on three... BREAK!

The bottom line in sports is winning. Period.

"You are what your record says you are" is what Bill Parcells once said.

With all due respect (I now can say whatever I want) that's bullshit.

Thankfully, we now have access to substantially more data than we once did. We can use that data to understand the game better. What we're trying to understand is "how do teams win games?" There is a ton of noise in football. Small things that have a huge influence. Singular plays that drive tremendous amounts of weight into a final result. Plays such as:

Turnovers Fourth downs Third downs Red zone

Then, there are time periods that often can be less meaningful based on the in-game situation. Periods of plays that are reactionary, rather than planned. If I want to know what a coach's strategy is, I'm not looking at third downs unless I want to know what his strategy is only on third downs. His game strategy, his plan, will be executed primarily on early downs in the first half of games. The fourth quarter in most games is full of reactionary plays based on the scoreboard. We don't want those plays adding more noise in our attempt to understand what a team's core philosophy is. (cont'd - see SEA2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Gabe Jackson (RG) | \$7.5 |
| Gerald Everett (TE) | \$6 |
| Ahkello Witherspoon (CB) | \$4 |
| Kerry Hyder (EDGE) | \$3.29 |
| Al Woods (IDL) | \$2.5 |
| Aldon Smith (EDGE) | \$1.10 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) | |
|----|-----|---|--|
| 2 | 56 | WR - D'Wayne Eskridge (Western Michigan) | |
| 4 | 137 | CB - Tre Brown (Oklahoma) | |
| 6 | 208 | OT - Stone Forsythe (Florida) | |

Regular Season Wins:

Games

Favored

<u>Average</u>

Line

-1.3

Games

Underdog

7







2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| otal 2020 Rk 5.72M 12 |
|--------------------------|
| 5 72M 42 |
| J. / Z IVI |
| .43M 3 |
| 5.34M 26 |
| .43M 10 |
| '.51M 23 |
| .01M 8 |
| .63M 17 |
| .42M 30 |
| 3.91M 1 |
| 2.36M 22 |
| 0.93M 15 |
| |

SEA-2

The bottom line is, we know certain plays or time periods in some cases add tremendous influence in games and in other cases, are full of noise.

The key to winning games is simple: move the ball as efficiently and as quickly as possible down the field to score points and do so as early in the game as possible.

In more detail: winning games is easiest when you are extremely efficient on early downs, avoid third downs, race to a lead early in the game and force your opponent to play desperate, predictable football in the second half while trying to catch-up from a large deficit.

Russell Wilson took the football world by storm. On a third-round rookie contract, the Seahawks were getting Pro Bowl performance for breadcrumbs salary. Their defense was out of this world. They spent on so many other positions other than quarterback they could stack the roster. Their defense ranked top-five from 2012-2016. But then it started to show cracks. By 2017, it was barely above average. A little worse in 2018. Below average in 2019.

Wilson's total cap hit from 2012 through 2014 was \$2.0 million. It was only \$7 million in 2015. But in 2016 it jumped to \$18.5 million. That ranked as QB10. From 2016-2018, it averaged \$19 million.

That's a long way from QB19 in 2015, and an even further away from barely even registering in 2012-2014.

The combination of the more expensive cap hit factored in the defense falling off. But we're not interested in the reasons why it happened.

What I want to show you is the impact.

Knowing Wilson's cap hits started factoring into roster decisions for the first time in 2016 and the defense started falling off in 2017, examine how these elements played a role in the on-field results using halftime leads. How many regular season games did Seattle lead at halftime and how many did they win?

> 6 6 6

2012: 11 halftime leads, 11 wins 2013: 10 halftime leads, 13 wins 2014: 8 halftime leads, 12 wins

6

| 2 | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| Russell Wilson | 56% 8.3 109.7 | 52% 7.3 106.5 | 38% 6.3 78.3 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 52% | 61% | 74% | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | |
| 2 | | | | |
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | _ |

| | 2020 Rushi | ng Performa | nce | |
|------------|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
| SEA | 58% 4.6 | 57% 5.3 | 39% 4.5 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 48% | 39% | 26% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

2015: 11 halftime leads, 10 wins 2016: 11 halftime leads, 10 wins 2017: 4 halftime leads, 9 wins 2018: 7 halftime leads, 10 wins 2019: 5 halftime leads, 11 wins

From Wilson's rookie season 2012 through 2014, Seattle's offensive coordinator was Darrell Bevell. Seattle always ran the ball at a top-10 rate in neutral situations. They won the Super Bowl in 2013 and made it back in 2014 but lost. In 2015, the team was still at a top-10 run rate, but looking at

their season compared to prior years, it's easy to see why there was a lot of extra thought put in during the offseason leading to 2016. (cont'd - see SEA-3) 2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics



| | 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - 5- 10- | | | = | | | 3 | | | | | = | | 5 |
| 원 20 - 25 - 30 - | 13 | 19 | 8 | 27 | 15 | | 16 | 21 | 15 | 17 | 10 | 18 | |
| ı | EDSR Def | 30 & In Def | Red Zone Def | 3rd Down Def | YPPA Def | YPPT Def | Defensive Efficiency | Pass Efficiency Def | Pass Pro Efficieincy Def | RB Pass Eff Def | Rush Efficiency Def | Explosive Pass Def | Explosive Run Def |

| 3rd | | | | | Effi | Eff | RB P | 991 | | Expl | | | Rec 3rd |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| / ED | SR & | Se | aso | n T | ren | ding | <u>Pe</u> | rfo | rma | nce | | | 2020 Close Ga |
| 7 3 | 7 L ARI A -3 34 37 | 8 W SF H 10 37 27 | 9 L BUF A -10 34 44 | 10 L LA A -7 16 23 | 11 W ARI H 7 28 21 | 12 W PHI A 6 23 17 | 13 L NYG H -5 12 17 | 14 W NYJ H 37 40 3 | 15 W WAS A 5 20 15 | 16 W LA H 11 20 9 | 17 W SF N 3 26 23 | WEEK RESULT OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red | Records All 2019 Wins: 12 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: FG Games Win %: 67% (record) FG Games Wins (% of tot) 17% (#20) 1 Score Games (<=8 pts) 1 Score Games Win %: 7: 1 Score Games Wins (% of tot) Wins): 67% (#10) |
| | | | | <u></u> | | | <u> </u> | | <u> </u> | | \triangle | OFF/DEF EDSR Blue=OFF (high=good) | , (. , |

| 3rd Effi | Efficiency R | Exp |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 2020 Close Game | 2020 Critical/G | iame- |
| <u>Records</u> | Deciding Sta | <u>its</u> |
| 2019 Wins: 12 | TO Margin | +4 |
| Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 2-1 | TO Given | 18 |
| Games Win %: 67% (#8) | INT Given | 13 |
| Games Wins (% of Total Wins): | FUM Given | 5 |
| 6 (#20) | TO Taken | 22 |
| core Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 8-3 | INT Taken | 14 |
| core Games Win %: 73% (#6) | FUM Taken | 8 |
| core Games Wins (% of Total | Sack Margin | -2 |
| s): 67% (#10) | Sacks | 46 |
| | Sacks Allow | 48 |
| | Return TD Margin | -1 |
| | Ret TDs | 0 |
| | Ret TDs Allow | 1 |
| | Penalty Margin | +10 |
| | Penalties | 84 |
| | | |

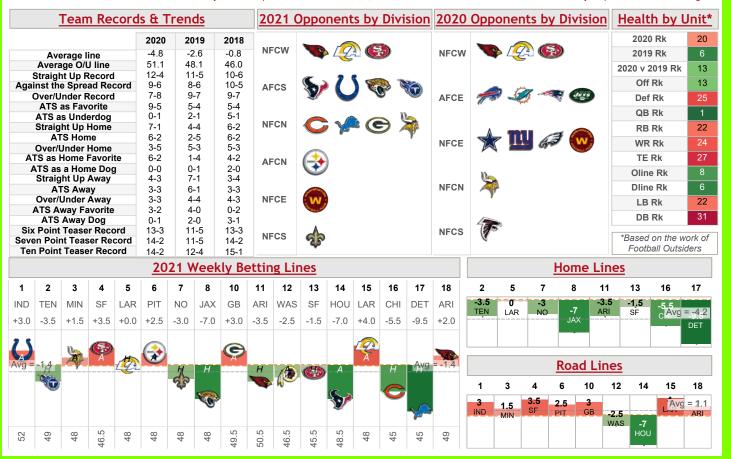
Opponent Penalties

Red=DFF (low=good)



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | | | |
| 12 | 16 | 6 | 22 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 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







Seattle went from back-to-back division titles, 12+ win seasons and trips to the Super Bowl to finishing in second place in the NFC West, winning only 10 games and not advancing past the Divisional round. Examining the run rates from 2015 onward showed Darrell Bevell and Russell Wilson wanting to entrust the three-time Pro Bowler to use his arm more in 2016.

Examine the run rate on early downs in the first half by season, starting in 2015:

2015: 50% run rate, ninth

2016: 42% run rate, 28th

2017: 46% run rate, 23rd *Bevell was fired after this season

2018: 60% run rate, first *Brian Schottenheimer's first season

2019: 50% run rate, ninth

During the 2017 season, even though Bevell ran slightly more than in 2016, it was still too much for Pete Carroll. Bevell would be fired after the season.

He was replaced by someone who would follow Carroll's directive to return to the run. The savior of the offense. Brian Schottenheimer.

But something interesting was happening that started in 2017, and continued with the run-heavy Seahawks in 2018 and 2019. They weren't having good first halves of football. This team went from having halftime leads in at least 10 games a year (most of the time, 11 games) to having halftime leads in only four, five, and seven games from 2017-2019.

This wasn't the same team as it was during Russ's rookie deal, when they could be a top-10 run-heavy team with a top-5 defense and lead at halftime in over 60% of their games. Their offense had to be more aggressive and urgent if they wanted to lead at halftime. But they weren't...

...until after the 2019 season, when both Russell Wilson and Brian Schottenheimer saw the light. I predicted the strategy in last year's Seattle chapter. "My plan: They need to entrust Russell Wilson with the ball earlier and more often than they've done in the last five years. They need to race to be up on the scoreboard at halftime."

Take a look at where 2020 slotted in here among the seasons with Brian Schottenheimer at the helm:

2018: 60% run rate, first

2019: 50% run rate, ninth

2020: 40% run rate, 28th

Now, take a look at where that first half pass-heavy and ultra-aggressive strategy got them:

2016: 11 halftime leads, 10 wins

2017: four halftime leads, nine wins

2018: seven halftime leads. 10 wins

2019: five halftime leads, 11 wins

2020: 11 halftime leads, 12 wins

It only made too much sense. Wilson is a one of a kind talent. Look at every team that's winning games, they're passing the ball. The Pats and Bucs trusted **Tom Brady** and were one of the most pass-heavy teams. The Chiefs trusted **Patrick Mahomes** and were one of the most pass-heavy teams. Go back to the Eagles in 2017 or the Pats in 2016 or the Broncos in 2015 and on and on.... Every Super Bowl winner since Seattle won in 2013 on Wilson's rookie deal with the best defense in football has passed the ball at an above average rate in neutral situations.

Wilson wanted to be that guy. Schottenheimer knew he was that guy. And it worked, at least in terms of trying to find the fastest path to victory — racing to first half leads

The recipe to get there had to be different. Seattle's run game last year was outside the top-10. Their pass game was top-10. Passing is more efficient than running. The defense isn't as good. If they want a halftime lead, they're going to have to throw the ball. The logic is there, the pieces are there, the execution was there and it worked.

Until it hit a literal speed bump.

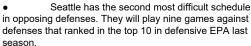
(cont'd - see SEA-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage is negated advantage game to prep prep 3 0 3 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Seattle Seahawks Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank Negated Bye Rank Rank Rank 24 11 25 1

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

Why Bet the Over



- in opposing defenses. They will play nine games against
- The Seahawks still have major questions along their offensive line, which ranked 30th last season in adjusted sack rate. Their biggest addition was acquiring guard Gabe Jackson from the Raiders. Jackson has seen his pass blocking grade decline in every single season since his 2014 rookie year. Last season was his second worst overall graded season yet, ranked 43rd among NFL guards.
- The Seahawks went 8-3 in one-score games last season, and they played in the second most onescore games in the NFL. This is the second straight season that Seattle has won at least 62% of their onescore games, a figure that is tough to repeat again. In the

prior three seasons, Seattle went .500 combined in 28

one-score games.



- With Russell Wilson at quarterback, Seattle has never won fewer than nine games in a season and has won double digits in eight of his nine seasons.
- Wilson is clearly one of the best QBs in the NFL and ranked ninth in EPA and fourth in completion percentage over expected last season. The Seattle offense added D'Wayne Eskridge at WR, a 4.38 speedster, who ranked first in the nation last season with 14.4 yards after the catch per reception at Western Michigan. With Wilson at QB and dynamic weapons outside, Seattle will always have a good chance to clear 9.5 wins.
- The Seattle defense played much better down the stretch after starting off so poorly. They finished 20th in EPA per dropback allowed on defense but after Week 9 they ranked as the ninth best pass defense. They will look to carry this performance over into 2021.

| Seattle Seahawks Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | |
| 3 | 18 | 16 | 5 | 24 | 20 | 13 | | | | |

This roster is obviously anchored by Russell Wilson and the receiving corps. Neither unit should require much justification for their top-five ranking. If there's an area for either to improve, it's depth at receiver, but rookie D'Wayne Eskdrige could be the answer there.

Chris Carson is among the most reliable starting running backs, but you need depth at the position and Seattle didn't have it last year. Former first-round pick Rashaad Penny showed flashes in 2019—he averaged 5.7 yards per carry with 2.6 yards after contact—but then missed almost the entire 2020 campaign due to a torn ACL.

The offensive line has been a liability for the majority of Wilson's time in Seattle. Duane Brown has been a steady left tackle and Brandon Shell offered a nice upgrade on the right side last season. This year's addition of Gabe Jackson will hopefully provide more stability on the interior line, pushing the unit closer to respectability.

Seattle's numerous recent draft mishaps have hurt the front seven more than any other area, as first-round selections DL L.J. Collier and LB Jordyn Brooks have yet to impact the team in any meaningful way. Bobby Wagner remains a star, but unfortunately one off-ball linebacker can't carry a defense.

If not for Jamal Adams, the secondary rankings would likely fall significantly further. Teams were (correctly) unafraid to throw downfield against Seattle in 2020, averaging a league-high 13.3 attempts at 10+ yards downfield per game, at a completion rate of 54.7%.

At one point Pete Carroll was viewed among the elite coaches in the game, but we've lost a lot of respect for him in recent years due to his stubborn commitment to running the ball. To be fair, Seattle's early-down pass rates increased in 2020, but Carroll has spent his offseason preaching about the run game, so we're not buying it as a true change in philosophy. He's still a well-respected player's coach, but his failure to evolve his game management is hurting Seattle.

SEA-4

Seattle raced to a 5-0 record into their bye week. Russ was favored to win MVP. He was passing, they were scoring, they were undefeated. They emerged from the bye to watch Russell Wilson, in primetime, throw three interceptions and lose to the Cardinals in overtime. Seattle led the game 27-17 at halftime. Seattle led 34-24 with 2:30 left in the game. It was an anomaly. It happens.

Follow it up by another relatively easy win and it's 6-1 heading to Buffalo. The problem with Buffalo was what happened against Arizona on Sunday night. The Seahawks lost both RB1 Chris Carson and RB2 Carlos Hyde. Their starting running back in Buffalo was DeeJay Dallas. Not great. It wasn't Wilson's fault the Bills offense played out of this world. Buffalo returned the opening kick 60 yards and scored a touchdown three plays later (all of which were passing dropbacks). Seattle's first drive went three-and-out. Tipped pass, screen to Dallas, incomplete to David Moore, punt. Buffalo's next drive was 10 plays, 72 yards, and another touchdown (all 10 plays were passing dropbacks).

Down 14-0. Seattle's next six drives went 85 vards, 75 vards, 70 vards, 48 vards, 44 vards, and -2 vards, The -2 vard drive was a sack-fumble. The drives reached the Bills' 1, 4, 5, 26 and 27-yard lines. But they scored only two touchdowns, two field goals, and had two turnovers.

Yet it was still a one-score game entering the fourth quarter. It was an epic quarterback duel. Brian Daboll kept calling pass plays. Brian Schottenheimer kept calling pass plays. Josh Allen finished with 415 yards, Russell Wilson with 390. But Wilson threw two interceptions and the Seahawks lost, as Seattle's defense gave up 44 points.

I'm not sure what Carroll wanted Schottenheimer to do. The Bills offense was insane and carved up Seattle's defense.

<u>SEA-5</u>

Should Shotty have called more run plays? Because RB1 DeeJay Dallas and RB2 **Travis Homer** were really lighting up the scoreboard with their *checks notes* 3.6 YPC. No, the answer wasn't to run the ball more.

The next week, RB1 and RB2 were both out and because of how poor both RBs played last week, the Seahawks started **Alex Collins** for his first game of the year. Seattle stuck with their pass first approach, which made even more sense without any reasonable running back options and it yielded solid results. The very first drive of the game, Seattle drove 78 yards and scored a touchdown. Following a punt, Seattle drove again into the Rams' red zone, but this time they settled for a field goal. Wilson threw an interception at the Rams' 22-yard line on their fourth drive of the game. Seattle trailed 17-13 at halftime and lost 23-16.

After back-to-back losses which included multiple Wilson interceptions, Pete Carroll interfered and pulled the plug. I would have loved to be a fly on the wall early that next week. But the fun was over.

It didn't matter that the first half splits looked like these in games vs the Bills and Rams:

First half passes: 0.02 EPA/att, 7.8 YPA, 50% success (42 dropbacks) First half QB runs: 0.55 EPA/att, 6.3 YPC, 75% success (4 att) First half RB runs: -0.17 EPA/att, 4.1 YPC, 47% success (15 att)

While running the ball more would have been the absolute worst thing the Seahawks could have done, Carroll wanted more runs.

The Seahawks' heavy early down pass trend in the first half of games made a sharp and decided shift towards the run.

After seven consecutive weeks of 60% or more passes on first half early downs, the Seahawks shifted to consecutive weeks of no more than 50% pass on first half early downs in any game.

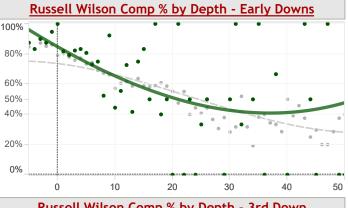
(cont'd - see SEA-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2021 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins Forecast 2021

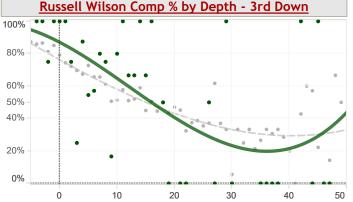


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <u></u> | 2) | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | | |
| | Chris Carson | 1% | 8% | 77% | 8% | 6% | | | | | | |
| | Carlos Hyde | | 2% | 72% | 12% | 14% | | | | | | |
| RUSH | DeeJay Dallas | 21% | 6% | 32% | 18% | 24% | | | | | | |
| 2 | David Moore | | 22% | 56% | 11% | 11% | | | | | | |
| | Travis Homer | 16% | 12% | 68% | 4% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 4% | 7% | 69% | 10% | 10% | | | | | | |
| | Chris Carson | | 20% | 69% | 4% | 7% | | | | | | |
| | D.K. Metcalf | 9% | 7% | 74% | 4% | 7% | | | | | | |
| | Tyler Lockett | 5% | 9% | 76% | 4% | 7% | | | | | | |
| | Carlos Hyde | | 6% | 94% | | | | | | | | |
| " | DeeJay Dallas | 5% | 10% | 80% | | 5% | | | | | | |
| PASS | David Moore | 12% | 2% | 67% | 5% | 14% | | | | | | |
| Δ. | Jacob Hollister | 16% | 5% | 74% | 2% | 2% | | | | | | |
| | Greg Olsen | 8% | 8% | 70% | 14% | | | | | | | |
| | Travis Homer | 30% | 10% | 60% | | | | | | | | |
| | Will Dissly | | 23% | 65% | 3% | 10% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 7% | 9% | 73% | 4% | 6% | | | | | | |

| | Share of Offensive Plays by Type | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Chris Carson | D.K. Metcalf | Tyler Lockett | Carlos Hyde | DeeJay Dallas | David Moore | Jacob Hollister | Greg Olsen | Travis Homer | Will Dissly | | | | |
| RUSH | 51% | | | 27% | 11% | 3% | | | 8% | | | | | |
| PASS | 9% | 26% | 25% | 3% | 4% | 8% | 8% | 7% | 2% | 6% | | | | |
| ALL | 25% | 16% | 16% | 12% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 5% | 4% | 4% | | | | |





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 46%, 0.03 (452) | 63%, 0.10 (160) | 62%, -0.20 (13) | 17%, -0.79 (6) | 100%, 0.11 (1) | 75%, 0.75 (4) | 33%, -0.59 (3) | 100%, 0.88 (1) | 50%, 0.04 (640) |
| RUSH | 52%, 0.00 (253) | 62%, 0.13 (143) | 20%, -0.07 (5) | 56%, -0.12 (9) | 8%, -0.76 (13) | 43%, -0.40 (7) | | 0%, -0.77 (1) | 54%, 0.01 (431) |
| All | 48%, 0.02 (705) | 62%, 0.11 (303) | 50%, -0.17 (18) | 40%, -0.39 (15) | 14%, -0.69 (14) | 55%, 0.02 (11) | 33%, -0.59 (3) | 50%, 0.06 (2) | 52%, 0.03 (1,071) |

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 | 55% (33) 5.5, -0.42 | 83% (12) 8.8, 0.22 | 0% (1) 3.0, -0.31 | | 61% (46) 6.3, -0.25 | | | | | |
| TE | Jacob Hollister | 52% (23) 6.7, 0.40 | 36% (22) 2.5, -0.40 | | | 44% (45) 4.6, 0.01 | | | | | |
| | Greg Olsen | 63% (30) 6.8, 0.33 | 50% (6) 5.8, -1.17 | | | 61% (36) 6.6, 0.08 | | | | | |
| | Will Dissly | 53% (15) 6.7, 0.19 | 60% (15) 9.4, 0.06 | | 100% (1) 10.0, 1.18 | 58% (31) 8.1, 0.16 | | | | | |
| WR | DK Metcalf | 52% (102) 8.6, 0.30 | 85% (27) 15.3, 0.79 | 50% (4) 9.8, -1.21 | 50% (2) 18.5, 0.74 | 59% (135) 10.1, 0.36 | | | | | |
| | Tyler Lockett | 60% (86) 7.7, 0.41 | 80% (45) 8.6, 0.41 | 100% (3) 9.7, 0.56 | | 68% (134) 8.0, 0.42 | | | | | |
| | David Moore | 48% (42) 8.5, 0.32 | 75% (4) 9.0, 0.30 | 100% (1) 18.0, 1.56 | | 51% (47) 8.8, 0.35 | | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 4 Grp Total |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Carson | 61% (97) | 62% (55) | | 100% (1) | 61% (153) |
| Chris | 4.9, 0.11 | 5.0, 0.06 | | 4.0, -0.02 | 4.9, 0.09 |
| Hyde | 29% (42) | 59% (34) | 100% (1) | 50% (4) | 43% (81) |
| Carlos | 3.5, -0.22 | 6.0, 0.24 | 3.0, 0.36 | 2.3, -0.28 | 4.4, -0.03 |
| Wilson | 60% (47) | 70% (20) | 0% (12) | | 53% (79) |
| Russell | 8.0, 0.18 | 8.3, 0.35 | -1.0, -0.85 | | 6.7, 0.07 |
| Dallas | 50% (18) | 57% (14) | | 0% (1) | 52% (33) |
| DeeJay | 3.8, -0.13 | 2.6, -0.04 | | -1.0, -0.79 | 3.1, -0.11 |
| Homer Travis | 33% (21) 3.7, -0.38 | 75% (4) 2.8, -0.30 | | | 40% (25) 3.5, -0.36 |
| Collins Alex | 67% (9) 3.4, 0.00 | 57% (7) 5.0, 0.19 | | | 63% (16) 4.1, 0.08 |

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

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

| Pass | sing by | Pass | ing by | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | Types | QE | State at | Pass | Run | Types |
|--------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | verage heme | Ro | oute | Level 1 | 61% (418) 6.6, 0.22 | 0/1 Step | 55% (179) 6.0, 0.11 | Planted | | % (396) 9, 0.23 | Outside Zone | 53% (108) 4.6, 0.04 |
| | 040/ (040) | Curl | 69% (74) 7.0, 0.18 | | | 3 Step | 56% (144) | Moving | | % (130) 1, 0.10 | Inside | 56% (82) |
| Zone | 61% (313) 8.3, 0.26 | Drag | 65% (37) 6.4. 0.20 | Level 2 | 52% (71) 8.7, 0.03 | o otep | 8.0, 0.21 | Shuffling | | 5% (61) 7, -0.10 | Zone | 3.7, -0.12 |
| | | | , , , | Level 3 | 43% (61) | 5 Step | 59% (106) 10.9, 0.43 | | Play Action | on | Stretch | 53% (53) 4.1, -0.08 |
| M2M | 51% (152) 7.6, 0.23 | Out | 67% (36) 5.5, 0.14 | Level 3 | 15.8, 0.54 | Designed Rollout Right | 79% (38) 8.3, 0.47 | | Play Action | No P/A | Power | 50% (28) 4.3, 0.03 |
| | | Slant | 67% (36) 7.7. 0.47 | Shovel | 40% (5) 3.0, -0.54 | | 51% (35) | Under Center | 57% (95) 9.2, 0.16 | 61% (28) 6.6, 0.16 | Dital | 52% (25) |
| 0 | 51% (47) | | | | | 7 Step | 9.3, 0.30 | Shotgun | 56% (62) 6.2, -0.18 | 47% (455) 7.4, 0.03 | Pitch | 4.6, 0.04 |
| Screen | 6.5, 0.00 | Dig | 68% (22) 12.4, 0.80 | Sidearm | 67% (3) 11.3, 0.85 | | 47% (17) 7.2, 0.19 | ALL | 57% (157) 8.0, 0.02 | 48% (483) 7.3, 0.04 | Lead | 100% (1) 5.0, 0.05 |

SEA-6

Over their final seven games of the year, Seattle had just three games with a pass rate of 55% or higher on first half early downs.

Contrast with their first nine games, when they were above 55% pass in eight of nine games.

On first half early downs:

Weeks 1-10: highest pass rate in the NFL (64% pass), averaging 9.6 YPA & 61% success Weeks 11+: 13th highest pass rate (57% pass), averaging 6.0 YPA and 57% success

There still were three games down the stretch where the Seahawks went with a higher pass rate on these plays (61% pass vs the Giants, 63% pass vs both the Rams and 49ers), but the bigger thing than just a shift more towards the run has been a reduction of passing efficiency.

Seattle played Arizona once in Week 7 using a pass-heavy approach and once in Week 11 using a run-heavy approach. Look at the first half production in each game:

Week 7: 0.30 EPA/play, 10.8 yards/play, 71% success Week 11: 0.18 EPA/play, 5.9 yds/play, 65% success

Seattle played San Francisco once in Week 8 using a pass-heavy approach and once in Week 17 using a run-heavy approach. Look at the first half production in each game:

Week 8: 0.12 EPA/play, 6.7 yards/play, 42% success Week 17: -0.14 EPA/play, 4.0 yards/play, 47% success

(cont'd - see SEA-7)





Seattle played the Rams once in Week 10 using a pass heavy approach, once in Week 16 using a run-heavy approach and again in the Week 18 Wild Card with a run heavy approach. Look at the first half production in each game:

Week 10: -0.02 EPA/play, 6.7 yards/play, 50% success Week 16: -0.23 EPA/play, 4.2 yards/play, 48% success Week 18: -0.39 EPA/play, 7.0 yards/play, 40% success

Against every single division opponent, Seattle was consistently more efficient in the games they were pass-first rather than the games they were run-first.

On all first half plays:

Weeks 1-10: 0.07 EPA/play, 7.3 yards/play, 57% success Weeks 11+: -0.03 EPA/play, 5.6 yards/play, 54% success

In terms of overall year-over-year rushing efficiency, on early downs, the 2020 Seahawks were more efficient. Should I say, Chris Carson was more efficient. Much more. Even though Seattle played a top-10 schedule of run defenses both seasons, look at Carson's early down rushing efficiency:

Early downs quarters 1-3:

2019: -0.05 EPA/att, 4.6 YPC, 55% success, 179 att 2020: 0.14 EPA/att, 5.3 YPC, 65% success, 116 att

Early downs full game:

2019: -0.06 EPA/att, 4.3 YPC, 52% success, 244 att 2020: 0.09 EPA/att, 4.9 YPC, 61% success, 145 carries

Carson had nearly 100 fewer carries but was clearly and obviously more fresh, more explosive, and more efficient. Every metric was up considerably in 2020.

Did Pete Carroll ever comment on this? On how overworking Carson can wear him down and out? I didn't hear it if he did.

Carson was more efficient with every box count he faced: 6 or fewer men, standard 7, or 8+. But because of the offense's aggressive pass approach, Carson ran even more often into light boxes than he did in 2019. Nearly 49% of his early down runs in 2020 were into light boxes. That number was only 41% in 2019. Carson was still more efficient when he ran into standard boxes (0.08 EPA in 2020, 0.03 in 2019, and 5% better success rate in 2020) and heavy boxes (-0.01 EPA in 2020, -0.23 EPA in 2019, and 3% better success rate in 2020), so his improvement wasn't strictly more lighter boxes faced.

It appears passing more and running less not only kept Carson fresh and able to get more efficient gains at all times, but it also allowed him to face lighter boxes as defenses feared the pass would be called.

The front office signing Carlos Hyde was a disaster. Hyde delivered -0.07 EPA/att, 4.3 YPC, and 42% success on all early down runs. He was completely unproductive, yet was forced to be worked into the offense.

Immediate Impact of Seattle Seahawks 2021 Draft Class

Due to a number of trades, most notably the acquisition of safety Jamal Adams, Seattle ended up with only three selections in this dr.

WR **D'Wayne Eskridge** (second round) is the only rookie with an obvious path to the field in 2021. He could be the third option in the passing game, replacing **David Moore**, who saw 47 targets a season ago.

However, the 5'9", 190-pound Eskridge probably can't be deployed in the same way as the 6'0", 215-pound Moore.

Eskridge primarily lined up on the outside at Western Michigan (79% of his targets) but at his size, he's probably better suited for a role in the slot. Unfortunately, **Tyler Lockett** is locked into the slot role, where he lined up on 75% of his routes last season.

