

# 

The Fastest Way to Get Smart for the 2022 Pro Football Season

#### **BY WARREN SHARP**

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

#### **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS END SOON!**

# The Best & Most Accurate NFL Totals for 16 Years 62% Lifetime Record

Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season:

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 

#### **2022 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** 

#### **Lifetime NFL Record**

Totals: 580-358 (62%)

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

Lifetime All Releases: 1486-1077 (58%)

Lifetime NFL Playoffs Record: 153-93 (62%)

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



Respected Analysis

<u>Line Value</u>

<u>Transparent Record Keeping</u>

NFL's Most Consistent Results

#### 2022 Football Preview

By: Warren Sharp @SharpFootball

of

SharpFootballAnalysis.com SharpFootballStats.com sharp@sharpfootballanalysis.com

Dan Pizzuta
Executive Editor

Rob Chamberlin
Associate Editor

Also featuring:

Fantasy Analysis from Sharp Football's Fantasy Expert Rich Hribar

Plus:

Defensive Analysis from Dan Pizzuta

Unit Rankings and Rookie Draft Class Analysis from Ryan McCrystal

Betting Analysis from Curtis Hirsch

Roster Analysis from Tucker Bagley

Copyright © 2022 by Warren Sharp, Sharp Football Analysis
All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America. No part of this book may
be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission except in
the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews.

#### **COLUMNS**

06 FOREWORD

08 THE RISE OF THE ANTI-AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE

10 HOW 2021 FOLLOWED UP THE HIGHEST SCORING SEASON IN LEAGUE HISTORY

**18 EFFICIENCY TABLES** 

29 2022 SOS & REST EDGES

**30 EFFICIENCY CHARTS** 

34 FANTASY RANKINGS BY POSITION WITH ANALYSIS

#### **DEDICATION**

TO my wife, thank you for your patience

**TO** my children, you make me so proud, now stop growing up so quickly

**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 & Rob for editing every word of this book and TO Rich, Ryan, Curtis, Tucker & the entire team behind the scenes— thank you for everything

#### **TEAM CHAPTERS**

#### **49 LAYOUT AND DEFINITIONS**

#### **50 CHAPTERS**

50 ARIZONA CARDINALS 67 ATLANTA FALCONS 83 BALTIMORE RAVENS 100 BUFFALO BILLS

118 CAROLINA PANTHERS

134 CHICAGO BEARS

149 CINCINNATTI BENGALS

165 CLEVELAND BROWNS

**182 DALLAS COWBOYS** 

197 DENVER BRONCOS

213 DETROIT LIONS

229 GREEN BAY PACKERS

245 HOUSTON TEXANS

260 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

275 JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

290 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

307 LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

323 LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

340 LOS ANGELES RAMS

355 MIAMI DOLPHINS

372 MINNESOTA VIKINGS

388 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

**405 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** 

**421 NEW YORK GIANTS** 

438 NEW YORK JETS

453 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

**469 PITTSBURGH STEELERS** 

485 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

**502 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** 

518 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

**534 TENNESSEE TITANS** 

549 WASHINGTON COMMANDERS

#### **Foreword**

By Warren Sharp

After writing 550 pages over the course of four months I have just one piece of advice to impart: immerse yourself and read every page. You'll find multiple things about every single team which you didn't know before. Angles which will help you place winning futures bets next week. Angles which will help you pick the right fantasy players this summer. And angles which will help you watch games more intelligently and win money in betting, fantasy and DFS this fall.

When I first started publishing these annual NFL preview books, they were 150 pages long. Back then, I certainly never thought I'd get to a point where I'd have meaningful, insightful and in some cases eye-opening research to fill 550 pages. I shared everything I could in the months spent on this book.

The team at <u>Sharp Football Analysis</u> did a great job incorporating more data driven insights into their assigned portions than ever before. I've been so impressed by the job everyone did in pulling it together and all their incredible contribution. As we've acquired and built more research tools for our staff, they and I have uncovered substantially more game-changing analysis to share with you.

Pulling this together to have it ready for you felt like it took years off my life. The process is demanding and starts in March. But my favorite thing about analyzing football is sharing insights with people they didn't know previously. I love sharing insights with the public, whether on TV, in podcasts or in writing. I love sharing insights behind the scenes with coaches. And I love sharing insights with clients.

I can't thank you enough for picking up your copy of this book. If this book gives you information of value, please share that word. Encourage others to check it out. Share your feedback on Twitter and tag me or email me. If you think this 550-page behemoth is the single best resource to prepare you for the 2022 NFL season, I don't disagree.

But it's also just the start. All the tools at our hands, the diligence of our research and the care in building something special is part of our everyday life during the NFL season at Sharp Football Analysis. If you find this book of value, I can guarantee you'll love the services we provide during the season to our clients.

Whether it's the brilliant and detailed fantasy analysis from Rich Hribar and our team of fantasy experts, or the industry's winningest NFL totals which have hit 62% lifetime, or our props, futures and full NFL betting suite of services, we've been delivering winning season after winning season for the last 16 years and it's been fully documented after every kickoff. Don't let the reward of your new insights end once you finish this book. Jump on board for a 2022 NFL All-Access pass and let us give you daily insights, things you didn't know before and help you profit during the upcoming NFL season.

But first, read this book. Really, really dig into it. And after you do, spread the word and then head to our website to let us provide the same level of information all season long.

While I've seen all of you on Twitter, sharing your vacation photos and offseason adventures since the Super Bowl, I've been locked away grinding on this book. But now I've put my pen down. Now it's your turn to read this book and prepare yourself for the season. And guess what? While you're researching with all the shortcuts this research provides you with, I get to turn the tables on you and now you'll have to see me sharing my vacation photos on Twitter. Meanwhile we're busy placing NFL futures bets now. So come join us for what I believe will be a magical 2022 NFL season!

And to thank you, I'm going to do something I've never done before in these pages. I'm going to share a coupon to save \$55 off All-Access, almost double what you spent on this book.

For a limited time only, coupon code **BOOK55** will save you:

- \$55 off All-Access = NFL + NFL Props + Fantasy + CFB (CLICK HERE)
- \$50 off Combo = NFL + CFB (CLICK HERE)
- \$45 off NFL-ONLY = NFL (<u>CLICK HERE</u>)

A quick reminder of last season, my best year ever betting football:

- NFL hit 60% overall across more than 100 recommendations.
- NFL totals were a lifetime-best 82%.
- Props went 133-100 (57%).
- After a year away from College Football, we came back and went **72-51** (59%)
  - o including **15-4 (83%)** on top recommendations.

If you want all NFL (including NFL totals and all NFL props), all CFB and all of our incredible fantasy analysis from Rich Hribar, providing you with the industry's first-to-drop each week detailed game previews, predictions, analysis and recommendations beginning on Tuesdays of every week, then you need to grab the All-Access package.

I hope you enjoy the read & get ahead of the market. And until the season starts, be safe & be sure to share your feedback!

#### The Rise Of The Anti-Aggressive Defense

By Dan Pizzuta

In this book, you're going to read a lot about aggressiveness on offense. Often, that's the best way forward. As spread offenses and superhuman robot quarterbacks like **Patrick Mahomes** and **Justin Herbert** entered the NFL, there was always a question about how defenses would react. The answer, in a way, was to become *less* aggressive.

That shouldn't be read as "conservative" because defenses aren't just sitting back and letting offenses attack, but across the league, there has been a scale-down on aspects we would generally consider aggressive. But these defensive strategies we're now seeing have played into using the offense's aggressiveness against them.

Last year in this foreword, we explored the concept of space and how offenses were getting increasingly better at manipulating it to set up big plays and create yards after the catch. What defenses are doing now is in reaction to that — limiting the space an offense has to work with.

The increase of two-high safety shells was in part to limit the explosive pass plays. (Yes, we're going to oversimplify some concepts here... you've still got over 500 pages in this thing to go.) But "two-high shell" doesn't necessarily mean "two-high coverage" 17 teams used a two-high pre-snap shell on at least 50% of snaps in 2021, per Sports Info Solutions, but zero teams used some version of a two-high coverage on over 50% of pass plays. The highest team was at 45% and 15 teams were over 40%.

Those pre-snap safety alignments are about having the flexibility to show one thing and change the look after the snap. This is also a big reason for the increase in safety value and versatility. Having safeties that can play all over the secondary allows for more deception with these rotations.

As a result of the shifting structures across the league, passing to both the intermediate level of the field (11-19 air yards) and deep (20+) produced the lowest EPA per attempt for offenses since the 2017 season.

To fight against this, offenses have gotten the ball out quicker and shorter passes have increased. The average depth of target has dropped over the past three seasons from 8.18 in 2019 to 7.79 in 2020 to 7.75 in 2021, per TruMedia. The rate of passes thrown at or behind the line of scrimmage has risen each year since at least 2013 and in 2021, 71.4% of passes were thrown within 10 yards of the line of scrimmage.

With so many passes getting thrown to that area, the defensive adjustment has been to flood more defenders into throwing lanes. That has come at the expense of blitzing aggressively.

Last season, defenses blitzed just 25.3% of the time, the lowest rate over a full season since at least 2013, per TruMedia. The biggest jump came on early downs. In 2020, defenses blitzed on 27.1% of first and second down dropbacks. In 2021, that dropped to 23.7%. Big blitzes of six rushers or more dropped from 5.1% to 3.7%.

Part of this comes from top-tier quarterbacks being too good at picking apart the blitz. During the 2021 season, there was essentially a "do not blitz" list that featured Mahomes, Herbert, **Matthew Stafford**, **Joe Burrow**, **Tom Brady**, and **Kyler Murray**. Those quarterbacks also ranked (in order) second, ninth, first, seventh, 15th, and third in EPA per dropback against the blitz. With an extra defender rushing, these quarterbacks were so good at finding the hole left in coverage that defenses mostly cut their losses in trying to manufacture pressure and instead kept more players in coverage.

League-wide, this was a growing strategy. In 2021, defenses rushed four on 69.9% of plays. That would have been a top-10 rate for a singular defense in 2020. 18 teams were above 70% in 2021. Again, this didn't mean defenses were just being passive.

More defenses have used simulated pressures, which shows the threat of a blitz with multiple players around the line of scrimmage only to rush four, but disguising which four players is the point. This can give similar effects to a blitz by manipulating protection rules and potentially creating free rushers, but still getting seven defenders back in coverage. In fact, defenses increased their pressure rate with four-man rushes in 2021 and EPA per dropback against four-man rushes (0.00) was easily the lowest since at least 2013 (0.03 in 2017 was the next-lowest).

Teams like the Bengals took this a step further with Drop-8 coverage, which uses just a three-man rush. Though while Cincinnati got the most publicized use, the rate of the three-man rush has dropped from 7.1% in 2019 to 6.3% in 2020 to 4.6% in 2021. Only three teams rushed three on at least 10% of pass plays: the Patriots (13.1%), Giants (11.3%), and Bengals (10%) after five teams did so in 2020 and three of those did so on at least 15% of pass plays. Bill Belichick has long been the leader in rushing three, but like the four-man rush, it's about disquising which three are coming.

After the success the Bengals had with it in the playoffs and especially against the Chiefs (they upped the rate to 16.1% in the postseason, 39.1% against Kansas City), we could see more teams work in Drop-8 coverages in 2022.

With more bodies back in coverage, the ability to rally to the ball, even when a pass is completed, can limit the effectiveness. Last season, only 53.1% of completed passes picked up a first down or touchdown. That's, again, the lowest rate since at least 2013 and down from 55.7% in 2020. We're seeing more empty plays when the offense still gets the completion but the space is occupied and the defense still wins.

Defenses have started to find their counter and there are replicable ways to go against the offenses that are spreading through the league. Defenses have been more adaptable to new concepts — even Pete Carroll is hiring Vic Fangio disciples to change up his defensive scheme. There are young defensive minds heading up some of these innovations and for the first time in a long time, a youth movement on that side of the ball — DeMeco Ryans in San Francisco, Aaron Glenn and Aubrey Pleasant in Detroit, Mike McDonald in Baltimore, Ejiro Evero in Denver — brings a similar enthusiasm for the future as the coaching prospects do on offense.

We're not at the point where defenses constantly have the upper hand against offenses, but the league might currently be closer than it's been in a while.

## How 2021 Followed Up The Highest Scoring Season In League History by Rich Hribar

Every NFL season is unique.

A year ago in the *Sharp Football 2021 Preview*, I wrote about how the 2020 season was played in the most unique conditions of the modern era. The way the pandemic was handled had a trickle-down impact on what ended up being the highest-scoring season in league history.

Circling back to what we uncovered in that article highlighting significant changes that could directly be traced back to the environments games were being played in, I wanted to compare and contrast last season's output with 2020 and previous seasons to see if there was any correction or continued alteration.

#### League Trends 2016-2021

\*All NFL Drives excluding ones that ended in kneel downs

CATEGORY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Combined Points/Gm	46	49.6	45.6	46.7	43.4	45.6
Offensive TD	1345	1403	1244	1286	1121	1229
Team oTD/Gm	2.47	2.74	2.4	2.53	2.21	2.42
Rush TD	505	532	447	439	380	443
Pass TD	840	871	797	847	741	786
Yards Gained Per TD	138.9	131	143.2	140.2	152.6	146
Scoring Drive %	39.46%	41.71%	37.54%	37.93%	35.16%	37.01%
TD Drive %	23.93%	26.43%	22.79%	23.41%	19.92%	21.95%
Red Zone Drive %	31.93%	32.92%	30.03%	29.37%	26.78%	29.57%
Red Zone TD %	58.45%	62.00%	56.10%	58.82%	52.42%	55.26%

#### **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 62% 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 Bettor & Las Vegas Legend Bill "Krackman" Krackomberger

Warren Sharp of <u>sharpfootballanalysis.com</u> 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: 580-358 (62%)

All Releases: 1486-1077 (58%)

Lifetime NFL Playoffs Record: 153-93 (62%)

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



Join for the 2022 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.

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 

#### **2022 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

Despite the NFL adding a 17th regular season game for everyone this past season, 58 fewer offensive touchdowns were scored last year than in 2020.

Any time we have a record-setting spike in a season as we had across the board in 2020, we almost always expect regression. That happened in 2021 as every primary category here dropped from the previous year.

Even with those dips from 2020, 2021 still showcased how the NFL continues to trend towards increased efficiency and scoring, only falling more in line with previous seasons compared to 2020. Instead of just shrugging things off solely as regression, I did want to circle back on some of the elements from that article that I believe were unique to 2020 and see how things compared.

Now, the 2021 season was still significantly impacted by COVID. I definitely do not want to act like things just completely went back to normal in the league last year. In December alone, there were over 500 positive cases that impacted the close of the season. Of the bottom-11 teams in game absences due to COVID, zero made the postseason. Of the top-11 teams with the fewest absences due to COVID, eight ended up in the playoffs.

While COVID still placed a large fingerprint on the 2021 season, one of the elements that players and coaches brought up regularly as a major difference in 2020 was the reduced attendance and the impact of the lack of crowd participation impacting home-field advantage.

#### Road Team Performance, 2016-2021

CATEGORY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Win %	48.20%	50.00%	48.10%	39.50%	43.40%	41.80%
Points/Gm	22.1	24.8	22.9	22.2	20.5	21.5
Points. Allow./Gm	23.8	24.8	22.7	24.4	23	24.1

Home-field advantage has been something that has been waning across the league for multiple seasons. Road teams were solid again a year ago, looking comparable to the 2019 season from a top-down perspective.

A year after the NFL road team posted their first-ever .500 record and set records in points per game, home teams rebounded to have an edge.

#### Road vs Home Passing Difference, 2016-2021

YEAR	СОМР%	Y/A	TD%	INT%	SACK%	RATE
2021	-0.56%	0.02	-0.37%	-0.24%	-0.22%	-2.7
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

A year after road quarterbacks not only had their best output in league history, but outright out-performed home passers in nearly every category, away quarterbacks reverted below home passers in completion percentage, touchdown rate, interception rate, sack rate, and overall rating a year ago. The only area that held up for away teams was edging out the home team in yards per pass attempt.

After a record-setting 4.8% touchdown rate on the road in 2020, away passers posted a 4.3% rate in 2021, their lowest rate since 2017.

We already know that the majority of the touchdowns scored in the NFL come the closer you get to the end zone and that reduction in touchdown rate can be traced back to the impact of red zone performance coming back down for road teams a year ago.

In 2020, road teams combined to convert 62.0% of their red zone possessions for touchdowns. In 2021, things were still healthy at 56.0%, but pulled back a touch.

Overall, NFL teams were not poor on the road by any means in 2021, but there is still some signal in how their performance was aided by the conditions in 2020.

While the return of home attendance had more of a minor impact, one area in 2020 that completely stood out in research from a year was the reduction of offensive penalties, in particular offensive holding.

#### Primary Offensive Penalties Per Game, 2016-2021

PENALTY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Offensive Holding	2.4	1.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.8
False Start	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2	2	2.3
Total Yards Lost	9083	6870	6976	6844	6304	6698
Yards Lost Per Game	33.4	26.8	37.6	37.5	34.5	37.5

Offensive holding was called just 1.8 times per game in 2020 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. That number was 649 times in 2021 with an extra week's worth of games tacked on.

The good news is that number of calls and the yardage lost per game are still lower than in the five previous seasons.

This one was not a major outlier, but false starts were down to 1.9 times per game in 2020, which was also the fewest in a season in the 2000s. That number climbed back up to 2.1 per game this past season.

Offensive holding and false starts are the two most common penalties in the league. This past year, holding (649 times) and false starts (573) led the way in penalty types enforced. The next closest was defensive pass interference at 301 times, while the next closest offensive penalty was delay of game at 161 times.

While I did not have the capability of filtering per penalty type, I was able to see the impact that having a penalty on offense has on a drive per TruMedia.

#### TD and Punt Rates per Drive With and Without Offensive Penalty

CATEGORY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	TOTAL
% of TD/Drive W/Penalty	19.9%	22.0%	18.9%	20.6%	16.1%	19.4%
Without	24.0%	26.1%	22.7%	23.2%	20.1%	23.2%
% Punt/Drive W/Penalty	40.3%	40.4%	43.8%	44.4%	47.6%	43.4%
Without	33.6%	32.4%	35.5%	36.6%	39.5%	35.5%

Just by having any offensive penalty, the touchdown rate per drive dips 3.8% while the rate of punts climbs 7.9% over the past five years.

Those margins are extremely tighter than the impact of taking a sack has on offensive output, which is an adjacent component of reduced offensive holding penalties.

In 2020, 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. 2021 seen quarterbacks sacked 1,244 times. Even with holding being called more in 2021 than 2020, it is still being called at a lower rate and the total amount of sacks is still well below rates of previous seasons prior to 2020. With sacks rates of 5.98% and 5.69% in the past two years, it is the first time since the 2007-2010 seasons that the league has had sack rates below 6.0% in back-to-back years.

If you do not believe that is important, check this out...

## Offensive Rates per Drive With and Without a Sack Taken data per TruMedia

CATEGORY	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	TOTAL
Pts Per Drive W/Sack	0.99	1.07	0.92	1.02	0.93	0.98
Without	2.29	2.45	2.19	2.23	1.96	2.22
% of Score/Drive W/Sack	21.9%	23.7%	21.8%	23.8%	21.1%	22.4%
Without	41.7%	43.6%	39.3%	39.8%	36.7%	40.2%
% of TD/Drive W/Sack	8.3%	9.2%	6.6%	7.8%	7.2%	7.8%
Without	26.5%	29.0%	25.6%	26.3%	21.8%	25.8%
% Punt/Drive W/Sack	51.5%	50.4%	52.8%	54.6%	54.1%	52.7%
Without	31.5%	30.4%	33.8%	34.5%	38.5%	33.8%

Having a penalty is nowhere in the same realm of detriment as to taking a sack. With just taking a top-down look on if you a take a sack on a possession no matter the location or down, the scoring rate per drive drops a staggering 17.8%.

Just 7.8% of all drives with a sack over the past five seasons have resulted in a touchdown compared to a 25.8% on drives without a sack. We are looking at 28,796 drives in this sample. That is a massive difference in having three times as much likelihood to score a touchdown on a drive with a sack as to taking one.

Teams that take a sack have 52.7% of those possessions end in a punt compared to just 33.8% without. If you are looking for the number one indicator of the outcome of a possession, sack prevention is a skeleton key.

The reduction in sacks taken and sack rate these past two seasons has been a boon to scoring. We have no idea how static the recent leniency will remain, but the reduction of offensive holding penalties plays a role in that drop.

Wrapping this up, there is absolutely more descriptive data here than anything. We can see throughout that the NFL is in a good place in remaining a high-scoring league while 2020 also significantly stands out as the peak output we have ever seen. I believe that output was aided by a perfect cocktail of the pandemic's attendance reduction and altering how holding was called paired with how good teams are offensively now.

Given the current conditions of our country, we also should anticipate COVID to impact missed time and the movement of NFL games at a far lower rate than it did in the 2020 and 2021 seasons. That alone may have an impact that could be positive or furthering regression from the 2020 spike season due to optimal lineups being fielded more regularly. The wild card here is if the league's reduction of offensive penalties remains lax, which directly impacts the viability of protecting the quarterback and the rate of scoring drives across the league.

# Stable Quarterback Metrics (2021) EPA/att & Rank

Quarterback	Team	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
Aaron Rodgers	Packers	0.39 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.20 (#4)	0.19 (#1)	0.21 (#1)	0.35 (#1)
Dak Prescott	Cowboys	0.26 (#9)	0.14 (#3)	0.16 (#2)	0.17 (#5)	0.15 (#2)	0.18 (#3)	0.20 (#11)
Patrick Mahomes	Chiefs	0.27 (#6)	0.15 (#2)	0.16 (#3)	0.08 (#17)	0.09 (#6)	0.20 (#2)	0.27 (#4)
Joe Burrow	Bengals	0.37 (#2)	0.08 (#7)	0.11 (#7)	0.22 (#3)	0.13 (#4)	-0.03 (#29)	0.32 (#2)
Matthew Stafford	Rams	0.27 (#7)	0.14 (#4)	0.15 (#4)	0.08 (#16)	0.08 (#7)	0.02 (#21)	0.31 (#3)
Kyler Murray	Cardinals	0.29 (#5)	0.08 (#6)	0.13 (#5)	0.09 (#15)	-0.02 (#19)	0.16 (#5)	0.24 (#6)
Teddy Bridgewater	Broncos	0.24 (#11)	0.05 (#11)	0.09 (#8)	0.11 (#8)	0.15 (#3)	0.06 (#15)	0.25 (#5)
Tom Brady	Buccaneers	0.22 (#12)	0.13 (#5)	0.12 (#6)	0.10 (#11)	0.09 (#5)	0.01 (#22)	0.20 (#10)
Kirk Cousins	Vikings	0.30 (#4)	0.07 (#8)	0.08 (#10)	0.07 (#20)	0.04 (#8)	-0.01 (#24)	0.23 (#7)
Jimmy Garoppolo	49ers	0.25 (#10)	0.07 (#9)	0.09 (#9)	0.09 (#13)	0.00 (#13)	0.06 (#16)	0.20 (#12)
Justin Herbert	Chargers	0.26 (#8)	0.06 (#10)	0.07 (#12)	0.04 (#27)	-0.05 (#20)	0.09 (#12)	0.18 (#14)
Josh Allen	Bills	0.20 (#16)	-0.01 (#15)	0.07 (#11)	0.09 (#12)	-0.01 (#17)	0.09 (#13)	0.15 (#16)
Derek Carr	Raiders	0.21 (#15)	0.03 (#12)	0.06 (#13)	0.05 (#24)	-0.01 (#16)	0.05 (#19)	0.19 (#13)
Russell Wilson	Seahawks	0.19 (#17)	-0.03 (#16)	-0.01 (#19)	0.31 (#1)	-0.01 (#14)	-0.11 (#35)	0.21 (#9)
Jameis Winston	Saints	0.31 (#3)	-0.04 (#17)	0.01 (#14)	0.09 (#14)	-0.26 (#39)	0.11 (#8)	0.18 (#15)
Carson Wentz	Colts	0.19 (#18)	0.00 (#13)	0.00 (#17)	0.08 (#19)	-0.12 (#27)	0.05 (#17)	0.21 (#8)
Jared Goff	Lions	0.21 (#14)	-0.12 (#28)	-0.01 (#20)	0.07 (#22)	0.03 (#10)	0.14 (#6)	0.07 (#27)
Jalen Hurts	Eagles	0.17 (#21)	-0.07 (#20)	0.01 (#15)	0.08 (#18)	0.00 (#12)	0.10 (#10)	0.08 (#25)
Mac Jones	Patriots	0.14 (#23)	-0.01 (#14)	0.00 (#16)	0.15 (#6)	0.02 (#11)	-0.02 (#27)	0.09 (#23)
Ryan Tannehill	Titans	0.17 (#20)	-0.08 (#23)	-0.07 (#25)	0.10 (#9)	-0.01 (#15)	0.10 (#9)	0.13 (#18)
Tua Tagovailoa	Dolphins	0.21 (#13)	-0.08 (#24)	-0.03 (#21)	0.07 (#21)	-0.10 (#26)	0.10 (#11)	0.12 (#19)
Baker Mayfield	Browns	0.10 (#26)	-0.13 (#29)	-0.10 (#27)	0.06 (#23)	-0.06 (#21)	0.18 (#4)	0.08 (#24)
Lamar Jackson	Ravens	0.12 (#25)	-0.06 (#18)	0.00 (#18)	0.03 (#28)	-0.07 (#23)	0.04 (#20)	0.06 (#28)
Matt Ryan	Falcons	0.18 (#19)	-0.07 (#22)	-0.07 (#23)	0.03 (#29)	-0.10 (#25)	-0.01 (#23)	0.09 (#22)
Andy Dalton	Bears	0.07 (#28)	-0.19 (#32)	-0.14 (#32)	0.14 (#7)	-0.08 (#24)	0.05 (#18)	0.02 (#33)
Daniel Jones	Giants	0.16 (#22)	-0.10 (#26)	-0.07 (#24)	-0.02 (#31)	-0.20 (#35)	-0.02 (#28)	0.11 (#20)
Ben Roethlisberger	Steelers	0.07 (#27)	-0.07 (#21)	-0.09 (#26)	-0.14 (#38)	-0.07 (#22)	-0.03 (#30)	0.04 (#29)
Taylor Heinicke	Commanders	0.05 (#30)	-0.17 (#31)	-0.14 (#31)	0.22 (#2)	-0.22 (#37)	-0.03 (#31)	-0.02 (#37)
Trevor Siemian	Saints	-0.01 (#37)	-0.06 (#19)	-0.04 (#22)	-0.09 (#34)	-0.16 (#30)	-0.06 (#32)	0.09 (#21)
Justin Fields	Bears	0.12 (#24)	-0.32 (#38)	-0.23 (#38)	0.10 (#10)	-0.12 (#28)	0.08 (#14)	0.00 (#35)
Mike White	Jets	-0.07 (#38)	-0.10 (#27)	-0.13 (#30)	-0.12 (#36)	0.03 (#9)	0.12 (#7)	-0.11 (#38)
Davis Mills	Texans	0.05 (#32)	-0.15 (#30)	-0.16 (#34)	-0.06 (#33)	-0.02 (#18)	-0.16 (#37)	0.01 (#34)
Trevor Lawrence	Jaguars	0.05 (#29)	-0.19 (#34)	-0.13 (#29)	0.05 (#26)	-0.18 (#32)	-0.16 (#38)	0.03 (#32)
Tyler Huntley	Ravens	0.05 (#31)	-0.23 (#35)	-0.15 (#33)	-0.14 (#37)	-0.15 (#29)	-0.01 (#25)	0.07 (#26)
Zach Wilson	Jets	0.04 (#34)	-0.27 (#37)	-0.19 (#37)	0.05 (#25)	-0.19 (#34)	-0.07 (#34)	0.03 (#30)
Sam Darnold	Panthers	0.03 (#36)	-0.25 (#36)	-0.17 (#35)	-0.04 (#32)	-0.17 (#31)	-0.02 (#26)	-0.01 (#36)
Tyrod Taylor	Texans	0.05 (#33)	-0.10 (#25)	-0.12 (#28)	-0.33 (#39)	-0.25 (#38)	-0.07 (#33)	0.13 (#17)
Jacoby Brissett	Dolphins	0.03 (#35)	-0.19 (#33)	-0.18 (#36)	-0.10 (#35)	-0.18 (#33)	-0.14 (#36)	0.03 (#31)
Cam Newton	Panthers	-0.10 (#39)	-0.54 (#40)	-0.42 (#39)	-0.02 (#30)	-0.22 (#36)	-0.39 (#40)	-0.21 (#39)
Mike Glennon	Giants	-0.32 (#40)	-0.51 (#39)	-0.44 (#40)	-0.52 (#40)	-0.41 (#40)	-0.27 (#39)	-0.28 (#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 (2021) EPA/att & Rank

Quarterback	Team	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
Matthew Stafford	Rams	-0.28 (#3)	0.09 (#4)	0.29 (#2)	0.51 (#1)	0.19 (#3)	0.32 (#1)	-0.02 (#14)
Patrick Mahomes	Chiefs	-0.25 (#2)	0.01 (#7)	0.21 (#7)	0.38 (#2)	0.18 (#4)	0.30 (#2)	0.07 (#6)
Jimmy Garoppolo	49ers	-0.41 (#12)	0.27 (#2)	0.19 (#11)	0.27 (#6)	0.14 (#6)	0.01 (#18)	0.25 (#2)
Justin Herbert	Chargers	-0.40 (#11)	0.17 (#3)	0.20 (#8)	0.10 (#11)	0.23 (#2)	0.17 (#5)	0.06 (#7)
Dak Prescott	Cowboys	-0.19 (#1)	-0.05 (#10)	0.17 (#16)	0.14 (#10)	0.11 (#8)	0.03 (#15)	0.27 (#1)
Kirk Cousins	Vikings	-0.38 (#9)	0.00 (#9)	0.22 (#4)	0.28 (#5)	0.06 (#10)	0.15 (#7)	-0.02 (#15)
Kyler Murray	Cardinals	-0.51 (#18)	-0.15 (#18)	0.08 (#20)	0.28 (#4)	0.29 (#1)	0.09 (#12)	0.09 (#4)
Teddy Bridgewater	Broncos	-0.33 (#7)	-0.10 (#14)	-0.02 (#26)	0.22 (#7)	0.06 (#12)	0.19 (#4)	-0.10 (#26)
Mac Jones	Patriots	-0.43 (#13)	0.00 (#8)	0.07 (#21)	-0.13 (#23)	-0.07 (#18)	0.13 (#9)	0.20 (#3)
Tom Brady	Buccaneers	-0.39 (#10)	-0.15 (#17)	0.21 (#6)	0.07 (#13)	0.06 (#11)	0.01 (#17)	-0.07 (#23)
Josh Allen	Bills	-0.33 (#6)	-0.16 (#21)	0.17 (#14)	-0.16 (#26)	-0.06 (#16)	0.25 (#3)	-0.05 (#19)
Aaron Rodgers	Packers	-0.68 (#29)	-0.36 (#29)	0.19 (#10)	0.18 (#8)	0.02 (#13)	0.15 (#6)	0.00 (#13)
Derek Carr	Raiders	-0.45 (#15)	-0.38 (#31)	0.22 (#3)	0.17 (#9)	-0.06 (#17)	0.02 (#16)	-0.03 (#16)
Jalen Hurts	Eagles	-0.37 (#8)	-0.13 (#15)	0.20 (#9)	-0.04 (#18)	-0.32 (#29)	0.09 (#13)	0.05 (#8)
Joe Burrow	Bengals	-0.77 (#31)	-0.21 (#22)	-0.15 (#31)	0.38 (#3)	0.11 (#7)	0.09 (#10)	-0.05 (#20)
Jameis Winston	Saints	-0.65 (#25)	-0.26 (#24)	0.41 (#1)	-0.06 (#19)	0.08 (#9)	-0.10 (#22)	-0.10 (#25)
Carson Wentz	Colts	-0.52 (#19)	-0.15 (#19)	0.12 (#18)	-0.08 (#21)	-0.04 (#15)	0.09 (#11)	-0.10 (#27)
Tua Tagovailoa	Dolphins	-0.66 (#27)	0.01 (#6)	0.18 (#13)	0.02 (#16)	-0.16 (#22)	-0.04 (#19)	-0.06 (#21)
Ryan Tannehill	Titans	-0.62 (#23)	0.06 (#5)	0.06 (#22)	-0.01 (#17)	-0.23 (#26)	-0.17 (#27)	0.02 (#9)
Matt Ryan	Falcons	-0.48 (#16)	-0.05 (#11)	0.10 (#19)	-0.15 (#24)	-0.12 (#20)	-0.21 (#28)	-0.04 (#18)
Russell Wilson	Seahawks	-0.53 (#21)	-0.14 (#16)	0.22 (#5)	-0.13 (#22)	-0.31 (#28)	-0.21 (#29)	-0.16 (#30)
Lamar Jackson	Ravens	-0.43 (#14)	-0.38 (#30)	0.17 (#15)	-0.29 (#33)	-0.36 (#31)	-0.05 (#20)	0.07 (#5)
Jacoby Brissett	Dolphins	-0.50 (#17)	-0.08 (#13)	-0.06 (#27)	-0.37 (#35)	-0.18 (#24)	-0.23 (#30)	0.01 (#12)
Taylor Heinicke	Commanders	-0.66 (#26)	-0.16 (#20)	0.19 (#12)	-0.23 (#32)	-0.47 (#36)	-0.15 (#24)	0.01 (#10)
Trevor Siemian	Saints	-0.30 (#5)	-0.69 (#39)	-0.09 (#28)	-0.16 (#25)	-0.01 (#14)	0.14 (#8)	-0.39 (#37)
Daniel Jones	Giants	-0.63 (#24)	-0.28 (#25)	-0.01 (#25)	-0.17 (#28)	-0.10 (#19)	-0.25 (#32)	-0.22 (#32)
Davis Mills	Texans	-0.68 (#28)	-0.06 (#12)	-0.15 (#32)	-0.19 (#29)	-0.36 (#32)	-0.24 (#31)	-0.04 (#17)
Ben Roethlisberger	Steelers	-0.86 (#34)	-0.51 (#33)	-0.13 (#30)	-0.08 (#20)	-0.16 (#23)	0.04 (#14)	-0.18 (#31)
Tyrod Taylor	Texans	-0.52 (#20)	-0.35 (#27)	-0.47 (#38)	0.09 (#12)	0.16 (#5)	-0.34 (#36)	-0.45 (#39)
Jared Goff	Lions	-0.86 (#32)	-0.63 (#36)	0.02 (#23)	0.04 (#14)	-0.42 (#35)	-0.08 (#21)	0.01 (#11)
Trevor Lawrence	Jaguars	-0.61 (#22)	-0.30 (#26)	-0.10 (#29)	-0.50 (#39)	-0.15 (#21)	-0.13 (#23)	-0.24 (#33)
Mike White	Jets	-0.30 (#4)	-0.25 (#23)	-0.72 (#40)	-0.32 (#34)	-0.26 (#27)	-0.15 (#25)	-0.08 (#24)
Baker Mayfield	Browns	-0.93 (#37)	-0.36 (#28)	0.13 (#17)	-0.20 (#31)	-0.55 (#37)	-0.36 (#37)	-0.07 (#22)
Sam Darnold	Panthers	-0.73 (#30)	-0.58 (#35)	-0.20 (#34)	-0.20 (#30)	-0.37 (#34)	-0.25 (#33)	-0.26 (#34)
Cam Newton	Panthers	-0.90 (#35)	0.53 (#1)	0.01 (#24)	-0.43 (#36)	-1.01 (#40)	-0.46 (#40)	-0.37 (#36)
Andy Dalton	Bears	-0.95 (#38)	-0.41 (#32)	-0.28 (#36)	-0.47 (#38)	-0.37 (#33)	-0.39 (#38)	-0.13 (#28)
Tyler Huntley	Ravens	-1.11 (#39)	-0.68 (#38)	-0.59 (#39)	0.04 (#15)	-0.21 (#25)	-0.17 (#26)	-0.43 (#38)
Zach Wilson	Jets	-0.92 (#36)	-0.57 (#34)	-0.26 (#35)	-0.46 (#37)	-0.35 (#30)	-0.32 (#35)	-0.35 (#35)
Justin Fields	Bears	-1.12 (#40)	-0.66 (#37)	-0.16 (#33)	-0.16 (#27)	-0.74 (#39)	-0.29 (#34)	-0.14 (#29)
Mike Glennon	Giants	-0.86 (#33)	-0.81 (#40)	-0.42 (#37)	-0.60 (#40)	-0.65 (#38)	-0.46 (#39)	-0.58 (#40)

Passing when Moving = quarterback was not planted

Rank of EPA/att

1 40

### 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

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 



#### **2022 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!

#### Quarterback Accuracy (2021)

#### On-Target Percentage & Rank

Quarterback	Team	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
Joe Burrow	Bengals	83% (#1)	85% (#4)	79% (#3)	66% (#2)	79% (#5)	84% (#1)	82% (#2)	79% (#1)	84% (#1)
Kyler Murray	Cardinals	82% (#2)	81% (#12)	77% (#4)	67% (#1)	85% (#1)	81% (#3)	77% (#6)	76% (#4)	81% (#7)
Derek Carr	Raiders	80% (#3)	84% (#6)	73% (#6)	50% (#18)	79% (#6)	80% (#7)	72% (#22)	72% (#10)	83% (#2)
Kirk Cousins	Vikings	79% (#4)	80% (#19)	81% (#2)	57% (#10)	76% (#13)	80% (#5)	73% (#18)	78% (#2)	78% (#10)
Justin Herbert	Chargers	79% (#5)	83% (#8)	69% (#10)	56% (#11)	74% (#18)	81% (#4)	80% (#4)	78% (#2)	78% (#12)
Ryan Tannehill	Titans	79% (#6)	86% (#2)	65% (#16)	47% (#27)	76% (#14)	80% (#9)	77% (#9)	71% (#15)	81% (#4)
Matt Ryan	Falcons	79% (#7)	79% (#21)	75% (#5)	64% (#4)	77% (#10)	79% (#10)	66% (#31)	73% (#7)	81% (#4)
Tua Tagovailoa	Dolphins	79% (#8)	86% (#1)	55% (#35)	65% (#3)	68% (#33)	82% (#2)	80% (#3)	70% (#18)	82% (#3)
Jared Goff	Lions	78% (#9)	83% (#8)	64% (#18)	39% (#34)	82% (#3)	77% (#18)	67% (#28)	70% (#16)	78% (#12)
Dak Prescott	Cowboys	78% (#10)	82% (#11)	63% (#21)	63% (#5)	75% (#17)	79% (#11)	75% (#11)	66% (#27)	81% (#4)
Trevor Siemian	Saints	78% (#11)	78% (#25)	84% (#1)	61% (#6)	78% (#9)	78% (#14)	77% (#10)	73% (#9)	79% (#9)
Aaron Rodgers	Packers	78% (#12)	80% (#18)	64% (#19)	59% (#8)	71% (#26)	80% (#6)	70% (#24)	71% (#14)	81% (#8)
Jimmy Garoppolo	49ers	77% (#13)	80% (#16)	71% (#8)	41% (#33)	82% (#4)	77% (#20)	72% (#20)	72% (#11)	76% (#22)
Sam Darnold	Panthers	77% (#13)	86% (#3)	59% (#28)	50% (#18)	77% (#11)	78% (#15)	74% (#13)	71% (#13)	78% (#14)
Davis Mills	Texans	77% (#15)	83% (#7)	57% (#32)	55% (#12)	74% (#21)	79% (#11)	77% (#6)	72% (#12)	74% (#28)
Teddy Bridgewater	Broncos	77% (#16)	82% (#10)	62% (#22)	54% (#14)	82% (#2)	76% (#23)	72% (#21)	75% (#6)	76% (#19)
Tyler Huntley	Ravens	77% (#17)	85% (#5)	56% (#33)	38% (#35)	65% (#36)	80% (#8)	85% (#1)	76% (#5)	76% (#19)
Patrick Mahomes	Chiefs	77% (#18)	80% (#19)	61% (#24)	52% (#16)	75% (#15)	77% (#16)	73% (#14)	64% (#33)	78% (#15)
Jalen Hurts	Eagles	76% (#19)	81% (#12)	67% (#13)	49% (#24)	75% (#16)	76% (#22)	75% (#12)	65% (#31)	77% (#17)
Mac Jones	Patriots	76% (#19)	79% (#23)	60% (#26)	50% (#18)	79% (#6)	75% (#25)	73% (#16)	67% (#22)	77% (#18)
Josh Allen	Bills	76% (#21)	76% (#30)	68% (#11)	55% (#13)	71% (#28)	77% (#16)	69% (#25)	69% (#19)	75% (#25)
Mike White	Jets	75% (#22)	78% (#26)	62% (#23)	44% (#29)	68% (#35)	78% (#13)	67% (#29)	58% (#37)	78% (#15)
Andy Dalton	Bears	75% (#23)	81% (#14)	67% (#12)	27% (#40)	73% (#23)	76% (#23)	77% (#6)	67% (#23)	74% (#26)
Tom Brady	Buccaneers	75% (#24)	81% (#15)	56% (#34)	49% (#23)	72% (#24)	75% (#27)	73% (#15)	67% (#26)	76% (#23)
Matthew Stafford	Rams	74% (#25)	80% (#17)	66% (#14)	50% (#18)	72% (#25)	75% (#25)	68% (#27)	73% (#8)	74% (#29)
Russell Wilson	Seahawks	74% (#25)	77% (#29)	65% (#17)	59% (#7)	79% (#6)	73% (#32)	67% (#29)	69% (#20)	74% (#26)
Trevor Lawrence	Jaguars	74% (#25)	79% (#22)	55% (#39)	52% (#15)	69% (#31)	76% (#21)	64% (#36)	65% (#32)	75% (#24)
Ben Roethlisberger	Steelers	74% (#28)	76% (#30)	64% (#20)	43% (#30)	73% (#22)	75% (#28)	60% (#37)	65% (#30)	76% (#21)
Daniel Jones	Giants	73% (#29)	71% (#39)	71% (#7)	35% (#37)	74% (#18)	73% (#31)	65% (#33)	66% (#27)	72% (#33)
Jacoby Brissett	Dolphins	73% (#30)	77% (#27)	59% (#30)	50% (#18)	71% (#26)	73% (#30)	73% (#17)	56% (#40)	78% (#10)
Carson Wentz	Colts	72% (#31)	74% (#33)	59% (#29)	59% (#9)	69% (#30)	74% (#29)	72% (#19)	66% (#29)	72% (#34)
Lamar Jackson	Ravens	72% (#32)	76% (#32)	66% (#15)	49% (#25)	68% (#32)	73% (#33)	68% (#26)	70% (#17)	71% (#35)
Tyrod Taylor	Texans	72% (#32)	73% (#34)	55% (#36)	42% (#31)	61% (#38)	77% (#19)	45% (#39)	67% (#21)	73% (#30)
Taylor Heinicke	Commanders	72% (#34)	78% (#24)	60% (#26)	41% (#32)	77% (#12)	70% (#37)	65% (#33)	67% (#23)	73% (#32)
Mike Glennon	Giants	71% (#35)	71% (#38)	58% (#31)	30% (#39)	68% (#34)	71% (#34)	43% (#40)	56% (#39)	73% (#30)
Jameis Winston	Saints	70% (#36)	77% (#28)	70% (#9)	32% (#38)	70% (#29)	70% (#36)	78% (#5)	67% (#23)	69% (#37)
Baker Mayfield	Browns	69% (#37)	72% (#35)	55% (#37)	46% (#28)	74% (#20)	68% (#39)	71% (#23)	62% (#34)	69% (#37)
Justin Fields	Bears	67% (#38)	71% (#36)	61% (#25)	51% (#17)	60% (#39)	70% (#38)	65% (#35)	56% (#38)	70% (#36)
Zach Wilson	Jets	67% (#39)	70% (#40)	55% (#37)	48% (#26)	55% (#40)	71% (#35)	65% (#32)	62% (#35)	64% (#40)
Taysom Hill	Saints	66% (#40)	71% (#37)	47% (#40)	36% (#36)	61% (#37)	67% (#40)	53% (#38)	61% (#36)	65% (#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 (2021) 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
Eagles	0.06 (#1)	0.01 (#5)	0.21 (#7)	0.00 (#9)	-0.01 (#11)	0.03 (#7)	0.00 (#9)	0.02 (#5)	0.18 (#11)	0.26 (#10)
Colts	0.05 (#2)	0.07 (#1)	0.12 (#11)	-0.01 (#13)	0.03 (#3)	0.12 (#2)	0.00 (#9)	0.08 (#1)	0.65 (#2)	0.11 (#22)
Bills	0.04 (#3)	-0.03 (#15)	-0.21 (#24)	-0.01 (#13)	-0.13 (#21)	-0.03 (#19)	-0.03 (#12)	-0.05 (#16)	0.18 (#11)	0.54 (#3)
Chiefs	0.03 (#4)	0.00 (#9)	0.15 (#9)	-0.09 (#24)	0.15 (#2)	0.02 (#9)	0.07 (#3)	-0.05 (#16)	-1.30 (#31)	0.25 (#11)
Browns	0.02 (#5)	0.05 (#3)	0.08 (#13)	0.02 (#3)	0.00 (#9)	0.17 (#1)	-0.04 (#13)	0.07 (#2)	0.58 (#4)	0.37 (#7)
Ravens	0.01 (#6)	-0.03 (#15)	-0.26 (#26)	0.00 (#9)	-0.09 (#17)	0.02 (#9)	-0.04 (#13)	-0.02 (#11)	0.08 (#13)	0.22 (#14)
Packers	-0.01 (#7)	0.01 (#5)	0.33 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	-0.08 (#25)	0.04 (#4)	0.01 (#6)	-0.12 (#18)	0.23 (#13)
Patriots	-0.02 (#8)	0.01 (#5)	0.08 (#13)	-0.03 (#16)	0.03 (#3)	0.09 (#4)	-0.05 (#15)	0.05 (#3)	0.00 (#15)	-0.16 (#27)
Chargers	-0.02 (#9)	0.01 (#5)	-0.72 (#32)	-0.03 (#16)	-0.14 (#22)	-0.01 (#15)	-0.13 (#26)	-0.02 (#11)	0.72 (#1)	0.54 (#3)
Buccaneers	-0.03 (#10)	0.03 (#4)	0.41 (#1)	0.02 (#3)	0.00 (#9)	0.10 (#3)	0.04 (#4)	0.04 (#4)	0.35 (#5)	0.29 (#8)
Titans	-0.03 (#11)	-0.10 (#27)	0.30 (#3)	0.01 (#6)	-0.12 (#19)	-0.05 (#22)	-0.05 (#15)	-0.05 (#16)	0.27 (#9)	0.42 (#6)
Seahawks	-0.03 (#12)	0.00 (#9)	-0.14 (#20)	0.00 (#9)	-0.02 (#12)	0.03 (#7)	0.08 (#2)	-0.03 (#13)	0.02 (#14)	0.20 (#15)
Cardinals	-0.04 (#13)	-0.01 (#12)	0.20 (#8)	0.01 (#6)	-0.04 (#14)	0.04 (#5)	0.03 (#6)	0.01 (#6)	-0.12 (#18)	-0.06 (#25)
Jets	-0.06 (#14)	-0.07 (#21)	0.27 (#4)	-0.02 (#15)	-0.08 (#16)	-0.03 (#19)	-0.02 (#11)	-0.05 (#16)	-0.21 (#21)	0.46 (#5)
49ers	-0.07 (#15)	0.06 (#2)	-0.42 (#29)	-0.03 (#16)	0.02 (#6)	-0.07 (#23)	-0.10 (#21)	0.00 (#9)	-0.11 (#17)	-0.33 (#30)
Bears	-0.07 (#16)	-0.04 (#18)	-0.19 (#22)	0.00 (#9)	-0.16 (#25)	-0.04 (#21)	0.02 (#7)	-0.08 (#24)	-0.54 (#26)	0.24 (#12)
Commanders	-0.08 (#17)	-0.07 (#21)	0.12 (#11)	-0.04 (#19)	-0.03 (#13)	-0.01 (#15)	-0.11 (#23)	0.01 (#6)	-0.33 (#24)	0.18 (#19)
Cowboys	-0.08 (#18)	0.00 (#9)	0.26 (#5)	0.01 (#6)	0.02 (#6)	0.04 (#5)	0.14 (#1)	-0.03 (#13)	-0.98 (#30)	-0.19 (#29)
Steelers	-0.08 (#19)	-0.07 (#21)	-0.08 (#17)	-0.10 (#25)	0.03 (#3)	-0.08 (#25)	0.02 (#7)	-0.13 (#29)	-0.60 (#27)	0.67 (#1)
Rams	-0.08 (#20)	-0.02 (#13)	-0.52 (#31)	0.03 (#1)	-0.15 (#23)	-0.11 (#29)	-0.05 (#15)	-0.07 (#22)	0.27 (#9)	0.20 (#15)
Panthers	-0.09 (#21)	-0.09 (#26)	-0.10 (#18)	-0.08 (#23)	0.01 (#8)	-0.12 (#30)	-0.05 (#15)	-0.07 (#22)	-0.22 (#22)	-0.16 (#27)
Bengals	-0.09 (#22)	-0.03 (#15)	-0.48 (#30)	-0.04 (#19)	-0.23 (#31)	0.00 (#13)	-0.12 (#24)	-0.06 (#20)	-0.24 (#23)	0.28 (#9)
Broncos	-0.10 (#23)	-0.02 (#13)	0.26 (#5)	0.02 (#3)	-0.23 (#31)	-0.01 (#15)	-0.17 (#28)	-0.04 (#15)	0.29 (#6)	0.18 (#19)
Saints	-0.12 (#24)	-0.10 (#27)	-0.03 (#16)	-0.18 (#30)	-0.11 (#18)	0.00 (#13)	-0.17 (#28)	-0.08 (#24)	0.64 (#3)	0.60 (#2)
Jaguars	-0.12 (#25)	-0.08 (#25)	-0.23 (#25)	-0.13 (#28)	-0.22 (#30)	-0.07 (#23)	-0.22 (#31)	-0.01 (#10)	-0.03 (#16)	0.08 (#23)
Lions	-0.12 (#26)	-0.12 (#29)	0.08 (#13)	-0.05 (#21)	-0.16 (#25)	0.02 (#9)	-0.06 (#19)	-0.06 (#20)	-2.56 (#32)	-0.50 (#32)
Vikings	-0.13 (#27)	-0.05 (#19)	-0.30 (#27)	-0.07 (#22)	-0.04 (#14)	-0.18 (#31)	-0.10 (#21)	-0.09 (#27)	0.28 (#7)	0.20 (#15)
Raiders	-0.14 (#28)	-0.07 (#21)	-0.34 (#28)	-0.19 (#31)	-0.20 (#29)	0.02 (#9)	-0.22 (#31)	-0.08 (#24)	0.28 (#7)	0.20 (#15)
Giants	-0.14 (#29)	-0.19 (#31)	0.14 (#10)	-0.11 (#26)	-0.19 (#28)	-0.10 (#28)	-0.08 (#20)	-0.16 (#31)	-0.14 (#20)	0.02 (#24)
Dolphins	-0.18 (#30)	-0.12 (#29)	-0.20 (#23)	-0.16 (#29)	-0.15 (#23)	-0.08 (#25)	-0.12 (#24)	-0.13 (#29)	-0.96 (#29)	-0.15 (#26)
Texans	-0.20 (#31)	-0.20 (#32)	-0.13 (#19)	-0.20 (#32)	-0.12 (#19)	-0.20 (#32)	-0.17 (#28)	-0.18 (#32)	-0.47 (#25)	0.14 (#21)
Falcons	-0.21 (#32)	-0.06 (#20)	-0.17 (#21)	-0.11 (#26)	-0.18 (#27)	-0.02 (#18)	-0.16 (#27)	-0.09 (#27)	-0.64 (#28)	-0.35 (#31)

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

## First Drive of Game (2021)

#### Per-Drive Rank

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

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 (2021)

#### Per-Drive Rank

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

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

Team Efficiency Ranks (2021)										
Team	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass %	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG Range	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
Packers	1	10	1	9	18	12	9	12	18	27
Chiefs	2	1	6	6	17	8	6	27	27	23
Buccaneers	3	2	4	8	6	19	5	9	5	7
49ers	4	24	8	5	4	5	3	3	6	2
Rams	5	6	7	16	5	29	14	11	17	1
Cowboys	6	13	3	13	3	28	4	7	4	18
Chargers	7	9	11	4	9	16	19	22	10	28
Browns	8	12	9	2	19	15	28	13	2	20
Bills	9	3	17	11	10	6	2	2	1	15
Colts	10	23	24	1	23	11	10	14	22	4
Seahawks	11	19	2	7	16	3	32	21	30	6
Ravens	12	5	25	10	13	1	22	26	25	11
Bengals	13	8	5	15	24	13	27	16	7	24
Vikings	14	20	12	23	2	30	25	30	8	25
Patriots	15	22	14	14	7	10	17	10	9	9
Eagles	16	21	22	3	20	4	16	19	26	10
Cardinals	17	11	18	21	25	9	11	18	21	8
Broncos	18	26	21	12	8	32	7	4	16	16
Raiders	19	7	15	24	26	14	29	6	24	14
Bears	20	32	20	17	31	24	31	15	14	17
Commanders	21	16	13	18	27	22	13	17	19	13
Jets	22	17	30	19	15	23	21	29	29	26
Lions	23	29	29	30	11	31	18	32	32	32
Saints	24	27	26	28	1	17	1	1	12	3
Titans	25	31	10	27	21	2	24	20	11	12
Falcons	26	15	19	26	14	25	23	28	23	22
Panthers	27	28	27	25	30	21	30	5	13	5
Dolphins	28	4	23	29	12	20	15	8	3	19
Steelers	29	18	31	20	22	7	8	23	15	31
Jaguars	30	14	32	22	28	27	20	24	28	29
Giants	31	25	16	31	32	18	12	25	20	30
Texans	32	30	28	32	29	26	26	31	31	21

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

Rank

32

Strategic Coaching Markers (2021)													
Team	4D Tendency	ED 1H Pass %	ED 1H Pass EPA Edge	1st Drive EPA/play	Down	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
Colts	1	23	10	11	4	20	9	12	12	1	15	5	7
Packers	2	10	4	12	16	10	27	24	21	8	2	2	4
Ravens	3	5	26	27	24	11	5	16	31	19	6	14	13
Cardinals	4	11	14	18	28	13	28	28	7	7	7	7	17
Chiefs	5	1	19	1	9	8	6	20	28	5	10	8	5
Browns	6	12	13	3	18	4	7	14	25	12	19	16	13
Chargers	7	9	5	8	8	14	11	23	32	11	8	23	17
Bears	8	32	17	21	19	24	23	6	4	22	12	26	26
Commanders	9	16	32	24	6	27	3	31	1	27	23	20	15
Jets	10	17	23	16	13	25	2	25	9	31	18	22	22
Lions	11	29	8	20	27	23	21	1	29	29	28	26	31
Bills	12	3	2	2	17	22	22	30	17	2	4	1	1
Cowboys	13	13	12	15	5	17	17	13	27	9	21	10	10
Eagles	14	21	31	9	10	1	32	15	2	26	20	4	6
Titans	15	31	7	32	2	28	16	3	13	4	13	20	17
Falcons	16	15	3	23	12	12	12	18	30	16	22	23	22
Bengals	17	8	15	30	31	18	26	4	24	14	1	2	2
Raiders	18	7	11	13	21	29	31	29	15	23	17	5	3
Jaguars	19	14	27	26	14	21	18	17	23	30	32	30	31
Panthers	20	28	20	14	15	15	13	22	8	24	26	32	30
49ers	21	24	21	19	25	2	1	8	19	18	3	9	12
Broncos	22	26	30	28	22	19	25	19	5	15	9	16	11
Texans	23	30	1	17	32	31	30	2	10	25	29	30	29
Patriots	24	22	28	10	11	6	8	5	18	6	31	12	8
Rams	25	6	25	6	7	9	29	11	16	10	5	12	25
Vikings	26	20	16	7	29	5	10	21	11	13	16	14	27
Giants	27	25	29	25	23	16	24	7	22	32	24	28	22
Saints	28	27	24	31	30	26	19	10	14	21	27	25	16
Dolphins	29	4	6	5	3	30	20	27	20	20	14	16	8
Steelers	30	18	18	22	26	32	14	26	3	28	30	28	27
Buccaneers	31	2	9	4	1	7	4	32	26	3	11	11	17
Seahawks	31	19	22	29	20	3	15	9	6	17	25	19	17

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 (1 = least); 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



2022 Positional Unit Rankings									
Team	Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach		
Arizona Cardinals	11	21	30	17	25	29	16		
Atlanta Falcons	30	31	30	22	32	28	27		
Baltimore Ravens	6	6	20	23	18	5	2		
Buffalo Bills	5	8	25	11	3	2	3		
Carolina Panthers	31	22	10	23	14	14	29		
Chicago Bears	21	32	27	31	29	30	31		
Cincinnati Bengals	8	15	11	1	19	10	15		
Cleveland Browns	14	1	1	21	5	3	11		
Dallas Cowboys	9	14	6	13	13	16	20		
Denver Broncos	10	16	5	12	25	8	30		
Detroit Lions	26	4	16	18	28	22	17		
Green Bay Packers	2	11	3	29	9	1	8		
Houston Texans	28	29	32	32	31	31	32		
Indianapolis Colts	17	10	2	27	11	20	10		
Jacksonville Jaguars	18	19	21	30	22	27	13		
Kansas City Chiefs	1	2	27	13	16	18	1		
Las Vegas Raiders	12	25	17	6	12	15	24		
Los Angeles Chargers	4	6	9	10	5	3	6		
Los Angeles Rams	6	13	23	3	1	9	3		
Miami Dolphins	16	24	29	3	15	7	22		
Minnesota Vikings	13	26	6	9	20	26	28		
New England Patriots	21	17	19	25	22	18	5		
New Orleans Saints	23	18	8	16	16	13	26		
New York Giants	25	22	13	26	25	31	23		
New York Jets	27	20	22	15	24	22	19		
Philadelphia Eagles	20	2	18	5	4	12	14		
Pittsburgh Steelers	29	30	13	20	7	22	6		
San Francisco 49ers	19	9	26	2	1	21	8		
Seattle Seahawks	31	26	24	7	30	25	25		
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2	5	12	8	8	6	18		
Tennessee Titans	15	28	4	28	20	11	12		
Washington Commanders	23	12	15	19	10	17	21		

Rankings incorporate roster depth.

# **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 16 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 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and NCAAF

Bundle to save 33%

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 

#### **2022 All-Access Package**

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

Early Bird Sale Saves BIG but Ends Soon

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 

#### 2022 Fantasy

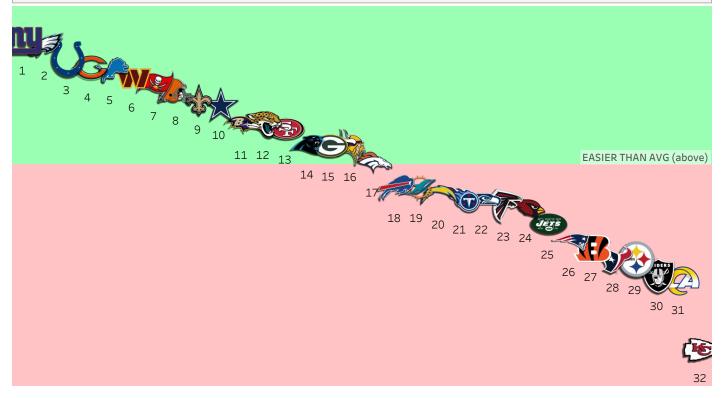
Everything listed above, hundreds of articles and tools to help you WIN

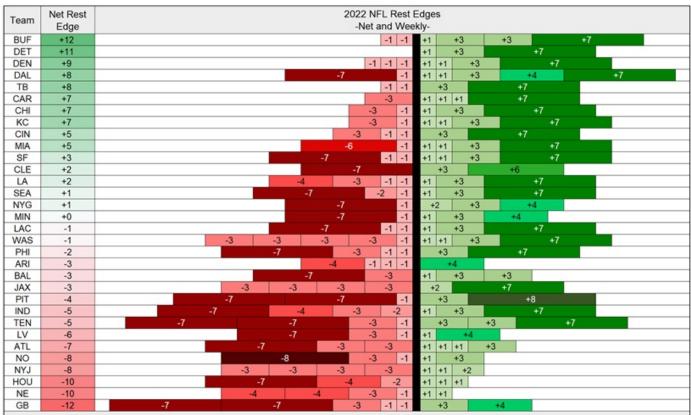
Save 24% with Early Bird Discound

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 



#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals

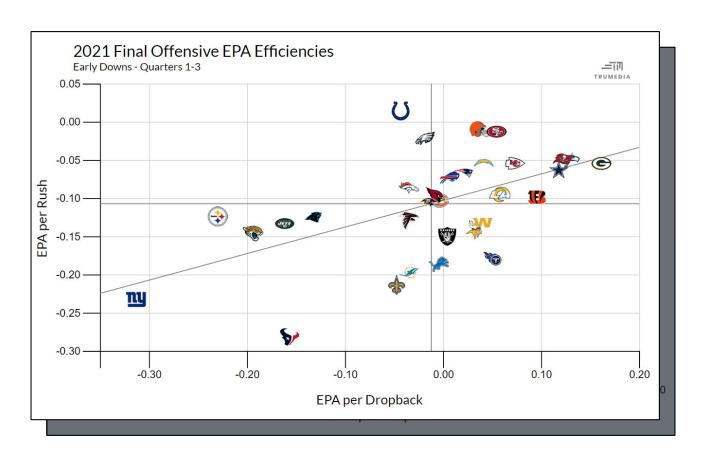


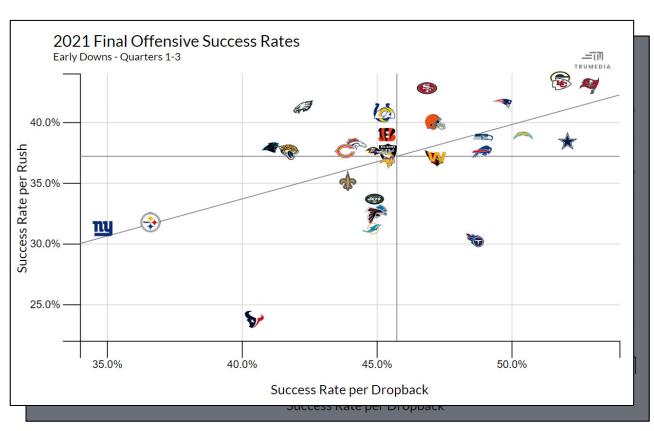


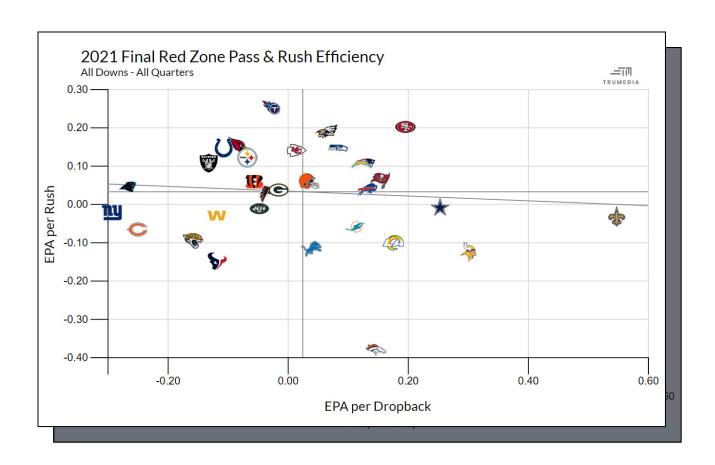
Notes: - each block represents a game where rest is not equal between a team and it's opponent - if rest is identical, no block is displayed

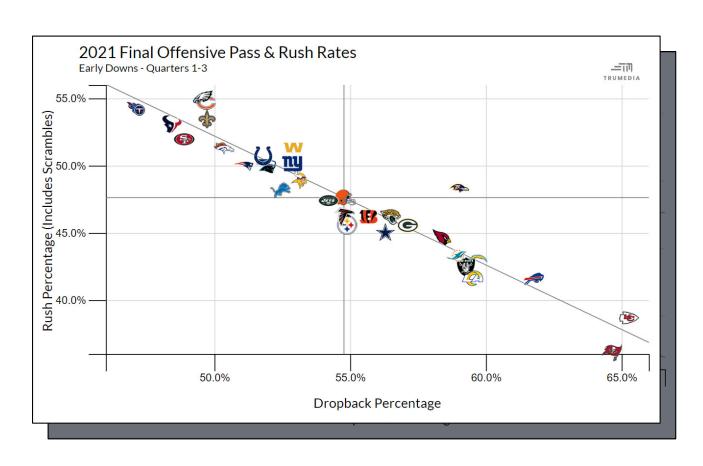
- a positive number indicates the team has a rest advantage of that many days, a negative number indicates a team has a rest disadvantage of that many days

- example: the Packers face two teams off byes (-7), a team off a TNF game (-3) & a game after MNF (-1) and week 17 game vs MIN with a day less rest (-1) || they play on TNF (+3 the next game) & their own bye is partially negated as LAR is coming off of a Thursday night game (+4)









# The Best Betting & Fantasy Analysis in the Industry

#### **All-Access:** Our Best, Most Comprehensive Package

#### You get NFL Totals

- ▶ 82% in 2021
- ► 62% fully documented over 16 years

#### You get every NFL betting recommendation

- ► 60% in 2021
- ► 58% fully documented over 16 years

#### You get every CFB betting recommendation

- ▶ 59% in 2021 after a year away from CFB in 2020
- ▶ 83% on top selections in 2021 (15-4 thru Bowls)

#### You get NFL props

- ► 57% in 2021 (133-100)
- ► +13.9 units risking just 0.5 units/prop

#### You get In-Season Fantasy Football Analysis

- ► The industry's most-read early week article: "The Worksheet" from Rich Hribar breaks down every player and every game on Tuesday of each week with predictions and deep analysis useful for DFS, seasonlong and betting
- ► Weekly player rankings for every player every week
- ► Weekly Waiver Wire recommendations
- ► DFS plays & analysis
- ► DFS pricing vs ranks to find mispriced plays
- ► Sunday morning live video subscriber-only Youtube show to get personal access to Rich Hribar & ask any lineup question you have & receive an immediate answer/prediction live on the show

#### You get the 2022 Fantasy Draft Guide

- ► Positional Rankings (standard, half- & full-PPR, TE-premium, Team DST)
- **▶** Printable Cheat Sheets per position
- ► Top-200 player analysis (standard, half- & full-PPR and SuperFlex)
- ► Dynasty Tiers & Rankings (standard & SuperFlex)
- ► Fantasy Rookie Rankings
- ► Comprehensive Tier Breakdown
- ► Sleepers & Busts
- ► Draft Chats live video subscriber-only Youtube shows for personal access to Rich Hribar & ask any draft questions to best prepare you for your draft

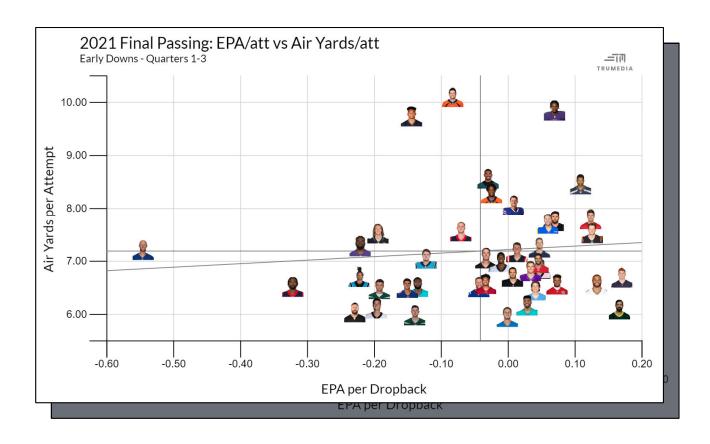
#### **2022** All-Access Package

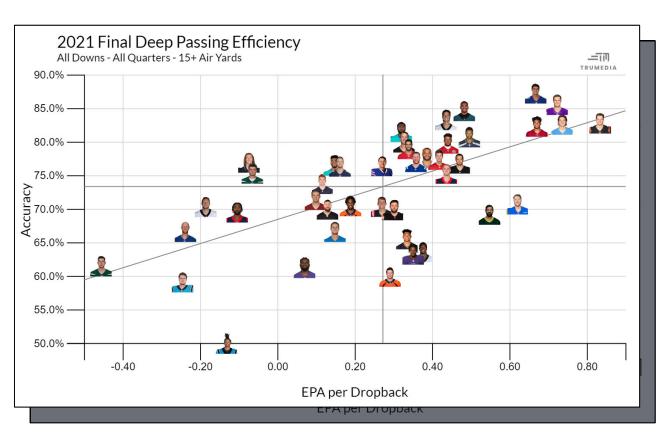
Everything we offer for the best in Betting, Props, CFB, Fantasy & DFS

Early Bird Sale Saves BIG but Ends Soon

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 









# 2022 FANTASY FOOTBALL QUARTERBACKS

- **1. Josh Allen**: Looking to be the first quarterback to pace the position in fantasy points in three straight years since Brett Favre from 1995-1997. Allen paced the position in scoring five different weeks in 2021 (most in the league) with three other weeks as a top-four scorer.
- **2. Justin Herbert**: QB8 and QB2 in points per game to open his career. First player in NFL history to start his career with 30 touchdown passes in his first two seasons. Plays for most aggressive head coach in the league.
- **3. Patrick Mahomes**: Mahomes has averaged over 20 fantasy points per game in each of the past four seasons, finishing as the QB1, QB6, QB2, and QB5 in points per game over his stretch as a starter. Has seen his yards per pass attempt drop from the previous year in each of the past three seasons and he now will be without Tyreek Hill.
- **4. Kyler Murray**: Has opened his career with seasons as the QB12, QB5, and the QB4 in points per game while flirting with giving us pockets in each season as potential to be the QB1 and MVP.
- **5. Lamar Jackson**: Little went right in 2021. Still one of the highest floors at the position but has not tapped into that 2019 ceiling. Just four top-three scoring weeks over the past two seasons after nine in his MVP campaign.
- **6. Jalen Hurts**: QB6 in points per game in 2021, 11 QB1 scoring weeks in 16 starts. Team attempting to give him as much as possible to improve as a passer in acquiring A.J. Brown.
- **7. Russell Wilson**: Despite uneven season in 2021, Wilson was fourth in the league in passing points per attempt (.531). He has a touchdown rate of 6.0% or higher in five straight seasons. Denver is rich with promising young pass catchers.
- **8. Joe Burrow**: Led the league in completion percentage (70.4%) and yards per attempt (9.0), the first passer to lead the league in both categories since Drew Brees in 2017. High variance, Burrow paced the position in scoring twice with eight QB1 scoring weeks, but also another seven as the QB16 or lower.
- **9. Tom Brady**: Will turn 45 years old this August but is coming back for one more season at least in Tampa Bay, where he has finished as the QB11 and QB3 in points per game. Even at age 44, Brady hit for fantasy, throwing for 5,316 yards and 43 touchdowns while attempting 42.3 passes per game.

- **10. Dak Prescott**: QB7, QB14, QB13, QB7, QB1, and QB8 seasons per game at his position to open his career. Losing weapons, his career-high 6.2% touchdown rate should regress, but hoping that he runs more with another year removed from major ankle injury.
- **11. Matthew Stafford**: QB6 in overall scoring for fantasy, scoring 19.4 points per game (the third-most of his career) while he completed 67.2% of his passes for 8.1 Y/A, 4,886 yards, and 41 touchdowns in first season with Sean McVay.
- **12. Trey Lance**: Lamar Jackson in 2019. Josh Allen in 2020. Jalen Hurts in 2021. Discounted passers with high fantasy floors and ceiling potential were the best values those seasons. Trey Lance in 2022? When we did see Lance play as a rookie, he led all quarterbacks in fantasy points per dropback (0.75) on his limited sample.

## TO SEE QBS RANKED #13-39

# CLCK HERE

Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 fantasy packages for a limited time.

THE VERY BEST PRICE WE WILL OFFER ALL SEASON

To access our Draft Kit and ALL of Rich Hribar's award winning analysis to prepare you for your drafts and give you the best in-season analysis early each week

CLICK HERE



# 2022 FANTASY FOOTBALL WIDE RECEIVERS

- **1. Justin Jefferson:** Skating to where the puck is headed over just locking in last year's WR1. Jefferson followed up an 88-1,400-7 rookie season in which he was the WR9 in points per game (17.1) to post 108-1,616-10 this past season as the WR4 in points per game (19.4). Kevin O'Connell has the potential to bring an improved offensive scheme in year three.
- **2. Cooper Kupp:** Will be a talking point this offseason for anticipated regression coming off scoring the second-most points per game (25.9) for a wide receiver in league history, but even with recoil, he is in a strong position to sustain being a top-end fantasy option. Also did not completely come out of nowhere in terms of performing at a WR1 level, as we have the front half of the 2019 season to draw back on for the upside he had in his range of outcomes.
- **3. Ja'Marr Chase:** Scored the second-most fantasy points for a rookie wideout in league history. After starting his rookie season out dependent on running hot on low-percentage targets downfield, Chase added nuance and ability to work underneath down the final stretch of the season, unlocking his full arsenal.
- **4. Stefon Diggs:** Made averaging 6.1 receptions for 72.1 yards per game feel disappointing to gamers based on expectations, but still ranked 10th and 12th at his position in those categories. Despite the soft letdown, managed a career-high 10 touchdowns while averaging 9.7 targets per game (seventh). Set up for another massive target share attached to the QB1 in fantasy.
- **5. Davante Adams:** Has ranked in the top-10 in points per game in six straight seasons. Transition from Green Bay to Las Vegas surrounds him with more viable pass catchers, but still an alpha WR1.
- **6. Tyreek Hill:** Ditto for Hill, who has consistently elevated the performance of every quarterback he has played with. Unlike Adams, however, Hill is coming off his lowest depth of target and yards per target since his rookie season while his yards per route run and yards generated after the catch per reception were the lowest of his six-year career.
- **7. Deebo Samuel:** One-of-one player right now. Regression coming after ranking fifth in the NFL in receiving yards despite ranking 54th in routes run and 26th in targets. Also, scored 13-of-16 touchdowns from 10 yards or further. But all Samuel has done is produce when able to play in full over his first three seasons.

#### **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 2022 Draft Guide (see below)
- Access to DFS plays and weekly player rankings
- Access and interaction with Rich via weekly client-only video chats

#### 2022 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

#### 2022 Fantasy

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

Save 24% with Early Bird Discount

**CLICK TO LEARN MORE** 



#### 2022 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!

- **8. Mike Evans:** Death. Sex. Taxes. Mike Evans hitting 1,000 yards receiving. Playoffs showed that Evans still has an apex gear available when Tampa's top targets were thinned out, while Chris Godwin likely misses part of the front of the season, Antonio Brown is gone, and we are still waiting on a decision from Gronk.
- **9. CeeDee Lamb:** 32 receptions for 376 yards and zero touchdowns over the final seven games in the regular season have sparked plenty of vitriol for Lamb's potential to spike as a future WR1 asset. Now it is sink or swim time with Dallas moving on from Amari Cooper and Michael Gallup mending an ACL injury. Despite the weak close to 2021, Lamb still managed to improve across the board in his second season on a per-game level from his rookie season.
- **10. Keenan Allen:** As steady as they come in full-PPR formats, catching over 6.0 receptions per game in each of his past six seasons in which he has played multiple games. Biggest bugaboo has been carrying lower touchdown potential than his WR1 peers.
- **11. Tee Higgins:** The first wide receiver here that is clearly not the best wide receiver on his own team, but after Higgins returned from injury in Week 5, he posted an 82-1,282-6 line on 125 targets over his final 16 games played with Ja'Marr Chase while Chase notched 87-1,500-10 on 134 targets.
- **12. Michael Pittman:** More than doubled his rookie season production in 2021, catching 88-of-129 targets for 1,082 yards and six touchdowns. Alpha body-type that commanded 60 more targets than the next closest teammate. Indianapolis added little to threaten his 24.8% target share (ninth), while the addition of Matt Ryan is an upgrade. WR13 is right where Pittman was through nine weeks last year was prior to Carson Wentz falling part.
- **13. A.J. Brown:** Has given us pockets of showcasing his fantasy ceiling, but move to Philadelphia once again forces him to remain hyper-efficient.
- **14. Terry McLaurin:** Quarterback play has been the story of his career. McLaurin ranked 13th among wideouts in targets (130) in 2021, but just 62.7% were deemed catchable, the lowest rate of all wideouts to see 100 or more targets last season. Has the *best* quarterback of his career and everyone is jumping off, but there is still a high ceiling outcome here at lower-end WR2 cost.
- **15. Allen Robinson:** 2021 was an outright disaster but buying the dip in 2022. Joining the Rams, Robinson landed in a spot that will provide him fantasy-friendly opportunities for the first time in his career.
- **16. D.J. Moore:** 25-years-old to open up 2022 with 1,200 yards in each of the past three seasons, but quarterback concerns still exist in unlocking his ceiling. Moore has finished eighth (2.17 yards) and 11th (1.93 yards) at his position in yards per team pass attempt the past two seasons while his runway to sustaining a high target share (he was eighth among wideouts with 9.6 targets per game) is still present.
- **17. Marquise Brown:** Was in the midst of a huge breakout before the injury to Lamar Jackson torpedoed his season. Now, gets to reunite with Kyler Murray while DeAndre Hopkins starts the season suspended. Murray has been the best downfield passer in the league since drafted, an area where Brown still has a lot more growth since he has not seen quality targets downfield yet over his young career.

- **18. Brandin Cooks:** Just another year where Cooks will be a massive discount. Has been a top-24 scoring receiver per game in all but one of his eight seasons in the league. Cooks and Davis Mills connected on 71.1% of their targets with five touchdowns and a 101.6 rating while Cooks and Tyrod Taylor connected on 58.3% with one score and an 83.0 rating.
- **19. Diontae Johnson:** WR9 in points per game in his third season, catching 107 passes for 1,161 yards and eight touchdowns. While some of the overall volume of targets can be credited to the limitations of the Pittsburgh offense and late-career Ben Roethlisberger, there is a non-zero outcome where Johnson can still improve in terms of target quality, but I generally almost always discount wide receivers I anticipate will play with rookie quarterbacks.
- **20. Mike Williams:** Set career-highs in targets (129), receptions (76), and yardage (1,146) to go along with nine touchdowns. Reverted back to his boom-or-bust nature as the season progressed, but attachment to Justin Herbert showcased the spike-week potential.
- **21. Amari Cooper:** Coming off a season in which he once again battled injuries, producing his lowest per-game totals since joining the Cowboys with 6.9 targets, 4.5 catches, and 57.7 yards per game. Joining the Browns, Cooper is set up to be a lead wide receiver while the Browns also just acquired Deshaun Watson.
- **22. Jaylen Waddle:** Set a new record for receptions in a season (104) by a rookie while being asked to operate as a near the line of scrimmage asset. While Waddle can see more upside-based targets in Year 2, we still have a leap of faith to take in projection for what was a floor-based asset for fantasy a year ago that is now potentially compromised by the addition of Tyreek Hill. Without that comfy floor to fall back on, I believe Waddle has a far wider range of outcomes than where he is being selected in current early drafts.
- **23. DK Metcalf:** 12 touchdowns in 2021 were fourth in the league but dropped from 5.2 receptions per game down to 4.4 while his 81.4 yards per game in 2020 sagged down to 56.9 yards per game last season. After opening the 2020 season with 90 or more yards in seven of his first eight games, Metcalf has hit that arbitrary mark in just four of 25 games since. The pending Drew Lock/Geno Smith camp battle inspires little confidence.
- **24. Michael Thomas:** Out-of-sight, out-of-mind the past two seasons. The days of Thomas being someone who pushes for the WR1 overall may have passed, but do I believe he can be a Keenan Allen-type for fantasy and is undervalued. Thomas has had at least five receptions in 10 of 12 weeks without Drew Brees and eight or more grabs in eight of those games, but early-summer news that he still has hurdles to clear with his recovery while the Saints have added Chris Olave and Jarvis Landry to the roster are speed bumps.

# TO SEE WRS RANKED #25-100 CLICK HERE



## 2022 FANTASY FOOTBALL RUNNING BACKS

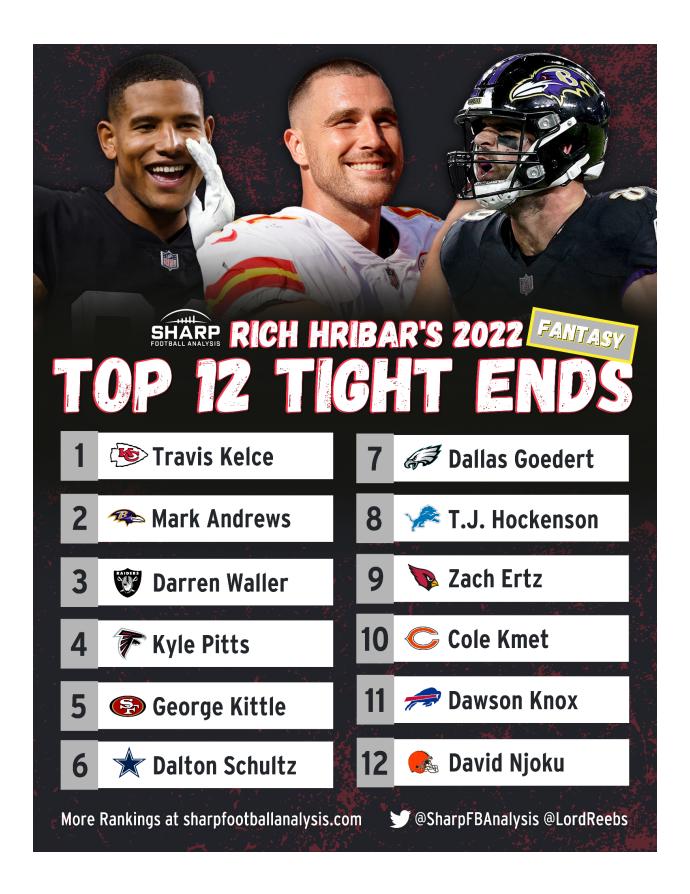
- **1. Jonathan Taylor:** 2,171 yards and 20 TDs behind one of the most-injured offensive lines in 2021. Checks too many objective boxes of prime age apex, elite pedigree and athleticism, team built around him being the catalyst for the offense.
- 2. Christian McCaffrey: Has scorned a corner of the fantasy community for good after playing in just 10 games the past two seasons, but still the best fantasy asset per game when on the field. In the five full games he played this season, he closed the week as the RB1, RB3, RB15, RB4, and RB3 in scoring, averaging 23.6 points per game those weeks with fewer than 24 points in just one. Carolina O-Line beefed up this offseason.
- **3. Austin Ekeler:** Produced 92.9% of the output Jonathan Taylor had with a missed game. Has now has ranked first, third, and second at his position in receiving points per game over the past three years. Potential touchdown regression is incoming after Ekeler led all position players with 163.1 fantasy points in the red zone after totaling 145.6 points in that area of the field over four seasons.
- **4. Dalvin Cook:** Cook still was fifth in the league in touches per game (21.8), what hurt him was finding the end zone just six times after 17 and 13 scores the previous two seasons. Averaged a career-low 2.6 receptions per game for just 6.6 yards per catch. Cook also missed another four games, leaving him without a full season played through five years in the league. Expecting touchdowns to rebound while anticipating the new offense to be a rising tide. Minor suspension concern still looms.
- **5. Derrick Henry:** Now 28 years old and coming off his first major injury. Yards after contact have dipped in each of the past two seasons, but still led the NFL in touches per game (29.6) and expected fantasy points per game (21.0) while on the field. Over the past three seasons, only Davante Adams has more 30-point PPR games (12) than Henry has (nine) among skill players.
- **6. Najee Harris:** Premier workhorse in the NFL. Played 170 more snaps than the next-closest back last season. As a byproduct, he led all backs with 381 touches and 74 receptions and was second in the league in expected points per game (20.2).
- **7. Joe Mixon:** 1,519 yards and 16 TDs on 334 touches in route to an RB4 season in points per game. Elite offensive attachment. One blemish is still underutilized as a consistent pass catcher. Mixon had nine games with two or fewer catches, averaging 11.6 points per game those weeks with one week higher than RB24. In his other seven games, he averaged 26.3 points per game with one game lower than RB4.
- **8. D'Andre Swift:** Closed 2021 10th at the position in points per game (16.1) and 16th in touches per game (16.4). We have had flashes that he has RB1 overall potential but needs more overall work.

Averaged just 9.6 carries per game playing with Jamaal Willians, totaling 41.6% of the carries in those games with a high game of 14 carries.

- **9. Saquon Barkley:** ACL and ankle injuries have stonewalled past two seasons, but I am still not ready to jump off the ship on a 25-year-old back with elite pedigree, athleticism, and draft capital in a backfield with next to zero competition.
- **10. Alvin Kamara:** Averaged a career-high 22.1 touches per game (third in the league) but caught a career-low 47 passes. Dead last in the league in rushing yards below expectation (-133) while his broken plus missed tackle rate per attempt (16.7%) was his lowest since 2018. Has the milk started to turn, or a product of the league's most-injured offensive line and lack of surrounding talent throughout the season? Both improved this offseason. Hearing pushed back to August provides a window to drag their feet on a 2022 suspension, but also a period where we are still flying blind for the rest of the summer on if he will miss games this season.
- **11. Leonard Fournette:** Perhaps the biggest winner of the offseason returning to Tampa Bay on a significant extension with Tom Brady also coming back. In 22 career games with Bucs in which he played just half of the team snaps, Fournette has averaged 17.6 touches for 89.2 yards per game with 4.7 receptions per game and 19 total touchdowns.
- **12. Aaron Jones:** RB13 in mixed-bag campaign. Jones had his third straight season with double-digit touchdowns. He remained efficient, averaging 5.3 yards per touch, his fifth straight season over 5.0 yards per touch. Out-touched 17-5 in the red zone by A.J. Dillon with both on the field Week 12 and later. In the seven games that Adams has missed over the past three seasons, Jones has received 6.7 targets per game (19.7% of the team share), with 5.1 catches for 55.4 yards per game and four receiving scores.
- **13. Javonte Williams:** 12th among all backs in yards from scrimmage (1,219), 43 catches, and ranked 2nd in the league in missed tackles forced (63) in the run game behind Jonathan Taylor despite having 129 fewer carries. Can still produce as a 1A, especially in what we are projecting to be a much better overall offense after adding Russell Wilson. While Melvin Gordon does present an immediate ceiling roadblock, he also struck out on the veteran market and only returned on a one-year/\$2.5 million deal.
- **14. James Conner:** Another big offseason winner, Conner averaged a robust 26.0 points per game in six games with Chase Edmonds absent, registering five RB1 scoring weeks. Conner has now been a top-30 scorer per game in each of the past four seasons with two RB1 scoring seasons per game on his resume, but he also has yet to play a full season.
- **15. Ezekiel Elliott:** Not as dead as many assume and no longer carries front-end RB1 expectations. Elliott was still second in the NFL in snaps played and carries top-shelf touchdown equity. Averaged 12.4 points per game over the final 11 games while shedding 4.6 touches per game after a PCL injury after 19.6 points per game prior.
- **16. Nick Chubb:** Accrued another 1,433 yards and nine scores in 2021 while averaging 5.5 yards per carry, becoming the first running back ever to average over 5.0 yards per carry with over 100 attempts in each of their first four seasons in the league. Caught just 20 passes, his third season in four years with 20 or fewer receptions. That lack of passing involvement keeps Chubb from pushing to pace the position in scoring and more touchdown-dependent than top backs, producing just five RB2 or better scoring weeks in 21 games without a trip to the end zone over the past three seasons.

- **17. Cam Akers:** No back may have a wider range of outcomes at the top of the draft. Akers has the potential to be in the front seat of the backfield attached to a great offense, but also the potential to be a short-term timeshare back that does not catch a ton of passes. Improbable recovery from a July Achilles injury may have done more harm for Akers than good in the eyes of fantasy players. Akers rushed 72 times for 175 yards (2.4 YPC) while catching 11 passes for 86 yards over his five appearances. Rams were 31st in the league in EPA rushing in 2021 while losing two starting offensive linemen this offseason.
- **18. David Montgomery:** Second among all backs in snap share per game (74.6%) while handling 81.2% of the backfield touches in his games played. Three consecutive seasons with over 1,000 yards from scrimmage and seven touchdowns.
- **19. Travis Etienne:** Another back that lost all of 2021 and wide range of outcomes. The Jaguars have had a full staff upheaval this offseason to pair with Etienne's unknown offensive role off injury, but with James Robinson suffering an Achilles injury to end the 2021 season while entering a restricted free agent contract year, Etienne has a head start this offseason in leading this backfield.
- **20. Breece Hall:** Checks every box we are looking for in a prospect. Will surely concede some work to Michael Carter and may be a 1A back to open the season. Many will harp on the staff in New York coming from a coaching tree that has regularly shuffled in bodies at the position with success. But the larger signal here based on draft capital, equity forfeited, size, and production all favor Hall as the back to invest in here for fantasy.
- **21. Antonio Gibson:** Did not meet 2021 ceiling expectations, but still posted 1,331 yards and 10 touchdowns on 300 touches battling through a plethora of injuries. Return to J.D. McKissic was a dagger. After McKissic's injury in Wek 12, Gibson had his route participation jump up to 55.1% of the dropbacks from 35.4% prior, catching 23 passes over his final six games after 19 through 10 games. Steady drumbeat of committee does him no extra favors.
- **22.** Elijah Mitchell: Averaged 20.5 touches per game, which was seventh in the league. Biggest thorn is that he averaged just 1.9 receptions per game, which makes him rushing and touchdown-dependent. In his seven games played without a touchdown, averaged just 9.4 points per game. Both Trey Lance and Deebo Samuel lurk as touchdown stealers.
- **23. Miles Sanders:** Has now averaged 5.8, 5.5, and 5.6 yards per touch over his three seasons in the league. After six touchdowns in each of his first two seasons, his scoring upside still remains a question with his pass catching improvement attached to Jalen Hurts. After catching 50 passes as a rookie for 10.2 yards per grab, Sanders has 54 catches since with his yards per catch dropping each season, down to 6.1 yards per catch last season. Potential to be arbitrage on J.K. Dobbins.
- **24. J.K. Dobbins:** Lost 2021 season due to an ACL injury that also came attached to an LCL injury. That pairing has Dobbins on the longer road to recovery and a potential candidate to start the regular season on the PUP. As a rookie, showed plenty of electricity with 6.0 yards per carry and 6.1 yards per touch. Baltimore did not add more competition to the backfield while the offensive line is improved on paper. The primary question is how involved Dobbins can get as a pass catcher when back to 100%?

#### TO SEE RBS RANKED #25-60 CLICK HERE



# 2022 FANTASY FOOTBALL TIGHT ENDS

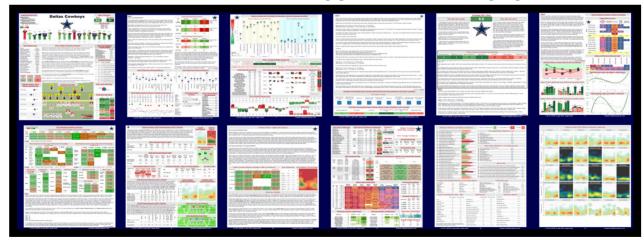
- **1. Travis Kelce:** Last year was the first time Kelce did not lead the position in points in six years. Although we did see more valleys from him in previous seasons, he was still the TE2 in points per game (16.4), expected points per game (15.7), and third in targets per game (8.4). Patrick Mahomes isn't going anywhere while Kelce is still his foxhole target.
- **2. Mark Andrews:** The first tight end other than Travis Kelce to lead the position in scoring since 2015. We finally got to see what Andrews could do with volume as he set career-highs playing 75% of the offensive snaps (10% higher than his previous high) while running 623 routes (273 more than his previous high). That helped Andrews post a gaudy 107-1,361-9 line on 153 targets. He is now the only tight end to score seven or more touchdowns in each of the past three seasons.
- **3. Darren Waller:** Took a step back through an injury-filled season. Waller ended 2021 with 55-665-2 on 93 targets, missing six full games. He caught just 59.1% of his targets after 73.8% and 76.9% the previous two seasons while his catchable target rate (67.8%) was 47th at his position after rates of 77.9% and 82.6% the prior two years. Found the end zone just twice after nine times the year before. Expecting rates to rebound and life should be better with Davante Adams on board. Was still targeted on 23.5% of his routes (fifth at tight end), averaged 8.5 targets per game (second), and was third in expected points per game (14.6) among his peers.
- **4. Kyle Pitts:** First rookie tight end to reach 1,000 yards receiving since Mike Ditka in 1961. He lined up all over the field, playing 286 snaps in the slot, 248 snaps inline, and another 237 snaps out wide. Pitts was second among all tight ends in route participation rate (80.6%), ninth in targets per game (6.5), and second in intended air yards (1,204). Still carries quarterback and offensive concerns but will definitely score more than one touchdown in 2022.
- **5. George Kittle:** Frustrating based on displayed capability and lack of consistent usage in his offense. That said, Kittle has still not finished lower than TE4 in points per game over the past four years. Expectation that Trey Lance starts adds another layer of variance while Kittle has missed multiple games in each of the past three seasons.
- **6. Dalton Schultz:** Last season's TE3 overall and TE5 in points per game, catching 78-of-104 targets for 808 yards and eight touchdowns. Schultz ran hot since he averaged just 10.4 yards per catch while ranking ninth in expected points per game (10.9), but with Dallas losing Amari Cooper and Cedrick Wison

while Michael Gallup recovers from a late-season ACL injury, Schultz is a top-two target in an offense we want attachment to.

- **7. Dallas Goedert:** Ran a pass route on 79.7% of the Philadelphia dropbacks (a mark that would have been third over the full season) while commanding 24.5% of the Eagle targets in his full games played (which would have ranked second) after the trade of Zach Ertz. Showed big-play ability, posting a career-high 14.8 yards per reception and 10.9 yards per target. While rates were strong, he ran just 24.6 routes run and 6.2 targets per game over that span, which had him 16th in expected points per game (10.0). Spike-week upside, but QB and offensive limitations make him arbitrage George Kittle.
- **8. T.J. Hockenson:** Receptions per game have now gone from 2.7 to 4.2 to 5.1 to open his career while his targets have climbed from 4.9 to 6.3 to 7.0 per game. Only question with Hockenson is does he really ever develop into a tide-turner at the position?
- **9. Zach Ertz:** In 11 games with the Cardinals, Ertz averaged 5.1 receptions for 52.2 yards per game with three scores. Seven of those games came without Hopkins, where Ertz averaged 9.0 targets per game while receiving a team-high 24.0% of the targets in those games.
- **10. Dawson Knox:** Fully utilized attachment to the Buffalo offense in Year 3, scoring 32.9% of his fantasy points from touchdowns alone, the highest touchdown dependency in the league. Including the postseason, Knox has now found the end zone at least once in 13 of his past 26 games played. While ranking 20th in targets per game (4.7), and 48th in target rate per route (14.0%) puts Knox in prime regression zone, he also still has that sweet attachment to the Buffalo offense and Josh Allen.
- **11. Cole Kmet:** While the overall production was not scintillating and he failed to score a touchdown, being so young and jumping to a full-time player should still be considered a positive for a tight end that was selected in the second round the year prior. Now, the ghost of Jimmy Graham (who matched Kmet with six end zone targets) will be gone and the Bears have a massive talent deficiency at wide receiver.
- **12. David Njoku:** Still only turns 26 years old this July, coming off a career-high 13.2 yards per catch and 9.0 yards per target despite only playing 64% of the offensive snaps. He is getting a quarterback upgrade while the team has moved on from veteran Austin Hooper. If Watson plays in 2022, Njoku obviously gets a massive bump in quarterback play, but even if Jacoby Brissett is the starter, Brissett has targeted tight ends on 29.0% of his career pass attempts, a rate only lower than Lamar Jackson (32.6%) and Carson Wentz (31.1%).



#### 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 2022 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 2022 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.

49

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

#### **Head Coach**: Kliff Kingsbury (3 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Offensive Coordinator: Kingsbury calls plays (3 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Vance Joseph (3 yrs)

#### **Arizona Cardinals**

#### 2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

9

#3

#### **Past Records**

2021: 11-6 2020: 8-8 2019: 7-8-1



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Christian Kirk (WR)	Jaguars
Chandler Jones (EDGE)	Raiders
Chase Edmonds (RB)	Dolphins
Jordan Hicks (LB)	Vikings
Jordan Phillips (IDL)	Bills
Max Garcia (LG)	Giants
Corey Peters (IDL)	TBD
Darrell Daniels (TE)	TBD
Chris Banjo (S)	TBD
Demetrius Harris (TE)	TBD
Jack Crawford (IDL)	TBD
Robert Alford (CB)	TBD
Kylie Fitts (EDGE)	TBD
Marcus Henry (C)	TBD
Elliott Fry (K)	Retired

#### 2022 Arizona Cardinals Overview

The Arizona Cardinals season ended on Thursday, October 28th.

To be more precise, it ended on Thursday, October 28th with 44 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter of their primetime game against the Green Bay Packers.

Arizona was undefeated at the time: 7-0

They were about to either beat the Packers or, at worst, send the game to overtime. They didn't know it yet, but their season ended on this play:

Trailing by three points, 24-21, Kyler Murray drove the Cardinals from inside his own 1-yard line all the way to the Packers' 8-yard line. With 44 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Arizona had second-and-1. Murray kept the ball on a read-option and darted for the first down. He was tackled from behind by the ankles and got up gingerly. Arizona quickly called a handoff on the next to prevent a replay review of the spot. The back advanced to the Packers' 4-yard line and head coach Kliff Kingsbury called a timeout.

Then we saw it: Murray was shown limping badly to the sideline and back out onto the

# Games # Games **Average** Underdog Line **Favored** 10 0.3

The very next play, on second-and-goal from the Packers' 4-yard line, with 15 seconds in the game, Murray dropped back and targeted A.J. Green in the end zone. But the veteran wide receiver kept blocking cornerback Rasul Douglas and never turned around to look for the ball. Douglas intercepted the pass as Green turned the opposite direction to look back at Murray. Murray fell to the ground, remained down for several moments, and then slowly limped to the sidelines with help from trainers.

(cont'd - see ARI2)

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Marquise Brown (WR)	Trade
Nick Vigil (LB)	\$1.8
Darrel Williams (RB)	\$1.2
Stephen Anderson (TE)	\$1.2
Will Hernandez (RG)	\$1.2
Christian Blake (WR)	\$1
Kingsley Keke (IDL)	\$1
Jessie Lemonier (EDGE)	\$0.90

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	55	TE - Trey McBride (Colorado State)
3	87	DE - Cameron Thomas (San Diego State)
3	100	DE - Myjai Sanders (Cincinnati)
6	201	RB - Keaontay Ingram (USC)
0	215	OG - Lecitus Smith (Virginia Tech)
	244	CB - Christian Matthew (Valdosta State)
7	256	LB - Jesse Luketa (Penn State)
	257	OG - Marquis Hayes (Oklahoma)

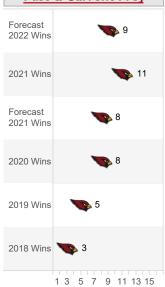
#### **2022 Unit Spending**

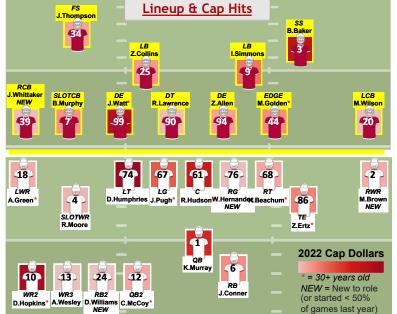


#### **Positional Spending**

Rank	Total	2021 Rk
	\$121.13M	11
17	\$15.56M	21
1	\$54.18M	7
17	\$9.00M	28
7	\$31.54M	9
14	\$10.86M	6
19	\$89.82M	8
	\$35.78M	2
9	\$19.84M	7
28	\$13.23M	31
5	\$20.97M	14
	5 17 1 17 7 14 19 24 9	5 \$121.13M 17 \$15.56M 1 \$54.18M 17 \$9.00M 7 \$31.54M 14 \$10.86M 19 \$89.82M 24 \$35.78M 9 \$19.84M 28 \$13.23M

#### Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj





#### ARI-2

It was a big upset. Undefeated Arizona opened as a 3.5-point home favorite. Then COVID struck. The Packers lost WR1 **Davante Adams**, WR2 **Allen Lazard**, and WR3 **Marquez Valdes-Scantling**. Adams and Lazard were placed on the COVID list. (A couple days following the game against the Cardinals, **Aaron Rodgers** would also test positive for COVID.) The line ballooned as high as 6.5 and 7 points in favor of the Cardinals.

Without his top receivers, Rodgers threw the ball 37 times for only 184 yards. It was the first and only time in his illustrious 17-year career that Rodgers attempted over 35 passes for less than 185 yards.

His leading receiver was running back Aaron Jones with 11 targets.

The player with the second most catches was wide receiver **Juwann Winfree**, who had never even seen a target in his NFL career despite 2021 being his third season with the Packers.

Thanks to a brilliant defensive performance, the Packers won the game.

But 44 seconds before the clock struck 0:00, Arizona's season was over.

And history repeated itself for Kyler Murray's Cardinals as injuries derailed their season.

Examine Kyler Murray's Expected Points Added (EPA) prior to his injury and after his injury:

Pre-Injury: 0.20 EPA/dropback (56.7 EPA on 287 dropbacks)

Post-Injury: -0.03 EPA/dropback (-8.9 EPA on 255 dropbacks)

To add context to these stats, only one quarterback finished the season over 0.15 EPA/dropback last year: Aaron Rodgers at +0.19. Murray was one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL pre-injury. After the injury? His -0.03 EPA/dropback would have ranked 22nd over the course of the season, slotting in behind Carson Wentz and just ahead of Saints quarterbacks Trevor Siemian and Taysom Hill.

2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics

	F D			
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Kyler Murray	58% 7.2 102.9	47% 7.1 79.9	37% 8.7 110.5	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	45%	65%	69%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

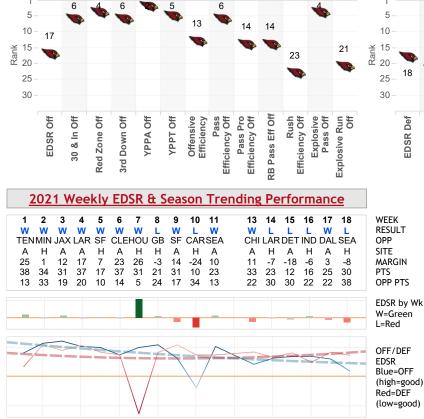
	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
ARI	46% 4.0	55% 3.8	56% 5.8	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	55%	35%	31%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

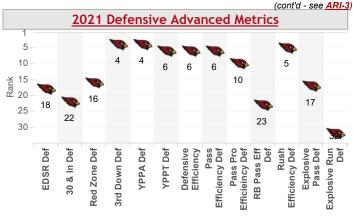
More detailed stats?

Pre-Injury: 73% completions, 8.2 air yards/att, 8.9 YPA, 48% success rate

Post-Injury: 65% completions, 7.7 air yards/att, 6.7 YPA, 42% success rate

Before the injury, the Cardinals used play-action on 35% of Murray's dropbacks. After the injury, Kingsbury reduced it to 29%. Defenses blitzed Murray more often after his injury (23.9% post-injury vs. 19.4% pre-injury).



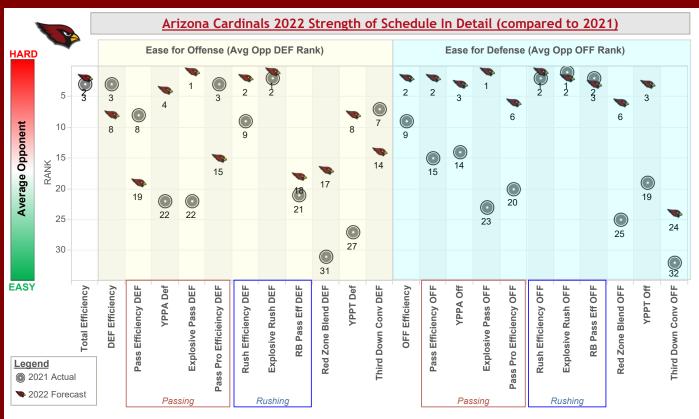


#### 2021 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **11**FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-1**FG Games Win %: **67% (#9)**FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **18% (#17)** 

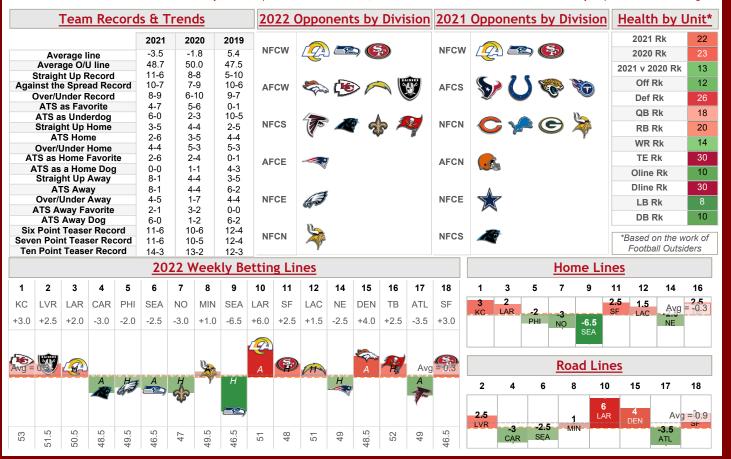
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-4
1 Score Games Win %: 43% (#21)
W=Green
L=Red Wins): 27% (#26)

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** +12 TO Margin TO Given 15 **INT Given** 11 **FUM Given** 4 TO Taken 27 **INT Taken** 13 **FUM Taken** 14 Sack Margin +2 41 Sacks Sacks Allow 39 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 **Ret TDs Allow** 0 **Penalty Margin** -14 Penalties 114 **Opponent Penalties** 100



2022 vs 2021 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 B									
25	9	10	12	7	1	16	17			

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







Murray got rid of the ball quicker following his injury (2.58 seconds post-injury vs. 2.71 pre-injury) but even so, he was still pressured at a much higher rate (35.3% pressure rate post-injury vs. 28.5% pressure rate pre-injury). His accuracy suffered; his completion rate suffered.

On throws over 15 yards downfield, Murray's stats declined precipitously, shifting from a 57% success rate pre-injury to a 36% success rate post-injury.

Less detailed but ultimately most important stats?

Pre-Injury: 7 wins, 0 losses Post-Injury: 2 wins, 5 losses

Notice earlier I said, "injuries derailed their season" using the plural? All of Murray's statistical drop-offs don't 100% relate entirely to his own injury, which caused him to miss three games. In that fateful game against the Packers in Week 8, **DeAndre Hopkins** also went down with injury and played in just two more games for the remainder of the season.

Arizona didn't stand a chance down the stretch with Murray missing three games and returning without Hopkins while delivering subpar performance.

This wasn't a case of the schedule getting more difficult, either. The Cardinals played the 14th toughest schedule of pass defenses in Weeks 1-8 and the 14th toughest schedule of pass defenses the remainder of the season.

Without Hopkins, the Cardinals had to rely on a set of inferior secondary receivers without much changing within the structure of the offense.

With Hopkins healthy, the team target share and results for other receivers:

DeAndre Hopkins: 20.8% target share

AJ Green: 17.5% target share, 0.51 EPA/att, 10.6 yds/att, 12.3 air yds/att, 69% catch rate Christian Kirk: 16.6% target share, 0.59 EPA/att, 10.7 yds/att, 13.6 air yds/att, 75% catch rate Zach Ertz: 14.6% target share, -0.28 EPA/att, 8.9 yds/att, 7.7 air yds/att, 72% catch rate

Without Hopkins and his 20.8% target share, more was thrust into the laps of Zach Ertz and Christian Kirk:

Zach Ertz: 24.0% target share, 0.11 EPA/att, 6.6 yds/att, 7.3 air yds/att, 68% catch rate Christian Kirk: 19.8% target share, 0.33 EPA/att, 8.4 yds/att, 9.5 air yds/att, 75% catch rate AJ Green: 14.5% target share, -0.14 EPA/att, 7.3 yds/att, 11.7 air yds/att, 45% catch rate

Ertz became a much bigger part of the offense, but was targeted closer to the line of scrimmage. Kirk saw a massive reduction in both EPA/att and yards per target, some of which came from his target depth cratering from 13.6 yards downfield to only 9.5 yards downfield.

Green showed his true stripes at this stage in his career. Starting in Week 3, Green was made a starter. In three of his next five games, his air yards per target exceeded 16 yards. The Cardinals were trying to get Green downfield in single coverage with Hopkins consuming more attention. But after Hopkins's injury, the Cardinals didn't use Green downfield as often as before. He exceeded a 16-yard aDOT in none of his next seven games played. The efficiency when he was targeted dropped off dramatically. On deep attempts for Green:

Weeks 1-8: 25.3 yds/att, 82% catch rate Weeks 9+: 15.1 yds/att, 56.3% catch rate

Green claimed his communication was lacking with Murray, and rolled out this bizarre quote: "For me, it's communicating with him what I see, and what he wants me to do and how he wants me to run this [particular] route. I think last year there was a lacking on my part. I didn't really communicate with him about stuff like that because I didn't want to put a lot of stuff on his plate."

How does communicating with your quarterback about a route "put a lot of stuff on his plate?" It's literally the bare minimum you need to have success. For some reason, Green didn't want to do it because of some concern with Kyler Murray's "plate."

Last offseason I anticipated a return to more 11 and 10 personnel looks for the Cardinals. In 2020, the Cardinals used 12 personnel (two tight end sets)

(cont'd - see ARI-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Arizona Cardinals 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
20	27	31	8	1	22

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- The 2021 offense had 26 fumbles and recovered 23, nine recoveries over expectation. The defense finished 2.7 fumbles over expectation and the Cardinals finished with an unprecedented 11.7 fumbles over expectation, nearly seven more than the next closest team. The Cardinals finished second in EPA gained from penalties and third in offensive third down conversions over expectation. Regression in all three categories should be expected in 2022.
- The Cardinals have one game with a rest advantage and four games with a rest disadvantage. The lone rest advantage is a Monday night game after their bye week, in which the opponent still has over a week of rest. The rest disadvantages include two short weeks in the back half of the season, including a matchup against the Chargers following a Monday night game in Mexico and road game in Denver on short rest.
- Although the 2021 defense finished top isx in EPA/play against both the rush and pass, the defense allowed a high rate of yards per play and that EPA relied on big defensive plays. The loss of **Chandler Jones** and the second-hardest schedule of offenses based on efficiency could lead to defensive regression.

#### 9



#### Why Bet the Over

- Kyler Murray had an encouraging start to the season, however, the mobile quarterback struggled after suffering an ankle injury. Prior to his injury, the offense ranked third in the league with 0.16 EPA/play and second with 0.29 EPA/dropback. Both numbers dropped significantly after Week 8 as the offense managed 0.01 EPA/play and 0.05 EPA/dropback. If Murray stays healthy, the offense can be one of the league's top units.
- The defense had the seventh-most adjusted games lost to injury in 2021 and should experience positive regression in terms of injury. The defensive performance is more noteworthy as the D-line was the third-most injured in the league and the defense was able to create pressure at a top ten rate.
- The addition of **Marquise Brown** is a great fit for Kyler Murray and gives the predictable offense an option for increased creativity. Now that the wide receiver room has two sub-4.4 speedsters with **DeAndre Hopkins** missing the first six games, there is a possibility that the offense is more creative and moves the wide receivers around. Hopkins lined up outside on 85% of snaps last season. Brown elevates the deep ball threat as Murray has been an elite deep ball passer since entering the league as he has completed 41.5% of passes over 30 air yards highest of any quarterback with more than 15 attempts.

## Arizona Cardinals Positional Unit Rankings Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach 11 21 30 17 25 29 16

The Cardinals' ranking fell in all but one category from last offseason (head coach) and landed 16th or worse in all but one (quarterback). Despite their 11-6 record a season ago, clearly we have doubts about Arizona's ability to sustain success. Arizona's quarterback room was our 10th-ranked unit a season ago but slid just outside the top 10 this year. There's still optimism around **Kyler Murray**, but there just hasn't been enough consistency. During Arizona's 7-0 start, Murray ranked third in the league in EPA per dropback, but ranked 15th out of 33 through his final 10 games.

Kliff Kingsbury's scheme puts the Arizona backfield in favorable situations and covers up a lack of talent — Cardinals running backs faced a box with six or fewer defenders at the second-highest rate. The loss of **Chase Edmonds** hurts this unit. In 2021, he averaged 2.4 yards per attempt when contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage, the third-best rate in the league — **James Conner** ranked 35th. Arizona's pass-catchers would rank higher if not for **DeAndre Hopkins**'s six-game suspension. The Cardinals' offense averaged 6.4 yards per play when Hopkins was on the field, compared to 4.9 when he was not. **Marquise Brown** should be a nice complementary piece once Hopkins returns, but this unit will likely suffer while he's the number-one option.

We were optimistic about Arizona's restructured offensive line last offseason (the unit ranked 13th), but it failed to pan out. Arizona quarterbacks were pressured in 2.5 seconds or less on 26% of dropbacks, the league's fourth-highest rate. The unit mostly remains intact, with **Will Hernandez** the lone newcomer.

Due to the loss of **Chandler Jones**, Arizona's front seven took the biggest hit, dropping 14 spots in our rankings. When Jones was on the field, he accounted for 24% of the team's pressures and 38% of the sacks. Third-round rookies **Myjai Sanders** and **Cameron Thomas** were the only notable additions.

Arizona's secondary remains mostly intact, but we're not viewing that as a positive, as the unit ranked no higher than 27th on any ballot. The development of cornerbacks **Antonio Hamilton** and **Marco Wilson** could make or break this defense. Kingsbury climbed from 18th to 16th in our head coach rankings, though that was heavily influenced by the significant turnover in the coaching ranks. If this team takes a step back, he'll be on the hot seat.

#### <u>ARI-4</u>

on 31% of offensive plays, second-most in the NFL, despite having Hopkins, Kirk, and Larry Fitzgerald available. The Cardinals added Green and drafted wide receiver **Rondale Moore**. With Hopkins and Kirk still in tow, it seemed logical the Cardinals would shift back to more 3+ receiver sets.

Sure enough, in Weeks 1-8, the Cardinals leaned heavily into 10 personnel, running it on 25% of offensive snaps, by far the most in the NFL (Buffalo was second at 12%, no other team was above 4%). Much of this usage came on third down, however. On early downs in the first three quarters of games, the Cardinals used 16% 10 personnel and 50% 11 personnel. While still leading the NFL in 10 personnel, their 3+ receiver set usage in these situations was 73%. This ranked fourth highest in the NFL, behind the Rams, Bills, and Buccaneers.

When Hopkins returned for a couple of games late in the season, the Cardinals were no longer interested in running a lot of 10 personnel, but increased their 11 personnel to 65% on early downs in the first three quarters.

However, in the games without Hopkins, Kingsbury made major adjustments to their personnel deployment. Logically, the Cardinals scrapped 10 personnel. In fact, on early downs in the first three quarters, the Cardinals ran a total of five plays with four or more receivers in the nine games without Hopkins. Compare that to 55 plays in eight games with him to start the year.

You might expect Kingsbury would run more 11 personnel without Hopkins, turning those 4+ receiver sets into 11 personnel. That wasn't the case at all. Again, focusing on early downs in the first three quarters:

#### ARI-5

Without Hopkins: 54% of snaps using 3+ WRs (146 total snaps in nine games) With Hopkins, Weeks 1-8: 55% of snaps used 3+ WRs (172 total snaps in

Not only did Kingsbury scrap 10 personnel, he used slightly less 11 personnel as well.

Instead, without Hopkins available, Kingsbury went back to his 2020 staple of 12 personnel. They used 12 on a massive 37% of early down snaps.

Unfortunately, nothing was successful.

Early down passes from 11 personnel? -0.03 EPA/att, 6.1 YPA, 52% success Early down passes from 12 personnel? -0.07 EPA/att, 5.6 YPA, 53% success Early down RB-rushes from 11 personnel? 0.02 EPA/att, 4.6 YPC, 46%

Early down RB-rushes from 12 personnel? -0.06 EPA/att, 3.1 YPC, 40% success

With Hopkins out of the lineup, defenses blitzed Murray less on early downs but recorded more pressure:

With Hopkins: 19.9% blitz rate, 29.5% pressure rate Without Hopkins: 12.8% blitz rate, 29.6% pressure rate

And then on third downs, they sent the house:

Murray was blitzed on 23.9% of third downs the weeks Hopkins played.

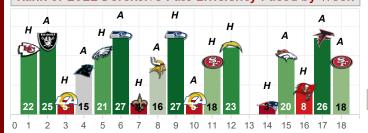
Murray was blitzed on 45.7% of third downs the weeks that Hopkins was out.

The difference was massive for Kyler:

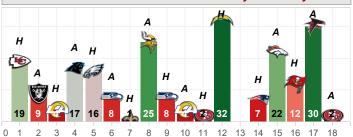
#### (cont'd - see ARI-6)



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



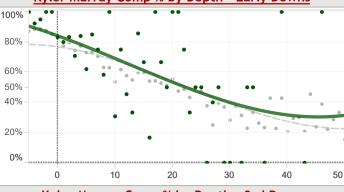
#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
-	P		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)				
	James	Conner	11%	4%	44%	18%	23%				
	Chase	Edmonds	9%	5%	57%	12%	17%				
I	Christi	an Kirk			100%						
RUS	Ronda	ale Moore	11%	6%	72%	6%	6%				
~	Zach I	Ertz			100%						
	Eno B	enjamin	24%	5%	34%	8%	29%				
	Total		11%	4%	49%	14%	21%				
	James	Conner	22%	5%	56%	7%	10%				
	Chase	Edmonds	4%	15%	56%	11%	15%				
	Christi	an Kirk	22%	15%	47%	10%	6%				
	A.J. G	reen	20%	14%	48%	14%	4%				
	Ronda	ale Moore	14%	6%	47%	22%	11%				
	Zach I	Ertz	19%	19%	48%	7%	7%				
PASS	DeAnd	dre Hopkins	3%	8%	53%	26%	10%				
Α	Eno B	enjamin	33%	33%	33%						
	Antoin	e Wesley	24%	18%	44%	12%	3%				
	Maxx	Williams		12%	65%	18%	6%				
	Darrel	l Daniels	29%		57%		14%				
	Deme	trius Harris			33%	33%	33%				
	Andy I	sabella	100%								
	Total		16%	13%	49%	13%	8%				

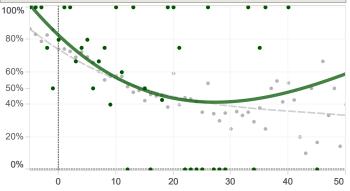
#### Chara of Officiality Diagonality Tun

		<u>Sr</u>	<u>nare</u>	ot (	<u> Jtte</u>	<u>nsıv</u>	e Pla	ays I	by I	<u>ype</u>			
	James Conner	Chase Edmonds	Christian Kirk	A.J. Green	Rondale Moore	Zach Ertz	DeAndre Hopkins	Eno Benjamin	Antoine Wesley	Maxx Williams	Darrell Daniels	Demetrius Harris	Andy Isabella
PASS	7%	9%	19%	16%	12%	14%	10%	2%	6%	3%	1%	1%	0%
RUSH	53%	32%	0%		5%	0%		10%					
ALL	25%	18%	12%	10%	9%	9%	6%	5%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%

#### Kyler Murray Comp % by Depth - Early Downs



#### Kyler Murray Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down



#### Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

#### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-1 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	47%, 0.00 (418)	50%, -0.05 (116)	57%, 0.47 (86)	80%, 0.35 (5)	83%, 0.34 (6)	30%, -0.49 (10)	75%, 0.14 (4)	100%, 0.18 (1)	100%, 3.47 (1)	49%, 0.06 (661)
RUSH	52%, 0.03 (244)	45%, -0.11 (138)	53%, 0.24 (62)	54%, 0.09 (28)	47%, -0.16 (19)	67%, 0.25 (3)	86%, 0.68 (7)	0%, -0.69 (2)	0%, -2.09 (1)	50%, 0.02 (510)
All	49%, 0.01 (662)	47%, -0.08 (254)	55%, 0.37 (148)	58%, 0.13 (33)	56%, -0.04 (25)	38%, -0.32 (13)	82%, 0.48 (11)	33%, -0.40 (3)	50%, 0.69 (2)	50%, 0.04 (1,171)

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 Gr													
WR	Christian Kirk	53% (75) 9.1, 0.30	80% (15) 10.1, 0.55	75% (16) 11.8, 0.89		60% (106) 9.7, 0.43							
	A.J. Green	47% (60) 8.0, -0.07	44% (9) 5.0, 0.14	78% (18) 15.2, 1.35		53% (87) 9.2, 0.25							
	Rondale Moore	47% (34) 5.2, 0.01	63% (19) 5.9, 0.05	40% (15) 10.3, -0.41	100% (1) 7.0, 0.23	51% (69) 6.5, -0.07							
	DeAndre Hopkins	62% (34) 7.4, 0.44	55% (11) 9.9, 0.46	73% (11) 13.8, 1.12	100% (1) 30.0, 2.12	63% (57) 9.5, 0.60							
TE	Zach Ertz	51% (63) 6.5, 0.07	80% (15) 11.0, 0.34		50% (2) 2.5, -0.36	56% (80) 7.3, 0.11							
RB	Chase Edmonds	38% (21) 7.0, 0.12	30% (10) 3.0, -0.29	38% (13) 7.9, 0.21	100% (1) 6.0, 0.19	38% (45) 6.3, 0.06							
	James Conner	69% (29) 10.1, 0.55	33% (6) 2.7, -0.92	100% (3) 8.3, 0.78	100% (1) 7.0, 0.21	67% (39) 8.7, 0.33							

#### Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

		<u> </u>			
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Conner	51% (94)	51% (63)	50% (4)	100% (1)	51% (162)
James	4.4, 0.00	2.9, 0.01	3.3, -0.05	8.0, 1.33	3.8, 0.01
Edmonds	59% (54)	45% (31)	30% (10)	67% (3)	52% (98)
Chase	5.4, 0.14	2.9, -0.08	3.8, -0.19	5.0, 0.14	4.4, 0.04
Murray	56% (41)	57% (23)		100% (1)	57% (65)
Kyler	5.0, -0.01	5.6, 0.08		2.0, 0.68	5.2, 0.03
Benjamin	40% (30)	0% (4)	67% (3)	100% (1)	39% (38)
Eno	3.7, -0.07	0.8, -0.91	2.3, -0.44	6.0, 0.14	3.3, -0.18
McCoy Colt	56% (9) 5.0, 0.20	15% (13) -0.6, -0.58			32% (22) 1.7, -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

Pas	sing by	Pass	sing by	Throw	Throw Types		Types	ypes QB State at Pass			Run Types	
	verage :heme	Re	oute	Level 1	57% (427)			Planted		3% (456) .7, 0.20	Inside Zone	54% (146) 3.9, 0.00
		Curl	65% (81) 6.9, 0.20		6.6, 0.11		7.6, 0.14	Moving		8% (89)		<u> </u>
Zone	45% (445) 8.7, 0.16			Level 2	51% (94)	5 Step	51% (163) 9.9, 0.38	Shuffling	50	.4, 0.10 2% (75)	Outside Zone	46% (84) 4.2, -0.02
	0.7, 0.10	Out	65% (37) 7.7, 0.43			59% (129)	Siluiling	7.	.6, 0.12	Power	42% (38)	
			58% (33)	Level 3	44% (54)	u/i Step	5.8, 0.06		Play Action	on	Power	4.0, 0.00
Man	42% (114) 5.9, -0.23	Slant	6.9, -0.01	2010.0	15.8, 0.85	Basic Screen	69% (36) 9.7, 0.23		Play Action	No P/A	Stretch	47% (17) 3.2, -0.02
	-10, 0120		62% (13)	Shovel	70% (10)			Under Center	45% (20) 6.1, -0.31	50% (6) 6.6, -0.10		
	140( (04)	Dig	8.1, 0.43		3.8, -0.44	7 Step	61% (23) 12.6, 0.70	Shotgun	55% (165)	48% (470)	Pitch	62% (13) 4.7, 0.14
Other	44% (31) 2.5, -0.05	Drag	14% (7) 3.0, -0.32	Sidearm	56% (9) 6.6, 0.46	Designed Rollout Right	39% (18) 5.0, -0.34	ALL	8.8, 0.12 54% (185) 8.5, 0.07	7.4, 0.06 48% (476) 7.4, 0.06	Lead	0% (1) 0.0, -1.60

#### ARI-6

Third downs with Hopkins: 0.35 EPA/att, 68% completions, 46% success rate Third downs without Hopkins: -0.04 EPA/att, 55% completions, 36% success rate

For three straight years, the Cardinals have made big splashes in the trade market to try and help Kyler Murray.

Two years ago, it was Hopkins and we've seen the difference he has made. Last year, it was center **Rodney Hudson**. This year, it was wide receiver **Marquise Brown**.

Hudson made a huge difference for the Cardinals in the passing game when he was available.

Hudson on-field for passes: 0.09 EPA/att, 8.1 YPA, 73% completions Hudson off-field for passes: -0.01 EPA/att, 7.3 YPA, 64% completions

It's been interesting to watch Arizona attempt to supply Murray with a supporting cast to see what he can deliver.

Arizona drafted Murray first overall in the 2019 NFL Draft. Since then, the Cardinals have had three drafts and they've taken just one receiver: Rondale Moore in the second round of the 2021 draft.

Murray, as a rookie, inherited a receiving corps consisting of 36-year-old Larry Fitzgerald and second-year WR Christian Kirk. Aside from those two, it was Damiere Byrd, KeeSean Johnson, and Pharoh Cooper. Not great.

In 2020, the Cardinals swung big and traded for veteran DeAndre Hopkins, losing only David Johnson and a second-round pick in the process — a no-brainer steal.





In 2021, they signed A.J. Green via free agency and drafted Moore.

In 2022, they traded for Marquise Brown, losing a first-round pick in the process (but gained a third as well).

The Cardinals have favored veteran receivers no longer desired by their previous teams as opposed to drafting younger players. Ironically, that's how they lost Christian Kirk as well.

In February, former Cardinals receiver Christian Kirk said Murray's future with the team would be a factor in whether or not he re-signed this offseason. We know what happened there. Kirk is in Jacksonville.

And so the Murray saga began. He unfollowed the Cardinals on Instagram and Twitter on February 7th. A week later, news came out that Murray was "frustrated" with the Cardinals and believed he was "framed as a scapegoat" for their loss to the Rams in the playoffs. Two days later, a story arose that Murray refused to re-enter the playoff game with a minute left in the game.

"A banged-up Murray said no, that's it, I'm done. So I know a lot of Cardinals folks were not happy with that one," reported NFL Network's Mike Garafolo. After back-and-forth comments from Murray, saying he's "a Cardinal" and the team shooting down rumors Murray would be traded this offseason, Murray skipped OTAs and failed to progress on a new deal.

While every front office has a duty and obligation to help their young quarterback by supplying them with enough surrounding talent during their inexpensive rookie contract, the simple fact for the Cardinals is they can win games with a healthy Kyler Murray. They've proved it for two straight years.

In 2020, Murray injured his shoulder on the first drive of Week 11. Arizona was 6-3 prior to that injury. They finished 2-5.

In 2021, Murray injured his ankle on the final drive of Week 8. Arizona was 7-0 prior to that injury. They finished 4-7 including their 34-11 playoff loss.

That's a 13-3 record the last two years before sustaining injuries, and 6-12 following those injuries.

We also know that Kliff Kingsbury has tended to fall off in his tactics and execution over the course of the season as well.

Since coming to Arizona, Kingsbury's splits:

Weeks 1-7: 15-5-1 (75%, NFL's second-best) Weeks 8+: 9-20 (31%, NFL's fourth-worst)

What are the realistic chances for the Cardinals to get through the season without Kingsbury or a Murray injury derailing things in 2022?

Arizona substantially improved their turnover margin in 2021, shifting from 0 in 2020 to +12 last year. They went 1-2 in games they lost the turnover margin, 3-3 when even in turnover margin, and 7-1 when winning the turnover margin.

(cont'd - see ARI-8)

#### **Immediate Impact of Arizona Cardinals 2021 Draft Class**

After trading away their first-round pick in exchange for **Marquise Brown** on draft night, the Cardinals weren't left with much draft capital.

It's unclear exactly how tight end **Trey McBride** (second round) fits into the offense in the short term, though the long-term plan is likely for him to replace **Zach Ertz**. Following the acquisition of Ertz last season, Arizona used two tight-end sets only 26% of the time.

Arizona also used zero tight-end formations at the league's highest rate, so it's unlikely McBride will see a significant early role.

McBride is a capable blocker, but was lined up in the slot or out wide on 40% of his targets last season at Colorado State, so expect him to factor into the passing game when he's on the field.

Cameron Thomas (third round) will likely be groomed into a role similar to J.J. Watt and Zach Allen. Thomas played on the interior defensive line for much of his career at San Diego State, but has the athleticism to also play on the edge.

Arizona used three defensive linemen on 40% of defensive plays last year — Thomas's skill set makes him an ideal fit at defensive end in those formations. Both Allen and Watt hit free agency after the 2021 season, so Thomas will likely be given an opportunity to win a starting job next year.

Myjai Sanders (third round) is more of a pure edge-rusher than Thomas and likely will compete for snaps with Devon Kennard and Markus Golden.

Despite blitzing at the third-highest rate, Arizona ranked dead last in pressure rate generated on the blitz, so Arizona should give Sanders every opportunity to earn immediate playing time to bolster a struggling pass-rush unit.

Jesse Luketa (sixth round) may also compete with Sanders for playing time, though he's more of a long-term project. Luketa ranked 27th in the Big Ten in pressure rate a season ago (7.6%).

Without much depth at running back, **Keontay Ingram** (sixth round) could see some playing time as a rookie. Ingram is at his best running between the tackles, where he averaged 5.3 yards per attempt last season at USC. He provides some insurance behind **James Conner**, due to his similar running style.

It's unlikely anyone from this class makes a substantial immediate impact in Arizona, though the three Day 2 selections do have starter potential down the road. That said, the success of this draft ultimately hinges on Brown and his ability to elevate his career beyond what he showed in Baltimore.

#### Arizona Cardinals 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

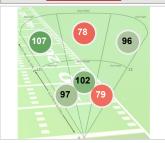
The Cardinals closed last season 11th in the NFL in expected points added via their passing offense (127.5 EPA). Kyler Murray has improved all three seasons in the league. His yards per pass attempt, completion percentage, yards per completion, touchdown rate, and rating index all have risen each year of his career. Murray has flirted with MVP levels of play in the first halves of seasons but has picked up mid-season injuries in each of the past two years that have set him back after racing out of the gates. Last season, he missed three games due to an ankle injury. Murray is the next quarterback poised to get a large contract while he and the organization have danced around the idea this offseason with no official extension outside of the team picking up his fifth-year option. Murray still has room to grow, but with improvement every season, he is still on a progressive trajectory.

	2021 Standard Passing Table									
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Kyler Murray	351	514	68%	3,909	7.6	24	12	32	97	15
Colt McCoy	74	99	75%	740	7.5	3	1	6	101	10
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

#### 2021 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. 20+ Air Avg. Air 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Success **Passing** 20+ Air **Pass Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp % 49% 52% 50 10.0% 23 4.0% Kyler Murray 6.0 5.4 52% 55% 11 11.0% 3 3.0% 3.9 6.1 46% 50% 8.8% 5.3 34.1 12.5 3.1% 5.6

#### **Target Postive Distribution** Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Kyler Murray 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		9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	5.4%	2.9%	0.0%	3.8%
6 - 9	0.0%	2.5%	2.9%	0.0%	2.4%
10 - 14	0.6%	4.5%	0.0%		1.5%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%		2.0%
Total	0.5%	3.8%	2.3%	0.0%	2.2%

QΒ

Colt McCoy

NFL Ava

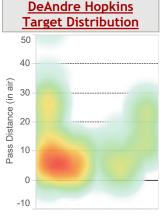
<u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u>							
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk		
Kyler Murray	8.1	10.4	2.3	60%	9		
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%			

	Air Y	Air Yds vs YAC							
nd	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	52%	48%	25						
	53%	47%							

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Arizona closed 2021 11th in success rate (54%) and 10th in yards per target (8.3) to their wideouts. Christian Kirk led the Cardinals in targets (103) receptions (77), and yards (982) since **DeAndre Hopkins** only appeared in 10 games. Kirk was allowed to walk via free agency while the team traded for Marquise Brown. While on the field, Hopkins averaged 4.2 receptions and 57.2 yards per game, by far his lowest totals per game since 2016. Hopkins will miss the opening six weeks of the season due to a PED suspension. A.J. Green was brought back on a one-year contract after catching 54-of-92 targets for 848 yards and three touchdowns. Rondale Moore will be entering his second season coming off 54 catches for 435 yards and one touchdown

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS %	TDs
Christian Kirk	113	73%	9.2	109.2	58%	29	43	50	100	5
A.J. Green	95	57%	8.9	88.4	52%	73	23	46	62	3
Zach Ertz	85	69%	7.0	86.2	54%	50	64	93	54	5
Rondale Moore	72	82%	6.5	81.0	51%	76	139	106	25	1
DeAndre Hopkins	62	66%	9.0	134.5	60%	21	16	63	51	8
Chase Edmonds	54	80%	5.8	90.7	35%	138	128	133	89	0





#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

After only landing a "prove it" deal last offseason for under \$2 million, James Conner cashed a three-year extension to stay in Arizona, worth up to \$25.5 million, with \$13.5 million guaranteed. Conner is coming off posting 1,127 yards with 18 touchdowns (third in the league). He also added pass-catching juice, averaging a career-high 10.1 yards per reception with three touchdowns on 37 grabs. When Conner was called upon to carry the offense last season with Chase Edmonds out last year, we did see that he once again picked up some wear and tear, missing two games with ankle and heel injuries. Conner still has yet to play a full season in the league, but Arizona has inexperienced depth behind him in 2020 seventh-rounder **Eno Benjamin** (40 career touches) and 2022 sixth-rounder Keaontay Ingram as the primary backups.

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	205	3.7	50%	44	41	32	67	49%	47	16
Chase Edmonds	124	5.0	55%	24	15	64	15	53%	23	2
Kyler Murray	90	4.8	53%	29	89	19	21	53%	23	5

#### Yards per Carry by Direction





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





Arizona traded their first-round pick to acquire **Marquise Brown** from Baltimore. The move reunites Brown with his college quarterback from 2018, when Brown caught 75 passes for 1,318 yards and 10 touchdowns with **Kyler Murray** at Oklahoma. Brown is coming off his best NFL season, catching 91-of-146 targets for 1,008 yards and six touchdowns. We were finally seeing the emergence of Brown as a lead wideout until the injury to **Lamar Jackson** torpedoed a potentially top-scoring receiver season from Brown in Year 3. Brown was averaging 17.4 points per game through 10 games and then limped to the finish line with 8.8 points per game afterward.

With Jackson under center, Brown caught 67.3% of his targets for 12.7 yards per catch, 8.5 yards per target, and averaged 2.03 yards per route run compared to catching 52.1% of his targets for 6.8 yards per catch, 3.6 yards per target, and 0.80 yards per route. That drop-off is a signal that Brown is not the type of wideout that can overcome and elevate a poor offense, but this move also pairs him with a quarterback that has shown massive success downfield to start his career. Since entering the league, Murray has completed 41.5% (34/82) of his passes of 30-plus air yards, the highest rate in the league (league average is 30.3%). His EPA per dropback on those throws (0.91) is second behind Justin Herbert.

Christian Kirk accounted for 30 of those targets, with the next highest player (DeAndre Hopkins) coming in at 12. Hollywood is second in the NFL in those targets (43) since entering the league behind Tyreek Hill (45). But Brown has secured just nine of those targets (20.9%) with 14 of those targets deemed inaccurate due to the quarterback, the most in the NFL over that span per TruMedia. This trade also came just days ahead of the announced suspension of Hopkins, who will miss the first six games of the season due to PEDs. That suspension paired with Arizona losing Kirk in free agency (who led the Cardinals in targets (103) receptions (77), and yards (982) in 2021) not only creates a runway for Brown to be a strong WR2 with upside to start the season, but it also provides insurance and a better lead wide receiver in the offense for Murray, who struggled with Hopkins off the field in 2021 when the offense ran through Kirk.

With Hopkins on the field, Murray completed 72.1% of his passes for 8.8 yards per pass attempt. With Hopkins off the field, Murray completed 65.1% of his passes for 6.6 Y/A. **Zach Ertz** is also going to get a bump with Hopkins off the field to start the season while Brown can clear plenty of space for him. In 11 games with the Cardinals, Ertz averaged 5.1 receptions for 52.2 yards per game with three scores. Seven of those games came without Hopkins, where Ertz averaged 9.0 targets per game while receiving a team-high 24.0% of the targets in those games. **Rondale Moore** is also in play for an extended role in his second season, but Moore did not do anything to alleviate the concerns we had for him transitioning to the NFL, even in an offense that was suited to get the most out of him. After being a near the line of scrimmage receiver in college, Moore managed a laughable depth of target of just 1.2 yards as a rookie. Just seven of his 64 targets came on throws over 10 yards downfield while 41 came at or behind the line scrimmage.

Ari	Arizona Cardinals Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel						ncies	Surrendered +Success Map				
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total	0/ 51							50
1-1 [3WR]	50 plays (11%) Success: 54%	385 plays (87%) Success: 48%	8 plays (2%) Success: 50%	443 plays (100%) Success: 49%		% Rk		40				
1-1 [54414]	EPA: 0.25	EPA: 0.00	EPA: 0.12	EPA: 0.03	Base	29%	8					
1-2 [2WR]	59 plays <i>(80%)</i> Success: 47%	15 plays <i>(20%)</i> Success: 20%		74 plays (100%) Success: 42%	Nickel	59%	19	30				
	EPA: 0.03	EPA: -0.61		EPA: -0.10	Dime+	1%	29					
2-1 [2WR]	24 plays (77%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.13	7 plays (23%) Success: 57% EPA: -0.33		31 plays (100%) Success: 52% EPA: -0.18	Rush 3	7%	10	20 -				
	5 plays (83%)	1 plays (17%)		6 plays (100%)	Rush 4	58%	30	10 -				
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 40% EPA: -0.02	Success: 0% EPA: -0.26		Success: 33% EPA: -0.06	Rush 5	29%	3					
Grand	138 plays (25%)	408 plays (74%)	8 plays <i>(1%)</i>	554 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	7%	8	0-				
Total	Success: 50% EPA: 0.08	Success: 47% EPA: -0.03	Success: 50% EPA: 0.12	Success: 48% EPA: 0.00	Blitz%	36%	3	-10				

#### **Defensive Outlook**

The Cardinals only got **J.J. Watt** for seven games, but he was back to his dominant self when he was on the field in 2021. Watt had a 12% pressure rate as an interior defender and was even better in limited snaps on the edge. **Zach Allen**, a 2019 third-round pick, played 62% of the snaps and had 14 quarterback hits after nine combined in his first two seasons. Allen got run with and without Watt and was able to produce in both situations. Allen is in the final year of his rookie deal. **Leki Fotu** made his way onto the field for 34% of the snaps as a 330-pound nose tackle. Fotu had the lowest pressure rate in the league among qualified defensive tackles, but his presence in the middle made a big enough impact against the pass with three passes defensed. **Michael Dogbe** got 24% of the snaps. The 2019 seventh-round pick has the athletic upside to be a plus pass rusher from the interior but hasn't completely put that together on the field.

On the edge, **Markus Golden** remains one of the league's most underrated pass rushers. He was 49th in pressure rate last season but had a high conversion rate on making those pressures matter. He had 19 quarterback hits and 11 sacks. **Devon Kennard** has been a rotational pass rusher with the Cardinals after coming over from the Lions. He played 24% of the defensive snaps last season. Kennard has five or more tackles for loss in each of the past five seasons, but had a career-low two quarterback hits in 2021. **Dennis Gardeck** had a monster 2020 season with seven sacks and 10 quarterback hits. Gardeck recovered from a late 2020 torn ACL then missed the first three games of the season with a hand injury. He played 16% of the snaps and had four quarterback hits.

As a team, the Cardinals only ranked 27th in pressure rate last season per SIS. At linebacker, the Cardinals opened the season telling **Jordan Hicks** he was likely going to be traded because there wasn't a place for him in the starting lineup behind the previous two years' first-round picks — then Hicks played 97% of the defensive snaps. With Hicks now gone in free agency, **Isaiah Simmons** and **Zaven Collins** will take over. Simmons played 93% of the defensive snaps in his second season. He's still a work in progress playing as a more traditional linebacker. He ranked 61st among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. Collins only played 20% of the defensive snaps during his rookie season with one tackle for loss and three passes defensed.

Byron Murphy ranked 49th among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap after the secondary as a whole started as one of the best units in football. Murphy will be in the final year of his rookie deal. Marco Wilson was 90th among those 93 corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. The fourth-round rookie had his struggles but corner has historically been a position that takes some time to develop, especially for mid-round picks thrown in as starters. The Cardinals had 117 plays with only three defensive backs. The next highest team was at 56 and after that was 34.

Part of the Cardinals' reliance on so few defensive backs came from **Budda Baker's** ability to play all over the defense. Baker is coming off two All-Pro years (first-team in 2020 and second-team in 2021). His presence in the secondary allows the Cardinals to have more options with what's around him. **Jalen Thompson** played 91% of the defensive snaps and the 2019 fifth-round Supplemental Draft pick had his best season. He'll be in the final year of his rookie deal.

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	59%
All Pass Rk	15
All Rush %	41%
All Rush Rk	18
1 Score Pass %	59%
1 Score Pass Rk	11
2020 1 Score Pass %	56%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	21
2021 Pass Increase %	3%
Pass Increase Rk	10
1 Score Rush %	41%
1 Score Rush Rk	22
Up Pass %	57%
Up Pass Rk	12
Up Rush %	43%
Up Rush Rk	21
Down Pass %	63%
Down Pass Rk	9
Down Rush %	37%
Down Rush Rk	24

<u>D</u>	Down & Distance Tendencies							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %			
1st	Short (1-3)	10	0%	100%	60%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	11	45%	55%	27%			
	Long (8-10)	331	47%	53%	53%			
	XL (11+)	15	67%	33%	33%			
2nd	Short (1-3)	53	30%	70%	75%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	91	63%	37%	49%			
	Long (8-10)	91	87%	13%	45%			
	XL (11+)	50	82%	18%	32%			
3rd	Short (1-3)	53	53%	47%	57%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	46	85%	15%	43%			
	Long (8-10)	27	89%	11%	63%			
	XL (11+)	39	82%	18%	18%			
4th	Short (1-3)	13	54%	46%	69%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	67%	33%	67%			
	XL (11+)	2	50%	50%	0%			

Shotgun %								
Shotgun Under Center								
90%	10%							
NFL	NFL AVG							
65%	65% 35%							
Efficiency								

### Arizona Cardinals 7 2021 Play Analysis

#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

0070	0070	
Effic	iency	
EPA/ pass: 0.08	EPA/ pass: 0.04	Ru Fre
EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:	
-0.04 Success:	0.05 Success:	Pas Fre

2nd and Short Run						
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg		
74%	13	71%	77%	73%		
	2nd and Short Pass					
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg		

67%

46%

29%

Most Frequent Play					
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James Conner	6	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	James Conner	4	25%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	James Conner	71	44%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Chase Edmonds	3	0%
			Antoine Wesley	3	33%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James Conner	20	70%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Christian Kirk	11	64%
			DeAndre Hopkins	11	55%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Christian Kirk	13	38%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Christian Kirk	10	30%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James Conner	15	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Christian Kirk	8	63%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	A.J. Green	5	80%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Rondale Moore	13	8%

<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: 51%	Success: 62%	Success: 53%				
	YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.19	YPA: 10.3, EPA: 0.38	YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.23				
	Rtg: 117.6	Rtg: 114.8	Rtg: 117.0				
	[Att: 149 - Rate: 22.5%]	[Att: 39 - Rate: 5.9%]	[Att: 188 - Rate: 28.4%]				
Yes	Success: 46%	Success: 51%	Success: 48%				
	YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.00	YPA: 8.0, EPA: -0.01	YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.00				
	Rtg: 93.2	Rtg: 89.6	Rtg: 92.1				
	[Att: 327 - Rate: 49.5%]	[Att: 146 - Rate: 22.1%]	[Att: 473 - Rate: 71.6%]				
Total	Success: 48%	Success: 54%	Success: 49%				
	YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.06	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.07	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.06				
	Rtg: 100.7	Rtg: 95.0	Rtg: 99.1				
	[Att: 476 - Rate: 72.0%]	[Att: 185 - Rate: 28.0%]	[Att: 661 - Rate: 100.0%]				

	Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Christian Kirk	A.J. Green	Zach Ertz	James Conner	DeAndre Hopkins	Chase Edmonds	Antoine Wesley	Rondale Moore
1	TEN	W 38-13	39	55		34	61	40		20
2	MIN	W 34-33	38	51		24	59	39		28
3	JAC	W 31-19	38	53		25	61	44	10	23
4	LA	W 37-20	56	67		33	75	52	3	33
5	SF	W 17-10	33	49		29	56	37	3	29
6	CLE	W 37-14	64	68		41	67	28	9	42
7	HOU	W 31-5	51	60	35	21	59	49	12	37
8	GB	L 24-21	46	56	43	22	15	35	31	36
9	SF	W 31-17	67		56	54		1	54	57
10	CAR	L 34-10	47	38	45	45			42	18
11	SEA	W 23-13	61	57	63	68			63	32
13	CHI	W 33-22	32	36	41	48	39		11	23
14	LA	L 30-23	58	56	65	75	68		7	34
15	DET	L 30-12	72	56	67	33		29	64	20
16	IND	L 22-16	55	56	63			60	50	
17	DAL	W 25-22	68	61	69			61	43	
18	SEA	L 38-30	68	68	70	46			57	
	Grand	Total	893	887	617	598	560	475	459	432

Personnel Groupings				
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.	
1-1 [3WR]	56%	61%	50%	
1-2 [2WR]	21%	21%	48%	
1-0 [4WR]	13%	2%	56%	
1-3 [1WR]	3%	4%	59%	
2-1 [2WR]	2%	7%	54%	
2-1 [2WR]  Group			0170	
			0170	
Group	oing Te	enden 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 63% 44%	Pass Succ. % 48% 51%	Run Succ. % 53% 45%	

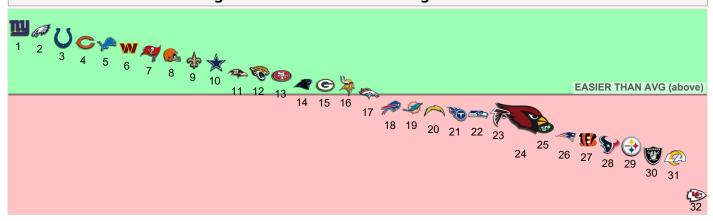
Red Zone Targets Leaderboard						
Receiver	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
A.J. Green	17	5	6	6		
DeAndre Hopkins	15	6	2	7		
Zach Ertz	14	4	2	8		
Christian Kirk	10	3	3	4		
Rondale Moore	8	1	1	6		
Chase Edmonds	7		1	6		
Antoine Wesley	6	2	2	2		
James Conner	3		1	2		

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard						
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
James Conner	43	19	10	14		
Kyler Murray	25	5	6	14		
Chase Edmonds	20	5	7	8		
Rondale Moore	5	1		4		
Eno Benjamin	3		1	2		
Zach Ertz	1	1				

Early D	own Targ	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
20% <b>23%</b>	20% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	60% <b>56%</b>
Overall	Target Su	ıccess %
Overall RB	Target Su	uccess % wr



#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



While it is true the NFC West could get substantially easier, with the loss of Russell Wilson and the 49ers likely turning to Trey Lance, we have to keep in mind the Cardinals' schedule last year.

Not just their opponents... look at their opposing QBs they faced:

Week 1: Ryan Tannehill

Week 2: Kirk Cousins

Week 3: Trevor Lawrence

Week 4: Matthew Stafford

Week 5: Trey Lance

Week 6: Baker Mayfield

Week 7: Davis Mills

Week 8: Aaron Rodgers

Week 9: Jimmy Garoppolo

Week 10: P.J. Walker

Week 11: Russell Wilson (returning from injury too early)

Week 13: Andy Dalton

Week 14: Matthew Stafford

Week 15: Jared Goff

Week 16: Carson Wentz

Week 17: Dak Prescott

Week 18: Russell Wilson

The Cardinals have the ninth-toughest schedule based on opponents this year and the fifth-toughest based on prep and rest ranking.

Last year they ranked fourth in rest ranking by my metrics and this year, they rank 31st.

In 2021, the Cardinals played only two games with a rest disadvantage and lost both. This year, they play four games with a rest disadvantage.

In Hopkins starts last year, he took a 20.8% target share on Murray attempts. That was a massive decline from Hopkins's first season with the Cardinals in 2020, when he saw 29.4% of all targets directed his way.

Initially, this may be viewed as a bad thing for the Cardinals – getting the ball to their No. 1 receiver less often. But I was a fan of the increased efficiency of these targets and the different manners in which the Cardinals targeted Hopkins.

Hopkins's target depth increased from 8.9 in 2020 up to 12.3 in 2021. He averaged more yards per reception in 2021 and his EPA/target increased from 0.29 in 2020 to 0.54 in 2021.

It wasn't just on throws to Hopkins that Murray improved in 2021. Murray improved on deep throws in general to all receivers. Examine Murray's throws of 20+ yards by year, despite the fact that Hopkins was out for eight games last year:

2020: 0.41 EPA/att, 40.6% success, 39.1% completion rate, 78.3% accuracy

2021: 0.71 EPA/att, 47.3% success, 47.3% completion rate, 85.1% accuracy

2021 in Hopkins starts: 0.86 EPA/att, 52.8% success, 52.8% completion rate, 84.9% accuracy

Murray's deep accuracy, even without Hopkins, was substantially better than in 2020. On his Level 2 throws (which are defined as up-and-down throws, usually over the linebackers but in front of the defensive backs), Murray improved massively:

2020: -0.01 EPA/att, 9.5 YPA, 45% success 2021: 0.36 EPA/att, 10.7 YPA, 51% success





As did his Level 3 throws, which are high-arcing passes reserved mainly for deep balls (launched throws):

2020: 0.44 EPA/att, 14.4 YPA, 38% success 2021: 0.85 EPA/att, 15.8 YPA, 44% success

While Murray was better in general during 2021, splits without Hopkins showed decline. Murray's 20+ yard deep throws averaged 0.33 EPA/att, 33.3% success, and only 33.3% completions, down from 52.8% completions when Hopkins played.

But Murray's accuracy rate was actually better (85.7%) without Hopkins in the game. Thus, the Cardinals' drop in production and efficiency was primarily falling to the receiver drop-off, not Murray's inability to throw deep accurately.

This further explains the Cardinals' desire to land Marquise Brown. Arizona will be without Hopkins for the first six weeks of 2022 due to his suspension.

Another area in which Murray improved was on third downs.

I fear this improvement will be short-lived and Arizona won't be able to bank on it.

For starters, the Cardinals in 2021 averaged 8.1 yards-to-go on third down on Murray dropbacks, which ranked as the third-longest yards-to-go in the NFL behind only the Bears and Broncos.

Despite the lengthy to-go distance, Murray threw 40.3% of third down attempts beyond the sticks, which ranked 17th out of 42 QBs. His air yards per attempt was 10.4, which ranked sixth-most. Deeper passes are less likely to be completed, but despite having such a deep average pass, Murray's completion rate of 63% ranked 13th of 42 and his EPA/att of 0.22 ranked fifth of 42.

Compare Murray on third downs the last two years:

2020: 7.3 yds-to-go (24th), 39.0% beyond sticks (24th), 10.0 air yds/att (seventh), 55% comp (34th), -0.16 EPA/att (32nd) 2021: 8.1 yds-to-go (third), 40.3% beyond sticks (17th), 10.4 air yds/att (sixth), 63% comp (13th), 0.22 EPA/att (fifth)

Murray was tremendous on these difficult third downs.

The reason he was in such difficult to-go distances was the failure of the rushing attack on early downs. Compare 2020 to 2021 for the Cardinals' early down rushing:

2020: -0.06 EPA/att (10th), 4.4 YPC (14th), 65.4% of runs vs 7+ box defenders 2021: -0.11 EPA/att (17th), 4.0 YPC (25th), 52.8% of runs vs 7+ box defenders

Despite facing a far lower rate of 7+ man boxes, the 2021 Cardinals were much worse when running the ball on early downs. The drop-off in performance came from everyone:

On these early down runs, Murray dropped off the most, going from 0.20 EPA/rush, 51% success, and 5.7 YPC in 2020 to -0.17 EPA/rush, 39% success, and 4.5 YPC in 2021. But **Chase Edmonds**, while improving his success rate from 33% to 39%, recorded fewer YPC in 2021 (4.3) than in 2020 (4.6). Even **James Connor** replacing Kenyon Drake did nothing to improve YPC (both recorded 3.8 YPC) although Connor's EPA (-0.08) was bad but still better than Drake's (-0.15).

Out of 49 running backs with 100+ rushes, Conner ranked 39th in YPC while Edmonds ranked 25th. These are not the stats that Arizona can lean into to help keep them out of third downs or reduce the yards-to-go when they are forced into third downs.

Arizona will face what I project to be the second-most difficult schedule of run defenses in 2022.

Why do we need the Cardinals to perform better on these early downs? Because there is no way they'll be able to have the same efficiency on long yardage third downs next season.

In 2021, the Cardinals had an insane 56% third down conversion rate when passing with 7-10 yards-to-go. The NFL average was 31%. The next best team was at 44%

That sounds insane, but historically, how insane was it? Best in NFL history. No team has ever converted at least 55% of their third down passes with 7-10 yards-to-go but the 2021 Cardinals.

For comparison, what were the 2020 Cardinals? All the way down at 28% conversions, which ranked 22nd in the NFL that year.

It's simply impossible for them to see that level of success on third down. Something has to give here.

For Arizona to see close to the level of success that saw in 2021 on offense, they need to either:

Run the ball more efficiently on early downs with the same running backs against a stronger schedule of run defenses — OR — Pass the ball more efficiently on early downs with Brown, but without Kirk all year and Hopkins Weeks 1-6.

If they can't achieve one of those things, this team will fall back. This doesn't even begin to address other elements of this offense that seem unsustainable, such as their improvement from 28th to second in red zone rushing efficiency.

This team ranked league-average in rushing efficiency outside of the red zone (39.7% success), virtually identical to 2020 (37.5% success). But in the red zone, they improved from 46.8% success in 2020 (which ranked 20th) to 56.8% in 2021, which ranked second. Yes, this team has Kyler Murray as an added





weapon, but they had him in 2019 and 2020, where they averaged 47% red zone rushing success. Yes, this team added James Conner, but his 59.5% red zone rushing success in 2021 was a huge uptick over his 51.9% in 2020 and his 42.9% in 2019, and he's one year older as well.

The Cardinals also ranked first in rushing success rate into stacked boxes last year (47.9%) after ranking bottom-10 in 2020.

Of the 295 teams to have at least 100 rushes into stacked boxes in a season since 2000, do you know where the Cardinals' 47.9% rushing success rate in 2021 ranks? Eighth of 295. This is yet another highly volatile metric that gave the Cardinals a nice boost being historically great in 2021 which is likely to decline in 2022.

Kyler Murray was better than we give him credit for last season. His accuracy wasn't just better, it was second in the NFL. His performance in less stable metrics such as when blitzed, when passing on the run, and performance in late down situations were all exemplary and top-5 in the NFL last year.

You can look at the Cardinals in one of two ways.

You can hope Murray stays healthy, Marquise Brown offsets the loss of Christian Kirk, Kingsbury has success leaning on 12 personnel to start the year without DeAndre Hopkins, and the Cardinals, in a weaker NFC West will be no worse than they were last season, which puts them right back into the playoffs with a dice roll chance to make the Super Bowl.

Or you can expect the Cardinals to struggle out of the gates without Hopkins against a brutal three-game opening schedule of the Chiefs, Rams, and Raiders.

You can predict they will regress on long-yardage third downs and short-yardage rushing into heavy box situations, resulting in more fourth down punts, field goals, or turnovers on downs.

You can predict their red zone rushing brilliance will regress and fewer drives will end in seven points, while more end in 3 or 0 points.

You can believe that with the Cardinals playing the NFL's most difficult schedule from Week 10 onward, Kliff Kingsbury may run into the same late-season struggles as his teams always seem to do.

You can guess that Kyler Murray's style of play may result in another injury, which results in him potentially struggling to close out the season, as he's done the two prior years

This says nothing of all the offseason drama which built up between Murray and the Cardinals which could easily turn a season that begins sideways into something potentially problematic pretty quickly.



#### Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

#### The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

#### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

#### \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

#### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

#### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE 01. Games w Halftime Lead

10

02. Avg Halftime Lead

2.0

03. Wins

s 1

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	7.4			
37. PSM Target Depth	5.1			
38. Non-PSM YPA	8			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	6.7			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	55%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	52%			
42. PSM EPA/att	0			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.04			

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)				
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	39%			
45. PA Success Rate	56%			
46. PA YPA	9.1			
47. PA Sack Rate	7.4%			
48. PA EPA/att	0.11			
49. PA Target Depth	8.5			
50. Non-PA Success Rate	50%			
51. Non-PA YPA	6.9			
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	5.2%			
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.03			
54. Non-PA Target Depth	4.3			

Men In Box	
55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	64%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.6
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	22%
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	4.4
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	58%
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	4.3

Fumble Luck	Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)								
Net FROE Rk	1	defFUM	27						
Net FROE	11.7	defFUM Rcvrd	13						
offFUM Rcvrd	29 26	defFR Rk	8						
offFR%	89.7%	defFR%	51.9%						
offFR Rk offFROE	9.0	defFROE	2.7						
offFROE Rk	1	defFROE Rk	6						

22

28

17

6

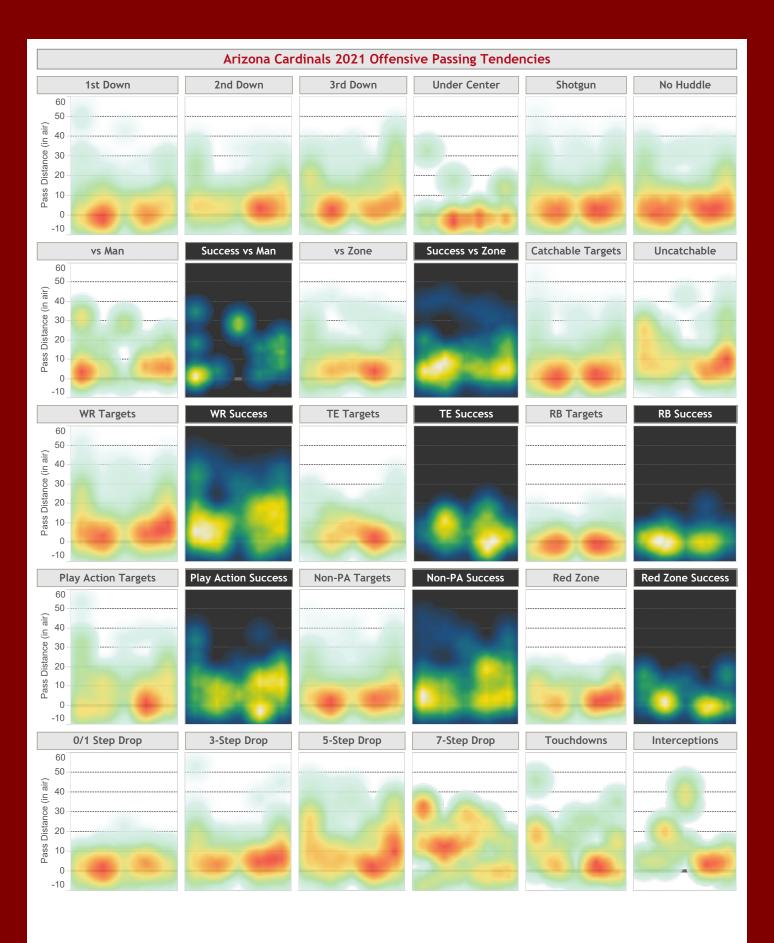
30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes

33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box34. 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)

Field Goal Luck								
-0.90	Opp Att	28						
	Opp Makes	23						
	Opp FG %	82%						
81%	Opp Expected Makes	22.62						
30.52	Opp Make Over Expectation	0.38						
	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	20						
	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	0.16						
24	2020 Opp Rk	23						
	-0.90 19 37 30 81% 30.52 -0.52 22 -1.20	-0.90 Opp Att  19 Opp Makes 37 Opp FG % 81% Opp Expected Makes 30.52 Opp Make Over Expectation -0.52 Opp Make over Expectation Rk 22 -1.20 Opp Make Over Exp.						

Player Tracking	g Data Stats - QBs	QB Pre	ssure	Offensive A	Metrics
	Kyler Murray		Kyler Murray	EPA/Pass	0.02
CAY	5.8	Pressure %	32.1	EPA/Pass Rk	14
CAY Rk	15	Pressure Rk	24	EPA/Rush	-0.07
2020 CAY Rk	19	Sack %	5.7	EPA/Rush Rk	21
AYTS Rk	19	Sack Rk	21	On-Target Catch %	91.0%
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	25 32	Pressure Accuracy %	66.4	On-Target Catch Rk	11
2020 AGG Rk	33	Pressure Accuracy Rk	11	Drop%	5.2%
COMP%	69.2	Rating when Pressured	71.6	·	12
xCOMP%	65.3	Pressured Rating Rk	16	Drop Rk	
xCOMP% Rk	19	Clean Accuracy %	79.1	YAC/Att	2.2
2020 xCOMP% Rk	24	Clean Accuracy Rk	17	YAC/Att Rk	19
CPOE%	3.9	Rating when Clean	105.5	Rush Broken Tackle %	14.7%
CPOE Rk	2 11	Clean Rating Rk	10	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	8
2020 CPOE Rk		Time to Throw	2.77	Rush 1st Down %	23.2%
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expect Actual completion percentage over	cted completion percentage CPOE:	Time to Throw Rk	22	Rush 1st Down Rk	23



#### Cardinals Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### **Stable Quarterback Metrics**

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Kyler Murray	0.29 (#1)	0.08 (#3)	0.13 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	0.16 (#1)	0.24 (#1)
	Colt McCoy	0.23 (#3)	0.13 (#2)	0.13 (#1)	(#)	-0.12 (#3)	0.02 (#2)	0.20 (#2)
2020	Kyler Murray	0.25 (#2)	0.13 (#1)	0.09 (#3)	0.14 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	0.01 (#3)	0.17 (#3)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Colt McCoy	(#)	-0.55 (#3)	0.22 (#1)	0.15 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	0.26 (#1)	0.06 (#2)
	Kyler Murray	-0.51 (#1)	-0.15 (#1)	0.08 (#3)	0.28 (#1)	0.29 (#1)	0.09 (#2)	0.09 (#1)
2020	Kyler Murray	-0.57 (#2)	-0.53 (#2)	0.12 (#2)	0.05 (#3)	-0.11 (#3)	-0.05 (#3)	-0.05 (#3)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Colt McCoy	86% (#1)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	88% (#1)	88% (#1)	(#)	91% (#1)
	Kyler Murray	82% (#2)	81% (#2)	77% (#1)	67% (#1)	85% (#1)	81% (#3)	77% (#3)	76% (#1)	81% (#2)
2020	Kyler Murray	80% (#3)	85% (#1)	73% (#2)	60% (#2)	76% (#2)	82% (#2)	82% (#2)	74% (#2)	78% (#3)

#### Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.04 (#2)	-0.01 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	-0.04 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.06 (#2)
2020	0.04 (#1)	-0.11 (#2)	0.20 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.21 (#2)	0.02 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	0.21 (#1)	0.21 (#1)

#### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	17	11	18	21	25	9	11	18	21	8
2020	7	20	11	10	20	12	12	18	18	18

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	18	24	7	16	25	19	14	1	8
2020	28	23	21	21	24	23	15	28	24

#### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

							•		
Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	7	2	2	6	8	22	30	1	2
2020	14	19	20	11	14	5	22	1	19

## Coaches (Prior Yrs) Head Coach: Arthur Smith (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: Smith calls plays (1 yr)

**Defensive Coordinator:** 

Dean Pees (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

#### **Atlanta Falcons**

2022 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

5

#4

#### **Past Records**

2021: 7-10 2020: 4-12 2019: 7-9



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Matt Ryan (QB)	Colts
Foyesade Oluokun (LB)	Jaguars
Russell Gage (WR)	Buccaneers
Hayden Hurst (TE)	Bengals
Dante Fowler Jr. (EDGE)	Cowboys
Tyeler Davison (IDL)	TBD
Fabian Moreau (CB)	Texans
Lee Smith (TE)	TBD
Josh Harris (LS)	Chargers
Duron Harmon (S)	Raiders
Mike Davis (RB)	Ravens
Thomas Morstead (P)	Dolphins
A.J. McCarron (QB)	TBD
Matt Gono (RT)	Giants
Steven Means (EDGE)	TBD
Mike Pennel (IDL)	Bears
Daren Bates (LB)	TBD
Shawn Williams (S)	TBD
Jason Spriggs (LT)	Colts
Jonathan Bullard (IDL)	Vikings
Josh Andrews (LG)	Saints
Tajae Sharpe (WR)	Bears

#### 2022 Atlanta Falcons Overview

The 4-12 Falcons from 2020 would thump the 7-10 Falcons from 2021. THUMP.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Let's start with Arthur Smith's debut in Atlanta.

I'm a glutton for discussion and debate about tactics — constant monitoring, tweaking, and improving an offense's efficiency over the course of the season. There is no legitimate excuse not to invest time and money in offensive efficiency. After all, offense is the backbone of a team's performance. When each team is spending over \$200 million per year just on the 53-man roster and over \$200,000 at a minimum per practice squad player per year, how can you justify cutting costs and not properly evaluating and optimizing offensive performance?

Arthur Smith made his hay in Tennessee by successfully using several core tenets that are boons for offensive success:

- 1. A lot of play-action (highest rate in the NFL)
- 2. A lot of motion (third-highest rate in the NFL)
- 3. Passing out of heavier personnel groupings to generate explosive gains

Smith also had a strong desire to run the ball on first down, which league-wide is a very inefficient principle. He had **Derrick Henry** and the Titans won a lot of games, so I was interested (read: worried) to see if Smith would bring a run-heavy on first down philosophy with him to Atlanta. Was it a "Smith" thing, or was he only choosing the less efficient route because he had Henry in Tennessee and perhaps even his head coach, Mike Vrabel, was a big proponent of it? We would soon find out.

#### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Marcus Mariota (QB)	\$9.40
Casey Hayward (CB)	\$5.5
Lorenzo Carter (EDGE)	\$3.5
Rashaan Evans (LB)	\$1.8
Damien Williams (RB)	\$1.60
Anthony Firkser (TE)	\$1.2
Bryan Edwards (WR)	Trade
Dean Marlowe (S)	\$1.2
Elijah Wilkinson (RT)	\$1.2
Mike Ford (CB)	\$1.2
Auden Tate (WR)	\$1.10

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)			
1	8	WR - Drake London (USC)			
2	38	OLB - Arnold Ebiketie (Penn State)			
2	58	LB - Troy Andersen (Montana State)			
3	74	QB - Desmond Ridder (Cincinnati)			
3	82	LB - DeAngelo Malone (Western Kentucky)			
5	151	RB - Tyler Allgeier (BYU)			
6	190	OG - Justin Shaffer (Georgia)			
	213	TE - John FitzPatrick (Georgia)			

#### Regular Season Wins:

# Games

**Favored** 

0

# Games

**Underdog** 

14

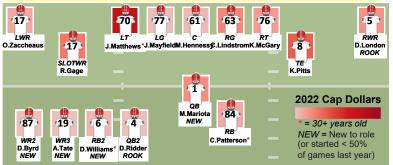
<u>Average</u>

Line

5.7







#### 2022 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see ATL2)



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk					
All OFF	30	\$73.95M	15					
QB	31	\$5.79M	6					
OL	20	\$33.45M	20					
RB	27	\$6.61M	32					
WR	27	\$15.89M	24					
TE	11	\$12.21M	7					
All DEF	29	\$79.87M	22					
DL	31	\$28.37M	9					
LB	2	\$27.84M	22					
СВ	22	\$17.21M	25					
S	30	\$6.45M	30					

ATL-2

These four offensive elements were of high interest to me, and I couldn't wait to see if Smith would bring the good (and the bad) with him to Atlanta.

Let's start with play-action. Last year I wrote about Matt Ryan's struggles without play-action. He was legitimately bad in both 2019 and 2020 without play-action. His splits on early down attempts those two years:

With play-action: 0.11 EPA/att, 55% success, 8.5 YPA Without play-action: 0.01 EPA/att, 51% success, 6.7 YPA

Yet the Falcons were using play-action at only a 30% rate on early down dropbacks, which ranked 10th lowest in the NFL.

I was optimistic that Arthur Smith would be able to lean into this. After all, he used play-action at the NFL's highest rate when in Tennessee in 2019 and 2020 (a 46% rate on early downs, well above the NFL average of 32%). The only other team that used play-action close to the rate of Smith were down at 41% usage (both the Ravens and Rams).

But I was also curious how it would play out, considering the Falcons didn't have a running back close to the talent of Derrick Henry. Would Arthur Smith use play-action at a high rate, believing in the principle that play-action helps the passing game? Or would he "old-school football-guy" it and believe that the back himself matters, and without Derrick Henry, play-action couldn't be used as much because it wouldn't be as believable?

(Note that for the rest of this play-action analysis, we are focusing only on play-action in the first three quarters to understand offensive intent, rather than the fourth quarter which has high variance due to its reactive nature based on game state.)

Week 1 against the Eagles, Atlanta used play-action on early downs at a 53% rate. But when they used it, strangely the target depth was just 2.6 air yards.

This wasn't close to the Titans. During 2020 in Tennessee, Smith was at an NFL-leading 49% usage rate and the target depth was 9.8 yards, well above the NFL average of 8.2 yards.

Throwing short, as the Falcons did in Smith's first game, defeats the purpose of play-action. Sucking up the linebackers and having defensive backs hesitate for

	1			
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Matt Ryan	55% 7.8 94.7	44% 6.6 84.0	40% 7.2 95.6	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	44%	67%	84%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	
Offense				
AT1	40%	43%	41%	Success Rate

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
ATL	40% 3.7	43% 4.1	41% 2.2	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	56%	33%	16%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

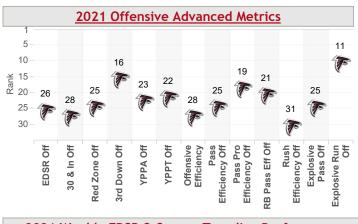
an extra second doesn't cause the conflict when you throw the ball short of all of these players.

The data bears that out. While more EPA/dropback is expected on deeper passes in general, passes with play-action earn even more EPA/dropback as target depth increases as compared to passes without play-action.

As such, it was truly mind boggling what the Falcons did the first three weeks of the season last year.

The first three weeks of the season, the Falcons' aDOT on play-action passes was just 2.8 yards! The NFL average was 7.9 yards. Atlanta had the lowest target depth on play-action. To no one's surprise, the results (cont'd - see ATL-3)

2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics



#### Pass Efficiency Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def 30 & In Def 2021 Close Game **Records**

18

YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency

All 2019 Wins: 7 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 3-0 FG Games Win %: 100% (#1) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 7-2 Score Games Win %: 78% (#3) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 100% (#1)

**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -6 TO Given 26 **INT Given** 15 **FUM Given** 11 TO Taken 20 **INT Taken** 12 **FUM Taken** 8 Sack Margin -22 18 Sacks Sacks Allow 40 Return TD Margin -1 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow **Penalty Margin** +26 **Penalties** 

**Opponent Penalties** 

Rush Efficiency Def

2021 Critical/Game-

Explosive Pass Def

**Explosive** 

118

10

RB Pass Eff Def

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def

**RESULT** OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

5

10

20

25

30

WFFK

28

**EDSR Def** 

20

27

Rank 15

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

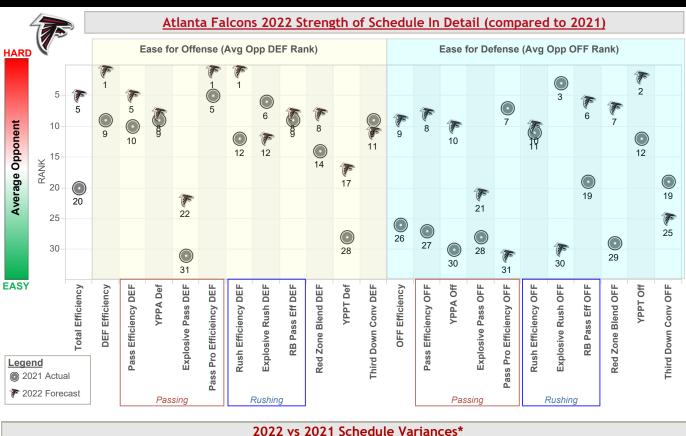
# 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

2

W W L W L L MIA CAR NO DAL NE L W L TB CAR SF PHI ΤB JAX NYGWASNYJ **DETBUF NO** A 8 H -26 A 3 17 A -23 Н Н Н Α Α Н A 7 Н Α Н Α Н 7 2 2 -18 -4 -6 -40 -25 -13 4 -14 -10 6 25 30 30 3 0 21 29 20 27 13 27 17 13 15 20 32 48 14 34 20 28 19 25 43 25 14 30 21 31 16 29 30

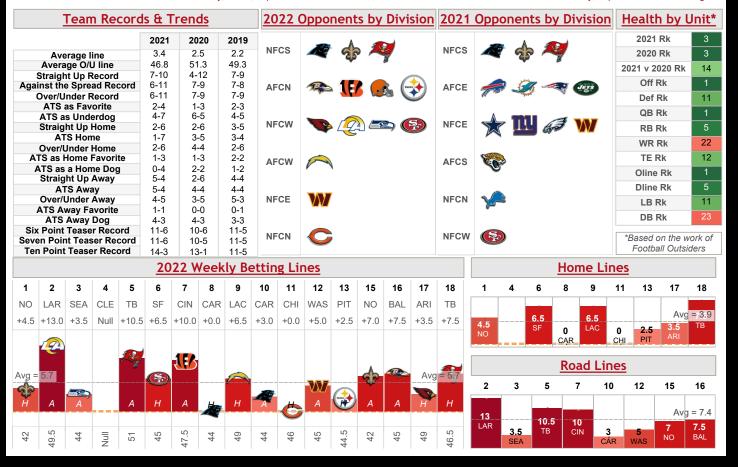
11 12 13 14 15

10



2022 vs 2021 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							
11	8	7	14	1	10	16	23

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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





F

were bad: -0.04 EPA/att, 49% success, 6.9 YPA.

These play-action numbers were nowhere close to those of either Matt Ryan the two years prior to 2021 without Smith or Smith the two years prior in Tennessee.

Not only was the target depth bizarre, the Falcons used play-action on just 36% of dropbacks, which was effectively the NFL average rate, and wasn't close to that of Smith's Titans.

Thankfully, in Week 4, perhaps using self-reflection, things changed for the better.

Over the next five weeks (from Weeks 4-9), Atlanta's play-action numbers were far better.

Weeks 1-3: 36% usage, 2.8 aDOT, -0.04 EPA/att, 49% success, 6.9 YPA Weeks 4-9: 41% usage, 9.6 aDOT, 0.38 EPA/att, 63% success, 9.9 YPA

Their usage of play-action helped win games against top-10 pass defenses of the Saints and Dolphins during this stretch.

And once again, Matt Ryan's splits with and without play-action were massive:

Without play-action: -0.10 EPA/att, 47% success, 5.9 YPA With play-action: 0.38 EPA/att, 63% success, 9.9 YPA

It didn't matter if Derrick Henry wasn't there. It didn't matter if the Falcons had **Mike Davis** and **Cordarelle Patterson** in the backfield. What mattered was using play-action, because Matt Ryan has massive historical splits favoring play-action, and because history tells us play-action success is not contingent on having a Pro Bowl running back on the roster.

However, a problem arose for Smith in Week 10. Tight end **Hayden Hurst** was injured and Smith couldn't use as much 12 personnel. With a healthy Hurst, on early downs the Falcons' primary personnel grouping was 12 personnel. They used these two tight end sets at a 35% clip. Accordingly, they used 11 personnel for only 22% of early down snaps, the lowest rate in the NFL, because they also were using well above average rates of 13, 21, and 22 personnel. Smith loves these heavy groupings and used them frequently in Tennessee as well.

But why would one tight end injury force Smith to scale down play-action? Because 31% of Smith's total play-action calls came from 12 personnel. Smith rarely called early down play-action from 11 personnel.

When Smith was in heavy personnel on early downs, he called play action passes on 47% of dropbacks. But when he was in 11 personnel with three receivers on the field, he called play-action passes on only 22% of dropbacks.

The three weeks that Hurst missed due to injury, Atlanta ramped up 11 personnel and 21 personnel and massively lowered 12 personnel. Smith called play-action from 11 at just a 21% rate and these attempts averaged just a 4.0 aDOT. The Falcons barely beat the Jaguars in Week 12 and were blown out by both the Patriots and Buccaneers without Hurst.

Hilariously, when Hurst rejoined the Falcons in Week 14, Smith literally did not call a single early down pass in the first three quarters from 11 personnel. It was as if he was so sick of having to "overuse" it without Hurst that he wanted no part of it. The Falcons won that Week 14 game, 29-21, and it would be the last game all season they scored over 20 points.

Overall, the play-action usage for the Falcons increased from 38% in 2020 to 41% in 2021 with Smith, but not only was it not used at a high enough rate, the efficiency from play-action in 2021 was likewise a disappointment.

This offseason, Smith lost Haden Hurst in free agency to the Bengals. Although the Falcons were not big spenders in free agency, you can bet they added a tight end to replace Hurst. They signed Smith's tight end from Tennessee, **Anthony Firkser**, and they used a sixth-round draft pick on **John FitzPatrick** from Georgia.

My biggest fear with Arthur Smith landing the job in Atlanta was a surge in first down running attempts for the Falcons. In last year's book, I wrote:

(cont'd - see ATL-4) Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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

	Strength of Schedul	ed Game Timing:	Atlanta Falcons Ranking	g vs NFL Average
oot Edge Book	Dron Donk	Poot Book	Short Week Road Games Gan	nes off Road SNF/MNF

Net Rest Edge Rank

Prep Rank

Rest Rank

Rest Rank

Rest Rank

Rank

Rank

Negated Bye Rank

27

13

6

22

1

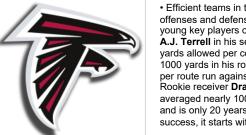
22

#### Why Bet the Under

- All seven of the Falcons' wins in 2021 were by a touchdown or less and the Falcons finished the season with a -146-point differential. Facing the 10th-most difficult schedule, including the leagues most difficult schedule of opposing defenses the Falcons are not likely to repeat a 7-2 record in one-score games.
- The Falcons are due for regression in multiple categories in 2022 and the rebuilding Falcons could struggle. Last year, the Falcons had the third least adjusted games lost and are due for worse injury luck.
- The offensive line is a huge concern for the 2022 Falcons, especially with the loss of veteran quarterback Matt Ryan. The starting offensive line was fortunate to avoid serious injuries and played 82% of snaps yet was one of the worst units in the league. The offensive line finished with the seventh-worst Pass Block Win Rate and fourth-worst Run Block Win Rate and allowed the highest-pressure rate. Without any significant upgrades this offseason, it's hard to imagine improvement will occur.

5

#### Why Bet the Over



- Efficient teams in the NFL build around good passing offenses and defenses. The Falcons have ascending young key players on both sides of the ball. Cornerback A.J. Terrell in his second season finished third in adjusted yards allowed per coverage snap. Tight end Kyle Pitts had 1000 yards in his rookie season and had the highest yards per route run against man coverage of all tight ends. Rookie receiver Drake London is another huge target that averaged nearly 100 yards per game in his college career and is only 20 years old. If the Falcons are going to have success, it starts with these young stars.
- Field goal luck is usually random, unless a kicker is truly elite. The Falcons' kicker, **Younghoe Koo**, has proven to be an advantage on special teams. In his three years as a Falcon, Koo has made 92.7% of his field goal attempts including 13/14 from over 50 yards. In the past two years, Koo has made 4.63 and 2.66 field goals over expectation. The Falcons have a kicking advantage which can help the team win close games.

Atlanta Falcons Positional Unit Rankings								
Quarterbacks	Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach							
30	31	30	22	32	28	27		

Based on an average of the unit rankings, Atlanta is our 30th-ranked roster. This could be considered Year Zero of the rebuilding process, as GM Terry Fontenot has torn down the roster from every corner. Entering his eighth year, there's little reason to be optimistic about **Marcus Mariota**, who reunites with his former offensive coordinator, Arthur Smith, in Atlanta. Rookie **Desmond Ridder** is likely the only reason this unit didn't rank dead last, as Ridder's upside at least gives Atlanta an intriguing prospect to develop.

Cordarrelle Patterson is a big-play threat in the backfield, but he's also indecisive as a ball carrier — 22% of Patterson's attempts went for zero or negative yards, the league's fourth-worst rate. Journeyman **Damien Williams** and rookie **Tyler Allgeier** provide limited depth behind him as Atlanta's more traditional downhill runners.

Kyle Pitts and Drake London anchor Atlanta's highest-ranked unit. If/when Calvin Ridley returns in 2023, this will be one of the league's most exciting young receiving corps, but since we're focused solely on 2022, the lack of depth behind Pitts and London leads to the poor ranking. Atlanta made the questionable decision to bring back the entirety of one of the league's worst offensive lines. This unit allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less on 28% of dropbacks, which ranked 31st. Veteran Germain Ifedi and sixth-round rookie Justin Shaffer are the only additions to provide some small hope of improvement.

The Falcons added three Day 2 selections to the front seven and signed **Rashaan Evans**, so there is some youth to develop. However, Atlanta's pass-rush ranked dead last in pressure rate generated (22%) and lost pass-rusher **Dante Fowler**. Even if there's some hope for the future, this unit will likely struggle again in 2022. **A.J. Terrell** made huge strides last season and anchors an otherwise weak secondary. Opponents completed 15% of their passes when targeting Terrell in coverage 10 or more yards downfield, and 53% when throwing at anyone else.

Votes for Smith in the head coach rankings ranged from 23rd to 28th. It can be tough to evaluate a coach through a rebuilding process, but Smith's inexplicable commitment to the run game — Atlanta ran the ball on first downs at the sixth-highest rate — raises some doubts about his decision-making abilities.

#### ATL-4

"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?"

If one of the most interesting aspects of Arthur Smith's takeover of the Falcons offense was going to be what he did with play-action and heavy personnel, the other was surely what his philosophy would be on first down.

This was because no team came close to running the ball as often as the Titans did on first down. In 2020, the Titans ran on 62% of their first downs, most in the NFI

Looking at the two years of his tenure in Tennessee, the Titans ranked second in first down run rate, including first in first down run rate in the first half of games.

Yes, they did have Derrick Henry. But these runs weren't overly special early in the game. In the first half, even with Henry, the Titans ranked 14th in rushing success rate, at 36.3%. They averaged negative EPA per rush.

What made Henry special wasn't what he was doing on first downs early in the game. It was what he was doing later on in games as worn-down defenders struggled to stop the big man. What allowed the Titans to run the ball late in games was their effective play-action passing game to build leads.

#### <u>ATL-5</u>

Now let's look at the Falcons before Smith took over. In 2020, the Falcons were literally the dregs of the NFL in rushing efficiency. Their rushing efficiency was fourth-worst in the NFL. But in these first down situations? Forget about it.

The 2020 Falcons recorded a 21% success rate on first down rushes in the first half of games which ranked last. They gained fewer than 3.0 yards/carry which ranked 32nd and they gained -0.29 EPA/att, which ranked 31st.

They did not have anyone close to the talent of Derrick Henry at running back, nor did they have a physical run blocking offensive line. And they knew it. So Atlanta was one of the most pass-heavy teams in the NFL on first downs. They dropped back to pass on 57% of first half first downs the two years prior to Smith coming to Atlanta, which was fourth-highest in the NFL. The numbers couldn't be more different. For the two years from 2019-2020 when Smith was in Tennessee, first half first down pass rate:

Atlanta: 57% pass, fourth Tennessee: 41% pass, 32nd

So, what would that mean for Smith in Atlanta? Would he see the lack of running back, the lack of offensive line, and decide to lean into what Atlanta did well, which was to pass the ball? Or would he believe that running the ball was a priority, and try to suddenly get the Falcons to switch to a first down run offense because he was calling plays now?

If I told you the Titans remained at 41% pass and were the most run-heavy team in the NFL without Smith, you probably wouldn't be shocked.

After all, the coaches should be playing to their player's strength and the new playcaller in Tennessee simply kept doing what was working before because the players were the same.

But you probably would NEVER guess where the Falcons finished the season in first down run rate.

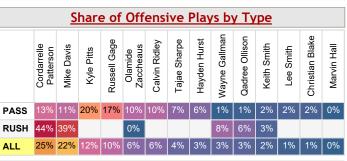
#### Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 4 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

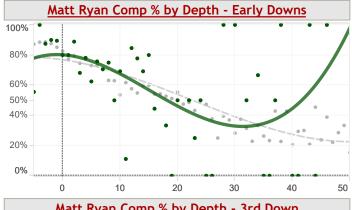


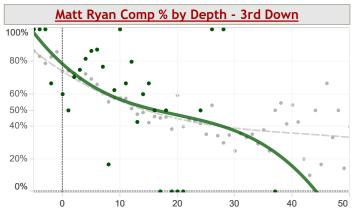


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>							
F		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)	
	Cordarrelle Patterson	6%	6%	79%	7%	3%	
	Mike Davis	11%	8%	72%	9%	1%	
I	Olamide Zaccheaus			100%			
RUSH	Wayne Gallman	50%		36%	14%		
~	Qadree Ollison	5%	52%	33%	5%	5%	
	Keith Smith	56%	33%	11%			
	Total	13%	10%	68%	8%	2%	
	Cordarrelle Patterson	7%	4%	72%	15%	1%	
	Mike Davis	19%	16%	52%	10%	3%	
	Kyle Pitts	15%	9%	67%	8%	1%	
	Russell Gage	25%	15%	52%	8%	1%	
	Olamide Zaccheaus	25%	17%	47%	9%	2%	
	Calvin Ridley	13%	10%	75%	2%		
ဟ	Tajae Sharpe	14%	22%	56%	8%		
AS	Hayden Hurst	10%	3%	71%	10%	6%	
σ.	Wayne Gallman	67%		33%			
	Qadree Ollison	33%	67%				
	Keith Smith	30%	10%	50%	10%		
	Lee Smith			91%		9%	
	Christian Blake	50%		10%	10%	30%	
	Marvin Hall			100%			
	Total	17%	12%	60%	8%	2%	







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

### 2021 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]	0-2 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, -0.19 (232)	42%, -0.18 (183)	48%, 0.04 (108)	59%, 0.18 (70)	44%, -0.33 (25)	33%, 0.13 (3)	0%, -0.81 (1)	100%, 0.40 (1)	45%, -0.11 (623)
RUSH	42%, -0.14 (92)	42%, -0.18 (97)	44%, -0.10 (101)	40%, -0.08 (50)	33%, -0.28 (55)		100%, -0.50 (1)		41%, -0.15 (396)
All	42%, -0.18 (324)	42%, -0.18 (280)	46%, -0.03 (209)	51%, 0.07 (120)	36%, -0.29 (80)	33%, 0.13 (3)	50%, -0.66 (2)	100%, 0.40 (1)	43%, -0.13 (1,019)

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						
WR	Russell	61% (46)	54% (24)	43% (21)	55% (91)						
	Gage	8.8, 0.24	9.1, 0.10	5.4, -0.06	8.1, 0.13						
	Calvin	40% (20)	47% (19)	33% (9)	42% (48)						
	Ridley	5.1, -0.12	6.0, 0.09	3.1, -0.34	5.1, -0.08						
	Olamide	45% (31)	55% (11)	50% (6)	48% (48)						
	Zaccheaus	6.5, 0.12	7.1, -0.06	9.5, 0.29	7.0, 0.10						
TE	Kyle Pitts	47% (38) 8.0, -0.07	33% (40) 7.4, -0.33	80% (15) 11.5, 0.96	46% (93) 8.3, -0.01						
	Hayden	100% (5)	35% (17)	100% (1)	52% (23)						
	Hurst	12.2, 0.98	5.1, -0.31	15.0, 1.17	7.0, 0.04						
RB	Mike Davis	28% (25) 4.8, -0.33	56% (18) 4.4, -0.02	57% (7) 5.6, 0.08	42% (50) 4.8, -0.16						
	Cordarrelle	42% (12)	62% (13)	39% (23)	46% (48)						
	Patterson	11.3, -0.16	9.3, 0.82	4.3, -0.16	7.4, 0.11						

Rushing Success by	y To <sub>l</sub>	p-4	<b>Personnel</b>	Groupings
	(Leade	erbo	ard)	

	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Patterson	44% (52)	43% (40)	38% (26)	44% (18)	43% (136)
Cordarrelle	4.0, -0.12	3.8, -0.12	4.6, -0.07	4.3, 0.22	4.1, -0.07
Davis Mike	40% (30)	33% (33)	49% (39)	30% (20)	39% (122)
	3.2, -0.11	2.9, -0.25	4.2, -0.06	3.5, -0.11	3.5, -0.13
Ryan Matt	40% (5)	64% (11)	13% (8)	33% (3)	41% (27)
	1.6, -0.35	5.0, -0.14	1.8, -0.98	0.3, -0.38	2.9, -0.46
Gallman	50% (10)	29% (7)	40% (5)	50% (2)	42% (24)
Wayne	5.6, -0.05	1.3, -0.42	4.2, -0.08	6.0, 0.21	4.1, -0.14
Ollison	33% (3)	67% (6)	75% (4)	33% (3)	56% (16)
Qadree	7.7, 0.39	4.8, 0.12	4.8, 0.01	2.7, -1.54	4.9, -0.17

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

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

	ssing by	Passing by		Throw	<b>Types</b>	QB Drop Types		QE	State at	Run Types			
	verage cheme	Re	oute	Level 1	51% (436) 6.2. 0.02	3 Step	50% (233) 7.9, 0.08	Planted		% (446) .5, 0.05	Outside Zone	45% (92) 3.8, -0.06	
	39% (418)	Curl	60% (84) 6.3, -0.09			0/4 Stan		Shuffling	3.	3% (76) 6, -0.32	Lead	41% (83)	
Zone	7.2, -0.09	Slant	46% (59) 7.8, 0.28	Level 2	53% (78) 9.4, 0.23		7.7, 0.10 45% (115)	Moving		8% (66) .6, 0.20	Inside	4.0, -0.13 42% (52)	
			48% (52)		Level 3	40% (42)	5 Step	6.2, -0.04		Play Acti	on	Zone	3.2, -0.23
Man	39% (123) 7.4, -0.05	Out	5.1, -0.15		14.5, 0.24	7 Step	42% (33) 5.8, -0.01		Play Action	No P/A	Stretch	45% (51) 3.8, -0.11	
		Dig	59% (37)	Sidearm	17% (6) 3.0, -0.30	Designed	62% (26)	Under Center	52% (124) 7.4, 0.12	45% (31) 5.4, -0.03		48% (31)	
	35% (31)	J.g	8.5, -0.04		0.0, 0.00	Rollout Right	6.6, 0.44	Shotgun	40% (40) 9.3, -0.07	44% (436) 6.7, -0.18	Pitch	5.6, 0.03	
Other	35% (31) 2.4, -0.14	Drag	56% (18) 7.3, 0.33	Shovel	50% (4) 5.3, -0.27		25% (12) 4.7, -0.55	ALL	49% (164) 7.8, 0.08	44% (467) 6.6, -0.17	Power	40% (5) 4.8, -0.03	

### ATL-6

It was second, right behind Tennessee. That's right, they shifted from the fourth-most pass-heavy first down offense for years to the second-most run-heavy first down offense. Not because they added stud players who were either elite rushers or elite run blockers (they added Mike Davis in free agency and he's not close to Derrick Henry) but because Arthur Smith came to town.

Now remember, Atlanta was HORRIBLE running the ball on first down in 2020.

So, what do you think happened when the NFL's worst first down run offense, which ran sparingly as a result, added a new run-centric coach and decided to become the second-most run-heavy first down offense in the NFL?

It wasn't pretty.

Atlanta's 2021 ranks on first down rushes?

31st in EPA/att (-0.18) 30th in success rate (26%) 29th in YPC (3.7 YPC)

When new coaches take over teams, I always try to predict what they will do with a new team, particularly when it comes to antiquated thinking like "establishing the run" on first down or only using play-action once the run is established. In this case, I thought Smith may go overboard with calling more first down run plays than expected. I hoped that wouldn't be the case, but I thought it was a possibility. I never came close to expecting this team without any hope to run would try and commit to it like they did at the second highest rate in the NFL.

In situations like this, I always want to see what is the next "move" from the playcaller.





OK, clearly running the ball wasn'tworking. Are we going to study our own data, look at the metrics after a few weeks, and pivot to something that IS working better? I really have little patience for teams that continue to choose a so clearly -EV path like insane amounts of first down runs and then never pivot when it's obvious it won't work.

After the fifth week of the season, here is where the Falcons stood:

Seventh-highest run rate on first downs (55% run) 31st EPA/rush on those first down runs (-0.29) 30th in YPC on those first down runs (3.1) 28th success rate on those first down runs (22%) A W-L record of 2-3

Any smart staff is evaluating their performance after every single game. They don't need to wait for a bye week to spend time studying their results on things like first down runs. They should make adjustments constantly throughout the season to optimize performance.

But guess what – the Falcons lucked out. They had a bye in Week 6. They had two full weeks to go through the numbers to see what they could adjust to improve performance.

In Week 7, their first game out of the bye, the Falcons came out and instead of running the ball on 55% of first downs, they actually passed the ball on 52% of first downs, including 69% of first half first downs! When they ran the ball, they were predictably atrocious (2.9 YPC, -0.23 EPA/att, 21% success) but they ran less

Thanks to moving away from the run, especially in the first half, the Falcons built a 13-7 halftime lead, a 20-7 third quarter lead, a 27-14 fourth quarter lead, and eventually won the game.

It wouldn't have been possible but for the higher pass rate. Look at what Matt Ryan delivered on these first down passes:

0.36 EPA/att, 12.6 YPA, 60% success rate, completing 10 of 14 passes

Imagine calling more first down runs to instead gain 2.9 YPC, -0.23 EPA/att, and 21% success. Thankfully, Arthur Smith did not.

Now here comes the bigger question.

You entered the bye with horrific production on first down runs and zero hope in sight for improvement, but you still did it far too often.

You come out of the bye with horrific production on first down runs and zero hope in sight for improvement. But you switched to a pass-first offense on first down, passing was dominant, and you won a game on the road to pull to 3-3 on the season.

What do you do next week? Do you go back to the run? Or do you keep chucking the damn ball since it was the only thing all season that worked for you on first down?

(cont'd - see ATL-8

### Immediate Impact of Atlanta Falcons 2022 Draft Class

The Falcons' selection of Drake London (first round) was somewhat surprising considering their needs at virtually every other position on the field.

While GM Terry Fontenot was in New Orleans, the Saints drafted and developed 6-foot-5 Marques Colston into one of the best big slot receivers of the last 20 years, and had success with **Michael Thomas** in a similar role. It's easy to see how Fontenot could view the 6-foot-5 London in that mold. Head coach Arthur Smith also had success with **A.J. Brown** in a similar role in Tennessee. During his career at USC, London saw 53% of his targets from the slot, where he averaged 9.9 yards per target.

Arnold Ebiketie (second round) should immediately be the Falcons' most productive pass rusher, though that says more about the Falcons' depth chart than Ebiketie.

According to TruMedia/PFF, Atlanta generated pressure in 2.5 seconds or less on just 17.1% of opponent dropbacks, which ranked dead last. Ebiketie is a speed rusher, who needs to develop a wider array of moves, but his ability to fly off the edge and into the backfield will be a welcomed addition. Ebiketie generated pressure in 2.5 seconds or less at the sixth-highest rate among edge-rushers in this class.

Troy Andersen (second round) is a former quarterback and running back who didn't become a full-time linebacker in his final season at Montana.

Obviously he's still learning some nuances of the position, so Andersen likely won't see significant playing time in 2022. However, with **Deion Jones**'s status up in the air due to his massive contract, perhaps there will be a path to playing time sooner rather than later.

With four selections on Day 2, it made sense for Atlanta to gamble on a quarterback, and Desmond Ridder (third round) was a wise choice.

There's no downside to the Falcons throwing Ridder into the fire as a rookie. If he succeeds, they've found their quarterback. If he struggles, he'll simply help secure a top pick in the 2022 draft where someone (likely Ohio State's C.J. Stroud or Alabama's Bryce Young) will be selected as his replacement. Ridder was often a liability to the Cincinnati offense early in his career, but made massive strides as a passer in 2021. Based on route-adjusted data, Ridder's on-target rate was 10.9% above expected overall, and 5.8% above expected when throwing to the most common NFL routes.

**DeAngelo Malone** (third round) is an undersized but athletic pass-rusher who wins with speed. He likely does not have the traits to be a three-down player, but could have an immediate role on passing downs. Malone ranked sixth in Conference USA with a 16.1% pressure rate on third downs last season.

The selection of **Tyler Allgeier** (fifth round) allowed Atlanta to save some money by cutting **Mike Davis**. Like Davis, Allgeier is a between-the-tackles runner, who will likely compete for carries on early downs while **Cordarrelle Patterson** plays on passing downs.

Justin Shaffer (sixth round) joins his cousin, Malone, in Atlanta and will add some depth to the offensive line. Shaffer almost exclusively played left guard at Georgia, and could potentially compete with Jalen Mayfield for the starting job.

Unless Ridder is the long-term answer at quarterback, this is not the draft class that will turn around the Falcons. And while London and Ebiketie will play immediate roles, Fontenot's failure to address the offensive line until the sixth round looks like a glaring error.



### Atlanta Falcons 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Falcons were firmly on the struggle bus in 2021, ranking 22nd in the league in expected points added via their passing offense (32.4 EPA). Only four teams had fewer passing touchdowns than Atlanta in 2021 (20). **Matt Ryan** did what he could working with the talent around him, but now Ryan has been traded, meaning Atlanta will have their first new starting quarterback in Week 1 since the 2007 season. **Marcus Mariota** and **Desmond Ridder** will compete for starts. Even if Mariota outright wins the job to open, we should expect to see Ridder play. Mariota has not started a game since 2019, but is more than familiar playing under Arthur Smith, although that did not end well in Tennessee. Mariota was ultimately benched during that 2019 season with Smith as the playcaller. Ridder posted a career TD-to-INT ratio in the 73rd percentile, making up ground for a 49th percentile completion rate (62.1%) and 48th percentile yards per attempt (7.9 Y/A).

	2021 Standard Passing Table												
QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk													
Matt Ryan	375	558	67%	3,968	7.1	20	12	40	91	23			
NFL Avg	NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6												

	2021 Advanced Passing Table												
QB Success % Passing Success % Success % Pass Gains Success % Success % Success Gains Success %													
Matt Ryan	46%	49%	44	8.0%	15	3.0%	6.0	4.6					
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3					

# Matt Ryan Rating Early Downs 138 65 138 65 138 65 82 93

**Target** 

**Distribution** 

50

40

30

20

10 0 -10 **Postive** 

Play %

<u>In</u>	tercep	<u>tion Ra</u>	tes by	<u>Down</u>	
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total
1 & 2	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	2.9%	2.6%	0.0%	2.5%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.9%	3.1%	0.0%	2.2%
10 - 14	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	2.6%	1.8%	1.7%	0.0%	2.0%

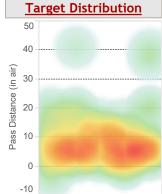
3rd Down I	<u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u>											
QB Avg. Avg. Air Yards Past Sticks Rate  Matt Ryan 7.2 7.3 0.0 63%												
Matt Ryan	7.2	7.3	0.0	63%	33							
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%								

	<u>Air Y</u>	'ds vs	YAC
nd	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
	57%	43%	8
	53%	47%	

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Atlanta wide receivers ranked 31st in the league in targets (14.4), 30th in receptions (9.4), and 32nd in yardage (102.1 yards) per game while tied for 30th in the league with nine touchdown receptions. With Calvin Ridley suspended for the entirety of 2022 and Russell Gage leaving in free agency, the Falcons used their first-round draft pick (eighth overall) on Drake London, making him the first wide receiver selected in the draft. Despite the lack of depth here, the addition of London does at least give Atlanta a pair of young pass catchers with elite size, paired with Kyle Pitts. Pitts was the first rookie tight end to reach 1,000 yards receiving (68-1,026-1) since Mike Ditka in 1961. He led the team in targets (110) but found the end zone just once.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	% %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
Kyle Pitts	110	62%	9.3	76.6	51%	77	38	33	108	1
Russell Gage	93	71%	8.3	87.7	56%	39	41	111	39	4
Cordarrelle Patterson	68	76%	8.1	123.9	53%	62	84	14	122	5
Mike Davis	58	76%	4.5	89.7	40%	130	102	140	6	1
Olamide Zaccheaus	53	58%	7.7	85.9	49%	91	79	53	96	3
Calvin Ridley	52	60%	5.4	79.1	46%	111	76	130	5	2



Calvin Ridley



### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Atlanta was one of the worst rushing teams in the league in 2021, ranking 29th in the league in expected points added via the ground (-38.9 EPA), 30th in yards per carry (3.7 YPC), and 27th in rushing scores (11). Despite the lack of overall success in counting stats, the team did squeeze more out of **Cordarrelle Patterson** than any of his previous stops since his rookie season. Patterson rushed 153 times for 618 yards and six touchdowns, all besting **Mike Davis**, who was signed in free agency a year ago and has been released this offseason. The team brought Patterson back and added **Tyler Allgeier** in the fifth round this offseason. Atlanta also fielded one of the worst offensive lines, a unit that has not been improved upon. Atlanta ranked 29th in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate (67%).

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Cordarrelle Patterson	153	4.0	43%	78	34	50	57	43%	73	6
Mike Davis	138	3.6	42%	81	70	20	87	41%	80	3

### Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Does Atlanta Offer Us Anything in 2022 Beyond Kyle Pitts?

The Falcons have a draft asset that carries tangible draft capital in second-year tight end **Kyle Pitts**. Pitts will not even be 22 years old at the start of the season, coming off becoming the first rookie tight end to reach 1,000 yards receiving since Mike Ditka in 1961. He lined up all over the field, playing 286 snaps in the slot, 248 snaps inline, and another 237 snaps out wide. Pitts was second among all tight ends in route participation rate (80.6%), ninth in targets per game (6.5), and second in intended air yards (1,204). There was plenty of meat left on the bone as he closed the season as the TE11 in points per game. Pitts scored just one touchdown (-4.1 below expectation) on that usage while he also ranked 49th out of 51 tight ends in catchable target rate (67.3%) with more than 25 targets on the season. The two players below him (Cameron Brate and Mo-Alie Cox) didn't even combine to have as many targets as he did.

If **Marcus Mariota** gets the bulk of playing time, Mariota had no issues feeding tight ends Delanie Walker and Darren Waller (in one game getting extended run) on limited rosters, so as long as Mariota stays under center, Pitts still stands to command a large target share from a functional passer. Outside of Pitts is more of a question mark.

**Drake London** should walk into the most opportunity of all rookie wideouts. With **Calvin Ridley** suspended for the entirety of 2022, **Damiere Byrd** has the most yardage among the Atlanta wide receiver group with 1,421 career yards over six seasons. London's 2021 season was setting up to be historic before suffering an ankle injury in his eighth game that forced him to miss the remainder of the season.

Prior to his injury, London was nearly the entire USC passing game. He commanded a target on 41.6% of his routes, averaging 11.0 receptions for 135.5 yards per game, all tops in this class. In those games, London accounted for 42.9% of the USC receiving yardage and 41.1% of their touchdown grabs. On the strength of target potential and touchdown ability alone, he can be a fantasy WR2 as a rookie overall while slotting in as a volatile WR3 on the surface.

It took nine seasons, but an NFL team finally figured out to maximize **Cordarrelle Patterson**. At age 30, Patterson set career-highs in just about every department, turning 205 touches into 1,166 yards and 11 touchdowns. The only shade was the magic left the bottle down the finish line as Patterson scored 22.0 total fantasy points over the final four weeks of the season. After catching five or more passes in six of the opening eight games of the season, Patterson had three or fewer catches in each of the final eight games of the year while posting 59 or fewer yards in each of his final five games played. Patterson picked up an ankle injury in Week 9 that lingered and impacted his usage. Fully healthy and with Atlanta adding a 220-pound rookie in **Tyler Allgeier**, I believe we will see Patterson be used more as a pass catcher in a similar vein as earlier in the 2021 season than the close. I believe Patterson is an undervalued RB3 this summer in PPR formats.

At	Atlanta Falcons Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel						ncies	Surrendered +Success Map				
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total	-						D.	50
1-1 [3WR]	23 plays (6%) Success: 52%	381 plays (93%) Success: 50%	7 plays (2%) Success: 57%	411 plays (100%) Success: 51%	% Rk		Rk	40				
	EPA: 0.03	EPA: 0.14	EPA: 0.34	EPA: 0.14	Base	26%	13					
1-2 [2WR]	45 plays (41%) Success: 62%	66 plays <i>(59%)</i> Success: 50%		111 plays (100%) Success: 55%	Nickel	73%	4	30				
	EPA: 0.22	EPA: -0.09		EPA: 0.04	Dime+	0%	31	The second secon				
2-1 [2WR]	17 plays (65%) Success: 41% EPA: 0.19	9 plays <i>(35%)</i> Success: 22% EPA: -0.09		26 plays (100%) Success: 35% EPA: 0.09	Rush 3	7%	9	20 -				
	4 plays (33%)	7 plays (58%)	1 plays (8%)	12 plays (100%)	Rush 4	72%	12	10 -				
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 50% EPA: 0.02	Success: 43% EPA: 0.02	Success: 0% EPA: -3.13	Success: 42% EPA: -0.24	Rush 5	17%	24					
Grand	89 plays (16%)	463 plays (83%)	8 plays (1%)	560 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	4%	18	0-				
Total	Success: 55% EPA: 0.16	Success: 50% EPA: 0.10	Success: 50% EPA: -0.09	Success: 51% EPA: 0.11	Blitz%	21%	22	-10				

### **Defensive Outlook**

Grady Jarrett is still doing Grady Jarrett things. He was fifth among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and was 33rd at the position in overall pressure rate, per SIS. Jarrett has been one of the best pass rushing interior linemen since he entered the league but with his contract expiring after this season, there appears to be some question if another extension is on the horizon. With Tyeler Davison released, Marlon Davidson could slide in as the No. 2. Davidson, a 2020 second-round pick, played 23% of the defensive snaps in 2021. The Falcons rotated a ton of defensive tackles throughout last season and will likely have to again as the team tries to figure out what to do with and next to Jarrett.

On the edge, **Lorenzo Carter** never fully clicked as a pass rusher with the Giants, but even with just a one-year/\$3.5 million, he's in line to be Atlanta's top player at the position. Carter has plus athleticism that has yet to translate into production, but that could be something potentially unlocked by Dean Pees. Second-round pick **Arnold Ebikete** has great athleticism that could flash immediately on the field. **Adetokunbo Ogundeji** was a 2021 fifth-round pick who played 45% of Atlanta's defensive snaps as a rookie, but he provided little value as a pass rusher. Despite rushing the passer on 90.2% of his pass snaps, Ogundeji had just a 6.6% pressure rate (95th among edge rushers) and two quarterback hits.

At linebacker, the future of **Deion Jones** is in doubt. He'll be out all offseason. The Falcons signed **Rashaan Evans**, a former first-round pick of the Tennessee Titans. Evans only played in 12 games last season, but ranked 16th among linebackers in yards allowed power coverage snap. **Mykal Walker**, a 2020 fourth-round pick, should also see more playing time. Walker is a plus blitzer, who rushed the passer on 21% of his pass snaps in 2021. With a lack of edge talent, Walker could see that increase while Evans plays a more traditional linebacker role. Second-round pick **Troy Andersen** could also ake an impact.

A.J. Terrell is a star at cornerback. He was third among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021. He'll be extension eligible after this season and the Falcons should try to lock him up as soon as possible. Casey Hayward signed a two-year deal and free agency and should give Atlanta a more than capable No. 2 across from Terrell. Hayward was 21st in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season with the Las Vegas Raiders. Isaiah Oliver re-signed on a one-year deal this offseason after he missed most of 2021 with a knee injury. Oliver has played well in the slot when he's been on the field, which would give the Falcons an impressive corner group and probably the best positional group on the team.

**Erik Harris** played 60% of the defensive snaps last season and he was the only returning safety that played over 40% of the snaps. **Jaylinn Hawkins** was at 39%. There is hope — nearly a necessity — for development from 2021 second-round pick **Richie Grant**. **Dean Marlowe** signed a one-year deal coming over from Detroit and serves as veteran depth and should also see playing time after playing 61% of the defensive snaps for the Lions last season.

Play Tendencies				
All Pass %	60%			
All Pass Rk	9			
All Rush %	40%			
All Rush Rk	24			
1 Score Pass %	60%			
1 Score Pass Rk	9			
2020 1 Score Pass %	62%			
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	7			
2021 Pass Increase %	-2%			
Pass Increase Rk	22			
1 Score Rush %	40%			
1 Score Rush Rk	24			
Up Pass %	61%			
Up Pass Rk	6			
Up Rush %	39%			
Up Rush Rk	27			
Down Pass %	62%			
Down Pass Rk	12			
Down Rush %	38%			
Down Rush Rk	21			

Down & Distance Tendencies						
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %	
1st	Short (1-3)	4	50%	50%	25%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	9	56%	44%	67%	
	Long (8-10)	297	40%	60%	49%	
	XL (11+)	13	77%	23%	38%	
2nd	Short (1-3)	40	40%	60%	63%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	79	71%	29%	44%	
	Long (8-10)	100	78%	22%	44%	
	XL (11+)	30	67%	33%	23%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	41	68%	32%	54%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	51	92%	8%	39%	
	Long (8-10)	42	93%	7%	36%	
	XL (11+)	20	90%	10%	35%	
4th	Short (1-3)	13	46%	54%	62%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%	

Shot	Shotgun %						
Shotgun	Under Center						
53%	47%						
NFL	NFL AVG						
65%	35%						
Efficiency							



### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Efficiency					
EPA/	EPA/				
pass:	pass:				
-0.14	0.07				
EPA/	EPA/				
rush:	rush:				
-0.16	-0.16				
Success:	Success:				

2nd and Short Run							
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg			
73%	14	71%	58%	73%			
2nd and Short Pass							

Pass 1D

Rate

43%

Pass NFL

1D Avg

46%

NFL Pass

Freq Avg

29%

	Most	Frequent Play			<u>C</u>
ce	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %	
-3)	PASS	Kyle Pitts	2	50%	1
	RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	2	0%	N
7)	RUSH	Mike Davis	3	67%	
10)	RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	79	48%	
+)	PASS	Kyle Pitts	3	33%	
-3)	RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	10	60%	

<u>most Frequent Play</u>								
Down	Down Distance Type Player			Total Plays	Play Success %			
1st	Short (1-3)	PASS	Kyle Pitts	2	50%			
Dwn		RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	2	0%			
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Mike Davis	3	67%			
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	79	48%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Kyle Pitts	3	33%			
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	10	60%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Cordarrelle Patterson	11	55%			
		RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	11	45%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Kyle Pitts	14	71%			
	XL (11+)	RUSH	SH Mike Davis		33%			
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Cordarrelle Patterson	6	33%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Kyle Pitts	7	43%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Russell Gage	10	50%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cordarrelle Patterson	4	25%			
			Mike Davis	4	50%			
			Kyle Pitts	4	50%			

<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: 42%	Success: 44%	Success: 42%				
	YPA: 5.6, EPA: -0.13	YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.05	YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.10				
	Rtg: 97.9	Rtg: 88.2	Rtg: 96.1				
	[Att: 124 - Rate: 19.7%]	[Att: 27 - Rate: 4.3%]	[Att: 151 - Rate: 23.9%]				
Yes	Success: 45%	Success: 50%	Success: 46%				
	YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.19	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.08	YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.11				
	Rtg: 76.5	Rtg: 109.1	Rtg: 85.7				
	[Att: 343 - Rate: 54.4%]	[Att: 137 - Rate: 21.7%]	[Att: 480 - Rate: 76.1%]				
Total	Success: 44%	Success: 49%	Success: 45%				
	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.17	YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.08	YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.11				
	Rtg: 82.1	Rtg: 105.4	Rtg: 88.2				
	[Att: 467 - Rate: 74.0%]	[Att: 164 - Rate: 26.0%]	[Att: 631 - Rate: 100.0%]				

Pass

Freq

Pass

Rk

19

	Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Kyle Pitts	Russell Gage	Olamide Zaccheaus	Mike Davis	Tajae Sharpe	Cordarrelle Patterson	Hayden Hurst	Lee Smith
1	PHI	L 32-6	49	49	19	54	10	24	43	21
2	TB	L 48-25	57	38	42	46	13	24	30	13
3	NYG	W 17-14	52		43	37	15	26	24	26
4	WAS	W 30-28	55		61	51	21	23	49	17
5	NYJ	W 27-20	54		66	50	63	46	43	34
7	MIA	W 30-28	42	40	12	38	14	46	37	26
8	CAR	L 19-13	44	36	21	34	36	32	33	18
9	NO	W 27-25	44	48	29	33	47	33	26	17
10	DAL	L 43-3	33	35	23	20	31	15	23	
11	NE	L 25-0	44	40	25	26	37			22
12	JAC	W 21-14	47	46	30	30	46	29		29
13	TB	L 30-17	67	53	43	38	54	34		16
14	CAR	W 29-21	37	52	29	39	52	34	43	34
15	SF	L 31-13	49	48	37	27	33	37	25	13
16	DET	W 20-16	36	40	40	26		25	22	11
17	BUF	L 29-15	27	42	51	27		27		10
18	NO	L 30-20	37	45	39	18	38	18	12	4
	Grand	Total	774	612	610	594	510	473	410	311

/ (d.to. 20.070j	p itt. oc		-					
Personnel Groupings								
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.					
1-1 [3WR]	31%	61%	42%					
1-2 [2WR]	27%	21%	42%					
2-1 [2WR]	20%	7%	46%					
2-2 [1WR]	12%	3%	51%					
1-3 [1WR]	8%	4%	36%					
Group	ing Te	enden	<u>cies</u>					
<u>Group</u> Personnel	Pass Rate	enden 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. % 42%					
Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR]	Pass Rate 72% 65%	Pass Succ. % 42% 42%	Run Succ. % 42% 42%					

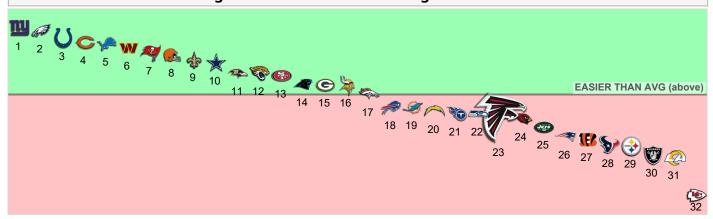
Red Zone Targets Leaderboard						
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Kyle Pitts	15	3	4	8		
Russell Gage	14	2	2	10		
Cordarrelle Patterson	12	1	1	10		
Calvin Ridley	11	3	2	6		
Hayden Hurst	7	1		6		
Tajae Sharpe	4	1		3		
Qadree Ollison	2		2			

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard										
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20						
Cordarrelle Patters	33	7	6	20						
Mike Davis	20	4	6	10						
Matt Ryan	11	4	5	2						
Qadree Ollison	3			3						
Keith Smith	1			1						
Wayne Gallman	1			1						

Early Down Target Rate								
RB	TE	WR						
15%	30%	55%						
000/	21%	56%						
23%	NFL AVG	0070						
20/0								
20/0	NFL AVG							
Overall	NFL AVG	iccess %						



### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



I wish I had better news to share, but I do not.

Arthur Smith immediately, swiftly, and firmly pivoted directly back to the run in Week 8 and never looked back. Aside from the final game of the season, there was not a single game that Smith called more passes than runs on first downs in the first half of games.

Even that makes it sound better than what it really was.

From Week 8 to 17, the Falcons leaned even MORE into first down runs than they did to start the season:

Fourth highest run rate on first down (58.3%) 23rd EPA/rush on those first down runs (-0.13) 21st in YPC on those first down runs (4.1) 25th success rate on those first down runs (29%)

Atlanta went from 55% runs in Weeks 1-5 to 58.3% runs after the pass-heavy win over the Dolphins.

The lone question remaining was, how did Matt Ryan perform when passing on these first downs which Smith intentionally decided to limit in favor of highly inefficient runs?

Ryan delivered 71% completions, 8.7 YPA, 0.09 EPA/att, and 49% success.

These rank ninth, eighth, 13th, and 14th respectively, out of 39 QBs with 100+ attempts last season.

Ryan was a top-10 QB in many of these situations, but instead of choosing to gain positive EPA on nearly 50% of first down snaps, the Falcons chose positive EPA on just 29% of first down snaps. They would rather lose -0.13 EPA/play by running instead of gain 0.09 by passing. They would rather average roughly four yards a play when running than roughly nine yards a play when passing.

It truly makes very little sense, particularly given how things unfolded.

A terrible start. A perfectly timed bye. A pivot to a pass-heavy game in Miami. A great QB performance and a win. And then, an immediate return to the run with terrible production while the pass game is thriving?

The end result was the Falcons stumbled their way to a 7-10 record.

I also didn't understand their strategy when they were running. This team was outstanding when running to the right. Runs to the right end, behind the right tackle, and right quard produced solid results. Whereas runs behind center or in any leftward direction were terrible. Look at the results on early downs:

Runs to the left: 3.7 YPC, -0.14 EPA/att, 39% success Runs to the right: 4.2 YPC, -0.07 EPA/att, 46% success

Yet, Atlanta ran to the left more than the right. The problem was even worse when we are talking runs to the tackles and off-tackle:

Runs left outside: 3.7 YPC, -0.15 EPA/att, 38% success (130 att) Runs right outside: 4.2 YPC, -0.02 EPA/att, 49% success (92 att)

Atlanta had 41% more runs to their left perimeter than to their right perimeter. Yet they had 11% more success and substantially better efficiency when running to the right. It made very little sense.

As for usage of motion, Arthur Smith used it much more in Atlanta and it was beneficial. This was a welcome sight. Atlanta used it at an above average rate in 2020 (48% vs NFL average of 45%) but Tennessee was up at 56%. Well in 2021, the Falcons used it at a 58% clip, which clocked in at the sixth-highest rate in the NFL.

Matt Ryan's EPA/att increased with pre-snap motion from -0.05 without it to 0.02 with it. But that number still was worse than Ryan's EPA/att with pre-snap





motion in 2020, which speaks to what I'm about to dig into next.

Which is this declaration:

The 4-12 Falcons from 2020 would thump the 7-10 Falcons from 2021. THUMP.

Atlanta was much better in 2020 but had a worse record, thanks to terrible variance. Atlanta caught all the negative variance in 2020 and all the positive variance in 2021. Just look at the numbers:

Record in games decided by a field goal or less:

2020: 0-4 2021: 3-0

Record in games decided by one score or less:

2020: 2-8 2021: 7-2

Hell, the 2020 Falcons LED IN 13 OF 16 GAMES but won only FOUR GAMES. They couldn't hold a lead to save their life.

The schedule also helped the 2021 Falcons in a huge way.

After playing the hardest schedule of defenses including the second toughest set of pass offenses in 2020, I predicted in last year's book the Falcons' defense would face a MUCH easier road in 2021. I predicted their defense would face the 22nd toughest schedule of offenses and 26th toughest schedule of pass offenses. Remember, with strength of schedule, it's not a slight shift that's worthy of discussion. It's major shifts OR schedules that sit on the fringes, in the top-5 to top-10 range.

Shifting from the second-toughest schedule of pass offenses in 2020 to what I predicted to be the seventh easiest in 2021 would absolute the second-toughest schedule of pass offenses in 2020 to what I predicted to be the seventh easiest in 2021 would absolute the second-toughest schedule of pass offenses in 2020 to what I predicted to be the seventh easiest in 2021 would absolute the second-toughest schedule of pass offenses in 2020 to what I predicted to be the seventh easiest in 2021 would absolute the second-toughest schedule of pass offenses in 2020 to what I predicted to be the seventh easiest in 2021 would absolute the second-toughest schedule of pass offenses in 2020 to what I predicted to be the seventh easiest in 2021 would absolute the second-toughest schedule of the second-tou

Was my prediction close to being accurate? Extremely close: Atlanta actually played the fifth easiest schedule of pass offenses in 2021.

Yet despite that benefit, this defense was STILL terrible. I wrote in last year's Falcons chapter that I did not expect this defense to get any better in 2021. Indeed, they got worse. Much worse. The defense dropped from 17th in EDSR (Early Down Success Rate) to 28th. They dropped from 12th in overall defensive efficiency to 29th.

They were better in 2020 against a much tougher schedule and substantially worse in 2021 against a much easier schedule. And guess what? In 2022, I predict the Falcons will play the NFL's ninth toughest schedule of opposing offenses and eighth toughest schedule of opposing pass offenses. This is exactly what we care about. A huge swing (from fifth easiest to eighth toughest) coupled with a schedule that sits at the fringes (top-10).

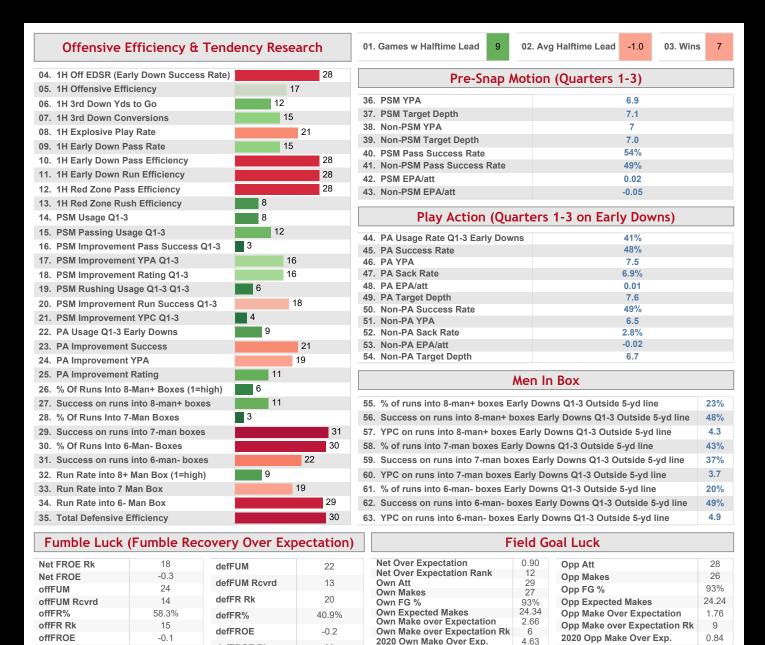
Netting it out, the Falcons face the second most difficult year-over-year increase in schedule of pass offenses of any team in the NFL this season.

What else is there to dislike about the 2022 Falcons? Somehow this team has been the healthiest team in the NFL over the last few years. Their team health ranking was fifth in 2019, third in 2020 and third last year. This good fortune in player health can't possibly continue for another consecutive year, can it?

The team did very little to improve the ground game this offseason and if last year is any indication, they aren't considering lowering their run rate any time soon. If they were reluctant to pass on first down with Matt Ryan, how much less are they going to pass with **Marcus Mariota** or a rookie quarterback in **Desmond Ridder**?

And then there is the dead cap. The Falcons have \$56 million in dead cap this year because Matt Ryan and **Julio Jones** don't play for them. That's 27% of the Falcons' 2022 salary cap. This team was already in roster hell thanks to the state that former general manager Thomas Dimitroff left the team in 2020.

Atlanta was a 7-win team last year that is now predicted with only a 4.5-win total this year and is currently favored in zero games. The best thing about this team if you're a Falcons fan is they should be bad enough to legitimately tank and rebuild for the future.



Player Tracking	Data Stats - QBs	QB Pres	ssure	Offensive N	<b>Netrics</b>
	Matt Ryan		Matt Ryan	EPA/Pass	0.02
CAY	5.7	Pressure %	39.7	EPA/Pass Rk	14
CAY Rk	18	Pressure Rk	5	EPA/Rush	-0.07
2020 CAY Rk	5	Sack %	6.5	EPA/Rush Rk	21
AYTS Rk	25	Sack Rk	16	On-Target Catch %	91.0%
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	6 14	Pressure Accuracy %	66.7	On-Target Catch Rk	11
2020 AGG Rk	24	Pressure Accuracy Rk	10	Drop%	5.2%
COMP%	67	Rating when Pressured	76.1	Drop Rk	12
xCOMP%	66	Pressured Rating Rk	12	·	
xCOMP% Rk	15	Clean Accuracy %	80.4	YAC/Att	2.2
2020 xCOMP% Rk	28	Clean Accuracy Rk	6	YAC/Att Rk	19
CPOE%	0.9	•	98	Rush Broken Tackle %	14.7%
CPOE Rk	10	Rating when Clean		Rush Broken Tackle Rk	8
2020 CPOE Rk	20	Clean Rating Rk	19	Masii Biokeii Tackie KK	0
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:		Time to Throw	2.77	Rush 1st Down %	23.2%
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expect Actual completion percentage over	ted completion percentage CPOE:	Time to Throw Rk	22	Rush 1st Down Rk	23

20

defFROE Rk

15

offFROE Rk

2020 Own Make Over Exp.

2020 Opp Rk

17

2020 Own Rk



### Falcons Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Matt Ryan	0.18 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	0.03 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.09 (#2)
2020	Matt Ryan	0.27 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.19 (#1)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Matt Ryan	-0.48 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	0.10 (#2)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.21 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)
2020	Matt Ryan	-0.32 (#1)	0.27 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	-0.19 (#1)	0.09 (#1)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

					`		•	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Matt Ryan	79% (#2)	79% (#2)	75% (#1)	64% (#1)	77% (#1)	79% (#2)	66% (#1)	73% (#1)	81% (#1)
2020	Matt Ryan	79% (#1)	85% (#1)	74% (#2)	54% (#2)	76% (#2)	80% (#1)	65% (#2)	71% (#2)	81% (#1)

## **Rushing Efficiency**

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	AII	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.21 (#2)	-0.06 (#1)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.18 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.09 (#1)	-0.64 (#1)	-0.35 (#1)
2020	-0.10 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	-0.10 (#1)	-0.18 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	-0.06 (#1)	-0.09 (#1)	-1.53 (#2)	-1.53 (#2)

### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	26	15	19	26	14	25	23	28	23	22
2020	21	8	12	30	24	31	17	27	26	14

### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	23	29	7	31	24	9	19	20	1
2020	6	8	3	14	11	20	15	1	1

### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	22	10	5	13	18	24	9	29	20
2020	4	13	3	10	9	9	2	1	21

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

### **Head Coach**:

Easy

John Harbaugh (14 yrs) Offensive Coordinator:

Greg Roman (3 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Hard

Mike Macdonald (Michigan DC) (new)

# **Baltimore Ravens**

### Wins

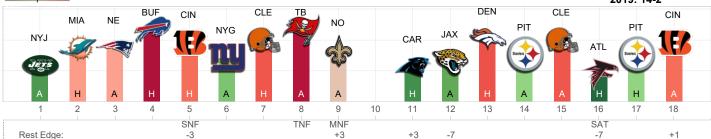
### **Div Rank**

### #3

### Past Records

2022 Forecast

2021: 8-9 2020: 11-5 2019: 14-2



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Brandon Williams (IDL)	TBD
Anthony Averett (CB)	Raiders
Derek Wolfe (IDL)	TBD
Marquise Brown (WR)	Cardinals
Bradley Bozeman (C)	Panthers
Jimmy Smith (CB)	TBD
Chris Board (LB)	Lions
Sammy Watkins (WR)	Packers
Eric Tomlinson (TE)	Broncos
Tavon Young (CB)	Bears
Justin Ellis (IDL)	Giants
Josh Johnson (QB)	Broncos
L.J. Fort (LB)	TBD
DeShon Elliott (S)	Lions
Anthony Levine (S)	TBD
Devonta Freeman (RB)	TBD
Latavius Murray (RB)	TBD
Pernell McPhee (EDGE)	TBD
David Sharpe (LT)	TBD
Jovante Moffatt (S)	Retired
Miles Boykin (WR)	Steelers

### 2021 Baltimore Ravens Overview

As of December 1, do you know who the No. 1 seed was in the AFC?

The team that would have a first-round bye if the season ended on that date?

Would it surprise you to learn it was a team that didn't even make the playoffs?

That's right - it was the Baltimore Ravens.

Baltimore started off 5-1 and was 8-3 by December 1st.

What about all the "this is the year the NFL will figure out Lamar Jackson and the Ravens?"

Yea, I wondered that as well.

Yet they were the No. 1 seed as of December 1st, and that was despite all the injuries.

Let's start at the running back position... where they lost starting running backs Gus Edwards and Justice Hill in back-to-back days the week before the season started.

They were forced to sign Latavius Murray a couple of days before their first game, and then veterans Devonta Freeman, Nate McCrary, and Le'Veon Bell were signed during the season

For the team that had been first in run rate in 2019 and second in run rate in 2020, losing every able running back on the roster days before the season couldn't have caused more problems.

# **Trades Added**

**Key Free Agents/** 

Player	AAV (MM)
Marcus Williams (S)	\$14
Michael Pierce (IDL)	\$5.5
Morgan Moses (RT)	\$5
Kyle Fuller (CB)	\$2.5
Mike Davis (RB)	\$1.3
Brent Urban (IDL)	\$1.10

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	14	S - Kyle Hamilton (Notre Da
1	25	C - Tyler Linderbaum (Iowa)
2	45	OLB - David Ojabo (Michigan)
3	76	NT - Travis Jones (UConn)
	110	OT - Daniel Faalele (Minneso.
	119	CB - Jalyn Armour-Davis (Ala.
4	128	TE - Charlie Kolar (Iowa State
•	130	P - Jordan Stout (Penn State)
	139	TE - Isaiah Likely (Coastal C
	141	CB - Damarion Williams (Hou.
6	196	RB - Tyler Badie (Missouri)

### # Games **Average** # Games **Underdog** <u>Line</u> **Favored** 3 -2.3 11

**Regular Season Wins:** Past & Current Proj

Past	& Current Proj
Forecast 2022 Wins	9.5
2021 Wins	8
Forecast 2021 Wins	11
2020 Wins	<b>2</b> 11
2019 Wins	14 🙈
2018 Wins	10
	1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



LWR R.Bateman NEW	3	79 LT R.Stanley	LG PhillipsT.	64 c Linderbaum ROOK	70 RG K.Zeitler*	78 PRT M.Moses*	89	RWR D.Duvernay NEW
	SlotWR J.Proche NEW			8		- '	#A.Andrews	ap Dollars
WR2 T.Wallace J	WR3 RE Moore G.Edv				RB J.Dobbins		* = 30+ : NEW = 1 (or starte	years old New to role ed < 50% s last year)

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	11	\$107.16M	29
QB	10	\$23.91M	31
OL	6	\$46.43M	23
RB	14	\$9.54M	15
WR	32	\$7.43M	22
TE	4	\$19.85M	8
All DEF	22	\$84.21M	5
DL	30	\$26.29M	10
LB	32	\$6.45M	24
СВ	1	\$38.25M	3
s	16	\$13.22M	22

### BAL-2

Baltimore lost left tackle **Ronnie Stanley** early in the season. Before the season started, the Ravens lost tight end **Nick Boyle**, which limited many two tight end sets, as well as wide receivers **Rashod Bateman** and **Miles Boykin**.

Days before the season started, they lost **Marcus Peters**. After the first game, they lost **Chris Westry**. In November, they lost **DeShon Elliott**. In December, they lost **Marlon Humphrey**.

We could mention other players the Ravens lost, like **Derek Wolfe** in October, but the bottom line is, the Ravens had brutal health last year, and most were cluster injuries at key positions for this team, including defensive back, receiver, offensive line, and running backs.

But most of all, the biggest impact was from Lamar Jackson.

Jackson dealt with an "undisclosed non-COVID illness" days before the Week 11 game against the Bears just before Thanksgiving. He was removed from the injury report on Friday, but was reinserted on it the very next day when his condition abruptly degraded. He wasn't ruled out until gameday, so **Tyler Huntley** had to start on short notice. The next week, Jackson started in a win against the Browns, but was clearly not himself, throwing four interceptions and delivering his worst performance of the season in the win.

The Ravens still stood at the top of the AFC at this point entering December, but the very next week, the Ravens lost Humphrey during the game and did not have enough cornerbacks to defend. The Ravens led the entire game, but having not enough corners, they gave up 17 points in the fourth quarter and opted to go for a two-point conversion to win the game before overtime rather than send the game to overtime with 12 seconds left. They failed, dropped the game, and fell to No. 3 in the AFC.

The very next week, after narrowly missing out on a 9-3 record and staying atop the AFC, Lamar Jackson injured his ankle in the first quarter.

He missed the rest of the game. The Ravens lost.

15

23

20

5

10

15

20

25

30

12

He missed the rest of the season. The Ravens lost every game.

8

When Jackson played the entire game, the Ravens went 8-4, with two of the four losses being either in overtime (Week 1 vs. the Raiders) or seconds before overtime, trying to avoid overtime due to a depleted roster on a failed two-point conversion.

2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics

21

16

	2021 Passii	AB.		
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Lamar Jackson	58% 8.0 92.3	45% 7.8 93.0	31% 6.5 66.9	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	50%	58%	70%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushing Performance											
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn									
BAL	52% 4.8	63% 5.0	44% 3.8	Success Rate YPC								
Run Rate	50%	42%	30%									
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC								
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%									

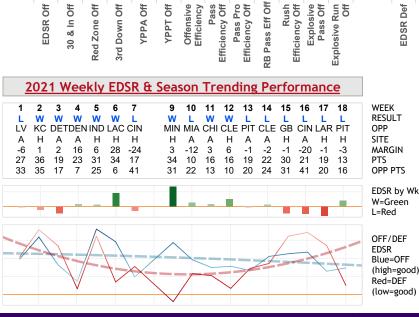
When Jackson played the entire game, the Ravens were the No. 1 team in the AFC in... and that was DESPITE all of the insane injuries.

But when Jackson was injured, the Ravens went 1-5.

Lamar is back for 2022, even though he's not under contract (yet) for 2023. The team says they'll pay him and that it's on Jackson to enter the contract discussions (he has no agent). According to the team, Jackson isn't ready to do so yet, and will when the time is right.

To project 2022, we are going to project a healthy Lamar Jackson. While some believe his running style opens him up to more injury, the reality is that since he became a starter, he started 49 out of a possible 55 games.

(cont'd - see BAL-3) 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 1 10 1 Rank 15 12 20 16 16 25 25 30 26 27 28 28 28 Pass Efficiency Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPT Def **Efficieincy Def** Red Zone Der YPPA **Explosive** 



### 2021 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **8**FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **4-5**FG Games Win %: **44% (#16)**FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 6-6 1 Score Games Win %: 50% (#12) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 75% (#4)

### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -11 TO Given 26 **INT Given** 18 **FUM Given** 8 TO Taken 15 **INT Taken** 9 **FUM Taken** 6 Sack Margin -23 34 Sacks Allow 57 Return TD Margin -1 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 1 **Penalty Margin** -4 Penalties 102 **Opponent Penalties** 98

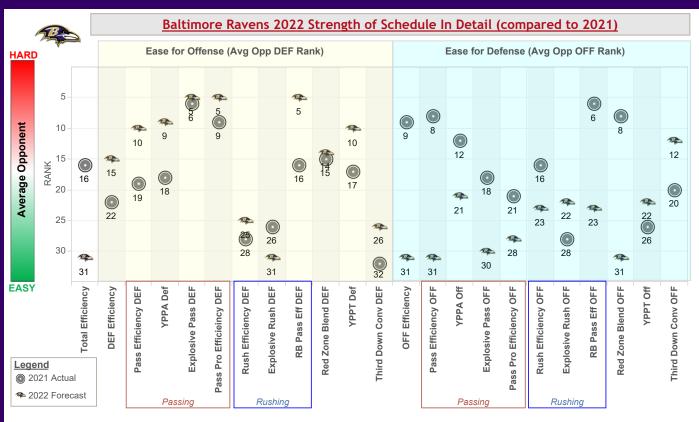
7

11

24

27

16



	2022 vs 2021 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	6	14	13	31	31	24	25						

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2022), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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	22 (	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	<u>sion</u>	2021	Орр	oner	nts by	y Div	isior	<u>1 He</u>	ealth	ı by l	Jnit*			
					2021	20	020	2019															2021	Rk	32
	Ave	erage I	ine		-1.3	-7	7.0	-5.4	AF	CN	161		linear (	<b>(*)</b>		AFCN	16	6 🐷	San (Inter	<b>(</b>			2020	Rk	8
		ige O/L			46.5	47	7.0	46.0														201	21 v 20	)20 Rk	32
	Straigh	nt Up R	Record		8-9	11	1-5	14-2			_									-		202			
Aga	inst the	e Spre	ad Red	cord	8-9		0-5	11-5	AF	CE		1	7 -		EIS	AFCW		ار آ <del>ل</del> ا	D 6		Q'		Off F	Rk	32
	Over/U				8-9		-8	8-7			11 -=	· Part	~	A	9		Υ'	~ ~		1 /6			Def F	Rk	31
		as Fav			3-8		-5	8-5															QB F	ol.	23
	ATS a				5-1		-0	3-0	NIE	cs	4		· _/	L 4		NFCN		<b>A</b> (		y <	5				
	Straig				5-4		-3	7-1	INIT	-63			~ ~	8 <u>~</u>		NECN		g 🏸	رو				RB F	Rk	32
		S Hon			5-4		-3	4-4					•		6								WR F	₹k	21
	Over/L				5-4		-3	3-4			~1000						بلدف								
	TS as I				2-4		-3	3-4	AF	cs	6	•				AFCE	35	J.					TER	KK	1
	ATS as			9	3-0 3-5		-0 -2	1-0 7-1			•						hade	*					Oline	Rk	25
		ht Up . ΓS Awa			3-5	_	-2	7-1 7-1															Dline	Rk	27
		Under			3-5		-2 -5	5-3	Λ.	cw						AFCS									
	ATS A				1-4		-2	5-1		CVV	4	9				AI 00		,					LB F	₹K	29
		Away			2-1		-0	2-0															DB F	Rk	32
Six	Point			ord	13-4		2-4	14-2			707														
	n Poir				13-4		2-4	14-1	NF	CE	M					NFCW	' LZ	2						n the w	
Tei	Point	Tease	er Reco	ord	14-3		3-3	15-1				•					•	'				1	Footba	II Outsi	ders
					20	21 V	Veek	lv B	ettin	g Liı	nes									Hom	ne Li	ines			
									1		_					40							4.0		4-
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2	4	5	7	1		13 1.5	16	17
NYJ	MIA	NE	BUF	CIN	NYG	CLE	TB	NO	CAR	JAX	DEN	PIT	CLE	ATL	PIT	CIN	-4	BUF	-1 CIN		- 10		DEN		E
-4.5	-4.0	+0.0	+1.0	-1.0	-3.5	Null	+3.5	-1.0	-7.0	-4.0	-1.5	-2.0	Null	-7.5	-5.5	+3.0	MIA	BUF	CIN			7	JEIV	-7Avg	= -3.6
																					, C	AR		ATL	
																J.									
		Δ	1				A																		
Avg =	-2.3	A	47-521	W	Α	h	_^_	Ą	Н	Α		A		Н	Ava	= -2.3		Road Lin				<u>nes</u>			
					TITU	l				6		$\bigcirc$		·			1	3	6	8	9	12	14	15	18
JETS	1500														-										
-0-	<b>I</b>								_	•				_	Stein	•				3.5					3
	<b>I</b>								A	•				A.		,		0		<b>3.5</b> TB	_1		_		3 CIN
									A.					F			-4.5	0 NE	-3.5		<b>-1</b>	-4	-2	- ·Avg	
51	51.5	48	45	49	49	48	0	49	5.5	46.5	5.5	46.5	47	47.5	2.5	44	<b>-4.5</b> NYJ		<b>-3.5</b> NYG			<b>-4</b> JAX	-2 PIT	- Avg	CIN





He was healthy every game his first two years, missed one game his third year due to COVID, missed one game his fourth year (last year) due to an illness, and missed four games with an injured ankle.

Said another way: Jackson has started in four seasons and has missed a total of four games due to injury.

Lamar Jackson is back for 2022. But his No. 1 WR for the last three seasons, Marquise Brown, is not after Brown asked for and received a trade this offseason. Brown said he wasn't happy in Baltimore. He wanted to play in Arizona for the Cardinals and Kyler Murray.

He said, "it's not really on Lamar. I love Lamar. It was just, the system wasn't for me."

I'm sure Brown believes this. But let's not kid ourselves. The "system" IS Lamar. The Ravens aren't running their "system" if it wasn't because of Lamar. So you can't really say that it's not Lamar, it's the system.

But here is the most annoying part of the entire thing: Brown said he started talking to Lamar about his unhappiness in the "system" after his second year, which was the 2020 season.

That season, the Ravens did run the ball at the third highest rate on early downs in the first three quarters. Brown had only 100 targets, which ranked 42nd in the NFL. But his percentage of all Ravens' passing targets was 26%, which ranked seventh-most of any receiver in the NFL.

So in 2020, while Brown was clearly the Ravens' priority from a target perspective, he must not have received as many targets as he wanted. One thing is clear, regardless of opinion, Brown himself was to blame with not being even more productive in 2020. Of all top receivers, who had at least 20% of their team's targets (31 such receivers), only Dionte Johnson and rookie Jerry Jeudy had a higher rate of incompletions due to wide receiver error than Brown. Whether drops, bobbles, falling down, etc., Brown did so at a much higher rate than most of the league's top targets.

But then came 2021 and everything changed. We'll get under the surface of the changes, but the bottom line was this:

In 2021 the Ravens were the seventh most pass-heavy team in the NFL, up from 30th in 2020.

In 2021, the Ravens called pass plays on 61% of early downs in the first half of games, compared to only 50% in 2020 (NFL average was 57% pass).

Ironically, the Ravens were more pass-heavy in 2021 than the Cardinals were.

And in 2021, Brown ran 625 pass routes, fourth in the NFL. He was targeted 146 times, 10th in the NFL.

But out of 39 receivers with over 100 targets, the only two to deliver worse efficiency when targeted were Robbie Anderson (catching passes from Sam Darnold) and Darnell Mooney (catching passes from Justin Fields). Brown's rate of self-error decreased, including drops.

So even though he was able to run the fourth-most routes in the NFL and receive the 10th most targets, he didn't want to play with Jackson in the Ravens system — so he's gone.

Naturally, when a team's leading wide receiver is traded away, you would assume the team has plans to replace him. The Ravens received the Cardinals' No. 23 overall pick in return but they traded that pick to the Bills in exchange for the No. 25 and No. 130 picks. They then turned No. 25 into center Tyler Linderbaum and No. 130 into punter Jordan Stout. The Ravens didn't draft a single wide receiver.

And after not adding a wide receiver in free agency, the Ravens are simply "bumping up" everyone on the depth chart.

WR1 is now Rashod Bateman, a natural progression for the 27th overall pick in the 2021 Draft.

But beyond Bateman, the Ravens' receiving corps could be spelled "corpse." Devin Duvernay, Tylan Wallace, and James Proche still have multiple years on their rookie deals. Duvernay is at least a special teams contributor (he led the NFL with 13.8 yards per punt return in 2021), but he has averaged a pedestrian 8.9 yards per catch through two years in the league. Among current wide receivers, Proche led the team in target depth, but that was only 9.6 air yards on 20 targets.

The Ravens have funneled a lot of draft capital to the wide receiver position the last three years:

2021 Rd 1, pick 27 - Rashod Bateman 2021 Rd 4, pick 131 - Tylan Wallace 2020 Rd 3, pick 92 - Devin Duvernay

(cont'd - see BAL-4)

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 2 5 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Baltimore Ravens Ranking vs NFL Average

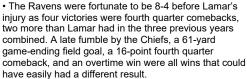
Net Rest Edge Rank	Prep Rank	Rest Rank	Short Week Road Games Rank	Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank	Negated Bye Rank
20	24	6	8	1	22

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

9.5

### Why Bet the Over





rate. No significant upgrades to the pass rush have been made over the course of the offseason.

• Jackson struggled with accuracy in 2021 as he finished in the bottom half of starting quarterbacks in CPOE and finished with 15.2% of passes incomplete due to inaccuracy, the fifth-highest of all quarterbacks with more than 100 dropbacks. The Ravens have the sixth-highest

jump in passing defense efficiency strength of schedule

in 2022, and Jackson will need to improve his accuracy

to achieve more passing success.



 The 2021 Ravens had the highest adjusted games lost in the Football Outsiders database. Leading the league with the most adjusted games lost on offense and second in games lost on defense, the Ravens are almost a guarantee to have better injury luck.

• John Harbaugh is one of the league's top coaches and has finished with a winning record in four consecutive seasons until last year. With Lamar Jackson under center, Harbaugh has prioritized getting the lead early and dominating on the ground with the lead. In the previous two seasons, the Ravens had a first quarter point differential of +97 and +74 but fell to -3 last year, partly due to injuries. The improved secondary is slated to play the second easiest schedule of passing offenses, which will allow the Ravens to have success if able to jump out to early leads as before.

 Lamar Jackson unanimously won the MVP in 2019 averaging 208 yards a game passing. That season the Ravens' leading wide receiver had 46 receptions and 584 yards. The mobile quarterback has an elite weapon at tight end and can extend plays and create opportunities for offensive success that camouflage the lack of depth at receiver.

	Baltimore Ravens Positional Unit Rankings												
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach							
6	6	20	23	18	5	2							

With four top-10 units, including at key positions such as quarterback and offensive line, Baltimore appears to have the foundation of a championship-caliber roster. Baltimore's quarterback room ranks sixth overall, but received votes ranging from sixth to 11th. Obviously, the success of this unit hinges on **Lamar Jackson** returning to full health. With Jackson on the field, Baltimore's offense generated 10.1 EPA on dropbacks, but -6.7 EPA on dropbacks from **Josh Johnson** and **Tyler Huntley**.

Opinions varied on Baltimore's backfield with votes ranging from 16th to 24th. If **J.K. Dobbins** returns to full strength and carries the unit, the high end of that spectrum is realistic. However, if he's unable to regain his form, **Gus Edwards** and **Mike Davis** may not provide enough quality depth for the unit to succeed. Baltimore has one of the most unproven receiving corps in the league, though **Rashod Bateman**'s potential and quality depth at tight end save it from a worse ranking. **Marquise Brown** accounted for 30% of the team's targets at 10 or more yards downfield last year. Bateman will need to establish himself as a threat in that role for this unit to exceed expectations.

We're betting on good health for the Ravens' offensive line, because it was one of the league's worst units a season ago. Ravens quarterbacks were pressured in 2.5 seconds or less at a league-worst rate of 28%. The return of **Ronnie Stanley** and the additions of **Tyler Linderbaum** and **Morgan Moses** should get the unit back on track.

Baltimore's front seven took a big hit after a disappointing year, dropping nine spots in our rankings. Some changes to the unit backfired last year, as Baltimore ranked 25th in pressure rate on non-blitzes. **Odafe Oweh** led the team in pressures and needs to take another step in his development for this unit to exceed expectations. The Ravens' secondary was also crushed by injuries, so we're excusing last year's struggles. The team ranked dead last in yards per attempt allowed. A return to health, plus the addition of **Kyle Hamilton**, should make this a formidable unit.

Leading the way for Baltimore is John Harbaugh, who climbed one spot in our head coach rankings. His ability to adapt the game plan to the strengths of his roster make Harbaugh one of the league's elite coaches.

### BAL-4

2020 Rd 6, pick 201 – James Proche 2019 Rd 1, pick 25 – Marquise Brown 2019 Rd 3, pick 93 – Miles Boykin

The problem has been that none of these picks have truly panned out to date. Naturally, the book is out on Bateman and the Ravens absolutely need him to pan out in 2022 or they're in serious trouble.

Some general managers have eyes for talent and look for certain thresholds at positions which translate to long-term success. The Ravens' front office simply doesn't have it for wide receivers. Look down the list of receivers this team has drafted since its inception and it's been outright abysmal. The receiver with the most longevity was Brandon Stokley. The receiver with the best flashes was Torrey Smith. But they've invested a lot at the position with very little to show for it

While rankings are debatable, the Ravens' wide receiver room is arguably bottom-5 in the NFL — and that could be generous. There is certainly room to exceed expectations in 2022 (hard not to, considering how low they are) but based on PAST PRODUCTION, this receiver room is one of the worst in the NFL.

Before we discuss how they're going to get production through the air in 2022, I couldn't help but retrace what this front office did when Joe Flacco was their quarterback. They added free agent WRs including Steve Smith, Derrick Mason, Donte' Stallworth, T.J. Houshmandzadeh, and Jacoby Jones to name a few. I realize younger readers may not recognize these players, but Smith and Mason at least were solid talent at the time, particularly Mason, who was off back-to-back 7+ touchdown seasons before signing with the Ravens.

### BAL-5

The same isn't true of what the Ravens are trying to add for Jackson. Recent veteran additions include **Dez Bryant** and **Sammy Watkins**, one of which was entirely out of the NFL. Watkins caught two touchdowns in 2020 and hasn't had more than three since 2017. Since Jackson became a full-time starter, the Ravens haven't done much of anything other than hope that the two top-90 draft picks they used on Marquise Brown and Rashod Bateman worked out. They never gave him a veteran WR to work with. Take a look at the ranking of receiver spending in each year since Jackson has been a starter.

2019: 27th 2020: 28th 2021: 22nd 2022: 32nd

Where does this net out? In the four years starting Lamar Jackson, the Ravens have spent the second least amount of money on their receiving corps behind only the Steelers, who had a veteran Ben Roethlisberger taking up four times the salary cap.

I get it, to an extent. You're a run-first team so why do you need to spend on wide receivers? But when you have a quarterback on a rookie cap, you are fortunate with the cap space to devote more to other players.

Starting a quarterback on a rookie deal while allocating next to nothing to the position and not hitting on your receiver draft picks isn't going to help your quarterback nor your offense in general.

When our Sharp Football staff was talking about the Ravens wide receiver room and where they rank among the NFL, Rich Hribar made an astute observation, and that was: while this room is likely bottom-five, they're no worse than 2019, when Lamar Jackson balled out and won unanimous MVP, passing for 36 touchdowns, six interceptions and running for seven more touchdowns and 1,206 yards. That year, tight end Mark Andrews led the team in receiving, rookie Marquise Brown added 46 catches. Wide receiver Willie Snead and tight ends Nick Boyle and Hayden Hurst averaged under two receptions per game.

(cont'd - see BAL-6)



### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

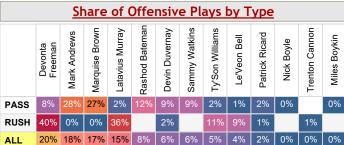


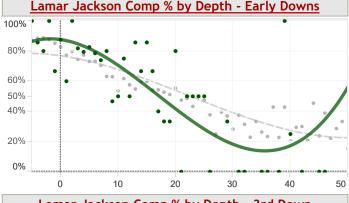
### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

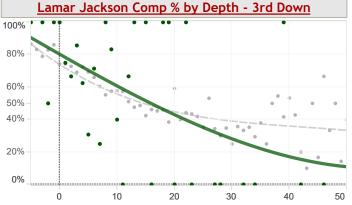


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>												
5		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)							
	Devonta Freeman	11%	7%	74%	7%	2%							
	Mark Andrews			100%									
	Marquise Brown			100%									
	Latavius Murray	9%	2%	74%	13%	3%							
RUSH	Devin Duvernay	14%		86%									
2	Ty'Son Williams	31%	9%	57%	3%								
_	Le'Veon Bell		3%	65%	16%	16%							
	Patrick Ricard	50%		50%									
	Trenton Cannon			100%									
	Total	11%	5%	72%	9%	3%							
	Devonta Freeman	17%	14%	67%		2%							
	Mark Andrews	16%	8%	70%	5%	2%							
	Marquise Brown	21%	10%	61%	6%	3%							
	Latavius Murray	8%	23%	69%									
	Rashod Bateman	6%	16%	66%	7%	4%							
S	Devin Duvernay	11%	13%	62%	13%	2%							
PASS	Sammy Watkins	12%	8%	69%	10%								
₫.	Ty'Son Williams	42%		58%									
	Le'Veon Bell	67%		33%									
	Patrick Ricard	17%		75%	8%								
	Nick Boyle			100%									
	Miles Boykin					100%							
	Total	16%	10%	66%	6%	2%							







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-2 [2WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	45%, -0.08 (406)	56%, 0.05 (131)	35%, -0.08 (46)	36%, -0.18 (67)	50%, -0.32 (20)	33%, 0.01 (6)	0%, -0.83 (2)	0%, -2.75 (1)	100%, 2.85 (1)	46%, -0.06 (709)
RUSH	57%, 0.12 (134)	54%, 0.01 (147)	56%, -0.06 (124)	70%, 0.35 (43)	33%, -0.03 (6)	50%, 0.06 (20)	0%, -1.17 (2)	100%, 1.73 (1)		56%, 0.04 (537)
All	48%, -0.03 (540)	55%, 0.03 (278)	51%, -0.07 (170)	49%, 0.03 (110)	46%, -0.26 (26)	46%, 0.05 (26)	0%, -1.00 (4)	50%, -0.51 (2)	100%, 2.85 (1)	50%, -0.02 (1,246)

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	Devonta Freeman	44% (32) 4.3, -0.07	50% (8) 8.5, 0.59	50% (2) 3.5, 0.37		45% (42) 5.0, 0.08			
	Latavius Murray	63% (8) 7.5, 0.26	50% (4) 3.3, -0.13	100% (2) 18.0, 0.86		64% (14) 7.8, 0.24			
TE	Mark Andrews	57% (100) 8.0, 0.20	78% (27) 10.4, 0.42	53% (17) 9.9, 0.16	100% (1) 28.0, 2.85	61% (145) 8.8, 0.25			
WR	Marquise Brown	45% (82) 6.1, 0.02	58% (31) 11.1, 0.33	26% (19) 4.3, -0.15		45% (132) 7.0, 0.07			
	Rashod Bateman	58% (43) 7.6, 0.01	60% (15) 6.7, -0.13	20% (5) 1.8, -0.48		56% (63) 6.9, -0.07			
	Sammy Watkins	48% (27) 7.9, 0.16	50% (10) 11.7, 0.30	50% (6) 7.3, 0.15		49% (43) 8.7, 0.19			

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	2-1 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Freeman	54% (50)	51% (35)	68% (28)	75% (8)	58% (121)
Devonta	3.5, -0.14	5.3, 0.07	4.4, 0.00	3.6, -0.14	4.2, -0.05
Jackson	62% (37)	64% (44)	46% (28)	80% (10)	61% (119)
Lamar	6.4, 0.30	7.4, 0.18	3.6, 0.04	8.4, 0.51	6.3, 0.21
Murray	52% (33)	60% (15)	65% (34)	71% (17)	61% (99)
Latavius	3.3, -0.16	3.1, 0.08	3.1, -0.19	10.9, 0.44	4.5, -0.03
Huntley	50% (2)	56% (25)	50% (4)	57% (7)	55% (38)
Tyler	2.0, 0.88	6.6, 0.26	4.5, 0.25	9.6, 0.53	6.7, 0.34
Bell	58% (12)	50% (2)	38% (16)		47% (30)
Le'Veon	2.9, -0.12	2.5, -0.72	2.5, -0.11		2.7, -0.15
Williams	44% (9)	57% (7)	50% (10)		50% (26)
Ty'son	6.6, 0.33	6.4, 0.19	5.1, -0.06		6.0, 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

_	Passing by Passing by			Throw	Throw Types		QB Drop Types		State at	Pass	Run Types	
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	55% (442)	0/1 Step	53% (238) 6.2, 0.06	Planted		% (478) 3, 0.11	Power	53% (97) 3.8, -0.04
		Curl	64% (128) 6.8, 0.03		6.4, 0.11		49% (228)	Moving		6% (89) 7, -0.13	Inside	72% (67)
Zone	43% (422) 7.5, 0.02		59% (70)	Level 2	53% (100) 10.8, 0.25	3 Step	7.6, 0.07	Shuffling	4	3% (73) 8, 0.01	Zone	4.0, 0.01
		Out	5.4, 0.00			5 Step	51% (95) 8.9, 0.24	80 0 21		,	Outside Zone	46% (50) 4.1, -0.07
	46% (153)	Slant	69% (49) 8.7, 0.36	Level 3	23% (47) 8.5, -0.15		73% (11)		Play Action	No P/A		54% (37)
Man	6.5, -0.10				43% (30)	7 Step	12.1, 0.62	Under	14% (7)	0% (9)	Stretch	4.4, -0.02
		Dig	43% (28) 7.8, 0.09	Sidearm	6.4, -0.15	Designed	55% (11)	Center	3.0, -0.62	0.0, -0.78	Lead	81% (27)
Other	53% (28)				2224 (5)	Rollout Right 6.4, -0.05		Shotgun	54% (186) 8.4, 0.09	44% (509) 6.7, -0.09		5.9, 0.08
Other	3.5, 0.32	Drag	48% (25) 8.0, 0.04	Shovel	60% (5) 3.8, 0.05	Basic Screen	0% (3) 1.0, -0.63	ALL	53% (193) 8.2, 0.06	43% (518) 6.5, -0.11	Pitch	33% (6) 2.7, -0.42

### BAL-6

This isn't to suggest Jackson cannot overcome the poor wide receiver room. But it's simply never discussed when discussing Jackson, the quarterback. Jokes used to fly about him being a running back. I predicted his 2019 breakout the summer prior to the 2019 season, having loved what I studied from him in 2018. But even to this day, the Lamar haters love to criticize his passing acumen wrongly and incorrectly, and conveniently forget this front office has never provided him with either a true No. 1 receiver or above average receiving depth.

When we look at the Ravens as a whole, this team was off an 11-5 record in 2020 but a couple of things caused problems for them which I'd wonder if they would fix in 2021.

In my book previewing the 2021 season, I wrote:

"While Lamar was dominant on designed runs out of heavy groupings in 2019, that was not the case in 2020. 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. When Lamar ran out of heavy sets, his YPC dropped from 7.4 in 2019 to 4.2 in 2020, success dropped from 75% to 47%, and EPA dropped from 0.29 to -0.01. Defenses took away Lamar, left the Ravens running backs 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."

In 2020, when the Ravens were not in 11 personnel, they ran the ball on 67% of their plays, which was the highest run rate in the NFL.

I hoped offensive coordinator Greg Roman would change that in 2021, and pass more from heavy sets with defenses overplaying the Ravens' tendency to run the ball.

He did. In 2021, when the Ravens were not in 11 personnel, they passed the ball at the 13th highest rate (50%) pass, up from 32nd (67% run) in 2020. Specifically, when the Ravens were in their primary heavy packages of 12, 13, 21, or 22 personnel, the Ravens were the sixth-most pass-heavy team in the NFI

(cont'd - see BAL-7)





How did those passes perform?

On early downs in the first three quarters, passing from non-11 personnel:

2021 Lamar Jackson: 0.13 EPA/att (seventh), 52% success (sixth), 8.7 YPA (fourth)

These numbers showed significant improvement from 2020:

2020 Lamar Jackson: 0.05 EPA/att, 47% success, 7.9 YPA

I suggested they pivot to this, they were smart to do it, and it was completely necessary because just look at the RB-run efficiency from these same plays (early downs in the first three quarters from non-11 personnel):

2021 RB-runs: -0.14 EPA/att (17th), 38% success (18th), 4.1 YPC (19th)

Lamar passing at top-5 efficiency blew these below average running back numbers away.

Imagine if the Ravens didn't shift from being most run-heavy? It would have had dire consequences.

What actually did have dire consequences for the Ravens was their third down offense.

In the first half of games, the Ravens converted just 37 of 110 third downs. That's 33.6%. And it ranked 31st in the NFL, ahead of only the lowly Detroit Lions.

This was diametrically opposite to the Ravens of prior years. Look at this comparison:

2020 first half third downs: 53.2% conversions (58 of 109), third in NFL (7.0 yards-to-go on avg) 2021 first half third downs: 33.6% conversions (37 of 110), 31st in NFL (7.2 yards-to-go on avg)

Yes, there were 0.2 more yards-to-go on average, but look at the Ravens on short yardage third downs:

2020, needing 3 or fewer yds: 80% conversions (24 of 30), third in NFL 2021, needing 3 or fewer yds: 37.5% conversions (9 of 24), 31st in NFL

What was going on here?

On all 2021 third downs, the Ravens had a 76% pass rate, which was the sixth-most run-heavy in the NFL (avg = 83%). Splits by play type in the first half:

2021 third down runs: -0.49 EPA/att (29th), 3.8 YPC (23rd), 31% success (32nd) 2021 third down passes: -0.51 EPA/att (31st), 5.2 YPA (29th), 30% success (32nd)

Everything was terrible. But if you split the runs by quarterback vs RB runs, it's clear how bad this RB room was last year.

(cont'd - see BAL-8)

### Immediate Impact of Baltimore Ravens 2021 Draft Class

In typical Ravens fashion, they were patient on draft day, targeting safe prospects more often than taking big swings on unproven potential. **Kyle Hamilton** (first round) is a unique prospect due to his height (6'4") and athleticism. Tall defensive backs typically fail because they lack the agility to cover smaller, quicker receivers. The Ravens may have been the ideal landing spot for Hamilton due to their history of moving players around to highlight their strengths and mask weaknesses. Hamilton probably can't be plugged into one easily-defined role — but Baltimore rarely takes that approach with any defender.

**Tyler Linderbaum** (first round) was a moderately surprising selection due to the Ravens' tendency to lean on a gap blocking scheme. An undersized interior lineman like Linderbaum is typically viewed as a better fit in a zone-blocking scheme — lowa used zone blocking on 93% of run plays last year — but Baltimore was one of just four NFL teams using zone less than 50% of the time in 2021. That said, Linderbaum was widely viewed as the top interior lineman in this class and should immediately be plugged in as Baltimore's starting center.

Due to his torn Achilles suffered in March, **David Ojabo** (second round) may not see the field in 2022, but the value was easy to justify in the second round. Ojabo was a possible top-10 selection prior to his injury, and Baltimore has reason to believe it won't get many cracks at drafting in that range of the talent pool in future years. **Travis Jones** (third round) was one of the best value selections on Day 2. Jones has a versatile skill set on the interior defensive line, but fits best at nose tackle. In 2021, **Brandon Williams** and **Justin Ellis** — neither of whom on are the Ravens roster — combined for 554 snaps at the zero- or one-tech positions (nose tackle). **Michael Pierce** was signed this offseason to take on some of that role but Jones, who lined up in those spots on 46% of his snaps at Connecticut last year, will likely factor into the rotation. At 6'8", 384 pounds, **Daniel Faalele** (fourth round) is more of a natural fit in the Ravens gap blocking scheme than Linderbaum, though not nearly as productive in college. Baltimore had success developing **Orlando Brown Jr.** with a similar physical build and skill set, so they will likely groom Faalele for the right tackle job. **Morgan Moses** was signed to a three-year deal this offseason, but it's effectively a one-year contract with team options. He'll likely handle the right tackle job until Faalele proves he's ready.

Jalyn Armour-Davis (fourth round) was a one-year starter at cornerback at Alabama. Based on route-adjusted coverage data, Armour-Davis allowed a catch rate 4.3% above expected last season. He'll likely play on special teams in the short term. Armour-Davis will likely compete for playing time on the outside, while Damarion Williams (fourth round) looks like a better fit in coverage in the slot or potentially at safety. Tight end Charlie Kolar (fourth round) is a reliable pass-catcher with minimal YAC ability. At 6'7", he could be valuable as a possession receiver, but likely lacks the athleticism to be the primary weapon at tight end. Kolar will compete for playing time with Isaiah Likely (fourth round) whose offseason workout numbers were shockingly poor and didn't appear to match his athleticism on the field at Coastal Carolina. Likely's route-adjusted YAC production was 23% above expected, while Kolar's was 24% below expected. So expect Likely to play a more versatile role in the passing game. It's difficult to endorse a special teams selection before the late rounds, but Jordan Stout (fourth round) does have the skills to be a valuable asset as Baltimore's punter. When punting between the 40-yard lines, Stout pinned opponents inside the 20-yard line 95% of the time.

A strong case can be made Baltimore put together the most impressive draft class based on its ability to blend value and need, in addition to the volume of picks used within the first four rounds.

### Baltimore Ravens 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

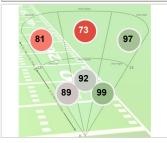
**Lamar Jackson** is coming off a season that was a mixed bag, posting the highest interception rate (3.4%) of his career while his touchdown rate (4.2%) was his lowest since starting as a rookie. His completion percentage (64.4%) stayed the same as 2020, while his yards per pass attempt (7.5 Y/A) increased from the 7.3 Y/A he had in 2020. Jackson also missed five games outright while only playing 10 snaps in another game. Without Jackson on the field, the Ravens dropped from 5.6 yards per offensive play (which would have been middle of the pack over the full season) down to 5.1 yards per play (which was a bottom-10 offense). Baltimore was also 7-4 in games that Jackson played in full, compared to 1-5 in the other six games, although just one of those losses was by more than three points. Jackson was also sacked on a career-high 9.0% of his dropbacks playing behind a skeleton crew on the offensive line on top of things.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Lamar Jackson	245	377	65%	2,881	7.6	15	13	38	87	30
NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6										

	2021 Advanced Passing Table									
QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success Gains Success % Success Gains Success % Success Gains Success % Success Gains Ga										
Lamar Jackson	47%	53%	41	11.0%	13	3.0%	7.0	4.7		
Tyler Huntley	42%	45%	11	6.0%	5	3.0%	5.2	3.7		
NFL Avg 46% 50% 34.1 8.8% 12.5 3.1% 5.6 5.3										

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10

### <u>Lamar Jackson 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%				
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%				
6 - 9	0.0%	3.7%	10.3%	0.0%	6.2%				
10 - 14	2.5%	2.1%	7.7%		3.0%				
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%				
Total	2.3%	2.2%	6.0%	0.0%	3.1%				

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis									
QB Yds to Go Avg. Air Yards Sticks Rate Avg. Air Yards Sticks Rate									
Lamar Jackson	7.8	9.6	1.6	70%	19				
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%					

	Air Yds vs YAC								
d	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	60%	40%	4						
	53%	47%							

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Ravens got a major lift from **Mark Andrews** last season as he turned in his best season as a pro. Andrews posted a gaudy 107-1,361-9 line on 153 targets playing a career-high 75% of the snaps. Where Andrews thrived, the wide receivers were more up and down. Baltimore closed the year 19th in the league in success rate (50%) and 25th in yards per target (7.2 yards) to their wide receivers. The team traded **Marquise Brown** away this offseason. With no replacement brought in, 2021 first-rounder **Rashod Bateman** will be tasked to make a big step. The depth is thin behind Bateman, with **Devin Duvernay** and **Tylan Wallace** also tasked to be contributors for the first time

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dшоე	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS% Rk	TDs
Mark Andrews	154	69%	8.8	91.9	62%	10	48	55	65	9
Marquise Brown	145	63%	7.0	88.5	46%	114	103	85	64	6
Rashod Bateman	67	69%	7.7	77.6	60%	20	35	44	74	1





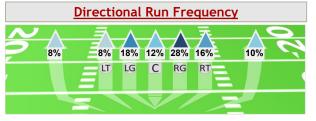
### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Ravens were completely snakebit in their backfield a year ago as **J.K. Dobbins**, **Gus Edwards**, and **Justice Hill** suffered season-ending injuries in the preseason. Forced to scramble at the position, the Ravens leaned on veteran backs **Devonta Freeman** (133 carries) and **Latavius Murray** (119) as their primary ball carriers. From a success rate standpoint, both Freeman (59%) and Murray (58%) ranked second and third in the league among backs with over 100 carries. There were hardly any explosive runs from this group, something both Dobbins and Edwards can provide when healthy. Dobbins showed plenty of electricity with 6.0 yards per carry and 6.1 yards per touch as a rookie. Edwards is just one of two running backs in league history to average over 5.0 yards per carry on over 100 attempts in each of their first three 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
Devonta Freeman	133	4.3	59%	10	42	6	33	62%	3	5
Lamar Jackson	132	5.8	56%	18	37	48	48	56%	16	2
Latavius Murray	119	4.2	58%	11	3	46	24	59%	8	6

### Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Can Mark Andrews Roll Over his 2021 Breakout?

Mark Andrews was the first tight end other than Travis Kelce to lead the position in scoring since 2015. We finally got to see what Andrews could do with volume as he set career-highs playing 75% of the offensive snaps (10% higher than his previous high) while running 623 routes (273 more than his previous high). That helped Andrews post a gaudy 107-1,361-9 line on 153 targets. He is now the only tight end to score seven or more touchdowns in each of the past three seasons.

We should see some recoil with Andrews for 2022 as he took advantage of a few elements last season. The Ravens fell apart, forced to have their highest passing rate (56%) since Lamar Jackson took over. Despite that, they still ranked 21st in the league.

Andrews also exploded after Jackson was absent, taking advantage of receiving highly efficient targets in the intermediate area of the field for the first time in his career

We already knew he could win downfield and score touchdowns, but without Jackson Weeks 14-18, Andrews had a 94.2% catchable target rate on throws within 10 yards of line of scrimmage after a 75.8% rate with Jackson on those same targets. On throws downfield, this improvement was not as pronounced, as Jackson was better than his backups vertically.

On throws over 10 yards downfield, Andrews had a 77.1% catchable target rate with Jackson compared to a 54.5% rate without. All of those shallow receptions without Jackson (Andrews caught 32-of-34 for 319 yards and three touchdowns in his absence) turned an already good spike-week scorer into a PPR monster.

That's a lot to tie into the potential regression for Andrews in 2022, but even with it, he is still younger than both George Kittle and Darren Waller while already being the best touchdown scorer at his position over the start of his career. It is hard to move him anywhere lower than the TE2 based on those qualities, but anticipating him rolling back his 2021 season leaves plenty of potential for him to be overdrafted at a position with marginal reason to use tangible capital.

### Rashod Bateman Come on Down

Bateman gave us a couple of hot spots as a rookie, but ultimately his playing time never consistently materialized and he was extremely far behind both Mark Andrews and Marquise Brown on the receiving pecking order. Bateman still managed to show us a floor, finishing as a WR3 or better in half of his 12 games played while only pulling in a 10.6% target share. Now with Brown leaving 24.7% of the team targets, 22.9% of the receptions, 23.6% of the yards, and 28.6% of the receiving scores, Bateman will be thrust into a position to have a runway for WR2 viability overall that is best suited as a WR3 on your fantasy roster.

Bal	timore Rav	ens Defense	: Number o	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total			Rk	50
1-1 [3WR]	20 plays (4%) Success: 30%	295 plays (66%) Success: 53%	115 plays (26%) Success: 37%	19 plays (4%) Success: 42%	449 plays (100%) Success: 48%		%		40
	EPA: -0.60	EPA: 0.12	EPA: 0.12	EPA: 0.17	EPA: 0.09	Base	24%	16	
1-2 [2WR]	47 plays (32%) Success: 49%	67 plays (46%) Success: 60%	30 plays <i>(21%)</i> Success: 30%	1 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 0%	145 plays (100%) Success: 50%	Nickel	54%	24	30
	EPA: 0.14	EPA: 0.31	EPA: -0.19	EPA: -0.65	EPA: 0.14	Dime+	17%	11	
2-1 [2WR]	24 plays (63%) Success: 46% EPA: 0.06	9 plays <i>(24%)</i> Success: 56% EPA: -0.09	5 plays <i>(13%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.97		38 plays (100%) Success: 42% EPA: -0.11	Rush 3	8%	6	20 -
			LI A0.91			Rush 4	64%	27	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	21 plays (95%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.52	1 plays <i>(5%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 1.19			22 plays (100%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.55	Rush 5	20%	14	10 -
	112 plays (17%)	372 plays (57%)	150 plays (23%)	20 plays (3%)	654 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	8%	5	0-
Grand Total	Success: 46% EPA: 0.06	Success: 55% EPA: 0.15	Success: 35% EPA: 0.02	Success: 40% EPA: 0.13	Success: 48% EPA: 0.10	Blitz%	28%	8	-10

### **Defensive Outlook**

When the Ravens looked like they had a deal with **Za'Darius Smith**, they were praised for following a blueprint they created — develop talent, let them sign a massive contract elsewhere, wait until they become cap casualties, and sign them back without impacting the comp pick formula. Smith didn't sign, but that's exactly what happened with **Michael Pierce**. Pierce opted out of 2020 and only played eight games in 2021, but he was a force in the middle of the defensive line. He also had a career-high in sacks (three) in just half a season. At 340 pounds, Pierce is a player who can take up space inside that opens up lanes for others on the defense.

**Justin Madubukie** (third) and **Broderick Washington** (fifth) were two 2020 draft picks who were able to get into the rotation last season. Madubukie played 44.5% of the defensive snaps, picked up seven tackles for loss, and five quarterback hits. Derek Wolfe missed all of 2021 with a hip injury and he needed surgery for it after the season. Calais Campbell returns as a moveable piece along the line. Third-round pick **Travis Jones** also adds another impressive body to the interior. At edge, **Tyus Bowser** got a contract extension last offseason and in his first year of full-time play made an immediate impact. Bowser started all 17 games, played 76.6% of the defensive snaps, and ranked 19th among edge rushers in pressure rate. Bowser is currently the star and vet of the group.

Odafe Oweh was a super athletic pass rush prospect in college and he slid perfectly into a system built for players like him. Oweh was on the field for 56.5% of the defensive snaps, had five sacks, 15 quarterback hits, and three forced fumbles. He was 55th in pressure rate among edge rushers. David Ojabo was the only draft add this year, but he's recovering from a torn Achilles. Patrick Queen hasn't completely lived up to expectations since he was a first-round pick in 2020. Queen has struggled in coverage and ranked 64th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021. Though, he did outperform Josh Bynes (71st) and Chris Board (78th) who also got significant playing time in Baltimore last season. Now Queen and 2020 third-round pick Malik Harrison will be the starters. Harrison didn't get a lot of run on defense last season, even as the team was playing some poor linebackers throughout the

Injuries decimated the cornerback group last season. Marcus Peters missed the entire year and Marlon Humphrey was rarely 100%. Humphrey played 69% of the defensive snaps, but really struggled when he was on the field. Of 93 qualified cornerbacks, Humphrey ranked 91st in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which includes touchdowns and interceptions. At full health, Humphrey and Peters are one of the best cornerback duos in the league and the Ravens will hope 2022 brings full health. The Ravens added a little more depth with Kyle Fuller. Baltimore's big free agent move was to bring in Marcus Williams at safety. Williams gives the Ravens a deep safety option that should allow Chuck Clark to play more in the box and could open up more coverage possibilities. Rookie Kyle Hamilton has the ability to play all over, which could give Baltimore endless possibilities in defensive personnel usage.

Play Tendencies							
All Pass %	55%						
All Pass Rk	25						
All Rush %	45%						
All Rush Rk	8						
1 Score Pass %	53%						
1 Score Pass Rk	24						
2020 1 Score Pass %	44%						
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	32						
2021 Pass Increase %	9%						
Pass Increase Rk	1						
1 Score Rush %	47%						
1 Score Rush Rk	9						
Up Pass %	56%						
Up Pass Rk	14						
Up Rush %	44%						
Up Rush Rk	19						
Down Pass %	55%						
Down Pass Rk	27						
Down Rush %	45%						
Down Rush Rk	6						

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>					
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %
1st	Short (1-3)	6	17%	83%	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	8	38%	63%	63%
	Long (8-10)	366	48%	52%	53%
	XL (11+)	13	54%	46%	38%
2nd	Short (1-3)	48	13%	88%	77%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	95	59%	41%	46%
	Long (8-10)	105	69%	31%	50%
	XL (11+)	43	72%	28%	28%
3rd	Short (1-3)	37	22%	78%	54%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	64	84%	16%	42%
	Long (8-10)	34	85%	15%	29%
	XL (11+)	32	84%	16%	16%
4th	Short (1-3)	12	17%	83%	75%

Shotgun %		
Shotgun	Under Center	
95%	5%	
NFL AVG		
65%	35%	
Effici	iency	

EPA/

pass: -0.45

EPA/ rush: 0.09

Success: 27%

EPA/

pass: 0.01

EPA/

# Baltimore Ravens 2021 Play Analysis



### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

2nd and Short Run				
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
90%	3	71%	82%	73%
2nd and Short Pass				
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
10%	30	29%	33%	46%

Most Frequent Play					
Down Distance Type Player Plays Plays Success %					
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	3	100%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Latavius Murray	3	33%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Devonta Freeman	60	63%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Mark Andrews	3	67%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Latavius Murray	18	94%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Marquise Brown	13	46%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Marquise Brown	22	41%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Mark Andrews	8	25%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Lamar Jackson	7	71%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Mark Andrews	12	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Marquise Brown	9	22%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Marquise Brown	7	0%

Play Action (Y/N)					
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total		
No	Success: 43%	Success: 68%	Success: 49%		
	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.00	YPA: 12.2, EPA: 0.59	YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.13		
	Rtg: 93.1	Rtg: 128.1	Rtg: 101.4		
	[Att: 106 - Rate: 14.9%]	[Att: 31 - Rate: 4.4%]	[Att: 137 - Rate: 19.3%]		
Yes	Success: 43%	Success: 50%	Success: 45%		
	YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.13	YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.04	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.11		
	Rtg: 81.7	Rtg: 82.8	Rtg: 82.0		
	[Att: 412 - Rate: 57.9%]	[Att: 162 - Rate: 22.8%]	[Att: 574 - Rate: 80.7%]		
Total	Success: 43%	Success: 53%	Success: 46%		
	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.11	YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.06	YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.06		
	Rtg: 84.1	Rtg: 90.5	Rtg: 85.8		
	[Att: 518 - Rate: 72.9%]	[Att: 193 - Rate: 27.1%]	[Att: 711 - Rate: 100.0%]		

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

	Weekly Snap Rates									
Wk	Орр	Score	Mark Andrews	Marquise Brown	Rashod Bateman	Devin Duvernay	Patrick Ricard	Devonta Freeman	Sammy Watkins	Latavius Murray
1	LV	L 33-27	55 (81%)	47 (69%)		39 (57%)	41 (60%)		56 (82%)	21 (31%)
2	KC	L 41-30	57 (78%)	55 (75%)		37 (51%)	48 (66%)	10 (14%)	70 (96%)	27 (37%)
3	DET	W 19-17	46 (79%)	39 (67%)		33 (57%)	29 (50%)	9 (16%)	46 (79%)	19 (33%)
4	DEN	W 23-7	46 (65%)	45 (63%)		33 (46%)	51 (72%)	6 (8%)	53 (75%)	45 (63%)
5	IND	W 31-25	56 (82%)	66 (97%)		64 (94%)	16 (24%)	20 (29%)	20 (29%)	36 (53%)
6	LAC	W 34-6	37 (66%)	51 (91%)	45 (80%)	34 (61%)	55 (98%)	21 (38%)		26 (46%)
7	CIN	L 41-17	50 (79%)	63 (100%)	46 (73%)	36 (57%)	43 (68%)	29 (46%)		
9	MIN	W 34-31	77 (87%)	80 (90%)	65 (73%)	41 (46%)	61 (69%)	57 (64%)		
10	MIA	L 22-10	57 (78%)	55 (75%)	40 (55%)	44 (60%)	37 (51%)	42 (58%)	23 (32%)	
11	CHI	W 16-13	58 (72%)		57 (70%)	44 (54%)	48 (59%)	47 (58%)	60 (74%)	30 (37%)
12	CLE	W 16-10	55 (92%)	61 (102%)	36 (60%)	35 (58%)	60 (100%)	40 (67%)	35 (58%)	36 (60%)
13	PIT	L 20-19	50 (68%)	64 (88%)	33 (45%)	44 (60%)	38 (52%)	51 (70%)	34 (47%)	14 (19%)
14	CLE	L 24-22	65 (89%)	70 (96%)	48 (66%)	49 (67%)		49 (67%)	23 (32%)	20 (27%)
15	GB	L 31-30	56 (90%)	62 (100%)	65 (105%)	22 (35%)		39 (63%)		29 (47%)
16	CIN	L 41-21	47 (80%)	54 (92%)	48 (81%)			33 (56%)	3 (5%)	17 (29%)
17	LA	L 20-19	58 (102%)	54 (95%)	59 (104%)	30 (53%)	28 (49%)	48 (84%)	14 (25%)	19 (33%)
18	PIT	L 16-13	66 (87%)	58 (76%)	62 (82%)	18 (24%)		27 (36%)	21 (28%)	39 (51%)
	Grand	Total	936 (81%)	924 (86%)	604 (74%)	603 (55%)	555 (63%)	528 (48%)	458 (51%)	378 (41%)
	Re	d Zone	Targets	Leaderbo	ard		Red Zone	Rushes	Leaderbo	pard

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	<u>Group</u>	IIIR2
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	43%	61%	48%
2-1 [2WR]	22%	7%	55%
2-2 [1WR]	14%	3%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	9%	21%	49%
2-0 [3WR]	7%	1%	49%
0-1 [4WR]	2%	1%	46%
		40/	400/
1-3 [1WR]  Group	2% ing Te	4% enden	46%
		enden Pass Succ.	cies Run Succ
Group	ing Te	enden Pass	cies Run
Group Personnel	ing Te	Pass Succ. %	Cies Run Succ %
Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  2-1 [2WR]  2-2 [1WR]	ing Te	Pass Succ. %	Cies Run Succ %
Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 1-2 [2WR]	Pass Rate 75% 47%	Pass Succ. % 45% 56%	Run Succ % 57% 54%
Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-0 [3WR]	Pass Rate 75% 47% 27% 61% 33%	Pass Succ. % 45% 56% 35% 36% 52%	Cies Run Succ % 57% 54% 56% 70% 48%
Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 1-2 [2WR]	Pass Rate 75% 47% 27% 61%	Pass Succ. % 45% 56% 35% 36%	Run Succ % 57% 54% 56% 70%

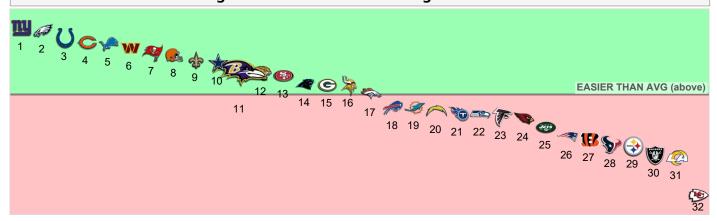
Red Zone	Red Zone Targets Leaderboard			
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Mark Andrews	22	3	8	11
Marguise Brown	16	5	2	9
Devin Duvernay	8	2	3	3
Rashod Bateman	6	1	1	4
Sammy Watkins	4		1	3
Ty'Son Williams	3			3
Eric Tomlinson	1		1	
James Proche	1			1
Nick Boyle	1		1	
Tylan Wallace	1			1

<u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u>				
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Latavius Murray	22	6	6	10
Devonta Freeman	18	7	4	7
Lamar Jackson	16	7		9
Tyler Huntley	7	1	1	5
Le'Veon Bell	5	2	1	2
Ty'Son Williams	5	1	1	3
Josh Johnson	1		1	
Mark Andrews	1			1

Early D	own Targ	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
16% <b>23%</b>	30% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	55% <b>56%</b>
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %
Overall RB	Target Su	uccess % wr



### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



2021 third down RB-runs: -1.05 EPA/att, 0.9 YPC, 21% success on 14 att 2021 third down QB-runs: -0.11 EPA/att, 5.8 YPC, 42% success on 21 att

The running back runs, unsurprisingly, ranked dead last in the NFL in every statistical metric. But Jackson was still worse when running than he was on 22 runs in 2020, when he produced +0.97 EPA/att, 9.5 YPC, and 77% success.

Often third downs get worse when the distance to-go increases, but that wasn't the case here. The Ravens must fix their third down play calling in 2022, because being terrible on third downs is what forced their drive success to plummet in 2021.

For years, the Ravens had been outstanding at getting leads in the first half of games and being up at halftime. That would allow the entire that the second half, with the defense completely unsure what was to come, and would force the opposing offense to get more and more (while avoiding the need to become the same for the Ravens offense).

Halftime leads by year:

2019: 13 of 16 games\* (81%) 2020: 12 of 16 games (75%) 2021: 8 of 17 games (47%)

\*Jackson's first full season as starting quarterback

Even if we scrap the five games that Jackson didn't start, the Ravens led at halftime in just six of 13 games, 46%, well below their average of the prior couple of years.

Their ranks per drive on first half drives the last two years:

2020: seventh in points/drive, eighth in TDs/drive, eighth in scores/drive, third in red zone trips/drive 2021: 27th in points/drive, 28th in TDs/drive, 25th in scores/drive, 26th in red zone trips/drive

And the clear kicker, no pun(t) intended:

Punts per drive:

2020: fifth

To summarize, the Ravens' first halves with data in five key points:

1. % of early down plays that gained first downs:

2020: 26% (23rd) 2021: 28% (ninth)

2. % of all plays that were third downs:

2020: 21% (24th) 2021: 20% (seventh)

3. % of early down plays that were passing dropbacks:

2020: 50% (29th) 2021: 61% (fifth)

<Both of these first two points indicate the 2021 Ravens, thanks to passing the ball much more frequently (point #3), were able to bypass more third downs and face third downs less often in the first half.>

### <u>BAL-9</u>



4. Average distance to-go on third downs:

2020: 7.0 (24th) 2021: 7.2 (24th)

5. Third down conversion rate

2020: 53.2% (third) 2021: 33.6% (31st)

There was nothing the Ravens did on early downs that led the Ravens to such poor third down performance. But whether they were passing the ball, running a running back, or running Lamar, they were outrageously bad on third down.

This directly led to them punting far more often in the first half, scoring far fewer first half points, leading far less often in the second half, playing more predictably in catch-up mode in the second half, reacting rather than dictating in the second half and losing more games overall. Naturally, a large part of that is available personnel — having healthy running backs... having a healthy offensive line... having healthy wide receivers.

One other thing that was notable from Lamar Jackson's performance in 2021 was how much better he was when using play-action compared to both 2020 as well as in 2021 when not using play-action.

On early downs in the first three quarters of games, examine Jackson's play-action rate by year:

2020: 50.6% play-action 2021: 50.5% play-action

But look at the efficiency splits:

2020 with play-action: 0.08 EPA/att, 48% success, 8.3 YPA 2020 without play-action: -0.09 EPA/att, 37% success, 5.9 YPA

2021 with play-action: 0.22 EPA/att, 58% success, 9.4 YPA 2021 without play-action: -0.17 EPA/att, 35% success, 6.7 YPA

Jackson was much, much better with play-action. The splits were far more extreme. Some quarterbacks get pressured more often with play-action to ensure it's not too much pressure, but that's not the case with Jackson last year. He saw 7.4% less pressure when using play-action and was sacked at half the rate when using play-action compared to when not using it. Additionally, his accuracy was nearly 10% better with play-action.

League average play-action rates on early downs in the first three quarters is 38% and Jackson ranked third in usage. But if Jackson is performing similarly with play-action in 2022 to start the year, Greg Roman needs to push the envelope and ratchet up play-action to an even higher rate, until he reaches a point of too much play-action.

Looking at Jackson's accuracy metrics in 2021 as compared to 2020, it's clear he didn't have nearly as good a season as he had in 2020. His deep accuracy dropped from 58% (14th) in 2020 to 49% (25th) in 2021. His accuracy while moving dropped from 80% (eighth) to 68% (32nd). Some of this had to do with his targeting of young, less experienced receivers. Being a step slow out of a break or a hesitation on a route can throw off timing and make a perfectly accurate pass turn into an inaccurate pass. It's great that Jackson is in camp working with his young and inexperienced receiving corps – it can only help the efficiency of the passing game in 2022.

We explained a lot of what happened to the Ravens last year. The things that caused them to drop from the AFC's No. 1 seed in mid-December (despite all their issues) to missing the playoffs.

What does that mean for 2022?

Not being 32nd in health will go a long way for the 2022 Ravens... and they won't be 32nd in 2022.

The Ravens finished -11 in turnover margin last year, which was fifth-worst in the NFL. In 2020 with Jackson they were +4 (10th) and in 2019 they were +10 (sixth).

Not being -11 in turnover margin will go a long way for the 2022 Ravens... and they won't be -11 in 2022.

The Ravens finished -23 in sack margin last year, which was worst in the NFL. In 2020 with Jackson they were +7 (12th) and in 2019 they were also +7 (10th).

Not being -23 in sack margin will go a long way for the 2022 Ravens... and they won't be -23 in 2022.

Not being 31st in third down conversion rate in the first half of games, and thus punting at the sixth-highest rate will go a long way for the 2022 Ravens... and they won't be 31st in 2022.

The defensive injury issues coupled with the Ravens playing the 12th toughest schedule of offenses last year absolutely played a role in their defense dropping from ninth overall to 28th.

This year I predict the Ravens will play the second easiest schedule of offenses and the second easiest schedule of opposing quarterbacks.

Assuming Deshaun Watson is suspended for at least half the year (totally TBD, it could be the entire year or anything less), just look at these quarterbacks the Ravens are projected to face in 2022, by week:

Rookie Kenny Pickett Year 2 Zach Wilson Year 2 Mac Jones Year 2 Trevor Lawrence Daniel Jones

### BAL-10

Tua Tagavailoa
Jacoby Brissett
Jameis Winston
Sam Darnold



Plus these veterans:

Marcus Mariota

Josh Allen Tom Brady Russell Wilson Joe Burrow twice

And \*maybe\* Watson in Week 15 unless he's suspended longer.

That's absolutely not a murderer's row. Last year alone, the Ravens had to face: Aaron Rodgers, Patrick Mahomes, Justin Herbert, Matthew Stafford, Derek Carr, Kirk Cousins, Joe Burrow twice, and Ben Roethlisberger twice, plus second-rate veteran quarterbacks like Carson Wentz, Jared Goff, Baker Mayfield, and Teddy Bridgewater. The years of experience in the group they'll face in 2022 don't hold a candle to what they played in 2021.

When we talk about trying to build a halftime lead and to play with a lead and from a position of power in the second half of games, obviously offense plays a large role in that, but so does defense. And a healthier Ravens defense facing weaker passing offenses should help set the Ravens up to be in better second half game scripts. This may mean their inexperienced receiving corps doesn't stick out like a sore thumb and cost them.

I have high expectations for the 2022 Ravens. A prime concern is their lack of wide receiver talent and depth. But I don't expect that alone to derail their ability to acheive their goals and return to the playoff after missing out last year.

Recommendations: Baltimore Ravens to win the AFC North +185 & Baltimore Ravens over 9.5 wins -150

Did you enjoy this free chapter? Want this detailed analysis for EVERY NFL team?

CLICK TO BUY WARREN'S 500+ PAGE, 2022 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

A FIVE-TIME AMAZON BESTSELLER - NOW AVAILABLE AT EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

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

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	6.7			
37. PSM Target Depth	7.4			
38. Non-PSM YPA	7.9			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	11.1			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	50%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%			
42. PSM EPA/att	-0.15			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.11			

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	43%							
45. PA Success Rate	55%							
46. PA YPA	8.7							
47. PA Sack Rate	9.2%							
48. PA EPA/att	0.13							
49. PA Target Depth	9.7							
50. Non-PA Success Rate	39%							
51. Non-PA YPA	6.1							
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	9.8%							
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.18							
54. Non-PA Target Depth	8.0							
Me	n In Box							

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	41%							
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	2.8							
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%							
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	61%							
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.2							
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	28%							
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	6.2							

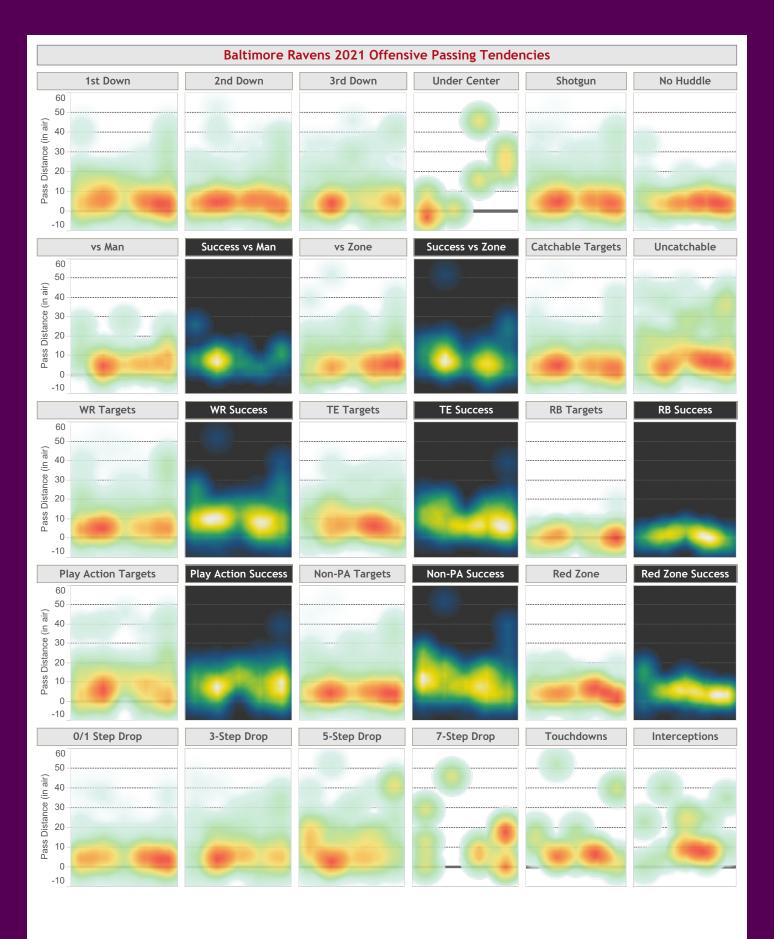
Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)										
Net FROE Rk	13									
		defFUM	14							
Net FROE	0.4	defFUM Rcvrd	7							
offFUM	20	dell om Revid	,							
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR Rk	9							
offFR%	55.0%	defFR%	50.0%							
offFR Rk	18	-I	4.4							
offFROE	-0.7	defFROE	1.1							
offEROF Rk	18	defFROE Rk	9							

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	7.16 2 37 35 95% 29.81 5.19	Opp Att Opp Makes Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk	28 21 75% 22.97 -1.97 30							
2020 Own Make Over Exp. 2020 Own Rk	2.14 10	2020 Opp Make Over Exp. 2020 Opp Rk	-3.75 32							

	Lamar Jackson	Tyler Huntley					
CAY	7	5					
CAY Rk	2	31					
2020 CAY Rk	12						
AYTS Rk	2	19					
2020 AYTS Rk	16						
AGG Rk	28	4					
2020 AGG Rk	26						
COMP%	64.4	64.9					
xCOMP%	66	65					
xCOMP% Rk	15	22					
2020 xCOMP% Rk	21						
CPOE%	-1.6	-0.1					
CPOE Rk	24	17					
2020 CPOE Rk	25						
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation							

QB Pr	essure			
	Lamar Jackson	Tyler Huntley		
Pressure %	37	32		
Pressure Rk	9	25		
Sack %	8.1	7.8		
Sack Rk	5	6		
Pressure Accuracy %	67.4	58.8		
Pressure Accuracy Rk	9	32		
Rating when Pressured	78.6	62.7		
Pressured Rating Rk	7	24		
Clean Accuracy %	76.7	79.9		
Clean Accuracy Rk	28	8		
Rating when Clean	90.4	80.5		
Clean Rating Rk	28	36		
Time to Throw	2.96	2.62		
Time to Throw Rk	5	35		

Offensive Metrics									
EPA/Pass	-0.04								
EPA/Pass Rk	19								
EPA/Rush	0.03								
EPA/Rush Rk	4								
On-Target Catch %	91.6%								
On-Target Catch Rk	8								
Drop%	4.6%								
Drop Rk	7								
YAC/Att	2.1								
YAC/Att Rk	23								
Rush Broken Tackle %	15.7%								
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	4								
Rush 1st Down %	30.8%								
Rush 1st Down Rk	1								



### Ravens Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Lamar Jackson	0.12 (#2)	-0.06 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	0.03 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	0.04 (#2)	0.06 (#3)
	Tyler Huntley	0.05 (#3)	-0.23 (#3)	-0.15 (#3)	-0.14 (#3)	-0.15 (#3)	-0.01 (#3)	0.07 (#2)
2020	Lamar Jackson	0.28 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.20 (#1)
	Tyler Huntley	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	0.03 (#4)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Lamar Jackson	-0.43 (#2)	-0.38 (#2)	0.17 (#1)	-0.29 (#4)	-0.36 (#3)	-0.05 (#2)	0.07 (#2)
	Tyler Huntley	-1.11 (#3)	-0.68 (#3)	-0.59 (#3)	0.04 (#1)	-0.21 (#2)	-0.17 (#3)	-0.43 (#3)
2020	Lamar Jackson	-0.28 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	0.15 (#2)	-0.07 (#3)	0.22 (#1)	0.32 (#1)	0.13 (#1)
	Tyler Huntley	(#)	-0.75 (#4)	-0.75 (#4)	0.02 (#2)	-1.20 (#4)	-0.62 (#4)	-1.05 (#4)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Tyler Huntley	77% (#2)	85% (#2)	56% (#3)	38% (#3)	65% (#4)	80% (#1)	85% (#1)	76% (#1)	76% (#1)
	Lamar Jackson	72% (#3)	76% (#4)	66% (#1)	49% (#2)	68% (#2)	73% (#3)	68% (#3)	70% (#3)	71% (#3)
2020	Tyler Huntley	60% (#4)	100% (#1)	(#)	0% (#4)	67% (#3)	50% (#4)	(#)	(#)	60% (#4)
	Lamar Jackson	77% (#1)	84% (#3)	64% (#2)	58% (#1)	80% (#1)	76% (#2)	76% (#2)	75% (#2)	76% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	0.01 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.26 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	-0.09 (#2)	0.02 (#2)	-0.04 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	0.08 (#2)	0.22 (#1)
2020	0.10 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	0.37 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	-0.04 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	0.14 (#2)

### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	12	5	25	10	13	1	22	26	25	11
2020	23	30	20	4	11	26	5	21	5	5

### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	27	28	28	25	19	4	19	20	28
2020	14	19	10	14	18	12	9	1	24

### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

							<u> </u>		
Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	6	4	13	8	5	6	24	32	8
2020	6	10	12	6	10	14	16	20	14

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Sean McDermott (5 yrs) Offensive Coordinator:

Ken Dorsey (BUF QB) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** Leslie Frazier (4 yrs)

Hard

Easy

# **Buffalo Bills**

2022 Forecast

Wins

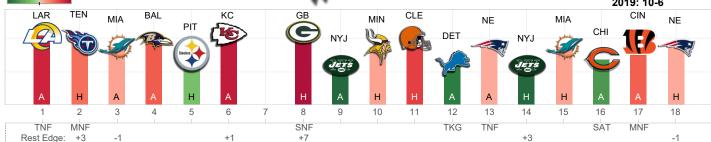
**Div Rank** 

11.5

#1

### **Past Records**

2021: 11-6 2020: 13-3 2019: 10-6



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Daryl Williams (RT)	TBD
Mitchell Trubisky (QB)	Steelers
Cole Beasley (WR)	TBD
Harrison Phillips (IDL)	Vikings
Star Lotulelei (IDL)	TBD
A.J. Klein (LB)	TBD
Emmanuel Sanders (WR)	TBD
Jerry Hughes (EDGE)	Texans
Levi Wallace (CB)	Steelers
Mario Addison (EDGE)	Texans
Vernon Butler (IDL)	Raiders
Efe Obada (EDGE)	Commande
Matt Breida (RB)	Giants
Bryan Cox Jr. (EDGE)	Colts
Jake Kumerow (WR)	TBD
Justin Zimmer (IDL)	TBD
Christian Wade (RB)	TBD
Spencer Pulley (C)	Retired

### 2022 Buffalo Bills Overview

There is no time to rest in the NFL, not even for the best offense.

The Bills finished their 2020 season as the best offense in EDSR, a metric that measures early down efficiency and ability to bypass third downs. They were a top-5 offense in virtually every other meaningful metric in 2020. They were returning everyone of value from that offense in 2021.

And yet days after a brutal loss in the AFC Championship Game to the Chiefs, the Bills were already trying to figure out their next move.

Defenses were going to study this offense inside and out. They were going to try to figure out how to slow it down.

Would defenses play more two-high shells to stop some of the more explosive passing plays the Bills used so often and so successfully in 2020? Buffalo wondered about this in the offseason and wanted to be prepared for it in 2021.

In 2020, defenses played Cover-2 at a 13.6% rate vs the Bills. Buffalo's aDOT on those throws was just 6.5 yards. Passes gained just 7.5 YPA. Both were lows among coverage schemes they faced at least 40 times.

# Games # Games <u>Average</u> Line **Favored** 

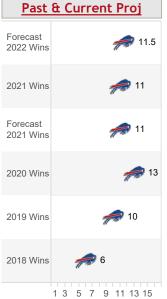
15

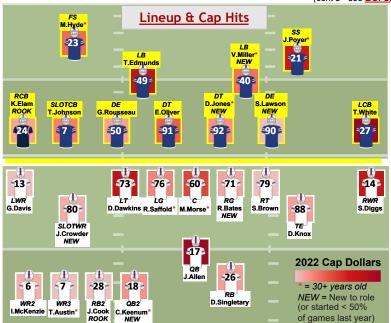
-5.2

As predicted, Buffalo faced more Cover-2 in 2021. Defenses used it on 131 dropbacks as opposed to only 89 in 2020, a 47% increase.

# In total, Cover-2 was the coverage used on 18% of the Bills 2021 dropbacks. (cont'd - see BUF2)

# Regular Season Wins:





### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Von Miller (EDGE)	\$20
DaQuan Jones (IDL)	\$7
Jordan Phillips (IDL)	\$5
Tim Settle (IDL)	\$4.5
O.J. Howard (TE)	\$3.5
Jamison Crowder (WR)	\$2
David Quessenberry (RG)	\$1.8
Duke Johnson (RB)	\$1.3
Greg Van Roten (RG)	\$1.3
Tavon Austin (WR)	\$1.10
Rodger Saffold (RG)	\$0.59

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	23	CB - Kaiir Elam (Florida)
2	63	RB - James Cook (Georgia)
3	89	LB - Terrel Bernard (Baylor)
5	148	WR - Khalil Shakir (Boise State)
	180	P - Matt Araiza (San Diego State)
6	185	CB - Christian Benford (Villanova)
	209	OT - Luke Tenuta (Virginia Tech)
7	231	LB - Baylon Spector (Clemson)

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

Rank	Total	2021 Rk
23	\$100.18M	21
15	\$20.79M	17
12	\$41.13M	10
21	\$7.90M	27
18	\$22.33M	10
23	\$8.03M	32
6	\$110.74M	2
26	\$33.20M	5
3	\$26.64M	2
5	\$31.89M	17
6	\$19.01M	9
	23 15 12 21 18 23 6 26 3	23 \$100.18M 15 \$20.79M 12 \$41.13M 21 \$7.90M 18 \$22.33M 23 \$8.03M 6 \$110.74M 26 \$33.20M 3 \$26.64M 5 \$31.89M

### BUF-2

2020 vs. Cover-2: 6.5 air yards/att, 7.5 YPA, 50% success, 0.14 EPA/att 2021 vs Cover-2: 7.1 air yards/att, 6.8 YPA, 49% success, 0.12 EPA/att

Buffalo saw it more, tried to go deeper against it, but didn't have the same level of success as they did in 2020.

In 2020 against Cover-2, 50% of completions gained 10+ yards. That number dropped to 40% in 2021.

One way the Bills wanted to prepare for it was by developing a stronger presence on the ground.

By saying "the Bills," I mean Sean McDermott.

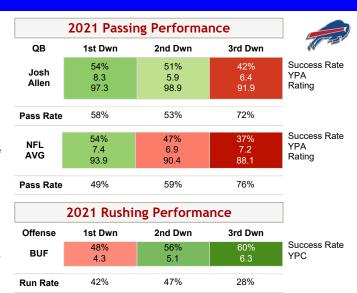
Buffalo started the season 5-2 and traveled down to Jacksonville to face the 1-6 Jaguars. Buffalo was a 14.5-point road favorite and then they scored only six points. Buffalo's defense held the Jaguars' offense to just nine points. Josh Allen was sacked four times and threw two interceptions. Buffalo had more first downs and nearly 100 more yards than the Jaguars, but the Bills were forced into 15 third downs and converted just six of them. In a game that was tied 6-6 at halftime, Buffalo's second half drives consisted of:

Interception Interception Punt Fumble Turnover on downs

Buffalo's running backs couldn't do anything. Collectively, Devin Singletary and Zack Moss ran the ball nine times for 22 yards at 2.4 YPC.

Sean McDermott didn't mince words about the running game, "I thought we'd be further along. I thought that we would have progressed in that area. It is something that we need to do and do better if we want to be the team that we're trying to become."

He then spoke even more candidly when asked if he noticed defenses not respecting Buffalo's run game the last couple of games: "I don't think it's just been the last couple of games. Start with the first game [this season against



Pittsburgh]. Look at that film. Go back to last year at the end of the season in particular. So yeah, that's where we're at."

50%

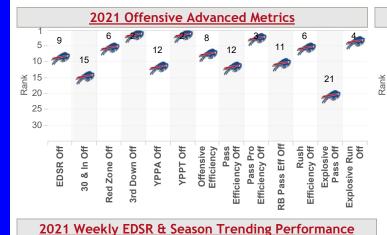
4.4

41%

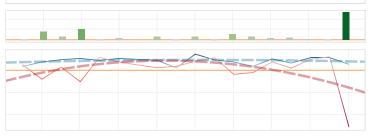
He also shared this interesting nugget that we'll come back to shortly: "Complementary football, you stay on one side of the ball, the run, stopping the run helps to stop the pass. It just all fits together and has to work together. You've got to play a certain way in this league. And that's how we have to play."

After that embarrassing loss, the Bills spanked the Jets but then were railroaded at home in the rain by the Indianapolis Colts. The offense scored only 15 points in the wind and rain, a point we'll get to in detail shortly, but this loss was more on the defense than anything. They allowed

> (cont'd - see BUF-3) 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics



### 2 10 11 12 13 14 15 W W MIA JAX NYJ IND NO ATL NYJ PIT MIAWASHOU KC ΝE TB CAR NE TEN H -7 Α Н Н Α Α Н Α Н A 25 Н A -6 Н A 12 Н Н 22 17 35 18 -3 -3 28 17 40 15 -26 -4 14 16 31 15 31 27 43 40 38 26 6 45 10 31 33 29 27 35 0 21 0 20 17 41 6 14 33 14 21 15 10



2021 Close Game **Records** WFFK **RESULT** All 2019 Wins: 11

3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 0-2 FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 0-5 EDSR by Wk Score Games Win %: 0% (#31) W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 0% (#31)

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

NFL

AVG

Run Rate

10

15

20

25

30

OPP

SITE

PTS

MARGIN

OPP PTS

Def

**EDSR** I

30 & In Def

Red Zone De

51%

# 2021 Critical/Game-

Pass Pro

Efficieincy De

Pass Efficiency Def

19

TOTAL GLICIOUS GUILLO							
<b>Deciding Stats</b>							
TO Margin	+8						
TO Given	22						
INT Given	16						
FUM Given	6						
TO Taken	30						
INT Taken	19						
FUM Taken	11						
Sack Margin	+15						
Sacks	42						
Sacks Allow	27						
Return TD Margin	+0						
Ret TDs	0						
Ret TDs Allow	0						
Penalty Margin	-11						
Penalties	113						
Opponent Penalties	102						

15

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

RB Pass Eff Def

26

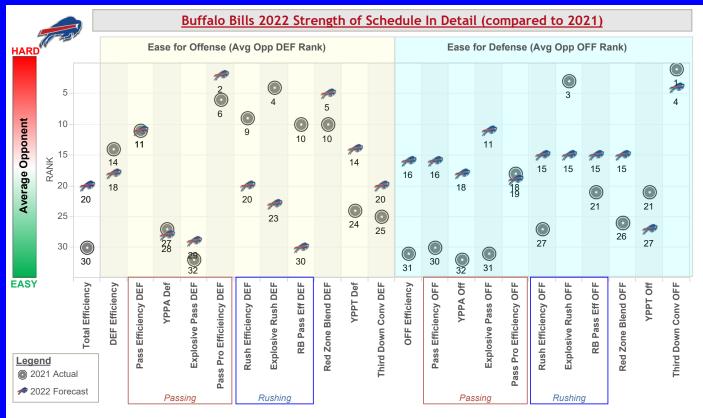
Run Def

**Explosive** 

Success Rate

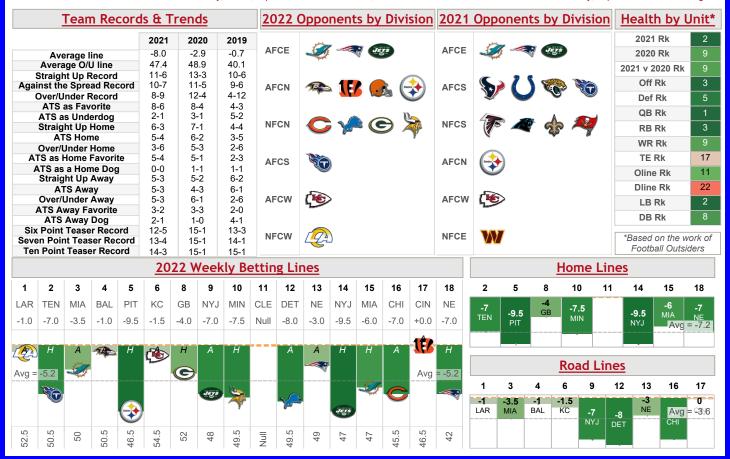
YPC

24%



2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*									
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk		
15	14	25	32	5	3	3	12		

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







Jonathan Taylor to run for 185 yards at 5.8 YPC and four touchdowns.

After the game, a 41-15 beatdown, McDermott again seemed to focus on the Bills' lack of run game, saying: "Where the game got to midway through the third was the difference of margin was wide there. So we weren't able to run it as much as we wanted to. I thought the run game was giving us some yards in some situations there."

Surely the Bills would have liked to run the ball better (what team would say the opposite?), particularly in the bad weather. But at the same time, down by 17 points in the third quarter, 24-7, in the wind and rain, McDermott opted to kick a 49-yard field goal on 4th-and-5 from the Colts' 31-yard line instead of going for it. To no surprise, the field goal was missed. The Colts took over at their own 39-yard line. Three plays later, they were at midfield, and Taylor broke a 40-yard run, followed by a 10-yard touchdown run and the Colts were up 31-7.

A dominant win over the Saints on Thanksgiving set up a game in New England with the worst weather conditions we've seen in years.

Snow flurries, winds at 27-35 MPH and gusting to 50+ MPH made for a game no one will soon forget. Once again, the Bills couldn't get much accomplished with their running backs on the ground. Singletary, Moss, and **Matt Brieda** combined to run the ball 19 times for 60 yards (3.2 YPC). Buffalo lost and McDermott spoke up again, not just about the run game, but took some shots directly at then-offensive coordinator Brian Daboll in what I think was the first time in the last several years:

"Well I didn't think, honestly, we took advantage of opportunities tonight. I really didn't. The ball is at the 40-yard line. We're 1-for-4 in the red zone. We've got to figure that part of it out."

McDermott again went in on the physicality he's looking for from the offense: "That has not been my message from Day 1, I can promise you that. If you were in the team meetings in training camp, you would know what style of offense I want. That identity needs to embody toughness."

I, along with many in the media watching that press conference, knew something had to be brewing behind closed doors with his offensive coordinator that finally surfaced publicly after that tough loss to the Patriots.

It was a tough predicament for Daboll. Both men, Daboll and McDermott, want to win games as priority No. 1.

And you can design a game plan that involves more running to start a game if your Head Coach wants you to.

But when you don't have a physical, run-blocking offensive line, you don't have physical, bruising running backs, your running game is putting you behind the sticks far too often, you are coming off a 2020 season where you were the most pass-heavy team on first downs and second-most pass-heavy team overall, and had the NFL's best offense as a result, what do you really think is going to happen?

Here's a hint: your offensive coordinator is going to rely on the most dynamic quarterback in the NFL, who can throw the ball anywhere he wants on the field and is your best rushing threat on the ground.

Let's back up for a second to see what Daboll was seeing.

Net Rest Edge Rank

In 2020, when the Bills ran the ball with a running back on first down in the first three quarters, they produced:

2020 first down running back-runs: -0.19 EPA/att (24th), 28% success (24th), 3.7 YPC (26th)

Prep Rank

Forget the fact the Bills passing game was light years ahead of these numbers and was tops in the NFL. Think about this context:

Rest Rank

4

Only 55% of these runs came against 7+ man boxes! That ranked 31st in the NFL. The average was 77% of first down runs were against 7+ man boxes. Only the Chiefs (at 54.8%) faced slightly fewer 7+ man boxes.

At least the Chiefs ranked third in EPA/att (-0.00), four in YPC (5.3) and fifth in success rate (39%) on those runs. The Bills were bottom-10 despite the second-highest rate of light boxes.

Entering the 2021 season, the Bills did nothing to help the run game except for adding the injured journeyman **Matt Brieda** at \$1.1 million. What great first-down running back was Daboll going to suddenly use as a workhorse?

(cont'd - see BUF-4) Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 +2 O Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Buffalo Bills Ranking vs NFL Average

Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF

Rank

17

Rank

27

Negated Bye Rank

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- The Bills' opening seven weeks prior to the bye week makes for the fourth-most difficult over that span as not a single opponent is projected for less than 8.5 wins. This opening stretch isn't ideal for new offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey to take over. The offense under Brian Daboll was extremely pass-heavy on early downs and head coach Sean McDermott has hinted at rushing more. Early offensive success is not a guarantee with a new coordinator and this opening schedule.
- Buffalo was fortunate with injuries, finishing with the 2nd-lowest adjusted games lost. After finishing with the 3rd least games lost on offense and 5th-lowest games lost on defense, they're unlikely to have similar injury luck in 2022. They are also likely to have worse fumble luck after recovering 4.9 fumbles over expectation.
- The Bills' defense played the second least efficient opposing offenses. In the playoff game against the Chiefs, the defense allowed 0.51 EPA/DB and against the Buccaneers in Week 14 allowed 0.18 EPA/DB. They have a solid defense but are unlikely to sustain a league-leading 0.17 EPA/D vs a harder schedule.

11.5

### Why Bet the Over



- The Bills' front office had a solid offseason and a good team got even better; the Bills are Super Bowl favorites for a reason. The addition of **Von Miller** helps to solidify the pass rush and veteran slot receiver **Jamison Crowder** is an underrated pickup that can win in the middle of the field. The draft was also successful as the Bills added cornerback **Kaiir Elam** and **James Cook**, the pass-catching RB they've been searching for.
- The Bills have the league's best net rest edge in 2022 with four games with a rest advantage over their opponent compared to just two games with a rest disadvantage. The Bills play three Thursday games, providing them with a mini-bye advantage the following week on two occasions. Despite an extra road game in 2022, the Bills were fortunate with the schedule.
- In 2021, five of the Bills' six losses were by less than one score. These Bills were 0-5 in one-score games which is unlikely to repeat. Opposing teams made 91% of field goal attempts 1.5 field goals over expectation whereas Tyler Bass finished below expectation. An improvement in field goal luck will help the record in one-score games.

Buffalo Bills Positional Unit Rankings									
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach			
5	8	25	11	3	2	3			

Based on an average of the unit rankings, Buffalo has our third-ranked roster. However, the Bills' ranking is dragged down by the running back room, which is certainly less critical to success than other areas. Accounting for positional value, it's easy to construct an argument that this is the league's most complete team

Although **Josh Allen**'s production dropped off slightly, the Bills jumped from seventh to fifth in our quarterback rankings. Votes ranged from third to sixth, but Allen is now entrenched in that top tier of quarterbacks. Votes for the Bills' backfield ranged from 17th to 29th. With the addition of rookie **James Cook**, Buffalo has quality depth and some potential for growth in this area.

Stefon Diggs is easily among the top weapons in the league, but the Bills lack proven depth around him. Votes for this unit ranged from fifth to 16th, likely due to analysts assigning different values to one elite weapon versus quality depth. If **Gabriel Davis** can establish himself as a reliable second option, the high end of that spectrum is within reach.

The Bills' patchwork offensive line — they don't have a single former first-round pick on the depth chart — has developed into one of the league's most steady units. The offensive line's growth has allowed for consistent run-game production despite the lack of backfield talent. In 2021, Buffalo's running backs picked up at least three yards before contact on 24% of attempts, the league's 10th best rate.

Buffalo is one of three teams ranked in the top five in each defensive unit category. The Bills ranked second in the league in pressure rate (35%) and added **Von Miller**, leading to a jump from 17th to fourth overall in our front-seven rankings. **Tre'Davious White** allowed -0.26 EPA per target last season and returns to anchor the secondary. The addition of first-round pick **Kaiir Elam** sets an even higher ceiling for the unit this year.

Sean McDermott is now entrenched among the top tier of coaches, ranking in the top five on every ballot.

### BUF-4

Forget the running back for a second. What about the offensive line? The Bills' 2020 offensive line allowed just 0.71 yards before contact per rush when they handed off to their running backs on these first downs. That ranked 31st in the NFL.

It was embarrassing. How do you get light boxes at the second-highest rate and an offensive line that ranks second-worst in yards before contact/rush and running backs that produced bottom-10 efficiency?

This isn't the offensive coordinator, this is the build of the team. When that doesn't change from 2020 to 2021, how are the results going to be dramatically different?

Well, they won't be. But you know what? It's GOOD ON THE OC to not call these terrible run plays and instead call pass plays.

So, did we see a change in efficiency from 2020 to 2021 on these runs?

2020 first down RB-runs: -0.19 EPA/att (24th), 28% success (24th), 3.7 YPC (26th) 2021 first down RB-runs: -0.17 EPA/att (30th), 26% success (30th), 3.9 YPC (28th)

For sake of simplicity, I'll say that these numbers were virtually IDENTICAL, but now ranked solidly bottom-5 as compared to the rest of the NFL.

### <u>BUF-5</u>

Thankfully, Daboll continued to pass the ball at the highest rate in the NFL on first downs in 2021. From the sounds of it, that wasn't something which made McDermott happy.

There were other things if you look harder that you can identify that Daboll may have been doing to try and help make a head coach intent on running the ball happy. Unfortunately, none of them worked.

For example, look at what second downs looked like when Daboll infrequently inserted 12 personnel into the game (first three quarters):

2020: 60% pass

2021: 12.5% pass (87.5% run)

Wow! Quite the shift. How did these runs work out? -0.26 EPA/att, 31% success, and 3.7 YPC.

It was something to "try", but they were too predictably run-heavy as opposed to 2020, and these runs just were not efficient whatsoever. And no, they were not only on short yardage – in fact, the average to-go for first down was 6.5 yards. It was simply to try to run the backs in a different way and perhaps surprise the defense since they were 60% pass the prior year. It didn't work.

You don't have to take my word for it, looking at situational splits. Just look at ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate and Run Block Win Rate.

Buffalo's offensive line ranked top-10 in pass blocking and bottom-10 in run blocking.