In 2020, Moore lined up in the slot on just 35% of his targets. So finding room for Eskridge on the field may be more difficult than simply inserting him into Moore's vacant role.

CB Tre Brown (fourth round) might factor into the mix in the secondary out of necessity due to a lack of talent and depth at cornerback in Seattle.

Brown has strong athletic traits (4.42 in the 40, 38" vertical) but his production at Oklahoma was underwhelming. In 2020, Brown allowed 5.7 yards per target and committed four pass interference penalties in 10 games.

OT **Stone Forsythe** (sixth round) will likely be treated as a developmental prospect by Seattle, especially given their offseason emphasis on improving the run game.

Forsythe was consistently effective in pass protection at Florida, but often a liability in the run game.

In addition to these three draft picks, Seattle's draft capital contributed to the acquisitions of Jamal Adams, guard **Gabe Jackson**, and safety **Quandre Diggs**. So while this rookie class is underwhelming, they likely used their assets to acquire at least three starters.

This veteran-heavy plan could set Seattle up for a rough stretch in the future, but it's a somewhat understandable risk to take with Russell Wilson entering his age-33 season.

Seattle Seahawks 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

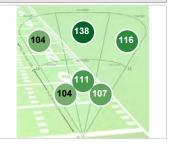
Seattle closed 2020 ranked 16th in overall EPA passing and ninth in success rate (50%) through the air, but for the second consecutive season their passing output was a tale of two halves. Through eight games, Seattle was second in the NFL in passing success rate (54%) and then was 20th in the league (46%) over the back half of the season. Russell Wilson is the only quarterback to throw 30 or more passing touchdowns in each of the past four seasons, but the team has taken their foot off the gas to close each of the past two seasons. Seattle threw the ball on first downs 56% of the time over their opening games (eighth in the league) and then 48% of the time over the final eight (18th). Offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer was replaced by Shane Waldron, who was the passing game coordinator with the Rams over the previous three seasons.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Russell Wilson | 394 | 584 | 67% | 4,391 | 7.5 | 42 | 14 | 52 | 104 | 8 |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | |

| 2020 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 | 50% | 54% | 48 | 8.0% | 23 | 4.0% | 6.1 | 5.0 | 25 | 4% | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 30 20 10 0 -10

Russell Wilson Rating Early Downs



| <u>In</u> | Interception Rates by Down | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4th Dwn | Total | | | | | | |
| 1 & 2 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 25.0% | 2.6% | | | | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 33.3% | 2.1% | 2.2% | 0.0% | 3.0% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 2.9% | 4.3% | 0.0% | 3.2% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.3% | 1.4% | 4.2% | 0.0% | 1.5% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 6.7% | 0.0% | 2.0% | | | | | | |
| Total | 1.6% | 1.8% | 3.4% | 7.7% | 2.2% | | | | | | |

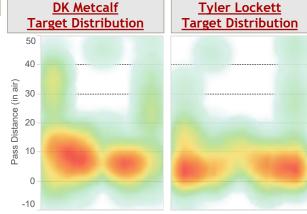
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | | |
| Russell Wilson | 8.8 | 6.1 | -2.7 | 72% | 15 | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | |

| n l | <u>Passing</u> | - Short | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------|----------|----|
| | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
| | 8.8 | 6.1 | -2.7 | 72% | 15 | 55% | 45% | 18 |
| | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | 52% | 48% | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Seattle is still anchored with two top wideouts in DK Metcalf and Tyler Lockett with both locked up over multiple seasons. Seattle ranked fourth in success rate targeting their wideouts (60%) and seventh in yards per target (9.0) to the position. While Metcalf and Lockett are locked in stars, Seattle still needs a third wheel in the passing game. Those two wideouts accounted for 48.6% of the team targets, 47.2% of the receptions, 55.5% of the yardage, and 50% of the receiving scores. Behind Metcalf's 129 targets, the next closest target on the team was David Moore way down at 47 targets. The team chose to remedy his departure with the additions of Gerald Everett in free agency and used the 56th pick on the versatile D'Wayne Eskridge.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | Comp % | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------|-------------|-----|
| D.K. Metcalf | 134 | 62% | 10.1 | 110.2 | 57% | 46 | 95 | 6 | 120 | 12 |
| Tyler Lockett | 129 | 76% | 8.2 | 122.3 | 70% | 2 | 5 | 80 | 22 | 10 |



2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

For as much as we are down about Seattle continuing to run the football in the face of their top assets on offense, they are at least good at it. Seattle closed 2020 11th in rushing EPA and second in success rate (55%) despite missing **Chris Carson** for four games and working in all of Carlos Hyde, DeeJay Dallas, and Travis Homer in. As an added bonus, Wilson's 32.1 rushing yards per game were his most since 2017. Carson managed just 141 carries through his injuries, but still led all players with 50 or more carries in rushing success rate at 63%. Rashaad Penny enters the final season of his rookie contract coming off a season nearly entirely lost (38 total snaps in three games) recovering from a late-season ACL injury during the 2019 season.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Chris Carson | 157 | 4.8 | 63% | 2 | 9 | 28 | 40 | 63% | 1 | 5 |
| Russell Wilson | 87 | 6.5 | 51% | 47 | 88 | 72 | 8 | 54% | 26 | 2 |
| Carlos Hyde | 85 | 4.2 | 48% | 63 | 75 | 59 | 36 | 49% | 54 | 4 |

Yards per Carry by Direction 4.1 2.9 4.0 6.1 4.6 3.9 C RG RT



Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



Chris Carson Is a Value RB2

Seattle brought back **Chris Carson** after he was an unrestricted free agent. He has scored at least nine touchdowns in each of the past three seasons and has been the RB16, RB13, and RB14 in points per game the past three seasons. Although he appeared in just 12 games and managed 178 touches, Carson is coming off averaging a career-high 5.4 yards per touch and 3.1 receptions per game. He also led all running backs with a 63% success rate running the ball in 2020.

Tyler Lockett is Also a Value

Lockett was the WR8 in overall scoring and the WR12 in points per game (16.6) in 2020 as he set career-highs with 132 targets and 100 receptions while matching a career-best 10 touchdowns. Lockett came with a ton of volatility, having nine games outside of the top-40 at his position while scoring six of his 10 touchdowns in two games. Still the WR2 attached to **Russell Wilson**, take advantage of that 2020 volatility, and focus on the career-high usage attached to a top-level quarterback. Lockett has missed one NFL game through six seasons and has been a top-24 scorer in points per game in each of the past three seasons.

Can Russell Cook All Season?

Russell Wilson is the only quarterback to throw 30 or more passing touchdowns in each of the past four seasons, but the team has taken their foot off the gas to close each of the past two seasons. Through eight games, Seattle was second in the NFL in passing success rate (54%) and then was 20th in the league (46%) over the back half of the season. Seattle threw the ball on first downs 56% of the time over their opening games (eighth in the league) and then 48% of the time over the final eight (18th). Over the past two seasons, Wilson has averaged 8.5 Y/A and 291.8 passing yards per game to go along with 45 passing touchdowns and just nine interceptions. Over the final eight games in those seasons, he has dropped down to 6.9 Y/A, 228.4 passing yards per game, and a 26-to-9 TD-to-INT split.

Deep Target: Gerald Everett

Selected 44th overall in the 2017 draft, Everett has shared time and targets alongside Tyler Higbee and never had a chance to truly break out. Through four years in the NFL, Everett has had his targets, receptions, and yardage climb in every season, but has capped out with a season-high of just 62 targets. Hitting free agency, Everett is joining the division rival Seahawks and getting paired with Russell Wilson. New Seattle offensive coordinator Shane Waldron was the Rams tight ends coach in 2017 when Everett was drafted and the passing game coordinator over the 2018-2020 seasons. Seattle is also no stranger to Everett's upside as the best game of his career (7-136-0 on 11 targets) came in Seattle Week 5 of the 2019 season.

Everett is a big time upgrade over what Seattle had at the position a year ago and Everett himself gets a quarterback upgrade in Russell Wilson. Over the past four seasons, Wilson has ranked first (61), first (59), second (48), and second (50) in end zone targets.

| Sea | Seattle Seahawks Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel | | | | | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map | | |
|-----------|--|---|--------------------------------|---|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | 0/ | DI | 50 | | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 27 plays (6%) Success: 41% | 391 plays (80%) Success: 48% | 68 plays (14%) Success: 40% | 486 plays (100%) Success: 46% | | % | Rk | 40 | | |
| | EPA: -0.27 | EPA: 0.11 | EPA: 0.02 | | Base | 38% | 2 | 2 2 1 | | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 109 plays (92%) Success: 46% | 8 plays (7%) Success: 88% | 2 plays (2%) Success: 0% | 119 plays (100%) Success: 48% | Nickel | 54% | 20 | 30 | | |
| | EPA: -0.10 | EPA: 1.47 | EPA: -0.87 | EPA: 0.00 | Dime+ | 7% | 20 | | | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 21 plays (81%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.44 | 5 plays (19%) Success: 40% EPA: -1.08 | | 26 plays (100%) Success: 35% EPA: -0.56 | Rush 3 | 9% | 10 | 20 - | | |
| | | LI 71.00 | | | Rush 4 | 60% | 22 | 10 - | | |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 16 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.35 | | | 16 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 50% EPA: 0.35 | Rush 5 | 22% | 11 | 10- | | |
| Grand | 173 plays (27%) | 404 plays (62%) | 70 plays (11%) | 647 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 7% | 9 | 0 - | | |
| Total | Success: 44% EPA: -0.12 | Success: 49% EPA: 0.12 | Success: 39% EPA: -0.01 | Success: 46% EPA: 0.04 | Blitz% | 29% | 10 | -10 | | |

Defensive Outlook

Poona Ford has continued to develop into one of the better young interior defenders after his third season. Ford had eight tackles for loss, which tied for sixth-most among defensive tackles in 2020. He was also 19th in quarterback hits. Rasheem Green, a 2018 third-round pick, has also developed into a productive rotational pass rusher. Al Woods also just returned to Seattle after he signed with Jacksonville prior to the 2020 season before he opted out.

Perhaps the best use of a Seattle 2021 draft pick comes from the seventh-rounder sent to the Cincinnati Bengals for **Carlos Dunlap**. The Seahawks ranked 27th in pressure rate before the Dunlap trade last season and improved to 14th over the second half of the season, according to Sports Info Solutions. Dunlap was re-signed to a two-year deal, but that only comes with \$8.5 million guaranteed. **Kerry Hyder** is an underrated rusher who ranked 20th in pressure rate last season as he was pushed into a more full-time role with the San Francisco 49ers.

The depth here isn't terrible but highlights where the Seahawks have come to where they are in terms of draft capital. **L.J. Collier** was a first-round pick in 2019, but hasn't played nearly up to that level. He was 114th among 124 qualified edge rushers in pressure rate. **Alton Robinson**, a 2020 fifth-round pick, ranked 82nd. **Darrell Taylor**, a 2020 second-round pick, missed his entire rookie season recovering from surgery on his leg.

At linebacker, **Bobby Wagner** is still Bobby Wagner, even entering Year 10. **Jordyn Brooks** was last year's first-round pick and played above expectations with better coverage as he played 31.9% of the defensive snaps. **Ben Burr-Kirven** was a rangy linebacker in college but played only 10 defensive snaps last season. **K.J. Wright** remains a free agent.

With **Shaquil Griffin** now in Jacksonville, the Seahawks lost their top corner. In free agency, Seattle signed **Ahkello Witherspoon** away from the 49ers. Witherspoon has been inconsistent with San Francisco but ranked 42nd among corners in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap in 2020. That's much better than **Tre Flowers**, who ranked 106th and allowed a 74.5% completion rate in a down year **D.J. Reed** was another San Francisco signing and was the highlight of the cornerback room as he played outside and in the slot for the Seahawks after playing more safety with the 49ers. Reed ranked 27th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

Safety Marquise Blair started as the team's slot corner and Ugo Amadi slid into that role once Blair was lost for the season in Week 2. Seattle's first-round pick this season was Jamal Adams. Adams dealt with injury issues in 2020, but was impactful when he was on the field. He was the team's best pass rusher but the team also allowed 0.09 EPA per play without Adams on the field compared to -0.01 EPA per play with him on it, per SIS. Quandre Diggs remains the team's deep safety while Adams plays more in the box. Ryan Neal flashed with two picks and five passes defensed when he found his way onto the field. Blair and Amadi, both 2019 draft picks, are listed as safeties but are likely to play more slot corner.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 61% |
| All Pass Rk | 8 |
| All Rush % | 39% |
| All Rush Rk | 25 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 62% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 6 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 52% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 30 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | 10% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 1 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 38% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 27 |
| Up Pass % | 59% |
| Up Pass Rk | 10 |
| Up Rush % | 41% |
| Up Rush Rk | 23 |
| Down Pass % | 63% |
| Down Pass Rk | 9 |
| Down Rush % | 37% |
| Down Rush Rk | 24 |

| | | | 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % | | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 8 | 38% | 63% | 50% | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 16 | 38% | 63% | 63% | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 328 | 51% | 49% | 60% | | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 15 | 87% | 13% | 40% | | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 51 | 49% | 51% | 78% | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 95 | 60% | 40% | 58% | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 72 | 75% | 25% | 49% | | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 45 | 71% | 29% | 38% | | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 45 | 58% | 42% | 56% | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 46 | 87% | 13% | 39% | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 24 | 100% | 0% | 33% | | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 26 | 73% | 27% | 8% | | | | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 5 | 80% | 20% | 20% | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% | | | | | | |



32% **AVG** 77%



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFI 1D Avg | | | | | |
| 63% | 23 | 67% | 85% | 75% | | | | | |
| | <u>2n</u> | d and Sho | ort Pass | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFI 1D Avg | | | | | |
| 37% | 10 | 33% | 75% | 59% | | | | | |

| | | Most | Frequent Play | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Chris Carson | 3 | 33% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Greg Olsen | 4 | 50% |
| | | RUSH | Chris Carson | 4 | 75% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Chris Carson | 66 | 62% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Tyler Lockett | 3 | 67% |
| | | | D.K. Metcalf | 3 | 67% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Chris Carson | 14 | 93% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Chris Carson | 18 | 78% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Tyler Lockett | 11 | 73% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Tyler Lockett | 6 | 83% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Chris Carson | 8 | 63% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | D.K. Metcalf | 8 | 50% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | D.K. Metcalf | 8 | 25% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | D.K. Metcalf | 5 | 20% |

| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | |
| No | Success: 46% | Success: 60% | Success: 49% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.07 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.01 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.06 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 102.3 | Rtg: 122.9 | Rtg: 106.8 | | | | |
| | [Att: 274 - Rate: 42.8%] | [Att: 72 - Rate: 11.3%] | [Att: 346 - Rate: 54.1%] | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 51% | Success: 54% | Success: 52% | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.00 | YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.01 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 98.6 | Rtg: 106.7 | Rtg: 101.0 | | | | |
| | [Att: 209 - Rate: 32.7%] | [Att: 85 - Rate: 13.3%] | [Att: 294 - Rate: 45.9%] | | | | |
| Total | Success: 48% | Success: 57% | Success: 50% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.04 | YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.02 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.04 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 100.7 | Rtg: 114.2 | Rtg: 104.1 | | | | |
| | [Att: 483 - Rate: 75.5%] | [Att: 157 - Rate: 24.5%] | [Att: 640 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | |

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | D.K. Metcalf | Tyler Lockett | Will Dissly | David Moore | Greg Olsen | Chris Carson | Jacob Hollister | Freddie Swain | Carlos Hyde |
| 1 | ATL | W 38-25 | 61 (98%) | 58 (94%) | 25 (40%) | 33 (53%) | 41 (66%) | 28 (45%) | 11 (18%) | 16 (26%) | 21 (34%) |
| 2 | NE | W 35-30 | 63 (100%) | 60 (95%) | 31 (49%) | 32 (51%) | 45 (71%) | 40 (63%) | 9 (14%) | 12 (19%) | 15 (24%) |
| 3 | DAL | W 38-31 | 73 (96%) | 74 (97%) | 30 (39%) | 31 (41%) | 48 (63%) | 44 (58%) | 11 (14%) | 34 (45%) | 16 (21%) |
| 4 | MIA | W 31-23 | 55 (87%) | 56 (89%) | 27 (43%) | 22 (35%) | 35 (56%) | 35 (56%) | 14 (22%) | 27 (43%) | |
| 5 | MIN | W 27-26 | 52 (96%) | 52 (96%) | 20 (37%) | 23 (43%) | 45 (83%) | 31 (57%) | 3 (6%) | 21 (39%) | |
| 7 | ARI | L 37-34 | 81 (96%) | 78 (93%) | 49 (58%) | 29 (35%) | 52 (62%) | 15 (18%) | 23 (27%) | 23 (27%) | 41 (49%) |
| 8 | SF | W 37-27 | 65 (96%) | 59 (87%) | 43 (63%) | 20 (29%) | 37 (54%) | | 26 (38%) | 19 (28%) | |
| 9 | BUF | L 44-34 | 65 (100%) | 62 (95%) | 21 (32%) | 34 (52%) | 26 (40%) | | 31 (48%) | 22 (34%) | |
| 10 | LA | L 23-16 | 64 (96%) | 58 (87%) | 24 (36%) | 41 (61%) | 48 (72%) | | 6 (9%) | 25 (37%) | |
| 11 | ARI | W 28-21 | 61 (92%) | 49 (74%) | 43 (65%) | 37 (56%) | 40 (61%) | | 13 (20%) | 15 (23%) | 46 (70%) |
| 12 | PHI | W 23-17 | 55 (82%) | 60 (90%) | 48 (72%) | 24 (36%) | | 25 (37%) | 37 (55%) | 24 (36%) | 41 (61%) |
| 13 | NYG | L 17-12 | 70 (97%) | 62 (86%) | 39 (54%) | 45 (63%) | | 42 (58%) | 39 (54%) | 27 (38%) | 18 (25%) |
| 14 | NYJ | W 40-3 | 46 (63%) | 47 (64%) | 36 (49%) | 39 (53%) | | 33 (45%) | 37 (51%) | 33 (45%) | 32 (44%) |
| 15 | WAS | W 20-15 | 51 (89%) | 52 (91%) | 37 (65%) | 21 (37%) | | 40 (70%) | 40 (70%) | 16 (28%) | 10 (18%) |
| 16 | LA | W 20-9 | 61 (97%) | 59 (94%) | 35 (56%) | 25 (40%) | 12 (19%) | 40 (63%) | 33 (52%) | 23 (37%) | 20 (32%) |
| 17 | SF | W 26-23 | 57 (88%) | 58 (89%) | 49 (75%) | 26 (40%) | | 30 (46%) | 41 (63%) | 14 (22%) | |
| | Grand | Total | 980 (92%) | 944 (89%) | 557 (52%) | 482 (45%) | 429 (59%) | 403 (52%) | 374 (35%) | 351 (33%) | 260 (38%) |

| | | % | Avg | % |
|---|-----------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 66% | 60% | 48% |
|) | 1-2 [2WR] | 28% | 20% | 62% |
| | Group | ing T | ondon | cios |
| | <u> </u> | ilig i | enden | CIES |
| 1 | Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass | Run Succ. % |
| | | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. |

Personnel Groupings

Personnel

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| D.K. Metcalf | 17 | 4 | 6 | 7 | | |
| Tyler Lockett | 16 | 7 | 2 | 7 | | |
| David Moore | 11 | 2 | 4 | 5 | | |
| Greg Olsen | 9 | | 5 | 4 | | |
| Jacob Hollister | 9 | 3 | | 6 | | |
| Freddie Swain | 4 | | 1 | 3 | | |
| Will Dissly | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | |
| Chris Carson | 20 | 8 | 1 | 11 | | |
| Carlos Hyde | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | | |
| DeeJay Dallas | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | | |
| Alex Collins | 7 | | 2 | 5 | | |
| Russell Wilson | 5 | 3 | | 2 | | |
| David Moore | 2 | | | 2 | | |
| Rashaad Penny | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | |

| <u>Early</u> | Early Down Target Rate | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | | | | |
| 19% 23% | 22% 21% NFL AVG | 59% 56% | | | | | | |
| | | Overall Target Success % | | | | | | |
| <u>Overa</u> | ıll Target Sı | uccess % | | | | | | |
| Overa | ıll Target Sı TE | uccess % wr | | | | | | |





So where does this position us for 2021? Brian Schottenheimer was fired and replaced by Shane Waldon, the former Rams passing game coordinator. The Seahawks had the least draft capital in 2021 of any team since at least 1999. Their first pick of the draft (56th overall) was wide receiver **D'Wayne Eskridge**. In free agency, in addition to right guard **Gabe Jackson**, the team added Waldron's former tight end **Gerald Everett**.

Down the stretch, Carroll will say the team turned to the run starting in Week 11 based on his directive and won six of the last seven games. As I said at the top, the bottom line is winning. That's what he'll remember.

What he won't remember is that the Seahawks, when they were pass-heavy, won the EDSR battle in six of their first seven games as well. The reason they went on a run to close the season was not because of their offense. In fact, they lost the EDSR battle in six of their last 10 games. They won because their defense looked way better... because opposing offenses were terrible. Look at the quarterbacks they faced down the stretch:

Week 11: Kyler Murray with an injured hamstring

Week 12: Carson Wentz

Week 13: Colt McCoy

Week 14: Sam Darnold

Week 15: Dwayne Haskins

Week 16: Jared Goff, then John Wolford after Goff broke his thumb

Week 17: CJ Beathard

Not a single passing offense Seattle faced ranked even 17th or better. All were below average. Five of their last six games were against bottom-10 pass offenses. Four straight were bottom-six.

That's why Seattle won those games. The offense was less efficient (-0.03 EPA/play, 5.8 yards/play, 49% success) than it was earlier in the season (0.07 EPA/play, 6.6 yards/play). They just played terrible quarterbacks and terrible offenses in general, so their defensive efficiency looked insanely good and it helped them win.

Early reports on the new Waldron playbook have included the terms "intricate" (via **DK Metcalf**), "super complex" (via Russell Wilson) and "smart" (via **Will Dissly**). **Tyler Lockett** said the new offense gives us "more freedom to be the receivers that we can be." It's been rumored to be faster tempo, which is something Wilson would absolutely love. The tempo "mitigates what the defenses can do," per Dissly and puts them in a tough spot.

Lockett explained an issue the Seahawks' 2020 passing attack ran into down the stretch: "A lot of teams were trying to force us to go sh we wanted explosives and things like that. Truth be told, the explosive part of it is not going to change. It's just the fact that we're going to learn now to be a lot more balanced. Whatever teams decide to give us, that's what we're going to take. Teams decide to play us deep, then we're going to take everything short and we're going to be able to run our offense all the way down the field and control the clock. Teams try to take the short stuff away, we're going to go deep."

One thing I'm curious if Seattle will do more is Russell Wilson under center play-action. This is a staple of the Rams' passing offense. Of the Rams' nearly 650 play-action attempts over the last three years, only 47 were in shotgun while 93% (599) were from under center. Seattle has been far more balanced, despite Wilson being much better in under center play-action. Look at 2020 only:

Under center play-action: 0.16 EPA/att, 9.2 YPA, 57% success (95 att or 61% of total) Shotgun play-action: -0.18 EPA/att, 6.2 YPA, 56% success (62 att or 39% of total)

Switching to more under center play-action absolutely will be a move Waldron is likely to employ. I'm fascinated to see how this offense looks against what I project to be the NFL's toughest schedule of defenses. Defensively, the Seahawks' schedule gets considerably more difficult as well. With the Cardinals stocking up on free agents, the 49ers getting better with a new quarterback, and the Rams doing the same, this NFC West will be the most interesting and competitive division in football in 2021 and beyond.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

3.0

03. Wins

ns 1

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA 7.6 | | | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.5 | | | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 7.4 | | | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 8.5 | | | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 58% | | | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 55% | | | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.03 | | | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.02 | | | | | |
| Disco Astissa (Ossanta | are 1.2 on Fauly Downs) | | | | | |

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | | |
|---|------|--|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 34% | | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 61% | | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 8.2 | | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 6.7% | | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.05 | | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.8 | | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 61% | | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 7.7 | | | | |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 6.6% | | | | |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.1 | | | | |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 7.9 | | | | |

| 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 | 54% |
| 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 | 37% |
| 59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 62% |
| 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 | 44% |
| 62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 62% |
| 63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 6.4 |

| Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation) | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|--|--|
| Net FROE Rk | 17 | defFUM | 18 | | |
| Net FROE | 0.4 | | | | |
| offFUM | 14 | defFUM Rcvrd | 10 | | |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 8 | defFR Rk | 15 | | |
| offFR% | 57.1% | defFR% | 44.4% | | |
| offFR Rk | 16 | defFROE | 0.0 | | |
| offFROE | 0.4 | defFROE Rk | 16 | | |
| offFROE Rk | 16 | UEITROE KK | 10 | | |

| Field Goal Luck | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Net Over Expectation | 3.53 | Opp Att | 35 | | |
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 6 | Opp Makes | 29 | | |
| Own Att | 24 | Opp FG % | 83% | | |
| Own Makes | 24 | | 27.80 | | |
| Own FG % | 100% | Opp Expected Makes | 27.00 | | |
| Own Expected Makes | 19.27 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.20 | | |
| Own Make over Expectation | 4.73 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 13 | | |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 2 | | -3.49 | | |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -0.58 | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -3.49 | | |
| 2019 Own Rk | 17 | 2019 Opp Rk | 30 | | |
| | | | | | |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | QB Pressure | | Offensive A | Offensive Metrics | |
|---|--|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Russell Wilson | | Russell Wilson | EPA/Pass | 0.10 | |
| CAY | 6.2 | Pressure % | 38 | EPA/Pass Rk | 12 | |
| CAY Rk | 17 | Pressure Rk | 5 | EPA/Rush | -0.02 | |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 6 | Sack % | 7 | EPA/Rush Rk | 9 | |
| AYTS Rk | 9 | Sack Rk | 11 | On-Target Catch % | 91.3% | |
| 2019 AYTS Rk AGG Rk | 5 41 | Pressure Accuracy % | 70.7 | On-Target Catch Rk | 12 | |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 10 | Pressure Accuracy Rk | 6 | Drop% | 7.0% | |
| COMP% | 68.8 | Rating when Pressured | 86.9 | Drop Rk | 20 | |
| xCOMP% | 64.8 | Pressured Rating Rk | 7 | | | |
| xCOMP% Rk | 23 | Clean Accuracy % | 82.9 | YAC/Att | 2.3 | |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 37 | Clean Accuracy Rk | 5 | YAC/Att Rk | 19 | |
| CPOE% | 4 | | 113.6 | Rush Broken Tackle % | 11.9% | |
| CPOE Rk | 5 | Rating when Clean | | Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 24 | |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | 4 | Clean Rating Rk | 9 | Addit blokell lackle KK | 24 | |
| CAY: Completed Air Yards AY | TS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: | Time to Throw | 2.97 | Rush 1st Down % | 27.0% | |
| Aggressiveness xCOMP : Expe Actual completion percentage of | ected completion percentage CPOE: over expectation | Time to Throw Rk | 5 | Rush 1st Down Rk | 11 | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs) Head Coach: Bruce Arians (2 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Byron Leftwich (2 yrs) Defensive Coordinator: Todd Bowles (2 yrs) Tampa Bay Buccaneers

2021 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

11.5

#1

Past Records

2020: 11-5 2019: 7-9 2018: 5-11



Key Players Lost

Easy Hard

| Player | New |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Andrew Adams (S) | Eagles |
| Antony Auclair (TE) | Texans |
| Chapelle Russell (LB) | Jaguars |
| Joe Haeg (RG) | Steelers |
| Kyle Love (DT) | Retired |
| Ryan Smith (CB) | Chargers |
| T.J. Ward (S) | Retired |
| A.Q. Shipley (C) | TBD |
| Antonio Brown (WR) | TBD |
| Deone Bucannon (LB) | TBD |
| Earl Watford (RG) | TBD |
| Jack Cichy (LB) | TBD |
| Kenjon Barner (RB) | TBD |
| LeSean McCoy (RB) | TBD |
| T.J. Logan (RB) | TBD |

| Average | # Games | # Games |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Line | Favored | Underdog |
| - 0 | 4.5 | |

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

Forecast 2021 Wins

2020 Wins

Forecast 2020 Wins

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

2017 Wins

15 1

2021 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Overview

In a year with a pandemic, a virtual offseason and no preseason, a 43-year-old quarterback joined a new team and transitioned to a new offense for the first times in 20 years, injured his knee during unorganized offseason practices in the spring which forced weekly attention during the season and didn't grasp the playbook until the final month of the season. He then led his new team to a Super Bowl championship. That's the story of the 2020 Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

It's extremely scary knowing that the quarterback, **Tom Brady**, just had knee surgery to fix his problem, completely understands the playbook and saw his front office do something that never has been done before: all 22 starters on offense and defense that appeared on the Super Bowl LV flip card roster will be on the team for 2021, a first in the NFL's salary cap era.

First, before discussing the 2020 season and what made the Bucs as good as they eventually became as well as discussing what they can do to improve, let's keep focus on the quotes about the playbook.

In May, Brady admitted, "Midway through the year, I was still trying to figure out how to call the plays. I just read [the plays] off my wristband and tried to visualize what was going to happen. It took a long time for people to get to know one another. Much longer than normal. The last six weeks of the year, wow, we really started hitting our stride. We gained a lot of confidence in one another. It was a really unique experience, one that I hope I never, ever have to go through again, but I think we made the best of it."

Sometimes players exaggerate, but Bruce Arians backed it up: "Oh yeah, oh yeah. Probably the Kansas City game [Week 12]. The second, third, and fourth quarters [in the loss to the Chiefs] we started playing really, really well.

(cont'd - see TB2)



Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Giovani Bernard (RB) | \$1.2 |
| Joseph Jones (LB) | \$1.10 |
| Antonio Hamilton (CB) | \$0 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|-------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 32 | DE - Joe Tryon (Washington) |
| 2 | 64 | QB - Kyle Trask (Florida) |
| 3 | 95 | OT - Robert Hainsey (Notre Dame) |
| 4 | 129 | WR - Jaelon Darden (North Texas) |
| 5 | 176 | LB - K. J. Britt (Auburn) |
| 7 | 251 | CB - Chris Wilcox (BYU) |
| , | 259 | LB - Grant Stuard (Houston) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 3 | \$118.77M | 4 |
| QB | 14 | \$14.48M | 8 |
| OL | 10 | \$38.73M | 6 |
| RB | 13 | \$9.27M | 19 |
| WR | 2 | \$43.63M | 25 |
| TE | 8 | \$12.66M | 1 |
| All DEF | 27 | \$79.46M | 13 |
| DL | 18 | \$42.14M | 7 |
| LB | 13 | \$16.32M | 5 |
| СВ | 30 | \$11.35M | 31 |
| S | 22 | \$9.66M | 32 |

5 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

TB-2

From there on, we attacked. We took that attack-mode philosophy and I think we were on the same page from there on out."