And they did that for TWO STRAIGHT YEARS.

Using the tracking data on a player-by-player basis, Buffalo has been terrible run blocking and excellent pass blocking.



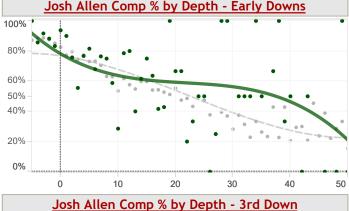


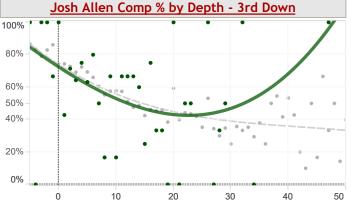


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)				
	Devin Singletary	2%	2%	50%	21%	25%				
	Zack Moss	3%		48%	15%	33%				
RUSH	Emmanuel Sanders					100%				
2	Isaiah McKenzie			67%	7%	27%				
	Matt Breida	31%		46%	8%	15%				
	Total	4%	1%	49%	18%	27%				
	Devin Singletary	10%	8%	66%	5%	10%				
	Stefon Diggs	6%	3%	65%	13%	13%				
	Zack Moss	3%		78%	13%	6%				
	Cole Beasley	7%	2%	69%	14%	7%				
,,	Dawson Knox	18%	4%	50%	13%	16%				
PASS	Emmanuel Sanders	4%	3%	64%	14%	14%				
-	Gabriel Davis	7%	5%	62%	14%	12%				
	Isaiah McKenzie	3%		69%	21%	7%				
	Matt Breida	33%		56%		11%				
	Jake Kumerow			33%	33%	33%				
	Total	8%	3%	64%	13%	12%				







### 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary

### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings



Туре	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	51%, 0.10 (590)	55%, 0.13 (44)	47%, 0.20 (34)	48%, -0.02 (56)	27%, -0.81 (11)	100%, 0.44 (2)	50%, -0.13 (2)	0%, -1.49 (1)	50%, 0.09 (743)
RUSH	55%, 0.16 (303)	42%, -0.13 (76)	52%, -0.15 (66)	69%, 0.33 (29)	0%, -2.72 (1)	57%, 0.26 (7)	67%, 0.50 (6)		54%, 0.08 (502)
All	52%, 0.12 (893)	47%, -0.04 (120)	50%, -0.03 (100)	55%, 0.10 (85)	25%, -0.97 (12)	67%, 0.30 (9)	63%, 0.35 (8)	0%, -1.49 (1)	52%, 0.08 (1,245)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

100%

Successful Play Rate

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)										
POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total					
WR	Stefon Diggs	55% (143) 7.5, 0.19	60% (10) 5.2, -0.08	71% (7) 8.3, -0.24	50% (8) 13.3, 0.24	55% (168) 7.7, 0.16					
	Cole Beasley	56% (109) 6.2, 0.05	60% (10) 7.3, 0.23			56% (119) 6.3, 0.06					
	Emmanuel Sanders	53% (55) 8.7, 0.27	45% (11) 9.5, 0.50	75% (4) 12.8, 0.60	75% (4) 10.8, 0.78	54% (74) 9.2, 0.35					
	Gabriel Davis	52% (50) 9.2, 0.42	55% (11) 9.3, 0.21	63% (8) 17.3, 0.94	67% (3) 18.7, 1.27	54% (72) 10.5, 0.48					
TE	Dawson Knox	60% (68) 7.6, 0.32		60% (5) 13.2, 0.55	67% (6) 17.2, 1.27	61% (79) 8.7, 0.41					
RB	Devin Singletary	44% (43) 4.0, -0.07	43% (7) 3.9, -0.63	75% (4) 8.0, -0.81	50% (4) 2.5, -0.33	47% (58) 4.2, -0.21					
	Zack Moss	54% (28) 5.8, -0.23	50% (2) 6.0, -0.17		50% (2) 12.0, 0.37	53% (32) 6.2, -0.19					

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

(20000100010)											
	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total						
Singletary	52% (136)	42% (26)	37% (35)	100% (1)	48% (198)						
Devin	4.8, 0.05	5.2, 0.04	3.3, -0.20	5.0, 0.05	4.6, 0.00						
Allen Josh	65% (91)	56% (18)	83% (6)	50% (4)	64% (119)						
	7.5, 0.44	2.4, 0.01	7.5, -0.29	2.0, 0.49	6.5, 0.34						
Moss Zack	42% (52)	37% (19)	59% (17)	100% (1)	45% (89)						
	3.5, -0.09	2.7, -0.21	3.8, -0.05	1.0, 0.46	3.3, -0.10						
Breida	64% (11)	67% (3)	75% (8)		68% (22)						
Matt	4.4, -0.08	3.7, -0.84	7.5, 0.00		5.4, -0.15						
McKenzie Isaiah	64% (11) 6.6, 0.27	0% (1) -1.0, -0.53			58% (12) 6.0, 0.20						
Trubisky Mitchell	100% (1) 22.0, 2.80	40% (5) 1.8, -0.28			50% (6) 5.2, 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

Passing by Passing by		Throw Types		QB Drop Types		QE	State at	Run Types				
	verage :heme	R	oute	Level 1	57% (488) 5.9. 0.09	3 Step	55% (222) 7.2, 0.23	Planted		57% (515) 7.9, 0.20		45% (74) 4.1, 0.02
		Curl	68% (119) 7.3, 0.22		5.9, 0.09	5.9, 0.09		Moving	lovina	% (109) 9, 0.07	Zone	54% (56)
Zone	46% (408) 7.3, 0.08		59% (46)	Level 2	52% (131) 10.6, 0.34	0/1 Step	54% (198) 6.2, 0.05	Shuffling		)% (89) 3, -0.11	Zone	3.9, -0.06
		Out	6.1, 0.18			5 Step	57% (101) 8.7, 0.18		,		Stretch	50% (56) 3.8, -0.16
	47% (211)	Slant	61% (33) 6.9, 0.21	Level 3	41% (41) 15.8, 0.71		42% (52)		Play Action	No P/A	_	43% (37)
Man	6.5, Ò.09´		0.5, 0.21		F00/ (14)	7 Step	9.0, 0.07	Under	55% (82)	56% (27)	Power	4.2, -0.03
		Dig	67% (30) 10.0, 0.52	Sidearm	50% (14) 8.5, 0.34	Designed	64% (22)	Center	10.1, 0.32	7.8, 0.14	Pitch	43% (14)
041	48% (36)					Rollout Right 9	9.9, 0.74	Shotgun	54% (141) 6.7, 0.09	48% (494) 6.7, 0.04		3.2, 0.12
Other	3.2, 0.29	Drag		64% (11) 6.3, 0.28	ALL	54% (223) 8.0, 0.18	49% (521) 6.7, 0.05	Lead	33% (9) 3.3, -0.18			

### <u>BUF-6</u>

Daboll's pass-heavy style ensured the lack of run blocking talent wouldn't nosedive the offense. But if Sean McDermott gets his wish with more physicality and almost without exception, more running back carries, will they be efficient touches in 2022?

We know they wouldn't be in 2020 or 2021, but there is hope for optimism in 2022 should they go that direction. From a personnel perspective, Buffalo made multiple moves that are likely to help to an extent. They signed multiple guards in free agency, including **Rodger Saffold**, who will be their starting left guard, and **David Quessenberry**. They also matched an offer sheet on **Ryan Bates** and then signed him to a four-year, \$17 million contract. He will take over as their starting right guard. Additionally, they used their second-round draft pick and took running back **James Cook** out of Georgia.

These moves definitely give new offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey something more to work with on the ground.

The 2021 Bills predicted more Cover-2 and got it.

They tried to run the ball more, even against light boxes, and couldn't be productive.

But this team won 11 games and was a coin flip from winning an AFC Championship Game in Buffalo, can't we be more positive here?

Of course, let's get back to the good stuff.

Buffalo's offense fell off "a little bit" last season, but it felt like a ton. The reality was, they shifted from first in EDSR to ninth and from fifth in total offensive efficiency to eighth, largely caused by a drop in passing efficiency.

But Buffalo was much better in net EDSR performance thanks to their defense and to be even more precise, thanks to their defense playing a crap schedule of offenses.





Buffalo played the second-easiest schedule of offenses in the NFL.

They played just four offenses all year that ranked better than 20th: Chiefs, Colts, Patriots, and Bucs.

Otherwise, they played nothing but well below average offenses.

Last year the Bills D ranked:

third in pressure rate sixth in Pass Rush Win Rate

But that came against the second easiest schedule of guarterbacks.

They won 11 games, but could have won even more than that. Buffalo went 0-5 in one-score games. Basically, they thrashed most of their opponents (every win was by at least 12 points) and those they lost were all, save for the Colts game, narrow one-score losses.

If we want to keep talking about positives, let's add that Josh Allen was MUCH better when throwing deep, and that's despite playing a number of games in brutal weather conditions.

Even if we ignore the playoff demolition of the Patriots, these numbers were absurdly better in 2021, but let's include it to show the complete extent of his deep passing in 2021 vs. 2020 (first three quarters of games):

2020 on 20+ yard att: 0.00 EPA/att, 36% success, 10.5 YPA, 73% accuracy 2021 on 20+ yard att: 0.54 EPA/att, 43% success, 14.7 YPA, 76% accuracy

It will be fun watching the further development of **Gabe Davis** as a target on these deep passes in 2022 and the addition of **Jamison Crowder** to help draw underneath coverage to get more options downfield.

Speaking of the newest Bills receiver, Jamison Crowder's quarterbacks the last three years in New York for the Jets:

167 att - Sam Darnold

39 att - Zach Wilson

36 att - Joe Flacco

18 att - Mike White

13 att - Luke Falk 7 att - Josh Johnson

1 att - Trevor Siemian

Now? Josh Allen. That's a pretty nice upgrade.

(cont'd - see BUF-8)

### Immediate Impact of Buffalo Bills 2021 Draft Class

The injury to **Tre'Davious White** last year highlighted the Bills' lack of depth in the secondary and **Kaiir Elam** (first round) is the perfect addition to the unit. Over his final two seasons at Florida, Elam allowed a catch rate 28% below expected, while producing a ball-hawk rate 32% above expected.

He also played man coverage at a relatively high rate for college corners (28% in 2021), while allowing just 0.7 yards per coverage snap. Expect Elam to start immediately opposite White, replacing Levi Wallace, who signed with Pittsburgh. James Cook (second round) provides a skill set that appears to overlap with Devin Singletary. Since Buffalo also tried to sign J.D. McKissic this offseason, it seems as though the team may want to scale back Singletary's role in the passing game and Cook will likely see some action on passing downs.

However, in recent years the Bills' front office has not been in the business of making luxury picks, so it's reasonable to assume Cook will be given an opportunity to earn a larger role in the offense. Cook could also bring some explosive ability to the Bills' run game. Buffalo running backs ranked 22nd with just 8.9% of their carries producing 10 or more yards. Cook picked up at least 10 yards on 16% of his attempts last season at Georgia.

**Terrel Bernard** (third round) is an undersized off-ball linebacker who drew rave reviews from two Baylor coaching staffs about his football intelligence and leadership skills. Bernard will likely serve as a versatile backup this season, but could step into a starting role next year. **Tremaine Edmunds**, who wears the green dot for the Bills' defense, is in the final year of his contract. **Matt Milano** is also potentially in the final year of his deal, as he'll be a cap casualty candidate next offseason — especially if Buffalo invests in Edmunds with a long-term deal. Either way, a job is likely to open up for Bernard in 2023.

Khalil Shakir (fifth round) will compete for Jamison Crowder for reps at slot receiver, as they attempt to replace Cole Beasley's production. Though Crowder has a strong track record as a possession receiver in the slot, Shakir's explosive ability could add a new dimension to the Bills' offense. Based on route-adjusted data, Shakir generated 8% more yards after the catch than expected last season. Meanwhile, Buffalo's receivers ranked 30th in the NFL, 14% fewer yards after the catch than expected.

Matt Araiza (sixth round) is well known for his huge leg and is expected to take over punting duties from Matt Haack. On punts inside their own 40-yard line, Buffalo ranked dead last in yards per punt (42.5), nearly six yards below the average rate (48.3). In that situation at San Diego State, Araiza averaged 57.2 yards and even put 33% of those punts inside the 20. He will undoubtedly help Buffalo in the field position game in those scenarios.

Brandon Beane landed his annual FCS prospect in **Christian Benford** (sixth round) out of Villanova. Beane has drafted five prospects from non-FBS programs over the last five years — Chris Ballard and Les Snead are the only GMs with more. Benford has good length and size for a cornerback but did not run well in workouts. He'll likely compete for a spot on special teams, and may be given an opportunity at safety.

Luke Tenuta (sixth round) is the third 6-foot-8 offensive lineman drafted by Buffalo over the last two years, joining Spencer Brown and Tommy Doyle. They certainly have a type, but it will be difficult to keep three 6-foot-8 linemen on the roster, as they likely do not have the versatility to play guard. Buffalo blended need and value as well as anyone in the first round with the addition of Elam and put together a strong class overall. They were able to address some immediate needs, while also adding some depth and versatility to other position groups.

Yards to Go

0.0%

0.0%

1.7%

0.0%

1.8%

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Total

### Buffalo Bills 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Buffalo closed last season sixth in the NFL in expected points added via their passing offense (167.8 EPA) as Josh Allen continued to perform at a high level. Even with some regression off his blistering 2020 breakout, Allen was once again excellent overall in 2021, throwing 36 touchdown passes and passing for 4,407 yards. Allen averaged 6.5 air yards per completed pass, which was sixth in the league, but Buffalo pass catchers only provided 4.3 yards after the catch per completion, which was 32nd among all qualified quarterbacks. In terms of EPA per dropback, Allen ranked ninth in the league. For the scoreboard, Allen accounted for 85.7% of the Buffalo offensive touchdowns via passing or rushing, which was third in the league. Buffalo is losing offensive coordinator Brian Daboll but replacing him in-house with last year's quarterback's coach Ken Dorsey.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk	
Josh Allen	455	704	65%	5,034	7.2	44	15	28	98	14	
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6		

2021 Advanced Passing Table											
OR Page Page Yaganar Yalinar Ya							20+ Air Yd %				
Josh Allen	50%	53%	60	9.0%	20	3.0%	6.5	4.3			
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3			

Total

0.0%

2.1%

3.6%

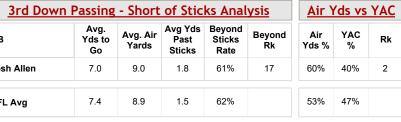
1.4%

4.8%

2.0%

# Q Jo N

3rd Down I	Passing	- Short	of Stic	<u>ks Anal</u>	<u>ysis</u>	Air \	<u>Air Yds v</u>		
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk	Air Yds %	YAC %		
osh Allen	7.0	9.0	1.8	61%	17	60%	40%		
IFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%		53%	47%		



### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

0.0%

2.3%

0.0%

1.4%

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

0.0%

1.9%

7.7%

2.3%

3.4%

After posting 7.9 catches for 95.9 yards per game in his first season in Buffalo, Stefon Diggs averaged 6.1 receptions for 72.1 yards per game, still ranking 10th and 12th at his position in those categories. Diggs also managed a career-high 10 touchdowns while averaging 9.7 targets per game (seventh). After 52 catches for 676 yards and five touchdowns through two NFL seasons, **Dawson Knox** caught 49 passes for 587 yards and nine scores in 2021 on 71 targets. The Bills are moving on from both Cole Beasley and Emmanuel Sanders. They have both spots covered immediately, elevating third-year wideout Gabriel Davis in place of Sanders and signing Jamison Crowder to a one-year deal this free agency to play inside

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS% RK	TDs
Stefon Diggs	174	63%	7.4	90.0	54%	53	25	64	55	10
Cole Beasley	121	74%	6.4	82.4	58%	30	26	128	4	1
Dawson Knox	80	70%	8.6	130.5	60%	17	50	15	112	11
Emmanuel Sanders	76	59%	8.9	105.0	53%	64	107	34	87	5
Gabriel Davis	76	59%	10.4	123.4	54%	54	90	2	131	11
Devin Singletary	59	80%	4.5	84.0	49%	90	70	135	2	1

### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Bills were third in the NFL in EPA added via rushing offense (58.0 points) in 2021, settling on a combo of Devin Singletary and Josh Allen as their primary ball carriers as the season progressed. When Allen rushed, he carried a 63% success rate compared to a 50% rate for Singletary. Singletary enters the final season of his rookie contract after he accounted for 127-of-150 backfield touches for the Bills over their final seven games of the season. With the addition of James Cook in the second round this spring, Buffalo finally has a pass catcher, something they tried to add this offseason with J.D. McKissic, who backed out of a free agency deal. Cook is one of the best pass catchers in this draft class, averaging 10.9 yards per reception over his career while averaging 1.63 yards per route in 2021, fourth in this class.

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	214	4.6	50%	49	19	77	29	49%	47	10
Josh Allen	139	6.5	63%	1	26	56	8	58%	10	6
Zack Moss	97	3.6	48%	56	48	2	88	48%	53	4

### **Stefon Diggs Cole Beasley Target Distribution Target Distribution** 50 40 Pass Distance (in air) 30 20 10 0 -10

**Target** 

**Distribution** 

Josh Allen Rating **Early Downs** 

40

30

20

10 0 -10 **Postive** 

Play %





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Josh Allen Looking to Match History

Allen is the consensus QB1 this offseason. With Allen ranking ninth in passing points per game (17.1) and fourth in rushing points per game (6.6), he became the first fantasy QB1 in overall scoring in back-to-back seasons since Drew Brees in 2011-2012 and the first QB1 in points per game in consecutive seasons since Daunte Culpepper in 2003-2004. The last time that a quarterback led the league in fantasy points three years in a row was Brett Favre 1995-1997, who ironically did it after Steve Young was the QB1 overall the three previous years. Those are the only two quarterbacks ever to lead the position in points per game three years in a row, with Young pacing the position per game for four straight seasons 1991-1994.

#### **Gabriel Davis is Getting His Chance**

All Davis has done is produce when called upon over his first two seasons in the league. Only Jonathan Taylor (33) and Antonio Gibson (21) have scored more touchdowns than Davis (18) so far from the 2020 draft class. Davis has only played two-thirds of the offensive snaps in 14 career games to open his career but has a 50-816-11 line in those games on 87 targets while averaging 14.2 fantasy points per game. Even removing his signature postseason performance this year against the Chiefs when he caught eight passes for 201 yards and four touchdowns, Davis was a top-30 scoring receiver in three of the final five weeks this regular season. Davis is at worst a boom-or-bust touchdown scorer and potential arbitrage on someone like Mike Williams, but I am bullish on him being a strong WR2 option in 2022.

#### Adding James Cook to the Offense

Cook has been hyper-efficient per touch over his career (7.5 yards) due to the types of touches he gets paired with the Georgia environment. The hallmark of Cook's game comes in the passing game, averaging 10.9 yards per reception over his career while averaging 1.63 yards per route in 2021, fourth in this class.

The Bills have explored adding a dynamic pass catcher out of the backfield in each of the past two offseasons. Travis Etienne thought he was going to be selected by the Bills if the Jaguars didn't select him a year ago, while Buffalo had a deal worked out with veteran J.D. McKissic during the legal tampering period before he reconsidered and returned to Washington. Buffalo has only targeted their running backs 14% and 16% the past two seasons (both 27th in the league), but they also have not had a back that has added a lot to the offense in that department. Out of 68 qualifying running backs, Devin Singletary ranked 67th and **Zack Moss** 56th in receiving grade per Pro Football

Moss was 41st among that group in yards per route run (1.11) while Singletary was 67th (0.61). Moss is also the only running back in Buffalo signed beyond this season, so the door is open for Cook to run into added opportunity in one of the league's best offenses. While the Bills are not a team that stacks league-leading production for backs as a whole, we have seen when they turn the backfield over to just one player that those guys have crushed for fantasy. Cook has the pass catching floor to be a FLEX-worthy dart throw with the upside to take over the backfield at some point as a rookie. His addition also squashes the surge that Singletrary had ending last season. As part of a committee, Singletary has not found success, averaging 8.2 points per game in 27 career games with fewer than 15 touches, with just eight weeks as an RB2 in those games.

E	Buffalo Bills De	efense: Numbe	r of DBs vs Per	sonnel	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	6 Grand Total		0/ 5		50
1-1 [3WR]	5 plays (1%) Success: 0%	439 plays (95%) Success: 40%	20 plays <i>(4%)</i> Success: 25%	464 plays (100%) Success: 39%	% Rk		RK	40
	EPA: -1.94	EPA: -0.13	EPA: -0.75		Base	6%	31	
1-2 [2WR]		93 plays (100%) Success: 42%		93 plays (100%) Success: 42%	Nickel	91%	1	30
		EPA: -0.13		EPA: -0.13	Dime+	3%	27	
2-1 [2WR]	6 plays <i>(22%)</i> Success: 67% EPA: -0.24	21 plays (78%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.55		27 plays (100%) Success: 41% EPA: -0.48	Rush 3	1%	32	20 -
	LFA0.24	1.11			Rush 4	74%	9	10 -
1-3 [1WR]		11 plays (100%) Success: 64% EPA: -0.10		11 plays (100%) Success: 64% EPA: -0.10	Rush 5	18%	21	10-
	11 plays (2%)	564 plays (95%)	20 plays (3%)	595 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	7%	8	0 -
Grand Total	Success: 36% EPA: -1.01	Success: 41% EPA: -0.15	Success: 25% EPA: -0.75	Success: 40% EPA: -0.18	Blitz%	25%	17	-10

#### **Defensive Outlook**

Ed Oliver might not have reached an Aaron Donald level of interior defender, but he's been really good and 2021 was arguably his best season. He was seventh in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate among defensive tackles, ninth in Run Stop Win Rate (the only defensive tackle in the top-10 of both), and ninth in pressure rate per SIS. Tim Settle was buried on the depth chart on a loaded Washington defensive line but showed the ability to rush the passer from the inside when he had the opportunity. He'll now get more playing time next to Oliver after signing with Buffalo this offseason. Jordan Phillips had a breakout 2019 season with the Bills with 9.5 sacks (he has 10.5 combined in his other six seasons). He spent the past two seasons with the Arizona Cardinals and returned to Buffalo in the offseason. DaQuan Jones also provides depth as a 320-pound lineman with enough juice to push the pocket.

One of the biggest shocks of free agency was **Von Miller** signing with the Bills. Buffalo had spent the past two seasons building up a strong rotation of pass rushers that could go in and out of the game, but now they have a star to take over the position. Miller's biggest highs came in the playoffs and he was 35th among edge rushers in pressure rate across the entire regular season. Miller could take over as a constant presence along the line or he could rotate out more to keep him fresh for a late-season and playoff run. Over the past two drafts, the Bills have used early picks on **A.J. Epenesa**, **Gregory Rousseau**, and **Carlos Basham**. Rousseau led that group with 49% of the defensive snaps played, behind Mario Addison and Jerry Hughes, who both left in free agency. With that rotational approach, the Bills were sixth in Pass Rush Win Rate as a team.

No team played more nickel defense than the Bills, 91.3% of their snaps. Ideally, the two linebackers always on the field are **Matt Milano** and **Tremaine Edmonds**. Those two have missed some time over the past few seasons, which does leave the need for a good third linebacker, even if in the best of circumstances he rarely sees the field. Last year, that player was A.J. Klein who played a quarter of the defensive snaps, but he was released earlier this offseason. That spot could go to rookie third-round pick **Terrel Bernard. Tre'Davious White** is one of the league's best cornerbacks — he ranked 19th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap — but a torn ACL in late November could put the start of the season in some question. That matters because **Levi Wallace** (10th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap) signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers in free agency.

With White healthy, one side is locked down, but the question for the other side remains open. The favorite will likely be first-round pick **Kaiir Elam**. Elam is a physical press corner, who was second in this corner class by Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. 2020 seventh-round pick **Dane Jackson** filled in admirably over the second half of the season and could also be an option.

Taron Johnson signed a three-year extension in 2021 that runs through 2024 and he's turned into one of the league's best slot corners. Johnson ranked seventh in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. With Jordan Poyer and Micah Hyde, the Bills have arguably the best safety duo in the league. With those two on the field, the Bills allowed just 22.2% of deep passes (20 or more air yards) to be completed with seven interceptions and no touchdowns allowed. The Bills were the only team to not allow a deep touchdown during the 2021 regular season. Hyde played 95% of the defensive snaps in 2021 and Poyer played 91%.

Play Tendencies				
All Pass %	63%			
All Pass Rk	4			
All Rush %	37%			
All Rush Rk	29			
1 Score Pass %	65%			
1 Score Pass Rk	2			
2020 1 Score Pass %	64%			
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	4			
2021 Pass Increase %	1%			
Pass Increase Rk	15			
1 Score Rush %	35%			
1 Score Rush Rk	31			
Up Pass %	63%			
Up Pass Rk	4			
Up Rush %	37%			
Up Rush Rk	29			
Down Pass %	63%			
Down Pass Rk	10			
Down Rush %	37%			
Down Rush Rk	23			

<u>D</u>	<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>								
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %				
1st	Short (1-3)	4	50%	50%	25%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	13	54%	46%	31%				
	Long (8-10)	383	61%	39%	52%				
	XL (11+)	22	64%	36%	45%				
2nd	Short (1-3)	53	26%	74%	66%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	91	49%	51%	56%				
	Long (8-10)	123	66%	34%	57%				
	XL (11+)	37	68%	32%	16%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	69	55%	45%	62%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	52	88%	12%	52%				
	Long (8-10)	33	85%	15%	33%				
	XL (11+)	31	94%	6%	19%				
4th	Short (1-3)	12	50%	50%	67%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	0%				
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%				

Shotgun %						
Shotgun Under Center						
72%	28%					
NFL AVG						
65%	35%					
Efficiency						



## **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Effici	iency	
EPA/ pass:	EPA/	Run
0.07	0.24	80%
EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:	
0.03 Success:	-0.10 Success:	Pass
190/	400/	

2nd and Short Run								
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg				
80%	6	71%	80%	73%				
	2	1 1 CL -						

	Zilu aliu Siloi t Fass								
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg					
20%	26	29%	60%	46%					

	Most Frequent Play								
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %				
1st	Med (4-7)	PASS	Cole Beasley	2	100%				
Dwn		RUSH	Devin Singletary	2	0%				
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Devin Singletary	77	40%				
	XL (11+)	PASS	Stefon Diggs	4	75%				
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Devin Singletary	26	73%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Devin Singletary	17	59%				
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Stefon Diggs	19	58%				
		RUSH	Devin Singletary	19	47%				
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cole Beasley	8	25%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Josh Allen	17	82%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Stefon Diggs	18	56%				
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Cole Beasley	6	0%				
	XL (11+)	PASS	Emmanuel Sanders	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: 56%	Success: 59%	Success: 57%						
	YPA: 8.1, EPA: 0.13	YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.26	YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.16						
	Rtg: 100.9	Rtg: 109.1	Rtg: 103.3						
	[Att: 115 - Rate: 15.5%]	[Att: 44 - Rate: 5.9%]	[Att: 159 - Rate: 21.4%]						
Yes	Success: 47%	Success: 53%	Success: 49%						
	YPA: 6.3, EPA: 0.02	YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.16	YPA: 6.8, EPA: 0.06						
	Rtg: 87.8	Rtg: 112.9	Rtg: 95.5						
	[Att: 406 - Rate: 54.6%]	[Att: 179 - Rate: 24.1%]	[Att: 585 - Rate: 78.6%]						
Total	Success: 49%	Success: 54%	Success: 50%						
	YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.05	YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.18	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.09						
	Rtg: 90.7	Rtg: 112.1	Rtg: 97.2						
	[Att: 521 - Rate: 70.0%]	[Att: 223 - Rate: 30.0%]	[Att: 744 - Rate: 100.0%]						

Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Stefon Diggs	Dawson Knox	Emmanuel Sanders	Devin Singletary	Cole Beasley	Gabriel Davis	Zack Moss
1	PIT	L 23-16	79	48	79	64	77	43	
2	MIA	W 35-0	51	54	50	43	39	21	18
3	WAS	W 43-21	59	62	63	34	52	23	44
4	HOU	W 40-0	53	58	51	32	36	31	40
5	KC	W 38-20	42	55	45	15	22	14	42
6	TEN	L 34-31	62	61	71	35	67	26	42
8	MIA	W 26-11	55		56	25	52	32	47
9	JAC	L 9-6	59		66	48	45	19	19
10	NYJ	W 45-17	46	49	35	22	9	30	28
11	IND	L 41-15	43	55	44	21	32	19	16
12	NO	W 31-6	54	60	51	45	46	28	
13	NE	L 14-10	55	56	46	28	40	16	24
14	TB	L 33-27	69	75	25	64	63	65	
15	CAR	W 31-14	58	63		65	32	63	
16	NE	W 33-21	65	79	65	54			26
17	ATL	W 29-15	60	67		61	37	66	16
18	NYJ	W 27-10	67	75		62	42	75	18
	Grand	Total	977	917	747	718	691	571	380

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	71%	61%	51%
1-2 [2WR]	9%	21%	50%
2-1 [2WR]	8%	7%	42%
1-0 [4WR]	7%	2%	55%
Group	ing T	enden	cies
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	67%	50%	54%
1-2 [2WR]	34%	47%	52%
2-1 [2WR]	32%	52%	37%
1-0 [4WR]	69%	49%	68%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard							
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Stefon Diggs	34	6	9	19			
Dawson Knox	21	4	7	10			
Gabriel Davis	21	5	3	13			
Cole Beasley	14	1	2	11			
Emmanuel Sanders	10	2	4	4			
Devin Singletary	7	2		5			

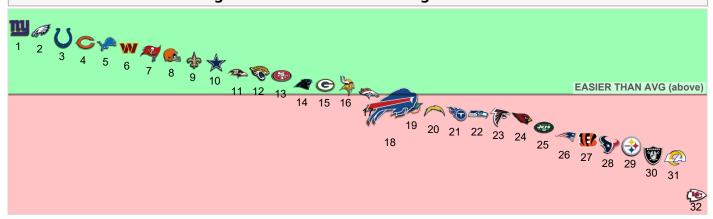
<u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u>						
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Devin Singletary	48	12	11	25		
Josh Allen	34	9	9	16		
Zack Moss	27	6	11	10		
Isaiah McKenzie	5		2	3		
Matt Breida	3		2	1		
Reggie Gilliam	2			2		
Mitchell Trubisky	1	1				

Early Down Target Rate					
RB	TE	WR			
18%	14%	68%			
23%	21%	56%			
23/0	NFL ÁVG				
/-		ccess %			
/-	NFL AVG	ccess % wr			
Overall	NFL AVG  Target Su				





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



We can't talk about the positives for the Bills without mentioning the cleanest offensive game I have ever seen with my own eyes in real time. Their annihilation of the Patriots in the playoffs was a thing of beauty and a joy to watch.

The Bills had more touchdown drives (seven) than third down attempts (six).

Josh Allen had more touchdowns (five) than incompletions (four).

The Bills' drives, in order:

Touchdown (70 yards)

Touchdown (80 yards)

Touchdown (81 yards)

Touchdown (89 yards)

Touchdown (58 yards)

Touchdown (77 yards)

Touchdown (39 yards)

Buffalo's first down play calls in the first half:

12 passes: averaged 11.0 YPA

3 RB-runs

2 QB-runs

No, they did not try and get physical and establish a presence on the line of scrimmage. They danced with the one who brought 'em and that was the Daboll-Allen aerial assault.

This wasn't by accident. Daboll knew that Buffalo needed to pivot from what McDermott wanted. The numbers weren't even close and showed one thing very clearly:

Don't run running backs on first down, don't run running backs in long-yardage situations, reserve the RB-runs for short-yardage situations.

Starting Week 12 onward, first 3 quarters of games:

First-and-10 passes: 0.02 EPA/att, 6.3 YPA, 52% success (79 att) First-and-10 RB rushes: -0.05 EPA/att, 4.2 YPC, 44% success (43 att)

Second-and-7-9 passes: 0.06 EPA/att, 5.3 YPA, 55% success (22 att) Second-and-7-9 RB rushes: -0.73 EPA/att, 0.5 YPC, 0% success (2 att)

Second-and-10 passes: 0.08 EPA/att, 6.2 YPA, 50% success (17 att) Second-and-10 rushes: -0.15 EPA/att, 4.5 YPC, 36% success (11 att)

Note how more efficient and successful the passes were in these long-yardage situations against the running back runs.

Now, let's look at short yardage situations:

Second-and-1-2 passes: -0.25 EPA/att, 2.5 YPA, 50% success (2 att) Second-and-1-2 RB rushes: 0.01 EPA/att, 4.6 YPC, 100% success (8 att)

Second-and- 3-6 passes: -1.17 EPA/att, 2.3 YPA, 25% success (8 att) Second-and- 3-6 RB rushes: 0.17 EPA/att, 4.9 YPC, 64% success (14 att)





Third-and-1-2 passes: 0.72 EPA/att, 10.4 YPA, 75% success (8 att) Third-and-1-2 RB rushes: 1.67 EPA/att, 21.5 YPC, 100% success (2 att)

In just the last two games of the season (vs. ATL and NYJ), note the difference in RB-run efficiency in short-yardage situations vs long yardage (quarters 1-3):

Second/third down RB-runs with 1-4 yards to go: 0.36 EPA/att, 10.2 YPC, 60% success (5 att) First/second down RB-runs with 7+ yards to go: -0.10 EPA/att, 3.9 YPC, 38% success (26 att)

Against the Patriots, the Bills needed to limit running back runs on first and second downs with long-yardage to go. Buffalo could still get some of the physicality of the running back run game McDermott wanted by running the ball MORE often in short-yardage situations following successful passes underneath.

They did and it was literally a perfect game plan.

Speaking of game plans, that's what the Bills will miss from Brian Daboll this year.

What he and Josh Allen did in 2020 and 2021 deserves historical comparison.

The Bills had more wins the last two years than any back-to-back years since 1990-91.

They had the LOWEST percentage of drives ending in punts the last two years.

Since 1990, there have been 59 quarterbacks to start at least 15 games in their first two years and 15 games in their next two years.

No quarterback has improved over Years 3 and 4 like Josh Allen. It's not even close. In the leap from Years 1 and 2 to Years 3 and 4, Allen has:

- the highest jump in completion percentage
- the second-highest jumps in adjusted net YPA, passer rating and passing YPG
- the third-highest jump in TD%
- the fourth-highest jump in YPA

A massive amount of credit goes to Josh Allen for that growth, but I always say you can never separate a guarterback from his playcalle...

What is the single most important investment a team makes?

It's in the quarterback. If you draft one, not only do you give up a lot to get one at the top of the draft in opportunity cost, many times you're giving up future first-round draft picks as well.

But then he's on your roster, and you must determine soon thereafter whether to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into that player for his second deal.

How do you know to do that if your offensive system is not conducive to maximizing your quarterback? How do you know to do that if your playcaller is bad?

If your quarterback is the most important investment a team makes, I'd argue the second most important investment might be your offensive playcaller who designs, installs, and calls your offense.

Brian Daboll took a rookie quarterback from Wyoming and went through growing pains with him. He designed an offense to maximize Allen's talents. Together they got the single largest jump in efficiency from any quarterback from their first two years to their next two years in modern NFL history. They did that despite not having a single first-round pick on offense other than the quarterback, the only team in the playoffs last year that can be said of.

Because of that performance, this offense took a team that hadn't won a playoff game or finished first place in the AFC East since 1995... and won playoff games and the AFC East in back-to-back years.

The Bills' offense would have put up even more staggering numbers but for the weather. It's been brutal in Buffalo. I personally wish their new stadium was a dome, but they're apparently opting for an open-air stadium, but one that significantly will cut down on wind. Which is vital.

Because look at the Bills' home splits since becoming a pass-first offense in 2020:

With winds under 15 mph:

8-1 (89%) 7-1-1 ATS (88%%) -> best in NFL 33 pts/game -> best in NFL win by 15 pts/game -> best in NFL

With winds 15+ mph:

5-3 (62.5%) 4-4 ATS (50%) 25 pts/game scored win by 2 pts/game





Clearly, it's a major factor.

I'm excited to see what new offensive coordinator Ken Dorsey brings to this offense. We know what McDermott is looking for and they may be able to be more physical with new guards and running back. Whether those plays will actually add +EV to the offense will soon be determined.

What I also hope James Cook can help bring to the table and the Bills offense, in general, improve upon is YAC.

In 2021, the Bills ranked 32nd in YAC/completion. Despite having **Stefon Diggs** and a vast array of wide receivers with different skill sets complemented by one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL, the offense didn't generate hardly any YAC.

That's a big problem. It puts a ton of pressure on Josh Allen.

The 2020 Bills ranked 10th worst in YAC/completion (4.75 yards) but the 2021 Bills ranked even worse, clocking in at 4.24 yards and finishing dead last in the NFI

Teams on the opposite end of the spectrum?

No. 1 - 49ers

No. 2 - Bengals

No. 3 - Chiefs

No. 4 - Packers

Anything look familiar? How about that these were the last teams we saw playing in the 2021 postseason, aside from the eventual Super Bowl champion Rams. The Rams beat the 49ers in the NFC Championship Game, who beat the Green Bay Packers in the NFC Divisional game and had the best record in the NFL last season. The Bengals lost in the Super Bowl but defeated the Chiefs in the AFC Championship.

Those were the four best teams in YAC/completion. All of these teams had offenses that were making life a little easier on their quarterback and it paid off. As great as Patrick Mahomes and Aaron Rodgers are, they can use help, particularly when they're trying to go all the way to a Super Bowl.

I'm mixed on the prospects of the Bills in 2022 because I simply have concerns as to the amount of involvement their defensive-minded on the offense.

He talked time and time again about running their backs more and better last year, he is now pitching to run Josh Allen much less in 2022. This offseason, McDermott said Allen has run the ball more than expected in recent years and that cutting down on his carries will ensure that, "we're doing right by him by doing right by our team."

His full quote: "We're always trying to evolve -- on the field, off the field, schematically -- and in this case with Josh's running or the amount of times that we run him, we have to continue to evolve that way and making sure we're doing right by him by doing right by our team."

You should know by now how much I love a good running quarterback. He's a massive X-factor. When he ran the ball on designed runs, he averaged 0.15 EPA/att. When he ran the ball on scrambles, he averaged 0.94 EPA/att.

Where does that compare to the best running back in the NFL last year, Jonathan Taylor? Taylor averaged 0.11 EPA/att in 2021. Allen averages more than that on his designed runs and WAY more than that when scrambling.

Now the Bills want to limit it?

I truly don't like the sound of that. It's all talk until the season starts and we see if they actually pay more than lip service to this statement, but I'm not in love with the notion even in the offseason.

Buffalo has done an OUTSTANDING JOB building its roster to win the way modern football teams win games. Last year, this offense scored the second-most points of any team in the NFL and is just the 23rd most expensive offense in 2022. That's amazing. Huge credit to general manager Brandon Beane for making that happen.

But 2022 is the final year of Josh Allen's cheap cap hit (\$16.4 million, QB16) and the Bills haven't won anything yet.

Next year, Allen's cap hit jumps to \$39.8 million (QB4). This is a massively important season for the Bills.

They've spent to add even more key defensive players. This is important as they played the easiest schedule in the NFL last year, including the second-easiest schedule of offenses.

Buffalo played only six teams that made the playoffs (second-lowest of any team in the NFL) and went just 2-4. (They went 9-2 vs non-playoff teams.)

When Buffalo won the turnover battle, they went 7-0 last year. If not? 4-6.

They have the second-largest increase in schedule difficulty this year of any team.

They play in the most brutal conference of any team.





Not many teams are as talented and "whole" on both sides of the ball as the Bills. If injury luck goes their way again (second-healthiest in 2021 after being ninth-healthiest in 2020), even as talented as the rest of the AFC is, the only thing really stopping Buffalo from making another deep playoff run is themselves: their execution and their coaching. It won't be easy, and the margin for ultimate success is razor thin. But this Bills roster is better than it was in both 2020 and 2021, and both of those teams were incredible.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

## 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

#### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

#### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

01. Game	s w Ha	Iftime L	ead
• •			

02. Avg Halftime Lead

4.0

03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	6.8			
37. PSM Target Depth	6.9			
38. Non-PSM YPA	6.8			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	9.6			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	54%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	61%			
42. PSM EPA/att	0			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.07			

Play Action (Q	uarters 1-3 on	<b>Early Downs)</b>
----------------	----------------	---------------------

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45. PA Success Rate	55%
46. PA YPA	7.5
47. PA Sack Rate	2.9%
48. PA EPA/att	0.11
49. PA Target Depth	9.0
50. Non-PA Success Rate	50%
51. Non-PA YPA	6.5
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	3.7%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.01
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	4%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	27%
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	24%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.5
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	4.9

#### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	2	defFUM	22
Net FROE	4.9	defFUM Rcvrd	12
offFUM	22	dell OW IXCVId	12
offFUM Rcvrd	17	defFR Rk	14
offFR%	77.3%	defFR%	45.5%
offFR Rk	2	defFROE	0.8
offFROE	4.1	delFROE	0.0
offFROE Rk	2	defFROE Rk	13

#### Field Goal Luck

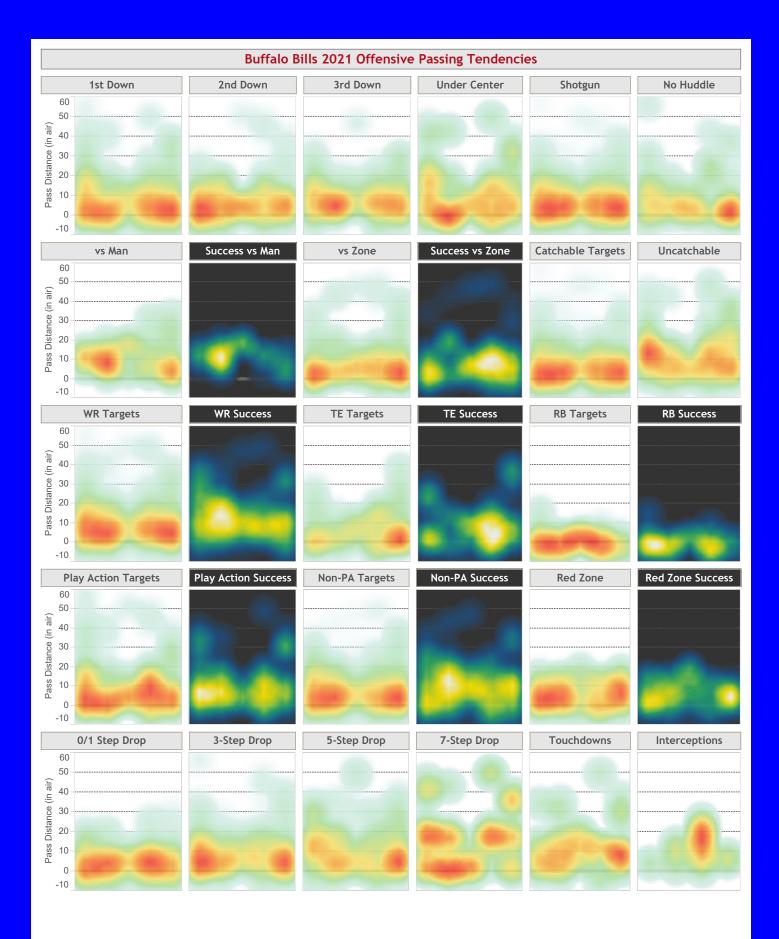
Net Over Expectation	-1.75	Opp Att	23
Net Over Expectation Rank	25	Opp Makes	21
Own Att	32		
Own Makes	28	Opp FG %	91%
Own FG %	88%	Opp Expected Makes	19.46
Own Expected Makes	28.21	Opp Make Over Expectation	1.54
Own Make over Expectation	-0.21	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	13
Own Make over Expectation Rk	20		
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	-0.21	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	2.33
			-
2020 Own Rk	18	2020 Opp Rk	5

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

QB	Pr	ess	ure

#### Offensive Metrics

Trayer Tracking Data Stats QDS		QD 1 1 C35G1C		Officiality 7	OTTETISIVE MEETICS	
	Josh Allen		Josh Allen	EPA/Pass	0.08	
CAY	6.5	Pressure %	33.3	EPA/Pass Rk	9	
CAY Rk	4	Pressure Rk	20	EPA/Rush	0.03	
2020 CAY Rk	7	Sack %	3.5	EPA/Rush Rk	4	
AYTS Rk	6	Sack Rk	37	On-Target Catch %	90.6%	
2020 AYTS Rk	19	Pressure Accuracy %	61.3		15	
AGG Rk	36	Pressure Accuracy Rk	27	On-Target Catch Rk		
2020 AGG Rk COMP%	34 63.3	Rating when Pressured	80.5	Drop%	7.5%	
xCOMP%	64.2	Pressured Rating Rk	5	Drop Rk	29	
xCOMP% Rk	31		79.5	YAC/Att	2.3	
2020 xCOMP% Rk	25	Clean Accuracy %		YAC/Att Rk	14	
CPOE%	-0.9	Clean Accuracy Rk	12	Rush Broken Tackle %	20.6%	
CPOE Rk	22	Rating when Clean	105.1	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	1	
2020 CPOE Rk	2	Clean Rating Rk	11	Rush Broken Tackle RK	1	
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT		Time to Throw	2.9	Rush 1st Down %	29.3%	
Aggressiveness <b>xCOMP</b> : Expected completion percentage <b>CPOE</b> : Actual completion percentage over expectation		Time to Throw Rk	8	Rush 1st Down Rk	4	



## Bills Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Josh Allen	0.20 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	0.15 (#2)
2020	Josh Allen	0.40 (#1)	0.30 (#1)	0.29 (#1)	0.29 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	0.35 (#1)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Josh Allen	-0.33 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	0.17 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.06 (#2)	0.25 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)
2020	Josh Allen	-0.07 (#1)	-0.15 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.25 (#1)	0.30 (#1)	0.31 (#1)	0.15 (#1)

## **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank – not enough att to quanty)									
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Josh Allen	76% (#2)	76% (#2)	68% (#2)	55% (#1)	71% (#2)	77% (#2)	69% (#2)	69% (#2)	75% (#2)
2020	Josh Allen	81% (#1)	87% (#1)	74% (#1)	53% (#2)	78% (#1)	82% (#1)	79% (#1)	77% (#1)	80% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	0.04 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.21 (#2)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	0.18 (#1)	0.54 (#1)
2020	-0.06 (#2)	-0.06 (#2)	0.07 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.17 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

			OFF ED 123Q				3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	9	3	17	11	10	6	2	2	1	15
2020	1	2	4	18	5	29	4	24	16	23

## First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	2	6	1	2	4	9	1	1	19
2020	15	11	10	5	11	16	3	19	24

## First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	4	6	17	13	4	4	27	1	6
2020	1	9	2	2	4	9	6	1	1

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:

Matt Rhule (2 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Offensive Coordinator:

Ben McAdoo (DAL consultant) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Phil Snow (2 yrs)

**Carolina Panthers** 

#### 2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

#3

#### **Past Records**

2021: 5-12 2020: 5-11 2019: 5-11



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Haason Reddick (EDGE)	Eagles
Stephon Gilmore (CB)	Colts
Matt Paradis (C)	TBD
Cam Newton (QB)	TBD
DaQuan Jones (IDL)	Bills
A.J. Bouye (CB)	TBD
Jermaine Carter, Jr. (LB)	Chiefs
Ameer Abdullah (RB)	Raiders
Morgan Fox (IDL)	Chargers
John Miller (RG)	TBD
Alex Erickson (WR)	Commande.
Trenton Scott (RT)	Steelers
Troy Pride, Jr. (CB)	TBD
Lachlan Edwards (P)	TBD
Azur Kamara (IDL)	TBD
Lirim Hajrullahu (K)	TBD
Mike Panasiuk (IDL)	TBD

#### 2022 Carolina Panthers Overview

David Tepper has been extremely aggressive in his search for NFL success. Swing big, miss big. But if the quarterback is the most important position in the NFL, trying to survive with average or worse won't get you very far.

The quarterback moves the Panthers have made since hiring Matt Rhule as head coach in 2020 have been quite aggressive.

They struck out on the best quarterbacks they pursued. They overpaid quarterbacks hoping for upside. But the biggest move they could have made was the one they didn't attempt.

Pay close attention to the repeating word structure that follows:

In his first draft as head coach, the Panthers had the seventh overall pick. Rhule knew this on January 7th, when the Panthers hired him.

Most early mock drafts had Joe Burrow going first overall and Tua Tagovailoa going off the board by pick No. 5 to the Dolphins.

Could Justin Herbert be available at pick No. 7? Maybe. If the Chargers didn't take him first at No. 6 overall.

# Games <u>Average</u> # Games <u>Underdog</u> **Line Favored** 14 3.5

This was all well known to the Panthers. What also was well known to the Panthers is that none of the teams drafting No. 2 through No. 4 were interested in quarterbacks. Washington, picking second overall, had just drafted Dwayne Haskins in the first round and had Alex Smith. Detroit, picking third overall, had Matthew Stafford and was playing to save Matt Patricia's job (he would be fired mid-season).

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Austin Corbett (RG)	\$8.80
Matt Ioannidis (IDL)	\$5.90
Xavier Woods (S)	\$5
Bradley Bozeman (C)	\$2.79
Cory Littleton (LB)	\$2.60
Johnny Hekker (P)	\$2.5
D'Onta Foreman (RB)	\$2
Andre Roberts (WR)	\$1.8
Rashard Higgins (WR)	\$1.2
Chris Westry (CB)	\$0.80

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	6	OT - Ikem Ekwonu (NC State)
3	94	QB - Matt Corral (Ole Miss)
4	120	LB - Brandon Smith (Penn State)
6	189	LB - Amaré Barno (Virginia Tech)
0	199	OG - Cade Mays (Tennessee)
7	242	CB - Kalon Barnes (Baylor)

#### Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj



(cont'd - see CAR2)





#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	13	\$109.13M	30
QB	14	\$21.17M	20
OL	14	\$38.36M	26
RB		\$13.91M	10
WR	11	\$27.51M	15
TE	21	\$8.18M	31
All DEF	30	\$79.45M	24
DL	30	\$29.81M	24
LB	7	\$22.23M	19
СВ	17	\$19.44M	10
s	28	\$7.97M	20

#### CAR-2

The Giants, picking fourth overall, had just drafted **Daniel Jones** in the first round. It was a quarterback dead zone.

The ground could have been fertile for a trade UP THE BOARD from the seventh overall pick into the top four to leapfrog the Dolphins and draft either Tagovailoa or Herbert.

Coach Matt Rhule had time to think and he must have had thought one or more of the following:

- He didn't like the 2020 QB class
- He thought Teddy Bridgewater would provide more immediate opportunity to rebuild than a rookie
- · He didn't want to lose future draft picks for a team that needed to rebuild

At any rate, one thing was certain: Rhule wanted to win now.

Rhule didn't want to come from the college ranks and flounder as an NFL coach.

Instead of planning to draft a franchise quarterback, the Panthers decided to be aggressive in a bid for a veteran quarterback.

And... on March 26th the Panthers signed Teddy Bridgewater from the Saints to a three-year, \$63 million contract.

Nearing the 2020 draft, reports emerged that the Panthers were looking to trade down, out of the top-10, to accumulate assets to help Rhule rebuild. This would make a lot of sense considering the Bridgewater signing.

Another report emerged that if, by some chance, Tagovailoa or Herbert were still available, the Panthers would be interested. This would make zero sense. Pick No. 7 in the NFL draft is a highly valuable commodity. If, even AFTER agreeing to give \$63 million to Bridgewater, the Panthers were STILL INTERESTED in either of these rookie quarterbacks at pick No. 7, it would make zero sense to have signed Bridgewater. If a potential franchise quarterback is worth the seventh overall pick, he's likely worth the third or fourth overall pick. But the Panthers didn't try to trade up. They preferred Bridgewater and possibly trading down. It would have been mind boggling for them to then draft either quarterback at pick No. 7. This rumor was probably floated to increase the value of that pick to help in a trade down.

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Sam Darnold	50% 6.4 81.0	42% 6.4 63.5	29% 4.9 61.3	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	60%	76%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushing Performance								
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn						
CAR	47% 4.3	48% 3.7	56% 3.6	Success Rate YPC					
Run Rate	52%	40%	24%						
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC					
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%						

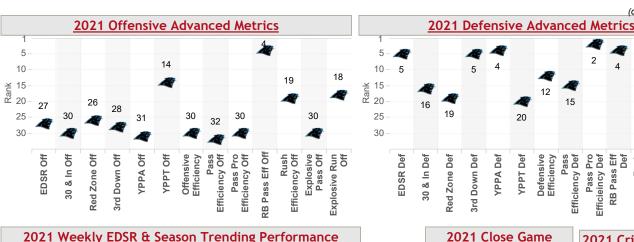
Either way, it was a moot point. Tagovailoa was drafted fifth overall to Miami and the Chargers drafted Herbert sixth. This then made the seventh pick substantially less valuable. If the Panthers tried to trade down, it failed.

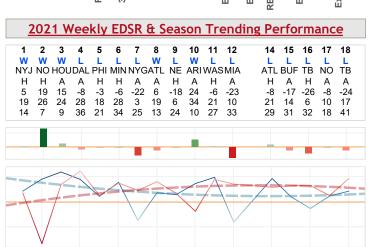
With the seventh overall pick in a good QB draft class, the Panthers drafted a defensive tackle, Derrick Brown.

Bridgewater was a failure in 2020 for Carolina.

The Panthers won only five games.

As a response in early 2021, the Panthers tried to swing for the fences for another veteran quarterback. They tried to trade for Matthew Stafford.





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)

#### 2021 Close Game **Records**

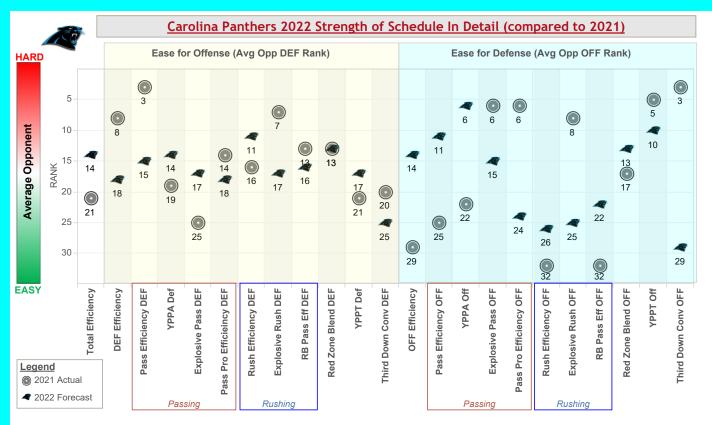
All 2019 Wins: 5 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 0-1 FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-6 Score Games Win %: 25% (#28) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 40% (#22)

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def RB Pass Eff	Def Rush Efficiency Def	Explosive Pass Def	Explosive Run Def
2021	Critica	ıl/Ga	me-
<u>De</u>	ciding	Stat	<u>:s</u>
TO Marg	in		-13
TO Give			29
INT Give	n		21
FUM Giv	/en		8
TO Take	n		16
INT Tak	en		9
FUM Ta	ken		7
Sack Ma	ırgin		-13
Sacks			39
Sacks A			52
	TD Margi	n	+0
Ret TDs			0
Ret TDs			0
Penalty			+1
Penaltie	-		107
Oppone	nt Penalt	ties	108

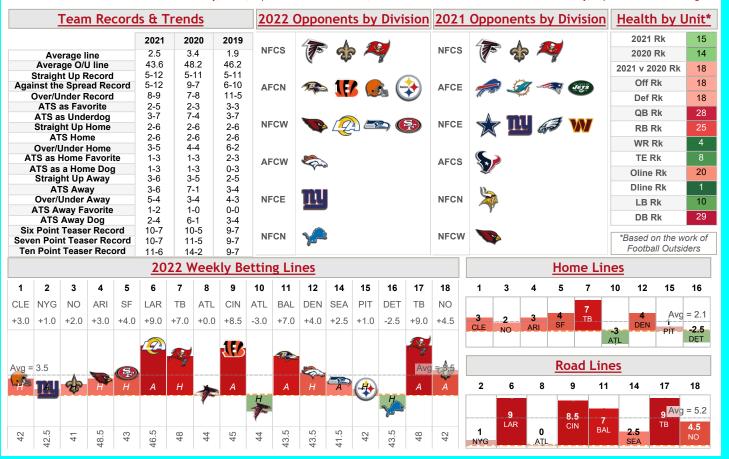
(cont'd - see CAR-3)

18 19



		<u>20</u>	22 vs 2021 Sch	<u>edule Varianc</u>	es*						
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										
27	18	12	22	5	16	8	15				

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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





Depending on who you believe, the Panthers were set to give up the eighth overall pick in the 2021 draft along with Bridgewater for Stafford. And the rebuilding Lions were interested. And it was almost finalized before the Rams offered a much better deal (two first-round picks and a third plus Jared Goff). The Panthers pivoted immediately to the Broncos. They traded Bridgewater to Denver while eating \$17 million in dead cap.

Then the Panthers were faced with the same decision they faced 12 months earlier:

Draft a quarterback in 2021 or add a veteran?

Because they were terrible in Rhule's first season, their five wins earned the Panthers the eighth overall pick.

The 2021 class was lauded as a great one for quarterbacks. Trevor Lawrence and Zach Wilson were going 1-2 overall and there was nothing to be done about that. But Miami, at No. 3, wasn't drafting another quarterback. After that, the draft class still had Trey Lance, Justin Fields, and Mac Jones available.

Coach Matt Rhule had time to think and he must have thought one or more of the following:

- He didn't like the 2021 QB class
- He thought Sam Darnold would provide more immediate opportunity to rebuild than a rookie
- He didn't want to lose future draft picks for a team that needed to rebuild

At any rate, one thing was certain: Rhule wanted to win now.

Instead of planning to draft a franchise quarterback, the Panthers decided to be aggressive for a veteran quarterback.

And... a few weeks before the 2021 draft, they pursued yet another veteran quarterback in Sam Darnold, hoping that Darnold's poor play in New York was a result of Adam Gase's poor coaching. The Panthers traded a second, a fourth and a sixth-round pick for Darnold, and then picked up his fifth-year option.

With the eighth overall pick, in a great QB draft class, the Panthers drafted a cornerback, Jaycee Horn.

Darnold was a failure in 2021 for Carolina

The Panthers won only five games.

Then the Panthers were faced with the same decision they faced 12 months earlier and 12 months before that:

Draft a quarterback in 2022 or add a veteran?

But unlike 2020 and 2021, the 2022 draft class wasn't great.

Sitting at pick No. 6, some rumored the Panthers might take a quarterback.

Coach Matt Rhule had time to think. And he must have had thought one or more of the following:

- · He didn't like the 2022 QB class
- · He thought another veteran would provide more immediate opportunity to rebuild than a rookie
- · He was beyond tired of losing

6

At any rate, one thing was certain: Rhule needed to win now or he might be fired.

So instead of planning to draft a franchise quarterback, the Panthers decided to be aggressive for a veteran quarterback.

And... in early 2022, the Panthers tried to swing for the fences for another veteran.

They tried to trade for Russell Wilson. That didn't work. Wilson went to Denver.

2

(cont'd - see CAR-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 +3 +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

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- The Carolina Panthers' defense finished second in Pass Rush Win Rate and eighth in third down conversion rate. Regression for the defense is likely as the defensive line was the healthiest unit in the league in 2021 and the defense stopped 1.2% third downs over expectation. The defense also lost Hasaan Reddick.
- The Panthers' five victories were against rookie starting quarterbacks or quarterbacks missing wide receiving options. Two victories included Zack Wilson's and Davis Mills's first starts, Colt McCoy, Matt Ryan post-Calvin Ridley suspension, and Jameis Winston. The Panthers failed to win against teams with proficient quarterbacks and will need a large jump in offensive output if the Panthers are to win and improve upon last year's record.
- The Panthers have finished under their pre-season win total in both years Matt Rhule has been head coach. Rhule finished bottom 10 in Football Outsiders' Aggressiveness Index and the Panthers ran on early downs in the first half of games at the fifth-highest rate in 2021. Rhule is ironically the longest-tenured coach in the NFC South, however, in his two years has not provided evidence that he gives the team a coaching edge.

6

#### Why Bet the Over



- In March, the Panthers restructured five contracts, clearing over \$30 million in salary cap space, which was a signal that the Panthers were in win-now mode and looking to upgrade at the quarterback position. Although the Panthers organization might benefit the most in the long run by starting Matt Corral, head coach Matt Rhule is 10-23 in his first two seasons and would not likely survive another losing season. Baker Mayfield becomes Rhule's third different starting quarterback in as many seasons, but the former first overall pick has the highest ceiling of any of the previous quarterbacks.
- The Panthers can improve on the 2-6 record in one-score games in 2022. Finishing 2021 with a -13 turnover margin, the Panthers are likely to see positive regression in terms of fumble luck after finishing with -4.6 fumbles recovered over expectation.
- The Panthers bolstered the offensive line, landing tackle **Ikem Ekwonu** in the draft and signing **Bradley Bozeman** and **Austin Corbett** to upgrade the interior of the offensive line. The loss of **Christian McCaffrey** had a large impact on the passing game as Carolina's EPA per dropback dropped from 0.07 to -0.26 and the sack rate jumped from 2.2% to 9.5% without the running back on the field.

	Carolina Panthers Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach					
31	22	10	23	14	14	29					

The rebuilding process is not going well in Carolina, as this roster enters Year 3 of the Matt Rhule era and still only has one unit ranked in the top 10.

Votes were tallied prior to the Panthers' acquisition of **Baker Mayfield**. Prior to the trade, we ranked this unit in a tie for dead last with Seattle, thanks to the continued lack of development from **Sam Darnold**. The addition of Mayfield improves the outlook, though Mayfield's uneven performances set a wide range for his ceiling and floor. Coming off his career year in 2020, we ranked Browns quarterback room 12th entering the 2021 season.

Carolina's backfield ranked fourth a season ago, but fell six spots despite no meaningful changes to the depth chart. The reason is continued questions surrounding **Christian McCaffrey**'s health. Carolina running backs ranked 28th in yards per carry last season (3.8 yards per attempt) and non-McCaffrey running backs averaged 3.5 yards per attempt. This is a top-tier unit when McCaffrey is on the field, but arguably the league's worst without him.

A year ago we were optimistic about Carolina's pass-catchers, but a disappointing rookie year from **Terrace Marshall Jr.** raised concerns for this unit's depth and led to a drop from 14th to 23rd. Marshall caught just 74% of his catchable targets with a 15% drop rate. **D.J. Moore** and **Robbie Anderson** still provide value atop the depth chart, but someone has to emerge as a third option for this unit.

The addition of rookie **Ikem Ekwonu** provides a significant boost to the offensive line. Carolina's left tackles allowed a 7.8% pressure rate last season, ranked 30th. We ranked this unit 29th overall last year, but Ekwonu should push the offensive line towards the league average.

The front seven is Carolina's most proven unit, as it ranked 10th overall with a 32% pressure rate generated last season. Led by **Brian Burns**, that production should remain, though **Yetur Gross-Matos** must take some strides in his development after a rookie year in which he generated just 12 pressures. A full season of **Jaycee Horn** should lead to significant improvement in the secondary. Between Horn and **Jeremy Chinn**, Carolina has two strong building blocks in this unit.

Among returning head coaches, no one ranks worse than Rhule, who is firmly on the hot seat and is likely to be fired during or after the season. To his credit, Rhule spent his first two years developing the defense, and made substantial strides. However, the offense is a mess and the hiring of offensive coordinator Ben McAdoo was an uninspired effort to turn things around.

#### CAR-4

Then they tried to trade for **Deshaun Watson**. That didn't work. Watson went to Cleveland.

But from Cleveland, they were able to swing and land Baker Mayfield.

This team currently has Sam Darnold as QB1, competing with Baker Mayfield, and rookie Matt Corral as QB3.

To land these three middling-at-best quarterbacks, the Panthers traded away second-, third-, fourth-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-round draft picks.

So what do we know about their tendencies?

They don't want to start rookie quarterbacks, because they want to win now.

They instead chase down and land vet quarterbacks, because they want to win now.

They then move on from failed vet quarterbacks after one year, because they want to win now.

In my first writing of this chapter in June 2022, I said:

#### CAR-5

"For the Panthers to stick with Sam Darnold in 2022 would be shocking. For the Panthers to roll the dice and start Corral would be shocking. I remain convinced their predictable nature will have them starting Jimmy Garoppolo or Baker Mayfield in 2022."

#### And what happened?

Boom - Baker Mayfield. Tepper and Rhule are as predictable as it gets.

But let's zoom out to acknowledge what a colossal disaster the Panthers have been from an ownership and player acquisition perspective.

They knew the most important piece to a team was a quarterback.

Yet Tepper's/Rhule's pride, ego and desire to "win now" caused them to forgo drafting quarterbacks in three straight drafts with top-8 draft picks all three years, with two of those draft classes being very strong with talent at the top of the draft.

Carolina and Rhule could have taken the stable, sound approach to acquire not just the most important piece to a team, but the skeleton key that unlocks everything, and that is a stud quarterback on a rookie deal.

They could have realistically walked away from the 2020 or 2021 drafts with their choice of Tua Tagovailoa, Justin Herbert, Trey Lance, Justin Fields, or Mac Jones on rookie deals at cheap costs for the next four seasons.

Instead, they walked away from those QB-rich drafts with Derrick Brown and Jaycee Horn.

And they've had HIGH PICKS EVERY SINGLE DRAFT.

And yet they still have no long-term solution at quarterback. Mayfield's contract is up after this year.

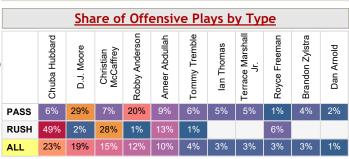
#### (cont'd - see CAR-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 0 0 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

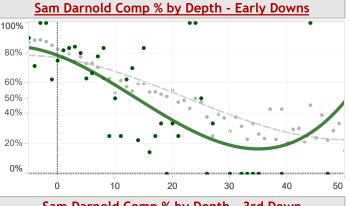
# 

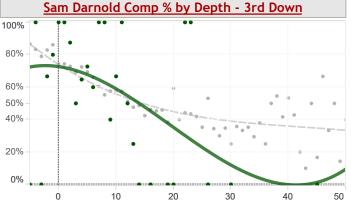


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

		<u>Usage R</u>	ate by S	<u>Score</u>		
_		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
	Chuba Hubbard	4%	6%	73%	8%	9%
	D.J. Moore	13%	13%	75%		
	Christian McCaffrey	3%		69%	9%	19%
RUSH	Robby Anderson	67%		33%		
2	Ameer Abdullah	11%	5%	64%		20%
	Tommy Tremble		33%	67%		
	Royce Freeman	5%		90%	5%	
	Total	6%	4%	71%	7%	13%
	Chuba Hubbard	11%	6%	69%	11%	3%
	D.J. Moore	20%	10%	60%	4%	7%
	Christian McCaffrey	10%		46%	15%	29%
	Robby Anderson	24%	12%	52%	7%	5%
	Ameer Abdullah	41%	12%	39%		8%
PASS	Tommy Tremble	17%	19%	56%	6%	3%
Α	Ian Thomas	30%	3%	53%	10%	3%
	Terrace Marshall Jr.	7%		73%	7%	13%
	Royce Freeman		17%	67%	17%	
	Brandon Zylstra	36%	16%	32%	4%	12%
	Dan Arnold			73%	18%	9%
	Total	22%	9%	55%	6%	8%







#### Successful Play Rate 2021 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] 0-0 [5WR] 0-2 [3WR] 0-1 [4WR] 1-0 [4WR] Type PASS 38%, -0.31 (498) 40%, -0.22 (98) 63%, 0.42 (32) 63%, 0.33 (8) 50%, 0.09 (2) 67%, -0.28 (3) 100%, 0.69 (2) 100%, -0.23 (1) 40%, -0.24 (651) RUSH 54%, 0.00 (231) 49%, -0.05 (451) 47%, -0.07 (102) 42%, -0.10 (57) 45%, -0.18 (49) ΔII 43%, -0.21 (729) 44%, -0.14 (200) 49%, 0.09 (89) 47%, -0.11 (57) 75%, 0.47 (4) 100%, 0.69 (2) 100%, -0.23 (1) 44%, -0.16 (1.102)

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						
WR	DJ Moore	45% (119) 6.6, -0.14	45% (20) 5.9, 0.11	83% (12) 14.5, 0.82		48% (151) 7.2, -0.03						
	Robby Anderson	33% (79) 4.3, -0.35	40% (20) 5.0, -0.35	71% (7) 7.7, 0.49	0% (1) 3.0, -0.22	36% (107) 4.7, -0.30						
TE	lan Thomas	46% (24) 7.0, -0.41	20% (5) 0.8, -1.07	100% (1) 17.0, 1.35		43% (30) 6.3, -0.46						
	Dan Arnold	40% (10) 6.5, -0.07	100% (1) 19.0, 1.21			45% (11) 7.6, 0.05						
RB	Christian McCaffrey	66% (29) 8.7, 0.55	80% (5) 7.4, 0.13	40% (5) 6.6, 0.05		64% (39) 8.3, 0.43						

#### Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard) 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 4 Grp Total 44% (168) Hubbard 45% (88) 46% (35) 53% (17) 4.0, -0.07 3.1, -0.19 3.6, -0.20 3.6, -0.13 Chuba 45% (31) McCaffrey 53% (38) 63% (16) 45% (11) 51% (96) Christian 4.2, 0.07 4.2, -0.14 6.6, 0.24 3.9, 0.27 4.6, 0.05 67% (12) Newton 50% (28) 50% (4) 33% (3) 53% (47) Cam 5.0, -0.08 5.8, 0.26 3.0, -0.28 3.0, -0.23 4.9, -0.02 50% (4) 81% (26) 6.7, 0.42 40% (5) 60% (45) Darnold Sam 3.0, -0.23 7.0, 0.00 4.8, 0.06 50% (32) 38% (8) 45% (44) 33% (3) Abdullah 3.2, -0.21 2.9, -0.18 3.7, -0.70 3.1, -0.25 Ameer

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	Pas	sing by	Throw	Throw Types Q		Types	QE	State at	Pass	Run	Run Types	
	verage :heme	R	oute	Level 1	49% (425) 5.8, -0.03	3 Step	39% (228) 5.8, -0.23			% (445) 3, -0.05	Outside Zone	48% (71) 3.8, -0.19	
	200/ //40)	Curl	51% (76) 7.0, 0.10			5 Step	45% (128)	Shuffling		6% (77) 9, -0.32	Inside	45% (69)	
Zone	38% (416) 6.4, -0.19	Out	48% (63)	Level 2	39% (111) 8.2, -0.24	Союр	7.3, -0.06	Moving		3% (76) 9, -0.33	Zone	3.3, -0.03	
			5.8, -0.07		10% (20)	0/1 Step	46% (95) 5.0, 0.00		Play Action	on	Stretch	51% (51) 4.2, -0.04	
Man	40% (158) 5.5, -0.17	Slant	54% (50) 7.1, 0.22	Level 3	6.1, -0.42	Basic Screen	46% (26) 6.1, 0.05		Play Action	No P/A	Pitch	52% (27) 4.5, 0.03	
	0.0, 0.11	Dig	61% (31)	Sidearm	44% (9) 6.4, 0.26		50% (24)	Under Center	49% (75) 7.1, -0.08	53% (38) 7.7, -0.10		48% (23)	
	35% (24)	Dig	9.7, 0.15		0.4, 0.20	7 Step	10.0, 0.14	Shotgun	45% (66) 4.9, -0.15	37% (472) 5.8, -0.30	Lead	4.0, -0.10	
Other	2.5, -0.38	Drag	30% (20) 7.2, -0.09	Shovel	14% (7) 2.3, -1.12	Designed Rollout Right	75% (20) 7.3, 0.28	ALL	48% (141) 6.0, -0.11	38% (510) 5.9, -0.28	Power	36% (22) 2.8, -0.17	

#### CAR-6

Additionally, the Panthers have pursued legitimate veteran passers that will win games because they're great quarterbacks, like Matthew Stafford, Russell Wilson, and Deshaun Watson. Every single time, the Panthers' offers for these players weren't good enough. Each time, the Panthers could have presented an offer so overwhelming and strong the teams couldn't refuse it. But the Panthers didn't. Nor did they learn from prior failures, and these Pro Bowl quarterbacks slipped through their hands.

So instead, the Panthers spent a ton of money and dead cap on Teddy Bridgewater, future draft capital on Sam Darnold, and Baker Mayfield.

The process here is mind boggling from start to finish.

David Tepper, the richest owner in the NFL, bought the Panthers in 2018. Since then:

Carolina is 22-43 (fifth-worst record)

0 winning seasons

0 playoff appearances

They have won only five games for three straight seasons.

And what do their fans have to look forward to?

They're expected to win five games for a fourth straight season.

At present, they are favored in just two games out of 17.





After ranking second in the NFL in dead cap the last three years (\$122 million from 2019-2021) the Panthers drop to \$22 million in 2022, which ranks 13th.

But this team lost solid players in free agency and with such little draft capital thanks to the Sam Darnold trade, the Panthers made just four picks in the top 190 players:

- · Hopefully a stud offensive tackle in Ikem Ekwonu
- · A likely project backup quarterback in Matt Corral buried on the current depth chart
- Two linebackers

This team fell off massively in offensive efficiency in 2021, where they dropped from 11th in 2020 to 30th in 2021. In EDSR (Early Down Success Rate) they dropped from 15th to 27th.

Their EPA/attempt wasn't awesome in 2020 (0.01, 20th) but it was downright horrible in 2021 (-0.25, 31st). Their rushing efficiency fell off as well.

The dice roll on Darnold sans-Gase didn't deliver. He ranked 34th in completion percentage over expectation (CPOE) after ranking 36th in 2020 for the Jets. He ranked 35th in completed air yards after ranking 36th in 2020 for the Jets. He was worse than Bridgewater.

The only thing that saved the Panthers was an extremely easy schedule of opposing offenses, which made the Panthers' defense look better than it was.

Overall, Carolina ranked fifth in EDSR defense and 12th in defensive efficiency. They had the NFL's No. 2 pass rush.

But look at these quarterbacks they played!

They won five games total in 2021:

Week 1 vs. rookie Zach Wilson in his first NFL start Week 2 vs. Jameis Winston in his second start since 2019

Week 3 vs. rookie Davis Mills in his first NFL start

Week 8 vs. Matt Ryan

Week 10 vs. backup Colt McCoy in his second start of the season

The six-point win vs Matt Ryan? Ryan threw two red zone interceptions which the Panthers grabbed at the 15-yard line each time to remove at least two field goals, if not two touchdowns, from the scoreboard.

Overall, the Panthers played the seventh-easiest schedule of opposing offenses last season, which helped their defense overachieve.

This year, I am predicting they will face an above average schedule of opposing offenses including the 11th toughest schedule of passing attacks.

(cont'd - see CAR-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Carolina Panthers 2022 Draft Class

Carolina was able to address its most glaring weakness (other than quarterback) with Ikem Ekwonu (first round), who surprisingly fell to them at the sixth pick.

Panthers quarterbacks were pressured in 2.5 seconds or less on 25.4% of dropbacks last season (ranked 24th). Ekwonu should immediately improve their pass protection, taking over for **Cam Erving** at left tackle. Entering the draft, the Panthers did not own another pick until the fourth round, but traded up, parting with next year's third-round pick to select **Matt Corral** (third round).

Depleting future draft capital — which could potentially be needed to trade up for a legitimate quarterback prospect next year — just to take a flier on Corral cannot be endorsed. Corral has some quality athletic traits, but he's a project. Lane Kiffin's offense at Ole Miss does not translate well to the NFL. In 2021, Corral took a traditional dropback of three or more steps just 22% of the time. It's been a few years since Panthers offensive coordinator Ben McAdoo was in control of an offense, but the NFL average traditional dropback rate was 62% last year and the lowest rate was 48%. There will be a steep learning curve for Corral, who just doesn't have enough experience reading defenses and going through progressions. He likely does not pose a serious threat to **Baker Mayfield**'s job early in the season.

Matt Rhule views **Brandon Smith** (fourth round) as a versatile defensive weapon. Though he primarily lined up as an off-ball linebacker at Penn State, Smith was dangerous on blitzes, generating a 29% pressure rate. Expect Carolina to give Smith some reps on the edge in addition to providing depth at linebacker.

Amare Barno (fifth round) is a traditional edge-rusher, who ranked seventh in the ACC in pressure rate (13.9%) last season. Although Barno's production never quite matched his combination of length and athleticism, Carolina will attempt to groom him into a productive pass-rusher.

Cade Mays (sixth round) is the perfect Day 3 selection. He's played every position on the offensive line and, while he probably lacks the traits to develop into a starter, his versatility in a backup role is valuable.

Kalon Barnes (seventh round) is a former recruit of Rhule at Baylor. He almost exclusively played cornerback on the outside, but also has the athletic traits to play in the slot. His best asset at Baylor was his ability to make plays on the ball.

Considering the draft capital they had to work with, the Panthers came away with an acceptable class. However, it's likely this group will only produce one long-term starter (Ekwonu) and the trade for Corral was a questionable investment in a developmental quarterback prospect. If Rhule weren't on the hot seat, would he have been more likely to accept a trade down from No. 6 to aid in the rebuilding process? We'll likely never know what type of offers were on the table, but adding future draft capital to aid in the acquisition of a quarterback next year — rather than parting with picks to acquire Corral — certainly would have been the preferred outcome of this draft.

#### Carolina Panthers 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

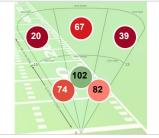
Between Sam Darnold, Cam Newton, and Phillip Walker, the Panthers were dead last in expected points added via passing in 2021 (-80.6 EPA). They ranked 32nd in team completion percentage (58.1%), 31st in touchdown rate (2.3%), 31st in interception rate (3.5%), and 31st in yards per pass attempt (6.0 Y/A). The team picked up Darnold's fifth-year option after trading for him last season, so they are on the hook for his \$18.8 million cap charge this season in full no matter how things play out moving forward. Darnold started off last season with three 300-yard passing games the opening month and 8.1 yards per attempt, but then flatlined for 5.1 Y/A the rest of the way. The Panthers traded up to select Matt Corral in the fourth round this spring while also trading a future Day 3 pick for Baker Mayfield.

	2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk		
Sam Darnold	242	405	60%	2,524	6.2	8	13	35	71	45		
Cam Newton	69	126	55%	684	5.4	4	5	10	64	49		
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6			

#### 2021 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 % 41% 46% 30 7.0% 8 2.0% Sam Darnold 4.7 5.7 **Cam Newton** 39% 46% 5 4.0% 1 1.0% 5.4 4.5 46% 50% 5.3 34.1 8.8% 12.5 3.1% 5.6 NFL Ava

## **Postive Target Distribution** Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Sam Darnold Rating

# **Early Downs**



<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%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	6.9%	0.0%	3.9%
6 - 9	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
10 - 14	2.2%	3.4%	4.2%	0.0%	2.7%
15+	12.5%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	8.8%
Total	2.6%	3.9%	2.5%	0.0%	3.0%

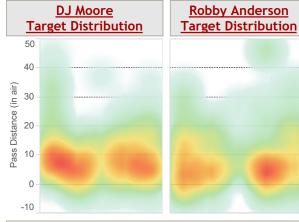
3rd Down I	3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk						
Sam Darnold	7.7	5.8	-2.3	75%	41						
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%							

	Air Y	<u>'ds vs</u>	YAC
ond k	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
1	46%	54%	40
	53%	47%	

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Carolina wideouts collectively received 20.2 targets per game (14th) but ranked 22nd in yardage per game (133.1) attached to anemic quarterback play. Just 69.9% of the Carolina targets to wide receivers were deemed catchable, the lowest rate for a wide receiver group in the NFL. **D.J.** Moore was reliable as ever but the team struggled to generate production elsewhere. Robbie Anderson averaged 3.1 catches for 30.5 yards per game last season. Second-rounder Terrace Marshall ended with just 17 catches. No team got less out of their tight ends last season, ranking last in every key counting stat. Despite that, Carolina is rolling back the same core of pass catchers paired with hope that Mayfield or Corral can be an upgrade in getting them the football.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % RK	TDs
D.J. Moore	161	57%	7.2	70.3	48%	99	112	60	71	3
Robby Anderson	110	48%	4.7	50.5	36%	136	136	100	29	5



#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Panthers were 18th in the league in expected points added via their rushing offense, ranking 20th in rushing yardage (1,842 yards), 23rd in yards per carry (4.0 YPC), and 13th in touchdowns on the ground (17). Christian McCaffrey was snakebit once again in 2021, playing in just seven games, with two of those games being ones in which he left early, playing 30% and 36% of the snaps. McCaffrey has now played in 10 games the past two seasons due to ankle, thigh, hamstring, and shoulder injuries. There may be a time when the Panthers weigh his missed time and decide to pull back on McCaffrey's workload somewhat. Carolina brought in added backfield help by signing D'Onta Foreman on a one-year deal. Foreman should immediately vault Chuba Hubbard, who was second-to-last in rushing yards below expectation (-122 yards) as a rookie.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Chuba Hubbard	172	3.6	43%	79	69	41	37	42%	76	5
Christian McCaffrey	99	4.5	51%	41	30	10	66	49%	47	1

#### Yards per Carry by Direction 4.0 2.8 2.9 3.8 4.3 4.6 C RG RT



#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



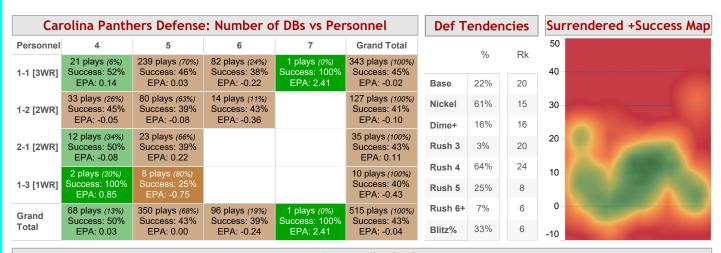
#### Christian McCaffrey: Fool Us Three Times or back to the RB1?

Christian McCaffrey was snakebit once again in 2021, playing in just seven games, with two of those games being ones in which he left early, playing 30% and 36% of the snaps. McCaffrey has now played in 10 games the past two seasons due to ankle, thigh, hamstring, and shoulder injuries. While I remain largely injury agnostic (and McCaffrey has had a few injuries that are just outright back luck), there may be a time when the Panthers decide to pull back on McCaffrey's workload. That said, when McCaffrey does play in full, there is still not a back that possesses his fantasy stability and upside when on the field. In the five full games he played this season, he closed the week as the RB1, RB3, RB15, RB4, and RB3 in scoring, averaging 23.6 points per game those weeks with fewer than 24 points in just one. The amount of running backs capable of McCaffrey's production is still razor thin, making him a scarce resource to pursue with high draft capital.

#### **D.J. Moore Deserves Better**

It finally looked as if we were going to have our D.J. Moore breakout last season when he opened the season with 30-398-3 over the opening four games. But he inevitably was caught up once again in the riptide of an offense with subpar quarterback play once **Sam Darnold**'s deal with the devil in September expired. From that point on, Moore found the end zone just one more time, still leaving him with four or fewer touchdowns in each of his first four seasons in the league. The concerns about Moore's quarterback this season and surrounding offense once again exist, but he will still only be 25 years old at the start of the 2022 season with 1,200 yards in each of the past three seasons. While we are still chasing a ceiling outcome that has been thwarted by his quarterback play, there is evidence that Moore's upside does exist when conditions rise as Moore has finished eighth (2.17 yards) and 11th (1.93 yards) at his position in yards per team pass attempt the past two seasons while his runway to sustaining a high target share (he was eighth among wideouts with 9.6 targets per game) is still present.

Just 65.4% of Moore's targets were deemed catchable a year ago while at least the Cleveland pass catchers carried a 74.2% catchable target rate in an injury-filled campaign from **Baker Mayfield** in 2021. Mayfield also carries the highest career touchdown rate (4.8%), the main bugaboo holding Moore back in fantasy football as he has yet to catch more than four touchdowns in a given season. Cam Newton (4.3%), Teddy Bridgewater (3.6%), and Sam Darnold (3.3%) all have been below where Mayfield has been in that department. That said, we need significant improvement from this roster altogether as just 26.7% of all WR1 scoring seasons have come from teams with fewer than eight wins overall in a given season and just 18.1% with six or fewer wins.



#### **Defensive Outlook**

Over the past two seasons, **Derrick Brown** had 21 quarterback hits and five sacks. In 2021, he ranked 30th in pressure rate among defensive tackles per SIS. That might not exactly be what the Panthers were looking for with the eighth overall pick, but he's been able to collapse the pocket from the interior.

The Panthers lucked into a Temple Owl getting released by his former team. When Washington parted ways with **Matt Ioannidis**, Matt Rhule was quick to scoop him up. loannidis signed for just a one-year deal but he should be a force inside. He ranked 20th in pressure rate among defensive tackles last year. Carolina could also see some development from 2020 sixth-round pick **Bravvion Roy** (31% of snaps) and 2021 fifth-round pick **Daviyon Mixon** (7.5%).

**Brian Burns** is one of the league's best young pass rushers. He was a quick winner off the line and ranked 18th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season. Burns will have his fifth-year option picked up for 2023 and a bigger extension should be high on Carolina's to-do list. **Yetur Gross-Matos** was a second-round pick in 2020 but this will be his first shot at extended playing time. He played 32% of the defensive snaps last season backing up Burns and Haason Reddick. Gross-Matos hasn't completely shined when he's on the field. His 8% pressure rate would have ranked around 83rd among edge rushers last season if he had enough pass snaps to qualify.

At linebacker, **Shaq Thompon** played 73% of the snaps while he missed three games, but was all over the field when he was on it. Thompson, who turns 28 years old in late April, is signed through 2023.

Thompson could potentially get more help from traditional linebackers as the Panthers signed Corey Littleton and Damien Wilson in free agency. Littleton was a great all-around linebacker with the Rams and one of the best in coverage, but that never clicked in his two years with the Raiders.

Wilson spent last year with the Jaguars after two with the Chiefs. He had some struggles in coverage (69th at the position in yards allowed per coverage snap), but he can be a better downhill player against the run.

Jaycee Horn was fantastic at cornerback when he was on the field, but his rookie season was cut short after just three games. Those early season flashes should be enough optimism for him to break out as a No. 1 corner in his second season. Donte Jackson was 61st among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. He's been up and down through his career but the ups have been encouraging. He signed a three-year deal that will keep him under contract through 2024. A change of scenery didn't really help C.J. Henderson. Among 113 cornerbacks with at least 200 coverage snaps, Henderson ranked 112th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Keith Taylor ranked 113th.

Jeremy Chinn continued to develop into his do-it-all safety role. He played a majority of his snaps in the box and was an impact defender with five passes defensed, six tackles for loss, and five quarterback hits. Carolina signed Xavier Woods to play as the deep safety on a one-year deal. The Panthers used a single-high shell at the second-highest rate in the league last season (60%) and Woods has shown the ability to handle the responsibilities of a lone deep safety. There are other intriguing options as depth, which include Juston Burris, who can also spend time in the slot, former XFL standout Kenny Robinson, and Sean Chandler.

Play Tendencies					
All Pass %	55%				
All Pass Rk	19				
All Rush %	45%				
All Rush Rk	14				
1 Score Pass %	52%				
1 Score Pass Rk	26				
2020 1 Score Pass %	59%				
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	11				
2021 Pass Increase %	-7%				
Pass Increase Rk	30				
1 Score Rush %	48%				
1 Score Rush Rk	7				
Up Pass %	56%				
Up Pass Rk	15				
Up Rush %	44%				
Up Rush Rk	18				
Down Pass %	59%				
Down Pass Rk	20				
Down Rush %	41%				
Down Rush Rk	13				

Down & Distance Tendencies			Shotgun %		Carolina Panthers							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play Success %	Shotgun	Under Center	2021 Play Analysis		V Q		
1st	Short (1-3)	3	33%	67%	67%	66%	34%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	12	8%	92%	83%							
	Long (8-10)	313	43%	57%	49%	NFL	AVG	C L	ort V	ardage Ir	talligar	
	XL (11+)	15	67%	33%	27%	65%	35%	31	OI C I	ai uage ii	itettigei	ice.
2nd	Short (1-3)	45	24%	76%	51%				_		_	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	75	53%	47%	52%	Effic	iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sh	ort Run	
	Long (8-10)	106	72%	28%	39%			Run	Run	NFL Run	Run 1D	Run NFL
	XL (11+)	37	78%	22%	24%	EPA/	EPA/ pass:	Freq	Rk	Freq Avg	Rate	1D Avg
3rd	Short (1-3)	51	43%	57%	59%	pass: -0.21	-0.12	79%	8	71%	58%	73%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	48	96%	4%	35%							
	Long (8-10)	45	91%	9%	22%	EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:		2nd	d and Sho	ort Pass	
	XL (11+)	23	87%	13%	13%	-0.02	-0.11	_				
4th	Short (1-3)	10	20%	80%	60%	0	0	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
Dwn	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%	Success: 38%	Success: 38%	21%	24	29%	80%	46%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%	3070		Z 1 /0	24	23/0	00 /0	+0 /0

Shotgun %					
Shotgun	Under Center				
66%	34%				
NFL AVG					
NFL	AVG				
NFL 65%	35%				





#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Efficiency					
EPA/	EPA/				
pass:	pass:				
-0.21	-0.12				
EPA/	EPA/				
rush:	rush:				
-0.02	-0.11				
Success:	Success:				
38%	38%				

2nd and Short Run							
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg			
79%	8	71%	58%	73%			

<b>2nd and Short Pass</b>							
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg			
21%	24	29%	80%	46%			

Most Frequent Play							
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %		
1st	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Chuba Hubbard	3	67%		
Dwn	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Chuba Hubbard	81	40%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	D.J. Moore	3	33%		
				Robby Anderson	3	67%	
		RUSH	Christian McCaffrey	3	33%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Chuba Hubbard	13	38%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Chuba Hubbard	13	54%		
	Long (8-10)	PASS	D.J. Moore	19	68%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	D.J. Moore	6	33%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	D.J. Moore	8	50%		
Dwn		RUSH	Cam Newton	8	75%		
	Med (4-7)	PASS	D.J. Moore	12	58%		
	Long (8-10)	PASS	D.J. Moore	10	50%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Robby Anderson	4	25%		

	Play Action (Y/N)								
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total						
No	Success: 48%	Success: 50%	Success: 48%						
	YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.09	YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.01	YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.07						
	Rtg: 87.0	Rtg: 67.0	Rtg: 82.3						
	[Att: 111 - Rate: 17.1%]	[Att: 32 - Rate: 4.9%]	[Att: 143 - Rate: 22.0%]						
Yes	Success: 35%	Success: 47%	Success: 38%						
	YPA: 5.5, EPA: -0.33	YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.15	YPA: 5.6, EPA: -0.29						
	Rtg: 61.7	Rtg: 81.4	Rtg: 66.1						
	[Att: 399 - Rate: 61.3%]	[Att: 109 - Rate: 16.7%]	[Att: 508 - Rate: 78.0%]						
Total	Success: 38%	Success: 48%	Success: 40%						
	YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.28	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.11	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.24						
	Rtg: 67.1	Rtg: 78.1	Rtg: 69.6						
	[Att: 510 - Rate: 78.3%]	[Att: 141 - Rate: 21.7%]	[Att: 651 - Rate: 100.0%]						

	Weekly Snaps Played										
Wk	Орр	Score	D.J. Moore	Robby Anderson	lan Thomas	Tommy Tremble	Chuba Hubbard	Terrace Marshall	Brandon Zylstra	Ameer Abdullah	Dan Arnold
1	NYJ	W 19-14	52	52	35	12	7	34	12		33
2	NO	W 26-7	67	56	52	29	19	39	14		22
3	HOU	W 24-9	54	47	37	19	40	45	19		27
4	DAL	L 36-28	59	59	44	27	33	50	13		
5	PHI	L 21-18	62	62	45	27	46	54	11		
6	MIN	L 34-28	68	64	40	38	48	23	36		
7	NYG	L 25-3	62	61	45	35	34				
8	ATL	W 19-13	61	55	46	34	41			22	
9	NE	L 24-6	50	54	38	34	10	22		22	
10	ARI	W 34-10	59	51	57	51	16	18	33	16	
11	WAS	L 27-21	48	47	32	24	1	14	24	8	
12	MIA	L 33-10	53	51	40	25	11		28	27	
14	ATL	L 29-21	57	62	35	34	25	30	36	38	
15	BUF	L 31-14	69	76	42	49	36	8	54	40	
16	TB	L 32-6	60	67	24	41	34	41		23	
17	NO	L 18-10	56	60	54		32	44	3	29	
18	TB	L 41-17	55	54	37	42	32		50	40	
	Grand '	Total	992	978	703	521	465	422	333	265	82

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %				
1-1 [3WR]	66%	61%	43%				
1-2 [2WR]	18%	21%	44%				
2-1 [2WR]	8%	7%	49%				
2-2 [1WR]	5%	3%	47%				
<b>Grouping Tendencies</b>							
Group	ing Te	enden	cies				
Group Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.				
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	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
D.J. Moore	13	2	6	5			
Robby Anderson	8	4	1	3			
lan Thomas	4			4			
Tommy Tremble	4	2	2				
Christian McCaffrey	3			3			
Chuba Hubbard	3	2		1			
Terrace Marshall Jr.	3	1	1	1			
Dan Arnold	1			1			

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard							
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Chuba Hubbard	24	5	4	15			
Christian McCaffrey	19	3	6	10			
Cam Newton	9	4	1	4			
Sam Darnold	9	6		3			
Ameer Abdullah	7	1	2	4			
Tommy Tremble	3	1	2				
Royce Freeman	2	1		1			
Robby Anderson	1		1				

Early Down Target Rate							
RB	TE	WR					
24% <b>23%</b>	15% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	61% <b>56%</b>					
	MILAVG						
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ccess %					
Overall RB		ccess % wr					





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



True enough, there is some hope for Carolina from a regression standpoint. The Panthers went 2-6 in one-score games last year after going 3-8 in 2020. Eventually, perhaps in 2022, this should regress (although terrible quarterback play leads to more close losses than close wins).

The Panthers were -13 in turnover margin, another stat that should regress if they lower their 21 interception mark (although, once again, terrible quarterback play leads to more interceptions). Carolina does have the sixth-best net rest edge and the best overall prep and rest ranking of any team in the NFL. They play four games where they will have a rest advantage as opposed to just one where they will be at a rest disadvantage.

They will play four games when their opponent has less than a week to prepare. Bad teams don't always take advantage of rest advantages like good teams tend to, but it can't hurt to be in the Panthers' position from a rest perspective.

But the start of the schedule is downright brutal.

Weeks 1-7 the Panthers play the second most difficult schedule of opponents in the NFL.

During this span, they also play the second most difficult schedule of pass defenses from 2021 and the third most difficult schedule of run defenses from 2021.

If, by some chance Sam Darnold is the starter, facing these defenses could be disastrous. He was dreadful on Level 2 throws (up & down throws that go over linebacker's heads) and Level 3 throws (launched deep balls).

To illustrate how downright terrible this passing game was, look at this metric:

The only players to average positive EPA/target on early down passes (min 20 attempts) were running backs: Christian McCaffrey and Ameer Abdullah.

DJ Moore: -0.01 EPA/target Robbie Anderson: -0.18 EPA/target Tommy Tremble: -0.20 EPA/target Chuba Hubbard: -0.21 EPA/target Ian Thomas: -0.64 EPA/target

While the 2021 Carolina Panthers lost 10 games in which they held a lead at some point during the game (the most such losses by any team since the 2000 San Diego Chargers), it's still a tough ask to expect much out of this team if Darnold is their quarterback.

Even if he's not, their schedule in Weeks 1-7 could potentially be hard enough to produce such a poor record that the short leash Rhule presumably has gets him canned.

So what does Mayfield bring to the table?

He's better than Darnold, that much is true. I encourage EVERY Panthers fan to read my chapter on the Cleveland Browns because I go in-depth on Mayfield's issues with injuries last year. Do not look at last year and think that's the Mayfield you will be getting. He will be better when he is healthy.

But the big thing about Mayfield is he needs special "care".

To truly thrive, he needs a coach who will pull every lever in the right sequence and turn every dial to the perfect setting. I hint at some of this in this year's Browns chapter and especially in last year's book.

I refuse to believe that Ben McAdoo is the right guy to perfect the settings which optimize Mayfield.

Let's run through this exercise:

Is Mayfield's coaching superior in Carolina compared to Cleveland? No.

Is Mayfield's offensive line superior in Carolina compared to Cleveland? No.

Is Mayfield's running back corps superior in Carolina compared to Cleveland? No.

I get there is excitement in the fantasy community over the upgrade to the Panthers' receivers' ceilings in fantasy.

But Odell Beckham Jr, Jarvis Landry, and Rashard Higgins vs DJ Moore, Robbie Anderson, and Terrace Marshall Jr. is certainly a great debate as to which





group is superior.

Regardless, there is nothing in Carolina to suggest Mayfield should "thrive" in his new setting except that it's a new setting. On the football field, nothing will be superior that gives Mayfield a longer runway or a higher ceiling.

For Carolina, I can see why they made this move. It's solely to save Matt Rhule's job. He wanted Mayfield because the team could afford him and he's better than Darnold. He doesn't solve problems downstream. In fact, it makes them worse. But if Rule can somehow get to eight or nine wins this year, he might avoid being fired.

But make no mistake, this puts the future of the Panthers in a far worse place. It puts them FURTHER from drafting a quarterback at the top of the 2023 NFL draft. But Mayfield isn't winning this team a Super Bowl this year. So even if he's "ok" this year, what are you doing? Are you really signing Mayfield for good QB1 money if he's merely "ok" this year? If you're not, his deal is up and he's done in Carolina after this year and you need a new QB next season. The same thing that's been going on in Carolina for years.

There is a big lesson here for new coaches looking to build a franchise. You may think you have a shortcut towards a high floor in wins to start your career with a mid-level, veteran quarterback you acquire via free agency or a trade. The easy way... the fast way... doesn't guarantee anything. You can't afford to have a top-10 pick in consecutive drafts while being sorely in need of a quarterback and walk away without using one of those picks on a potential franchise quarterback.

If you decide against it, and ownership doesn't fire you for winning five games over and over again, and you try to trade for a stud veteran quarterback, you sure as hell better offer the moon and back to guarantee you'll land one of them. It's been Groundhog Day for this franchise for three straight years now looking for a quarterback. It's been embarrassing to watch from a distance and I'll be shocked if their new owner has much more patience for this level of incompetence.



# Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

#### The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

#### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

## 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

#### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

#### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

	-						
Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)							
36. PSM YPA	6.0						
37. PSM Target Depth	6.0						
38. Non-PSM YPA	7.1						
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	7.8						
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	45%						
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	48%						

02. Avg Halftime Lead 0.0

-0.2

0.06

01. Games w Halftime Lead

42. PSM EPA/att

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

03. Wins

#### Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%
45. PA Success Rate	47%
46. PA YPA	5.6
47. PA Sack Rate	2.7%
48. PA EPA/att	-0.16
49. PA Target Depth	7.1
50. Non-PA Success Rate	45%
51. Non-PA YPA	7
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	5.7%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.04
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	16%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	39%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
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	29%
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

#### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	30	defFUM	26
Net FROE	-4.6	defFUM Rcvrd	19
offFUM	20	dell-OW KCVId	19
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR Rk	28
offFR%	55.0%	defFR%	26.9%
offFR Rk	18	-I	0.0
offFROE	-0.7	defFROE	-3.9
offFROE Rk	18	defFROE Rk	31

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	0.05	Opp Att	37				
Net Over Expectation Rank Own Att	15 29	Opp Makes	32				
Own Makes	26	Opp FG %	86%				
Own FG %	90%	Opp Expected Makes	29.94				
Own Expected Makes	23.89	Opp Make Over Expectation	2.06				
Own Make over Expectation	2.11	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	8				
Own Make over Expectation Rk		2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	3.29				
2020 Own Make Over Exp. 2020 Own Rk	-1.27 25	2020 Opp Rk	1				

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - OBs

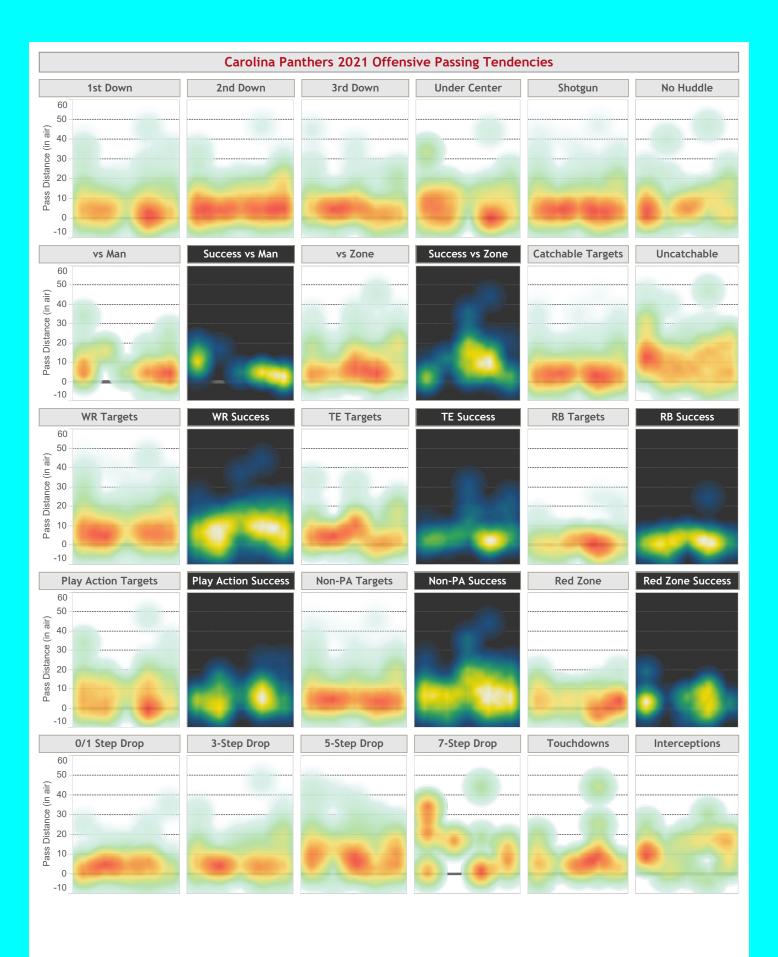
QB	Pr	ess	ure

## Offensive Metrics

-0.25 31 -0.06 19 86.3%

Player Tracking	g Data Stats - QBS	QB Pre	Offens	
	Sam Darnold		Sam Darnold	EPA/Pass
CAY	4.5	Pressure %	38.2	EPA/Pass Rk
CAY Rk	35	Pressure Rk	7	EPA/Rush
2020 CAY Rk	36	Sack %	7.3	EPA/Rush Rk
AYTS Rk	34	Sack Rk	9	On-Target Catch %
2020 AYTS Rk	26	Pressure Accuracy %	65.3	On-Target Catch Rk
AGG Rk	26 31	Pressure Accuracy Rk	13	
2020 AGG Rk COMP%	59.9	Rating when Pressured	47.8	Drop%
xCOMP%	64.9	Pressured Rating Rk	35	Drop Rk
xCOMP% Rk	25	Clean Accuracy %	76.5	YAC/Att
2020 xCOMP% Rk	35	Clean Accuracy Rk	29	YAC/Att Rk
CPOE%	-5.1	•	83.6	Rush Broken Tackle %
CPOE Rk	34	Rating when Clean		Rush Broken Tackle R
2020 CPOE Rk	36	Clean Rating Rk	33	
CAV: Completed Air Verde AVI	FO: Ai-V	Time to Throw	2.88	Rush 1st Down %

Time to Throw Rk



## Panthers Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

## **Stable Quarterback Metrics**

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Sam Darnold	0.03 (#2)	-0.25 (#2)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.04 (#3)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)
	Cam Newton	-0.10 (#3)	-0.54 (#3)	-0.42 (#3)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.22 (#3)	-0.39 (#3)	-0.21 (#3)
2020	Teddy Bridgewater	0.25 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	-0.04 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	0.28 (#1)

## Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Sam Darnold	-0.73 (#2)	-0.58 (#3)	-0.20 (#3)	-0.20 (#2)	-0.37 (#2)	-0.25 (#2)	-0.26 (#1)
	Cam Newton	-0.90 (#3)	0.53 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	-0.43 (#3)	-1.01 (#3)	-0.46 (#3)	-0.37 (#3)
2020	Teddy Bridgewater	-0.39 (#1)	-0.31 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	-0.28 (#2)

## **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range of a rank (stank not enough act to quality)										
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage	
2021	Sam Darnold	77% (#2)	86% (#2)	59% (#2)	50% (#1)	77% (#2)	78% (#2)	74% (#2)	71% (#2)	78% (#2)	
	Cam Newton	66% (#3)	71% (#3)	(#)	44% (#3)	(#)	68% (#3)	(#)	43% (#3)	73% (#3)	
2020	Teddy Bridgewater	82% (#1)	90% (#1)	70% (#1)	49% (#2)	83% (#1)	82% (#1)	76% (#1)	82% (#1)	80% (#1)	

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.09 (#2)	-0.09 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.22 (#1)	-0.16 (#1)
2020	-0.02 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.09 (#1)	-0.06 (#1)	-0.01 (#2)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	-0.61 (#2)	-0.61 (#2)

## Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

			OFF ED 123Q				3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	27	28	27	25	30	21	30	5	13	5
2020	17	12	23	20	30	29	26	20	8	14

## First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	14	18	3	7	20	20	3	1	19
2020	26	25	21	21	26	18	20	1	18

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %	
2021	26	24	26	28	22	14	7	1	29	
2020	18	24	32	30	21	16	16	20	29	

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

#### Head Coach:

Easy

Matt Eberfus (IND DC) (new) Offensive Coordinator:

Luke Getsy (GB QB) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Hard

Alan Williams (IND DB) (new)

# **Chicago Bears**

Wins

**Div Rank** 

6.5

#3

#### **Past Records**

2022 Forecast

2021: 6-11 2020: 8-8 2019: 8-8



Player	New
Khalil Mack (EDGE)	Chargers
Allen Robinson (WR)	Rams
Eddie Goldman (IDL)	TBD
James Daniels (RG)	Steelers
Akiem Hicks (IDL)	Buccaneers
Jimmy Graham (TE)	TBD
Danny Trevathan (LB)	TBD
Tarik Cohen (RB)	TBD
Bilal Nichols (IDL)	Raiders
Jakeem Grant (WR)	Browns
Nick Foles (QB)	Colts
Andy Dalton (QB)	Saints
Jeremiah Attaochu (EDG	TBD
Tashaun Gipson (S)	TBD
Artie Burns (CB)	Seahawks
Pat O'Donnell (P)	Packers
Jason Peters (LT)	TBD
Alex Bars (LG)	Raiders
Jesse James (TE)	TBD
Damien Williams (RB)	Falcons
Marquise Goodwin (WR)	Seahawks
Christian Jones (LB)	TBD
Damiere Byrd (WR)	Falcons
Deon Bush (S)	Chiefs

#### 2022 Chicago Bears Overview

How excited were Bears fans after Week 5? Justin Fields won his second consecutive start, the team had a 3-2 record, sat second place in the NFC North, sixth place in the NFC, and would have been in the playoffs at that point in time.

The 2021 Bears were projected to win only 7.5 games, but they already had three in their first five games.

But it wasn't time for exuberance. It wasn't time to celebrate. Although both of those things were occurring in Chicago after the 20-9 win over the Raiders in Las Vegas.

It was October 11th, and it was time to start fading the Bears.

I predicted this last June, when I wrote in last year's book:

"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."

After that 3-2 start, from Week 6 onward, the Bears went 3-9 and finished the season

The reality was, after that Week 5 game, this team was in for a brutal schedule based on opponent and rest. As I wrote last summer:

"While it's fair to be optimistic [about Fields] it's also fair to hate the 2021 schedule (cont'd - see CHI2)

#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Khalil Mack (EDGE)	Chargers
Allen Robinson (WR)	Rams
Eddie Goldman (IDL)	TBD
James Daniels (RG)	Steelers
Akiem Hicks (IDL)	Buccaneers
Jimmy Graham (TE)	TBD
Danny Trevathan (LB)	TBD
Tarik Cohen (RB)	TBD
Bilal Nichols (IDL)	Raiders
Jakeem Grant (WR)	Browns
Nick Foles (QB)	Colts
Andy Dalton (QB)	Saints
Jeremiah Attaochu (EDG	TBD
Tashaun Gipson (S)	TBD
Artie Burns (CB)	Seahawks
Pat O'Donnell (P)	Packers
Jason Peters (LT)	TBD
Alex Bars (LG)	Raiders
Jesse James (TE)	TBD
Damien Williams (RB)	Falcons
Marquise Goodwin (WR)	Seahawks
Christian Jones (LB)	TBD
Damiere Byrd (WR)	Falcons
Doon Ruch (S)	Chiofo

#### # Games <u>Average</u> **Line Favored**

3.4

14

# Games

**Underdog** 

# Regular Season Wins:

<u>Past</u>	& Current Proj
Forecast 2022 Wins	6.5
2021 Wins	6
Forecast 2021 Wins	7.5
2020 Wins	<b>6</b> 8
2019 Wins	<b>6</b> 8
2018 Wins	<b>C</b> 12
	1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15





#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Justin Jones (IDL)	\$6
Byron Pringle (WR)	\$4.09
Al-Quadin Muhammad (ED	\$4
Lucas Patrick (LG)	\$4
Nicholas Morrow (LB)	\$3
Ryan Griffin (TE)	\$2.29
Trevor Siemian (QB)	\$2
Tavon Young (CB)	\$1.39
Dane Cruikshank (S)	\$1.2
Matthew Adams (LB)	\$1.2

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	39	CB - Kyler Gordon (Washingt
	48	S - Jaquan Brisker (Penn Sta.
3	71	WR - Velus Jones Jr. (Tenne
5	168	OT - Braxton Jones (Souther
3	174	DE - Dominique Robinson (M.
	186	OT - Zachary Thomas (San
6	203	RB - Trestan Ebner (Baylor)
	207	C - Doug Kramer (Illinois)
	226	OG - Ja'Tyre Carter (Souther
7	254	S - Elijah Hicks (California)
	255	P - Trenton Gill (NC State)

#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

Rank	Total	2021 Rk
31	\$62.48M	22
27	\$6.77M	13
31	\$27.34M	29
24	\$7.33M	18
30	\$13.75M	7
27	\$7.29M	12
15	\$91.60M	7
20	\$40.50M	1
13	\$18.02M	10
32	\$11.65M	30
4	\$21.42M	19
	31 27 31 24 30 27 15 20 13	31 \$62.48M 27 \$6.77M 31 \$27.34M 24 \$7.33M 30 \$13.75M 27 \$7.29M 15 \$91.60M 20 \$40.50M 13 \$18.02M 32 \$11.65M

#### CHI-2

with a passion. That's because it's brutal from both a strength of opponent and strength of timing standpoint.

The Bears play the sixth toughest schedule based on forecasted win totals and the toughest schedule based on opponent 2020 efficiency rankings. The Bears have the third-worst net rest edge in games. They rank 28th in my prep metric, facing an 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."

I always say rest edges are valuable, but they aren't all treated equally. Great teams often win with rest disadvantages and bad teams often lose with them. But bad teams struggle to win with rest disadvantages. How did the Bears do in those rest disadvantages?

Seattle had a Week 15 game prior to a Week 16 meeting with Chicago rescheduled to a Tuesday night, so the Bears had only four games at a rest disadvantage.

They lost all four: 38-3, 33-22, 45-30, and 17-9. They lost by an average of 17 points per game and went 0-4 against the spread as well.

Their strength of schedule and strength of timing both were brutal.

At the end of the season, Matt Nagy was fired. If Nagy was fired for winning only six games with a rookie quarterback, I don't think that was the right decision. But I don't think that's the reason Nagy was fired.

I think Nagy was fired because the Bears no longer believed he had a long-term answer for how to direct an efficient offense and leaving a young quarterback in his hands would prevent that quarterback from reaching his ceiling.

I can certainly support those sentiments, as I questioned Nagy for his last couple of years in Chicago. I wrote extensively last year about how Nagy's offense was problematic:

	2021 Passi	ng Performa	nce	
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Justin Fields	52% 8.1 95.0	37% 6.6 83.4	24% 6.3 41.8	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	46%	55%	75%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
СНІ	46% 4.0	52% 4.7	45% 4.0	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	54%	45%	25%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

It didn't use enough play-action or pre-snap motion.

It didn't get enough out of play-action or pre-snap motion when they did use them.

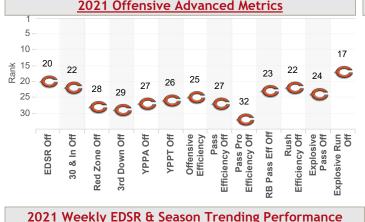
It struggled to operate out of 11 personnel, their primary offensive vehicle. And it didn't pass the ball enough.

When he handed the reins over to Bill Lazor late in the 2020 season, all of those elements improved. And efficiency increased tremendously.

But heading into 2021, Nagy took back playcalling duties and operated the Bears' offense in 2021.

And once again, many of the same problems from 2020

(cont'd - see CHI-3)



	2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics												<u>20</u>	<u> </u>	<u>Defe</u>	<u>ensi</u> v	ve A	<u>dva</u>	nced	1 Me	tric	<u>s</u>				
20	22	28	29	27	26	25	27	32	23	22	24	17	1 5- 10- ¥ 15- ¥ 20- 25- 30-	15	<b>C</b> 29	12	18	<b>C</b> 26	25	13	10	1	19	23	21	<b>C</b> 25
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		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

#### 2 12 13 15 16 L W L L W W L BAL DET ARI GB MIN SEANYGMIN LAR CIN CLE DET LV ΤB GB SF PIT Η Α Н Α Н Α Н Н A 2 Н A -15 Н Α Н Α -20 -20 11 -35 -2 -3 3 10 -10 -11 -11 -8 1 26 -14 6 3 22 13 16 9 27 22 25 17 14 20 24 20 14 30 29 17 26 14 9 24 38 33 16 14 33 45 17 24 3 31



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)

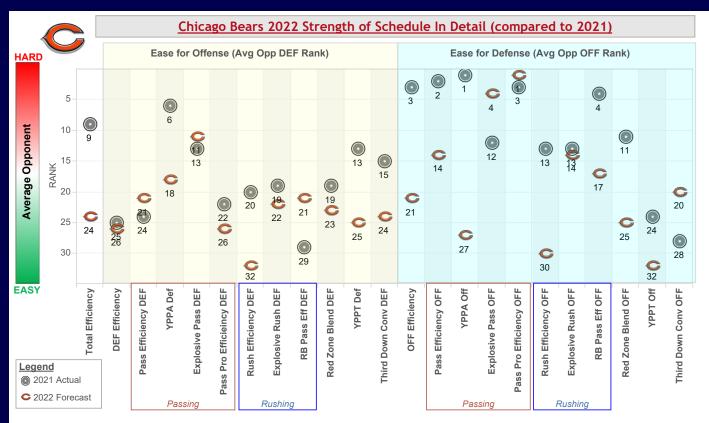
#### 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 6 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-2** FG Games Win %: **60% (#11)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-3 Score Games Win %: 50% (#12) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 50% (#13)

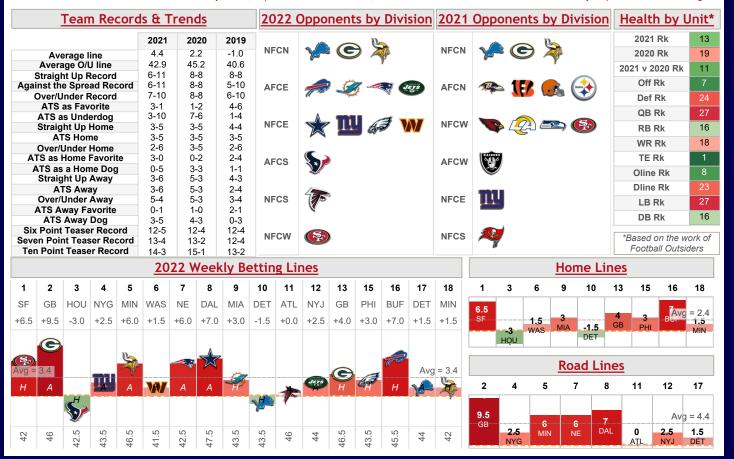
#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** -13 **TO Margin** 29

TO Given 20 **INT Given FUM Given** 9 TO Taken 16 **INT Taken** 8 **FUM Taken** 8 Sack Margin -9 49 Sacks Sacks Allow 58 Return TD Margin +1 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -13 Penalties 106 **Opponent Penalties** 93



2022 vs 2021 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			
13	25	26	20	23	24	31	30			

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







reared their head last season.

First, let's talk about the disaster that was Justin Fields's first start of his career.

The game plan Nagy dialed up was absolutely horrific.

Chicago finished with 1.1 yards per play. Sounds bad. In truth, it was the lowest for any team since 2004.

Their 47 total yards on offense were second-lowest since 2000.

Fields finished with just 68 yards on 6-of-20 passing to go along with 12 yards rushing and nine brutal sacks.

The game plan didn't mesh with Fields's strengths at all. As I wrote in last year's book, "Fields dominates in mid-range and deep throws. His 73% completion percentage in 2020 on throws between 11-19 yards past the line of scrimmage was the third-highest among 542 quarterback seasons since 2016. Not only was he great in that mid-range, but his career average depth of target (10.7 yards) and average depth of completion (8.6 yards) were both first among the top-five quarterbacks drafted in the 2021 class."

He's never been a quick-read quarterback, he invites pressure but scrambles to get the ball downfield. He averaged 3.1 seconds before throwing, fourth-longest of any college quarterback in 2020.

There was nothing to make Nagy, or anyone else, believe Fields would thrive in an 11 personnel shotgun offense with quick passing short of the sticks — except, apparently, for Matt Nagy. Because he used Fields exactly like one might use **Andy Dalton**.

The Bears averaged 9.9 yards-to-go on third down. The plays Nagy called on third down gained 0.9 yards. Their third down conversion rate was the worst in the NFL.

Nagy tried to go to five-man protection and get the ball out quickly, which was the exact opposite of what Fields would succeed with. The defense saw that they sat on the routes and no one was open, so Fields held the ball and Nagy never made any adjustments.

It was a total lack of awareness of a rookie quarterback's strengths.

Think of what I shared about where Fields shined in college: Fields was the most accurate intermediate passer on throws 11-19 yards in college football the last five years. How many passes did he attempt in that range in the first half? Zero. He had two all game!

They ran quick game, RPOs, and gave Fields only four rollouts. He was pressured on 55% of his dropbacks because of the five-man protections with no one to help chip, and the defenders knew this pre-snap and could dial up pressure at will vs. a very bad Bears offensive line. It was an offense for Dalton.

The game plan was destined to fail before the opening kickoff. Worse than a bad game plan, there were no adjustments made to help Fields.

And I was furious.

The day after the game, I tweeted the following:

Three indisputable facts:

- 1. Matt Nagy should have NEVER taken back playcalling for the Bears
- 2. They were SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER without him calling plays to close the 2020 season
- 3. We will never see Justin Fields reach his full NFL potential with Nagy calling plays

There is a certain responsibility a head coach has to his rookie quarterback. Nagy failed Fields miserably.

This spring, it came out how Fields felt about the game plan. Via Fields's private quarterback coach Ron Veal: "It was bad. He took a beating that day. It was kind of crazy and weird at the same time. I know he was in a situation where he was really pissed off about it."

(cont'd - see CHI-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 to prep prep game n 3

 Net Rest Edge Rank
 Prep Rank
 Rest Rank
 Short Week Road Games Rank
 Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank
 Negated Bye Rank

 6
 8
 6
 8
 21
 1

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- The front seven lost significant players in **Khalil Mack**, **Akiem Hicks**, and **Eddie Goldman** while there is potential that **Robert Quinn** is moved at some point. Already a significant candidate for sack regression as the 2021 units had the league's highest conversion rate of pressures to sacks, the depleted unit faces the league's toughest schedule in terms of offensive pass protection efficiency. Lacking depth on the defensive line, it is hard to imagine the Bears improve significantly after finishing near the bottom of pressure rate.
- Lacking the ability to create pressure and one of the weakest secondaries in the league, the Bears' defense struggled against wide receivers allowing a league-high 9.1 yards per reception and third-worst 55% success rate. The Bears allowed the seventh-highest total EPA on dropbacks with a throw as the defensive success was reliant on sacks.
- The new general manager did not prioritize upgrading one of the league's worst offensive lines. The Bears' offense allowed a league-high 58 sacks and Fields was sacked on 11.8% of his dropbacks the league's highest rate. The offense will struggle if Fields can't get rid of the ball faster in 2022.

# 6.5

#### Why Bet the Over

- The Bears have the fourth-easiest schedule of opponents, the fourth-largest improvement after facing the ninth most difficult schedule last year. The most notable improvement is against opposing offenses, as the Bears faced the most efficient passing offenses in 2021 and are projected to face the 14th-most difficult, the seventh-largest improvement from 2021.
- Justin Fields is mobile and can extend plays with his legs as
  mobile quarterbacks tend to be able to overcome a lack of talent
  with wide receivers more so than pocket passing quarterbacks.
   The rushing game also benefits from the mobility of Fields, as
  the Bears averaged 4.6 yards per rush with Fields vs. 3.65 yards
  per rush without Fields.
- Even without significant upgrades to the offense, the Bears can improve upon last year's worst third down offense and third-worst red zone offense with more efficient play calling. Under Matt Nagy, the Bears have finished last in third down conversions for two consecutive seasons and in 2021 averaged 7.5 yards to go on third down the second-highest in the league. The offense is also due for regression on third downs as finished with fifth-worst -2.6% conversion over expectation.

Chicago Bears Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head									
21	32	27	31	29	30	31				

The Bears ranked 27th or worse in all but one category in our unit ranks — but that one elevated spot, quarterback, provides significant optimism for the franchise. Led by **Justin Fields**, the Bears' quarterback room received votes ranging from 17th to 25th. Fields hasn't shown enough to earn a spot in the top half of the league, but with Matt Nagy out of the way, we expect him to make some positive strides this season.

**David Montgomery** is a known commodity at this point, for better or worse. He'll take what's given, but not much more. When contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage, Montgomery ranked 38th out of 44 ball carriers in yards per attempt. **Khalil Herbert** looked like the more explosive runner when given opportunities last season

The Bears' only proven pass-catcher is **Darrell Mooney**, though there's reason to be optimistic about **Cole Kmet**'s development at tight end. Third-round pick **Velus Jones Jr.** could provide a spark in the slot, but aside from him, there's little upside on this roster. An overhaul to the unit will be needed next offseason.

Our 32nd-ranked offensive line is anchored by two second-year tackles, **Larry Borom** and **Teven Jenkins**. Their youth provides some hope, but protecting a developing quarterback with such inexperienced linemen is a questionable risk.

Chicago is one of three teams ranked in the bottom five of both defensive unit categories. The Bears ranked 27th in pressure rate generated last season, lost **Khalil Mack,** and did not add a meaningful replacement. With both Mack and **Robert Quinn** on the field, they generated a strong 32.5% pressure rate, but that rate fell to 26.3% when Quinn was on the field without Mack. Expect this unit to take a significant step backward. If rookies **Jaquan Brisker** and **Kyler Gordon** make an immediate impact, it's possible we've underrated Chicago's secondary. There's plenty of talent on the unit, but it's mostly unproven to this point.

Only Lovie Smith ranks worse than Matt Eberflus in our head coach rankings, though that's mostly because Eberflus is an unknown commodity who also hired two rookie coordinators. We just don't have enough information to rank him higher, but with a strong first year, he could make a significant leap in 2023.

#### <u>CHI-4</u>

Negative word about a coach's specific game plan from a player rarely leaks out, but Fields was justified in feeling that way. Fields knew he wouldn't succeed with the game plan. He knew he wouldn't impress in his debut. But taking the nine sacks was probably something Fields never imagined.

Nagy improved elements of the offense after that horrible debut but continued to fail Fields the rest of the season.

Let's start with the pass rate. Nagy made the terrible error that many coaches of young quarterbacks make. They try to "protect" the quarterback by running a lot on first down. Inevitably, this just makes these downs too predictable, defenses limit gains, and then these young quarterbacks are forced into longer yardage situations on third down.

From Week 4 onward (the game after the Week 3 Browns debacle), on first downs in the first three quarters of games, Nagy's Bears called passes only 40.8% of the time. That ranked 31st in the league.

The Bears were the second most run-heavy team on first downs at 59.2% run, which was well above the 50.3% NFL average.

But look at these splits:

#### <u>CHI-5</u>

Fields first down passes: 0.12 EPA/att, 44% success, 8.7 YPA (48 attempts) First down RB-runs: -0.09 EPA/att, 33% success, 4.2 YPC (150 attempts)

Fields EPA/att ranked seventh in the NFL. His YPA ranked fifth. That is, when Nagy allowed him to pass on first down.

The other benefit to first down passes is that if a highly mobile quarterback like Fields doesn't have anywhere to go on the called pass, he's able to scramble. When Fields scrambled on first down, it was significantly better than a running back run

Fields first down scrambles: 0.09 EPA/att, 57% success, 6.1 YPC

You know that saying, "only three things can happen when you pass and two of them are bad" you've heard so often? It's a lie. We never lived in a world where a completion, an incompletion, or an interception are the three options. Sacks were always an option. But now we're in a world where mobile quarterbacks can run.

Here's another error I see far too often with coaches of young quarterbacks. They tell the player that he needs to learn his progressions, stay in the pocket, and not drop his head to run the ball when pressure comes. That's fine and all, but not every quarterback is going to be Tom Brady or Peyton Manning. It's not a bad thing for a young quarterback to turn a negative play (one where his first couple of reads are not there and pressure is coming) into a positive one (if he sees a running lane).

Let's take a step back. Look at rushing efficiency in 2021 by position on all downs, running backs vs. quarterbacks:

RBs: -0.11 EPA/att, 3.9 YPC, 38% success

QBs: 0.21 EPA/att, 5.6 YPC, 57% success (excludes kneel downs)

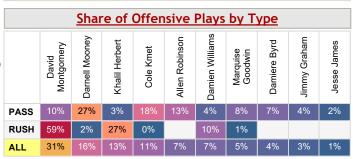
#### (cont'd - see CHI-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

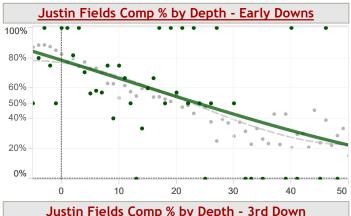


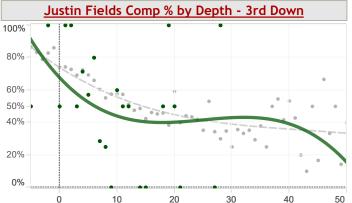


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>											
(		Being Blown Out (14+)	Blown Out Down Big One Score		Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)						
	David Montgomery	12%	15%	57%	4%	13%						
	Darnell Mooney		17%	67%		17%						
I	Khalil Herbert	18%	9%	63%	9%	1%						
RUSH	Cole Kmet			100%								
œ	Damien Williams	8%	15%	53%	23%	3%						
	Marquise Goodwin		50%	50%								
	Total	13%	13%	59%	7%	8%						
	David Montgomery	27%	22%	47%	2%	2%						
	Darnell Mooney	11%	14%	61%	3%	10%						
	Khalil Herbert	50%	25%	25%								
	Cole Kmet	23%	15%	54%	1%	8%						
'n	Allen Robinson	15%	23%	44%	5%	14%						
PASS	Damien Williams	17%	17%	48%	9%	9%						
_	Marquise Goodwin	13%	13%	63%	8%	5%						
	Damiere Byrd	34%	18%	42%	3%	3%						
	Jimmy Graham	35%	17%	43%		4%						
	Jesse James	25%		63%		13%						
	Total	21%	17%	52%	3%	7%						







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

#### 2021 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]	0-2 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	40%, -0.21 (443)	45%, -0.06 (107)	53%, 0.17 (30)	20%, -0.24 (5)	17%, -0.78 (6)	50%, -0.87 (2)			41%, -0.18 (596)
RUSH	53%, 0.03 (257)	46%, -0.06 (149)	32%, -0.33 (34)	64%, 0.13 (11)	44%, 0.21 (9)		0%, -0.48 (2)	0%, -0.04 (1)	49%, -0.02 (464)
All	45%, -0.12 (700)	45%, -0.06 (256)	42%, -0.09 (64)	50%, 0.02 (16)	33%, -0.19 (15)	50%, -0.87 (2)	0%, -0.48 (2)	0%, -0.04 (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						
WR	Darnell Mooney	45% (103) 7.0, -0.15	55% (29) 10.0, 0.20	0% (1) 0.0, -1.35	0% (1) 0.0, -0.65	46% (134) 7.6, -0.09						
	Allen Robinson	47% (55) 5.7, 0.07	43% (7) 10.7, -0.20	0% (1) 5.0, -0.48	100% (1) 11.0, 2.17	47% (64) 6.3, 0.06						
	Damiere Byrd	65% (31) 9.2, 0.24	40% (5) 9.0, -0.02	0% (1) 0.0, -0.55	0% (1) 0.0, -0.86	58% (38) 8.7, 0.16						
TE	Cole Kmet	47% (72) 6.8, -0.01	67% (15) 7.5, 0.19			51% (87) 7.0, 0.02						
RB	David Mont gomery	43% (35) 5.7, -0.03	45% (11) 6.1, 0.21	0% (1) 11.0, -0.33		43% (47) 5.9, 0.02						
	Damien Williams	28% (18) 3.4, -0.35	50% (2) 12.5, 1.32		0% (2) -1.0, -0.92	27% (22) 3.9, -0.25						

<b>Rushing Success</b>	by Top-4 Personnel Groupings
	(Leaderboard)

		•			
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Montgomer y David	49% (110) 3.5, -0.10	48% (79) 3.9, -0.02	60% (5) 6.6, 0.52	0% (1) 2.0, -0.35	49% (195) 3.7, -0.05
Herbert Khalil	53% (62) 4.8, 0.06	50% (32) 3.5, -0.10	100% (1) 9.0, 0.57		53% (95) 4.4, 0.01
Fields Justin	56% (41) 7.1, 0.28	43% (21) 5.0, -0.02			52% (62) 6.4, 0.18
Williams Damien	62% (21) 4.2, 0.11	25% (8) 3.1, -0.22	60% (5) 3.8, -0.34		53% (34) 3.9, -0.03
Dalton Andy	70% (10) 6.4, -0.02	20% (5) 1.0, -0.47			53% (15) 4.6, -0.17

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		•	Throw Types		QB Drop Types		QB State at Pass			Run Types																		
Coverage Scheme		Route		Level 1	49% (370)	3 Step	48% (194) 6.5, 0.00	Planted		% (409) 2, 0.04	Outside Zone	51% (158) 4.5, -0.03																	
		Curl	54% (111) 6.4, 0.16		6.1, 0.01		,	Moving		0% (74)																			
Zone	38% (405) 6.9, -0.12		45% (56)	Level 2	44% (112) 8.8, 0.02	0/1 Step	44% (116) 5.5, -0.10 Shuff	Shuffling	28	4, 0.12 3% (54)	Inside Zone	57% (79) 3.5, 0.11																	
	Out	6.0, -0.18		0.0, 0.02	5 Sten	44% (99)		Ontaining	4.3, -0.41		Stretch	36% (53)																	
	1	46% (28)	Level 3	21% (24)	О ОКСР	8.2, 0.18	Play Action		Otroton	4.1, -0.15																			
Man	41% (103) 6.8, -0.06	Slant	Slant 6.3, -0.13		10.3, -0.10	7 Step	42% (48) 8.70.06		Play Action	No P/A	Power	33% (15) 2.4, -0.36																	
	,	59% (17	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	59% (17)	Shovel	69% (13)	·	8.7, -0.06	Under Center	42% (81) 7.8, -0.18	19% (21) 3.4, -0.46		
	38% (31)	Dig	8.4, 0.08		9.6, 0.61	Designed Rollout Right	75% (20) 8.8, 0.39	Shotgun	53% (49) 8.3, -0.15	40% (447) 6.5, -0.18	Pitch	27% (11) 2.2, -0.32																	
Other	4.0, -0.42	Drag	Drag 50% (14) 4.2, -0.60 Sidea		50% (2) 10.5, 0.13	Basic Screen	30% (10) 6.2, -0.59	ALL	46% (130) 8.0, -0.17	40% (468) 6.4, -0.19	Lead	0% (1) 2.0, -0.40																	

#### <u>CHI-6</u>

Quarterback runs, of which there were 1,772 last year, were far more efficient than running back runs. It's not even close.

There is not a single more efficient run in the NFL than a quarterback scramble when he sees an open running lane.

For all QBs on the season, all downs, when they scramble because of an open runnning lane, they averaged 0.68 EPA/att, 9.1 YPC, and 76% success.

Scrambles have higher efficiency than quarterback designed runs, sneaks, all other QB runs, and every running back run imaginable.

The efficiency these runs deliver is far better than an average pass.

The fact we still coach young, mobile quarterbacks to avoid these runs is foolishness. Think about the math involved. If you're never taking these runs, defenses play differently. They may drop more defenders into coverage when you have a designed pass play called, and it's harder for the young quarterback to have success when throwing. But if quarterbacks work their initial progressions, see an open running lane, and take it, defenses will begin to adjust. They'll keep an extra defender in to spy and then the math in the passing game is far more favorable. That, at the end of the day, is what these coaches want their young quarterbacks to do on called pass plays – to throw the ball. But when the quarterback run game can be a threat, passing can be more efficient.

Back to the Bears.

On first down passes or first down scrambles, Fields was tremendous. But Nagy called the second-highest rate of running back runs in the NFL, and these runs were terrible.

Compare Fields's passing on first down vs. second and third downs to see why it might be more desirable to let a young quarterback pass the ball when the defense doesn't know what's coming, rather than in a more obvious passing situation (quarters 1-3):





First down passes: 0.12 EPA/att, 44% success, 11.3 YPA (48 att) Second/third down passes: -0.41 EPA/att, 36% success, 8.9 YPA (111 att)

Another thing the Bears needed to do more of but did not was to pass from 12 personnel to help increase efficiency.

This was something that a quarterback like Baker Mayfield benefitted from as a rookie as well. When the defense sees a heavier personnel grouping, they often think run first, helping to improve passing efficiency. Look at Fields's splits on early downs in the first three quarters:

11 personnel passes: -0.27 EPA/att, 37% success, 5.9 YPA (66 att) 12 personnel passes: 0.17 EPA/att, 56% success, 14.0 YPA (34 att)

Certainly, you aren't using 12 personnel often on third down, but there wasn't a reason why the Bears couldn't pass more from it on early downs.

In fact, what the Bears chose to do when using 12 personnel was to run the ball at a 56.2% rate, which was 13th most in the NFL. It was a horrible decision as RB runs from 12 on these early downs were horrible:

12 personnel passes: 0.17 EPA/att, 56% success, 14.0 YPA (34 att) 12 personnel RB-runs: -0.20 EPA/att, 35% success, 3.5 YPC (74 att)

These 12 personnel running back runs ranked 20th in EPA/att and 28th in YPC. But the Bears were the 13th most run-heavy team when in 12 personnel.

And compare these runs to 11 personnel: -0.09 EPA/att, 40% success, 4.6 YPC

Lastly, Nagy also needed to use more play-action. Fields had massive splits from play-action, yet Nagy used it at the 18th highest rate in the NFL on early downs in the first three quarters of games. Fields splits:

With play-action: 0.01 EPA/att, 49% success, 9.8 YPA (58 dropbacks) Without play action: -0.16 EPA/att, 36% success, 7.1 YPA (78 dropbacks)

What could Nagy have done to help Fields more?

- Nagy needed to pass more on first down
- Use more play-action
- Encourage more Fields runs when open running lanes presented themselves
- Pass more and run less from 12
- Run more from 11 if down/distance allows for it (rather than running from 12)

He should have known most of this from 2020

(cont'd - see CHI-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Chicago Bears 2022 Draft Class

Former GM Ryan Pace put the Bears in a bad spot entering this draft with limited resources, but his replacement, Ryan Poles, was aggressive in trading down to acquire more assets and ended up with 11 selections.

**Kyler Gordon** (second round) will likely start immediately at outside cornerback. His experience in Washington's zone-heavy coverage scheme should allow for a smooth transition into Matt Eberflus's defense. Gordon's strength is his ability to locate and play the ball in coverage, as he generated a ball-hawk rate 67% above expected last season based on route-adjusted data.

Gordon will be joined in the secondary by **Jaquan Brisker** (second round), who will also likely start as a rookie. Brisker primarily played in the box in 2021 at Penn State, but spent his early years in the deep secondary and will likely shift back to that role in Eberflus's defense which used two-high looks 45% of the time last year in Indianapolis.

**Velus Jones Jr.** (third round) will immediately compete for reps due to the Bears' unimpressive depth chart at receiver. Jones's strength is his ability to produce after the catch, as he generated 30% more yards after the catch than expected based on route-adjusted data in 2021.

On Day 3, the Bears added four offensive linemen. None of the rookie linemen are expected to compete for starting roles and it's possible some don't even make the roster — but that's why Poles stocked up on Day 3 selections. The Bears desperately needed quality depth, and more selections increase the chances some options emerge in training camp.

**Dominique Robinson** (fifth round) may have the most upside among Chicago's Day 3 crew and could contribute immediately as a pass-rusher in sub-packages. Robinson generated a 15% pressure rate last season at Miami (OH) and posted strong testing numbers at the combine.

Trestan Ebner (sixth round) could compete for snaps out in the backfield, specifically on passing downs. Ebner had over 1,500 receiving yards on 160 targets during his career at Baylor. The Bears also landed a new punter, Trenton Gill (seventh round), who will start immediately. Unlike some overaggressive front offices, Poles was wise to wait until his final selection to address his special teams needs. On punts inside his own 40-yard line, Gill averaged 49.6 yards per punt, which ranked ninth in the nation. His big leg should play well in Chicago. Although this draft class won't dramatically alter Chicago's immediate future, Poles took a smart approach to the rebuilding process by aggressively trading back to load up on Day 3 selections.

The Bears likely landed a couple of immediate starters in Brisker and Gordon, but Poles's intention heading into this draft was clearly to overhaul the back end of the roster. The added depth should help improve the team's consistency, and the size of this class increases the odds Chicago landed a couple steals on Day 3. It appears as though Poles is taking a smart, patient approach to rebuilding this franchise. The turnaround won't be fast, but this class was an indication the team is following a process which has been proven to work.

#### C

#### Chicago Bears 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

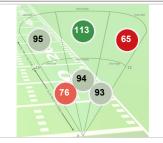
Between **Justin Fields**, **Andy Dalton**, and **Nick Foles**, Chicago fielded one of the worst passing games in the NFL in 2021, closing the year 30th in expected points added via their passing offense (-50.0 EPA), ranking 27th in completion rate (61.3%), 29th in touchdown rate (3.0%), 32nd in interception rate (3.7%), 24th in yards per attempt (6.7 Y/A), and 20th in yards per completion (10.9 yards). They also took a league-high 58 sacks on top of things. Justin Fields had a brutal start when he finally got to take over the starter in Chicago. His first five starts were as bad as you could draw up, completing 57.8% of his passes for 6.4 Y/A with two touchdown passes and five interceptions. It looked as if Fields was dead in the water, then he climbed up to competency over his final five starts completing 60.4% of his passes for 7.6 Y/A with five touchdowns. With Matt Nagy ousted and turning the offense over to Luke Getsy, Chicago has work to do with a limited roster.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Justin Fields	159	268	59%	1,870	7.0	7	10	36	74	42
Andy Dalton	149	235	63%	1,515	6.4	8	9	18	77	40
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

2021 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 %
Justin Fields	38%	45%	28	10.0%	6	2.0%	7.4	4.4		
Andy Dalton	43%	46%	11	5.0%	5	2.0%	5.1	5.0		
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3		

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

#### Justin Fields Rating Early Downs



Interception Rates by Down											
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total						
1 & 2		0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	6.3%						
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	0.0%	4.4%						
6 - 9		0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	3.3%						
10 - 14	1.0%	5.9%	5.3%	50.0%	3.3%						
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%						
Total	0.9%	2.0%	7.0%	11.1%	3.3%						

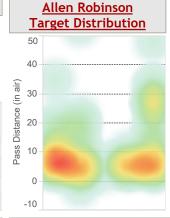
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis								
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk			
Justin Fields	8.7	9.0	-0.1	71%	34			
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%				

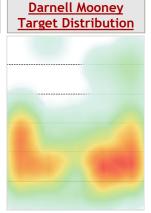
	Air Yds vs YAC								
d	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	63%	37%	1						
	53%	47%							

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Bears were at the bottom of the league here, ranking 27th in success rate targeting their wide receivers (47%) and 28th when targeting tight ends (49%). This unit is severely lacking in terms of talent. After **Darnell Mooney**, it is borderline malpractice to field a receiving unit as talent starved as this one when attempting to groom a young quarterback who already had struggles as a rookie. After a 61-631-4 season as a rookie on 98 targets, Mooney caught 81-of-140 targets. **Cole Kmet** took steps forward in his second season at age 22. Additions this offseason have been **Byron Pringle**, **Equanimeous St. Brown**, **Velus Jones**, **Tajae Sharpe**, and **Dante Pettis**.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Darnell Mooney	140	58%	7.5	67.4	46%	109	94	19	118	4
Cole Kmet	93	65%	6.6	74.3	48%	95	131	113	75	0
Allen Robinson	66	58%	6.2	55.7	47%	107	106	92	34	1
David Montgomery	51	82%	5.9	83.1	43%	124	101	139	70	0





#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The most respectable element of the Chicago offense in 2021 was that they closed the year 12th in expected points added via their rushing offense (18.6 points) while ranking 14th in rushing yardage (2,018 yards). **David Montgomery** has given the organization three consecutive seasons with over 1,000 yards from scrimmage with at least seven touchdowns in each of those years. He was second among all backs in snap share per game (74.6%) while handling 81.2% of the backfield touches in his games played. A new coaching staff may create more balance with **Khalil Herbert**. Herbert showed that he was capable of handling a heavy workload as a rookie, handling 76.9% of the backfield touches from Weeks 5-8 with Montgomery banged up.

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	225	3.8	47%	66	52	42	45	46%	66	7
Khalil Herbert	103	4.2	50%	42	54	29	50	47%	61	2
Justin Fields	72	5.8	49%	54	82	53	53	49%	47	2

#### Yards per Carry by Direction





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Is there any hope for this passing game?

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 had a top-12 scoring fantasy guarterback for fantasy was Erik Kramer back in 1995.

**Justin Fields** had a brutal start when he finally got to take over the starter in Chicago. His first five starts were as bad as you could draw up as Fields was the QB28 or lower in four of those games (with a high of QB18), completing 57.8% of his passes for 6.4 Y/A with two touchdown passes and five interceptions. It looked as if Fields was dead in the water, then he climbed up to competency over his final five starts completing 60.4% of his passes for 7.6 Y/A with five touchdowns.

While that still leaves a ton to be desired as a passer, Fields getting more comfortable also led to more rushing and as a byproduct, fantasy points.

Fields was a QB1 scorer in four of those final five games, with the one game outside of the top-12 scorers coming in Week 11 when he left the game at halftime. Fields rushed for 56 yards per game over that stretch. Fields also pushed the football. His 7.1 air yards per completion were tops in the league when he did complete passes. Chicago still has questionable talent for Fields to work with, but is this situation really any worse than it was when Fields was registering those viable scoring weeks on the strength of rushing? With Matt Nagy gone, Fields still possesses a trump card to be a floor-based QB2 with upside.

Not everything went poorly for the Bears last season as **Darnell Mooney** was one of the bright spots. After a 61-631-4 season as a rookie on 98 targets, Mooney caught 81-of-140 targets for 1,055 yards and four touchdowns this past season and closed as the WR31 in points per game for fantasy. Mooney has limitations in becoming a full-fledged alpha (he was dead last in contested catch rate among qualifying receivers in 2021), but there's an easy path to seeing Mooney have substantial target volume. In the five games that **Allen Robinson** missed last season, Mooney caught five passes in all of those games while receiving 25.9% of the team targets.

Despite a TE24 finish in points per game, **Cole Kmet** took a step forward across the board in his second season at age 22. While the overall production was not scintillating and he failed to score a touchdown, being so young and jumping to a full-time player should still be considered a positive for a tight end selected in the second round the year prior. Now, the ghost of **Jimmy Graham** (who matched Kmet with six end zone targets) will be gone. Kmet is one of the better dart throws in the TE2 range based on career arc and target opportunity, but also is best suited for PPR formats with limited touchdown potential.

С	Chicago Bears Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel							ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	D.	50
1-1 [3WR]	13 plays (4%) Success: 38%	246 plays (68%) Success: 48%	100 plays (28%) Success: 39%	4 plays (1%) Success: 50%	363 plays (100%) Success: 45%		% Rk		40-
	EPA: -0.57	EPA: 0.07	EPA: 0.15	EPA: 1.18	EPA: 0.08	Base	30%	7	
1-2 [2WR]	29 plays (40%) Success: 62%	39 plays (54%) Success: 46%	4 plays (6%) Success: 25%		72 plays (100%) Success: 51%	Nickel	54%	23	30 -
	EPA: 0.15	EPA: -0.01	EPA: -1.17		EPA: -0.01	Dime+	16%	15	
2-1 [2WR]	26 plays (60%) Success: 35% EPA: -0.39	16 plays <i>(37%)</i> Success: 31% EPA: -0.37	1 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.61		43 plays (100%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.39	Rush 3	4%	13	20 –
					8 plays (100%)	Rush 4	72%	14	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	5 plays <i>(63%)</i> Success: 20% EPA: -0.51	2 plays <i>(25%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.65	1 plays <i>(13%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.71		Success: 13% EPA: -0.57	Rush 5	20%	15	10-
	73 plays (15%)	303 plays (62%)	106 plays (22%)	4 plays (1%)	486 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	5%	14	0
Grand Total	Success: 45% EPA: -0.22	Success: 47% EPA: 0.03	Success: 38% EPA: 0.09	Success: 50% EPA: 1.18	Success: 44% EPA: 0.02	Blitz%	25%	16	-10

#### **Defensive Outlook**

The Bears have lost a few mainstays on the defensive line. **Eddie Goldman**, **Akiem Hicks**, and **Bilal Nichols** are gone. Chicago intended to sign **Larry Ogunjobi** to a hefty deal in free agency, but that fell through after a failed physical. **Justin Jones** was Chicago's next move as the Bears brought the veteran lineman on a two-year deal. Jones had a career-high three sacks and five quarterback hits in 2021 but his biggest impact will come against the run. Last season, **Angelo Blackson** came in as a veteran free agent and played 55% of the defensive snaps. Blackson had nine quarterback hits last season but doesn't bring a high pressure rate at the position. This group is mostly made of big run-stuffing linemen. That includes 338-pound 2021 seventh-round pick **Khyiris Tonga**, who played 20% of the defensive snaps.

Robert Quinn ranked second among edge rushers in Pass Rush Win Rate last season. He's typically been the type of player who fairs well by that metric with early wins. He ranked 24th overall in pressure rate among edge rushers, per SIS, which is still great for the 31-year-old. He signed a massive five-year deal with the Bears in 2020, but there is no guaranteed salary remaining starting in 2022. With Khalil Mack in and out of the lineup last season, 2020 fifth-round pick Trevis Gipson got more run as a starter. He ranked 44th among edge rushers in pressure rate and was an effective run defender with seven tackles for loss. Most impressive were his five forced fumbles.

Roquan Smith has been a constant on the second level of the Chicago defense. He played 95% of the snaps in 2021 and made plays all over. Smith was 24th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap and added 12 tackles for loss. Smith is playing 2022 on his fifth-year option. The rest of the linebacker room is pretty much a blank slate, though that may be a good thing. Alec Ogletree played surprisingly well in his one season in Chicago, but he's a free agent and it's smart to not double down on what to this point looks like an outlier season. The Bears also moved on from Danny Trevethan.

Nicholas Morrow comes over from the Raiders. He missed all of 2021 with an ankle injury, but has been a good coverage linebacker when he's on the field.

CB **Jaylon Johnson** has been impressive stepping up as a second-round pick in 2020 — though he might have been slightly overextended as the top corner last season. He ranked 73rd among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season. **Kindle Vildor** was around the same spot, 77th among those corners. Vildor is a 2020 fifth-round pick who played 78% of the defensive snaps in 2021. The most impressive defensive back last season might have been **Thomas Graham Jr.**, who was a rookie sixth-round pick and only got into four games. He saw only seven targets, but on those plays he allowed only two completions and had four passes defensed. He'll get more playing time in 2022. Second-round pick **Kyler Gordon** will likely slide in as an outside starter, giving this cornerback group another young player with upside. **Eddie Jackson** wasn't as impactful as he's been in previous seasons with so much of the responsibility put on him in the secondary. Second-round pick **Jaquan Brisker** was a versatile safety at Penn State.

Play Tendencies						
All Pass %	52%					
All Pass Rk	31					
All Rush %	48%					
All Rush Rk	2					
1 Score Pass %	51%					
1 Score Pass Rk	30					
2020 1 Score Pass %	57%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	18					
2021 Pass Increase %	-6%					
Pass Increase Rk	29					
1 Score Rush %	49%					
1 Score Rush Rk	3					
Up Pass %	53%					
Up Pass Rk	23					
Up Rush %	47%					
Up Rush Rk	10					
Down Pass %	53%					
Down Pass Rk	32					
Down Rush %	47%					
Down Rush Rk	1					

<u>D</u>	<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>								
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %				
1st	Short (1-3)	8	0%	100%	63%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	9	0%	100%	33%				
	Long (8-10)	314	41%	59%	47%				
	XL (11+)	9	44%	56%	33%				
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	36	31%	69%	72%				
	Med (4-7)	82	52%	48%	60%				
	Long (8-10)	102	55%	45%	44%				
	XL (11+)	43	67%	33%	21%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	40	45%	55%	58%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	48	83%	17%	35%				
	Long (8-10)	31	90%	10%	29%				
	XL (11+)	33	94%	6%	15%				
4th	Short (1-3)	11	45%	55%	64%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	5	100%	0%	0%				
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	100%				

Shotgun %							
Shotgun Under Center							
66% 34%							
NFL	NFL AVG						
65% 35%							
Efficiency							



#### Short Yardage Intelligence:

0070	0070					
Effic	iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Run	
EPA/ pass:	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
-0.11	-0.20	70%	17	71%	81%	73%
EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass	
-0.07 uccess:	-0.13 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
40%	35%	30%	15	29%	67%	46%

	Most Frequent Play									
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %					
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	David Montgomery	5	80%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	David Montgomery	4	50%					
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	David Montgomery	103	45%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Darnell Mooney	2	0%					
		RUSH	David Montgomery	2	0%					
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	David Montgomery	17	76%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	David Montgomery	21	57%					
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	David Montgomery	20	40%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Darnell Mooney	7	29%					
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	David Montgomery	12	50%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Darnell Mooney	10	40%					
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Darnell Mooney	5	20%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cole Kmet	9	11%					

<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: 36%	Success: 50%	Success: 39%							
	YPA: 5.4, EPA: -0.42	YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.20	YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.38							
	Rtg: 50.8	Rtg: 85.6	Rtg: 57.3							
	[Att: 110 - Rate: 18.4%]	[Att: 28 - Rate: 4.7%]	[Att: 138 - Rate: 23.1%]							
Yes	Success: 41%	Success: 45%	Success: 42%							
	YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.12	YPA: 8.2, EPA: -0.16	YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.13							
	Rtg: 81.5	Rtg: 86.0	Rtg: 82.5							
	[Att: 358 - Rate: 59.9%]	[Att: 102 - Rate: 17.1%]	[Att: 460 - Rate: 76.9%]							
Total	Success: 40%	Success: 46%	Success: 41%							
	YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.19	YPA: 8.0, EPA: -0.17	YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.19							
	Rtg: 74.7	Rtg: 85.9	Rtg: 77.0							
	[Att: 468 - Rate: 78.3%]	[Att: 130 - Rate: 21.7%]	[Att: 598 - Rate: 100.0%]							

	Weekly Snaps Played										
Wk	Орр	Score	Darnell Mooney	Cole Kmet	David Montgomery	Damiere Byrd	Allen Robinson	Marquise Goodwin	Khalil Herbert		
1	LA	L 34-14	69	51	41	36	63	26	1		
2	CIN	W 20-17	58	47	52	27	52	31			
3	CLE	L 26-6	44	43	37	34	40	10	2		
4	DET	W 24-14	41	57	36	16	40	29	7		
5	LV	W 20-9	49	51		28	53	24	34		
6	GB	L 24-14	57	48		15	56	29	54		
7	TB	L 38-3	57	59		20	62	35	51		
8	SF	L 33-22	54	63		26	56	30	59		
9	PIT	L 29-27	50	48	53	24	48	32	10		
11	BAL	L 16-13	54	53	56	37		42	7		
12	DET	W 16-14	61	60	59	53		32	10		
13	ARI	L 33-22	72	55	53	65			22		
14	GB	L 45-30	57	46	52	36	48		5		
15	MIN	L 17-9	70	69	51	66			17		
16	SEA	W 25-24	63	71	58	62		23	8		
17	NYG	W 29-3	56	53	45	29	46	24	9		
18	MIN	L 31-17	74	61	49	46	53	26	17		
	Grand	Total	986	935	642	620	617	393	313		

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	65%	61%	45%
1-2 [2WR]	24%	21%	45%
1-3 [1WR]	6%	4%	42%
Group	ing Te	enden	<u>cies</u>
Group Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Cies Run Succ. %
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %

Red Zone 1	Targets	Leade	rboard	
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Cole Kmet	14	1	3	10
Darnell Mooney	11	3	3	5
David Montgomery	8	1	1	6
Jimmy Graham	8	1	3	4
Allen Robinson	6		1	5
Damiere Byrd	4	1		3
Marquise Goodwin	3	1	1	1

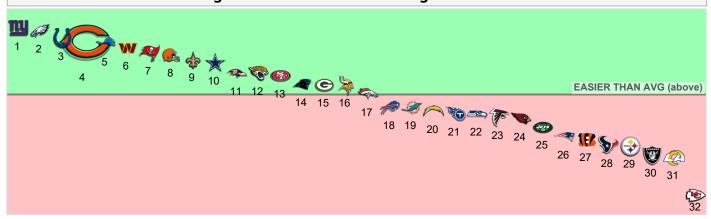
Red Zone F	Rushes	Leade	rboar	<u>d</u>
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
David Montgomery	43	13	11	19
Khalil Herbert	12	3	2	7
Justin Fields	10	1	3	6
Andy Dalton	8	2	3	3
Darnell Mooney	3		1	2

Early [	Down Targ	<u>et Rate</u>
RB	TE	WR
19%	24%	57%
23%	21%	56%
23%	NFL AVG	0070
2070		
2070	NFL AVG	
Overall	NFL AVG	ıccess %
Overall RB	NFL AVG Target Su	ICCESS % WR





# 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



With a rookie quarterback, it was even more imperative to get this right., but he didn't.

Now it's Matt Eberfus's & Luke Getsy's turn to work with Fields. We usually see jumps in quarterback production in Year 2. I don't love that it's with a new staff (so technically Year 1 and the coaches are still learning Fields while he's learning their system). It remains to be seen how that will impact things.

I still believe we haven't come close to seeing what Justin Fields can deliver in the NFL. If this new offense incorporates those elements above, I think Fields will have a substantially higher ceiling. We would have a different opinion of him than what currently is the national option.

But here's the problem: this offense isn't really constructed to showcase Fields.

Many teams have a rookie quarterback and they build around him offensively: try to surround him with a strong line, skilled receivers, etc. But it seems like Eberfus (a former defensive coordinator) came in, saw this Bears defense, and decided to start building there.

Their largest free agent signing averages just \$6 million per year but it's a defensive tackle (Justin Jones).

Their first two draft picks were both defensive backs: Cornerback Kyler Gordon and safety Jaquan Brisker.

While the Bears needed help at those positions, they were already very weak at multiple positions offensively and lost wide receiver **Allen Robinson** to the Rams in free agency. The Bears' top offensive free agent signing was receiver **Byron Pringle**, who doesn't evoke a lot of confidence.

We should see the Bears with a cheap quarterback room due to Fields's cheap Year 2 salary, 27th out of 32 in 2022 cap hit.

But the Bears have the 31st most expensive OL room, the 30th most expensive wide receiver room, and the 27th most expensive tight end room.

That should tell you one of two things: either the prior regime was great at drafting and has a lot of cheap stud starters on rookie deals at these positions... Or the team has a lot of cheap players (some of which are rookies) and are unlikely to be very good this year.

After watching the prior regime, I'll believe the latter. It's going to be hard to support Fields with this offensive line, these wide receivers, and these tight ends. It's far from ideal. But like it or not, it's got to happen. So that's on the new coaching staff to put Fields in as many good positions over the course of a game to see as much success as he can.

01.	Games	W	Halftime	Lead

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

nmes w Halftime Lead	8	02. Avg Halftime L
----------------------	---	--------------------

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)						
36. PSM YPA	8.5					
37. PSM Target Depth	7.9					
38. Non-PSM YPA	6.4					
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	8.0					
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	51%					
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	49%					
42. PSM EPA/att	0.03					

-1.0

-0.01

03. Wins

# Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	39%
45. PA Success Rate	50%
46. PA YPA	8.4
47. PA Sack Rate	10.2%
48. PA EPA/att	0.02
49. PA Target Depth	10.1
50. Non-PA Success Rate	45%
51. Non-PA YPA	6.8
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	7.3%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0
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	11%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
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	48%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.5
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	38%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	50%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.2

# Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	10	defFUM	20
Net FROE	1.6	defFUM Rcvrd	11
offFUM	24	deirow Kcvid	11
offFUM Rcvrd	15	defFR Rk	15
offFR%	62.5%	defFR%	45.0%
offFR Rk	12		0.0
offFROE	0.9	defFROE	0.6
offFROE Rk	9	defFROE Rk	15
OHFROE KK	9		

# Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	-1.66	Opp Att	30
Net Over Expectation Rank	23	Opp Makes	27
Own Att	30		
Own Makes	26	Opp FG %	90%
Own FG %	87%	Opp Expected Makes	24.73
Own Expected Makes	25.39	Opp Make Over Expectation	2.27
Own Make over Expectation	0.61	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	7
Own Make over Expectation Rk	17		,
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	2.59	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-1.18
	2.39	0000 O DI-	00
2020 Own Rk	/	2020 Opp Rk	29

# Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

35. Total Defensive Efficiency

	Justin Fields	Andy Dalton
CAY	7.1	4.9
CAY Rk	1	32
2020 CAY Rk		30
AYTS Rk	3	32
2020 AYTS Rk		31
AGG Rk	10	32
2020 AGG Rk		22
COMP%	58.9	63.1
xCOMP%	61.9	67
xCOMP% Rk	36	5
2020 xCOMP% Rk		21
CPOE%	-3	-3.9
CPOE Rk	28	32
2020 CPOE Rk		23

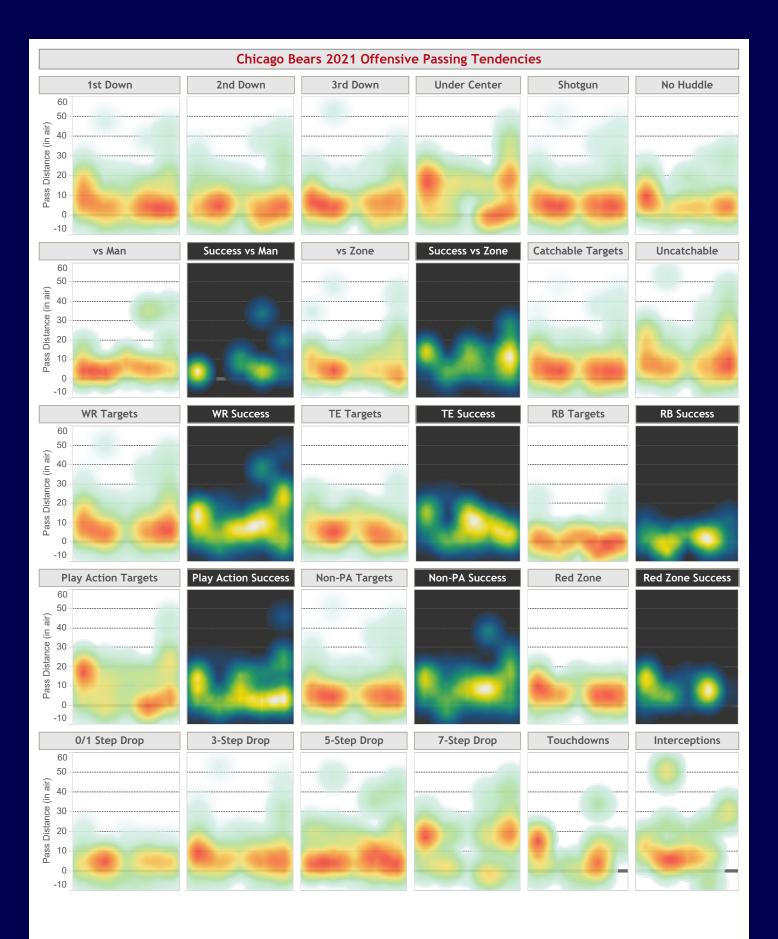
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

# **OB Pressure**

QD I	Coourc	
	Justin Fields	Andy Dalton
Pressure %	42.8	28.8
Pressure Rk	3	31
Sack %	10.2	6.7
Sack Rk	1	13
Pressure Accuracy %	57.7	61.5
Pressure Accuracy Rk	35	26
Rating when Pressured	46.2	55.2
Pressured Rating Rk	36	31
Clean Accuracy %	70.9	74.7
Clean Accuracy Rk	37	34
Rating when Clean	86.1	82.7
Clean Rating Rk	32	35
Time to Throw	2.91	2.64
Time to Throw Rk	6	33

# **Offensive Metrics**

Officialite A	ic ci ics
EPA/Pass	-0.19
EPA/Pass Rk	30
EPA/Rush	-0.04
EPA/Rush Rk	15
On-Target Catch %	89.6%
On-Target Catch Rk	19
Drop%	5.0%
Drop Rk	9
YAC/Att	2.3
YAC/Att Rk	14
Rush Broken Tackle %	13.9%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	10
Rush 1st Down %	24.9%
Rush 1st Down Rk	16



# Bears Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Andy Dalton	0.07 (#3)	-0.19 (#3)	-0.14 (#2)	0.14 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	0.05 (#3)	0.02 (#3)
	Justin Fields	0.12 (#2)	-0.32 (#4)	-0.23 (#4)	0.10 (#3)	-0.12 (#3)	0.08 (#2)	0.00 (#4)
2020	Mitchell Trubisky	0.20 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.14 (#2)	0.07 (#1)	0.24 (#1)	0.22 (#1)
	Nick Foles	-0.06 (#4)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.15 (#3)	0.03 (#4)	-0.15 (#4)	-0.21 (#4)	0.04 (#2)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Nick Foles	(#)	-0.71 (#5)	0.19 (#2)	(#)	(#)	(#)	0.03 (#1)
	Andy Dalton	-0.95 (#3)	-0.41 (#3)	-0.28 (#5)	-0.47 (#4)	-0.37 (#2)	-0.39 (#4)	-0.13 (#3)
	Justin Fields	-1.12 (#4)	-0.66 (#4)	-0.16 (#4)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.74 (#4)	-0.29 (#3)	-0.14 (#4)
2020	Mitchell Trubisky	-0.35 (#1)	-0.22 (#1)	0.24 (#1)	0.16 (#1)	-0.20 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	0.03 (#2)
	Nick Foles	-0.38 (#2)	-0.27 (#2)	0.09 (#3)	-0.23 (#3)	-0.41 (#3)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.32 (#5)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Andy Dalton	75% (#2)	81% (#3)	67% (#1)	27% (#4)	73% (#3)	76% (#2)	77% (#1)	67% (#3)	74% (#3)
	Justin Fields	67% (#4)	71% (#4)	61% (#4)	51% (#2)	60% (#4)	70% (#4)	65% (#4)	56% (#4)	70% (#4)
2020	Mitchell Trubisky	75% (#3)	83% (#2)	67% (#2)	32% (#3)	76% (#1)	75% (#3)	72% (#3)	69% (#1)	77% (#2)
	Nick Foles	78% (#1)	85% (#1)	64% (#3)	57% (#1)	75% (#2)	80% (#1)	74% (#2)	67% (#2)	81% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.07 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)	0.00 (#1)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.54 (#2)	0.24 (#1)
2020	-0.04 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.08 (#1)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.07 (#1)	-0.09 (#1)	-0.09 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass %	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG Range	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
2021	20	32	20	17	31	24	31	15	14	17
2020	22	13	18	12	15	19	27	8	17	8

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	21	12	7	16	22	28	7	1	19
2020	7	15	5	9	14	12	5	1	6

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	12	16	21	15	9	5	17	1	16
2020	32	27	31	29	30	29	30	1	25

# Coaches (Prior Yrs)

**Head Coach**: Zac Taylor (3 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Taylor calls plays (3 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:** Lou Anarumo (3 yrs)

Hard

Easy

# **Cincinnati Bengals**

2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

#2

# **Past Records**

2021: 10-7 2020: 4-12 2019: 6-9-1



# **Key Players Lost**

itey i tayers zess					
Player	New				
Trae Waynes (CB)	TBD				
C.J. Uzomah (TE)	Jets				
Riley Reiff (RT)	TBD				
Trey Hopkins (C)	TBD				
Larry Ogunjobi (IDL)	TBD				
Xavier Su'a-Filo (LG)	TBD				
Darius Phillips (CB)	Raiders				
Vernon Hargreaves (CB)	TBD				
Ricardo Allen (S)	TBD				
Fred Johnson (RG)	Buccaneers				
Jordan Evans (LB)	TBD				
Quinton Spain (LG)	TBD				
Auden Tate (WR)	Falcons				
Zach Kerr (IDL)	TBD				
Wyatt Ray (IDL)	Jaguars				

Trae waynes (CB)	עפו
C.J. Uzomah (TE)	Jets
Riley Reiff (RT)	TBD
Trey Hopkins (C)	TBD
Larry Ogunjobi (IDL)	TBD
Xavier Su'a-Filo (LG)	TBD
Darius Phillips (CB)	Raiders
Vernon Hargreaves (CB)	TBD
Ricardo Allen (S)	TBD
Fred Johnson (RG)	Buccaneers
Jordan Evans (LB)	TBD
Owinton Spain (LC)	TDD

2022 Cincinnati Bengals Overview It's hard to believe how much can change in one NFL season.

Especially when you don't change your coach and you don't change your quarterback.

Ten years ago, linemakers never set lines on every single game of the season in the summer. Just over five years ago, one Vegas book began doing just that to try and gain attention. It worked. And now, many books post lines for every team and every game during the season in the summer.

I've been sharing the lines with you for every game in this book every year.

Last year at this time, the Cincinnati Bengals were underdogs in 15 games out of 17. 15!

This year the Cincinnati Bengals are underdogs in just three games out of 17. Three!

They went from being favored in only two games to underdogs in only three games. It's one of the biggest reversals I've ever seen.

Moving from a 6.5-win expectation before 2021 to 9.5 wins in 2022 is a big jump, but moving from dogs in 15-of-17 to dogs in only 3-of-17 is insane.

# Games Underdog 3

I love a good underdog story. I love a good swaggy quarterback story. I wrote in last year's book about the Bengals' tough luck, which I'll dig into in a minute. I wrote about their inability to win tight games, the toll it was taking on the team, and the likelihood that Zac Taylor would continue to be their head coach. I outlined the excuses along the way.

# **Key Free Agents/** Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Alex Cappa (RG)	\$8.80
La'el Collins (RT)	\$7
Ted Karras (RG)	\$6
Hayden Hurst (TE)	\$3.5
Thaddeus Moss (TE)	\$0.69

# **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	31	S - Dax Hill (Michigan)
2	60	CB - Cam Taylor-Britt (Nebraska)
3	95	DT - Zachary Carter (Florida)
4	136	OT - Cordell Volson (North Dakota State)
5	166	S - Tycen Anderson (Toledo)
7	252	DE - Jeffrey Gunter (Coastal Carolina)

# Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

# Games

**Favored** 

**Average** 

Line

-2.4

Past	a Current Proj
Forecast 2022 Wins	<b>1F</b> 9.5
2021 Wins	10
Forecast 2021 Wins	6.5
2020 Wins	1 4
2019 Wins	2
2018 Wins	<b>1</b> 6
	1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15





# 2022 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see CIN2)



# **Positional Spending**

Rank 26	Total	2021 Rk
26		
	\$95.34M	20
22	\$12.08M	22
24	\$30.85M	25
3	\$17.22M	5
12	\$27.03M	11
22	\$8.17M	13
5	\$114.48M	3
8	\$54.00M	8
25	\$9.43M	28
8	\$25.52M	2
1	\$25.53M	13
	22 24 3 12 22 5 8 25 8	22 \$12.08M 24 \$30.85M 3 \$17.22M 12 \$27.03M 22 \$8.17M 5 \$114.48M 8 \$54.00M 25 \$9.43M 8 \$25.52M



I wrote:

"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 **Ja'Marr Chase** with the fifth overall pick.

#### But there are no more excuses to be made."

8

13

13

10

15

20

25

The Bengals were ever so close for years, but simply couldn't figure it out.

Prior to 2021, in their last 20 games decided by one-score, they won just two games.

Prior to 2021, in their previous two seasons, the Bengals shockingly held a lead at some point in 24 of 32 games, but only won six.

If that continued, and the Bengals kept losing, Taylor would be done. The Bengals had to improve.

In 2021, the Bengals went 4-5 in one-score games — better than 2-17-1 (11%, worst in the NFL), but still not great.

In 2021, the Bengals went 9-3 when holding a lead at some point in the game — better than 6-17-1 (27%, worst in the NFL).

Turning some of the bad fortune around in these situations was vital to them winning 10 games, winning the AFC North, and going on a memorable postseason run that culminated in a trip to the Super Bowl.

But how did they get there? What did they do from a tactical or execution standpoint to perform better in one-score games? What were they doing to jump out to and then hold onto leads better?

I spent the majority of my Bengals chapter in last year's book writing about the

11

2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics

18

B

14

18 20

B

31

TES.

	152			
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Joe Burrow	53% 8.4 104.0	48% 8.3 102.3	41% 9.5 112.6	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	47%	62%	80%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
CIN	47% 4.1	46% 4.1	50% 3.3	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	53%	38%	20%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

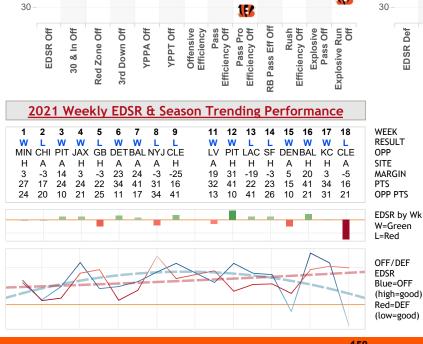
biggest improvement they needed to make: Joe Burrow on first downs. I wrote:

"In 2020, looking only at Joe Burrow's starts, the Bengals were the NFL's worst first down passing offense. First down dropbacks averaged 5.9 YPA, 44% success, and -0.11 EPA/play. No team was worse."

This was perplexing, as Burrow was the best college quarterback since at least 2014 on first downs in YPA, completion rate, TD rate, and INT rate.

I concluded: "Taylor must analyze everything he was doing on first down to see how he can turn Burrow back into the stud that he was at LSU."

												d - see	<u>CIN-3</u>
1		<u>2(</u>	021	Defe	<u>ensi</u>	ve A	dva	nce	d Me	tric	<u>s</u>		
5-													
10 –		1EZ	152		13	13					13		
- 21 Kank	13	10	11	13	10	10	_		15%	13	11		
20 − 25 −	16			16			20	13	17	17		_	13
30 -							20	24				13	22
												26	
	2 Def	ם ת	Def	ם ו	√ Def	r Def	sive	Pass y Def	Pass Pro sincy Def	s Eff Def	Rush y Def	sive Def	Run Def
	EDSR	30 & In Def	Red Zone	Down Def	YPPA Def	YPPT Def	Defensive Efficiency	ency	Pass eincy	RB Pass Eff Def	enc)	Explosive Pass Def	sive
	ш	30	Red	3rd [				Pass Efficiency Def	Pass Pro Efficieincy Def	RB	Rush Efficiency Def		Explosive Run Def
				04.6									



# 2021 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: 10 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 3-4 FG Games Win %: 43% (#17) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 30% (#13)

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

Wins): 40% (#22)

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** +0 TO Margin TO Given 21 INT Given 14 **FUM Given** TO Taken 21 **INT Taken** 13 8 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -13 42 Sacks Sacks Allow 55 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** +44 72 Penalties

**Opponent Penalties** 

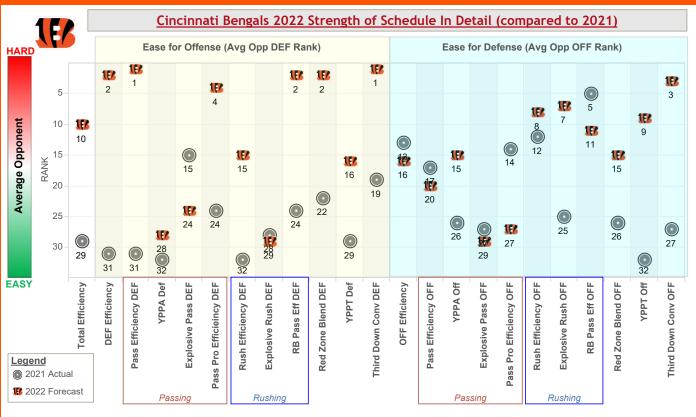
116

8

E

27

E



	2022 vs 2021 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	2	4	3	18	19	11	8					

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







First down production and efficiency is the key to unlocking so many other things for an offense. If you're well ahead of schedule after your first down play, possibilities are endless with what you can do on second, third, and sometimes fourth downs. Importantly, the defense is completely on its heels, unsure of what to expect, because the situation on second-and-short allows for any type of play call.

It was vital that Taylor figure out a way to get Burrow to execute better on first downs. And boy, did he ever. Look at these first down splits in the first three quarters in games:

2020: -0.11 EPA/att (30th), 44% success (26th), 5.9 YPA (34th), 62% comp (33rd), 10th in accuracy 2021: 0.20 EPA/att (third), 49% success (13th), 9.1 YPA (third), 78% comp (first), fourth in accuracy

Burrow's 78% completion rate was first in the NFL since 2000 among 329 quarterbacks who averaged at least 7.0 air yards on at least 100 first down attempts.

Now we're talking.

Now we're seeing the Joe Burrow I studied at LSU who was the best first down passer in college since at least 2014.

So where did this resurgent first down passing attack leave the Bengals on second down?

They averaged the 10th fewest yards-to-go on second down.

Compare that to 2020, where they averaged the ninth-most yards-to-go on second down.

However, it could have been even better. The only reason it wasn't?

The Bengals took the ball out of Burrow's hands far too often on first down last year.

Looking at the 16 games Burrow started (he rested Week 17), the Bengals called pass plays on only 47.7% of first downs. That ranked 23rd in the NFL (10th least). Wow! That was a surprise to me.

The reason it was such a surprise is when Burrow was healthy in 2020 (thru Week 11), the Bengals called pass plays on 56.3% of first downs, which ranked them as the seventh-most pass-heavy offense on first downs.

Looking at the metrics, it made little sense:

2020: Seventh-most pass heavy but 30th in EPA/att, 34th in YPA, 33rd in completion % 2021:23rd most pass heavy but third in EPA/att, third in YPA, first in completion %

Want to know the other teams the Bengals were bunched with in 2021 in the bottom-10 in pass rate? The Jets, Panthers, Texans, Bears, Falcons, and then your run-loving teams of 2021 who had better quarterback play than the aforementioned teams but just wanted to run, like the 49ers, Titans, Eagles, and Seahawks.

It made no sense for Joe Burrow's great first down passing offense to be grouped with these other quarterbacks.

They should have been up in the top-10 like they were in 2020 with teams like the Bills, Chiefs, Chargers, Bucs, and Rams, among others. Teams with franchise quarterbacks who were implicitly trusted.

To be fair, the Bengals weren't terrible when running the ball on first downs compared to the NFL average. But look where they ranked and compared to first down passes:

First down runs: -0.05 EPA/att (sixth), 37% success (ninth), 4.7 YPC (ninth), first downs/rush: 12% (17th) First down passes: 0.20 EPA/att (third), 49% success (13th), 9.1 YPA (third), 1st downs/att: 31% (10th)

If you're top-10 in rushing, mixing it in is fine, but being a top-10 run rate team means you're consistently passing up the production of pass plays (cont'd - see <u>CIN-4</u>)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 prep game to prep 0 3

Strength of Scheduled Game	Timing: Cincinnati	Bengals 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 13 18 31

# Forecast 2022 Wins

# Why Bet the Under

- Joe Burrow is an absolute star in the making; however, it is not likely that he can operate at the same efficiency in 2022. Burrow led the league in CPOE, completion percentage, and yards per attempt and even with an improved offensive line and more time to throw that efficiency will be difficult to sustain. Working against Burrow is the fact the Bengals face the most difficult schedule of passing defenses in 2022 after facing the easiest last year. Burrow can remain elite, but it is unlikely he can reproduce the incredible season he had last
- The Bengals have the highest jump in difficulty of schedule in 2022 playing the seventh hardest strength of schedule after having the third easiest last year.
- Both injury and field goal luck are due for regression in 2022. The Bengals finished with five net field goals over expected, partly due to good fortune as opponents missed 2.9 field goals over expectation, while rookie kicker Evan McPherson made 2.1 field goals over expectation. The Bengals also benefitted from remaining relatively healthy with the seventh-lowest number of adjusted games lost due to injury.

9.5



# Why Bet the Over

- The trio of **Joe Burrow**, **J'Marr Chase**, and **Tee Higgins** combine for under \$20 million of salary cap space. Being able to leverage three incredible rookie contacts the Bengals' front office spent money to address team needs this offseason. The offensive line was upgraded with **La'el Collins**, **Alex Cappa**, and **Ted Karras** as a result of the salary cap advantage of having elite quarterbacks and wide receivers on rookie contracts.
- There is little doubt that the 2021 Bengals overachieved and would be a team to fade as a result of public perception. The betting market accounted for the overachievement of last season. With the improvement in the offensive line and Burrow being at full health from the beginning of the season there is potential that the market is undervaluing the AFC champions.
- Better protection, more time to throw, and an increased willingness to throw the ball away will improve upon the 55 sacks taken in 2021. Burrow averaged a quicker than league average time to throw and was still pressured above league average 33% of dropbacks. If the Bengals can reduce the number of sacks n 2022, the offense will take a giant step forward as they were second in points per drive without a sack.

		Cincinnati Be	ngals Positional	Unit Rankings								
Quarterbacks	uarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach											
8	15	11	1	19	10	15						

Every Bengals unit is ranked higher than a season ago, with five units climbing at least 10 spots.

Joe Burrow's ascension to top-10 quarterback lays a strong foundation for Cincinnati's future. When the Bengals' offensive line protected Burrow for at least 2.5 seconds, he averaged .29 EPA per dropbacks, the league's second-highest rate. With a more complete supporting cast, Burrow has MVP potential.

Joe Mixon remains one of the league's top ball carriers and is still just 26 years old. Though **Samaje Perine** and **Chris Evans** provide decent depth, Mixon averaged over 40 snaps per game and likely remains the workhorse in the backfield.

We were optimistic about the addition of **Ja'Marr Chase** last year, ranking the Bengals' pass-catchers 11th overall, but the unit exceeded those expectations. The Bengals were one of only three teams with three pass-catchers (Chase, **Tee Higgins**, **Tyler Boyd**) to record at least 800 yards and average at least 8.0 yards per target.

The offensive line was a mess last year, but the additions of La'el Collins, Alex Cappa, and Ted Karras should push it toward the league average. If former second-round pick Jackson Carman shows signs of life after a miserable rookie year, perhaps we've even underrated this unit.

When **Trey Hendrickson** was on the field, he accounted for 32% of the team's pressures and 41% of sacks. Although he's a legitimate weapon, there just isn't enough depth to take the front seven seriously as a top-tier unit. Votes for the Bengals' secondary ranged from sixth to 15th. For the unit to reach the high end of that spectrum, Cincinnati needs to be more efficient shutting down the deep passing game. Opponents completed 45.8% of throws 15 or more yards downfield, which ranked 24th.

Zac Taylor climbed 13 spots in our head coach rankings from a season ago. Despite the improvement, there are still some odd trends that raise doubts. For example, when trailing, Cincinnati played at the league's second-slowest pace.

#### CIN-4

(outstanding) for run plays. Leaving 9.1 YPA on the cutting room floor for 4.7 YPC. Leaving 0.20 EPA/play for -0.05 EPA/play.

This is the reason the Bengals had a longer to-go distance on second down than expected in 2021.

If I had to guess one reason for the shift, it was simply to try and protect Joe Burrow. It was to try and minimize the attempts for Burrow when possible. After all, the Bengals' offensive line was highly problematic, and Burrow was coming off a season-ending knee injury from the previous season.

But here's the thing that seems counterintuitive at first, but is completely logical:

You're less likely to be pressured on first down passes and you're less likely to have as many third down attempts if you pass more on first down.

League-wide, this is the case. Last season the NFL averages were:

First down: 25% pressure rate, 4.4% sack rate (24% blitz rate, 62% no blitz/zone defense) Second down: 27% pressure rate, 4.1% sack rate (23% blitz rate, 60% no blitz/zone defense) Third down: 40% pressure rate, 8.4% sack rate (26% blitz rate, 43% no blitz/zone defense)

# CIN-5

First downs see less pressure, fewer blitzes, and less creative defenses.

In terms of Joe Burrow, in 2020:

On first down his pressure rate was 29% and sack rate was 6.7%. On third down his pressure rate was 43% and sack rate was 12.5%.

#### In 2021:

On first down his pressure rate was 26% and sack rate was 6.8%. On third down his pressure rate was 35% and sack rate was 12.9%.

We could just stop here. This is compelling enough. But let's drive the nail home by digging deep into the database for these nuggets:

In 2021, on second downs, if the previous play was...

A pass (complete or incomplete), the Bengals converted a first down on 42% of the time, third in the NFL.

A run, the Bengals converted a first down 32% of the time, 24th in the NFL.

The goal is to skip third downs. The goal is to convert first or second downs into another series. The goal is to not have your quarterback pass the ball on third down. That's when he's going to be subjected to more blitzes, more pressure, and more creative defensive concepts.

Cincinnati cannot rest on its laurels of making it to the Super Bowl. A 10-7 record may not win the AFC North again. The entire goal is to earn a first-round bye. There's only one in the AFC.

Everything must be explored and improved where possible. After analyzing the data, there is simply no logical rationale for the Bengals to run the ball at the 10th highest rate on first downs when Joe Burrow is their quarterback.

(cont'd - see CIN-6)

ALL



# Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



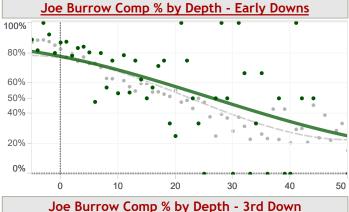
# Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

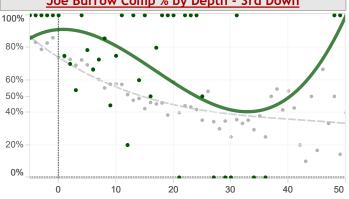


# 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<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+)						
	Joe Mixon	7%	4%	71%	4%	14%						
	Ja'Marr Chase	8%	8%	83%								
I	Tyler Boyd			67%	33%							
RUSH	Samaje Perine	16%	7%	55%	2%	20%						
œ	Chris Evans	11%	16%	26%	5%	42%						
	Trayveon Williams			60%		40%						
	Total	8%	5%	67%	4%	16%						
	Joe Mixon	11%	2%	71%	3%	13%						
	Ja'Marr Chase	12%	3%	71%	6%	8%						
	Tee Higgins	14%	6%	62%	8%	10%						
	Tyler Boyd	10%	5%	74%	7%	4%						
	Samaje Perine	8%	14%	70%	3%	5%						
တ	C.J. Uzomah	16%	3%	68%	5%	8%						
PAS	Chris Evans	18%	12%	59%		12%						
_	Drew Sample	18%	12%	59%		12%						
	Trayveon Williams			100%								
	Mike Thomas	9%	9%	73%		9%						
	Auden Tate			75%		25%						
	Trent Taylor		100%									
	Total	12%	5%	69%	6%	8%						

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Perine Ja'Marr Chase Tee Higgins C.J. Uzomah Drew Sample Trent Taylor Chris Evans Auden Tate Joe Mixon Boyd Trayveon Samaje I Tyler **PASS** RUSH 4% 3%





# **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**

# 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]	0-0 [5WR]	2-1 [2WR]	ALL
PASS	47%, 0.10 (664)	42%, -0.38 (67)	55%, 0.65 (11)	29%, -0.30 (14)		71%, -0.45 (7)	0%, -0.72 (4)	0%, -0.44 (1)	46%, 0.05 (768)
RUSH	52%, 0.03 (326)	43%, -0.13 (166)	32%, -0.54 (19)	50%, 0.03 (2)	0%, -0.83 (10)			0%, -0.69 (2)	47%, -0.06 (525)
All	49%, 0.08 (990)	43%, -0.20 (233)	40%, -0.10 (30)	31%, -0.26 (16)	0%, -0.83 (10)	71%, -0.45 (7)	0%, -0.72 (4)	0%, -0.61 (3)	47%, 0.01 (1,293)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Successful Play Rate

100%

	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
WR	Ja'Marr Chase	59% (133) 13.0, 0.57	25% (16) 1.3, -0.98	40% (5) 7.2, 0.10	55% (154) 11.6, 0.39
	Tee Higgins	59% (127) 8.8, 0.42	89% (9) 28.4, 1.66	0% (1) 0.0, -1.35	61% (137) 10.0, 0.49
	Tyler Boyd	57% (99) 8.9, 0.30	67% (6) 4.2, -0.47	50% (2) 10.5, 0.44	57% (107) 8.7, 0.26
	Auden Tate	100% (2) 16.0, 0.90	0% (1) 0.0, -3.51		67% (3) 10.7, -0.57
TE	Drew Sample	40% (10) 4.3, -0.19	43% (7) 6.0, 0.02		41% (17) 5.0, -0.10
RB	Joe Mixon	45% (58) 6.9, 0.11	57% (7) 2.6, -0.19	100% (1) 4.0, 0.01	47% (66) 6.4, 0.08
	Samaje Perine	35% (34) 6.6, 0.04	0% (3) 3.7, -2.02	0% (1) 7.0, -0.68	32% (38) 6.4, -0.14

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Mixon Joe	50% (231) 3.9, -0.04	47% (120) 4.4, -0.12			49% (351) 4.1, -0.07
Perine Samaje	49% (35) 4.8, -0.07	47% (15) 5.4, 0.03		0% (1) 0.0, -1.26	47% (51) 4.9, -0.06
Burrow Joe	69% (26) 5.5, 0.71	25% (12) 1.0, -0.12	0% (9) -1.1, -0.83		45% (47) 3.1, 0.20
Williams Trayveon	67% (6) 4.0, 0.06	43% (7) 3.3, 0.14			54% (13) 3.6, 0.10
Allen Brandon	0% (2) -0.5, -1.68	33% (3) 0.3, -0.48	0% (1) -1.0, -0.90	0% (1) 0.0, -0.13	14% (7) -0.1, -0.83

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	Pass	ing by	Throw	/ Types	QB Drop	Types	QE	State at	Pass	Run Types		
	verage heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	52% (524)	3 Step	56% (372) 9.0, 0.30	Planted		% (569) 9, 0.29	Outside Zone	51% (113) 4.5, -0.06	
	4007 (00.4)	Curl	52% (75) 6.4, -0.06	Level	7.2, 0.14	0/1 Step	49% (137)	Moving		6% (70) 3, 0.21	Stretch	46% (94)	
Zone	40% (394) 8.3, 0.07	04	64% (56)		67% (88)	o/i otep	6.8, 0.07	Shuffling		'% (55) 1, -0.30	Stretch	4.9, -0.01	
		Out	8.7, 0.61	Level 2	14.9, 0.90	5 Step	49% (89) 11.1, 0.49				Inside	48% (83) 2.8, -0.09	
			60% (50)			·	11.1, 0.49		Play Action	on	Zone	2.6, -0.09	
Man	43% (135) 10.6, 0.21	Slant	10.1, 0.46		38% (53)	Designed Rollout Right	50% (28) 8.5, 0.29		Play Action	No P/A	Pitch	49% (43) 3.7, 0.04	
			71% (41)	Level 3	15.3, 0.57	rtonout rtight		Under Center	49% (92) 10.9, 0.03	18% (17) 1.6, -0.39			
		Dig	10.3, 0.40			7 Step	47% (15) 10.6, -0.17		50% (56)	46% (603)	Power	43% (14) 3.7, -0.13	
Other	44% (23)		070/ (45)	011	0% (3)			Shotgun	8.1, -0.25	8.4, 0.09			
Calci	4.1, 0.03	Drag	67% (15) 9.1, 0.64	Shovel	0.7, -1.37	Basic Screen	15% (13) 2.2, -0.42	ALL	49% (148) 9.8, -0.07	45% (620) 8.2, 0.08	Lead	13% (8) 1.5, -0.61	

#### CIN-6

Improvement on first downs was not the only thing that was special about the Bengals' 2021 season.

Burrow improved massively on 3- and 5-step drops. On 3-step drops compared to 2020:

2020: 0.07 EPA/att, 45% success, 6.6 YPA 2021: 0.30 EPA/att, 56% success, 9.0 YPA

Additionally, Joe Burrow made huge strides in his deep passing with help from his No. 5 overall draft pick Ja'Marr Chase. Look at these splits for passes thrown 20+ yards downfield:

2020: -0.14 EPA/att, 20% success, 6.4 YPA 2021: 0.77 EPA/att, 45% success, 17.1 YPA

Among players with over 30 attempts, in 2021 on passes of at least 20 air yards, Burrow ranked first in EPA/att, second in YPA, and third in success rate.

Out of 27 players in 2020, Burrow's negative EPA ranked 26th of 27, his YPA ranked 27th as did his success rate.

The Bengals drafted Chase, tweaked the offense, and Burrow shifted from the NFL's worst deep ball thrower in 2020 to its best in 2021. It was simply amazing.

Burrow's 62 deep attempts led to 11 touchdowns.





Here are the defensive coverages those 62 attempts came against:

Cover-1: 21 att Cover-3: 16 att Cover-4: 11 att Cover-6: 7 att Cover-2: 3 att

And four other attempts on a variety of coverages.

There are two notable points here. First, the majority of these came with the middle of the field closed, aka a single high safety (Cover-1, Cover-3). Second, when teams used a two-high coverage, the Bengals went deep less often.

Take a look at Burrow's efficiency vs the different types of coverages on all passes, not just the deep balls:

Cover-3: 159 att, 0.24 EPA/att, 52% success, 9.0 YPA Cover-1: 114 att, 0.30 EPA/att, 52% success, 11.7 YPA Cover-6: 95 att, -0.15 EPA/att, 34% success, 6.7 YPA Cover-4: 76 att, +0.09 EPA/att, 46% success, 8.5 YPA Cover-2: 71 att, -0.01 EPA/att, 45% success, 9.2 YPA

A variety of other coverages also saw 25 or fewer attempts against. The point being, defenses played a lot of Cover-3 and Cover-1 against Burrow's Bengals and he tore them up. He went deep but also was efficient everywhere.

But Burrow knows what is coming in 2022.

At the start of June's minicamp, Burrow said this year, he's expecting the offense will have to: "Not rely on the big plays as much. Teams are going to be playing two-high and making us check the ball down so we've got to be able to sustain drives and run the ball and take what the defense gives us all the way up and down the field and then take those opportunities when they present themselves."

Smart. Very smart for the defenses but also for the Bengals offense to also start figuring out a plan to deal with a coverage that is increasing in popularity.

Fortunately, the Bengals made improvements last year in one area that absolutely can help when throwing short: YAC.

In 2020, the Bengals averaged 4.8 yards after the catch (YAC). That ranked 20th.

In 2021, the Bengals averaged 6.2 yards after the catch. That ranked second, behind only the 49ers.

Ja'Marr Chase paced the team with 8.0 YAC per completion.

(cont'd - see CIN-8)

# Immediate Impact of Cincinnati Bengals 2021 Draft Class

The defending AFC champs didn't land much in terms of immediate help, but Cincinnati did add depth in a few key areas.

Daxton Hill (first round) has the talent to play anywhere in the secondary. Within that unit, only Chidode Awuzie and Mike Hilton are currently under contract beyond 2022, so Hill's flexibility gives the team some options as Cincinnati figures out what the secondary looks like beyond this year.

In his final season at Michigan, Hill primarily played slot corner with mixed results. Hill ranked 16th in the Big Ten (out of 24) in yards allowed per coverage snap in the slot.

Hill will be joined in the secondary by **Cam Taylor-Britt** (second round) and **Tycen Anderson** (fifth round). Taylor-Britt also provides versatility, with experience at safety early in his career at Nebraska before shifting to an outside cornerback role. In 2021, he ranked fourth in the Big Ten allowing a catch rate 12.5% below expected based on route-adjusted data.

The 6-foot-2 Anderson primarily played the strong safety role at Toledo, but also has some experience in the deep secondary.

Based on each of these selections it appears Cincinnati was focused on adding depth and versatility to the secondary. Though none of these prospects appear to be in line for an immediate role, all three could potentially take on starting jobs in 2023.

Zachary Carter (third round) also brings a versatile skill set, having lined up on the interior defensive line on 35% of his snaps last season at Florida, and playing on the edge the rest of the time.

The Bengals played with a three-man line 47% of the time and a four-man line at a 38% rate, so that versatility is valuable in Lou Anarumo's defense.

The coaching staff has already discussed Carter bulking up and playing inside at a higher rate, though his versatility is certainly a valuable asset and he could play on the edge in three-man fronts.

Cincinnati somewhat surprisingly did not address the offensive line until landing **Cordell Volson** (fourth round). Volson primarily played right tackle at North Dakota State but will likely be given an opportunity to compete for the starting job at left guard. **Jeffrey Gunter** (seventh round) is a pure edge-rusher who will add to the Bengals depth in that area. He generated a strong 14.2% pressure rate in 2021, while primarily playing in a two-point stance on the edge.

Cincinnati is not known as an aggressive team on draft day, typically preferring to stay put in their draft slots. However, Duke Tobin traded up for both Taylor-Britt and Anderson. Considering the team was more aggressive than usual, it's surprising to see this rookie class come together without anyone in position for an immediate role. However, the added depth in the secondary will be useful next offseason as the team determines the future of **Vonn Bell, Jessie Bates**, and **Eli Apple**.

# 1EX

# Cincinnati Bengals 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Bengals went from having the No. 5 pick in the draft in 2021 all the way to the Super Bowl. With **Joe Burrow** still only in year three of his rookie contract, Cincinnati is in great shape here. Burrow took off in year two, leading the league in completion percentage (70.4%) and yards per attempt (9.0), the first passer to lead the league in both categories since Drew Brees in 2017. Burrow accomplished that coming off an ACL injury that had the Bengals hesitant to fully air things out until late in the year. Cincinnati was just 19th in pass rate over expectation through 13 weeks. There is another gear the Bengals can still achieve through the air in 2022 through a more aggressive mindset and behind an upgraded offensive line.

	2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk		
Joe Burrow	441	626	70%	5,453	8.7	38	16	62	107	2		
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6			

			2021 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 %
Joe Burrow	48%	50%	71	11.0%	31	5.0%	6.4	6.2		
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3		

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10 Joe Burrow Rating

# Early Downs 96 107 99 101 98

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%	5.3%	0.0%	3.6%		
6 - 9	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%		0.7%		
10 - 14	3.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%		
15+	0.0%	8.3%	7.7%		6.6%		
Total	2.8%	1.6%	2.7%	0.0%	2.3%		

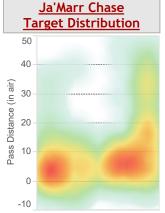
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis									
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk				
Joe Burrow	7.8	8.6	0.4	62%	28				
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%					

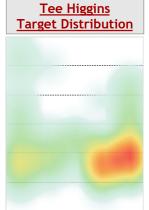
	Air Yds vs YAC								
ıd	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	51%	49%	29						
	53%	47%							

# 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Bengals field the best wide receiver trio in the league, which also showed up on paper. Cincinnati ranked first in yards per target (9.7 yards) and fifth in success rate per target (55%) to their wideouts. **Ja'Marr Chase** turned in a massive rookie season, putting up 81 catches for 1,455 yards and 13 touchdowns. **Tee Higgins** also improved across the board in his second season, raising his yards per catch (14.7 yards), receptions (5.3) and yards (77.9) per game, catch rate (67.3%), and yards per target (9.9 yards) all from his rookie season. **Tyler Boyd** rounds this trio out as a top slot option. Where improvement can be made is that the Bengals were 23rd in success rate targeting their tight ends (51%) and 22nd targeting their backs (44%).

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Ja'Marr Chase	155	65%	11.2	114.3	54%	57	54	7	136	14
Tee Higgins	133	66%	9.8	106.7	62%	11	53	41	72	6
Tyler Boyd	108	71%	8.2	98.9	54%	55	24	67	101	6
C.J. Uzomah	79	78%	7.9	119.8	56%	41	67	102	67	6
Joe Mixon	63	87%	6.7	110.3	48%	100	18	66	113	3





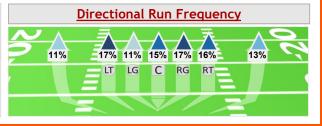
# 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Joe Mixon turned in a season many had been going to bat for years, racking up 1,519 yards and 16 touchdowns on 334 touches. Despite the strong counting stats from Mixon, the Bengals' run game was still lackluster, closing the season 24th in the NFL in expected points added via rushing (-18.7 EPA) while ranking 23rd in yards (1,742 yards), 16th in touchdowns (16), and 24th in yards per carry (4.0 YPC). The Bengals have a talented backfield but were held back by their offensive line in the efficiency department. Cincinnati backs averaged just 0.95 yards prior to contact per carry, which was 29th in the league. Their offensive line collectively graded out 20th per Pro Football Focus. While pass protection was a major point of emphasis this offseason, the additions of Alex Cappa, La'El Collins, and Ted Karras will make a significant impact.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Joe Mixon	343	4.1	49%	51	29	44	41	50%	40	14
Samaje Perine	56	4.4	43%	80	85	39	43	50%	40	1

# Yards per Carry by Direction





# Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### This Offense Still Has Meat on the Bone

The Bengals made a seismic jump in 2021, going from being a team with perennial top-five draft picks, all the way to nearly pulling out a Super Bowl win. The team set a number of firsts in franchise history last year. While they may have been ahead of schedule in becoming a top team in the AFC, there are still many areas where this team and offense can make major strides, which is scary to think about.

Despite their success a year ago, the Bengals still lacked in a number of areas up top. With **Joe Burrow** coming off an ACL injury, Cincinnati used a cautious approach on offense. Through 13 weeks, they were just 19th in the NFL in neutral pass rate (50.8%). On first down play calls in neutral game script, the Bengals were -3% below pass rate expectation despite Burrow and this passing game absolutely smashing in those situations.

Burrow ended the season 16th in the NFL in first down pass attempts, despite ranking fifth in completion rate (73.4%), second in passing touchdowns (13), and fourth in yards per pass attempt (8.8 Y/A) when the Bengals were aggressive early. The Bengals also ranked 29th in the league in pace of play, averaging 30.4 seconds per offensive snap. In neutral game scripts, it was even a tick worse, checking in 30th (32.8 seconds per snap). The Bengals will go from playing the third-best strength of schedule in 2021 to the 26th-ranked schedule in 2022. That schedule flipping should impact both the aggressiveness and pace of play, but both areas take rational coaching as an input. Improved offensive line play does not.

The weakest link from the 2021 season, the Bengals offensive line ranked 30th in the league in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (49%). Only two teams allowed more sacks than the Bengals during the regular season while only the Bears allowed a higher sack rate per dropback than Cincinnati at 9.6%.

When the Bengals did not allow or take on a drive, they ranked second in the NFL in points per drive (2.83) and touchdown rate per drive (34.1%) as opposed to ranking 11th in points per drive (1.08) and 12th in touchdown rate per drive (9.6%) when they did have a possession with a sack.

The Bengals got the ball rolling in free agency immediately, signing **Alex Cappa**, **La'El Collins**, and **Ted Karras** to multi-year deals. Just getting **Isaiah Prince** (9.6% pressure rate allowed) and **Hakeem Adeniji** (7.9%) off the field is addition by subtraction, but all three additions are major upgrades to go along with **Jonah Williams** at left tackle.

These additions up front should not only impact the passing game. Cincinnati backs averaged just 0.95 yards prior to contact per carry, which was 29th in the league. Cincinnati ended the season 24th in the NFL in expected points added via rushing (-18.7 EPA) while ranking 23rd in yards (1,742 yards), and 24th in yards per carry (4.0 YPC). The Bengals have a ton of explosive playmakers and all are expensive in fantasy except for **Tyler Boyd**. If the Bengals are going to pay off those sticker prices, these areas are still another reachable rung on the ladder to climb.

Cincinnati Bengals Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel							ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	DI	50
1-1 [3WR]	7 plays (1%) Success: 43%	437 plays (74%) Success: 47%	137 plays (23%) Success: 36%	8 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 25%	589 plays (100%) Success: 44%		%	Rk	40 -
	EPA: 0.30	EPA: -0.09	EPA: -0.13	EPA: -0.10	EPA: -0.10	Base	21%	24	
1-2 [2WR]	47 plays (39%) Success: 72%	67 plays (55%) Success: 42%	8 plays (7%) Success: 50%		122 plays (100%) Success: 54%	Nickel	63%	12	30 -
	EPA: 0.34	EPA: -0.10	EPA: -0.06		EPA: 0.07	Dime+	15%	17	
2-1 [2WR]	29 plays (66%) Success: 52% EPA: -0.03	13 plays <i>(30%)</i> Success: 46% EPA: -0.01	2 plays <i>(5%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -2.35		44 plays (100%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.13	Rush 3	10%	3	20 -
			LI 742.00			Rush 4	71%	15	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	12 plays (63%) Success: 42% EPA: 0.20	7 plays (37%) Success: 71% EPA: -0.39			19 plays (100%) Success: 53% EPA: -0.02	Rush 5	12%	31	10-
Grand	95 plays (12%) Success: 60%	524 plays (68%) Success: 47%	147 plays (19%) Success: 36%	8 plays (1%) Success: 25%	774 plays (100%) Success: 46%	Rush 6+	7%	10	0 -
Total	EPA: 0.20	EPA: -0.10	EPA: -0.16	EPA: -0.10	EPA: -0.07	Blitz%	19%	30	-10

# **Defensive Outlook**

With Larry Ogunjobi gone, B.J. Hill is likely to serve as the disruptive interior pass rusher. Hill was acquired last offseason and played 45% of the defensive snaps. Hill ranked 35th among defensive tackles in pressure rate per SIS and he signed a three-year deal to stay in Cincinnati. After an injury-shortened 2020, D.J. Reader played 52.5% of the defensive snaps and had some solid run defense in the middle. The Bengals were an average rush defense overall, but had top-10 value by EPA when Reader was on the field

Trey Hendrickson was Cincinnati's big free agent pickup last offseason and he put to rest any concerns that his 2020 breakout was a one-year outlier. Hendrickson had 27 quarterback hits, 14 sacks, and ranked ninth among edge rushers in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. He was fourth in pressure rate among edge rushers, per SIS. Sam Hubbard was a useful complement across from Hendrickson. Hubbard ranked second among edge rushers in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate. Hubbard was consistently in the backfield during the season. He had career-highs with 17 quarterback hits and 12 tackles for loss. Hubbard signed a four-year extension through 2025 before the 2021 season. The Bengals have a number of rangy linebackers who can chase and tackle, though coverage has been lacking. Among 85 qualified linebackers, Bengals linebackers ranked 45th (Akeem Gaither-Davis), 75th (Germaine Pratt), and 77th (Logan Wilson) in yards allowed per coverage snap. Pratt was an effective blitzer with a high pressure rate while rushing on 10.5% of his pass snaps. Wilson played 62.9% of the defensive snaps and Pratt played 61.6%. Pratt is on the final year of his rookie contract while both Wilson and Gaither-Davis are signed through 2023.

Cornerback was where the Bengals' free agency dive really paid off last season. Chidobe Awuize was 40th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap and held up as a highly-targeted top corner. Mike Hilton remained one of the league's best slot blitzers and ranked 45th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Eli Apple was a one-year flier and while he got picked on in the playoffs, he was the best on a per-coverage snap basis. Apple ranked 24th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap and re-signed for another one-year deal. The Bengals also added depth with the selection of Cam Taylor-Britt in the third round. Jessie Bates had some inconsistencies during the regular season, but turned it on over the last few weeks and throughout the postseason. Bates has been one of the Bengals' best defensive players throughout his career, though there is still no long-term deal in place. Cincinnati placed the franchise tag on Bates for 2022. With Bates mostly playing deep, Vonn Bell played all around the back end of the secondary and had what was arguably the best season of his career. Bell set career-highs in both passes defensed and tackles for loss. Bates and Bell made up a significant amount of the Bengals' snaps at safety. Bates played 84.8% of the defensive snaps and Bell played 89.3%. Cincinnati drafted Daxton Hill in the first round, which could open up a ton of possibilities in the secondary. Hill can play both safety spots and has played well in the box and slot at Michigan.

Play Tendencies						
All Pass %	59%					
All Pass Rk	11					
All Rush %	41%					
All Rush Rk	22					
1 Score Pass %	59%					
1 Score Pass Rk	10					
2020 1 Score Pass %	60%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	8					
2021 Pass Increase %	-1%					
Pass Increase Rk	18					
1 Score Rush %	41%					
1 Score Rush Rk	23					
Up Pass %	54%					
Up Pass Rk	18					
Up Rush %	46%					
Up Rush Rk	15					
Down Pass %	60%					
Down Pass Rk	15					
Down Rush %	40%					
Down Rush Rk	18					

<u>D</u>	<u>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</u>		<u>es</u>	Shots	gun %	Cincinnati Bengals							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play Success %	Shotgun	Under Center	Cincinnati Bengals 2021 Play Analysis					
1st	Short (1-3)	8	50%	50%	25%	62%	38%						
Dwn	Med (4-7)	11	36%	64%	64%								
	Long (8-10)	385	46%	54%	53%	NFL AVG Short Yardage Intelligence			ice.				
	XL (11+)	8	88%	13%	50%	65%	35%	Short raidage intentgence.					
2nd	Short (1-3)	45	33%	67%	62%	Effici	iency		2n	d and Sho	ort Run		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	119	55%	45%	50%	LITICI	lefficy		<u> </u>	u anu sin	ort Kull		
	Long (8-10)	102	76%	24%	44%	EPA/	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freg Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg	
	XL (11+)	43	86%	14%	28%	pass:	pass:	66%	23	71%	67%	73%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	57	63%	37%	56%	0.12	0.00	0070	20	7 1 70	07 70	7 3 70	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	55	91%	9%	49%	EPA/	EPA/		2n/	2nd and Short Pass			
	Long (8-10)	26	96%	4%	31%	rush: -0.06	rush: -0.13			a and one	<i>J</i> I C I G33		
	XL (11+)	45	96%	4%	11%			Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg	
4th	Short (1-3)	13	62%	38%	69%	Success: 44%	Success: 34%	34%	10	29%	73%	46%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	100%			34 /0	10	2970	1370	40 /0	
quent	quent Play Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)								Action)				

Shotgun %								
Shotgun Under Center								
62%	38%							
NFL	AVG							
65% 35%								
Effici	iencv							

# Cincinnati Bengals 2021 Play Analysis

# **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Effic	iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Run
EPA/ pass:	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate
).12		66%	23	71%	67%
EPA/	EPA/				
ush:	rush:		<u>2nc</u>	<u>d and Sho</u>	ort Pass
0.06 ccess:	-0.13 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate
14%	34%	34%	10	29%	73%

	Most Frequent Play							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Play Success %					
1st	Short (1-3)	PASS	Tee Higgins	3	33%			
Dwn		RUSH	Joe Mixon	3	33%			
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	5	100%			
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	172	49%			
XL (11+)	PASS	Tee Higgins	2	100%				
			Tyler Boyd	2	50%			
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	25	72%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	40	38%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Tee Higgins	17	59%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	C.J. Uzomah	9	33%			
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Joe Mixon	10	50%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Ja'Marr Chase	12	42%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Ja'Marr Chase	6	50%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Tee Higgins	9	44%			
			Samaje Perine	9	0%			

		Play Action (Y/N)					
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	No Yes					
No	Success: 53%	Success: 43%	Success: 52%				
	YPA: 9.4, EPA: 0.19	YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.44	YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.11				
	Rtg: 117.6	Rtg: 63.2	Rtg: 111.5				
	[Att: 149 - Rate: 19.4%]	[Att: 21 - Rate: 2.7%]	[Att: 170 - Rate: 22.1%]				
Yes	Success: 43%	Success: 50%	Success: 44%				
	YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.05	YPA: 10.3, EPA: -0.01	YPA: 8.3, EPA: 0.03				
	Rtg: 103.5	Rtg: 112.0	Rtg: 105.3				
	[Att: 471 - Rate: 61.3%]	[Att: 127 - Rate: 16.5%]	[Att: 598 - Rate: 77.9%]				
Total	Success: 45%	Success: 49%	Success: 46%				
	YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.08	YPA: 9.8, EPA: -0.07	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.05				
	Rtg: 107.0	Rtg: 105.3	Rtg: 106.7				
	[Att: 620 - Rate: 80.7%]	[Att: 148 - Rate: 19.3%]	[Att: 768 - Rate: 100.0%]				

Weekly Snaps Played								
Wk	Орр	Score	Ja'Marr Chase	Tyler Boyd	C.J. Uzomah	Tee Higgins	Joe Mixon	Drew Sample
1	MIN	W 27-24	62	51	51	51	54	35
2	CHI	L 20-17	51	48	40	50	46	21
3	PIT	W 24-10	39	37	33		35	21
4	JAC	W 24-21	46	36	48		40	29
5	GB	L 25-22	61	55	56	47	19	21
6	DET	W 34-11	57	45	50	41	45	39
7	BAL	W 41-17	53	45	52	42	34	27
8	NYJ	L 34-31	53	45	48	43	43	20
9	CLE	L 41-16	71	59	48	57	47	38
11	LV	W 32-13	68	52	54	59	53	37
12	PIT	W 41-10	52	52	45	43	49	39
13	LAC	L 41-22	73	57	66	60	50	26
14	SF	L 26-23	65	57	58	50	40	18
15	DEN	W 15-10	51	46	42	46	31	16
16	BAL	W 41-21	69	69	49	64	62	32
17	KC	W 34-31	64	54	63	58	50	23
18	CLE	L 21-16	5					17
	Grand	Total	940	808	803	711	698	459

Personnel Groupings							
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.				
1-1 [3WR]	76%	61%	49%				
1-2 [2WR]	18%	21%	44%				
1-3 [1WR]	3%	4%	40%				
Grouping Tendencies							
Group	ing Te	enden	cies				
Group	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Cies Run Succ. %				
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.				
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %				

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard							
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Ja'Marr Chase	18	5	4	9			
Tee Higgins	15	4	4	7			
Tyler Boyd	11	2	3	6			
C.J. Uzomah	9	2	2	5			
Joe Mixon	9	2	4	3			
Samaje Perine	6	1		5			
Chris Evans	4	1		3			

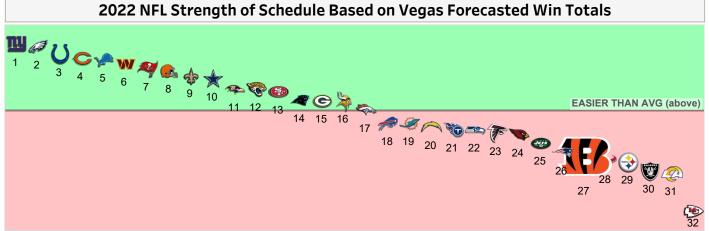
<u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u>							
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Joe Mixon	52	16	15	21			
Joe Burrow	10	4	3	3			
Trayveon Williams	3			3			
Brandon Allen	2	1		1			
Samaje Perine	2		1	1			
Chris Evans	1	1					
Ja'Marr Chase	1		1				
Stanley Morgan Jr.	1			1			

<u>E</u>	arly D	own Targ	et Rate
	RB	TE	WR
	18% <b>23%</b>	17% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	65% <b>56%</b>
<u>0</u> \	erall	Target Su	ıccess %
П —	<mark>/erall</mark> RB	Target Su	uccess % wr





# 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



Of 36 WRs with at least 60 receptions, Chase ranked second in YAC behind only Deebo Samuel.

A surprising element of 2021 (in a bad way) was the inability of the Bengals' run game to see success in short yardage situations, making it even more perplexing why they were playing for third and short so often with their first down run rate.

In any short yardage situation needing 1-3 yards for a first down, the Bengals running backs saw the following efficiency:

-0.23 EPA/rush (25th), 59% success (25th), 2.9 YPC (21st)

The problem for the Bengals wasn't the running backs, per se. It is the simple fact that running backs can only do so much beyond what the line blocks.

Here's a wild stat: the Bengals spent more on running backs last year than quarterbacks against the cap. And the same is true this year.

The Bengals have Joe Mixon hitting the cap for \$11.4 million this year, the fourth-most expensive running back in the NFL. They also have Samaje Perine at \$1.85 million (40th most expensive) and a handful of other running backs totaling \$17.2 million in cap charges for 2022. That's the third-most expensive running back room in the NFL. Last year they were the fifth-most expensive and their performance was terrible.

Obviously, you aren't complaining if you rostered Mixon in fantasy and saw his 14 rushing touchdowns, thanks to a whopping 52 red zone rushing attempts (up from 18 in 2020). But Mixon wasn't efficient at all. Look at these splits for the Bengals running backs:

Yards before contact/rush: 29th Yards after contact/rush: fifth

This is, in large part, thanks to the Bengals' offensive line. Not only did it struggle in pass blocking, it wasn't great in run blocking either.

How do you know your offensive line sucks in run blocking? Out of 108 running backs last year with at least 15 attempts, the Bengals running backs ranked first, seventh, 28th, and 47th in percentage of runs where they were contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage:

First - Chris Evans on 65% of his runs Seventh - Samaje Perine on 58% of his runs 28th - Joe Mixon on 49% of his runs 47th - Trayveon Williams on 47% of his runs

The NFL average was 45%.

Of the 40 running backs with at least 20 short yardage runs (1-3 yards to go), no running back saw worse blocking than Joe Mixon, who was contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage on a whopping 75% of his 51 attempts.

Likewise, of the 24 running backs with at least 75 carries from 11 personnel, Mixon was contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage the most in the NFL (49% of his 192 runs from 11 personnel).

Thankfully for the Bengals, help is on the way.

With Burrow on his rookie deal, they revamped the team's weak link - the offensive line. In free agency they signed Alex Cappa, La'El Collins, and Ted Karras. Not only should an improved line help prevent their running backs from being contacted in the backfield so often, it will help the passing game as well.

The Bengals' offensive line ranked 30th in the league in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (49%). Only two teams allowed more sacks than the Bengals during the regular season, while only Chicago allowed a higher sack rate per dropback than Cincinnati at 9.6%.

Big picture, what will help the Bengals get back to the Super Bowl and win it this year? An improved offensive line should help the running game... Another year for Burrow in this system... A hope the offense will pass more often on first down and that it will adapt when teams use more two-high... A knowledge that Joe Burrow was the NFL's most accurate quarterback based on charting metrics and based on player tracking CPOE (Completion Percentage Over Expectation).





Burrow is outstanding under pressure and he's been top-3 in aggressiveness for multiple years, meaning he's willing to throw the ball into tight windows but also does so with extreme accuracy. He's only getting better, it seems. Although his overall accuracy rate increased by a modest three percentage points last year vs. 2020, his accuracy in the red zone jumped from 69% in 2020 to 82% in 2021, which ranked second in the NFL.

I really underestimated their defense headed into the 2021 season and won't make that mistake again. Defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo has a great coaching style and his halftime adjustments are elite.

Since Week 11, look at the points allowed by the Bengals' defense after halftime adjustments in the third quarter:

Week 11: 0 Week 12: 0 Week 13: 0 Week 14: 3 Week 15: 7 Week 16: 0 Week 17: 0 Week 18: 0 Week 20: 10 Week 21: 0 Super Bowl: 3

The Bengals closed the season allowing 10 points total in the third quarter over their final eight games. No team allowed fewer third quarter points in their final eight games than the Bengals.

Look at their play-level stats during this stretch, split between first half and third quarter:

First half pass D: -0.08 EPA/att, 6.7 YPA, 50% success Third quarter pass D: -0.21 EPA/att, 7.0 YPA, 45% success

Just as remarkably, they allowed offenses from Week 11 onward to run just seven total plays inside their own red zone (just four plays it games).

Their unique rush-3, drop-8 style was able to fool a lot of offenses down the stretch and limit their production.

So, then what are the concerns? Last year the Bengals played the second-easiest schedule in the NFL. This year, it's the sixth-most difficult in the NFL. Last year, this team played the second-easiest schedule of pass defenses. I project that to increase to most difficult. How is that?

Last year's pass defenses:

- 32. Jaguars
- 31. Jets
- 30. Ravens (thanks to injury) game 1
- 30. Ravens (thanks to injury) game 2
- 29. Lions
- 25. Raiders
- 23. Chargers

They played seven games against bottom-10 pass defenses and zero games against top-10 pass defenses.

This year, I fully expect the Cowboys' defense to regress from their No. 1 ranking, but they also play these top-10 pass defenses from 2021: Bills, Patriots, Saints, Titans, Buccaneers, and Dolphins. That's six top-10 pass defenses from 2021 after playing zero such top-10 pass defenses in 2021. Not to mention there will likely be massive improvements for the Ravens' pass defense, a Steelers defense that ranked 13th last year twice, and the Browns, who ranked 11th, twice as well.

There is a reason why it's so difficult for Super Bowl runner-ups to make it back to the big game, and this is particularly true if those teams won their divisions, because they are now playing much more difficult schedules.

What else is a potential red flag? I'm still not in love with the fact the Bengals use bottom-10 rates of pre-snap motion and play-action. Both have been proven to be an effective and free means to increase passing efficiency. I also don't love the lack of efficiency on third downs in field goal range. The Bengals ranked 27th in EPA/play on third downs in field goal range. That forces them to resort to using their trusted kicker far too often.

There are high expectations. This team hasn't changed much other than their offensive line, and suddenly they're going from rarely considered a favorite to almost never considered an underdog. Thanks to Burrow, this team will have a ton of public support all season long, which destroys value pretty quickly.

Overall, immediately after the Super Bowl I looked at the tough Bengals schedule in 2022 and wanted to fade them. But as the offseason moves have transpired and my research on them has continued, I no longer am running to the window to make futures bets against the Bengals.

But one thing is certain – it's imperative they start off quickly. Over the first 11 weeks of the season, the Bengals play the third-easiest schedule. From Week 12 onward, they play, by far, the most difficult schedule in the NFL.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

0.0 03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	8.1			
37. PSM Target Depth	8.2			
38. Non-PSM YPA	9			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	6.2			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	54%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	48%			
42. PSM EPA/att 0.07				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att 0.11				
Play Action (Quarte	ers 1-3 on Farly Downs)			

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)					
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	27%				
45. PA Success Rate	52%				
46. PA YPA	10.6				
47. PA Sack Rate	13.2%				
48. PA EPA/att	0.07				
49. PA Target Depth	9.1				
50. Non-PA Success Rate	50%				
51. Non-PA YPA	7.8				
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	4.9%				
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.1				
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	13%
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	3.5
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	47%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	36%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	59%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.9

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)						
Net FROE Rk	16	defFUM	20			
Net FROE	-0.2					
offFUM	15	defFUM Rcvrd	13			
offFUM Rcvrd	10	defFR Rk	23			
offFR%	66.7%	defFR%	35.0%			
offFR Rk offFROE	1.2	defFROE	-1.4			
offFROE Rk	8	defFROE Rk	23			

27. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes

31. Success on runs into 6-man-boxes 32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)

28. % Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes 29. Success on runs into 7-man boxes 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

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 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	5.00 3 34 29 85% 26.91 2.09	Opp Att Opp Makes Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	31 23 74% 25.91 -2.91 31 1.16		
2020 Own Rk	21	2020 Opp Rk	14		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs		QB Pres	QB Pressure		Offensive Metrics	
	Joe Burrow		Joe Burrow	EPA/Pass	0.08	
CAY	6.4	Pressure %	34.3	EPA/Pass Rk	10	
CAY Rk	7	Pressure Rk	17	EPA/Rush	-0.08	
2020 CAY Rk	22	Sack %	9.2	EPA/Rush Rk	24	
AYTS Rk	11	Sack Rk	3	On-Target Catch %	88.7%	
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	11 2	Pressure Accuracy %	72.8	On-Target Catch Rk	23	
2020 AGG Rk	3	Pressure Accuracy Rk	2	Drop%	5.5%	
COMP%	70.4	Rating when Pressured	92.7	Drop Rk	15	
xCOMP%	64.4	Pressured Rating Rk	1			
xCOMP% Rk	29	Clean Accuracy %	82.1	YAC/Att	2.6	
2020 xCOMP% Rk	37	Clean Accuracy Rk	3	YAC/Att Rk	5	
CPOE%	6	Rating when Clean	110.7	Rush Broken Tackle %	13.3%	
CPOE Rk	1	_		Rush Broken Tackle Rk	14	
2020 CPOE Rk	6	Clean Rating Rk	6			
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT		Time to Throw	2.69	Rush 1st Down %	22.0%	
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expect Actual completion percentage ov	ted completion percentage CPOE:	Time to Throw Rk	29	Rush 1st Down Rk	26	

25

18

19

11

9 3

6



# Bengals Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Joe Burrow	0.37 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.22 (#1)	0.13 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	0.32 (#1)
2020	Joe Burrow	0.29 (#2)	0.06 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	0.20 (#2)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Joe Burrow	-0.77 (#2)	-0.21 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	0.38 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.09 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)
2020	Joe Burrow	-0.76 (#1)	-0.42 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	0.24 (#1)	-0.05 (#2)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on tanger area and and an area and a quantity									
Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Joe Burrow	83% (#1)	85% (#2)	79% (#1)	66% (#1)	79% (#1)	84% (#1)	82% (#1)	79% (#1)	84% (#1)
2020	Joe Burrow	80% (#2)	87% (#1)	73% (#2)	50% (#2)	77% (#2)	81% (#2)	69% (#2)	78% (#2)	80% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.09 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.48 (#2)	-0.04 (#1)	-0.23 (#2)	0.00 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.06 (#1)	-0.24 (#2)	0.28 (#2)
2020	-0.09 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.31 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.10 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.22 (#2)	0.33 (#1)	0.33 (#1)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	13	8	5	15	24	13	27	16	7	24
2020	28	11	22	32	26	32	23	12	21	31

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	30	25	30	25	26	22	23	1	28
2020	20	27	27	26	25	15	26	27	23

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	1	5	24	2	2	2	22	1	4
2020	26	20	29	24	32	32	32	1	1

# Coaches (Prior Yrs)

#### **Head Coach**: Kevin Stefanski (2 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Alex Van Pelt (2 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:**

Joe Woods (2 yrs)

Hard

Easy

# **Cleveland Browns**

# 2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 



# **Past Records**

2021: 8-9 2020: 11-5 2019: 6-10



17			
Ke۱	/ Pla	vers	Lost

Player	New
J.C. Tretter (C)	TBD
Austin Hooper (TE)	Titans
Troy Hill (CB)	Rams
Takkarist McKinley (EDG	TBD
Malik Jackson (IDL)	TBD
Case Keenum (QB)	Bills
Jarvis Landry (WR)	Saints
M.J. Stewart (S)	Texans
Nick Mullens (QB)	Raiders
Andy Janovich (FB)	Texans
Malcolm Smith (LB)	TBD
Rashard Higgins (WR)	Panthers
Dustin Colquitt (P)	TBD
Elijah Lee (LB)	Chiefs
Ifeadi Odenigbo (IDL)	Colts
Porter Gustin (EDGE)	Dolphins
Ryan Switzer (WR)	TBD

# 2022 Cleveland Browns Overview

[Editor's note: There are still four active sexual misconduct cases against Deshaun Watson after he settled 20 other cases in May. As of the release of this book, a decision on the length of Watson's suspension has not been announced.]

In a Week 2 win over the Houston Texans, Baker Mayfield threw an interception and tried to tackle safety Justin Reid on the return, injuring his left shoulder in the process.

In the next two games, he was terrible. Examine the splits from Weeks 1-2 with 3-4:

Weeks 1-2: 0.23 EPA/att, 57% success, 8.5 air yards/att, 10.9 YPA, 94% accuracy Weeks 3-4: -0.19 EPA/att, 39% success, 10.2 air yards/att, 6.3 YPA, 83% accuracy

The Browns won against the Bears in Week 3, 26-6 (Justin Fields's first start), and then beat the Vikings in Week 4, 14-7.

But Mayfield was obviously terrible. His completion rate dropped to 46% against the Vikinas.

A couple days after the game, NFL Network's Ian Rapoport reported that Mayfield suffered a partially torn labrum in his non-throwing left shoulder in Week 2 against the Texans. Reportedly, Mayfield wouldn't need surgery and would play through the ailment.

The very next week, Mayfield threw two touchdowns for the first time of the season and did have a better performance against the Chargers. His accuracy improved, as did all his metrics including completion rate, EPA/att, and success rate.

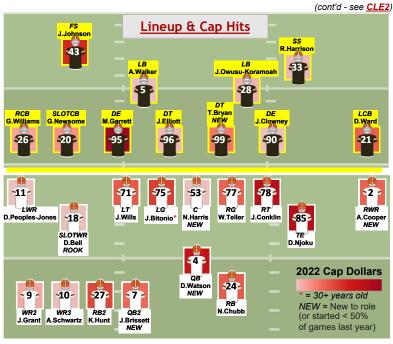
Player	New
J.C. Tretter (C)	TBD
Austin Hooper (TE)	Titans
Troy Hill (CB)	Rams
Takkarist McKinley (EDG	TBD
Malik Jackson (IDL)	TBD
Case Keenum (QB)	Bills
Jarvis Landry (WR)	Saints
M.J. Stewart (S)	Texans
Nick Mullens (QB)	Raiders
Andy Janovich (FB)	Texans
Malcolm Smith (LB)	TBD
Rashard Higgins (WR)	Panthers
Dustin Colquitt (P)	TBD
Elijah Lee (LB)	Chiefs
Ifeadi Odenigbo (IDL)	Colts
Porter Gustin (EDGE)	Dolphins
Ryan Switzer (WR)	TBD

#### # Games # Games **Average Favored Underdog** Line 2 -4.8

Regular Season Wins:

# Past & Current Proj Forecast 2022 Wins 2021 Wins 8 👧 Forecast 10.5 2021 Wins 2020 Wins 11 2019 Wins 2018 Wins

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



# **Key Free Agents/** Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Amari Cooper (WR)	Trade
Jacoby Brissett (QB)	\$4.70
Taven Bryan (IDL)	\$4
Jakeem Grant (WR)	\$3.29
Corey Bojorquez (P)	\$1.7
Ethan Pocic (LG)	\$1.2
Isaac Rochell (IDL)	\$1.2
Joshua Dobbs (QB)	\$1.2
Stephen Weatherly (EDGE)	\$1.2
Chase Winovich (IDL)	Trade

#### **Drafted Players**

68	
<b>3</b> 10 22 1331111931(012)	
99 WR - David Bell (Purdue)	
108 DT - Perrion Winfrey (Oklahoma)	
124 K - Cade York (LSU)	
5 156 RB - Jerome Ford (Cincinna	ati)
6 202 WR - Michael Woods II (Oklahoma)	
DE - Isaiah Thomas (Oklahoma)	
246 C - Dawson Deaton (Texas Tech)	

# 2022 Unit Spending



# **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	9	\$112.07M	1
QB	4	\$34.43M	12
OL	13	\$39.71M	2
RB	5	\$16.12M	4
WR	29	\$14.45M	12
TE	26	\$7.36M	1
All DEF	32	\$69.56M	31
DL	28	\$31.28M	29
LB	26	\$9.09M	25
СВ	27	\$14.24M	13
S	12	\$14.95M	17

#### CLE-2

1

KC

Α

29

But the next week against the Cardinals, Mayfield was sacked five times as the Browns were without both starting tackles. Mayfield lost two fumbles, the second of which forced him into the medical tent as he landed on his injured left shoulder. He was in a sling for his post-game press conference.

During the following week, it was reported he aggravated his shoulder further and he missed practice. But Mayfield said, "It is my decision. I get to say whether I play or not and that's just how it is."

The problem was, the next game against the Broncos was on Thursday night. A short week game with an injured shoulder in a sling is a difficult thing to rehab and play with. Ultimately, Mayfield was ruled out for that Week 7 game and it was reported that he was expected to need surgery on the shoulder following the season.

On the FOX pregame show, it was reported by Jay Glazer that Mayfield not only had a torn labrum in his left shoulder, but it was also fractured. Glazer added, "the break is to Mayfield's humerus bone and it is preventing his rotator cuff from firing.'

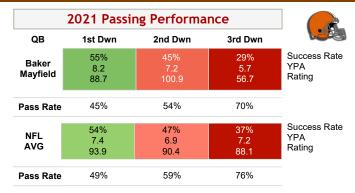
The Browns squeaked out a 17-14 win over the Broncos without Mayfield and sat at 4-3 on the season.

Then reports started to leak that the Browns would bring back Mayfield in 2022, and ESPN's Dan Graziano said the Browns, "believe they can win with him and would pay him in the mid-to-high \$30 millions per year to stick around."

There is no doubt in my mind between Mayfield's toughness and comments like these, Mayfield didn't want to miss time. He wanted to tough it out, make it back to the playoffs, and show the Browns he was worth it, injured shoulder and all.

The reality was, he wasn't able to play his game with the shoulder injury and was actually hurting what little chance he had to stay in Cleveland.

In two of the next three games, he was smacked around pretty well and took eight sacks in total those three weeks. He also absorbed 14 hits in those three games. The Browns lost to the Steelers and Patriots, but beat the Bengals. In addition to his shoulder injuries, he also picked up a foot injury in the process. He wound up in the medical tent again in the Week 10 game against the Patriots after a hit from Matt Judon and never returned to the game.



	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
CLE	46% 4.4	52% 6.1	58% 5.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	55%	46%	30%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

The Browns sat at 5-5, their starting quarterback was beaten, battered and in shambles, but he kept coming out to play in what he must have thought was a chance to earn that new contract.

Mayfield suited up for the very next game, Week 11 against the Lions and was horrific. He went 15-for-29 for 6.1 YPA, 52% completions, -0.31 EPA/att, and only 33% success. The home crowd in Cleveland booed them but the Browns squeaked out a 13-10 win over the hapless Lions.

He suited up again in Week 12 and lost to the Ravens, 16-10, delivering an even worse 18-for-37 performance, although there were no interceptions thrown. He now was listed with a groin injury, to go along with his foot and multiple shoulder injuries.

2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

13

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def

RB Pass Eff Def

Pass Efficiency Def

(cont'd - see CLE-3)

17

**Explosive** 



_	UZ	1 4	166	<u> NIY</u>	LU	<u> </u>	<u>u                                    </u>	eas	UII	111	<del>-11U</del>	ii ig i		110	11116	aric	드	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	4	15	16	17	18	
	W	W	W	L	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	1	N	L	L	L	W	
)	HOU	CHI	MIN	LAC	ARI	DEN	PIT	CIN	NE	DET	BAL	В	ΑL	LV	GB	PIT	CIN	
	Н	Н	Α	Α	Н	Н	Н	Α	Α	Н	Α		Н	Н	Α	Α	Н	
	10	20	7	-5	-23	3	-5	25	-38	3	-6		2	-2	-2	-12	5	
	21	26	1/	12	1/	17	10	11	7	12	10	,	1	11	22	11	21	



2021 Close Game **Records** WFFK **RESULT** All 2019 Wins: 8

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-2** FG Games Win %: **60% (#11)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins) 38% (#11)

21

28

**YPPT Def** 

Defensive Efficiency

26

3rd Down Def YPPA Def

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-6 Score Games Win %: 45% (#18) EDSR by Wk 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 63% (#11)

# 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** -3 **TO Margin**

20

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

TO Given 22 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 8 TO Taken 19 **INT Taken** 13 **FUM Taken** 6 Sack Margin -6 43 Sacks Sacks Allow 49 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -14 Penalties 112 **Opponent Penalties** 98

5

10

15

20

25

30

OPP

SITE

PTS

MARGIN

13

**EDSR Def** 

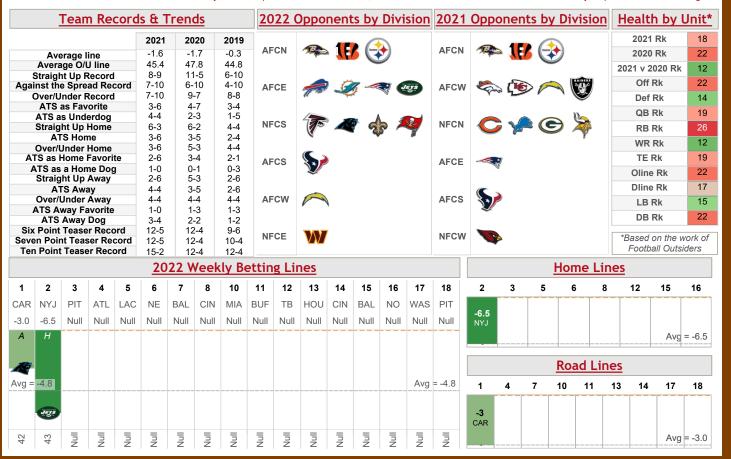
23 24

30 & In Def Red Zone Def



	2022 vs 2021 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										
12	17	5	4	27	30	19	20				

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







It was shocking the Browns weren't sitting him down for the season. Cleveland was 6-6 on the year, and sat in 12th place in the AFC. The odds the Browns, with Mayfield playing as he was, would leap the 8-3 Ravens who were first in the AFC, or the 7-4 Bengals, were minimal.

If the Browns didn't have a healthy quarterback, even if they lucked their way into the playoffs, it was insane to believe Mayfield would take them to a Super Bowl in his condition.

Of 30 quarterbacks with at least 175 attempts between Week 3 and 12, Mayfield ranked:

28th in completion rate 28th in sack rate 24th in accuracy 24th in EPA/att 24th in success rate

A forward-thinking franchise like Cleveland might be better suited to come out of the Week 13 bye and simply drop games left and right, get a better draft pick, and realize it wasn't their season.

But Mayfield suited up and started against the Ravens the next week. Cleveland got lucky to win, as Mayfield wasn't great once again, but Lamar Jackson left the game after just a few pass attempts after he sprained his right ankle, giving way to backup quarterback Tyler Huntley, who was strip-sacked for a fumble-6 in the first half and had no chance of coming back on the Browns defense. But in the game, Mayfield was hit and sent to the blue tent for concussion protocol.

After the win, a very odd report leaked that, "there's a feeling that the Browns haven't played to Mayfield's strengths this season and there's been a disconnect between Mayfield and Kevin Stefanski in terms of playcalling. And there are other offensive players who have taken issue with Stefanski's playcalling this season as well."

Let's fast forward to the end of the season so we can discuss such playcalling concerns.

The quick version of how Mayfield's season ended?

He missed the Week 15 game with COVID, Cleveland lost, then he played and lost the next game. With the Browns sitting at 7-8, he still kept playing. He delivered a terrible 16-of-38 performance for 185 yards, two touchdowns, and two interceptions in a Week 17 loss on Monday Night Football to the Steelers. Immediately thereafter, it was announced Mayfield would undergo immediate surgery to repair his torn left labrum that he'd been dealing with since Week 2.

It truly made no sense to keep playing Mayfield, for both his own future as well as the Browns' draft stock.

Regardless, what could have been behind the playcalling disconnect?

One thing I had noticed when studying Stefanski's playcalling in the 2020 season, when he took over the team, changed up the offense and won Coach of the Year, was a massive reduction in shotgun.

Mayfield was in shotgun 82% of snaps in 2019 and was bad in it.

So Stefanski dropped it to 66% in 2020, including 55% on early downs in the first half of games.

But in 2021, that rate rocketed back up, as Mayfield was in shotgun on 74% of his dropbacks including 65% of early downs in the first half of games.

Look at the splits in 2021 on those early downs in the first half of games:

Mayfield in shotgun: 0.02 EPA/att, 48% success, 6.9 YPA Mayfield under center: 0.12 EPA/att, 50% success, 9.6 YPA

On all downs all game long?

(cont'd - see CLE-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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: 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 12 13

# Forecast 2022 Wins

# Why Bet the Under

- The schedule is backloaded with difficult opponents. The schedule starts off as the easiest in the league over the first four weeks, but gets harder in the second half of the season. this includes games against Buffalo, Tampa Bay, Cincinnati, and Baltimore within a five-game stretch.
- The wide receiver group is thin with talent. After **Amari Cooper**, the receiving corps is relatively unproven. Improving on the already below average 48% success rate on passes to wide receivers from 2021 will be difficult.
- The Browns struggled against teams that finished with a winning record in 2021, finishing with a 2-8 record. The only two victories came against the Bengals, including a Week 18 victory against non-starters. The defense struggled against stronger competition, averaging -7.7 EPA passing per game in the eight losses to teams with winning records while averaging 5.6 EPA passing against teams that finished the season with a losing record.



# Why Bet the Over

- Without taking into consideration the current quarterback situation, the Browns have one of the most complete rosters in the league and an above average head coach. The offense has one of the best offensive lines, a solid duo of running backs, and the defense has an elite pass rusher combined with a talented secondary.
- The Browns went 5-6 in one-score games and had the league's worst field goal luck and fourth-worst fumble luck. Browns kickers struggled, making 73% of field goals whereas the opponents converted 96% of field goals and the Browns finished the season with -5.3 net field goals over expectation. The defense recovered 29% of forced fumbles and the Browns finished the season with -3.8 fumble recoveries over expectation. The Browns are due for improvement in field goal and fumble luck in 2022, which can help in close games.
- Despite both tackles missing significant time, the Browns led the league in adjusted line yards and finished fourth in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate eighth in Run Block Win Rate. The offensive line is likely to have better injury luck after less than 20% of snaps together in 2021.

	Cleveland Browns Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach										
14	1	1	21	5	3	11					

Based on an average of the unit rankings, the Browns own the league's second-most talented roster. Unfortunately, quarterback remains an area with significant concerns due to **Deshaun Watson**'s uncertain future. At the time of our voting, Watson had yet to be suspended, so we attempted to account for the uncertainty as best we could. If he were expected to play a full 17 games, it's safe to assume this would be a top-10 unit. Due to questions about his availability, however, votes ranged from 12th to 17th.

Cleveland tops our backfield rankings for the second consecutive season, although it was not a unanimous choice this year. **Nick Chubb** is simply special. When contacted behind the line of scrimmage, Chubb still churned out 10 or more yards on a league-best 12% of his carries (average was 3%). **Kareem Hunt** and **D'Ernest Johnson** also provide exceptional depth.

Amari Cooper gives Cleveland a reliable number-one weapon, but there's a lack of proven depth. Donovan Peoples-Jones has shown potential — he caught 85% of his catchable targets at 10 or more yards downfield last season, a higher rate than Jarvis Landry or Odell Beckham Jr. If rookie David Bell can produce immediately, maybe this unit can exceed expectations.

The Browns are our top-ranked offensive line for the second straight year, however, Cleveland did not receive a single first-place vote. This ranking quirk occurred because the Browns were second on every ballot, while those receiving first-place votes had a wider overall range. Despite losing center J.C. Tretter, there's still considerable optimism for this unit. With Myles Garrett and Jadeveon Clowney on the field together, Cleveland generated a spectacular 35% pressure rate. That dropped to 25% when either player was off the field, however. If both stay healthy, the front seven is a top-tier unit. Cleveland's secondary is overflowing with raw talent though some of it remains unproven. If Greedy Williams can elevate his performance or rookie Martin Emerson emerges, the unit could reach an even higher level.

After cracking the top 10 last year, Kevin Stefanski dropped two spots in our head coach rankings. Injuries played a key role in the Browns' decline, but the team's handling of Beckham and **Baker Mayfield** also raised some leadership questions.

#### CLE-4

Mayfield in shotgun: -0.14 EPA/att, 40% success, 6.5 YPA Mayfield under center: 0.07 EPA/att, 47% success, 9.0 YPA

Meyfield was much better under center in 2019, Stefanski went less gun in 2020 and it worked extremely well.

Why do you crank back up Mayfield's shotgun snaps by over 10%, and why, when it's clearly not working, don't you reduce the shotgun snaps?

I don't understand

What was also exceedingly bizarre to me was the Browns lack of passing with multiple tight ends on the field in 2021.

This was another obvious issue with Mayfield from his prior staff. Ever since coming to the NFL, he's been substantially worse spread from 11 than he has been in heavy sets with multiple tight ends.

I mentioned this ad nauseum throughout the tragic 2019 Browns season.

# CLE-5

It's one of the reasons I was so happy Stefanski was going to the Browns in 2020, because he loved heavy personnel in Minnesota.

As I wrote in last year's book:

"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."

In 2019, Mayfield passed the ball just 98 times with 2+ tight ends on the field.

In 2020, that was up to 251!

But last year? Down to 165.

Now, we know Mayfield missed a couple of games, so naturally it would be lower, but look at the rates:

2019: 17% of passes came with 2+ tight ends on the field

2020: 48% of passes came with 2+ tight ends on the field (led NFL)

2021: 36% of passes came with 2+ tight ends on the field

That's a massive drop in rate of 2+ tight end sets.

Look at the splits last year when Mayfield was in 2+ tight end sets vs 0-1 tight end sets:

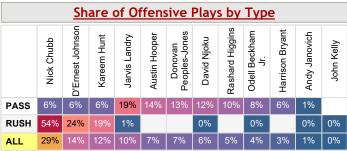
#### (cont'd - see CLE-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

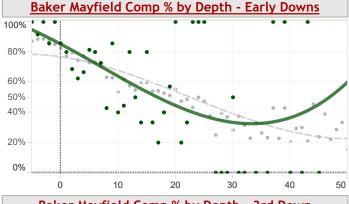
# 

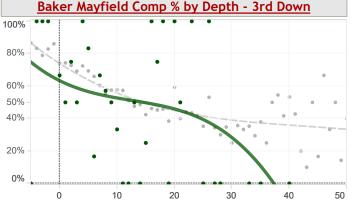


# 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>											
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)						
	Nick Chubb		11%	71%	7%	11%						
	D'Ernest Johnson	14%	6%	55%	8%	17%						
	Kareem Hunt	13%	3%	72%	6%	6%						
I	Jarvis Landry			67%	17%	17%						
RUSH	David Njoku			100%								
œ	Odell Beckham Jr.			100%								
	Andy Janovich			100%								
	John Kelly				100%							
	Total	6%	8%	68%	7%	11%						
	Nick Chubb		16%	72%	8%	4%						
	D'Ernest Johnson	36%	12%	44%	4%	4%						
	Kareem Hunt	11%		85%	4%							
	Jarvis Landry	5%	8%	65%	9%	13%						
	Austin Hooper	5%	10%	77%	5%	3%						
PASS	Donovan Peoples-Jo	3%	19%	62%	5%	10%						
Z A	David Njoku	8%	11%	72%	6%	4%						
	Rashard Higgins	9%	23%	64%	4%							
	Odell Beckham Jr.	15%	3%	71%	9%	3%						
	Harrison Bryant	4%		82%	4%	11%						
	Andy Janovich		50%	25%	25%							
	Total	8%	11%	69%	6%	6%						







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

# 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary



# Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, -0.18 (310)	52%, 0.11 (124)	52%, 0.05 (67)	46%, -0.09 (63)	56%, 0.07 (9)	0%, -2.65 (2)			46%, -0.09 (575)
RUSH	53%, 0.11 (172)	47%, -0.05 (109)	50%, 0.04 (120)	53%, 0.08 (51)	41%, -0.10 (34)		0%, -3.27 (1)	0%, -0.31 (1)	50%, 0.03 (488)
All	46%, -0.08 (482)	49%, 0.03 (233)	51%, 0.04 (187)	49%, -0.01 (114)	44%, -0.08 (43)	0%, -2.65 (2)	0%, -3.27 (1)	0%, -0.31 (1)	48%, -0.03 (1,063)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)											
POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total							
WR	Jarvis	46% (46)	61% (23)	83% (6)	53% (75)							
	Landry	6.3, -0.26	9.7, 0.51	12.5, 0.91	7.9, 0.07							
	Donovan	55% (29)	47% (19)	50% (8)	52% (56)							
	Peoples-J	10.6, 0.63	7.4, -0.15	11.0, 0.39	9.6, 0.33							
	Odell	33% (15)	67% (9)	75% (4)	50% (28)							
	Beckham	5.1, -0.46	9.1, 0.26	10.0, 0.52	7.1, -0.09							
TE	Austin	59% (27)	63% (16)	67% (6)	61% (49)							
	Hooper	6.7, 0.03	4.4, 0.42	6.3, 0.36	5.9, 0.19							
	Harrison Bryant		56% (9) 6.2, 0.08		56% (9) 6.2, 0.08							
RB	Kareem	50% (20)	50% (4)	50% (2)	50% (26)							
	Hunt	5.9, 0.03	7.5, 0.05	10.5, 0.57	6.5, 0.08							
	Nick Chubb	60% (10) 8.0, 0.41	57% (7) 8.0, 0.14	29% (7) 4.4, -0.04	50% (24) 7.0, 0.17							

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Chubb	54% (61)	48% (65)	54% (35)	43% (7)	51% (168)
Nick	5.4, 0.04	4.4, -0.07	5.3, 0.12	8.1, 0.27	5.1, 0.02
Johnson	51% (45)	47% (17)	29% (7)	70% (10)	51% (79)
D'Ernest	6.3, 0.09	4.8, 0.03	2.6, -0.32	6.5, 0.25	5.7, 0.06
Hunt	47% (34)	31% (16)	50% (2)	50% (2)	43% (54)
Kareem	5.9, 0.02	3.4, -0.20	6.0, 0.19	0.0, -0.48	5.0, -0.05
Mayfield	64% (14)	50% (6)	67% (6)	11% (9)	49% (35)
Baker	6.1, 0.58	3.7, 0.17	3.8, 0.23	-0.2, -0.65	3.7, 0.12
Keenum	67% (3)	50% (2)		0% (2)	43% (7)
Case	4.7, 0.45	2.0, -0.11		-1.0, -0.57	2.3, 0.00
Kelly John				50% (2) 6.5, 0.12	50% (2) 6.5, 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

_	sing by		sing by	Throw	Types	QB Drop	Types	QE	State at	Pass	Run Types	
	verage :heme	R	oute	Level 1	56% (370)	3 Step	49% (184) 6.3, 0.00	Planted		% (387) 8, 0.11	Outside Zone	55% (89) 5.8, 0.01
		Out	51% (61) 5.9, -0.09		6.7, 0.10			Shuffling		9% (80)	20110	
Zone	40% (334)			Level 2	45% (112)	5 Step	42% (132) 7.6, 0.07		6.	7, 0.05 9% (65)	Power	51% (71) 5.3, 0.06
	7.4, -0.07	Curl	55% (49) 5.7, 0.13		9.9, 0.23	0/4 Stop 69% (55)	Moving	4.5, -0.03		Stretch	37% (52)	
			65% (31)	Level 3	26% (23)	u/i Step	8.3, 0.30		Play Actio	on	Stretch	4.8, -0.15
Man	42% (158) 6.4, -0.08	Slant	7.0, -0.08	Level	9.5, -0.02	7 Step	63% (46) 13.4, 0.51		Play Action	No P/A	Inside Zone	49% (37) 3.8, 0.01
	,		60% (30)	Shovel	50% (2)			Under Center	54% (114) 10.1, 0.16	56% (48) 5.8, -0.01	Zone	· ·
	100( (05)	Dig	8.1, 0.41	GHOVE	2.5, 0.00	Basic Screen	63% (35) 8.1, 0.22	Shotgun	67% (27)	40% (395)	Lead	39% (18) 5.8, 0.14
Other	46% (25) 6.3, 0.14	Drag	31% (13) 4.3, -0.68	Sidearm	0% (2) -0.5, -0.95	Designed Rollout Right	55% (22) 6.3, 0.28	ALL	9.6, 0.21 56% (141)	6.3, -0.19	Pitch	36% (14) 3.4, -0.32
			.,,5,-0.00		, , , , , , ,	Rollout Right	0.3, 0.20		10.0, 0.17	6.3, -0.17		3.4, -0.32

#### CLE-6

2+ TEs: 0.07 EPA/att, 44% success, 8.2 YPA, 26% pressure rate, 8% sack rate 0-1 TEs: -0.15 EPA/att, 41% success, 6.6 YPA, 31% pressure rate, 10% sack rate

Looking only at early downs, to not skew inefficient third down dropbacks:

2+ TEs: 0.13 EPA/att, 45% success, 8.6 YPA, 25% pressure rate, 5% sack rate 0-1 TEs: 0.02 EPA/att, 46% success, 7.0 YPA, 26% pressure rate, 8% sack rate

Making it even more perplexing was the personnel available for the Browns.

The Browns had three tight ends: **Austin Hooper**, **David Njoku**, and **Harrison Bryant**. Hooper missed only one game all season, because of COVID (Week 15). Both David Njoku and Harrison Bryant were healthy in all 17 games, except for the game against the Ravens in Week 14 due to COVID.

With three healthy tight ends all season long, and Mayfield performing much better in 2+ tight end sets, it seems like it should be a slam dunk to not run a ton of pass plays with only 0-1 tight ends on the field.

But it wasn't just that.

The Browns' top two wide receivers entering last season were Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry.

You know how many games they played together all year?

Two games, Week 7 and Week 8. That's because Beckham missed the first two weeks of the season and then was traded after Week 8. Landry was hurt in Week 2 and missed Weeks 3-6 when Beckham was healthy.

(cont'd - see CLE-7)





When both were back in Weeks 7 and 8? Donovan Peoples-Jones, who was second in snaps for the Browns, was out with injury.

With all of these receivers missing time and never being available to play in the same game, it really is mind boggling how the Browns were not FORCED to play more two tight end sets.

Out of necessity, with three healthy tight ends and very few healthy wide receivers at any one time, how are you not passing more with 2+ tight ends on the field?

How do you go from 48% usage to 36% usage with those wide receiver injuries, the wide receiver health and knowing Mayfield is much better with multiple tight ends?

I don't understand

A third thing with playcalling that I didn't get with the 2021 Browns: the first down runs.

Baker Mayfield was terrible on third downs. With his injuries, defenses were teeing up on him in obvious passing situations like third down.

Look at his splits on the season by down:

First down: 0.08 EPA/att, 51% success, 8.1 YPA, 66% comp Second down: 0.05 EPA/att, 40% success, 7.3 YPA, 63% comp Third down: -0.37 EPA/att, 31% success, 5.7 YPA, 50% comp

The numbers aren't close.

Out of 35 qualified passers last year on third down, Mayfield ranked 32nd in EPA/att, 33rd in success rate, 29th in YPA, and 35th in completion rate.

But on first down? Even with the injuries all year long?

Mayfield ranked 17th in EPA/att, third in success rate, fourth in YPA, and 24th in completion rate.

We're talking about a shift in success rate and YPA from bottom-5 on third down to top-5 on first down.

That ranked as the seventh-most run-heavy team in the NFL.

I get what you're thinking though.

"Why should this be a surprise? The Browns are a run first team. And their quarterback is injured. Of course they'd run the ball a ton on first down."

(cont'd - see CLE-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Cleveland Browns 2022 Draft Class

Without a first-round pick due to the **Deshaun Watson** trade, Cleveland traded down in the second round and was able to use three Day 2 selections. This strategy was critical to replenishing the depth chart with younger, cheaper players as the Browns no longer have the luxury of building around a rookie-contract quarterback. **Martin Emerson** (third round) was a surprise selection because there's no obvious path to playing time with **Denzel Ward** and **Greg Newsome** locked into starting roles. It's unclear who will take over for **Troy Hill** in the slot, but it's probably not the 6-foot-2 Emerson. In 2021, Emerson was in the slot on 21% of his snaps, allowing 7.0 yards per target.

Alex Wright (third round) is a developmental prospect, but could see some action as a pass-rush specialist in the **Takk McKinley** role as a rookie. In his final season at UAB, Wright generated pressure in 2.5 seconds or less on 10% of his pass-rush snaps, the second-highest rate in this year's draft class. He lacks the well-rounded skill set to be a three-down defender, but adding a pass-rush weapon was likely one of Cleveland's goals in this draft and Wright fills that need. **Perrion Winfrey** (fourth round) could also contribute to the Browns' pass rush from the interior. Winfrey ranked fourth in the Big 12 among interior defensive linemen with a 9.5% pressure rate last season.

David Bell (third round) fits perfectly into the Jarvis Landry mold as a receiver with modest athletic traits, but efficient route-running technique and reliable hands. Bell lined up in the slot on just 21% of his targets last season at Purdue, but he'll likely shift into that role at a higher rate in Cleveland. Based on route-adjusted data, Bell's catch rate was 7.2% above expected throughout his college career, which bodes well for a smooth transition to the league. Mike Woods (sixth round) also adds to the Browns' depth at receiver, and is a more dangerous runner after the catch than Bell. Over the last two seasons at Arkansas and Oklahoma, Woods primarily lined up in the slot and picked up 21% more yards after the catch than expected based on route-adjusted data, compared to 11% for Bell.

The selection of kicker **Cade York** (fourth round) was an uncharacteristic selection by Andrew Berry made out of pure desperation. Cleveland has generated negative EPA on field goal attempts in each of the past two seasons and clearly felt an upgrade at kicker was a necessity. Unfortunately, NFL teams have never been good at identifying the best kicker in a given draft class. York is just the third kicker selected in the fourth round or higher over the last 15 seasons. The others, Roberto Aguayo and Alex Henery, combined to play just four years in the league. Cincinnati had success with fifth-round kicker **Evan McPherson** last year, so there are success stories for teams with rookie kickers, but it's historically been a difficult position to evaluate and college success does not easily translate to the NFL. **Jerome Ford** (fifth round) will compete for the third-string running back job and could rise up the depth chart next year after **Kareem Hunt** hits free agency. Ford is a between-the-tackles runner, which fits well in the Browns scheme.

Considering they didn't select until the third round, the Browns came away with a solid draft haul and a few role players who should see immediate action. The Browns turned their original second-round selection into the draft picks used on Emerson, Winfrey, and York — which already looks like a win, despite the unnecessary risk of selecting a kicker in the fourth round.



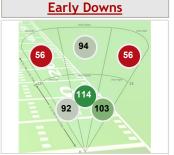
# Cleveland Browns 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Cleveland passing game took a step back in 2021, closing the season 24th in the NFL in expected points added via passing (18.5 EPA), ranking 26th in completion rate (61.5%), 18th in yards per pass attempt (7.0 Y/A), and 18th in touchdown rate (4.0%). Playing through injury and taking a step back himself, Baker Mayfield found himself out of favor with the organization as the team went all-in on trading for **Deshaun Watson** this offseason. Cleveland added veteran Jacoby Brissett as insurance for both events. Brissett was rough when called upon in Miami a year ago, but he has 37 career starts under his belt.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk											
Baker Mayfield	253	416	61%	3,010	7.2	17	12	43	85	32	
Case Keenum	47	72	65%	462	6.4	3	1	5	91	22	
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6		

#### 2021 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ 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 % 44% 50% 42 10.0% 17 4.0% Baker Mavfield 6.4 5.5 Case Keenum 49% 59% 4 6.0% 1 1.0% 3.3 6.5 46% 50% 8.8% 12.5 3.1% 5.3 34.1 5.6 NFL Avg

# **Target Postive Distribution** Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Baker Mayfield Rating**



<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%	16.7%	1.9%						
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	1.0%						
10 - 14	4.1%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	3.9%						
15+	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	2.4%						
Total	3.5%	0.0%	4.3%	5.9%	2.6%						

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Baker Mayfield	7.9	10.4	2.2	62%	11					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

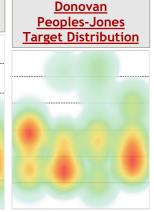
<u>rd Down I</u>	<u>Passing</u>	<u>ysis</u>	<u>is</u> <u>Air Yds vs Y</u>					
	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
Mayfield	7.9	10.4	2.2	62%	11	54%	46%	18
vg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%		53%	47%	

# 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook Cleveland was at the bottom of the league in terms of counting stats from their wide receivers in 2021. They closed the year 30th in wide receiver targets per game (15.4) and yardage per game

(120.8 yards) and touchdowns receptions (nine). The team moved on from Odell Beckham in-season while moving on from Jarvis Landry and Rashard Higgins in free agency. Attempting to overhaul their receiving corps, Cleveland traded for Amari Cooper and selected David Bell in the third round of the draft. The team added Jakeem Grant via free agency. David Njoku will still only turn 26 years old this July, coming off a career-high 13.2 yards per catch and 9.0 yards per target despite only playing 64% of the offensive snaps.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% сошр	YPA	Rating	% Snccess	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Jarvis Landry	85	61%	6.9	65.0	49%	88	110	87	31	2
Austin Hooper	62	61%	5.6	85.8	55%	46	86	107	12	3
Donovan Peoples-Jo	58	59%	10.3	89.5	52%	71	87	1	138	3
David Njoku	53	68%	9.0	113.3	57%	35	37	42	93	4





# 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The backfield remains the strength of this offense. Cleveland ranked fourth in the league in expected points added via rushing in 2021 (54.7) while rushing for 2,471 yards (fourth) and 20 touchdowns (seventh). Nick Chubb remains an elite running back per touch, and really puts emphasis on the "running" part of elite running back output. Chubb accrued another 1,433 yards and nine scores in 2021 while averaging 5.5 yards per carry, becoming the first running back ever to average over 5.0 yards per carry with over 100 attempts over their first four seasons in the league. Kareem Hunt remains one of the best 1B running backs in the league while D'Ernest Johnson popped in 2021, producing 168 and 157 yards in his two starts last season with both Chubb and Hunt unavailable.

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	228	5.5	49%	52	35	87	5	49%	47	8
D'Ernest Johnson	100	5.3	52%	33	63	59	49	55%	17	3
Kareem Hunt	78	4.9	47%	63	56	67	31	45%	70	5

#### Yards per Carry by Direction 6.7 7.6 2.0 5.4 4.3 4.3 C RG RT



# Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Does Cleveland Have Any Value Plays?

With the turmoil still surrounding **Deshaun Watson** pushing all of the Cleveland offensive player's fantasy cost down outside of **Nick Chubb**, do the Browns have any opportunity to still find a few contributors here? Let's start with **Amari Cooper**. Cooper heads to Cleveland still right in the prime of the apex of his career — he turned 28 years old in June. Cooper will have a complete runway to be the featured passing asset for the Browns in 2022. **Jakeem Grant** has the most career receptions among his wide receiver teammates (100) while the rest of the group has combined for 95 career catches. Cooper has averaged 23.2 PPR points and 20.1 0.5 PPR points (10th among wideouts in each department) in games with a touchdown over the past five years. He has found the end zone in 38.2% of those games (17th among wideouts with top-45 ADP), above his current station in ADP (WR27). But Cooper has averaged just 8.3 PPR points (30th out of those 45 wideouts) and 6.4 0.5 PPR points per game (31st) in his games without a score. In 48 games without a touchdown over that stretch, Cooper has not posted any WR1 scoring weeks with nine weeks as a WR2 or better.

We also should acknowledge how volatile Cooper has been in terms of splits indoors and outdoors over the course of his career. Cooper has been a sports car, operating at peak conditions on fast tracks and taking advantage of the comfortable confines in Dallas. Cooper has 25 career 100-yard receiving games, with just nine coming on the road. Even while playing in a warm-weather climate with the Raiders, seven of Cooper's 13 100-yard games with the team came on the road. When looking at his road game hits over his entire career, two of those nine 100-yard games came in a dome. Of the remaining seven, all were played at 56 degrees or warmer. Cooper has played just 12 career games below 40 degrees, averaging 9.1 fantasy points per game in those games, catching 47-of-86 targets (54.6%) for 507 yards (10.8 yards per catch) with two touchdowns. Splits like these can have more than enough noise to them, but the discrepancy in Cooper's results is extremely one-sided.

The most appealing target on this offense in my opinion is **David Njoku**. Still only 26 years old, Njoku is coming off a career-high 13.2 yards per catch and 9.0 yards per target despite only playing 64% of the offensive snaps. He was incentivized by the organization with a massive contract extension as the team has moved on from veteran **Austin Hooper**. If Watson plays in 2022, Njoku obviously gets a massive bump in quarterback play, but even if **Jacoby Brissett** is the starter, Brissett has targeted tight ends on 29.0% of his career pass attempts, a rate only lower than Lamar Jackson (32.6%) and Carson Wentz (31.1%).

Donovan Peoples-Jones also has an opportunity here. Peoples-Jones has been tasked as a lid lifter only in his extended run during his second season. Peoples-Jones has now averaged a robust 18.8 yards per catch on an average depth of target of 16.7 yards downfield. Peoples-Jones is a fit playing alongside Watson, but he will need some dominoes to fall in his favor and development outside of his vertical game to command targets before being archetyped into Cleveland's' version of Marquez Valdes-Scantling. Cleveland has an opening to play the slot in three-receiver sets and selected David Bell in the third round. Bell has the most decorated production in this draft class, entering the NFL averaging 8.0 receptions and 101.6 yards per game for his collegiate career, both the highest marks in this class. As a 19-year-old freshman, Bell reeled off an impressive 86-1,035-7 line and never looked back, closing this season with 93-1,286-6. All Bell has done is produce and he crushed man coverage for 3.29 yards per route this past season (fifth in this class). Where Bell gets knocked is that he was last in this class in explosive play rate per target (19%) while the combine did him no favors at all, checking out as a 12th percentile athlete.

Cle	veland Brov	wns Defense	: Number o	f DBs vs Pe	rsonnel	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success	Мар
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	DI	50	, - N
1-1 [3WR]	7 plays (2%) Success: 29%	385 plays (84%) Success: 42%	64 plays (14%) Success: 36%	1 plays (0%) Success: 0%	457 plays (100%) Success: 41%		%	Rk	40	
[01114]	EPA: -0.33	EPA: -0.02	EPA: -0.11	EPA: -2.80	EPA: -0.05	Base	27%	12		
1-2 [2WR]	78 plays (76%) Success: 37%	24 plays (23%) Success: 33%	1 plays (1%) Success: 0%		103 plays (100%) Success: 36%	Nickel	61%	16	30	
	EPA: -0.19	EPA: -0.13	EPA: 0.14		EPA: -0.17	Dime+	11%	19	and the same of the	
2-1 [2WR]	13 plays (45%) Success: 62% EPA: -0.04	14 plays (48%) Success: 57% EPA: -0.18	2 plays <i>(7%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 2.89		29 plays (100%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.09	Rush 3	2%	26	20 –	
	2 plays (67%)	1 plays (33%)	_, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		3 plays (100%)	Rush 4	76%	6	10 -	
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 50% EPA: 0.16	Success: 0% EPA: -0.69			Success: 33% EPA: -0.12	Rush 5	18%	18		
	100 plays (17%)	424 plays (72%)	67 plays (11%)	1 plays (0%)	592 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	3%	22	0 -	
Grand Total	Success: 40% EPA: -0.17	Success: 42% EPA: -0.04	Success: 37% EPA: -0.01	Success: 0% EPA: -2.80	Success: 41% EPA: -0.06	Blitz%	22%	21	-10	

# **Defensive Outlook**

Cleveland's interior defensive line has mostly turned over from last season. Malik McDowell and Malik Jackson were the leaders in snaps inside last season but neither are on the roster. Jordan Elliott is the leading returner a 2020 third-round pick who played 40% of the defensive snaps last season. Elliott didn't add much as a pass rusher, but he can be an overall disruptor behind the line of scrimmage with 16.5 combined tackles for loss in his final two college seasons. Perrion Winfrey, a 2022 fourth-round pick, could work into the rotation early. Winfrey put up 5.5 sacks in 2021 bouncing between nose and 3-tech. Taven Bryan is another interesting name added here. Bryan never fully lived up to his billing as a first-round pick in Jacksonville, but he had consistently had production rushing the passer. Bryan was 24th among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season, per SIS. He's given little as a run defender, but that's where the others on the line can fill in. Tommy Togiai, a 2021 fourth-round pick, only played 11% of the defensive snaps as a rookie. Myles Garrett is one of the league's best pass rushers. You are here for that type of deep analysis. Garrett was fifth among edge rushers in pressure rate in 2021 and was first in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. Garrett's presence tilts the defense and makes life easier on the other pass rusher. Jadevoon Clowney returns after he ranked fourth in Pass Rush Win Rate last season.

The Browns acquired **Chase Winovich** in exchange for Mack Wilson. Winovich, a 2019 third-round pick, had an interesting career arc with the New England Patriots. Winovich didn't see the field much in his rookie season, then had the highest pressure rate among edge rushers in 2020, and then didn't see the field much in 2021. Getting Winovich consistent playing time as a more traditional pass rusher should bring out more of that upside from the 2020 season. **Curtis Weaver** was a productive college pass rusher but hasn't been able to get on the field. Cleveland claimed him from Miami during his rookie season while was on injured reserve the entire year. He bounced up and down from the practice squad in 2021 but he saw just six defensive snaps. As a second-round pick, **Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah** was instantly one of the league's best coverage linebackers. He ranked fifth among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. He only played 54% of the defensive snaps as a rookie, but that's likely to increase this coming season. **Anthony Walker** led the team in snaps at the position. Walker was 27th in yards allowed per coverage snap among 85 qualified linebackers. He was also all over the field, averaging 8.7 tackles per game.With **Sione Takitaki** and **Jacob Phillips**, the Browns have some depth here and they had three linebackers on the field for 26.5% of their defensive snaps, which was the 12th-highest rate of base in 2021.

Denzel Ward has established himself as a top-tier No. 1 corner. He ranked 17th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which includes touchdowns and interceptions, among 93 qualified cornerbacks. Greg Newsome ranked 68th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which is more than fair for a rookie. Newsome played 61.7% of the defensive snaps last season, which eclipsed Greedy Williams at 52.7%. Williams had his first healthy season and played quite well when he was on the field. He ranked 43rd in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, while almost exclusively playing on the outside. John Johnson played 80.8% of the defensive snaps after coming over from the Los Angeles Rams. He was a 100-tackle player like he was in his final season with the Rams, but he wasn't tasked with fitting the run as aggressively as he was in the Rams' system. Johnson also played much more deep safety with the Browns (65.5% of his snaps) than he did in 2020 with Los Angeles (30.9%). Grant Delpit played 53.5% of the defensive snaps and flashed the potential he showed in college after missing his entire rookie season. Delpit was able to play all around the defense and should grow in that role going forward. Ronnie Harrison also returns after playing 52% of the defensive snaps in 2021.

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	56%
All Pass Rk	17
All Rush %	44%
All Rush Rk	16
1 Score Pass %	55%
1 Score Pass Rk	19
2020 1 Score Pass %	55%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	22
2021 Pass Increase %	0%
Pass Increase Rk	17
1 Score Rush %	45%
1 Score Rush Rk	14
Up Pass %	53%
Up Pass Rk	21
Up Rush %	47%
Up Rush Rk	12
Down Pass %	57%
Down Pass Rk	22
Down Rush %	43%
Down Rush Rk	11

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	<u>denci</u>	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %
1st	Short (1-3)	7	71%	29%	57%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	8	38%	63%	75%
	Long (8-10)	307	46%	54%	50%
	XL (11+)	18	78%	22%	67%
2nd	Short (1-3)	39	31%	69%	72%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	76	50%	50%	55%
	Long (8-10)	91	66%	34%	38%
	XL (11+)	35	83%	17%	34%
3rd	Short (1-3)	39	44%	56%	59%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	48	77%	23%	42%
	Long (8-10)	23	91%	9%	30%
	XL (11+)	32	78%	22%	13%
4th	Short (1-3)	11	64%	36%	64%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	100%	0%	0%
	XL (11+)	3	67%	33%	33%

Shots	gun %
Shotgun	Under Center
50%	50%
NFL	AVG
65%	35%



# **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Run NFL 1D Avg 73%

Pass NFL 1D Avg 46%

05%	35%				
Effic	iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Ru
EPA/ pass:	EPA/ pass:	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 10 Rate
0.10	0.03	76%	11	71%	79%
EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pas
0.06 iccess:	-0.01 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1I Rate
41%	40%	24%	22	29%	33%

		Most	Frequent Play		
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	PASS	Austin Hooper	2	50%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	2	50%
			D'Ernest Johnson	2	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	90	44%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Odell Beckham Jr.	3	100%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	15	73%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	24	58%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	16	19%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jarvis Landry	4	25%
			Donovan Peoples-Jo	4	50%
			David Njoku	4	50%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Nick Chubb	5	40%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Donovan Peoples-Jo	5	60%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Rashard Higgins	4	25%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Austin Hooper	3	0%
			Odell Beckham Jr.	3	0%
		RUSH	D'Ernest Johnson	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: 45%	Success: 71%	Success: 50%
	YPA: 8.4, EPA: -0.03	YPA: 11.1, EPA: 0.33	YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.04
	Rtg: 93.6	Rtg: 127.4	Rtg: 100.6
	[Att: 101 - Rate: 17.3%]	[Att: 24 - Rate: 4.1%]	[Att: 125 - Rate: 21.4%]
Yes	Success: 41%	Success: 53%	Success: 44%
	YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.22	YPA: 9.8, EPA: 0.13	YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.13
	Rtg: 77.2	Rtg: 104.2	Rtg: 84.2
	[Att: 342 - Rate: 58.6%]	[Att: 117 - Rate: 20.0%]	[Att: 459 - Rate: 78.6%]
Total	Success: 42%	Success: 56%	Success: 45%
	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.17	YPA: 10.0, EPA: 0.17	YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.09
	Rtg: 80.8	Rtg: 108.3	Rtg: 87.7
	[Att: 443 - Rate: 75.9%]	[Att: 141 - Rate: 24.1%]	[Att: 584 - Rate: 100.0%]

					Weekly	/ Snaps	Played				
Wk	Орр	Score	Austin Hooper	Donovan Peoples	David Njoku	Jarvis Landry	Rashard Higgins	Nick Chubb	Harrison Bryant	D'Ernest Johnson	Odell Beckham.
1	KC	L 33-29	38	47	35	51	4	31	19		
2	HOU	W 31-21	42	46	36	2	43	35	31	3	
3	CHI	W 26-6	49	53	50		40	40	33	5	52
4	MIN	W 14-7	56	46	52		41	37	29		62
5	LAC	L 47-42	52	49	46		34	40	31		58
6	ARI	L 37-14	44	46	26		37		17	12	32
7	DEN	W 17-14	46		42	38	42		30	49	43
8	PIT	L 15-10	38		38	53	33	33	23	18	43
9	CIN	W 41-16	35	29	35	32	3	27	25	16	
10	NE	L 45-7	37	50	35	47	26		23	52	
11	DET	W 13-10	48		47	48	53	42	31	26	
12	BAL	L 16-10	54	45	43	56		30	16	6	
14	BAL	W 24-22	65	60		54	24	43		14	
15	LV	L 16-14		52	56		44	37	22	18	
16	GB	L 24-22	37	59	39	54	44	41	19	26	
17	PIT	L 26-14	35	64	51	50	41	30	19	39	
18	CIN	W 21-16	41	53	39	48		16	34	47	
	Grand '	Total	717	699	670	533	509	482	402	331	290

Perso	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	45%	61%	46%
1-2 [2WR]	22%	21%	49%
1-3 [1WR]	17%	4%	51%
2-1 [2WR]	11%	7%	49%
2-2 [1WR]	4%	3%	44%
Group	ing T		
	illig i e	<u>enaen</u>	<u>cies</u>
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
Personnel 1-1 [3WR]	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. % 42%	Run Succ. %
Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR]	Pass Rate 64% 53%	Pass Succ. % 42% 52%	Run Succ. % 53% 47%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard					
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Austin Hooper	12	3	2	7	
Jarvis Landry	10		4	6	
Harrison Bryant	6	2	1	3	
Rashard Higgins	5		2	3	
Kareem Hunt	4		1	3	
Odell Beckham Jr.	3	1	1	1	

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard					
Rusher	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Nick Chubb	41	11	11	19	
D'Ernest Johnson	19	2	5	12	
Kareem Hunt	17	4	3	10	
Case Keenum	6		2	4	
Baker Mayfield	4	1		3	
Jarvis Landry	4	2		2	
Johnny Stanton	1	1			

Early [	own Targe	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
21%	30%	49%
23%	21%	56%
23%	NFL ÁVG	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
	NFL AVG	
Overall	NFL AVG  Target Su	ccess %





# 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



And guess what?

That's just what EVERY defensive coordinator thought as well. It played right into their hands.

Because on first down, check out where the Browns' great run game ranked, with a great offensive line and great running backs:

18th in EPA/att (-0.11) and 17th in success rate (33.1%)

A whopping 82% of these runs went into 7+ man boxes (NFL average was 76%) because defenses were expecting run.

Again, although it sounds counterintuitive, the Browns may have wanted to pass more on first down.

One final element of playcalling that I questioned from last year?

Why the reduction of play-action on second down?

Look at Mayfield's play-action rate by down:

First down: 43% Second down: 18%

In 2020 with Stefanski, Mayfield was using play-action on 30% of his second down drops. 30%!

Why drop it in 2021? Was it not effective on second down? Let's look at the splits:

Second down with play-action: 0.30 EPA/att, 52% success, 10.0 YPA Second down without play-action: -0.01 EPA/att, 38% success, 6.6 YPA

Why, with these splits, were the Browns reducing Mayfield's play-action to nearly half what it was in 2020 on second down and reducing it by OVER HALF what it was on first down in 2021?

I don't understand.

After a virtually perfect job of coaching in 2020, these were just four things that really puzzled me about the 2021 Browns. To recap:

- 1. Why so much shotgun compared to 2020, when Baker was much better throwing from under center in both years?
- 2. Why so much less 2+ tight end passing sets compared to 2020, when Baker was much better throwing with 2+ tight ends in both years and the Browns had tons of healthy tight ends and a wide receiver injury problem?
- 3. Why so much running on first down when Mayfield was so much better passing on first down and needed to bypass more third downs?
- 4. Why so much less play-action on second down compared to 2020, when Mayfield was much better throwing with play-action in both years?

I have no idea what Mayfield's grievances were with Stefanski's playcalling. The specific quote was, "the Browns haven't played to Mayfield's strengths this season." Well, those things I identified surely were strengths of Mayfield's and, after shifting TOWARDS them in 2020, they absolutely shifted AWAY FROM them in 2021. I doubt it was intentional and I bet what Mayfield was actually complaining about wasn't one of those elements I identified, although I do not know

But things were not optimized as much in 2021 as I would have hoped, especially not after what I loved from the 2020 Browns.

So the big question now, with Mayfield gone in 2022, is where do the Browns go from here?





That entirely hinges on the length of suspension for Deshaun Watson.

Before we discuss Watson, let's briefly mention Jacoby Brissett, who will be QB1 for whatever games Watson misses.

Brissett was a disaster in Miami last season. And when we last saw him in Indianapolis, he was puppeteered so cleverly by Frank Reich to optimize YAC and minimize Brissett's issues and even then, despite playing the easiest schedule of defenses in the NFL that year, he wasn't very good.

People crawl out of the woodwork to complain about Tua Tagovailoa and think that Brissett will be close to Baker Mayfield, and I just don't get it.

Behind the same line and with the same skill position players, here is how the two QBs compared last year:

Tagovailoa: 15th in EPA/att, 12th in success rate, 23rd in YPA, 11th in first down %, 13th in INT% Brissett: 31st in EPA/att, 29th in success rate, 35th in YPA, 29th in first down %, 25th in INT%

That was out of 35 quarterbacks.

In Indy in 2019, out of 34 qualifying quarterbacks, Brissett ranked 32nd in YPA and that was despite crafting the offense to generate the 10th most YAC per completion. Brissett also ranked 26th in success rate and 19th in EPA/att.

Some of his offensive lines have had issues, and his line in Cleveland will be the best he's played behind, but he invites pressure and holds onto the ball too long.

Way too long.

In 2019, he ranked second in the percentage of dropbacks holding the ball for at least three seconds and he had the sixth-highest time to throw.

Last year, he ranked fourth in the percentage of dropbacks holding the ball for at least 3 seconds and he had the ninth-highest time to throw.

Compare that to Tagovailoa, who behind the same line ranked #33 in the percentage of dropbacks holding the ball at least 3 seconds and 33rd in time to throw, both out of 35 quarterbacks.

Behind that same line, Tagovailoa got rid of the ball quickly and accurately. Brissett was held onto it forever. The same thing happened in 2019.

Holding onto the ball for Brissett is a feature of his, not a bug with his offensive lines. I predict the same will happen in 2022 in Cleveland.

I think the Browns have a great floor in 2022 because of the rest of the roster. In our collective unit rankings for this book, we've ranked them as having the best offensive line, the best running back corps, fifth in front-7, and the third-best secondary.

But I will say this – I feel \*slightly\* less confident about the coaching and their ability to see in real time what is going on and make the right adjustments for Brissett after seeing what they did last season. I still really like Stefanski, but will expect him to be much more on top of things and making adjustments quickly based on data because he'll need to with a quarterback like Brissett.

But if Watson plays and plays a lot next year?

The whole story could change.

I know it seems like eons ago, but whatever good that the Texans did in 2020 (they won only four games) it almost exclusively was tied to Watson's performance at 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

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 in Houston. 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 games.

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.

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).





Now, if he plays, he'll be playing behind the best offensive line in the NFL with a better coaching staff.

If he played the full 2022 season, the Browns would be justifiably a top-3 team in the AFC in my opinion.

If he doesn't play at all? Thanks to the eighth-easiest schedule in 2022 and the eighth-easiest schedule of pass defenses for Brissett to face, I think they finish a game within .500, either 9-8 or 8-9.

The length of Watson's suspension obviously has a big impact on Cleveland's on-field outlook in 2022. That's because, inexplicably, the NFL gave the Browns BY FAR the easiest first four weeks of any team in the NFL. They're playing the Panthers, Jets, Steelers, and Falcons. I can't envision a world where they start worse than 3-1, even with Brissett. After that, the schedule certainly gets tougher. A one-month suspension and the Browns' 2022 season might not be completely derailed on the field, even if many questions remain off it.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

# Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

# 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

# CLICK TO LEARN MORE

# 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

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

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	7.7			
37. PSM Target Depth	6.5			
38. Non-PSM YPA	8.2			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	9.0			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	56%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	52%			
42. PSM EPA/att	0.06			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.03			
Place Action (Occurtors 4, 2 on Fords Docume)				

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead 2.0

03. Wins 8

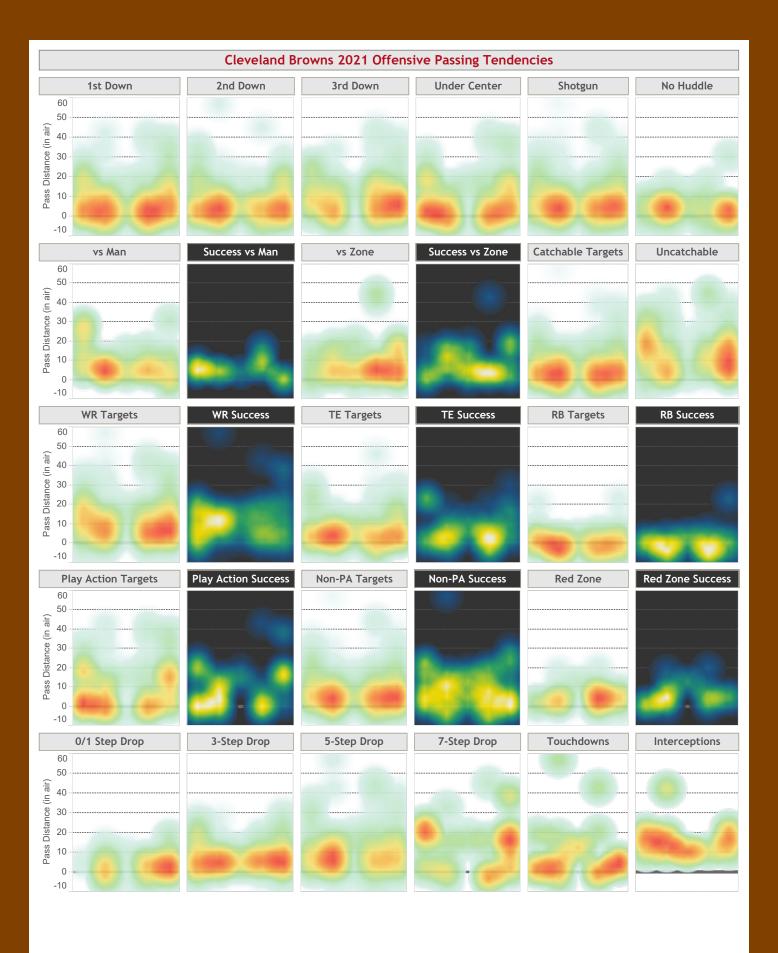
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)				
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	32%			
45. PA Success Rate	55%			
46. PA YPA	10.6			
47. PA Sack Rate	5.0%			
48. PA EPA/att	0.17			
49. PA Target Depth	8.9			
50. Non-PA Success Rate	51%			
51. Non-PA YPA	6.6			
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	6.0%			
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0			
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	13%
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	5.4
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	44%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	51%
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	25%
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	5.9

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)					
Net FROE Rk	29	defFUM	24		
Net FROE	-3.8				
offFUM	20	defFUM Rcvrd	17		
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR Rk	27		
offFR%	55.0%	defFR%	29.2%		
offFR Rk	18	defFROE	-3.0		
offFROE	-0.7	defFROE Rk	28		
offFROE Rk	18	don NOL NA	20		

Field Goal Luck					
Net Over Expectation	-5.29	Opp Att	27		
Net Over Expectation Rank	32	Opp Makes	26		
Own Att Own Makes	22 16	Opp FG %	96%		
Own FG %	73%	Opp Expected Makes	22.38		
Own Expected Makes	17.66	Opp Make Over Expectation	3.62		
Own Make over Expectation	-1.66	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	1		
Own Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	-0.92	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	0.33		
2020 Own Rk	23	2020 Opp Rk	21		

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs		QB Pressure		Offensive Metrics	
	Baker Mayfield		Baker Mayfield	EPA/Pass	-0.13
CAY	6.2	Pressure %	30.5	EPA/Pass Rk	25
CAY Rk	10	Pressure Rk	29	EPA/Rush	0.06
2020 CAY Rk	2	Sack %	8.8	EPA/Rush Rk	1
AYTS Rk	8	Sack Rk	4	On-Target Catch %	89.8%
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	4 14	Pressure Accuracy %	60	On-Target Catch Rk	17
2020 AGG Rk	29	Pressure Accuracy Rk	29	Drop%	6.5%
COMP%	60.5	Rating when Pressured	61.2	Drop Rk	24
xCOMP%	64	Pressured Rating Rk	28	·	
xCOMP% Rk	33	Clean Accuracy %	74.9	YAC/Att	3.0
2020 xCOMP% Rk	36	Clean Accuracy Rk	33	YAC/Att Rk	1
CPOE%	-3.5	•		Rush Broken Tackle %	16.9%
CPOE Rk	30	Rating when Clean	89.2	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	3
2020 CPOE Rk	21	Clean Rating Rk	29	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	3
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS	S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:	Time to Throw	2.82	Rush 1st Down %	28.5%
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expect Actual completion percentage over	ed completion percentage <b>CPOE</b> : er expectation	Time to Throw Rk	16	Rush 1st Down Rk	6



### Browns Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Baker Mayfield	0.10 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	0.06 (#2)	-0.06 (#2)	0.18 (#1)	0.08 (#2)
2020	Baker Mayfield	0.32 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	0.17 (#2)	0.25 (#1)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Baker Mayfield	-0.93 (#2)	-0.36 (#2)	0.13 (#2)	-0.20 (#2)	-0.55 (#2)	-0.36 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)
2020	Baker Mayfield	-0.51 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.13 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	0.13 (#1)

### Quarterback Accuracy

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range of contage a name (stank incremeds). accret quality)									
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Baker Mayfield	69% (#2)	72% (#2)	55% (#2)	46% (#2)	74% (#2)	68% (#2)	71% (#2)	62% (#2)	69% (#2)
2020	Baker Mayfield	79% (#1)	85% (#1)	69% (#1)	63% (#1)	77% (#1)	80% (#1)	79% (#1)	75% (#1)	78% (#1)

### Rushing Efficiency EPA/att & Rank

Early Down Standard Between the Outside the 1230 Tackles Tackles ΑII Third Down Box Heavy Box Light Box QB Design QB Scramble Season 0.02 (#1) 0.05 (#1) 0.08 (#2) 0.02 (#2) 0.00 (#1) 0.17 (#1) -0.04 (#1) 0.07 (#1) 0.58 (#1) 0.37 (#1) 2021 -0.04 (#2) 0.16 (#1) 0.04 (#1) -0.04 (#2) -0.11 (#2) -0.12 (#2) 0.01 (#2) -0.56 (#2) 2020 -0.04 (#2) -0.56 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

				OFF ED						DEF ED
		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	8	12	9	2	19	15	28	13	2	20
2020	12	22	10	14	3	3	7	14	5	11

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	5	9	7	7	2	3	7	28	1
2020	19	7	10	14	7	16	3	19	31

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	19	17	27	23	24	27	13	1	32
2020	24	26	22	26	26	19	19	24	25

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Mike McCarthy (2 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Kellen Moore (3 yrs)
Defensive Coordinator:
Dan Quinn (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

# **Dallas Cowboys**

2022 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

Div Rank

10.5

#1

### **Past Records**

2021: 12-5 2020: 6-10 2019: 8-8



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Amari Cooper (WR)	Browns
Randy Gregory (EDGE)	Broncos
Cedrick Wilson Jr. (WR)	Dolphins
Connor Williams (LT)	Dolphins
La'el Collins (RT)	Bengals
Blake Jarwin (TE)	TBD
Greg Zuerlein (K)	Jets
Ty Nsekhe (LT)	TBD
Damontae Kazee (S)	Steelers
Keanu Neal (S)	Buccaneers
Brent Urban (IDL)	Ravens
Malik Turner (WR)	49ers
Maurice Canady (CB)	Giants
Corey Clement (RB)	TBD
Beau Benzschawel (C)	Retired
Reggie Robinson (S)	Browns
Hunter Niswander (P)	TBD
Sewo Olonilua (FB)	TBD
Aaron Parker (WR)	Retired
Francis Bernard (LB)	TBD
Mitch Hyatt (LT)	TBD

### 2022 Dallas Cowboys Overview

It's hard to find a team that has the second-best record in a conference heading into Week 17 of the season but just the fourth-best odds to win the conference and the sixth-best odds to win the Super Bowl. The Cowboys, sitting at 11-4, had won back-to-back games by blowouts of 42 and 15 points. If the season ended then, they would be the No. 2 seed in the NFC.

But they weren't the favorite to win the NFC, the Packers were. They weren't the second favorite to win the NFC, the Buccaneers were. They weren't the third favorite to win the NFC. the Rams were.

Despite many dominant blowouts and a tremendous overall record, not many people took the 2021 Cowboys as serious contenders to make a deep playoff run let alone win it all.

That skepticism was handsomely rewarded, as the Cowboys were upset in their first playoff game, losing 23-17 at home to the 49ers.

Dak Prescott threw the ball 44 times and gained just 6.1 YPA, -0.25 EPA/att, and a 35% success rate.

Ezekiel Elliott gained 31 yards total at 2.6 YPC with -0.11 EPA/att.

Average Line # Games Favored Underdog

-2.3 11 4

**Regular Season Wins:** 

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

**CeeDee Lamb**, the Cowboys' new No. 1 receiver for 2022, had one catch for 10 yards on five targets.

The receiver who Jerry Jones trash talked and then traded away, **Amari Cooper**, had six catches on 10 targets for 64 yards and the Cowboys' only receiving touchdown of the (cont'd' - see <u>DAL2</u>)

### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

	_
Player	AAV (MM)
Dante Fowler Jr. (EDGE)	\$3
James Washington (WR)	\$1.2
Ryan Nall (RB)	\$1

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	24	OT - Tyler Smith (Tulsa)
2	56	DE - Sam Williams (Ole Miss)
3	88	WR - Jalen Tolbert (South Alabama)
4	129	TE - Jake Ferguson (Wisconsin)
	155	OT - Matt Waletzko (North Dakota)
5	167	CB - DaRon Bland (Fresno State)
٦	176	LB - Damone Clark (LSU)
	178	DT - John Ridgeway (Arkansas)
6	193	LB - Devin Harper (Oklahoma State)

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	2	\$122.04M	2
QB	13	\$22.61M	11
OL	10	\$43.54M	9
RB	1	\$23.39M	7
WR	26	\$16.50M	3
TE	5	\$16.00M	16
All DEF	31	\$78.06M	19
DL	25	\$35.16M	13
LB	18	\$11.91M	17
СВ	14	\$21.56M	14
s	24	\$9.43M	31

Past	& Current Proj	J.Kearse		
Forecast 2022 Wins	10.5			
2021 Wins	12	RCB A.Brown	SLOTCB J.Lewis	
Forecast 2021 Wins	9.5	12		
2020 Wins	6	13 E LWR M.Gallup	<b>88</b>	
	Δ.		SLOTWR	

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



### DAL-2

game.

The 49ers led by multiple possessions heading into the fourth quarter. Down 23-7 at the 49ers' 33-yard line, the Cowboys made the gutless decision to kick a field goal rather than go for it, and they reduced a two-score lead to a two-score

The culmination of the loss was the historic quarterback draw. The Cowboys, needing a touchdown and playing with just 14 seconds left on the clock AND NO TIMEOUTS, decided a quarterback draw from the 49ers' 41-yard line was the correct play call with San Francisco parting their defense to protect the boundaries, leaving just three players lined up inside the numbers within 20 yards of the line of scrimmage.

Down by one score, no team has run the ball with under 20 seconds while trailing in the playoffs the last 25 years...until the Cowboys cost themselves the game by doing so (dates to at least 1994, as far back as public PBP indexing goes).

The Cowboys didn't even get the final snap off before the clock expired based on the broadcast, although play-by-play afterwards said Dallas incorrectly got off the final snap and spiked the ball with 0:00 to end the game, and Dallas unceremoniously left the playoffs without a win.

And so the Cowboys are in a similar position to where they've been for years now — overhyped by the media and universally expected to make the playoffs by way of winning the NFC East.

But here's the reality:

Do you know which is the most successful NFL team in Texas for the last decade?

Since 2010, the number of winning seasons:

- 7 Texans
- 5 Cowboys

Trips to playoffs:

### 2021 Passing Performance QΒ 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 52% Dak 7.9 7.2 Prescott Rating 107.7 106.3 50% 63% 75% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 47% NFL 6.9 AVG Rating 93.9 90.4 **Pass Rate** 49% 59% 76%

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
DAL	46% 4.2	49% 5.1	56% 3.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	50%	37%	25%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

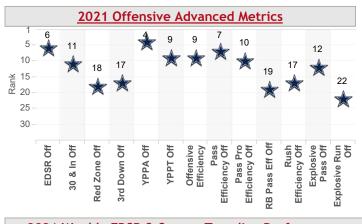
- 6 Texans
- 4 Cowboys

Playoff wins:

- 4 Texans
- 2 Cowboys

That's correct. I don't think Jerry Jones likes these stats. But he'll like these even less:

In the last 25 years, the Dallas Cowboys have won a grand total of three playoff games. Only three franchises have won fewer (cont'd - see DAL-3)



### 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics 2 10 8 9 Rank 15 20 15 22 18 25 30 Explosive Pass Def Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Pass Eff Def Pass Pro **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Efficieincy Def Red Zone De **Explosive**

### 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 2 5 10 11 12 13 14 15 W W w ΤB MIN DENATL KC LV NO WASNYGWAS ARI PHI LAC PHI CARNYG NE A -2 A 3 Н Н Н Α Н Н Α Н Α A 7 Α Н Н -3 20 4 25 8 24 6 -14 40 -10 10 15 42 -3 29 20 33 27 41 36 44 35 20 9 27 56 22 51 16 43 21 17 21 28 20 29 16 30 3 19 36 17 20 6 14 25 26

**Records** WFFK **RESULT** OPP All 2019 Wins: 12 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-3 FG Games Win %: 25% (#21) SITE MARGIN FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-3 Score Games Win %: 63% (#8) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 42% (#20)

2021 Close Game

### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +14 TO Given 20 **INT Given** 11 **FUM Given** 9 TO Taken 34 26 **INT Taken** 8 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +8 41 Sacks Sacks Allow 33 Return TD Margin +1 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -6 127 Penalties **Opponent Penalties** 121

OFF/DFF

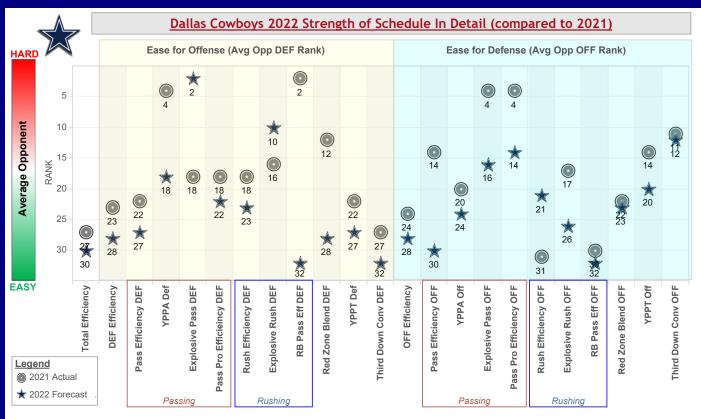
Blue=OFF

Red=DEF

(high=good)

(low=good)

**EDSR** 



	2022 vs 2021 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	22	21	27	27	27	5	15						

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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

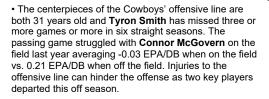
	Team Records & Trends				20	2022 Opponents by Division				2021 Opponents by Division				sion	Health by Unit*									
					2021	20	020	2019			707		2 -				100		4			202	1 Rk	8
	Ave	erage I	ine		-4.0	1	.8	-5.4	NF	CE	III	6	<b>7</b>	$\mathbf{V}$		NFCE	T	y Es	<b>V</b>	II		202	0 Rk	28
	Avera	ige O/l	J line		50.5		3.4	46.6				,						_				2021 v	2020 R	k 3
		nt Up R			12-5		10	8-8				2 (	570	77h	_			~		(min			f Rk	
		e Spre		cord	13-4		11	9-7	AF	cs	X					AFCW	ı 🧠	🚄 [4	<b>5</b> > /~		<b>(</b>	O	TRK	4
		nder F			8-9		0-6	10-6					'	9			,			, @		De	f Rk	25
		as Fav			10-3		-6	7-7						**			-					OI	3 Rk	12
		s Unde			3-1		-5	1-0 5-3	NE	CN		· 9/	3			NFCS	43			<b>S</b>				
		ht Up I			5-3 5-3		-4 -5	5-3 5-3	141	OIN		محيل ا			<b>25</b> °	141 00			A 2	5° 🦳	7	RI	3 Rk	7
		S Hon Inder			5-3 5-3		-5 -1	5-3 5-3									1		•			W	R Rk	17
Α.		Jnaer I Home I		to	5-3 5-3		-1 -4	3-3 4-3														т	Rk	1
		a Hon			0-0		-1	0-0	AF	CN	10					AFCE								
		ht Up		,	7-2		-6	3-5														Oli	ne Rk	5
		S Awa			8-1		-6	4-4			_						10					Dlii	ne Rk	31
		Jnder .			3-6	3	-5	5-3	NE	cs						NFCN	5	75				1.0	3 Rk	5
		way Fa			5-0	1	-2	3-4			B							19-						
		Away			3-1	1	-4	1-0														DI	3 Rk	3
		Tease			13-4		1-5	10-6	NIE	cw		\				NFCW	,							
		nt Teas			13-4	11	1-5	11-5	IN	-CVV	4	)				NECV								work of
Ter	Point	Tease	r Reco	ord	15-2	12	2-4	13-2														F00	ball Out	siders
					20	22 V	Veek	dy Be	ettin	g Lir	<u>nes</u>									Home	<u>Line</u>	<u>es</u>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1	2	4	6	7	B 1:	2 14	16
ТВ	CIN	NYG	WAS	LAR	PHI	DET	CHI	GB	MIN	NYG	IND	HOU	JAX	PHI	TEN	WAS	2			0				
IB	CIN	NYG	WAS	LAR	PHI	DET	CHI	GB	IVIIIN	NYG	IND	HOU	JAX	PHI	IEN	WAS	TB	-1.5 CIN	-6	DHI M				-3.5
+2.0	-1.5	-4.0	-6.0	+4.5	+0.0	-7.0	-7.0	+4.0	+0.0	-7.0	-2.5	-8.0	-3.5	-3.5	+1.5	-1.0		CHV	-6 WAS		-7 -			g = =4.2
																		†	WAG		ET C	HI NY	G HOU	
				193																				
3				^					11.						<b>TO</b>									
	0.00			Α	(J)			А	Ų4,		- 4 -					7.5.5				Road	<u>  Line</u>	<u>'S</u>		
Avg =	-2/B/	A	Н		CO-P	Н	H		T	H	JAS	Н	A	H	Avg	= -2.3	_							
		w												63			3	5	10	11	13	15	17	18
			<b>V</b> //			200				THE		$\sigma$						4.5	4					
						Sec.		<b>'</b>				3.						LAR		0			1.5	g = <u>-</u> 0.1
												-					-4			MIN	-2.5	-3.5	TEN	WAS
22	20	47.5	48	51.5	49.5	49	7.5	20	49	47.5	48.5	48	48.5	49.5	8	4	NYG			IVIIIN	IND	JAX		WAS

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

10.5

### Why Bet the Over





- The Dallas roster has significant departures on both offense and defense from last year. Poor cap management including a league-high \$18-million cap hit for a running back led to Cowboys' management gaining cap room by trading **Amari Cooper**, cutting **La'el Collins**, and losing significant free agents, leaving the roster with less skill and depth compared to last year.
- A league-leading +14-turnover differential in 2021 likely regresses. The Cowboys finished fifth in fumble luck with 3.3 fumble recoveries over expectation and tallied nine interceptions against Mike Glennon and Taysom Hill alone

- Schedule makers have provided Dallas with unique advantages, including a league-leading five games with more rest than their opponent with three games in which the opponent has less than a week to prepare. Both instances of less rest than the opponent occur in the first half of the season, whereas three of the five rest advantages occur in the second half of the season.
- Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott both played through injuries that seemed to hamper their production last year. Prior to Prescott's calf injury, the offense averaged 6.57 yards/play and 0.22 EPA/DB which dropped significantly after the injury to 5.67 yards/play and 0.05 EPA/DB. Elliott averaged 5.3 YPC and 0.09 EPA/rush prior to tearing his PCL in Week 4, and 3.8 YPC and -0.02 EPA/ rush after the injury
- The pass defense finished the season second in both DVOA and total passing EPA and from week 7 on allowed a league-leading 34% success rate. Although likely due for regression the third easiest schedule of passing offenses will help minimize a drop-off.

Dallas Cowboys Positional Unit Rankings											
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach					
9	14	6	13	13	16	20					

The Cowboys are one of just three teams to rank in the top half of the league with every offensive and defensive unit. Despite a slight drop in production, **Dak Prescott** remains a top-10 quarterback. His ability to handle pressure sets a high ceiling for his production. Prescott's adjusted net yards per attempt while facing pressure (4.8) ranked second in the league. On dropbacks versus pressure, Prescott was also sacked at the eighth-lowest rate.

Ezekiel Elliott has shown signs of slowing down, but the Dallas backfield remains a top-tier unit. Few teams can rival the one-two punch provided by Elliott and Tony Pollard. The loss of Amari Cooper led to the Dallas receiving corps falling 11 spots in our rankings. Although it lacks the elite depth of a season ago, CeeDee Lamb and Michael Gallup are still a strong duo atop the depth chart. With Cooper on the field, Dallas averaged 7.65 yards per pass attempt — and 7.74 when he was off the field

Dallas's formerly dominant offensive line likely takes a step backward following the losses of **Connor Williams** and **La'el Collins**. In 2021, **Tyron Smith** and Collins provided elite pass protection, ranking third and 11th (out of 71) in pressure rate allowed among tackles. **Terence Steele**, Collins's likely replacement, ranked 48th.

If we ranked Dallas's front seven lower than expected, blame the run defense. Even when stacking the box with seven or more defenders, the Cowboys allowed 4.0 yards per carry, which ranked 24th. **Micah Parsons** and **Demarcus Lawrence** can get after the quarterback, but this can't be an elite unit until they stop the run.

Dallas has provided Dan Quinn the types of physical athletes he covets in his secondary, now he just needs to get some consistent production out of them. Dallas allowed 20 or more yards on 10% of pass attempts, the league's fifth-worst rate. Votes for Mike McCarthy ranged from 14th to 24th. Given the Cowboys' talent on offense, especially at quarterback, McCarthy could improve his reputation by running a more aggressive pass-heavy attack.

### DAL-4

The EPA the Cowboys gained on these defensive turnovers was the largest any team has gained in a season since 2012.

The odds the Cowboys come anywhere close to either the number of takeaways, the EPA gained on these takeaways, or the positive turnover margin is near zero. That is just one red flag from the Cowboys 2021 season.

Next, look at the games the Cowboys won in 2021. In 2021, Dallas played the seventh easiest schedule of any team in the NFL.

Of their 12 wins, nine came by at least a touchdown. Those nine wins came against these quarterbacks:

Taylor Heinicke x2 Daniel Jones Mike Glennon Jalen Hurts Gardner Minshew Sam Darnold Taysom Hill Matt Ryan

### <u>DAL-5</u>

That's right: all six games against NFC East teams with those quarterbacks plus Taysom Hill, Sam Darnold, and Matt Ryan.

Of their 12 wins, seven came by over one score. Five of the seven were vs the NFC East, plus Taysom Hill's Saints and Matt Ryan's Falcons.

Through Week 8, although the Cowboys sat at 6-1, only two wins came by over one score, and both were against the NFC East.

From Week 9 to the end of the season, in 11 games played, they almost went .500, with a 6-5 record that included their playoff loss.

Basically over the second half of the season, the Cowboys' non-divisional wins came against the Falcons and Taysom Hill's Saints.

This is another huge red flag.

Why were they not winning games late in the season? It wasn't due to injury. The Cowboys in 2021 were the eighth healthiest roster in the NFL. They had the third-best improvement over 2020 in health of any team in the NFL. Remember how the 2020 roster, even beyond Dak Prescott, completely fell apart and was the fifth most injured? That wasn't the case with the Cowboys last year.

So we just hit a few red flags related to the way in which this team actually won games last year - not instilling much confidence.

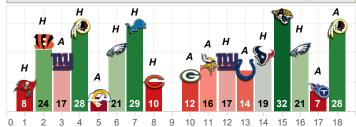
We also hit on the fact this team hasn't done anything in the last 25 years to earn our trust they could do anything in the postseason.

Now let's move onto the red flags with the coaching. We already hit on the playcalling elements, the misuse of timeouts, and situational awareness. But what about the predictable and disappointing elements of the Cowboys' coaching?

### Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 8 6 4

### 10 8 6 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



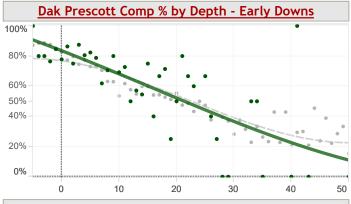
### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

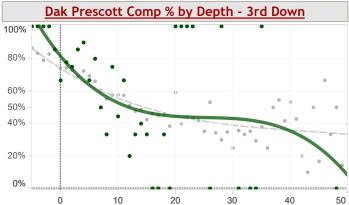


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

			Usage	Rate b	y Scor	<u>e</u>		
			Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)	48
	Ezekie	l Elliott	3%	9%	67%	10%	11%	
	Tony F	Pollard	1%	13%	58%	7%	20%	
I	CeeDe	ee Lamb		10%	60%		30%	
RUSH	Cedric	k Wilson			100%			
œ	Corey	Clement			9%	9%	82%	
	Ito Sm	ith					100%	
	Total		2%	10%	60%	9%	20%	
	Ezekie	l Elliott	4%	13%	68%	6%	9%	
	Tony F	Pollard	8%	10%	58%	6%	17%	
	CeeDe	e Lamb	6%	7%	66%	9%	11%	
	Amari	Cooper	6%	8%	71%	2%	13%	
	Dalton	Schultz	5%	21%	57%	6%	12%	
w	Cedric	k Wilson	8%	31%	51%	3%	7%	
PASS	Michae	el Gallup		16%	54%	7%	23%	
•	Corey	Clement			14%	29%	57%	
	Noah B	Brown		4%	84%	8%	4%	
	Blake	Jarwin		11%	89%			
	Malik 7	Turner	47%	12%	12%	6%	18%	6%
	Jerem	y Sprinkle			33%	33%	33%	
	Total		6%	14%	61%	6%	13%	0%

### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Lamb Elliott Cedrick Wilson Clement Pollard Dalton Schultz Brown Amari Coopel Blake Jarwin Malik Turner Gall SeeDee Michael ( Ezekiel Tony F Corey Noah **PASS** RUSH 58% 31% 2% ALL





(cont'd - see DAL-6)

# Successful Play Rate

### **2021 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]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	49%, 0.09 (565)	59%, 0.23 (108)	73%, 0.29 (15)	100%, -0.61 (1)	44%, 0.04 (9)	50%, -0.25 (6)	50%, 0.47 (10)	20%, 0.34 (5)	100%, 0.34 (1)	51%, 0.11 (724)
RUSH	49%, -0.02 (246)	53%, 0.02 (182)	36%, 0.09 (11)	12%, -0.67 (25)	50%, -0.10 (14)	50%, 0.01 (12)	100%, 0.76 (1)	100%, -0.08 (1)		49%, -0.04 (492)
All	49%, 0.05 (811)	56%, 0.10 (290)	58%, 0.21 (26)	15%, -0.67 (26)	48%, -0.05 (23)	50%, -0.08 (18)	55%, 0.50 (11)	33%, 0.27 (6)	100%, 0.34 (1)	50%, 0.05 (1,216)

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
WR	CeeDee Lamb	49% (91) 8.3, 0.13	64% (25) 12.4, 0.16	50% (4) 6.0, -0.08	50% (2) 8.5, 0.34	52% (122) 9.1, 0.13
	Amari Cooper	60% (87) 8.8, 0.42	42% (19) 6.8, 0.22		100% (1) 10.0, 1.00	57% (107) 8.5, 0.39
	Cedrick Wilson	62% (63) 9.5, 0.43	100% (1) 35.0, 2.25		0% (3) 2.7, -0.55	60% (67) 9.6, 0.41
	Michael Gallup	53% (51) 7.6, 0.25	56% (9) 5.9, 0.14	100% (2) 8.0, 0.88	0% (1) 0.0, -0.44	54% (63) 7.3, 0.25
TE	Dalton Schultz	60% (85) 7.8, 0.38	80% (20) 9.8, 0.64			64% (105) 8.2, 0.43
RB	Ezekiel Elliott	39% (51) 4.4, -0.07	20% (10) 2.5, -0.38	100% (3) 6.7, 0.82		39% (64) 4.2, -0.08
	Tony Pollard	39% (28) 6.40.01	100% (7) 12.4 0.96	80% (5) 7.8.0.27	100% (2) 7.0.039	57% (42) 7.6.0.20

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

(Leader board)											
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total						
Elliott	50% (127)	54% (107)	100% (1)	0% (2)	52% (237)						
Ezekiel	4.0, -0.07	4.7, -0.02	2.0, 0.24	2.5, -0.26	4.3, -0.05						
Pollard	54% (59)	51% (55)	100% (1)	57% (7)	53% (122)						
Tony	5.7, 0.11	4.8, -0.01	5.0, 0.24	8.4, 0.40	5.5, 0.07						
Prescott	38% (26)	50% (8)	7% (15)	0% (1)	30% (50)						
Dak	6.0, -0.21	3.1, 0.24	-0.4, -0.71	-1.0, -0.74	3.5, -0.30						
Clement	35% (23)	67% (9)		0% (1)	42% (33)						
Corey	4.0, -0.17	5.1, 0.22		1.0, -0.52	4.2, -0.07						
Smith Ito	100% (1) 4.0, 1.38				100% (1) 4.0, 1.38						

**Format** 

Line 1: Success Rate (Total # of Plays)

Line 2: YPA, EPA

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

_	sing by		ing by	Throw Types		QB Drop Types		QB	State at	Run Types		
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	57% (490)	3 Step	51% (245) 7.8, 0.22	Planted		% (515) 8, 0.20	Outside Zone	52% (151) 4.1, -0.10
		Curl	62% (91) 7.3, 0.23		6.6, 0.17			Moving		0% (90)		
Zone	45% (441)		, 0.20	Level 2	58% (133) 5 Step		51% (152) 8.9, 0.34		43	4, 0.31 2% (78)	Inside Zone	54% (57) 4.8, 0.06
Zone	8.3, 0.11	Out	56% (64) 6.1, 0.18	Level 2	12.2, 0.60		56% (111)	Shuffling		5, 0.12		36% (28)
					28% (32) 0/1 Step		6.2, 0.11		Play Actio	on	Stretch	5.7, 0.11
Man	44% (178)	Slant	58% (50) 6.5, 0.16	Level 3	9.6, -0.01	7 Step	58% (48)		Play Action	No P/A	Power	46% (28)
IVICII	6.5, 0.10				200/ (0)	/ Step	10.2, 0.24	Under	67% (111)	51% (35)	Power	3.8, 0.01
		Dig	45% (38) 7.3, 0.03	Shovel	38% (8) 2.0, -0.55	Designed	70% (37)	Center	8.7, 0.28 <sup>°</sup>	7.1, 0.09	Pitch	45% (22)
	43% (28)		7.0, 0.00			Rollout Right	7.1, 0.09	Shotgun	45% (64) 5.1, -0.10	48% (514) 7.7, 0.10	riton	5.7, 0.03
Other	4.8, 0.31	Drag	47% (15) 8.5, 0.12	Sidearm	0% (2) 0.0, -1.10	Basic Screen	60% (15) 6.6, 0.29	ALL	59% (175) 7.4, 0.14	48% (549) 7.6, 0.10	Lead	81% (16) 5.3, 0.31

### DAL-6

On early downs, in the game's first three quarters, if the Cowboys had...

3+ WRs on the field: 68% pass, sixth-most pass-heavy in the NFL (avg = 62%)

2 or fewer WRs on the field: 39% pass, sixth-most run-heavy in the NFL (avg = 45%)

It only got more predictable as the season wore on.

From Week 4 onward, they were the second-most run-heavy team with two or fewer wide receivers on the field and the third most pass-heavy team with 3+ receivers on the field.

No other team had as large a shift in run/pass rate as the Cowboys based on receiver count splits.

Want more predictability?

On early downs, in the game's first three quarters, simply looking at where Dak Prescott is aligned:

Under center? 33% pass, 10th most run-heavy in the NFL (avg = 35%) Shotgun? 78% pass, fourth-most pass-heavy in the NFL (avg = 69%)

No other team had as large a shift in run/pass rate as the Cowboys' shotgun/under center splits.

Being this predictable from personnel deployment or quarterback positioning pre-snap is unforgivable.





Want to know something even more mind-blowing?

I mentioned all of this in last year's book when reviewing the Cowboys' 2020 season... and nothing changed.

"The team was still far too predictable with play calls based on alignment... there was simply no disguise."

I looked at individual games to find 75% pass with 3+ receivers and 90% runs with two or fewer receivers. Plays from under center were 76% run and plays from shotgun were 75% pass.

I blamed the staff for doing little to help Andy Dalton. I hoped we wouldn't see the same problems with Dak Prescott and their "A-team" in 2021. That wasn't the case.

The coaching problems continued when we talk about running back deployment.

Look at the last two years of these running backs:

2020 Zeke: -0.10 EPA/att, 4.0 YPC, 41% success, 2.8 yds after contact/rush (244 att) 2020 Pollard: 0.07 EPA/att, 4.3 YPC, 36% success, 3.6 yds after contact/rush (101 att)

2021 Zeke: -0.14 EPA/att, 4.2 YPC, 38% success, 2.7 yds after contact/rush (237 att) 2021 Pollard: 0.01 EPA/att, 5.5 YPC, 45% success, 3.6 yds after contact/rush (130 att)

Each year, Tony Pollard has dramatically outproduced Ezekiel Elliott. But the Cowboys continue to rock with Zeke early in games.

Next Gen Stats has a metric called Rush Yards Over Expected per attempt. How is it calculated? Using the chips in players shoulder pads to track them, it calculates how many rushing yards a ball-carrier is expected to gain on a given carry based on the relative location, speed and direction of blockers and defenders based on modeling. They then can calculate the production over expectation by computing the difference between actual rushing yards and expected rushing yards.

Over the last two years, Pollard has averaged +0.50 rushing yards over expectation.

Zeke? -0.01 rushing yards over expectation.

What does this mean?

It means Zeke is a replacement-level running back. He's not gaining ANYTHING beyond what would be expected based upon blockers and defenders. By the year, he ranked 38th of 55 running backs in 2020 and 32nd of 52 running backs last year. It also means Pollard is gaining a half a yard per run more than what is being blocked and defended. Last year, he ranked fifth-best in this metric, directly behind Nick Chubb and Jonathan Taylor.

(cont'd - see DAL-8)

### Immediate Impact of Dallas Cowboys 2021 Draft Class

Thanks to Jerry Jones accidentally showing us the Cowboys' draft board, we know **Tyler Smith** (first round) was ranked 16th overall by Dallas, but with a second-round grade. Normally Dallas might have traded down — or drafted **Lewis Cine**, who was still available with a first-round grade — but the only other guards on the board Jones showed us were gone (**Zion Johnson** and **Kenyon Green**). So while Smith is a raw prospect and was a reach in the late first round, Dallas felt it was a position that needed to be addressed immediately. If training camp goes as expected, Smith will start at left guard, but early expectations should be low. Smith played left tackle at Tulsa, and showed flashes of dominance but still made rookie mistakes on a regular basis. Smith led the nation with 12 holding penalties last season.

Sam Williams (second round) was a surprising second-round selection given the felony sexual battery arrest on his record. Charges were later dropped, but obviously, most franchises are treating prospects linked to sexual assault charges with caution. As an edge rusher, Williams ranked sixth in the SEC with a 14.5% pressure rate last season. He'll compete for an immediate starting role and, at worst, should see significant action on passing downs.

Jalen Tolbert (third round) lined up in the slot on 47% of his targets last season at South Alabama, and likely sees significant action in that role to help replace Amari Cooper. Tolbert is a weapon with the ball in his hands, picking up 20% more yards after the catch than expected based on route-adjusted data. He's also a threat on the deep ball, as the go route was his second most common route last season. On go routes, Tolbert hauled in 91% of his catchable targets. Jake Ferguson (fourth round) has limited upside based on his modest athletic profile, but he fits the mold of a typical Cowboys tight end and will provide depth behind Dalton Schultz. With Schultz set to hit free agency after the year, Ferguson's performance could play a role in how aggressively Dallas pursues an extension with Schultz.

Matt Waletzko (fifth round) was a four-year starter at left tackle at North Dakota State. At 6'8" he likely does not have much position flexibility, but he'll provide depth at both tackle spots and could potentially push Terence Steele for the job at right tackle. DaRon Bland (fifth round) adds some depth to the secondary and will be a developmental cornerback for Dan Quinn. Bland has the length and athleticism Quinn covets in defensive backs for his system, but had just one year of experience at the FBS level after transferring to Fresno State from Sacramento State. John Ridgeway (fifth round) will likely compete for reps at nose tackle. Dallas lined up with three defensive linemen on 48% of snaps last season, with a number of players rotating in at defensive tackle. Dallas will likely be without Damone Clark (fifth round) due to the spinal fusion surgery he underwent in March. Prior to the surgery, Clark was viewed as a likely top-100 pick due to his anticipation skills and football intelligence. With Leighton Vander Esch on a one-year contract, Clark could be in line to take over that role in 2023.

There's a wide range of outcomes for the immediate impact of this class. Smith, Williams, and Tolbert all have the potential to start immediately, but there's reason to have reservations about their readiness. In terms of long-term outlook, Dallas landed a talented class with a nice mix of immediate contributors and players with developmental potential (Bland, Clark).



Yards to Go

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

10 - 14 15+

Total

6 - 9

### Dallas Cowboys 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

With Dak Prescott returning for a full season, Dallas immediately rebounded through the air, closing 2021 seventh in the league in expected points added via their passing offense (161.7 EPA). The team closed the year third in the NFL in completion rate (68.6%), second in pass yards (4,800 yards), third in passing scores (40), fifth in yards per pass attempt (7.7 Y/A), and 11th in yards per completion (11.2 yards). All while throwing just 11 interceptions, ninth in the league. Prescott threw a career-high 37 touchdowns on a career-high 6.2% touchdown rate this past season. There are some moving parts in the receiving corps while the offensive line continues to age, but Dallas is still on track to have an above-average passing unit, if not front-end.

	2021 Standard Passing Table												
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk			
Dak Prescott	430	634	68%	4,690	7.4	36	11	35	101	11			
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6				

2021 Advanced Passing Table												
QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %		
Dak Prescott	51%	55%	59	9.0%	21	3.0%	5.9	4.9				
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3				

Total

4.1%

0.0%

2.8%

1.2%

2.4%

1.6%

NFL Avg

# 3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis QB Yds G 7. **Dak Prescott**

7.

vg. s to 3o	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk	Air Yds %
.0	9.6	2.9	51%	5	54%
.4	8.9	1.5	62%		53%
		<b>D</b> 1			

### 4% 46% 15 3% 47% CeeDee Lamb **Amari Cooper**

**Target** 

**Distribution** 

**Dak Prescott Rating Early Downs** 

Air Yds vs YAC

YAC

%

Rk

40

30

**Postive** 

Play %

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

0.0%

100.0%

0.0%

13.3%

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

1.2%

1.2%

6.7%

1.7%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

1.3%

0.0%

1.2%

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

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

1.2%

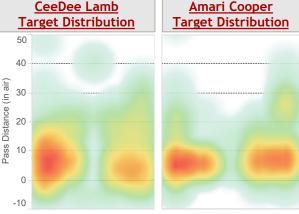
The Cowboys traded Amari Cooper to the Browns while Cedrick Wilson signed in Miami. Those two combined to account for 25.4% of the receptions, 29.6% of the yards, and 35% of the touchdowns in 2021 among pass catchers. Michael Gallup signed a five-year extension this offseason after he played in just nine games, while suffering a torn ACL in early January. We do not know when we'll see him in 2022. All of that signals that things will run through CeeDee Lamb in his third season. Lamb improved across the board (79-1,102-6), but he did go out quietly in 2021, catching 32 passes for 376 yards and zero touchdowns over the final seven games in the regular season. The team also added Jalen Tolbert and James Washington.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
CeeDee Lamb	123	64%	9.1	89.3	52%	69	33	21	128	6
Amari Cooper	113	65%	8.2	117.5	56%	40	52	31	115	9
Dalton Schultz	111	77%	8.1	119.8	65%	4	2	98	38	8
Cedrick Wilson	71	70%	9.5	116.8	58%	31	95	59	80	6
Ezekiel Elliott	69	70%	4.0	80.2	36%	137	115	132	7	2
Michael Gallup	61	57%	7.3	91.2	54%	51	61	4	125	2

# 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

This backfield still runs through Ezekiel Elliott. Elliott is coming off 1,289 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2021. He got out of the gates hot, averaging 104.3 yards per game with six touchdowns over the first six games before then averaging just 60.3 yards per game with six scores over the final 11 games of the season. Elliott picked up a PCL injury that he played through after Week 4 and his workload and production diminished as the season wore on. All of that said, Elliott still hardly came off the field. Only Najee Harris (980) played more snaps than Elliott (810). The Cowboys have shown ultimate commitment to Elliott and he still has at least another season before they can realistically get out of his contract. Behind Elliott, Tony Pollard enters the final season of his rookie contract coming off his best season in the league.