The Bucs had a bye after that Week 12 loss to the Chiefs, their third loss in four games. It came at the perfect time. Tampa Bay exited the bye in Week 14 against the Vikings. They won that game and never lost again, winning seven straight, including the Super Bowl with a 31-9 win over the Chiefs.

The changes that were made were important to understand if we want to get into the mind of the coaching staff but also to understand what this team will look like and do more of in 2021.

We know that nothing contributes to winning games like success on early downs. Specifically, first downs set a tone for the series and the team in general.

From Weeks 1-14, the Bucs had a very run-heavy approach on first downs early in the game.

In the first quarter, they ran the ball on 61% of their first downs (NFL average was only 55% run), even though these runs gained just 3.0 YPC, second worst in the NFL.

In the first half, they ran the ball on 52% of their first downs in the first half (NFL average is only 50% run), even though these runs gained just 2.7 YPC, worst in the NFL.

There was nothing more frustrating than watching a team with Brady, **Mike Evans**, **Chris Godwin**, **Rob Gronkowski**, and **Antonio Brown** take the ball out of Brady's hands, make these receivers run block, and just stick the ball into Leonard Fournette's or Ronald Jones's belly over and over and over with terrible results

I was pointing it out every time we saw a first down run early in the game. The Buccaneers could have just asked the other team if it was fine by them to skip to second and long, considering the rate of the run plays and the inefficiency they

But over the last three weeks of the regular season, they completely flipped the switch.



| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| тв | 45% 4.1 | 59% 4.4 | 61% 3.3 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 53% | 32% | 15% | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | |

In the first quarter on first downs, they shifted to 67% pass, up from 39% pass. These passes averaged 8.5 YPA with a 57% success rate. (Their runs were still terrible at a 3.1 YPC, 29% success).

In the first half on first downs, they shifted to 61% pass, up from 48%.

Tampa decided to put the ball into Tom Brady's hands early in the games and let him get to work on the defense. It was their best adjustment they made all year.

I assumed it would continue in the postseason, considering how efficient their offense became using it. The Bucs' three best offensive performances in EDSR (Early Down Success Rate which looks at rates of

(cont'd - see TB-3)

| EDSR Off Bown Off A Zone Off Bass Proficiency Off Ficiency Off Fi | | 2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| 15 - 4 - 17 - 20 - 25 - 31 - 31 - 31 - 31 - 31 | | 13 | 8 | 6 | 13 | 11 | | 4 | 5 | 2 | | 13 | 7 | | | |
| 25 - 31 31 30 - 27 | | P | 7 | | M | 7 | 17 2 | | | | | 7 | • | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | , | | | | 31 | | | 31 | | |
| EDSR Off 30 & In Off d Zone Off YPPA Off YPPA Off Pass Fro Pass Pro Pass Pro Ciciency Off Pass Pro Fass Pro Fas | 30 – | | | | | | | | | | P | | | 7 | | |
| Re Eff Exp | | EDSR Off | 30 & In Off | Red Zone Off | 3rd Down Off | YPPA Off | YPPT Off | Offensive Efficiency | Pass Efficiency Off | Pass Pro Efficiency Off | Pass | Rush Efficiency Off | Explosive Pass Off | Explosive Run Off | | |

| | | | | | (*) | | | | | ш | ш | 8 ' | ш | û | |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------------|------|----|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 202 | 20 V | Vee | kly | EDS | SR 8 | t Se | <u>aso</u> | n Tr | en | ding | Perfo | rma | nce | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| L | W | W | W | L | W | W | W | L | W | L | L | W | W | W | w |
| NO | CAR | DEN | LAC | CHI | GB | LV | NYG | NO | CAR | LA | KC | MIN | ATL | DET | ATL |
| Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Н | Α | Α | Н | Α | Н | Н | Н | Α | Α | Н |
| -11 | 14 | 18 | 7 | -1 | 28 | 25 | 2 | -35 | 23 | -3 | -3 | 12 | 4 | 40 | 17 |
| 23 | 31 | 28 | 38 | 19 | 38 | 45 | 25 | 3 | 46 | 24 | 24 | 26 | 31 | 47 | 44 |
| 34 | 17 | 10 | 31 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 23 | 38 | 23 | 27 | 27 | 14 | 27 | 7 | 27 |



2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics 10 Rank 15 10 20 25 30 Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def RB Pass Eff Def **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Down Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro Red Zone De YPPA De Efficieincy De Explosive

RESULT OPP All 2019 Wins: 11 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-3** FG Games Win %: **25% (#23)** SITE MARGIN FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): PTS OPP PTS

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-3 Score Games Win %: 50% (#13) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 27% (#31)

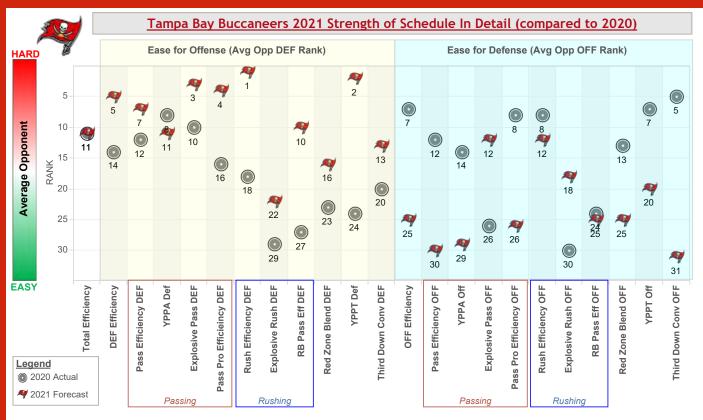
2020 Close Game

Records

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +8 TO Given 17 **INT Given** 12 **FUM Given** 5 TO Taken 25 **INT Taken** 15 10 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +26 48 Sacks Sacks Allow 22 -2 Return TD Margin **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 3 **Penalty Margin** +11 Penalties 84 **Opponent Penalties**

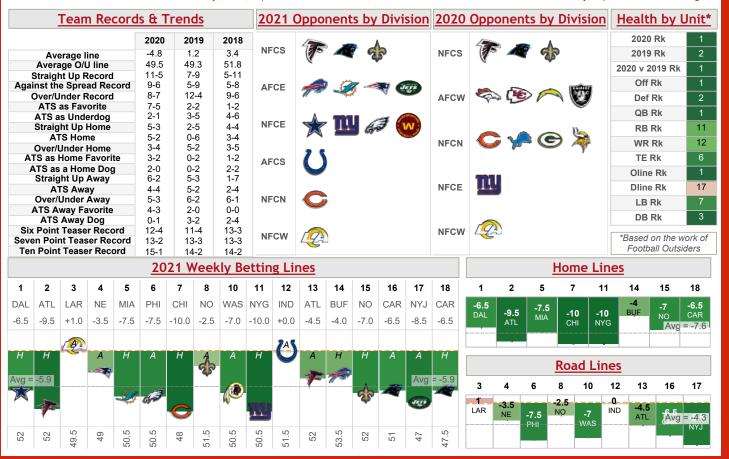
95

WFFK



| 2021 vs 2020 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 R | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 29 | 26 | 22 | 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







bypassing third downs) this season came during the three-week span (Weeks 15-17) when they turned to the pass.

But that didn't last in the playoffs.

Heading into the Super Bowl, the Bucs went 65% run on first downs in the first quarter. These runs delivered 3.2 YPC, -0.13 EPA/att, and a 46% success rate

The Bucs went 58% run on first downs in the game's first three quarters in the playoffs.

I couldn't believe it. They were doing this despite the addition of Tom Brady in the offseason. It's one thing to be well above average in run rate with **Jameis Winston** at QB. With the modern rules as they are, and offenses evolved to adapt, literally the only thing that can stop an average offense against an average defense is predictability.

What the Bucs had become was very predictable on offense. They ran the ball at a way above average rate on first down, particularly in the first quarter. The result of such a high run rate with so little efficiency?

On second downs in Weeks 1-13, when they were run-first and before they transitioned to passing the ball to close the season, guess how many yards-to-go the Bucs averaged on second down? 8.2. The only offense that averaged more yards-to-go on second down was the terrible Broncos offense led by **Drew Lock**.

We've got Tom Brady's Bucs, with all those receiving weapons, with the fifth-best passing offense, and we're running the ball at such a high rate on first down that we're averaging 8.2 yards-to-go on second down, the second most in the NFL? It was insane.

The byproduct of the Bucs having so many yards-to-go on second down? They had the highest pass rate on second and third downs.

Tampa was 80% pass on second and third downs in the first three quarters. That's WAY above average. It's first in the NFL and even WAY above any other team in the NFL. The No. 2 and No. 3 teams (Jaguars then Steelers) were down at 74% and 72% pass. The NFL average was 67% pass.

What did we say about the only way to derail a good offense in the modern NFL? Predictability. The Bucs were exceedingly predictable on first down (so many runs) and then again on second and third down (so many passes).

They walked a super-fine line all through the postseason as a result. Tampa Bay beat 7-9 Washington's 32nd ranked offense by just one-score (31-23) in the Wild Card round. This game was close all the way through and it was only a Bucs 18-16 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The Buccaneers then beat the Saints, whose starting quarterback played with a myriad of injuries and was without multiple injured players including WR1 **Michael Thomas**. That said, the Saints led 20-13 late in the third quarter and were driving into Bucs territory to go up two scores. A **Jared Cook** fumble and the game turned completely.

The point of outlining these wins to get to the NFC Championship game is to remind you, we shouldn't take the opinion that the Bucs were steamrolling people... or that the importance of dumb first down play calling is negated because the Bucs are superpowers... or that caring about first downs is irrelevant.

The Bucs narrowly won playoff games that could have been won much easier with a more ideal approach on first down. Fast forward to the NFC Championship game.

Tampa Bay ran the ball on five of six first downs in the first quarter. These runs gained 2.2 YPC with a 20% success rate. They were only able to move the ball and score thanks to unsustainable production on third down: Tampa had six third downs, the same number of first downs (meaning they never bypassed third down once) and converted five of six into first down, including a touchdown.

Overall in all four quarters of the NFC Championship, with Tom Brady at quarterback, the Bucs went 65% run on first down for 2.9 YPC and a 29% success rate. They then doubled back with a 75% pass rate on second down.

These passes were quite predictable, given the distance-to-go on second down. The Packers could get ready for second down passes and as a result, the Bucs' high pass rate on second down resulted in terrible production: 3.3 YPA with a 27% success rate.

So, it came down to third down. Tampa went 86% pass on third down and Tom Brady delivered 7-of-11 for 14.3 YPA and a 64% first down rate.

(cont'd - see <u>TB-4</u>)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated prep to prep game 2 +2

| Strength of Scheduled Game | <u> Timing: Tampa Bay</u> | Buccaneers Ranking vs NFL Average |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | |

| Net Rest Edge Rank | st Edge Rank Prep Rank Res | | Short Week Road Games Rank | Rank | Negated Bye Rank |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|------|------------------|
| 14 | 5 | 4 | 26 | 11 | 24 |

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- The market could very well be overvaluing the Super Bowl run from last season. As a reminder, Tampa finished the regular season at 11-5 and probably should have lost to the Saints in the divisional playoff round. Jared Cook fumbled the football in Tampa territory with the Saints up by seven points in the third quarter and driving for more. If the Bucs lose that game and get knocked out of the playoffs, the perception of the 2021 season is much different.
- Tampa finished 32nd in Football Outsiders' variance metric last season. Meaning, from a game-to-game perspective, the Bucs performance was the most volatile and inconsistent in the entire NFI
- The Bucs benefitted from many aspects of luck last season that could regress in 2021. Tampa ranked number one with the lowest number of adjusted games lost due to injuries. They also ranked fourth in net EPA gained due to turnovers and fifth in fumble recovery percentage. With the second highest win total on the board, a couple of injuries and bounces of the ball this season could drastically hurt their win total.

11.5



Why Bet the Over

- The Bucs brought back seemingly their entire roster, which is virtually unheard of in the modern NFL era. With arguably the most talented roster in the NFL, there is no reason they shouldn't keep winning at a high rate.
- They are expected to face the fifth easiest schedule based on current win totals. Their schedule will feel much easier than last year, when having to face the NFC and AFC East out of division instead of the tough AFC West from last season.
- Tom Brady clearly needed time to gel in the Bruce Arians offense. From Weeks 1-9, Brady ranked 19th in EPA per dropback but first from Week 10 through the Super Bowl. He now gets another full off season to add to his end of season run and hopefully carry it on into 2021.

| Tampa Bay Buccaneers Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 3 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 | | | | | | | |

By averaging all the rankings of each unit, Tampa is our top-ranked team entering the 2021 season. With every starter returning, we also have more confidence in our ranking of each unit than most teams.

Not much needs to be said about Tom Brady. Clearly he's still among the best, and ranked in the top five on every ballot.

Tampa's only unit ranked outside the top 10 is the backfield, which landed in the bottom 10. Though even this unit has some upside, if 2020 third-round pick **Ke'Shawn Vaughn** can elevate his game and take on a larger role.

The top-ranked receiving corps is led by one of the best duos in the game, **Mike Evans** and **Chris Godwin**. And, though he's unreliable for a variety of reasons, **Antonio Brown** is easily the most talented third option on any depth chart.

It's tough to separate Brady's ability to get rid of the ball quickly from the offensive line's production, but the line certainly deserves some credit for Brady only facing pressure on 24.9% of his dropbacks (third-lowest).

The Bucs are one of the few teams with high-end talent and depth at both defensive line and linebacker, making them an easy choice for our top-ranked front seven. If first-round pick **Joe Tryon** adds production to an already-strong pass-rush, this could be one of the top units of the last decade.

Though the front seven's dominance certainly helps the pass defense, Tampa's secondary is dominant in its own right. When opposing quarterbacks were not under pressure, Tampa allowed just 7.1 yards per attempt, the third lowest rate in the league.

In his last five years as a head coach, Bruce Arians has led a top-three scoring offense three times with three different quarterbacks (Brady, Jameis Winston and Carson Palmer). Though he obviously benefits from a roster with elite talent, Arians is no small part of Tampa's success.

<u>TB-4</u>

64% conversion rates on third down are obviously unsustainable in the long run but Brady was on fire in this one game. And even so, Tampa found itself up only five points entering the fourth quarter and feeling lucky to advance thanks to Matt LaFleur's decision to kick a field goal in the red zone down eight points with two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

What happened in the Super Bowl?

The Bucs were so predictable I decided to have some fun with my followers on Twitter (@SharpFootball) and make someone's Super Bowl night magical. Considering the Bucs average -0.11 EPA/att on these first down runs but predictably keep going, I ran a contest. For every Bucs first down running back handoff, I added \$100 to the pot and gave it all away at the end of the game.

Final tally? 16 runs and I made someone \$1,600 richer that night. (Follow me on Twitter for more contests like this!)

For 2021, the Bucs need to take a hard look at their run rate on first down. I would strongly suggest running less. It's not efficient and leads only to predictable passing situations.

What else did the Bucs similarly do last year that changed after the bye? Motion. Both play-action and pre-snap motion.

<u>TB-5</u>

Let's start with play-action, looking at usage on early downs in the first three quarters:

Prior to the bye: 25% (31st in the NFL) After the bye: 37% (NFL average) Playoffs: 37% (NFL average)

Look at the impact using play action made in the playoffs:

With play-action: 0.35 EPA/att, 8.7 YPA, 57% success (30 att) Without play-action: -0.04 EPA/att, 5.0 YPA, 38% success (50 att)

The Bucs switched to using more play-action, as they should have, and it clearly worked. But why settle for average?

Tampa needs to use far more play-action on early downs in 2021. Increase the play-action rate from a league average 37% to top-10 in the NFL. Teams with offenses in that range include the 49ers, Rams, Chiefs, and Ravens, to name a few. That's the company to be in for the Bucs, particularly with their receiving corps.

Another tip for the Champs: jack up that play-action rate from 12 personnel, specifically. After the bye, when they raised their usage, look at the play-action splits from 12 personnel:

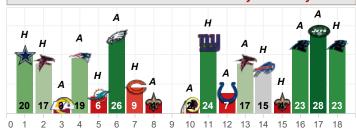
12 with play-action: 0.68 EPA/att, 12.8 YPA, 70% success 12 without play-action: 0.10 EPA/att, 5.5 YPA, 50% success

Using 12 to give the illusion of the run is perfect, but runs from 12 weren't very good for the Bucs. Early down runs from 12 averaged -0.09 EPA/att, 3.6 YPC, and 43% success. This was far worse than running from 11 personnel. Lessons for the Bucs: Don't run often from 12. Don't just pass from 12 without the play-action. Use 12, sell the run with play-action, and aggressively increase the play-action pass rate from 12 personnel.

(cont'd - see TB-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



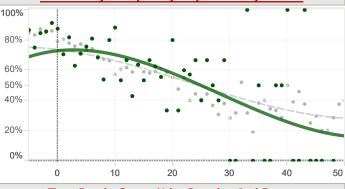
2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | <u>Usage R</u> | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ž | | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Ronald Jones | 4% | 5% | 65% | 11% | 15% |
| | Leonard Fournette | 4% | 3% | 67% | 13% | 12% |
| - | Chris Godwin | | | 100% | | |
| RUSH | Antonio Brown | | | 100% | | |
| Œ | Scott Miller | | | 80% | | 20% |
| | Ke'Shawn Vaughr | n 6% | | 26% | 3% | 65% |
| | Total | 4% | 4% | 63% | 11% | 18% |
| | Ronald Jones | 16% | 7% | 68% | | 9% |
| | Leonard Fournette | 10% | 11% | 60% | 8% | 11% |
| | Mike Evans | 11% | 6% | 58% | 10% | 15% |
| | Chris Godwin | 11% | 7% | 65% | 11% | 6% |
| PASS | Rob Gronkowski | 8% | 7% | 64% | 8% | 12% |
| A | Antonio Brown | 9% | | 62% | 15% | 14% |
| | Scott Miller | 13% | 7% | 59% | 9% | 13% |
| | Cameron Brate | 8% | 4% | 63% | 18% | 6% |
| | Ke'Shawn Vaughr | 1 | | 70% | | 30% |
| | Total | 10% | 6% | 62% | 10% | 11% |

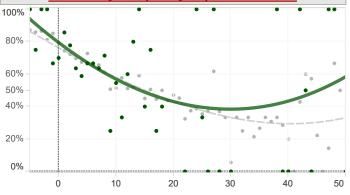
Share of Offensive Plays by Type

| | Ronald Jones | Leonard Fournette | Mike Evans | Chris Godwin | Rob Gronkowski | Antonio Brown | Scott Miller | Cameron Brate | Ke'Shawn Vaughn |
|------|--------------|----------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| RUSH | 53% | 38% | | 0% | | 1% | 1% | | 7% |
| PASS | 7% | 10% | 20% | 18% | 14% | 11% | 9% | 8% | 2% |
| ALL | 26% | 22% | 12% | 11% | 8% | 7% | 6% | 5% | 4% |

Tom Brady Comp % by Depth - Early Downs



Tom Brady Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down



Successful Play Rate

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 47%, 0.13 (525) | 54%, 0.17 (134) | 55%, 0.22 (55) | 58%, 0.31 (26) | | 55%, 0.63 (22) | 50%, -0.11 (18) | 40%, 0.29 (5) | 49%, 0.16 (785) |
| RUSH | 53%, 0.00 (268) | 47%, -0.01 (150) | 40%, -0.31 (5) | 67%, 0.29 (30) | 0%, -0.71 (32) | | 0%, -1.04 (1) | | 49%, -0.04 (486) |
| All | 49%, 0.09 (793) | 51%, 0.07 (284) | 53%, 0.18 (60) | 63%, 0.30 (56) | 0%, -0.71 (32) | 55%, 0.63 (22) | 47%, -0.16 (19) | 40%, 0.29 (5) | 49%, 0.08 (1,271) |

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

| | Receiv | ing Success | by Top-4 Per (Leaderboard) | rsonnel Grou | upings |
|-----|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| POS | Player | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| RB | Leonard Fournette | 57% (44) 6.0, 0.25 | 42% (12) 5.3, -0.03 | 56% (9) 4.1, -0.10 | 54% (65) 5.6, 0.15 |
| | LeSean McCoy | 13% (15) 5.8, 0.21 | 0% (3) 2.3, -0.76 | 100% (1) 7.0, 1.31 | 16% (19) 5.3, 0.11 |
| TE | Rob Gronkowski | 44% (61) 6.9, 0.11 | 74% (19) 11.9, 0.56 | | 51% (80) 8.1, 0.22 |
| | Cameron Brate | 60% (25) 7.7, 0.23 | 76% (17) 10.1, 0.65 | | 67% (42) 8.6, 0.40 |
| WR | Mike Evans | 55% (93) 10.0, 0.46 | 65% (23) 6.2, 0.10 | 60% (5) 10.0, 0.21 | 57% (121) 9.2, 0.38 |
| | Chris Godwin | 55% (80) 9.4, 0.48 | 50% (20) 9.6, -0.09 | 88% (8) 8.9, 1.31 | 56% (108) 9.4, 0.44 |
| | Scotty Miller | 51% (39) 10.9, 0.43 | 20% (5) 9.6, -0.43 | 50% (12) 8.8, 0.34 | 48% (56) 10.4, 0.34 |
| | | | | | |

| Rushing Success by | y Top-4 | Personnel | Groupings |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | (Leaderbo | ard) | |

| | | (Leader Doar C | '/ | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total |
| Jones II | 54% (120) | 54% (83) | 0% (2) | 54% (205) |
| Ronald | 4.7, 0.03 | 4.4, 0.00 | 1.5, -0.21 | 4.5, 0.02 |
| Fournette | 54% (98) | 39% (56) | | 49% (154) |
| Leonard | 4.2, 0.04 | 4.2, -0.01 | | 4.2, 0.02 |
| Brady Tom | 46% (13) | 100% (1) | 0% (24) | 18% (38) |
| | 1.3, -0.40 | 1.0, 0.53 | -0.6, -0.74 | 0.1, -0.59 |
| Vaughn | 50% (22) | 33% (6) | | 46% (28) |
| Ke'Shawn | 4.8, -0.19 | 4.2, -0.06 | | 4.7, -0.16 |
| McCoy | 29% (7) | 50% (2) | | 33% (9) |
| LeSean | 2.1, -0.33 | 1.0, -0.35 | | 1.9, -0.34 |

<u>Format</u>

Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)

Line 2: YPA, EPA

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

| _ | sing by | | sing by | Throw | / Types | QB Drop | QB Drop Types | | State at | Pass | Run Types | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| | Coverage Scheme | | oute | Level 1 | 55% (518) 6.6. 0.23 | 3 Step | 48% (298) 8.2, 0.21 | Planted | | % (675) 1, 0.25 | Outside Zone | 44% (118) 3.6, -0.11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 53% (358) | | Out 57% (82) 6.7, 0.12 | | | | 0/1 Step | 56% (223) | Shuffling | | 1% (58) 4, -0.14 | Inside | 57% (111) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | 53% (358) 8.5, 0.25 | | 58% (73) | Level 2 | 55% (127) 10.7, 0.32 | | 5.9, 0.18 | Moving | | 1% (25) 1, 0.12 | Zone | 5.5, 0.11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 7.0, 0.23 | | 35% (83) | 5 Step | 52% (97) 9.5, 0.31 | | Play Actio | on | Power | 53% (19) 6.3, 0.16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| M2M | 54% (264) 7.7, 0.30 | | | Level 3 | 12.1, 0.23 | 7 Step | 66% (56) 13.7, 0.74 | | Play Action | No P/A | Lead | 67% (15) 3.7, 0.04 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7.7, 0.00 | 014 | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | 66% (35) | Sidearm | 40% (5) | | | Under Center | 55% (130) 10.3, 0.32 | 53% (70) 7.2, 0.20 | | , |
| 450/ (00) | | Slant | | | Slant | Slant | Slant | | | | 6.0, 0.33 | | 4.6, 0.15 | Basic Screen | 38% (29) 5.4, 0.07 | Shotgun | 65% (37) | 46% (551) | Stretch | 43% (14) 3.6, -0.05 | | | | | |
| Screen | 45% (89) 5.9, 0.05 | Drag | 76% (17) 6.9, 0.73 | Shovel | 75% (4) 1.8, -0.01 | Designed Rollout Right | 40% (5) 0.4, -0.91 | ALL | 10.5, 0.49 57% (167) 10.4, 0.36 | 6.9, 0.09 47% (621) 6.9, 0.10 | Pitch | 56% (9) 3.7, 0.06 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

<u>TB-6</u>

How about pre-snap motion? The story is similar to play-action. Look at usage rates on early downs ahead of pass plays:

Prior to the bye: 39% (1% below average) After the bye: 59% (fourth in the NFL) Playoffs: 59% (fourth in the NFL)

Tampa Bay substantially increased the usage of all motion from the bye week onward and I absolutely hope that continues into 2021.

If the Bucs improve their run rate on first down and continue to use motion at high rates, they will be exceedingly difficult to stop this season.

It's important to minimize the rushing element because last year, the Bucs played a below-average schedule of run defenses. This year, my forecast has them playing the NFL's toughest schedule of run defenses.

In 2020, the Bucs went 0-4 against teams with run defenses that ranked inside the top-15... until the bye week when they went pass heavy against the Falcons and won both games.

Meanwhile, the Bucs went 9-1 against teams that ranked worse than top-15 in run defense.

All those first down runs worked on the bad run defenses but caused the Bucs to lose games against the good ones.

Well in 2021, the Bucs are scheduled to play 10 teams that ranked top-15 in run defense last year, with most projecting to still have solid run defenses in 2021. As such, it will be vital to shift to the pass more on first down.

Life should get easier for the Bucs defense, however, as a unit that ranked top-5 in most critical metrics and top-10 in the remainder returns

(cont'd - see <u>TB-7</u>)



every single starter and now will face the 25th ranked schedule of offenses. That's down from seventh in 2020. It's one of the largest increases in ease of schedule for any team this year.

Of the Bucs' opponents in 2021, only FIVE will be starting the same quarterback in 2021 who was the team's primary starter in 2020. And that assumes that **Cam Newton** starts for the Patriots in Week 4, and we know that obviously **Tua Tagovailoa** split time with **Ryan Fitzpatrick** and they both threw nearly identical completions (186 for Tua, 183 for Fitzpatrick) but we'll count Tua anyway.

Week 1: *DAL - Dak Prescott (five starts in 2020 due to injury)

Week 2: ATL - Matt Ryan

Week 3: *LAR - Matthew Stafford

Week 4: NE - Cam Newton

Week 5: MIA - Tua Tagovailoa

Week 6: *PHI – Jalen Hurts

Week 7: *CHI - Justin Fields

Week 8: *NO – Jameis Winston

Week 10: *WAS - Ryan Fitzpatrick

Week 11: NYG - Daniel Jones

Week 12: *IND - Carson Wentz

Week 13: ATL - Matt Ryan

Week 14: BUF - Josh Allen

Week 15: *NO - Jameis Winston

Week 16: *CAR – Sam Darnold

Week 17: *NYJ – Zach Wilson Week 18: *CAR – Sam Darnold

Now the shoe is on the other foot, and instead of Brady trying to learn a new offense and playbook and not having it down until late in the season, the Bucs' defense gets to go up against plenty of quarterbacks in that boat in 2021.

What is hilarious looking back now is the narrative heading into last season at this time. It related to whether or not Brady would "work" in Bruce Arians's deep passing offense. Of course, it needed to be discussed. But Brady shattered those concerns. In 2019, only 53% of Brady's passing yardage came before the catch (ranked 24th). In 2020, 60% of Brady's passing yardage came before the catch (ranked third). Brady improved from 5.6 completed air yards per attempt (23rd) in 2019 to 7.0 completed air yards per attempt (sixth).

In addition to being able to throw deep, Brady brought all the other assets we assumed he would. He was much better without play-action than was his predecessor, Winston. He was significantly better with pre-snap motion. He was better when throwing from the pocket, he was better when

(COIII u - See <u>I D-0</u>

Immediate Impact of Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2021 Draft Class

With no holes to fill, the Bucs had an opportunity to draft the best available player and set themselves up for an easy transition for post-Tom Brady life. They chose a different path.

With Jason Pierre-Paul hitting free agency after this season, Tampa appeared to force a selection of his replacement, DE/LB Joe Tryon (first round). Tryon is an explosive athlete, but he's 22 years old with just 14 career starts under his belt (he opted out in 2020).

In 2019, Tryon often lined up in the wide-nine position, where he generated 33% of his QB pressures. The Bucs' pass-rushers collectively only played 121 snaps in the wide-nine position last year, so Tryon will likely need to prove he can be productive in a more traditional role that requires him to win with his hands more than pure speed.

Tryon was a risk with high upside, but the selection of QB Kyle Trask (second round) was pure risk with almost no upside. This was an inexcusable missed opportunity to add more talent to a potential Super Bowl roster.

Trask is an immobile pocket passer who greatly benefitted from a receiving corps that featured five NFL draft picks over the last two seasons (Kyle Pitts, Kadarius Toney, Van Jefferson, Freddie Swain, and Tyrie Cleveland). Trask will be the third-string quarterback this year and, based on the bust rate of Day 2 quarterbacks, is highly unlikely to be Brady's heir.

OL Robert Hainsey (third round) was a three-year starter at right tackle for Notre Dame and will likely provide depth at multiple positions on the offensive line. Many believed Hainsey's best long-term position is guard, so he may compete for a starting job there down the road.

WR Jaelon Darden (fourth round) is an undersized (5'7") speedster, who was one of just seven receivers to average at least 10 yards per target from the slot last season.

There won't be many targets available this year, but Chris Godwin and Antonio Brown both hit free agency after 2021, so this was a smart selection to give Tampa some insurance when they likely lose at least one of those two contributors next offseason.