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	249	4.1	52%	34	18	43	71	50%	40	10
Tony Pollard	134	5.5	54%	27	9	73	23	53%	23	2
Dak Prescott	52	3.0	27%	93	93	88	79	24%	93	2







### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



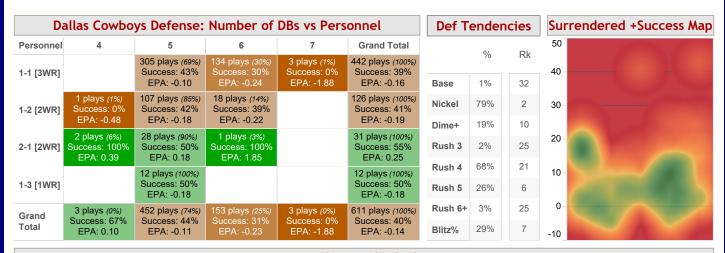
### Is Tony Pollard a Skeleton Key?

We know **Tony Pollard** can play. Pollard has averaged 5.6, 4.9, and 6.2 yards per touch to start his career while his touches have risen from 101 to 129 to 169 in those seasons. Pollard even showed having usable weeks last season despite the limited usage, having 10 weeks as an RB3 or better and seven as an RB2 or better. Pollard enters the final season of his rookie contract coming off his best season in the league, posting 1,056 yards and averaging 6.2 yards per touch. With Pollard on the field, Dallas averaged 6.7 yards per play (which would have led the NFL over a full season) compared to 5.7 yards per play with Pollard on the sideline (11th). With Pollard's ability to be used as an extension in space paired with all of the moving parts in the Dallas receiving corps, we could see Pollard moonlight as a slot option in the passing game while also retaining his contingency ceiling upside should anything happen to **Ezekiel Elliott**. In 2021, no running back was targeted at a higher rate per route run when lined up in the slot or out wide than Pollard was at 39%. That usage provided him the ability to have standalone value a year ago and has a runway to expand in 2022. Of course, Elliott is still a major roadblock. Elliott was second among running backs in snaps played and had a monopoly on money touches, having 22 opportunities inside of the 10-yard line to just three for Pollard. We know Pollard is a strong handcuff with some FLEX ability, the real question is what he brings to the Dallas offense in terms of efficiency something that is maxed out as a sporadic contributor or something that can be expanded and leaned on? With a better safety net of standalone usage and still being arguably the best handcuff in the league, it is worth finding out.

### CeeDee Lamb, Sink or Swim Time

CeeDee Lamb has caught a lot of flak this offseason in fantasy circles due to the close of his second season in which he caught 32 passes for 376 yards and zero touchdowns over the final seven games in the regular season. Lamb went from averaging 17.6 points per game prior, down to 10.6 per game to close the season after that stretch. We saw a similar close to his year two season that we had seen from DK Metcalf in 2020, who remained a good player in his third season, but still never made that jump into superstardom. Lamb will be tasked to make that jump this season with the exits of Amari Cooper and Cedrick Wilson, who combined to account for 25.4% of the receptions, 29.6% of the yards, and 35% of the touchdowns in 2021 among pass catchers. We also have the unknown return of when Michael Gallup will be fully operational in 2022.

Lamb still managed to improve across the board in his second season on a per-game level with that soft close to the year factored in. Dallas has yet to really settle on a role for Lamb but has primarily played him out of the slot to open his career when they have a full roster at their disposal, but he still led this team in target rate per route run (21.7%) in his second season. Lamb has given us pockets of WR1 potential in each of his first two seasons but given the state of the Dallas passing game and where he goes in fantasy drafts, there is little margin for error paying that tax.



### **Defensive Outlook**

Osa Odighizuwa was a pleasant surprise rookie breakout as a third-round pick. Odighizuwa played 53% of the defensive snaps and started 12 games inside. He added 11 quarterback hits, six tackles for loss, and two sacks. He was 23rd in pressure rate among 94 defensive tackles with at least 150 pass rush snaps in 2021. Neville Gallimore dislocated his elbow in his preseason but returned for the final five games of the regular season. In those games, he played at least 40% of the defensive snaps in all of them. In that limited playing time, he still put up 1.5 sacks and three tackles for loss. He'll slide in as the top interior pair with Odighizuwa to start 2022.2019 second-round pick Trysten Hill has never gotten consistent production or playing time for various reasons. Hill returned from a torn ACL in midseason but didn't make much of an impact inside.

Demarcus Lawrence has been one of the league's best pass rushers but a broken foot shortened his 2021 and even coming off the injury, he gave the Cowboys a bit of a discount to return in 2022. Even if Lawrence's consistent double-digit sack days are behind him, he continues to be a disruptor and a quick winner off the line. The Cowboys thought they were going to get Randy Gregory back, but before the contract was signed, Gregory chose the Denver Broncos. Gregory was 11th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season, per SIS. To replace him, Dallas brought in Dante Fowler. Fowler was 57th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season as the top guy in Atlanta. Fowler has been more consistent and productive as a No. 2 next to a top-tier pass rusher and that's what he could be getting with the Cowboys.

Much of the pass rush questions with injuries were answered when **Micah Parsons** lined up more on the edge. He finished with the highest pressure rate among defensive ends/linebackers with at least 200 pass rush snaps. Parsons was all over the defense, even relaxing some coverage concerns that surrounded the first-round pick entering the season. Behind Parsons, there are some questions at linebacker. Dallas brought back **Leighton Vander Esch**, but for just one year and \$3 million, a deal that doesn't scream "full-time starter." **Jabrill Cox** was drafted in the fourth round of the 2021 draft but only saw nine defensive snaps. The Cowboys spent 80% of their snaps in nickel, with at least two linebackers on the field.

Trevon Diggs had a lot of interceptions and gave up a ton of yards as the Cowboys' top corner. Diggs was 51st among 92 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which factors in both touchdowns and interceptions. Regardless of how you view Diggs's production profile from 2021, he'll slot in as the top corner on the 2022 defense. No corner was thrown at more than Anthony Brown in 2021 (104 targets, per SIS) and that wasn't just opposing offenses avoiding the corner on the other side, Diggs also had one of the highest target rates in the league. Brown saw just below average production with that high volume (61st in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap). Kelvin Joseph, a 2021 second-round pick, had some flashes on the outside and could push Brown for playing time, if not eventually the starter role.

Jourdan Lewis manned the slot and was fairly productive there, ranked 34th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Jayron Kearse played 88% of the defensive snaps at safety and was arguably Dallas's best and most consistent defensive back throughout the season. Kearse topped his previous career total (eight) with 10 passes defensed in 2021 and he also added nine tackles for loss. There are questions about who will play next to him. Malik Hooker was re-signed, but his talent has always been overshadowed by injuries. Donovan Wilson played 30% of the defensive snaps last season and the 2019 sixth-round pick could be slotted in as the starter as the roster stands right now.

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	59%
All Pass Rk	13
All Rush %	41%
All Rush Rk	20
1 Score Pass %	59%
1 Score Pass Rk	12
2020 1 Score Pass %	58%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	15
2021 Pass Increase %	1%
Pass Increase Rk	16
1 Score Rush %	41%
1 Score Rush Rk	21
Up Pass %	57%
Up Pass Rk	11
Up Rush %	43%
Up Rush Rk	22
Down Pass %	64%
Down Pass Rk	7
Down Rush %	36%
Down Rush Rk	26

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	denci	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %
1st	Short (1-3)	10	40%	60%	60%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	8	38%	63%	75%
	Long (8-10)	365	49%	51%	56%
	XL (11+)	27	56%	44%	37%
2nd	Short (1-3)	57	39%	61%	72%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	102	63%	37%	60%
	Long (8-10)	121	69%	31%	44%
	XL (11+)	35	91%	9%	37%
3rd	Short (1-3)	55	42%	58%	65%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	68	93%	7%	51%
	Long (8-10)	28	96%	4%	25%
	XL (11+)	27	85%	15%	0%
4th	Short (1-3)	15	47%	53%	47%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	100%	0%	67%

Shots	gun %
Shotgun	Under Center
59%	41%
NFL	AVG
65%	35%
Effici	iency

pass: 0.09

EPA/

# Dallas Cowboys a 2021 Play Analysis

### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sh	ort Run	
EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
pass: 0.22	59%	27	71%	68%	73%
EPA/ rush:		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass	
-0.10 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
43%	41%	6	29%	69%	46%

		Most	Frequent Play		
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	6	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Tony Pollard	3	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	106	55%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Tony Pollard	7	43%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	18	72%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	24	67%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	21	10%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Dalton Schultz	6	67%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ezekiel Elliott	23	78%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Amari Cooper	11	73%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Cedrick Wilson	5	40%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cedrick Wilson	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: 54%	Success: 67%	Success: 57%
	YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.24	YPA: 10.0, EPA: 0.41	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.28
	Rtg: 100.6	Rtg: 127.6	Rtg: 108.5
	[Att: 95 - Rate: 13.1%]	[Att: 30 - Rate: 4.1%]	[Att: 125 - Rate: 17.3%]
Yes	Success: 47%	Success: 57%	Success: 49%
	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.07	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.09	YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.08
	Rtg: 99.5	Rtg: 112.9	Rtg: 102.8
	[Att: 454 - Rate: 62.7%]	[Att: 145 - Rate: 20.0%]	[Att: 599 - Rate: 82.7%]
Total	Success: 48%	Success: 59%	Success: 51%
	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.10	YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.11
	Rtg: 99.7	Rtg: 116.4	Rtg: 103.8
	[Att: 549 - Rate: 75.8%]	[Att: 175 - Rate: 24.2%]	[Att: 724 - Rate: 100.0%]

				<u>W</u>	/eekly Sr	aps Play	<u>ed</u>			
Wk	Орр	Score	Dalton Schultz	CeeDee Lamb	Amari Cooper	Ezekiel Elliott	Cedrick Wilson	Michael Gallup	Tony Pollard	Noah Brown
1	TB	L 31-29	57	61	74	70	34	50	20	
2	LAC	W 20-17	45	60	60	44	36		21	12
3	PHI	W 41-27	53	66	66	54	29		29	23
4	CAR	W 36-28	48	49	29	46	35		18	21
5	NYG	W 44-20	57	65	57	47	52		31	23
6	NE	W 35-29	75	77	78	63	44		26	18
8	MIN	W 20-16	60	65	63	55	42		19	13
9	DEN	L 30-16	59	44	36	33	51		24	25
10	ATL	W 43-3	51	32	51	38	1	41	32	28
11	KC	L 19-9	66	36		46	42	63	22	42
12	LV	L 36-33	71			47	54	71	31	69
13	NO	W 27-17	67	62	24	45		64	28	12
14	WAS	W 27-20	72	57	75	54	9	70		
15	NYG	W 21-6	61	49	66	44	1	65	29	
16	WAS	W 56-14	55	54	52	42	26	48	25	
17	ARI	L 25-22	60	56	58	45	30	26	19	4
18	PHI	W 51-26	37	49	46	37	42			12
	Grand '	Total	994	882	835	810	528	498	374	302

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	66%	61%	49%
1-2 [2WR]	25%	21%	56%
2-1 [2WR]	2%	7%	58%
2-2 [1WR]	2%	3%	15%
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. % 49%	Run Succ. % 49%

Red Zone 1	Targets	Leade	rboard	
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Amari Cooper	21	4	3	14
Ezekiel Elliott	17	4	1	12
Dalton Schultz	14	3	4	7
CeeDee Lamb	12	2	2	8
Cedrick Wilson	10	2		8
Michael Gallup	8	2		6
Tony Pollard	7			7

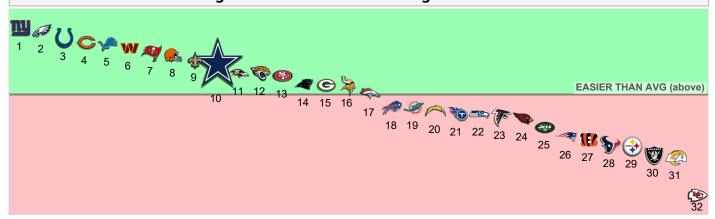
Red Zone F	<u>kusnes</u>	Leage	rboar	<u>a</u>
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Ezekiel Elliott	39	14	4	21
Tony Pollard	17	2	1	14
Dak Prescott	16	6	4	6
Corey Clement	5			5
CeeDee Lamb	2	1		1
Ito Smith	1	1		
JaQuan Hardy	1			1

Early [	own Targe	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
20%	22%	58%
000/	21%	56%
23%	NFL AVG	0070
-0,0		
-0,0	NFL ÁVG	
Overall	NFL AVG  Target Su	ccess %





### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



And yet here is Jerry Jones, saying he can't afford to pay Amari Cooper because he's not productive enough, and his \$20 million per year salary is better allocated elsewhere.

### Seriously?

This is the same Jerry Jones who gave Zeke a \$90 million contract, right? This is the same Jerry Jones who used the fourth overall draft pick on Zeke, right? This is the same Jerry Jones who is having Zeke hit the cap in 2022 for nearly \$20 million, right? And he's complaining about Cooper's production and salary? Have you seen Zeke's production and salary, my friend? Holy cow, talk about selective memory recall.

For several years Zeke has been outperformed by Pollard and yet Zeke is still carrying 65% of the runs to Pollard's 35%. Each year, Pollard is eating more and more into it. But it's not happening quickly enough.

Lastly, there are the question marks surrounding the roster.

Let's begin with the move the owner has been the most vocal about.

Jerry Jones hasn't been able to keep quiet this offseason about Amari Cooper. Jones said that CeeDee Lamb will be an upgrade over Amari Cooper. Previously, he said the team's money would be better spent elsewhere instead of paying for Cooper. Back in January, Jones said Cooper "should take half the field with him when he runs a route," and "he ought to be able to catch it in the middle when they're going with him. Others do."

There's no doubt Lamb will be a stud and is on a rookie deal, so he'll keep getting better and will stay cheap. This isn't an anti-Lamb discussion. But let's talk about Cooper for a second, and not what he wasn't doing according to Jerry Jones, but what he was doing according to the data.

2021 Lamb: 0.15 EPA/att, 53% success, 9.2 YPA (120 targets) 2021 Cooper: 0.43 EPA/att, 55% success, 8.7 YPA (104 targets)

2020 Lamb: 0.18 EPA/att, 50% success, 8.4 YPA (111 targets) 2020 Cooper: 0.29 EPA/att, 57% success, 8.6 YPA (130 targets)

I guess you can project the future to believe Lamb will be a big upgrade over Cooper. But Cooper has been delivering more efficiency and it's not really a debate.

The three most common routes each WR ran, in order, were go routes, hitches, and out routes. They obviously weren't targeted on all of these routes, these were what they ran most on pass plays.

When Lamb was targeted on hitches, he was much more efficient than Cooper on hitches. But go routes? And out routes? Cooper was better.

These numbers I'll share aren't truly what Lamb will deliver as a WR1, but just to note for the record, with Amari Cooper off the field vs on the field, here were Lamb's splits last season:

Cooper off the field: 0.06 EPA/att, 42% success, 8.8 YPA, 1 TD (82 routes, 24 targets)
Cooper on the field: 0.17 EPA/att, 55% success, 9.3 YPA, 5 TDs (436 routes, 96 targets)

When you downgrade from Cooper, Lamb, and **Michael Gallup** on the field together, as the Cowboys did for 768 plays the last two years, to Lamb, **James Washington**, and **Noah Brown** to start the 2022 season (with Gallup unlikely to be healthy by then after tearing his ACL in January and **Cedrick Wilson** now on the Dolphins) it will be noticeable.

Keep in mind, Cooper and Wilson combined to account for 25.4% of the team receptions, 29.6% of the receiving yards, and 35% of the receiving touchdowns in 2021.

Just consider the go routes I was mentioning earlier. Let's look at 2021 efficiency on go routes among the Cowboys wide receivers:





0.91 EPA/target – Cedrick Wilson (now on the Dolphins) 0.70 EPA/target – Amari Cooper (now on the Browns)

0.58 EPA/target - Michael Gallup (ACL in January, unlikely to be 100% until midseason)

-0.07 EPA/target - CeeDee Lamb

-0.29 EPA/target - Noah Brown

Let's add James Washington for good measure: -0.60 EPA/target in Pittsburgh last year

This isn't to suggest these Cowboys receivers that struggled to deliver efficiency on go routes last year will do the same in 2022. Lamb is too good for that. But this just slightly waves another red flag that the Cowboys are missing some key contributors (especially at the start of the season) who were delivering a lot of efficiency in a lot of areas, including go routes.

Offensively, there are also potential questions along the offensive line. The team drafted left guard **Tyler Smith** in the first round to replace **Connor Williams** (949 snaps last year), who left in free agency. They also released right tackle **La'El Collins** (672 snaps) this offseason and will start **Terrance Steele** in his place. Steele allowed the highest pressure rate (6.3%) per pass blocking snap on the team in 2021. The team still has anchor left tackle **Tyron Smith**, but he will turn 32 years old this December while missing multiple games in each of the past six seasons (32 games in total over that span). Right guard **Zach Martin** is an All-Pro and is back, as is center **Tyler Biadasz**. Last year Biadasz graded as the 19th best center in the NFL per PFF after grading 26th in 2020. He's a far cry from where Travis Fredrick used to grade out as the NFL's third-best center as recently as 2017.

Defensively, the team didn't want to lose **Randy Gregory** (11th in pressure rate last season for EDGE) but he chose the Broncos instead. Instead, the Cowboys are paying **Dante Fowler Jr.** \$3 million per year (57th in pressure rate for EDGE) in an attempt to replace production from Gregory.

Everything is not a negative for the Cowboys. In fact, some things are downright unfair in their favor.

This year, the Cowboys have great net rest (+8 days) which ranks fourth-best.

Last year, no team played six games vs opponents on short weeks.

No team played more than four such games. It's so rare that in the last 30 years, only twice has a team played six games vs opponents on short weeks.

But this year, the Cowboys play SIX games vs opponents who have less than a week to prepare for Dallas:

In Week 5 vs. the Rams, LA is on a short week off MNF

In Week 8 vs. the Bears, Chicago is on a short week off MNF

In Week 12 vs. the Giants, NY is playing on the road on a short week on Thanksgiving

In Week 13 vs. the Colts, Indianapolis is playing on a short week off MNF

In Week 16 vs. the Eagles, Philadelphia is playing on a short week as the game is Saturday

In Week 17 vs. the Titans, Tennessee is playing on a short week as the game is Thursday

Not all these games present rest edges (only three of them do) but it is an extreme anomaly for a team to play six games vs opponents on short rest when the NFL average is 2.6, and no team in the last few years played more than four such games.

Dallas has played 15 games the last five years with a rest edge and is 12-3 (80%) in these games, which is the third-best win rate with a rest advantage in the NFL. Additionally, they've covered the very same 80% rate ATS, which is the best in the NFL.

This team still has Dak Prescott, who ranked second in the NFL in stable quarterback metrics (such as when unpressured, or on standard drops, or operating inside the pocket, etc.) last season. If the offensive line holds up and they work Pollard into the run game, and if they get Gallup back earlier than hoped and Lamb is much more efficient as a No. 1 than Cooper was and the other receivers fill out the offense well and the defense still generates turnovers at a good rate, could Dallas once again win double-digit games, win the NFC East and try to do something in the playoffs? Sure. Of course. But that's a LOT of hypotheticals and there are more questions surrounding this Cowboys team than last year's team.

This is such an interesting team because the floor is quite high given their schedule. Assuming no injury to any starting quarterback for any team in the NFL, it's hard to imagine a team like the Cowboys, with this schedule, not winning at least 8-9 games. But even to win 12 games like they did last year, it will take so many things to go right that I think it's unlikely.

01. Games w Halftime Lead	9	02.	Avg Halftime Lead	5.0	03. Wins	12			
Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)									
36. PSM YPA				7.3					
37. PSM Target Depth			6.7						
38. Non-PSM YPA			7.8						
39. Non-PSM Target Depth			6.8						
40. PSM Pass Success Rate			56%						
41. Non-PSM Pass Success	Rate		53%						
42. PSM EPA/att			0.08						

0.26

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

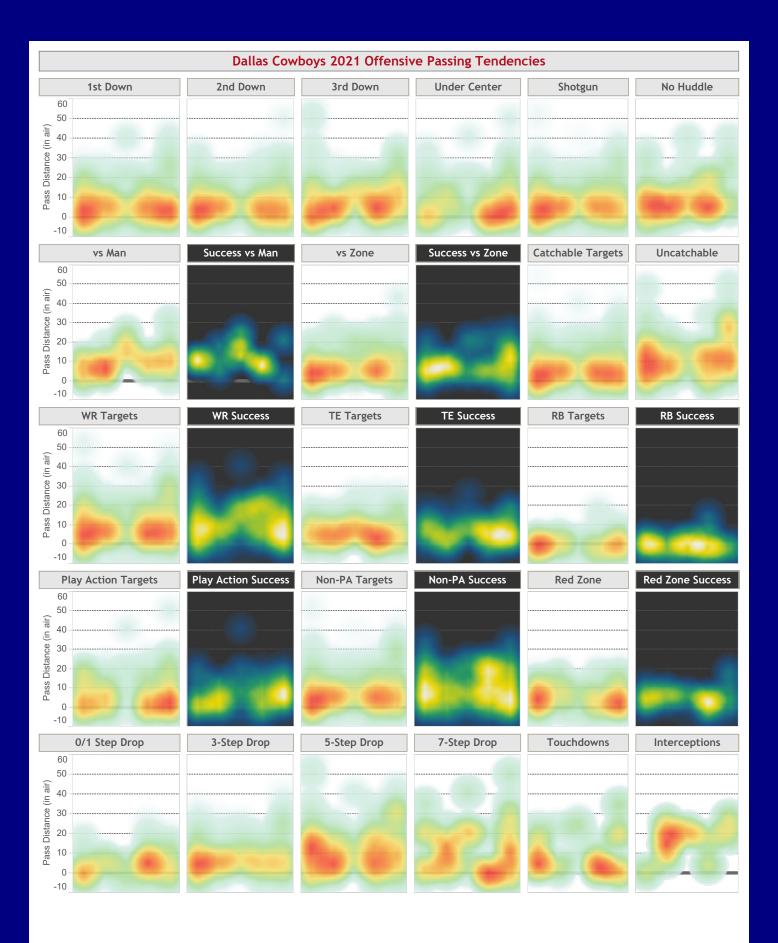
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)								
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	36%							
45. PA Success Rate	59%							
46. PA YPA	7.3							
47. PA Sack Rate	2.2%							
48. PA EPA/att	0.17							
49. PA Target Depth	6.3							
50. Non-PA Success Rate	<b>55</b> %							
51. Non-PA YPA	7.6							
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	4.2%							
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.15							
54. Non-PA Target Depth	7.0							
Men In Box								

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	45%							
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	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	5.2							
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	33%							
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-yd line	5.6							

Fumble Luck	Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)									
Net FROE Rk	5	defFUM	14							
Net FROE	3.3	defFUM Rcvrd	7							
offFUM	27		,							
offFUM Rcvrd	18	defFR Rk	9							
offFR%	66.7%	defFR%	50.0%							
offFR Rk	4 2 2	defFROE	1.1							
		defFROE Rk	9							
offFROE Rk	4	don not not	9							

Field Goal Luck									
Net Over Expectation	-0.73	Opp Att	35						
Net Over Expectation Rank	17	Opp Makes	29						
Own Att Own Makes	35 29	Opp FG %	83%						
Own FG %	83%	Opp Expected Makes	28.06						
Own Expected Makes	28.78	Opp Make Over Expectation	0.94						
Own Make over Expectation	0.22	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	17						
Own Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	19 1.12	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	1.31						
2020 Own Rk	14	2020 Opp Rk	12						

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs		QB Pre	ssure	Offensive A	Offensive Metrics		
	Dak Prescott		Dak Prescott	EPA/Pass	0.14		
CAY	5.9	Pressure %	31.6	EPA/Pass Rk	2		
CAY Rk	13	Pressure Rk	26	EPA/Rush	-0.05		
2020 CAY Rk	9	Sack %	5	EPA/Rush Rk	16		
AYTS Rk	8	Sack Rk	27	On-Target Catch %	88.2%		
2020 AYTS Rk	21 21	Pressure Accuracy %	63.9	On-Target Catch Rk	28		
AGG Rk 2020 AGG Rk	21	Pressure Accuracy Rk	19		5.1%		
COMP%	68.8	Rating when Pressured	78.3	Drop%			
xCOMP%	66.6	Pressured Rating Rk	8	Drop Rk	10		
xCOMP% Rk	9	Clean Accuracy %	80.4	YAC/Att	2.5		
2020 xCOMP% Rk	17	Clean Accuracy Rk	6	YAC/Att Rk	8		
CPOE%	2.2	Rating when Clean	110.3	Rush Broken Tackle %	8.5%		
CPOE Rk	5 10	Clean Rating Rk	8	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	29		
2020 CPOE Rk	IU	Time to Throw	2.75	Rush 1st Down %	23.3%		
<b>CAY</b> : Completed Air Yards <b>AYTS</b> : Air Yards to the Sticks <b>AGG</b> : Aggressiveness <b>xCOMP</b> : Expected completion percentage <b>CPOE</b> : Actual completion percentage over expectation		Time to Throw Rk	26	Rush 1st Down Rk	22		



### Cowboys Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Dak Prescott	0.26 (#2)	0.14 (#1)	0.16 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	0.15 (#2)	0.18 (#1)	0.20 (#2)
2020	Dak Prescott	0.35 (#1)	0.13 (#2)	0.11 (#2)	0.07 (#3)	0.19 (#1)	-0.08 (#3)	0.35 (#1)
	Andy Dalton	0.14 (#3)	-0.06 (#3)	-0.04 (#3)	0.16 (#2)	-0.03 (#3)	-0.05 (#2)	0.13 (#3)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Dak Prescott	-0.19 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	0.14 (#2)	0.11 (#1)	0.03 (#2)	0.27 (#1)
2020	Dak Prescott	-0.60 (#3)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.02 (#3)	0.38 (#1)	-0.06 (#2)	0.13 (#1)	-0.18 (#3)
	Andy Dalton	-0.53 (#2)	-0.13 (#3)	0.11 (#2)	-0.17 (#3)	-0.17 (#3)	-0.13 (#3)	-0.13 (#2)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

					`					
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Dak Prescott	78% (#2)	82% (#3)	63% (#2)	63% (#1)	75% (#2)	79% (#2)	75% (#1)	66% (#3)	81% (#1)
2020	Andy Dalton	77% (#3)	84% (#2)	62% (#3)	46% (#3)	76% (#1)	78% (#3)	69% (#2)	76% (#1)	75% (#3)
	Dak Prescott	78% (#1)	85% (#1)	67% (#1)	54% (#2)	70% (#3)	81% (#1)	60% (#3)	74% (#2)	78% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.08 (#2)	0.00 (#1)	0.26 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.98 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)
2020	-0.03 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	0.15 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	0.02 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	-0.09 (#2)	0.12 (#1)	0.12 (#1)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	6	13	3	13	3	28	4	7	4	18
2020	16	10	19	29	28	13	32	15	22	19

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	15	22	24	16	13	8	14	28	8
2020	25	30	10	31	27	9	20	1	1

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	21	23	27	15	26	24	10	1	30
2020	20	17	16	21	19	19	10	1	22

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

### **Head Coach**:

Hard

Easy

Nathaniel Hackett (GB OC) (new) Offensive Coordinator:

Justin Outten (GB TE) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Ejiro Evero (LAR DB) (new)

# **Denver Broncos**

### 2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

10.5

#3

### **Past Records**

2021: 7-10 2020: 5-11 2019: 7-9



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Shelby Harris (IDL)	Seahawks
Teddy Bridgewater (QB)	Dolphins
Alexander Johnson (LB)	TBD
Noah Fant (TE)	Seahawks
Bobby Massie (RT)	TBD
Kyle Fuller (CB)	Ravens
Drew Lock (QB)	Seahawks
Shamar Stephen (IDL)	TBD
Cameron Fleming (LT)	TBD
Kenny Young (LB)	Raiders
Bryce Callahan (CB)	Chargers
Stephen Weatherly (EDG	Browns
Mike Ford (CB)	Falcons
Nate Hairston (CB)	Vikings
Brett Jones (C)	TBD
Micah Kiser (LB)	Raiders
Austin Schlottmann (LG)	Vikings
Natrez Patrick (LB)	Lions
Diontae Spencer (WR)	TBD
DooCoon Hamilton (MD)	TDD

### 2022 Denver Broncos Overview

The 2022 Denver Broncos are one of the harder evaluations in the NFL this year.

They are the only team in the NFL this year with both a brand new quarterback and a brand new coaching staff.

Bears – new staff – same QB (Justin Fields)

Texans - new staff - same QB (Davis Mills)

Jaguars - new staff - same QB (Trevor Lawrence)

Raiders – new staff – same QB (Derek Carr) Dolphins - new staff - same QB (Tua Tagovailoa)

Vikings – new staff – same QB (Kirk Cousins)

Giants - new staff - same QB (Daniel Jones)

Saints – new coach – same QB (Jameis Winston with same OC)

Bucs – new coach – same QB (Tom Brady with same OC)

The scheme and system new head coach Nathaniel Hackett will bring from Green Bay to Denver will be different from what the Broncos were using under Pat Shurmur and will be different from what Russell Wilson was using with Shane Waldron last year in Seattle.

So there will be more projection, but that also means we can skip a lot about the 2021 Denver Broncos.

For me, that's a good thing.

Historically I clean up on season-long team futures such as season win totals, division winners, etc. (cont'd - see DEN2)

New
Seahawks
Dolphins
TBD
Seahawks
TBD
Ravens
Seahawks
TBD
TBD
Raiders
Chargers
Browns
Falcons
Vikings
TBD
Raiders
Vikings
Lions
TBD
TBD

# Games **Average** # Games Underdog Line **Favored** -1.9

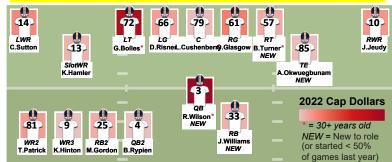












### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Randy Gregory (EDGE)	\$13.9
D.J. Jones (IDL)	\$10
K'Waun Williams (CB)	\$2.60
Billy Turner (RT)	\$2.5
Tom Compton (RT)	\$2.29
Josh Johnson (QB)	\$1.2
Alex Singleton (LB)	\$1.10

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	64	LB - Nik Bonitto (Oklahoma)
3	80	TE - Greg Dulcich (UCLA)
4	115	CB - Damarri Mathis (Pittsburgh)
4	116	DT - Eyioma Uwazurike (Iowa State)
	152	S - Delarrin Turner-Yell (Oklahoma)
5	162	WR - Montrell Washington (Samford)
	171	C - Luke Wattenberg (Washington)
6	206	DT - Matt Henningsen (Wisconsin)
7	232	DB - Faion Hicks (Wisconsin)

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	11	\$110.93M	25
QB	9	\$25.96M	28
OL		\$46.58M	21
RB	23	\$7.38M	3
WR	14	\$23.85M	17
TE	28	\$7.17M	29
All DEF	11	\$102.83M	14
DL	16	\$42.79M	28
LB	29	\$8.88M	21
СВ	7	\$25.92M	4
S	2	\$25.24M	10

### DEN-2

Ν

My lone loss last season on such a season-long team win total was on the Broncos. I took over 8.5 wins at reduced juice, opting not to spend more and bet over 8. That turned out to be a smart decision because it saved bankroll when the Broncos won only seven games last year.

Why did I think this team, which hadn't cracked more than eight wins since 2016, could crack eight wins in 2021?

Let's start with the schedule. After facing the fourth-toughest schedule in 2020, I predicted the 2021 Broncos would play one of the easiest schedules.

In this very chapter in last year's book, I predicted the following schedule improvements:

Total Efficiency - after playing fourth the toughest schedule in 2020, they would play the 31st in 2021

Def - after playing the 18th toughest schedule in 2020, they would play the 32nd in 2021

Pass Def - after playing the 13th toughest schedule in 2020, they would play the 32nd in 2021

Run Def – after playing the 25th toughest schedule in 2020, they would play the 31st in 2021

Off – after playing the third toughest schedule in 2020, they would play the 28th in 2021

Pass Off – after playing the toughest schedule in 2020, they would play the 25 in 2021

You get the picture. I expected a much easier schedule of opponents.

And I couldn't have been more accurate:

Total Efficiency - predicted 31st, actual? 31st Def - predicted 32nd, actual? 32nd Pass Def - predicted 32nd, actual? 32nd Run Def - predicted 31st, actual? 31st Off - predicted 28th, actual? 22nd Pass Off - predicted 25th, actual? 24th

As I wrote in last year's book: "As much as I anticipated a huge drop in 2020

7	2021 Passii	ng Performa	nce	
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Teddy Br idgewate r	55% 8.0 102.0	45% 6.4 91.2	32% 6.6 94.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	47%	53%	77%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
DEN	45% 4.2	55% 4.5	66% 5.8	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	53%	47%	23%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

production for Denver 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."

And then the teams themselves set up very nicely, as I explained last year:

"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

> Section 1 5

20 21

Pass Efficiency Def

16

Pass Pro Efficieincy De

**Ret TDs** 

Penalties

Ret TDs Allow

**Penalty Margin** 

**Opponent Penalties** 

(cont'd - see DEN-3) 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

13

**Explosive** 

0

2

+21

83

104

22

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

RB Pass Eff Def

		<u>2</u>	<u>021</u>	Offe	<u>ensi</u>	ve A	dva	ncec	l Me	trics	<u>i</u>		
5-								12					9
10 -	18	16			14		15	13			16		Service Servic
- 25 Kark - 20 –	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	22	24	400		E CO		22		Sept.	22	
25 –			Sec.	Service Servic		28			E-100	32		The state of the s	
30 –						Two .				E Com			
	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
						_			••				

2	<u> 202</u>	1 V	/ee	kly	ED	SR	& S	eas	on	Trend	ing	Pe	rfo	rm	anc	<u>e</u>	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
W	W	W	L	L	L	L	W	W	L	W	L	W	L	L	L	L	
IYO	JAX	NYJ	BAL	PIT	LV	CLE	WAS	SDAL	PHI	LAC	KC	DET	CIN	LV	LAC	KC	
Α	Α	Н	Н	Α	Н	Α	Н	Α	Н	Н	Α	Н	Н	Α	Α	Н	
14	10	26	-16	-8	-10	-3	7	14	-17	15	-13	28	-5	-4	-21	-4	
27	23	26	7	19	24	14	17	30	13	28	9	38	10	13	13	24	
13	13	0	23	27	34	17	10	16	30	13	22	10	15	17	34	28	



2021 Close Game **Records RESULT** All 2019 Wins: 7

**\*** 

29

3rd Down Def

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-1** FG Games Win %: **0% (#25)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 0% (#26)

10

Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency

YPPA

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 1-5 Score Games Win %: 17% (#30) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 14% (#30)

### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin +1 TO Given 18 9 **INT Given FUM Given** 9 TO Taken 19 **INT Taken** 13 6 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -4 36 Sacks Sacks Allow 40 Return TD Margin -2

198

5 10

15

20

25

30

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS OPP PTS

MARGIN

OFF/DFF

Blue=OFF

Red=DEF

(high=good)

(low=good)

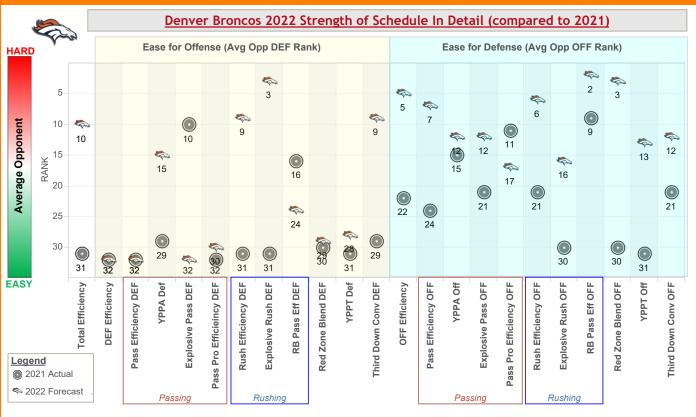
**EDSR** 

Def

**EDSR** I

30 & In Def Red Zone Def

Rank



	2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*														
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk								
15	20	1	2	4	8	1	3								

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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 Re	cord	s & T	Tren	<u>ds</u>	Team Records & Trends								2021	Орро	onen	ts by	y Div	visio	<u>n</u> <u>H</u>	ealth	n by l	Jnit*
					2021	20	20	2019			~			100			~			in.			2021	Rk	28
	Ave	erage I	line		-0.2	5	.4	2.9	AF	CW				X)		AFCW		> /~		Y)			2020	Rk	26
		ige O/l			44.0		5.6	41.5									_					20	21 v 20	)20 Rk	20
	Straigh				7-10		11	7-9			•	2		70	_							20			
	nst the				8-9		-7	8-7	AF	cs			<b>y</b>			AFCN	1	≥ 1 E	<u>r</u> (,	<b>R</b> (	Deelers 🔷		Off F	КК	14
	Over/U			1	5-12		-8	6-9					•	9			,						Def I	₹k	30
		as Fav			5-5 3-3		-0 -7	2-3 6-4															QB F	Rk	24
	ATS a Straig				3-3 4-5		- <i>i</i> -6	5-3	NF	cw	£ 0	10		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	NFCE		> <b>M</b> I		<b>#</b> 1	$\mathcal{N}\mathcal{I}$		RB F		14
		ΓS Hon			5-4		-0 -4	4-3				42													
	Over/L				3-6	_	-4	4-4															WR I	₹k	16
A.	TS as I			te	3-4		-0	2-2	A E	CE	JETS					AFCE	JETS						TE F	Rk	14
-	ATS as	a Hon	ne Dog	3	2-0		-4	2-1	AF	CE	A.S.	,				AFCE	200						Oline	DΙ	19
	Straig				3-5		-5	2-6																	
		TS Awa			3-5		-3	4-4									CE 1920						Dline	Rk	15
	Over/l				2-6		-4	2-5	AF	CN	24	2				AFCS	60	<b>&gt;</b>					LB F	Rk	32
	ATS A				2-1		-0	0-1 4-3															DB F	2k	26
e iv	Point	Away		ord	1-3 11-6		-3 1-5	4-3 12-4			_														
	n Poir				11-6		1-5	12-4	NF	cs						NFCN	<b>S</b>	È				*E	ased c	n the v	ork of
	Point				13-4		1-5	14-2									6-						Footba	II Outsi	ders
						)22 V			ettin	g Lir	nes									Hor	ne L	ines			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2	3	5	7	,	 11	14	15	18
SEA	HOU	SF	LVR	IND	LAC	NYJ	JAX	TEN	LVR	CAR	BAL	KC	ARI	LAR	KC	LAC	_	-2.5	-3			-3	0		
																	-10.5	SF	IND	-7	.5	VR	кс	-4 AVg	= -3.8
-4.5	-10.5	-2.5	+0.0	-3.0	+3.0	-7.5	-6.5	+0.0	-3.0	-4.0	+1.5	+0.0	-4.0	+3.5	+4.5	+0.0	HOU			NY	rJ			,	
			(coling		A			-A			TA	.tH		[9]	A	#								·	
Ayg =	-1,9	<b>(</b>		2HC		Н	Α		Wite.	Α			Н		Avg	<b>₹-1.9</b> \				Roa	<u>ad Li</u>	nes			
				_	1					A			P				1	4	6	8			40		17
							- The state of the			_								-	O	۰	10	12	13	16	17
,						degs	6			_			-				·			•	10	12			4.5
,						Jegs	6											0	3 LAC	•	0		1.5	3.5	
						Jers	<b>C</b>										-4.5		3	-6.5		-4		3.5	4.5
,		6.5	47.5	45	8.5	46	47	45	946	3.5	48	48.5	48.5	47.5	8.5	44		0	3		0		1.5	3.5	4.5





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."

So how did things go against those five terrible teams?

They beat the Jaguars, Jets, and Lions. They lost soundly to the Eagles.

Against the Bengals, **Teddy Bridgewater** was injured, the Broncos led 10-9 late in the fourth quarter, but went scoreless in that fourth quarter, and lost 15-10. In that fourth quarter, **Drew Lock** went 2-of-9 for 5.9 YPA, took one sack, and fumbled on second-and-goal from the Bengals' 9-yard line. It was brutal.

Believe me, we'll be talking more about Lock shortly. But they could have gone 4-1 against those teams I mentioned, and instead went 3-2.

Against the NFC East, the Broncos went 3-1, and I predicted a good performance against that division.

I also predicted them to lose against the AFC North, and they did, going 0-4.

I expected they might have a chance against the Chiefs in Week 18 because I thought there was a good chance that game would be meaningless for the Chiefs. As it turned out, due to the early season struggles, that game wasn't meaningless and the No. 1 seed in the AFC was potentially on the line. But guess what?

The Broncos led the game at halftime and entering the fourth quarter, but blew the game and lost 28-24.

Guess what else?

It was Drew Lock's fault once again. Lock was the full game starter due to Bridgewater's injury earlier in the season and Lock went 12-of-24 (50% completions) for 162 yards at 6.8 YPA, threw no touchdowns, took a sack, and posted a 71.9 passer rating.

In that fourth quarter, the single largest EPA swing of the season occurred. The Broncos, leading 21-20, had the ball at the Chiefs' 9-yard line with second-and-2. **Melvin Gordon** was hit in the backfield and fumbled the ball. Melvin Ingram recovered the ball and ran 86 yards to score the game-winning touchdown for the Chiefs. Kansas City didn't score another point in the game.

Down 28-21, the Broncos had the ball at first-and-10 at the Chiefs' 14-yard line. A first down run, a second down Lock incompletion, and a third down Lock incompletion brought up fourth-and-9 at the Chiefs' 13-yard line. Vic Fangio inexplicably kicked a field goal to make the game 28-24 and Patrick Mahomes burned the clock on the final drive of the game, taking knees to secure the win.

I was right about the easy schedule. I was right about the NFC East and the AFC North.

What I didn't account for was the return of Drew Lock.

If their schedule was the thing I loved most, their offseason was what I loved second most. Primarily landing Teddy Bridgewater.

I know a lot of people were not as high on him as I was.

What made me even more high on the addition was the fact Drew Lock wouldn't be starting.

And I'm very low on Lock. Frankly, I think he's terrible. I think the Seahawks are in for a rude awakening this season.

But let's get back to Bridgewater.

3

In Weeks 1-3, he was fully healthy and the Broncos went 3-0.

In Week 4, he took multiple big hits against the Ravens in the first half that knocked him out of the game with a concussion and he did not return after (cont'd - see DEN-4)

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 3 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

1

21

6

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- Starting the season with a new head coach, offensive and defensive coordinator, and starting quarterback will be a difficult task. The potential for the entire team to take a few weeks to develop chemistry and on-field cohesiveness exists. The defense also runs the risk of taking a step backward with the loss of Vic Fangio.
- The Broncos have the sixth-largest increase in the difficulty of schedule from last year. Although only the 16th-most difficult schedule of opponents, it is a step up from last year when the Broncos had the fourth-easiest strength of schedule.
- The hype that the Broncos were a quarterback away from being a Super Bowl contender may have been overstated. The AFC is loaded with elite rosters and arguably better quarterbacks than a 33-year-old less mobile Russell Wilson. The offensive line is average, finishing in the middle of the league in both Pass and Run Block Win rate, and the defensive line also has concerns. The Broncos play in a difficult division and conference. Upgrading the quarterback does not necessarily automatically translate to wins as good football teams in the AFC will lose games.

10.5



### Why Bet the Over

- Russell Wilson is the opposite of Teddy Bridgewater in terms
  of aggression. Wilson averaged nearly two more yards per
  attempt than Bridgewater and attempts passes over 20 yards a
  third more often. The passing offense is likely to improve on the
  eighth-lowest success rate in 2022 in addition to an increase in
  explosive plays with Wilson. The Broncos are also benefactors
  of the easiest strength of schedule of opposing pass defenses
  which will work in Wilson's favor.
- The defense finished the season with 76.1 adjusted games lost, the third-highest in the league and more than double the previous season. Decimated by injuries and the loss of Von Miller allowed the fifth-highest success rate on run plays in 2021 will benefit from better injury luck in 2022.
- Playing in the division with arguably the strongest quarterbacks, the Broncos have an ascending secondary. Top ten pick **Patrick Surtain II** had an impressive rookie season ranking in the top half of the league in adjusted yards per coverage snap and will likely continue his assentation as one of the league's top corners. The addition of **K'Wuan Williams** helps bolster the group of corners which allowed the fourth-lowest completion percentage in 2021.

	Denver Broncos Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	acks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach										
10	16	5	12	25	8	30					

Denver jumped from 31st to 10th in our quarterback rankings, thanks to the addition of **Russell Wilson**. However, our opinion of Wilson has shifted slightly, as we ranked the Seahawks tied for third overall in 2021. Wilson's tendency to hold the ball too long is one reason for the slight decline. Wilson took 20 sacks on dropbacks on which he held the ball for three or more seconds — given his experience and mobility, he must cut down on those avoidable drive-killing plays.

It's time for **Javonte Williams** to take over the Denver backfield, but **Melvin Gordon**'s presence is still a key factor in this being a top-tier unit. Williams averaged 2.2 yards per carry when contacted in the backfield, the league's sixth-highest mark. His ability to create something out of nothing sets a high ceiling for his production in a larger role.

Denver's pass-catchers remain just outside the top 10 for a second consecutive year. **Cortland Sutton** and **Jerry Jeudy** are an exciting duo with elite potential, but we haven't seen it all come together yet. Perhaps the addition of Wilson finally allows this unit to elevate to another level.

A mediocre offensive line remains mostly intact, with right tackle **Billy Turner** the only addition. Denver's offensive line allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less at the league's 12th highest rate a season ago.

After losing **Von Miller**, Denver ranked 27th in pressure rate (25.7%). The additions of **Randy Gregory** and rookie **Nik Bonitto** should help, but this does not appear to be a front-seven opponents will fear. There's been some turnover in the Broncos secondary, but **Patrick Surtain II** and **Justin Simmons** remain elite building blocks. Votes for this unit ranged from fifth to 13th, but the high end of that spectrum is easily within reach if Surtain takes an expected step forward in his second year.

Nathaniel Hackett ranked in the bottom five among head coaches on every ballot, but only because he's a rookie head coach working with two rookie coordinators. There's just too much we don't know about him and his staff to rank Hackett any higher.

### <u>DEN-4</u>

halftime. Bridgewater had the Broncos up 7-0 before taking the first of several hits. Lock then entered the game, was horrendous, and Denver lost 23-7.

Bridgewater didn't practice the full week leading up to Week 5, but was cleared to play in the Week 5 narrow one-score loss to the Steelers.

Bridgewater was sacked nine times in Week 6 against the Raiders and was questionable to play in Thursday night's game in Week 7 against the Browns. As in Week 5, Bridgewater did not practice fully all week due to injury. He didn't put weight on his injured foot when leaving a press conference and despite being questionable, did play in the game on the short week.

Through Week 9, the Broncos were 0-1 in games Bridgewater left to injury, 0-2 in games Bridgewater was injured and missed practice but played on a questionable tag, and 5-1 when he wasn't injured.

Over the next four games, Bridgewater went 2-2 with wins over the Chargers and Lions and losses to the Chiefs and Eagles.

Then, he was injured against the Bengals in Week 15. He was driven into the turf face-first after hurdling a defender and was back-boarded and then carted off the field. He was sent to the hospital but was released.

For whatever reason, Denver never placed him on IR, but he did not practice again over the final three weeks of the season. Finally, on January 5th,

(cont'd - see DEN-5)

### <u>DEN-5</u>

Denver placed Bridgewater on IR just days before the Week 18 game.

He finished 7-3 when healthy, 0-4 when either knocked out of the game due to injury or entered the game already injured but playing through it.

Drew Lock was 0-3 as a starter, starting Weeks 16, 17, and 18 and losing all three games.

That helps explain how a team goes 7-10 on the season despite winning 70% of their games when their QB1 was healthy.

I feel vindicated in my belief in Bridgewater and justified in my opinion of Drew Lock.

For the entire season, where did Bridgewater and Lock rank out of 32 QBs?

Bridgewater: 14th in accuracy, 10th in EPA/att, 17th in success rate, 14th in comp %, 17th in YPA

Lock: 31st in accuracy, 25th in EPA/att, 29th in success rate, 28th in comp %, 18th in YPA

In addition, Bridgewater was eighth and 12th in TD/INT ratio and passer rating respectively, while Lock was 28th of 32 in both, and you see where we were with the two quarterbacks.

And in two of those games, Bridgewater was playing hurt.

2018 Wins

2019 Wins

But you see the point. Bridgewater was a huge improvement over Lock. Imagine if Lock was QB1 for the Broncos the entire season last year? This team would have won four or five games, tops.

If Bridgewater was never hurt? Denver wins 9-10 games. After all, they went a very unlucky 1-5 in one-score games in 2021.

### (cont'd - see DEN-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0

# 

2020 Wins

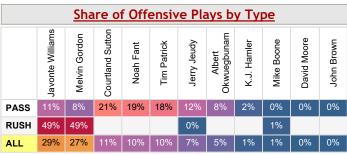
2021 Wins

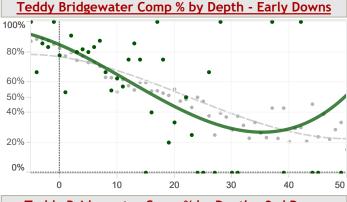
Forecast 2022

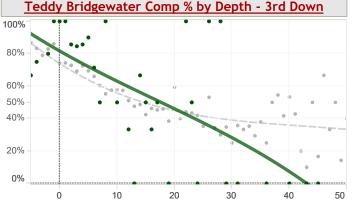


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

		Usage R	ate by S	<u>Score</u>		
*	Page	Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
	Javonte Williams	8%	12%	57%	7%	15%
_	Melvin Gordon	5%	10%	58%	8%	18%
RUSH	Jerry Jeudy		50%	50%		
Œ	Mike Boone	25%	25%	50%		
	Total	7%	12%	57%	8%	17%
	Javonte Williams	8%	30%	53%	4%	6%
	Melvin Gordon	8%	13%	62%	8%	10%
	Courtland Sutton	17%	17%	55%	6%	4%
	Noah Fant	19%	21%	56%	2%	2%
	Tim Patrick	14%	16%	59%	6%	5%
PASS	Jerry Jeudy	11%	11%	66%		13%
Α	Albert Okwuegbunam	8%	13%	58%	10%	13%
	K.J. Hamler			70%	30%	
	Mike Boone	100%				
	David Moore		100%			
	John Brown		100%			
	Total	13%	18%	57%	5%	6%







### Successful Play Rate 100%

### 2021 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]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, 0.03 (416)	44%, -0.03 (126)	60%, 0.30 (20)	20%, -0.51 (10)	0%, -0.55 (3)		44%, 0.01 (576)
RUSH	51%, 0.00 (212)	54%, 0.01 (147)	48%, -0.24 (65)	40%, -0.16 (10)	54%, 0.16 (13)	0%, -1.11 (1)	51%, -0.03 (448)
All	46%, 0.02 (628)	49%, -0.01 (273)	51%, -0.11 (85)	30%, -0.33 (20)	44%, 0.02 (16)	0%, -1.11 (1)	47%, -0.01 (1,024)

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]	4 Grp Total						
WR	Courtland Sutton	46% (74) 7.3, -0.01	60% (20) 9.1, 0.39	50% (2) 6.5, 0.05	49% (96) 7.7, 0.08						
	Jerry Jeudy	55% (49) 8.3, 0.24	67% (3) 12.7, 0.46		56% (52) 8.6, 0.26						
TE	Noah Fant	49% (63) 7.1, 0.07	44% (18) 9.3, 0.30	0% (1) 1.0, -0.45	48% (82) 7.5, 0.12						
	Albert Okw uegbunam	44% (18) 6.2, 0.39	74% (19) 11.1, 0.17		59% (37) 8.7, 0.28						
RB	Javonte Williams	39% (44) 6.6, 0.27	33% (6) 2.8, -0.20		38% (50) 6.2, 0.21						
	Melvin Gordon	42% (26) 7.4, 0.30	18% (11) 1.2, -0.51		35% (37) 5.5, 0.06						

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Gordon Melvin	53% (86) 4.3, -0.04	54% (79) 4.5, -0.02	60% (5) 3.6, 0.25	57% (7) 3.4, -0.03	54% (177) 4.3, -0.02
Williams Javonte	46% (98) 4.6, -0.06	49% (61) 4.4, -0.02	75% (4) 17.5, 0.77	0% (3) 0.7, -0.46	47% (166) 4.8, -0.03
Bridgewate r Teddy	73% (15) 5.7, 0.19	100% (5) 3.8, 0.72	0% (3) -1.0, -0.77		70% (23) 4.4, 0.18
Lock Drew	50% (8) 6.6, 0.54	100% (1) 2.0, 0.81			56% (9) 6.1, 0.57
Boone Mike	50% (4) 8.8, 0.44				50% (4) 8.8, 0.44

**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 Types		QB Drop Types		3 State at	Pass	Run Types	
	verage :heme	Route		Level 1	53% (370) 6.8, 0.18	3 Step	53% (156) 8.2, 0.29	Planted		% (395) 0, 0.23	Outside Zone	50% (141) 4.6, -0.05
	200/ (207)	Curl	59% (80) 6.8, 0.07			0/1 Step	54% (114)	Moving		8% (83) 8, -0.13	Inside	46% (72)
Zone	39% (367) 6.9, 0.03	Out	61% (38)	Level 2	44% (96) 9.0, 0.16	Ол Окор	6.2, 0.21	Shuffling		1% (58) 5, -0.35	Zone	3.8, -0.27
			8.6, 0.49	Lavel 2	30% (40)	5 Step	43% (113) 8.6, 0.10		Play Action			56% (43) 4.6, 0.09
Man	46% (141) 8.2, 0.09	Dig	50% (32) 8.4, 0.31	Level 3	10.1, 0.07	7 Step	42% (55) 8.9, 0.11		Play Action	No P/A	Stretch	57% (23) 5.3, 0.01
	. , , , , ,	Slant	69% (29)	Sidearm	25% (4) 4.0, -0.45	Designed	58% (36)	Under Center	40% (91) 5.6, -0.19	64% (25) 10.5, 0.40		50% (12)
	39% (32)	Jiant	7.8, 0.39		4.0, -0.43	Rollout Right	. ,		44% (54) 7.6, 0.07	43% (407) 7.2, 0.02	Pitch	5.4, -0.47
Other	5.3, -0.06	Drag	39% (18) 4.1, -0.53	Shovel	0% (2) 1.5, -0.35	Basic Screen	22% (18) 4.2, -0.20	ALL	41% (145) 6.3, -0.09	44% (432) 7.4, 0.05	Lead	40% (5) 1.2, 0.10

### DEN-6

So what does that mean for the 2022 Broncos? Because now they have Russell Wilson.

And as big a fan I am of the underdog Teddy Bridgewater, I'm an even bigger fan of Russell Wilson.

This offseason, the Seahawks traded away Wilson. I know Russ isn't perfect. I know he has some flaws. But more than those flaws, I know this:

Pete Carroll is an old-school ball coach who is swimming upstream against progress. It's a simple fact.

Go read the Seahawks chapter. Every time an OC came in and started calling too many passes on early downs, there were in-house conflicts and meetings. That OC was then fired. And replaced with an OC who massively jacked up Seattle's early down run rate. And then after a season or two, realizing how special a talent Russ was, started passing the ball more frequently. And the cycle continued.

I truly don't believe Pete was doing any of it because of Russ. He was doing it because that's the type of ball he believes in.

He opened his press conference after trading Wilson by stating the following that frankly, scared the hell out of me:

"Years ago, when I was at USC, I used to have an opportunity every springtime to meet with coach John Wooden, the legendary hoop coach from UCLA. And every year when we had the chance to get together we always had this opportunity to talk, and I always wanted to think of something to start the discussion and get us going, and one year in particular I had this thought. Meet with coach, say 'hey coach, what's up', and 'l've got a question for you, how much do you change your philosophy from year to year?' He looked at me, and as he looked at me I went 'oh no, what was I thinking, why did I ask that', I looked like a little kid, and he said 'coach, you don't change your philosophy. Your philosophy is what it is and you either believe in it or you don't. What happens is every year the players change and as you apply your philosophy for the players, it takes on the shape of the individuals that you're dealing with. But you don't change your philosophy'."





Carroll still thinks his team will win with Drew Lock, because he elaborated exactly on how he thinks his team will win:

"We're going to win with defense...

we're going to win with how we play on special teams...

and we'll run the football to help the whole thing fit together.

That's never changed. That's never been a philosophy we needed to alter other than continue to grow and make it dynamic and present and current. That's what we're looking for. We need to take care of the football."

Anyone see the word "pass" or "throw" anywhere in there? It's 2022. The rules are completely different.

Of the last 16 teams to make the Conference Championships, how many ranked top-8 in the various disciplines of offense and defense?

Top-8 in passing offense: 14 of 16 Top-8 in rushing offense: 9 of 16 Top-8 in passing defense: 3 of 16 Top-8 in rushing defense: 6 of 16

Going beyond the last four years, the story doesn't change much.

For years now, offense is much more important than defense, and passing offense is much more than rushing offense.

The data clearly shows it beyond a shadow of a doubt. Anecdotal illustrations like the one above make it clear for those who don't want to dig through play-by-play data. Anyone who isn't intentionally trying to fight against the current can see it.

Yet some people look down on Wilson because he wasn't quite as great in 2020, when the team was having internal battles about playcalling and "philosophy" regularly. He wasn't brilliant in 2021 when he was playing with a mallet finger injury on his throwing hand.

Fact was, in 2021 through Week 5 (Wilson injured the finger in Week 5 and missed the month), guess where Wilson ranked in the NFL on early down passes in the first three quarters of games?

First in EPA/att (+0.34)
First in YPA (11.1)
First in ANY/A (11.2)
First in completion % (84%)
First in passer rating (137.9)
Third most passing TDs (7)
Fourth in accuracy (95%)
Seventh in success rate (52%)

(cont'd - see DEN-8)

### Immediate Impact of Denver Broncos 2022 Draft Class

Following the addition of **Russell Wilson**, Denver was left with limited draft capital but GM George Paton did well to trade down twice in the third round. Those trades acquired some extra Day 3 draft capital, as well as a 2023 third-round pick. With Wilson on the roster, Denver's championship window begins now, which explains Paton's need-based approach to this draft.

**Nik Bonitto** (second round) was added to bolster a struggling pass-rush unit. Following the **Von Miller** trade last season, Denver ranked 29th in pressure rate at 25.7%. Bonitto may not be a three-down defender, but he should see the field in sub-packages on passing downs. He generated an impressive 25.4% pressure rate in 2021 at Oklahoma, while blitzing on 75% of his snaps against the pass.

Greg Dulcich (third round) also addresses an immediate need at tight end, following the departure of **Noah Fant**, who was included in the Wilson trade. Like Bonitto, Dulcich won't be a full-time player early in his career, as he was almost exclusively used as a receiver at UCLA. Dulcich lacks both the strength and technique to offer much as a blocker at this stage of his career. He'll compete with **Albert Okwuegbunam** for snaps, likely seeing more action on passing downs. Last season at UCLA, Dulcich gained 30% more yards after the catch than expected based on route-adjusted metrics. Chip Kelly's offense is favorable for YAC production, but Dulcich proved to be a valuable weapon in that area — he could add a new dimension to Denver's offense if used similarly.

**Damarri Mathis** (fourth round) adds depth to the secondary, but likely won't see immediate playing time. Mathis was dominant in 2019 at Plttsburgh, allowing a catch rate 25% below expected based on route-adjusted metrics. After missing the 2020 season due to injury, he failed to regain that production, and saw his catch rate drop to 4% below expected. Mathis will be joined at cornerback by **Faion Hicks** (seventh round), who played outside at Wisconsin but probably fits better in the slot due to a lack of size. **Eyioma Uwazurike** (fourth round) primarily played defensive end in Iowa State's 3-4 alignments, but he also has the size and strength for a role at nose tackle. That versatility will make him a valuable rotational piece on the Broncos' defensive line.

**Delarrin Turner-Yell** (fifth round) played both safety roles at Oklahoma, but his limited size probably prevents him from playing in the box in the NFL. Expect him to play on special teams, and as a backup to **Justin Simmons** at free safety.

**Montrell Washington** (fifth round) will be used as a return specialist. Denver ranked dead last in yards per kickoff return in 2021, and 27th in average starting field position after a kickoff. Denver put together one of the least exciting draft classes with limited long-term upside. However, Paton's need-based approach is easy to understand as he's trying to build a roster capable of winning immediately with his 33-year-old quarterback. Drafting purely for need is risky, but if Bonitto and Dulcich can plug some holes and produce as rookies, this approach could immediately pay dividends for the Broncos.

### Denver Broncos 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

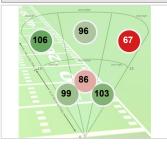
The Broncos closed 2021 ranking 15th in the league in yards per pass attempt (7.1 Y/A), 19th in the league in passing yardage (3.593 yards), and 26th in passing touchdowns (20). Feeling their roster was being held back by quarterback play in a division surrounded by strong passers, Denver got the trade-fueled offseason started by acquiring **Russell Wilson** from the Seahawks. Turning 34 years old in November, Wilson still posted a 6.3% touchdown rate in 2021, his fifth straight season over 6.0%. Adding Wilson and Nathaniel Hackett, Denver should markedly improve their output through the air while increasing aggressiveness. In 2021, Denver was below league average in pass rate expectation in all aspects of game situation, including a -4% rate on first downs while ranking 29th in the league in pass rate over expectation on early downs altogether in neutral game scripts (45.8%), which was even lower than what Wilson played under in Seattle in 2021.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Teddy Bridgewater	285	426	67%	3,052	7.2	18	7	31	95	17
Drew Lock	67	110	61%	787	7.2	2	2	9	81	35
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

	2021 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 %	
Teddy Bridgewater	46%	50%	33	8.0%	15	4.0%	5.8	4.9			
Drew Lock	36%	43%	13	12.0%	6	5.0%	6.7	5.1			
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3			

# Target Play % Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

# Teddy Bridgewater Rating <u>Early Downs</u>



<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%	25.0%	7.1%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	1.9%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	0.9%
10 - 14	0.6%	0.0%	3.7%	100.0%	1.3%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Total	0.6%	0.0%	1.5%	25.0%	1.5%

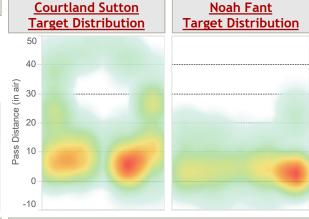
<u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u>										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Teddy Bridgewater	8.3	8.1	-0.6	71%	37					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

	Air Y	'ds vs	YAC
ond	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
7	54%	46%	16
	53%	47%	

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

In 2021, Denver wideouts combined for just eight touchdown receptions, which was 31st in the league. **Jerry Jeudy** opened the year catching six passes for 72 yards on just 31 snaps as we appeared to be off to the races for a second-year breakout, but he suffered a brutal ankle injury that sidelined him the next six weeks and was never the same. Denver got in front of an extension for both **Courtland Sutton** and **Tim Patrick** during the 2021 season, something that could prove to be sharp given the offseason the position has had this spring. Patrick has led the Broncos in touchdown receptions in each of the past two seasons. Denver will also get **K.J. Hamler** back after an ACL injury in September, while they have a pair of young tight ends.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
Courtland Sutton	98	59%	7.9	78.4	50%	84	127	25	132	2
Noah Fant	90	76%	7.4	110.9	47%	108	82	117	120	4
Tim Patrick	85	62%	8.6	99.8	55%	43	49	48	84	5
Jerry Jeudy	56	68%	8.3	85.9	54%	56	108	69	79	0
Javonte Williams	53	81%	6.0	110.4	38%	132	138	136	33	3

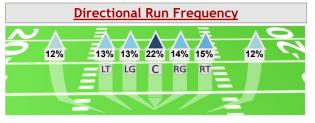


### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Denver was middle of the pack attacking on the ground, ranking 15th in the league in carries (455), 13th in rushing yardage (2,025 yards), 14th in touchdowns (16), and 20th in expected points added via rushing (-12.9 EPA). Both **Javonte Williams** and **Melvin Gordon** each tallied 203 carries, with the rookie posting 903 yards and four scores and the veteran back 918 yards and eight scores on the ground. Denver brought Gordon back after the draft to keep the battery together. Williams only handled 50.6% of the Denver backfield touches, but in the one game that Melvin Gordon missed, we saw the upside as Williams turned 29 touches into 178 yards and a touchdown while he ranked second in the league in missed tackles forced (63) in the run game behind Jonathan Taylor despite having 129 fewer carries.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Javonte Williams	203	4.4	46%	69	61	66	18	45%	70	4
Melvin Gordon	203	4.5	55%	23	44	38	22	54%	19	8

# Yards per Carry by Direction 4.3 5.0 4.9 4.2 2.9 5.6 4.7 LIT LG C RG RT



### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis

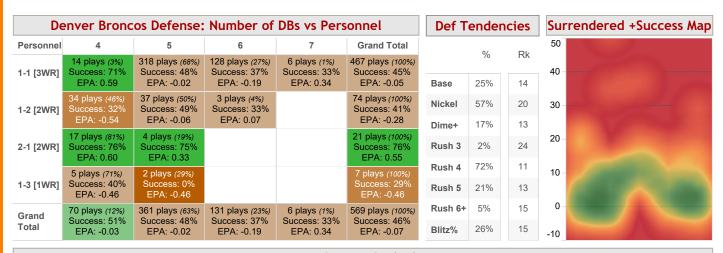


### Russell Wilson to lift all tides

2021 left many wondering if **Russell Wilson's** days as an elite fantasy quarterback are over. Wilson missed games for the first time in his career and finished outside of the top-12 scorers over the season for the first time. Wilson had just one top-six scoring week. That said, he still did hold a steady floor, finishing as the QB13 in points per game with a QB1 scoring performance in half of his starts. Wilson also averaged 13.1 rushing yards per game, by far the fewest in his career. Turning 34 in November, we are at that point of taking what rushing points we get from Wilson without counting on them. Looking under the hood, I believe there still is upside here, however. Despite the limited counting stats, Wilson still posted a 6.3% touchdown rate, his fifth straight season over 6.0%. Wilson was fourth in the league in passing points per attempt (.531) behind Aaron Rodgers, Joe Burrow, and Matthew Stafford. Wilson heads to a Denver offense that may not have wideouts already at their apexes such as D.K. Metcalf and Tyler Lockett, but this is the deepest and most talented offense that Wilson has played on in years. Not just from surrounding skill players, but this is a significant offensive line upgrade. Denver is also adding Nathaniel Hackett with Wilson, looking to elevate an anemic passing game that was below pass rate expectation in all categories in 2021, even below Seattle.

Denver wideouts combined for just eight touchdown receptions in 2021, ahead of only the Giants. They had just one touchdown reception as a group over the final eight games. **Jerry Jeudy** opened the year catching six passes for 72 yards on just 31 snaps as we appeared to be off to the races for a second-year breakout, but he suffered a brutal ankle injury that sidelined him for the next six weeks. **Courtland Sutton** flashed early last season-opening six games, but things bottomed quickly after that. Over the next 11 games, Sutton caught just 25 passes total for 305 yards. Just 62.1% of Sutton's targets were deemed catchable last season, ranking 79th out of 89 wide receivers with 50 or more targets on the season. **Tim Patrick** has led the Broncos in touchdown receptions in each of the past two seasons, posting solid campaigns of 51-742-6 and 53-734-5. Patrick was an older prospect, so he will be turning 29 years old this November, but is a steady contributor signed through 2024. Denver also took another wideout in 2020, selecting **K.J. Hamler** in the second round that season. Hamler suffered an ACL injury in September a year ago but is another vertical playmaker that fits Wilson's strengths when he is ready to return at full speed.

**Albert Okwuegbunam** was targeted on 23.5% of his routes run a year ago, which ranked fourth among tight ends). But he still was limited behind Noah Fant, playing just 47% of the snaps and running 170 pass routes. Rookie tight end **Greg Dulcich** also aligns with Wilson's vertical strengths. 55.2% of Dulcich's targets came on throws over 10 yards downfield, not only the highest rate of all tight ends in this class, but ranking fourth overall among all pass catchers, trailing only Alec Piece, Kevin Austin, and Jameson Williams. 20.9% of his targets came on throws 20 or more yards downfield, also the highest rate in this class. Even with the expected spike in output and rose-colored lenses, everyone in this passing game is affordable.



### **Defensive Outlook**

**D.J. Jones** was one of the league's best run defenders last season. He ranked first among defensive tackles in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate. He signed a three-year deal with the Broncos to beef up a defense that was already seventh in EPA per play against the run. **Dre'Mont Jones** has turned into a disruptive pass rusher inside with 11 quarterback hits in each of the past two seasons. He was 21st among interior defenders in pressure rate in 2021, per SIS. Jones is in the final year of his rookie deal.

Behind those two, the Broncos have a ton of depth. **McTelvin Agim** was a 2020 third-round pick who has yet to make a significant impact. **DeShawn Williams** was 42nd among interior defenders in pressure rate last season. **Mike Purcell** remains a solid run defender as a nose tackle.

Bradley Chubb only played five games in 2021 due to multiple foot injuries and did not have much of an impact in the time he was in the field. This comes after Chubb was seventh among edge rushers in pressure rate during the 2020 season. The Broncos were able to lure Randy Gregory away from the Dallas Cowboys in free agency. Gregory was 11th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season in his most productive season to date. Malik Reed filled in more with Chubb out but he only ranked 87th in pressure rate, a year after he finished with 17 quarterback hits. Nik Bonitto has the quick-twitch athleticism to make an immediate impact on passing downs.

The Broncos were hit hard with injuries at linebacker and didn't have the depth to make up for it. **Josey Jewell** returns and he should be healthy enough to play more than the 7.5% of the snaps he played last season. Denver will look for Jewell to return to his 2020 level of play. **Alex Singleton** was signed as a free agent from the Philadelphia Eagles. Singleton was 33rd among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap last season. He's signed on just a one-year deal. **Baron Browning**, a 2021 third-round pick, played nearly half the defensive snaps as a rookie, He was 44th among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap.

As a rookie, **Pat Surtain** was 34th among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. He was part of a number of impressive first-year corners making an immediate impact across the league. **Ronald Darby** did not have a good year in coverage, his first of a three-year deal with Denver. Darby ranked 89th among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. He's been a high variance corner throughout his career, but 2021 was a low even for him.

K'Waun Williams was signed to play the slot. Last year with the 49ers, Williams ranked ninth in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. He signed for a two-year deal. Justin Simmons played 99.5% of the defensive snaps in his first year of a four-year extension with the Broncos. Simmons remains one of the league's top safeties and a player who can move around the secondary. The Broncos just brought back Kareem Jackson for another year. Jackson played 82% of the defensive snaps in 2021 and the 34-year-old will once again be looked at to play starter reps. Denver likely won't stray too far from the two-high looks they used under Vic Fangio with new defensive coordinator Ejiro Evero. Evero was the Rams' secondary coach and pass game coordinator.

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	55%
All Pass Rk	20
All Rush %	45%
All Rush Rk	13
1 Score Pass %	55%
1 Score Pass Rk	18
2020 1 Score Pass %	53%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	27
2021 Pass Increase %	2%
Pass Increase Rk	14
1 Score Rush %	45%
1 Score Rush Rk	15
Up Pass %	55%
Up Pass Rk	17
Up Rush %	45%
Up Rush Rk	16
Down Pass %	59%
Down Pass Rk	17
Down Rush %	41%
Down Rush Rk	16

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	denci	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %
1st	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	50%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	9	33%	67%	67%
	Long (8-10)	290	47%	53%	48%
	XL (11+)	18	56%	44%	17%
2nd	Short (1-3)	35	17%	83%	83%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	75	49%	51%	61%
	Long (8-10)	98	60%	40%	44%
	XL (11+)	39	64%	36%	26%
3rd	Short (1-3)	44	50%	50%	66%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	38	92%	8%	34%
	Long (8-10)	39	92%	8%	31%
	XL (11+)	31	90%	10%	10%
4th	Short (1-3)	9	56%	44%	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	100%	0%	67%

Shots	gun %
Shotgun	Under Center
59%	41%
NFL	AVG
65%	35%

# Denver Broncos 2021 Play Analysis

### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Effic	iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Run	
EPA/ pass:	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
0.06	pass: -0.04	95%	1	71%	89%	73%
EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass	
·0.09 iccess:	-0.12 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
41%	40%	5%	32	29%	0%	46%

		Most	Frequent Play		
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	3	33%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Javonte Williams	5	60%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	76	47%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	4	0%
			Javonte Williams	4	25%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	18	94%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Javonte Williams	18	56%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Melvin Gordon	20	40%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Javonte Williams	7	43%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Javonte Williams	12	75%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Courtland Sutton	7	43%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Noah Fant	7	14%
			Tim Patrick	7	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Javonte Williams	8	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: 44%	Success: 50%	Success: 45%
	YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.01	YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.12	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.02
	Rtg: 83.8	Rtg: 102.3	Rtg: 87.7
	[Att: 147 - Rate: 25.5%]	[Att: 42 - Rate: 7.3%]	[Att: 189 - Rate: 32.8%]
Yes	Success: 45%	Success: 38%	Success: 43%
	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.07	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.18	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.01
	Rtg: 99.1	Rtg: 81.3	Rtg: 94.4
	[Att: 285 - Rate: 49.4%]	[Att: 103 - Rate: 17.9%]	[Att: 388 - Rate: 67.2%]
Total	Success: 44%	Success: 41%	Success: 44%
	YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.05	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.09	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.01
	Rtg: 93.8	Rtg: 87.2	Rtg: 92.2
	[Att: 432 - Rate: 74.9%]	[Att: 145 - Rate: 25.1%]	[Att: 577 - Rate: 100.0%]

				Wee	ekly Snaps	Played			
Wk	Орр	Score	Courtland Sutton	Tim Patrick	Noah Fant	Javonte Williams	Melvin Gordon	Albert Okwue gbunam	Jerry Jeudy
1	NYG	W 27-13	53	46	51	33	33	37	31
2	JAC	W 23-7	53	51	53	28	41	37	
3	NYJ	W 26-0	51	51	58	27	36	29	
4	BAL	L 23-7	58	56	57	31	30	16	
5	PIT	L 27-19	54	57	58	25	36		
6	LV	L 34-24	71	72	72	38	43		
7	CLE	L 17-14	47	47	45	21	29		
8	WAS	W 17-10	46	50	41	23	30	26	38
9	DAL	W 30-16	65	48		37	41	63	47
10	PHI	L 30-13	55	53	44	33	25	24	45
12	LAC	W 28-13	45	50	53	36	26	28	35
13	KC	L 22-9	68	67	58	60		33	56
14	DET	W 38-10	59	52	50	33	34	38	41
15	CIN	L 15-10	69	71	60	44	31	30	52
16	LV	L 17-13	33	36	38	22	23	14	31
17	LAC	L 34-13	52		53	30	30	30	
18	KC	L 28-24	41	42	52	30	26	16	36
	Grand	Total	920	849	843	551	514	421	412

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	<u>Group</u>	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	61%	61%	46%
1-2 [2WR]	27%	21%	49%
1-3 [1WR]	8%	4%	51%
Group	ing Te	<u>enden</u>	<u>cies</u>
Group Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Cies Run Succ. %
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %

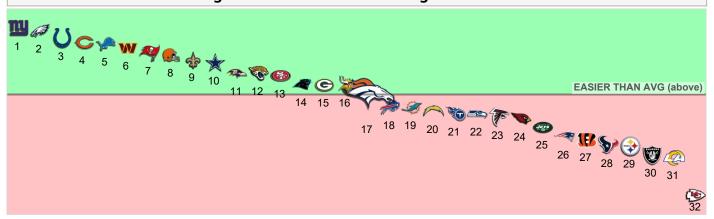
Red Zone T	arget	<u>Leade</u>	rboard	
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Noah Fant	16	3	1	12
Courtland Sutton	12	3	2	7
Tim Patrick	11	3	4	4
Javonte Williams	8		3	5
Melvin Gordon	8		3	5
Albert Okwuegbunam	5	3	1	1
Jerry Jeudy	3	1		2
Kendall Hinton	2	2		

Red Zone R	<u>lushes</u>	Leade	<u>rboar</u>	<u>d</u>
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Melvin Gordon	40	11	10	19
Javonte Williams	31	10	11	10
Teddy Bridgewater	11	3		8
Damarea Crockett	3			3
Drew Lock	2	1	1	
Drew Lock	2	7	1	

Early D	own Targ	<u>et Rate</u>
RB	TE	WR
17% <b>23%</b>	30% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	53% <b>56%</b>
Overall	Target Su	ıccess %
Overall RB	Target Su	ICCESS % WR



### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



Somehow on third down, it went to shit. He ranked 30th of 30 quarterbacks in EPA/dropback, 29th in success rate, and 25th in YPA.

As the team trailed in the fourth quarter, all of his desperation passes struggled. He ranked 30th in success rate on all fourth quarter passes and 22nd in EPA/att on those passes, even though his YPA was 10th best.

Wilson came back too early from the injury and lost on a cold evening in Lambeau, 17-0 in mid-November.

From that point onward everything was off.

His accuracy never returned to pre-injury levels and as a result, all of his early down dominance, where he was the best quarterback in the NFL pre-injury, vanished.

On early downs in the first three quarters from Week 10 onward:

16th in EPA/att (-0.02)
12th in YPA (7.1)
Sixth in ANY/A (7.4)
19th in completion % (66%)
Fifth in passer rating (102.8)
Fifth most passing touchdowns (7)
24th in accuracy (88%)
12th in success rate (46%)

These are all massive drops from where he started the season, obviously.

The biggest thing is to ensure his finger is not just 100% healed, but 100% healed in the right positioning. The tendon rupture on the middle finger is called mallet finger. With the rupture, his final joint on his middle finger flopped down because the tendon was torn off the bone, and there is nothing that could extend that fingertip, so it couldn't be moved.

We know that Wilson underwent surgery and claimed to spend 19 to 20 hours a day rehabbing to make his return earlier than originally expected. Carroll called his early return "a remarkable story of recovery". But the bottom line was, his accuracy and thus completion rate was nowhere close post-injury to pre-injury.

We should assume that he's 100% for the 2022 season and there are no health issues. We've seen video of him working out with his new teammates and haven't heard anything but positive comments.

With a 100% healthy Wilson, how can you not expect this offense to look even better than it did with Bridgewater when he was healthy and led this team to a 7-3 record in those 10 games?

Drew Lock was terrible in 2020 under pressure, where he ranked 40th in accuracy. Last year, Bridgewater ranked first in accuracy under pressure. Lock's 2020 completion percentage over expectation (CPOE) was 39th. Last year, Bridgewater ranked 7th.

It's hard to assume Russ tops either of the numbers Bridgewater delivered, but Wilson is going to excel in ways that Bridgewater didn't last season. His mobility has always been a positive, as has his deep ball, which is something Bridgewater really wasn't known for nor looked to do. Wilson's final aDOT last season ranked second in the NFL. Lock was actually first. Bridgewater, despite playing in the same offense as Lock, ranked 14th, as he preferred to take the shorter targets more frequently.

Look at the 2020 season, when Lock was a full-time starter and Russell Wilson was healthy. Now compare their performance on passes thrown 15+ yards downfield (out of 37 QBs):

Wilson: 79.4% accuracy (15th), +0.47 EPA/att (18th), 45.8% success (19th), 12.7 YPA (18th) Lock: 62.5% accuracy (36th), +0.10 EPA/att (29th), 38.5% success (29th), 10.4 YPA (26th)

This was a down year for Wilson, but he was substantially better than Lock and performed above average. He's going to bring a far better ability to stretch



the field.



I find it hard to imagine new head coach Nathaniel Hackett's offense will be worse than Shurmur's was in Denver. I wrote enough in my preview last year about how bad Shurmur's playcalling was, but this was a team that refused to pass the ball enough on early downs last year, despite having success when they did

I'm interested to see Hackett's plan for that, as well his usage of play-action. Their 2022 schedule is manageable, but most of their games are either against teams they should beat, like the Texans, Jaguars, Jets, Panthers, and Seahawks in Week 1, or teams that will be a complete dogfight and will be tough battles. There are no mid-tier opponents on Denver's schedule, which should make for a rocky and entertaining season, jumping from the greats to the dregs and back again.

I will add that I'm a little apprehensive to go in too strong on the Broncos but that's simply because of questions surrounding the offense Hackett will install in his first time ever in this position, and how quickly and smoothly Wilson fits in and they perfect things.

The good news is the Broncos play two easy opponents to start the season and have a bye in Week 9. I would expect they will be able to make all the tweaks they need to before they face the NFL's fourth-toughest schedule from Week 10 onward. While I have those concerns, I still sit in the camp that believes the terrible performance of Shurmur and Lock was never highlighted on a national stage enough. As much as I love Teddy, getting Wilson in there with Hackett will make a massive difference.

So, I'm left where I started – believing that the 2022 Denver Broncos are one of the harder evaluations in the NFL this year.



# Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

### The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

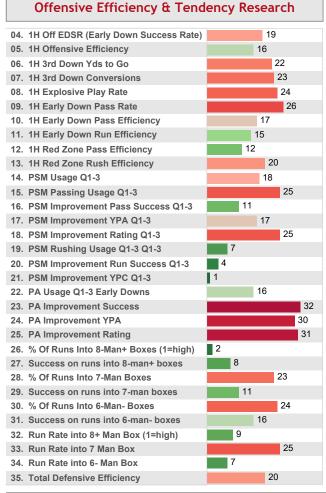
### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE



1. Games w Halftime Lead	9	02. Avg Halftime Lead

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)					
36. PSM YPA	7.3				
37. PSM Target Depth	7.9				
38. Non-PSM YPA	7.4				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	9.1				
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	52%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	39%				
42. PSM EPA/att	0				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.01				

0.0

03. Wins

### Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	38%
45. PA Success Rate	40%
46. PA YPA	6.6
47. PA Sack Rate	11.1%
48. PA EPA/att	-0.22
49. PA Target Depth	9.6
50. Non-PA Success Rate	53%
51. Non-PA YPA	7.8
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	5.3%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.15
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	25%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
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	33%
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	4.5
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	26%
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-vd line	5.2

### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	24	defFUM	12
Net FROE	-2.1	defFUM Rcvrd	5
offFUM	12	dell OW IXCVId	3
offFUM Rcvrd	3	defFR Rk	3
offFR%	25.0%	defFR%	58.3%
offFR Rk	32	defFROE	2.0
offFROE	-4.0	deifkOE	2.0
offFROE Rk	32	defFROE Rk	7

### Field Goal Luck

-						
Net Over Expectation	1.52	Opp Att	31			
Net Over Expectation Rank Own Att	10 31	Opp Makes	24			
Own Makes	26	Opp FG %	77%			
Own FG %	84%	Opp Expected Makes	24.58			
Own Expected Makes	25.06	Opp Make Over Expectation	-0.58			
Own Make over Expectation	0.94	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	26			
Own Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	14 1.56	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	2.95			
2020 Own Rk	12	2020 Opp Rk	3			

### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

$\sim$	_				re
	ĸ	$\mathbf{\nu}$	ro	cc	 ro

### Offensive Metrics

	Teddy Bridgewater
CAY	5.6
CAY Rk	20
2020 CAY Rk	33
AYTS Rk	19
2020 AYTS Rk	32
AGG Rk	31
2020 AGG Rk	38
COMP%	66.9
xCOMP%	64.9
xCOMP% Rk	25
2020 xCOMP% Rk	9
CPOE%	2
CPOE Rk	7
2020 CPOE Rk	13

CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AG	G:
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage C	POE:
Actual completion percentage over expectation	

<b>Q5110</b>	
	Teddy Bridgewater
Pressure %	37.9
Pressure Rk	8
Sack %	6.6
Sack Rk	14
Pressure Accuracy %	76.1
Pressure Accuracy Rk	1
Rating when Pressured	89.5
Pressured Rating Rk	3
Clean Accuracy %	77.1
Clean Accuracy Rk	24
Rating when Clean	97.5
Clean Rating Rk	20
Time to Throw	2.91
Time to Therese Di-	0

EPA/Pass	0.01
EPA/Pass Rk	15
EPA/Rush	-0.06
EPA/Rush Rk	19
On-Target Catch %	90.9%
On-Target Catch Rk	12
Drop%	5.7%
Drop Rk	17
YAC/Att	2.8
YAC/Att Rk	2
Rush Broken Tackle %	18.2%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	2
Rush 1st Down %	27.0%
Rush 1st Down Rk	9



### Broncos Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Teddy Bridgewater	0.24 (#1)	0.05 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	0.25 (#1)
	Drew Lock	0.09 (#3)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	(#)	0.11 (#2)	0.03 (#2)	0.18 (#2)
2020	Drew Lock	0.17 (#2)	-0.10 (#3)	-0.10 (#3)	-0.06 (#2)	-0.28 (#3)	-0.06 (#3)	0.06 (#3)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Teddy Bridgewater	-0.33 (#1)	-0.10 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	0.22 (#2)	0.06 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	-0.10 (#1)
	Drew Lock	-0.85 (#3)	-0.75 (#3)	-0.21 (#3)	0.39 (#1)	-0.53 (#3)	-0.12 (#3)	-0.80 (#3)
2020	Drew Lock	-0.67 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	0.10 (#1)	-0.35 (#3)	0.02 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.15 (#2)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Teddy Bridgewater	77% (#1)	82% (#2)	62% (#1)	54% (#1)	82% (#1)	76% (#2)	72% (#2)	75% (#2)	76% (#1)
	Drew Lock	75% (#2)	88% (#1)	(#)	39% (#3)	70% (#3)	76% (#1)	(#)	75% (#1)	76% (#3)
2020	Drew Lock	73% (#3)	82% (#3)	62% (#1)	51% (#2)	72% (#2)	74% (#3)	76% (#1)	65% (#3)	76% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	AII	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.10 (#1)	-0.02 (#1)	0.26 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	-0.23 (#1)	-0.01 (#2)	-0.17 (#1)	-0.04 (#2)	0.29 (#1)	0.18 (#1)
2020	-0.10 (#1)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.14 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.23 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	-0.30 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.04 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass %	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG Range	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
2021	18	26	21	12	8	32	7	4	16	16
2020	29	25	32	27	8	16	28	4	24	14

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	28	31	30	25	31	20	32	20	1
2020	29	22	29	31	21	18	20	1	24

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	9	9	27	11	11	8	18	1	21
2020	31	29	16	28	23	12	7	29	22

### Coaches (Prior Yrs) 2022 Forecast **Detroit Lions** Head Coach: Wins **Div Rank** Dan Campbell (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: 6.5 #4 Ben Johnson (DET TE) (new) **Defensive Coordinator: Past Records** Aaron Glenn (1 yr) 2021: 3-13-1 Easy Hard 2020: 5-11 2019: 3-13 DAL GB BUF GB PHI MIN NE MIA MIN WAS NYG JAX SEA NYJ CAR 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 18 TKG SAT Rest Edge: +7 +3 +1

Key Players Lost							
Player	New						
Trey Flowers (EDGE)	TBD						
Jalen Reeves-Maybin (LB)	Texans						
Nicholas Williams (IDL)	TBD						
Dean Marlowe (S)	Falcons						
KhaDarel Hodge (WR)	Falcons						
Joel Heath (IDL)	TBD						
Will Holden (LT)	TBD						
Jessie Lemonier (EDGE)	Cardinals						
Rashod Berry (TE)	Jaguars						
Curtis Bolton (LB)	TBD						
Hunter Bryant (TE)	TBD						
Tyrell Crosby (RT)	TBD						
Charlie Taumoepeau (TE)	TBD						
Jalen Elliott (S)	TBD						
Jared Pinkney (TE)	Rams						

### 2022 Detroit Lions Overview

Entering the 2021 season, the vibe inside the Lions building was strong because they finally had a coach who they believed in after years of Matt Patricia at the helm. But the vibe of the Lions outside Detroit was definitely bad. I didn't expect much. I thought this team would be pretty terrible. I wasn't a huge fan of the staff. I really wasn't a fan of Anthony Lynn calling plays as their offensive coordinator. And so I urged patience, saying in my 2021 book: "The most optimistic I can get about the 2021 Lions is: it can't get much worse than the Patricia era - Godspeed, Lions fans."

Entering the 2022 season, the vibe inside the Lions building is still very strong, despite their 3-13-1 record from 2021. They still love Dan Campbell.

But the vibe feels much different outside of Detroit than it did last year. More and more people are open to the possibility of the Lions' improvement after hitting rock bottom. More and more people are thinking this team might be pretty respectable for a fourth-place team in a division.

So where is all this exuberance coming from?

I will admit, I love a good underdog story and the Lions were the best last season.

# Games <u>Average</u> # Games **Underdog Line Favored** 3.3 14

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

6.5

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Forecast

2022 Wins

2021 Wins 3

Forecast 2021 Wins

2020 Wins

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

The Lions were underdogs in all 17 games last year and they went 11-6 ATS (65%) as underdogs, which was tied for the most ATS covers by an underdog in an NFL season (2012 Rams).

Here's how their cover rate compared to other teams who were underdogs in over 10

### (cont'd - see DET2) Lineup & Cap Hits SS D.Elliott Γ.Walke NEW LB I.Davis NEW 34 DE Oruwariye 41 17 68 58 73 97 72 18 LWR D.Chark NEW RT RWR 14 T.Decker J.Jackson F.Ragnow H.Vaitai P.Sewell 88 J.Williams ROOK SLOTWR T.Hockenson 16 2022 Cap Dollars 32 87 12 11 30 = 30+ years old NEW = New to role (or started < 50% WR3 RR2 OR2 of games last year)

### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
D.J. Chark (WR)	\$10
Mike Hughes (CB)	\$2.29
Chris Board (LB)	\$2
Jarrad Davis (LB)	\$1.2
DeShon Elliott (S)	\$1.10
Garrett Griffin (TE)	\$1
Natrez Patrick (LB)	\$0.90
John Cominsky (IDL)	\$0.80
Shane Zylstra (TE)	\$0.80

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	2	DE - Aidan Hutchinson (Michigan)
ľ	12	WR - Jameson Williams (Alabama)
2	46	DE - Josh Paschal (Kentucky)
3	97	S - Kerby Joseph (Illinois)
5	177	TE - James Mitchell (Virginia Tech)
6	188	LB - Malcolm Rodriguez (Oklahoma State)
	217	LB - James Houston (Jackson State)
7	237	CB - Chase Lucas (Arizona State)

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF		\$123.30M	31
QB	6	\$34.30M	14
OL	2	\$50.64M	14
RB	16	\$10.12M	26
WR	24	\$16.95M	32
TE	13	\$11.30M	23
All DEF	20	\$89.67M	26
DL	15	\$46.05M	12
LB	21	\$11.19M	29
СВ	15	\$20.81M	21
s	23	\$11.62M	26

### DET-2

65% - Lions (11-6 in 17 games as underdog)

47% - Texans (7-8-1 in 16 games as underdogs)

39% - Washington (5-8 in 13 games as underdogs)

38% - Giants (6-10 in 16 games as underdogs)

36% - Falcons (4-7 in 11 games as underdogs)

33% - Jaguars (5-10 in 15 games as underdogs)

31% - Jets (5-11 in 16 games as underdogs)

23% - Bears (3-10 in 13 games as underdogs)

You can see where this love was born. Most teams that are dogs for that many games are bad teams, they don't cover spreads, and bettors don't like to bet on bad teams. So linemakers have to keep inflating their numbers more and more to get balanced action. Since 2000, teams that are dogs in over 10 games in a season have covered just 46% of games they were dogs (1,243 out of 2,740 games with a few pushes to increase it to 46% ATS).

There have been only 10 teams in the 21 years since 2000 to be lined as dogs in over 10 games but have covered at least 65% of these games. The Lions were one of those 10 teams.

The Lions were not the "best dogs" in 2021, as there were other teams to have been lined in at least six games and covered at a better rate than the Lions 65%, including the Cardinals (6-0), Ravens (5-1), Titans (6-2), Colts and Bengals (both 6-3).

But as sports betting becomes legalized in more and more states — the NFL won't want to hear this — but covering tickets in more games will undoubtedly bring more people to support a team.

There are other reasons to think the Lions could be a team on the rise, despite whatever reservations you may have had entering last season about their staff. Before we dive deeper into those reasons, let's first understand what this team did last season to lay the foundation for this season.

The Lions played the fourth-toughest schedule in the NFL last year.

They started 0-8.

:				
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Jared Goff	57% 7.3 102.2	51% 6.4 91.7	29% 6.2 81.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	51%	61%	71%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushing Performance						
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn				
DET	48% 4.4	43% 3.9	42% 5.4	Success Rate YPC			
Run Rate	49%	39%	29%				
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC			
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%				

In the first three quarters of their games during this 0-8 start, their offense averaged -0.24 EPA/play.

It ranked dead last in the NFL.

Six of their eight games saw them lose by 8+ points.

Week 2 they led the Packers 7-0, 14-7, and 17-14 at halftime but lost 35-17.

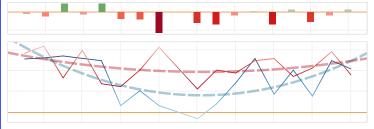
Week 3 they took a 17-16 lead over the Ravens with 1:04 in the game before Justin Tucker banged home a 66-yard game-winner as time expired and lost 19-17.



### 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 10 15 20 25 20 22 Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def RB Pass Eff 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**

### 2 11 12 13 14 15 16 SF CLE CHI MIN DEN ARI ATL SEA GB GB BAL CHI MIN CIN LAR PHI Α Н Α Н Α Н Н Н Α Α Н

H -8 H -2 17 A -18 A -10 A -28 -2 17 0 -2 2 -22 7 -9 -3 -23 -38 18 -4 33 11 10 17 14 19 10 14 29 30 16 37 6 16 29 35 19 24 19 34 28 44 13 16 27 38 12 20 51 30



WFFK **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)

### 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 3 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-4 FG Games Win %: 20% (#24) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 33% (#12)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-6 Score Games Win %: 25% (#28)

1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 67% (#9)

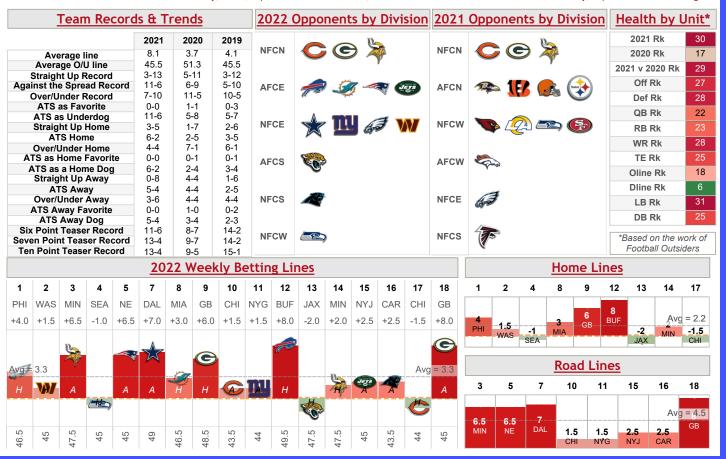
### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -4 TO Given 23 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 9 TO Taken 19 **INT Taken** 11 **FUM Taken** 8 Sack Margin -6 30 Sacks Sacks Allow 36 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -18 Penalties 105 **Opponent Penalties** 87

(cont'd - see DET-3)



2022 vs 2021 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	15	23	14	25	25	20	9			

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







Week 5 they led the Vikings 3-0 before surrendering the lead, only to take it again 17-16 with 0:37 left before the Vikings drove 46 yards in the final 37 seconds and nailed a 54-yard field goal with no time remaining to win 19-17 (again).

Week 7 they led the Rams - the Super Bowl Champion Rams - 7-0, 10-0, 13-10, and even 19-17 heading into the fourth quarter before losing 28-19.

These were half their losses the first eight weeks. Last-second 66- and 54-yard field goal losses to the Ravens and Vikings, plus led entering the fourth quarter against the Super Bowl champion Rams and led entering halftime against the NFC No. 1 seed Green Bay Packers.

When you put it like that, it's literally not half bad. But as mentioned, they lost the other four games by 38, 23, 10, and eight points (and they were down 38-10 in the game they lost by eight points).

Last season, four of the Lions' opening drives ended in turnovers on downs. For context, only 16 other opening drives for all 31 other teams in their 17 games combined ended in turnovers on downs.

The Detroit Lions failed on fourth down on four opening drives.

It was the most for any team since 2000.

They also failed on fourth down on three drives to start the second half.

To start the game or the second half, SEVEN total drives were turnovers on downs.

That also was the most for any team since 2000.

In the first three quarters of games, somehow the No. 1 red zone passing offense on early downs was the Lions. They recorded 0.50 EPA/play with seven touchdowns, zero interceptions, and 59% completions on these early downs.

But in the fourth quarter/OT, they ranked last, gaining just -0.39 EPA/play with one touchdown, two interceptions, and 39% completions.

Sure, this team could have and should have not sat at 0-8 entering their bye. But they did. With their offense ranking dead last in EPA/play, Dan Campbell took the reins of playcaller from Anthony Lynn.

Campbell called the plays over the Lions' final nine games. They went 3-5-1.

In the six games they didn't win?

They held the lead in half of those games:

Week 10 they led 16-13 vs Pittsburgh in the fourth quarter before tying 16-16

Week 12 they led 7-0 and 14-13 with 1:46 left in the fourth quarter against Chicago before losing on a game-winning field goal as time expired 16-14 Week 16 they led 3-0 and 10-7 before losing 20-16 against Atlanta

In total, the Lions won just three of the 10 games they led in at some point, which was the lowest rate (30%) of any team in the NFL last season.

Since 2000 there have been 19 other teams to win fewer than 30% of games they led at any point. The Jets won just two of 10 in 2020 and the Jaguars won just one of nine in 2020. Neither of those teams rebounded to have a great year in 2021. This isn't necessarily a marker for regression for more wins in 2022, but it's descriptive of how competitive but bad the 2021 Lions truly were.

Back to the change in playcaller: over those final nine games, the Lions' offensive efficiency definitely improved. Let's examine splits before and after Campbell took over playcalling, starting with efficiency in the first three quarters of games:

Weeks 1-8: -0.24 EPA/play (32nd), 38% success (28th) || -0.24 EPA/pass (31st), -0.23 EPA/rush (28th) Weeks 9+: -0.06 EPA/play (15th), 39% success (19th) || 0.07 EPA/pass (seventh), -0.17 EPA/rush (28th)

(cont'd - see <u>DET-4</u>)

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 +2 0 +3 O Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Detroit Lions 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
2	3	1	8	1	1

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- The 2021 Lions gave up the second-highest points in the league and were not efficient in stopping the run or pass. The Lions gave up a fourth-highest 5.91 yards per play allowing the third-highest explosive passing rate. They were bottom-seven or worse in yards per attempt to all running backs, wide receivers, and tight ends. Despite adding **Aidan Hutchinson**, the defense needs improvement before the Lions can win on a weekly basis.
- The Lions did not improve the interior of the defensive line, which remains a liability for the defense. The returning members of the interior were unable to create pressure as the Lions had the second-lowest Pass Rush Win Rate and struggled to stop the run with a bottom-10 Run Stop Win Rate.
- Jared Goff has limitations to his game as evidenced by the 6.3 air yards per pass attempt. Goff attempted 25.2% of passes beyond 10 yards, the lowest rate in the league. The former first-round quarterback is not going to be an elite difference maker and the team will need to continue to gameplan around him.

6.5



### Why Bet the Over

- Dan Campbell and positive work culture. Not measurable in any statistic, however, the energy and passion that Campbell brings to the Lions are important to the rebuilding franchise. The 2021 team lacked talent to begin with and experienced the third-highest adjusted games lost, yet showed up and played with maximum effort every week. After starting 0-8 the Lions defeated the Packers, Vikings, and Cardinals, tied the Steelers, and lost three games by less than a touchdown. Campbell was the fourth-most aggressive coach in Football Outsiders' Aggressiveness Index and won the final game losing a chance at the No. 1 draft pick.
- The Lions are benefactors of both an improved strength of schedule and fortunate net rest. After facing the fifth-hardest schedule of opponents last year, the Lions have the fifth-easiest in 2022, the third-highest improvement. Also aiding the Lions is not facing a single opponent that has a rest advantage.
- The Lions finished 1-4 in games decided by a field goal or less. The Lions' defense allowed a 70% red zone touchdown rate while the offense scored a touchdown on 47% of red zone possessions. Improvement in red zone efficiency will help the Lions in tight games.

	Detroit Lions Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	<b>Head Coach</b>					
26	4	16	18	28	22	17					

Based on an average of the unit rankings, the Lions own our 24th-ranked roster, but that is a meaningful improvement from 30th a year ago. **Jared Goff** doesn't have a high ceiling, but he's capable. When kept clean for at least 2.5 seconds, Goff ranked 16th in EPA per dropback — that's certainly good enough to keep the Lions competitive if they can protect him.

Votes for the Lions backfield ranged from 12th to 22nd. If **D'Andre Swift** can stay healthy, perhaps the high end of that spectrum is deserved, but he's dealt with both groin and shoulders injuries in college and the pros and has earned a reputation for being banged up.

The Lions' pass catchers have a much higher ceiling than our ranking, but since we're evaluating strictly based on 2022 expectations, **Jameson Williams**'s injury needs to be taken into account. Once Williams joins **Amon-Ra St. Brown** and **T.J. Hockenson**, this could develop into a top-10 unit.

After **Taylor Decker** returned in Week 9, Detroit's offensive line allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less on 17.3% of dropbacks, the fourth-lowest rate over that span. Decker's return also shifted **Penei Sewell** to right tackle, where he ranked fifth in the league in pressure rate allowed.

Detroit's front seven earned votes ranging from 23rd to 30th. The low end of that spectrum is likely based on the Lions' pressure rate (24.3%) ranking 31st last season, but the addition of rookie **Aidan Hutchinson** could allow this unit to make significant strides. There was far from a consensus on Detroit's secondary, with votes ranging from 14th to 29th. **Jeff Okudah** allowed 11.9 yards per target in coverage as a rookie and then missed all but one game in 2021. If he can live up to initial expectations, the ceiling for this unit is high, but he's unproven to this point.

Dan Campbell may act like a caricature of a football coach, but he did get things pointed in the right direction late in the year. Campbell took over play-calling duties from Anthony Lynn in Week 10. This coincided with the return of Decker, so it's tough to credit Campbell with the turnaround. The jury is still out on his viability as a head coach.

### DET-4

Campbell improved rushing efficiency slightly, but the Lions still ranked fifth-worst (more on rushing inefficiency soon).

But Campbell made huge strides in the passing attack, improving passing efficiency from 31st up to seventh.

Campbell didn't change the Lions' first down pass rate at all. It was 49.7% pre-bye and 49.7% post-bye. This ranked as the 17th most pass-heavy, a.k.a. dead-on average (technically it was actually 0.6% below the average of 50.3%).

Campbell slightly lowered the pass rate on second down, from 57.8% down to 54.5% pass (avg = 59.8% pass, DET ranked 21st).

The huge change came on third down, where Campbell lowered the pass rate massively, from 84.1% pass down to 61.5% pass.

If you think 61.5% pass sounds low on third down, you're right. The NFL average is 82.3% pass. The 31st most pass-heavy team (a.k.a. the second most run-heavy team) passed the ball on 71.1% of third downs (NE). The Campbell playcalling Lions passed 10% less often than the 31st team.

Where did this rank in the annals of history?

### DET-5

Since 2000, in the first three quarters of games the most run-heavy a team has ever been in a season on third down was the 2020 Baltimore Ravens at 64.3% pass. The Lions, when Campbell called plays from Week 10 onward, were 61.5% pass.

There should be one assumption that jumps out to you when you see this huge shift to the run on third down: the Lions must have had substantially fewer yards-to-go on third down. That's the only thing that would make sense, right? With less yardage, the team could run the ball more often. Maybe Campbell had this team firing on early downs and could then run the ball on third downs at the highest rate since at least 2000.

#### Nope.

Weeks 1-8: 7.2 yards-to-go on third down Weeks 9+: 7.4 yards-to-go on third down

OK, on the surface, this makes no sense. Maybe there were more short-yardage situations but a few really long third and 25+ situations are skewing things?

### Nope.

Weeks 1-8: 18 third down attempts with three or fewer yards-to-go, 38 attempts with 7+ yards-to-go

Weeks 9+: 16 third down attempts with three or fewer yards-to-go, 38 attempts with 7+ yards-to-go

So despite the Lions facing 7.4 yards-to-go on third down (7th most in the NFL) without being skewed by short-yardage situations, the Lions pivoted from 84.1% (slightly over average) to 61.5% pass (lowest for any team since at least 2000).

It wasn't on third-and-1 that a major difference occurred. Anthony Lynn

(cont'd - see DET-6)



### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week

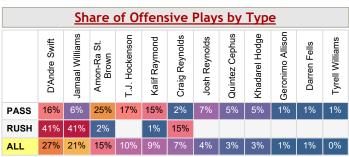


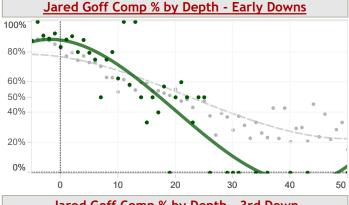
### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

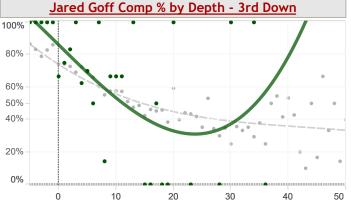


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
3		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)					
	D'Andre Swift	14%	9%	77%							
	Jamaal Williams	11%	5%	83%	1%						
RUSH	Amon-Ra St. Brown	14%	14%	71%							
2	Kalif Raymond			100%							
	Craig Reynolds	13%	2%	53%	11%	22%					
	Total	12%	6%	76%	2%	3%					
	D'Andre Swift	33%	19%	47%							
	Jamaal Williams	36%	14%	50%							
	Amon-Ra St. Brown	29%	10%	53%	7%	1%					
	T.J. Hockenson	29%	11%	59%		1%					
	Kalif Raymond	13%	15%	69%	1%	1%					
w	Craig Reynolds	38%		50%	13%						
PASS	Josh Reynolds	11%	6%	69%	6%	8%					
	Quintez Cephus	39%	13%	48%							
	Khadarel Hodge	36%	23%	41%							
	Geronimo Allison	67%		33%							
	Darren Fells			100%							
	Tyrell Williams			100%							
	Total	27%	13%	56%	2%	1%					







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

### **2021 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]	0-1 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	47%, 0.00 (452)	48%, -0.03 (62)	31%, -0.50 (42)	58%, -0.09 (33)	63%, 0.55 (8)	70%, 1.08 (10)	0%, -5.06 (1)	67%, 1.59 (3)	100%, 1.75 (1)	47%, -0.04 (624)
RUSH	43%, -0.13 (214)	45%, -0.07 (91)	58%, 0.04 (64)	57%, 0.20 (7)	36%, -0.24 (25)	50%, 0.66 (2)	63%, -0.44 (8)	100%, 3.75 (1)		46%, -0.08 (425)
All	46%, -0.04 (666)	46%, -0.06 (153)	47%, -0.17 (106)	58%, -0.04 (40)	42%, -0.05 (33)	67%, 1.01 (12)	56%, -0.96 (9)	75%, 2.13 (4)	100%, 1.75 (1)	47%, -0.06 (1,049)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)										
POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total					
WR	Amon-Ra	56% (85)	57% (7)	75% (4)	86% (14)	61% (110)					
	St. Brown	7.6, 0.30	5.0, 0.12	12.5, 0.49	8.8, 0.60	7.7, 0.33					
	Kalif	50% (50)	63% (8)	25% (4)	50% (6)	50% (68)					
	Raymond	7.4, 0.18	7.5, 0.36	9.0, 0.14	6.2, -0.31	7.4, 0.15					
	Josh	46% (28)	67% (6)	0% (1)	0% (1)	47% (36)					
	Reynolds	8.6, 0.40	10.7, 0.15	0.0, -0.61	0.0, -0.53	8.5, 0.30					
	Geronimo Allison	33% (3) 4.3, -0.17				33% (3) 4.3, -0.17					
TE	T.J. Hockenson	61% (62) 7.4, 0.37	38% (13) 5.2, -0.07	57% (7) 8.4, -1.03		57% (82) 7.1, 0.18					
RB	D'Andre	56% (61)	17% (6)	33% (6)	0% (1)	50% (74)					
	Swift	6.4, -0.07	2.8, -0.27	5.0, -0.44	1.0, -0.32	5.9, -0.12					
	Jamaal	58% (19)	100% (5)	0% (3)	100% (1)	61% (28)					
	Williams	5.4, 0.22	6.4, 0.37	3.7, -0.58	11.0, 0.80	5.6, 0.18					

# 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 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Swift	38% (87)	23% (35)	61% (18)	14% (7)	36% (147)
D'Andre	4.4, -0.17	3.0, -0.35	5.3, 0.11	0.9, -0.42	4.0, -0.19
Williams	49% (73)	50% (32)	69% (26)	63% (8)	54% (139)
Jamaal	3.8, -0.09	3.7, 0.05	4.7, 0.15	2.9, 0.03	3.9, 0.00
Reynolds	35% (23)	86% (7)	33% (15)	60% (5)	44% (50)
Craig	3.5, -0.17	4.9, 0.16	4.3, -0.29	7.6, 0.24	4.3, -0.12
Goff Jared	33% (12) 5.5, -0.35	33% (3) 7.0, -1.94		0% (1) -3.0, -1.13	31% (16) 5.3, -0.70

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

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

_	ssing by		sing by	Throw Types		QB Drop	QB Drop Types		State at	Pass	Run Types	
	verage :heme	R	oute	57% (450 6.8, 0.16		3 Step	55% (267) 6.3, 0.05	Planted	52% (449) 6.7, 0.07		Inside Zone	41% (92) 3.5, -0.12
		Out	60% (81) 6.5, 0.10			E Ston	5 Step 46% (92) S			3% (78) 3, -0.07	Outside	51% (68)
Zone	40% (444) 6.7, -0.10	Curl	58% (72)	Level 2	37% (71) 7.2, -0.24	э этер	7.0, 0.02	Moving		6% (61) 4, 0.08	Zone	5.5, -0.02
			6.8, 0.14		28% (29)	0/1 Step	51% (74) 6.3, 0.03		Play Action			49% (57) 4.2, -0.07
Man	45% (118) 6.9, 0.06	Drag	63% (27) 8.3, 0.36	Level 3	9.7, 0.22	7 Step	58% (48)		Play Action	No P/A	Pitch	36% (28)
	0.9, 0.00		60% (25)	Sidearm	14% (7)		9.5, 0.32	Under Center	50% (103) 7.8, 0.09	41% (37) 7.6, 0.09		2.4, -0.42
	220/ (22)	Dig	11.2, 0.26		-0.1, -0.71	Basic Screen	42% (36) 6.7, 0.14	Shotgun	49% (35)	47% (449)	Stretch	42% (26) 3.8, -0.16
Other	33% (23) 3.4, 0.13	Slant	60% (20) 8.2, 0.20	Shovel	60% (5) 3.2, 0.03	Designed Rollout Right	56% (18) 6.7, 0.26	ALL	50% (138) 7.4, 0.06	6.2, -0.09 46% (486) 6.3, -0.07	Lead	45% (11) 3.5, 0.08

### DET-6

had called runs on 75% of these plays already, as most teams do (avg = 67% run).

But in Weeks 1-8, Anthony Lynn did not call a single run play when the offense needed more than one yard on third down. Third-and-2? 100% pass. Third-and-3? 100% pass. Etc. Splits:

Weeks 1-8, third and two-to-five yards to-go: 12 plays, 100% pass Weeks 9+, third and two-to-five yards to-go: 28 plays, 54% pass

The NFL average is 82% pass when needing between two and five yards on third down. Lynn was at 100% pass (first). Campbell was at 54% pass (32nd).

How did the strategy work for Campbell?

Campbell's third and 2-5 efficiency:

Runs: 46% conversion (23rd), avg to-go = 3.7 yards Passes: 33% conversion (31st), avg to-go = 4.3 yards

Runs ended up being more efficient than passes, so this was a smart move. The only issue was passes were worse than when Lynn was getting (42% conversions, 24th, avg to-go = 3.5 yards) and so the overall conversion rate with 2-to-5 yards-to-go was lower with Campbell.

But the move to get a bit more run-heavy on third down was actually +EV.

Overall, on third downs with 1-10 yards to go, all plays combined:

(cont'd - see DET-7)





Weeks 1-8: 57 plays, 35% conversions (32nd), -0.35 EPA/play (26th) Weeks 9+: 65 plays, 42% conversions (22nd), 0.02 EPA/play (13th)

The offense was in much better hands on third downs with Campbell calling plays.

But let's get back to how Campbell brought this passing game up from 31st to seventh in the first three quarters of games. How did this occur, particularly when there was a lot of upheaval in the offense during this time span? In Week 11 **Josh Reynolds** was claimed off waivers and started playing meaningful snaps right away. In Week 12 **D'Andre Swift** was injured and didn't return until Week 17. Week 13 was **T.J. Hockenson's** final game of the season. How did Campbell get so much more efficiency during this span?

Particularly when the team didn't become more pass-heavy on early downs? Because sometimes that is the answer. Pass when the defense is playing the run. But Campbell still passed the ball at the same rate on first down as when Lynn was calling the plays.

On early down passes, Campbell improved play action:

Increased play-action usage - from 32% usage pre-bye to 44%

Increased play-action efficiency - from -0.05 EPA/att and 44% success pre-bye to 0.12 EPA/att and 47% success

But honestly, the biggest reason for a spark to the passing game? It wasn't Campbell's improved passing – it was the loss of D'Andre Swift in Week 12.

Campbell took over playcalling in Week 10.

Week 10 in Pittsburgh featured Jared Goff, but rain began in the second half and we know how Goff plays in the rain.

Week 11 featured quarterback Tim Boyle as Goff was injured.

Week 12 featured Goff but saw Swift suffer an injury and miss the next four weeks.

Week 10, even before the rain started, early down passes featured an aDOT of 3.3 yards. These passes recorded -0.65 EPA/att and 0.8 YPA. They were terrible

All told, when Campbell took over playcalling from Week 10 onward, there was a massive subset of inefficiency in strategy in the three games with Swift out of the bye. Still focusing on early down passes in the first three quarters of games:

Weeks 10-12: -0.28 EPA/att, 3.6 YPA, 32% success rate, 4.2 aDOT, 38% RB target %, 32% WR target % Weeks 13-16: 0.34 EPA/att, 7.8 YPA, 56% success rate, 7.4 aDOT, 12% RB target %, 65% WR target %

The passing efficiency difference with Swift (Weeks 10-12) on early downs vs without him (Weeks 13-16) was staggering. Essentially, without Swift to throw

(cont'd - see DET-8)

### Immediate Impact of Detroit Lions 2022 Draft Class

Detroit was ecstatic when Jacksonville selected **Travon Walker**, allowing **Aidan Hutchinson** (first round) to fall into their lap. Just like last year when **Penei Sewell** fell to them with the seventh pick, the Lions benefitted from others making riskier selections at the top of the draft. Hutchinson is often described as a safe prospect — which is true — but don't mistake that for a lack of upside. Hutchinson led the Big Ten with an 18.1% pressure rate last season, and should immediately improve Detroit's pass rush.

GM Brad Holmes made his first truly aggressive move since taking over in 2021 by trading up for **Jameson Williams** (first round). In a poor draft class, especially due to the lack of quarterbacks, teams moving down had to accept less than market value for their picks — and Holmes took advantage of this opportunity to move up 20 slots for Williams. Williams brings an explosive skill set to the Lions' offense which should complement **Amon-Ra St. Brown** well. Based on route-adjusted data, Williams generated 39% more yards after the catch than expected.

Josh Paschal (second round) is a versatile defensive lineman, but was a surprising selection following the addition of Levi Onwuzurike last year. Like Onwuzurike, Paschal can play inside or on the edge, but offers limited pass-rush ability on the outside. When lined up on the edge, Pascal generated a 12.6% pressure rate, good for 12th in the SEC. The Lions already have a crowded depth chart on the defensive line, so the selection of Paschal was likely about landing the best available player in their eyes. He doesn't appear to have a path to significant immediate playing time.

**Kerby Joseph** (third round) will compete with **Will Harris** for a starting job at safety. Joseph played almost exclusively in the deep secondary and he'll likely see significant action there if he wins the job — Detroit used two-high formations on 41% of snaps in 2021. **James Mitchell** (fifth round) slid down draft boards due to a torn ACL which ended his 2021 campaign. If healthy, he would have likely been a top-100 pick as one of the few tight ends in this class with a legitimate track record as a pass-catching weapon.

Based on route-adjusted data, Mitchell picked up 29% more yards after the catch than expected during his career. If he returns to full strength, he should emerge as an excellent second option at tight end behind **T.J. Hockenson**.

Malcolm Rodriguez (sixth round) is the perfect selection for Dan Campbell. Although he's undersized, Rodriguez was a four-year starter and two-time team captain at Oklahoma State. At worst, Rodriguez will excel in a role on special teams, but he'll also be given an opportunity to compete with Jarrad Davis and Derrick Barnes for a starting job. James Houston (sixth round) could potentially factor into that competition as well, though he's more likely to see action as a situational pass-rusher. The Lions closed out their draft by taking a flier on the undersized Chase Lucas (seventh round). Lucas allowed a catch rate 13% below expected last season as an outside cornerback, but will likely be groomed for a role in the slot.

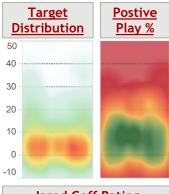
Although Holmes has only been with Detroit through two draft classes, he's making a case to be mentioned about the savviest GMs on draft weekend. For the most part, he lets the board come to him — but also took advantage of an opportunity to trade up for Williams when a favorable deal was on the table. The Lions appear to be in good hands for this rebuilding process, and the 2022 draft class should push them a step closer to competing in the NFC North.

### Detroit Lions 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

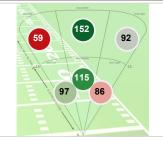
Detroit ended last season 20th in the league in expected points added via their passing offense (41.6 EPA), ranking 10th in completion rate (66.8%), 17th in touchdowns (23), 19th in touchdown rate (3.9%), but 27th in yards per pass attempt (6.5 Y/A) and 30th in yards per completion (9.8 yards). **Jared Goff** is still technically under contract through 2024, but there are out years starting after this season. Since throwing 32 touchdowns and 8.4 yards per pass attempt in 2018, Goff has thrown 22 or fewer touchdowns in all three seasons since with 7.4, 7.2, and 6.6 yards per pass attempt in those seasons. Last year, Goff was dead last among quarterbacks in air yards per throw (6.6 yards) and above only Mike Glennon in air yards per completion (4.3 yards). Goff is not the long-term quarterback for the Lions but still a serviceable bridge to that next big swing.

	2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk		
Jared Goff	324	479	68%	3,164	6.6	19	7	34	93	19		
Tim Boyle	59	89	66%	524	5.9	2	5	0	66	48		
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6			

	2021 Advanced Passing Table											
QB Success % 20+ Yd Pass Gains 20+ Yd Pass Gains 20+ Yd Pass Gains 20+ Yd Pass % Gains 20+ Yd Pass % Gains 20+ Yd Pass % Gains 20+ Air Yd Pass % Comp 20+ Air Yd % Comp 20+												
Jared Goff	47%	54%	39	8.0%	11	2.0%	4.5	5.3				
Tim Boyle	46%	47%	8	9.0%	2	2.0%	4.3	4.3				
	400/	500/	04.4	0.00/	40.5	0.40/	5.0					
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3				



### Jared Goff 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%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	2.4%	3.4%	0.0%	2.5%
6 - 9	0.0%	1.6%	4.2%	0.0%	2.7%
10 - 14	0.6%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	0.5%	1.7%	2.3%	0.0%	1.3%

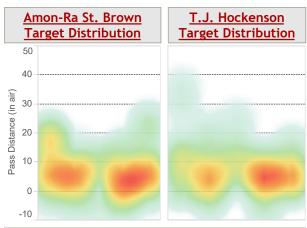
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Avg. Ai Yds to Yards		Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Jared Goff	8.0	5.7	-2.3	77%	41					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

	Air Y	'ds vs	YAC
ond k	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
1	46%	54%	39
	53%	47%	

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Detroit was middle of the pack in terms of success rates per target to their wide receivers (52%, 14th), tight ends (54%, 14th), and running backs (52%, 12th), but since their three primary targets on offense — Amon-Ra St. Brown, T.J. Hockenson, and D'Andre Swift — tactically operated near the line of scrimmage, they ranked in the back half of the league in yards per target to wideouts (7.5 yards, 21st), tight ends (6.9 yards, 23rd), and backs (5.5 yards, 16th). To aid their young nucleus, Detroit went out and added field stretcher Jameson Williams in the first round of the draft. The one thorn for Williams is that he suffered an ACL injury in the National Title game, pushing back his availability this offseason and potentially the start of his rookie season.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS% RK	TDs
Amon-Ra St. Brown	118	75%	7.7	107.4	59%	23	51	99	52	5
T.J. Hockenson	83	73%	7.0	93.6	57%	34	20	103	57	4
D'Andre Swift	78	79%	5.8	88.6	49%	94	124	116	13	2
Kalif Raymond	71	68%	8.3	105.7	51%	79	57	36	129	4



### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Lions were a team that wanted to run the football but did not do a great job at it. Detroit closed the season 26th in the league in expected points added via rushing (-21.1 EPA). Both primary ballcarriers D'Andre Swift (--54 yards) and **Jamaal Williams** (-32 yards) were at the bottom of the league in rushing yardage gained based on expectation per Next Gen Stats. Detroit went even run-heavier when Dan Campbell took over playcalling duties in Week 10. From that point on, Detroit had a rushing rate 8% over expectation based on game situation, despite ranking 27th in the NFL over that span in EPA per rush (-0.135). Swift has flirted with great moments through two seasons, but consistency finding the field (seven games missed) has been a thorn. Their offensive line is largely solidified.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Jamaal Williams	153	3.9	54%	25	45	17	75	53%	23	3
D'Andre Swift	151	4.1	36%	87	88	76	46	38%	85	5
Craig Reynolds	55	4.2	44%	77	59	52	35	42%	76	0

# Yards per Carry by Direction 3.7 4.7 8.1 3.1 3.4 4.7 3.3 LT LG C RG RT



### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### There's No Shortage Of Talent In Detroit, But Will It All Come Together?

For all of the issues the Lions had closing out close games last year, we do know there is upside here in this offense. Detroit has accrued a handful of young talent over the past three years. **D'Andre Swift** closed 2021 10th at the position in points per game (16.1) and 16th in touches per game (16.4). The strength of his game for fantasy in 2021 came via 62 receptions (giving him 108 through two seasons). Swift did concede more rushing work than we would have liked to **Jamaal Williams**, averaging just 9.6 carries per game with the two active together, with a high game of 14 carries and totaling 41.6% of the carries in those games. That puts more fragility on Swift fully ascending in 2022 to his draft cost (especially in non-PPR formats), but Swift has still checked the boxes as a goal line back (he is 6-of-13 inside of the five through two years) and as a pass catcher, that all that is missing is rushing volume from his profile.

Things were slow-moving for **Amon-Ra St. Brown** to open his rookie season. Through 11 games, St. Brown had 39 catches for 352 yards and zero touchdowns. Then, he went on an all-time heater, catching 51 passes for 560 yards and five touchdowns (with a rushing score) over his final six games, posting five top-10 scoring weeks over that span. St. Brown caught eight or more passes in all six games, just the ninth player in league history to have such a streak. The glass half full case for St. Brown is that he was used all over the field (and backfield) during that breakout and was too good to be put back in the bottle moving forward. The glass half empty case is that the Lions were stripped down primary playmakers in **T.J. Hockenson** and D'Andre Swift for the chunk of the breakout while the team made an emphasis to add vertical playmakers and target competition this offseason. That six-game heater may go down as a fantasy tale we highlight as the best run of St. Brown's career, but his skill-set is quarterback friendly and in my opinion, more of a threat to the early 2021 target shares that Swift and Hockenson carried than vice versa.

T.J. Hockenson continued to climb in his third season. His receptions per game have now gone from 2.7 to 4.2 to 5.1 per game to open his career while his targets have climbed from 4.9 to 6.3 to 7.0 per game. Hockenson was targeted on 20.5% of his routes (10th) and seventh in expected points per game (11.7) before being forced to miss the final five games of the season due to a hand injury. The only question with Hockenson is does he really ever develop into a tide-turning at the position? He has yet to rank in the top-20 in depth of target through three seasons while ranking 40th and 18th in yards after the catch per grab the past two years after ranking eighth as a rookie. Hock has just 15 career targets on throws 20 or more yards downfield (Kyle Pitts had 12 as a rookie) which has resulted in him scoring just one career touchdown from outside of the red zone so far (his first NFL TD) with just two his 12 touchdowns so far coming from over 11 yards.

Jameson Williams was the draft's premier deep threat among the top prospects, averaging 19.9 yards per catch. 28.3% of his targets were on throws over 20 yards downfield (fifth in this class) while no receiver in this class has more yards (544) and touchdowns (seven) on throws 30-plus yards in the air this season. All of that went into Williams sporting 3.51 yards per route run (fifth in this class). The one thorn for Williams is that he suffered an ACL injury in the National Title game on January 10th, pushing back his availability this offseason and potentially the start of his rookie season. The Lions have a bridge to his availability in D.J. Chark, who they signed to a one-year contract earlier this offseason. Taking all of this young talent in, we still need a lot from Jared Goff to cash in. Since being the QB10 in points per game in 2018 with 32 touchdowns and 8.4 Y/A, Jared Goff has been the QB22, QB24, and QB24 in points per game the past three seasons while throwing 22 or fewer touchdowns in all three seasons and 7.4, 7.2, and 6.6 yards per pass attempt.

	Detroit Lions Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel					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%	287 plays (75%) Success: 47%	88 plays (23%) Success: 44%	3 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 0%	382 plays (100%) Success: 46%		%	Rk	40
EPA: (	EPA: 0.53	EPA: 0.53 EPA: 0.09	EPA: 0.01	EPA: -2.08	EPA: 0.06	Base	27%	10	
1-2 [2WR]	41 plays (46%) Success: 46%	46 plays (51%) Success: 48%	3 plays (3%) Success: 33%		90 plays (100%) Success: 47%	Nickel	59%	18	30 -
	EPA: -0.09	EPA: 0.20	EPA: -0.66		EPA: 0.04	Dime+	11%	21	
2-1 [2WR]	31 plays (82%) Success: 68% EPA: 0.49	5 plays <i>(13%)</i> Success: 40% EPA: -0.09	2 plays (5%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.32		38 plays (100%) Success: 63% EPA: 0.41	Rush 3	9%	4	20 -
			LI A. 0.32			Rush 4	64%	26	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	13 plays (87%) Success: 69% EPA: 0.44	2 plays (13%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.15			15 plays (100%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.36	Rush 5	18%	23	10 -
	89 plays (17%)	340 plays (65%)	93 plays (18%)	3 plays (1%)	525 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	9%	4	0 –
Grand Total	Success: 58% EPA: 0.22	Success: 47% EPA: 0.10	Success: 44% EPA: 0.00	Success: 0% EPA: -2.08	Success: 48% EPA: 0.09	Blitz%	26%	13	-10

### **Defensive Outlook**

Among 93 qualified defensive tackles last season, **Michael Brockers** ranked 86th in pressure rate and **Levi Onwuzurike** ranked 91st. **Alim McNeil** ranked 38th. That's not the highest pass rush upside on the interior and there was also a bit to be desired in run defense — the team as a whole ranked 25th in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate. Brockers played 54% of the defensive snaps, but his play dropped off a bit during his first season in Detroit. He had just one quarterback hit after a previous career-low of four. Brockers signed a contract extension with the Lions after he has traded last season, but with \$10 in cap space freed up after this season, this is likely his last with the Lions. **Alim McNeill** is a promising force as a 330-pound nose tackle. The 2021 third-round pick played 37% of the defensive snaps and should see more time during his second season. The Lions had problem keeping pass rushers on the field last season. After a 10-sack season and a contract extension, **Romeo Okwara** played in only four games in 2021. Though he only had one sack, his pressure rate was higher in his limited 2021 sample than it was during his breakout 2020. He's expected to be back for training camp. **Aidan Hitchinson** will be expected to come in and lead the pass rush as the No. 2 overall pick. **Charles Harris** re-signed this offseason for a two-year deal. He played 76.4% of the defensive snaps as the consistently healthy member of the position group. Harris had his best year getting to the quarterback — he had 7.5 sacks after 6.5 total in his career previously — but he also was a force in the backfield in general. Harris had 10 tackles for loss and ranked sixth among edge rushers in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate. **Julian Okwara** had the highest pressure rate on the team among pass rushers last season, but only played 31.7% of the defensive snaps. Okwara also only rushed the passer on 70% of his pass snaps.

At linebacker, **Derrick Barnes** was a 2021 fourth-round rookie who played 39% of the defensive snaps. Among 85 qualified linebackers, Barnes ranked 85th in yards allowed per coverage snap. Barnes is in line to take over a bigger role. Behind him, there's not a lot. **Alex Anzalone** has been a solid player and he re-sgned for a one-year deal after playing 2021 in Detroit. Anzalone played 72.6% of the defensive snaps and ranked 21st among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap, along with seven passes defensed. The Lions surprising brought back **Jarrad Davis**, the disappointing former first-round pick, who was cut by Detroit and spend 2021 with the Jets.

Amani Oruwariye, a 2019 fifth-round pick, had a true breakout at corner in 2021. Oruwariye was 22nd among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which includes touchdowns and interceptions. That's a welcome development in a secondary that could use as much of that as possible. That was also the case with AJ Parker, an undrafted rookie who played well as the slot corner for 13 games. Parker ranked 28th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap and tied for second on the team with seven passes defensed. Another year under Aubrey Pleasant could help both Oruwariye and Parker. Jeff Okudah has played a total of 10 games over his first two seasons. The former No. 3 overall pick had some rookie struggles in 2020 and missed nearly all of 2021 after he tore his Achilles in Week 1. He's could be ready for training camp, but getting anything from Okudah early in the season could be considered a bonus for the Lions at this point. After an up-and-down season with the Kansas City Chiefs (87th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap), Mike Hughes provides some veteran depth on a one-year deal. At safety, Tracy Walker played 77.3% of snaps and signed a three-year extension this offseason. Will Harris played 88.7% of snaps and is in the final year of his rookie contract. Third-round pick Kerby Joseph could also step into a rotational role with more defensive back-heavy looks. The Lions used a two-high shell on 62% of their defensive snaps, which ranked as the sixth-highest rate in the league. Detroit rotated post-snap often and ended up playing a two-high coverage just 41% of the time, which was 14th. Despite that two-high shell, the Lions gave up the most yards on deep throws that traveled at least 20 air yards (1,210) with the eighth-highest completion percentage allowed.

Play Tenden	Play Tendencies					
All Pass %	56%					
All Pass Rk	18					
All Rush %	44%					
All Rush Rk	15					
1 Score Pass %	52%					
1 Score Pass Rk	28					
2020 1 Score Pass %	56%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	20					
2021 Pass Increase %	-4%					
Pass Increase Rk	25					
1 Score Rush %	48%					
1 Score Rush Rk	5					
Up Pass %	53%					
Up Pass Rk	24					
Up Rush %	47%					
Up Rush Rk	9					
Down Pass %	57%					
Down Pass Rk	24					
Down Rush %	43%					
Down Rush Rk	9					

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	denci	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %
1st Dwn	Short (1-3)	1	0%	100%	0%
	Med (4-7)	11	55%	45%	45%
	Long (8-10)	294	48%	52%	52%
	XL (11+)	13	46%	54%	31%
2nd	Short (1-3)	30	20%	80%	70%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	89	54%	46%	55%
	Long (8-10)	81	64%	36%	35%
	XL (11+)	41	66%	34%	20%
3rd	Short (1-3)	34	38%	62%	56%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	49	84%	16%	37%
	Long (8-10)	40	78%	23%	23%
	XL (11+)	27	74%	26%	7%
4th	Short (1-3)	18	56%	44%	56%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	4	100%	0%	50%
	Long (8-10)	1	0%	100%	100%
	XL (11+)	2	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %					
Shotgun	Under Center				
60%	40%				
NFL	AVG				
65%	35%				
Efficiency					

EPA/ pass: -0.08

EPA

Success:



### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

rt Dun							
2nd and Short Run							
Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg						
74%	73%						
2nd and Short Pass							
Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg						
	Run 1D Rate 74% rt Pass Pass 1D						

29%

50%

46%

	Most Frequent Play							
Down	Down Distance Type Play		Player	Total Plays	Play Success %			
1st	Med (4-7)	RUSH	D'Andre Swift	2	0%			
Dwn			Jamaal Williams	2	50%			
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Jamaal Williams	61	51%			
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Jamaal Williams	3	33%			
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jamaal Williams	11	73%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	D'Andre Swift	17	47%			
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	D'Andre Swift	14	14%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	D'Andre Swift	7	43%			
3rd	Short (1-3)	Short (1-3)	Short (1-3) RUSH D'A	D'Andre Swift	7	43%		
Dwn			Jamaal Williams	7	86%			
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Amon-Ra St. Brown	10	80%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Amon-Ra St. Brown	8	13%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Amon-Ra St. Brown	5	40%			

Offen	Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)							
	Play Action (Y/N)							
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total					
No	Success: 46%	Success: 41%	Success: 46%					
	YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.16	YPA: 4.9, EPA: -0.24	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.16					
	Rtg: 80.4	Rtg: 77.9	Rtg: 80.2					
	[Att: 184 - Rate: 29.5%]	[Att: 17 - Rate: 2.7%]	[Att: 201 - Rate: 32.2%]					
Yes	Success: 46%	Success: 51%	Success: 48%					
	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.02	YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.11	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.02					
	Rtg: 91.7	Rtg: 103.9	Rtg: 95.2					
	[Att: 302 - Rate: 48.4%]	[Att: 121 - Rate: 19.4%]	[Att: 423 - Rate: 67.8%]					
Total	Success: 46%	Success: 50%	Success: 47%					
	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.07	YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.06	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.04					
	Rtg: 87.5	Rtg: 100.9	Rtg: 90.4					
	[Att: 486 - Rate: 77.9%]	[Att: 138 - Rate: 22.1%]	[Att: 624 - Rate: 100.0%]					

				Wee	ekly Snaps	Played			
Wk	Орр	Score	Amon-Ra St. Brown	Kalif Raymond	T.J. Hockenson	D'Andre Swift	Josh Reynolds	Jamaal Williams	Brock Wright
1	SF	L 35-33	59	69	78	63		32	
2	GB	L 35-17	34	36	53	36		22	
3	BAL	L 19-17	27	47	53	35		31	
4	CHI	L 24-14	51	53	58	52		21	
5	MIN	L 19-17	47	46	55	50		22	
6	CIN	L 34-11	49	56	52	49		19	
7	LA	L 28-19	43	56	55	52		20	17
8	PHI	L 44-6	45	49	47	44			16
10	PIT	T 16-16	43	47	67	66			36
11	CLE	L 13-10	41	34	42	35	43	13	13
12	CHI	L 16-14	48	39	37	10	43	31	15
13	MIN	W 29-27	69	35	61		60	34	29
14	DEN	L 38-10	47	42			44		35
15	ARI	W 30-12	45	45			41		49
16	ATL	L 20-16	59	46			53	28	49
17	SEA	L 51-29	53			36		20	
18	GB	W 37-30	56	42		32	49	24	42
	Grand '	Total	816	742	658	560	333	317	301

Personnel Groupings								
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.					
1-1 [3WR]	63%	61%	46%					
1-2 [2WR]	15%	21%	46%					
2-1 [2WR]	10%	7%	47%					
1-0 [4WR]	4%	2%	58%					
2-2 [1WR]	3%	3%	42%					
	00/	1%	28%					
2-0 [3WR]	2%							
Group  Personnel	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	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% 41%	Pass Succ. % 47% 48%	Run Succ. % 43% 45%					
Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  1-2 [2WR]  2-1 [2WR]	Pass Rate 68% 41% 40%	Pass Succ. % 47% 48% 31%	Run Succ. % 43% 45% 58%					

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard								
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20				
Amon-Ra St. Brown	15	2	3	10				
D'Andre Swift	11	1	2	8				
T.J. Hockenson	10		4	6				
Josh Reynolds	5		2	3				
Khadarel Hodge	4	1		3				
Quintez Cephus	3	2		1				
Brock Wright	2	1		1				
Geronimo Allison	2			2				

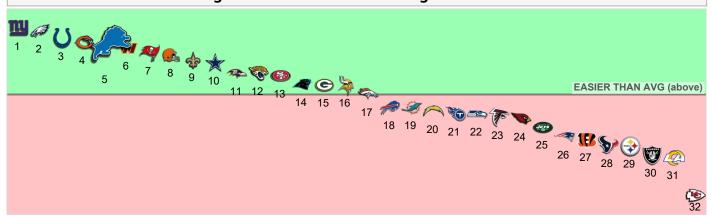
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard								
AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20					
24	5	5	14					
20	6	5	9					
5	2	1	2					
3	1	2						
2		1	1					
1		1						
1			1					
	AII 24 20 5 3	All Inside 5  24 5 20 6 5 2 3 1	All Inside 5 6-10  24 5 5 20 6 5 5 2 1 3 1 2					

Early Down Target Rate									
RB	TE	WR							
24%	21%	55%							
23%	23% 21% NFL AVG								
Overall Target Success %									
Overall	Target Su	ıccess %							
Overall RB	Target Su	uccess %							





### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



to, Goff targeted WRs far more often and threw the ball down the field more frequently.

Even the tight end target depth increased massively, from 4.6 air yards in Weeks 10-12 up to 8.4 air yards in Weeks 13-16.

This wasn't something Campbell planned coming out of the bye in Week 10. This was just the good fortune of realizing they no longer had running back dump-offs at their disposal - which had made up nearly 40% of pass attempts - and needed to design WRs more into the passing game.

What happened when Swift returned and played in Weeks 17 and 18? The offense didn't revert to the dink-and-dunk style from Weeks 10-12 with Swift – it stayed with the more aggressive style utilized in his absence:

Weeks 17-18: 0.37 EPA/att, 10.0 YPA, 53% success rate, 7.5 aDOT, 23% RB target %, 68% WR target %

There is no doubt the offense is more efficient when better players are available, and Swift is their best running back.

But often, offensive coordinators feel the need to get the ball into their RB1's hands too often. Time and time again, we find when an RB1 goes out with injury, if the offensive coordinator adjusts his game plan to be either more pass-heavy or to pass more intelligently, the ceiling on the offense will increase.

The good news for 2022 is that I fully expect the Lions to have learned their lesson during that month of games without D'Andre Swift. During that four-game span, the Lions won their first two games of the season. It was, in large part, due to increased passing efficiency by pushing the ball further downfield and focusing less on early down running back passes. Early down running back passes have their place and can be efficient, but not when nearly 40% of your early down passing attack is running back passes, which is what the Lions were doing for weeks.

That was a big part of the problem when Anthony Lynn was calling the offense the first eight weeks of the season. That's because 31% of the early down passes in the game's first three quarters were going to backs. Efficiency of those passes? -0.19 EPA/att.

Campbell eventually increased target depth, decreased running back target rate on early downs and increased play-action rates. The team also added **D.J. Chark** and will eventually (when healthy) get wide receiver **Jameson Williams** into the receiver rotation.

I think things are looking up, even with Jared Goff at the helm. But I do have one extremely strong suggestion: please stop using play-action to throw the ball short

Even with Dan Campbell calling plays with a more efficient passing attack in Weeks 13 onward, look at the efficiency of early down play-action passes by target depth (first three quarters):

At/behind line: -0.30 EPA/att, 25% success, 2.7 YPA 1-5 air yards: 0.12 EPA/att, 50% success, 4.9 YPA 6-15 air yards: 0.64 EPA/att, 65% success, 11.2 YPA 16+ air yards: 1.70 EPA/att, 71% success, 25.4 YPA

Even if we want to expand the sample by adding in less efficient playcalling from Anthony Lynn, let's look full season on these early down play-action passes:

At/behind line: -0.34 EPA/att, 34% success, 2.8 YPA 1-5 air yards: 0.28 EPA/att, 58% success, 6.5 YPA 6-15 air yards: 0.47 EPA/att, 55% success, 9.6 YPA 16+ air yards: 0.29 EPA/att, 36% success, 12.7 YPA

Of the Lions total early down play-action passes last season, 31% were thrown at or behind the line of scrimmage and another 29% were thrown within 1-5 air yards.

The NFL average is 25% thrown at/behind the line and 21% thrown 1-5 yards.

The Lions threw short on play-action on 60% of play-action passes vs the NFL average of 46%.





Campbell can take his play-action efficiency to another level in 2022 if they stop throwing so short and increase targets thrown more than five yards downfield.

As an aside, it still is wild to think that while the Lions downgraded to Goff and the Rams upgraded to Matthew Stafford and won the Super Bowl, Goff is hitting the Lions cap for \$31 million this year (QB4) while Stafford carries just a \$13.5 million cap hit this year (QB16).

The Lions will be able to look forward to more rushing efficiency thanks to their schedule alone, which shows them playing the fourth-easiest schedule of run defenses. They'll need to improve their rushing efficiency if they truly want to surprise the NFL this year, because it was extremely disappointing last season.

The Lions' rushing attack ranked 26th in DVOA. They ranked 30th in EPA/att (-0.20) on rushes in the first three quarters. Even if you remove quarterback runs (which were the NFL's worst, gaining -1.19 EPA/att across 12 rushes), and isolate only running back runs in quarters 1-3, the Lions ranked 26th with -0.18 EPA/att

It is frustrating for several reasons. The Lions have one of the NFL's best run blocking lines. **Taylor Decker**, **Penei Sewell**, **Frank Ragnow**, and **Halapoulivaati Vaitai** are under contracts at least through 2024. Left guard **Jonah Jackson** led the team with 607 snaps in pass protection a year ago. He was selected in the third round in 2020 and has two years left on his rookie contract. None of those five projected starters allowed a pressure rate of 6.0% or higher in 2021. Yes, there were injuries on the line and they ranked as the 18th healthiest line in the NFL. But they have talent.

What is primarily frustrating, however, is the fact that the Lions were trailing in most games and ran primarily out of 11 personnel. They should be seeing lighter boxes, which are more advantageous to run from. Defenses should be daring the Lions to run, playing the pass to keep the Lions from scoring quickly.

When running backs ran from 11 personnel in the game's first three quarters, the Lions' efficiency:

Early downs only: -0.35 EPA/att (32nd), 24% success (32nd), 3.3 YPC (31st) All downs: -0.32 EPA/att (31st), 27% success (32nd), 3.9 YPC (29th)

On these runs from 11 personnel, the Lions faced 7+ box defenders at a 63% rate, which was fourth-highest in the NFL. The three teams who face more 7+ man boxes? Saints, Titans and Packers.

Look at the Lions splits when running backs run from 11 personnel:

Up to 6 box defenders: -0.02 EPA/att (eighth), 35% success (25th), 6.2 YPC (fourth) on 52 carries 7+ box defenders: -0.50 EPA/att (31st), 23% success (29th), 2.6 YPC (30th) on 88 carries

But just look at Jared Goff's splits when passing from 11 personnel in the first three quarters of games:

Up to 6 box defenders: -0.17 EPA/att (24th), 42% success (15th), 6.2 YPA (29th), 65% completions (22nd) 7+ box defenders: 0.39 EPA/att (second), 45% success (14th), 8.2 YPA (fifth), 69% completions (sixth)

Summarizing: the Lions were the NFL's worst run team from 11 personnel, primarily because they faced a ton of 7+ man boxes and were horrible at trying to run against them. But when they faced lighter boxes from 11 personnel, they could run at a top-10 rate. When Jared Goff tried to pass from 11 against light boxes, he was terrible. But if defenders were trying to stop the run with a heavier box, he was exceptional.

So how often were the Lions running from 11 personnel into 7+ man boxes? At a 59% rate on early downs in the first three quarters, which ranked fourth-highest in the NFL behind only the Bears, Giants, and Seahawks.

This is what didn't make sense. The Lions can and should make a simple but highly effective adjustment in 2022. When in 11 personnel, if a run is called but the defense is loading up the box, they need to audible to a pass. And if the defense is playing with a lighter box, they need to audible to a run (assuming down/distance allows for it).

These are the types of adjustments that Sean McVay certainly was radioing into Goff in those final seconds before communication cut out when Goff was the Rams' quarterback. Goff and Campbell must get onto the same page this offseason and make some adjustments in preparation for this in 2022. If they do, it not only will help the passing game, but the frustrating run game from 2021 in a fairly substantial and meaningful way.

Lastly, there is a rest advantage for the Lions this year. They had one rest advantage last year and didn't benefit from it, but playing with the second-best net rest edge and the NFL's best "prep and rest rank" of the season, playing three games with a rest edge and zero without one should help. Bad teams tend to not take advantage of rest as much as good teams do, so it may not be as meaningful for Detroit but it still is a nice feature of their 2022 schedule.

For the Lions to have success in 2022, they must optimize their performance on early downs, as they haven't shown the ability to win games when losing the early down success battle. They need to stay healthier. They need to continue with a higher rate of play action. They must throw deeper when using play-action. They must continue to throw deeper in general and keep their running back target rate reasonable. They must audible to pass the ball more from 11 when defenders are crowding the box and run when defenses are playing with a light box. It sounds like a lot. But it's pretty basic, it's backed with data and it's quite logical. And it could lead the Lions to surprise more people in 2022 while continuing to cover spreads as an underdog.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

-5.0

03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)								
6.5								
5.3								
7.1								
6.7								
50%								
50%								
0								
0.12								

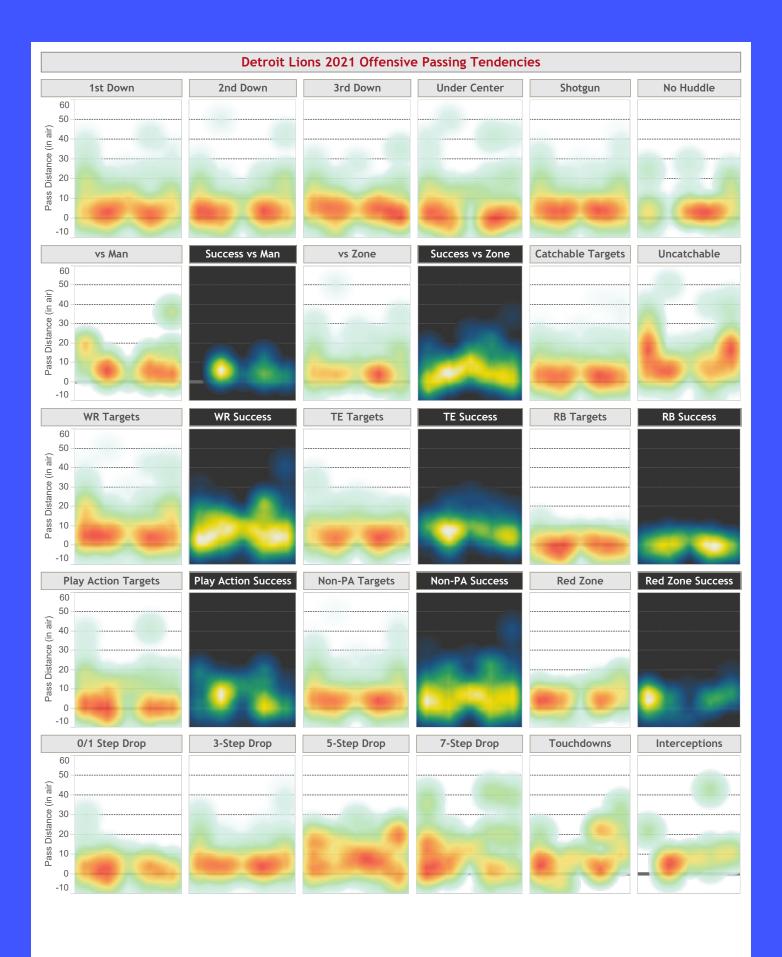
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)								
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	37%							
45. PA Success Rate	49%							
46. PA YPA	6.6							
47. PA Sack Rate	6.4%							
48. PA EPA/att	0.05							
49. PA Target Depth	5.3							
50. Non-PA Success Rate	52%							
51. Non-PA YPA	6.9							
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	2.3%							
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.06							
54. Non-PA Target Depth	6.4							

Men In Box								
55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yo	line 23%							
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outs	de 5-yd line 45%							
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	ine 35%							
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outsid	e 5-yd line 51%							
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-	d line 5							
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd	line 27%							
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outsi	de 5-yd line 42%							
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5	yd line 3.3							

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)									
Net FROE Rk	14	defFUM	17						
Net FROE	-0.1								
offFUM	17	defFUM Rcvrd	8						
offFUM Rcvrd	8	defFR Rk	7						
offFR%	47.1%	defFR%	52.9%						
offFR Rk	28	defFROE	1.9						
offFROE	-2.0		1.0						
offFROE Rk	26	defFROE Rk	8						

Field Goal Luck									
-1.17	Opp Att	41							
20	Opp Makes	36							
	Opp FG %	88%							
90%	Opp Expected Makes	32.77							
23.94	Opp Make Over Expectation	3.23							
	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	3							
. –	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-0.38							
22	2020 Opp Rk	24							
	-1.17 20 29 26 90% 23.94 2.06 12 -0.75	-1.17 20 29 26 Opp Makes 26 Opp FG % 90% Opp Expected Makes 23.94 2.06 12 -0.75 Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Opp Make Over Exp.							

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs		QB Pres	ssure	Offensive A	Offensive Metrics		
	Jared Goff		Jared Goff	EPA/Pass	-0.08		
CAY	4.3	Pressure %	32.7	EPA/Pass Rk	22		
CAY Rk	37	Pressure Rk	22	EPA/Rush	-0.07		
2020 CAY Rk	35	Sack %	6.5	EPA/Rush Rk	21		
AYTS Rk	38	Sack Rk	16	On-Target Catch %	91.6%		
2020 AYTS Rk	35	Pressure Accuracy %	68.1	On-Target Catch Rk	8		
AGG Rk 2020 AGG Rk	37 36	Pressure Accuracy Rk	8		-		
COMP%	67.2	Rating when Pressured	69.2	Drop%	5.3%		
xCOMP%	66.4	Pressured Rating Rk	18	Drop Rk	14		
xCOMP% Rk	10	Clean Accuracy %	79.9	YAC/Att	2.3		
2020 xCOMP% Rk	10	Clean Accuracy Rk	8	YAC/Att Rk	14		
CPOE%	0.8	Rating when Clean	99.9	Rush Broken Tackle %	13.3%		
CPOE Rk	12	Clean Rating Rk	17	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	14		
2020 CPOE Rk	22	-		Rush 1st Down %	24.4%		
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE:		Time to Throw	2.77				
Actual completion percentage over		Time to Throw Rk	22	Rush 1st Down Rk	17		



### Lions Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Jared Goff	0.21 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	0.07 (#2)
2020	Matthew Stafford	0.21 (#2)	0.16 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.01 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	0.27 (#1)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Jared Goff	-0.86 (#2)	-0.63 (#1)	0.02 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	-0.42 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	0.01 (#1)
2020	Matthew Stafford	-0.26 (#1)	-0.75 (#2)	0.23 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	0.17 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.06 (#2)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	Off-rarget Percentage & Rank (blank – not enough act to quanty)												
Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage			
2021	Jared Goff	78% (#1)	83% (#1)	64% (#2)	39% (#2)	82% (#1)	77% (#2)	67% (#1)	70% (#1)	78% (#1)			
2020	Matthew Stafford	77% (#2)	80% (#2)	76% (#1)	59% (#1)	67% (#2)	79% (#1)	66% (#2)	69% (#2)	78% (#2)			

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	AII	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.12 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.16 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	-0.06 (#1)	-0.06 (#1)	-2.56 (#2)	-0.50 (#1)
2020	-0.11 (#1)	-0.09 (#1)	-0.44 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.21 (#2)	-0.09 (#2)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.61 (#1)	-0.61 (#2)

### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass %	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG Range	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
Season	OFF EDSK	70	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	RUSITEPA	Range	DEF EDSK	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	23	29	29	30	11	31	18	32	32	32
2020	10	23	14	23	16	9	30	32	32	23

### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	20	16	16	22	10	9	5	32	8
2020	4	4	5	3	5	12	15	1	1

### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	28	12	4	30	21	31	15	30	11
2020	7	21	14	14	20	17	13	1	31

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:

Matt LaFleur (3 yrs) Offensive Coordinator:

Adam Stenavich (GB OL (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Joe Barry (1 yr) Hard

Easy

**Green Bay Packers** 

### 2022 Forecast

Wins

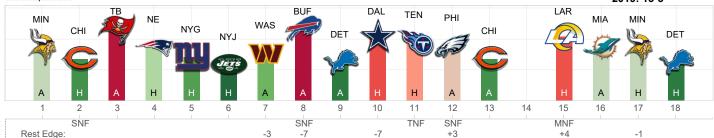
**Div Rank** 

11

#1

### **Past Records**

2021: 13-4 2020: 13-3 2019: 13-3



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Davante Adams (WR)	Raiders
Za'Darius Smith (EDGE)	Vikings
Marquez Valdes-Scantlin	Chiefs
Kevin King (CB)	TBD
Lucas Patrick (LG)	Bears
Billy Turner (RT)	Broncos
Oren Burks (LB)	49ers
Chandon Sullivan (CB)	Vikings
Corey Bojorquez (P)	Browns
Dennis Kelly (RT)	Colts
Tyler Lancaster (IDL)	Raiders
Isaac Yiadom (CB)	Texans
Whitney Mercilus (EDGE)	TBD
Kingsley Keke (IDL)	Cardinals
Equanimeous St. Brown (	Bears
Henry Black (S)	Giants
Jared Hocker (LG)	Retired
Chauncey Rivers (EDGE)	TRD

# Games <u>Average</u> # Games Line **Favored** Underdog 2 13 -3.6

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

**6** 

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Forecast

2022 Wins

2021 Wins

Forecast

2021 Wins

2020 Wins

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

**(** 11

( 10.5

**(** 13

**(** 13

**(** 13

### 2022 Green Bay Packers Overview

At this time last year, we weren't 100% Aaron Rodgers would play for the Packers

After the 2021 season, Aaron Rodgers once again etched his name into the history

Rodgers became the fifth player to win consecutive MVPs and first since Peyton Manning between 2008 and 2009. But as cool as awards are, there is a mark that Aaron Rodgers hit last season that's never been duplicated in NFL history, but no one is talking about it.

500 pass attempts and five or fewer interceptions.

Only THREE TIMES IN NFL HISTORY has a QB not named Aaron Rodgers thrown 500 pass attempts with five or fewer interceptions in a season.

But FIVE TIMES Aaron Rodgers has thrown 500 pass attempts with five or fewer interceptions in a season, including FOUR YEARS IN A ROW: 2018, 2019, 2020 and

It's been remarkable to watch Rodgers seemingly rededicate himself off the field to greatness on the field, and for the seemingly nonconventional approaches to nutrition, exercise and training pay off for him.

And the Packers with Rodgers and Matt LaFleur haven't disappointed in the regular

In fact, the Packers are the ONLY team in NFL HISTORY to win 13+ games for three straight seasons.

#### (cont'd - see GB2) Lineup & Cap Hits **59** LCB J.Alexande 21 91 94 52 23 11 69 76 70 74 71 9 = LWR L7 RT RWR LG RG S.Watkins 13= D.Bakhtiari\* J.Runyar R.Newman E.Jenkins 85 C.Watso ROOK NFW NFW SLOTWE R.Tonyan 12 2022 Cap Dollars **33** A.Rodgers 18 8 28 10 = 30+ years old NEW = New to role WR3 RR2 OR2 A.Jones (or started < 50% A.Rodgers of games last year)

### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Jarran Reed (IDL)	\$3.29
Pat O'Donnell (P)	\$2
Sammy Watkins (WR)	\$1.89
Keisean Nixon (CB)	\$1

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	22	LB - Quay Walker (Georgia)
'	28	DT - Devonte Wyatt (Georgia)
2	34	WR - Christian Watson (Nort
3	92	OT - Sean Rhyan (UCLA)
4	132	WR - Romeo Doubs (Nevada)
-	140	OG - Zach Tom (Wake Forest)
5	179	DE - Kingsley Enagbare (Sou.
	228	LB - Tariq Carpenter (Georgi
7	234	DT - Jonathan Ford (Miami (
<b>'</b>	249	OT - Rasheed Walker (Penn
	258	WR - Samori Toure (Nebrask

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	22	\$100.90M	5
QB	8	\$32.62M	4
OL		\$29.94M	24
RB	15	\$10.43M	19
WR	25	\$16.53M	6
TE	12	\$11.39M	24
All DEF	13	\$92.25M	17
DL	14	\$47.97M	6
LB	19	\$11.74M	31
СВ	21	\$17.40M	23
s	11	\$15.14M	12

#### GB-2

But they have not made one Super Bowl in that span. Two Conference Championship losses (to the Bucs and 49ers) and an 0-1 short trip to the playoffs last year, losing to the 49ers in the Divisional round.

The Packers have had a far calmer offseason entering 2022, given Rodgers isn't going anywhere. But the biggest player transaction was the trade of Davante Adams to the Raiders so he could play with his buddy, Derek Carr.

Green Bay got first- and second-round picks in the deal from Las Vegas — Nos. 22 and 53 — which comes close to the value of a mid-first-round pick.

There are two ways to look at this trade from the Packers' perspective.

One would be they weren't all that disappointed. They had tried to agree on a deal with Adams for a while before the trade, and never could get there. That presumes they didn't want to pay the amount that Adams was looking to be paid.

And the Packers perhaps looked back at the seven games Adams missed over the last three seasons. And they saw the Packers went 7-0 without Adams and averaged 31.6 ppg in those games, which was more than they averaged with Adams, while scoring 30+ points in five of seven games.

And if that is the way you look at this from the outside, you probably are not too down on the Packers in 2022 despite playing without Adams for the first time since 2013.

But there's another way to look at it. And that's the Packers had absolutely no interest in parting with Adams. They had been trying for a year to satisfy Adams with a contract he would sign. It was reported last summer, as the two sides broke off talks before the 2021 season without an extension, that the proposals from the Packers, "have not acknowledged Adams as the highest-paid WR."

In 2021, they wanted to pay Adams big money, just not more than DeAndre Hopkins's \$27.25 million per year. When the sides began negotiations this offseason, they still couldn't come to a deal. But the Packers wanted Adams so badly, they gave him the franchise tag which would pay him around \$20.5 million for the 2022 season and allow Adams to be a free agent after 2022. This would have massive financial ramifications for the Packers. Aaron Rodgers. David Bakhtiari, and Preston Smith were already hitting the cap for a combined \$53.5 million

	2021 Passii	ng Performa	nce	
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Aaron Rodgers	57% 8.1 112.3	51% 7.6 110.5	39% 8.1 112.8	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	47%	59%	82%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushing Performance											
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn									
GB	51% 4.6	51% 3.7	71% 4.3	Success Rate YPC								
Run Rate	53%	41%	18%									
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC								
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%									

Adams's prior cap hits were always south of \$17 million. A new deal for Adams likely would have a reduced cap hit in Year 1 to make life easier on the Packers, so that even if he were making over \$27.5 million, he would hit the 2022 cap for less than the \$20.5 million franchise tag. With the franchise tag, the Packers had just \$1 million in cap space left at the time per Over The Cap. But it was worth it for the team to keep Adams.

But on March 14, one week after the Packers placed the franchise tag on him, Adams informed the Packers he would not play under the franchise tag. A new deal needed to be done.

The two sides continued to negotiate the contract, but Adams was also allowed to explore external offers. As part of the trade, Adams signed

C

5

12 

Pass Efficiency Def

19

RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

20 20

Pass Pro

Efficieincy Def

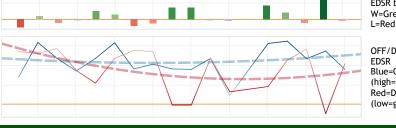
(cont'd - see GB-3) 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

11

**Explosive** 

#### 2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics **E E E** 8 9 5 10 ( 15 20 26 25 30 Pass Pro Efficiency Off Rush Efficiency Off Explosive Pass Off Pass EDSR Off R Pass Eff Of 30 & In Off Red Zone Off 3rd Down Off YPPA Off YPPT Off Offensive Efficiency Efficiency Off **Explosive** 2021 Weekly FDSR & Season Trending Performance

	<u>.UZ</u>	. ,	100	Kty	<u> </u>	211	<u>u                                    </u>	cu.	<u> </u>	111	ciidi	iig i v	-110	<u> </u>	aric	<u> </u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18
L	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	L	W	L	W	W	w	w	W	L
NO	DET	SF	PIT	CIN	CHI	WAS	ARI	KC	SEA	MIN	LAR	CH	I BAL	.CLE	MIN	DET
Α	Н	Α	Н	Α	Α	Н	Α	Α	Н	Α	Н	Н	Α	Н	Н	Α
-35	18	2	10	3	10	14	3	-6	17	-3	8	15	1	2	27	-7
3	35	30	27	25	24	24	24	7	17	31	36	45	31	24	37	30
38	17	28	17	22	14	10	21	13	0	34	28	30	30	22	10	37
															_	



### 2021 Close Game **Records** All 2019 Wins: 13

YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **5-1** FG Games Win %: 83% (#7) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 38% (#10)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 6-3 Score Games Win %: 67% (#6) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** +13 TO Given 13 INT Given **FUM Given** 6 TO Taken 26 **INT Taken** 18 **FUM Taken** 8 Sack Margin +6 39 Sacks

28

EDSR by Wk W=Green Wins): 46% (#16) Sacks Allow 33 OFF/DFF Return TD Margin -1 **Ret TDs** Blue=OFF Ret TDs Allow (high=good) **Penalty Margin** +19 Red=DEF Penalties (low=good) **Opponent Penalties** 

5

10

20

25

30

WFFK **RESULT** 

OPP

SITE

PTS OPP PTS

MARGIN

Rank 15 12

**EDSR Def** 

26

30 & In Def

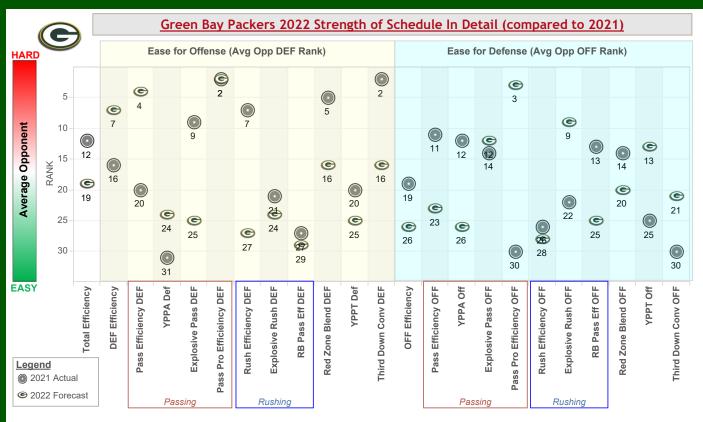
10

Red Zone Def

**e** 

27

3rd Down Def



2022 vs 2021 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	13	30	26	23	16	20	18					

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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	22 C	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	<u>sion</u>	<u>2021</u>	Орр	oner	nts by	Divis	<u>ion</u>	Health by Unit*				
					2021	20	20	2019				- /	· P	_				- 4				2021	Rk	14
	Ave	rage li	ine		-4.2	-5	5.0	-3.8	NF	CN			s 🔏	(A)2		NFCN		ē 🏏				2020	Rk	15
	Avera				47.1		1.1	45.1				•		*				-	3			2021 v 2	020 Rk	17
	Straigh				13-4		3-3	13-3				- 44			_			_				Off		25
	nst the				11-5		)-6	10-6	AF	CE	5000	1 5	7 —	<b></b>	EJS	AFCN	1	<b>≥</b> ][	7 🕃	Contact	)			
	Over/U				8-9		-7	4-10			W	, hete	*	•			,					Def	Rk	7
		as Fav			7-5		-5	7-5														QB	Rk	16
	ATS a				4-0 8-0	7	-1	3-1 7-1	NE	CE		· 1111		<b>#</b> 🔻		NFCW	7	× 1/6						
	Straig	S Hon			7-1		-1 -3	7-1 5-3		-		-14		<b>V</b>	N/	111 011	-					RB	RK	7
	Over/L				4-4		-5 -5	2-5														WR	Rk	11
Δ.	TS as F			te	6-1		-3	5-3			1						-	_				TE	Rk	27
	TS as				1-0	-	-0	0-0	AF	cs	20					AFCW								29
	Straig			9	5-4		-2	6-2			_											Oline	e RK	
		S Awa			4-4	5	-3	5-3														Dline	Rk	11
	Over/l				4-5	5	-2	2-5	NF	cs		,				NFCE	$\nabla \nabla$					LB	Rk	6
	ATS A				1-4		-2	2-2			2							•				DB Rk		00
		Away			3-0		-1	3-1														DB	RK	20
	Point				14-3		3-3	11-5	NE	cw	100					NFCS					Г	*Paged	on the w	ork of
	n Poin				14-3		3-3	11-5			[Z					141 00	4	~					all Outsi	
Ter	Point	Tease	r Rec	ord	15-2	14	1-2	13-3														7 0010	ali Outsi	uers
					20	)22 V	Veek	dy Be	ettin	g Lir	<u>nes</u>									<u>Home</u>	Line	<u>es</u>		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	2	4	5	6 1	0 1	1 15	17	18
MIN	CHI	ТВ	NE	NYG	NYJ	WAS	BUF	DET	DAL	TEN	PHI	CHI	LAR	MIA	MIN	DET		-5		-4	4 -4	.5 0	-5.5	
																	-9.5	NE NE	-7	-9.5 DA				<b>-8</b> = -5.9
-2.0	-9.5	+3.5	-5.0	-7.0	-9.5	-3.5	+4.0	-6.0	-4.0	-4.5	+0.0	-4.0	+0.0	-1.0	-5.5	-8.0	CHI			NYJ			Avg	= -5.9
		A					A				Δ.,,		#											
Avg =	3 A		Н	Н	Н	Α		Α	H	Н	A	Α	ZA.	A	H	# = -3.6				Road	<u>Line</u>	<u>s</u>		
,,,,,	3.0					W				T		C			Avg	-0.0	1	3	7	8	9	12	13	16
			-	M				المراجعة							4			3.5		4				
					Jers											<b>P</b>	2_	ТВ	-3.5	BUF		O PHI	Avg	= -1.1
0	(0	2	m	(0	(0	5	01	2			2	2			2	10	MIN		WAS		-6 DET	PHI	CHI	MIA
49	46	52.	48	46	46	47.	52	48	20	48	46.	46.	20	48	45.	45					DET			





with the Raiders on March 18 for five years at \$141.25 million, making him the highest-paid WR in NFL history at the time of the signing. As mentioned earlier, the deal has Adams hitting the 2022 cap for only \$8.2 million, substantially less than the franchise tag.

But here's the interesting part. You might believe, as I did at the time, that the reason Adams signed with the Raiders is they offered more money and the Packers stuck to their guns from 2021's offseason. But per Rob Demovsky, "the Packers were willing to pay Adams equally to what the Raiders are with this new deal but Adams preferred to play elsewhere."

Prior to that point, clearly, the Packers hadn't offered \$28 million per year. But at that point, if the Packers really didn't want to pay that much, or really didn't think it was essential to have Adams on their roster, they could have walked away. They didn't need to offer more money. But apparently, they did. They matched the Raiders' offer "equally".

But even with reportedly equal deals, Adams didn't want to stay in Green Bay. He wanted to play with Derek Carr and the Raiders. There are likely many reasons for this beyond the fact Carr and Adams are close friends. Carr is 31 and Rodgers is 39. The Raiders love Carr and he's under contract through 2025 and there's no sign the two are thinking of going separate ways. Rodgers and the Packers have had plenty of differences over the last several years, and perhaps Adams didn't like the prospect of a 40-plus-year-old Rodgers leaving town after 2023 and catching passes from **Jordan Love**. Who really knows? It doesn't really matter.

What really matters is the Packers REALLY wanted Adams to stay. They wanted to give him an extension before the 2021 season but couldn't agree on price. They were willing to have him hit the cap for over \$20 million on the franchise tag to keep Rodgers's favorite weapon on the team for the 2022 season while they continued to try and work on a long-term deal. And they were willing to match the Raiders' offer of \$28 million per year.

None of those moves are the moves of a team that wasn't terribly disappointed that they wouldn't have to pay Adams top dollar.

So while there are two (and possibly more than two) ways to look at the trade from the Packers' perspective (not terribly disappointing or pretty damn disappointing), I look at it as pretty damn disappointing and I can't help but believe it's going to have a measurable impact on the Packers in 2022.

Adams has made five straight Pro Bowls and two-straight All-Pro teams. He is just 29 years old and ranked as a top-three most valuable WR last year, coming off another stellar campaign that saw him catch 123 passes for 1,553 yards and 11 touchdowns. Per our own Rich Hribar, Adams was third amongst all wide receivers in yards per route run (3.12), third at the position in targets per route run (30.1%), and second in points added per route. He was a top-three receiver by the numbers, but is a "top-three, not three" receiver in terms of where I would rank him.

The Packers' receiving corps lost not just Adams but also **Marquez Valdes-Scantling** and **Equanimeous St. Brown**. They bump **Allen Lazard** up the positional depth chart and **Randall Cobb** stays as their slot. They added 29-year-old **Sammy Watkins** to the mix. Context on Watkins: Off the 2019 Super Bowl and looking to repeat, the Chiefs made Watkins take a salary cut to remain on the team in 2020, and they happily let him walk after the season. The WR-needy Ravens signed him to just a one-year, \$5 million deal and happily let him walk out the door at the end of the season. We're talking two Super Bowl contenders in the Chiefs and Ravens, and we're talking about a cheap receiver, and neither was willing to keep Watkins around. If Watkins is unlikely to pay off, it falls onto rookie **Christian Watson**.

The Packers are trying a bold strategy in 2022. To pair with Aaron Rodgers, the most expensive QB in the NFL (\$50M AAV & \$28.5M cap hit, #5 in the NFL), the Packers are rolling out the seventh-cheapest WR corps and seventh-cheapest offensive line corps in the NFL this year.

The Packers' offensive line last year was injury-riddled. Hribar wrote about it previewing the draft. David Bakhtiari appeared in just one game (playing 27 snaps) after a late-season ACL injury in 2020. **Elgton Jenkins** appeared in just eight games due to his own ACL injury. **Josh Myers** played just six games due to his own knee injury. All three will return, but who knows how all three will hold up over the course of the season?

If their starting tackles and center are able to return healthy, they will pair with guards **Jon Runyan** (a sixth-rounder in 2020) and **Royce Newman** (a fourth-rounder in 2021), who led this unit in snaps played in 2021, with Runyan checking out 50th in grade amongst guards at Pro Football Focus while Newman was 65th

It's why the unit is cheap – Myers is only 24 years old, while neither Runyan (25) nor Newman (25) has a cap hit of even \$1 million this year due to their low draft position and youth.

If this blend of older vets returning from injury and youthful players off poor seasons ends up making hay, and their new wide receiver room stays productive despite the losses of the best receiver in the NFL and multiple other contributors, the Packers will be thankful they spent a significantly higher percentage of cap space on defense this year. But if that's not the case, it's easy to see why the passing attack conceivably will take a step back in 2022.

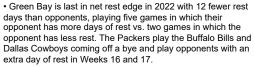
(cont'd - see GB-4)

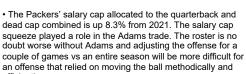
#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 games where... Opponent has Opponent has Team plays a Team has a rest Team has a rest Team plays off Team's bye week Difference Difference over a week to less than a week short week road road SNF or MNF disadvantage advantage is negated game prep to prep 5 5 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Green Bay Packers 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 32 30 31 21 22

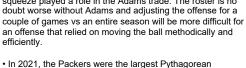
### Forecast 2022 Wins

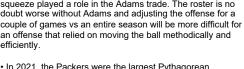
### Why Bet the Under

### Why Bet the Over









• In 2021, the Packers were the largest Pythagorean overperformers. The Packers finished with 13 wins and overachieved by 3.2 wins and finished 5-1 in games decided by a field goal or less. Aided by the third-best turnover margin, the Packers could see regression in close games in 2022.



• The Packers led the league in EPA/DB in consecutive years, while **Aaron Rodgers** has led all quarterbacks in EPA + CPOE in both years. Intuitively the loss of Davante Adams would give cause for concern, however, Rodgers has not had a drop-off in play with Adams off the field as his EPA/DB has been 0.25 with Adams off the field vs 0.23 with Adams on the field in the past two seasons with the Packers going 3-0 in games without

· Head coach Matt Lafleur has won 13 games in each of his first three seasons and finished first in 2020 and third in 2021 in fourth down aggressiveness. The Packers are likely to have a coaching advantage early in the season as four of the first five opponents have rookie head coaches.

• Last year the Packers finished last in the league with -57.66 EPA on special teams, allowing a negative differential of 7.96 yards/KR and 4.8 yards/PR. The hiring of experienced special-teams coordinator Rich Bisaccia positive regression should be expected in kick return stats in 2022. The Packers also finished last in field goals made over expectation and are due for positive regression.

Green Bay Packers Positional Unit Rankings												
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach						
2	11	3	29	9	1	8						

For the second consecutive year, Aaron Rodgers and the Packers' quarterback room ranks second behind only Kansas City. It was not a unanimous selection, however, as votes ranged from second to sixth. The Packers' backfield ranked in the top five on every ballot. This is one of the few rosters with a top-tier starter (Aaron Jones) and a reliable backup (A.J. Dillon). This unit could still improve, however, if Jones and Dillon can be more explosive. Only the Texans' running backs produced a lower percentage of 10-yard gains last season.

On throws 10 or more yards downfield, Davante Adams caught 59% of his targets — the rest of Green Bay's receiving corps caught just 43%. Three rookies give the unit some developmental potential, but few teams have less proven talent at receiver and tight end.

Despite playing without David Bakhtiari in all but one game, Green Bay's offensive line allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less at the sixth-lowest rate. There has been some turnover — Billy Turner and Lucas Patrick are gone after playing over 1,800 combined snaps — but expectations for the unit remain high due to Bakhtiari's expected to return to health.

No one generated pressure on non-blitzes at a higher rate than Green Bay (32.8%) — a particularly important stat in Joe Barry's defense which ranked in the bottom 10 in blitz rate. That production helped boost the front seven into the top 10 in our unit ranks, despite a struggling run defense that will rely on two rookies to get things back on track. The Packers' secondary was a unanimous choice as the league's top unit. Jaire Alexander has been among the elite at his position for a few years, but it was a breakout rookie season from Eric Stokes that helped push this unit to another level. Green Bay allowed 6.7 yards per attempt on the year, but just 5.9 when Stokes and Alexander were on the field together.

Matt LaFleur climbed two spots in the head coach rankings from a season ago. LaFleur helps his cause with some aggressive tendencies — for example, with three or fewer yards to go, Green Bay punted at the fifth-lowest rate (excluding field goal attempts).

### <u>GB-4</u>

Speaking of taking a step back, in last year's book, I predicted Rodgers would regress on deep passes, particularly on third down. As I wrote about Rodgers's 2020 third down passing:

"How good was he in 2020? Rodgers was the best of any quarterback in the NFL over the last five years. 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. He was operating last year on another planet when trying to go deep on third downs."

Let's see if this regressed in 2021, even though Adams, MVS, and company were still in town. Third down throws of 20+ air yards:

2020: 1.04 EPA/att, 17.4 YPA, 77% accuracy, 47% success 2021: 0.77 EPA/att, 14.3 YPA, 67% accuracy, 43% success

This was a significant drop-off for Rodgers.

His accuracy shifted from ninth to 19th. His EPA/att shifted from third to 12th. His YPA shifted from third to 11th. And his success rate shifted from sixth to 10th

### <u>GB-5</u>

Most of these numbers were still above average. It wasn't terrible. It just wasn't top three like it was in 2020. It regressed.

And keep in mind: Rodgers had 59 deep targets on third downs the last two years. MVS had 18, Adams had 16, and no other player had more than eight.

It wasn't just deep passes on third downs that saw a regression in 2021. Look at all downs for Rodgers on throws of 20+ air yards:

2020: 0.73 EPA/att (eighth), 15.8 YPA (eighth), 79% accuracy (eighth), 43% success (15th)

2021: 0.58 EPA/att (10th), 13.7 YPA (13th), 68% accuracy (25th), 40% success (15th)

While some of the rankings didn't take a huge hit, all of the metrics certainly did. And the accuracy of these deep passes was substantially worse, dropping just over 10 percentage points and shifting from eighth to 25th.

And keep in mind: Rodgers had 144 total deep targets the last two years. MVS had 47, Adams had 42 and no other player had more than 16.

In fact, back out ESB's five targets as well, and in total the last two years, Rodgers lost 65% of his deep targets this offseason.

With all of those losses, Green Bay only added Watkins, Watson, and fourth-round pick **Romeo Doubs**. Naturally, this means Lazard and Tonyan will be targeted deep much more than they were previously, and that is certainly valuable for those players' fantasy football outlooks. But it's still not super reassuring to enter the season without someone new that you really believe in helping take on the 65% target loss.

That consistent deep threat is unlikely to be Sammy Watkins. In his last two years (one with Patrick Mahomes the entire season and one with Lamar Jackson for most of the season), his EPA/target on passes of 20 or more air yards was -0.03. During his final two seasons

(cont'd - see GB-6)



### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



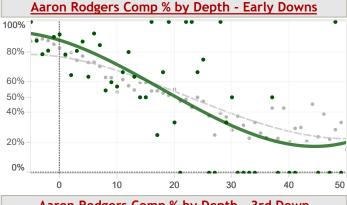
### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

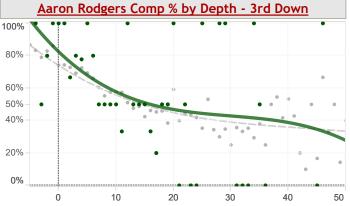


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>											
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)						
	Aaron Jones	2%	3%	81%	10%	4%						
	A.J. Dillon	1%	9%	62%	18%	9%						
RUSH	Allen Lazard			100%								
2	Randall Cobb	100%										
	Equanimeous St. Bro		25%	50%	25%							
	Total	2%	6%	71%	14%	6%						
	Aaron Jones	1%	1%	91%	7%							
	A.J. Dillon	5%	5%	68%	5%	16%						
	Davante Adams	3%	9%	71%	11%	6%						
	Allen Lazard	7%	2%	69%	16%	7%						
"	Marquez Valdes-Sca	11%	9%	60%	15%	5%						
PASS	Randall Cobb	3%	15%	68%	10%	5%						
•	Josiah Deguara		18%	68%	12%	3%						
	Marcedes Lewis	3%	7%	69%	17%	3%						
	Robert Tonyan Jr.	10%		62%	14%	14%						
	Equanimeous St. Bro		12%	65%	12%	12%						
	Total	4%	8%	71%	11%	6%						

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Valdes-Scantling Equanimeous St Davante Adams Deguara Robert Tonyan Jones Randall Cobb Allen Lazard Dillon Marcedes 늗. Aaron Josiah **PASS** 32% RUSH 0% 48% 50% 27% 19% ALL





# Successful Play Rate

### **2021 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]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	46%, 0.09 (459)	55%, 0.12 (139)	54%, 0.29 (35)	59%, -0.01 (17)	50%, 0.27 (2)	0%, -0.52 (3)	49%, 0.10 (658)
RUSH	55%, 0.09 (230)	55%, -0.01 (186)	42%, -0.09 (12)	60%, -0.07 (10)	17%, -0.57 (24)		53%, 0.01 (464)
All	49%, 0.09 (689)	55%, 0.05 (325)	51%, 0.20 (47)	59%, -0.03 (27)	19%, -0.50 (26)	0%, -0.52 (3)	51%, 0.06 (1,122)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)										
POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total					
WR	Davante Adams	61% (119) 9.8, 0.45	70% (43) 9.0, 0.34	38% (13) 4.8, -0.34	100% (1) 24.0, 1.31	61% (176) 9.3, 0.37					
	Allen Lazard	57% (47) 8.3, 0.41	63% (8) 9.1, 0.51	50% (4) 6.5, 0.59	100% (2) 9.0, 1.03	59% (61) 8.3, 0.45					
	Marquez Valdes-Sc	37% (38) 8.1, 0.09	45% (11) 5.5, 0.06	67% (3) 20.0, 1.43	0% (2) 0.0, -0.60	39% (54) 8.0, 0.13					
	Randall Cobb	52% (33) 8.6, 0.37	0% (1) 0.0, -1.37	75% (8) 11.3, 0.57		55% (42) 8.9, 0.37					
TE	Robert Tonyan	54% (24) 8.3, 0.44	0% (2) 0.0, -0.67			50% (26) 7.6, 0.36					
RB	Aaron Jones	44% (50) 8.0, 0.14	70% (10) 6.8, 0.39	33% (3) 3.3, -0.20	50% (10) 2.8, -0.28	48% (73) 6.9, 0.10					
	A.J. Dillon	56% (27) 8.1, 0.28	71% (7) 9.9, 0.44	100% (2) 10.0, 1.26	100% (1) 6.0, 0.34	62% (37) 8.5, 0.36					

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

		(Leader Doard	')	
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Dillon A.J.	62% (93)	59% (78)	63% (8)	61% (179)
	4.4, 0.10	4.1, -0.01	3.8, -0.10	4.2, 0.04
Jones	45% (94)	59% (81)	100% (1)	52% (176)
Aaron	4.8, -0.01	4.5, 0.04	7.0, 0.54	4.7, 0.01
Rodgers	56% (16)	40% (5)		52% (21)
Aaron	5.0, 0.34	5.0, 0.30		5.0, 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

Pas	ssing by		sing by	Throw Types		QB Drop	Types	QE	State at	Pass	Run Types	
	verage Route :heme			Level 1	58% (430) 7.0, 0.22			Planted		% (411) 0, 0.27	Inside Zone	56% (158) 3.8, 0.02
		Out	56% (50) 5.2, 0.32			5 Step	52% (122)	Shuffling		% (127) 2, 0.06	Outside	52% (99)
Zone	47% (369) 8.4, 0.19	Slant	61% (41)	Level 2	44% (93) 10.4, 0.28	Остер	10.2, 0.29 <b>Moving</b>			1% (81) 6, 0.08	Zone	4.1, -0.09
		Siant	7.7, 0.57		34% (53)	0/1 Step	58% (81) 6.6, 0.13		Play Action		Pitch	59% (37) 5.7, 0.12
Man	46% (194) 7.0, 0.16	Curl	62% (34) 6.7, 0.19	Level 3	12.8, 0.34	7 Step	50% (32) 9.5, 0.40		Play Action	No P/A	Stretch	54% (26) 4.6, -0.04
	,	Dig	74% (27)	Sidearm	50% (10) 5.3, -0.05	Designed	59% (29)	Under Center	51% (103) 8.0, 0.07	49% (51) 7.0, 0.21		44% (18)
	270/ /27\	Dig	14.5, 1.02		3.3, -0.03	Rollout Right	7.7, 0.33	Shotgun	63% (72) 6.4, 0.25	46% (432) 7.9, 0.07	Power	4.8, -0.06
Other	37% (27) 2.5, -0.19	Drag	39% (18) 8.6, -0.34	Shovel	67% (9) 4.4, 0.33	Basic Screen	40% (20) 6.9, 0.06	ALL	56% (175) 7.3, 0.15	46% (483) 7.8, 0.09	Lead	75% (4) 4.5, 0.10

### <u>GB-6</u>

in Kansas City (2019 and 2020), of all players with at least 10 targets on deep passes, his EPA/target was the worst on the roster.

Yes, the Packers' deep passing regressed in 2021 as I predicted and yes, I do have concerns for it in 2022 due to the personnel changes.

Another element to the offense I hoped to see in 2021 was more first down passing. In 2020, the Packers were 52.1% pass on first downs in the first three quarters, which ranked 14th most pass-heavy. Examine their splits on first downs in the first three quarters:

2020 first down passes: 0.22 EPA/att, 7.7 YPA, 52% success, 94% accuracy (third)

2020 first down runs: 0.01 EPA/att, 5.0 YPC, 37% success

Even though these runs were top five in EPA/play and success rate and barely outside in YPC (sixth), passes were just so much more efficient.

There was no need for a team with Aaron Rodgers delivering the third-best accuracy in the NFL on these first down passes to have a lower pass rate than teams like the Bears, Dolphins, Falcons, Texans, etc. Yes, those teams were bad and may have trailed more often. But in the first three quarters of games, when the game was within one score (to quell your concerns), Green Bay ranked 12th in pass rate in 2020, which was still behind teams like Washington, Miami, Houston, and Atlanta. Those teams didn't have quarterbacks like Aaron Rodgers.

So what happened in 2021? Unfortunately, not only did the Packers shift slightly more to the run, but their rushing became less efficient (in part due to the line injuries). On first downs in quarters 1-3:

2020 pass rate: 52.1% pass (14th) 2021 pass rate: 51.5% pass (13th)

2020 in one-score situations: 51.3% pass (12th) 2021 in one-score situations: 50.2% pass (14th)





Rushing efficiency on these first downs in the first three quarters?

2020: 0.00 EPA/att, 5.3 YPC, 40% success 2021: -0.06 EPA/att, 4.9 YPC, 40% success

While I was hopeful the Packers would lean more into the efficiency of the passing game on first downs, they did not do so in 2021.

Without Adams, I'll make the prediction they absolutely don't go more pass-heavy in 2022, either. I would be shocked if first down passing was more efficient in 2022 than it was with Adams, but even if it was similar or slightly worse, it still would be more efficient than running at the rate the Packers have done. But let's not hold our breath because it isn't likely to crack the top-10 in first down pass rate in 2022.

An interesting observation in decreased efficiency of the 2021 Packers passing attack related to third downs.

The 2021 Packers averaged slightly fewer yards-to-go on third down than the 2020 Packers, and were better at converting on short-yardage situations in which they primarily ran the ball. But the third down passing conversion rate was so bad, the Packers fell from second in third down conversion rate in 2020 to 10th in 2021 in the first three quarters of games.

To no one's surprise, Adams was targeted on 42 of Rodgers's 133 third down attempts (32%). But the efficiency Adams delivered was actually significantly better than 2020 on these third downs:

Adams on 3rd down in 2020: 0.47 EPA/att, 62% success, 9.6 YPA Adams on 3rd down in 2021: 0.85 EPA/att, 67% success, 9.5 YPA

The lack of performance wasn't because of Adams. It was because Rodgers's second, third, and fourth most targeted players on third down took major steps back. Those players? Respectively: Allen Lazard, Aaron Jones, and MVS. Since MVS won't be in Green Bay in 2022, let's focus on Lazard and Jones:

Lazard on 3rd down in 2020: 2.11 EPA/att, 82% success, 19.8 YPA Lazard on 3rd down in 2021: 0.70 EPA/att, 56% success, 7.7 YPA

Jones on 3rd down in 2020: -0.10 EPA/att, 36% success, 4.7 YPA Jones on 3rd down in 2021: -0.91 EPA/att, 18% success, 2.4 YPA

These were precipitous declines in efficiency. Along with MVS falling back, Aaron Rodgers and the Packers fell back tremendously when trying to pass on third downs.

Adams and his efficiency increase was gone. He was beating double teams and coverages shaded to him on third downs. He commanded a ridiculous target share despite that coverage, and still was absolutely dominant. But now he's gone. Defenses won't need to cover any receiver on third downs like they did Adams. These players who struggled last year on third down are going to have to step up massively to offset what Adams was delivering. I'm concerned it won't happen and the Packers may struggle even more on third down than they did in 2021.

(cont'd - see GB-8)

### Immediate Impact of Green Bay Packers 2022 Draft Class

The story of the Packers' draft was how they addressed the wide receiver position. Although Green Bay landed three prospects, none of the rookies appear to be suited for an immediate role. Green Bay traded up for **Christian Watson** (second round), who fits the mold of receiver GM Brian Gutekunst covets as a tall, faster weapon on the outside. However, he's a work-in-progress, coming from North Dakota State with minimal production against quality competition. As a prospect who is still developing as a route-runner, it's difficult to imagine **Aaron Rodgers** feeling comfortable integrating Watson into a significant role in the offense in 2022. **Romeo Doubs** (fourth round) and **Samaori Toure** (seventh round) each fit into the same mold as Watson and should be given a similar opportunity to compete for playing time. Despite being the last of the three selected, Toure's experience in the slot should give him a genuine opportunity to earn reps early in his career as the Packers attempt to replace **Davante Adams**. Toure was a weapon after the catch last season at Nebraska, picking up 25% more yards after the catch than expected based on route-adjusted data. The Packers' decision to triple up on receivers was likely due to their inability to land one in the first round. As the run on receivers happened earlier than expected, Green Bay was left to select **Quay Walker** (first round) with its first pick. Walker is a talented athlete, but may not have the traits needed to be a green-dot defender in an NFL defense. This perception made his selection moderately surprising, as it limits his value, although the Packers do have experienced green-dot linebackers on the roster in **DeVondre Campbell** and **Krys Barnes**.

**Devonte Wyatt** (first round) was also a surprise first-round selection due to a history of off-field issues. From a talent perspective though, he was an obvious target for Green Bay due to his ability to upgrade their porous run defense. Green Bay allowed 4.1 yards per attempt when opposing offenses ran up the middle last season, which ranked 28th. **Sean Rhyan** (third round) provides valuable versatility and depth to the Packers' offensive line. While he was a three-year starter at left tackle for UCLA, Rhyan's build and skill set should allow for a transition to guard. Rhyan could potentially push **Royce Newman** for his job at right guard or compete with **Elgton Jenkins** to replace **Billy Turner** at right tackle. **Zach Tom** (fourth round) could also factor into those competitions, though he is a better athlete than Rhyan and likely the better fit at tackle.

Kingsley Enagbare (fifth round) saw his stock plummet after a poor combine workout, but his production as a pass-rusher in the SEC can't be overlooked. Enagbare finished second in the SEC with a 19% pressure rate last season. He'll provide valuable depth on the edge and help replace Za'Darius Smith's production. Tariq Carpenter (seventh round) is among the most exciting late-round picks based on raw talent. He's a hybrid linebacker/safety who should immediately excel on special teams, but could potentially develop into a dynamic weapon on Joe Barry's defense. Green Bay has not used a Carpenter-like defender in recent years, so it will be fun to see how Barry attempts to incorporate him into their scheme. In 2016, while with Washington, Barry attempted to develop Su'a Cravens (a second-round rookie) with a similar skill set. Cravens didn't pan out, but it's possible that experience will help Barry in his efforts to develop Carpenter. Green Bay's inability to land a top-tier receiver hangs as a dark cloud over this draft class — especially if Watson doesn't quickly develop into an impact weapon. Although it's fair to say the Packers were smart not to reach for a receiver once the top few were off the board, Gutekunst certainly deserves blame for his inability, or unwillingness, to trade up to address a glaring need for a potential championship-caliber roster. The Packers ultimately used 11 picks in the draft, but likely lack the roster space to stash all those prospects. That extra draft capital will likely go to waste, and could have been spent in an effort to acquire a weapon with immediate-impact potential. That criticism aside, it's easy to be optimistic about many of the developmental prospects Green Bay landed. Gutekunst did not take the best approach to improve this roster for the 2022 season, but he did land a slew of prospects with the potential to develop into quality starters.



### Green Bay Packers 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

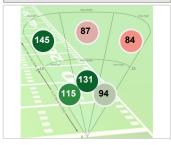
Aaron Rodgers was as good as ever in 2021, winning his fourth MVP Award and second in a row. Rodgers had some recoil on his 2020 counting stats and efficiency, but not all regression is a detriment. Rodgers closed 2021 completing 68.9% of his passes for 7.7 yards per pass attempt, throwing 37 touchdowns to just four interceptions, with 4,115 yards through the air. Rodgers signed a three-year extension this offseason that has locked up through the 2026 season. Of course, the deal has relatively no shot to see the end how it is currently written, but Rodgers is nearly a full lock to close his career in Green Bay. The loss of Davante Adams will leave Rodgers without a feature wideout, but Rodgers does have over 500 dropbacks without Adams on the field over the past six seasons, and his rate stats are even better without Adams on the field

	2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk		
Aaron Rodgers	386	556	69%	4,340	7.8	37	4	35	112	1		
Jordan Love	36	63	57%	407	6.5	2	3	2	67	47		
NFL Avg	NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6											

#### 2021 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 % 50% 54% 57 10.0% 4.0% 6.0 Aaron Rodgers 24 5.3 Jordan Love 38% 43% 6 10.0% 3 5.0% 4.9 6.5 46% 50% 8.8% 5.3 34.1 12.5 3.1% 5.6 NFL Ava

### **Target Postive Distribution** Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

### **Aaron Rodgers Rating Early Downs**



<u>In</u>	Interception Rates by Down											
Yards to Go 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 4th Dwn Tot												
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%	4.1%		2.3%							
10 - 14	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%							
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%							
Total	0.5%	0.5%	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%							

3rd Down I	3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis											
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk							
Aaron Rodgers	7.2	11.8	4.6	51%	2							
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%								

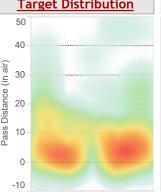
	Air Y	Air Yds vs YAC										
nd	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk									
	47%	53%	37									
	53%	47%										

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

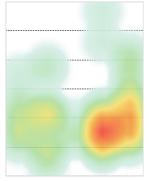
This offseason, the Packers traded Davante Adams to the Raiders while also losing Marquez Valdes-Scantling and Equanimeous St. Brown from their roster via free agency. The Packers are currently left with a wide receiver room that collectively caught 82-of-123 targets for 1,005 yards and 13 scores on their team a year ago. They added Sammy Watkins, who still is just 29 years old this season. Watkins has not had more than 673 yards in a season since 2015. The team also selected Christian Watson in the second round. Watson has a limited production profile playing in a run-heavy FCS offense, posting just 2.3 receptions over his career (38th in this class), but his 19.4 yards per catch rank fourth while he is 6-foot-4 and 208 pounds

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Davante Adams	180	73%	9.1	114.7	60%	17	36	29	111	11
Aaron Jones	75	81%	6.9	122.2	49%	89	60	86	82	6
Allen Lazard	61	67%	8.5	133.1	61%	14	62	28	88	8
Marquez Valdes-Sca	55	47%	7.8	84.7	38%	131	125	5	139	3

# **Davante Adams Target Distribution**



### **Allen Lazard Target Distribution**



### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Packers are set up top in their backfield as Aaron Jones and A.J. Dillon were one of the league's best combos, producing 2,306 yards, and 17 touchdowns as a pair in 2021. Green Bay finished 10th in the league in expected points added via rushing (23.4 EPA) despite ranking 17th in rushing attempts (446). Jones had his third straight season with double-digit touchdowns. He remained efficient, averaging 5.3 yards per touch, his fifth straight season over 5.0 yards per touch. After just 48 touches as a rookie, A.J. Dillon took advantage of the exit of Jamaal Williams, ballooning up to 221 touches for 1,116 yards and seven touchdowns in his second 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
A.J. Dillon	194	4.3	61%	7	1	12	72	59%	8	6
Aaron Jones	183	4.6	50%	43	31	65	26	48%	53	4

### Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





Aaron Rodgers and the Packers have lost a number of productive wideouts over his career, but Adams is by far the most decorated in terms of counting stats. Adams will turn 30 years old this December but is coming off another stellar campaign that saw him catch 123 passes for 1,553 yards and 11 touchdowns. Adams was third among all wide receivers in yards per route run (3.12), was third at the position in targets per route run (30.1%), and second in points added per route (.086) per Sports Info Solutions. For fantasy, Adams has ranked in the top-10 in points per game in six straight seasons, closing as the WR10, WR9, WR1, WR6, WR1, and WR2 from 2016 through last season

The interesting thing here is that Rodgers does have 523 dropbacks without Adams on the field over the past six seasons, and his rate stats do not take a massive hit. Rodgers has played 10 full games (excluding season finales) without Adams available over that span. In those 10 games, Rodgers has posted six QB1 scoring weeks with just one week lower than QB15, averaging 21.9 fantasy points per game. In those games, Rodgers has averaged 7.7 yards per pass attempt, 11.9 yards per completion, and a 6.1% touchdown rate compared to 7.4 Y/A, 11.3 yards per completion, and a 6.3% touchdown rate when Adams was on the field. While the floor has been strong, Rodgers has found it harder to access his week-winning ceiling, posting three weeks higher than the QB7 with three top-three scoring weeks in that 10-game sample. The last time that Rodgers played without an established alpha wideout for a full season was back in 2015. Rodgers was the QB7 in overall scoring and the QB11 in points per game that season.

The two players the Packers already rostered in **Allen Lazard** and **Aaron Jones** stand to get the largest bumps for a more dispersed target disposal. Jones has a runway to raise his receptions per game for a sixth straight season. In the seven games that Adams has missed over the past three seasons, Jones has received 6.7 targets per game (19.7% of the team share), with 5.1 catches for 55.4 yards per game and four receiving scores. In 2021 with Adams, Jones ranked seventh among running backs with 78 routes run from the slot or out wide, while being targeted on 25.6% of those routes. Lazard has never caught more than 3.3 passes per game in his career. That said, he is coming off a career-high eight touchdowns. Lazard has played four games without Adams active the past three seasons, posting games of 4-65-1 (five targets), 3-42-0 (four), 5-42-0 (five), and 6-146-1 (eight). Lazard also closed 2021 on a high note, catching five or more passes in three of the final five games of the regular season with five touchdowns over that span.

Christian Watson was a post-season climber after a strong Senior Bowl showing and he carried that into the combine, closing out as a 94th percentile athlete in terms of physical score in the model at 6-foot-4 and 208 pounds. Watson has an extremely limited production profile playing in a run-heavy FCS offense, posting just 2.3 receptions over his career (38th in this class), but his 19.4 yards per catch rank fourth. Veterans Randall Cobb and Sammy Watkins will also have opportunity. Cobb had four games last year in which he received five or more targets, and in those games, caught five touchdowns. Watkins has not cleared 673 yards in a season since 2015, but is still 29 years old with cheap attachment to Rodgers.

Gre	en Bay Pacl	kers Defens	e: Number o	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	Rk	50
1-1 [3WR]	18 plays (4%) Success: 56%	304 plays (60%) Success: 47%	179 plays (36%) Success: 40%	3 plays (1%) Success: 0%	504 plays (100%) Success: 45%		%		40
	EPA: 0.13	EPA: -0.11	EPA: -0.12	EPA: -1.42	EPA: -0.12	Base	20%	26	
1-2 [2WR]	24 plays (35%) Success: 33%	40 plays (58%) Success: 43%	5 plays (7%) Success: 60%		69 plays (100%) Success: 41%	Nickel	56%	22	30 -
	EPA: -0.42	EPA: -0.12	EPA: 0.01		EPA: -0.21	Dime+	24%	5	The second second
2-1 [2WR]	14 plays (70%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.10	6 plays <i>(30%)</i> Success: 83% EPA: 0.45			20 plays (100%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.21	Rush 3	2%	28	20 -
						Rush 4	77%	5	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	6 plays (50%) Success: 50% EPA: 1.35	6 plays (50%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.05			12 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.57	Rush 5	19%	16	10 -
	62 plays (10%)	356 plays (59%)	184 plays (30%)	3 plays (0%)	605 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	2%	29	0 -
Grand Total	Success: 44% EPA: 0.00	Success: 47% EPA: -0.10	Success: 41% EPA: -0.12	Success: 0% EPA: -1.42	Success: 45% EPA: -0.10	Blitz%	21%	22	-10

### **Defensive Outlook**

Kenny Clark has been the rock in the middle of the Green Bay defensive line for years and his 2020 extension has him under contract through 2024. Last season, he ranked 13th among defensive tackles in pressure rate, per SIS. Clark played 72% of the defensive snaps, but the biggest concern was who was lining up next to him, which wasn't much. Jarran Reed was brought in as a free agent on a one-year deal. With the Chiefs last season, Reed was 50th among defensive tackles in pressure rate at the position but he's been able to be a disruptive force inside throughout his career. Dean Lowry has been the other constant on the interior and had a career-high five sacks in 2021 but 2022 is the final year of his contract.

Devontae Wyatt was selected in the first round and could immediately serve as an improvement as a run defender in the middle of the line. The Rashan Gary breakout actually happened in Year 3. Gary's playing time has increased from 24% to 48% to 68% of defensive snaps over his three seasons. His quarterback hits have gone from three to 11 to 28 (seventh in the league). Gary ranked sixth in pressure rate among edge rushers per SIS. Preston Smith ranked 50th among edge rushers in pressure rate and spent more time rushing the passer than he had in previous years with a 90% rush rate. Smith is locked in through 2026 with a four-year extension just signed this offseason. Behind them, there's not much depth. Jonathan Garvin slid in as a rotational rusher, played 36% of the snaps, and ranked 71st in pressure rate. Fifth-round pick Kingsley Enagbare could slide in as a rookie.

De'Vondre Campbell was a pleasant surprise in a breakout season that had him playing at an All-Pro level. After coming in on a cheap one-year deal, the Packers re-signed Campbell on a five-year contract. Campbell was 23rd among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap while he played 91.6% of the defensive snaps. The Packers played dime at the sixth-highest rate in the league (24%), which kept Campbell on the field and lessened the load on other linebackers. Krys Barnes has flashed when he's been on the field can be a serviceable No. 2. That role now is likely to go to first-round pick Quay Walker. Jaire Alexander missed a significant amount of time last season and only played 20% of the defensive snaps in the regular season, but was still a plus corner when he returned. Alexander has been a top corner and his versatility to play inside adds another element to his game that opens up possibilities for the rest of the secondary and received a massive extension this offseason. Eric Stokes played well for a rookie corner, something that is difficult to do. Stokes was 44th among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season. He should continue to develop in Year 2. The biggest surprise was the play of Rasul Douglas, who wasn't signed until October. Douglas ranked fifth in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season and he was re-signed for three more years.

Chandon Sullivan played well filling in for various corners, getting on the field for 77% of the defensive snaps, but he left in free agency. That role will now fall on Shemar Jean-Charles, a 2021 fifth-round pick, who played just 3.4% of the defensive snaps as a rookie. Adrian Amos and Darnell Savage have formed one of the better safety duos over the past few seasons and neither of them comes off the field. In 2021, Amos played 97% of the defensive snaps and Savage played 96%. Henry Black was the team's third safety last season, who played 24% of the defensive snaps as the team got into some defensive back-heavy looks, but his contract finished in 2021 and he is still a free agent. That leaves not much depth and some unknowns after the top two stars at the position.

Play Tendencies				
All Pass %	61%			
All Pass Rk	8			
All Rush %	39%			
All Rush Rk	25			
1 Score Pass %	60%			
1 Score Pass Rk	7			
2020 1 Score Pass %	58%			
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	14			
2021 Pass Increase %	2%			
Pass Increase Rk	12			
1 Score Rush %	40%			
1 Score Rush Rk	26			
Up Pass %	60%			
Up Pass Rk	7			
Up Rush %	40%			
Up Rush Rk	26			
Down Pass %	57%			
Down Pass Rk	26			
Down Rush %	43%			
Down Rush Rk	7			

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %		
1st	Short (1-3)	8	88%	13%	38%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	6	33%	67%	50%		
	Long (8-10)	361	47%	53%	56%		
	XL (11+)	14	79%	21%	43%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	60	42%	58%	65%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	104	59%	41%	60%		
	Long (8-10)	99	73%	27%	44%		
	XL (11+)	24	79%	21%	17%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	52	63%	37%	67%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	52	96%	4%	42%		
	Long (8-10)	27	100%	0%	15%		
	XL (11+)	26	92%	8%	23%		
4th	Short (1-3)	14	71%	29%	71%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	0%		
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	0%		

Shotgun %					
Shotgun	Under Center				
61%	39%				
NFL AVG					
65%	35%				
Efficiency					



### Short Yardage Intelligence:

fic	iency	2nd and Short Run							
A/ ss:	EPA/ pass:	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg			
5  5	0.19	55%	30	71%	81%	73%			
A/ h:	EPA/ rush:		2nd and Short Pass						
03 ess:	-0.01 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg			
%	43%	45%	3	29%	53%	46%			

	Most Frequent Play							
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %			
1st	Short (1-3)	PASS	Randall Cobb	2	100%			
Dwn			Marcedes Lewis	2	0%			
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	2	0%			
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	96	50%			
	XL (11+)	L (11+) PASS Aaron Jones		2	50%			
	, ,		A.J. Dillon	2	50%			
			Marquez Valdes-Sca	2	0%			
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	A.J. Dillon	23	83%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Aaron Jones	20	55%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Davante Adams	18	56%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Allen Lazard	3	0%			
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	A.J. Dillon	11	64%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Davante Adams	13	46%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Aaron Jones	5	0%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Aaron Jones	3	0%			
			Allen Lazard	3	33%			
			Marquez Valdes-Sca	3	33%			

	Play Action (Y/N)							
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total					
No	Success: 49%	Success: 52%	Success: 49%					
	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 5.3, EPA: 0.03	YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.13					
	Rtg: 111.0	Rtg: 90.3	Rtg: 107.8					
	[Att: 146 - Rate: 22.2%]	[Att: 25 - Rate: 3.8%]	[Att: 171 - Rate: 26.0%]					
Yes	Success: 45%	Success: 57%	Success: 49%					
	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.06	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.17	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.09					
	Rtg: 101.6	Rtg: 116.7	Rtg: 106.3					
	[Att: 337 - Rate: 51.2%]	[Att: 150 - Rate: 22.8%]	[Att: 487 - Rate: 74.0%]					
Total	Success: 46%	Success: 56%	Success: 49%					
	YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.09	YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.15	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.10					
	Rtg: 104.4	Rtg: 112.9	Rtg: 106.7					
	[Att: 483 - Rate: 73.4%]	[Att: 175 - Rate: 26.6%]	[Att: 658 - Rate: 100.0%]					

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

	Weekly Snaps Played										
Wk	Орр	Score	Davante Adams	Allen Lazard	Aaron Jones	Marcedes Lewis	A.J. Dillon	Marquez Valdes-S	Randall Cobb	Josiah Deguara	Robert Tonyan Jr
1	NO	L 38-3	40	39	28	15	16	36	15	5	28
2	DET	W 35-17	57	42	45	36	19	43	12		28
3	SF	W 30-28	56	42	46	25	18	40	21	17	46
4	PIT	W 27-17	63	57	45	35	29		33	24	56
5	CIN	W 25-22	58	55	44	29	21		35	13	38
6	CHI	W 24-14	50	50	35	40	25		23	15	37
7	WAS	W 24-10	48	51	41	21	13		35	11	38
8	ARI	W 24-21			48	31	29		50	16	35
9	KC	L 13-7	58	53	40	29	24	34	33	15	
10	SEA	W 17-0	70	44	34	42	36	49	50	25	
11	MIN	L 34-31	52			17	44	48	45	27	
12	LA	W 36-28	80	53	40	33	42	57	19	35	
14	CHI	W 45-30	58	53	29	36	35	43		37	
15	BAL	W 31-30	57	49	39	31	23	41		35	
16	CLE	W 24-22	55	51	33	25	26			33	
17	MIN	W 37-10	62	56	31	13	39	49		30	
18	DET	L 37-30	22	21		20	37	15		29	
	Grand	Total	886	716	578	478	476	455	371	367	306

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	61%	61%	50%
1-2 [2WR]	29%	21%	55%
1-0 [4WR]	4%	2%	50%
1-3 [1WR]	2%	4%	19%
2-1 [2WR]	2%	7%	60%
Group	ing Te	enden	<u>cies</u>
Group	ing Te	enden	<u>cies</u>
<u>Group</u> Personnel	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ %
	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 66% 43%	Pass Succ. % 47% 55%	Run Succ. % 55% 56%

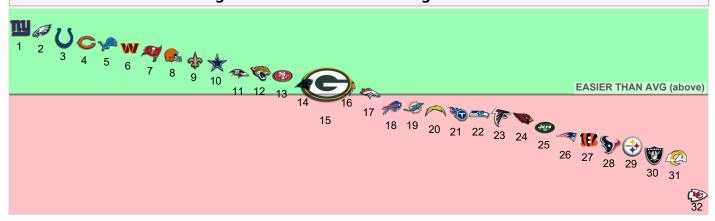
Red Zone Targets Leaderboard								
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20				
Davante Adams	29	7	7	15				
Aaron Jones	17	2	3	12				
Allen Lazard	17	3	2	12				
Randall Cobb	14	6	5	3				
Marquez Valdes-Scan	8	2	1	5				
Josiah Deguara	7	1		6				
Equanimeous St. Bro	4		1	3				

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard								
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20				
A.J. Dillon	43	11	11	21				
Aaron Jones	34	8	8	18				
Patrick Taylor	9	2	1	6				
Aaron Rodgers	7	3	1	3				

Early D	own Targ	et Rate					
RB	TE	WR					
22% <b>23%</b>	18% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	60% <b>56%</b>					
		Overall Target Success %					
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %					
Overall RB	Target Su	uccess % wr					



### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



I'm also concerned with what happened to Aaron Rodgers under pressure last season. Yes, we know the offensive line was the fourth-most injured of any line in the NFL.

Examine this three-year sample of Aaron Rodgers pass attempts, with and without pressure. It's impossible to not see this, and think that over 1,600 attempts in total, Rodgers is getting more sensitive to pressure:

2019 when pressured: decrease of 0.52 EPA/att, decrease of 14% success rate, decrease of 1.2 YPA 2020 when pressured: decrease of 0.65 EPA/att, decrease of 24% success rate, decrease of 1.7 YPA 2021 when pressured: decrease of 0.98 EPA/att, decrease of 31% success rate, decrease of 3.4 YPA

In 2021 alone, look at these splits:

2021 without pressure: 0.43 EPA/att, 56% success, 8.5 YPA, 92% accuracy, 77% completion rate 2021 with pressure: -0.55 EPA/att, 25% success, 5.1 YPA, 74% accuracy, 38% completion rate

With LaFleur in Green Bay these last three years, Rodgers is progressively getting more and more sensitive to pressure.

I'm also concerned with Rodgers's aggressiveness last year.

Aggressiveness is a Next Gen Stats metric, tracked using the tags placed in player's shoulder pads. Aggressiveness tracks the amount of passing attempts a quarterback makes that are into tight coverage, where there is a defender within one yard or fewer of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion.

Ideally, QBs are not throwing into tight coverage with frequency.

In 2020, only 11.2% of Aaron Rodgers passes were aggressive, which ranked 40th of 41 QBs.

In 2021, that was up to 16.4%, which ranked 13th of 40 QBs.

That 16.4% is the highest for Rodgers in the Next Gen Stats era (since 2015). Now that he will be without Adams to help make coverage lighter on the opposite side of the field, it will take a lot more work to throw a higher rate of passes to open receivers.

I'm also concerned about the good fortune of the Packers' pass defense last year due to facing the following QBs:

Rookie Justin Fields x2

Backup Taylor Heinicke

Backup Sean Mannion instead of Kirk Cousins x1

Backup Tyler Huntley instead of Lamar Jackson x1

Russell Wilson's first game after missing three games for a finger injury (0:2 TD:INT, 4.0 YPA)

Baker Mayfield's first game after missing a game due to a shoulder injury (2:4 TD:INT, 6.2 YPA)

Kyler Murray, who was injured one play before throwing a game-losing INT driving for a win (he went on to miss three games as a result, but stayed in the game hobbling to throw the final pass)

That's five games against rookies or backups and three games against quarterbacks who were either playing at less than 100% after missing games (Wilson, Mayfield) or players who were hurt in-game (Murray).

The Packers went 8-0 in those games. They went 5-4 in their other nine games.

This year the Packers still get to face Fields twice. They also get second-year quarterbacks like Zach Wilson and Mac Jones. And who knows how many starters will get injured. We don't yet know. But the Packers last year were quite fortunate to play the caliber and condition of quarterbacks as they did.

I'm also concerned about the Packers' rest situation. They have the NFL's worst schedule based on net rest edge. They play five games against teams who have over a week to prepare for them. They play five games when they have a rest disadvantage. They rank 30th in my "prep rank" metric and 31st in my "rest rank" metric.





Great teams tend to overcome rest disadvantages. The Packers have done it in the past. They'll have to do it again.

In total, you can see how many concerns there are this season. The best thing the Packers have going for them is a very weak NFC in general and they still have Rodgers and LaFleur. I'm a strong believer that those three elements can erase, or at least minimize, the concerns I'm seeing elsewhere on this team.

Getting the offensive line back to health (assuming it's solid in 2022) and getting tight end Robert Tonyan back will be big for them. But I think there is a lot stacked up against this team that isn't as evident on the surface and that most people aren't accounting for when looking at the 2022 Packers.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

01. Games w Halftime Lead	01. G	ames	w	На	lftime	Lead
---------------------------	-------	------	---	----	--------	------

10	02.	

02. Avg Halftime Lead

1		n	
н	٠	υ	

03. Wins

13

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	7.2			
37. PSM Target Depth	5.7			
38. Non-PSM YPA	8.2			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	5.9			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	55%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	55%			
42. PSM EPA/att	0.12			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.23			

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	35%
45. PA Success Rate	55%
46. PA YPA	7.1
47. PA Sack Rate	3.3%
48. PA EPA/att	0.19
49. PA Target Depth	4.6
50. Non-PA Success Rate	53%
51. Non-PA YPA	8
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	5.3%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.17
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	8%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	68%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	8.1
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	55%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.6
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	31%
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	3.8

### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	15	defFUM	19
Net FROE	-0.1	defFUM Rcvrd	12
offFUM	19	dell OW ICCVID	12
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR Rk	21
offFR%	63.2%	defFR%	36.8%
offFR Rk	10		0.0
offFROE	0.9	defFROE	-0.9
		defFROE Rk	21
offFROE Rk	10	GOII ITOL ITA	21

### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	-5.16	Opp Att	22
Net Over Expectation Rank	31	Opp Makes	19
Own Att	34		
Own Makes	25	Opp FG %	86%
Own FG %	74%	Opp Expected Makes	17.67
Own Expected Makes	28.83	Opp Make Over Expectation	1.33
Own Make over Expectation	-3.83	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	15
Own Make over Expectation Rk	32		10
		2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	0.83
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	3.25		
2020 Own Rk	5	2020 Opp Rk	18

### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes31. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes

33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box

34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box35. Total Defensive Efficiency

32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)

rayer rrack	ing Data Sta	.5 QD5
	Dak Prescott	Aaron Rodgers
CAY	5.9	4.9
CAY Rk	13	32
2020 CAY Rk	9	26
AYTS Rk	8	11
2020 AYTS Rk	21	19
AGG Rk	21	13
2020 AGG Rk	21	40
COMP%	68.8	68.9
xCOMP%	66.6	65.6
xCOMP% Rk	9	18
2020 xCOMP% Rk	17	11
CPOE%	2.2	3.3
CPOE Rk	5	3
2020 CPOE Rk	10	3

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

### **OB Pressure**

29

18

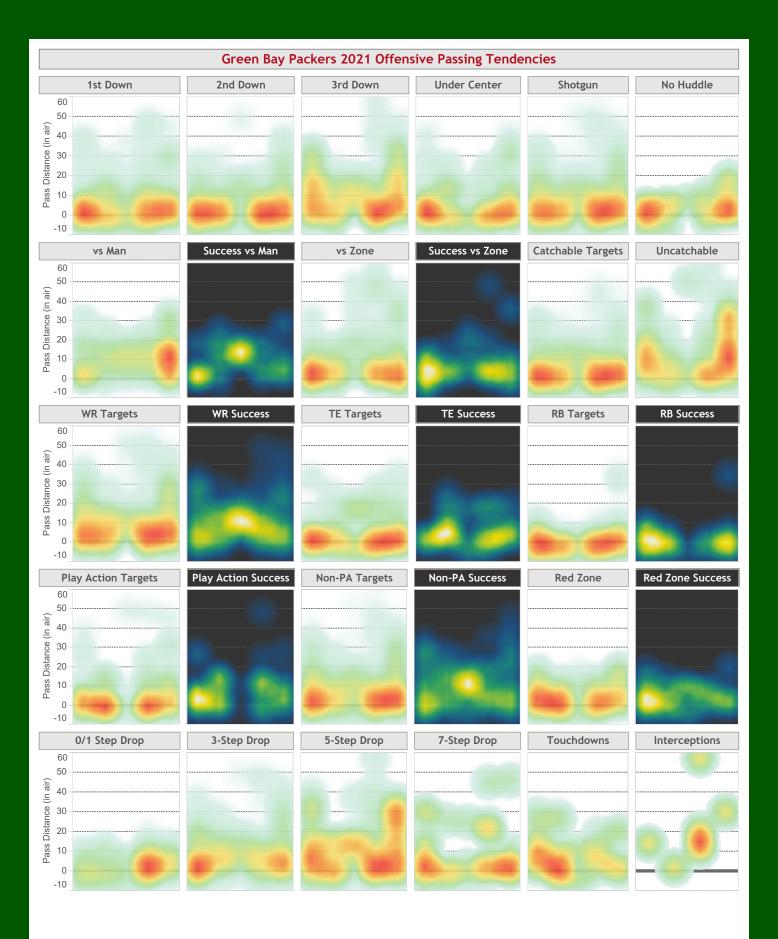
22

32

Qb Pressure						
	Dak Prescott	Aaron Rodgers				
Pressure %	31.6	26.5				
Pressure Rk	26	35				
Sack %	5	5.7				
Sack Rk	27	21				
Pressure Accuracy %	63.9	56.4				
Pressure Accuracy Rk	19	36				
Rating when Pressured	78.3	68.9				
Pressured Rating Rk	8	20				
Clean Accuracy %	80.4	82.6				
Clean Accuracy Rk	6	2				
Rating when Clean	110.3	122.2				
Clean Rating Rk	8	1				
Time to Throw	2.75	2.63				
Time to Throw Rk	26	34				

### Offensive Metrics

311011311011			
EPA/Pass	0.13		
EPA/Pass Rk	4		
EPA/Rush	0.00		
EPA/Rush Rk	8		
On-Target Catch %	93.2%		
On-Target Catch Rk	2		
Drop%	3.2%		
Drop Rk	2		
YAC/Att	2.7		
YAC/Att Rk	4		
Rush Broken Tackle %	13.9%		
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	10		
Rush 1st Down %	24.4%		
Rush 1st Down Rk	17		



### Packers Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Aaron Rodgers	0.39 (#2)	0.19 (#2)	0.23 (#2)	0.20 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	0.21 (#2)	0.35 (#2)
2020	Aaron Rodgers	0.43 (#1)	0.33 (#1)	0.30 (#1)	0.18 (#2)	0.12 (#2)	0.25 (#1)	0.47 (#1)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Aaron Rodgers	-0.68 (#2)	-0.36 (#2)	0.19 (#2)	0.18 (#2)	0.02 (#2)	0.15 (#2)	0.00 (#2)
2020	Aaron Rodgers	-0.28 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	0.32 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.40 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	0.13 (#1)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on tangent elements									
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Aaron Rodgers	78% (#2)	80% (#2)	64% (#2)	59% (#2)	71% (#2)	80% (#2)	70% (#2)	71% (#2)	81% (#2)
2020	Aaron Rodgers	81% (#1)	88% (#1)	67% (#1)	63% (#1)	81% (#1)	81% (#1)	81% (#1)	75% (#1)	82% (#1)

## Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.01 (#2)	0.01 (#2)	0.33 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	0.04 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	-0.12 (#1)	0.23 (#1)
2020	0.02 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	0.09 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	0.12 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	-1.07 (#2)	-1.07 (#2)

### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

			OFF ED 123Q				3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	1	10	1	9	18	12	9	12	18	27
2020	5	21	1	7	1	8	1	17	13	19

### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	12	26	16	22	14	4	23	1	1
2020	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	19	6

### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

							`		
Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	2	7	12	7	3	3	32	25	3
2020	8	5	24	6	13	22	26	29	6

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Lovie Smith (HOU DC) (new)

Offensive Coordinator:
Pen Hamilton (HOU pass) (ne

Pep Hamilton (HOU pass) (new)
<u>Defensive Coordinator</u>:

HC calls plays (new)

Hard

Easy

# **Houston Texans**

2022 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

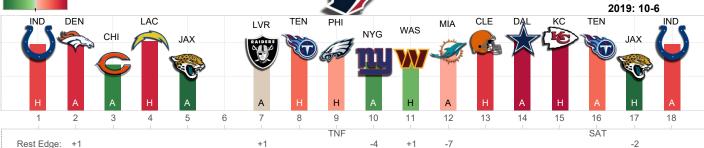
**Div Rank** 

4.5

#4

### **Past Records**

2021: 4-13 2020: 4-12 2019: 10-6



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Deshaun Watson (QB)	Browns
Justin Reid (S)	Chiefs
Marcus Cannon (RT)	TBD
Tyrod Taylor (QB)	Giants
David Johnson (RB)	TBD
Jacob Martin (EDGE)	Jets
A.J. Moore (S)	Titans
Danny Amendola (WR)	TBD
Terrance Mitchell (CB)	Patriots
Lonnie Johnson Jr. (CB)	Chiefs
DeMarcus Walker (EDGE)	Titans
Geron Christian (LT)	Chiefs
Vincent Taylor (IDL)	Falcons
Jordan Akins (TE)	Giants
Chris Smith (EDGE)	TBD
Eric Wilson (LB)	Saints
Jaleel Johnson (IDL)	Saints
Hardy Nickerson (LB)	TBD
Lane Taylor (LG)	TBD
Jimmy Moreland (CB)	Eagles
Cole Toner (RG)	TBD
Ron'Dell Carter (EDGE)	TBD
Scottie Phillips (RB)	TBD

### **2022 Houston Texans Overview**

The Houston Texans were a bad team in 2021. Particularly on offense. You pick the metric, there's a great chance this team was terrible.

32nd in early down efficiency 31st in offensive efficiency 32nd in rushing efficiency 29th in passing efficiency

Because they were 31st on early down defense as well, they lost the early down battle in all but two games in 2022.

The Texans were a much better first half team than second half team. Although they only won four games, they actually led at halftime in seven games last year.

While Houston was generally terrible everywhere, there was one thing the Texans were actually great in, which allowed them to hold those seven halftime leads:

They were the second-best team converting short yardage in the first half of games.

On 41 plays of 1-3 yards to go on either third or fourth down, the Texans converted 76% of them into first down. Only the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were better.

Shockingly, they only ran the ball on 15 of those 41 plays. **Rex Burkhead** went 7-for-8 and **Mark Ingram** went 3-for-3. Not shockingly, **David Johnson** went 0-for-1.

But when passing, **Davis Mills** converted first downs on 11-of-15 att (cont'd - see <u>HOU2</u>)

### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Jerry Hughes (EDGE)	\$5
Steven Nelson (CB)	\$4.5
A.J. Cann (RG)	\$4.29
Mario Addison (EDGE)	\$3.89
Jalen Reeves-Maybin (LB)	\$3.79
Ogbonnia Okoronkwo (ED	\$3.29
Rasheem Green (EDGE)	\$2.79
Fabian Moreau (CB)	\$2
Marlon Mack (RB)	\$2
Andy Janovich (FB)	\$1.5

### **Drafted Players**

	Rd	Pk	Player (College)
	1	3	CB - Derek Stingley Jr. (LSU)
		15	OG - Kenyon Green (Texas A&M)
		37	S - Jalen Pitre (Baylor)
	2	44	WR - John Metchie III (Alabama)
	3	75	LB - Christian Harris (Alabama)
	4	107	RB - Dameon Pierce (Florida)
	5	150	DT - Thomas Booker (Stanford)
	3	170	TE - Teagan Quitoriano (Oregon State)
)	6	205	OT - Austin Deculus (LSU)

## Regular Season Wins:

# Games

**Favored** 

0

**Average** 

Line

6.3

# Games

**Underdog** 

15







### **2022 Unit Spending**



### **Positional Spending**

<b>Total</b> \$89.37M	2021 Rk
\$89.37M	19
	.5
\$5.82M	8
\$43.96M	19
\$8.29M	12
\$21.91M	25
\$9.39M	28
\$86.11M	32
\$31.34M	32
\$18.63M	13
\$24.05M	18
\$12.09M	8
	\$5.82M \$43.96M \$8.29M \$21.91M \$9.39M \$86.11M \$31.34M \$18.63M \$24.05M

#### HOU-2

and Tyrod Taylor on 7-of-11 attempts.

Where did Mills's conversion rate put him?

Best in the NFL.

While Mills needed only 1-3 yards (literally averaged 2.0 yards) for a first down, his air yards per attempt was 8.5, which was well above average. In total, he averaged 13.3 YPA on these passes.

I bring this up because it's one of the only true positives of the Texans' 2021 season, it's literally the primary reason the Texans were even leading at halftime in seven games (no chance they would if they weren't converting third downs at this rate) and also because something like this is highly unlikely to be replicated in 2022

Hell, Mills couldn't even replicate it in the second half of games. Want to know why the Texans struggled to keep games close or hold onto leads? Here's one reason. Look at these short yardage conversions:

First half: 76% conversions (second), 0.69 EPA/play, Mills: 73% conversions, 1.10 EPA/play, 15 att

Second half: 53% conversions (30th), -0.22 EPA/play, Mills: 40% conversions, -0.61 EPA/play, 20 att

In total, in the first half of games, the Texans converted 47.1% of third or fourth down attempts (of all distances) into first downs. That ranked ninth in the NFL.

In the second half of games?

5

10

15

20

25

32

**EDSR Off** 

29

30 & In Off

Red Zone Off 3rd Down Off YPPA Off YPPT Off Offensive

Dead last, at a 36.6% conversion rate.

21

26

Considering how terrible the Texans were on early downs, if they were performing this badly on third downs in the second half, it would be safe to assume they weren't scoring much.

Sure enough, it was an embarrassment. Here is where the Texans ranked in a variety of drive metrics compared to the NFL average and the 31st team in the second half of games:

2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics

15

25

Pass Pro Efficiency Off

29

Pass

Efficiency

Efficiency Off

31

18

32

**3000** 

Run

**Explosive** 

32

Rush Efficiency Off Explosive Pass Off

R Pass Eff Of

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Davis Mills	54% 6.7 87.7	47% 6.8 98.5	32% 6.8 82.7	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	50%	53%	78%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
нои	34% 3.1	39% 3.5	54% 4.3	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	50%	47%	22%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

59%

76%

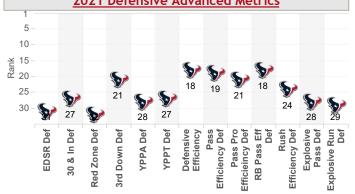
Scores / drive: 20.6% (32nd) - NFL average = 37.2% - No. 31 team = 22.1% Red zone trips / drive: 16.5% (32nd) - NFL avg = 30.8% - No. 31 team = 22 1%

TDs / drive: 13.4% (32nd) - NFL avg = 23.4% - No. 31 team = 12.7% Points / drive: 1.18 (32nd) - NFL avg = 2.04 - No. 31 team = 1.21

The Texans' rate of scoring drives was lowest in the NFL since 2018, as was their rate of drives to make it into the red zone.

Their rate of touchdowns per drive was the lowest in the NFL since 2019, as was their points scored per drive.

### (cont'd - see HOU-3) 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics



### 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance

12 13 14 15 16 W L L L W W L L TENNYJ IND SEAJAX LAC SF TEN JAX CLECARBUF NE IND ARI LAR MIA H -7 Α Н Α Н Α Α Н Н Н Α Н Α Н -40 9 -28 -26 16 -10 -15 -3 -16 -8 -31 -20 14 12 -16 -3 0 22 3 5 13 25 37 21 9 22 22 0 30 41 7 9 14 31 24 40 25 31 31 38 13 21 31 33 16 29 23 28



WFFK **RESULT** OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

**Pass Rate** 

49%

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

### 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 4 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-2** FG Games Win %: **0% (#25)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 0% (#26)

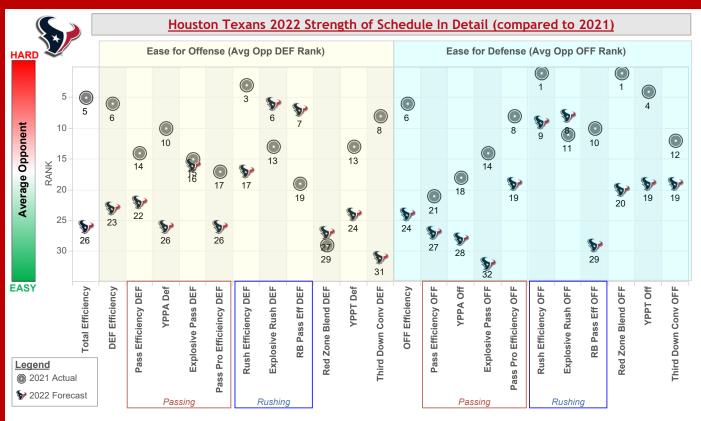
Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 0-4 Score Games Win %: **0% (#31)** 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

Wins): 0% (#31)

#### **Deciding Stats** TO Margin +3 TO Given 22 INT Given 15 **FUM Given** TO Taken 25 **INT Taken** 17 8 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -12 32 Sacks Sacks Allow 44 Return TD Margin +1 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -25 Penalties 114 **Opponent Penalties**

89

2021 Critical/Game-



	2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*											
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk					
23	29	27	16	20	28	26	28					

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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>	22 C	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	sion	<u>2021</u>	Орр	oner	nts b	y Div	visio	<u>n</u> <u>H</u>	Health by Unit*					
					2021	20	20	2019			2 5		782	_			2			<u> </u>			2021	Rk	17
	Ave	erage I	ine		9.9	1.	.4	-0.3	AF	CS		<b>C</b>				AFCS		) <b>E</b>	F 4				2020	Rk	7
	Avera	ige O/l	J line		44.5	50		48.1				•										20	21 v 20	20 Rk	26
	Straigh				4-13	4-		10-6				~	_	100	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i				4		_		Off F		24
	nst the			cord	7-9	6-		8-8	AF	CW		, [ <b>*</b>	<b>&gt;</b>			AFCE	5	<b>7</b>	<b></b>		JETS				
	Over/U				8-9 0-1	7. 2.	-	6-8 3-5			,		,	. //			44	- ope	4				Def F	₹k	8
	ATS a	as Fav			0-1 7-8	4.		3-5 5-3			٨							_					QB F	Rk	29
	Straig				2-7	2.	-	5-3	NF	CE	$\overline{}$	· mu		∌ 🍞	777	NFCW	F 7		<b>A</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>F</b>		RB F	) L	9
		S Hon			4-4	3.		2-6					an Chr	<u> </u>	~_										
	Over/L				6-3	3.	-5	4-3															WR F	Rk	10
A.	TS as F	lome l	avori	te	0-1	1.	-2	1-5	AF	CE	1	•				AFCN		r e					TE R	k	15
-	ATS as			ı	4-3	2-		1-1		0_						7.014							Oline	Rk	30
	Straig				2-6	2-	-	4-3																	14
		S Awa			3-5	3.	-	5-2															Dline	RK	
	Over/L				2-6 0-0	4- 1-		2-4 1-0	AF	CN						AFCW							LB R	Rk	23
	ATS A	way Fa Away			0-0 3-5	2.		1-0 4-2															DB F	?k	7
Qiv	Point			rd	ა-ა 10-7	11		4-2 11-5										_							
	n Poin				11-6	11	-	12-4	NF	CN		,				NFCS		7				*B	ased o	n the w	ork of
	Point				13-4	12	-	12-4										•					Footba	II Outsi	ders
						22 V			ettin	g Lir	nes									Hor	ne L	ines			
		_		_												40	1						40		4=
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1	4	8	9	,	11	13	15	17
IND	DEN	CHI	LAC	JAX	LVR	TEN	PHI		WAS	MIA	CLE	DAL	KC	TEN	JAX	IND	ų.							10 <sup>Avg</sup>	= 5.7
+8.0	+10.5	+3.0	+8.0	+3.5	+8.0	+5.5	+5.5	+3.0	+3.0	+7.0	Null	+8.0	+10.0	+8.0	+0.0	+10.0	8 IND	8 LAC	5.5	5.	5			KC	
													_			2 5	IIVD	LAC	TEN	PH	H v	<b>3</b> VAS			0 JAX
2 5	<b>**</b>		_		I TANDO							A	(16)	The same											
Avg =	6.3					- 22				3		W		T	Avg	= 6.3				Roa	ad Li	<u>ines</u>			
				Carried .		T	63	7071		7,44							2	3	5	7	10	12	14	16	18
Н	Λ.	Ç	ш	6	Α	Н	Н	لللا	W	Δ.		Α	Н	Α			_			-		T-			
П	A	A	П	A	A	П	П	A	П	Α		A	П	- A		Α	10.5			<u>.</u>				Avg	= 6.8 10
															_		DEN			8	,	7	8	8	IND
44	42	42.5	47.5	45.5	48	44	47	44	44	45	N N	48	48.5	43	45.5	44.5		CHI	<b>3.5</b> JAX	LVR	NYG	MIA	DAL	TEN	





It was amazing how bad this team became in the second half offensively. As an example:

First half points/drive: 1.65 (26th)

Second half points/drive: 1.18 (32nd) – lowest in NFL since 2019

First half scores/drive: 33.0% (26th)

Second half scores/drive: 20.6% (32nd) - lowest in NFL since 2018

Gone is offensive coordinator Tim Kelly, but in his place is Pep Hamilton, who was the Texans' passing game coordinator last year.

In these second halves, out of 33 quarterbacks, Mills ranked 27th in EPA/att, 27th in success rate, and 27th in YPA.

While we tried to share a few positives about the passing game while addressing many negatives as well, let's now turn our attention to the Texans' run game, which Hamilton will have control over in 2022 for the first time.

On early downs last year, when the Texans handed the ball to a running back, they converted a first down at a 12.4% rate. That not only ranked dead last, it was dead last by a long way.

In fact, no team since 2013 converted early down runs into a first down at a worse rate than the 2021 Texans.

This run game simply had no pop and no explosion.

Out of 702 team seasons since 2000, the Texans' -0.29 EPA/rush on early downs ranked dead last. No team was worse. They were beyond inept.

And yet on early downs in the first half, they ran the ball at a 50% rate, which was third in the NFL.

They were terrible at something and did it often.

Let's look at first downs only. Let's compare Davis Mills to the Texans' running back run game in the first half of games:

Davis Mills passes: 0.08 EPA/att (14th), 49% success (14th), 7.5 YPA (14th) RB rushing attempts: -0.33 EPA/att (32nd), 14% success (32nd), 2.7 YPC (32nd)

Why the team didn't try to keep Mills in friendly passing situations, instead of late down, predictable passing situations is beyond me. We know on short yardage third downs, Mills did well. But on second and third and long (7+ yards to go) Mills was one of the worst quarterbacks in the NFL (-0.34 EPA/att, 30th).

The goal for the Texans should have been to bypass these third downs, pass when Mills is at his best and when the defense isn't expecting it and keep Mills out of predictable passing situations.

They didn't.

That's now going to be Pep Hamilton's job this year. Hamilton was the passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach last season for the Texans.

Clearly, Hamilton did a great job coordinating two things: first down passing and short yardage passing. But now he's going to have to determine WHEN to pass the ball, and hopefully that happens more on early downs than it did last season.

In terms of the backfield, running backs David Johnson, Mark Ingram, and **Philip Lindsay** are all gone. The Texans still have Rex Burkhead and **Royce Freeman**, and added **Marlon Mack** and **Dare Ogunbowale** while drafting **Dameon Pierce** in the fourth round. There is no one in this backfield who will scare defenses.

But that's OK. The reality is, the Texans should only be running enough to keep defenses honest and not get their quarterback killed.

(cont'd - see HOU-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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: 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 30 15 22

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- The Texans have the fifth-most difficult strength of schedule, the hardest of any teams with a third-place schedule. Adding on to the difficult schedule of opponents is the 2nd-worst net rest. In 3 of the final 9 games their opponent has a rest advantage.
- The Texans' roster needs to vastly improve on offense and defense as they finished 2021 last in net yards/play. The offense finished last in total yards and third-worst in yards per play and the defense gave up the second-most yards and yards per play. Hindering the roster build is the fourth highest dead cap allocation, and although the team added talent in the draft, the team is lacking depth.
- The Texans added talent to the secondary with **Derek Stingley** and **Jalen Pitre**, but outside of the rookies, the defense lacks star power. Lacking elite pass rushers teams are likely to beat the Texans through the air. The 2021 Texans allowed the third-highest success rate on targets to both tight ends and wide receivers. The addition of a top-5 draft pick helps but is likely not enough to keep the Texans out of the bottom five in pass defenses.

4.5



### Why Bet the Over

- Rookie quarterback, Davis Mills exceeded expectations as a third-round draft pick. Despite starting 13 games, Mills led all rookies with four 300-yard passing games and finished second with 16 passing touchdowns.
- The offensive line was decimated by injuries in 2021, finishing with the third-most adjusted games lost. Lacking significant depth, the line struggled for most of the season finishing last in adjusted line yards. Optimism exists for this group as Tytus Howard allowed the lowest pressure rate of all left tackles who played over 100 snaps in 2021. Laremy Tunsil returns from injury and first-round draft pick Kenyon Green, the line should provide more help in both the running and passing game.
- In 2021 all three victories were by nine points or more, including victories over the Chargers and Titans. After finishing 0-4 in one-score games, the Texans can improve on that record with an improvement in field goal luck. The Texans had multiple kickers in 2021 that combined for -1.1 field goals over expectation after finishing 2020 with 1.1 field goals over expectation.

		Houston Tex	cans Positional U	nit Rankings		
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	<b>Head Coach</b>
28	29	32	32	31	31	32

Based on an average of our unit rankings, Houston's roster ranks dead last for the second consecutive year. Houston's average unit rank of 30.7 is also identical to a season ago — not a good sign for the rebuilding process. **Davis Mills** looked surprisingly competent at times during his rookie year, especially considering the supporting cast. For Mills to establish himself as the long-term answer, he must learn to handle pressure. Among the five rookie quarterbacks who saw significant action, Mills ranked fourth in positive EPA rate when under pressure.

Houston was a unanimous choice as our 32nd-ranked backfield. We've barely seen **Marlon Mack** since his torn Achilles at the beginning of the 2020 season. Rookie **Dameon Pierce** posted mediocre numbers in college as part of a backfield committee. There just isn't enough proven production among this group to trust them.

The addition of rookie **Kenyon Green** and free agent **A.J. Cann** shakes things up a little, but this remains one of the league's worst offensive line units. Houston ball carriers were contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage on 52% of their carries, the league's worst rate.

Houston ranked 28th in pressure rate a season ago and lost leading pass-rusher **Jake Martin**. The additions of 34-year-old **Jerry Hughes** and 35-year-old **Mario Addison** probably won't give this unit enough of a boost to be competitive. Opponents had no respect for the Houston secondary last year. When the game was within one score, 41% of pass attempts against the Texans were at least 10 yards downfield, easily the league's highest rate. **Derek Stingley Jr.** and **Jalen Pitre**, provide a nice foundation for the future, but more work needs to be done.

It's hard to believe Lovie Smith is anything more than a placeholder — and potentially the only one willing to accept this job. The hiring of Pep Hamilton as his offensive coordinator — a guy who coached in the XFL more recently than he's called plays in the NFL — was a bad sign for the direction Smith is taking this team.

### <u>HOU-4</u>

Here's my view of this franchise:

They are not going to be doing anything that resembles winning, making it to the playoffs or making a run in the playoffs if they don't have a franchise quarterback.

They just hired David Culley as head coach and fired him after one year, promoting defensive coordinator Lovie Smith to the head job.

They will NOT be firing Lovie Smith after the 2022 season unless it's a winless season, and even then, I think they give Smith a longer leash than they gave Culley.

They NEED to figure out what they have with Davis Mills. Just because a quarterback was drafted 67th overall does not mean he can't make waves in this league. The odds aren't in his favor, but what's the worst that can happen?

If he outperforms expectations and you want to build around him, you're still most likely picking in the top five and your draft pick is now highly valuable as you look to rebuild your franchise.

If you put a lot of early down passing on his shoulders and he fails, guess what? You've answered your question as to what you have with him AND

### <u>HOU-5</u>

you're now in an even better position to draft a quarterback with a potential top pick in the 2023 draft.

Davis Mills failing and the Texans losing is not the worst-case scenario for their team. As mentioned earlier, I don't believe that gets Lovie Smith fired, so no one aside from Mills even loses in this scenario.

The true worst-case scenario for the Texans, and what they absolutely cannot afford to do, is to build in a ton of support systems in for Mills to rely on the ground game but get better production with the run, given that they played the second-toughest schedule of run defenses in 2021 and now I project them to face the 17th-ranked schedule of run defenses this year. Then instead of going 0-4 in one-score games like they did in 2021, they go closer to 2-3 or 3-5. Then instead of finishing 22nd in fumble luck, they regress to better luck. Instead of finishing 21st in field goal luck, they regress to better luck.

A worst-case scenario could be this team finishes with a 6-11 record, which is still terrible but secures a worse draft pick, and doesn't know what they have with Mills because he flashed in certain situations (like he did in 2021 in first downs and short yardage) but they feel they didn't put enough on his shoulders to truly find out what he's capable of.

The Texans can't sit here in 2023 regretting the fact that they didn't use Mills enough to let him pass often in +EV situations to see if he can actually lead an NFL offense.

We already gave the example of last year's playcalling in the first half that prevented us from both seeing success AND learning about Mills.

Running the ball at the third-highest rate on early downs despite the worst rushing production in the NFL since 2000 would qualify as something you do NOT want to do in 2022.

Another example is what we saw in the second half.

### (cont'd - see HOU-6)



### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



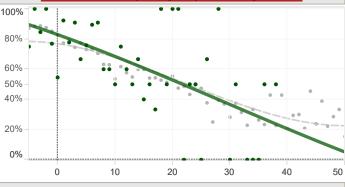
### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>												
5		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)							
	Rex Burkhead	9%	5%	71%	15%								
	Brandin Cooks	50%		50%									
_	David Johnson	12%	10%	66%	9%	3%							
RUSH	Mark Ingram	12%	14%	51%	7%	16%							
LE.	Phillip Lindsay	12%	10%	68%		10%							
	Royce Freeman	9%	3%	77%	11%								
	Total	11%	9%	65%	9%	6%							
	Rex Burkhead	22%	3%	69%	3%	3%							
	Brandin Cooks	23%	14%	56%	5%	2%							
	David Johnson	29%	14%	40%	14%	2%							
	Mark Ingram	22%	11%	56%	11%								
PASS	Nico Collins	25%	13%	54%	5%	3%							
P	Phillip Lindsay	25%	25%	50%									
	Royce Freeman	70%		30%									
	Danny Amendola	22%	22%	49%	3%	5%							
	Pharaoh Brown	24%	3%	48%	18%	6%							
	Total	25%	12%	53%	7%	2%							

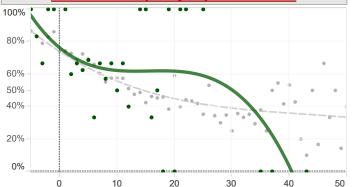
### Share of Offensive Plays by Type

ı			<u> </u>	iui c	01 (	7110	11314	<u> </u>	uys	<u>Uy i</u>	ypc			
)		Rex Burkhead	Brandin Cooks	David Johnson	Mark Ingram	Nico Collins	Phillip Lindsay	Royce Freeman	Chris Conley	Danny Amendola	Jordan Akins	Pharaoh Brown	Chris Moore	Phillip Dorsett
	PASS	7%	28%	9%	2%	13%	1%	2%	8%	8%	7%	7%	5%	2%
	RUSH	33%	1%	18%	24%		13%	9%	0%		0%			0%
	ALL	18%	16%	13%	12%	7%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	2%

### Davis Mills Comp % by Depth - Early Downs



### Davis Mills Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down



# Successful Play Rate

### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-2 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, -0.12 (434)	48%, -0.08 (98)	50%, 0.20 (18)	53%, 0.19 (15)	25%, -0.57 (4)		0%, -0.43 (3)	100%, 1.01 (1)	44%, -0.12 (586)
RUSH	42%, -0.13 (183)	40%, -0.16 (178)	40%, -0.06 (40)	8%, -0.32 (13)		25%, -0.34 (4)			39%, -0.15 (419)
All	43%, -0.13 (617)	43%, -0.14 (276)	43%, 0.02 (58)	32%, -0.05 (28)	25%, -0.57 (4)	25%, -0.34 (4)	0%, -0.43 (3)	100%, 1.01 (1)	42%, -0.13 (1,005)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiv	ing Succe	ss by Top- (Leaderbo	4 Personr	nel Groupi	ngs
POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total
WR	Brandin Cooks	54% (98) 8.1, 0.20	54% (24) 6.6, 0.26	67% (3) 7.7, 0.20	0% (1) 2.0, -0.24	54% (126) 7.8, 0.21
	Danny Amendola	47% (36) 6.6, 0.14				47% (36) 6.6, 0.14
	Chris Conley	46% (26) 9.2, 0.02	63% (8) 8.9, 0.30		0% (1) 6.0, 0.03	49% (35) 9.1, 0.08
	Chris Moore	47% (19) 8.9, 0.14	100% (2) 25.5, 1.76	100% (1) 7.0, 0.30		55% (22) 10.3, 0.29
TE	Jordan Akins	54% (24) 6.8, -0.26	67% (6) 5.7, 0.18			57% (30) 6.6, -0.17
RB	David Johnson	45% (33) 5.8, 0.08	25% (4) 3.3, -1.89	100% (2) 11.5, 1.74		46% (39) 5.8, -0.04
	Rex Burkhead	48% (29) 6.2, -0.03	0% (1) 0.0, -0.54			47% (30) 6.0, -0.05

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

		<u> </u>			
	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Burkhead Rex	45% (53) 4.2, -0.01	45% (58) 3.1, -0.11			45% (111) 3.6, -0.06
Ingram Mark	41% (46) 3.5, -0.15	38% (16) 3.0, -0.08	0% (5) 2.0, -0.29		37% (67) 3.3, -0.15
Johnson David	30% (23) 2.4, -0.24	36% (42) 4.0, -0.34			34% (65) 3.4, -0.30
Lindsay Phillip	21% (24) 1.0, -0.51	44% (18) 5.0, -0.07	14% (7) 1.7, -0.36	100% (1) 5.0, 0.93	30% (50) 2.6, -0.30
Taylor Tyrod	63% (8) 7.6, 0.26	50% (10) 9.1, 0.82		0% (1) -1.0, -0.88	53% (19) 7.9, 0.50
Samuels Javlen	0% (4) 1.8, -0.52	0% (1) 2.0, -0.28			0% (5) 1.8, -0.48

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		
	verage :heme	Route		Level 1	52% (397) 5.9, -0.03	3 Step	58% (201) 8.2, 0.13	Planted		% (360) 8, 0.05	Outside Zone	33% (90) 3.1, -0.19	
		Curl	55% (76) 6.0, -0.14			0/1 Step	44% (122)	Moving		0% (92) 1, -0.07	Inside	32% (82)	
Zone	34% (368) 6.5, -0.21	Out	53% (70)	Level 2	45% (86) 10.5, 0.27	0/1 Step	5.4, -0.04	Shuffling		3% (90) 7, -0.17	Zone	2.2, -0.32	
		Out	6.0, 0.02			5 Step	50% (78) 8.1, 0.09				Power	41% (73) 3.5, -0.16	
	000/ (450)	Slant	62% (34)	Level 3	34% (29) 12.0, 0.16		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Play Action	on			
Man	38% (156) 7.5, 0.12	Olulit	9.1, 0.42			Designed Rollout Right	57% (42) 6.0, 0.06		Play Action	No P/A	Pitch	33% (12) 3.4, -0.07	
		Drag	57% (23)	Shovel	33% (6) 2.7, -0.57		26% (27)	Under Center	46% (72) 7.1, -0.22	61% (23) 6.0, 0.38		25% (12)	
	37% (19)	2.03	5.8, 0.14		2, 0.07	7 Step	4.3, -0.15	Shotgun	44% (59) 6.7, -0.15	43% (432) 6.6, -0.13	Stretch	2.3, -0.31	
Other	3.8, 0.03	Dig	62% (13) 9.5, -0.07	Sidearm	50% (2) 2.5, -0.51	Basic Screen	22% (23) 5.0, -0.64	ALL	45% (131) 6.9, -0.19	44% (455) 6.6, -0.11	Lead	22% (9) 1.6, -0.58	

### <u>HOU-6</u>

Despite the fact the Texans started 64 of 97 drives in the second half when trailing (66%), they didn't seem to let that impact their offensive playcalling.

On early downs in the second half, the Texans still ran the ball at the 17th highest rate.

Let me show you how "off base" this is with this demonstration:

- A. Second half drives when trailing:
- 1. Jets 74 drives
- 2. Giants 72 drives
- 3. Jaguars 70 drives
- 4. Lions 65 drives
- 5. Texans 64 drives
- B. Pass rate on early downs in the second half:
- 1. Giants 65%
- 2. Jets 64%
- 3. Lions 63%
- 4. Jaguars 63%
- -----
- 16. Texans 56%

(cont'd - see HOU-7)





It made no sense for a team this terrible when running the ball (worst since 2000) to run the ball at this high of a rate when they were trailing as often as they were.

(For the record, the Texans' EPA per rush on these early downs in the second half - was -0.29/play, 32nd in the NFL.)

Even if we only look at play calls when the Texans were trailing, they still ranked 17th in pass rate.

Their run efficiency on these plays (early downs in the second half when trailing) dropped to -0.35 EPA/play.

I get it, you could argue they didn't want to win. That's the easy answer. Perhaps head coach David Culley and offensive coordinator Tim Kelly believed the run game could keep games closer and preferred that to taking aggressive swings in the passing game. I think the team was calling these runs to try to "protect" Davis Mills, even in the second half when trailing.

I hope Pep Hamilton doesn't fall into that philosophy this season.

One other thing Hamilton can fix is the Texans' play-action in 2022, because it was terrible last season.

Typically, quarterbacks benefit from early down play-action in the first three quarters of games. Look at league-wide splits the last two years:

With play-action: 0.06 EPA/att, 49% success, 8.4 YPA Without play action: -0.01 EPA/att, 45% success, 6.7 YPA

But now look at Davis Mills last year:

With play-action: -0.17 EPA/att (29th), 42% success (29th), 6.9 YPA (28th)

Without play-action: -0.01 EPA/att, 40% success, 6.1 YPA

Expected points were worse thanks to the interceptions, but he didn't show nearly the improvement by adding play-action that most quarterbacks get.

His accuracy rate dropped with play-action (from 93% without to 88% with).

His aDOT with play-action was 11.7 vs. only 5.4 without play-action.

Compare that to the NFL average, which is 8.3 air yards with play-action and 6.5 air yards without play-action, and you can see what the Texans were trying to do.

When not using play-action, 87 of Mills's 106 pass attempts (82%) were thrown 10 air yards or shorter.

When using play-action, only 26 of Mills's 56 pass attempts (46%) were thrown 10 air yards or shorter.

(cont'd - see HOU-8)

### Immediate Impact of Houston Texans 2021 Draft Class

A team with virtually nothing to build around on its current roster should not be in the business of taking risks early in the draft, but that's what Houston did with the selection of **Derek Stingley Jr.** (first round). Stingley's raw talent is undeniable, as evidenced by his dominant freshman year at LSU in 2019. However, over the last two seasons, Stingley's production took a significant step backward, partially influenced by a series of injuries. During his final two seasons at LSU, Stingley allowed a catch rate 8% below expected, based on route-adjusted data — a solid, but not elite, performance. More concerning was his ball-hawk rate, which dropped to 11% below expected over the last two seasons and ranked 49th in the SEC during that span. Stingley will start immediately and could regain his 2019 form, but it was a risky selection that will set the franchise back even further if he fails to produce.

**Kenyon Green** (first round) was a safer selection, and GM Nick Caserio made the wise decision to trade down and acquire more picks before taking Green 15th overall. Green has experience at every offensive line position except center, but likely steps into a starting role at left guard. His most immediate impact will likely be in the run game. Houston running backs averaged 3.1 yards per attempt when running between the tackles last year, ranked 31st in the league.

The Texans landed a flashy defensive weapon for Lovie Smith in **Jalen Pitre** (second round). Pitre played almost exclusively in the box and the slot at Baylor, so it remains to be seen how he fits into Houston's defense, which used two high safeties on 44% of snaps last year. Pitre earned high praise from the Baylor coaching staff, playing a critical role in Dave Aranda's defense, and he should quickly assimilate into Smith's scheme even if it requires him to play a more diverse role. Houston took another risk with **John Metchie** (second round), who is recovering from a torn ACL. Metchie was a reliable pass-catcher in the Alabama offense the past two seasons but doesn't have anywhere near the juice other recent Tide receivers possess. Based on route-adjusted data, Metchie picked 5.1% more yards after the catch than expected during his career — a concerning number given the emphasis Alabama's offense places on production after the catch. As a team, Alabama has produced 26% more yards after the catch than expected over the course of Metchie's career. Caserio, who helped draft plenty of Alabama players in New England, landed another in **Christian Harris** (third round). Harris's skill set compares favorably to linebacker **Christian Kirksey**, who has two years remaining on his contract, but could easily be cut loose after the 2022 season if Harris can prove he's worthy of taking over.

Dameon Pierce (fourth round) is an ordinary athlete and purely a between-the-tackles runner, but there's not much competition in the Houston backfield. He'll compete for the starting job. Although Pierce had a forgettable college career, there's some evidence he wasn't in a great position to succeed at Florida. In conference play last season, the Gators created just 1.6 yards before contact per attempt for running backs, which ranked 12th in the SEC. Thomas Booker (fifth round) was an odd selection, though a justifiable gamble on Day 3. He's a prototypical defensive end for 3-4 alignments, but Houston lined up in that formation at the lowest rate in the league in 2021.

Houston potentially landed five immediate starters from this draft class — though that says more about the state of the Texans' roster than the class itself. The selection of Stingley was a big swing by Caserio, and his success in the Houston secondary will play a significant role in how this class is ultimately viewed. Caserio was also unnecessarily aggressive in trading up for Metchie, parting with a third-round pick and two fourths. Caserio then traded up again for Harris in the third round, spending five total picks on those two players.

Houston also traded up last year in the third round for **Nico Collins**, which means Caserio — while rebuilding a roster with virtually no meaningful talent — spent a total of eight draft picks (all in the third through fifth rounds) on Collins, Metchie, and Harris. Those players may pan out in the long run, but Caserio has followed a terrible rebuilding process. Parting with valuable middle-round picks is delaying Houston's path to being competitive.

#### **S**

#### Houston Texans 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Houston closed 2021 28th in the league in expected points added via passing offense (-7.5 EPA). They ranked 20th in completion rate (64.8%), 28th in passing yardage (3,305 yards), 21st in touchdown rate (3.8%), 25th in yards per pass attempt (6.6 Y/A), and 25th in yards per completion (10.3 yards). Third-round rookie **Davis Mills** ended up drawing 11 starts for the team and will enter 2022 as the starting quarterback. Mills also showed more life than a number of rookie passers that were handled as potential franchise saviors in 2021. Mills threw more touchdown passes (16) than every rookie after **Mac Jones**. Mills was once the top recruit in the nation coming out of high school and picked up his play over his final six starts, throwing for 7.3 Y/A with 11 touchdowns to three interceptions over that span.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Davis Mills	263	393	67%	2,655	6.8	16	10	30	89	26
NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6										

			2021 A	dvanced	l Passir	g 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 %
Davis Mills	44%	51%	31	8.0%	14	4.0%	5.4	4.7		
Tyrod Taylor	45%	45%	13	9.0%	5	3.0%	5.2	5.4		
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3		

# Target Postive Play % Postive Play % Play % Davis Mills Rating

# Early Downs 65 100 91 91 97

<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%	5.9%	4.2%	0.0%	4.2%					
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	1.1%					
10 - 14	2.2%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	2.8%					
15+	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%					
Total	2.7%	0.8%	4.0%	0.0%	2.4%					

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Davis Mills	7.8	7.1	-0.9	63%	38					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

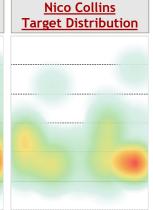
tic	ks Anal	<u>ysis</u>	Air Yds vs YAC					
ds t s	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk			
1	63%	38	53%	47%	23			
	62%		53%	47%				

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Texans ranked 21st in success rate targeting WRs (50%) and 22nd in success rate targeting TEs (52%). They ranked 29th in yards per target to tight ends (6.2 yards) but were closer to mid-pack in yards per target to wideouts, ranking 18th (7.7 yards). Carried by a solid season from **Brandin Cooks**, Cooks corralled 90-of-134 targets for 1,037 yards and six touchdowns. Outside of Cooks, Houston received next to nothing from the field, as Cooks had 74 more targets, 57 receptions, 591 yards, and three more touchdowns than the next closest pass catcher. The only thing Houston really did here is add **John Metchie** in the second round who is coming off an ACL injury that he suffered in December, limiting his availability to start the year.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS %	TDs
Brandin Cooks	133	68%	7.8	96.5	54%	49	73	79	60	6
Nico Collins	61	54%	7.3	76.4	48%	101	80	43	114	1





#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Houston was dead last in expected points added via rushing (-58.5 EPA) in 2021, ranking at the bottom of the league in rushing yardage (1,422), yards per carry (3.4 YPC), and rushing touchdowns (eight). 31-year-old Rex Burkhead led the team with 122 carries for 427 yards and three touchdowns on the ground. The team has added Marlon Mack and Dare Ogunbowale through free agency, while drafting Dameon Pierce in the fourth round (107th overall) to compete for touches in 2022. Houston also selected Kenyon Green with the 15th overall pick to aid an offensive line that ranked 27th in the league in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (54%) and 32nd in Run Block Win Rate (65%) while ranking 24th in passing blocking grade and 32nd in run blocking grade per Pro Football Focus.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Rex Burkhead	122	3.5	44%	74	81	49	68	39%	83	3
Mark Ingram	159	3.2	36%	88	32	60	92	34%	89	2
David Johnson	67	3.4	34%	89	90	83	93	38%	85	0
Phillip Lindsay	88	2.6	30%	91	92	78	36	30%	91	1





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





Houston is arguably the worst team in the NFL, so we are not expecting world beaters here, but there may be a few players here that can run into opportunity and production for us in fantasy circles.

They have one strong asset in **Brandin Cooks**, at least. Cooks was one of the best values last offseason and he delivered, catching 90-of-134 targets for 1,037 yards and six touchdowns. Cooks closed as the WR22 in points per game (14.5), making him a top-24 scoring receiver per game in all but one of his eight seasons in the league. He has done so with a plethora of quarterbacks over his career now, including showing a connection with rookie **Davis Mills** last year. Cooks and Mills connected on 71.1% of their targets with five touchdowns and a 101.6 rating while Cooks and **Tyrod Taylor** connected on 58.3% with one score and an 83.0 rating.

Outside of Cooks, Houston received next to nothing from the field, as Cooks had 74 more targets, 57 receptions, 591 yards, and three more touchdowns than the next closest pass catcher in each category. **Nico Collins** managed just 33 catches for 446 yards and one touchdown as a rookie on 60 targets, but his 7.4 yards per target were only slightly below Cooks (7.7 yards). The team added rookie **John Metchie** to this unit in the second round.

Metchie was 23rd in this class in yards per route run (2.57) with an average depth of target of just 8.4 yards (35th). That forced him to rely on yards after catch, where 56.9% of his yardage stemmed from, (fourth in this class) while averaging 6.8 yards after the catch per reception (14th). The former four-star recruit will surely use that Alabama attachment as a carrot in his pending draft capital, but also is coming off an ACL injury that he suffered in December that will limit his availability for the start of his career. The backfield was a wasteland in 2021 as 31-year-old **Rex Burkhead** led the team with 122 carries for 427 yards and three touchdowns on the ground. To go along with Burkhead, Houston has added **Marlon Mack**, **Dare Ogunbowale**, and rookie **Dameon Pierce**.

Mack has just 37 touches over the past two years while Ogunbowale has never had more than 303 yards from scrimmage in any of his first five seasons in the league. That leaves Pierce as the most appealing option by default. Pierce is one of the more intriguing prospects in this class. He never garnered much work over his career at Florida, topping out with a career-high 123 touches over his four seasons. That said, there are a number of peripheral metrics that show he was criminally underused.

This past season, Pierce only managed 119 touches, but averaged 6.6 yards per touch with 16 touchdowns. Pierce ranked second this draft class in the rate of runs to gain a first down or touchdown (37.0%), he forced a missed tackle once every 2.56 carries (first), while averaging 3.65 yards after contact per carry (12th) with a run of 15 or more yards on 9.0% of his carries (11th). Pierce also averaged 1.80 yards per route run (third in this class) while he did not allow a single pressure in pass protection. Davis Mills even offers some 2QB/SuperFLEX appeal. Mills threw more touchdown passes (16) than every rookie after Mac Jones. Over his final six starts, Mills turned in just one scoring week in the back half of the position with four top-12 games, throwing for 7.3 Y/A with 11 touchdowns to three interceptions over that span.

Но	ouston Texans Defe	nse: Number of DBs	vs Personnel	Def T	endei	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	Grand Total	0/		- Di	50		
1-1 [3WR]	7 plays (2%) Success: 86%	389 plays (98%) Success: 49%	396 plays (100%) Success: 49%		% Rk		40		
	EPA: 0.49	EPA: 0.04	EPA: 0.04	Base	33%	4			
1-2 [2WR]	73 plays (69%) Success: 60%	33 plays <i>(31%)</i> Success: 55%	106 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 58%	Nickel	66%	9	30 –		
	EPA: 0.27	EPA: -0.06	EPA: 0.17	Dime+	0%	32			
2-1 [2WR]	30 plays (86%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.13	5 plays <i>(14%)</i> Success: 40% EPA: 0.08	35 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 54% EPA: 0.12	Rush 3	1%	31	20 –		
				Rush 4	79%	4	10 -		
1-3 [1WR]	6 plays (86%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.14	1 plays <i>(14%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -3.54	7 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 43% EPA: -0.63	Rush 5	16%	29	10 -		
Grand	116 plays (21%)	428 plays (79%)	544 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	4%	16	0 –	$\sim$	
Total	Success: 60% EPA: 0.22	Success: 49% EPA: 0.02	Success: 51% EPA: 0.06	Blitz%	20%	27	-10		

#### **Defensive Outlook**

Maliek Collins has been an underrated interior disruptor throughout his career. In 2021, he only ranked 39th at the position in pressure rate, but was sixth among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. He also had six tackles for loss lined up as a defensive tackle, the seventh-most at the position. Collins, who just turned 27 years old, re-signed with Houston on a two-year deal. Roy Lopez started 15 games and played 43.6% of the defensive snaps as a sixth-round rookie in 2021. Lopez's four tackles for loss while lined up strictly as a defensive tackle ranked 17th at the position. He had six tackles for loss overall. Ross Blacklock, a 2020 second-round pick, played 39% of the defensive snaps and added six quarterback hits The Texans claimed Kingsley Keke off waivers in January. Keke, a 2019 fifth-round pick, has upside as a pass rusher with 12 quarterback hits and 6.5 sacks over the past two seasons. Keke was 50th among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season.

On the edge, **Obo Okoronkwo** has flashed as a part-time pass rusher with the Rams, but now he'll get some run as a full-time edge in Houston. Okoronkwo (11.3%) nearly matched Von Miller's pressure rate with the Rams (11.6%), per SIS, but Okoronkwo only had 111 pass rush snaps on the season. **Jonathan Greenard** had a bit of a breakout with eight sacks but those came on just 12 quarterback hits. That 66.7% conversion rate was the third-highest among 105 defenders with at least 10 quarterback hits and should be due for some regression in 2022 (the average is around 40%). Greenard was 43rd among edge rushers in pressure rate.

The Texans have all the linebackers, though it's fair to question the quality of the quantity. Houston's linebacker room is full of component-at-best players at the position. They also will see the field quite a bit on the only defense in the league that did not play a single snap in dime personnel last season. **Christian Kirksey** played 68.7% of the defensive snaps last season and **Kamu Grugier-Hill** played 67.7%. Grugier-Hill was 47th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. Kirksey was 67th. **Jalen Reeves-Maybin** ranked 57th while he played 54% of the defensive snaps for the Lions in 2021.

Derek Stingley could step in and immediately be the best player on this defense. Stingley had a stellar 2019 freshman season at LSU but was slowed down due to injuries. It's possible the Texans play more man coverage, at least on his side, when he's on the field. Desmond King had some struggles in coverage and ranked 82nd among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. King played 80% of the defensive snaps last season and has stuck at corner full-time after moving around the secondary early in his career. Tavierre Thomas had an incredible season in the slot for Houston as he ranked first in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Jalen Pitre could bounce around the secondary in his rookie year. He spent most of his final college season in the slot but he's played in the box, as a hybrid linebacker, and as a deep safety. Eric Murray bounced around the defense with multiple alignments, mostly coming near the line of scrimmage, and his production was uneven. Justin Reid was often the deep safety for the team, but he left for the Chiefs in free agency. Terrence Brooks only played 11 games and 15% of the defensive snaps. Simone Biles's fiance, Jonathan Owens, had some flashes with some playing time at the end of the season.

Play Tendencies							
All Pass %	55%						
All Pass Rk	23						
All Rush %	45%						
All Rush Rk	10						
1 Score Pass %	55%						
1 Score Pass Rk	21						
2020 1 Score Pass %	63%						
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	5						
2021 Pass Increase %	-8%						
Pass Increase Rk	32						
1 Score Rush %	45%						
1 Score Rush Rk	12						
Up Pass %	52%						
Up Pass Rk	25						
Up Rush %	48%						
Up Rush Rk	8						
Down Pass %	59%						
Down Pass Rk	16						
Down Rush %	41%						
Down Rush Rk	17						

Down & Distance Tendencies									
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %				
1st	Short (1-3)	3	67%	33%	33%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	9	56%	44%	33%				
	Long (8-10)	266	43%	57%	42%				
	XL (11+)	16	50%	50%	19%				
2nd	Short (1-3)	32	28%	72%	69%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	74	38%	62%	45%				
	Long (8-10)	93	56%	44%	35%				
	XL (11+)	48	71%	29%	21%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	54	61%	39%	69%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	49	92%	8%	47%				
	Long (8-10)	27	89%	11%	30%				
	XL (11+)	47	83%	17%	13%				
4th	Short (1-3)	7	57%	43%	86%				

Shotgun %								
Shotgun	Under Center							
70%	30%							
NFL	AVG							
65%	35%							
Efficiency								

EPA/ pass: -0.10

EPA/ rush: -0.27

Success: 35%

EP/ pas -0.1



#### Short Yardage Intelligence:

, 0											
y	2nd and Short Run										
A/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg						
ss: 12	70%	19	71%	81%	73%						
A/ h:		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass							
16 ess:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg						
%	30%	14	29%	29%	46%						

	Most Frequent Play						
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %		
1st	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Mark Ingram	2	50%		
Dwn			Phillip Lindsay	2	50%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Mark Ingram	40	43%		
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Phillip Lindsay	3	0%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Rex Burkhead	7	86%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Rex Burkhead	15	33%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Rex Burkhead	13	38%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Brandin Cooks	7	43%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	Brandin Cooks	10	80%		
Dwn		RUSH	Rex Burkhead	10	80%		
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Brandin Cooks	14	50%		
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Brandin Cooks	4	75%		
			Nico Collins	4	50%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	David Johnson	9	11%		

Offen	Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)						
	Play Action (Y/N)						
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total				
No	Success: 45%	Success: 50%	Success: 46%				
	YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.13	YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.00	YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.10				
	Rtg: 81.9	Rtg: 85.2	Rtg: 82.6				
	[Att: 132 - Rate: 22.5%]	[Att: 36 - Rate: 6.1%]	[Att: 168 - Rate: 28.7%]				
Yes	Success: 43%	Success: 43%	Success: 43%				
	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.10	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.27	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.13				
	Rtg: 88.7	Rtg: 82.5	Rtg: 87.4				
	[Att: 323 - Rate: 55.1%]	[Att: 95 - Rate: 16.2%]	[Att: 418 - Rate: 71.3%]				
Total	Success: 44%	Success: 45%	Success: 44%				
	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.11	YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.19	YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.12				
	Rtg: 86.8	Rtg: 83.3	Rtg: 86.0				
	[Att: 455 - Rate: 77.6%]	[Att: 131 - Rate: 22.4%]	[Att: 586 - Rate: 100.0%]				

Weekly Snaps Played										
Wk	Орр	Score	Brandin Cooks	Chris Conley	Pharaoh Brown	Nico Collins	Rex Burkhead	Jordan Akins	David Johnson	Mark Ingram
1	JAC	W 37-21	61	40	59	43	10	47	22	36
2	CLE	L 31-21	56	55	38	2	11	38	26	19
3	CAR	L 24-9	52	49	31		8	34	21	19
4	BUF	L 40-0	41	41	34		3	18	27	10
5	NE	L 25-22	50	54	37			27	31	26
6	IND	L 31-3	68	32	40	43	5	32	32	33
7	ARI	L 31-5	53	27	29	35	4	29	30	21
8	LA	L 38-22	54	25		39	30	39	11	
9	MIA	L 17-9	67	27		48	21	25	31	
11	TEN	W 22-13	53	31	54	38	27		35	
12	NYJ	L 21-14	47	29	34	37	35		22	
13	IND	L 31-0	43	30	32	32	24			
14	SEA	L 33-13	66	46	52	57	36	12		
15	JAC	W 30-16	49	38	45	36	38	20	12	
16	LAC	W 41-29		50	46	45	42	1		
17	SF	L 23-7	53	49	42	40	44	5		
18	TEN	L 28-25	18		32	41	40		17	
	Grand	Total	831	623	605	536	378	327	317	164

Perso	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	61%	61%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	27%	21%	43%
1-3 [1WR]	6%	4%	43%
2-1 [2WR]	3%	7%	32%
Group	ing Te	enden	cies
Group 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. %	Run Succ. % 42%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard						
Receiver	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Brandin Cooks	10	1	2	7		
David Johnson	7	1	4	2		
Nico Collins	6	2	3	1		
Jordan Akins	5	1	2	2		
Brevin Jordan	4	1	1	2		
Danny Amendola	3		2	1		
Chris Moore	2			2		

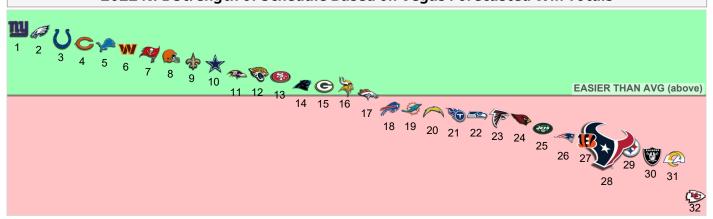
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard					
All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
17	8	5	4		
15	5	4	6		
7		2	5		
4			4		
4	1	1	2		
	AII 17 15 7	All Inside 5  17 8  15 5  7 4	All Inside 5 6-10  17 8 5  15 5 4  7 2  4		

Early D	own Targ	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
21%	20%	59%
200/		
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	
0		0/
Overall	NFL AVG Target Su	ıccess %
	Target Su	
Overall RB		ICCESS %
RB	Target Su	WR
RB 48%	Target Su TE 52%	<b>WR</b> 50%
RB	Target Su	WR





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



He hardly ever threw deep on early downs unless he was using play-action.

For comparison to the NFL:

When not using play-action, 77% of attempts were thrown 10 air yards or shorter. When using play-action, 65% of attempts were thrown 10 air yards or shorter.

The Texans don't need to primarily call deeper concepts on play-action, and they don't need to avoid them when not using play-action.

This is entirely in Hamilton's court to fix, as he was responsible for it in 2021 and remains responsible for it as offensive coordinator in 2021

Unless Hamilton is far more progressive than I am thinking at this point, I don't know that we'll suddenly see optimized pass/run ratios in we'll see enough put on Mills's shoulders. Though I hope we see both. I don't think the Texans will execute in short yardage situations as they did in the first half of games in 2021, so they'll need Hamilton to be smarter with his early down play calls to try and avoid more third downs. Hamilton needs to improve running back targets in the passing game and figure out a way to improve rushing efficiency in general.

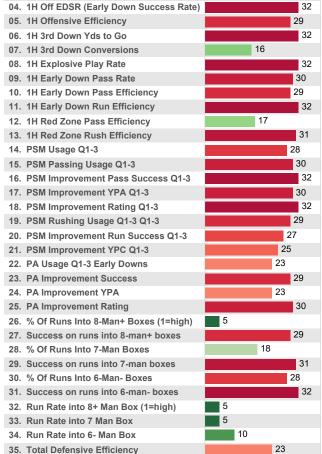
These aren't easy fixes given the personnel he has to work with. I doubt he fixes most of it. I just hope with a much easier schedule (22nd-ranked schedule of pass defenses vs. eighth in 2021) we get to see a lot more of Davis Mills leading the Texans, for better or for worse.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

03. Wins





Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)					
36. PSM YPA	5.6				
37. PSM Target Depth	5.4				
38. Non-PSM YPA	6.7				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	9.0				
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	44%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	60%				
42. PSM EPA/att	-0.32				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0				

#### Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	35%
45. PA Success Rate	40%
46. PA YPA	6.6
47. PA Sack Rate	12.0%
48. PA EPA/att	-0.30
49. PA Target Depth	10.2
50. Non-PA Success Rate	47%
51. Non-PA YPA	6
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	6.3%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.07
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.7

#### 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	28%
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	35%
59.	Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	37%
60.	YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.4
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	34%
63.	YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.4

#### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	22	defFUM	26
Net FROE	-1.0	defFUM Rcvrd	17
offFUM	19	don om nord	
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR Rk	24
offFR%	63.2%	defFR%	34.6%
offFR Rk	10		
offFROE	0.9	defFROE	-1.9
	***	defFROE Rk	24
offFROE Rk	10	dell ROL RK	24

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	-1.27	Opp Att	32
Net Over Expectation Rank	21	Opp Makes	28
Own Att	27		
Own Makes	21	Opp FG %	88%
Own FG %	78%	Opp Expected Makes	27.79
Own Expected Makes	22.06	Opp Make Over Expectation	0.21
Own Make over Expectation	-1.06	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	21
Own Make over Expectation Rk	25	Opp wake over Expectation KK	21
		2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-1.09
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	1.07		
2020 Own Rk	15	2020 Opp Rk	28

#### **Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs**

r tay or rrack.	ng Pata St	Q55
	Davis Mills	Tyrod Taylor
CAY	5.4	5.2
CAY Rk	24	27
2020 CAY Rk		
AYTS Rk	32	13
2020 AYTS Rk		
AGG Rk	24	9
2020 AGG Rk		
COMP%	66.8	60.7
xCOMP%	66.3	65.3
xCOMP% Rk	11	19
2020 xCOMP% Rk		
CPOE%	0.5	-4.6
CPOE Rk	13	33
2020 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**

QDTI	QD I lessure								
	Davis Mills	Tyrod Taylor							
Pressure %	30.6	43.3							
Pressure Rk	28	2							
Sack %	7.1	7.3							
Sack Rk	12	9							
Pressure Accuracy %	61.7	64.6							
Pressure Accuracy Rk	24	14							
Rating when Pressured	60.5	48.4							
Pressured Rating Rk	29	34							
Clean Accuracy %	78.2	72.2							
Clean Accuracy Rk	21	35							
Rating when Clean	98.1	93							
Clean Rating Rk	18	26							
Time to Throw	2.67	2.78							
Time to Throw Rk	31	20							

#### **Offensive Metrics**

EPA/Pass	-0.14
EPA/Pass Rk	27
EPA/Rush	-0.15
EPA/Rush Rk	30
On-Target Catch %	92.8%
On-Target Catch Rk	6
Drop%	3.0%
Drop Rk	1
YAC/Att	2.0
YAC/Att Rk	26
Rush Broken Tackle %	11.2%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	25
Rush 1st Down %	18.3%
Rush 1st Down Rk	32



#### Texans Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Davis Mills	0.05 (#2)	-0.15 (#3)	-0.16 (#3)	-0.06 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.16 (#3)	0.01 (#3)
	Tyrod Taylor	0.05 (#3)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.33 (#3)	-0.25 (#3)	-0.07 (#2)	0.13 (#2)
2020	Deshaun Watson	0.42 (#1)	0.18 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.18 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.35 (#1)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Davis Mills	-0.68 (#3)	-0.06 (#2)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.19 (#3)	-0.36 (#3)	-0.24 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)
	Tyrod Taylor	-0.52 (#2)	-0.35 (#3)	-0.47 (#3)	0.09 (#2)	0.16 (#1)	-0.34 (#3)	-0.45 (#3)
2020	Deshaun Watson	-0.28 (#1)	0.22 (#1)	0.21 (#1)	0.22 (#1)	0.15 (#2)	0.20 (#1)	0.24 (#1)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range or concage a name (or and one or quantity)											
Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage		
2021	Davis Mills	77% (#2)	83% (#2)	57% (#2)	55% (#2)	74% (#2)	79% (#2)	77% (#2)	72% (#1)	74% (#2)		
	Tyrod Taylor	72% (#3)	73% (#3)	55% (#3)	42% (#3)	61% (#3)	77% (#3)	45% (#3)	67% (#3)	73% (#3)		
2020	Deshaun Watson	81% (#1)	86% (#1)	76% (#1)	59% (#1)	78% (#1)	82% (#1)	78% (#1)	71% (#2)	84% (#1)		

#### Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.20 (#2)	-0.20 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.20 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.20 (#2)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.18 (#2)	-0.47 (#1)	0.14 (#1)
2020	-0.10 (#1)	-0.18 (#1)	-0.09 (#1)	-0.26 (#2)	0.07 (#1)	-0.12 (#1)	-0.15 (#1)	-0.12 (#1)	-0.52 (#2)	-0.52 (#2)

#### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	32	30	28	32	29	26	26	31	31	21
2020	19	4	2	25	10	18	21	29	29	27

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	17	21	16	7	12	7	14	1	28
2020	32	26	31	28	31	32	32	1	1

#### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	29	31	6	24	31	27	4	1	25
2020	4	18	22	19	8	2	24	27	1

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Frank Reich (4 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Marcus Brady (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator:** Gus Bradley (LV DC) (new)

Hard

### **Indianapolis Colts**

2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

#1

#### **Past Records**

2021: 9-8 2020: 11-5 2019: 7-9



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Carson Wentz (QB)	Commande
Eric Fisher (LT)	TBD
T.Y. Hilton (WR)	TBD
Mark Glowinski (RG)	Giants
Xavier Rhodes (CB)	TBD
Al-Quadin Muhammad (E	Bears
Sam Tevi (LT)	TBD
Chris Reed (LG)	Vikings
T.J. Carrie (CB)	TBD
Marlon Mack (RB)	Texans
Rock Ya-Sin (CB)	Raiders
George Odum (S)	49ers
Kemoko Turay (IDL)	49ers
Zach Pascal (WR)	Eagles
Isaac Rochell (IDL)	Browns
Matthew Adams (LB)	Bears
Taylor Stallworth (IDL)	Chiefs
Andrew Sendejo (S)	TBD
Julie'n Davennort (LT)	Bears

Sam Tevi (LT)	TBD
Chris Reed (LG)	Vikings
T.J. Carrie (CB)	TBD
Marlon Mack (RB)	Texans
Rock Ya-Sin (CB)	Raiders
George Odum (S)	49ers
Kemoko Turay (IDL)	49ers
Zach Pascal (WR)	Eagles
Isaac Rochell (IDL)	Browns
Matthew Adams (LB)	Bears
Taylor Stallworth (IDL)	Chiefs
Andrew Sendejo (S)	TBD
Julie'n Davenport (LT)	Bears

Average	# Games	# Games	
Line	Favored	Underdog	
-2.2	9	5	

#### 2022 Indianapolis Colts Overview

Chris Ballard has a conundrum. He knows that in order to win in the NFL, like really win it all, he needs a franchise quarterback.

When he took over the Colts as general manager in 2017 after being promoted to the role from Kansas City Chiefs director of football operations, Ballard had the biggest part solved as a GM.

He had Andrew Luck. Luck was drafted by the Colts first overall in the 2012 draft. He earned a second contract in 2016, one that paid him \$123 million over five years.

Reich had a franchise quarterback and wouldn't need to even worry about a new contract until 2020 at the earliest, as Luck was signed thru 2021.

Ballard was hired on January 29th, 2017 during the 2016 playoffs. Close to that same time, Andrew Luck had shoulder surgery to repair a torn labrum in his throwing shoulder that he'd been playing with since Week 3 of the 2015 season.

The expectation was Luck would be ready for the 2017 season. But between the surgery and the rehab, something was botched. Luck admitted mistakes were made. While the team kept hope alive that he would play in 2017, Jacoby Brissett started for the Colts and Luck missed the entire season.

Then head coach Chuck Pagano went 4-12, was fired, and Ballard replaced him with Frank Reich, Reich got Luck back for the 2018 season. The Colts made the playoffs, won a game, lost a game, and had plans to take the next step in 2019 with Reich and Luck together for a second straight season.

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Matt Ryan (QB)	Trade
Yannick Ngakoue (EDGE)	Trade
Stephon Gilmore (CB)	\$10
Brandon Facyson (CB)	\$3.79
Nick Foles (QB)	\$3.10
Rodney McLeod (S)	\$1.8
Dennis Kelly (RT)	\$1.3
Armani Watts (S)	\$1.2
Brandon King (LB)	\$1.2
Phillip Lindsay (RB)	\$1.10

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	53	WR - Alec Pierce (Cincinnati)
	73	TE - Jelani Woods (Virginia)
3 //		OT - Bernhard Raimann (Central Michigan)
	96	S - Nick Cross (Maryland)
5	159	DT - Eric Johnson (Missouri State)
6	192	TE - Andrew Ogletree (Youngstown State)
0	216	DT - Curtis Brooks (Cincinnati)
7	239	S - Rodney Thomas II (Yale)

#### (cont'd - see IND2)



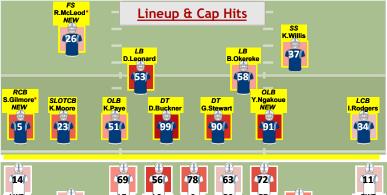
2022 Unit Spending

#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	15	\$108.16M	3
QB	12	\$22.87M	9
OL		\$49.59M	4
RB	10	\$12.05M	17
WR	31	\$13.19M	16
TE	15	\$10.46M	9
All DEF		\$109.12M	12
DL	7	\$55.59M	11
LB	6	\$22.45M	12
СВ	9	\$25.40M	11
S	32	\$5.69M	28

#### Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proi

Past	a Current Proj
Forecast 2022 Wins	<b>U</b> 9.5
2021 Wins	<b>U</b> 9
Forecast 2021 Wins	<b>U</b> 10
2020 Wins	<b>U</b> 11
2019 Wins	<b>U</b> 7
2018 Wins	<b>U</b> 10
	1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



LWR A.Pierce ROOK	690 560  LT LG M.Pryor NEW	C RG		110 RWR M.Pittman
16 10 WR3 A.Dulin D.Patmon		QB M.Ryan* NEW 28/ PB J.Taylor	* = NEI	2 Cap Dollars 30+ years old W = New to role started < 50% ames last year)

#### IND-2

But on August 24th, in the middle of a Colts home preseason game, news leaked that Andrew Luck was retiring. Reich was stuck, again.

Ballard's first season in Indy in 2017, he thought he'd have Luck locked in as his starting quarterback.

Luck's offseason surgery and botched rehab forced Ballard to go with backup Brissett at the last second.

Ballard's third season in Indy in 2019, he again thought he'd have Luck as his starting quarterback.

Luck's late-August retirement once again forced Ballard to go with Brissett at the last second.

The team went 7-9 and missed the playoffs.

Heading into 2020, Ballard convinced Philip Rivers to sign in Indy as a free agent. Rivers delivered well enough to make the playoffs, but the Colts lost in the Wild Card round, and Rivers retired.

Once again without a veteran starting quarterback, but a team he knew was just in the playoffs, Ballard traded for Carson Wentz. With the veteran starter, the Colts still had a winning record at 9-8, but it wasn't good enough to make the playoffs. The team was quickly done with Carson Wentz. They shipped him to DC and traded with the Falcons for **Matt Ryan**.

Some critics have (in my opinion) wrongfully argued that Ballard should have just started over with a young quarterback.

Ballard took office in 2017. His franchise quarterback was Andrew Luck. The single year Luck was healthy, Indy went to the playoffs and won a game. Luck retired out of the blue days before the 2019 season, so there was no drafting a quarterback in August. The only possibility would have been in the 2020 draft.

Joe Burrow was going first overall. Tua Tagovailoa and Justin Herbert would be high draft selections and went fifth and sixth. The Colts didn't pick until 13th. Jordan Love would be available, as would Jalen Hurts.

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Carson Wentz	50% 7.0 92.8	45% 6.7 90.0	34% 7.3 100.4	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	48%	48%	72%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rat YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

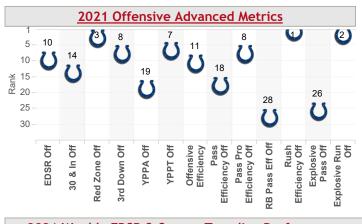
	2021 Rushing Performance					
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn			
IND	49% 5.5	51% 5.0	58% 4.3	Success Rate YPC		
Run Rate	52%	52%	28%			
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC		
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%			

Perhaps if Ballard didn't find a Pro Bowl pocket passing quarterback who played for Frank Reich previously, he would have drafted one of those passers in 2020.

But the team went to the playoffs that year, so Ballard was justified thinking his team had a playoff-ready roster. The lone mistake was going after Carson Wentz.

So here we are.

Chris Ballard is hoping that 37-year-old Matt Ryan will be his franchise quarterback.



#### 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 10 15 <u>ن</u> 20 25 30 Pass Efficiency Def Pass Pro Efficieincy Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def **EDSR Del** 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Red Zone Der **Explosive**

#### 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 2 5 9 10 11 12 16 17 W NE W L L ARI LV JAX w w w W SEALAR TEN MIA BALHOU SF тв нои TENNYJ JAX BUF A 6 Н Η A -9 Α Α Н A 12 Н Н Н Α Н Н Н A -15 -3 -7 10 10 28 6 -12 -3 -6 15 26 31 -3 24 25 31 30 31 23 31 22 16 16 27 45 41 31 27 20 11 25 17 31 3 18 34 30 17 15 38 0 16 23 26

RESULT OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

WFFK

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

#### 2021 Close Game Records

All 2019 Wins: **9**FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-3**FG Games Win %: **0% (#25)**FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **0% (#26)** 

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-5 1 Score Games Win %: 29% (#27) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 22% (#27)

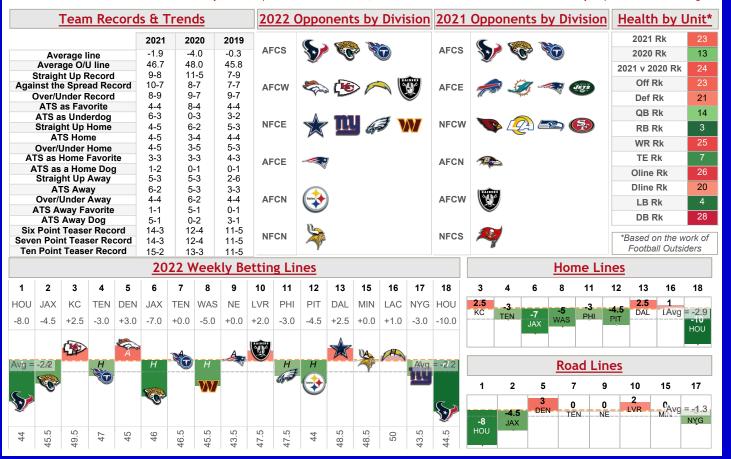
2021 Critical/Game- Deciding Stats				
TO Margin	+14			
TO Given	19			
INT Given	8			
FUM Given	11			
TO Taken	33			
INT Taken	19			
FUM Taken	14			
Sack Margin	+1			
Sacks	33			
Sacks Allow	32			
Return TD Margin	+0			
Ret TDs	0			
Ret TDs Allow	0			
Penalty Margin	+33			
Penalties	76			
Opponent Penalties	109			

(cont'd - see IND-3)



2022 vs 2021 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							Rush OFF Blend Rk
28 30 32 23 22 21 32 32							32

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







Frank Reich has yet to have the same starting quarterback in back-to-back years as head coach.

2022: Matt Ryan 2021: Carson Wentz 2020: Philip Rivers 2019: Jacoby Brissett 2018: Andrew Luck

Reich's record despite the QB movement: 37-28 (57%), two trips to the playoffs, and just one losing season (7-9).

I'd say that's pretty damn good.

The first place you have to start when projecting how good a team will be in an upcoming season is how efficient is their passing offense going to be.

For most teams, that's 100% contingent on the quarterback. But Reich, as we'll discuss shortly, knows how to get the most out of his quarterback.

With the quarterback changing every year in Indianapolis, let's start by analyzing what Reich did with Carson Wentz last season. Along the way, we'll discuss offensive ideology and ultimately, how we see Matt Ryan fitting into this offense in 2022.

In last year's book previewing the Colts season, I knew Indianapolis would need to get more out of Carson Wentz on early downs, particularly in the first half. But I was worried it just wouldn't happen, that the Wentz would deliver a far worse performance than Philip Rivers did the prior year.

I had two predictions as to what Reich would be able to do in order to help Wentz efficiently pass the ball on early downs:

"First, the Colts will protect him better. Second, the Colts will lower Wentz's aDOT. Reducing the target depth should help increase accuracy while reducing pressure, two things Wentz is sorely in need of improving."

Reich was able to accomplish both goals in 2021.

Wentz's splits in early down pressure rate in the first half of games:

2020: 33% 2021: 29%

Wentz's early down aDOT in the first half of games:

2020: 7.9 air vards 2021: 6.7 air yards

This aDOT in 2020 ranked ninth highest in the NFL. But in 2021, Reich helped to lower it to a below-average 6.7 yards.

And as I predicted last summer, the approach helped Wentz improve his accuracy from 84% in 2020 to 90% in 2021.

That was a shift from DEAD LAST in the NFL (30th) in 2020 up to 14th on these early down passes in 2021.

I also believed that Reich would need to get more efficiency out of Wentz's seam passes in 2021, because he passes there at a way above average rate in his offense and Wentz did not with the Eagles in 2020.

As mentioned in the book last summer:

"The Eagles offense in both 2020 and 2019 didn't have Wentz attack the seams nearly as much as Reich's offenses have.

(cont'd - see IND-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 prep to prep 0

Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank Negated Bye Rank Rank Rank 24 30 18 27

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- The Colts were tied at the top of the league with a +14-turnover margin. Likely unsustainable in 2022, the defense had the fourth-highest interception total and second-highest fumble total, recovering 3.1 fumbles over expectation. Both totals could see regression. The Colts were also very fortunate in penalty margin, finishing second in penalty differential which led to the finishing third in penalty EPA on defense and ninth in penalty EPA on offense.
- The Colts are starting the fifth straight season with a new starting quarterback. Tailoring the offense around Matt Ryan and the defense adjusting to Gus Bradley's system could cause the Colts some early season struggles. Frank Reich is 0-4 in season openers and 5-9 in September as a head coach and another slow start is in the range of outcomes.
- Having the seventh-worst rest/prep ranking the Colts play a league-leading six games in which the opponent has over 7 days of rest. Also working to the Colts' disadvantage are three short week road games, including two in the final five games.

9.5



#### Why Bet the Over

- Chris Ballard swapped Carson Wentz for Matt Ryan while saving \$3 million in cap space. Although older, Ryan is undoubtedly an upgrade over Wentz as a passer. Wentz has finished second-worst and sixth-worst in CPOE the past two seasons with a -2.0% and -3.6% CPOE while Ryan has finished in the top half of the league with 1.8% and 1.2% CPOE. On passes in which the quarterback was not pressured, Ryan was fourth-best as only 6.3% of passes were incomplete due to an inaccurate pass, whereas Wentz was near the bottom of the league at 12.7%.
- In 2021, the Colts were 2-5 in one-score games, including 0-4 in games decided by a field goal or less and 0-2 in overtime.
   With improved quarterback play and a slight improvement in red zone defense, which allowed touchdowns on 64% of drives, the Colts should expect positive regression in close games.
- Based on win Vegas win totals, the Colts have the third-easiest schedule of opponents. The Colts have the fortune of playing the Broncos and rookie head coach Nathaniel Hackett on a Thursday in Week 5, as rookie head coaches has struggled on short rest Thursday night football games.

Indianapolis Colts Positional Unit Rankings							
Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach							
17	10	2	27	11	20	10	

The Colts' upgrade from **Carson Wentz** to **Matt Ryan** led to an eight spot jump in our rankings, but still wasn't enough to push this unit into the top half of the league on any ballots. When Ryan was kept clean in the pocket, he generated +1 EPA or higher on 27% of his dropbacks, ranked 13th, indicating a strong performance level is still achievable behind a better offensive line.

The Colts' backfield ranked first or second on every ballot. **Jonathan Taylor** is still just 23 years old and this unit will remain near the top as long as he's healthy. With improved depth, Indy could make a better case to overtake Cleveland for the top spot.

Votes for the Colts pass-catchers ranged from 21st to 30th. **Michael Pittman** is a capable No. 1 weapon, but someone must step up behind him for this unit to reach another level. There's a lot of pressure on rookie **Alec Pierce** to produce immediately.

Colts running backs were contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage on 49% of carries, ranked 27th. If the offensive line can more efficiently block for Taylor, Indy's run game could reach a truly elite level. Votes for the unit ranged from fourth to 17th.

Among 140 players with at least 250 pass-rush snaps, the Colts did not have a single player rank among the top 60 in pressure rate a season ago. **Yannick Ngakoue**, who ranked 33rd, will be a helpful addition, but **Kwity Paye** (ranked 64th) must make strides in his second year for this unit to ascend.

Indy overhauled the secondary with **Brandon Facyson** and **Stephon Gilmore** likely stepping into the starting outside cornerback roles. Last year's starting outside corners **Isaiah Rodgers** and **Xavier Rhodes** combined to allow 8.1 yards per target — Facyson and Gllmore combined to allow 6.9. Frank Reich probably shouldn't be trusted on personnel decisions, as evidenced by him pushing for the addition of Wentz, but we still have faith in his coaching ability. Reich ranked no worse than 12th on any ballot.

#### <u>IND-4</u>

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:

2020 Wentz: 47% success, 5.8 YPA, -0.08 EPA/att, 69% catchable rate 2020 Rivers: 59% success, 8.2 YPA, 0.32 EPA/att, 85% catchable rate

It's a huge efficiency gap. Wentz had been productive on these passes in the past. Is this something that Reich can fix?"

Reich was able to get that improvement out of Wentz in 2021. Look at the difference:

2020 Wentz: -0.08 EPA/att, 5.8 YPA, 47% success, 69% catchable rate 2021 Wentz: 0.13 EPA/att, 7.0 YPA, 50% success, 83% catchable rate

So there are two boxes checked

#### IND-5

Reich lowered Wentz's aDOT on early downs, lowered the percentage of passes he threw under pressure, and improved his targeting of the seams in a defense

But one of the biggest questions I had in last year's book related to play-action:

"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?"

The answer with Reich, again, was yes, he was able to solve this problem Wentz was having. On early downs, in the first three quarters:

2020 Wentz with play-action -0.33 EPA/att, 39% success, 6.3 YPA 2021 Wentz with play-action: 0.11 EPA/att, 51% success, 8.2 YPA

Once again, Reich came to the rescue.

However, Reich still wasn't able to help Wentz on dropbacks without play-action.

2020 Wentz without play-action: -0.14 EPA/att, 42% success, 5.7 YPA 2021 Wentz without play-action: -0.17 EPA/att, 40% success, 5.5 YPA

That's not the only thing Reich couldn't fix as it relates to Carson Wentz.

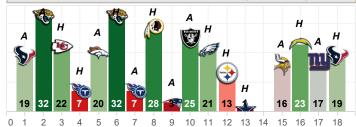
Reich couldn't fix Wentz's accuracy problems.

Out of 37 quarterbacks with over 150 attempts in 2020, Carson Wentz ranked 37th in accuracy.

#### Dead last.

#### (cont'd - see IND-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



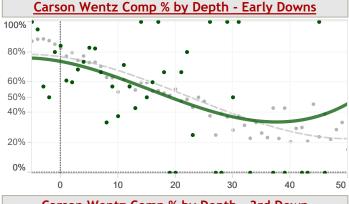
#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

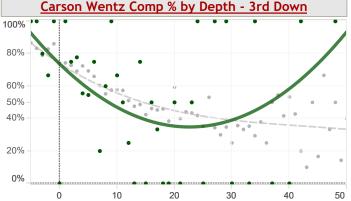


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

		Usage R	ate by S	<u>Score</u>		
(	J	Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
	Jonathan Taylor	2%	5%	64%	9%	20%
	Michael Pittman			80%		20%
I	Nyheim Hines		14%	55%	14%	16%
RUSH	Zach Pascal					100%
œ	Marlon Mack		7%	43%	36%	14%
	Ashton Dulin			100%		
	Total	1%	7%	61%	11%	19%
	Jonathan Taylor	8%	10%	63%	17%	2%
	Michael Pittman	5%	11%	64%	9%	10%
	Nyheim Hines	4%	23%	53%	9%	12%
	Zach Pascal	3%	13%	62%	9%	13%
	Mo Alie-Cox	4%	16%	60%	11%	9%
PASS	Jack Doyle		12%	60%	16%	12%
A	T.Y. Hilton	8%		58%	17%	17%
	Marlon Mack			80%	20%	
	Ashton Dulin		5%	86%	10%	
	Parris Campbell	10%	15%	70%	5%	
	Keke Coutee			100%		
	Total	5%	12%	63%	11%	9%

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Pittman Jonathan Taylor Parris Campbell Keke Coutee Mo Alie-Cox Doyle Ashton Dulir Hilton Marlon [ Nyheim Michael Zach Jack **PASS** 27% RUSH 0% 7% 78% ALL





#### Successful Play Rate

#### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



5.1, 0.32

#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	ALL
PASS	43%, 0.03 (415)	46%, -0.13 (84)	50%, -0.27 (32)	45%, 0.22 (11)	22%, -0.45 (9)	100%, 1.35 (1)	44%, -0.01 (552)
RUSH	52%, 0.00 (255)	50%, 0.02 (159)	64%, 0.75 (33)	54%, 0.08 (46)		50%, -0.32 (4)	52%, 0.06 (498)
All	47%, 0.02 (670)	49%, -0.03 (243)	57%, 0.25 (65)	53%, 0.11 (57)	22%, -0.45 (9)	60%, 0.02 (5)	48%, 0.02 (1,050)

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						
WR	Michael Pittman Jr.	62% (102) 8.9, 0.48	55% (20) 7.5, 0.00	33% (6) 5.0, -0.27	0% (1) 0.0, -3.05	59% (129) 8.4, 0.34						
	Zach Pascal	37% (57) 5.5, -0.03	43% (7) 7.4, -0.62	40% (5) 7.0, -0.79		38% (69) 5.8, -0.14						
	T.Y. Hilton	52% (31) 8.4, 0.29	75% (4) 15.8, 1.56	100% (2) 3.5, 0.51		57% (37) 8.9, 0.44						
TE	Mo Alie-Cox	41% (29) 7.7, 0.20	54% (13) 7.2, 0.28	0% (2) 0.0, -2.32		43% (44) 7.2, 0.11						
	Jack Doyle	55% (29) 7.0, 0.16	50% (10) 7.5, 0.20	100% (2) 11.5, 0.99		56% (41) 7.4, 0.21						
RB	Nyheim Hines	36% (44) 4.9, -0.19	33% (3) 3.3, -0.43	75% (8) 7.8, 0.43	0% (2) 1.5, -0.87	40% (57) 5.1, -0.14						
	Jonathan Taylor	38% (37) 7.0, 0.07	63% (8) 6.9, 0.09	33% (6) 5.3, 0.02	0% (1) 3.0, -0.42	40% (52) 6.7, 0.06						

#### **Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings** (Leaderboard) 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 4 Grp Total 56% (160) 51% (121) 65% (20) 67% (3) 55% (304) Taylor Jonathan 4.8, 0.00 4.8, 0.01 14.4, 0.86 1.3, 0.05 5.4, 0.06 Hines 50% (36) 67% (9) 48% (54) 4.8, 0.06 9.2, 0.61 5.0, 0.06 Nyheim Wentz 50% (28) 73% (11) 50% (4) 56% (43)

4.5, 0.53

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

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

4.4, 0.91

5.5, 0.06

38% (16)

3.9, -0.11

Carson

Mack

Marlon

_	sing by		ing by	Throw	/ Types	oes QB Drop Types		QE	State at	Run Types		
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	52% (353) 6.4, 0.16	3 Step	46% (182) 6.4, 0.08	Planted		% (358) 7, 0.20	Inside Zone	60% (146) 4.4, 0.02
	42% (344)	Curl	66% (68) 7.0, 0.24			0/1 Step	51% (101)	Shuffling	4.	9% (84) 3, -0.23	Outside	53% (120)
Zone	7.9, 0.03	Drag	53% (36)	Level 2	42% (85) 8.6, 0.15		6.2, 0.12			)% (77) 3, 0.14	Zone	6.9, 0.08
			8.2, 0.28		44% (32)	5 Step	49% (82) 8.7, 0.29		Play Actio	nn e	Stretch	40% (40) 3.7, -0.08
Man	44% (141) 5.4, -0.05	Out	63% (35) 7.3, 0.30	Level 3	16.6, 0.71	7 Step	56% (39) 13.0, 0.58		Play Action No P/A		Power	26% (19) 3.1, -0.25
	,	Dig	65% (26)	Sidearm	29% (17) 2.9, -0.33	Designed	55% (31)	Under Center	49% (78) 10.6, 0.26	33% (6) 3.4, -1.09		59% (17)
	45% (36)	Dig	8.5, 0.50		2.9, -0.55	Rollout Right	6.6, -0.02	Shotgun	54% (104) 7.0, 0.06	40% (364) 6.1, -0.07	Pitch	5.8, 0.28
Other	3.4, -0.22	Slant	32% (25) 4.2, -0.25	Shovel	20% (15) 1.1, -0.84	Basic Screen	29% (28) 6.1, 0.00	ALL	52% (182) 8.5, 0.15	40% (370) 6.1, -0.09	Lead	0% (1) 0.0, -0.36

#### IND-6

Out of 36 quarterbacks with over 150 attempts last year, Carson Wentz ranked 33rd in accuracy.

Last two years combined?

Wentz ranked dead last in accuracy over the last two years combined (min 600 att).

What were the biggest problems with Carson Wentz in 2021? Aside from his tendencies to make the dumbest plays in the most important moments, his accuracy and his inability to operate without play-action.

So how does 2022's Colts quarterback Matt Ryan compare?

Here are the rankings in accuracy on non-play-action passes out of 33 quarterbacks with 400+ attempts the last two years:

Seventh – Matt Ryan 32nd – Carson Wentz

Not only is Matt Ryan more accurate in general, he's much more accurate when throwing deep.

Look at the comparison on passes thrown 10+ yards downfield:

Third – Matt Ryan 31st – Carson Wentz





On these passes:

Matt Ryan throwing 10+ yards: 0.49 EPA/att, 56% success, 11.6 YPA, 85% accuracy Carson Wentz throwing 10+ yards: 0.29 EPA/att, 46% success, 9.9 YPA, 74% accuracy

It's not even close.

How does this play into 2022?

The Colts' first half explosive play rate was first in the NFL in 2020. But that dropped to 28th in 2021 with Wentz under center.

If Ryan can deliver substantially better accuracy and efficiency on passes downfield, it's logical to believe the Colts offense can get substantially more explosive as compared to last year.

So if Ryan is significantly more accurate, that solves one problem with Wentz that Reich was unable to work around to improve.

The other problem? Performance without play-action. Is Ryan better than Wentz without play-action?

The last two years, splits when not using play-action on early downs in the first three quarters, out of 33 quarterbacks:

Matt Ryan: -0.01 EPA/att (20th), 45% success (20th), 6.4 YPA (21st) Carson Wentz: -0.16 PA/att (28th), 41% success (25th), 5.6 YPA (32nd)

Ryan absolutely has been much better than Wentz, but he's still not above average.

Looking at the Colts' success in 2021, it was clear the games they fared well in the EDSR department, they won. The games they did not, they lost. Refer to the bottom-left corner of the second page of this chapter for the visual evidence. When the Colts lost the EDSR battle, they went 1-6. When they won the EDSR battle, they went 8-2.

They absolutely will need Ryan to be successful on early downs whether throwing short or deep, with or without play-action.

Two things that were exceedingly impressive last season for the Colts' young stars:

#### Jonathan Taylor and Michael Pittman.

The reason for Taylor's outstanding season wasn't so much a massive improvement on his end. It was simply that he continued being extremely efficient despite a major increase in workload.

This helped the Colts' run game in general. In 2020, the Colts had Jordan Wilkins and Nyheim Hines taking up a lot of rushing attempts and

(cont'd - see IND-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Indianapolis Colts 2021 Draft Class

Without a first-round pick, which was traded to the Eagles for **Carson Wentz**, expectations were limited for this draft class. GM Chris Ballard managed to recoup some draft capital by trading down in the second round, but a trade up in the third round negated some of that added value.

**Alec Pierce** (second round) has good size at wide receiver, but his skill set is somewhat redundant with **Michael Pittman Jr**. providing similar traits. Like Pittman, Pierce can win downfield with a combination of size and speed, but isn't much of a playmaker after the catch. Based on route-adjusted data, Pierce produced 17% fewer yards after catch than expected, which ranked 27th in the AAC.

**Jelani Woods** (third round) is a developmental tight end, but has an exciting blend of size and athleticism. He could emerge as a red zone weapon as a rookie due to his 6-foot-7 frame. At Virginia last season, Woods's most common route was the seam (25%) but he was targeted on just 6% of those routes.

Woods will be joined on the tight end depth chart by the 6-foot-7 Andrew Ogletree (sixth round). Clearly Indy wanted to add some size to the position.

The Colts may have landed their left tackle of the future in **Bernhard Raimann** (third round). Raimann is a converted tight end who has just 18 career starts on the offensive line. Raimann will compete for the starting job immediately, but given his inexperience, the Colts are likely prepared for the possibility he needs some time before he's ready.

**Nick Cross** (third round) played a versatile role at safety for Maryland, and will provide depth in the Colts secondary. **Julian Blackmon** missed significant time with injuries last year and **Khari Willis** retired, so improving depth at the position was an offseason priority.

Eric Johnson (fifth round) is a bit of a mystery as a prospect, but he generated some offseason buzz with a decent showing at the Senior Bowl and strong workout numbers. The defensive tackle is a high-end athlete, but managed just 5.5 career sacks in five seasons at the FCS level. As an undersized interior lineman, Johnson needs to become more productive as a pass-rusher, and the Colts will attempt to develop him in that area. Curtis Brooks (sixth round) is another undersized but athletic interior pass-rusher, who will compete with Johnson for reps as a backup. Brooks was considerably more productive as a pass-rusher than Johnson in college, generating a 12.9% pressure rate from the interior last season at Cincinnati, with 7.5 sacks.

Considering the limited resources Ballard had to work with entering the draft, this was a strong haul for the Colts. The impact of this class may not be felt immediately, as Woods and Raimann may need time to develop, but Indy landed multiple prospects with starter potential and upgraded the depth at some key positions on Day 3.



#### Indianapolis Colts 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Colts closed 2021 24th in the league in completion rate (62.2%), 20th in yards per pass attempt (6.9 Y/A), and 26th in yardage through the air (3,361 yards). A solid 5.2% touchdown rate (12th) and strong interception rate (1.5%) placed the Colts a respectable 14th in expected points added via their passing offense (83.0 EPA), but the lack of efficiency was not enough for the team to bring back **Carson Wentz** for another season. Moving on, the team traded for veteran **Matt Ryan**. Ryan is at the tail end of his career and is not the long-term answer for the franchise, but Ryan was a better player in 2021 than Wentz was in a far worse climate to bridge the gap to the next quarterback, which will not come in this draft. Ryan will turn 37 years old in May with dead cap hits of \$24.7 million and \$35.2 million over the remainder of his deal

	2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk												
Carson Wentz	320	513	62%	3,553	6.9	26	7	32	94	18		
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6			

	2021 Advanced Passing Table												
QB	Success %	EDSR Passing Success %	20+ Yd Pass Gains	20+ Yd Pass %	30+ Yd Pass Gains	30+ Yd Pass %	Avg. Air Yds per Comp	Avg. YAC per Comp	20+ Air Yd Comp	20+ Air Yd %			
Carson Wentz	44%	48%	42	8.0%	18	4.0%	5.9	5.1					
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3					

# Target Distribution Foliation Distribution Foliation Distribution Foliation Postive Play % Play % Carson Wentz 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%	0.0%
3, 4, 5	0.0%	5.9%	2.4%	0.0%	2.9%
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
10 - 14	2.1%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%
Total	1.8%	1.2%	0.7%	0.0%	1.3%

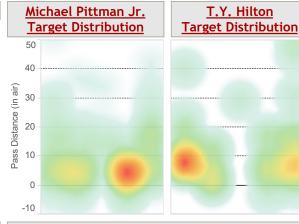
3rd Down I	3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis											
QB	Avg. Avg. Air Yards Past Sticks Rate  Wentz 7.6 9.5 1.9 63%											
Carson Wentz	7.6	9.5	1.9	63%	15							
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%								

	Air Yds vs YA									
d	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk							
	54%	46%	20							
	53%	47%								

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Indianapolis wideouts ranked 27th in collective catches (10.4) and yards (128.5) in 2021. Michael Pittman more than doubled his rookie season production in 2021, catching 88–of-129 targets for 1,082 yards and six touchdowns. Pittman had 129 targets in his second season, 60 more than any other Colts player. That player was Zach Pascal, who is no longer with the team, while veteran T.Y. Hilton still remains a free agent. The Colts only added Alec Pierce in the second round of the draft as a tangible option. The Colts' TEs were about as productive as the WRs in 2021, producing 3.8 receptions (27th) and 42.6 yards per game (21st). With Jack Doyle retired, Mo Alie-Cox has a runway to build on career-highs in 2022.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Michael Pittman	129	68%	8.4	99.7	59%	26	32	88	20	6
Zach Pascal	69	55%	5.6	79.6	38%	133	134	77	86	3
Nyheim Hines	57	70%	5.3	88.3	42%	127	91	127	56	1
Jonathan Taylor	52	75%	6.8	105.6	40%	129	121	45	119	2



#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The run game was the strength of this offense, as the Colts were second in the NFL in expected points added via rushing in 2021 (60.0 EPA). **Jonathan Taylor** paced all running backs in 2021, accruing 2,171 yards and 20 touchdowns, both of which led the league. He did that behind one of the most oft-injured offensive lines in the NFL. The most often used offensive line for the Colts in 2021 played just 190 snaps together, which was just 18.1% of the season total. Taylor is arguably the best running back in the league already, but the depth behind him is thin. **Nyheim Hines** played just 32% of the offensive snaps (matching a career-low) with Taylor ascending and expanding his role into the passing game. Hines matched a career-low with 96 touches, but his 6.1 yards per touch were a career-high.

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	332	5.5	55%	22	22	86	4	54%	19	18
Carson Wentz	57	3.8	49%	52	91	1	85	38%	85	1
Nyheim Hines	56	4.9	48%	58	78	82	40	46%	66	2

# Yards per Carry by Direction 6.8 5.5 5.1 3.9 4.5 6.8 8.2 LT LG C RG RT



#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### **Adding Matt Ryan**

Ryan will turn 37 this May and is coming off the worst fantasy season of his career, finishing as the QB30 in points per game (13.1). Even with the lack of production for counting fantasy stats, Ryan did have some strong areas of solid football play, especially when you factor in the context of his offensive situation throwing to a rookie tight end, losing Calvin Ridley, and playing behind an offensive line that ranked 26th in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate and was 31st in pass blocking grade per Pro Football Focus. Despite those peripheral notes on his situation, Ryan was seventh in on target rate (78.9%) per Sports Info Solutions.

Ryan also played better than Carson Wentz, who was in a more optimal situation on a Colts team that was better than Atlanta in every capacity outside of quarterback play. Ryan posted an expected completion rate of 67.4%, was 1.8% above that expectation, and notched a 47.4% success rate passing. Wentz sported a 66.8% expected completion rate, was -2.0% below that mark, and posted a 46.9% success rate passing.

Ryan was pressured on 39.7% of his dropbacks (sixth) while he came out as the 12th highest graded passer from a clean pocket per Pro Football Focus while Wentz was 26th. Although Ryan is stuck as a QB2 and streamer for fantasy purposes, this is an upgrade for Ryan while the Colts also were able to upgrade from where their quarterback situation was a year ago. An upgrade at quarterback is good for all parties, including **Michael Pittman**.

Pittman more than doubled his rookie season production in 2021, catching 88-of-129 targets for 1,082 yards and six touchdowns. An alpha body type that commanded 60 more targets than the next closest teammate a year ago, Indianapolis added little to threaten his 24.8% target share (ninth among wide receivers), while Pittman was the WR13 in scoring through nine weeks last year was prior to Carson Wentz falling apart.

If Ryan can coax out more passing volume from this offense (Ryan also had just a 2.7% scramble rate compared to a 4.8% rate for Wentz), Pittman can threaten to be a WR1 this season for fantasy. This offense will still be run through **Jonathan Taylor** firsthand, however. Taylor paced the position in scoring in 2021, accruing 2,171 yards and 20 touchdowns, both of which led the league. Taylor also tacked on 40 receptions (averaging 9.0 yards per catch), giving him 76 catches through two NFL seasons after 42 receptions in college. Taylor ran a pass route on 50.8% of the Indy dropbacks this season, which was fifth in the league among running backs.

The last time that the RB1 repeated as the RB1 the following season was Priest Holmes in 2002-2003, but Taylor will enter next season 23 years old, has elite pedigree in collegiate production, and athleticism while his team is built around him being the catalyst for the offense. Even if he does not repeat as the top scorer at his position, Taylor checks every requisite box paired with a soft schedule.

Ind	ianapolis Colts	Defense: Num	ber of DBs vs	Indianapolis Colts Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel								
Personnel	nnel 4 5 6 Grand Total			0/ 51		50						
1-1 [3WR]	9 plays (2%) 449 plays (97%) 5 plays (1%) 463 plays (100%) Success: 33% Success: 50% Success: 20% Success: 49%			%	Rk	40-						
	EPA: -0.12	EPA: 0.01	EPA: -1.07	EPA: -0.01	Base	22%	22					
1-2 [2WR]	49 plays <i>(51%)</i> Success: 63%	47 plays (49%) Success: 51%		96 plays (100%) Success: 57%	Nickel	77%	3	30 -				
	EPA: 0.18	EPA: -0.17		EPA: 0.01	Dime+	1%	30					
2-1 [2WR]	22 plays (79%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.30	6 plays <i>(21%)</i> Success: 67% EPA: -0.33		28 plays (100%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.17	Rush 3	4%	12	20 -				
					Rush 4	76%	6	10 -				
1-3 [1WR]	7 plays (64%) Success: 43% EPA: 0.59	4 plays (36%) Success: 50% EPA: -1.68		11 plays (100%) Success: 45% EPA: -0.23	Rush 5	16%	27	10				
	87 plays (15%)	506 plays (85%)	5 plays (1%)	598 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	4%	17	0 –				
Grand Total	Success: 56% EPA: 0.22	Success: 50% EPA: -0.03	Success: 20% EPA: -1.07	Success: 51% EPA: 0.00	Blitz%	20%	28	-10				

#### **Defensive Outlook**

Few players are more of a force on the interior than **DeForest Buckner**. In his second year with the Colts, Bucker ranked 12th among interior defenders in pressure rate. Buckner has been one of the league's best pass rushing defensive tackles and that has continued in Indianapolis. The Colts had the fourth-best run defense in the league by EPA per rush. **Grover Stewart** was a big piece of that run defense, playing 59% of the defensive snaps.

Kwity Paye, Indianapolis's 2021 first-round pick, didn't completely click in his first NFL season. The rookie pass rush ranked just 62nd in pressure rate among edge rushers last season as he played 59% of the defensive snaps. Yannick Ngakoue was a trade acquisition this offseason and the Colts will hope he can build off his performance from last season. Ngakoue ranked 33rd among edge rushers in pressure rate and had his highest total of quarterback hits and sacks since 2018 and 2017, respectively. Ngakoue will play under Gus Bradley, who was defensive coordinator with the Raiders last season (and Jacksonville's head coach when Ngaokue was drafted).

The Colts drafted **Dayo Odeynnigbo** in the second round of last year's draft as he recovered from an Achilles injury. Odeynnigbo played 16% of the defensive snaps as a rookie but now with a full healthy offseason, Odenynnigbo could be ready to have a bigger impact in Year 2. **Darius Leonard** is one of the most impactful linebackers in the league. Leonard had eight passes defensed and forced eight fumbles in 2021 in a first-team All-Pro season. He also played 91% of the defensive snaps while he missed a game. **Bobby Okereke** played 98% of the snaps while he was all over the field. Okereke took over the role as a tackle monster and had the 19th-lowest average depth of tackle among linebackers. He was also 31st among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap.

Indianapolis played nickel on 77.4% of snaps last season, the third-highest rate in the league, so two linebackers will always be on the field. The Raiders, under Gus Bradley, played dime on 20.5% of snaps, which is significantly more than the Colts (0.6%), but it seems unlikely Indianapolis would take one of those players off the field that often.

At corner, the Colts signed **Stephon Gilmore** to play outside. Gilmore has been great when he's been on the field but injuries have limited to eight games and three starts last season. **Kenny Moore** was 26th among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap as one of the top slot corners in the league. **Isaiah Rodgers** was a sixth-round pick in 2020 and he played 48% of the defensive snaps in Year 2. Rodgers was a more than serviceable outside corner when he was on the field, ranked 53rd among 93 corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap.

The Colts dealt with some injuries at safety last season and will now have to deal with the loss of a retired **Khairi Willis**. Though with injuries, Willis only played 52% of the defensive snaps. **Julian Blackmon** will have a bigger role after he played 35% of the snaps last season. As an added veteran presence, the Colts signed **Rodney McLeod**. McLeod will turn 32 years old in June, but can still be a versatile safety. He played 70% of his snaps as a deep safety for the Eagles last season and he provides way more than what Andrew Sendejo did in a similar role last year. Indianapolis drafted **Nick Cross** in the third round and 2019 fifth-round pick **Marvell Tell** has athletic upside and versatility to fill in as depth at corner or safety.