Even for a team without any immediate holes, this was a disappointing class. Tryon is the only prospect with high-end upside, making it likely Tampa came away with, at best, one long-term impact player from this class.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

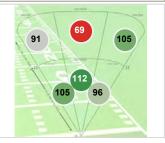
Tom Brady will be 44 years old when the season kicks off, becoming the first 44-year-old Week 1 starter in league history, and just the fourth quarterback to ever start any game at that age. Father Time remains undefeated, but still has not claimed Brady, who is coming off as good as of a season that he has had in several years. Winning the Super Bowl in his first season with Tampa Bay, Tom Brady's 40 passing touchdowns were tied for second in the league as his 6.6% touchdown rate was his highest in a season since 2011. Brady got better as the season wore on, throwing multiple touchdown passes in each of his final 11 games of the season. The Buccaneers added Kyle Trask in the second round of the draft as a potential heir to Brady, but there are no signs of Brady conceding any ground.

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|----|----|----|-----|---|--|
| QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tom Brady | 482 | 747 | 65% | 5,677 | 7.6 | 50 | 15 | 27 | 102 | 9 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|------|-------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----------------|--|--|
| QB Success % Success % Success % Sains Success S | | | | | | | | | | 20+ Air Yd % | | |
| Tom Brady | 49% | 52% | 77 | 10.0% | 32 | 4.0% | 6.9 | 4.9 | 41 | 5% | | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | | |

Target Postive Distribution Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10

Tom Brady Rating Early Downs



Air Yds vs YAC

| 1 & 2 0.0% 0.0% 3.2% 0.0% 1.9 3, 4, 5 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--|--|--|
| Yards to Go | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | 4th Dwn | Total | | | |
| 1 & 2 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.2% | 0.0% | 1.9% | | | |
| 3, 4, 5 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 0.0% | 2.5% | 0.0% | 25.0% | 2.2% | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 2.1% | 3.0% | 2.8% | | 2.4% | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 5.0% | 0.0% | | 2.0% | | | |
| Total | 1.9% | 2.4% | 1.0% | 8.3% | 1.9% | | | |

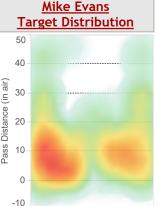
| 3rd Down I | assing | - Short | of Stic | <u>ks Anal</u> | <u>ysis</u> |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk |
| Tom Brady | 8.7 | 6.8 | -1.8 | 69% | 4 |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | |

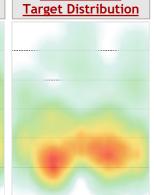
|) | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| | 6.8 | -1.8 | 69% | 4 | 60% | 40% | 3 |
| | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | 52% | 48% | |
| | Mi | ke Evar | <u>าร</u> | | Chris (| Godwi | <u>n</u> |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

Tampa Bay targeted their wideouts just 57% of the time in 2020 (22nd in the league) but their strong wide receiving corps ranked 10th in the league in receptions (14.9) and sixth in yardage per game (196.9 yards) while collectively scoring 29 touchdowns, which was tied for second in the league. The Bucs averaged 8.9 yards per attempt targeting wideouts, which was ninth in the league. Just as successful in incorporating and using their tight ends, the Bucs were 12th in the league in rate of targeting their tight ends (23%) while they ranked eighth in yards per target (8.0 yards) on those passes to the position. Rolling back all Super Bowl starters, and getting O.J. Howard back, the Bucs are fully stocked again with pass catchers while adding Gio Bernard.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | Comp % | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------|------------|-----|
| Mike Evans | 124 | 60% | 8.7 | 111.7 | 56% | 53 | 96 | 11 | 119 | 15 |
| Chris Godwin | 111 | 69% | 9.3 | 116.0 | 57% | 45 | 50 | 55 | 89 | 7 |
| Rob Gronkowski | 84 | 60% | 8.4 | 112.4 | 52% | 73 | 46 | 21 | 116 | 9 |
| Antonio Brown | 66 | 73% | 7.1 | 111.4 | 59% | 30 | 14 | 75 | 45 | 5 |
| Leonard Fournette | 63 | 81% | 5.8 | 96.1 | 56% | 54 | 30 | 122 | 5 | 1 |
| Scott Miller | 56 | 61% | 10.0 | 103.3 | 46% | 114 | 86 | 28 | 129 | 4 |





2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Tampa Bay backfield ranked 15th in the league in yards from scrimmage per game (126.1 yards) and 18th in yards per touch (4.9 yards) as a collective group in 2020 and ranked 23rd in the league in expected points added via their rushing game (-11.9 points). Every player that touched the ball out this backfield in 2020 has returned with the exception of LeSean McCoy, while the team added Giovani Bernard to be the primary receiving back. Ronald Jones has increased his overall yardage in each of his three seasons in the league with 87.2% of his 2020 touches coming via rushing. 72.9% of Leonard Fournette's touches came on the ground, giving Tampa Bay a strong combination for carries while Fournette can chip in through the air. Fournette is coming off a stellar postseason run in which he rushed for 300 yards with Jones limited.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Ronald Jones | 227 | 4.9 | 58% | 9 | 6 | 45 | 32 | 57% | 10 | 7 |
| Leonard Fournette | 161 | 4.1 | 52% | 38 | 24 | 39 | 54 | 50% | 45 | 9 |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



The Buccaneers are the Quintessential "In a Best Ball" Team for Fantasy

The Tampa Bay offense ranked 11th in offensive yardage for fantasy per game (393.4 yards) and tied for third in offensive touchdowns (58). It is an offense we want pieces in, but the even distribution the team has in every component of their offense makes it hard for their skill players to routinely turn out stable ceiling weeks. Outside of taking Tom Brady as your quarterback, the rest of this roster is completely spread out for fantasy production.

Ronald Jones has improved every year in the NFL, increasing his touches, yards per touch, and touchdowns scored from the year prior. But 87% of his touches came in the running game as he caught two or fewer passes in 10 of his 14 games played in the regular season while he ran a pass route on just 31.9% of the Tampa dropbacks in his games played.

A late-season injury to Jones reopened the door for Leonard Fournette, who scored seven touchdowns over the final seven games for the Buccaneers, including all four postseason games. Fournette had just two games as an RB2 or better in the 14 games that Jones was active last season, but had an edge as a pass catcher, running a route on 45.3% of the team dropbacks. Now, the addition of Giovani Bernard compromises that role.

Bernard has not been fantasy relevant outside of games Joe Mixon has missed the past three seasons, but Tampa Bay did target their running backs 19% of the time last season, which was 11th in the league. At minimum, Bernard is a thorn in this backfield as a pass catcher, but is only a floor option in PPR formats with both Jones and Fournette ahead of him in the running game. At wide receiver, Mike Evans turned in his seventh straight 1,000-yard season in 2020, catching 70 passes for 1,006 yards. Evans had a career-high 13 touchdown receptions, but also set career-lows in targets (6.8), receptions (4.4), and yardage (62.9) per game as 31.4% of his fantasy output stemmed from touchdowns alone, his highest dependency in that department over his seven seasons. He also posted just four WR1 scoring weeks, the fewest in a season for his career.

In Chris Godwin's first season with Brady, the 24-year-old averaged 5.4 receptions (WR22) and 70.0 yards per game (WR17) while he finished as the WR15 in points per game (15.9) by turning in seven touchdowns. Godwin had just two WR1 scoring weeks after six in 2019, but also had just three outside of the top-30 scorers. Antonio Brown was the WR21 from Weeks 9-17 after joining the Bucs while ranking 25th in targets (62), 18th in receptions (45), and 27th in yardage (483) to go along with four touchdowns. In the 10 full games that Evans, Godwin, and Brown played together, the target share spread out to Evans (19.8%), Godwin (19.2%), and Brown (15.9%).

At tight end, Rob Gronkowski caught 45-of-77 targets for 623 yards and seven touchdowns. His 2.8 receptions per game were his fewest in a season since he was a rookie in 2010, catching three or fewer passes in 11 games. Gronk led all tight ends with 14 end zone targets as a separator, but was even out-targeted for the closing stretch of the season by Cameron Brate while the team is getting O.J. Howard back, who had two end zone targets over his four games played a year ago.



Defensive Outlook

Vita Vea turned into one of the most dominant interior defenders during the 2020 season while he was on the field. Vea was fifth in pressure rate among defensive tackles, per SIS. Ndamukong Suh has started 16 games every year of his career except for 2011 when he started 14 and hasn't lost much — 14th in pressure rate among defensive tackles last season with 19 quarterback hits.

With Vea out with a broken foot for most of the regular season, **William Gholston** stepped in and was one of three interior defenders, along with Quinnen Williams and Grady Jarrett, to rank in the top-10 in both ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and Run Stop Win Rate. There's even more depth here with the likes of **Rakeem Nunez-Roches** and **Steve McLendon**.

Shaq Barrett ranked 12th among edge rushers in pressure rate and remained a top pass rushing threat, even though his sack total dropped from 19.5 to 8.0. Jason Pierre-Paul was only 102nd in pressure rate but still managed 9.5 sacks. With Pierre-Paul entering his age-32 season, the Buccaneers drafted Joe Tryon in the first round as his eventual replacement on the edge. Lavonte David remains one of the league's best all-around linebackers and his two-year deal will keep him through his age-32 season. David played 99.3% of the team's defensive snaps in 2020. Devin White emerged as a postseason force but he is still developing in his game. White ranked 43rd in yards per target among 59 linebackers with at least 20 targets charted in their coverage, per SIS. If White can handle some of those coverage issues, he could develop into a top-tier linebacker to add to his ability to blitz and play downhill.

Tampa Bay has consistently thrown darts at cornerback in the draft and the volume play worked out with a number of developed prospects. **Carlton Davis** finished 78th among 148 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap, though one bad half against Tyreek Hill in the regular season did damage on those numbers. **Jamel Dean** was 52nd in that group. Dean's high-end play flashed the potential to be a top corner in the league.

The weak link in the secondary was slot corner **Sean Murphy-Bunting**. He ranked 93rd in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap despite not being a highly targeted corner. **Ross Cockrell** played in 12 regular season games for the Buccaneers and ranked 10th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Cockrell, 30, has been one of the league's most underrated cornerbacks. He's played plus coverage over the past few seasons but continually has to sign one-year deals. He did just that to stay in Tampa Bay this offseason. **Antoine Winfield Jr.** stepped in and immediately became an impact safety as a rookie. He played 97.3% of the defensive snaps. Winfield played most of his snaps as a deep safety but was able to move around with snaps in the box and the slot. **Jordan Whitehead** played 86.7% of the defensive snaps and nearly split them evenly between playing deep and in the box. His play in the box really took off with nine tackles for loss after eight combined in his first two seasons to go along with his first two career sacks.

| 2020 Play Tendencies | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|
| All Pass % | 67% | | | | |
| All Pass Rk | 1 | | | | |
| All Rush % | 33% | | | | |
| All Rush Rk | 32 | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 65% | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 3 | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 60% | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 15 | | | | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | 5% | | | | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 5 | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 35% | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 30 | | | | |
| Up Pass % | 66% | | | | |
| Up Pass Rk | 1 | | | | |
| Up Rush % | 34% | | | | |
| Up Rush Rk | 32 | | | | |
| Down Pass % | 70% | | | | |
| Down Pass Rk | 1 | | | | |
| Down Rush % | 30% | | | | |
| Down Rush Rk | 32 | | | | |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play uccess % | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 12 | 50% | 50% | 75% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 14 | 21% | 79% | 50% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 388 | 50% | 50% | 46% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 12 | 83% | 17% | 33% | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 39 | 33% | 67% | 82% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 98 | 72% | 28% | 57% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 138 | 82% | 18% | 49% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 38 | 92% | 8% | 37% | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 61 | 69% | 31% | 62% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 60 | 98% | 2% | 53% | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | 38 | 97% | 3% | 21% | | | |
| | XL (11+) | 23 | 96% | 4% | 22% | | | |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 7 | 43% | 57% | 71% | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 4 | 100% | 0% | 50% | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |



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 | | | | | |
| 59% | 25 | 67% | 88% | 75% | | | | | |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | |

33%

100%

59%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|-----|------|--|--|--|--|
| Down | | | | | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Leonard Fournette | 4 | 100% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Ronald Jones | 6 | 100% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Ronald Jones | 101 | 45% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Mike Evans | 2 | 50% | | | | |
| | , , | | Chris Godwin | 2 | 0% | | | | |
| | | | Cameron Brate | 2 | 100% | | | | |
| | | RUSH | Ronald Jones | 2 | 50% | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | JSH Ronald Jones | | 81% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Mike Evans | 17 | 47% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Chris Godwin | 15 | 60% | | | | |
| | RU | | Ronald Jones | 15 | 27% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Chris Godwin | 6 | 33% | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Ronald Jones | 10 | 80% | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Chris Godwin | 12 | 50% | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Scott Miller | 7 | 29% | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Mike Evans | 5 | 0% | | | | |

| <u>Offen</u> | sive Performance | w Motion (Pre Sn | ap & Play Action) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Play Action (Y/N) | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total |
| No | Success: 45% | Success: 42% | Success: 45% |
| | YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.06 | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.00 | YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.06 |
| | Rtg: 86.6 | Rtg: 98.5 | Rtg: 89.8 |
| | [Att: 375 - Rate: 47.6%] | [Att: 50 - Rate: 6.3%] | [Att: 425 - Rate: 53.9%] |
| Yes | Success: 50% | Success: 63% | Success: 54% |
| | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.17 | YPA: 11.6, EPA: 0.51 | YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.28 |
| | Rtg: 106.6 | Rtg: 143.4 | Rtg: 118.5 |
| | [Att: 246 - Rate: 31.2%] | [Att: 117 - Rate: 14.8%] | [Att: 363 - Rate: 46.1%] |
| Total | Success: 47% | Success: 57% | Success: 49% |
| | YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.10 | YPA: 10.4, EPA: 0.36 | YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.16 |
| | Rtg: 94.5 | Rtg: 133.3 | Rtg: 103.1 |
| | [Att: 621 - Rate: 78.8%] | [Att: 167 - Rate: 21.2%] | [Att: 788 - Rate: 100.0%] |

41%

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Mike Evans | Rob Gron kowski | Chris Godwin | Ronald Jones | Scott Miller | Leonard Fournette | Antonio Brown | Cameron Brate | Tyler Johnson | O.J. Howard |
| 1 | NO | L 34-23 | 65 (93%) | 54 (77%) | 66 (94%) | 33 (47%) | 43 (61%) | 9 (13%) | | 7 (10%) | | 37 (53%) |
| 2 | CAR | W 31-17 | 53 (87%) | 42 (69%) | | 21 (34%) | 42 (69%) | 26 (43%) | | 4 (7%) | | 34 (56%) |
| 3 | DEN | W 28-10 | 61 (90%) | 63 (93%) | 55 (81%) | 35 (51%) | 29 (43%) | 25 (37%) | | 5 (7%) | 21 (31%) | 33 (49%) |
| 4 | LAC | W 38-31 | 54 (71%) | 65 (86%) | | 49 (64%) | 40 (53%) | | | 16 (21%) | 25 (33%) | 28 (37%) |
| 5 | CHI | L 20-19 | 60 (85%) | 57 (80%) | | 49 (69%) | 45 (63%) | 1 (1%) | | 33 (46%) | 56 (79%) | |
| 6 | GB | W 38-10 | 51 (78%) | 55 (85%) | 40 (62%) | 37 (57%) | 23 (35%) | | | 23 (35%) | 17 (26%) | |
| 7 | LV | W 45-20 | 62 (86%) | 55 (76%) | 59 (82%) | 31 (43%) | 43 (60%) | 40 (56%) | | 12 (17%) | 29 (40%) | |
| 8 | NYG | W 25-23 | 63 (90%) | 50 (71%) | | 17 (24%) | 53 (76%) | 51 (73%) | | 12 (17%) | 35 (50%) | |
| 9 | NO | L 38-3 | 43 (86%) | 27 (54%) | 47 (94%) | 16 (32%) | 19 (38%) | 33 (66%) | 39 (78%) | 12 (24%) | 6 (12%) | |
| 10 | CAR | W 46-23 | 64 (80%) | 65 (81%) | 72 (90%) | 47 (59%) | 9 (11%) | 29 (36%) | 39 (49%) | 29 (36%) | 7 (9%) | |
| 11 | LA | L 27-24 | 61 (88%) | 54 (78%) | 68 (99%) | 25 (36%) | 15 (22%) | 36 (52%) | 43 (62%) | 29 (42%) | 7 (10%) | |
| 12 | KC | L 27-24 | 53 (90%) | 43 (73%) | 54 (92%) | 21 (36%) | 10 (17%) | 33 (56%) | 43 (73%) | 23 (39%) | 5 (8%) | |
| 14 | MIN | W 26-14 | 39 (76%) | 39 (76%) | 44 (86%) | 34 (67%) | 5 (10%) | | 25 (49%) | 24 (47%) | 3 (6%) | |
| 15 | ATL | W 31-27 | 55 (81%) | 62 (91%) | 60 (88%) | | 13 (19%) | 45 (66%) | 32 (47%) | 23 (34%) | 11 (16%) | |
| 16 | DET | W 47-7 | 62 (81%) | 33 (43%) | 51 (66%) | | 23 (30%) | 25 (32%) | 46 (60%) | 32 (42%) | 25 (32%) | |
| 17 | ATL | W 44-27 | 11 (16%) | 45 (67%) | 59 (88%) | 36 (54%) | 28 (42%) | 30 (45%) | 56 (84%) | 34 (51%) | 18 (27%) | |
| | Grand | Total | 857 (80%) | 809 (75%) | 675 (85%) | 451 (48%) | 440 (41%) | 383 (44%) | 323 (63%) | 318 (30%) | 265 (27%) | 132 (48%) |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ % |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 63% | 60% | 48% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 22% | 20% | 50% |
| 1-0 [4WR] | 5% | 2% | 53% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 66% |
| 0.0.1414/01 | 2% | 4% | 0% |
| 2-2 [1WR] Group | | enden | cies |
| | ing Te | enden Pass Succ. | Cies Run Succ |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ % |
| Group | ing Te | enden Pass Succ. | Cies Run Succ |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 67% 48% | Pass Succ. % 46% 54% | Run Succ % 52% 46% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | | |
| Mike Evans | 22 | 9 | 7 | 6 | | | | | |
| Rob Gronkowski | 21 | 6 | 6 | 9 | | | | | |
| Chris Godwin | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | | | | |
| Leonard Fournette | 10 | 1 | 3 | 6 | | | | | |
| Antonio Brown | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | | | | | |
| Cameron Brate | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | | |
| LeSean McCoy | 4 | | | 4 | | | | | |
| Tyler Johnson | 4 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | |
| O.J. Howard | 3 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | | | | |
| Ronald Jones | 39 | 13 | 12 | 14 | | | | |
| Leonard Fournette | 27 | 10 | 4 | 13 | | | | |
| Tom Brady | 12 | 4 | 3 | 5 | | | | |
| Ke'Shawn Vaughn | 3 | | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| Scott Miller | 1 | | | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | | |
| 21% 23% | 24% 21% NFL AVG | 55% 56% | | | | |
| | MILAVO | | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ccess % | | | | |
| Overall RB | | ccess % | | | | |





asked to take five- and seven-step drops. He was better on touch Level 2 throws that are required to get over the linebackers but in front of the safeties. The difference was night and day there.

In addition to the other areas of improvement, if they want to repeat as champs, the Bucs just need to be more urgent in general. Get more aggressive in the first half. Tampa Bay led at halftime in only seven games in 2020. They went 7-0 in those games. They trailed at halftime in eight other games and went 3-5. A more aggressive, urgent approach to first downs in the first half could absolutely be the difference that the Bucs need to build more halftime leads and make their lives easier in the second half.

A big key to this season will be attrition. There are 17 games spread over 18 weeks in the regular season. Earning the first round bye will be massively beneficial. Tampa, and every other team, will need to try and figure out a way to stay healthy while winning games to ensure a bye. The Bucs were the NFL's healthiest team in 2020 and it made life much easier on them. Even then, they still barely made it to the Super Bowl in the gauntlet of a very tough, competitive NFL season. Jumping out to leads quickly and using efficient early down play calls can set up for more comfortable second halves of games and allow key players more opportunities to rest. The Bucs absolutely must do better than leading at halftime in only seven games in 2021.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular

2021 All-Access Package

<u>Everything we offer</u> to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:

Easy

Mike Vrabel (3 yrs) Offensive Coordinator:

Hard

Todd Downing (TE coach) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Shane Bowen (OLB coach) (new)

Tennessee Titans

2021 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

#2

Past Records

2020: 11-5 2019: 9-7 2018: 9-7



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Adam Humphries (WR) | Washingt. |
| Adoree' Jackson (CB) | Giants |
| Corey Davis (WR) | Jets |
| DaQuan Jones (IDL) | Panthers |
| Desmond King (CB) | Texans |
| Jadeveon Clowney (EDGE) | Browns |
| Jonnu Smith (TE) | Patriots |
| Kalif Raymond (WR) | Lions |
| Malcolm Butler (CB) | Cardinals |
| Matt Dickerson (IDL) | Raiders |
| D'Onta Foreman (RB) | TBD |
| Daren Bates (LB) | TBD |
| Dennis Kelly (RT) | TBD |
| Isaiah Wilson (RT) | TBD |
| Jack Crawford (IDL) | TBD |
| Kareem Orr (CB) | TBD |
| Kenny Vaccaro (S) | TBD |
| Marshall Newhouse (LT) | TBD |
| Matt Overton (LS) | TBD |
| MyCole Pruitt (TE) | TBD |
| Nick Dzubnar (LB) | TBD |
| Senorise Perry (RB) | TBD |
| Stephen Gostkowski (K) | TBD |
| Tye Smith (CB) | TBD |
| Will Compton (LB) | TBD |
| | |

Games

Favored

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

Average

Line

-0.4

Forecast

2021 Wins

2020 Wins

Forecast 2020 Wins

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

2017 Wins

2021 Tennessee Titans Overview

Sometimes, what you see is what you get. The 2020 Titans were one of the most expensive offenses in the NFL (fifth) and one of the least expensive defenses (24th) and delivered just that. They ranked as the third most efficient offense and the 29th most efficient defense.

They were built around the fourth most expensive offensive line and used that to help block and pass protect for one of the most efficient and explosive run and pass offenses. It's rare when a team can be efficient in both the run and pass game. It's even more rare when that efficient team is also extremely explosive as well.

The 2020 Titans ranked fourth in pass efficiency and third in run efficiency. They also ranked eighth in explosive pass efficiency and 10th in explosive run efficiency. Making it even more rare, they ranked top-10 in all four of these metrics for the second straight

Examine briefly the history of the Titans over the last four years. Keep in mind, 2019 and 2020 was with offensive coordinator Arthur Smith and quarterback Ryan Tannehill. 2018 was with OC Matt LaFleur and Marcus Mariota. 2017 was with OC Terry Robiskie and quarterback Marcus Mariota. Derrick Henry was the running back all four years

Format is year: pass efficiency rank, run efficiency rank, pass explosiveness rank, run explosiveness rank

2020: 4, 3, 8, 10 2019: 6, 5, 2, 3 2018: 25, 12, 23, 11

Underdog 9

Games

9.5

2017: 20, 8, 13, 30 (cont'd - see TEN2) Lineup & Cap Hits

| 4113 | | 77 7 | 60 | 64 | 71 | | 12 |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| LWR | | LT LC | · T C | RG | RT | | RWR |
| A.Brown | 18 | T.Lewan R.Saf | fold* B.Jones* | N.Davis | K.Lamm NEW | 86 | J.Jones* |
| | SLOTWR | | | | NEW | TE | NEW |
| | J.Reynolds | | | | | A.Firkser | |
| | NEW | | - | | | | |
| | | - | 17 | | | | |
| | | | QB | 4 | | | |
| | | | R.Tannehill* | 22 | | | |
| 15 | 10 3 | 23 453 | | | | 2020 Ca | p Dollars |
| WR2 | WR3 RI | B2 QB2 | | RB D.Henry | | | |
| | WK3 Ki Ukfiitzpatrick D.Ev | | | Diriciny | | | |
| | Rookie | | | | | * = 30+ 1/ | pare old |

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|----------------------|----------|
| Bud Dupree (EDGE) | \$16.5 |
| Julio Jones (WR) | Trade |
| Denico Autry (EDGE) | \$7.70 |
| Janoris Jenkins (CB) | \$7.5 |
| Kendall Lamm (LT) | \$3.39 |
| Kevin Johnson (CB) | \$2.29 |
| Josh Reynolds (WR) | \$1.8 |
| Morgan Cox (LS) | \$1.2 |
| Matthias Farley (S) | \$1.10 |
| B.J. Bello (LB) | \$1 |
| Chris Jones (CB) | \$1 |
| | |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|---|
| 1 | 22 | CB - Caleb Farley (Virginia Tech) |
| 2 | 53 | OT - Dillon Radunz (North Dakota State) |
| 3 | 92 | LB - Monty Rice (Georgia) |
| 3 | 100 | CB - Elijah Molden (Washington) |
| 4 | 109 | WR - Dez Fitzpatrick (Louisville) |
| • | 135 | DE - Rashad Weaver (Pittsburgh) |
| 6 | 205 | WR - Racey McMath (LSU) |
| 6 | 215 | S - Brady Breeze (Oregon) |

2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | | \$111.69M | 5 |
| QB | 17 | \$12.80M | 12 |
| OL | 5 | \$46.70M | 4 |
| RB | 2 | \$16.97M | 13 |
| WR | 11 | \$26.50M | 11 |
| TE | 21 | \$8.71M | 23 |
| All DEF | 30 | \$71.33M | 24 |
| DL | 31 | \$25.99M | 26 |
| LB | 23 | \$10.25M | 24 |
| СВ | 22 | \$14.22M | 11 |
| S | 5 | \$20.87M | 11 |

TEN-2

Simply having Derrick Henry certainly hasn't been the formula. Having an expensive offensive line hasn't been the formula, as the line was 11th in 2018 (albeit it was 32nd in 2017). Having Mike Vrabel wasn't the key, either, as he was hired in 2018. Nor was WR Corey Davis.

Everything changed in 2019 when three things came together, in this order of priority though not in the chronological order:

Ryan Tannehill became the starting quarterback

Arthur Smith began calling plays

A.J. Brown was drafted in the second round

What happened first was Mike Vrabel gave Titans former tight ends coach Arthur Smith the title of offensive coordinator in January 2019 when Matt LaFleur was named head coach of the Packers. Then, during the 2019 draft in April, the Titans selected A.J. Brown in the second round. And finally, in Week 7 of the 2019 season, Ryan Tannehill took over for Marcus Mariota as the Titans' starting quarterback.

In Week 7, Tannehill's very first start, the Titans produced their best early down offensive performance of the season since Week 1. You probably don't remember that insane Week 1 game... where the Titans put up 43 points when Mariota threw three touchdowns and a game that was 12-6 at halftime exploded to a 43-13 final score. Mariota lost four of his next five starts and Vrabel made the switch to Tannehill.

Since that switch to Tannehill...

...the Titans have gone 18-8 (69%), the sixth-best win rate in the NFL behind only the Chiefs, Ravens, Packers, Saints, and Bills.

...the Titans have averaged 22.7 first downs per game, the fifth-most in the NFL behind the Chiefs, Cowboys, Falcons, and Saints.

...the Titans have averaged 30.6 ppg, the third-best in the NFL behind only the Ravens and Saints.

...the Titans have averaged 165 rushing yards per game, second-most in the NFL behind the Ravens.

| 7 | 2020 Passii | ng Performa | nce | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | | |
| Ryan Tannehill | 57% 8.8 106.9 | 54% 8.3 116.1 | 43% 6.0 85.9 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 35% | 54% | 77% | | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 54% 7.6 96.0 | 49% 7.0 95.4 | 38% 7.0 85.6 | Success Rate YPA Rating | | | | | | | |
| Pass Rate | 50% | 60% | 75% | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | _ | | | | | | | |

| | 2020 Rushing Performance | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Offense | 1st Dwn | 2nd Dwn | 3rd Dwn | | | | | | | |
| TEN | 53% 4.9 | 57% 5.2 | 58% 6.1 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 65% | 46% | 23% | | | | | | | |
| NFL AVG | 49% 4.4 | 51% 4.5 | 54% 4.6 | Success Rate YPC | | | | | | |
| Run Rate | 50% | 40% | 25% | | | | | | | |

...the Titans have averaged 0.93 points per minute, most in the NFL.

Derrick Henry didn't have anywhere near that production prior to Smith taking over and the passing game clicking like it did. In 2018, Henry averaged only 66 rushing yards per game.

It looked to be much of the same in 2019, even with Arthur Smith.

In his first six games in 2019, Henry averaged 3.68 YPC with four rushing touchdowns and only 69 rushing yards per game, nearly identical to 2018... the year before Arthur Smith or A.J. Brown arrived.

2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics

Things changed after Tannehill made his first start.

(cont'd - see TEN-3)

13

Explosive



2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 2 W JAC 10 11 12 13 W DEN MIN BUF PIT IND IND CLE JAC DET GB HOU HOU CIN CHI BAL H 3 33 A 2 16 Α Н Н Н Α Н Н Α Α Н Α Н Α Α -26 26 21 21 3 1 6 -3 -11 7 -17 6 19 -6 42 31 31 42 24 30 45 35 46 14 41 20 24 17 14 30 30 16 36 27 31 17 34 24 26 41 10 25 40 38



2020 Close Game **Records**

21

YPPA Def YPPT Def

All 2019 Wins: 11 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **4-1** FG Games Win %: **0% (#25)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 7-2 Score Games Win %: 78% (#3) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 64% (#12)

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

5

10

15 Rank

20

25

30

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

RESULT

MARGIN

OPP PTS

23

EDSR Def 30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def

25

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +11 TO Given 12 **INT Given** 7

15

22

RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

Pass Efficiency Def

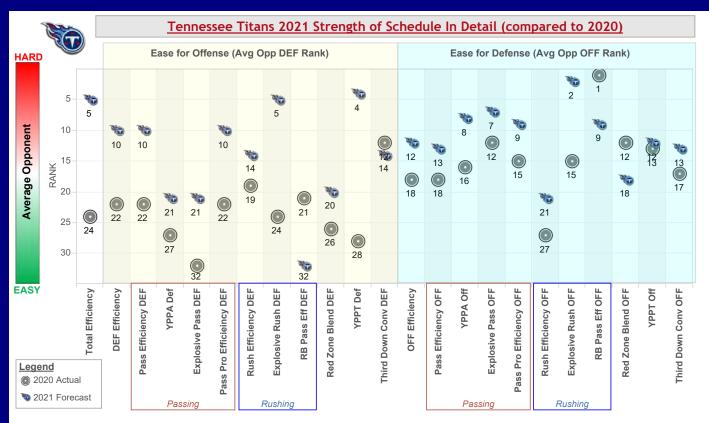
Pass Pro

Efficieincy Def

Defensive

Efficiency

FUM Given 5 TO Taken 23 **INT Taken** 15 **FUM Taken** 8 Sack Margin -5 19 Sacks Sacks Allow 24 Return TD Margin +2 **Ret TDs** 3 Ret TDs Allow **Penalty Margin** +17 Penalties 86 **Opponent Penalties** 103



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | | | |
| 4 | 2 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 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 | | | | 20 |)21 C |)ppo | nent | s by | Divi | <u>sion</u> | 2020 | Op | poi | ner | nts by | / Div | isio | <u>n</u> <u>H</u> | ealt | n by l | Jnit* | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------|--------|------|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------------|------------|------|--------------|------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-------------------|------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-----------|--------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | | 2 | | | | | (6 | | 7 | 1 | | | | 2020 | Rk | 6 |
| | Ave | erage I | ine | | -2.4 | -C |).5 | 1.2 | AF | cs | 3 x / | | | | | AFCS | 3 | | |) 餐 | P | | | 2019 | Rk | 3 |
| | Avera | | | | 50.8 | | 1.2 | 42.3 | | | | | | | | | 1 | • | | | | | 20 |)20 v 2 | 019 Rk | 9 |
| | Straigh | | | | 11-5 | | -7 | 9-7 | | | | يس | | | | | | | | | | | | Off | | 7 |
| | nst the | | | | 7-8 | - | -7 | 8-8 | AF | CE | - | 1 | 7 🛹 | 🤝 🤨 | 275 | | | O. | 45 | | . 6 | - | | | | |
| | Over/U | | | | 10-3 | |)-6 | 8-8 | | | (No. | Ash. | * | • | | AFCN | 7 | | Œ | 5 🐷 | 5 | | | Def | Rk | 10 |
| | | as Fav | | | 4-5 3-3 | 6 | -4 -3 | 2-3 6-4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | | | QB | Rk | 1 |
| | ATS as Straig | | | | 5-3 | 4 | - | 6-2 | NE | cw | 10 | 1 |) /=3 | 2 | 2 -) | | | | | | | | | RB | DI. | 1 |
| | | S Hon | | | 3-3 4-4 | | -4 | 4-4 | | | | | | _ | | | 4 | | ~ 6 | | \sim | 5 | | | | |
| | Over/L | | | | 6-1 | | -3 | 5-3 | | | | | | | | NFCN | - | | 7 | == (E | フ 🗚 | We. | | WR | Rk | 14 |
| | TS as F | | | te | 3-2 | - | -3 | 1-2 | | CN | | ١ | | | | | | | | | | , | | TEI | ₹k | 15 |
| - | TS as | a Hon | ne Doo | 1 | 1-2 | 1 | -1 | 3-2 | Ar | CN | |) | | | | | | | | | | | | Oline | DI | 19 |
| | Straig | | | • | 6-2 | 5 | -3 | 3-4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | S Awa | | | 3-4 | | -3 | 3-4 | | | | | | | | AFCE | 7 | ASI | | | | | | Dline | Rk | 12 |
| | Over/l | | | | 4-2 | | -3 | 3-4 | AF | CW | | • | | | | | | | | | | | | LB | Rk | 16 |
| | ATS A | | | | 1-3 | | -1 | 1-1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DB | DI | 14 |
| | | Away | | | 2-1 | | -2 | 2-2 | | | | | | | | | <u> </u> | | | | | | | DB | KK. | 14 |
| | Point n Poin | | | | 12-4 12-4 | |)-4 2-3 | 10-5 11-4 | NF | cs | ପ୍ତଚ | | | | | AFCW | / | 200 | | | | | */ | Based | on the w | ork of |
| | Point | | | | 12-4 | | 2-3 1-2 | 12-4 | | | 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | all Outsi | |
| 161 | FOIIIL | Tease | i Kec | oru | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | <u>20</u> |)21 V | <u>Veek</u> | ly Be | ettin | g Lir | <u>nes</u> | | | | | | | | | | <u>Hom</u> | ie L | <u>ines</u> | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 1 | | 3 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 17 |
| ARI | SEA | IND | NYJ | JAX | BUF | KC | IND | LAR | NO | HOU | NE | JAX | PIT | SF | MIA | HOU | | Π. | 1 | 2.5 | 4.5 | | | | 2 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2. | 5 | ND | BUF | KC | -2.5 | | -6 | Avg | = -8.4 |
| -2.5 | +3.5 | +1.0 | -3.0 | -2.5 | +2.5 | +4.5 | +3.5 | +5.5 | -2.5 | -8.5 | +1.0 | -6.0 | +3.0 | +2.0 | -3.0 | -6.0 | AR | - | | | | NO | -8.5 | JAX | | MIA |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | HOU | | | |
| | | | | | | | 75 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Λνα - | -0.4 | (H) | | | THE | H | A | A | | | A | | | (H) | Λνα | = -0.4 | | | | | Roa | d I i | noc | | | |
| Avg – | -0.4 | V | Α | A | · | | | | Hi | Н | - | Н | | ~ | H | 0.4 A | | | | | Nua | u Li | 1162 | | | |
| - | | | Vers | 100 | | | | | 20 | 1 | | | | | 3 | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | 8 | | 9 | 12 | 15 | 18 |
| | | | | | | | | | • | | | | | | -elated | | | | | | | | .5 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3. | | | | 3.5 | | AR | 1 | 3 Avg | = 0.6 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | SE | | -3 | -2.5 | IND | | | NE | PI. | -6 |
| 21 | 49 | 75 | ιĊ | 48 | 75 | 54 | 20 | rō. | 12 | 20 | 48 | .5 | 47 | 10 | 47 | 47 | | | NYJ | JĄX | | | | | | HOU |
| LC) | 4 | 49. | 46. | 4 | 51 | (2) | (2) | 49. | 49 | 2 | 4 | 51 | 4 | 46. | 4 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |





In Henry's final nine games of the season (he didn't play in Week 16), he averaged 5.92 YPC with 12 rushing touchdowns and 125 rushing yards per game.

It wasn't even close to anything he'd done in his NFL career to that point. Look at Henry's career stats:

2016: 33 yards/game, 4.5 YPC, 110 rushes 2017: 47 yards/game, 4.2 YPC, 176 rushes 2018: 66 yards/game, 4.9 YPC, 215 rushes 2019a: 69 yards/game, 3.7 YPC, 113 rushes 2019b: 125 yards/game, 5.9 YPC, 190 rushes

A.J. Brown had a similar journey, but it started as a rookie in 2019. Examine his splits with Mariota during the first six weeks and with Tannehill thereafter:

Weeks 1-6: 46 yards/game, 11.9 YPA, 61% catch rate, 3.8 targets/game Weeks 7+: 78 yards/game, 12.8 YPA, 62% catch rate, 6.1 targets/game

As most things are with quarterback and playcaller, there is overlap in credit due to the symbiotic relationship. But when you look at things that Arthur Smith did in 2019 with Tannehill, he was doing with Mariota as well.

In 2019, Smith used pre-snap motion on 60% of snaps in the game's first three quarters. With Mariota, Smith used it 65% of the time. With Tannehill, he used it 58% of the time.

In 2019, Smith used play-action on 49% of early down passes in the game's first three quarters. With Mariota, Smith used it 49% of the time. With Tannehill, he used it 49% of the time.

In 2019, Smith was using pre-snap motion at the NFL's second-highest rate in the NFL and play-action at the NFL's highest rate in the NFL. It didn't matter who the quarterback was, these were his offensive principles.

But what Tannehill brought to the offense was the arm that allowed Smith to dial up deeper passing plays. On first half early downs, 38% of Tannehill's passes traveled over 10 air yards. For Mariota, it was only 29%. The results of those passes were stark:

Tannehill: 0.83 EPA/att, 16.5 YPA, 70% success Mariota: 0.38 EPA/att, 12.9 YPA, 58% success

The biggest difference was the red zone production. Look at these splits, looking at every pass and run together:

Weeks 1-6: 0.36 EPA/att, 41% success, 2.6 yds/play, 4 pass TDs, 1 INT, 4 rush TDs Weeks 7+: +0.25 EPA/att, 64% success, 4.8 yds/play, 14 pass TDs, 2 INTs, 12 rush TDs

The processing speed and accuracy of Tannehill elevated the performance in the red zone and Smith could capitalize more through the air when defenses tried to stop the run.

The bottom line from a score perspective:

26

With Mariota, the Titans averaged 0.43 points per minute of possession.

23

The NFL average was 0.57 points per minute.

The best team in the NFL was the Chiefs, at 0.77 points per minute.

With Tannehill, the Titans averaged 0.99 points per minute.

Why is it important to understand what happened in 2019?

Well, because the biggest question for the 2021 Titans to determine if they can make it back to the playoffs for a third straight year is will the offense regress at all from Arthur Smith's departure, and if so, how much. This offense is again likely to be the catalyst for any success because it seems highly likely this defense will continue to be problematic (to put it nicely).

(cont'd - see TEN-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF is negated disadvantage advantage game to prep prep 0 5 5 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Tennessee Titans Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank Negated Bye Rank Rank Rank

27

11

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- Tennessee posted a plus 52-point differential and an 11-5 record. Based on their point differential, the Titans would've been expected to win 9.2 games. A big part of the explanation for the differential is the Titans' 7-2 record in one-score games (78% win percentage). Since 2016, there have been 19 teams with a one-score win percentage of at least 75% and all but one of those teams had a worse one-score record the next season. In aggregate, those 19 teams posted an 83% one-score game win percentage and followed that up with a 48% win percentage the next season.
- The Titans had one of the worst defenses in the NFL last season, ranking 28th in EPA. The only significant addition to the front seven was a free agency acquisition of edge rusher **Bud Dupree**. He graded out as the 82nd ranked pass rusher, according to PFF, and is also coming off a torn ACL late last season.
- On offense, the Titans lost play caller Arthur Smith to the Falcons. New offensive coordinator Todd Downing may not continue Smith's excellent play action-heavy pass offense.

9.5

Why Bet the Over

- The Titans' calling card the last two seasons has been an elite offense that has produced the fourth-best EPA since 2019.
- Tennessee had a major hole at wide receiver opposite A.J. Brown with the loss of Corey Davis in free agency. They filled this gap in a major way with the trade for Julio Jones, who was able to generate the fourth highest yards per route run last year.
- Tennessee has the inside track to win the weak AFC South and gets to play four games against two of the worst teams in the NFL. In addition, the Colts could very well take a major step back with the swap of Philip Rivers for Carson Wentz at quarterback.

| Tennessee Titans Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 19 | 6 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 16 | | | |

When **Ryan Tannehill** left Miami at the age of 30 it would have been impossible to imagine we'd be talking about him as a top-10 quarterback a few years later. Although we'll have to see how much the loss of former OC Arthur Smith hurts, as Smith's heavy play-action strategy greatly benefitted Tannehill. With play-action, Tannehill averaged 9.5 yards per attempt (ranked third), but only 7.1 without it (ranked 14th).

If the backfield unit ranks lower than you were expecting, it's likely because we're valuing depth more than you. Though **Derrick Henry** has maintained almost perfect health to this point, typically you can't lean on someone for 300 carries year after year, and the depth of **Jeremy McNichols**, **Darrynton Evans**, and **Brian Hill** is questionable at best.

Tennessee's receiving corps skyrocketed up our rankings after the acquisition of **Julio Jones**. A strong case could be made that no one has a better duo than Jones and **A.J. Brown**. Depth behind them is mediocre, but **Josh Reynolds** at least has experience in the slot (8.8 yards per target in the slot in 2020 with the Rams)

The **Isaiah Wilson** embarrassment has left the Titans with a glaring hole at right tackle. However, if rookie **Dillon Radunz** can win that job and immediately produce, this unit could take a noticeable step forward.

When opponents took a 3+ step dropback, Tennessee got pressure on them just 37% of the time, the second worst rate in the league. The addition of **Bud Dupree** will help, but that's not an issue one player can fix. With **Adoree' Jackson**, **Malcolm Butler**, and **Desmond King** gone, Tennessee is breaking in a brand new secondary. Ranking this unit was difficult because so much relies on rookie **Caleb Farley**, who is coming off back surgery after opting out in 2020. If he can immediately produce, perhaps we've dramatically undervalued this group.

Despite Tennessee's success under Mike Vrabel, it's fair to be skeptical about a head coach whose team continues to struggle on the side of the ball he was hired to fix. Without Arthur Smith on staff, we might get a better idea of how much credit really belongs to Vrabel this season.

TEN-4

While Smith made a massive difference for the Titans offense coming on board in 2019 to call plays, the bigger change was Ryan Tannehill. Tannehill, of course, is still in Tennessee.

The Titans kept right at it from an offensive perspective in 2020, ranking insanely high in both pass and rush efficiency as well as explosive pass and explosive rush metrics, as discussed earlier. They also ranked second in EDSR and third in red zone efficiency.

But the 2020 Titans were not as good a team as the post-Mariota 2019 Titans, even though the 2020 Titans had more wins (11-5).

The 2020 Titans were worse because their defense was significantly worse, though they looked better thanks to metrics that aren't stable and come rife with a lot of noise.

The 2019 post-Mariota Titans went 7-3 to close the season and then won two playoff games. They won by double-digit margins in five of 13 games and in five of nine wins.

The 2020 Titans, playing in 17 total games, won by double digits in just two of 17 games and in two of 11 wins.

The 2020 Titans were kings of the one-score win, 7-2 in one-score games. They were +11 in turnover margin. They were -5 in sack margin, an improvement

<u>TEN-5</u>

over 2019 (-13).

While outstanding offensively, they couldn't separate from teams because of their terrible defense.

The 2020 Titans recorded just 19 sacks last year after recording 43 in 2019. In the last 30 years, there have been only seven teams to record a larger drop in sack total from one year to the next. Only 10 teams recorded fewer sacks in those 30 years.

Their defensive efficiency dropped from 16th to 29th and they went from allowing -0.02 EPA/play to 0.13 EPA/play. They went from 16th on third downs to 31st and ranked 31st inside the red zone as well. High leverage situations were terrible. And although they had leads and won games, forcing defenses to pass the ball, when your defense ranks 30th against the pass and 31st in pass rush efficiency, it isn't an impediment for opposing offenses to fear.

That was against a league-average schedule of opposing offenses (18th in difficulty).

The Titans undertook an interesting experiment last season on the defensive side of the ball. After Dean Peas retired as defensive coordinator, Mike Vrabel didn't appoint a new one. He instead decided it would be a collaborative effort that he'd coordinate. Clearly, that experiment didn't go so well. After the season, Vrabel said that outside linebackers coach Shane Bowen led the meetings, the walk-throughs, and called the defense. He was, without title, the de facto defensive coordinator. And that was backed up by players like safety **Kevin Byard**.

Bowen has been appointed as the new defensive coordinator, officially, for 2021. The Titans also hired veteran defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz to be a senior defensive assistant. One thing Schwartz did well when he was calling the defense in Philadelphia was pressure opposing quarterbacks, which is certainly something the 2020 Titans lacked.

(cont'd - see TEN-6)

ALL



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

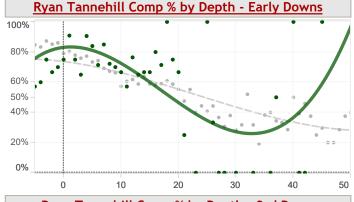


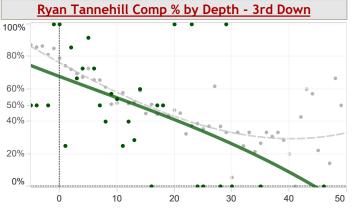
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| | | Usage R | ate by S | <u>Score</u> | | |
|------|------------------|--|----------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 | | Being Blown Out (14+) Down Big (9-13) | | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) |
| | Derrick Henry | 3% | 3% | 88% | 6% | |
| | Corey Davis | 28% | 7% | 58% | 5% | 2% |
| | Jonnu Smith | 14% | 10% | 67% | 5% | 5% |
| PASS | Jeremy McNichols | 38% | 6% | 44% | | 13% |
| - | Anthony Firkser | 17% | 9% | 61% | 9% | 4% |
| | Adam Humphries | 14% | 6% | 80% | | |
| | Total | 19% | 7% | 66% | 5% | 3% |
| | Derrick Henry | 8% | 11% | 67% | 7% | 7% |
| | Jonnu Smith | | | 50% | | 50% |
| RUSH | Jeremy McNichols | 17% | 4% | 27% | 6% | 46% |
| _ | Adam Humphries | | | 100% | | |
| | Total | 9% | 10% | 63% | 7% | 12% |





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | 0-0 [5WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-1 [4WR] | ALL |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| PASS | 48%, 0.07 (252) | 54%, 0.16 (163) | 44%, 0.07 (36) | 63%, 0.39 (38) | 64%, 0.46 (11) | 64%, 0.44 (22) | 75%, 0.81 (4) | 0%, 0.20 (2) | 100%, 1.85 (1) | 52%, 0.15 (529) |
| RUSH | 58%, 0.11 (158) | 52%, 0.02 (210) | 62%, 0.08 (74) | 42%, 0.07 (62) | 51%, -0.04 (37) | 0%, -0.65 (1) | 100%, 2.22 (1) | 0%, -0.26 (1) | | 54%, 0.06 (544) |
| All | 52%, 0.08 (410) | 53%, 0.08 (373) | 56%, 0.07 (110) | 50%, 0.19 (100) | 54%, 0.07 (48) | 61%, 0.40 (23) | 80%, 1.09 (5) | 0%, 0.04 (3) | 100%, 1.85 (1) | 53%, 0.10 (1,073) |

Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays) **Format**

| | 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 | Derrick Henry | 29% (14) 5.7, -0.07 | 50% (12) 2.9, -0.24 | 40% (5) 2.2, -0.28 | | 39% (31) 4.1, -0.17 | | | | |
| TE | Jonnu Smith | 50% (28) 6.5, -0.04 | 55% (20) 5.1, -0.13 | 80% (5) 22.2, 1.32 | | 55% (53) 7.4, 0.06 | | | | |
| | Anthony Firkser | 54% (24) 7.8, 0.27 | 50% (14) 6.8, 0.24 | | | 53% (38) 7.4, 0.26 | | | | |
| | Geoff Swaim | 0% (2) 4.0, -0.46 | 40% (5) 5.8, 0.09 | 100% (1) 9.0, 0.54 | | 38% (8) 5.8, 0.01 | | | | |
| WR | A.J. Brown | 59% (58) 9.9, 0.42 | 56% (41) 10.6, 0.49 | 43% (7) 6.7, -0.48 | | 57% (106) 10.0, 0.39 | | | | |
| | Corey Davis | 59% (39) 7.5, 0.38 | 72% (39) 12.8, 0.63 | 33% (9) 13.0, 0.24 | 0% (1) 11.0, 0.50 | 61% (88) 10.4, 0.48 | | | | |
| | Adam Humphries | 54% (28) 6.0, 0.00 | 100% (2) 15.5, 1.03 | | | 57% (30) 6.6, 0.07 | | | | |

Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings

| | (Leader Doard) | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1-2 [2WR] | 1-1 [3WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 4 Grp Total | | | | | | |
| Henry | 52% (161) | 59% (111) | 63% (57) | 52% (23) | 56% (352) | | | | | | |
| Derrick | 5.2, 0.00 | 5.5, 0.10 | 5.6, 0.08 | 3.1, 0.03 | 5.2, 0.05 | | | | | | |
| McNichols | 38% (24) | 40% (15) | 60% (5) | 0% (2) | 39% (46) | | | | | | |
| Jeremy | 4.3, -0.12 | 4.8, -0.25 | 6.6, 0.12 | 1.0, -0.81 | 4.5, -0.17 | | | | | | |
| Tannehill | 73% (15) | 92% (12) | 75% (4) | 43% (7) | 74% (38) | | | | | | |
| Ryan | 5.7, 0.62 | 10.5, 0.87 | 8.3, 0.28 | 1.6, -0.45 | 6.7, 0.47 | | | | | | |
| Foreman | 33% (6) | 38% (8) | 57% (7) | | 43% (21) | | | | | | |
| D'Onta | 4.5, -0.12 | 4.5, 0.14 | 4.1, -0.02 | | 4.4, 0.01 | | | | | | |

Format

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

| Pass | Passing by | | ing by | Throw Types | | QB Drop | QB Drop Types | | State at | Pass | Run Types | |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Coverage Scheme | | Route 68% (78) | | Level 1 | 58% (354) 7.2, 0.25 | 3 Step | 55% (181) 7.7, 0.24 | Planted | | % (382) 9, 0.39 | Outside Zone | 57% (136) 5.5, 0.07 |
| | 58% (261) | Curl | 7.2, 0.30 | | | 0/1 Step | 64% (151) | Shuffling | 4. | 1% (61) 5, -0.27 | Lead | 59% (92) |
| Zone | 9.1, 0.35 | Out | 50% (66) 6.2, 0.11 | Level 2 | 57% (99) 10.2, 0.40 | | 8.0, 0.35 Moving | | | 1% (59) 4, -0.14 | Inside | 5.7, 0.11 49% (82) |
| | | | 66% (44) | Level 3 | 31% (26) | 5 Step | 10.2, 0.36 | 10 2 0 26 | | on | Zone | 6.0, 0.17 |
| M2M | 57% (171) 7.4, 0.34 | Slant | 10.9, 0.70 | | 14.4, 0.39 | Designed Rollout Right | 55% (31) 7.3, 0.35 | | Play Action | No P/A | Stretch | 31% (48) 3.4, -0.34 |
| | | Dig | 70% (37) 10.9. 0.55 | Shovel | 33% (3) 2.0, -0.26 | 7 Step | 52% (27) | Under Center | 51% (157) 10.0, 0.26 | 63% (16) 7.1, 0.19 | Pitch | 52% (44) |
| Screen | 28% (29) | | , | | | 12.1, 0.53 | | Shotgun | 57% (28) 6.1, -0.16 | 51% (328) 7.0, 0.13 | Fitch | 3.3, -0.15 |
| Screen | 3.5, -0.42 | Drag | 73% (15) 5.7, 0.65 | Sidearm | 67% (3) 4.3, 0.78 | Basic Screen | 8% (13) 1.2, -0.68 | ALL | 52% (185) 9.4, 0.19 | 52% (344) 7.0, 0.13 | Power | 50% (26) 3.5, 0.00 |

TEN-6

Although their division is a weak one, Tennessee will face a more difficult schedule of opposing offenses in 2021 thanks to facing the NFC West and AFC East plus the Chiefs, Steelers, and Saints. Bowen, Schwartz, and company will have their work cut out for them.

An improved defense will absolutely help matters, but that means the offense cannot afford to fall off. If the 2021 Titans offense takes a step back without Arthur Smith, even a modest improvement in the defense won't be enough.

Calling plays offensively for the 2021 Titans will be Todd Downing. Downing has only one year of experience calling plays in the NFL. It was back in 2017. He had plenty of skill players, the cupboard was actually pretty well stocked:

WR Michael Crabtree WR Amari Cooper WR Cordarrelle Patterson WR Seth Roberts TE Jared Cook RB Marshawn Lynch RB DeAndre Washington

And the offensive line was flush - arguably one of the most talented offensive lines in the NFL, specifically as it related to pass blocking.

In the first half of games their first down pass rate was fifth-highest in the NFL. On second down, they flipped completely and ran the ball at the fourth-highest rate in the NFL, along with the NFL's third-highest run rate on second-and-10.

If you read the chapter on the Buccaneers already, the 2017 Raiders were the anti-Bucs. Pass-heavy on first down and then run-heavy on second down.

(cont'd - see TEN-7)





They went 1-8 in games against average-to-above-average pass defenses. In those games, quarterback Derek Carr averaged 6.3 YPA, 41% success and a 78.6 rating.

Their point production in those games was:

10, 10, 10, 10, 14, 16, 17, 17, 21 (only win of the nine games)

They ended the season going 4-2 vs teams with a losing record and 2-8 vs teams with a winning record.

In Downing's defense, the Raiders had the second most dropped passes in the NFL in 2017 and Carr dealt with a back fracture for part of the season.

After it looked like the Titans would be limping into the season offensively with just A.J. Brown from last season, having lost Corey Davis, **Jonnu Smith**, and **Adam Humphries** in free agency, GM Jon Robinson and Vrabel made a huge move for the 2021 season. They traded for **Julio Jones**. The Titans only had to give up a 2022 second-round pick and a 2023 fourth-round pick for Jones and a 2023 sixth-round pick.

If it wasn't for this move, the Titans' depth chart would have been Brown at WR1 with Josh Reynolds or rookie Dez Fitzpatrick at WR2.

As our Dan Pizzuta pointed out, last year thanks to Derrick Henry and their strong run game, the Titans saw the sixth-lowest amount of two-deep coverage on pass plays. But if we've now got Brown and Jones on the perimeter, defenses won't be able to stack the box on Henry. This provides upside on the ground and in the air. Illustrating the difference that Jones can make, Matt Ryan ranked fourth in yards per dropback with Jones on the field and 28th without Jones on the field, a massive swing. This naturally will provide a significant boost to Tannehill and the Titans passing attack's floor for 2021 sans-Smith. Jones was first in EPA/att on intermediate targets last year and Tannehill was great throwing to that area of the field.

On the ground, Henry has faced more eight-man boxes than any running back in each of the last two years. Arthur Smith was still able to get Henry to produce in those situations (5.2 YPC), but naturally Henry is more productive vs lighter boxes. This could provide the ultimate pick-your-poison for the Titans' opponents. Stack the box like they've done? Get ready to be dominated by the Jones/Brown tandem. Play more two-high safeties? Henry will feast more than he's done over the last several years.

The other thing this addition provides is a solid run game for Jones. He's not had that at any point save for one year, 2016. Examine Jones's rushing offenses' rank in efficiency since being drafted in 2011:

2020: 29

2019: 23

2018: 22

2017: 14 2016: 4

2015: 22

2014: 21

2013: 22

2012: 29

2011: 21

That 2016 season? Jones averaged 17.0 yards per reception, the highest of his career since his rookie season. It was his most valuable season based on AV of any in his career. Naturally, he's got A.J. Brown to compete with this year, but the point is, from a production/efficiency standpoint, having such a strong run game should make the efficiency of the looks and catches Jones gets near all-time highs.

Immediate Impact of Tennessee Titans 2021 Draft Class

The Titans are hoping Dillon Radunz (second round) will win the starting job at right tackle and help fans forget about the Isaiah Wilson embarrassment from a season ago. He'll compete with Kendall Lamm, but likely has an edge over the 29-year-old career backup.

Elijah Molden (third round) is also likely to make an immediate impact in coverage in the slot. In 2020, Tennessee allowed 8.6 yards per target to slot receivers, which ranked 24th in the league.

If everything goes well, Caleb Farley (first round) will be one of Tennessee's starting outside cornerbacks at some point. But as he's still recovering from offseason back surgery—due to an injury which ended his 2019 season (he opted out in 2020)—it's impossible to bet on him winning that job before Week 1.

Tennessee may have landed three immediate starters, so it's tough to criticize this class too much. However, following up the Wilson disaster with another risky first-round pick (albeit for other reasons) was a questionable decision. Additionally, Rashad Weaver (fourth round) was arrested days before the draft, which other teams reportedly knew while Tennessee did not.

The Weaver issue, coupled with last year's obviously poor evaluation of Wilson's character and work ethic, raises questions about Tennessee's pre-draft vetting process.

In total, this looks like a middle-of-the-pack draft class, but has the potential to develop into a strong haul if the risks pay off.



Tennessee Titans 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

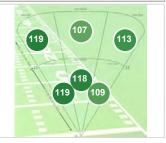
The Titans remained a low-volume passing offense ranking 30th in the NFL in pass attempts per game (30.1) and 30th in passing play percentage (49.7%). Despite that, they remained hyper-efficient, ranking fifth in success rate (52%) and third in yards per passing play (7.3 yards). Even with some efficiency regression in play for **Ryan Tannehill** across the board from his 2019 output, he still closed 2020 seventh in yards per pass attempt (7.9 Y/A) and fourth in touchdown rate (6.9%) on his way to 33 passing touchdowns and seven interceptions. One looming question is if there will be any impact from Arthur Smith's departure to Atlanta while former tight end coach Todd Downing transitions to offensive coordinator. Tannehill thrived under Smith, especially in the play-action game, leading the league in play-action rate (36.4%) while averaging 9.7 Y/A on those throws (fourth) as opposed to 7.0 Y/A on non-play-action passes (18th).

| | 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|--|--|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk | | |
| Ryan Tannehill | 333 | 506 | 66% | 3,982 | 7.9 | 35 | 8 | 25 | 106 | 4 | | |
| NFL Avg 64% 7.1 90.1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | 2020 Advanced Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|----|--|--|
| QB | QB Success % Passing Success % Gains 20+ Yd Pass % Gains 30+ Yd Pass % Comp Comp Comp 20+ Air Yd % 20+ Air Yd % | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ryan Tannehill | 52% | 55% | 47 | 9.0% | 19 | 4.0% | 7.0 | 5.0 | 14 | 3% | | |
| NFL Avg | 47% | 50% | 33.3 | 8.6% | 12.0 | 3.0% | 5.9 | 5.2 | 14.9 | 4% | | |

Target Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10

Ryan Tannehill Rating Early Downs



| <u>In</u> | 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% | 2.4% | 4.2% | 0.0% | 3.0% | | | | | | |
| 6 - 9 | 25.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.8% | | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 1.9% | 1.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.7% | | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | | |
| Total | 2.3% | 1.0% | 1.4% | 0.0% | 1.5% | | | | | | |

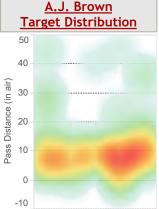
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | Avg. Yds to Go | Avg. YIA (of Comp) | Avg Yds Short | Short of Sticks Rate | Short Rk | | | | | |
| Ryan Tannehill | 8.4 | 6.9 | -1.6 | 62% | 2 | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | 8.8 | 5.6 | -3.1 | 72% | | | | | | |

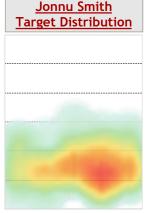
| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | | |
| | 58% | 42% | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Titans only targeted their wideouts 58% of the time in 2020 (20th) but were highly efficient, ranking seventh in success rate (57%) and fourth in yards per target (9.5 yards). They have a blue-chip option at the front of this group in **A.J. Brown**, who posted 1,051 and 1,075 yards over his first two seasons while averaging 17.4 yards per catch and 19 touchdowns. With the departures of **Corey Davis**, **Jonnu Smith**, **Adam Humphries**, and **Kalif Raymond**, Tennessee added **Julio Jones**. Jones was still effective last season despite missing seven games and exiting another two early. While Father Time is undefeated and Jones could be nearing his inevitable decline, he still averaged 15.1 yards per catch (highest since 2017) and ranked WR6.