Play Tendencies				
All Pass %	54%			
All Pass Rk	26			
All Rush %	46%			
All Rush Rk	7			
1 Score Pass %	55%			
1 Score Pass Rk	22			
2020 1 Score Pass %	56%			
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	19			
2021 Pass Increase %	-2%			
Pass Increase Rk	20			
1 Score Rush %	45%			
1 Score Rush Rk	11			
Up Pass %	53%			
Up Pass Rk	19			
Up Rush %	47%			
Up Rush Rk	14			
Down Pass %	57%			
Down Pass Rk	23			
Down Rush %	43%			
Down Rush Rk	10			

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>						
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %	
1st	Short (1-3)	14	50%	50%	43%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	12	33%	67%	75%	
	Long (8-10)	307	50%	50%	52%	
	XL (11+)	12	75%	25%	33%	
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	43	23%	77%	63%	
	Med (4-7)	73	32%	68%	53%	
	Long (8-10)	92	58%	42%	49%	
	XL (11+)	37	81%	19%	16%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	53	47%	53%	60%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	46	85%	15%	37%	
	Long (8-10)	34	94%	6%	21%	
	XL (11+)	22	95%	5%	32%	
4th	Short (1-3)	20	30%	70%	70%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	50%	
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	100%	

Shotgun %				
Shotgun	Under Center			
63%	37%			
NFL	AVG			
65%	35%			
Efficiency				



#### Short Yardage Intelligence:

65%	35%	
Effici	iency	
EPA/ pass: -0.03	EPA/ pass: 0.09	
EPA/ rush: -0.02	EPA/ rush: 0.11	
Success: 41%	Success: 44%	

	<u>2nc</u>	d and Sho	ort Run	
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFI 1D Avg
77%	10	71%	71%	73%

<b>2nd and Short Pass</b>						
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg		
23%	23	29%	57%	46%		

Most Frequent Play							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Play Success %				
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	6	50%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	8	75%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	114	51%		
	XL (11+)	XL (11+)	XL (11+)	PASS	Michael Pittman	2	100%
			Mo Alie-Cox	2	0%		
		RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	2	0%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	30	63%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	39	56%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	25	48%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Zach Pascal	7	14%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jonathan Taylor	22	73%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Michael Pittman	8	75%		
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Michael Pittman	8	13%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Michael Pittman	7	43%		

<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: 35%	Success: 50%	Success: 39%				
	YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.06	YPA: 9.7, EPA: 0.33	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.02				
	Rtg: 93.0	Rtg: 126.0	Rtg: 100.4				
	[Att: 127 - Rate: 23.0%]	[Att: 36 - Rate: 6.5%]	[Att: 163 - Rate: 29.5%]				
Yes	Success: 43%	Success: 52%	Success: 46%				
	YPA: 5.6, EPA: -0.11	YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.10	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.03				
	Rtg: 88.1	Rtg: 97.8	Rtg: 91.8				
	[Att: 243 - Rate: 44.0%]	[Att: 146 - Rate: 26.4%]	[Att: 389 - Rate: 70.5%]				
Total	Success: 40%	Success: 52%	Success: 44%				
	YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.09	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.15	YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.01				
	Rtg: 89.8	Rtg: 103.2	Rtg: 94.3				
	[Att: 370 - Rate: 67.0%]	[Att: 182 - Rate: 33.0%]	[Att: 552 - Rate: 100.0%]				

Weekly Snaps Played										
Wk	Орр	Score	Michael Pittman	Zach Pascal	Jonathan Taylor	Jack Doyle	Mo Alie-Cox	Nyheim Hines	T.Y. Hilton	Ashton Dulin
1	SEA	L 28-16	74	69	42	45	39	34		6
2	LA	W 30-27	60	61	30	50	27	25		26
3	TEN	L 25-16	57	54	29	35	28	34		7
4	MIA	W 27-17	61	58	36	21	49	22		12
5	BAL	L 31-25	61	59	36	50	31	26		23
6	HOU	W 31-3	46	41	31	31	24	11	24	13
7	SF	W 30-18	62	57	47	50	43	19		43
8	TEN	L 34-31	77	75	59	50	39	25	35	29
9	NYJ	W 45-30	53	52	43	42	38	28		23
10	JAC	W 23-17	56	57	54	37	35	18	39	7
11	BUF	W 41-15	52	54	57	51	28	13	28	20
12	TB	L 38-31	65	64	49	42	39	25	42	4
13	HOU	W 31-0	54	54	55	42	31	14	32	22
15	NE	W 27-17	28	34	51	41	40	10	14	28
16	ARI	W 22-16	68		55	2	63	18	47	28
17	LV	L 23-20	56	34	42	22	34	21	37	28
18	JAC	L 26-11	50	49	52	32	22	9	40	10
	Grand	Total	980	872	768	643	610	352	338	329

Personnel Groupings						
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.			
1-1 [3WR]	64%	61%	47%			
1-2 [2WR]	23%	21%	49%			
2-1 [2WR]	6%	7%	57%			
1-3 [1WR]	5%	4%	53%			
Group	ing Te	<u>enden</u>	<u>cies</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. %	Run Succ. % 52%			

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard							
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Michael Pittman	17	3	6	8			
Zach Pascal	13	4	5	4			
Jack Doyle	8	4		4			
Nyheim Hines	5		1	4			
Jonathan Taylor	4		1	3			

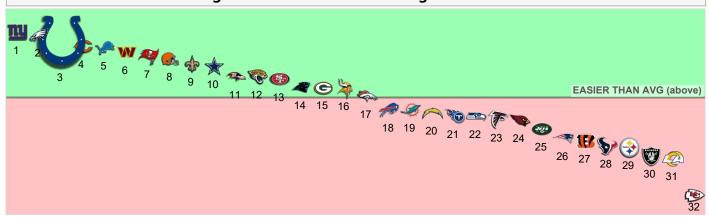
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard							
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Jonathan Taylor	89	30	11	48			
Carson Wentz	9	5	2	2			
Nyheim Hines	5		2	3			
Deon Jackson	3	1		2			
Marlon Mack	2			2			

Early Down Target Rate								
RB	TE	WR						
27%	21%	52%						
23%	21%	56%						
	NFL AVG							
<u>Overall</u>	NFL AVG Target Su	ccess %						
Overall RB		ccess %						
	Target Su							





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



delivering terrible efficiency. In 2021, Reich scrubbed those touches and redistributed them to Taylor. Taylor's stat lines:

2020: 232 att, 0.03 EPA/att, 43% success, 5.0 YPC 2021: 332 att, 0.11 EPA/att, 45% success, 5.5 YPC

The big shift was production against heavy boxes. First, look at Taylor against boxes of 6 defenders or fewer:

2020: 0.16 EPA/att, 54% success, 7.8 YPC (41 att) 2021: 0.09 EPA/att, 41% success, 5.5 YPC (69 att)

Taylor was much, much better in 2020. But now look at 7+ man boxes:

2020: 0.00 EPA/att, 41% success, 4.4 YPC (191 att) 2021: 0.11 EPA/att, 46% success, 5.4 YPC (263 att)

And then there was Michael Pittman. Mr. Fourth Quarter. Look at splits in the first three quarters vs the fourth quarter:

First 3 Quarters: 0.26 EPA/att, 52% success, 7.8 yds/target, 66 receptions on 94 targets, 4 TDs Fourth Quarter: 0.82 EPA/att, 69% success, 10.5 yds/target, 21 catches on 29 targets, 2 TDs

Of the 58 wide receivers with at least 20 targets in the fourth quarter last year, Pittman ranked:

Second in EPA/target Third in success rate Sixth in yards/target

It will be exciting to see him pair with Matt Ryan in 2022.

Overall in 2022, I have the Colts playing the third-easiest schedule in the NFL. Last year, they ended up playing the 10th-easiest schedule, so by my metrics, their schedule gets even easier in 2022 but they simply need to get started faster.

The Colts are 0-8 in Week 1 dating back to 2014, the only team in the NFL to lose 8 straight season-opener games

With Frank Reich as head coach:

Weeks 1-5 = 8-12 (40%) (ninth-fewest wins) Weeks 6+ = 29-16 (64%) (fourth-most wins)

The new quarterbacks every year is likely a key contributing factor to the slow starts, but the Colts absolutely must get off to a faster start in 2022 if they want to make any sort of noise in the postseason, secure a better seed and have an easier path in what is an absolutely brutal AFC.

I actually like the move to land Matt Ryan and believe this team has a tremendous opportunity in 2022. They have a top-10 offensive line, a great run game to lean on, and a top-10 front seven defensively. But they have a very tricky start to the season.

Week 1: Road game in Houston where the whole world will be on Indy (Colts are 0-8 in Week 1 since 2014)

Week 2: Road game in Jacksonville (Colts are 0-6 SU and ATS since 2015)

Week 3: Home opener vs the Chiefs

Week 4: Home vs the Titans (Colts are 0-3 SU & ATS L3 and 1-4 SU & ATS L5 vs. the Titans)

Week 5: Road game in Denver on a short week (Colts are 1-2 SU, 2-1 ATS on short week TNF with Reich)

This is also early in the season, where Reich and his ever-changing quarterbacks tend to struggle.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)						
36. PSM YPA	7.1					
37. PSM Target Depth	6.4					
38. Non-PSM YPA	6					
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	6.9					
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	55%					
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	53%					
42. PSM EPA/att	0.07					
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	-0.11					

<b>Play Action</b>	(Quarters 1-3	3 on Early Downs)
--------------------	---------------	-------------------

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	43%
45. PA Success Rate	54%
46. PA YPA	8.2
47. PA Sack Rate	2.5%
48. PA EPA/att	0.20
49. PA Target Depth	7.2
50. Non-PA Success Rate	46%
51. Non-PA YPA	5.5
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	5.4%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.16
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	18%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	60%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	7.4
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	51%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.5
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	6.1

#### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

12

15

Net FROE Rk	12	defFUM	26
Net FROE	1.4	defFUM Rcvrd	12
offFUM	20	dell-OW RCVId	12
offFUM Rcvrd	10	defFR Rk	6
offFR%	50.0%	defFR%	53.8%
offFR Rk	22		
offFROE	-1.7	defFROE	3.1
offFROE Rk	24	defFROE Rk	4
OHFROE KK	24		

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	0.25	Opp Att	27
Net Over Expectation Rank	13	Opp Makes	22
Own Att	35		
Own Makes	29	Opp FG %	81%
Own FG %	83%	Opp Expected Makes	22.52
Own Expected Makes	29.28	Opp Make Over Expectation	-0.52
Own Make over Expectation	-0.28	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	25
Own Make over Expectation Rk	21		
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	0.10	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	0.19
2020 Own Rk	17	2020 Opp Rk	22

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

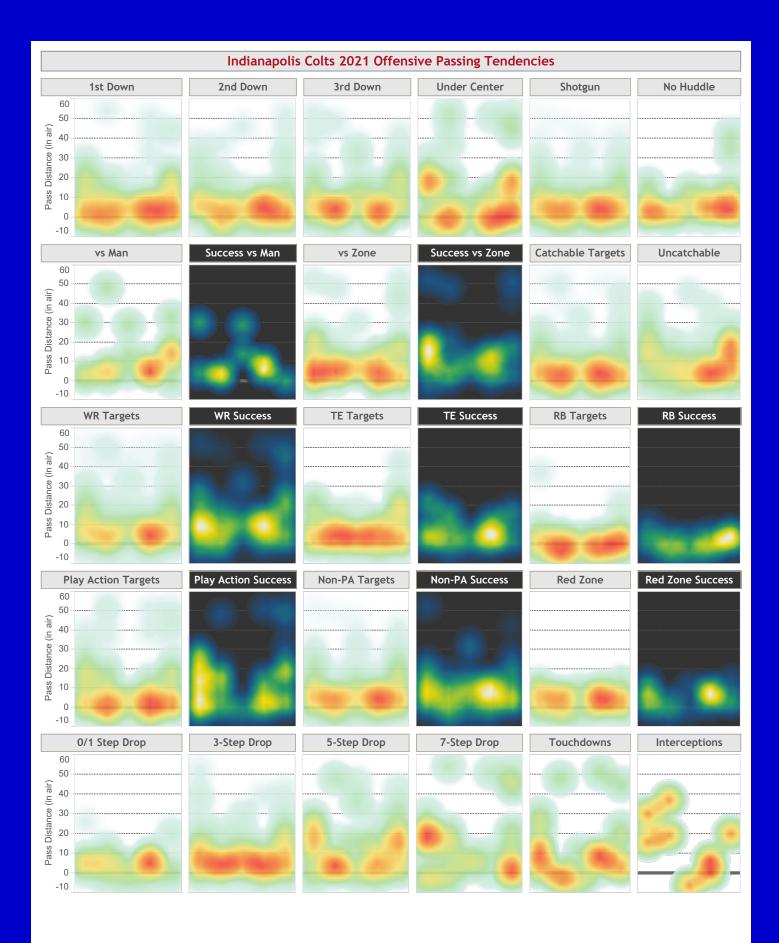
33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box 34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box

35. Total Defensive Efficiency

_	-	<b>B</b>	
- (1	ĸ	Pressu	ra

#### **Offensive Metrics**

,						
	Carson Wentz		Carson Wentz	EPA/Pass	-0.01	
CAY	6	Pressure %	36.7	EPA/Pass Rk	16	
CAY Rk	12	Pressure Rk	12	EPA/Rush	0.06	
2020 CAY Rk	15	Sack %	5.6	EPA/Rush Rk	1	
AYTS Rk	25	Sack Rk	23	On-Target Catch %	89.3%	
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	11 11	Pressure Accuracy %	64.4	On-Target Catch Rk	20	
2020 AGG Rk	10	Pressure Accuracy Rk	15	Drop%	6.3%	
COMP%	62.4	Rating when Pressured	77	Drop Rk	22	
xCOMP%	64.7	Pressured Rating Rk	10			
xCOMP% Rk	27	Clean Accuracy %	75.4	YAC/Att	2.8	
2020 xCOMP% Rk	38	Clean Accuracy Rk	31	YAC/Att Rk	2	
CPOE%	-2.3			Rush Broken Tackle %	15.4%	
CPOE Rk	26	Rating when Clean	102.7	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	5	
2020 CPOE Rk	40	Clean Rating Rk	16	Rusii biokeli lackie ikk	3	
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT	S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:	Time to Throw	2.83	Rush 1st Down %	30.7%	
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expect Actual completion percentage ov	ted completion percentage CPOE: er expectation	Time to Throw Rk	13	Rush 1st Down Rk	2	



#### Colts Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops In Pocket 1D 12		1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Carson Wentz	0.19 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	0.08 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	0.21 (#2)
2020	Philip Rivers	0.23 (#1)	0.18 (#1)	0.16 (#1)	0.13 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.26 (#1)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	nder Pressure Outside Pocket Play Action Being Blitzed		3rd and 4th Downs 4th Quarter		Passing when Moving	
2021	Carson Wentz	-0.52 (#2)	-0.15 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	0.09 (#1)	-0.10 (#2)
2020	Philip Rivers	-0.18 (#1)	-0.59 (#2)	0.08 (#2)	0.21 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

		on range	e i ci cci icc	( blailit	not choug	m acc co q	uuiiiy)			
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Carson Wentz	72% (#2)	74% (#2)	59% (#2)	59% (#1)	69% (#2)	74% (#2)	72% (#2)	66% (#2)	72% (#2)
2020	Philip Rivers	79% (#1)	86% (#1)	71% (#1)	51% (#2)	78% (#1)	80% (#1)	76% (#1)	72% (#1)	80% (#1)

#### Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	0.05 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	-0.01 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	0.00 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	0.65 (#1)	0.11 (#2)
2020	-0.04 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.09 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	-0.10 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	-0.05 (#2)	0.55 (#2)	0.55 (#1)

#### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	10	23	24	1	23	11	10	14	22	4
2020	9	17	7	14	22	24	16	11	22	7

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	11	8	3	5	9	18	3	28	8
2020	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	28	24

#### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	15	13	15	21	12	12	18	31	13
2020	23	31	28	31	24	8	23	20	14

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Offensive Coordinator:

**Defensive Coordinator:** 

Hard

Doug Pederson (PHI HC) (new)

Mike Caldwell (TB LB) (new)

Press Taylor (IND OFF Asst) (new)

Head Coach:

Easy

### **Jacksonville Jaguars**

**Wins** 

**Div Rank** 

6.5

#### **Past Records**

2022 Forecast

2021: 3-14 2020: 1-15



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
D.J. Chark (WR)	Lions
Myles Jack (LB)	Steelers
Andrew Norwell (LG)	Commande
A.J. Cann (RG)	Texans
Taven Bryan (IDL)	Browns
Damien Wilson (LB)	Panthers
Carlos Hyde (RB)	TBD
Dare Ogunbowale (RB)	Texans
Nevin Lawson (CB)	TBD
Jacob Hollister (TE)	Raiders
Jihad Ward (EDGE)	Giants
James O'Shaughnessy (T	Bears
Tavon Austin (WR)	Bills
Lerentee McCray (LB)	TBD
Jaydon Mickens (WR)	TBD
JK Scott (P)	Chargers
Kahale Warring (TE)	Saints
Dakota Allen (LB)	TBD
Matthew Wright (K)	TBD
Dylan Moses (LB)	TBD
Terry Godwin (WR)	TBD
Blake Bortles (QB)	Retired

#### 2022 Jacksonville Jaguars Overview

Since 2012, the Jaguars spent \$1.64 BILLION in free agency.

No team has spent more.

No team has lost more.

Being aggressive in team-building wins, off and on the field, but it must be done intelligently.

But Jacksonville hasn't learned its lesson. Long term, it may hurt. Short term, it may help.

Just a few hours into this offseason's free agency tampering period, the Jaguars gave \$159 million to wide receiver **Christian Kirk**, linebacker **Foye Oluokon**, and defensive tackle Foley Fatukasi.

For context, only FOUR TEAMS spent \$159 million in 2021's free agency.

In total, the Jaguars spent over \$270 million in free agency. It was by far the most of any team in the NFL.

# Games # Games **Average Favored** <u>Underdog</u> Line 3.9

14

The No. 2 spender spent only \$189 million.

Between last year and this year, the Jaguars assembled their entire starting receiving corps via free agency.

They spent \$117.5 million in total.

(cont'd - see JAC2)

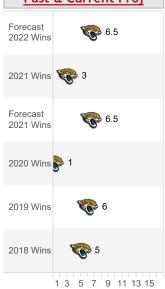
#### **Key Free Agents/** Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Christian Kirk (WR)	\$18
Brandon Scherff (RG)	\$16.5
Foyesade Oluokun (LB)	\$15
Darious Williams (CB)	\$10
Folorunso Fatukasi (IDL)	\$10
Evan Engram (TE)	\$9
Zay Jones (WR)	\$8
Arden Key (EDGE)	\$4

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	1	DE - Travon Walker (Georgia)
'	27	LB - Devin Lloyd (Utah)
	65	C - Luke Fortner (Kentucky)
3	70	LB - Chad Muma (Wyoming)
5	154	RB - Snoop Conner (Ole Miss
6	197	CB - Gregory Junior (Ouachita Baptist)
7	222	CB - Montaric Brown (Arkansas)

#### Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj







#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	18	\$105.69M	9
QB	21	\$12.70M	25
OL	22	\$31.87M	1
RB	25	\$7.30M	21
WR	4	\$34.37M	21
TE	3	\$19.46M	21
All DEF	2	\$123.33M	21
DL	4	\$59.99M	21
LB	14	\$13.52M	6
СВ	2	\$34.34M	16
S	10	\$15.47M	23

#### JAC-2

And their starting receiving corps? Christian Kirk, **Zay Jones**, **Marvin Jones**, and **Evan Engram**.

It's rather shocking to spend that amount of money and have those receivers to show for it, but here we are.

The Jaguars shifted from the 23rd most expensive receiving corps in 2021 to the fourth-most expensive in 2022.

That's just one small part of the shift in the Jaguars from 2021 to 2022.

In 2021, they also had:

21st most expensive tight end group, now the third-most expensive 21st most expensive defense, now the most expensive defense

But they've shifted from the most expensive offensive line to the 21st most.

Those kinds of swings come from wild free agency spending.

The Jaguars are the only team in the NFL with eight of their 10 largest active contracts coming via free agency:

WR Christian Kirk
G Brandon Scherff
LB Foyesade Oluokun
CB Shaquill Griffin
S Rayshawn Jenkins
DT Foley Fatukasi
WR Zay Jones
DT Roy Robertson-Harris

We're talking a lot about this roster, because it really doesn't make much sense to spend too much time discussing the offensive strategy of 2021 because that staff is no longer there — quite the turn from where we were a year ago.

I expected Urban Meyer would have a long leash. The Jaguars were the worst team in the NFL in 2020. They hadn't come close to a winning season since 2017, and that was their only winning season since 2007.

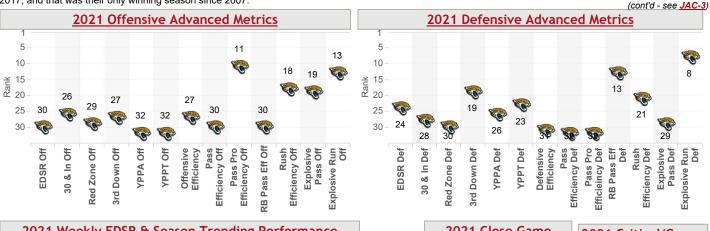
	2021 Passing Performance									
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn							
Trevor L awrence	54% 6.8 84.0	40% 5.4 57.6	34% 5.6 64.3	Success Rate YPA Rating						
Pass Rate	54%	61%	79%							
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating						
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%							

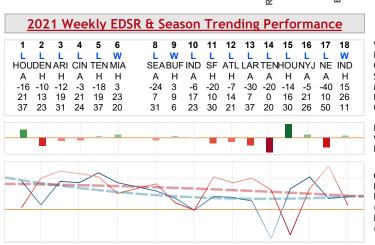
		2021 Rushing Performance						
	Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn				
	JAC	52% 4.4	46% 4.7	42% 4.6	Success Rate YPC			
	Run Rate	46%	39%	21%				
NFL AVG		48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC			
	Run Rate	51%	41%	24%				

The team just drafted **Trevor Lawrence** first overall. Jacksonville wasn't supposed to be a good team in 2021. They were favored in just two of 17 games before the season started.

There was a precedent for owner Shad Khan to be relatively patient. Doug Marrone got four full seasons before being fired. Gus Bradley was in his fourth year. Jack Del Rio was in his ninth year before being fired in-season. The lone exception was Mike Mularkey, who went 2-14 and was fired after just one season.

I wrote last offseason: "My prediction is the only way Meyer is done before four years is if he himself wants out."





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)

#### 2021 Close Game Records

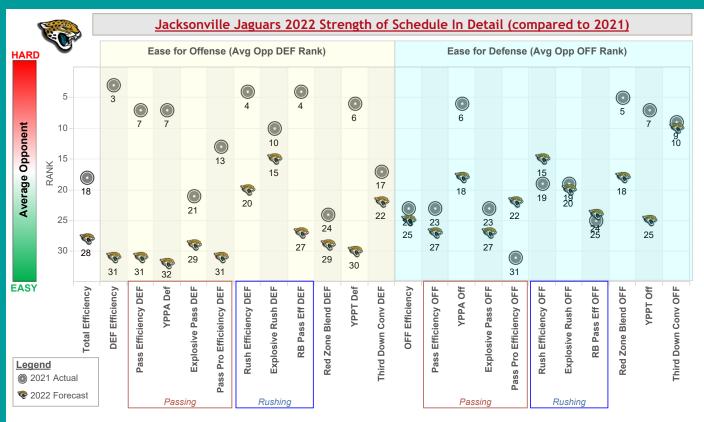
All 2019 Wins: 3 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 2-1 FG Games Win %: 0% (#25) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 67% (#1)

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-4 1 Score Games Win %: 33% (#25) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 67% (#9)

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin -20 TO Given 29 INT Given 17 **FUM Given** 12 TO Taken 9 **INT Taken FUM Taken** 2 Sack Margin +0 32 Sacks Sacks Allow 32 -2 Return TD Margin **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 3 **Penalty Margin** +0 Penalties 104

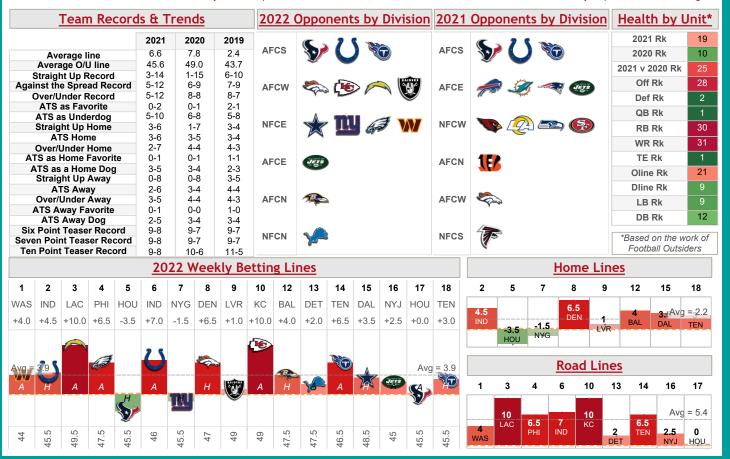
**Opponent Penalties** 

104



	2022 vs 2021 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												
32	32	29	29	19	20	11	14					

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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 the losing wasn't great, it was the culture that led to the firing of Meyer.

I recorded a video detailing all of Meyer's exploits but to summarize without getting into much detail, Meyer:

- · Hired Chris Doyle
- · Doyle resigned the next day due to backlash
- · Signed Tim Tebow despite Tebow not playing football in six years
- Drafted a running back in the first round
- · Was fined for violating the offseason practice no-contact rule
- Told the media he cut players due to their vaccination status
- Made No. 1 pick Trevor Lawrence undergo a quarterback competition with Gardner Minshew
- Then simply traded away Minshew
- Started out 0-4, with the fourth loss coming on Thursday Night Football in Cincinnati
- Didn't fly home with the team from Cincinnati
- · Was filmed out at a bar in Ohio with a woman, who wasn't his wife, grinding his lap
- · Held a press conference to apologize for the distraction
- Finally won a game Week 6 against the Dolphins
- Benched starting running back James Robinson
- Called his assistant coaches "losers"
- Demanded his assistant coaches, who he himself hired, during their losing streak to "defend their resumes" to him in a meeting, and asked them, "what have you ever won?"
- Continued losing and said he'll fire the rat who was leaking info to the press
- · Additional leaks showed before the season he called his kicker a "dipshit" and kicked his kicker, and said "I'm the head ball coach, I'll kick you whenever the f--- I want"

And that was only through mid-December.

Sitting at 2-11, and not even one year into a five-year deal, firing Meyer wasn't what Kahn wanted to do. But Meyer left him no choice. More and more bad press was leaking by the day of how terrible things were in Jacksonville, not just on the field, but in the locker room. Kahn realized even if the team won a couple more games, Meyer was not the leader he wanted to be the face of his franchise for over four more years.

Now the Jaguars have a veteran NFL head coach in Doug Pederson and a veteran NFL staff.

Their No. 1 job this year is not to win games. They'll surely win their share. But that's not the prime focus.

Their No. 1 job is to regain the confidence of their young star Trevor Lawrence and teach him to be a professional NFL quarterback.

Lawrence led the NFL in interceptions last year with 17.

Only seven rookie quarterbacks since 2000 threw more than 17 interceptions.

His 2.8% interception rate led the NFL for all quarterbacks with at least 500 attempts.

Only four rookie quarterbacks since 2000 threw 500+ attempts with worse than a 2.8% interception rate.

His 0.71 TD to INT ratio (12 TDs, 17 INTs) was worst for any quarterback with at least 500 attempts.

Only one rookie quarterback since 2000 threw 500+ attempts with a worse TD:INT ratio.

In fact, of 284 quarterbacks with 500+ attempts since 2000, only four had a worse TD:INT ratio than Lawrence in 2021.

What does this mean?

(cont'd - see <u>JAC-4</u>)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 prep game to prep n

Net Rest Edge Rank	Prep Rank	Rest Rank	Short Week Road Games Rank	Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank	Negated Bye Rank
20	30	28	8	1	1

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- The schedule makers did not help the Jaguars in terms of rest differential as they play two games with more rest than the opponent and four games with less rest. The Jaguars play four games against opponents that play the Thursday night game the week prior. Not included in the rest differential is a game following a trip to Wembley.
- The front office went on a spending spree in the offseason, acquiring several roster pieces on both sides of the ball. Despite spending over \$300 million in free agency the roster is still lacking elite talent and depth. The Jaguars also took a risk with the first overall pick selecting a pass rusher with 9.5 career college sacks.
- The Jaguars' defense allowed the second-highest completion percentage and EPA/DB, and fifth-highest 7.14 net yards per pass attempt against a below average passing strength of schedule in 2021. The Jaguars struggled to stop the pass last year and the main addition to the roster **Darious Williams** struggled last year allowing a 63% completion rate and 1.1 yards/coverage snap.

6.5



#### Why Bet the Over

- Not only did the Jaguars finish with the worst turnover margin, the next closest was seven turnovers behind. Improvement can be expected in both fumble and interception margin. The Jaguars' offense and defense were unfortunate in recoveries as the Jaguars finished with a league-worst -6.75 fumbles recovered over expectation. Trevor Lawrence can be expected to improve on his league-high 17 interceptions in his second year.
- Improvement in injury luck combined with a softer schedule should benefit the Jaguars as the offense had the fifth-highest adjusted games lost due to injury. Forecasted to play the 12th-easiest schedule the Jaguars have the fifth-largest improvement in strength of schedule. The offense should be the biggest benefactor as the defensive efficiency of opponents is second easiest after facing the fourth-most difficult.
- The Jaguars outgained opponents on first downs in the first half of games by a substantial margin averaging 6.07 yards per play while allowing 5.37 yards. Trevor Lawrence on first downs in the opening half completed 73.5% of passes with a 0.14 EPA/DB top 10 in the league and gives reason to believe this offense will improve on its league-low 14.9 points/game.

	Jacksonville Jaguars Positional Unit Rankings											
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	<b>Head Coach</b>						
18	19	21	30	22	27	13						

Based on an average of the unit ranks, Jacksonville is our 27th-ranked roster for the second consecutive year, but a significant upgrade at head coach should allow for a more competitive season.

**Trevor Lawrence**'s rookie year went about as poorly as possible, but hopefully a more stable environment sets him back on track. When he was not under pressure, Lawrence's boom-bust ratio (ratio of plays generating +1 EPA to -1 EPA) ranked 31st out of 35 quarterbacks. He'll need to demonstrate some competency in a clean pocket before we can fully buy into the pre-draft hype again.

There was far from a consensus on the Jaguars backfield, with votes ranging from eighth to 27th. Prior to **Travis Etienne**'s injury last season, we ranked this unit 13th overall — so, if healthy, it is fair to say there's plenty of talent for Jacksonville's run game to succeed.

Despite heavy investment in the wide receiver position, we don't have much faith in this unit. One potential flaw in the construction of this unit is the lack of yards-after-catch ability. **Zay Jones, Christian Kirk**, and **Marvin Jones** all averaged under four yards after the catch per reception and ranked 91st, 97th, and 112th out of 112 qualified receivers, respectively.

The Jaguars' offensive line allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less at the 12th lowest rate. The addition of Brandon Scherff should improve an already respectable unit.

The additions of **Travon Walker** and **Devin Lloyd** contributed to Jacksonville's front-seven rank climbing nine spots since last year. The future is potentially bright, but considering Walker's lack of pass-rush productivity in college, immediate expectations for the unit should be kept to a modest level. The only notable addition to the Jaguars' secondary was **Darious Williams**, who should contribute in coverage in the slot. Jaguars outside corners **Tyson Campbell** and **Shaquill Griffin** must improve after allowing 7.8 and 8.7 yards per target, respectively.

We ranked Urban Meyer 30th overall entering last season, which turned out to be far too generous. This was the league's worst run organization from top to bottom in 2021, but Doug Pederson should stabilize things on the coaching front.

#### JAC-4

Considering last season's coaching, injuries, and schedule, I personally am not looking too deeply into it.

We talked about the coaching upheaval earlier. We'll address the tactics shortly.

The injuries were substantial. The Jaguars had the fifth-most injured offense in the NFL last year, and that was with zero injuries to the quarterback. The wide receivers were the second-most injured in the NFL and the running backs were the third-most injured. It's not as if the roster of offensive skill players was particularly deep or talented to begin with. That left Trevor Lawrence fending for himself against a brutal schedule.

That schedule was against the fourth-most difficult defenses overall, including the seventh-most difficult pass defenses. That said, the Jaguars were still losing to terrible pass defenses, like losses to the 26th-ranked Falcons, the 27th-ranked Seahawks, and the 31st-ranked Jets pass defense.

There's no need to overly ridicule Lawrence's rookie season or his massive interception troubles.

But we do need to understand what he was doing and why he was running into problems. Then we can better anticipate what Pederson might do with Lawrence in 2022.

The Jaguars won only three games and lost by an average of 12 points per game. Their problems started in the first half.

#### <u>JAC-5</u>

This was not a team that was built to make comebacks when trailing. They were 1-12 when losing at halftime. They led at halftime in only three games.

They needed to be better in the first half.

Looking at Lawrence in the first half of games, it's actually shocking how good he was on first down.

Out of 29 guarterbacks with at least 50 pass attempts on first half first downs, Lawrence's production and rank out of 29:

0.15 EPA/att (ninth), 56% success (second), 8.3 YPA (sixth), 74% comp (sixth)

He also threw just one interception on 104 dropbacks.

On first downs, the rookie quarterback, playing the fourth-most difficult defenses with the second-most injured receiving corps, ranked borderline top-5 in most efficiency metrics.

The problem was on second down.

Normally, when you see terrible performance from a young quarterback, you would assume it would come on third downs, when he needs to make something happen to keep the chains moving and be more aggressive. But that wasn't the case with Lawrence. It was second down.

Look at these splits (out of 32 QBs on second down):

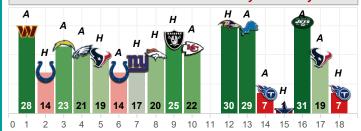
First down: 0.15 EPA/att (ninth), 56% success (second), 8.3 YPA (sixth), 74% comp (sixth)

Second down: -0.48 EPA/att (31st), 27% success (32nd), 4.2 YPA (32nd), 54% comp (31st)

(cont'd - see JAC-6)



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

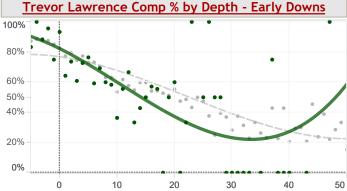


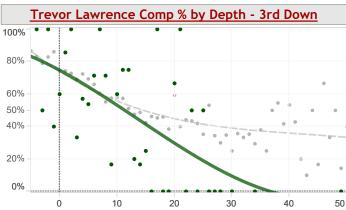
#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
E			Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)				
	James	Robinson	18%	21%	60%	1%					
	Lavisk	a Shenault Jr.	18%	36%	45%		_				
	Carlos	Hyde	32%	14%	54%						
RUSH	Dare 0	Ogunbowale	16%	5%	63%	2%	14%				
2	Jamal	Agnew	29%	43%	29%						
_	Tavon	Austin			100%						
	Ryque	II Armstead	13%	7%	13%	20%	27%				
	Total		21%	17%	56%	2%	3%				
	James	Robinson	22%	46%	33%						
	Marvir	Jones	25%	21%	52%	1%	1%				
	Lavisk	a Shenault Jr.	27%	26%	43%	1%	2%				
	Carlos	Hyde	55%	14%	32%						
	Dare 0	Ogunbowale	43%	5%	48%	5%					
	Laquo	n Treadwell	30%	28%	38%						
ဟ	Jamal	Agnew	53%	8%	40%						
PAS	Dan A	rnold	30%	23%	48%						
σ.	Tavon	Austin	38%	16%	46%						
	James	O'Shaughnes	44%	18%	38%						
	D.J. C	hark	36%	27%	36%						
	Ryque	II Armstead		25%	50%						
	Jacob	Hollister		7%	79%	14%					
	John E	Brown			100%						
	Total		31%	22%	44%	1%	1%				

# **Share of Offensive Plays by Type**

	James R	Marvin	Laviska 9 Jr	Carlos	Da Ogunb	Laquon T	Jamal /	Dan A	Tavon	Jan O'Shaug	D.J. 0	Ryquell A	Jacob F	
PASS	8%	21%	18%	4%	4%	9%	7%	7%	7%	6%	4%	1%	3%	
RUSH	52%		3%	23%	14%		2%		1%			5%		
ALL	24%	14%	13%	11%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	3%	2%	2%	





#### Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

#### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, -0.10 (490)	53%, -0.28 (91)	50%, -0.17 (8)	20%, -0.11 (20)	32%, -0.29 (19)	0%, -0.50 (1)	50%, 0.17 (2)	0%, -4.95 (1)	50%, 0.33 (2)	44%, -0.14 (634)
RUSH	47%, -0.04 (211)	54%, -0.10 (142)	32%, -0.50 (22)	50%, -0.05 (8)	0%, -0.66 (1)	75%, 0.15 (4)	100%, 0.05 (1)	100%, 2.38 (1)		49%, -0.08 (390)
All	45%, -0.08 (701)	53%, -0.17 (233)	37%, -0.42 (30)	29%, -0.09 (28)	30%, -0.30 (20)	60%, 0.02 (5)	67%, 0.13 (3)	50%, -1.29 (2)	50%, 0.33 (2)	46%, -0.12 (1,024)

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						
WR Marvin Jones		56% (84) 7.5, 0.18	50% (24) 6.5, -0.05	50% (4) 4.3, 0.16		54% (112) 7.1, 0.13						
	Laviska Shenault	48% (82) 6.7, 0.09	63% (8) 4.5, -0.52	67% (3) 5.7, 0.75		49% (93) 6.5, 0.05						
	Laquon Treadwell	53% (36) 8.3, 0.31	70% (10) 7.0, 0.29	100% (1) 28.0, 2.77		57% (47) 8.4, 0.36						
	Tavon Austin	50% (28) 5.9, -0.05	100% (2) 15.5, 1.50	20% (5) 1.6, -0.52		49% (35) 5.8, -0.03						
	DJ Chark Jr	41% (17) 9.1, 0.14	0% (2) 0.0, -0.56	0% (2) 0.0, -0.99		33% (21) 7.3, -0.03						
TE Dan Arnold		58% (38) 7.9, 0.03	100% (2) 12.5, 0.09			60% (40) 8.1, 0.03						
RB	James Robinson	49% (35) 5.6, -0.02	14% (7) 1.3, -0.52		50% (2) 8.5, 0.17	43% (44) 5.0, -0.09						

#### Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

		•			
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Robinson	50% (84)	47% (72)	100% (1)		49% (157)
James	5.0, <b>-</b> 0.06	4.6, -0.06	1.0, 0.49		4.8, -0.06
Hyde	42% (43)	64% (25)	100% (1)		51% (69)
Carlos	3.6, -0.28	3.7, -0.43	1.0, 0.36		3.6, -0.32
Lawrence	55% (49)	67% (12)	0% (1)		56% (62)
Trevor	5.5, 0.17	4.6, 0.22	-1.0, -0.68		5.2, 0.16
Ogunbowal	26% (23)	36% (14)	100% (1)	100% (1)	33% (39)
e Dare	3.2, -0.35	2.9, -0.19	1.0, 0.41	3.0, 0.05	3.0, -0.26
Armstead Ryquell	50% (4) 9.5, 0.86	70% (10) 3.8, -0.05			64% (14) 5.4, 0.21
Shenault Laviska	50% (2) 5.0, 0.15	40% (5) 3.6, -0.08			43% (7) 4.0, -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

49% (431)

_	sing by		ing by	Throw	Types	QB Drop	Types
	verage :heme	Route 60% (99)		Level 1	53% (459) 5.9, 0.04	3 Step	47% (240) 6.1, -0.01
7	40% (422)	Curl	6.7, 0.24		39% (84)	0/1 Step	48% (107) 5.4, -0.01
Zone	6.6, -0.10	Out	45% (66) 4.7, -0.03	Level 2	8.2, -0.09	5 Step	44% (93)
Man	38% (158)	Slant	54% (35) 6.4. 0.22	Level 3	23% (31) 8.1, -0.23	Designed	7.3, <b>-</b> 0.07 59% (41)
IVIAII	5.0, -0.20				100% (1)	Rollout Right	8.6, 0.21
	400/ (04)	Dig	56% (27) 8.2, 0.10	Shovel	3.0, -0.12	7 Step	47% (38) 7.9, 0.08
Other	46% (21) 4.7, 0.13	Drag	38% (16) 3.2, -0.86	Sidearm	100% (1) 6.0, 0.24	Basic Screen	46% (13) 5.4, -0.14

Fianteu		6.	5, 0.05			
Moving			% (107) 6, -0.12			
Shuffling		39% (61) 4.5, -0.39				
	Play	Acti	on			
	Play	Action	No P/A			
Under Center		(78) -0.10	45% (22) 5.1, -0.56			
Shotgun		(87) -0.01	42% (448) 5.7, -0.14			
ALL		(165) -0.05	42% (470) 5.6, -0.16			

**OB State at Pass** 

	Rur	n Types
	Inside Zone	49% (124) 4.2, -0.28
	Outside Zone	47% (64) 3.6, <b>-</b> 0.09
	Power	45% (22) 3.9, 0.05
	Pitch	54% (13) 4.8, 0.16
)	Stretch	56% (9) 5.0, -0.09
)	Lead	83% (6) 2.0, 0.10

#### JAC-6

He threw five interceptions on 93 dropbacks.

What in the world was going on here? How did Lawrence effectively move from top-5 in efficiency on first down to the worst in the NFL on second down?

Let's also establish that first down performance was not an anomaly. I mentioned the first place to look at when we're trying to understand poor general performance for young quarterbacks – third downs. But on third downs, Lawrence ranked 10th in EPA/att, 14th in success rate, and 18th in YPA. While not as strong as he was on first down, these numbers were great considering his constraints.

What stands out most as an outlier is second down performance.

Let's hit the most logical factors which may cause a quarterback's performance to vary: pressure rate, time to throw, aDOT, and play-action rate.

Lawrence was pressured at a 25% rate on first down and 25.8% on second down. Nothing to see there.

Lawrence had 2.72 seconds to throw on first down and 2.68 seconds to throw on second down. Nothing to see there, either.

Lawrence averaged 7.0 air yards on first down and 7.9 air yards on second down.

A first down aDOT of 7.0 ranked 17th deepest, and a second down aDOT ranked ninth deepest.

Lawrence used play-action on 50% of first down passes and on 33% of second down passes.

That is a large dropoff, but both were above average: a 50% play-action usage on first down ranked eighth-most, whereas 33% on second down ranked 11th.

(cont'd - see JAC-7)





Even when he was using play-action on second downs, Lawrence was terrible (-0.67 EPA/att, 23% success, and 4.1 YPA).

On first downs, 66% of targets went to wide receivers and only 13% went to running backs. On second downs, 61% of targets went to wide receivers, and 20% went to RBs. Those were slight shifts but nothing egregious and nothing that would trigger such poor efficiency.

Something was off.

One thing I noticed was more 3-step shotgun drops without play-action. Lawrence wasn't good with these, even on first down (-0.11 EPA/att and 4.3 YPA) but the Jaguars used them on only 18% of his dropbacks. On second down, the Jaguars used them on 30% of his dropbacks and he delivered -0.48 EPA/att and only 3.1 YPA.

But that wasn't the only issue, because efficiency of every single drop type, whether under center or in shotgun, was substantially worse on second down.

Doug Pederson and Co. will have to understand what the offensive strategy was on second down in 2021 and obviously avoid it in 2022.

Frankly, I was expecting to see Lawrence, trailing, throw a lot of interceptions on third down just trying to make something happen.

That wasn't the case at all.

Lawrence threw only three of 17 interceptions on third down. His interception rate on third and fourth down passes was only 1.7%. That was well below the NFL average of 3.3%. It was seventh best out of 33 quarterbacks.

Where did other rookies rank?

Justin Fields: 33rd of 33 with 8.8%
Mac Jones: 26th of 33 with 4.9%
Davis Mills: 23rd of 33 with 4.0%
Zach Wilson: 13th of 33 with 2.6%
Trevor Lawrence: Seventh of 33 with 1.7%

Lawrence's interception problems were NOT hero ball on third or fourth down. They were on second down, when he threw 11 of his 17 interceptions.

While second downs were perplexing to say the least, I am extremely reassured by seeing what Lawrence was doing on first down. Particularly in the first half of games.

In the third quarter, trailing by the margins the Jaguars were, there likely was an element of playing too aggressively.

Lawrence's splits on first downs by quarter certainly show decline out of the locker room.

(cont'd - see JAC-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Jacksonville Jaguars 2022 Draft Class

Jaguars GM Trent Baalke made one of the riskiest first-overall selections in NFL draft history with **Travon Walker**. Although Walker's athleticism and experience in a variety of roles provide obvious value, we've rarely seen a top pick with such limited production. Walker regularly shifted to the interior defensive line on passing downs — 46% of his snaps on third-and-long came at defensive tackle — which partially explains his lack of pass-rush production. However, focusing solely on his reps as an edge-rusher, Walker generated a 9.1% pressure rate, which ranked 18th out of 22 qualified SEC pass-rushers. Walker has drawn some comparisons to Vikings pass-rusher **Danielle Hunter**, who also failed to produce as a pass-rusher at a high level in college — and it's fair to say Hunter is evidence you can develop edge rushers after they reach the NFL. However, Hunter was selected 88th overall in 2015, a far more appropriate investment in a prospect in need of such development.

In a vacuum, **Devin Lloyd** (first round) was selected in an appropriate range, but the Jaguars have overinvested in the linebacker position in recent years. The team just handed out a significant contract to **Foye Oluokun** (\$28M guaranteed), and they're still paying **Myles Jack** and **Joe Schobert** (both released) \$14.7M combined in 2022. Lloyd will start immediately and should provide value against the run. Since Mike Caldwell is in his first year as a defensive coordinator, it remains to be seen how he'll call plays. However, Caldwell has spent much of his career under Todd Bowles, who is known to blitz at a high rate. If Lloyd is asked to blitz regularly, he may struggle as a rookie, though he has the length and athleticism to be developed in that area. Lloyd generated a mediocre 17.4% pressure rate on blitzes.

The Jaguars then added **Chad Muma** (third round), who is blocked on the depth chart by Lloyd and Oluokun. While he has the talent of a potential starter, Baalke just invested in two players who will prevent him from getting on the field. Last season as the Buccaneers' linebackers coach, Caldwell's team used three or more linebackers on just 22% of snaps.

Luke Fortner (third round) will immediately compete for the starting job at center. Although he primarily played guard at Kentucky, he shifted to center in 2021 and excelled in the role. Snoop Conner (fifth round) will compete with Ryquell Armstead to be the third-string running back. Conner and Armstead fit the same physical profile as between-the-tackles runners. Despite his size, Conner is surprisingly ineffective as a downhill runner. In 2021, he averaged 2.5 broken/missed tackles forced per 20 carries, which ranked 17th out of 19 SEC running backs. Conner lacks the athleticism to be anything more than a short-yardage back, and likely does not provide a noticeable upgrade over Armstead. Gregory Junior (sixth round) and Montaric Brown (seventh round) will both compete to provide depth at cornerback. Brown could potentially turn into a steal for Jacksonville, as he demonstrated a knack for making plays on the ball at Arkansas. In 2021, he generated a ball-hawk rate 29% above expected based on route-adjusted data.

In a vacuum, the players Jacksonville selected make up a decent draft class, but we have to consider the resources spent and each player's value relative to the roster already in place. Walker was a significant gamble with the first pick. He's a developmental prospect who landed with one of the league's most unstable organizations with a poor track record of developing talent. Factoring in the trade up for Lloyd, Jacksonville spent four draft picks on two linebackers, after already spending significant money on the position in the offseason. Hopefully, these players pan out and get the Jaguars pointed in the right direction again, but the process Baalke used to put together this class was inefficient and a poor use of resources.



#### Jacksonville Jaguars 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

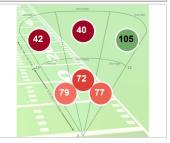
The Jaguars closed 2021 near the bottom of the league in just about every bulk passing matric, finishing 27th in the league in expected points added via passing (-6.0 EPA), 28th in completion rate (59.8%), 32nd in touchdown rate (2.0%), 26th in interception rate (2.8%), 29th in yards per pass attempt (6.1 Y/A), and 28th in yards per completion (10.2 yards). Trevor Lawrence had the most incompetent head coach in the league overseeing his initial development to derail things, but not much went right for him on the field. He ranked 35th out of 42 passers with 100 or more pass attempts in completion percentage (59.6%) while the only passers with lower yards per attempt than Lawrence's 6.1 Y/A were Tyler Huntley, Jacoby Brissett, Cam Newton, and Mike Glennon. In year two under Doug Pederson, there is a low bar for improvement while Jacksonville is all in with giving Lawrence what they can.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk											
Trevor Lawrence	354	594	60%	3,580	6.0	12	17	31	72	44	
NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6											

	2021 Advanced Passing Table											
QB Success % Success % 20+ Yd Pass Gains 20+ Yd Pass % Gains 30+ Yd Pass % Gains %												
Trevor Lawrence	44%	48%	43	7.0%	8	1.0%	5.6	4.6				
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3				

#### **Target Postive Distribution** Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Trevor Lawrence Rating**

## **Early Downs**



Interception Rates by Down									
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total				
1 & 2	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%				
3, 4, 5	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%				
6 - 9	0.0%	10.7%	4.3%	0.0%	7.1%				
10 - 14	0.5%	3.0%	3.1%	0.0%	1.3%				
15+	7.7%	4.3%	0.0%		4.5%				
Total	1.3%	5.5%	1.8%	0.0%	2.7%				

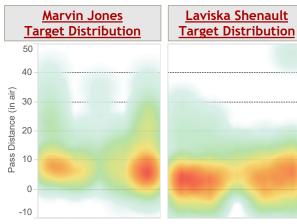
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis								
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk			
Trevor Lawrence	7.2	9.4	2.1	56%	13			
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%				

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

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Titans were an efficient passing offense when they were at full strength. The problem was that was a rarity. A.J. Brown played just 69% of the offensive snaps while Julio Jones played just 58%. The team traded Brown during the draft and released Jones this offseason while trading for Robert Woods and drafting Treylon Burks in the first round. Woods will turn 30 years old this April, coming off suffering an ACL injury in November after appearing in nine games. A prototypical alpha frame (6-foot-2 and 225 pounds), Burks does carry some volatility in terms of refinement, but carried a lot of physical tools that Brown had after the catch. The team also added Austin Hooper. Hooper's yards per reception have dropped in each of the past two years.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS% Rk	TDs
Marvin Jones	117	62%	7.1	84.4	55%	47	30	82	23	4
Laviska Shenault Jr.	99	64%	6.3	72.7	47%	103	117	115	14	0



#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

There was little positivity to pull from the 2021 Jacksonville offense and the rushing production followed suit. Jacksonville ended the season 25th in the league in expected points added via rushing (-20.7 EPA). For as bad as it was in bulk, James Robinson showed once again that he can be productive in a subpar environment, averaging 5.1 yards per touch. Robinson then suffered an Achilles injury in late December that will surely have him sidelined for at least the majority of the offseason. Travis Etienne missed his entire rookie season after suffering a Lisfranc injury in the preseason. The Jaguars have had a full staff upheaval this offseason to pair with Etienne's unknown offensive role off injury and with Robinson suffering an Achilles injury to end the 2021 season while entering a restricted free agent contract year.

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	164	4.7	50%	45	25	71	30	50%	40	8
Carlos Hyde	72	3.5	49%	54	57	28	83	51%	33	1
Trevor Lawrence	72	4.6	50%	45	77	34	76	52%	31	3





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Is Christian Kirk Finally Going To Find His Ceiling?

Kirk has never fully materialized as a fantasy star, closing out as the WR53, WR32, WR55, and WR34 in points per game. He has produced five career WR1 scoring weeks with another 11 WR2 scoring weeks over his 56 career regular season games.

Kirk was never the best wide receiver on any of those Arizona teams, so if targets are earned by your best players, he stands to receive a bump in opportunity in Jacksonville, contending with **Marvin Jones** as his largest target threat currently on the roster. Despite the uneven production for fantasy, Arizona did find a role for him in 2021 to maximize Kirk's on-field value.

Kirk ran a career-high 77.9% of his routes from the slot, after rates of 29.9%, 42.2%, and 14.6% over his first three years in the league. In the slot, Kirk collected a 63-809-4 line after 59-599-3 from the slot prior. Kirk was not just a puddle jumper collecting shallow targets inside, posting an average depth of target of 11.8 yards downfield from the slot, which was sixth in the league. Kirk will look to have more success than Marvin Jones did in free agency a year ago but is another addition to aid the development of **Trevor Lawrence**. Lawrence had lofty expectations built up for multiple seasons on an Andrew Luck level as a franchise savior, but the initial results are a strong reminder that the NFL can be humbling for anyone.

In year two under Doug Pederson, there is a low bar for improvement with upside still present if Pederson is able to coax out the potential Lawrence entered the NFL with. Jacksonville is all in with giving Lawrence what they can, but this signing still leaves a lot to be desired in terms of landing Lawrence a future WR1. With DeAndre Hopkins sidelined last year, Kirk showed that he still has limitations when tasked with carrying a passing game.

All of Kirk's peripheral metrics took a hit playing without Hopkins on the field as he averaged 1.68 yards per route, 11.9 yards per catch, and caught one touchdown without Hopkins, compared to 1.98 yards per route, 13.9 yards per catch, and four scores with Hopkins drawing attention.

If the Jaguars plan to play Kirk inside, that all blows out any flicker of a flame left for **Laviska Shenault**, who struggled when pressed outside a year ago. This move elevates Kirk into WR3 level expectation output with upside for more, but Kirk was in a similar position to close 2021 with arguably better surroundings than where he is heading, leaving him as someone you have to take a step faith with over a secure investment.



#### **Defensive Outlook**

Foley Fatukasi was one of the best run-defending interior defensive linemen last season. He tied for third at the position in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate and was fourth in 2020. He also added 11 quarterback hits over the past two seasons. Fatukasi just turned 27 years old and signed a three-year deal with Jacksonville. The Jaguars had a heavy rotation of interior linemen and given that most of those players return, that plan seems likely to repeat. Malcom Brown (61%), Dawuane Smoot (61%), Roy Robertson-Harris (49%), and DaVon Hamilton (40%) all played a part in a Jaguars defense that was 18th in EPA against the run.

With the first overall pick, the Jaguars selected **Travon Walker**. Walker's production never stood out as a pure pass rusher, but he rarely played the position. As an edge, Walker could get more shots at the quarterback while he immediately hits the field as a plus run defender. **Josh Allen** was 23rd among edge rushers in pressure rate last season, per SIS. **Arden Key** was 22nd. Key had consistently been a player who was able to get to the quarterback, but was one of the worst players at converting quarterback hits into sacks year after year. A one-year reclamation project in San Francisco paid off and Key had career-highs with 6.5 sacks and 17 quarterback hits.

**K'Lavon Chaisson** only played 35% of the defensive snaps last season, even though he appeared in 15 games. Chaisson has just two sacks and 13 quarterback hits over two seasons. Chaisson has been more of a hybrid linebacker — he rushed on 62% of his pass snaps last season. That can be a useful piece for a defense overall, but a little disappointing for a first-round pick.

Few teams love spending more on off-ball linebackers than the Jaguars. **Joe Schobert** and **Myles Jack** will still cost nearly a combined \$15 million on the 2022 cap and neither is currently on the roster. Jacksonville gave **Foye Oluokon** a three-year/\$45 million contract this offseason. Oluokon was 37th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021. They then drafted **Devin Lloyd** in the first round and **Chad Muma** in the third.

Shaquill Griffin was Jacksonville's big free agent acquisition last season and he was mostly fine through some ups and downs in his first season. Griffin ranked 69th among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. Darious Williams was the free agent get this season and he's likely to play the slot. Williams had a fantastic 2020 in Brandon Staley's defense with the Rams but his 2021 was more inconsistent. He was 58th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap last season. Tyson Campbell, a 2021 second-round pick, was a bet on athleticism at the position but he had his rookie struggles last season. Campbell ranked 79th among those 93 corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Some rookies have made immediate impacts at the position, but corner is a position that typically picks up in Year 2. Rayshawn Jenkins played 75% of the defensive snaps in 2021 and 46% of those came in the box. Jenkins's biggest impact came from tackles. Even though he played more often in the box, Andrew Wingard (70.4% of his snaps as a deep safety) had a lower average depth of tackle. Wingard was better in coverage in 2020 but made up for some of that with more clean-up tackles. There could be hope for 2021 third-round pick Andre Cisco, who flashed when he was on the field but fell victim to inadequacies from the coaching staff rotating players into the lineup. Cisco played 23 snaps in Week 1 and 18 snaps in Week 2 then played 26 snaps combined over the next 11 games. He finished the season playing 90.3% snaps in Week 17 and 100% in Week 18.

Play Tendencies					
All Pass %	59%				
All Pass Rk	12				
All Rush %	41%				
All Rush Rk	21				
1 Score Pass %	55%				
1 Score Pass Rk	23				
2020 1 Score Pass %	59%				
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	12				
2021 Pass Increase %	-4%				
Pass Increase Rk	26				
1 Score Rush %	45%				
1 Score Rush Rk	10				
Up Pass %	50%				
Up Pass Rk	28				
Up Rush %	50%				
Up Rush Rk	4				
Down Pass %	61%				
Down Pass Rk	13				
Down Rush %	39%				
Down Rush Rk	20				

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %		
1st	Short (1-3)	6	17%	83%	83%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	6	50%	50%	50%		
	Long (8-10)	291	48%	52%	56%		
	XL (11+)	22	82%	18%	27%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	47	43%	57%	51%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	62	52%	48%	48%		
	Long (8-10)	85	62%	38%	36%		
	XL (11+)	39	82%	18%	23%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	46	63%	37%	54%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	48	83%	17%	42%		
	Long (8-10)	28	86%	14%	18%		
	XL (11+)	28	89%	11%	25%		
4th	Short (1-3)	11	73%	27%	55%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	67%	33%	67%		

Shotgun %						
Shotgun Under Center						
71%	29%					
NFL	AVG					
65%	35%					
Ffficiency						

## Jacksonville Jaguars 2021 Play Analysis



#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Efficiency						
EPA/ pass: -0.10	EPA/ pass: -0.21					
EPA/ rush: -0.12	EPA/ rush: -0.15					
Success: 41%	Success: 38%					

2nd and Short Run								
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg				
63%	25	71%	55%	73%				

	2nd and Short Pass									
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg						
38%	8	29%	42%	46%						

Most Frequent Play							
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %		
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James Robinson	3	100%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	James Robinson	2	100%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	James Robinson	69	45%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Marvin Jones	4	50%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	James Robinson	14	64%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	James Robinson	16	63%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	James Robinson	18	33%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Laviska Shenault Jr.	7	29%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	Marvin Jones	9	44%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Laviska Shenault Jr.	11	64%		
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Laviska Shenault Jr.	5	0%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Laviska Shenault Jr.	8	25%		

	Play Action (Y/N)					
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total			
No	Success: 45%	Success: 46%	Success: 45%			
	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.18	YPA: 5.2, EPA: -0.02	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.15			
	Rtg: 74.9	Rtg: 89.0	Rtg: 77.1			
	[Att: 130 - Rate: 20.5%]	[Att: 24 - Rate: 3.8%]	[Att: 154 - Rate: 24.3%]			
Yes	Success: 41%	Success: 53%	Success: 44%			
	YPA: 5.3, EPA: -0.16	YPA: 7.7, EPA: -0.06	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.13			
	Rtg: 67.2	Rtg: 83.3	Rtg: 71.9			
	[Att: 340 - Rate: 53.5%]	[Att: 141 - Rate: 22.2%]	[Att: 481 - Rate: 75.7%]			
Total	Success: 42%	Success: 52%	Success: 45%			
	YPA: 5.6, EPA: -0.16	YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.05	YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.13			
	Rtg: 69.3	Rtg: 84.2	Rtg: 73.2			
	[Att: 470 - Rate: 74.0%]	[Att: 165 - Rate: 26.0%]	[Att: 635 - Rate: 100.0%]			

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

	Weekly Snaps Played							
Wk	Орр	Score	Marvin Jones	Laviska Shenault Jr.	James Robinson	Laquon Treadwell	Chris Manhertz	Dan Arnold
1	HOU	L 37-21	67	52	47		26	
2	DEN	L 23-7	49	45	41	9	27	
3	ARI	L 31-19	66	44	40		25	
4	CIN	L 24-21	52	42	53		24	18
5	TEN	L 37-19	66	52	48		22	52
6	MIA	W 23-20	57	52	56	7	30	41
8	SEA	L 31-7	69	52	8		17	55
9	BUF	W 9-6	51	48		19	27	35
10	IND	L 23-17	56	51	39	23	24	45
11	SF	L 30-10	42	29	29	33	12	30
12	ATL	L 21-14	71	53	38	63	27	5
13	LA	L 37-7	49	31	26	55	29	
14	TEN	L 20-0	54	45	35	44	6	
15	HOU	L 30-16	65	47	59	68	18	
16	NYJ	L 26-21	60		11	64	31	
17	NE	L 50-10	45	13		38	16	
18	IND	W 26-11	61	41		62	30	
	Grand '	Total	980	697	530	485	391	281

Personnel Groupings					
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.		
1-1 [3WR]	68%	61%	45%		
1-2 [2WR]	23%	21%	53%		
1-3 [1WR]	3%	4%	37%		
0-1 [4WR]	3%	1%	29%		
Grouping Tendencies					
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run		
Personnel	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ		
	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ %		
1-1 [3WR]	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. % 44%	Run Succ % 47%		

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard					
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Marvin Jones	17	8	2	7	
Laviska Shenault Jr.	10	2	3	5	
Jacob Hollister	4	1	1	2	
Dan Arnold	3	1		2	
Jamal Agnew	3		2	1	
James Robinson	2		1	1	

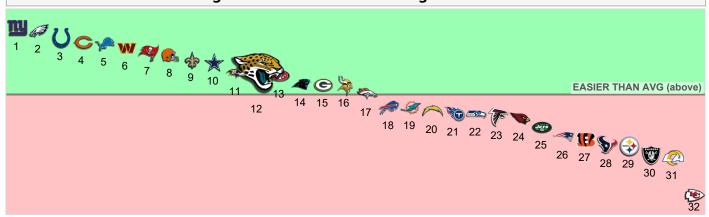
<u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u>					
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
James Robinson	24	10	7	7	
Carlos Hyde	12	4	2	6	
Trevor Lawrence	11	5	1	5	
Dare Ogunbowale	7	1	1	5	
Laviska Shenault Jr.	2			2	
Ryquell Armstead	2		1	1	
Tavon Austin	1			1	

Early Down Target Rate					
RB	TE	WR			
20%	20%	61%			
23%	21%	56%			
	NFL AVG				
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ccess %			
Overall RB		ICCESS %			
	Target Su				





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



First down passing:

First quarter: 0.19 EPA/att, 53% success, 8.6 YPA (40 dropbacks) Second quarter: 0.12 EPA/att, 58% success, 8.2 YPA (64 dropbacks) Third quarter: -0.31 EPA/att, 36% success, 5.1 YPA (58 dropbacks)

We also cannot understate how wide receiver errors played into some of Lawrence's more negative stat lines.

On non-first down passes, none of the 18 quarterbacks with at least 300 attempts saw more incompletions due to wide receiver errors than Lawrence.

Graded wide receiver errors included drops, when receivers fell down on routes, receivers who stopped running their route, receivers who lost control of the ball at the ground, etc.

These don't take into consideration miscommunications, as it's hard to determine whether those were the quarterback's fault or the receiver's fault. These are pure receiver errors.

Where does that leave us for 2022?

If there are fewer second down interceptions, we'll see a team that isn't -20 in turnover margin. The Jaguars went 0-12 when losing the turnover battle last year, and were 3-2 when tied or leading the turnover battle. Reduce the turnovers and suddenly the Jaguars will be far more feisty.

Remember how I mentioned the killer schedule from 2021 earlier? This year, instead of playing the fourth-hardest schedule of defenses including the seventh-hardest schedule of pass defenses, I am predicting the Jaguars face the second-easiest schedule of defenses, including the second-easiest schedule of pass defenses.

The rushing offense somehow ranked 18th last year despite fielding the third-most injured running back corps and playing the second-toughest schedule of run defenses. But now I project the Jags to face the 13th-easiest schedule of run defenses. They've juggled their offensive line this offseason, but if they're able to run block a little better, with a weaker schedule and a healthier corps, they might be able to give Lawrence far more support than he received last year.

I expect Pederson continues to lean into play-action this year. Jacksonville used the fifth-highest rate of it in 2021 (after ranking 30th in it in 2020) and Lawrence showed marked improvement with it, ranking inside the top-5 to top-10 in improvement in YPA, success rate, EPA, and passer rating when using it vs. without.

Jacksonville is unlikely to rank dead last in fumble luck, like they did in 2021 (lost nearly seven more fumbles than expected) and hopefully they will improve from their fifth-worst ranking in field goal luck.

With a more consistent coaching & leadership at the top, a better vibe in the building, easier pass defenses, a better run game playing weaker run defenses, fewer interceptions, better fumble and field goal luck, this team can actually start to look competitive in 2022. Though it sounds like a lot to ask for, it's really not considering how egregious the Jaguars were in many of those categories last year.

I still don't believe the money spent on the players signed in free agency will be long-term benefits to Jacksonville, but they should help some in 2022. And as I stated earlier, the goal is not to win a Super Bowl this year. The goal is to regain the confidence of their young star Trevor Lawrence and teach him to be a professional NFL quarterback. I'm encouraged by his first down production last year and believe there's more to work with than was displayed in 2021. I think Lawrence makes a nice sophomore jump this season.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	6.3			
37. PSM Target Depth	6.3			
38. Non-PSM YPA	6.4			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	8.5			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	47%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	50%			
42. PSM EPA/att	-0.17			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	-0.16			

Pla	v Action	(Quarters	1-3 on	<b>Early</b>	Downs)
	, ,	/ <del>Q</del> a a			20111101

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	43%
45. PA Success Rate	54%
46. PA YPA	7.8
47. PA Sack Rate	4.6%
48. PA EPA/att	-0.08
49. PA Target Depth	6.9
50. Non-PA Success Rate	41%
51. Non-PA YPA	5.2
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	3.5%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.23
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	10%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.0
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	35%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	48%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	37%
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

#### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	32	defFUM	12
Net FROE	-6.7	defFUM Rcvrd	10
offFUM	20	acii om itevia	10
offFUM Rcvrd	8	defFR Rk	32
offFR%	40.0%	defFR%	16.7%
offFR Rk	30		0.0
offFROE	-3.7	defFROE	-3.0
		defFROE Rk	27
offFROE Rk	31	GEII NOE NK	21

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	-2.89	Opp Att	36
Net Over Expectation Rank	28	Opp Makes	32
Own Att	27	Opp wakes	
Own Makes	21	Opp FG %	89%
Own FG %	78%	Opp Expected Makes	30.28
Own Expected Makes	22.16	Opp Make Over Expectation	1.72
Own Make over Expectation	-1.16	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	10
Own Make over Expectation Rk	26		
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	-2.16	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-0.73
2020 Own Rk	29	2020 Opp Rk	26

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

റ	R	Р	re	55	ш	re
~	_	•	. ~			

#### **Offensive Metrics**

	Trevor Lawrence
AY	5.4
AY Rk	24
020 CAY Rk	
YTS Rk	15
020 AYTS Rk	
GG Rk	29
20 AGG Rk	
OMP%	59.6
COMP%	65
COMP% Rk	22
020 xCOMP% Rk	
POE%	-5.4
POE Rk	36
20 CPOE Rk	

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

QB Pressure					
	Trevor Lawrence				
Pressure %	32.9				
Pressure Rk	21				
Sack %	4.8				
Sack Rk	30				
Pressure Accuracy %	57.9				
Pressure Accuracy Rk	33				
Rating when Pressured	43.2				
Pressured Rating Rk	37				
Clean Accuracy %	77.1				
Clean Accuracy Rk	24				
Rating when Clean	83.3				
Clean Rating Rk	34				
Time to Throw	2.87				
Time to Throw Rk	10				

EPA/Pass	-0.14
EPA/Pass Rk	28
EPA/Rush	-0.09
EPA/Rush Rk	26
On-Target Catch %	87.1%
On-Target Catch Rk	30
Drop%	9.2%
Drop Rk	32
YAC/Att	2.1
YAC/Att Rk	23
Rush Broken Tackle %	10.2%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	27
Rush 1st Down %	23.5%
Duch 4et Deum Dk	0.4



#### Jaguars Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Trevor Lawrence	0.05 (#2)	-0.19 (#3)	-0.13 (#2)	0.05 (#3)	-0.18 (#3)	-0.16 (#2)	0.03 (#2)
2020	Gardner Minshew	0.30 (#1)	0.05 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.24 (#1)
	Mike Glennon	0.01 (#3)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.16 (#3)	0.09 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.35 (#3)	-0.03 (#3)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Trevor Lawrence	-0.61 (#1)	-0.30 (#2)	-0.10 (#3)	-0.50 (#3)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.13 (#3)	-0.24 (#3)
2020	Gardner Minshew	-0.72 (#3)	-0.47 (#3)	0.15 (#2)	0.17 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	-0.04 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)
	Mike Glennon	-0.68 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)	0.22 (#1)	0.15 (#2)	-0.42 (#3)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.18 (#2)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Trevor Lawrence	74% (#3)	79% (#3)	55% (#3)	52% (#2)	69% (#3)	76% (#2)	64% (#3)	65% (#3)	75% (#3)
2020	Gardner Minshew	76% (#1)	86% (#1)	60% (#2)	47% (#3)	72% (#2)	78% (#1)	67% (#2)	69% (#1)	80% (#1)
	Mike Glennon	75% (#2)	80% (#2)	67% (#1)	53% (#1)	74% (#1)	75% (#3)	77% (#1)	68% (#2)	76% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.12 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.23 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.22 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.22 (#2)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)	0.08 (#1)
2020	-0.04 (#1)	-0.04 (#1)	-0.09 (#1)	-0.06 (#1)	-0.22 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.58 (#2)	-0.58 (#2)

#### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

				OFF ED						DEF ED
		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	30	14	32	22	28	27	20	24	28	29
2020	27	16	27	12	19	4	9	31	30	27

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	26	27	16	25	20	14	14	1	19
2020	20	20	21	27	20	20	15	1	18

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	32	32	23	19	32	32	2	1	23
2020	24	32	25	8	31	17	18	32	20

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Andy Reid (9 yrs)

Offensive Coordinator:

Eric Bieniemy (4 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Steve Spagnuolo (3 yrs) Hard

Easy

# **Kansas City Chiefs**

2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

10.5

#1

#### **Past Records**

2021: 12-5 2020: 14-2 2019: 12-4



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Tyreek Hill (WR)	Dolphins
Charvarius Ward (CB)	49ers
Anthony Hitchens (LB)	TBD
Tyrann Mathieu (S)	Saints
Byron Pringle (WR)	Bears
Austin Blythe (C)	Seahawks
Melvin Ingram (EDGE)	Dolphins
Mike Remmers (RT)	TBD
Jarran Reed (IDL)	Packers
Mike Hughes (CB)	Lions
Ben Niemann (LB)	TBD
Kyle Long (RG)	TBD
Daniel Sorensen (S)	Saints
Armani Watts (S)	Colts
Darrel Williams (RB)	Cardinals
Demarcus Robinson (WR)	Raiders
Alex Okafor (EDGE)	TBD
Marcus Kemp (WR)	TBD
Dorian O'Daniel (LB)	TBD
Thaddeus Moss (TE)	Retired

#### 2022 Kansas City Chiefs Overview

The Kansas City Chiefs offense finally regressed in 2021..

Their quarterback? Regressed.

Their passing game? Regressed

Their running game? Regressed.

Their explosiveness? Regressed.

As such, it was too bad to see the Chiefs' offense ranked, on the downturn:

First in points scored per drive First in percentage of drives that scored points

First in touchdowns per drive

First in yards per drive

First in plays per drive

First in rate of punts per drive

First in rate of 3 & outs per drive

Average	# (
<u>Line</u>	Fa

-3.3

Forecast

2022 Wins

2021 Wins

Forecast

2021 Wins

2020 Wins

2019 Wins

<u>Games</u> vored

# Games <u>Underdog</u>

12

3

Hmmm, what?

24

WR2

ROOK

19

WR3

J.Gordon<sup>a</sup>

RR2

R.Jone NEW

How does this happen?

LCB

2022 Cap Dollars

= 30+ years old

NEW = New to role (or started < 50%

of games last year)

# For starters, and very briefly, let's mention the Chiefs' 2021 defense. (cont'd - see KC2)

25

RB C.Edwards-Helaire



# 11 M.Valdes-Scantling NEW

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Justin Reid (S)	\$10.5
Marquez Valdes-Scantling	\$10
JuJu Smith-Schuster (WR)	\$3.29
Jermaine Carter, Jr. (LB)	\$1.8
Ronald Jones II (RB)	\$1.5
Lonnie Johnson Jr. (CB)	Trade
Deon Bush (S)	\$1.2
Geron Christian (LT)	\$1.2
Taylor Stallworth (IDL)	\$1.2

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	21	CB - Trent McDuffie (Washington)
'	30	DE - George Karlaftis (Purdue)
2	54	WR - Skyy Moore (Western Michigan)
_	62	S - Bryan Cook (Cincinnati)
3	103	LB - Leo Chenal (Wisconsin)
4	135	CB - Joshua Williams (Fayetteville State)
5	145	OT - Darian Kinnard (Kentucky)
	243	CB - Jaylen Watson (Washington State)
7	251	RB - Isaih Pacheco (Rutgers)
	259	S - Nazeeh Johnson (Marshall)

#### **2022 Unit Spending**



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF		\$120.40M	28
QB	2	\$39.32M	23
OL	17	\$36.84M	30
RB	18	\$8.53M	25
WR	19	\$21.96M	8
TE	7	\$13.75M	11
All DEF	18	\$90.13M	1
DL		\$56.32M	3
LB	30	\$8.68M	9
СВ	31	\$12.37M	27
S	18	\$12.76M	1

2018 Wins 12 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

OR2

Though it doesn't explain offensive regression in the least, this single stat will speak volumes:

While the Chiefs ranked first in offense in virtually every single important drive statistic...

...they had the fewest drives of any team in the NFL.

As a result, they had fewer opportunities to score points and win games.

And yes, the defense fell off further in 2021 than 2020 and even 2019.

2019: 14th in total defensive efficiency, sixth vs. the pass 2020: Ninth in total defensive efficiency, 12th vs. the pass 2021: 24th in total defensive efficiency, 22nd vs. the pass

Additionally, the 2021 defense was likely even WORSE than those rankings because they were so good in two highly volatile metrics: red zone defense and third down defense, where they ranked seventh and 10th respectively.

It's highly unlikely that a defense consistently in the bottom 10 in most efficiency metrics (including 27th in early down defense, 22nd in pass defense, 27th in pass rush, and 24th in total defensive efficiency) would suddenly be top-10 on third down or inside the red zone. But third down and red zone have such high leverage in a game, performing as well as the Chiefs did there skewed their defensive results in a major way.

As such, if water met its level with this defense on third down, or in the red zone, this truly was an even worse defense in 2021 than meets the eye.

This is one reason why the Chiefs offense had so few drives. The Chiefs' defense couldn't get opposing offenses off the field.

But getting back to the offense itself, let's examine how it was so great on a per-drive basis but regressed in other areas of efficiency while giving us the perception that it took big strides in the wrong direction.

The Chiefs were the single most efficient team at bypassing third downs on early downs

Pas NF		2021 Passii	ng Performa	nce	
	QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
	Patrick Mahome s	55% 7.2 93.5	56% 7.5 106.7	49% 8.6 108.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
	Pass Rate	53%	66%	79%	
	NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
	Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce				
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	Success Rate			
кс	58% 4.8	51% 4.5	70% 5.3	- Cussess runs			
Run Rate	47%	34%	21%				
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC			
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%				

Last year 29% of their early down plays resulted in first downs, the best rate of any team in the NFL.

Only 18% of their offensive plays were third downs, the lowest rate of any team in the NFL.

Their EDSR was better in 2021 than 2020.

Sometimes, when teams pass the ball as much as the Chiefs (first in the NFL again last year) they tend to skip third downs at an above average rate, but when they do get forced into third downs, their distance to go is longer than average.

2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

(10)

19

28

Def

22

Pass Efficiency Def

25

RB Pass Eff Def

27

Pass Pro

Efficieincy De

(cont'd - see KC-3)

(10)

19

**Explosive** 

25

	2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics													
1 - 5-	<b>(</b>	<b>(</b>	10	49			4	4	7	4	10		6	
10 –			<b>(</b>								<b>(</b>	14	49	
- 20 Kank					23	19								
㎡ 20− 25−					<b>(</b>									
30 -														
	EDSR Off	n Off	e Off	n Off	YPPA Off	YPPT Off	nsive	Pass Efficiency Off	Pass Pro Efficiency Off	Pass Eff Off	Rush Efficiency Off	Explosive Pass Off	Explosive Run Off	
	EDSI	30 & In	Red Zone	Down Off	YPP,	YPP	Offensive Efficiency	ienc	Passienc	ass E	ienc	Explo	sive	
	_	ń	Red	3rd			- 111	Effic	Effic	RB Pa	Effic	_	≅xplc	
										<u> </u>				

_																_	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	17	18	
W	L	Ĺ	w	Ĺ	w	L	w	w	W	W	W	W	w	w	L	W	
CLE	BAL	LAC	PHI	BUF	WAS	STEN	NYG	GB	LV	DAL	DEN	LV	LAC	PIT	CIN	DEN	
Н	Α	Н	Α	Н	Α	Α	Н	Н	Α	Н	Н	Н	Α	Н	Α	Α	
4	-1	-6	12	-18	18	-24	3	6	27	10	13	39	6	26	-3	4	
33	35	24	42	20	31	3	20	13	41	19	22	48	34	36	31	28	

30 38 13

2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance



#### **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency YPPA Red Zone 2021 Close Game **Records** WFFK

Ded

**(** 

10

**RESULT** OPP All 2019 Wins: 12 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-2** FG Games Win %: **33% (#18)** SITE MARGIN PTS FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): OPP PTS

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-3 EDSR by Wk Score Games Win %: 63% (#8) W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 42% (#20)

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

5 10

15

20

25

30

27

18

Rank

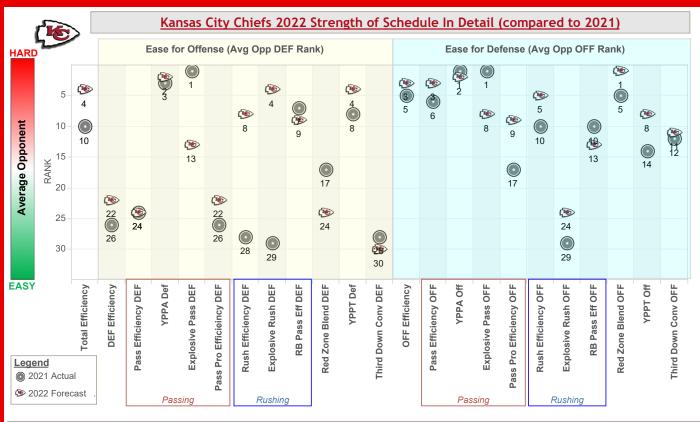
# 2021 Critical/Game-

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

Deciding Sta	<u>ıts</u>
TO Margin	+4
TO Given	25
INT Given	13
FUM Given	12
TO Taken	29
INT Taken	15
FUM Taken	14
Sack Margin	+3
Sacks	31
Sacks Allow	28
Return TD Margin	+0
Ret TDs	0
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	+5
Penalties	111
Opponent Penalties	116

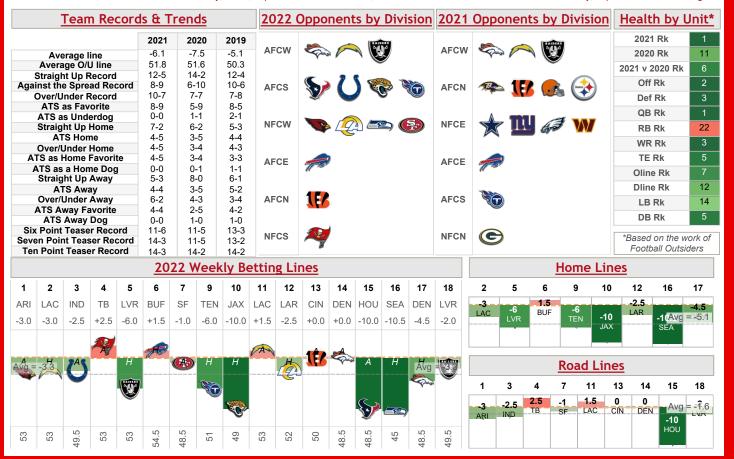
28

10 34 24



	2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*											
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk					
15	22	3	1	16	16	9	11					

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







Think of it like this for example:

Team A completes a pass for six yards on first down and throws an incompletion on second down: four yards-to-go on third down.

Team B runs for four yards on first down and four yards on second down: two yards-to-go on third down.

That's obviously not the way it would work for an entire game and the NFL average distance to go on third down is actually 6.9 yards, much longer than in our example.

But for the Chiefs, being so pass heavy didn't force them into longer third downs.

They faced the fifth-shortest yards-to-go on third downs (6.5 yards).

There is no single driver more important to third down conversion rate than yardage needed. The Chiefs were #1 in the NFL in third down conversion rate. By a mile.

The NFL average was 40.3%.

The No. 3 team (Buffalo) was 46.4%.

The No. 2 team (Tampa Bay) was 47.1%.

The No. 1 team (Kansas City) was 52.2%.

They were over 5% better than the second-best team in the NFL.

For comparison, the 2020 Chiefs were third in third down conversion rate, but they converted 48.7%. So the 2021 team was nearly 4% better, which is massive.

The 2021 team was better on early downs, bypassing third downs more frequently, and when forced into third downs, were the best team in the NFL at converting them.

So where is the problem?

We'll get to it now.

This efficient offense was great. But it wasn't explosive, not like in years past.

Examine the explosive play rate of the Chiefs, by year, in the first three quarters of games:

2018: first (17.5%)

2019: fourth (13.6%)

2020: second (14.0%)

---

2021: 19th (10.4%)

The biggest drop was in passing.

Only 12% of Patrick Mahomes's attempts in the first three quarters of games produced explosive gains (>15 yards).

That ranked 21st in the NFL.

The primary reason for the drop, of course, was the way defenses started playing the Chiefs. They began using 2-high coverage shells, pulling both safeties (cont'd - see KC-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 0 2



 Net Rest Edge Rank
 Prep Rank
 Rest Rank
 Short Week Road Games Rank
 Games off Road SNF/MNF Rank
 Negated Bye Rank

 6
 13
 6
 1
 21
 1

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

10.5

#### Why Bet the Over

- The Kansas City Chiefs play the hardest strength of schedule in 2022. The Chiefs' opening eight games are all against teams that finished the 2021 season with a winning record. In addition to the improvement of every team in the division, the Chiefs play the division-winning Rams, Bengals, and Titans.
- The 2021 Kansas City Chiefs lost the least number of games to injury, second-healthies on offense and third-healthiest on defense, per Football Outsiders' adjusted games lost. Included in this injury luck is the fact that four offensive line members played almost every snap. The Chiefs are no doubt going to regress in terms of injury luck in 2022.
- The Chiefs made a difficult decision to play the long game in terms of roster management as Mahomes is no longer on a rookie deal and salary allocation and planning becomes more difficult. KC have not gone all in this year and have not restructured Mahomes's contract which could push \$22 million into future years. While not leveraging future years, the Chiefs lost a star wide

receiver as part of salary cap mgmt.



- Although the offense is not better without **Tyreek Hill**, **Patrick Mahomes** and Andy Reid are still a formidable tandem. The 2021 Chiefs finished first in passing success rate, second in rushing success rate, and second in EPA/play. Over the past four seasons without Hill on the field, Mahomes has averaged 0.19 EPA/DB and the Chiefs added three additional receivers to the offense this offseason. The offense did not take a step forward this offseason, but it also didn't take as large of a step back as perceived.
- The offensive line was stellar in 2021, ranking second in Pass Block Win Rate and eighth in adjusted line yards. The line will benefit from returning all five starters in 2022 and is likely to continue to be a top-5 unit in the league.
- The Chiefs' front office did an admirable job of spreading out resources to the entire team following the Hill trade. Mahomes's cap hit is \$28 million higher than 2021 and the team managed to improve the defense substantially and provide receiving options for the offense. The Chiefs will remain one of the best teams in the league in 2022.

	Kansas City Chiefs Positional Unit Rankings												
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach							
1	2	27	13	16	18	1							

Based on an average of the unit ranks, Kansas City owns the league's eighth-best roster, though it is dragged down considerably by the backfield.

The Chiefs were a unanimous selection for the top quarterback room for the second consecutive season. **Patrick Mahomes** would need to fall off considerably to relinquish that title.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire and company are capable of taking what's given, but not much more. When Chiefs' running backs were provided one or fewer yards before contact, they averaged just 1.76 yards per attempt, which ranked 30th overall.

Kansas City's rebuilt offensive line lived up to expectations last season and the entire unit returns. This line provided at least three yards before contact for Chiefs running backs on 30% of their carries, the league's highest rate.

The Chiefs pass catchers dropped 10 spots in our rankings from a season ago due to the loss of **Tyreek Hill**. The unit no longer has a game-changing weapon, but the additions of **Juju Smith-Schuster**, **Marquez Valdes-Scantling**, and rookie **Skyy Moore** have improved the depth.

Four Chiefs had at least 250 pass-rush snaps on the edge last year and only **Melvin Ingram** (lost in free agency) ranked in the top half of the league. Rookie **George Karlaftis** will need to produce immediately for the front seven to exceed expectations. Votes for the Chiefs secondary ranged from 16th to 22th — a wide range due to the personnel turnover. **Tyrann Mathieu** and **Charvarius Ward** are gone, but **Justin Reid** and rookies **Trent McDuffie** and **Bryan Cook** provide some hope of improvement for a unit that ranked 24th in yards per attempt allowed.

Andy Reid has dethroned Bill Belichick atop our head coach rankings. Reid and Belichick shared the first-place votes this year, with Reid narrowly edging him out.

#### KC-4

far from the line of scrimmage, preventing deeper pass opportunities, and daring the offense to run the ball vs lighter box counts.

Our Dan Pizzuta analyzed what the defensive adjustments meant for Mahomes:

"Mahomes only threw deep on 10.2% of his pass attempts against two-high coverages. That ranked 20th among quarterbacks last season. Kansas City was manufacturing more intermediate throws and the screen game was a big part of playing against those deep safeties. No quarterback threw a higher percentage of passes behind the line of scrimmage than Mahomes (27.3%) in 2021.

When these defenses started to pop up against Kansas City, the Chiefs would use Hill as the go-to option against single-high and Kelce as the go-to intermediate/underneath option against two-high. As both opposing defenses and the offense evolved, Hill became more involved in the short-intermediate game, but Kelce got more attention and was played more physically off the line to disrupt timing. This, in part, again limited the options of how the Chiefs could attack. With Kelce taken out of some plays and Hill running shallower routes, Hill became a go-to in that area with little to no deep threat."

In each of the last several seasons, Mahomes's target depth has decreased.

On early downs last year, it was down to 6.6 air yards, a figure that was at 7.7 only one year prior and 8.6 in 2019.

#### <u>KC-5</u>

Mahomes ranked 32nd in early down target depth in 2021 (out of 38 quarterbacks)

The amount of work needed to be done by receivers increased. In 2020, these early down passes gained 5.7 yards after the catch. But in 2021, with a shorter target depth, receivers needed to do more to still produce efficient gains on catches and receptions produced 6.5 yards after the catch.

Mahomes ranked third in early down YAC per reception in 2021.

This wasn't a terrible thing. After all, the Chiefs were still the most efficient offense on a per-drive basis.

But they did have to work harder.

They needed to be perfect longer.

Mistakes were harder to overcome without explosive gains. Look at this:

If the Chiefs had even one play on a drive with negative yardage, here's how it impacted their offense in 2021:

One negative play: 1.9 points/drive (sixth), 36.6% score rate (ninth), 29.1 yards/drive (eighth)

Zero negative plays: 2.9 points/drive (first), 50.3% score rate (second), 41.1 yards/drive (first)

Compare to 2019 when they were substantially more explosive:

One negative play: 2.3 points/drive (third), 43.5% score rate (third), 35.9 yards/drive (third)

Zero negative plays: 2.6 points/drive (third), 49.3% score rate (third), 37.5 yards/drive (third)

(cont'd - see KC-6)



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



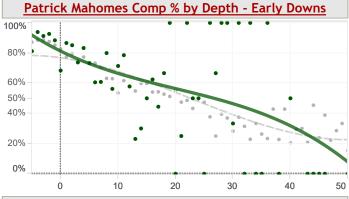
#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

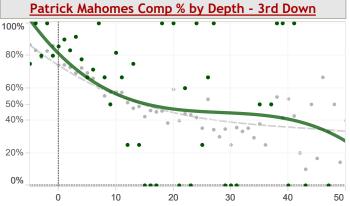


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

			Usage R	ate by S	<u>Score</u>		
Ç			Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
	Darrel W	/illiams	3%	1%	69%	14%	13%
	Tyreek F	Hill	10%		70%	10%	10%
	Clyde Ed	dwards-Helai	2%	9%	54%	22%	14%
	Travis Kelce				100%		
RUSH	Mecole I	Hardman			71%	14%	14%
- 2	Jerick M	cKinnon			74%	9%	17%
-	Derrick (	Gore			46%	6%	48%
	Blake Be	ell			100%		
	Mike Bur	rton		10%	70%		20%
	Total		2%	3%	62%	14%	18%
	Darrel W	/illiams	14%		68%	12%	5%
	Tyreek F	Hill	9%	6%	66%	14%	5%
	Clyde Ed	dwards-Helai	4%	4%	77%	4%	12%
	Travis K	elce	11%	5%	61%	16%	7%
	Mecole I	Hardman	13%	5%	58%	9%	15%
.	Jerick M	cKinnon	14%		70%	14%	3%
PASS	Byron Pr	ingle	11%	4%	61%	13%	12%
Δ	Derrick (	Gore	11%		11%	22%	56%
	Demarcu	ıs Robinson	10%	6%	62%	6%	16%
	Blake Be	ell	7%		71%	21%	
	Josh Go	rdon	7%		36%	14%	43%
	Mike Bu	rton			67%		33%
	Daniel B	rown			63%	38%	
	Total		10%	4%	63%	13%	10%

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Edwards-Helaire Darrel Williams Mecole Hardmar Jerick McKinnor Brown Travis Kelce Byron Pringle Demarcus Robinson Mike Burton Derrick Gore Josh Gordor Tyreek Hill Clyde Daniel **PASS** RUSH 2% 0% 18% 17% 14% 14%





# Successful Play Rate

#### **2021 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]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	53%, 0.12 (667)	54%, 0.22 (135)	78%, 0.41 (27)	59%, 0.37 (17)	40%, 0.14 (5)	0%, -1.08 (3)	100%, 3.56 (1)	0%, -0.68 (1)	54%, 0.15 (856)
RUSH	58%, 0.02 (257)	60%, -0.02 (135)	62%, 0.29 (42)	60%, 0.15 (48)	19%, -0.51 (26)	33%, 0.04 (3)	0%, -0.24 (1)		57%, 0.02 (512)
All	55%, 0.09 (924)	57%, 0.10 (270)	68%, 0.34 (69)	60%, 0.21 (65)	23%, -0.40 (31)	17%, -0.52 (6)	50%, 1.66 (2)	0%, -0.68 (1)	55%, 0.10 (1,368)

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							
WR	Tyreek Hill	62% (151) 8.4, 0.37	61% (38) 7.0, 0.20	50% (2) 10.0, 0.27	0% (2) 0.0, -1.16	61% (193) 8.1, 0.32							
	Mecole Hardman	64% (74) 8.5, 0.23	56% (16) 10.4, 0.33	0% (2) 1.0, -0.44	0% (1) 0.0, -0.93	60% (93) 8.6, 0.22							
	Byron Pringle	67% (72) 8.9, 0.46	0% (3) 0.0, -0.47	100% (1) 5.0, 0.99		64% (76) 8.5, 0.43							
	Demarcus Robinson	40% (40) 5.8, -0.18	71% (7) 11.9, 0.80	100% (1) 33.0, 2.67		46% (48) 7.3, 0.02							
TE	Travis Kelce	61% (131) 8.9, 0.38	65% (23) 9.4, 0.39	100% (2) 16.0, 1.25		62% (156) 9.0, 0.39							
RB	Jerick McKinnon	60% (30) 6.6, 0.32	60% (5) 8.2, 0.32			60% (35) 6.8, 0.32							
	Clyde Edwards	50% (24) 5.0, -0.22	100% (2) 5.0, 0.08	67% (3) 7.3, 0.17		55% (29) 5.3, -0.16							

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Williams	58% (72)	51% (47)	69% (13)	100% (1)	57% (133)
Darrel	4.0, -0.04	3.6, -0.05	4.3, 0.39	2.0, 2.65	3.9, 0.02
Edwards-	55% (69)	63% (43)	64% (11)	100% (1)	59% (124)
Helaire Cl	4.9, -0.06	4.5, -0.12	3.1, 0.02	1.0, 0.49	4.6, -0.07
Mahomes	69% (52)	50% (8)	33% (3)	0% (13)	54% (76)
Patrick	8.7, 0.44	5.1, 0.18	1.3, -0.49	-1.1, -0.84	6.4, 0.15
Gore	64% (22)	69% (16)	43% (7)	25% (4)	59% (49)
Derrick	4.7, 0.10	3.2, -0.09	5.1, -0.14	1.3, -0.61	4.0, -0.05
McKinnon	50% (24)	69% (13)	0% (3)		53% (40)
Jerick	4.7, 0.00	4.3, 0.01	-1.0, -0.82		4.2, -0.06
Hardman	14% (7)	80% (5)	100% (1)		46% (13)
Mecole	2.9, -1.76	10.2, 0.96	6.0, 0.20		5.9, -0.56

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	sing by	Throw Types		QB Drop	Types	QB	State at	Pass	Run	Types
	verage :heme	Re	oute	Level 1	62% (569) 7.0, 0.21	3 Step	55% (267) 8.3, 0.32	Planted		% (531) 8, 0.30	Inside Zone	53% (110) 3.7, -0.12
	470/ (405)	Curl	68% (107) 7.7, 0.32			0/1 Step	69% (188)	Moving				63% (71)
Zone	47% (465) 7.7, 0.18	Out	56% (62)	Level 2	53% (92) 11.4, 0.52	ол отор	7.7, 0.27	Shuffling		% (117) 8, -0.06	Zone	5.0, -0.03
		Out	6.7, 0.24		100/ (15)	5 Step	55% (104) 10.4, 0.42		Diana A ati		Stretch	50% (48) 3.3, -0.09
Man	46% (164)	Slant	64% (33) 7.5, 0.15	Level 3	40% (45) 15.0, 0.73	Designed	66% (41)		Play Action Play Action	No P/A	Power	72% (36)
	7.5, 0.11		F00/ (00)		63% (40)	Rollout Right	4.9, 0.08	Under	68% (72)	40% (20)		5.9, 0.24
		Drag	59% (29) 6.7, -0.01	Sidearm	6.9, 0.11	7 Step	49% (39)	Center	8.1, 0.38	3.9, -0.10 51% (597)	Pitch	50% (10)
Othor	51% (45)						7.6, 0.20	Shotgun	60% (168) 6.6, 0.09	7.8, 0.15		4.2, 0.05
Other	2.7, -0.10	Dig	44% (27) 5.3, -0.13	Shovel	69% (26) 4.8, 0.30	Basic Screen	61% (28) 9.4, 0.43	ALL	63% (240) 7.1, 0.18	51% (617) 7.6, 0.14	Lead	25% (4) 0.5, -0.18

KC-6

This is remarkable.

In 2019, the productivity dipped slightly (but not much) with one negative play, and the Chiefs were the third-best team in offensive drive success regardless.

But in 2021, with no negative plays, this offense was the best in the NFL, and substantially better than the Chiefs' 2019 offense. But if they had just one play that lost any amount of yardage, even one single yard, the offense took a dramatic downturn.

Instead of losing 0.3 points/drive as they did in 2019, they lost a full point. Instead of a scoring dip of 5.8% as they did in 2019, they dipped a whopping 13.7%, from 50.3% to 36.6%. Instead of gaining just 1.6 fewer yards per drive as they did in 2019, they gained 12 fewer yards, from 41.1 to 29.1!

How good was the 2021 offense when they had zero negative plays?

The 41.1 yards gained per drive ranked fourth in the NFL since 2000 among 702 team-seasons. The scoring rate ranked 11th of 702 and the points/drive ranked 18th of 702.

The Chiefs need to figure out a way to stay explosive enough to get back to being a top-5 offense, even if they suffer one negative play on a drive.

In 2022, the hope will have to come not in the form of addition by subtraction, but in subtraction to change the problem entirely.

**Tyreek Hill** is the NFL's most effective vertical threat and for certain the fastest per Next Gen Stats. Hill ranked first in average top speed within one second of the snap on all four of the primary field-stretching routes (go, corner, post, and crossing routes) among 64 receivers in the NFL.

But on account of the way defenses played the Chiefs, we know Hill wasn't running those routes nearly as often in 2021. The Chiefs threw underneath more often, quickly, and generated more after the catch.

(cont'd - see KC-7)





Without Hill, has the problem changed entirely? Do defenses still play the Chiefs at the NFL's highest rate of 2-high in 2022?

If the answer is no, the Chiefs now have **Marquez Valdes-Scantling**, who can be that deep threat and was targeted on 47% of his deep routes with 47 targets of 20+ yards (10th most in the NFL last year).

If the answer is no, the Chiefs still can be effective underneath for a variety of reasons.

First, while reading this may shock you, the best team in the NFL last year at running back rushing success with two or fewer wide receivers on the field? The Chiefs, at 50% success. They and the Colts were the only two teams to record positive EPA/rush on these plays.

The Chiefs also led the NFL in running back success rate on rushes in the first three quarters of games. A big reason for that? Only 55% of these runs came against 7+ man boxes, which was 31st in the NFL. The NFL average was 72% and the No. 1 team (49ers) faced 7+ man boxes on 86% of their running back runs.

Losing Tyreek Hill isn't great. It absolutely will change how defenses play the Chiefs. But the key is finding answers this offseason so they are ready when the test arrives. If the Chiefs prepare now off what they saw last year, they'll be more prepared to adjust and beat defenses this year. It's like being allowed an index card of notes for an exam. So in a way, it's a good thing for 2022 they had the early struggles against certain defenses in 2021.

As I asked and answered at the time of the Hill trade:

Does this trade help the Chiefs win the Super Bowl this year?

No.

Does Patrick Mahomes on your roster always give you a chance to win a Super Bowl?

Yes

Might this trade put the Chiefs in a better position to win Super Bowls in the future with an expensive quarterback like Mahomes?

Yes

And I firmly believe it.

And yes, Mahomes's price went up big this year.

Here are Patrick Mahomes's cap hits by year:

(cont'd - see KC-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Kansas City Chiefs 2022 Draft Class

Armed with extra draft capital due to the **Tyreek Hill** trade, the Chiefs aggressively traded up to acquire **Trent McDuffie** (first round) who will immediately compete for a starting job. With **L'Jarius Sneed** likely remaining in his role in the slot, the undersized McDuffie will remain on the outside, where he played in college. Washington coaches rave about McDuffie's worth ethic and football intelligence, which bodes well for a smooth transition to Steve Spagnuolo's defensive scheme. McDuffie will be required to play man coverage at a high rate for the first time in his career, as the Chiefs employed man schemes on 34% of coverage snaps. Last year at Washington, McDuffie was in man coverage on just 18% of snaps. To make an impact in Kansas City, McDuffie will need to make plays on the ball at a higher rate. In college, he generated a ball hawk rate 27% below expected based on route-adjusted data. That's a concerning trend, especially considering the high rate of zone coverage played by the Huskies, which tends to create more opportunities to attack the ball.

The Chiefs further added to their depth at cornerback with the selections of **Joshua Williams** (fourth round) and **Jaylen Watson** (seventh round). Williams (6-foot-4) and Watson (6-foot-2) are some much-needed height at the position, as the Chiefs will likely start three corners under 6-foot. They're both developmental prospects who likely play special teams as rookies.

**George Karlaftis** (first round) should also start as a rookie for Kansas City. The Chiefs struggled to generate a consistent pass rush last season, especially when not bringing extra pressure. On non-blitzes, Kansas City ranked 25th with 26% pressure rate. Karlaftis generated an 18% pressure rate on non-blitzes last season, ranked second in the Big Ten behind **Aidan Hutchinson**.

Skyy Moore (second round) adds some depth to the Chiefs' depleted receiving corps, though it remains to be seen whether he'll see much of a workload as a rookie. Moore's skillset overlaps significantly with Mecole Hardman, so he'll need to prove he's a substantial upgrade over the fourth-year pro to earn opportunities. At Western Michigan, Moore was rarely used to stretch the field and ran a limited route tree. Slants, curls, outs, and screens accounted for 67% of his targets in 2021. Bryan Cook (second round) adds some versatility to the Chiefs' secondary and should help replace Tyrann Mathieu. Cook spent time at Howard as a cornerback, before shifting to safety at Cincinnati.

For the third consecutive season, the Chiefs selected a linebacker on Day 2, adding **Leo Chenal** (third round). Chenal's strength is defending the run, and he'll likely compete for playing time only when the Chiefs are in three-linebacker alignments, which accounted for 38% of their defensive snaps in 2021. Although Chenal had some issues in coverage, he did provide value on the blitz, generating a 27% pressure rate while blitzing on 35% of his snaps against the pass. **Darrin Kinnard** (fifth round) is the ideal Day 3 selection for the depth he can provide at multiple positions. Although he spent his career at Kentucky playing right tackle, the 6'5", 322-pound lineman should be able to slide over to guard as well.

Landing two immediate starters in the first round clearly improves the Chiefs' championship hopes for 2022. If Cook and Moore can also provide immediate value, the Chiefs will have successfully plugged the major holes in the roster, while also adding some quality depth on Day 3.

#### 

#### Kansas City Chiefs 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

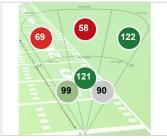
Despite a few lulls to work through in-season that were below the standards set over the previous three seasons, the Chiefs still ended the season second in the NFL in expected points added via their passing offense in 2021 (236.9 EPA). **Patrick Mahomes** was excellent once again, completing 66.3% of his passes for 4,839 yards, 37 touchdowns, and 13 interceptions. Mahomes has seen his yards per pass attempt drop from the previous year in each of the past three seasons, but he still has posted a touchdown rate over 5.0% every year as a starter. The Chiefs also successfully rebuilt their offensive line last offseason through free agency and the draft. The results could not have gone much better as Kansas City closed the year second in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate metric (68%) and sixth in pass blocking grade per Pro Football Focus. Mahomes signed a 10-year extension last offseason that will run through 2024 at minimum.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Patrick Mahomes	523	776	67%	5,897	7.6	47	15	37	102	9
NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6										

2021 Advanced Passing Table										
QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success % Pass Gains Success % Pass Gains Success Gains										
Patrick Mahomes	54%	56%	75	10.0%	28	4.0%	4.9	6.2		
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3		

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10 Patrick Mahomes Rating

#### Patrick Mahomes Rating Early Downs



Interception Rates by Down										
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total					
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%					
3, 4, 5	0.0%	1.6%	6.5%	0.0%	3.4%					
6 - 9	18.2%	1.1%	5.1%	0.0%	3.8%					
10 - 14	1.1%	0.0%	5.7%		1.2%					
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%					
39			0.0%		0.0%					
Total	1.6%	0.7%	4.3%	0.0%	1.8%					

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Patrick Mahomes	7.3	9.8	2.5	56%	7					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

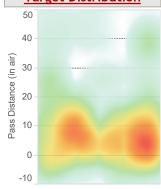
<u> </u>	Air Yds vs YAC									
yond Rk	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk							
7	44%	56%	41							
	53%	47%								

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

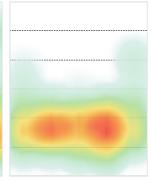
The Chiefs made huge news this offseason by trading **Tyreek Hill** to the Dolphins at the end of March. Hill led the team with 159 targets, 111 receptions, and 1,239 yards in 2021, matching **Travis Kelce** with a team-high nine touchdown grabs. In their effort to re-shape this receiving corps through a sum of parts over trying to replicate what Hill brought to the team, the Chiefs signed both **Marquez Valdes-Scantling** and **JuJu Smith-Schuster** this offseason in free agency while drafting **Skyy Moore** in the second round (54th overall). Travis Kelce will turn 33 years old this October, but is coming off another strong season, catching 92-of-134 targets for 1,125 yards and 9 TDs. **Clyde Edwards-Helaire** has averaged just 2.8 and 1.9 receptions per game.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS %	TDs
Tyreek Hill	187	72%	8.1	108.2	62%	9	8	47	59	12
Travis Kelce	153	72%	8.9	112.2	63%	6	14	62	68	11
Mecole Hardman	92	73%	8.8	106.0	61%	12	12	12	126	3
Byron Pringle	76	70%	8.5	126.4	63%	8	11	40	103	7
Darrel Williams	57	82%	7.9	111.4	65%	3	21	89	22	2
Demarcus Robinson	50	58%	6.8	82.1	44%	119	116	73	92	3

# Tyreek Hill Target Distribution



# Travis Kelce Target Distribution



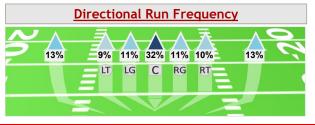
#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Clyde Edwards-Helaire has not gotten off to the start many had hoped after being selected in the first round in 2020. Edwards-Helaire produced 646 yards and six touchdowns in 2021 in 10 games. With another seven games missed, he has now missed 10 regular-season games over his first two years in the league. Edwards-Helaire may finally have that role expansion in Year 3, but he also has some added competition on early downs with the addition of **Ronald Jones**. Through two years in the league, Edwards-Helaire has rushed for -71 yards below expectation per Next Gen Stats while Ronald Jones is at +217 yards over the past two seasons. The team also retained veteran **Jerick McKinnon**. McKinnon only tallied 25 touches in the regular season but led the backfield in snaps (158) and touches (48) in the postseason.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssəɔɔnS	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Darrel Williams	145	3.9	57%	14	17	14	55	57%	11	6
Clyde Edwards-Helaire	132	4.6	58%	13	11	16	78	57%	11	4
Patrick Mahomes	78	6.2	54%	26	86	40	14	48%	53	3
Derrick Gore	54	4.8	59%	8	24	25	16	62%	3	2

#### Yards per Carry by Direction





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Replacing Tyreek Hill

Tyreek Hill led the team with 159 targets, 111 receptions, and 1,239 yards in 2021, matching Travis Kelce with a team-high nine touchdown grabs. A one-of-one player in what Hill brings to the table from a tactical advantage, the Chiefs are not looking to replace him with just one player but rounding out their receiving corps with more viable bodies capable of filling multiple roles.

The team still, of course, has Travis Kelce as a primary leverage piece to deploy versus opposing defenses. Last year was the first time in si years Kelce did not lead the position in points and although we did see more valleys from him than in previous seasons, he was still the TE2 in points per game (16.4), expected points per game (15.7), and third in targets per game (8.4). Kelce will turn 33 years old in-season but is coming off a strong 92-1,125-9 campaign. In free agency, the team added both Marquez-Valdes Scantling and JuJu Smith-Schuster.

Valdes-Scantling has never commanded more than 73 targets in a season over his first four years in the league but provides tactical leverage as a downfield threat. No player has accrued more targets over 30 air yards downfield since entering the league than Hill did, so expect Valdes-Scantling to occupy that role in this offense.

Since entering the league, Valdes-Scantling has averaged 16.0 air yards per target, the most in the NFL. His 17.5 career yards per reception are second since he joined the league, only trailing Ja'Marr Chase, who has one year on his belt. 2021 provided no further clarity on Smith-Schuster regaining his early-career form as he appeared in just five games due to a shoulder injury. Prior to the injury, we were getting more of the 2020 version of JuJu as he was averaging just 8.6 yards per catch and a paltry 4.6 yards per target. Smith-Schuster still will be just 26 years old this season with a WR1 season on his resume. Playing with a subpar quarterback play the past three seasons, Smith-Schuster is capable of blowing past his current ADP in a new environment paired with Mahomes.

Skyy Moore broke out early at Western Michigan, accounting for 20.7% of the receptions and 25.6% of the team receiving yards at age 19. Playing second wheel to D'Wayne Eskridge in 2020 (25-388-3 in five games), Moore took things to another level in 2021, posting 95-1,292-10 with a complete runway to lead the passing game. Moore was third in this class in target rate per route run (36.9%) and fifth in yards per route (3.59) while ranking second in share of team receptions (40.3%), fourth in yardage (42.1%), and third in touchdowns (43.5%) this past season.

Often talked about in the context of his releases at the line of scrimmage, Moore was a slant-route demon in 2021. Per SIS, 22.6% of Moore's targets were on slants (highest in this class) while 33.5% of his yards came on slants, also the highest. Moore was credited with 433 yards on slants alone, 189 more than the next highest in this class.

The Chiefs also still have **Mecole Hardman**. Before eyes fully begin to roll, Hardman still showcased big-play potential to close 2021. Hardman produced a gain of 40 or more yards in five of the final eight games of 2021, which includes catching 8-of-11 targets for 103 yards in Week 18 when Hill was only able to play 14 snaps due to injury.

Kan	Kansas City Chiefs Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel							Surrendered +Success Map	
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total			D.	50	
1-1 [3WR]	13 plays (2%) Success: 31%	319 plays <i>(55%)</i> Success: 50%	246 plays (43%) Success: 44%	578 plays (100%) Success: 47%		% Rk		40	
	EPA: -0.38	EPA: 0.08 EPA: -0.07 EPA: 0.00	Base	27% 11	11				
1-2 [2WR]	58 plays <i>(60%)</i> Success: 59%	31 plays <i>(32%)</i> Success: 45%	8 plays (8%) Success: 38%	97 plays (100%) Success: 53%	Nickel	44%	31	30	
	EPA: 0.16	EPA: 0.03	EPA: -1.08	EPA: 0.02	Dime+	27%	2		
2-1 [2WR]	34 plays (76%) Success: 62% EPA: 0.45	10 plays <i>(22%)</i> Success: 20% EPA: -0.38	1 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -2.88	45 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 51% EPA: 0.19	Rush 3	3%	16	20 -	
		1.11	Li 7t2.00		Rush 4	70%	19	10 -	
1-3 [1WR]	18 plays (95%) Success: 83% EPA: 0.76	1 plays <i>(5%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 1.93		19 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 84% EPA: 0.82	Rush 5	16%	28	10-	
	123 plays (17%)	361 plays (49%)	255 plays (35%)	739 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	11%	1	0-	
Grand Total	Success: 60% EPA: 0.27	Success: 49% EPA: 0.07	Success: 44% EPA: -0.12	Success: 49% EPA: 0.04	Blitz%	27%	12	-10	

#### **Defensive Outlook**

Chris Jones remains one of the best interior players in the league. He was second among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and he was first in pressure rate, per SIS. Jones still won't turn 28 years old until July and he's signed through 2023. **Tershawn Wharton** played 45% of the defensive snaps in 2021 and the 2020 undrafted free agent has worked himself into a useful rotational rusher with the potential for more in 2022. Wharton was 29th among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season. **Derrick Nnad**i played 40% of the defensive snaps and the 2018 third-round pick re-signed on a one-year deal after his rookie contract expired.

Frank Clark's tenure in Kansas City has been uneven, though he's technically made the Pro Bowl in all three seasons as a Chief. Clark only had 4.5 sacks in 2021 and ranked 41st among edge rushers in pressure rate. Clark's pressure rate has increased in each of the past three seasons but they were not high rates to top. Chris Jones had to fill in at edge early in the season with little effective depth before Melvin Ingram was acquired. Ingram is gone but the Chiefs used a first-round pick on George Karlaftis, who likely immediately comes in as the starter opposite Clark.

Willie Gay and Nick Bolton were second-round picks in back-to-back seasons, which shows a fairly decent investment at the position. Bolton led the group in snaps during his rookie season and ranked 41st among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap.

Gay played 12 games and 39% of the overall defensive snaps. He ranked 63rd in yards allowed per coverage snap. He'll play a bigger role in 2022 with both Anthony Hitchens and Ben Niemann no longer on the roster. The Chiefs also used dime personnel 27% of the time, the second-highest rate in the league, which keeps just one linebacker on the field. 2019 sixth-round pick **Rashad Fenton** was 31st among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. Fenton will be the top outside receiver with **Charvarious Ward** gone. **L'Jarius Sneed** led the position in snaps played (82%) and spent most of his time in the slot. Sneed ranked 35th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap.

With help needed on the outside, the Chiefs drafted Washington's **Trent McDuffie** by trading up with their first first-round pick. McDuffie was sixth in this draft class in yards allowed per coverage snap during the 2021 season. **Justin Reid** takes over at safety as Kansas City's big free agent signing this offseason. Reid has been up and down a bit over the past few seasons in Houston but a better defensive scheme should help bring back his early-year production. **Juan Thornhill** played 76% of the defensive snaps last season and should continue to develop as a top safety. He played most of his snaps as a deep safety, but also added some snaps in the slot and box. Moving him — and Reid — around could happen more often without **Tyrann Mathieu**. Second-round pick **Bryan Cook** was a versatile safety at Cincinnati, who spent a lot of time in the box and was one of college football's best tackling defensive backs.

Play Tendencies							
All Pass %	64%						
All Pass Rk	2						
All Rush %	36%						
All Rush Rk	31						
1 Score Pass %	63%						
1 Score Pass Rk	5						
2020 1 Score Pass %	65%						
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	2						
2021 Pass Increase %	-2%						
Pass Increase Rk	24						
1 Score Rush %	37%						
1 Score Rush Rk	28						
Up Pass %	63%						
Up Pass Rk	3						
Up Rush %	37%						
Up Rush Rk	30						
Down Pass %	68%						
Down Pass Rk	3						
Down Rush %	32%						
Down Rush Rk	30						

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>									
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %				
1st	Short (1-3)	15	27%	73%	53%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	15	47%	53%	47%				
	Long (8-10)	444	56%	44%	59%				
	XL (11+)	18	78%	22%	39%				
2nd	Short (1-3)	75	49%	51%	72%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	111	74%	26%	61%				
	Long (8-10)	119	76%	24%	50%				
	XL (11+)	41	85%	15%	39%				
	38	1	0%	100%	0%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	59	58%	42%	81%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	59	85%	15%	56%				
	Long (8-10)	30	93%	7%	30%				
	XL (11+)	27	93%	7%	19%				
	39	1	100%	0%	0%				
4th	Short (1-3)	10	50%	50%	80%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	0%				

Shotgun %							
Shotgun	Under Center						
79%	21%						
NFL AVG							
65%	35%						

Success: 44%



Run NFL 1D Avg 73%

#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Effici	iency	2nd and Short Rur							
EPA/ pass:	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate				
0.15		63%	24	71%	73%				
EPA/ ush:	EPA/ rush:		<u>2nc</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass				
0.06	0.05	_	_		- 4-				

Zna ana Snort Pass					
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg	
37%	9	29%	73%	46%	

<u>Most Frequent Play</u>						
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %	
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Darrel Williams	7	57%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Byron Pringle	4	50%	
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Tyreek Hill	57	61%	
		RUSH	Clyde Edwards-Helai	57	63%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Tyreek Hill	3	67%	
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Darrel Williams	20	85%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Tyreek Hill	16	44%	
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Travis Kelce	20	70%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Travis Kelce	11	64%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	Travis Kelce	9	100%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Tyreek Hill	17	76%	
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Travis Kelce	8	25%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Demarcus Robinson	5	20%	

Offen	Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)							
	Play Action (Y/N)							
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total					
No	Success: 50%	Success: 55%	Success: 51%					
	YPA: 6.2, EPA: -0.07	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.17	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.02					
	Rtg: 80.0	Rtg: 102.7	Rtg: 84.5					
	[Att: 122 - Rate: 14.2%]	[Att: 29 - Rate: 3.4%]	[Att: 151 - Rate: 17.6%]					
Yes	Success: 51%	Success: 64%	Success: 55%					
	YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.19	YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.18	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.19					
	Rtg: 102.0	Rtg: 112.5	Rtg: 105.2					
	[Att: 495 - Rate: 57.8%]	[Att: 211 - Rate: 24.6%]	[Att: 706 - Rate: 82.4%]					
Total	Success: 51%	Success: 63%	Success: 54%					
	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.18	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.15					
	Rtg: 97.7	Rtg: 111.3	Rtg: 101.6					
	[Att: 617 - Rate: 72.0%]	[Att: 240 - Rate: 28.0%]	[Att: 857 - Rate: 100.0%]					

	Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Travis Kelce	Tyreek Hill	Demarcus Robinson	Mecole Hardman	Byron Pringle	Darrel Williams	Clyde Edwards	Blake Bell
1	CLE	W 33-29	55	57	48	45	11	14	47	19
2	BAL	W 41-30	44	50	30	40	11	14	33	20
3	LAC	L 30-24	69	58	57	51	30	27	49	23
4	PHI	W 42-30	59	54	45	35	17	24	35	18
5	BUF	L 38-20	75	73	65	59	26	37	22	17
6	WAS	W 31-13	67	47	57	49	32	59		
7	TEN	L 27-3	53	52	57	49	34	46		6
8	NYG	W 20-17	74	62	33	40	43	52		24
9	GB	W 13-7	56	54	14	42	30	35		26
10	LV	W 41-14	58	56	26	24	46	45		24
11	DAL	W 19-9	59	55	28	12	40	36	32	23
13	DEN	W 22-9	44	50	31	9	41	26	29	14
14	LV	W 48-9	49	44	30	23	40	23	23	22
15	LAC	W 34-28	56	60	49	31	46	21	51	16
16	PIT	W 36-10		29	46	30	55	29	21	25
17	CIN	L 34-31	48	52	39	19	29	49		24
18	DEN	W 28-24	60	14	41	65	55	31		21
	Grand	Total	926	867	696	623	586	568	342	322

Personnel Groupings					
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.		
1-1 [3WR]	67%	61%	54%		
1-2 [2WR]	20%	21%	56%		
1-3 [1WR]	5%	4%	64%		
2-1 [2WR]	5%	7%	61%		
0.0141415	00/	3%	17%		
2-2 [1WR]	2%	3%	17 %		
2-2 [1WR]					
Group	oing Te	enden Pass Succ.	Run Succ.		
Group	Pass Rate	enden 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 73% 50%	Pass Succ. % 53% 53%	Run Succ. % 58% 58%		

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard						
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Tyreek Hill	32	7	5	20		
Travis Kelce	19	5	6	8		
Mecole Hardman	18	3	5	10		
Darrel Williams	10	2	3	5		
Byron Pringle	9	3	1	5		
Jerick McKinnon	8	1	1	6		
Noah Gray	5	1	4			
Clyde Edwards-Helaire	4	2	1	1		

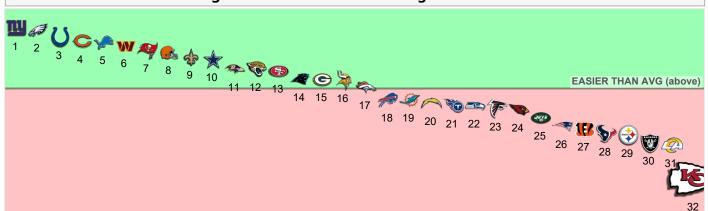
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard						
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Darrel Williams	34	14	6	14		
Patrick Mahomes	22	2	8	12		
Clyde Edwards-Hel	15	3	5	7		
Derrick Gore	10	2		8		
Jerick McKinnon	9	2	2	5		

Early Down Target Rate					
RB	TE	WR			
18% <b>23%</b>	25% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	56% <b>56%</b>			
Overall Target Success %					
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	iccess %			
Overall RB	Target Su	wr			





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



2017: \$2.99 million 2018: \$3.73 million 2019: \$4.48 million 2020: \$5.35 million 2021: \$7.43 million 2022: \$35.79 million 2023: \$46.79 million

The Chiefs were able to sign Mahomes to a lucrative extension and kick the can down the road a couple years with cheap cap hits. Those are now done with the low cap hit years, and he's hitting the cap for seven times more than what he did in 2020.

It would be hard to afford Hill and Mahomes at top of the market salaries while still having the depth at other positions with the flexibility to make new moves.

So we've discussed one of the problems for the 2021 Chiefs - a lack of explosiveness.

Another problem that caused them to struggle — particularly to start the season as they sat at 3-4 through Week 7, tied for last place in the AFC West (a division they would ultimately win) and in 11th place in the AFC West — was turnovers.

Turnovers were ridiculous for this team.

Here's how bad they were to start the season:

In Weeks 8-18, the Chiefs had the third-lowest rate of drives ending in turnovers in the NFL (7.7%). Yet despite that low rate over the vast majority of the season, the Chiefs finished with the seventh-highest rate of turnovers for the year.

In Weeks 1-7, the Chiefs saw 25.8% of their non-kneel down drives end with a turnover.

The next worst team, the Jets, was way down at 19.4%.

Through the first seven weeks, the Chiefs had 17 turnovers.

They lost the turnover battle in every game from Week 3 through Week 7. They won just two of those games as a result (both against NFC East competition).

But when they turned around their turnover woes, they lost just one more game the rest of the season (to the Bengals in Week 17).

#### To confirm:

The Chiefs went 3-4 the first seven weeks of the season, and of those four losses, they lost the turnover battle by four turnovers twice, two turnovers once, and blew a 35-24 fourth guarter lead to the Ravens in the other game.

From Week 8 onward, the Chiefs went 9-1, winning eight games in a row, with the only loss being yet another game where they blew a big lead, this time multiple two-touchdown leads (14-0, 21-7, and 28-14) in a 3-point loss.

That was just part of the bizarre season for the Chiefs.

Hat tip to my colleague on the Ringer Gambling Show (go subscribe) Ben Solak for this nugget:

There was a wild stretch last season between Weeks 7 and 14 where Patrick Mahomes started seven games and threw only nine passing touchdowns... while leading his team to a 6-1 record. And shockingly, seven of those nine passing touchdowns came against the Raiders and defensive coordinator Gus Bradley's refusal to play two-high in the game.

If you listened to the media, some of Mahomes's stats in this chapter might surprise you and you might view him less favorably now than you did a few years



ago.



Here's the problem with the media. Everything gets sensationalized. And every take must be as hot as the sun.

When Andy Reid couldn't sniff a playoff win for a couple years, let alone make a Super Bowl, the media wondered what Mahomes would do in that offense.

When Mahomes took them to two straight AFC Conference Championships and won the 2019 Super Bowl with gusto, he was crowned as the savior of the NFL.

There was no room for "even" takes. Mahomes would win the next five Super Bowls. He was the best quarterback in NFL history.

So when he loses the Super Bowl in 2020, and then loses in the Conference Championship in 2021, suddenly he's overrated. Suddenly he's a choker.

There are people walking this earth holding these opinions.

Some of them get put on TV, too. Days after the Super Bowl, the talking heads said Mahomes isn't even a top-5 NFL quarterback, and Joe Burrow (I love him) is the best quarterback in the AFC.

It's insanity.

The last four years, out of 28 playoff quarterbacks, Mahomes ranks:

Second in EPA/att (+0.17) Third in success rate (48%) Fourth in YPA (8.0)

These are playoff numbers against the best teams in the NFL. He's the best playoff quarterback in the NFL the last four years, but he's a choker. OK.

He's led his team to four straight AFC Championship Games, despite having a defense that ranked 25th in yds/play from 2018-21.

Take a look at the total playoff touchdowns in the first five years of quarterback's careers in NFL history:

33: Patrick Mahomes

32

31

30 29

28

27 26

25

24

23

22: Russell Wilson

21

20: Joe Flacco

19

18

17: Ben Roethlisberger, Kurt Warner

16

15: Bernie Kosar, Josh Allen

14: Elway, McNabb

13: Marino, Brady, Favre, Aikman

And that's despite the fact Mahomes didn't even start his first season as a pro, so he's done all of that in only four years (the same as Josh Allen has, as Allen is entering his fifth season in 2022).

Mahomes has thrown for 4,000 yards for four straight years. Only 10 quarterbacks in NFL history have done that. He's one of 10. And he's going for his fifth consecutive season with 4,000 passing yards.

The Chiefs' offense will be just fine with Mahomes.

The good news about this offense? It's the schedule.

In last year's book, I predicted the 2021 Chiefs would face the 26th ranked schedule of defenses and the 24th ranked schedule of pass defenses.

How did that projection turn out? They played the 26th-ranked schedule of defenses and 24th-ranked schedule of pass defenses. Impossibly right on the money. This year, I project the Chiefs offense will play the 22nd ranked schedule of defenses and again the 24th ranked schedule of pass defenses. That means life shouldn't get much harder for Mahomes based on his opponents.

Other benefits of their schedule include playing the NFC West. Last year, this wouldn't have been ideal. This year, there is no Russell Wilson in Seattle, they get to face the 49ers relatively early (Week 7) so Trey Lance won't have a ton of experience, and they get to face the Cardinals early in the season





with DeAndre Hopkins suspended.

For the AFC South games, they play the Colts early in the season, and if you haven't read my Colts chapter on their early season struggles, you should. They also play the Titans off of the Chiefs' bye, so that takes care of the best teams in the AFC South.

We know about the AFC West divisional battles this year and improvements made from a personnel perspective on those teams.

Their non-division first-place schedule, unfortunately, pits them against the Bills, Bengals, and Bucs, with the Bills coming on a short week post-MNF and the Bengals and Bucs both being on the road, so those games will be brutal.

But I still have confidence in this offense, even without Hill.

Their defense is what needs to improve after they lost **Tyrann Mathieu**, **Anthony Hitchens**, and **Charvarius Ward**. Defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo expects to see some growing pains along the way with the amount of youth and inexperience they're adding.

They have the potential to start four new players, including two rookies (cornerback **Trent McDuffie** and EDGE **George Karlaftis**), in 2022. This isn't the most optimal way to roll into the season, having a lot of new pieces on defense taking on the offenses of the Cardinals, Chiefs, Colts, Bucs, Raiders, Bills, and 49ers to start the season.

In fact, no team plays a more difficult schedule of opposing offenses through Week 7, and it's not even close. This young defense will have to come together quickly, or even more pressure will be on Mahomes and the offense to be perfect.

Overall, the Chiefs' schedule is brutal. It's the toughest in the NFL. But they played the 10th most difficult schedule in the NFL last year, and the truth of their season was, they beat themselves with the turnovers and bad defense.

In 2022, in an extremely tough AFC, they won't have that luxury. If they want to make a fifth-straight run to the AFC Championship and take home the ultimate prize, it won't be easy with the schedule or the new cap constraints from the Mahomes contract. But if people are jumping ship on this team, on Andy Reid, and on a 26-year-old Mahomes, I'll gladly buy low.



# Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

#### The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

#### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

#### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

#### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

02. Avg Halftime Lead

3.0

03. Wins

ns 1

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	7.0			
37. PSM Target Depth	6.0			
38. Non-PSM YPA	6.9			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	7.0			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	56%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	54%			
42. PSM EPA/att	0.05			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.15			

#### Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	38%
45. PA Success Rate	60%
46. PA YPA	6.7
47. PA Sack Rate	0.6%
48. PA EPA/att	0.14
49. PA Target Depth	6.6
50. Non-PA Success Rate	52%
51. Non-PA YPA	7.1
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	4.3%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.06
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	5%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	69%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	6.4
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	22%
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	4.5
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	58%
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	8	defFUM	24
Net FROE	1.9	defFUM Rcvrd	10
offFUM	24	dell oli Revid	10
offFUM Rcvrd	12	defFR Rk	3
offFR%	50.0%	defFR%	58.3%
offFR Rk	22		
***************************************		defFROE	4.0
offFROE	-2.1		
offFROE Rk	28	defFROE Rk	1

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	3.08	Opp Att	24
Net Over Expectation Rank	4	Opp Makes	20
Own Att Own Makes	32 28	Opp FG %	83%
Own FG %	88%	Opp Expected Makes	20.83
Own Expected Makes	25.75	Opp Make Over Expectation	-0.83
Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk	2.25	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	29
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	1.84	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-2.02
2020 Own Rk	11	2020 Opp Rk	31

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

r tay or Tracking	, sata stats es
	Patrick Mahomes
CAY	4.8
CAY Rk	34
2020 CAY Rk	15
AYTS Rk	22
2020 AYTS Rk	17
AGG Rk	38
2020 AGG Rk	39
COMP%	66.3
xCOMP%	68.3
xCOMP% Rk	2
2020 xCOMP% Rk	8
CPOE%	-2.1
CPOE Rk	25
2020 CPOE Rk	26

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

#### **QB Pressure**

	Patrick Mahomes	
Pressure %	31.4	
Pressure Rk	27	
Sack %	4.2	
Sack Rk	35	
Pressure Accuracy %	61.6	
Pressure Accuracy Rk	25	
Rating when Pressured	77	
Pressured Rating Rk	10	
Clean Accuracy %	84.3	
Clean Accuracy Rk	1	
Rating when Clean	110.6	
Clean Rating Rk	7	
Time to Throw	2.84	
Time to Throw Rk	12	

#### Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.16
EPA/Pass Rk	1
EPA/Rush	0.00
EPA/Rush Rk	8
On-Target Catch %	93.9%
On-Target Catch Rk	1
Drop%	5.7%
Drop Rk	17
YAC/Att	1.9
YAC/Att Rk	30
Rush Broken Tackle %	8.4%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	31
Rush 1st Down %	27.6%
Rush 1st Down Rk	8



# Chiefs Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### **Stable Quarterback Metrics**

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Patrick Mahomes	0.27 (#2)	0.15 (#2)	0.16 (#2)	0.08 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	0.20 (#2)	0.27 (#2)
2020	Patrick Mahomes	0.41 (#1)	0.18 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	0.28 (#1)	0.35 (#1)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure Outside Pocket		Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Patrick Mahomes	-0.25 (#2)	0.01 (#2)	0.21 (#1)	0.38 (#2)	0.18 (#2)	0.30 (#2)	0.07 (#2)
2020	Patrick Mahomes	-0.12 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.17 (#2)	0.44 (#1)	0.48 (#1)	0.36 (#1)	0.14 (#1)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range of contage a rank (stank meetine agin act to quality)													
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage				
2021	Patrick Mahomes	77% (#2)	80% (#2)	61% (#2)	52% (#2)	75% (#2)	77% (#2)	73% (#2)	64% (#2)	78% (#1)				
2020	Patrick Mahomes	77% (#1)	82% (#1)	71% (#1)	59% (#1)	75% (#1)	79% (#1)	75% (#1)	76% (#1)	76% (#2)				

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	AII	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	0.03 (#1)	0.00 (#2)	0.15 (#1)	-0.09 (#2)	0.15 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	-1.30 (#2)	0.25 (#1)
2020	-0.03 (#2)	0.06 (#1)	-0.35 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	-0.20 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.22 (#1)	-0.22 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	2	1	6	6	17	8	6	27	27	23
2020	4	1	5	3	14	10	2	26	11	19

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
2020	5	5	5	9	3	3	15	1	6

## First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	10	15	9	11	10	7	22	1	9
2020	14	4	16	17	1	5	7	29	22

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

#### **Head Coach**:

Hard

Easy

Josh McDaniels (NE OC) (new) Offensive Coordinator:

Mick Lombardi (NE WR) (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Patrick Graham (NYG DC) (new)

# **Las Vegas Raiders**

2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

8.5

#4

#### **Past Records**

2021: 10-7 2020: 8-8 2019: 7-9



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Yannick Ngakoue (EDGE)	Colts
Marcus Mariota (QB)	Falcons
Carl Nassib (EDGE)	TBD
Zay Jones (WR)	Jaguars
Casey Hayward (CB)	Falcons
Quinton Jefferson (IDL)	Seahawks
Brandon Facyson (CB)	Colts
Jalen Richard (RB)	TBD
K.J. Wright (LB)	TBD
Alec Ingold (FB)	Dolphins
Nicholas Morrow (LB)	Bears
Cory Littleton (LB)	Panthers
Solomon Thomas (EDGE)	Jets
Richie Incognito (LG)	TBD
DeSean Jackson (WR)	TBD
Gerald McCoy (IDL)	TBD
Nick Martin (C)	TBD
Marquel Lee (LB)	Bills
Bryan Edwards (WR)	Falcons
Derek Carrier (TE)	TBD
Desmond Trufant (CB)	TBD
Nick Kwiatkoski (LB)	Falcons

#### 2022 Las Vegas Raiders Overview

The 2021 Raiders were a really difficult evaluation.

Here's a team that sat at 3-2 when their coach, Jon Gruden, resigned. They proceeded to win 10 games for the first time since 2016 and make the playoffs, thanks to an overtime win over the Chargers in Week 18.

But what was this team's identity? What was their strength?

Their offense was worse in 2021 than it was in 2020. They ranked 19th in EDSR offense and 19th in overall offensive efficiency. They had a below average passing offense (17th) and a bottom-10 rushing offense (25th).

Their defense was bottom-10 (23rd), they were bad against the pass (25th) but were good on early downs (sixth) and against the run (ninth).

How did they go 10-7 last year and make the playoffs?

They went 5-1 in games decided by a field goal or less.

They went 7-2 overall in one-score games.

They went 4-0 in overtime games, the most wins in overtime games in NFL history (tied with the 2011 Arizona Cardinals).

# Games **Average** Line **Favored** 

-0.1

# Games Underdog

> 6 They ranked seventh in fumble luck.

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Davante Adams (WR)	\$28
Chandler Jones (EDGE)	\$17
Bilal Nichols (IDL)	\$5.5
Anthony Averett (CB)	\$4
Brandon Bolden (RB)	\$2.5
Mack Hollins (WR)	\$2
Nick Mullens (QB)	_\$2
Rock Ya-Sin (CB)	Trade
Alex Bars (LG)	\$1.7
Darius Phillips (CB)	\$1.5
Jakob Johnson (FB)	\$1.5
Duron Harmon (S)	\$1.3

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
3	90	OG - Dylan Parham (Memphis)
4	122	RB - Zamir White (Georgia)
-	126	DT - Neil Farrell Jr. (LSU)
5	175	DT - Matthew Butler (Tennessee)
7	238	OT - Thayer Munford (Ohio State)
	250	RB - Brittain Brown (UCLA)

# Regular Season Wins:





LB J.Brov NEW 50 52 OLB C.Jone *DT* J.Hankii *LCB* T.Mullen 39 55 90 27 26 98



#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF		\$98.08M	16
QB	11	\$22.99M	7
OL	28	\$29.37M	13
RB	9	\$12.87M	6
WR	22	\$19.87M	31
TE	8	\$12.98M	14
All DEF	28	\$80.64M	23
DL	17	\$42.26M	22
LB	27	\$9.05M	5
СВ	23	\$17.14M	26
S	21	\$12.20M	27

#### LV-2

They ranked eighth in field goal luck.

They won eight games which they trailed in at some point, which ranked second-most in the NFL.

Incredibly, they trailed in 15 games last season, fourth-most of any team (NYJ, NYG, DET), but still made the playoffs.

No team since 2016 had trailed in at least 15 games but made the playoffs (yes, there was an extra game last year, but it still is extremely rare).

The Raiders played seven games against passing attacks that ranked inside the top 15. The points allowed:

48 vs. the Chiefs

41 vs. the Chiefs

33 vs. the Cowboys

32 vs. the Chargers

32 vs. the Bengals

28 vs. the Chargers

26 vs. the Bengals

They went 2-5 in those games, with most losses coming by at least two touchdowns

Their lone win before their overtime Week 18 victory was a penalty-aided affair with pass interference called left and right as they outscored Dallas with the help

Their offense down the stretch became a poppun offense.

Context in understanding the Raiders season is important.

After their bye in Week 8, the Raiders' offense scored the following:

- 16 points in a loss to the Giants
- 14 points in a loss to the Chiefs
- 13 points in a loss to the Bengals

#### 2021 Passing Performance QΒ 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 49% Derek 8.5 6.8 Carr Rating 92.0 87.1 55% 64% 79% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 47% NFL 6.9 AVG Rating 93.9 90.4 **Pass Rate** 49% 59% 76%

	2021 Rushii	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
LV	49% 4.0	54% 4.3	46% 4.0	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	45%	36%	21%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

36 points in a penalty-aided win vs the Cowboys

15 points in a loss to Washington

9 points in a loss to the Chiefs

16 points in a win vs a disheveled Browns team which was dealing with a COVID outbreak

17 points in a win vs the Broncos who were starting No. 2 QB Drew Lock 23 points in a win vs a Colts team dealing with a COVID outbreak and a starting QB who didn't practice all week and wasn't cleared to play until

35 points in a desperate win-and-get-in week 18 play-in game

19 points in a playoff loss to the Bengals

We're not talking about a small sample here. This is the entire (cont'd - see LV-3)



#### **2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics** 5 2 10 Rank 15 20 W 18 25 20 24 30 Defensive Efficiency Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Pass Eff Def **EDSR Del** 30 & In Def Ded 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Pass Pro Efficieincy De Red Zone

#### 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 10 11 12 13 14 2 5 15 W L L L W L L NYG KC CIN DALWAS KC BAL PIT MIA LAC CHI DEN PHI CLEDEN IND LAC Н Н Α Н Α Н Н Н Α Н A -39 A 2 Н Α Н -7 3 -2 3 -14 -11 10 11 -27 -19 4 3 15 9 16 17 33 31 9 13 36 26 14 34 33 16 14 23 35 17 28 28 20 24 22 23 41 32 33 17 48 14 13 20

## 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 10 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **5-1** FG Games Win %: **83% (#7)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 7-2 Score Games Win %: 78% (#3) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 70% (#8) Sacks

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -9 TO Given 24 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 10 TO Taken 15 **INT Taken** 6 **FUM Taken** 9 Sack Margin -5 35 Sacks Allow 40 Return TD Margin -1 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 1 **Penalty Margin** -25 Penalties 124 **Opponent Penalties** 99

**Explosive** 

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

**RESULT** 

MARGIN

OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk

W=Green

OFF/DFF

Blue=OFF

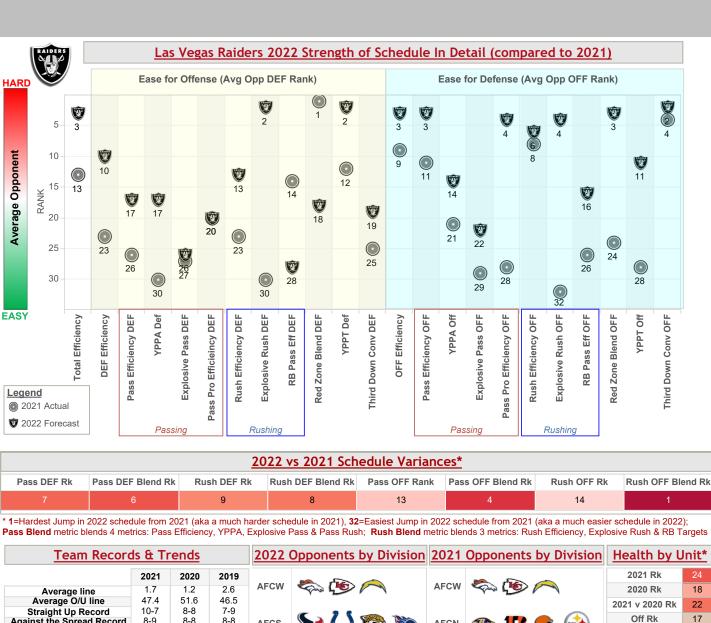
Red=DEF

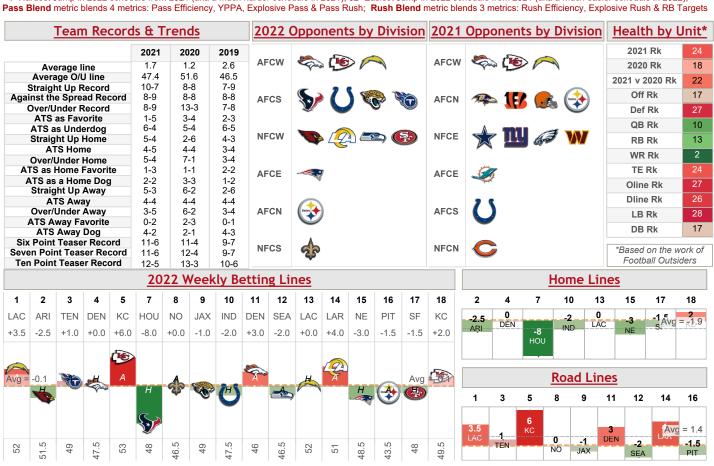
(high=good)

(low=good)

**EDSR** 

L=Red









second half of the season.

The Raiders' total point margin from Week 9 to close the regular season was -79.

That ranked 27th in the NFL, ahead of only:

The 7-10 Falcons

The 4-13 Jets

The 5-12 Panthers

The 4-13 Giants

The 3-14 Jaguars

In those games, they trailed at halftime by 33 points in all games combined, tied for 26th in the NFL.

Their defense totaled -43.2 EPA, which ranked 31st in the NFL during that stretch.

How in the world did this team actually win enough games down the stretch to make the playoffs?

It was only the combination of:

COVID (the 2-point win over the Browns and 3-point win over the Colts)

Refs (the 3-point win over the Cowboys)

Drew Lock (the 4-point win over the Broncos)

Timeout (the 3-point overtime win vs the Chargers)

The Raiders technically would have made the playoffs even if they tied vs the Chargers, but they won the game thanks to the Chargers calling a timeout with 38 seconds left in their Week 18 game. While Brandon Staley said he called the timeout to get his best run defenders on the field, and that wasn't inaccurate, from the Raiders perspective, it was huge.

The Raiders were planning on a shotgun draw on third-and-4. They were fine to end the game on fourth down, stopped short of the first down. After all, a tie sent them to the playoffs just like a win would. But when the Chargers called a timeout, both head coach Rich Bisaccia and quarterback **Derek Carr** admitted it changed their mindset and the play call. They ended up running from under center, gained the first down, and were able to get close enough to run the clock out and kick a 47-yard field goal to win the game and send the Chargers packing.

There were just so many wild events and elements that played a role in their wins to make the playoffs. COVID absolutely helped. The Cowboys being called for 166 yards of penalties absolutely helped. It was just a perfect storm that helped an otherwise terrible team, with a below average offense and a terrible defense make the playoffs.

So where does this put the team in 2022?

Let's start on offense and with the biggest question mark – the offensive line.

A few years ago, the Raiders had one of the best lines in the NFL.

But not in 2021. It makes a difference.

Last year, Derek Carr...

26

With pressure: -0.36 EPA/att, 32% success, 6.8 YPA, 54% completion rate Without pressure: 0.22 EPA/att, 53% success, 8.1 YPA, 75% completion rate

13

Surprisingly, though these numbers seem terrible, they actually are right around average in the NFL. That's why it's so important to keep pressure off of your quarterback.

(cont'd - see LV-4)

22

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 3 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Las Vegas Raiders 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

22

1

18

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- The Raiders sacrificed significant draft capital and salary cap room to obtain Davante Adams and potentially still have the division's fourth-best roster. The difficult division opponents set the Raiders up with the league's third-most difficult schedule in 2022, including an extra road game.
- The offensive line is the biggest concern for the Raiders' offense heading into the 2022 season. The Raiders allowed 40 sacks in 2021 and the line ranked second last in Run Block Win Rate and 21st in Pass Block Win Rate. If the offense struggles in 2022, the offensive line will likely be part of the reason why.
- The Raiders are projected to face the third-most difficult schedule of passing offenses. Allowing a 66% completion rate and the seventh-highest EPA per dropback. The secondary will require **Trayvon Mullen** to return to form from a toe injury and newcomer **Rock Ya-Sin** to step into a new team and continue to develop. The Raiders' secondary will be tested early with games against Justin Herbert, Kyler Murray, Russell Wilson, and Patrick Mahomes in the opening five weeks.

8.5



#### Why Bet the Over

- The Raiders had a 27.9% red zone differential between offense and defense in 2021. The Raiders' defense was abysmal in the red zone, allowing a league-high 77.1% touchdown rate while the offense also struggled to score touchdowns on only 49.2% of red zone trips. Both sides of the ball are likely to see an improvement in 2022.
- Davante Adams provides Derek Carr with an elite wide receiver. Adams, a superb route runner, was third in yards per route run and can win in all areas of the field. The offense has one of the league's top receiving trios in Adams, Hunter Renfrow, and Darren Waller which provides help to a quarterback with a below-average offensive line.
- The Raiders finished with 35 sacks despite blitzing at the league's lowest rate in 2021. The addition of **Chandler Jones** gives this defensive line another legitimate pass rusher which will benefit the secondary. The Raiders' defense is also likely to improve as a result of improved injury luck as the defense had the sixth-highest adjusted games lost to injury. The defense which finished with the eighth-worst EPA/play can improve in 2022.

Las Vegas Raiders Positional Unit Rankings							
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	<b>Head Coach</b>	
12	25	17	6	12	15	24	

The Raiders' average unit ranks 15.9, essentially making this league's most perfectly mediocre roster. Of the six player-based units, only one ranks in the top 10, but only one ranks in the bottom 10. Votes for **Derek Carr** and the Raiders quarterbacks ranged from 10th to 14th. With an improved receiving corps, it's certainly reasonable to hope Carr repeats his peak performance from his memorable 2016 season.

There was no consensus on the Raiders backfield, with votes ranging from 12th to 22nd. When **Josh Jacobs** was provided at least one yard before contact, he ran for 10 or more yards at the seventh-best rate. That's decent evidence that the backfield's issues are not related to talent, but rather the offensive line play.

The addition of **Davante Adams** puts the Raiders pass-catchers in the top tier. Few teams have a trio capable of rivaling Adams, **Darren Waller**, and **Hunter Renfrow** 

The Raiders did virtually nothing to address the offensive line, with third-round pick **Dylan Parham** being the most notable addition. **Brandon Parker** ranked 35th out of 37 right tackles in pressure rate allowed and will compete for the job with **Alex Leatherwood**, who ranked 33rd out of 33 right guards in pressure rate allowed last season.

The Las Vegas pass rush ranked sixth in pressure rate generated overall, but 12th in pressure rate generated in 2.5 seconds or less. The addition of **Chandler Jones** potentially takes this unit to a higher level this season. While in man coverage, the Raiders ranked dead last in yards per attempt allowed (10.4). The previous regime over-invested in the secondary, so this mediocre unit is an indictment of their talent-evaluation process. However, **Tre'von Moehrig** showed promise as a rookie and the addition of **Rock Ya-Sin** should improve the Raiders' cornerback play.

It's been over a decade since Josh McDaniels's embarrassing tenure with the Broncos, so we're keeping an open mind to his potential maturation as a head coach. That said, we can't justify ranking him any higher based on that previous record and his inexperience.

#### <u>LV-4</u>

Among 30 quarterbacks with 300+ attempts last year, Carr was pressured at the 11th HIGHEST rate.

In 2020, Carr was pressured at the 11th LOWEST rate. In 2019, Carr was pressured at the third LOWEST rate.

As the line has gotten worse over the years, Carr's pressure rate has consistently increased.

That's not a good sign.

Because this line is no better than it was in 2021. In fact, in 2022 we have even less hope for it.

In 2021, in our unit rankings, we predicted the Raiders would have the 22nd-best offensive line in the NFL. Las Vegas ranked 21st in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (59%) and 21st in Run Block Win Rate (59%) while ranking 22nd in collective pass blocking grade per Pro Football Focus and 29th in run blocking grade.

I'd say that's a pretty damn accurate prediction.

Well this year, we predict the Raiders offensive line will be 25th.

#### <u>LV-5</u>

Per our Rich Hribar on the status of the offensive line from our pre-draft roster outlook:

"Kolton Miller is the only above average starter currently on the line. Miller was the fifth-highest graded tackle per Pro Football Focus in 2021, allowing a 4.7% pressure rate (29th among 95 tackles with 100 or more pass blocking snaps), while allowing four sacks.

2021 first-round draft pick **Alex Leatherwood** was on the field for 97% of the snaps at least, but his rookie time on the field was spent as a struggle. Leatherwood logged 924 snaps at right guard after starting the first four games at right tackle. Leatherwood allowed a 9.3% pressure rate, ranking 178th among 189 guards and tackles to play 100 or more snaps in pass protection. Credited with eight sacks allowed, that ranked tied for 176th among the same group. We have seen rookie linemen struggle before and Leatherwood will be given time to improve.

The Raiders will get **Denzelle Good** back this season after he suffered an ACL injury in Week 1 a year ago while signing Alex Bars, who started 11 games over the past two seasons with the Bears."

It's simply not a good offensive line. After Derek Carr played behind a line which consistently graded out top-5 in pass blocking year after year, it does become notable and borderline problematic.

Without much improvement in the offensive line, it's unlikely we'll see much improvement in the run game.

That's concerning because of how bad this unit was on the ground last year, and how much harder this schedule becomes vs the run in 2022.

Let's take things a few years back to my strength of schedule analysis on the Raiders run game.

#### (cont'd - see LV-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

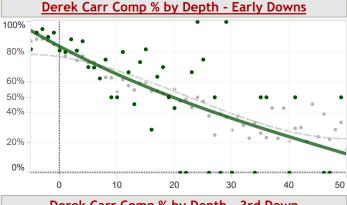
#### 

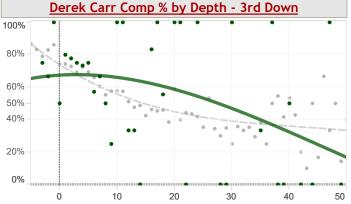


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>									
(8	AIDERS		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)			
	Josh J	lacobs	5%	5%	83%	3%	4%			
	Hunte	r Renfrow			100%					
	Kenya	ın Drake	6%	3%	67%	13%	11%			
	Zay Jo	ones			100%					
I		n Barber	4%	9%	80%	7%				
RUSH	Bryan	Edwards			100%					
œ	Henry	Ruggs			67%	33%				
	Jalen	Richard			44%		56%			
	DeSea	an Jackson			100%					
	Alec I	ngold			100%					
	Total		5%	5%	79%	6%	6%			
	Josh J	lacobs	20%	5%	72%	3%				
		r Renfrow	19%	7%	67%	6%	1%			
	Darre	n Waller	13%	19%	64%	2%	1%			
	Kenya	ın Drake	18%	5%	70%	5%	3%			
	Zay Jo	ones	12%	8%	81%					
		n Barber	23%	23%	54%					
SS	Bryan	Edwards	16%	11%	63%	3%	8%			
Ā	Foster	Moreau	15%	4%	74%	4%	2%			
	,	Ruggs	11%	14%	67%	6%	3%			
		Richard	13%	6%	63%	6%	13%			
		an Jackson	5%	14%	76%	5%				
	Alec I		8%		75%		17%			
		Carrier			100%					
	Total		15%	10%	69%	3%	2%			







# Successful Play Rate

#### 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings



Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	48%, -0.01 (505)	48%, 0.05 (120)	58%, 0.22 (45)	78%, 0.41 (9)	48%, -0.21 (23)	40%, -0.65 (5)	50%, 0.27 (4)		0%, -4.87 (1)	49%, 0.01 (718)
RUSH	54%, -0.06 (200)	61%, 0.03 (84)	37%, -0.17 (46)	36%, -0.40 (58)	50%, 0.03 (24)			67%, 0.97 (3)		51%, -0.09 (417)
All	49%, -0.02 (705)	53%, 0.05 (204)	47%, 0.03 (91)	42%, -0.29 (67)	49%, -0.08 (47)	40%, -0.65 (5)	50%, 0.27 (4)	67%, 0.97 (3)	0%, -4.87 (1)	50%, -0.02 (1,135)

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			
WR	Hunter Renfrow	57% (115) 7.5, 0.24	79% (14) 10.0, 0.97	100% (3) 7.0, 0.56	0% (1) 12.0, -0.28	59% (133) 7.8, 0.32			
	Zay Jones	49% (61) 6.8, -0.11	80% (15) 11.5, 0.74	50% (2) 3.0, -0.23		55% (78) 7.6, 0.05			
	Bryan Edwards	47% (47) 9.5, 0.22	75% (8) 10.6, 0.64	40% (5) 6.4, 0.01	100% (1) 5.0, 0.01	51% (61) 9.3, 0.25			
	Henry Ruggs	61% (23) 14.2, 0.93	50% (6) 7.5, 0.09	67% (3) 20.0, 1.00		59% (32) 13.5, 0.77			
TE	Darren Waller	55% (66) 7.3, 0.26	39% (23) 6.8, 0.10	50% (4) 9.0, 0.30		51% (93) 7.2, 0.22			
	Foster Moreau	47% (30) 6.5, 0.00	42% (12) 8.3, -0.48	100% (2) 21.0, 1.54		48% (44) 7.7, -0.06			
RB	Josh Jacobs	53% (53) 6.0, -0.02	43% (7) 5.3, -0.11	33% (3) 1.3, -0.38	0% (1) 3.0, -1.15	50% (64) 5.7, -0.06			

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

					_
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Jacobs	50% (116)	67% (52)	45% (20)	41% (22)	53% (210)
Josh	4.2, -0.18	4.9, 0.15	2.4, -0.65	3.9, -0.10	4.2, -0.14
Drake	47% (32)	54% (13)	20% (5)	33% (9)	44% (59)
Kenyan	4.6, -0.01	3.6, -0.08	3.0, -0.28	3.9, 0.03	4.2, -0.04
Barber	71% (14)	50% (10)	38% (16)	27% (11)	47% (51)
Peyton	7.7, 0.38	2.4, -0.37	3.5, -0.29	2.0, -0.44	4.1, -0.15
Carr Derek	63% (16)	50% (6)	17% (12)	33% (3)	43% (37)
	6.6, 0.27	3.3, 0.13	-0.5, -0.55	2.7, -0.30	3.4, -0.06
Mariota Marcus	78% (9) 7.0, 0.44		100% (2) 4.5, 2.15		82% (11) 6.5, 0.75
Richard	67% (3)	50% (2)	0% (2)		43% (7)
Jalen	3.3, 0.07	2.5, 0.00	0.5, -1.02		2.3, -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

_	Passing by		ing by	Throw	Types	QB Drop	Types	QB Sta	
	verage cheme	Ro	oute	Level 1	58% (471)	3 Step	57% (203) 7.8, 0.13	Planted	
		Curl	61% (79) 7.6, 0.28		6.9, 0.13	a., a.	57% (170)	Shuffling	ı
Zone	44% (411) 7.4, -0.03	Out	69% (68)	Level 2	53% (106) 10.5, 0.27	0/1 Step	7.1, 0.17	Moving	
		Jul	6.6, 0.16		33% (61)	5 Step	50% (159) 8.1, 0.17		Play
Man	40% (191) 9.0, 0.19	Dig	71% (31) 12.0, 0.22	Level 3	11.4, 0.27	7 Step	56% (52)		Play
	9.0, 0.19	Slant	70% (20)	Sidearm	60% (5) 4.4, 0.59	Designed	12.3, 0.46 47% (19)	Under Center	57% 9.0
	42% (23)	Siaiit	7.9, 0.49		4.4, 0.59	Rollout Right	5.6, -0.02	Shotgun	53% 7.6
Other	1.9, -0.34	Drag	40% (15) 5.1, -0.08	Shovel	33% (3) 2.7, -0.28	Basic Screen	33% (15) 6.2, -0.59	ALL	55% 8.4

QB State at Pass							
Planted		58% (464) 8.3, 0.21					
Shuffling	l	39% (125) 6.2, -0.01					
Moving		42% (85) 5.3, -0.13					
Play Action							
	Play	Action	No P/A				
Under Center		% (75) , 0.11	66% (50) 9.6, 0.33				
Shotgun		% (59) , 0.18	46% (536) 7.0, -0.05				
ALL		6 (134) , 0.14	48% (586) 7.3, -0.01				

Run Types							
Outside Zone	57% (147) 5.0, 0.05						
Inside Zone	52% (61) 3.7, -0.20						
Power	45% (40) 3.3, <b>-</b> 0.20						
Lead	36% (28) 2.8, -0.53						
Stretch	53% (19) 2.9, -0.20						
Pitch	40% (5) 3.0, -0.02						

#### <u>LV-6</u>

In my 2020 book, I predicted the Raiders would face the 26th-toughest schedule of run defenses.

After the season, check the grades? They actually faced the 26th-toughest schedule of run defenses.

Bang on.

But despite the easy schedule (seventh-easiest) of terrible run defenses, the Raiders ranked 25th in run offense in 2020.

In my 2021 book, I predicted the Raiders would face the 27th toughest schedule of run defenses.

They actually faced the 23rd toughest schedule of run defenses.

Very close, but not bang on.

But despite the still easy schedule (10th easiest) of terrible run defenses, the Raiders ranked 25th in run offense in 2021.

This team has ranked 25th in rushing efficiency for two straight years, despite playing schedules of run defenses which ranked top-10 in ease.

What do I predict for 2022?

For the first time in three years, I think the Raiders will face a difficult schedule of run defenses.





I predict the Raiders will play the 13th toughest schedule of run defenses in 2022, including the second-toughest schedule of run defenses in allowing explosive gains

Last year the Raiders played just three games against run defenses that ranked top-10.

This year, they'll play over double that, facing seven teams that ranked top-8 in run defense last year, including:

- 1. Saints
- 2. 49ers
- 3 Colts
- 3. Colts 4. Rams
- 5. Cardinals
- 7. Patriots
- 8. Seahawks

Not to mention a team they play twice, the Chargers, made massive improvements this offseason to help the defensive line.

The Raiders are still spending top-10 money on their running back corps, and that corps consists of:

Kenyan Drake - 4.0 YPC & 44% success last year

Josh Jacobs - 4.2 YPC & 53% success last year

Brandon Bolden – 32-year-old new acquisition who has totaled 81 rushing attempts since 2016

Ameer Abdullah - 29-year-old new acquisition who has totaled 83 rushing attempts since 2018

Most of the expensive backfields you would expect to be expensive: Dallas with Zeke... Tennessee with Henry... The stable in Cleveland.... Carolina with Christian McCaffrey.

But not this running back corps in Las Vegas.

And playing behind this line? Against a substantially tougher schedule? It could be hard to watch.

So then everything will fall onto Derek Carr.

Carr does stand to benefit with a receiving corps we ranked sixth-best in the NFL.

New wide receiver Davante Adams paired with the shifty Hunter Renfrow and a stud tight end nightmare like Darren Waller will be formidable.

(cont'd - see LV-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Las Vegas Raiders 2022 Draft Class

The Raiders parted with their first- and second-round picks in the **Davante Adams** trade, so expectations for this draft class should be limited. With his first selection, new GM Dave Ziegler addressed his much-maligned offensive line with **Dylan Parham** (third round). Parham was a four-year starter at Memphis, playing in both guard spots and right tackle. The Raiders plan to try Parham out at both guard and center and he's likely to win a starting role at one of those slots.

Zamir White (fourth round) adds some power to the Raiders' backfield and should complement Josh Jacobs and Kenyan Drake well. In New England, Josh McDaniels often had a bigger back on the depth chart who would rotate into the backfield — think Rhamondre Stevenson last year — and White likely fills that role for him with the Raiders.

White will be joined in the backfield by **Brittain Brown** (seventh round) who overlaps with the skill sets of Jacobs and Drake as a more elusive runner who can factor into the passing game.

**Neil Farrell Jr.** (fourth round) and **Matthew Butler** (fifth round) both add depth to the defensive line but will fill different roles. Farrell Jr. is a pure space-eating nose tackle. He'll compete for reps with **Jonathan Hankins** and **Andrew Billings**. Butler played the interior defensive line at Tennessee, but likely lines up as a 3-4 defensive end for the Raiders. Defensive coordinator Patrick Graham used three-man defensive lines at the third-highest rate last season with the Giants. The Raiders don't appear to have the ideal personnel for Graham's scheme just yet, so Butler could potentially compete for a significant role as a rookie.

**Thayer Munford** (seventh round) adds depth to the offensive line and, given the lack of talent at the position, might compete for a starting job. Munford spent most of his career at Ohio State lining up at left tackle but shifted to guard as a senior. Zeigler referred to Munford as a tackle following the draft, though his experience at both spots is obviously valuable.

Ziegler was extremely aggressive on the trade market in his first draft, trading down twice and up twice (for White and Farrell Jr.). Trading up on Day 3 is usually a bad idea — more is always better with late-round selections — but Ziegler's ability to offset the cost by trading down multiple times helps justify the moves. Considering the lack of early picks, this was a strong draft class for the Raiders. Multiple players will compete for immediate roles, and Zeigler seemed to pair need and value well with his selections.