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dшоე | YPA | Rating | % % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS % Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Corey Davis | 88 | 69% | 9.9 | 116.4 | 60% | 23 | 60 | 9 | 126 | 4 |
| A.J. Brown | 76 | 61% | 12.8 | 124.3 | 51% | 62 | 96 | 1 | 116 | 12 |
| Jonnu Smith | 63 | 60% | 6.4 | 105.5 | 51% | 85 | 94 | 86 | 41 | 8 |
| Anthony Firkser | 54 | 74% | 7.6 | 101.7 | 59% | 28 | 81 | 89 | 28 | 1 |





2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Tennessee was third in the league in rushing rate (50.3%) and second in rushing attempts per game (31.9), but ranked fourth in the league in success rate (55%) and second in yards per rush (5.0 yards) backed their decision to keep the ball on the ground. You already know the Titans are a backfield driven by **Derrick Henry** as the catalyst. Backs averaged 31.3 touches per game (fourth in the league) for 164.3 yards from scrimmage per game (also fourth). Anchored by Henry, he himself accounted for 47.4% of the Tennessee offensive touches and 32.9% of their offensive yardage, both marks that led the NFL at his position. Racking up 2,213 and 2,192 total yards on 409 and 418 touches the past two seasons of football (including the postseason). Henry scored 49 touchdowns over his past 45 games played with at least one score in 30 of those games.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % Rk | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--|
| Derrick Henry | 396 | 5.2 | 56% | 18 | 25 | 68 | 10 | 55% | 20 | 17 | |

Yards per Carry by Direction





Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



The Impact of Adding Julio Jones

The Titans have already been an excellent scoring offense the past two seasons, ranking second in touchdowns per game in 2020 (3.7) and fifth in 2019 (3.4). That was without **Julio Jones** on the roster.

Jones will be 32 years old when the 2021 season kicks off, but he still turned in his highest yards per catch over the past three seasons while his 75.0% catch rate and 11.3 yards per target were the highest marks of his career. He was the WR14 in points per game (16.2). In the seven full games that Jones did play last season, he finished lower than the WR26 in just one of them while averaging 100.0 yards receiving and 19.0 PPR points per game. Jones's age and injury history are already part of the package of treating Jones as a mid-WR2. That ADP Is likely to stay stagnant moving forward.

Atlanta has finished fourth (39.2), first (42.8), and fifth (38.6) the past three seasons in pass attempts per game. Over his 10-year career, the Falcons have been eighth or higher in pass attempts per game in eight of those seasons. Since the Titans hired Mike Vrabel, Tennessee has ranked 30th (30.3), 31st (28.0), and 31st (27.3) in pass attempts per game. While Jones will suffer a volume loss, he will be part of an efficient passing game. **Ryan Tannehill** has ranked seventh and first in yards per pass attempt the past two seasons without Jones on the roster.

Tannehill has been a top-10 weekly scorer at the position in 16 of his 26 regular season starts with the Titans. Tannehill was third in points per dropback in 2020 (0.66) after ranking second in 2019 (0.70). Adding the caliber of target that Jones will raise those dropbacks while cementing Tannehill as a QB1 option for fantasy football.

The addition of Jones does dampen the potential target-hog status of **A.J. Brown**. Among all receivers since he joined the league in 2019, Brown is 33rd in the NFL in targets (190) and 35th in receptions (122) over those two years in the league. He has had just two career games hitting double-digit targets. Despite that, he ranks 16th in receiving yardage (2,126 yards), fifth in touchdown receptions (19), and 14th in PPR points on those opportunities. Brown's 2.66 yards per route run rank fourth among all wide receivers since entering the league while his 2.45 PPR points per target lead all wide receivers over that time span.

Brown had just 106 targets in just 14 games on 71% of the offensive snaps in 2020. With the extra game on the schedule and slight passing volume spike with the addition of Jones, Brown should definitely still press 130-plus total targets in 2021 if he can stay on the field this season. Jones also caps the apex target potential for **Anthony Firkser**. With the addition of Jones, his target ceiling drops but the efficient passing game as a whole and the use of his position in the red zone (Firkser himself has 20 red zone targets the past two seasons while Smith had 28) Firkser could still operate in a similar (albeit in a less efficient manner) as what we saw from Robert Tonyan a year ago in his range of outcomes.

Over the past two seasons, **Derrick Henry** has faced eight or more defenders in the box on 27.8% (17th) and 35.6% (fourth) of his carries per Next Gen Stats. The addition of Jones can further allow that rate of runs into stacked boxes to decline.

| Tei | nnessee Tit | ans Defense | : Number o | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map | | |
|-----------|--|---|---|-----------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------|----|------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Grand Total | | 0/ | DI | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 11 plays (2%) Success: 55% | 258 plays (54%) Success: 55% | 210 plays (44%) Success: 50% | 1 plays (0%) Success: 0% | 482 plays (100%) Success: 52% | | % | Rk | 40 |
| | EPA: -0.47 | EPA: 0.11 | EPA: 0.15 | EPA: -1.49 | EPA: 0.10 | Base | 21% | 18 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 50 plays (59%) Success: 64% | 25 plays <i>(29%)</i> Success: 72% | 10 plays (12%) Success: 40% | | 85 plays (100%) Success: 64% | Nickel | 51% | 26 | 30 - |
| | EPA: 0.28 | EPA: 0.64 | EPA: -0.37 | | EPA: 0.31 | Dime+ | 26% | 6 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 18 plays <i>(62%)</i> Success: 61% EPA: 0.32 | 10 plays <i>(34%)</i> Success: 60% EPA: -0.26 | 1 plays <i>(3%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 2.49 | | 29 plays (100%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.19 | Rush 3 | 12% | 6 | 20 - |
| | | | LI 71. 2.45 | | | Rush 4 | 66% | 14 | 10 - |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 9 plays (82%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.38 | 2 plays (18%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.27 | | | 11 plays (100%) Success: 64% EPA: 0.36 | Rush 5 | 17% | 22 | 10- |
| Grand | 88 plays (14%) | 295 plays (49%) | 221 plays (36%) | 1 plays (0%) | 607 plays (100%) | Rush 6+ | 3% | 24 | 0 |
| Total | Success: 63% EPA: 0.21 | Success: 57% EPA: 0.14 | Success: 50% EPA: 0.14 | Success: 0% EPA: -1.49 | Success: 55% EPA: 0.14 | Blitz% | 20% | 23 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

Jeffery Simmons played 75% of the defensive snaps for the Titans in the middle of the line. Simmons was 30th in pressure rate among interior defenders, per SIS, and got to the quarterback quite often with 14 quarterback hits. He was also a plus run defender who ranked seventh in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate.

Denico Autry was signed as a free agent from the Indianapolis Colts. Autry had 7.5 sacks but didn't have as much down-to-down success as a full-time edge rusher last season. He had been better in previous seasons with more time inside and that's likely to be the role he fills with the Titans.

Harold Landry has been a consistent pass rusher since he came into the league as a second-round pick in 2018. While Landry doesn't have a standout season, he has at least 14 quarterback hits in each of his first three seasons with a career-high 16 in 2020. He was ninth in Pass Rush Win Rate among edge rushers in 2020.

Last season, the Titans tried to take swings on **Jadeveon Clowney** and **Vic Beasley** to be the pass rusher opposite Landry, but neither of those moves worked out. This offseason the Titans took another swing with **Bud Dupree**, who was in the midst of a career year before a torn ACL cut his season short. He ranked 22nd among edge rushers in pressure rate during the 2020 season. As a team, Tennessee ranked 27th in pressure rate.

Jayon Brown was having a great season before an elbow injury ended his 2020 early. Brown was 22nd in yards allowed per coverage snap among linebackers. He had as many passes defensed in 10 games during 2020 (eight) as he did in 14 games during 2019.

Rashaan Evans had some flashes in coverage with five passes defensed after just one in his previous two seasons. 49.5% of Evans's tackles came before a first down was gained, which ranked 22nd among linebackers.

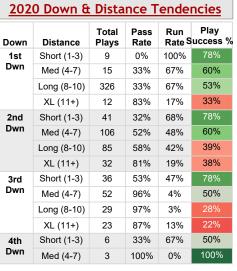
Janoris Jenkins, 33, will take over as the team's top corner. Last season, Jenkins ranked 78th among 149 cornerbacks in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. He'll be joined by first-round pick Caleb Farley.

Kristian Fulton was last season's second-round pick but only got into six games for 18% of the total defensive snaps. But when Fulton was on the field, he was good and that's not even considering the rookie struggles just about every other first year corner saw in 2020. Fulton was 26th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

Kevin Johnson had success in both the slot and outside for the Browns in 2020. He ranked 40th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

Kevin Byard split his time between the box and as a deep safety. That upped his tackle numbers and while he played downhill more often and his raw coverage stats dropped, Byard was still 10th among safeties in yards allowed per coverage snap. Amani Hooker also played both roles and got on the field for 41.8% of the defensive snaps.

| 2020 Play Tendencies | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| All Pass % | 50% | | | | | | |
| All Pass Rk | 30 | | | | | | |
| All Rush % | 50% | | | | | | |
| All Rush Rk | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass % | 49% | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 30 | | | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 54% | | | | | | |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 27 | | | | | | |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | -5% | | | | | | |
| Pass Increase Rk | 25 | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush % | 51% | | | | | | |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 3 | | | | | | |
| Up Pass % | 45% | | | | | | |
| Up Pass Rk | 31 | | | | | | |
| Up Rush % | 55% | | | | | | |
| Up Rush Rk | 2 | | | | | | |
| Down Pass % | 53% | | | | | | |
| Down Pass Rk | 30 | | | | | | |
| Down Rush % | 47% | | | | | | |
| Down Rush Rk | 3 | | | | | | |









59%

Short Yardage Intelligence:

| | 2nd and Short Run | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | | | | | | | |
| 67% | 19 | 67% | 89% | 75% | | | | | | | |
| | 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass Freq | Pass Rk | NFL Pass Freq Avg | Pass 1D Rate | Pass NFL 1D Avg | | | | | | | |

33%

57%

| | Most Frequent Play | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % | | | | | | | |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 7 | 71% | | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 8 | 38% | | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 188 | 49% | | | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Jonnu Smith | 2 | 0% | | | | | | | |
| | | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 2 | 50% | | | | | | | |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 21 | 95% | | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 40 | 55% | | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 27 | 30% | | | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Jonnu Smith | 6 | 33% | | | | | | | |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Derrick Henry | 11 | 100% | | | | | | | |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | PASS | Anthony Firkser | 12 | 58% | | | | | | | |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | Adam Humphries | 6 | 50% | | | | | | | |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Corey Davis | 4 | 0% | | | | | | | |

| Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | | | |
| No | Success: 58% | Success: 51% | Success: 56% | | | | |
| | YPA: 6.5, EPA: 0.14 | YPA: 9.9, EPA: 0.15 | YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.14 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 110.8 | Rtg: 97.2 | Rtg: 106.3 | | | | |
| | [Att: 154 - Rate: 29.1%] | [Att: 74 - Rate: 14.0%] | [Att: 228 - Rate: 43.1%] | | | | |
| Yes | Success: 47% | Success: 52% | Success: 49% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.12 | YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.22 | YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.16 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 102.4 | Rtg: 110.3 | Rtg: 105.4 | | | | |
| | [Att: 190 - Rate: 35.9%] | [Att: 111 - Rate: 21.0%] | [Att: 301 - Rate: 56.9%] | | | | |
| Total | Success: 52% | Success: 52% | Success: 52% | | | | |
| | YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 9.4, EPA: 0.19 | YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.15 | | | | |
| | Rtg: 106.3 | Rtg: 105.0 | Rtg: 105.8 | | | | |
| | [Att: 344 - Rate: 65.0%] | [Att: 185 - Rate: 35.0%] | [Att: 529 - Rate: 100.0%] | | | | |

33%

13

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | A.J. Brown | Jonnu Smith | Corey Davis | Derrick Henry | Geoff Swaim | Anthony Firkser | Cameron Batson | MyCole Pruitt | Kalif Raymond |
| 1 | DEN | W 16-14 | 66 (81%) | 59 (73%) | 66 (81%) | 61 (75%) | | 32 (40%) | | 31 (38%) | 18 (22%) |
| 2 | JAC | W 33-30 | | 54 (87%) | 50 (81%) | 44 (71%) | | 14 (23%) | 34 (55%) | 21 (34%) | 28 (45%) |
| 3 | MIN | W 31-30 | | 66 (88%) | 55 (73%) | 56 (75%) | | 19 (25%) | 45 (60%) | 25 (33%) | 20 (27%) |
| 5 | BUF | W 42-16 | 47 (71%) | 57 (86%) | | 34 (52%) | 28 (42%) | 23 (35%) | | | 36 (55%) |
| 6 | HOU | W 42-36 | 63 (84%) | 29 (39%) | | 45 (60%) | 49 (65%) | 41 (55%) | 20 (27%) | | 21 (28%) |
| 7 | PIT | L 27-24 | 53 (93%) | 40 (70%) | 52 (91%) | 42 (74%) | 10 (18%) | 15 (26%) | | 15 (26%) | 1 (2%) |
| 8 | CIN | L 31-20 | 59 (95%) | 50 (81%) | 49 (79%) | 33 (53%) | | 26 (42%) | | 16 (26%) | 24 (39%) |
| 9 | CHI | W 24-17 | 45 (82%) | 52 (95%) | 43 (78%) | 29 (53%) | | 27 (49%) | 13 (24%) | 7 (13%) | 14 (25%) |
| 10 | IND | L 34-17 | 49 (75%) | 47 (72%) | 40 (62%) | 38 (58%) | 36 (55%) | 22 (34%) | 24 (37%) | | 16 (25%) |
| 11 | BAL | W 30-24 | 57 (81%) | 52 (74%) | 52 (74%) | 55 (79%) | 44 (63%) | 28 (40%) | 18 (26%) | | 15 (21%) |
| 12 | IND | W 45-26 | 58 (81%) | 54 (75%) | 56 (78%) | 46 (64%) | 46 (64%) | 20 (28%) | 23 (32%) | | 15 (21%) |
| 13 | CLE | L 41-35 | 62 (86%) | | 56 (78%) | 39 (54%) | 38 (53%) | 30 (42%) | 22 (31%) | 32 (44%) | 14 (19%) |
| 14 | JAC | W 31-10 | 37 (56%) | 41 (62%) | 42 (64%) | 42 (64%) | 32 (48%) | 16 (24%) | 21 (32%) | 34 (52%) | 16 (24%) |
| 15 | DET | W 46-25 | 57 (84%) | 63 (93%) | 53 (78%) | 43 (63%) | | 17 (25%) | 21 (31%) | 38 (56%) | |
| 16 | GB | L 40-14 | 42 (76%) | 40 (73%) | 45 (82%) | 39 (71%) | 24 (44%) | 8 (15%) | 25 (45%) | 12 (22%) | 7 (13%) |
| 17 | HOU | W 41-38 | 64 (90%) | 41 (58%) | 59 (83%) | 58 (82%) | 46 (65%) | 10 (14%) | 17 (24%) | 30 (42%) | 3 (4%) |
| | Grand | Total | 759 (81%) | 745 (75%) | 718 (77%) | 704 (65%) | 353 (52%) | 348 (32%) | 283 (35%) | 261 (35%) | 248 (25%) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |

| <u>Perso</u> | nnel (| Group | <u>ings</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 38% | 60% | 52% |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 35% | 20% | 53% |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 10% | 7% | 56% |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 9% | 4% | 50% |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 4% | 4% | 54% |
| 0-2 [3WR] | 2% | 1% | 61% |
| Group | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | cies Run |
| Group | ing Te | enden Pass Succ. | Cies Run Succ |
| Group Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ % |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] | Pass Rate 61% 44% | Pass Succ. % 48% 54% | Run Succ % 58% 52% |
| Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] | Pass Rate 61% 44% 33% | Pass Succ. % 48% 54% 44% | Run Succ % 58% 52% 62% |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Jonnu Smith | 18 | 7 | 2 | 9 | |
| Anthony Firkser | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | |
| Corey Davis | 7 | 1 | 1 | 5 | |
| Jeremy McNichols | 6 | | 1 | 5 | |
| Adam Humphries | 5 | | | 5 | |
| Derrick Henry | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |

| <u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u> | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|--|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 | |
| Derrick Henry | 66 | 20 | 17 | 29 | |
| Ryan Tannehill | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | |
| Jeremy McNichols | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | |
| Darrynton Evans | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | |
| Logan Woodside | 3 | | | 3 | |
| Cameron Batson | 2 | 1 | | 1 | |
| Jonnu Smith | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Kalif Raymond | 1 | | | 1 | |

| Early Down Target Rate | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| RB | TE | WR | | | |
| 15% 23% | 27% 21% NFL AVG | 58% 56% | | | |
| Overall Target Success % | | | | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % | | | |
| Overall RB | Target Su | uccess % wr | | | |





We know how great Jones is historically. He has three career games with 250+ receiving yards. The rest of the NFL has only 28. 28-3. Everyone talks about Jones's injury history, but he has delivered 13+ starts in eight of 10 years in Atlanta. He also delivered the most receiving yards in the last decade and the most yards/game in NFL history (95.5).

The Titans were one of the healthiest teams in the NFL last year, another break on top of one-score results, turnover margin etc., to get to 11 wins last season. That marks the second straight year the Titans have been top-6 in player health.

This year, the departure of Smith may not be as severe as we think, so long as Downing makes smart decisions from a playcalling perspective. They don't have to be equal to as good as Smith's, but the Titans showed massive improvement with motion, for example, and that cannot be underutilized. When offenses control wins and losses more than ever, this Titans team is set for success in 2021 so long as injuries don't hit, Downing isn't a disaster, and the defense shows some semblance of a pulse and pass rush.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular

2021 All-Access Package

Everything we offer to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and Hundreds of Articles

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE 01. Games w Halftime Lead

9

02. Avg Halftime Lead

1.0

03. Wins

11

| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 8.3 | | | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 7.7 | | | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 8.3 | | | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 9.6 | | | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 53% | | | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 54% | | | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | 0.18 | | | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | 0.12 | | | | |
| Dlay Action (Overt | ors 1.3 on Farly Downs) | | | | |

| Play Action | (Quarters | 1-3 on | Early | Downs) |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|--------|
| | | | | |

| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 59% |
|------------------------------------|------|
| 45. PA Success Rate | 53% |
| 46. PA YPA | 9.8 |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 2.0% |
| 48. PA EPA/att | 0.21 |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 9.5 |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 61% |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 7.9 |
| 52. Non-PA Sack Rate | 7.3% |
| 53. Non-PA EPA/att | 0.23 |
| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 6.3 |
| | |

Men In Box

| 55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | 38% |
|--|-----|
| 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 | 5.1 |
| 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 | 49% |
| 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 | 21% |
| 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 | 5.3 |

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

| Net FROE Rk | 8 | defFUM | 19 |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Net FROE | 1.8 | defFUM Rcvrd | 11 |
| offFUM | 14 | dell own iccviu | 11 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 9 | defFR Rk | 22 |
| offFR% | 64.3% | defFR% | 42.1% |
| offFR Rk | 6 | defFROE | 0.5 |
| offFROE | 1.4 | delFROE | 0.5 |
| offFROE Rk | 10 | defFROE Rk | 12 |
| | | | |

Field Goal Luck

| Net Over Expectation | -3.46 | Opp Att | 23 |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Net Over Expectation Rank | 28 | Opp Makes | 21 |
| Own Att | 28 | | |
| Own Makes | 20 | Opp FG % | 91% |
| Own FG % | 71% | Opp Expected Makes | 19.46 |
| Own Expected Makes | 21.92 | Opp Make Over Expectation | 1.54 |
| Own Make over Expectation | -1.92 | Opp Make over Expectation Rk | 9 |
| Own Make over Expectation Rk | 28 | Opp wake over Expectation KK | 9 |
| | | 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | -0.56 |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -5.69 | | 0.00 |
| 2019 Own Rk | 32 | 2019 Opp Rk | 17 |
| | | | |

Rush 1st Down Rk

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

| വ | RI | Pr | 65 | SII | ıre |
|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| ~ | _ | | | - | |

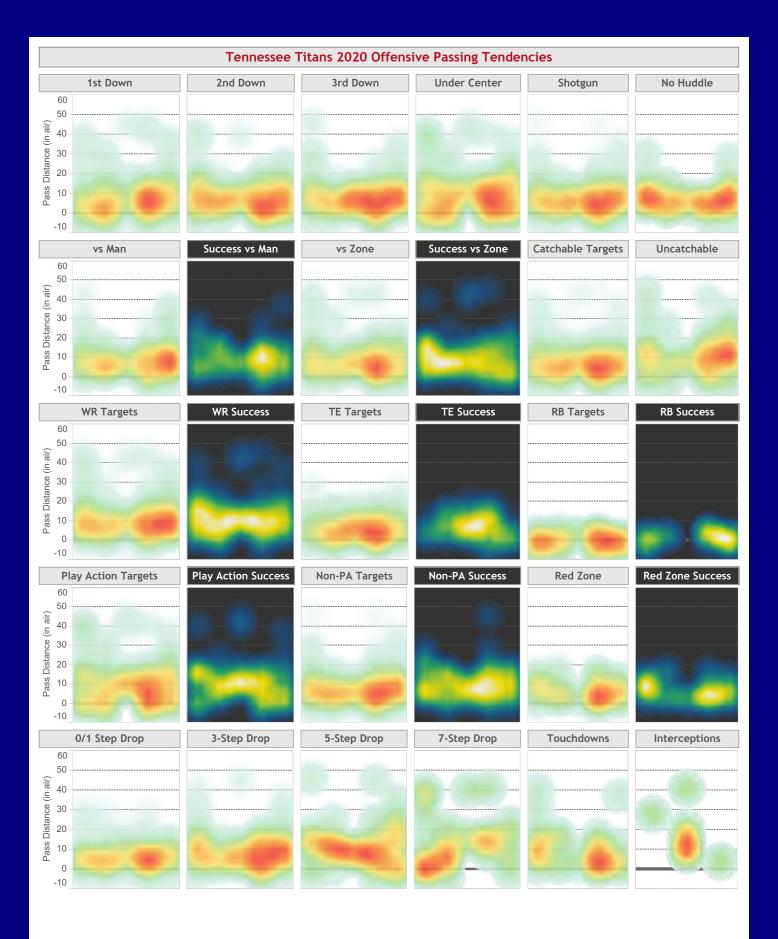
Offensive Metrics

| | Ryan Tannehill |
|----------------|----------------|
| CAY | 7.3 |
| CAY Rk | 3 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | 4 |
| AYTS Rk | 11 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | 3 |
| AGG Rk | 11 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | 6 |
| COMP% | 65.5 |
| xCOMP% | 63.1 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 31 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | 32 |
| CPOE% | 2.4 |
| CPOE Rk | 12 |
| 2019 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 Pres | sure |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| | Ryan Tannehill |
| Pressure % | 31.1 |
| Pressure Rk | 21 |
| Sack % | 4.5 |
| Sack Rk | 29 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 63.9 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 27 |
| Rating when Pressured | 72.8 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 16 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 79.9 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 15 |
| Rating when Clean | 118.9 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 6 |
| Time to Throw | 2.69 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 22 |

| Offerisive N | veri ics |
|-----------------------|----------|
| EPA/Pass | 0.19 |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 5 |
| EPA/Rush | 0.06 |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 2 |
| On-Target Catch % | 87.9% |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 29 |
| Drop% | 5.9% |
| Drop Rk | 11 |
| YAC/Att | 3.0 |
| YAC/Att Rk | 1 |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 13.1% |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 14 |
| Rush 1st Down % | 27.3% |
| | |



Coaches (Prior Yrs) Head Coach: Washington Football Tear Wins **Head Coach**: Ron Rivera (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: Scott Turner (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator:** Jack Del Rio (1 yr) Easy Hard

2021 Forecast

Div Rank

#2

Past Records

2020: 7-9 2019: 3-13 2018: 8-7-1



Key Players Lost

| Player | New |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Alex Smith (QB) | TBD |
| | Retired |
| Danny Johnson (CB) | Washington |
| Donald Penn (OT) | Retired |
| Fabian Moreau (CB) | Falcons |
| Jeremy Sprinkle (TE) | Cowboys |
| Kevin Pierre-Louis (LB) | Texans |
| Kyle Allen (QB) | Washington |
| Robert Foster (WR) | Dolphins |
| Ronald Darby (CB) | Broncos |
| Ryan Anderson (EDGE) | Giants |
| Ryan Kerrigan (EDGE) | Eagles |
| Shaun Dion Hamilton (LB) | Lions |
| Thaddeus Moss (TE) | Bengals |
| Thomas Davis (LB) | Retired |
| Bryce Love (RB) | TBD |
| Caleb Brantley (IDL) | TBD |
| Josh Harvey-Clemons (L | TBD |
| Marcus Baugh (TE) | TBD |
| Mychal Kendricks (LB) | TBD |
| Nick Sundberg (LS) | TBD |
| Reuben Foster (LB) | TBD |

Games **Average** # Games <u>Underdog</u> <u>Line</u> **Favored** 13

2021 Washington Football Team Overview

Here's a new one...

A second-year quarterback makes his 11th career start. At various points in the game he's trailing 14-0 and 21-7. He completes 32 passes trying to get back into the game. The completions average 3.3 air yards. His receivers give him 207 yards after the catch. He contributes 107 yards through the air. His team is destroyed, 31-17. After the game in the dejected locker room, as his team drops to 1-3 on the season, he brags about recording his first 300-yard game in the loss.

The story ends with the guarterback getting benched and then cut.

Dwayne Haskins was not going to work in DC. Washington burned another opportunity to get better in 2019 when it let Dan Snyder influence the decision. How many years must he continue to influence the direction of the franchise and sabotage its ability to improve?

If Ron Rivera gets his way, it won't be happening again any time soon. This is Rivera's

Out of necessity due to injury, Washington was forced to turn back to Haskins to close out the season. Starting quarterback Alex Smith injured his calf against the 49ers in a Week 14 win to pull the Football Team to 6-7 on the season. As crazy as it sounds, they were frontrunners in the hunt for the NFC East crown. The Giants sat at 5-8 and in second place. The Eagles were 4-8-1 and the Cowboys were 4-9. With three weeks to go in the season, anyone could win this division.

Washington put the ball back into Haskins's hands for a Week 15 game at home against (cont'd - see WAS2)

Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

| Player | AAV (MM) |
|--------------------------|----------|
| William Jackson III (CB) | \$13.5 |
| Curtis Samuel (WR) | \$11.5 |
| Ereck Flowers (LG) | Trade |
| Ryan Fitzpatrick (QB) | \$10 |
| Darryl Roberts (CB) | \$1.60 |
| Adam Humphries (WR) | \$1.2 |
| David Mayo (LB) | \$1 |
| DeAndre Carter (WR) | \$1 |
| Joe Walker (LB) | \$1 |

Drafted Players

| Rd | Pk | Player (College) |
|----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 19 | LB - Jamin Davis (Kentucky) |
| 2 | 51 | OT - Samuel Cosmi (Texas) |
| 3 | 74 | CB - Benjamin St-Juste (Minnesota) |
| | 82 | WR - Dyami Brown (North Carolina) |
| 4 | 124 | TE - John Bates (Boise State) |
| 5 | 163 | S - Darrick Forrest (Cincinnati) |
| 6 | 225 | LS - Camaron Cheeseman (Michigan) |
| | 240 | DE - William Bradley-King (Baylor) |
| 7 | 246 | DE - Shaka Toney (Penn State) |
| | 258 | WR - Dax Milne (BYU) |

Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj







2021 Unit Spending



Positional Spending

| | Rank | Total | 2020 Rk |
|---------|------|-----------|---------|
| All OFF | 19 | \$89.19M | 26 |
| QB | 16 | \$13.76M | 16 |
| OL | | \$44.73M | 10 |
| RB | 22 | \$6.92M | 26 |
| WR | 28 | \$14.76M | 32 |
| TE | 19 | \$9.02M | 26 |
| All DEF | | \$103.78M | 18 |
| DL | 20 | \$40.97M | 18 |
| LB | 20 | \$12.16M | 20 |
| СВ | 8 | \$26.29M | 21 |
| S | 3 | \$24.36M | 6 |
| | | | |

WAS..

5

10

15

the Seahawks. Offensive coordinator Scott Turner did everything he could to help Haskins succeed based on what he had witnessed earlier in the year.

If you ask Haskins to complete a pass within eight vards of the line of scrimmage. you have a chance. You ask him to push the ball more than eight yards downfield, you're playing with fire.

Haskins started the first four games of the 2020 season. Examine his passing splits based on air yardage:

Up to 8 air yards: 89.5% catchable rate and 84.2% on-target rate Beyond 8 air yards: 57.1% catchable rate and 42.9% on-target rate

Even if you exclude third downs from the calculus, Haskins couldn't get the ball downfield with any accuracy (48.3% on-target rate).

Compare Haskins to other Washington starters on these passes beyond 8 air yards:

Haskins: 57.1% catchable rate and 42.9% on-target rate Alex Smith: 75.0% catchable rate and 58.3% on-target rate Kyle Allen: 68.2% catchable rate and 63.6 on-target rate Taylor Heinicke: 79.3% catchable rate and 75.9% on-target rate

Dwayne Haskins wasn't just the least accurate guarterback on the Football Team, he was the least accurate in the entire NFL. That doesn't even begin to account for his actual results. Out of 50 qualifying quarterbacks, his EPA/att ranked last. His success rate ranked last. His YPA ranked last.

On 75 passes thrown beyond eight yards downfield, his average throw depth was 17.3 air yards and his average YPA was 5.5. No other quarterback, not even Colt McCoy on the Giants or Brandon Allen on the Bengals had a YPA of less than 7.5 on these throws. Haskins stood alone at 5.5.

Fast forward to Week 15, with the season in the balance. In the first half on early downs, Turner intelligently went 72% pass against a Seahawks team that ranked 10th against the run and 21st against the pass. It didn't help that Washington was without Antonio Gibson and had to start J.D. McKissic at running back. But Haskins was lost. He averaged -0.46 EPA/att, 3.3 YPA, and a 22% success rate on 18 early down attempts. These passes averaged only 6.6 air yards.

2020 Offensive Advanced Metrics

18

11

22

15

2020 Passing Performance 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn QB 3rd Dwn Success Rate 51% 50% Alex 6.4 6.2 6.0 Smith Rating 81.0 83.4 64.8 56% 61% 78% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 49% NFL 7.6 7.0 7.0 AVG Rating 95.4 85.6 96.0 Pass Rate 50% 60% 75% 2020 Rushing Performance Offense 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn Success Rate 49% WAS YPC 4.1 45 39% 44% 22% Run Rate 49% 51% 54% Success Rate NFL

They were in his wheelhouse from a comfort perspective, but he wasn't able to connect. Seattle quickly took the lead and was up 13-3 at halftime.

4.5

40%

That day, Washington lost 20-15.

AVG

Run Rate

That night, Haskins hit the strip club.

50%

He was photographed without a mask after the game in the club, violating the COVID safety guidelines for the second time of the year. Haskins apologized, admitting fault, and said he was sorry for "creating a distraction for my team during our playoff push."

That made Week 16 even more vital, sitting at 6-8 on the season.

(cont'd - see WAS-3) 2020 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 10 Rank 15 20 17 25 30 Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Pass Eff Def Def 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro Red Zone Der YPPA De Efficieincy De EDSR **Explosive**

20 25 29 29 29 25 30 31 32 32 32 30 Offensive Pass Efficiency Off Pass Pro Efficiency Off Rush Efficiency Off Explosive Pass Off R Pass Eff Off EDSR Off 30 & In Off Red Zone Off 3rd Down Off YPPA Off YPPT Off Efficiency Run Off Explosive 2020 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 2 10 11 12 13 16 17 15 SF PHI ARI PIT CAR PHI CLE BAL LA NYG DAL NYG DET CIN DAL SEA Н A -15 Α Н Н Н Н Α Н A 25 Α Ν Н Н Α -20 8 -7 10 -14 -14 -1 22 -3 -3 11 6 -5 6 10 27 27 20 17 19 20 20 41 23 23 15 20 15 25 13 17 30 34 31 30 20 3 23 30 9 16 17 15 20 20 14

2020 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 7 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-3** FG Games Win %: **0% (#25)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-5 Score Games Win %: 38% (#23)

W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 43% (#24)

2020 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -4 TO Given 27 INT Given 16 **FUM Given** 11 TO Taken 23 **INT Taken** 16 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -3 47 Sacks Sacks Allow 50 Return TD Margin +1 **Ret TDs** 3 Ret TDs Allow 2 **Penalty Margin** -2

87

85

Penalties

Opponent Penalties

YPC

4.6

25%

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

RESULT

MARGIN

OPP PTS

L=Red

OFF/DFF

Blue=OFF

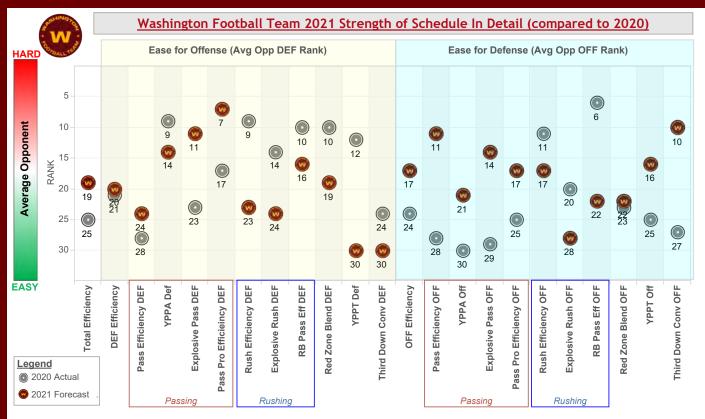
Red=DEF

(low=good)

(high=good)

EDSR

EDSR by Wk



| 2021 vs 2020 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 | 9 | 29 | 29 | 4 | 4 | 26 | 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 | | | | | <u>20</u> | 21 C |)ppo | nent | s by | Divi | <u>sion</u> | <u>2020</u> | Opp | onen | its b | y Div | /isioı | <u>1 He</u> | ealth | by l | Jnit* | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------|-------------|----------|------|-------------|-------|-------|--|-------------|------------|----------|-------|-------|------------|--------------|----------------|------------|-------------|------|------------|----------|------------|
| | | | | | 2020 | 20 | 19 | 2018 | | | A | 797 | | | | | A | 791 | | | | | 2020 | Rk | 24 |
| | Ave | rage li | ine | | 3.3 | 7. | .1 | 2.8 | NF | CE | T | Ш | G. | Ŧ | | NFCE | | | y G | 7 | | | 2019 | Rk | 31 |
| | Avera | ge O/L | J line | | 44.3 | 42 | | 43.9 | | | | | | | | | | , — | | | | 203 | 20 v 20 | 19 Rk | 30 |
| | | | ecord | | 7-9 | 3- | | 7-9 | | | | | _ | (ICZ | â | | | | | | | | Off R | | 28 |
| | | | ad Rec | | 8-6 | 6- | | 9-7 | AF | CW | The same of the sa | , CE |) <i>[</i> | | ŷ. | | TO. | . 45 | | | | | | | |
| | | nder R as Fav | ecord | | 6-10 3-1 | 8- | | 7-9 2-2 | | | , | | , | . 4 | | AFCN | | ≥ [[| 5 🖲 | | | | Def F | Rk | 14 |
| | | s Unde | | | 5-5 | 6. | | 2-2 6-5 | | | | | | | _ , | | | | | | | | QB F | Rk | 30 |
| | | ht Up I | | | 3-5 | 1. | | 3-5 | NF | cs | 75/5 | | F d | b 着 | | | | | | | | | RB R |) L | 14 |
| | | S Hon | | | 3-4 | 2. | | 4-4 | | | (a) | | - | A | 1 | | | 1 | N | ~ <i>(</i> | F | | | | |
| C | Over/U | Jnder I | Home | | 3-5 | 5- | -3 | 4-4 | | | | | | | | NFCW | - | | | | | | WR F | ₹ĸ | 31 |
| ATS | S as F | lome l | avorit | te | 2-1 | 0- | | 1-2 | ΔΕ | CE | | , | | | | | | | | | | | TE R | k | 1 |
| | | | ne Dog | 1 | 1-3 | 2- | | 2-2 | ^' | 0_ | May 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | Oline | Rk | 24 |
| | | ht Up | | | 3-4 | 2- | - | 4-4 | | | | | | | | NEON | 9/ | | | | | | Dline | | 21 |
| | | S Awa | | | 4-2 | 4. | | 5-3 | | | | | | | | NFCN | | | | | | | Diline | KK | |
| | | Jnder . | | | 3-4 1-0 | 3. | - | 3-5 1-0 | NF | CN | |) | | | | | | | | | | | LB R | Rk | 10 |
| | | way Fa Away | vorite | | 3-2 | 4. | | 1-0 4-3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | DB R | Rk | 15 |
| | | | r Reco | rd | 12-3 | 10 | | 4-3 10-6 | | | | | | | | NFCS | A | <i>*</i> | | | | | | | |
| | | | er Red | | 13-2 | 11 | - | 10-6 | NF | CW | |) | | | | NECS | | | | | | | | n the w | |
| Ten | Point | Tease | r Reco | ord | 15-1 | 12 | 2-4 | 11-5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Footba | II Outsi | ders |
| | | | | | 20 | 21 V | /eek | ly Be | ettin | g Lir | nes | | | | | | | | | Hon | ne Li | ines | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | · 1 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 17 |
| - | _ | BUF | ATL | NO | KC | GB | DEN | ТВ | CAR | SEA | LVR | DAL | PHI | DAL | PHI | NYG | | | Т | | | | · <u>-</u> | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6. | | 7 | 2.5 | Δ.,,~ | = 1.4 |
| +1.5 | -3.0 | +7.5 | +3.0 | +1.5 | +6.5 | +4.0 | +3.0 | +7.0 | +1.0 | +2.5 | +2.5 | -1.5 | -1.5 | +5.5 | -3.0 | +1.5 | 1.5 LAC | 3- | 1.5 NO | K | · | | | -1.5 | - 1.4 3 |
| | | _ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | LAC | NYG | NO | | | | | DAL | PHI |
| | | Was | | | | | | 25 | | | | | | | | | | Itijo | | | | | | | , |
| Avg = 2 | 22 | | - | | | © | | | | _ | name. | | | M | Ava | = 2.2 | | | | Roa | ad Li | nes | | | |
| (H) | | А | A | de. | Н | A | Ä | Н | A | H | | | | Α | | TAL | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 18 |
| | Н | | | 4 | | | | | | | | 4 | AF | | Н | | | - | - | - | | | | | |
| | M | | | | | | | | | | | | Char | | 43 | | 7.5 | | | | | | | 5 Avo | = 2.9 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | BUF | 3 | 4 GB | 3 | 1 | 2.5 | 4 | DAL | 1.5 |
| 2 | 43 | 48 | 48 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 43 | 50.5 | 5 | 46.5 | 17 | 2 | 46 | 48 | 44.5 | 2 | | ATL | -05 | DEN | CÁR | LVR | -1.5 | | NYG |





It was already going to be a huge game against Rivera's former team, the Panthers. This time, Washington was without Terry McLaurin but had Gibson back. The Panthers struggled against both the run and pass, ranking bottom-10 in both metrics. Considering how bad Haskins was the prior game, Turner again changed his approach to try and help his quarterback. Washington went 50/50 run/pass on early downs in the first half, going much more run-heavy. Part of the strategy worked perfectly. You might imagine what part that was:

12 runs: 0.28 EPA/att, 7.1 YPC, 75% success 12 passes: -1.39 EPA/att, 1.7 YPA, 17% success

Requiring less of Haskins and giving him a run game didn't help him. Haskins was terrible once again, even worse than the prior game. Washington fell behind 20-0 and trailed 20-3 at halftime. Washington kept with Haskins in the third guarter. They kept with him to start the fourth guarter. Haskins had a fourth-and-2 at the Panthers' 36-yard line on his first drive of the fourth quarter, down 20-6. Haskins took a sack on the fourth down. Rivera benched him.

Washington inserted Taylor Heinicke. These two quarterbacks finished with the following splits on early downs:

Haskins: -0.85 EPA/att, 2.8 YPA, 24% success (21 att) Heinicke: 0.07 EPA/att, 8.1 YPA, 63% success (16 att)

Washington lost 20-13. Haskins was cut the next day.

Although Washington had about league-average health from the quarterback position, the rotation between them was crazy:

Week 1: Dwayne Haskins

Week 2: Haskins

Week 3: Haskins

Week 4: Haskins

Week 5: Kyle Allen & Alex Smith

Week 6: Allen

Week 7: Allen

Week 9: Allen & Smith

Week 10: Smith

Week 11: Smith

Week 12: Smith

Week 13: Smith

Week 14: Smith & Haskins

Week 15: Haskins

Week 16: Haskins & Taylor Heinicke

Week 17: Smith

Week 18: Heinicke

It goes without saying that a new offensive coordinator installing a new offensive system during a pandemic, without standard in-person work nor a preseason, and then dealing with such upheaval at the quarterback position due either to injury or performance was a tough job.

How could you possibly get this number of quarterbacks ready to play during a season? How do you change up both big and little things to tailor the game plans and play calls to mesh with where the quarterbacks are at their best. Each was different.

Their primary starter had 17 surgeries to repair a broken fibula and tibia in 2018 and the multiple infections that nearly caused the amputation of his leg, and it was unclear if he would ever play again. Due to bad play from Haskins and injury to Allen, Smith was thrust into the starter's role.

But that alone was an adventure for the offense. Do you call more handoffs to protect your quarterback? Do you call more early down passes to try and avoid third downs? What do you do in obvious passing situations, because he clearly can't move very well in the pocket?

The first two games for Smith when he took over were after the bye in Week 9 and 10. Washington primarily used 11 personnel.

(cont'd - see WAS-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2021 Schedule 2021 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF is negated disadvantage advantage game to prep prep 6 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Washington Football Team Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank Negated Bye Rank Rank Rank 30 32 27 12 11 24

Forecast 2021 Wins

Why Bet the Under

- Washington is expected to face the sixth toughest schedule after facing the fifth easiest one season ago. In addition, they will have to do so with the second worst net rest differential, at -14 games.
- The offensive line still remains a shaky position group for Washington. They re-shuffled a bit on the line, but they didn't necessarily get better. They added **Charles Leno** at LT and **Ereck Flowers** at LG. Flowers is a journeyman who has never graded well and while Leno has been a good pass blocker in his career, it came at the expense of **Morgan Moses** who ranked 15th overall among tackles by PFF.
- As well as Fitzpatrick played last season, he has enough of a track record at this point (22nd in EPA from 2012-2019) to not be totally fooled by a one-year standout campaign at age 38.

8



Why Bet the Over

- Washington boasted a much-improved defense last season, finishing third in EPA and eighth in pressure rate.
 In the offseason, they did not lose any major parts but did add a great athlete at LB in Jamin Davis in the first round of the draft as well as free agent CB William Jackson.
- Washington struggled on offense and especially at QB, with the passing game ranking 31st in EPA per dropback last year. Alex Smith and Dwayne Haskins ranked 36th and 42nd out of 42 QBs in aDOT a year ago. They welcome veteran Ryan Fitzpatrick, who finished sixth in EPA a year ago. He also likes to air it out and since 2017 he ranks fifth in air yards.
- The Football Team also added to their offense with the signing of free agent WR **Curtis Samuel** and rookie WR **Dyami Brown**.

| Washington Football Team Positional Unit Rankings | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Quarterbacks | Offensive Line | Running Backs | Receivers | Front 7 | Secondary | Head Coach | | | | | |
| 19 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 4 | 9 | 17 | | | | | |

There's not much to say about **Ryan Fitzpatrick** at this stage of his career. He's likely to offer Washington more consistency at the position, but the team remains below average at the most critical position on the roster.

Washington appeared to still be figuring out the best way to utilize **Antonio Gibson** during his rookie year, which likely contributed to our wide range of votes for their backfield (12th to 25th). Clearly his ceiling is high, but mediocre depth at the position also draws their ranking down.

With the addition of **Curtis Samuel** and rookie **Dyami Brown**, Washington now has impressive depth at receiver. It would not be shocking if the unit significantly outplays our ranking, but it will require at least one of **Cam Sims**, **Kelvin Harmon** or **Antonio Gandy-Golden** establishing themselves as a legitimate complement to **Terry McLaurin** on the outside.

The offensive line lacks a star, but it also appears to lack a weak link, which is arguably more important. This could be a surprisingly strong group after the additions of **Charles Leno** and rookie **Sam Cosmi**.

Washington's best unit is inarguably the front seven. According to ESPN's pass-rush win rate metric, **Chase Young** was the seventh most effective edge rusher, while **Jonathan Allen** ranked seventh among interior pass-rushers—one of only three teams with a player in the top 10 on both lists. The addition of rookie **Jamin Davis** to the linebacking crew further elevates the ceiling for this unit. The loss of **Ronald Darby** hurts the secondary, but **William Jackson** looks like a quality replacement. Darby allowed 0.02 EPA per target in 2020, while Jackson actually outpaced him at -0.16. **Jimmy Moreland's** emergence as a quality slot corner (4.6 yards per target allowed) also played a significant role in this unit solidifying itself among the best in the league in 2020.

10 years into Ron Rivera's head coaching career, we trust him as a quality defensive coach. Unfortunately, in this era of football that only gets you so far. With just two seasons as a top-10 scoring offense (amazing considering he had eight years of Cam Newton), it's tough to justify viewing him as anything more than a middle-of-the-pack coach, and his opinions on analytics certainly don't help matters any.

WAS-4

Examine the drop types for Smith on early downs:

Shotgun 0/1 step drops: 79% success, 0.14 EPA/att, 10.2 YPA, 14% pressure rate (14 drops)

3-step drop: 53% success, 0.08 EPA/att, 9.6 YPA, 20% pressure rate (15 drops)

5-step drop: 61% success, 0.13 EPA/att, 8.5 YPA, 40% pressure rate (23 drops)

7-step drop: 43% success, -0.23 EPA/att, 3.1 YPA, 43% pressure rate (8 drops)

The deeper the drop, the more pressure got to Smith. In the case of 7-step drops, the efficiency was terrible. In the case of 5-step drops, the gain in efficiency wasn't worth the added pressure.

Washington lost both of those first two Smith starts.

So Turner did a few things to help Smith and the offense. Over the next two weeks, Smith had a total of ONE drop that was longer than three-steps on early downs.

Weeks 9-10: 31 drops of 5-step or 7-step Weeks 11-12: 1 drop of 5-step or 7-step

WAS-5

Turner also increased the early down pass rate in the first three quarters slightly, up to 72%.

Smith became Turner's point guard. Figure out where to go with the ball and get rid of it. Distribute it quickly.

Against the undefeated Steelers in Week 13, Smith had 32 early down pass attempts, 29 of which were standard drops of between 0 and 7-steps. 24 of the 29 were 0/1 or 3-step drops. Only five were 5-step or 7-step drops. Washington couldn't run the ball at all (2.1 YPC) after Gibson was injured, but they were able to navigate their way to a win.

When you combine how Turner adapted his offense to aid Alex Smith and, as discussed earlier, Dwayne Haskins, it's clear that Turner is capable of playing to his quarterback's strengths. That bodes well for the future and for the incorporation of **Ryan Fitzpatrick** into this offense.

Under Turner, Washington's early down, first half pass rate ranked sixth, their pre-snap motion usage ranked sixth, and their play-action usage ranked ninth.

Compare those three metrics with Jay Gruden's final year in DC (2019):

2019 early down pass rate: 29th 2020 early down pass rate: sixth

2019 play-action usage rate: 23rd 2020 play-action usage rate: ninth

2019 pre-snap motion usage rate: eighth 2020 pre-snap motion usage rate: sixth

In his final season, Jay Gruden's first down pass rate was only 42%. Turner increased it to 56%.

(cont'd - see WAS-6)



Rank of 2021 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



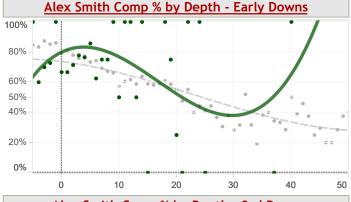
Rank of 2021 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

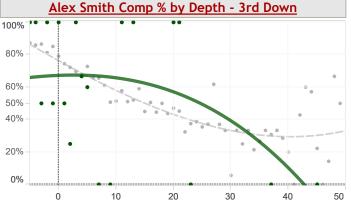


2020 Situational Usage by Player & Position

| <u>Usage Rate by Score</u> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| A4 . 100 | W. | Being Blown Out (14+) | Down Big (9-13) | One Score | Large Lead (9-13) | Blowout Lead (14+) | | | | | |
| | Antonio Gibson | 15% | 13% | 61% | 6% | 5% | | | | | |
| | J.D. McKissic | 23% | 16% | 54% | 2% | 5% | | | | | |
| | Terry McLaurin | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| I | Logan Thomas | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| RUSH | Peyton Barber | 7% | 7% | 60% | 15% | 11% | | | | | |
| Œ | Cam Sims | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| | Steven Sims Jr. | | | 100% | | | | | | | |
| | Isaiah Wright | 33% | | 67% | | | | | | | |
| | Total | 15% | 12% | 60% | 7% | 6% | | | | | |
| | Antonio Gibson | 23% | 26% | 49% | 2% | | | | | | |
| | J.D. McKissic | 24% | 24% | 51% | | | | | | | |
| | Terry McLaurin | 22% | 17% | 54% | 2% | 5% | | | | | |
| | Logan Thomas | 24% | 17% | 55% | 3% | 1% | | | | | |
| SS | Peyton Barber | 17% | | 67% | 17% | | | | | | |
| PA | Cam Sims | 25% | 15% | 57% | 2% | 2% | | | | | |
| | Steven Sims Jr. | 28% | 26% | 44% | 3% | | | | | | |
| | Isaiah Wright | 26% | 24% | 50% | | | | | | | |
| | Lynn Bowden | | | | 100% | | | | | | |
| | Total | 24% | 20% | 53% | 2% | 2% | | | | | |

Share of Offensive Plays by Type Gibson McLaurin Thomas Lynn Bowden Peyton Barbe McKissic Isaiah Wrigh Sims Sims Antonio Cam Steven Terry J.D RUSH 23% 25% **PASS** 20% 25% 20% 21% ALL





Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

2020 Detailed Analytics Summary



Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

| Туре | 1-1 [3WR] | 1-2 [2WR] | 2-1 [2WR] | 1-3 [1WR] | 2-2 [1WR] | 1-0 [4WR] | 0-2 [3WR] | ALL |
|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| PASS | 42%, -0.15 (509) | 45%, -0.20 (77) | 48%, -0.08 (48) | 36%, -0.49 (11) | | 100%, 0.51 (1) | 100%, 2.56 (1) | 43%, -0.16 (647) |
| RUSH | 57%, 0.11 (195) | 41%, -0.06 (87) | 52%, 0.11 (63) | 36%, -0.20 (39) | 7%, -0.62 (14) | 0%, -0.50 (1) | | 49%, 0.01 (399) |
| All | 46%, -0.08 (704) | 43%, -0.13 (164) | 50%, 0.03 (111) | 36%, -0.27 (50) | 7%, -0.62 (14) | 50%, 0.00 (2) | 100%, 2.56 (1) | 45%, -0.09 (1,046) |

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 | J.D. McKissic | 46% (87) 5.3, -0.18 | 75% (4) 5.8, 0.41 | 36% (11) 3.3, -0.49 | 100% (1) 8.0, 0.51 | 47% (103) 5.1, -0.19 | | | |
| | Peyton Barber | 0% (2) -0.5, -0.82 | 40% (5) 2.6, -0.18 | | | 29% (7) 1.7, -0.37 | | | |
| TE | Logan Thomas | 45% (87) 4.8, -0.12 | 40% (10) 10.2, -0.43 | 70% (10) 6.7, 0.03 | | 47% (107) 5.5, -0.14 | | | |
| WR | Terry McLaurin | 51% (106) 8.5, 0.19 | 59% (17) 6.7, 0.13 | 71% (7) 19.1, 1.12 | | 53% (130) 8.8, 0.23 | | | |

| Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 4 Grp To | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gibson Antonio | 56% (81) 4.7, 0.00 | 38% (40) 3.0, -0.12 | 51% (51) 5.3, 0.16 | 0% (1) -1.0, -1.16 | 50% (173) 4.5, 0.01 | | | | | | |
| McKissic J.D. | 51% (68) 4.7, 0.07 | 50% (2) 1.5, -0.18 | 70% (10) 3.0, -0.05 | 0% (1) -1.0, -0.37 | 53% (81) 4.3, 0.04 | | | | | | |
| Rarher | 60% (20) | 41% (34) | 0% (1) | 100% (1) | 48% (56) | | | | | | |

2.7, -0.07 Peyton 3.0, 0.11 1.0, 0.98 2.8, 0.01 50% (4) Haskins 63% (8) 0% (4) -3.0, -0.55 44% (16) Dwayne 5.8, 0.38 4.0, -0.31 3.1, -0.03 33% (3) 0% (5) Smith Alex 3.0. -0.29 50% (2) Allen Kyle 7.5, 0.86

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

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

| _ | sing by | | sing by | Throw Types | | QB Drop Types | | QB State at Pass | | | Run Types | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Coverage Scheme | | Route | | Level 1 51% (455) 6.1, 0.02 | | 3 Step | 42% (196) 5.9, -0.17 | Planted | | % (450) 2, 0.05 | Inside Zone | 49% (92) 3.7, 0.08 |
| | 500/ (000) | Curl | 65% (65) 6.8, 0.17 | | | 5 Step | 51% (144) | Shuffling | | 5% (82) 4, -0.12 | Outside | 51% (86) |
| Zone | 50% (328) 7.0, 0.03 | Out | 49% (49) | Level 2 | 36% (91) 7.7, -0.08 | Остор | 7.8, 0.09 | Moving | |)% (66) 4, -0.24 | Zone | 4.0, -0.01 |
| | | | 6.1, 0.02 | | 42% (19) | 0/1 Step | 53% (132) 6.6, 0.17 | | Play Actio | nn e | Power | 42% (52) 3.7, -0.13 |
| M2M | 51% (151) | Drag | 53% (47) 6.9, 0.04 | Level 3 | 15.4, 0.46 | 7 Step | 55% (38) | | Play Action | No P/A | Stretch | 48% (31) |
| | 6.8, 0.11 | | 67% (33) | | 100% (3) | | 8.0, 0.14 | Under | 47% (55) | 33% (9) | GG | 3.5, -0.09 |
| | | Slant | 9.8, 0.71 | Sidearm | 9.7, 1.11 | Basic Screen | 38% (21) 5.4, 0.00 | Center | 6.8, -0.16 45% (119) | 6.9, -0.20 42% (464) | Pitch | 53% (17) 4.4, 0.17 |
| Screen | 40% (57) | | 52% (27) | | 0% (1) | Destant | F00/ (40) | Shotgun | 6.3, 0.02 [°] | 6.3, -0.20 | | 00/ (0) |
| | 5.7, -0.03 | Dig | 7.4, -0.14 | Shovel | 2.0, -0.29 | Designed Rollout Right | 50% (18) 4.6, 0.09 | ALL | 46% (174) 6.4, -0.04 | 42% (473) 6.3, -0.20 | Lead | 0% (3) 2.3, -0.36 |

WAS-6

As we know, motion improves efficiency and it should benefit Washington's new quarterback, Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Miami's offensive coordinator, Chan Gailey, used below-average rates of motion. In 2020, the Dolphins ranked 20th in play-action usage and 19th in pre-snap motion usage. In Washington, Fitzpatrick will likely use top-10 rates of both. Examine Fitzpatrick's splits last year on early downs in the first three quarters:

With play-action: 0.36 EPA/att, 8.8 YPA, 70% success Without play action: 0.23 EPA/att, 9.1 YPA, 62% success

With pre-snap motion: 0.29 EPA/att, 9.0 YPA, 69% success Without pre-snap motion: 0.25 EPA/att, 9.0 YPA, 61% success

There are a lot of good things to take from Washington's 2020 season when you zoom out and take it in context.

For starters, they won the NFC East and made the playoffs. It doesn't matter how bad the division is, winning a division is always something to be proud of. They did so with a new coaching staff in the pandemic juggling four different quarterbacks. That's unlikely to happen in 2021, so that's a positive.

Now let's do a comparison between two different seasons:

Season A: +1 in turnover margin, 2-0 in games decided by a FG, 3-3 in one-score games Season B: -4 in turnover margin, 0-3 in games decided by a FG, 3-5 in one-score games

If I showed you those two seasons, and told you that one of them was Washington's 2019 season when they won three games and one of them was Washington's 2020 season when they won seven games...which one was the 2020, 7-win season? You'd probably guess season A. So would I. And we'd both be wrong.

(cont'd - see WAS-7)





The 2020 Football Team won the NFC East despite going 0-3 in games decided by a field goal and being -4 in turnover margin on the season. There's room for positive regression and improvement there — another good indicator for the future in Washington.

But if we're talking regression, we must discuss the Football Team's incredible 2020 defense. It went from a unit that literally ranked 24th in total defense, 24th in pass defense, and 24th in run defense during 2019 to a unit that ranked second in two of those three metrics. The turnaround under Rivera and Jack Del Rio was impressive, to say the least.

But there are a few red flags. First, the defense made massive turnarounds in two metrics that tend to be difficult to maintain for multiple years on end: red zone defense (second) and third down defense (seventh). Those are unstable year-to-year metrics that had a significant impact on opponent scoring during the 2020 season. If Washington regresses at all in either, opponents inevitably will score more in 2021, there is no way around it.

Second, defense tends to be a product of the offenses they play. Washington played the NFL's fifth-easiest schedule of passing offenses last year and ninth-easiest schedule of overall offenses. Even a mediocre defense can look good against that light of a schedule. I know this won't make Washington fans happy, but realistically consider the seven wins from 2020. They came against these quarterbacks playing for these teams:

Week 1 - Carson Wentz, 4-11-1 Eagles

Week 7 - Andy Dalton + Ben DiNucci, 6-10 Cowboys

Week 11 - Joe Burrow + Ryan Finley, 4-11-1 Bengals

Week 12 - Andy Dalton, 6-10 Cowboys

Week 13 - Ben Roethlisberger, 12-4 Steelers

Week 14 - Nick Mullens, 6-10 49ers

Week 17 - Jalen Hurts + Nate Sudfeld, 4-11-1 Eagles

Only two of those quarterbacks were the planned Week 1 starters for those teams and played the full game (Carson Wentz and Ben Roethlisberger). One of those two was benched midseason due to how poorly he played. Only one of those teams posted a winning record on the season and that team was blown out in the playoffs.

Washington made moves I liked on the defensive side of the ball this offseason, namely adding **William Jackson III** to help anchor what will be one of the most expensive secondaries in the NFL this year. But things will get much tougher for this unit in 2021, as I project them to make a jump from the 28th ranked schedule of passing offenses in 2020 to the 11th ranked schedule in 2021.

(cont'd - see WAS-8)

Immediate Impact of Washington Football Team 2021 Draft Class

Head coach Ron Rivera said the position flexibility of LB **Jamin Davis** (first round) played a role in Washington's first-round choice, and we could see him line up at any of the three linebacker spots in the defense. Davis was rarely used to blitz at Kentucky (only 20 pass-rush snaps in 2020) so expect to see him in coverage at a high rate. His athleticism and size could potentially make him an ideal matchup against tight ends—Washington has **Kyle Pitts** (Falcons), **Travis Kelce** (Chiefs), and **Darren Waller** (Raiders) on the schedule this fall.

Due to the recent releases of **Morgan Moses** and **Geron Christian**, there appears to be a path to immediate playing time for OT **Sam Cosmi** (second round) at right tackle. Cosmi's closest competition is likely to be journeyman **Cornelius Lucas**, who started eight games at left tackle for Washington last season. Cosmi spent his final two seasons at Texas on the left side, but was a starter at right tackle during his freshman year in 2018.

WR Dyami Brown (third round) is also likely to see the field, though he'll be competing with Cam Sims, Kelvin Harmon, and Antonio Gandy-Golden for snaps.

Brown saw 40.4% of his targets at least 15 yards downfield at North Carolina last season. His ability to stretch the field is a perfect fit with new quarterback **Ryan Fitzpatrick**, who has been among the most aggressive downfield passers in recent years.

Brown and WR **Dax Milne** (seventh round) each finished among the top five in the nation in receptions on targets 15 or more yards downfield last season, so it appears Washington was interested in adding a specific skill set to the receiving corps.

CB **Benjamin St-Juste** (third round) likely does not have an immediate path to the field, but the 6'3" defensive back brings intriguing size and athleticism to the table as a developmental prospect.

Among the expected starting corners, 6'0" **William Jackson** is the tallest of the group, so St-Juste's size brings something new to the position group and could be valuable in certain matchups.

Washington may have landed two immediate starters, and Brown and St-Juste both appear to have the talent grow into larger roles. This could turn into a strong class down the road.

However, it was a questionable decision to draft an off-ball linebacker 19th overall—one who struggled to get on the field prior to his redshirt-junior year, no less. Davis's raw athletic talent is obvious and Rivera has a strong track record developing linebackers, but it was certainly among the riskiest selections of this draft.



Washington Football Team 2020 Passing Recap & 2021 Outlook

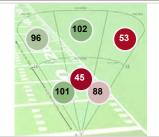
Washington ranked ahead of only the Jets in expected points added via their passing game in 2020 (-22.5). They finished 30th in yards per pass attempt (6.3 Y/A) and 31st in yards per completion (9.8 yards). Playing all of **Dwayne Haskins**, **Kyle Allen**, and **Alex Smith** during the regular season, Washington went out and added **Ryan Fitzpatrick** on a one-year deal this offseason to be their immediate starting quarterback to start 2021. Fitzpatrick joins his ninth NFL franchise, turning 39 years old this November. He is coming off a career-high 68.5% completion rate and 7.8 yards per pass attempt, which was good for his third-highest mark of his career. To go along with Fitzpatrick, Washington retained both Allen and **Taylor Heinicke**, who drew the start in the Wild Card Round and flashed versus Tampa Bay. Heinicke is 28 years old with just two career starts under his belt for three organizations, but threw for 306 yards against the future Super Bowl champs.

| 2020 Standard Passing Table | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|--------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|----|
| QB | Comp | Att | Comp % | Yds | YPA | TDs | INT | Sacks | Rating | Rk |
| Alex Smith | 168 | 252 | 67% | 1,582 | 6.3 | 6 | 8 | 22 | 79 | 40 |
| Dwayne Haskins | 148 | 240 | 62% | 1,439 | 6.0 | 5 | 7 | 20 | 73 | 45 |
| Taylor Heinicke | 38 | 63 | 60% | 443 | 7.0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 86 | 32 |
| NFL Avg | | | 64% | | 7.1 | | | | 90.1 | |

2020 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ Air 20+ Yd 30+ Yd 20+ Air Success **Passing** QΒ Pass **Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp % Alex Smith Taylor Heinicke Dwayne Haskins 51% 51% 39% 6.0% 10.0% 6.0% 3.0% 2.0% 3.0% 5.8 3.9 6.2 4% 6% 1% 43% 47% 38% 6 14 7.7 3.5 47% 50% 33.3 8.6% 12.0 3.0% 5.9 5.2 4% 14.9 NFL Avg

Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Alex Smith Rating

Alex Smith Rating Early Downs



| <u>In</u> | 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% | 5.1% | 0.0% | | 3.1% | | | | | |
| 10 - 14 | 3.0% | 3.6% | 13.3% | 0.0% | 4.1% | | | | | |
| 15+ | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | | 0.0% | | | | | |
| Total | 2.8% | 3.2% | 2.9% | 0.0% | 2.9% | | | | | |

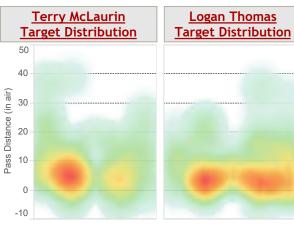
| 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|------|-----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| QB | QB Avg. Yds to Go Comp) Avg Yds Short of Sticks Rate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alex Smith | 8.9 | 3.7 | -5.2 | 83% | 43 | | | | | | | |
| NFL Avg | NFL Avg 8.8 5.6 -3.1 72% | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | Air Y | Air Yds vs YAC | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Rk | Air Yds % | YAC % | Rk | | | | | | | |
| | 39% | 61% | 41 | | | | | | | |
| | 52% | 48% | | | | | | | | |

2020 Receiving Recap & 2021 Outlook

The Washington wide receiver corps combined to rank just 19th in receptions (12.1) and 26th in receiving yardage per game (141.3 yards) while ranking 31st in touchdown receptions (eight) in 2020. The team ranked 32nd in yards per target to their wide receivers (6.9 yards), 27th targeting tight ends (6.1 yards) and 32nd targeting running backs (2.2 yards) due to their abysmal quarterback play. Running back J.D. McKissic was tied for second on the team in targets (110) and was second with 80 receptions. With Terry McLaurin and Logan Thomas locked into roles, Washington went out and added Curtis Samuel and Adam Humphries via free agency and Dyami Brown (one of the best deep threats in this class).

| Player *Min 50 Targets | Targ | % dwoo | YPA | Rating | Success % | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YAS % Rk | YTS% Rk | TDs |
|------------------------|------|--------|------|--------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-----|
| Terry McLaurin | 129 | 67% | 8.7 | 91.1 | 53% | 71 | 79 | 38 | 107 | 4 |
| Logan Thomas | 104 | 62% | 6.2 | 82.3 | 46% | 116 | 115 | 100 | 68 | 6 |
| J.D. McKissic | 103 | 71% | 5.3 | 74.1 | 49% | 100 | 102 | 128 | 12 | 1 |
| Cam Sims | 53 | 64% | 10.5 | 97.6 | 55% | 58 | 62 | 8 | 123 | 1 |

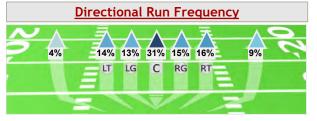


2020 Rushing Recap & 2021 Outlook

Washington closed 2020 14th in rushing EPA and 21st in success rate (49%). Third round rookie **Antonio Gibson** was a major success in year one. After just 33 total carries at Memphis, Gibson handled 170 carries in 14 games for 4.7 yards per carry and 11 rushing touchdowns as a rookie. Only **Alvin Kamara** (36.2%) scored a higher rate of his team touchdowns at the running back position than Gibson (32.4%) a year ago. Washington has some veteran depth here outside of Gibson, but the effectiveness of any of these backs in the running game can be severely questioned. In the three games Gibson essentially missed (he played just four snaps in Week 13) the other Washington backs rushed 59 times for 192 yards (3.3 YPC). Undrafted rookie **Jaret Patterson** will have a runway to make this roster and potentially contribute year one.

| Player *Min 50 Rushes | Rushes | YPC | % ssecons | Success Rk | Missed YPA Rk | YTS % RK | YAS % RK | Early Down Success % | Early Down Success Rk | TDs |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Antonio Gibson | 184 | 4.5 | 50% | 52 | 38 | 49 | 59 | 50% | 45 | 11 |
| Peyton Barber | 94 | 2.7 | 44% | 84 | 72 | 23 | 84 | 34% | 91 | 4 |
| J.D. McKissic | 87 | 4.3 | 52% | 39 | 83 | 36 | 61 | 49% | 54 | 2 |

Yards per Carry by Direction 4.3 2.8 3.8 2.4 3.0 3.2 1.7 LT LG C RG RT



Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



The Impact of Ryan Fitzpatrick

The addition of **Ryan Fitzpatrick** in Washington has a multi-layered impact on this offense. First, Fitzpatrick himself has been more than a useful fantasy option himself. Fitzpatrick is coming off a career-high 68.5% completion rate and 7.8 yards per pass attempt, which was good for his third-highest mark of his career. When he has been on the field, Fitzpatrick has turned in fantasy points, averaging 20.1 fantasy points per game over his past 18 starts. In Washington, this is arguably the best offensive line and defense that Fitzpatrick has been attached to in several years. The Washington offensive line registered as one of the better run blocking units in 2020, coming out third in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate metric at 73% while ranking 10th in collective run blocking grade per Pro Football Focus.

This also is a massive upgrade for the passing offense compared to a year ago when Washington was 32nd in yards per target to their wide receivers (6.9 yards), 27th targeting tight ends (6.1 yards) and 32nd targeting running backs (2.2 yards) through the triumvirate of **Dwayne Haskins**, **Alex Smith**, and **Kyle Allen** that took snaps from under center during the regular season in 2020.

Sure, Fitz has had the luxury of throwing to Stevie Johnson, DeAndre Hopkins, Brandon Marshall, Eric Decker, Mike Evans, and DeSean Jackson and kept those players productive, but also has gotten a lot out of guys like David Nelson, Kendall Wright, Quincy Enunwa, and helped DeVante Parker break out. After a 58-919-7 rookie campaign, Terry McLaurin turned in an 87-1,118-4 line in his second season. McLaurin was ninth among NFL wideouts in targets (8.9). We have yet to see his true ceiling through offensive climate and quarterback play. McLaurin has had to score seven of his 11 career touchdowns from outside of the red zone.

Curtis Samuel turned in a 77-851-3 on 97 targets while playing a role near the line of scrimmage and utilizing his dual-usage ability showcased as a prospect entering the league. Tacking on 41 rushing attempts for 200 yards and two scores, Samuel's 118 touches were bested by only Stefon Diggs among wideouts. Samuel closed 2020 as the WR27 in points per game (14.1). By signing with Washington, Samuel rejoins Ron Rivera and Scott Turner, who both attached to that 2019 season in which Samuel seemed miscast in overall usage, but his quarterback is much improved.

Carolina passers in 2019 combined to connect on just 35-of-120 passes (29.2%) on throws over 15 yards downfield and subsequently were 9-of-38 (23.7%) targeting Samuel on those passes. In 2020, Fitzpatrick completed 58.1% of his passes over 15 yards downfield, which ranked fourth in the league. Blending Samuel's usage over the past two seasons with a better downfield passer can keep Samuel as an elevating fantasy asset despite being limited as a touchdown commodity.

The one player who may be damaged here, however, is **Logan Thomas**. Thomas was the TE3 in overall scoring, breaking out with a 72-670-6 line on 110 targets. The downside is that was the lowest scoring TE3 season since 2003. Thomas averaged just 9.3 yards per catch, so that volume will need to be sticky and Washington added Samuel and Brown to the target equation. The good news is that he did lead all tight ends in routes per team drop back at 91.3% and has not had a real shot at being a lead tight end in the NFL prior to last season.

| Washing | gton Football | Team Defense: | Number of DB | s vs Personnel | Def T | ender | ncies | Surrendered +Success Map |
|-----------|--|---|-------------------------------|--|---------|-------|-------|--------------------------|
| Personnel | 4 | 5 | 6 | Grand Total | | % | DI | 50 |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 23 plays (6%) Success: 39% | 323 plays (89%) Success: 39% | 16 plays (4%) Success: 38% | 362 plays (100%) Success: 39% | | % | Rk | 40 - |
| | EPA: -0.05 | EPA: -0.20 | EPA: 0.12 | EPA: -0.18 | Base | 26% | 11 | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 78 plays (63%) Success: 59% | 42 plays (34%) Success: 38% | 3 plays (2%) Success: 67% | 123 plays (100%) Success: 52% | Nickel | 64% | 11 | 30 - |
| | EPA: 0.11 | EPA: -0.22 | EPA: 0.11 | EPA: 0.00 | Dime+ | 2% | 24 | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 21 plays (81%) Success: 43% EPA: -0.50 | 5 plays (19%) Success: 40% EPA: -0.20 | | 26 plays (100%) Success: 42% EPA: -0.44 | Rush 3 | 5% | 19 | 20 - |
| | | 2171. 0.20 | | | Rush 4 | 67% | 10 | 10 – |
| 2-2 [1WR] | 8 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 63% EPA: 0.70 | | | 8 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 63% EPA: 0.70 | Rush 5 | 22% | 11 | 10- |
| Grand | 130 plays (25%) Success: 53% | 370 plays (71%) | 19 plays (4%) | 519 plays (100%) Success: 43% | Rush 6+ | 5% | 17 | 0 — |
| Total | EPA: 0.02 | Success: 39% EPA: -0.21 | Success: 42% EPA: 0.12 | EPA: -0.14 | Blitz% | 27% | 15 | -10 |

Defensive Outlook

The Washington interior defensive line has a little bit of everything. **Jonathan Allen** ranked seventh among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. **Da'Ron Payne** ranked ninth among defensive tackles in Run Stop Win Rate. **Tim Settle** only played 33% of the defensive snaps but he ranked ninth among defensive tackles in pressure rate, according to Sports Info Solutions. All of this came with **Matt loannidis** missing most of the season with a torn biceps.

Chase Young came in as the second overall pick and was immediately one of the most well-rounded and high-impact edge rushers in the league. Young was one of two players to finish in the top-10 of both Pass Rush Win Rate and Run Stop Win Rate on the edge. Young's pressure rate only ranked 57th among edge rushers, but those pressures were quick and impactful. Montez Sweat had a higher pressure rate than Chase (23rd) and he finished the season with the 16th-most quarterback hits among defenders

Washington used its first-round pick on **Jamin Davis**, a raw athletic linebacker. He'll joi **Cole Holcomb**, a 2019 fifth-round pick who has started 25 games over the past two seasons. Holcomb only had one missed tackle in 2020, which was the lowest figure for a linebacker with at least 40 solo tackles, per SIS. Holcomb was also fairly impressive in coverage. He ranked second in yards allowed per target and coverage snap among 62 linebackers charted with at least 20 targets. **Jon Bostic** was also more than serviceable at linebacker and ranked 19th in yards allowed per target and 13th in yards allowed per coverage snap.

William Jackson has been one of the league's most underrated corners since he came into the league while hidden on the Bengals' defense. Jackson joins a secondary that already has some promising players. Kendall Fuller has been productive as an outside corner and ranked 37th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap last season. Jimmy Moreland, a 2019 seventh-round pick, manned the slot last season and ranked 13th in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap.

Kamren Curl, a 2020 seventh-round pick, was the latest Washington defender to go from late-round selection to impactful starter. Curl filled in for an injured Landon Collins and was immediately a plus in the box. Curl was one of 24 safeties with at least 30 pass rushes on the season and he ranked fifth among them in pressure rate. He also added three interceptions.

Troy Apke played 40% of the defensive snaps and played mostly deep safety while 2018 undrafted free agent Jeremy Reaves flashed and took over as a starter for the final three games of the regular season plus the playoff meeting against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Late in the offseason, Washington signed Bobby McCain, who will take over as the starter in deep coverage.

Collins will return from injury and is guaranteed his roster spot due to his contract, but it will be interesting to see how he slots in with Curl now in the fold. Washington only used dime or lighter personnel on 2% of snaps in 2020, the eighth-lowest rate in the league, but some three-safety looks could make sense given the depth at the position.

| 2020 Play Tend | <u>encies</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|
| All Pass % | 63% |
| All Pass Rk | 5 |
| All Rush % | 37% |
| All Rush Rk | 28 |
| 1 Score Pass % | 55% |
| 1 Score Pass Rk | 23 |
| 2019 1 Score Pass % | 55% |
| 2019 1 Score Pass Rk | 25 |
| 2020 Pass Increase % | 0% |
| Pass Increase Rk | 11 |
| 1 Score Rush % | 45% |
| 1 Score Rush Rk | 10 |
| Up Pass % | 57% |
| Up Pass Rk | 12 |
| Up Rush % | 43% |
| Up Rush Rk | 21 |
| Down Pass % | 68% |
| Down Pass Rk | 2 |
| Down Rush % | 32% |
| Down Rush Rk | 31 |

| 2020 Down & Distance Tendencies | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Total Plays | Pass Rate | Run Rate S | Play success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | 7 | 0% | 100% | 71% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 9 | 33% | 67% | 44% |
| | Long (8-10) | 330 | 56% | 44% | 46% |
| | XL (11+) | 7 | 100% | 0% | 14% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | 37 | 41% | 59% | 62% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 79 | 57% | 43% | 57% |
| | Long (8-10) | 105 | 62% | 38% | 45% |
| | XL (11+) | 34 | 79% | 21% | 18% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | 45 | 53% | 47% | 60% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 56 | 96% | 4% | 38% |
| | Long (8-10) | 34 | 97% | 3% | 24% |
| | XL (11+) | 27 | 93% | 7% | 19% |
| 4th | Short (1-3) | 8 | 38% | 63% | 75% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% |
| | XL (11+) | 1 | 100% | 0% | 100% |
| | | | | | |

| Under Center | Shotgun |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 22% | 78% |
| 37% A | VG 63% |
| Run | Rate: |
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 77% | 27% |
| 68% A | V G 23% |
| Pass | Rate: |
| Under Center | Shotgun |
| 23% | 73% |
| 32% A | VG 77% |

Shotgun %:



Short Yardage Intelligence:

| 2nd and Short Run | | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Run Freq | Run Rk | NFL Run Freq Avg | Run 1D Rate | Run NFL 1D Avg | |
| 56% | 28 | 67% | 68% | 75% | |
| 2nd and Short Pass | | | | | |
| Pass Pass NFL Pass Pass 1D Pass NFL Freq Rk Freq Avg Rate 1D Avg | | | | | |
| 44% | 5 | 33% | 47% | 59% | |

| Most Frequent Play | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Down | Distance | Play Type | Player | Total Plays | Play Success % |
| 1st | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Antonio Gibson | 3 | 100% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Antonio Gibson | 3 | 33% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Antonio Gibson | 74 | 45% |
| 2nd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | Antonio Gibson | 10 | 70% |
| Dwn | Med (4-7) | RUSH | Antonio Gibson | 21 | 62% |
| | Long (8-10) | RUSH | Antonio Gibson | 21 | 38% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Terry McLaurin | 7 | 14% |
| 3rd | Short (1-3) | RUSH | J.D. McKissic | 7 | 86% |
| Dwn | | | Peyton Barber | 7 | 86% |
| | Med (4-7) | PASS | Terry McLaurin | 10 | 30% |
| | Long (8-10) | PASS | J.D. McKissic | 8 | 25% |
| | XL (11+) | PASS | Terry McLaurin | 6 | 17% |

| <u>Offen</u> | Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action) | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| | Play Action (Y/N) | | | | |
| Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N) | No | Yes | Total | | |
| No | Success: 41% | Success: 48% | Success: 42% | | |
| | YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.22 | YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.13 | YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.16 | | |
| | Rtg: 78.1 | Rtg: 96.5 | Rtg: 81.4 | | |
| | [Att: 290 - Rate: 44.8%] | [Att: 62 - Rate: 9.6%] | [Att: 352 - Rate: 54.4%] | | |
| Yes | Success: 44% | Success: 45% | Success: 44% | | |
| | YPA: 5.6, EPA: -0.16 | YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.13 | YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.15 | | |
| | Rtg: 79.8 | Rtg: 74.7 | Rtg: 77.8 | | |
| | [Att: 183 - Rate: 28.3%] | [Att: 112 - Rate: 17.3%] | [Att: 295 - Rate: 45.6%] | | |
| Total | Success: 42% | Success: 46% | Success: 43% | | |
| | YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.20 | YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.04 | YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.16 | | |
| | Rtg: 78.8 | Rtg: 82.3 | Rtg: 79.8 | | |
| | [Att: 473 - Rate: 73.1%] | [Att: 174 - Rate: 26.9%] | [Att: 647 - Rate: 100.0%] | | |

| | 2020 Weekly Snap Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Wk | Орр | Score | Logan Thomas | Terry McLaurin | J.D. McKissic | Cam Sims | Antonio Gibson | Steven Sims Jr. | Isaiah Wright | Dontrelle Inman |
| 1 | PHI | W 27-17 | 52 (74%) | 65 (93%) | 31 (44%) | | 18 (26%) | 58 (83%) | | 36 (51%) |
| 2 | ARI | L 30-15 | 60 (91%) | 62 (94%) | 29 (44%) | 4 (6%) | 43 (65%) | 60 (91%) | | 45 (68%) |
| 3 | CLE | L 34-20 | 55 (85%) | 64 (98%) | 34 (52%) | 1 (2%) | 26 (40%) | 23 (35%) | 29 (45%) | 45 (69%) |
| 4 | BAL | L 31-17 | 66 (93%) | 64 (90%) | 39 (55%) | 4 (6%) | 31 (44%) | | 58 (82%) | 57 (80%) |
| 5 | LA | L 30-10 | 47 (87%) | 54 (100%) | 27 (50%) | | 30 (56%) | | 42 (78%) | 31 (57%) |
| 6 | NYG | L 20-19 | 63 (86%) | 70 (96%) | 39 (53%) | 7 (10%) | 27 (37%) | | 57 (78%) | 66 (90%) |
| 7 | DAL | W 25-3 | 54 (78%) | 58 (84%) | 34 (49%) | 61 (88%) | 33 (48%) | | | 20 (29%) |
| 9 | NYG | L 23-20 | 54 (100%) | 53 (98%) | 45 (83%) | 40 (74%) | 25 (46%) | 16 (30%) | 16 (30%) | |
| 10 | DET | L 30-27 | 87 (99%) | 86 (98%) | 62 (70%) | 83 (94%) | 33 (38%) | 40 (45%) | 29 (33%) | |
| 11 | CIN | W 20-9 | 56 (90%) | 57 (92%) | 32 (52%) | 52 (84%) | 33 (53%) | 20 (32%) | 16 (26%) | |
| 12 | DAL | W 41-16 | 67 (97%) | 62 (90%) | 28 (41%) | 55 (80%) | 45 (65%) | 13 (19%) | 17 (25%) | 11 (16%) |
| 13 | PIT | W 23-17 | 72 (100%) | 68 (94%) | 53 (74%) | 62 (86%) | 4 (6%) | 22 (31%) | 29 (40%) | 10 (14%) |
| 14 | SF | W 23-15 | 62 (98%) | 58 (92%) | 41 (65%) | 59 (94%) | | 23 (37%) | 17 (27%) | |
| 15 | SEA | L 20-15 | 80 (100%) | 78 (98%) | 70 (88%) | 77 (96%) | | 28 (35%) | 22 (28%) | |
| 16 | CAR | L 20-13 | 71 (100%) | | 49 (69%) | 71 (100%) | 21 (30%) | 46 (65%) | 13 (18%) | |
| 17 | PHI | W 20-14 | 63 (100%) | 51 (81%) | 28 (44%) | 63 (100%) | 37 (59%) | 30 (48%) | 2 (3%) | 2 (3%) |
| | Grand | Total | 1,009 (92%) | 950 (93%) | 641 (58%) | 639 (66%) | 406 (44%) | 379 (46%) | 347 (39%) | 323 (48%) |

| Personnel Groupings | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Personnel | Team % | NFL Avg | Succ. | |
| 1-1 [3WR] | 67% | 60% | 46% | |
| 1-2 [2WR] | 16% | 20% | 43% | |
| 2-1 [2WR] | 11% | 7% | 50% | |
| 1-3 [1WR] | 5% | 4% | 36% | |
| Grouping Tendencies | | | | |
| Group | ing Te | enden | <u>cies</u> | |
| <u>Group</u> Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Cies Run Succ. | |
| | Pass | Pass Succ. | Run Succ. | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % | Run Succ. % | |
| Personnel | Pass Rate | Pass Succ. % 42% | Run Succ. % | |

| Red Zone Targets Leaderboard | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Receiver | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Logan Thomas | 18 | 2 | 5 | 11 |
| Terry McLaurin | 12 | 3 | | 9 |
| J.D. McKissic | 10 | | 1 | 9 |
| Cam Sims | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Isaiah Wright | 4 | | 2 | 2 |
| Steven Sims Jr. | 4 | 1 | | 3 |
| Antonio Gibson | 3 | | 1 | 2 |
| Marcus Baugh | 1 | | | 1 |

| Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|----------|------|-------|
| Rusher | All | Inside 5 | 6-10 | 11-20 |
| Antonio Gibson | 31 | 13 | 6 | 12 |
| Peyton Barber | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| Dwayne Haskins | 7 | 5 | | 2 |
| Kyle Allen | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| Taylor Heinicke | 2 | | 2 | |
| Logan Thomas | 1 | | | 1 |
| Terry McLaurin | 1 | | | 1 |
| Terry WCLaurin | 1 | | | |

| Early D | own Targ | <u>et Rate</u> |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| RB | TE | WR |
| 2% | 19% | 79% |
| 23% | 21% NFL AVG | 56% |
| | | |
| <u>Overall</u> | Target Su | ıccess % |
| Overall RB | Target Su | vr |
| | _ | |
| RB | TE | WR |





On the other side of the ball, my projections for the schedule Washington would face were dead on. At this time last year, here were my projections on the strength of schedule their offense would face compared to what they actually faced by the end of the year:

Overall strength of defenses: predicted last July = 21st ... actual by end of year = 21st Passing defenses: predicted last July = 27th ... actual by end of year = 28th Rushing defenses: predicted last July = ninth ... actual by end of year = ninth

I was dead on. This year, I predict Washington will face only a slight jump, to 20th overall, with a jump to 24th in pass defenses and a drop to 23rd in run defenses. It may get easier to run the ball, but still should be easier than average when passing.

Although Fitzpatrick is viewed as a journeyman, and rightfully so (I loved his line that "every game is a revenge game because I've played on so many teams"), examine the quarterbacks that Turner worked with in Carolina in 2019: two starts from Cam Newton, replaced by 12 starts from Kyle Allen, replaced by two starts form Will Grier. And we already know the four quarterbacks he worked with last year.

If Fitzpatrick can simply stay healthy, Turner will have a huge upgrade at the quarterback position and should feel even more willing to pass the ball at a high rate. With the team adding Curtis Samuel in free agency, using Gibson more in the passing game than he was used in 2020, and adding Dyami Brown on the outside, this offense may have enough upside to improve to near league-average levels. If they're able to do that, coupled with a defense that can remain top-10 despite slight regression, you could be looking at back-to-back division championships.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2021 season-long packages for a limited time.

The **very BEST price** we will offer all season

Home of Warren's 61% NFL Totals over 15 years

Last 6 years: 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65% | 2015: 68%

2021 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 36%

Most Popular 2021 All-Access Package

Everything we offer to get the Best in Betting, Props, Fantasy and DFS

Season Long Saves 44%

2021 Fantasy

Rich Hribar's Worksheet + DFS, Rankings and **Hundreds of Articles**

Season Long Saves 60%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO **LEARN MORE**

CLICK TO LEARN MORE 01. Games w Halftime Lead

52. Non-PA Sack Rate

53. Non-PA EPA/att

02. Avg Halftime Lead

-6.0

4 2%

-0.21

03. Wins





| Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3) | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| 36. PSM YPA | 6.0 | | |
| 37. PSM Target Depth | 6.0 | | |
| 38. Non-PSM YPA | 6.7 | | |
| 39. Non-PSM Target Depth | 5.9 | | |
| 40. PSM Pass Success Rate | 48% | | |
| 41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate | 46% | | |
| 42. PSM EPA/att | -0.17 | | |
| 43. Non-PSM EPA/att | -0.17 | | |
| | | | |

| Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs) | | | | |
|---|-------|--|--|--|
| 44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs | 41% | | | |
| 45. PA Success Rate | 48% | | | |
| 46. PA YPA | 6.1 | | | |
| 47. PA Sack Rate | 5.9% | | | |
| 48. PA EPA/att | -0.13 | | | |
| 49. PA Target Depth | 6.3 | | | |
| 50. Non-PA Success Rate | 51% | | | |
| 51. Non-PA YPA | 6.2 | | | |
| | | | | |

| 54. Non-PA Target Depth | 5.3 | |
|--|------------------------------------|-----|
| Men In Box | | |
| 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 | | 55% |
| 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 | | 42% |
| 59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | | 41% |
| 60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line | | 3.9 |
| 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 | 54% |
| 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 | 9 | defFUM | 22 |
| Net FROE | 1.8 | defFUM Rcvrd | 14 |
| offFUM Rcvrd | 22 12 | defFR Rk | 27 |
| offFR% | 54.5% | defFR% | 36.4% |
| offFR Rk | 18 | defFROE | 1.8 |

defFROE Rk

0.0

18

| Field Goal Luck | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Net Over Expectation Net Over Expectation Rank Own Att Own Makes Own FG % Own Expected Makes Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk 2019 Own Make Over Exp. | -2.53 25 34 27 79% 27.47 -0.47 19 -0.31 | Opp Att Opp Makes Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2019 Opp Make Over Exp. | 27 24 89% 21.95 2.05 6 -1.03 |
| 2019 Own Make Over Exp. 2019 Own Rk | -0.31 15 | 2019 Opp Rk | 22 |

| Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| | Alex Smith | Dwayne Haskins |
| CAY | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| CAY Rk | 40 | 41 |
| 2019 CAY Rk | | 12 |
| AYTS Rk | 41 | 36 |
| 2019 AYTS Rk | | 16 |
| AGG Rk | 31 | 14 |
| 2019 AGG Rk | | 2 |
| COMP% | 66.7 | 61.4 |
| xCOMP% | 67.9 | 68.5 |
| xCOMP% Rk | 5 | 3 |
| 2019 xCOMP% Rk | | 25 |
| CPOE% | -1.2 | -7.1 |
| CPOE Rk | 29 | 41 |
| 2019 CPOE Rk | | 37 |
| | | |

offFROE

offFROE Rk

| CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AG | iG: |
|---|-------|
| Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage (| CPOE: |
| Actual completion percentage over expectation | |

| QB Pressure | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| | Alex Smith | Dwayne Haskins |
| Pressure % | 33.9 | 27.1 |
| Pressure Rk | 17 | 30 |
| Sack % | 7.9 | 7.4 |
| Sack Rk | 4 | 6 |
| Pressure Accuracy % | 67.9 | 47.6 |
| Pressure Accuracy Rk | 14 | 41 |
| Rating when Pressured | 43.9 | 37.6 |
| Pressured Rating Rk | 38 | 40 |
| Clean Accuracy % | 81.7 | 73.9 |
| Clean Accuracy Rk | 8 | 38 |
| Rating when Clean | 91.5 | 82.2 |
| Clean Rating Rk | 33 | 40 |
| Time to Throw | 2.63 | 2.55 |
| Time to Throw Rk | 28 | 34 |

| 15 2019 Opp RK | 22 | |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| Offensive Metrics | | |
| EPA/Pass | -0.17 | |
| EPA/Pass Rk | 30 | |
| EPA/Rush | -0.02 | |
| EPA/Rush Rk | 9 | |
| On-Target Catch % | 90.8% | |
| On-Target Catch Rk | 17 | |
| Drop% | 5.8% | |
| Drop Rk | 9 | |
| YAC/Att | 1.8 | |
| YAC/Att Rk | 32 | |
| Rush Broken Tackle % | 12.5% | |
| Rush Broken Tackle Rk | 17 | |
| Rush 1st Down % | 27.0% | |
| Rush 1st Down Rk | 11 | |