QΒ

**Derek Carr** 

NFL Avg

#### Las Vegas Raiders 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Raiders ranked 12th in expected points added via their passing game (123.1 EPA) in 2021. To go along with that front-third efficiency, the counting stats were there as the Raiders were sixth in the NFL in passing yardage (4,567) and sixth in yards per pass attempt (7.7 Y/A). The part that sank them a bit was coming in 22nd in the league in touchdown rate (3.7%). To remedy that output, the team added Davante Adams to the fold. Derek Carr has set a new career-high in passing yardage in each of the past four seasons. Trickling upwards over the 2018-2020 seasons, Carr made a massive spike in 2021, throwing for 4,804 yards. His 282.6 yards passing per game dwarfed his previous high of 262.5 yards per game in 2016.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Derek Carr	453	671	68%	5,095	7.6	24	15	43	93	21
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

#### 2021 Advanced Passing Table 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ Air 20+ Yd 30+ Yd 20+ Air **Pass Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp 69 10.0% 26 4.0% 5.9 5.3 34.1 8.8% 12.5 3.1% 5.6 5.3

#### **Postive Target Distribution** Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Derek Carr Rating**

# **Early Downs** 82 95 91

<b>Interception Rates by Down</b>								
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%	6.5%	7.1%	0.0%	6.5%			
6 - 9	0.0%	1.2%	3.9%	50.0%	2.8%			
10 - 14	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%		0.8%			
15+	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%			
Total	1.4%	1.6%	3.4%	9.1%	2.1%			

**EDSR** 

**Passing** 

%

54%

50%

Success

49%

46%

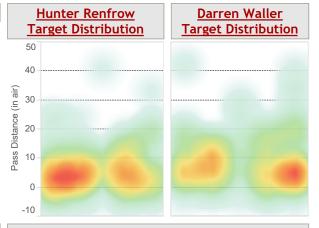
<u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u>									
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk				
Derek Carr	7.3	10.4	3.0	66%	4				
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%					

	Air Yds vs YAC								
ond k	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	52%	48%	24						
	53%	47%							

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Raiders thrived throwing to their receiving corps in 2021, ranking third in the NFL in success rate (57%) and fourth in yards per target (9.0 yards) to wideouts. They did this with a group of Hunter Renfrow, Zay Jones, Bryan Edwards, DeSean Jackson, and seven games of Henry Ruggs. The team lost Jones via free agency and traded Edwards while Jackson remains a free agent but added arguably the best wide receiver in the NFL in Davante Adams to the roster. Adams is coming off another stellar campaign that saw him catch 123 passes for 1,553 yards and 11 touchdowns. Where the Raiders struggled in 2021 was throwing to their tight ends, ranking 27th in success rate (49%) and 14th in yards per target (7.2 yards) to the position.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
Hunter Renfrow	139	80%	7.9	118.1	59%	25	6	123	32	9
Darren Waller	104	59%	7.1	78.9	49%	92	83	70	50	2
Zay Jones	78	67%	7.8	66.6	56%	36	59	78	37	2
Bryan Edwards	64	58%	9.6	105.7	52%	74	63	3	134	3
Josh Jacobs	64	84%	5.8	84.4	53%	61	71	97	42	0

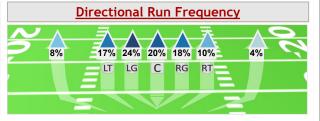


#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Josh Jacobs has gone over 1,200 yards and seven touchdowns in each of his first three seasons. Jacobs is entering the final season of his rookie contract, while the Raiders declined to pick up his fifth-year option. With Josh McDaniels coming over from NE who has compartmentalized their backfields regularly, we should expect the depth here to be used more than a year ago. The team has a viable veteran in Kenyan Drake, while adding both Brandon Bolden and Ameer Abdullah on one-year contracts, and Zamir White and Brittain Brown during the draft. The biggest question here comes from an offensive line that has added no significant names after ranking 21st in the ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate (59%) while ranking and 29th in run blocking grade at PFF.

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	215	4.2	53%	30	16	22	61	53%	23	8
Kenyan Drake	63	4.0	44%	73	53	79	65	47%	61	2
Peyton Barber	55	3.9	47%	65	62	26	17	50%	40	2

#### Yards per Carry by Direction 2.9 5.9 3.2 3.7 3.5 5.4 C RG RT



#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





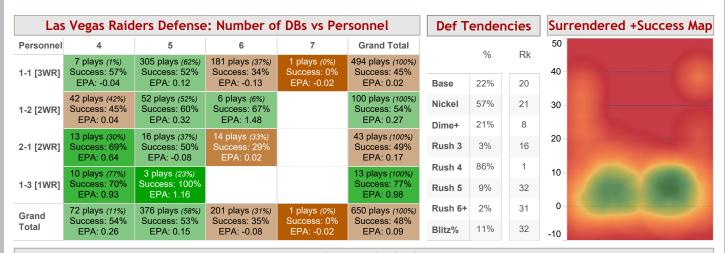
Adams will turn 30 years old this December, coming off another stellar campaign that saw him catch 123 passes for 1,553 yards and 11 touchdowns. Adams was third among all wide receivers in yards per route run (3.12), was third at the position in targets per route run (30.1%), and second in points added per route (.086) per Sports Info Solutions. For fantasy, Adams has ranked in the top-10 in points per game in six straight seasons, closing as the WR10, WR9, WR1, WR6, WR1, and WR2 since 2016 through last season. We have a small sample of Adams playing with Aaron Rodgers, receiving 90 career targets from non-Rodgers passers out of his 1,012 career looks. Although Adams has caught just 60% of those targets for 6.7 yards per target, **Derek Carr** also is not Brett Hundley or Jordan Love. Adams is still an alpha wide receiver that is a top fantasy pick, even if his quarterback overall is downgraded to a degree from what he had in Green Bay.

Carr has thrown for 4,000 yards in each of the past four seasons while coming off a career-high 4,804 passing yards and 282.6 yards per game. He has only thrown 30 touchdown passes just once while finishing higher than QB19 in points per game just once through eight seasons, but this is the best outlook he has had entering a season for his career. With Adams paired with **Darren Waller** and **Hunter Renfrow**, Carr has the best surrounding cast of his career. Is it enough to make Carr a QB1 in fantasy? With no rushing production (5.8% of his career points have come via rushing), there is a fine line to thread in getting there, but in a loaded division in which the Raiders will be pressed to score points, and they were already fourth in the NFL in passing rate (62.9%) in 2021. At worst, Carr will be a coveted QB2 if he cannot press a loaded position for OB1 status.

The one Raiders this potentially hurts for fantasy is Hunter Renfrow. After finishing outside of the top-50 scorers in each of his first two seasons in the league, Renfrow shot up to WR10 overall last season (WR17 in points per game), catching 103 passes for 1,038 yards and nine touchdowns. Renfrow's opportunity was maximized by Darren Waller missing six games, the midseason loss of Henry Ruggs, and the failure of Bryan Edwards to make a second-year leap. In the seven games that Waller missed or exited early, Renfrow averaged 7.1 catches for 79.9 yards per game as opposed to 5.5 catches for 48.8 yards per game otherwise. In the 11 games that Waller played in full, Renfrow reached 60 yards just twice.

The addition of Josh McDaniels will surely draw a number of plusses for many gamers given the success of slot receivers in his system but playing alongside two significantly better talents in Adams and Waller paired with being an archetype of receiver that needs volume based on the types of targets he receives, Renfrow is damaged by Adams coming in and commanding the offense run through him.

Waller was targeted on 23.5% of his routes last season (fifth among tight ends) while Adams has been targeted on 23.7% of his routes during that strong fantasy run since 2016, including massive rates of 31.5% and 29.0% the past two seasons. Renfrow was targeted on 20.1% of his routes a year ago, a mark that will challenged with the Raiders at full strength.



#### **Defensive Outlook**

Jonathan Hankins played 49% of the defensive snaps last season in his third year with the Raiders. The 340-pound tackle has been a presence inside and played a part in the Raiders being a borderline top-10 run defense (11th in EPA per play). Bilal Nichols comes over from Chicago as more of a pass rusher inside. That was the role of Quinton Jefferson last season, but he left in free agency. Nicols was 32nd among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season, per SIS. Vernon Butler was another free agent signing, who spent the past two years in Buffalo. The former first-round pick provides solid rotational depth. Maxx Crosby has developed into one of the league's best pass rushers. He was 12th among edge rushers in pressure rate and 10th in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate. Crosby only had eight sacks but he more than doubled his previous two seasons with 30 quarterback hits. Chander Jones will now be opposite of Crosby. Jones was 36th among edge rushers in pressure rate and matched a career-high with 26 quarterback hits. Former fourth overall pick Clelin Ferrell played just 22% of the defensive snaps while appearing in 16 games. Ferrell may get more run as the No. 3 with Carl Nassib gone. Still, there hasn't been much to rely on when he has been on the field.

The Raiders, despite having a lot of money tied up in the position, really struggled to find productive linebackers — especially in coverage. **Jayon Brown** was signed after five years with the Titans. He ranked 19th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. **Denzel Perryman** played 75% of the Raiders' defensive snaps but ranked 79th in yards allowed per coverage snap. However, Perryman was able to play downhill with 102 solo tackles and 154 combined tackles. His 1.8-yard average depth of tackle was the fifth-best among 39 linebackers with at least 50 tackles.

Divine Deablo had some flashes late in the season as a safety converted to linebacker. His versatility there opens up some possibilities when he's on the field. **Trayvon Mullen** only played in five games in 2021 after flashes during his first two seasons. Mullen will be back on the outside in Year 4, his final year of his rookie contract as a 2019 second-round pick. **Rock Ya-Sin** was part of the return in the **Yannick Ngakoue** trade. He slowly developed with the Colts and ranked 23rd among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021.

Nate Hobbs quickly jumped in as one of the league's better slot corners during his rookie year as a fifth-round pick. Hobbs was eighth among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Anthony Averett provides solid depth behind the top three. He was an average corner with the Ravens last season after he was forced into more action due to all of the injuries in Baltimore's secondary.

Trevon Moehrig played 99% of the Raiders' defensive snaps at safety as a second-round rookie. Moehrig played the deep safety on a defense that used a single-high pre-snap shell (65%) and single-high coverages (66%) at the highest rates in the league. It should be noted with the New York Giants, Patrick Graham ran single high at some of the lowest rates in the league (32% pre-snap, 41% in coverage). Jonathan Abram has been an aggressive downhill player and not much else. He played 82% of the snaps last season, almost out of necessity, and because he was healthy. 2022 will also be the final year of his contract with the fifth-year option likely to be declined. Duron Harmon comes over with experience in a Patrick Graham-like scheme with years in New England and Detroit.

Play Tendencies						
All Pass %	60%					
All Pass Rk	10					
All Rush %	40%					
All Rush Rk	23					
1 Score Pass %	58%					
1 Score Pass Rk	13					
2020 1 Score Pass %	54%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	24					
2021 Pass Increase %	4%					
Pass Increase Rk	4					
1 Score Rush %	42%					
1 Score Rush Rk	20					
Up Pass %	57%					
Up Pass Rk	13					
Up Rush %	43%					
Up Rush Rk	20					
Down Pass %	66%					
Down Pass Rk	4					
Down Rush %	34%					
Down Rush Rk	29					

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>								
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %			
1st	Short (1-3)	9	0%	100%	56%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	15	27%	73%	53%			
	Long (8-10)	348	53%	47%	52%			
	XL (11+)	11	91%	9%	45%			
2nd	Short (1-3)	51	39%	61%	65%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	106	57%	43%	55%			
	Long (8-10)	100	74%	26%	50%			
	XL (11+)	43	84%	16%	33%			
3rd	Short (1-3)	58	60%	40%	52%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	48	92%	8%	35%			
	Long (8-10)	32	97%	3%	44%			
	XL (11+)	29	79%	21%	21%			
4th	Short (1-3)	11	27%	73%	64%			

	Shotgun %								
, 6	Shotgun Unde Cente								
ı	63%	37%							
ı	NFL	AVG							
	65%	35%							
ı									
	Efficiency								
ŀ	EPA/	EPA/							

pass: -0.01 EPA/ rush: -0.16

Success: 42%

AVG	Sh
35%	JI
iency	
EPA/ pass:	Run Freq
0.20	60%
EPA/ rush:	
-0.11 : Success:	Pass Freq
43%	400/



#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

2nd and Short Run										
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg						
60%	26	71%	71%	73%						
	2nd and Short Pass									
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg						

29%

71%

46%

Most Frequent Play					
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	6	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	3	33%
		RUSH	Josh Jacobs	3	33%
			Kenyan Drake	3	100%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	98	48%
	XL (11+)	1+) PASS	Hunter Renfrow	2	50%
			Darren Waller	2	50%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	RUSH Josh Jacobs		82%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	31	55%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Darren Waller	18	50%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	9	44%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Josh Jacobs	8	50%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	12	50%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	9	67%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Hunter Renfrow	6	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: 54%	Success: 51%					
	YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.17	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.31	YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.18					
	Rtg: 99.2	Rtg: 124.1	Rtg: 102.1					
	[Att: 191 - Rate: 26.5%]	[Att: 26 - Rate: 3.6%]	[Att: 217 - Rate: 30.1%]					
Yes	Success: 46%	Success: 56%	Success: 48%					
	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.10	YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.10	YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.06					
	Rtg: 83.1	Rtg: 109.7	Rtg: 88.8					
	[Att: 395 - Rate: 54.9%]	[Att: 108 - Rate: 15.0%]	[Att: 503 - Rate: 69.9%]					
Total	Success: 48%	Success: 55%	Success: 49%					
	YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.01	YPA: 8.4, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.01					
	Rtg: 88.4	Rtg: 112.5	Rtg: 92.8					
	[Att: 586 - Rate: 81.4%]	[Att: 134 - Rate: 18.6%]	[Att: 720 - Rate: 100.0%]					

Weekly Snaps Played										
Wk	Орр	Score	Bryan Edwards	Hunter Renfrow	Foster Moreau	Zay Jones	Josh Jacobs	Darren Waller	Henry Ruggs	DeSean Jackson
1	BAL	W 33-27	57	47	46	20	45	81	56	
2	PIT	W 26-17	49	29	38	11		61	44	
3	MIA	W 31-28	63	43	47	22		66	48	
4	LAC	L 28-14	51	38	17	8	36	53	46	
5	CHI	L 20-9	51	50	15	12	46	64	56	
6	DEN	W 34-24	43	32	25	15	36	46	37	
7	PHI	W 33-22	59	36	66	12	24		47	
9	NYG	L 23-16	64	45	22	66	34	61		
10	KC	L 41-14	43	39	21	46	31	49		9
11	CIN	L 32-13	39	34	17	34	31	44		16
12	DAL	W 36-33	63	64	77	60	57	21		42
13	WAS	L 17-15	40	54	50	51	50			24
14	KC	L 48-9	39	59	62	53	47			32
15	CLE	W 16-14	48	54	69	59	45			20
16	DEN	W 17-13		40	65	52	48			36
17	IND	W 23-20	46	43	62	48	38			16
18	LAC	W 35-32	56	51	49	71	57	62		8
	Grand	Total	811	758	748	640	625	608	334	203

	<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
an on	Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
•	1-1 [3WR]	61%	61%	50%
	1-2 [2WR]	18%	21%	54%
	2-1 [2WR]	8%	7%	47%
	2-2 [1WR]	6%	3%	42%
	1-3 [1WR]	4%	4%	47%
	Group	ing le	enden	cies
	Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
	Personnel		Succ.	Succ.
		Rate	Succ.	Succ.
	1-1 [3WR]	Rate 71%	Succ. % 48%	Succ. % 54%
	1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR]	71% 59%	Succ. % 48% 49%	Succ. % 54% 62%
	1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR]	71% 59% 49%	Succ. % 48% 49% 58%	Succ. % 54% 62% 37%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard					
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Hunter Renfrow	26	4	10	12	
Darren Waller	17	2	5	10	
Zay Jones	10		3	7	
Josh Jacobs	6		3	3	
Willie Snead	2	1	1		
Brandon Facyson	1			1	

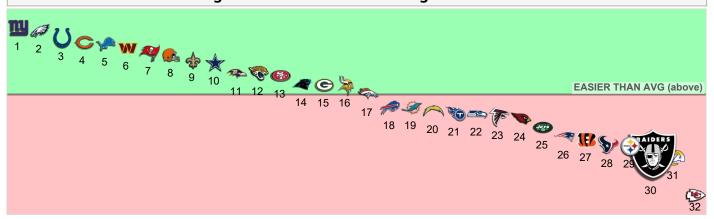
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard					
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Josh Jacobs	36	12	6	18	
Kenyan Drake	12	1	1	10	
Peyton Barber	11	3	2	6	
Marcus Mariota	5	2	1	2	
Brandon Facyson	3	1	2		
Jalen Richard	2		1	1	
Alec Ingold	1	1			
Henry Ruggs	1			1	

Early Down Target Rate					
RB	TE	WR			
26% <b>23%</b>	25% <b>21%</b>	49% <b>56%</b>			
	NFL AVG				
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %			
Overall RB		ICCESS %			





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



What the Raiders should do is use more 12 personnel in 2022. It was, by far, their most efficient grouping in 2021. With Foster Moreau and Jacob Hollister as TE2 options behind Waller, I'm not sure how defenses will be able to defend a diverse 12 set of:

WR Davante Adams WR Hunter Renfrow TE Darren Waller TE Foster Moreau

That is, assuming Carr isn't pressured too often before he can get the ball out.

If there are questions along the offensive line and at running back, there are similar questions all over the defense.

In part it's because this defense, though injured, was terrible down the stretch of 2021. I do like new defensive coordinator Patrick Graham, but this schedule of offenses the Raiders must face is downright brutal.

But first let's discuss the massive good fortune for this defense in the schedule last year.

Six of their 10 wins came vs quarterbacks who either aren't NFL starters this year or were literally ran out of town:

Nick Mullens Teddy Bridgewater Drew Lock Ben Roethlisberger Carson Wentz Jacoby Brissett

They also had the benefit of facing:

Rookie Justin Fields Taylor Heinicke Daniel Jones

Just look at those quarterbacks they played for nine games last year!

This year, they'll play what I project to be a top-5 schedule of passing offenses. It won't be easy sledding. I'm eager to see how well they perform considering how suspect things were to finish the 2021 season.

I'm also interested to see how Josh McDaniels tries to increase more efficiency into the passing offense. One super-easy way would be to increase play-action. Last year, this team used play-action the third-least of any team in the NFL on early downs in the first three quarters of games.

Ironically, Derek Carr had similar splits to Mac Jones in terms of play-action:

Shotgun play-action was solid but underutilized. Shotgun non-play-action was a staple but terrible.

Under center play-action was terrible but overutilized. Under center non-play-action was great but infrequent.

Last year for Mac Jones on early downs:

Shotgun play action: 40 att, 0.16 EPA/att, 48% success, 9.0 YPA Shotgun no play action: 205 att, -0.02 EPA/att, 43% success, 6.6 YPA

Much better with play-action on these early downs from shotgun, but rarely used it.





Derek Carr was quite similar, his efficiency was substantially better when using shotgun play-action, but it was called on only 47 of 387 dropbacks (12%).

There are some offenses that use a ton of shotgun play action: the Chiefs, Bills, and Cardinals for example. But not the Patriots. And not the Raiders pre-McDaniels - and likely not the Raiders with McDaniels.

To me, the Raiders are justifiably the fourth-best team in the AFC West. I am disappointed there were so many other elements to discuss with the Raiders, because I do believe Carr gets overlooked and underrated by a lot of NFL fans. And I do believe he and Davante Adams can have some really fun chemistry.

But to me, that's what this team's season hinges on. They aren't getting the fumble luck or close score wins or overtime wins or ability to play six quarterbacks in 2022 who won't be starting the next season. They will play the third-toughest schedule of any team in the NFL. Weeks 1-5 it's the toughest in the NFL.

The timing of the schedule is also brutal for the Raiders from this perspective:

If you're playing a young quarterback, especially a young quarterback with a new staff, you want to play them early in the season.

But look at who the Raiders play early in the season:

Week 1 - Justin Herbert

Week 2 - Kyler Murray

Week 3 - Ryan Tannehill

Week 4 - Russell Wilson

Week 5 - Patrick Mahomes

They do face their share of young quarterbacks, but it's not till later in the season:

Week 7 - Year 2 Davis Mills with a new staff

Week 9 - Year 2 Trevor Lawrence with a new staff

Week 12 - Drew Lock (?) on a new team

Week 15 - Year 2 Mac Jones

Week 16 - Rookie Kenny Pickett or Mitchell Trubisky

Week 17 - Year 1 (for all intents and purposes) Trey Lance

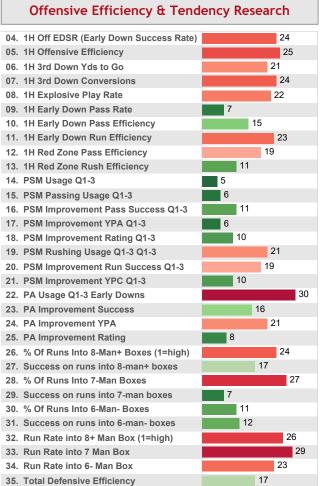
So there are young and inexperienced quarterbacks on their schedule, which should give the Raiders an advantage over these teams. But these quarterbacks have a lot of time to mature further in the first half of the season before the Raiders get a crack at them.

Even in every single one of these games... with the exception of the Texans in Week 7, the Raiders are not any more than a 3-point favorite. While it sounds great to play all these young quarterbacks, oddsmakers don't believe the Raiders are decisive favorites and that all of these games are tossups.

If those games are tossups, where are the easy games? Answer: there are none. While the Raiders are favored in 9 games, they're favored by more than three points in just one game all season (the Texans).

Last year, the Raiders were favored by over three points at this point in the offseason in three games, not just one.

You can look at their schedule two ways: be thankful they play young quarterbacks late in the year, because they could pile up some wins down the home stretch. Or realize that those young quarterbacks won't be so young by that point in the season, and just because they have less experienced quarterbacks, December games against the Patriots, Steelers, and 49ers won't be easy to win at all.



01. Games w Halftime Lead	8	02. Avg Halftime Lead

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)					
36. PSM YPA	7.5				
37. PSM Target Depth	6.5				
38. Non-PSM YPA	6.7				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	6.9				
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	56%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	54%				
42. PSM EPA/att	0.09				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	-0.04				

03. Wins

-2.0

# Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	28%
45. PA Success Rate	53%
46. PA YPA	7.7
47. PA Sack Rate	8.7%
48. PA EPA/att	0.03
49. PA Target Depth	7.1
50. Non-PA Success Rate	53%
51. Non-PA YPA	6.8
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	2.4%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.02
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	11%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.1
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	55%
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	36%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	54%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.7

#### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	7	defFUM	20
Net FROE	2.6	defFUM Rcvrd	11
offFUM	29	acii om itevia	'''
offFUM Rcvrd	19	defFR Rk	15
offFR%	65.5%	defFR%	45.0%
offFR Rk	6		
offFROE	2.0	defFROE	0.6
		defFROE Rk	15
offFROE Rk	5	GEIFROE RK	13

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	1.58	Opp Att	33
Net Over Expectation Rank	8	Opp Makes	27
Own Att	43		
Own Makes	40	Opp FG %	82%
Own FG %	93%	Opp Expected Makes	24.71
Own Expected Makes	36.13	Opp Make Over Expectation	2.29
Own Make over Expectation	3.87	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	6
Own Make over Expectation Rk	2		-
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	2.54	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-0.76
2020 Own Rk	9	2020 Opp Rk	27

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

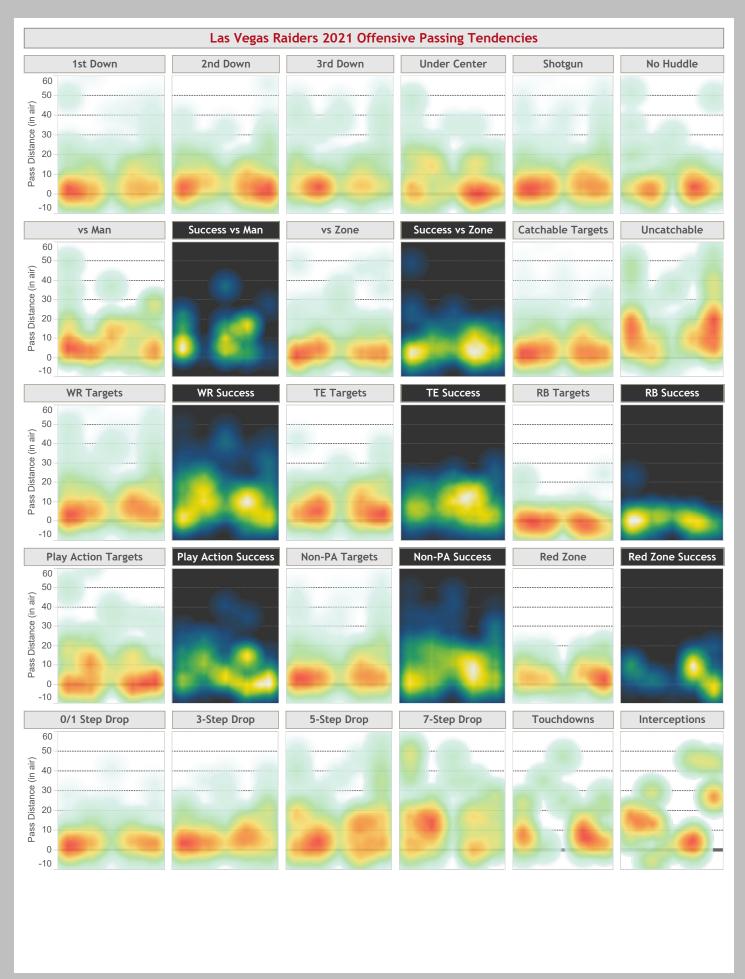
#### **QB Pressure**

#### **Offensive Metrics**

	Derek Carr
CAY	5.6
CAY Rk	20
2020 CAY Rk	19
AYTS Rk	15
2020 AYTS Rk	10
AGG Rk	27
2020 AGG Rk	18
COMP%	68.4
xCOMP%	66.2
xCOMP% Rk	14
2020 xCOMP% Rk	26
CPOE%	2.2
CPOE Rk	5
2020 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

~~~~		
	Derek Carr	
Pressure %	33.9	
Pressure Rk	18	
Sack %	5.8	
Sack Rk	19	
Pressure Accuracy %	70.4	
Pressure Accuracy Rk	7	
Rating when Pressured	62.5	
Pressured Rating Rk	25	
Clean Accuracy %	79.3	
Clean Accuracy Rk	13	
Rating when Clean	103.9	
Clean Rating Rk	12	
Time to Throw	2.82	
Time to Throw Rk	16	



#### Raiders Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Derek Carr	0.21 (#2)	0.03 (#2)	0.06 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	-0.01 (#1)	0.05 (#2)	0.19 (#2)
2020	Derek Carr	0.27 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	-0.06 (#2)	0.09 (#1)	0.25 (#1)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Derek Carr	-0.45 (#1)	-0.38 (#2)	0.22 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	-0.06 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)
2020	Derek Carr	-0.48 (#2)	-0.12 (#1)	0.05 (#2)	0.12 (#2)	0.33 (#1)	-0.17 (#2)	0.05 (#1)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

on range of checking a Rank (Blank Thore chough are to quanty)										
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Derek Carr	80% (#2)	84% (#2)	73% (#1)	50% (#2)	79% (#1)	80% (#2)	72% (#2)	72% (#1)	83% (#2)
2020	Derek Carr	80% (#1)	86% (#1)	67% (#2)	64% (#1)	77% (#2)	81% (#1)	77% (#1)	68% (#2)	85% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	AII	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.14 (#2)	-0.07 (#1)	-0.34 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)	-0.20 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	-0.22 (#2)	-0.08 (#1)	0.28 (#2)	0.20 (#2)
2020	-0.02 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	0.22 (#1)	-0.12 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	-0.09 (#2)	0.59 (#1)	0.59 (#1)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

			OFF ED 123Q				3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	19	7	15	24	26	14	29	6	24	14
2020	11	18	13	18	13	28	15	25	8	22

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	13	11	7	7	11	15	14	1	19
2020	20	18	21	21	22	30	20	1	6

## First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	17	11	3	29	14	19	24	21	14
2020	9	15	5	14	6	2	4	24	7

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

**Head Coach**: Brandon Staley (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: Joe Lombardi (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Renaldo Hill (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

# **Los Angeles Chargers**

2022 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

10.5

#2

#### **Past Records**

2021: 9-8 2020: 7-9 2019: 5-11



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Bryan Bulaga (RT)	TBD
Uchenna Nwosu (EDGE)	Seahawks
Chris Harris Jr. (CB)	TBD
Linval Joseph (IDL)	TBD
Justin Jones (IDL)	Bears
Jared Cook (TE)	TBD
Kyzir White (LB)	Eagles
Andre Roberts (WR)	Panthers
Oday Aboushi (LG)	TBD
Ryan Smith (CB)	TBD
Kyler Fackrell (EDGE)	Raiders
Scott Quessenberry (LG)	Texans
Stephen Anderson (TE)	Cardinals
Matt Overton (LS)	TBD
Michael Schofield (RG)	TBD
Senio Kelemete (RG)	TBD
Eli Ankou (IDL)	Retired
Davontae Harris (CB)	TBD
Trey Marshall (S)	TBD
Ty Long (P)	TBD
Essang Bassey (CB)	Broncos
Justin Jackson (RB)	TBD

#### 2022 Los Angeles Chargers Overview

It truly feels longer than a year ago that we were lamenting Anthony Lynn's usage of Justin Herbert and entering the season nervous about how Joe Lombardi would call plays for the Chargers offense.

Not only does it feel like more time has passed, it also was amazing at how much changed for the Chargers during the past 12 months.

The offense, which ranked 24th in EDSR in 2020, improved to seventh in 2021, including third in overall efficiency.

Red zone offense and third down offense improved to second and fifth respectively in

The defense, which ranked ninth in EDSR in 2020, fell to 22nd in 2021, including 26th in overall efficiency.

Red zone defense and third down defense fell to 31st in both metrics in 2021.

Despite such substantial movement in critical metrics up and down the scale, the Chargers still hovered around .500 for the season.

In 2021, they were 9-8. In 2020, they were 7-9. In 2021, they went 5-5 in one-score games. In 2020, they went 5-7 in one-score games.

This team changed so much but arrived back at the same place when it was all said and done - outside of the playoffs looking in, with a better team than some (cont'd - see LAC2)

Player	New
Bryan Bulaga (RT)	TBD
Uchenna Nwosu (EDGE)	Seahawks
Chris Harris Jr. (CB)	TBD
Linval Joseph (IDL)	TBD
Justin Jones (IDL)	Bears
Jared Cook (TE)	TBD
Kyzir White (LB)	Eagles
Andre Roberts (WR)	Panthers
Oday Aboushi (LG)	TBD
Ryan Smith (CB)	TBD
Kyler Fackrell (EDGE)	Raiders
Scott Quessenberry (LG)	Texans
Stephen Anderson (TE)	Cardinals
Matt Overton (LS)	TBD
Michael Schofield (RG)	TBD
Senio Kelemete (RG)	TBD
Eli Ankou (IDL)	Retired
Davontae Harris (CB)	TBD
Trey Marshall (S)	TBD
Ty Long (P)	TBD
Essang Bassey (CB)	Broncos
Justin Jackson (PR)	TRD

#### 12 -3.5**Regular Season Wins:**

<u>Average</u>

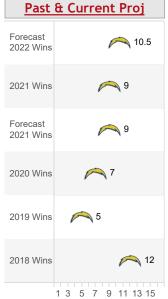
Line

# Games

**Favored** 

# Games

Underdog





81 LWR M.Williams	13 SLOTWR K.Allen*	70 L7 LG R.Slater M.Feil	C RG	G.E	77 RWR J.Guyton 7E Verett
UR2 J.Moore	WR3 D.Carter NEW ROO	? QB2 ler C.Daniel*	J.Herbert 30	- - -	2022 Cap Dollars  * = 30+ years old  NEW = New to role (or started < 50% of games last year)

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Khalil Mack (EDGE)	Trade
J.C. Jackson (CB)	\$16.5
Sebastian Joseph-Day (ID	\$8
Austin Johnson (IDL)	\$7
Gerald Everett (TE)	\$6
Kyle Van Noy (EDGE)	\$2.29
Josh Harris (LS)	\$1.39
Bryce Callahan (CB)	\$1.3

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	17	OG - Zion Johnson (Boston College)
3	79	S - J. T. Woods (Baylor)
4	123	RB - Isaiah Spiller (Texas A&M)
5	160	DT - Otito Ogbonnia (UCLA)
6	195	OG - Jamaree Salyer (Georgia)
	214	CB - Ja'Sir Taylor (Wake Forest)
7	236	CB - Deane Leonard (Ole Miss)
	260	FB - Zander Horvath (Purdue)

#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	16	\$106.49M	7
QB	24	\$10.99M	26
OL	18	\$34.06M	12
RB	11	\$11.99M	11
WR	2	\$41.16M	2
TE	20	\$8.29M	17
All DEF	4	\$114.53M	9
DL	2	\$62.22M	7
LB	20	\$11.33M	26
СВ	12	\$24.03M	5
S	8	\$16.95M	21

#### LAC-2

of the teams that made the playoffs - and wondering what they could do differently as they headed into 2022.

While we'll spend a lot of time discussing the Chargers' offense momentarily, it's always notable when a defensive-minded head coach takes over a team and the defense isn't immediately upgraded. That was the case with the Chargers last

In 2019, their defense was the 20th healthiest and ranked ninth in efficiency and 13th on early downs.

In 2020, their defense was the 29th healthiest and ranked 22nd in efficiency and ninth on early downs.

But in 2021, their defense was the 13th healthiest and ranked 26th in efficiency and 22nd on early downs.

With the league's emphasis on offense, and knowing that the best offenses typically are winning games and Super Bowls, a defensive-minded head coach with a bad defense is far from ideal.

But the Chargers made massive moves in free agency to appease Staley's side of the ball. In fact, in addition to their huge trade for edge rusher Khalil Mack, they spent big in free agency on the defensive side of the ball with cornerback J.C. Jackson and interior defenders Sebastian Joseph-Day and Austin Johnson.

The Chargers ranked 32nd against the run last year. So they spent big this offseason, which is one big benefit of having a quarterback on a rookie deal. If you're smart, you can spend money quickly to address immediate needs.

Joseph-Day was on Staley's Rams defense in 2020 and is one of the best run-defending linemen in the NFL. He knows this system perfectly. Johnson is a 314-pound tackle who should absolutely help against the run game. Hopefully those moves translate to the run defense getting buttoned up. Add Mack to rush the passer and Jackson to play coverage behind, and now you're cooking. No player since at least 1980 has more interceptions in his first four seasons in the NFL than J.C. Jackson's 25 interceptions.

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Justin Herbert	56% 7.1 87.0	50% 7.3 107.0	44% 8.0 100.6	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	52%	65%	81%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
LAC	53% 4.5	45% 4.0	50% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	48%	35%	19%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

Those were just the big expenditures. We didn't mention the signing of savvy vet Kyle Van Noy, or slot corner Bryce Callahan. Both are extremely underrated signings if they can stay healthy (particularly Callahan, who has struggled in that area).

This secondary now has Jackson and Asante Samuel Jr. as outside corners, Callahan patrolling the slot, and Derwin James and Nasir Adderly cleaning up things in the secondary. That's an exceptional secondary. In fact, that's not just lip service: in our collective unit rankings for this book, we've ranked the Chargers as having the No. 3 secondary in the NFL, after ranking them 19th in 2020.

We still have them ranked with the fifth-best front-seven, mostly due to a (cont'd - see LAC-3) 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

22

26

Pass



#### 12 13 14 2 5 11 15 10 W KC W LV WASDAL PHI MIN PIT DEN CIN NYG KC HOUDEN LV CLEBAL ΝE Н A 6 Η Н Н Н Н Α Н Н A -12 Н A -3 5 -28 -3 16 4 -3 14 3 4 -15 19 -6 21

37

13 41 28 29 34

24

27 24 27 37 28 22 21 34 41 13 35

27 20 41

30

20 17

16 20 24 14 42

47

6

28

2021 Close Game **Records** WFFK **RESULT** OPP All 2019 Wins: 9 SITE

31

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-3 FG Games Win %: 25% (#21) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins) 11% (#20)

12

YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Efficiency Def Efficieincy Def

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-5 Score Games Win %: 50% (#12) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 56% (#12)

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin TO Given 22 **INT Given** 15 **FUM Given** TO Taken 21 **INT Taken** 11 10 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +4 35 Sacks Sacks Allow 31 Return TD Margin +1 **Ret TDs Ret TDs Allow** 0 **Penalty Margin** -17 Penalties 116 **Opponent Penalties** 99

15

RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

22 23

Pass Pro

10

**Explosive** 

24

32

5

10

15

20

25

30

MARGIN

OPP PTS

OFF/DFF

Blue=OFF

Red=DEF

(high=good)

(low=good)

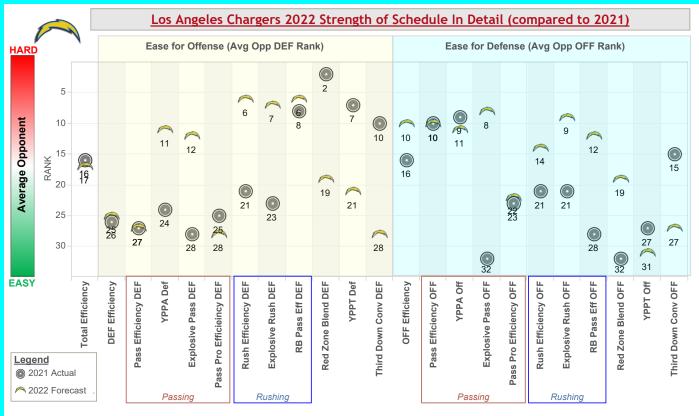
**EDSR** 

PTS

22

**EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def

30 31



2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*										
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk			
15	5	6	5	17	8	7	4			

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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

	_	Геап	n Red	cord	s & 7	<u> ren</u>	<u>ds</u>		<u>20</u>	22 C	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	<u>sion</u>	<u>2021</u>	Орр	oner	its b	y Di	visio	<u>n</u> <u>H</u>	ealth	ı by l	<u>Jnit*</u>
					2021	20	20	2019				~	ITAL					_	107	<del>(dias</del>			2021	Rk	9
	Ave	rage I	ine		-2.4	-0	0.3	-1.4	AF	CW		, <b>(16</b> )		Y)		AFCW	<b>\$</b>	۵ ( <u>ا</u>		Y)			2020	Rk	27
	Avera				49.3	47	7.9	45.2			•	_	0					_	"			20	21 v 20	)20 Rk	5
	Straigh	it Up R	Record		9-8		-9	5-11				9 (								_		20			
	inst the				8-9		-7	4-11	AF	cs						AFCN	1	<b>≥</b> 1F		R (	Steelers		Off F	₹K	10
	Over/U				10-7		-7	7-9						9			*	1					Def F	₹k	13
		as Fav			5-7		-3	2-6															QB F	2k	1
	ATS a				3-2		-3	2-5 2-5	NE	cw	E TO	10		<b>&gt;</b> (	<b>P</b>	NFCE	<b>←</b> Λ	<b>m</b>		# 1					
	Straig	nt Up i S Hon			5-4 4-5		-4 -4	2-5 1-5		•••		44		<b>—</b>		141 02				N.	$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}$		RB F	RK	10
	Over/L				4-5 6-3		-4 -5	1-5 2-5															WR F	₹k	7
Δ.	TS as F			te	4-4		-2	0-4			July												TER	2 k	8
	ATS as				0-1	1.		1-1	AF	CE	150					AFCE		3							24
	Straig			•	4-4		-5	3-5			,												Oline	Rk	
		S Awa			4-4	3	-3	3-5										No.					Dline	Rk	19
	Over/U				4-4	6	-2	5-3	AF	CN						AFCS	X *						LB F	2k	20
	ATS A				1-3		-1	2-2																	13
		Away			3-1		-2	1-3			/						10						DB F	КК	13
	Point				12-5		1-2	11-5	NE	cs	4	9				NFCN	9					*	Pacad a	n the w	ork of
	n Poin				13-4		1-2	11-5			W.					111 011		<b>*</b>						ıll Outsi	
I ei	Point	rease	r Reco	ora	13-4		l-2	11-4															7 00100	iii Outsi	00/3
					<u>20</u>	22 V	<u>Veek</u>	ly Be	<u>ettin</u>	g Lir	<u>nes</u>									<u>Hoi</u>	me L	<u>ines</u>			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1	3	6		7	11	14	15	17
LVR	KC	JAX	HOU	CLE	DEN	SEA	ATL	SF	KC	ARI	LVR	MIA	TEN	IND	LAR	DEN	t.	-2				-3	-4	C TE-AVG	= 22
+1.0	-13.0	-2.0	-1.0	-4.5	-9.0	Null	+1.5	-6.0	-3.0	+2.5	-9.5	-4.0	+0.0	-3.5	+1.5	-5.5	LVR	JAX	-9			KC	MiA	TE'NYS	LAR*
																			DEN	1					
مين			æ .				The same			A					(H)										
Avg =	-3.4			A	H			Ä	¢\$		Α	H		ZAS	Avg	= -3.4				Ro	ad Li	ines			
					i e			<b>(5)</b>	1		_					Service Servic	2	4	5	9	10	12	13	16	18
					The same													-1		1.5		2.5			
	<b>(</b>																	HOU	<b>-4.5</b> CLE	ATL	-6	ARI	-9.5	-3.5 Ava	= -4.3
																	-13		CLE		-SF-		LVR	11,03	
52.5	49.5	50.5	49	51.5	46.5	II N	51.5	51	48	52	47.5	51	20	47.5	51	43.5	KC								





defensive line that features the three new additions to play next to Joey Bosa.

There are simply zero excuses for Staley and his defense in 2022. The talent on that side of the ball is outstanding, and the system has proven success against modern NFL offenses. We know it will be a challenge to play against AFC West offenses, but look at the rest of the Chargers' schedule:

Three bottom-5 offenses from 2021:

No. 31 Texans starting a 2021 rookie QB in Davis Mills

No. 29 Falcons starting Marcus Mariota

No. 28 Jaguars starting a 2021 rookie QB in Trevor Lawrence

Plus these offenses:

Rams

Browns starting (very likely) Jacoby Brissett Seahawks starting either Drew Lock or Geno Smith 49ers starting (very likely) a 2021 rookie QB who wasn't starting last year Titans without A.J. Brown Colts **Dolphins** Cardinals

From that last group, the Browns and Seahawks offenses are virtually assured to be worse than 2021's editions given their new starting quarterbacks. The 49ers are up in the air. The Titans are likely to take a step backward. I don't know that any of the other offenses, including the Rams, that send chills down your spine, even though they are mostly solid.

This defense could be what takes the Chargers over the top in a highly-competitive AFC West if all the offenses are indeed as good as expected.

Let's transition to the offense of the Chargers. They're extremely fortunate to have a total phenom like Justin Herbert. At this point, I'll drool a bit and say there aren't many passers that make me feel this kind of way, but I feel fortunate to even watch him sling the ball because it's a joy to watch it take flight. He's truly superlative when it comes to downfield arm talent.

Hebert threw the most touchdown passes of any rookie in NFL history, despite the fact he was the second most pressured quarterback in the NFL. He was the 2020 Offensive Rookie of the Year and became the fourth rookie quarterback to throw for over 4,000 yards. He also holds records for most passing yards in a quarterback's first two seasons (9,350), most total touchdowns in a quarterback's first two seasons (77) and is the first quarterback to record 30 touchdown passes in each of his first two seasons.

That's absolutely sick.

Opponent has

over a week to

prep

3

You could see why, after watching how Lynn was using Herbert in 2020, I was hopeful that Lombardi would tailor the offense completely to allow Herbert to cook as much as possible while not overloading him.

I wrote in my 2021 book about a few things I wanted Lombardi to ensure the team implemented to optimize their chances to win.

First, I wanted Herbert to pass the ball more on first down. Second, I wanted the team to increase their second down aDOT, which was an NFL-low in the first half of games in 2020.

Why were both of these so vital? Because, as I wrote:

Opponent has

less than a week

to prep

Difference

"The combination of first down playcalling (producing 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.

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule Team plays off Team's bye week road SNF or MNF is negated 0

Team plays a

short week road

game

Difference

(cont'd - see LAC-4)

Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Los Angeles Chargers Ranking vs NFL Average

2022 games where...

advantage

Team has a rest Team has a rest

disadvantage

Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank Negated Bye Rank Rank Rank 17 13 18 21

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

## Why Bet the Under

- The Chargers added **Sebastian Joseph-Day** and **Austin Jackson** to improve the interior of the defensive line but will it be enough as the run defense was a complete sieve and responsible for the Chargers missing the playoffs in 2021? The run defense was last in the league in success rate allowed, third-worst on first down success rate allowed, third-worst on first down success rate allowed, and finished in the bottom half of explosive runs allowed the second-highest EPA per rush. The run defense can't be worse, but will it improve enough?
- Although not as difficult as their division mates, the Chargers are still in the bottom half of the league in strength of schedule with the 13th most difficult schedule. The AFC is loaded with offensive talent, making it difficult to finish with a winning record in divisional games.
- Justin Herbert is an incredible young quarterback, but new offensive coordinator Joe Lombardi did not utilize the quarterback to his fullest capabilities. Herbert averaged a below league average 7.39 air yards per attempt and under 30% of passes over 10 air yards on first down. It is unknown if Lombardi will dial up aggressiveness on first down after working with Drew Brees for many years.

# 10.5



#### Why Bet the Over

- The Chargers' offense is likely to improve in terms of fumble luck in 2022. The Chargers' offense put the ball on the ground a league low 10 times, but only recovered three fumbles, nearly three recoveries under expectation. The defense is due for an improvement in third down conversions after allowing a league high 49.5% conversion rate on third down 8.6% over expectation. Positive regression on offense and defense should benefit the Chargers in 2022.
- The offensive line, which finished in the top half of the league in both pass and run block win rate, made another significant addition of Zion Johnson in the draft. What was a weakness in Herbert's first year under center will be a strength for the Chargers.
- The Chargers have taken full advantage of an elite quarterback on a rookie contract and spent in the offseason building one of the most complete rosters in the league. Brandon Staley's defense should be much improved with veteran additions of **Khalil Mack** and **J.C. Jackson** as well as additions on the interior line. The defensive unit, which struggled and finished bottom ten in EPA/play, made improvements to the line and secondary and is primed for a big leap in Year 2 under Staley.

#### 

The Chargers are the only team with every position group ranked in the top 10, with an average rank of 6.1. Led by **Justin Herbert**, the Chargers' quarterback room ranked in the top five on every ballot, and even received one second-place vote.

Few running backs impact both the run game and passing attack as much as **Austin Ekeler**. This unit would likely rank higher if the depth were more reliable. Rookie **Isaiah Spiller** could potentially emerge as a complementary piece this unit has been lacking.

Among Chargers pass catchers who saw over 25 targets a season ago, only **Jared Cook** is not returning. Cook will be replaced by **Gerald Everett**, who potentially provides an upgrade to a tight end unit that saw the ninth most targets in 2021.

The Chargers' offensive line allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less at the ninth-lowest rate. The addition of rookie **Zion Johnson** should help stabilize the right side of the line. Right tackle remains a weak link, however, where **Storm Norton** ranked 32nd out of 37 qualified players in pressure rate allowed.

Joey Bosa ranked 11th among edge-rushers with a 14.2% pressure rate generated. Khalil Mack's 12.5% pressure rate joins the unit, giving the Los Angeles front seven a potentially elite duo. The addition of nose tackle **Sebastian Joseph-Day**, who excelled in Brandon Staley's scheme with the Rams, also helps upgrade the defensive line.

The Chargers' secondary ranked in the bottom half of our unit rankings last year, partially because **Derwin James** has played just five games over the previous two seasons. He returned to health to lead a strong secondary last year, which should only get better with the addition of **J.C. Jackson**. Staley was the biggest riser in our head coach rankings, climbing 18 spots. He's our highest-ranked coach with fewer than five years of experience.

#### LAC-4

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 were 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 first step was to increase Herbert's early down target depth. It was terrible in 2020, and ranked 35th in the NFL. I suppose you could excuse for a few weeks of this performance due to his being a rookie and thrust into the offense unexpectedly at first, but after those few games where you saw him light it up, thinking that the way to win is to throw short would be extremely foolish. There was no excuse for the way Lynn's Chargers misused Herbert's arm in 2020.

Lombardi absolutely NEEDED to fix this aspect of the offense.

Did he?

Out of 42 quarterbacks with 100+ att last year, here is where Herbert ranked in 2021 early down target depth:

First half target depth: 35th (6.2 air yards) Quarters 1-3 target depth: 36th (6.5 air yards)

#### LAC-5

How did this compare to 2020?

When Herbert was a rookie and was setting records and everyone, myself included, was clamoring for Anthony Lynn to get him to throw the ball further downfield. On early downs, by year:

2021 first half target depth: 35th (6.2 air yards) 2020 first half target depth: 35th (6.6 air yards)

Seriously? The exact same ranking? And a REDUCTION IN TARGET DEPTH? WHAT?

And in the first three quarters?

2021 quarter 1-3 target depth: 36th (6.5 air yards) 2020 quarter 1-3 target depth: 35th (6.9 air yards)

Even worse.

#### HOW?

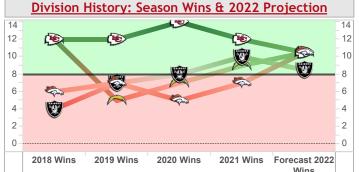
How can a coach with a prodigy like Justin Herbert see him and think the best strategy is to reduce target depth?

This was our fear entering the season – Lombardi previously coached Drew Brees in New Orleans and there wasn't a more diametrically opposed arm to Herbert's than the limp one on Drew Brees's body to end his career.

We knew it, but we hoped Lombardi would adapt his offense to the strengths of his quarterback.

Hell, I even nightmarishly weaved it into the book last year, when I complained about Lynn's offense limiting Herbert:

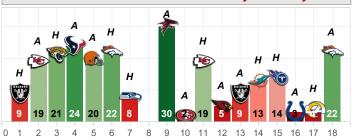
(cont'd - see LAC-6)



# Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



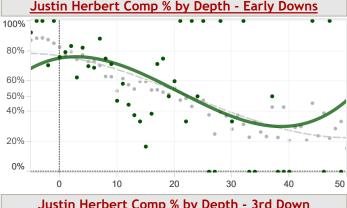
#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

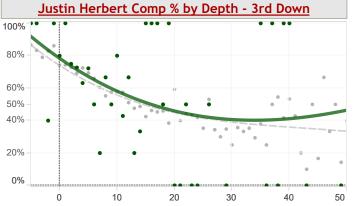


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)					
	Austin Ekeler	5%	6%	73%	4%	12%					
	Justin Jackson		9%	60%		31%					
I	Jalen Guyton			100%							
RUSH	Josh Palmer					100%					
œ	Joshua Kelley	12%	3%	64%		21%					
	Larry Rountree			89%		11%					
	Total	4%	5%	71%	2%	17%					
	Austin Ekeler	12%	11%	63%	6%	9%					
	Keenan Allen	9%	6%	76%	1%	8%					
	Mike Williams	12%	5%	76%	2%	6%					
	Justin Jackson	12%	24%	48%	8%	8%					
	Jared Cook	12%	8%	70%	1%	8%					
PASS	Jalen Guyton	13%	10%	56%	10%	10%					
PA	Josh Palmer	14%	14%	57%	2%	12%					
	Joshua Kelley	33%		50%	17%						
	Larry Rountree			100%							
	Donald Parham	15%		70%	4%	11%					
	Stephen Anderson	21%	5%	63%		11%					
	Total	12%	8%	68%	3%	8%					

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Donald Parham Justin Jackson Kelley Rountree Williams Guyton Keenan Aller Palmer Austin Ekeler Jared Cook Stephen Anderson Joshua I Jalen Josh Mike -arry **PASS** 25% 20% RUSH 2% 0% 58% ALL





#### Successful Play Rate 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary 100% Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 1-3 [1WR] 2-2 [1WR] 1-0 [4WR] 0-0 [5WR] 0-1 [4WR] Type 50%, 0.06 (530) 56%, 0.18 (116) 54%, 0.33 (24) 75%, 0.34 (12) 51%, 0.08 (698) **PASS** 52%, 0.06 (184) 51%, 0.01 (418) RUSH 52%, -0.01 (176) 50%, -0.11 (14) 50%, 0.01 (22) ΔII 50%, 0.06 (714) 54%, 0.07 (292) 53%, 0.17 (38) 59%, 0.13 (34) 35%, -0.22 (20) 51%, 0.05 (1,116)

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					
WR	Keenan Allen	54% (123) 7.0, 0.12	64% (22) 8.6, 0.31	60% (5) 12.0, 0.94	0% (2) 0.5, -1.53	55% (152) 7.3, 0.15					
	Mike Williams	51% (92) 9.5, 0.45	50% (28) 5.8, 0.13	67% (3) 20.7, 1.61	0% (2) 0.0, -1.19	50% (125) 8.8, 0.38					
	Jalen Guyton	61% (44) 9.3, 0.44		100% (1) 21.0, 1.25		62% (45) 9.6, 0.46					
TE	Jared Cook	47% (64) 6.0, -0.14	50% (8) 8.8, 0.25	67% (3) 9.3, 0.22		48% (75) 6.4, -0.08					
RB	Austin Ekeler	54% (78) 7.2, -0.08	56% (9) 6.9, 0.28	50% (4) 3.8, -0.18		54% (91) 7.0, -0.05					
	Justin Jackson	67% (18) 6.8, 0.15	71% (7) 7.7, 0.18	0% (1) 2.0, -1.00		65% (26) 6.8, 0.12					

Rushin	Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)											
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total							
Ekeler	58% (89)	51% (100)	100% (1)	75% (4)	55% (194)							
Austin	4.5, 0.06	4.3, -0.09	3.0, 0.31	7.3, 0.11	4.5, -0.01							
Jackson	44% (27)	58% (33)	60% (5)	0% (1)	52% (66)							
Justin	4.1, -0.14	7.2, 0.21	3.4, -0.05	1.0, -0.44	5.6, 0.04							
Herbert	63% (35)	100% (11)	0% (8)		61% (54)							
Justin	6.7, 0.58	6.1, 0.66	-1.0, -0.70		5.4, 0.41							
Rountree III	18% (11)	36% (14)	50% (2)	33% (6)	30% (33)							
Larry	2.2, -0.43	2.1, -0.32	7.0, 0.42	2.3, -0.21	2.5, -0.29							
Kelley Joshua	20% (15) 2.3, -0.53	38% (13) 4.4, -0.01			29% (28) 3.3, -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

	sing by		ing by	Throw	Types	QB Drop	QB Drop Types QB S		State at	Pass	Run Types			
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	57% (507)	3 Step	56% (178) 7.1, 0.25	Planted		5% (522) .9, 0.19	Outside Zone	63% (91) 5.5, 0.10		
	100/ //10	Curl	69% (89) 7.1, 0.18	Level I	6.5, 0.08	55% (157)				55% (157) 5.9. 0.08		· /	Inside	41% (63)
Zone	46% (448) 8.0, 0.16	04	63% (82)		56% (93)	О ОТЕР	9.0, 0.36	Shuffling		5% (65) .0, 0.03	Zone	3.7, -0.15		
		Out	7.2, 0.30	Level 2	12.0, 0.62	0/1 Step	49% (149) 5.6, -0.19		,		Stretch	59% (32) 5.4, 0.07		
			54% (39)				3.0, -0.19		Play Action			3.4, 0.07		
Man	44% (186) 7.1, 0.09	Slant	5.4, 0.13		34% (44)	Designed Rollout Right	63% (48) 10.0, 0.34		Play Action	No P/A	Power	39% (31) 3.6, -0.12		
	,		48% (23)	Level 3	13.4, 0.53	- Konout Right		Under Center	56% (114) 9.0, 0.20	60% (47) 6.2, 0.18				
	469/ (29)	Dig	8.4, 0.14			7 Step	62% (47) 10.2, 0.39	Shotgun	57% (65) 9.3, 0.29	48% (474)	Pitch	27% (26) 3.1, -0.25		
Other	46% (38) 3.1, 0.23	Drag	59% (22) 8.0, 0.41	Sidearm	29% (7) 1.9, -0.33	Basic Screen	71% (14) 10.0, 0.34	ALL	56% (179) 9.1, 0.23	7.0, 0.01 49% (521) 6.9, 0.03	Lead	43% (14) 2.4, -0.21		

#### LAC-6

"[Herbert had] 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."

When Lombardi stuck Herbert in shotgun on early downs last year, we all thought (and hoped): OK, they're going to go for it here.

Nope.

There were 30 quarterbacks with 100+ early down shotgun attempts in just the first three quarters last year.

Here is where Herbert ranked:

- 26. Carson Wentz, IND (run first team)
- 27. Davis Mills, HOU (rookie)
- 28. Justin Herbert, LAC
- 29. Ryan Tannehill, TEN (run first team)
- 30. Zach Wilson, NYJ (rookie)

On early down play action passes, Herbert's target depth was just 7.9 yards in 2021, which ranked 30th.

Making things even more frustrating – this never improved.

Weeks 15-18, the final four weeks of the season when the Chargers should have been making their playoff push, what was Herbert's early down target depth in the first half of games?

(cont'd - see LAC-7)





5.7 air yards... a number that was even worse than it was earlier in the season... a number that ranked 28th in the NFL.

In the final four weeks of the season, Herbert threw 51 early down passes in the first half.

Nearly 25% were thrown behind the line of scrimmage and 34 of 51, or 67%, were thrown within five air yards.

The Chargers lost three of those final four games.

Just one more win would have put this team into the playoffs.

They couldn't do it. Lombardi simply wouldn't open up the passing offense for Herbert.

If you play conservatively in the first half, you won't win as many games.

It doesn't matter if you're the Chargers or any other team in the NFL.

There is a longstanding precedent that jumping out to early leads provides a much easier path to winning games than winning a dogfight or coming from behind to steal wins.

So in last year's book, I pounded the table for the Chargers to do what it took to jump out to leads:

"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."

Why was this so important as we reflected on the 2020 season and looked ahead to 2021?

Because I predicted a regression in two key areas that carried the Chargers offense in 2020: Herbert's third down performance and Herbert's performance when under pressure.

Let's hit third down performance first:

Out of 44 quarterbacks, in 2020 as a rookie, Herbert was first in the NFL in third down conversion rate. He converted FIFTY PERCENT of third downs.

How insane is that figure?

Looking back to the year 2000, there are just two quarterbacks to ever have seasons exceeding 50% with at least 75 attempts:

Drew Brees in 2011 Peyton Manning in 2006, 2009, and 2014

(cont'd - see LAC-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Los Angeles Chargers 2022 Draft Class

For the second consecutive season, the Chargers spent their top pick on an offensive lineman to improve **Justin Herbert**'s protection. **Zion Johnson** (first round) is expected to step into the starting role at right guard. Johnson has never played on the right side of the offensive line, playing left tackle and left guard at Boston College, but played well in both roles and should be able to make a smooth transition.

This past season at left guard, Johnson did not commit a single blown block in pass protection.

The selection of **J.T. Woods** (third round) was somewhat surprising because **Derwin James** and **Nasir Adderley** appear to be locked into starting roles. However, both James and Adderley hit free agency after the 2022 season. It's possible GM Tom Telesco believes he'll need to let one of them walk (likely Adderley).

Woods played a versatile role in Baylor's secondary, playing over 200 snaps in each the box, slot, and deep secondary last season. The Chargers selected a running back on Day 3 for the third time in the last four seasons in **Isaiah Spiller** (fourth round). Although Telesco did overinvest in **Melvin Gordon** with the 15th overall selection in 2015, his new plan to address his running back room seems to be adding a constant stream of cheap rookies. Spiller is most effective running between the tackles, and will compete with **Larry Rountree** and **Joshua Kelly** for backup duties behind **Austin Ekeler**. To earn reps in Los Angeles, Spiller needs to be more decisive as a runner and cut down on the negative plays. Last year at Texas A&M, 20% of his carries went for zero or negative yards, which ranked 17th out of 18 qualified SEC ball carriers.

Otito Ogbonnia (fifth round) should serve as a backup nose tackle to Sebastian Joseph-Day. Brandon Staley relies heavily on nose tackles, so this is a vital role. Linval Joseph, whom Joseph-Day is replacing, played an average of 27 snaps per game last season lined up as a nose tackle, with a handful of others combining to average 14 snaps per game in that role.

Jamaree Salyer (sixth round) joins Johnson on the offensive line as another rookie with experience at guard and tackle. Salyer most recently played left tackle at Georgia, but has played all five positions. The most obvious configuration of the Chargers' offensive line on the right side has Johnson at guard and Storm Norton at tackle, but the addition of Salyer gives them some flexibility. Ja'Sir Taylor (sixth round) and Deane Leonard (seventh round) add depth to an already deep secondary. Taylor has some experience as a return specialist, which potentially increases his odds of making the roster. Veteran receiver Andre Roberts, who returned kicks for the Chargers last year, is no longer on the team.

The Chargers were without a second-round pick due to the **Khalil Mack** trade, and the decision to add a safety in the third round limits their ability to get much immediate production from this draft class. However, they did address a significant weakness on the offensive line in the first round (Johnson), added a potential future starter on Day 2 (Woods), and found some quality depth on Day 3. So while this isn't the most exciting draft class, Telesco did a nice job blending need and value with his selections.

#### Los Angeles Chargers 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Chargers ranked fourth in the NFL in expected points added via their passing offense (168.6 EPA). They ranked 15th in completion percentage (65.7%), tied for second in net passing yardage (4,800 yards), fifth in touchdown passes (38), eighth in touchdown rate (5.6%), 12th in yards per pass attempt (7.4 Y/A), and ninth in yards per completion (11.3 yards). With 5,014 yards and 38 passing touchdowns in 2021, Justin Herbert is the first player in NFL history to start his career with 30 touchdown passes in his first two seasons. The one area where Herbert and the offense can still extend is outward. Herbert ranked 19th in average depth of target (7.6 yards), but with primary target hogs in Keenan Allen and Austin Ekeler operating on the shallow to intermediate levels of the defense, that is likely going to remain weighed down

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Justin Herbert	443	671	66%	5,014	7.5	38	14	31	98	13
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

#### 2021 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ 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 % Justin Herbert 51% 53 8.0% 22 3.0% 5.9 5.4 53% 46% 50% 34.1 8.8% 5.6 5.3 12.5 3.1% NFL Avg

0.0%

0.9%

0.7%

3.2%

2.3%

2.0%

A A V-I- D	.aud	
QB Yds to Avg. Air Past Sti	cks ate Beyond Air YAC Rk	
Justin Herbert         7.2         9.8         2.6         55	5% 6 52% 48% 27	
NFL Avg 7.4 8.9 1.5 62	2% 53% 47%	

# 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

2.7%

0.0%

0.8%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

2.9%

0.0%

2.7%

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

0.0%

1.6%

1.8%

6.5%

2.8%

Yards to Go

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Total

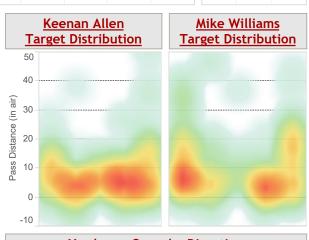
The Chargers' passing attack was in the front half of the league in success rate targeting their wide receivers (55%, eighth), running backs (55%, third), and tight ends (54%, 15th). Keenan Allen was as steady as ever, reeling in 106 receptions for 1,138 yards and six scores. Austin Ekeler remained one of the more unique offensive weapons out of the backfield, catching 70 passes for 647 yards and eight scores. Paired with those two, the team finally coaxed out a breakout for Mike Williams, who caught 76 passes for 1,146 yards and a team-high nine touchdowns. Williams received a contract extension this offseason. In an effort to improve at TE, the team brought in Gerald Everett, who is coming off a career-high 48-478-4 season.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS% RK	TDs
Keenan Allen	157	68%	7.2	90.7	54%	48	22	95	17	6
Mike Williams	129	59%	8.9	108.2	52%	70	56	13	116	9
Austin Ekeler	94	74%	6.9	112.3	53%	60	58	114	36	8
Jared Cook	83	58%	6.8	74.6	51%	81	98	74	35	4

# 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Chargers fielded a running game in the middle of the pack in 2021, ranking 16th in expected points added via rushing (10.1 EPA) and 17th in yards per carry (4.3 YPC). Austin Ekeler was finally given the opportunity to carry more rushing work, setting career-highs with 206 carries, 911 yards, and 12 touchdowns. This after scoring nine rushing touchdowns over his first four years in the league. While Ekeler is an elite back, he still only carried the ball 12.9 times per game. After Ekeler's 56% success rate rushing, backups Justin Jackson (50%), Larry Rountree (33%), and Joshua Kelley (30%) were well below Ekeler's rate. The team added Isaiah Spiller in the fourth round to compete and improve aiding Ekeler as a 1B back. The team also used their first-round pick (no. 17 overall) on Zion Johnson to fill a void on the right side of the offensive line.

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	205	4.4	56%	20	8	15	47	57%	11	12
Justin Jackson	68	5.4	50%	45	23	89	6	48%	53	2
Justin Herbert	63	4.8	59%	9	73	23	52	53%	23	3



**Target** 

**Distribution** 

**Justin Herbert Rating Early Downs** 

96

40

30

20

10 0 -10 **Postive** 

Play %





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Wheels Up on the Entire Charger Offense

After a QB8 finish in points ger game as a rookie, **Justin Herbert** roared back as the QB2 overall and in points per game as a follow-up in 2021. Herbert got off the blocks with QB26 and QB22 scoring weeks, then ripped off 12 QB1 scoring weeks the rest of the way with eight top-six scoring weeks, six in the top three, and three outright pacing the position, tied for second in the league. Herbert is the first player in NFL history to start his career with 30 touchdown passes in his first two seasons. He also offers a touch of production with his legs, adding 3.6 and 2.8 rushing points per game to open his career. With Josh Allen the consensus QB1, Herbert is my favorite bet to make from the field in dethroning Allen from pacing the position for a third straight season.

Austin Ekeler did his best McCaffrey impersonation last season, finishing as the RB2 and producing 92.2% of the fantasy output that Jonathan Taylor had while missing a game. Ekeler had 44 more receiving points than the next closest back as he now has ranked first, third, and second at his position in receiving points per game over the past three years. The only thing missing from taking Ekeler to superstardom was a commitment to giving him money touches in the running game, something that finally happened a year ago. Ekeler found the end zone 20 times, 12 of which came on the ground after scoring nine rushing touchdowns over his first four years in the league. Ekeler led all position players with 163.1 fantasy points in the red zone after totaling 145.6 points in that area of the field over four seasons. He handled 12 carries inside of the five-yard line (seven for scores) after 14 the previous four seasons. With the Chargers still having question marks behind Ekeler in terms of talent and investment, Ekeler is one of the best combo backs for fantasy.

**Keenan Allen** has never been flashy or an elite touchdown, but he is steady as they come in full-PPR formats, catching over 6.0 receptions per game in each of his past six seasons in which he has played multiple games. He has 97 or more receptions in each of his past five seasons. Allen turns 30 this April, but he has a playstyle that will keep him viable with attachment to Herbert for the final stretch of his apex. We finally had the breakout season we have been chasing from **Mike Williams** as he set career-highs in targets (129), receptions (76), and yardage (1,146) to go along with nine touchdowns.

In the three games that **Josh Palmer** got on the field for 60% or more of the snaps as a rookie, he posted games of 5-66-1 (seven targets), 5-43-1 (six targets), and 4-45-1 (nine targets). Palmer still will hold value playing as the WR3 attached to Justin Herbert but is just an injury opportunity away from being a fantasy starter. The Chargers used their tight ends often in 2021, with the position ranking ninth in the NFL in targets (131), 10th in receptions (90), 11th in yards (964), and ninth in touchdowns (eight) as a group. **Jared Cook** led the group with 48-564-4 on 83 targets, but the team needed more talent as showcased in success rates for the position. In an effort to add here, the Chargers signed **Gerald Everett**, coming off a career-high 48-478-4 line in the turtle-paced Seattle passing game. To tack on to all of these players, they play for the most aggressive head coach in the league.

Los A	Angeles Cha	rgers Defen	se: Number	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	DI.	50
1-1 [3WR]	13 plays (3%) Success: 38%	312 plays (74%) Success: 46%	91 plays (22%) Success: 35%	5 plays (1%) Success: 60%	421 plays (100%) Success: 44%		%	Rk	40 -
	EPA: 0.11	EPA: 0.00	EPA: -0.24	EPA: 0.05	EPA: -0.04	EPA: -0.04 Base		14	
1-2 [2WR]	24 plays (27%) Success: 38%	60 plays (67%) Success: 53%	5 plays (6%) Success: 60%		89 plays (100%) Success: 49%	Nickel	63%	14	30 -
	EPA: -0.09	EPA: 0.01	EPA: 0.89		EPA: 0.04	Dime+	11%	20	
2-1 [2WR]	25 plays (64%) Success: 68% EPA: 0.28	14 plays <i>(36%)</i> Success: 64% EPA: 0.02			39 plays (100%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.18	Rush 3	2%	27	20 -
	15 plays (63%)	9 plays (38%)			24 plays (100%)	Rush 4	71%	16	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 47% EPA: -0.16	Success: 56% EPA: -0.05			Success: 50% EPA: -0.11	Rush 5	24%	9	
	77 plays (13%)	395 plays (69%)	96 plays (17%)	5 plays (1%)	573 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	4%	19	0 -
Grand Total	Success: 49% EPA: 0.05	Success: 48% EPA: 0.00	Success: 36% EPA: -0.18	Success: 60% EPA: 0.05	Success: 47% EPA: -0.02	Blitz%	27%	11	-10

#### **Defensive Outlook**

Chris Jones remains one of the best interior players in the league. He was second among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and he was first in pressure rate, per SIS. Jones still won't turn 28 years old until July and he's signed through 2023. **Tershawn Wharton** played 45% of the defensive snaps in 2021 and the 2020 undrafted free agent has worked himself into a useful rotational rusher with the potential for more in 2022. Wharton was 29th among defensive tackles in pressure rate last season. **Derrick Nnad**i played 40% of the defensive snaps and the 2018 third-round pick re-signed on a one-year deal after his rookie contract expired.

Frank Clark's tenure in Kansas City has been uneven, though he's technically made the Pro Bowl in all three seasons as a Chief. Clark only had 4.5 sacks in 2021 and ranked 41st among edge rushers in pressure rate. Clark's pressure rate has increased in each of the past three seasons but they were not high rates to top. Chris Jones had to fill in at edge early in the season with little effective depth before Melvin Ingram was acquired. Ingram is gone but the Chiefs used a first-round pick on George Karlaftis, who likely immediately comes in as the starter opposite Clark.

Willie Gay and Nick Bolton were second-round picks in back-to-back seasons, which shows a fairly decent investment at the position. Bolton led the group in snaps during his rookie season and ranked 41st among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap.

Gay played 12 games and 39% of the overall defensive snaps. He ranked 63rd in yards allowed per coverage snap. He'll play a bigger role in 2022 with both Anthony Hitchens and Ben Niemann no longer on the roster. The Chiefs also used dime personnel 27% of the time, the second-highest rate in the league, which keeps just one linebacker on the field. 2019 sixth-round pick **Rashad Fenton** was 31st among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. Fenton will be the top outside receiver with **Charvarious Ward** gone. **L'Jarius Sneed** led the position in snaps played (82%) and spent most of his time in the slot. Sneed ranked 35th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap.

With help needed on the outside, the Chiefs drafted Washington's **Trent McDuffie** by trading up with their first first-round pick. McDuffie was sixth in this draft class in yards allowed per coverage snap during the 2021 season. **Justin Reid** takes over at safety as Kansas City's big free agent signing this offseason. Reid has been up and down a bit over the past few seasons in Houston but a better defensive scheme should help bring back his early-year production. **Juan Thornhill** played 76% of the defensive snaps last season and should continue to develop as a top safety. He played most of his snaps as a deep safety, but also added some snaps in the slot and box. Moving him — and Reid — around could happen more often without **Tyrann Mathieu**. Second-round pick **Bryan Cook** was a versatile safety at Cincinnati, who spent a lot of time in the box and was one of college football's best tackling defensive backs.

Play Tendencies							
All Pass %	63%						
All Pass Rk	5						
All Rush %	37%						
All Rush Rk	28						
1 Score Pass %	62%						
1 Score Pass Rk	6						
2020 1 Score Pass %	58%						
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	13						
2021 Pass Increase %	4%						
Pass Increase Rk	3						
1 Score Rush %	38%						
1 Score Rush Rk	27						
Up Pass %	64%						
Up Pass Rk	2						
Up Rush %	36%						
Up Rush Rk	31						
Down Pass %	63%						
Down Pass Rk	8						
Down Rush %	37%						
Down Rush Rk	25						

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	denci	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %
1st	Short (1-3)	8	25%	75%	63%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	12	33%	67%	58%
	Long (8-10)	328	51%	49%	55%
	XL (11+)	9	100%	0%	56%
2nd	Short (1-3)	49	37%	63%	69%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	88	66%	34%	44%
	Long (8-10)	90	70%	30%	44%
	XL (11+)	36	92%	8%	50%
3rd	Short (1-3)	41	61%	39%	59%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	61	93%	7%	43%
	Long (8-10)	26	92%	8%	27%
	XL (11+)	26	88%	12%	35%
4th	Short (1-3)	15	60%	40%	47%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	4	100%	0%	75%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	100%
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shots	gun %
Shotgun	Under Center
61%	39%
NFL	AVG
65%	35%
F.C. 1	,

# Los Angeles Chargers 2021 Play Analysis

# **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

65%	35%	
Effic	iency	
EPA/ pass: 0.13	EPA/ pass: 0.18	
EPA/ rush: -0.09	EPA/ rush: -0.04	
Success: 45%	Success: 44%	

	<u>2nc</u>	d and Sho	ort Run	
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
59%	28	71%	65%	73%

	<u>2nc</u>	d and Sho	<u>ort Pass</u>	
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
41%	5	29%	81%	46%

		Most	Frequent Play		
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Austin Ekeler	5	60%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Austin Ekeler	7	86%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Austin Ekeler	84	60%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Keenan Allen	3	67%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Austin Ekeler	17	59%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Mike Williams	14	43%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Keenan Allen	15	47%
		RUSH	Austin Ekeler	15	27%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Austin Ekeler	7	71%
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	Mike Williams	9	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Keenan Allen	20	35%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Keenan Allen	5	40%
			Jared Cook	5	40%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Keenan Allen	4	75%
			Jared Cook	4	50%

<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: 50%	Success: 41%	Success: 48%
	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.10	YPA: 5.7, EPA: -0.12	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.06
	Rtg: 99.6	Rtg: 71.7	Rtg: 94.2
	[Att: 133 - Rate: 19.0%]	[Att: 34 - Rate: 4.9%]	[Att: 167 - Rate: 23.9%]
Yes	Success: 49%	Success: 60%	Success: 52%
	YPA: 6.7, EPA: 0.00	YPA: 9.9, EPA: 0.32	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.09
	Rtg: 93.9	Rtg: 121.9	Rtg: 101.6
	[Att: 388 - Rate: 55.4%]	[Att: 145 - Rate: 20.7%]	[Att: 533 - Rate: 76.1%]
Total	Success: 49%	Success: 56%	Success: 51%
	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.03	YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.23	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.08
	Rtg: 95.3	Rtg: 112.8	Rtg: 99.8
	[Att: 521 - Rate: 74.4%]	[Att: 179 - Rate: 25.6%]	[Att: 700 - Rate: 100.0%]

				<u>W</u>	/eekly Si	naps Playe	<u>ed</u>			
Wk	Орр	Score	Keenan Allen	Mike Williams	Austin Ekeler	Jared Cook	Jalen Guyton	Josh Palmer	Donald Parham	Stephen Anderson
1	WAS	W 20-16	67	61	47	47	53	14	41	20
2	DAL	L 20-17	65	54	45	42	50	18	34	15
3	KC	W 30-24	55	48	49	46	41	10	31	14
4	LV	W 28-14	66	64	45	39	42	7	39	23
5	CLE	W 47-42	68	58	53	50	43	16	40	15
6	BAL	L 34-6	51	20	34	36	40	29	26	12
8	NE	L 27-24	59	54	45	33	35	8	25	7
9	PHI	W 27-24	62	57	46	29	25	21	28	31
10	MIN	L 27-20	55	56	42	34	18	18	27	7
11	PIT	W 41-37	62	60	53	38	41	23	32	19
12	DEN	L 28-13	61	61	48	37	39	30	28	6
13	CIN	W 41-22	53	56	47	35	34	22	16	22
14	NYG	W 37-21		59	33	31	42	62	29	17
15	KC	L 34-28	62	65	27	43	28	33	2	38
16	HOU	L 41-29	55			39		60		22
17	DEN	W 34-13	49	56	39		32	31		52
18	LV	L 35-32	82	67	78	65	50	56		25
	Grand	Total	972	896	731	644	613	458	398	345
				230				.50		3.0

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	64%	61%	50%
1-2 [2WR]	26%	21%	54%
2-1 [2WR]	3%	7%	53%
1-3 [1WR]	3%	4%	59%
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. %	Run Succ. %

Red Zone 1	argets	Leade	rboard	
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Keenan Allen	25	6	6	13
Mike Williams	23	8	4	11
Austin Ekeler	16	1	2	13
Jared Cook	13	4	2	7
Josh Palmer	8	4	1	3
Jalen Guyton	7	1	2	4
Donald Parham	6	5	1	

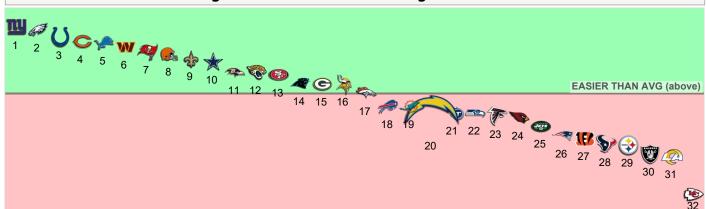
Red Zone R	<u>kushes</u>	Leade	rboar	<u>d</u>
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Austin Ekeler	48	16	9	23
Justin Herbert	23	6	6	11
Justin Jackson	20	2	6	12
Larry Rountree	7	2	2	3
Joshua Kelley	5	2	1	2

Early D	own Targ	<u>et Rate</u>
RB	TE	WR
22% <b>23%</b>	20% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	58% <b>56%</b>
Overall	Target Su	ıccess %
Overall RB		uccess % wr
	Target Su	





# 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



Herbert's 50% conversion rate on third downs was literally what kept the offense afloat in 2020 because on early downs in the first half, it struggled (24th).

The odds of Herbert repeating that 50% conversion rate was highly unlikely in 2021. As I predicted in my book last year:

"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 yards 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."

How was Herbert on third downs in 2021?

His 50% conversion rate in first halves dipped to 42.9%.

It tied for seventh in the NFL, and was still really good, but definitely was much lower than his 50% and much closer to the NFL average of 37%.

His EPA/att dropped from first to eighth, which again was still very good, but was far less of an outlier.

Another prediction I had for Herbert heading into 2021 was his performance under pressure would regress.

In the first three quarters of games, here were Herbert's 2020 ranks when pressured, out of 42 quarterbacks:

2020: first in EPA/att, third in YPA, fourth in success rate, fourth in sack/INT %

A rookie putting up these numbers was insane.

As I predicted in last year's book:

"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 best quarterback in Year 2 is unlikely."

Indeed, we saw massive regression. Herbert's ranks when pressured in 2021 compared to 2020:

2021: 22nd in EPA/att, 29th in YPA, 20th in success rate, 40th in air yards/att 2020: first in EPA/att, third in YPA, fourth in success rate, 17th in air yards/att

His EPA dropped from -0.01 to -0.52. His YPA dropped from 8.0 to 5.4. His success rate dropped from 38% to 29%. His air yardage when pressured dropped from 10.0 to 7.2.

These aren't small drops. These are massive drops in production which shifted Herbert from the best in the NFL in 2020 to below average in 2021.

As I wrote last year, this dip in performance under pressure isn't something to be concerned about nor does it mean Herbert is a below average quarterback because he was below average when under pressure. It simply was extremely predictable to see him fall after delivering unsustainable performance in 2020.

The 2021 Chargers with Joe Lombardi didn't get aggressive enough with Herbert on early downs.

Herbert took a step back on third downs and when pressured.

The Chargers, despite other outstanding production from their offense, were barely unable to make up for their terrible defensive decline in 2021.





While all of this sounds terrible in hindsight, it's actually positive for 2022.

The Chargers still had a top-5 offense despite Herbert struggling tremendously on third downs and when under pressure.

The Chargers still had a top-5 offense despite Lombardi neutering the passing offense and not throwing downfield enough.

There is a chance (we can always hope) that Lombardi gets more aggressive in 2022 with Herbert's target depth. It's quite likely that Herbert does better on third downs and when under pressure than he did in 2021.

We know the defense will improve. Not just because they added better personnel, but because they were so terrible in multiple areas that should regress.

Look at these drops in 2021 in two extremely high leverage situations which should improve in 2022:

2020 third down defense: seventh 2021 third down defense: 31st

2020 red zone defense: 20th 2021 red zone defense: 31st

Improving overall defense will also improve the Chargers' third down and red zone defenses from 31st last year and improving in these extremely high leverage situations will have a significant impact on their overall ceiling in 2022.

That's what we're really talking about here.

The Chargers' floor is the highest of any team outside of the Bills in my opinion. This team is so laden with talent on both sides of the ball, their quarterback is on a rookie deal, is outstanding, and counts almost nothing, and the team aggressively pursued free agents this offseason to load up.

I cannot imagine this team failing to hit nine wins at absolute worst, barring injury issues.

The ceiling of the 2022 Chargers isn't limited by the personnel. It's limited solely by the coaching.

The decision making, the game planning, the adjustments, the situational football, the decisions on when and how to be aggressive.

If the Chargers hit those (barring injury) and they're in the Super Bowl. It's not complicated. I don't care how good the rest of the AFC is this year. But they MUST get the coaching right.

We already discussed Herbert's early down target depth and the improvements they need to make there.

The 2021 Chargers massively increased their usage of 12 personnel. The change was clear:

2020: 71% 11 personnel, 12% 12 personnel, 9% 21 personnel 2021: 64% 11 personnel, 26% 12 personnel, 3% 21 personnel

Herbert was good overall when passing from 12. My two issues with their usage of 12? They didn't use enough play-action and they ran too much from it.

Look at Herbert's splits on early downs the first three quarters in 12 personnel:

With play-action: 0.15 EPA/att, 53% success, 7.6 YPA (60 dropbacks) Without play-action: -0.32 EPA/att, 38% success, 4.8 YPA (37 dropbacks)

While 62% play-action rate seems high, given these splits, why are we even throwing from 12 (giving the defense the illusion or run before the snap) without using play-action to further sell the fake. It clearly didn't work, and the Chargers should reduce non-play action throws from heavy personnel further.

Another qualm I had with regards to play action is the target depth (shocker).

Of Herbert's 149 dropbacks on early downs in the first three quarters last year, 77 (52%) were thrown less than five yards beyond the line of scrimmage.

Look at the splits:

Less than five air yards: -0.01 EPA/att, 36% success, 4.9 YPA on 77 att Five to 30 air yards: 0.39 EPA/att, 64% success, 10.6 YPA on 55 att

What are we even doing here? Why are we throwing short with play-action and a quarterback with an arm like Justin Herbert?

And that's the majority of our play-action game? Dumping the ball off so linebackers that were already biting and heading downhill on the play-action fake can be closer to the receiver after he catches the short pass?

League-wide last year, there were 3,700 play-action dropbacks on early downs in the first three quarters. Only 1,675 of them were thrown less than five yards downfield. That's only 45%. The Chargers were way up at 52%.

Yes, the Chargers used more play-action in 2021 than in 2020, which is a good thing. But they could have been much, much better if they optimized the usage with an even modest increase in target depth.





Another bizarre oddity was the Chargers rushing in general by down. Look at their ranks on running back runs with 3+ wide receivers on the field by down:

First down runs: second in EPA/att (+0.05), first in success rate (44%), 15th in YPC (4.5) Second down runs: 31st in EPA/att (-0.38), 30th in success rate (27%), 32nd in YPC (2.8)

The Chargers should be able to figure out why their running back runs from 3+ receiver sets plummeted in efficiency from first down to second down and make the necessary improvements in 2022.

Two other elements that "should" lead to improvement in 2022: fumble luck and field goal luck. The Chargers ranked 25th in fumble luck and 27th in field goal luck in 2021. They ranked 30th in field goal luck in 2020. **Dustin Hopkins** came on board last season, and the team was slightly above average in their own makes over expectation. But opponents made over three more field goals than expected against them last season, with the second-highest make over expectation rank. For this reason alone, field goal luck should improve. The team was 10th in fumble luck in 2020 but fell to 25th last year. This should regress in 2022

I stand by my point from earlier – unless injuries hold them back, the only thing stopping the Chargers from Justin Herbert slinging his way to an appearance in the Super Bowl is coaching. This team is too talented on paper and were too close to putting it together last year. There are just minor tweaks that need to be improved on from a coaching perspective and they can make them.

The Chargers have the second-most difficult schedule in the NFL from Week 10 onward. From Week 6 through Week 17, they play just one game outdoors. Their road opponents during that stretch? Atlanta, 49ers (outdoors), Arizona, Las Vegas, Indianapolis. Plus they host six games. They should already have banked some wins with the NFL's easiest schedule through Week 9, when they play just two teams expected to have winning records (Chiefs & Broncos) with the Browns TBD pending Watson's suspension.



# Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

#### The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

## Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

# 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

# CLICK TO LEARN MORE

# 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

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

01. Games w Halftime Lead	9	02. Avg Halftime Lead	2.0	03. Wins	9
Pre-Sr	nap I	Motion (Quarters	1-3)		
36. PSM YPA			7.7		
37. PSM Target Depth			6.3		
38. Non-PSM YPA			6.5		
39. Non-PSM Target Depth			6.8		
40. PSM Pass Success Rate			58%		
41 Non-DSM Dace Success	Pato		51%		

# Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

0.11

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	39%
45. PA Success Rate	54%
46. PA YPA	8.7
47. PA Sack Rate	5.1%
48. PA EPA/att	0.15
49. PA Target Depth	7.1
50. Non-PA Success Rate	54%
51. Non-PA YPA	6.2
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	4.7%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.02
54. Non-PA Target Depth	6.1

#### 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	56%
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	36%
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
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	28%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	56%
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	25	defFUM	24
Net FROE	-2.9	defFUM Rcvrd	14
offFUM	10	dell own iccviu	14
offFUM Rcvrd	3	defFR Rk	17
offFR%	30.0%	defFR%	41.7%
offFR Rk	31	defFROE	0.0
offFROE	-2.9	deirkoe	0.0
offFROE Rk	30	defFROE Rk	17

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	-2.50	O A44	35
		Opp Att	33
Net Over Expectation Rank	27	Opp Makes	32
Own Att	27		0.40/
Own Makes	24	Opp FG %	91%
Own FG %	89%	Opp Expected Makes	28.61
Own Expected Makes	23.11	Opp Make Over Expectation	3.39
Own Make over Expectation	0.89	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	2
Own Make over Expectation Rk	16		_
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	-2.97	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	1.52
2020 Own Rk	31	2020 Opp Rk	10

# Plaver Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Data Stats - QBS
Justin Herbert
5.8
15
30
17
28
8
12
65.9
66.3
11
19
-0.3
20
15

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

# **QB** Pressure

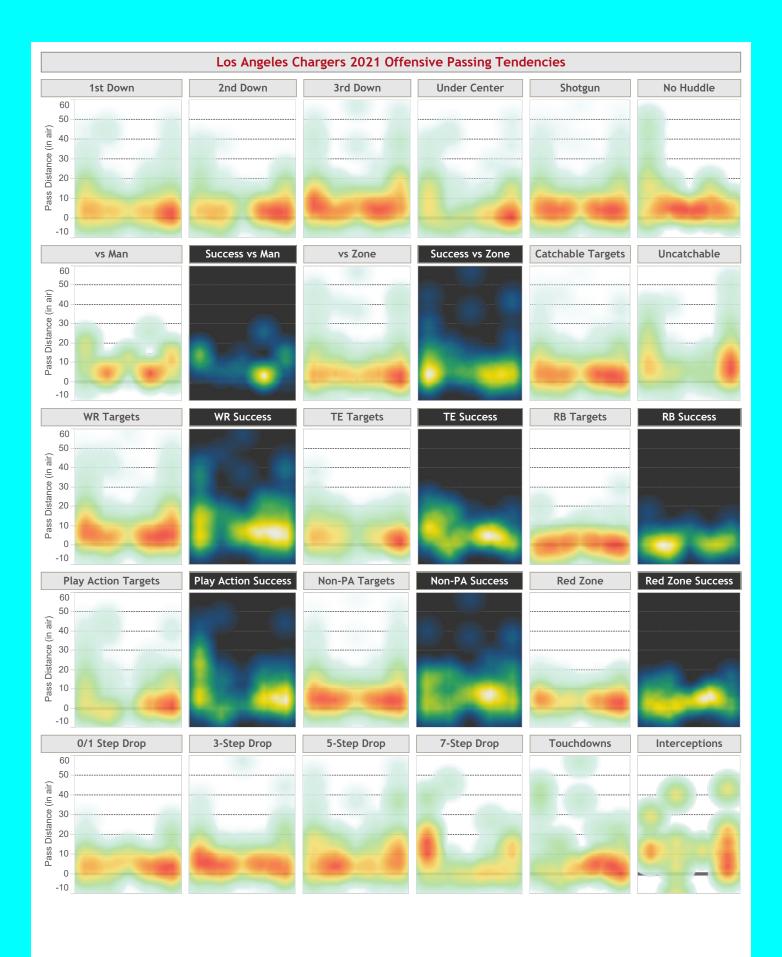
42. PSM EPA/att

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

Justin Herbert  Pressure % 26.9							
	Justin Herbert						
Pressure %	26.9						
Pressure Rk	34						
Sack %	4.2						
Sack Rk	35						
Pressure Accuracy %	63.2						
Pressure Accuracy Rk	21						
Rating when Pressured	77.9						
Pressured Rating Rk	9						
Clean Accuracy %	80.6						
Clean Accuracy Rk	5						
Rating when Clean	103.4						
Clean Rating Rk	14						
Time to Throw	2.83						
Time to Throw Rk	13						

# Offensive Metrics

EPA/Pass	0.11
EPA/Pass Rk	6
EPA/Rush	0.00
EPA/Rush Rk	8
On-Target Catch %	87.4%
On-Target Catch Rk	29
Drop%	7.1%
Drop Rk	26
YAC/Att	2.2
YAC/Att Rk	19
Rush Broken Tackle %	8.5%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	29
Rush 1st Down %	26.5%
Rush 1st Down Rk	11



# Chargers Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure Standard Drops In Pocket 1D 123Q		No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted		
2021	Justin Herbert	0.26 (#1)	0.06 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	-0.05 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	0.18 (#2)
2020	Justin Herbert	0.23 (#2)	0.11 (#1)	0.13 (#1)	0.02 (#2)	0.07 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.26 (#1)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Justin Herbert	-0.40 (#2)	0.17 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	0.06 (#2)
2020	Justin Herbert	-0.05 (#1)	0.03 (#2)	0.16 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	0.14 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	0.08 (#1)

# Quarterback Accuracy

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

on range of contage a rank (stank not enough act to quantify										
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Justin Herbert	79% (#1)	83% (#2)	69% (#2)	56% (#1)	74% (#2)	81% (#1)	80% (#1)	78% (#1)	78% (#1)
2020	Justin Herbert	78% (#2)	83% (#1)	74% (#1)	48% (#2)	80% (#1)	77% (#2)	75% (#2)	74% (#2)	77% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.02 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	-0.72 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.14 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.02 (#1)	0.72 (#1)	0.54 (#1)
2020	-0.09 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.33 (#1)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.14 (#2)	-0.32 (#2)	-0.32 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

				OFF ED						DEF ED		
		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	123Q Rush		
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA		
2021	7	9	11	4	9	16	19	22	10	28		
2020	20	15	9	27	23	22	19	9	4	25		

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	8	5	7	5	5	13	7	28	8
2020	9	17	10	9	15	6	5	1	6

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	8	14	20	1	1	1	11	26	1
2020	27	28	29	24	25	14	27	1	9

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs) 2022 Forecast **Los Angeles Rams** Head Coach: Wins **Div Rank** Sean McVay (5 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: 10.5 #1 Liam Coen (OC Kentucky) (new) **Defensive Coordinator: Past Records** Raheem Morris (1 yr) 2021: 12-5 Easy Hard 2020: 10-6 2019: 9-7 DEN LAC BUF DAL GB SF ARI NO LVR SEA SEA 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 MNF TNF TNF MNF SNF +3 +7 -3 Rest Edge:

Key Players Lost								
Player	New							
Von Miller (EDGE)	Bills							
Robert Woods (WR)	Titans							
Darious Williams (CB)	Jaguars							
Austin Corbett (RG)	Panthers							
Sebastian Joseph-Day (I	Chargers							
Ogbonnia Okoronkwo (E	Texans							
Johnny Hekker (P)	Panthers							
Sony Michel (RB)	Dolphins							
Odell Beckham Jr. (WR)	TBD							
Johnny Mundt (TE)	Vikings							
Troy Reeder (LB)	Chargers							
Buddy Howell (RB)	TBD							
Donte Deayon (CB)	TBD							
Jamil Demby (LG)	TBD							
Antoine Brooks (S)	TBD							

# 2022 Los Angeles Rams Overview

Every year I do my best to try and predict the type of offense we'll see from each team in their upcoming season as well as the efficiency they will deliver.

I predicted the Rams quite well last year. And it was a more difficult year to predict the Rams last year than it will be this year.

Once an 11 personnel-heavy system on early downs in the first three quarters of games, the Rams used 11 personnel at a 69% clip in 2019, down from 90%+ in prior years. Sean McVay followed that up by using 11 personnel at a 60% clip in 2020.

But while the Rams upped 12 personnel a ton and sat in the 60% 11-personnel range for two straight seasons, last spring I wrote, "I personally believe the Rams return to the 11 personnel-heavy system from earlier in McVay's tenure."

While it made sense to me, people who studied the passing efficiency the Rams were getting out of 12 personnel might have disagreed. After all, on these early down passes, the Rams were averaging 0.08 EPA/att and 7.5 YPA from 12 personnel, while 11 personnel delivered -0.02 EPA/att and 7.1 YPA. Having the disguise of an added blocker forced defenses to play a certain way, and McVay took advantage of it, recording substantially higher efficiency from these 12 personnel passes.

# Games # Games **Average Favored** 12 -3.3

But there were two problems with this which hurt the Rams' efficiency in general. First, McVay felt compelled to use a ton of play-action from 12 even though Jared Goff was better passing from heavy sets without play-action. More concerning was the run rate out of 12. As I wrote last year:

"The only problem with the usage of 12 personnel was the frequency (cont'd - see LA2)



## **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Allen Robinson (WR)	\$15.5
Bobby Wagner (LB)	\$10
Troy Hill (CB)	Trade
Riley Dixon (P)	\$1
Jared Pinkney (TE)	\$0

## **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
3	104	OG - Logan Bruss (Wisconsin)
4	142	CB - Decobie Durant (South Carolina State)
5	164	RB - Kyren Williams (Notre Dame)
6	211	S - Quentin Lake (UCLA)
0	212	CB - Derion Kendrick (Georgia)
	235	LB - Daniel Hardy (Montana State)
7	253	S - Russ Yeast (Kansas State)
	261	OT - A. J. Arcuri (Michigan State)

#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	25	\$96.60M	24
QB	19	\$15.22M	10
OL		\$30.82M	27
RB	26	\$7.01M	20
WR	10	\$29.65M	18
TE	6	\$13.89M	15
All DEF	9	\$107.01M	30
DL	5	\$58.03M	17
LB	32	\$5.82M	32
СВ	3	\$34.19M	12
S	26	\$8.96M	32
S	26	\$8.96M	32

41

RWR

NFW

#### LA-2

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:

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"

I thought the Rams needed to return to more heavy usage of 11 personnel. I wasn't a pro-Rams supporter ahead of last season, like many were. Thanks to adding Matthew Stafford, they were one of the most popular teams last offseason in the futures market. I tend to let the public have their cake in the offseason futures market.

While I wasn't pro-Rams, I wasn't anti-Rams. I was a pragmatist in that I believed in order to be "a force to reckon with in 2021," I thought a few things needed to

As I wrote in last year's book: "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."

We know Stafford was coming to town and we know Stafford is better than Jared Goff. That's why McVay courted him and won the bidding war for his services. We'll discuss specifically how much better Stafford was than Goff later in this chapter, but for now, let's focus on what I thought the Rams needed to do in order to be that dominant force:

First hope for the 2021 Rams: McVay needed to get more aggressive on fourth downs.

In 2020, McVay ranked 20th or 21st depending on ranking based on EPA or historical fourth down attempts over expectation based on situation. He went for it on 10 of 28 (35.7%) opportunities to raise his win probability by at least 1% and on 14 of 46 (30.4%) opportunities to raise his win probability by any amount.

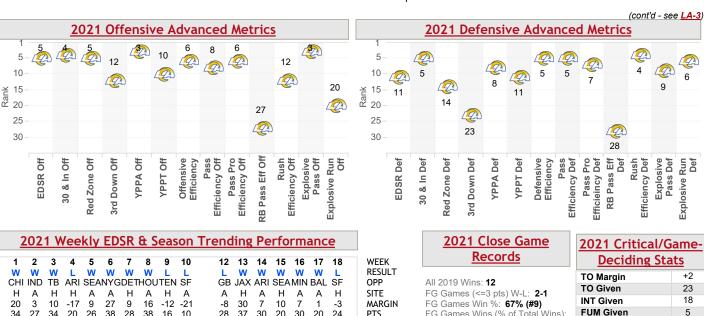
	2021 Passing Performance								
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn						
Matthew Stafford	55% 8.0 112.3	57% 7.8 94.3	48% 9.8 108.7	Success Rate YPA Rating					
Pass Rate	49%	62%	76%						
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating					
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%						

	2021 Rushing Performance								
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn						
LA	47% 4.2	51% 3.7	37% 2.6	Success Rate YPC					
Run Rate	51%	38%	24%						
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC					
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%						

In 2021, McVay went for it on nine of 23 (39.1%) opportunities to raise his win probability by at least 1% and on 12 of 39 (30.8%) opportunities to raise his win probability by any amount. To paint a picture of how more aggression on fourth down could have come in handy:

The Rams lost six games last year. In those games, they had 10 fourth downs with five or fewer yards to go. They would have added to their win probability on nine of the 10. They went for it a total of two of 10 times:

- 4 punts
- 4 field goals
- 2 attempts to score



#### 27 38 28 34 34 20 26 28 38 10 37 30 20 30 20 24 16 24 37 17 11 19 22 28 36 7 23 10 23 19 27

PTS OPP PTS

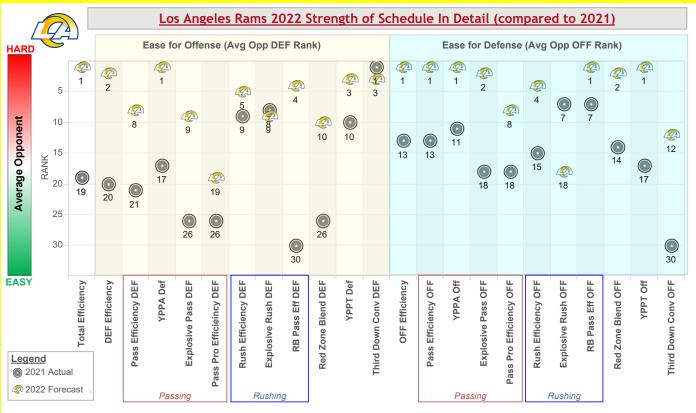
EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 17% (#18)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 4-2 Score Games Win %: 67% (#6) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 33% (#24)

шш	ш
2021 Critical/G	
Deciding Sta	<u>its</u>
TO Margin	+2
TO Given	23
INT Given	18
FUM Given	5
TO Taken	25
INT Taken	19
FUM Taken	6
Sack Margin	+19
Sacks	50
Sacks Allow	31
Return TD Margin	+1
Ret TDs	1
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	+12
Penalties	76
Opponent Penalties	88



2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*											
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk				
5	1	13	7	9	2	4	13				

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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

Average line	2021 Rk 2020 Rk 2021 v 2020 Rk Off Rk	5 2
Average line 49.4 46.8 47.8 Straight Up Record 12-5 10-6 9-7 Against the Spread Record 8-8 9-7 10-6 Over/Under Record 4-12 7-9 ATS as Favorite 6-8 6-5 8-3	2021 v 2020 Rk	
Straight Up Record         12-5         10-6         9-7           Against the Spread Record         8-8         9-7         10-6           Over/Under Record         9-7         4-12         7-9           ATS as Favorite         6-8         6-5         8-3		
Against the Spread Record         8-8         9-7         10-6         AFCW           Over/Under Record         9-7         4-12         7-9         AFCW           ATS as Favorite         6-8         6-5         8-3		19
Over/Under Record         9-7         4-12         7-9           ATS as Favorite         6-8         6-5         8-3	Off RK	
ATS as Favorite 6-8 6-5 8-3		6
	Def Rk	6
	QB Rk	1
ALCON THE MEAN TO A CONTRACT OF THE MEAN THE MEA		
	RB Rk	28
	WR Rk	12
ATO as Harris Townsian 0.4 4.0 0.0	TE Rk	8
AFCE AFCN		-
ATS as a Home Dog 1-0 1-0 0-1 Straight Up Away 7-2 4-4 4-4	Oline Rk	2
ATS Away 4-4 4-4 5-3	Dline Rk	16
Over/Under Away 5-3 4-4 4-4 NFCE NFCE	LD Di-	19
ATS Away Favorite 3-4 2-2 4-1	LB Rk	
ATS Away Dog 1-0 2-2 1-0	DB Rk	2
Siy Point Toaser Pecord 11.6 11.5 11.5		_
Seven Point Teaser Record 12-5 11-5 NFCN NFCN NFCS	*Based on the work	
Ten Point Teaser Record 14-3 13-2 12-4	Football Outsider	rs
2022 Weekly Betting Lines Home Lin	nes	
1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1 2 5 6 8	10 13 14 1	16
BUF ATL ARI SF DAL CAR SF TB ARI NO KC SEA LVR GB DEN LAC SEA		
35 +30 -100 -80 Null -30 Null -65 +00 -15 -15 +00 -55 -50 -10 -15 +00 -3.5	O O ARI SEA AVG	-1.4
-3.5 +3.0 -10.0 -8.0 Null -3.0 Null -6.5 +0.0 -1.5 -1.5 +0.0 -5.5 -5.0 -1.0 -1.5 +0.0 -3.5 BUF	-5.5 D	EN.
	LVR	
$A\dot{v}g = -2.9$ A A H A Road Lin	<u>ies</u>	
3 4 9 11 12	2 15 17 1	18
	5 <u>-5</u> -1.5 0	o
10 -8 -0.5 NO KC	-5	•
ARI SF		
52 53 64 7.5 Null Null S 51 52 51 52 51 52 51 52 51 52 51 52 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51 51		





More aggression could have helped in those six losses and could have helped win games more comfortably as well. Maybe next year.

Second hope for the 2021 Rams: they needed to shift to more 11 personnel and reduce runs out of 12 personnel.

As stated previously, I not only thought they needed it, I believed they would execute it. And that they did.

The Rams cranked up the 11 personnel rate. On early downs in the first three quarters, the Rams shifted from:

69% in 2019 to 60% in 2020 to 87% in 2021

No team used it more. The NFL average was only 55%.

The efficiency gained out of 11 in 2021 vs 2020 was notable:

2021: 0.17 EPA/att, 8.4 YPA, 56% success 2020: -0.01 EPA/att, 7.1 YPA, 53% success

Clearly, Stafford fit in quite well to what McVay wanted to implement.

As mentioned earlier, Goff needed both 12 personnel and play-action to have more success in 2020. Compare Goff's performance when passing from 12 to when passing from 11:

Goff from 12 in 2020: 0.09 EPA/att, 7.2 YPA, 55% success Goff from 11 in 2020: -0.01 EPA/att, 7.1 YPA, 53% success

As mentioned earlier, the Rams were running at far too high a rate when in 12 personnel - for terrible results. In 2020, the Rams called 349 plays from 12 and ran from it at a 63% clip. These runs averaged -0.16 EPA/att, 4.0 YPC, and 49% success. It wasn't close to what the Rams were doing from 11 when running:

Running from 11 in 2020: 0.07 EPA/att, 5.1 YPC, 58% success Running from 12 in 2020: -0.16 EPA/att, 4.0 YPC, 49% success

But McVay cranked 12 personnel in 2020 and cranked up runs from 12 at a very high rate.

Ironically, in 2020 the primary wide receivers for the Rams were **Cooper Kupp**, **Robert Woods**, and **Van Jefferson**. In games that counted (Weeks 1-16) the three played every game together save for Week 12, when Jefferson was out.

So they all were available, McVay just wasn't playing Jefferson.

That changed in 2021. Yes, the team added **DeSean Jackson**. But Jackson played sparingly. The primary wide receivers in Weeks 1-9 were Kupp, Woods, and Jefferson. Just like in 2020. Except McVay decided to roll with Jefferson on the field a ton and increased 11 personnel from 60% usage to 87% usage.

Naturally the shift to using more 11 personnel reduced runs from 12 personnel last year. They were still terrible in their efficiency from 12 when used, but at least they were rarely used. They lost -0.31 EPA/att, just 3.0 YPC, and produced a 31% success rate. Truly gross. However, the Rams had only 93 attempts from 12 as compared to more than double that (216) in 2020.

Third hope for 2021: get more potent in the passing game.

Well, if you saw what the Rams did from 11 personnel when passing, you already know the answer on this one. Matthew Stafford delivered. But some of these numbers are mind-blowing when comparing his performance to Jared Goff in 2020 when trying to get more aggressive and throw the ball further downfield:

(cont'd - see <u>LA-4</u>)

_							44. 4 .4			•	
<u>S</u>	Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule										
	2022 games where										
	ZOZZ games where										
Opponent has over a week to prep	Opponentiess than a to pre	week Dif	ference	Team has a rest disadvantage	Team has a rest advantage	Difference	Team plays a short week road game	Team pl road SNF		Team's bye week is negated	
3	2		-1	4	3	-1	0	3		0	
	Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Los Angeles Rams Ranking vs NFL Average										
Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank		Rest Rani	Rest Rank Short Week Road Rank		Games off Road Rank	SNF/MNF	Nega	ated Bye Rank			
40		40		40		4	24				

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

## Why Bet the Under

# 10.5

#### Why Bet the Over

- The offensive line is unlikely to repeat the success of last year after leading the league in Pass Block Win Rate while taking nine false start penalties and nine holding penalties, both league-lows. The offensive line benefitted from the starting five playing 68% of offensive snaps, the fourth-highest total, and is likely to experience worse injury luck in 2022. Andrew Whitworth's retirement and Austin Corbett's departure reduce the depth of the line and injuries would cause a significant downgrade and increased pressure rate from 2021.
- The Rams have the division-winning schedule and play the second most difficult schedule of opponents, a much more difficult schedule from the year prior.
- The top-heavy roster has a wide range of outcomes. With most of the salary cap tied up in four players, the success of the team is highly dependent on the health of Stafford, Kupp, Donald, and Ramsey. As seen in the Super Bowl, even one ancillary injury can affect the game plan as the offense struggled after Odell Beckham was injured. Investing in Stafford and Miller with draft picks has left the roster depth thin. The Rams' success is highly correlated with the health of the top players.



- General manager Les Snead found the ideal quarterback for his all-in approach. **Matthew Stafford's** high variance aggressive approach fits in with the culture created by management. **Cooper Kupp** and **Allen Robinson** provide two receivers that will allow Stafford to push the ball down the field there is no reason to believe the Rams won't continue to be near the top of the league in explosive passes. The passing offense may not have hit its ceiling as head coach Sean McVay has remained relatively balanced on first down run-pass ratio.
- Aaron Donald is without a doubt the most impactful defender in the game. Donald creates pressure from the interior and forces teams to double team him, which creates opportunities for the rest of the Rams' defense. The Rams led the league in Pass Rush Win Rate in 2021 and with Donald on the field, the average time to pressure was 2.38 seconds. Donald provides the defense with such an advantage.
- There is room for improvement in Stafford's second season. The Rams had a slightly higher red zone touchdown conversion rate with Jared Goff. The Rams scored 80.3% of their touchdowns through the air in 2021 up from 51.2% in 2020 and a more balanced approach could lead to an increased red zone efficiency.

Los Angeles Rams Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach										
6	13	23	3	1	9	3				

The defending champs have the league's fourth-best roster based on an average of our unit ranks. The Rams are also one of just four teams ranked in the top 10 at both quarterback and pass-catchers, providing a high ceiling for the offense.

With a year under his belt in the Rams' system, our confidence in **Matthew Stafford** grew slightly as the quarterback room climbed from eighth to sixth. If Stafford handled pressure better, perhaps he could climb into the top five — but he ranked 22nd in the league with 22% of his dropbacks under pressure resulting in a sack or interception.

The Rams' backfield was their only unit that did not receive a single vote in the top half of the league. Obviously, there's talent in the backfield, but there's been no consistency over the past two seasons in terms of production or health.

The losses of **Andrew Whitworth** and **Austin Corbett** create uncertainty along the Rams' offensive line. **Joseph Noteboom** will attempt to replace Whitworth at left tackle. Over the last two seasons, Noteboom allowed more pressures than Whitworth despite playing less than half as many snaps in pass protection.

The Rams own our top-ranked front seven despite not receiving a single first-place vote. Multiple second-place votes helped boost a unit that should remain dominant despite losing **Von Miller**. The Rams were one of five teams to allow fewer than four yards per rush attempt last season, despite stacking the box at the league's second-lowest rate. **Jalen Ramsey** headlines the secondary, but the incredible depth is what sets this unit in the top tier. Safeties **Taylor Rapp** and **Jordan Fuller** are key contributors and are still only 24 years old.

Sean McVay ranked in the top five on every ballot and landed in a tie for third in our head coach rankings. He earned this reputation with offensive innovation, but now we've seen many around the league catch up — he'll need to remain ahead of the curve to maintain the success he's built.

#### <u>LA-4</u>

7-step drops in 2020: -0.07 EPA/att, 6.9 YPA, 45% success (55 att) 7-step drops in 2021: +0.78 EPA/att, 15.7 YPA, 63% success (72 att)

The same was true with Level 3 passes, which S/S defines as high-arching deep balls which are launched downfield:

Level 3 passes in 2020: -0.19 EPA/att, 7.5 YPA, 19% success (26 att) Level 3 passes in 2021: 0.71 EPA/att, 17.6 YPA, 40% success (53 att)

And look at simply any pass thrown 15+ air yards:

Goff in 2020: 0.12 EPA/att, 10.0 YPA, 40% success (83 att) Stafford in 2021: 0.62 EPA/att, 14.9 YPA, 48% success (130 att)

Of quarterbacks with at least 80 attempts on these 15+ air yard passes, Goff ranked 16th out of 17 by EPA in 2020 (only Drew Lock was worse) and Stafford ranked fourth out of 17 in 2021.

It was of massive importance because I believed that the Rams' top-3 defense from 2020 would take a step back in 2021.

(cont'd - see <u>LA-5</u>)

#### <u>LA-5</u>

They had played the seventh-easiest schedule of offenses in 2020, and last summer I forecast they would play the fourth-toughest schedule of offenses in 2021

I expected a defense that played cake offenses and ranked top-3 in virtually every key advanced defensive metric (with a couple exceptions in which they ranked fifth) would not be as dominant and they were not in 2021. EDSR defense fell from second to 11th. Whereas this team ranked top-3 in most metrics in 2020, they didn't rank better than fifth in anything in 2021, except for run defense at fourth. This was still, convincingly, a top-10 defense, but they weren't as dominant overall. The more explosive Stafford-led offense came along at the perfect time to help elevate the team as the defense took an ever-so-slight step backwards.

Fourth hope for 2021: get play-action to work again.

It's odd to say that about the 2020 Rams, because passing without play-action wasn't good. But the problem was passing with play-action no longer had the impact it did in prior years. On early downs in the first three quarters, play-action passes from the Rams:

2018: 0.20 EPA/att, 9.6 YPA, 57% success 2019: 0.17 EPA/att, 8.1 YPA, 53% success 2020: -0.01 EPA/att, 7.6 YPA, 54% success

Play-action wasn't replicating its prior year efficiency, and the Rams needed it in their game because passing without it for Jared Goff was even worse.

The 2021 Rams didn't look close to the Rams of prior years when it came to play-action.

First, the efficiency was off the charts.

2021: 0.31 EPA/att, 9.7 YPA, 55% success

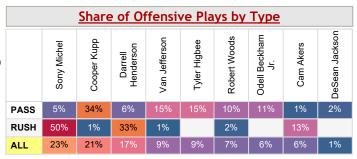
#### (cont'd - see LA-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 0 0 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

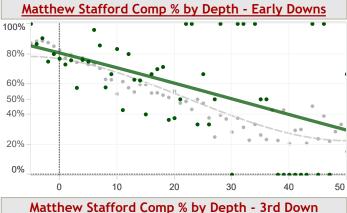


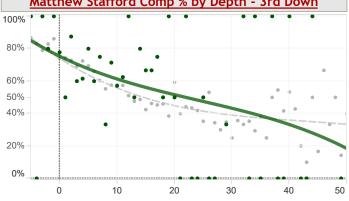


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
4	Z	Being Blown Out (14+) Down Big (9-13)		One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)					
	Sony Michel	4%	5%	68%	6%	17%					
	Cooper Kupp			80%	20%						
_	Darrell Henderson	9%	11%	52%	12%	15%					
RUSH	Van Jefferson			67%		33%					
Œ	Robert Woods	13%		38%	13%	38%					
	Cam Akers			53%	2%	46%					
	Total	5%	6%	60%	8%	21%					
	Sony Michel	11%	11%	51%	11%	14%					
	Cooper Kupp	11%	12%	58%	5%	14%					
	Darrell Henderson	23%	23%	43%	8%	5%					
	Van Jefferson	16%	11%	54%	3%	15%					
PASS	Tyler Higbee	12%	12%	57%	7%	11%					
PA	Robert Woods	13%	7%	67%	6%	7%					
	Odell Beckham Jr.	4%	8%	73%	4%	10%					
	Cam Akers			44%	11%	44%					
	DeSean Jackson	7%	7%	67%	13%	7%					
	Total	12%	11%	59%	6%	12%					







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

## **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	ALL
PASS	54%, 0.17 (717)	53%, 0.09 (40)	29%, -0.64 (21)	50%, -1.53 (2)	50%, -0.17 (2)	100%, 0.48 (1)			53%, 0.14 (783)
RUSH	51%, -0.08 (416)	31%, -0.31 (112)	20%, -0.40 (5)	0%, -3.86 (1)	0%, -0.26 (1)		0%, -0.63 (1)	0%, -0.60 (1)	47%, -0.14 (537)
All	53%, 0.08 (1,133)	37%, -0.20 (152)	27%, -0.59 (26)	33%, -2.31 (3)	33%, -0.20 (3)	100%, 0.48 (1)	0%, -0.63 (1)	0%, -0.60 (1)	50%, 0.02 (1,320)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)										
POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total					
WR	Cooper	65% (213)	62% (13)	40% (5)	64% (231)					
	Kupp	10.9, 0.51	4.6, 0.12	3.0, -0.83	10.4, 0.46					
	Van	50% (96)	50% (8)	50% (2)	50% (106)					
	Jefferson	8.8, 0.17	5.0, 0.46	9.0, 1.00	8.5, 0.21					
	Odell	60% (70)	33% (3)	0% (1)	58% (74)					
	Beckham	8.2, 0.35	5.7, -0.38	0.0, -0.84	8.0, 0.30					
	Robert Woods	59% (69) 8.1, 0.37	0% (1) 0.0, -0.49		59% (70) 7.9, 0.36					
TE	Tyler Higbee	63% (92) 7.0, 0.09	50% (2) 11.0, 0.29		63% (94) 7.1, 0.09					
RB	Darrell	40% (42)	50% (2)	0% (1)	40% (45)					
	Henderso	4.8, -0.16	8.5, 0.40	1.0, -0.85	4.9, -0.15					
	Sony	35% (34)	100% (2)	0% (1)	38% (37)					
	Michel	3.3, -0.39	4.5, 0.07	-1.0, -0.66	3.2, -0.38					

# 

Michel Sony	52% (172) 3.8, -0.05	39% (57) 4.5, -0.13			49% (229) 4.0, -0.07
Henderson Jr Darrell	59% (135) 4.7, -0.01	41% (17) 2.9, -0.23			57% (152) 4.5, -0.04
Akers Cam	31% (61) 2.5, -0.31	40% (10) 1.5, -0.50			32% (71) 2.4, -0.34
Stafford Matthew	52% (29) 3.1, -0.14	11% (18) -0.2, -0.59	0% (1) -1.0, -0.63	0% (1) -1.0, -0.60	35% (49) 1.7, -0.32
Woods Robert	57% (7) 5.9, 0.11				57% (7) 5.9, 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

_	ssing by		ing by	Throw	<b>Types</b>	QB Drop	QB Drop Types		State at	Pass	Run Types		
	verage cheme	Ro	oute	Level 1	60% (505)	3 Step	60% (264) 7.4, 0.22	Planted		% (574) 9, 0.32	Outside	49% (229)	
		Curl	69% (75) 7.3, 0.36		6.6, 0.15	53% (178)		Moving		3% (86) 5, -0.16	Zone	4.1, -0.16	
Zone	43% (438) 7.9, 0.03		73% (70)	Level 2	50% (153) 11.1, 0.40	5 Step	9.1, 0.34	Shuffling	47	7% (85)	Stretch	39% (59) 3.7, -0.18	
	7.0, 0.00	Out	7.8, 0.18		0/4 Stop	53% (73)		6.	8, 0.04		5.7, -0.10		
			45% (42)	Level 3	40% (53) 17.6, 0.71		4.7, -0.23		Play Action	on	Inside Zone	47% (57) 3.2, -0.14	
Man	48% (134) 9.7, 0.50	Dig	7.8, -0.03		17.0, 0.71	7 Step	63% (72) 15.7, 0.78		Play Action	No P/A	Zone	5.2, -0.14	
	,	Slant	52% (27)	Sidearm	61% (23) 6.1, 0.22	Designed	50% (52)	Under Center	60% (134) 10.2, 0.30	47% (34) 5.0, -0.15	Pitch	56% (16) 3.8, -0.08	
	4407 (0.4)	Siailt	5.7, 0.18		0.1, 0.22	Rollout Right	Rollout Right 5.9 0 17		47% (55)	52% (560)		3.6, -0.06	
Other	44% (34) 3.9, -0.07	Drag	60% (20)	Shovel	0% (1)		58% (31)	Shotgun	7.7, 0.24 56% (189)	8.0, 0.10 52% (594)	Power	25% (4)	
		Diay	9.8, 0.42	55701	-3.0, -1.05		Basic Screen 7.1, 0.17		9.4, 0.28	7.8, 0.09	. 5.761	1.0, -0.59	

<u>LA-6</u>

Second, the usage went way down because unlike Goff, Stafford was also solid without manufacturing gains using play-action.

Although the efficiency wasn't as strong without play-action, it was still well above average:

0.09 EPA/att (eighth of 39 QBs)

7.6 YPA (fifth out of 39 QBs)

47% success (fourth out of 39 QBs)

This passing offense could now function at a top-5 level without play-action, and that couldn't be said for the Jared Goff-led Rams.

As a result, instead of using play-action on 45% of early down passes in the first three quarters, which ranked third-most in the NFL in 2020, the Rams used it on just 32% of such passes in 2021 which ranked below average.

This wasn't a "they use play-action less in 11 personnel anyhow so this isn't a McVay tweak as much as it is more 11 personnel" thing either. In 2018, 2019, and 2020, McVay with Goff averaged a 41% play-action usage rate from 11 personnel, the highest in the NFL. Last year it dropped to 30%, which was equal to the NFL average.

McVay got play-action to work again in 2021 when he wanted to use it, but also used it less than in past years.

Fifth and final hope for 2021: pass the ball better outside the numbers.

In 2020, Goff delivered average efficiency passing the ball outside the numbers on early downs:

0.11 EPA/att (21st), 7.6 YPA (17th), and 55% success (15th)

(cont'd - see LA-7)





But many of these throws were schemed up by the offense and were easy passes that many quarterbacks could complete.

When passing 15+ air yards outside the numbers, Goff was terrible. Of 32 qualifying QBs, Goff delivered:

-0.22 EPA/att (31st), 9.7 YPA (29th), and 33% success (30th)

Insert Stafford. Insert higher efficiency outside the numbers. Here's what Stafford delivered on early downs in 2021 when passing outside the numbers:

All attempts: 0.29 EPA/att (fifth), 8.4 YPA (fifth), 53% success (sixth) Attempts 15+ air yards: 0.72 EPA/att (eighth), 16.8 YPA (fourth), 56% success (sixth)

These numbers absolutely blew away what Goff's Rams were delivering to this area of the field. While Goff was a liability and severely limited what McVay could do offensively, Stafford excelled as a top-5 passer outside the numbers, which contributed to unlocking other elements of the offense.

The bottom line was the Rams:

- shifted to more 11 personnel and reduced runs out of 12 personnel
- got more potent in the passing game
- got play-action to work again
- passed better outside the numbers

The only thing they didn't do was get more aggressive on fourth downs. And they were indeed a force to be reckoned with in 2021, winning the Super Bowl.

The Rams' biggest changes this offseason came at the wide receiver position. They lost Robert Woods and added **Allen Robinson**. **Odell Beckham Jr.** is still a free agent at the time of this writing. That means their 11 personnel will feature Cooper Kupp, Van Jefferson, and Allen Robinson. That's still an incredible receiving corps, and I believe McVay will still be very much 11 personnel-heavy in 2022 like he shifted to in 2021.

The Rams didn't have very much draft capital and spent their only pick in the first three rounds on a guard from Wisconsin at pick 104. The only other key addition was 31-year-old linebacker **Bobby Wagner** from the Seahawks.

More time to improve chemistry between Stafford, McVay, and his top receivers should only improve their efficiency offensively. I show the Rams playing a very similar schedule in terms of opponent efficiency in 2022 as they played in 2021, although there are benefits for them.

The rest of the NFC West is likely to be worse in 2022 than it was in 2021. The AFC West will be better than any division the Rams played last year. But the NFC South should be worse from top-to-bottom. The first-place schedule they play slots the Bills, Packers, and Cowboys onto their schedule. While the Rams were tremendously helped by health last season, the fact that they've been one of the healthiest teams year-after-year makes me think they're more likely to have above average health in 2022 as well (ranked fifth in 2021, second in 2020, 10th in 2019, and fourth in 2018).

They didn't get "lucky" with turnovers (+2 on the season), close game results (4-2 in one-score games), or fumble luck (26th) last season.

(cont'd - see LA-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Los Angeles Rams 2022 Draft Class

As has become tradition, the Rams barely participated in the first two days of the draft, but loaded up on Day 3 selections.

Logan Bruss (third round) will be given an opportunity to compete for the starting job at right guard. Though he primarily played right tackle at Wisconsin, Bruss did start at right guard for most of the 2020 season.

**DeCobie Durant** (fourth round) may not factor into the Rams' 2022 plans, but could be groomed as **Troy Hill**'s eventual replacement in the slot cornerback role. Coming from South Carolina State, the undersized Durant (5-foot-10, 180 pounds) will likely need some development time before he's ready to contribute.

An already-deep running back room added **Kyren Williams** (fifth round) who provides a similar downhill running style to **Cam Akers**. Ideally, he won't see the field much in 2022, but obviously, Akers's recent injury history makes quality depth a necessity.

When contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage, Williams picked up 2.7 yards per attempt, the sixth-highest rate in FBS last season. That ability to avoid negative plays and create something from nothing bodes well for Williams's chances of finding a role in the league.

**Derion Kendrick** (sixth round) is a former five-star recruit at Clemson, who ultimately transferred to Georgia after multiple suspensions and an arrest. He has more raw talent than most Day 3 picks and the Rams will try to surround him with enough support to finally tap into that potential.

**A.J. Arcuri** (seventh round) played both left and right tackle during his time at Michigan State and could provide depth at both as the swing tackle for Los Angeles.

As usual, the Rams won't get much immediate help from this draft class, but they came away with a decent haul of Day 3 prospects who can provide depth. Beyond Bruss who may start as a rookie, Durant and Kendrick appear to have the best shot at eventually landing a starting role.



#### Los Angeles Rams 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

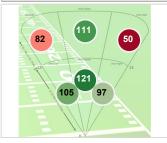
You couldn't write a better script for **Matthew Stafford** in his first season with the Rams. After the Rams were 20th in the league in expected points added via their passing offense (71.1 EPA), 20th in yards per pass attempt (7.1 yards), and 23rd in yards per completion (10.7 yards) in 2020, they closed last season first in the NFL in EPA passing (237.3 EPA), third in yards per attempt, (8.1 Y/A), and third in yards per completion (12.1 yards). Ending the season with a Super Bowl win, Stafford completed 67.2% of his passes for 8.1 yards per pass attempt, 4,886 yards, and 41 touchdowns in the regular season. Not just production, but Stafford altered how the Rams played. They had nine passing touchdowns from outside of the red zone after nine total over the 2019-2020 seasons. They also threw the ball 59.2% of the time in the red zone after a 43.4% rate the previous two seasons.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk											
Matthew Stafford	473	697	68%	5,778	8.3	46	18	35	104	3	
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6		

2021 Advanced Passing Table										
QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success % Success % Sains Success Sains Success Sains Success Succes										
Matthew Stafford	53%	56%	78	11.0%	32	5.0%	6.8	5.3		
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3		

# Target Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

# Matthew Stafford 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%	3.6%	0.0%	2.0%						
3, 4, 5	0.0%	4.9%	3.3%	0.0%	3.7%						
6 - 9	0.0%	3.0%	4.1%		3.2%						
10 - 14	1.2%	2.1%	5.1%	0.0%	1.8%						
15+	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%		2.9%						
Total	1.1%	2.7%	4.3%	0.0%	2.5%						

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Matthew Stafford	6.4	10.9	4.5	48%	3					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

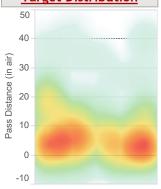
	Air Yds vs YAC						
ond	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk				
	56%	44%	10				
	53%	47%					

# 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Rams' passing game thrived in 2021, ranking second in the NFL in success rate targeting their wide receivers (61%) and tight ends (58%). Anchored by an incredible season from Offensive Player of the Year Cooper Kupp. Trading Robert Woods while Odell Beckham remains unsigned recovering from an ACL injury in the Super Bowl, the Rams are missing 72 catches, 861 yards, and nine touchdowns from their receiver production. Looking to replace that production, the team added Allen Robinson. Van Jefferson increased his output and production in his second season as the Rams were pressed to get him on the field more than initially planned with the release of DeSean Jackson and injury to Robert Woods.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Cooper Kupp	223	76%	10.5	127.9	64%	5	1	39	94	20
Tyler Higbee	98	70%	6.9	90.2	60%	16	13	90	16	4
Van Jefferson	98	56%	9.0	102.5	52%	68	40	6	117	6
Odell Beckham Jr.	71	65%	7.6	98.4	58%	31	55	72	46	6
Robert Woods	69	65%	8.1	103.3	59%	22	42	71	28	4

# Cooper Kupp Target Distribution



## Van Jefferson Target Distribution



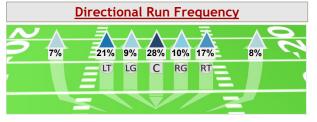
#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

As good as the Rams were throwing the football in 2021, they were equally as lackluster running the ball. The only blemish for the Rams is that they were 31st in the league in expected points added via rushing in 2021 (-56.3 EPA). The team ranked 25th in rushing yardage (1,683 yards), 4.0 yards per carry (26th), with 10 rushing scores (29th). 21.2% of their carries failed to gain yardage, which was the fourth-highest rate in the league. Cam Akers suffered a torn Achilles in July. Through his impressive comeback to get back on the field, Akers rushed 72 times for 175 yards (2.4 YPC) while catching 11 passes for 86 yards over his five appearances. With more time to get back up to full speed this offseason, he should be stronger in 2022 while Darrell Henderson has been stable when called upon and the team added rookie Kyren Williams.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Sony Michel	223	4.0	48%	60	58	37	59	48%	53	4
Darrell Henderson	149	4.6	57%	16	10	31	44	60%	5	5
Cam Akers	59	2.6	34%	90	83	4	89	34%	89	0

## Yards per Carry by Direction





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Is Allen Robinson Due for a Bounce Back?

The 2021 season was an outright disaster for Robinson. Seemingly disgruntled with the Chicago organization from the outset of last offseason when he was franchise tagged, his effort was questioned, while he also dealt with ankle, hamstring, and COVID issues during the season to go along with subpar quarterback play. Outside of his own underperformance, motivation, and health, just 60.6% of Robinson's limited targets were deemed catchable (84th among wideouts) while posting 35 yards or fewer in 9-of-12 games. With just under 80% of his career targets coming from Blake Bortles and Mitchell Trubisky, Robinson will unequivocally be playing the best quarterback of his career in **Matthew Stafford**. Robinson is leaving the 30th ranked offense in expected points added via passing offense (-50.0 EPA) in Chicago for a Rams team that ranked first (237.3 EPA).

The Bears also limited Robinson's route tree. 39.8% of Robinson's routes last season were strictly slants and curls per SIS. Those shallow routes collectively provided a 5.9-yard depth of target, which played a large role in his depressed yards per catch. In 2020, 32.0% of his routes were slants and curls. Playing outside in Sean McVay's offense, Robinson will surely get a bump in route diversity, while adding more fantasy-friendly routes to his profile. Just 20.9% of the routes run by Rams pass catchers in 2021 came on those curl and slant routes that Robinson was boxed into. No team had more air yards in 2021 on digs, posts, go, and deep crossing routes than the Rams (1,184) while no team had fewer air yards on those routes than the Bears (361) last season. Robinson had just 10 total targets on those routes in 2021 with just 23 in 2020. while those routes accounted for 25.4% of his tree in 2021 and 27.2% in 2020.

The Rams also were an aggressive offense near the end zone with Stafford, ranking fourth in red zone passing rate (59.2%), while second in pass rate inside of the 10-yard line (58.4%), and first in pass rate inside of the 5-yard line (65.9%). 79.7% of the Rams' offensive touchdowns in 2021 were passing touchdowns, the highest rate in the league. Robinson was coming off WR11 and WR13 per game fantasy seasons prior to last year so there is plenty of room for him to reclaim functionality for fantasy moving to the Rams. This is almost as good of a landing spot as possible. That said, we are unlikely to back to Robinson flirting with 25-30% target shares he posted over the 2019-2020 seasons as a target vacuum on a limited offense.

Cooper Kupp is still the featured target in this offense. Even if Kupp concedes a portion of the gaudy 31.5% target share that he had in 2021, the days of Robinson pushing 150 targets carries low probability of returning. That said, with the trade of Robert Woods and Odell Beckham (if retained) projected to be looking at a return to the field in November or even later, Robinson can fail to rebound in the volume department while trading that off for the more efficient and fantasy-friendly targets. Even if Robinson has truly lost a step that wasn't tied to anything related to his situation with the Bears last year, this offense can mask a number of deficiencies. He may not quite reclaim being a fringe WR1 in fantasy, but that gives him more than added viability as a fantasy WR2 and an attractive player to bounce back from a forgettable 2021.

Los	Angeles Ra	ams Defense	: Number o	f DBs vs Per	rsonnel	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		%	D.	50
1-1 [3WR]	18 plays (3%) Success: 44%	348 plays (58%) Success: 44%	234 plays (39%) Success: 40%	3 plays (0%) Success: 67%	603 plays (100%) Success: 43%			Rk	40
	EPA: 0.07	EPA: -0.06	EPA: -0.15	EPA: 0.29	EPA: -0.08	Base	20%	27	
1-2 [2WR]	28 plays (24%) Success: 61%	84 plays (71%) Success: 48%	7 plays (6%) Success: 43%		119 plays (100%) Success: 50%	Nickel	53%	25	30 -
	EPA: 0.22	EPA: -0.23	EPA: 0.03		EPA: -0.11	Dime+	26%	3	
2-1 [2WR]	17 plays <i>(52%)</i> Success: 65% EPA: 0.31	16 plays <i>(48%)</i> Success: 69% EPA: 0.45			33 plays (100%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.38	Rush 3	1%	30	20 -
	7 plays (54%)	6 plays (46%)			13 plays (100%)	Rush 4	71%	18	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 57% EPA: -1.81	Success: 33% EPA: -0.29			Success: 46% EPA: -1.11	Rush 5	26%	7	
0	70 plays (9%)	454 plays (59%)	241 plays (31%)	3 plays (0%)	768 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	2%	29	0
Grand Total	Success: 57% EPA: 0.00	Success: 45% EPA: -0.07	Success: 40% EPA: -0.14	Success: 67% EPA: 0.29	Success: 45% EPA: -0.09	Blitz%	28%	10	-10

#### **Defensive Outlook**

When **Aaron Donald** is in the middle of the defense, that makes a lot of things a whole lot easier. Donald was first among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and he was third in pressure rate at the position last season, per SIS. Both **Greg Gaines** (sixth) and **A'Shawn Robinson** (seventh) were among the best defensive tackles in Run Stop Win Rate. Gaines got more time in the lineup once Sebastian Joseph-Day was injured and that will continue now that Joseph-Day is with the Chargers.

Leonard Floyd ranked 15th in pressure rate among edge rushers last season and much of his production came with Von Miller off the field. The Rams wanted to bring Miller back, but he signed his big deal with Buffalo. Floyd will now move back to the No. 1 pass rusher role. Terrell Lewis (2020 third-round pick) and Justin Hollins (2019 fifth-round pick) can provide some juice when they're on the field, but neither has taken on a full-time role as a pass rusher thus far in their careers. Even if Bobby Wagner isn't prime Bobby Wagner, he gives a huge boost over what the Rams had for most of the season at linebacker last year. His presence will lessen some of the load on Ernest Jones, a third-round pick in 2021, who played well through the Rams' playoff run. Both could also get some rest when the Rams go into more three-safety looks, which they also increased late in the playoffs.

Jalen Ramsey... quite good at football. Ramsey was fourth among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. Ramsey was both a shutdown outside corner and a stellar slot player, moving around to be closer to the ball. The Rams re-acquired Troy Hill, who was great in the slot for the 2020 defense, and then signed with the Browns for 2021. David Long and Robert Rochell are currently slated to be the two others in position to start at corner. Both played well when they were on the field. Long ranked 32nd among 93 qualified corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, playing both outside and in the slot. Rochell, a fourth-round pick last season, played well in limited snaps with some promising flashes. On just 137 coverage snaps, he had four passes defensed. Few teams have developed safeties better than the Rams.

Jordan Fuller took over as the playcalling safety in the middle of the defense through the regular season, before an injury forced him out of the playoffs. At full health, he'll go back to that role. **Taylor Rapp** started all 17 games and 95.8% of the defensive snaps. He played mostly deep but moved around into the box and slot — a necessity in the Rams' defense. With Fuller's injury, **Nick Scott** broke out in the playoffs after playing 35% of the defensive snaps during the regular season. The Rams used three safeties in the playoffs with Scott, Rapp, and **Eric Weddle**, a personnel grouping they could use more in 2022. **Terrell Burgess** (2020 third-round pick) hasn't consistently broken into the defensive rotation but he's been able to fill in when needed, which at least provides a passable floor at the position.

<b>Play Tendencies</b>					
All Pass %	63%				
All Pass Rk	3				
All Rush %	37%				
All Rush Rk	30				
1 Score Pass %	63%				
1 Score Pass Rk	4				
2020 1 Score Pass %	60%				
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	9				
2021 Pass Increase %	3%				
Pass Increase Rk	6				
1 Score Rush %	37%				
1 Score Rush Rk	29				
Up Pass %	62%				
Up Pass Rk	5				
Up Rush %	38%				
Up Rush Rk	28				
Down Pass %	65%				
Down Pass Rk	5				
Down Rush %	35%				
Down Rush Rk	28				

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>						
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %	
1st	Short (1-3)	11	45%	55%	64%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	9	44%	56%	33%	
	Long (8-10)	391	51%	49%	52%	
	XL (11+)	13	62%	38%	46%	
2nd	Short (1-3)	47	28%	72%	68%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	111	63%	37%	60%	
	Long (8-10)	113	80%	20%	50%	
	XL (11+)	41	80%	20%	46%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	59	58%	42%	63%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	60	97%	3%	38%	
	Long (8-10)	35	91%	9%	40%	
	XL (11+)	22	91%	9%	32%	
4th	Short (1-3)	12	42%	58%	58%	
Dwn	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%	

Shotgun %						
Shotgun Under Center						
58%	42%					
NFL	AVG					
65%	35%					
Efficiency						



# Short Yardage Intelligence:

Efficiency								
EPA/ pass: 0.10	EPA/ pass: 0.26							
EPA/ rush: -0.14	EPA/ rush: -0.07							
Success: 45%	Success: 41%							

2nd and Short Run							
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg			
79%	8	71%	68%	73%			

<b>2nd and Short Pass</b>							
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg			
21%	24	29%	60%	46%			

Most Frequent Play						
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %	
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Darrell Henderson	4	75%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Sony Michel	3	33%	
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Sony Michel	78	51%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	3	33%	
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Sony Michel	16	63%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	23	70%	
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	31	55%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	10	50%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Sony Michel	11	64%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	13	38%	
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	8	38%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Cooper Kupp	6	83%	

<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: 62%	Success: 42%	Success: 59%			
	YPA: 10.2, EPA: 0.43	YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.25	YPA: 9.8, EPA: 0.41			
	Rtg: 118.6	Rtg: 108.8	Rtg: 117.1			
	[Att: 146 - Rate: 18.6%]	[Att: 26 - Rate: 3.3%]	[Att: 172 - Rate: 22.0%]			
Yes	Success: 49%	Success: 58%	Success: 51%			
	YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.02	YPA: 9.8, EPA: 0.29	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.06			
	Rtg: 96.1	Rtg: 115.1	Rtg: 101.3			
	[Att: 448 - Rate: 57.2%]	[Att: 163 - Rate: 20.8%]	[Att: 611 - Rate: 78.0%]			
Total	Success: 52%	Success: 56%	Success: 53%			
	YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.09	YPA: 9.4, EPA: 0.28	YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.14			
	Rtg: 101.8	Rtg: 114.3	Rtg: 104.9			
	[Att: 594 - Rate: 75.9%]	[Att: 189 - Rate: 24.1%]	[Att: 783 - Rate: 100.0%]			

Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Cooper Kupp	Tyler Higbee	Van Jefferson	Robert Woods	Sony Michel	Odell Beckham Jr.	DeSean Jackson
1	CHI	W 34-14	49	52	36	40	3		14
2	IND	L 30-27	59	59	54	58	16		3
3	TB	W 34-24	53	49	50	57	48		21
4	ARI	L 37-20	65	54	46	65	7		22
5	SEA	W 26-17	59	56	39	66	23		20
6	NYG	W 38-11	55	66	42	58	12		16
7	DET	W 28-19	63	65	61	63	8		4
8	HOU	W 38-22	58	46	56	58	20		
9	TEN	L 28-16	78	76	75	78	31		
10	SF	L 31-10	55	54	52		14	15	
12	GB	L 36-28	62	62	61		12	61	
13	JAC	W 37-7	64	63	53		66	36	
14	ARI	W 30-23	52		46		58	42	
15	SEA	W 20-10	62		61		48	50	
16	MIN	W 30-23	68	64	67		63	64	
17	BAL	W 20-19	58	56	31		57	57	
18	SF	L 27-24	64	61	45		52	51	
	Grand '	Total	1,024	883	875	543	538	376	100

Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	85%	61%	55%
1-2 [2WR]	12%	21%	35%
1-0 [4WR]	2%	2%	29%
Group	ing Te	enden	cies
<u>Group</u> Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ.
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.

**Personnel Groupings** 

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard						
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Cooper Kupp	46	12	9	25		
Tyler Higbee	20	4	5	11		
Van Jefferson	17	4	4	9		
Robert Woods	16	4	3	9		
Odell Beckham Jr.	11	3	2	6		
Darrell Henderson	9	2	2	5		
Kendall Blanton	4		1	3		
Ben Skowronek	2		2			

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard					
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Sony Michel	47	8	18	21	
Darrell Henderson	26	9	4	13	
Matthew Stafford	14	4	3	7	
Cam Akers	12	3	4	5	
Antoine Brooks Jr.	4			4	
Robert Woods	2			2	
Cooper Kupp	1			1	
Jake Funk	1			1	

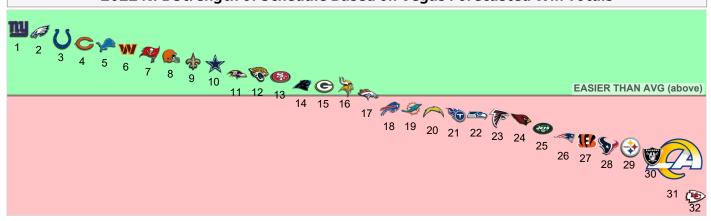
Early Down Target Rate						
RB	TE	WR				
14% 16% 70% 23% 21% 56% NFL AVG						
Overall Target Success %						
Overall	Target Su	ccess %				
Overall RB	Target Su	vR				

**1-0 [4WR]** 83% 30% 25%





# 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



What is also amazing is that Matthew Stafford's cap hit last year (\$20 million), next year (\$13.5 million), and in 2023 (\$20 million) are each lower than what the Rams had Goff hit the cap for in 2020 (\$28.8 million).

What could the Rams fix in 2022 to improve their chances at repeating as Super Bowl champions? Aside from fourth down aggression, the most perplexing element of the 2021 Rams that they must improve upon for 2022 is their run game. They'll get help thanks to the fact that in 2021, they played the seventh-toughest schedule of run defenses. In 2022, I'm forecasting them to play the fifth-easiest schedule. That alone will make a big difference (it's the second-largest improvement in ease of run defense for any offense).

But what was perplexing was you have a much better quarterback that is using much more 11 personnel to spread the field and force lighter boxes, and yet the run game was no better in 2021 than 2020. Look at the comparison for runs in the first three quarters of games:

2021: -0.14 EPA/att (20th), 4.4 YPC (16th), 42% success (11th) – 58% of runs vs 7+ box defenders 2020: -0.16 EPA/att (20th), 4.4 YPC (14th), 43% success (eighth) – 84% of runs vs 7+ box defenders

The Rams saw the fourth-highest rate of loaded boxes on running back runs in 2020 and the fifth-lowest rate in 2021, yet running back efficiency remained virtually identical.

Look at the numbers against light boxes (six or fewer box defenders):

2021: -0.17 EPA/att (27th), 4.1 YPC (26th), 36% success (24th) on 108 running back rushes 2020: -0.07 EPA/att (15th), 6.0 YPC (fifth), 40% success (13th) on 45 running back rushes

The Rams simply cannot afford to be substantially worse running against lighter boxes, particularly when they're facing them over twice as often as they did in 2020. If they continue to use high rates of 11 personnel with Stafford behind center, they'll continue to get light boxes. **Cam Akers** will be healthier and **Darrell Henderson** is still in town (**Sony Michel** is not), but the Rams cannot afford to be a bottom-10 run offense against light boxes when their offense sees them at the fifth-highest rate of any team in the NFL.

01. Games w Halftime Lead	9	02. Avg Halftime Lead	2.0	03. Wins	12	
Pre-Sr	пар	Motion (Quarters	1-3)			
36. PSM YPA		8.0				
37. PSM Target Depth		7.2				
38. Non-PSM YPA			7.3			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth			7.8			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate		57%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success	Rate		55%			

# Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

0.12

0.01

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	32%
45. PA Success Rate	51%
46. PA YPA	9.3
47. PA Sack Rate	4.3%
48. PA EPA/att	0.20
49. PA Target Depth	7.7
50. Non-PA Success Rate	54%
51. Non-PA YPA	6.9
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	3.3%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0
54. Non-PA Target Depth	7.4

#### 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	47%
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	33%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	63%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.1
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	35%
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	4.8

# Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	26	defFUM	17
Net FROE	-3.3	defFUM Rcvrd	12
offFUM	14	ucii Om iteviu	12
offFUM Rcvrd	7	defFR Rk	26
offFR%	50.0%	defFR%	29.4%
offFR Rk	22	defFROE	-2 1
offFROE	-1.2	deifkoe	-2.1
offFROE Rk	22	defFROE Rk	25

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	1.88	Opp Att	34		
Net Over Expectation Rank	6	Opp Makes	30		
Own Att Own Makes	34 32	Opp FG %	88%		
Own FG %	94%	Opp Expected Makes	28.33		
Own Expected Makes	28.45	Opp Make Over Expectation	1.67		
Own Make over Expectation	3.55	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	11		
Own Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	-1.59	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	0.92		
2020 Own Rk	27	2020 Opp Rk	16		

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

Q	ΒP	res	sur	e
---	----	-----	-----	---

42. PSM EPA/att

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

# Offensive Metrics

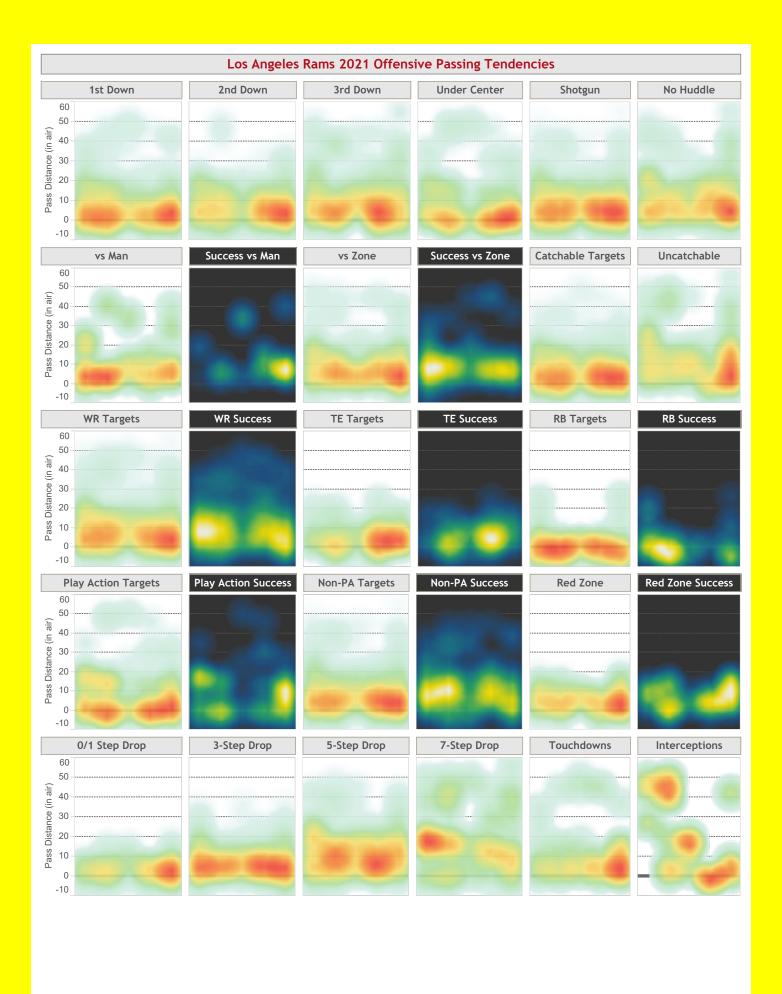
	Matthew Stafford
CAY	6.7
CAY Rk	3
2020 CAY Rk	9
AYTS Rk	4
2020 AYTS Rk	7
AGG Rk	34
2020 AGG Rk	17
COMP%	67.2
xCOMP%	67.8
xCOMP% Rk	4
2020 xCOMP% Rk	17
CPOE%	-0.6
CPOE Rk	21
2020 CPOE Rk	28
CAY: Completed Air Yards AY	S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:

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

Qb Pre	ssure
	Matthew Stafford
Pressure %	26.2
Pressure Rk	36
Sack %	4.7
Sack Rk	31
Pressure Accuracy %	64.1
Pressure Accuracy Rk	18
Rating when Pressured	79.8
Pressured Rating Rk	6
Clean Accuracy %	79.8
Clean Accuracy Rk	10
Rating when Clean	111
Clean Rating Rk	4
Time to Throw	2.8

EPA/Pass	0.13
EPA/Pass Rk	3
EPA/Rush	-0.09
EPA/Rush Rk	26
On-Target Catch %	89.7%
On-Target Catch Rk	18
Drop%	6.1%
Drop Rk	20
YAC/Att	1.9
YAC/Att Rk	30
Rush Broken Tackle %	11.9%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	22
Rush 1st Down %	23.8%
Rush 1st Down Rk	20

Time to Throw Rk



# Rams Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Matthew Stafford	0.27 (#2)	0.14 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	0.02 (#2)	0.31 (#1)
2020	Jared Goff	0.31 (#1)	0.00 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	0.14 (#1)	0.16 (#2)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Matthew Stafford	-0.28 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	0.29 (#1)	0.51 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	0.32 (#1)	-0.02 (#1)
2020	Jared Goff	-0.66 (#2)	0.04 (#2)	0.03 (#2)	0.08 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range of cheantage a rank (brank not chough act to quanty)									
Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Matthew Stafford	74% (#2)	80% (#2)	66% (#2)	50% (#1)	72% (#2)	75% (#2)	68% (#2)	73% (#1)	74% (#2)
2020	Jared Goff	77% (#1)	83% (#1)	68% (#1)	41% (#2)	77% (#1)	78% (#1)	83% (#1)	70% (#2)	79% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.08 (#2)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.52 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	0.27 (#2)	0.20 (#2)
2020	-0.07 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.25 (#1)	-0.05 (#2)	-0.12 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.14 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	0.74 (#1)	0.74 (#1)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

				OFF ED						DEF ED
		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	5	6	7	16	5	29	14	11	17	1
2020	24	14	26	16	21	16	14	3	3	2

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	6	10	3	16	3	6	5	1	8
2020	9	9	10	5	4	5	5	19	18

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	5	1	9	21	6	27	28	22	7
2020	29	22	15	23	15	5	12	28	13

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

# Head Coach:

Easy Hard

Mike McDaniel (SF OC) (new) Offensive Coordinator: Frank Smith (LAC Run) (new)

**Defensive Coordinator:** Josh Boyer (2 yrs)

# **Miami Dolphins**

#### 2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

#2

#### **Past Records**

2021: 9-8 2020: 10-6 2019: 5-11



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Will Fuller (WR)	TBD
DeVante Parker (WR)	Patriots
Jacoby Brissett (QB)	Browns
Allen Hurns (WR)	TBD
Jesse Davis (RT)	Vikings
Mack Hollins (WR)	Raiders
Malcolm Brown (RB)	TBD
Michael Palardy (P)	TBD
Duke Johnson (RB)	Bills
Greg Mancz (C)	Bills
Justin Coleman (CB)	Seahawks
Jason McCourty (CB)	TBD
Phillip Lindsay (RB)	Colts
Albert Wilson (WR)	Vikings
Vince Biegel (LB)	Ravens

#### # Games # Games **Average** Underdog **Favored** 8 -0.1

#### 2022 Miami Dolphins Overview

For two straight years now, the Miami Dolphins have had massive problems with receiver separation. 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.

Getting separation signals a few things - one, the team has receivers that are getting open and two, the quarterback is finding them.

In 2020, defenses didn't respect the Dolphins' receivers and gave them the third-least cushion on average pre-snap. And post-snap, when receivers were targeted, they had the NFL's worst separation.

The 2020 Dolphins ranked 32nd. They couldn't create separation.

I wrote about this in last year's book. I discussed how terrible the Dolphins' receivers were in separation. I pivoted into the two results of this problem:

1 - "As a result of the lack of separation, both Tua Tagovailoa and Ryan 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.

2 - 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. Second, the Dolphins added Jaylen Waddle in the draft (cont'd - see MIA2)

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Tyreek Hill (WR)	Trade
Terron Armstead (LT)	\$15
Cedrick Wilson Jr. (WR)	\$7.29
Connor Williams (LT)	\$7
Teddy Bridgewater (QB)	\$6.5
Chase Edmonds (RB)	\$6
Melvin Ingram (EDGE)	\$4
Alec Ingold (FB)	\$3.29
Keion Crossen (CB)	\$3.10
Raheem Mostert (RB)	\$2.10
Sony Michel (RB)	\$1.8

#### **Drafted Players**

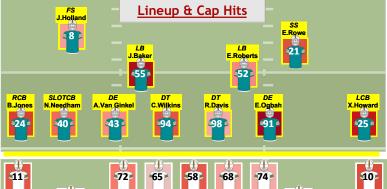
Rd	Pk	Player (College)
3	102	LB - Channing Tindall (Georgia)
4	125	WR - Erik Ezukanma (Texas Tech)
7	224	LB - Cameron Goode (California)
,	247	QB - Skylar Thompson (Kansas State)

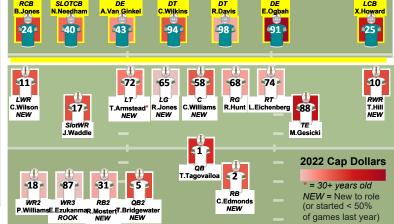
# Regular Season Wins:



1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2018 Wins





#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	19	\$104.64M	14
QB	18	\$15.48M	19
OL	30	\$28.10M	31
RB		\$15.12M	23
WR	13	\$25.60M	1
TE	2	\$20.35M	10
All DEF	10	\$104.68M	10
DL	18	\$41.47M	26
LB		\$20.25M	23
СВ	6	\$30.71M	1
S	20	\$12.25M	11

#### MIA-2

with the sixth overall pick."

So what happened in 2021? Did they get more receiver separation to help Tua?

No, they did not.

And once again, it caused repercussions for the Dolphins during the season and in the offseason.

Whereas in 2020 the Dolphins' receivers had very little pre-snap cushion (ranking 30th), the 2021 Dolphins ranked 15th in pre-snap cushion, so their receivers started with a bit more space in general, which was a positive.

However, that space was erased by defenders in an instant.

In 2021, the Dolphins ranked 31st in receiver separation. In fact, they tied with the Titans at 31.

No team was worse in receiver separation than the Dolphins. It's difficult to believe but for two straight years, the Dolphins were the NFL's worst team in

In 2021, Waddle was above average. He ranked 35th out of 127 receivers.

But for two straight years, DeVante Parker was the NFL's worst player in receiver separation.

Here are his actual ranks:

2021: 127th out of 127 2020: 132nd out of 132

Toss in 2019, where he ranked 123rd out of 125 receivers and it's clear the problem starts with Parker, who is now on the Patriots and won't be impacting the Dolphins' lack of receiver separation in 2022.

Of course, another key factor was the absence of Fuller. Fuller missed the first two games of the season, then he suffered a broken thumb in Week 4, and was placed on injured reserve.

	2021 Passi	5		
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	The state of the s
Tua Tag ovailoa	56% 7.3 90.2	51% 6.4 93.4	41% 6.3 81.5	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	53%	58%	76%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

		2021 Rushi	ng Performa	ince	
C	Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
	MIA	46% 3.5	40% 3.5	45% 4.1	Success Rate YPC
R	un Rate	47%	42%	24%	
	NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
R	un Rate	51%	41%	24%	

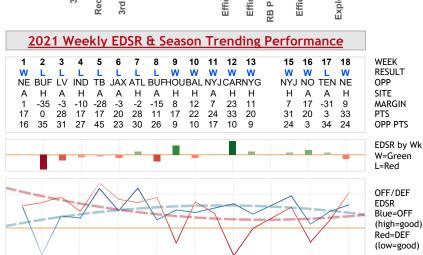
He thus played just 1.5 games for the Dolphins – Week 3 and Week 4. In Week 3, Fuller's on-field presence opened up Waddle even further:

Waddle averaged 4.1 vards of separation per target. That was fifth-best of any receiver that week and well above his season average. He caught 12 of 13 targets. Mike Gesicki was the beneficiary of coverages in Week 4, as he averaged 4.6 yards of separation per target and caught 5 of 6 targets.

On the season, Waddle averaged 3.3 yards of separation and Gesicki averaged 2.8, so there was no doubt having a more dangerous Fuller on the field, as opposed to Parker alone, made a big difference.

As a result of having no receivers who could separate (save for Waddle) (cont'd - see MIA-3)

-	-																•					•		`	(co
		<u>2</u>	021	Off	<u>ensi</u>	ve A	dva	ncec	d Me	tric	<u>s</u>					<u>2</u> (	021	Def	<u>ensi</u>	ve A	<u>ldva</u>	nce	∃ Me	tric	<u>s</u>
10- 10- 20- 25-	28	21	17	10	29	27	26	22	20	9	30	29	31	1 5 - 10 - 20 - 25 -	8	4	6		12	17	10	9	4	8	1
30	<b>9</b>				Ø	<b>I</b>	40				4	4	- J	30 –				28							
	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		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



2021 Close Game **Records RESULT** All 2019 Wins: 9

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **1-3** FG Games Win %: **25% (#21)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 11% (#20)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 4-3 Score Games Win %: 57% (#10) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 44% (#18)

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** +0 TO Margin TO Given 26 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 12 TO Taken 26 **INT Taken** 14 12 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +8 48 Sacks Sacks Allow 40 Return TD Margin +0

**Ret TDs** 

Penalties

Ret TDs Allow

**Penalty Margin** 

**Opponent Penalties** 

13

Rush Efficiency Def

22

Explosive Pass Def

**Explosive** 

0

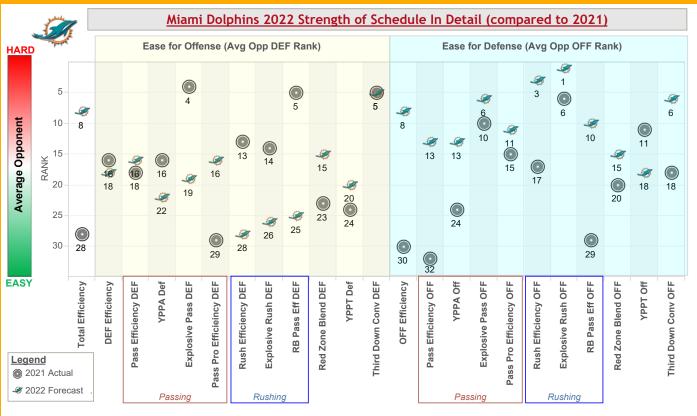
0

+4

105

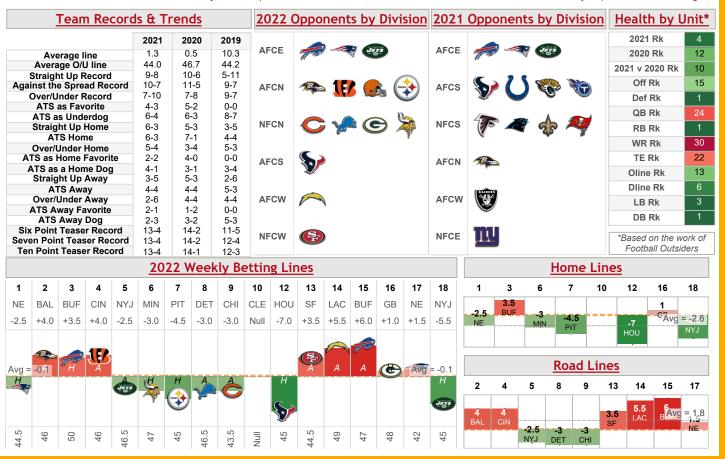
109

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



	2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*											
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk						
14	20	28	31	1	5	2	2					

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







and having the least separation in the NFL for a second straight year, Tagovailoa once again was ranked way too high in Aggressiveness.

Aggressiveness is another Next Gen Stat which tracks the rate of passing attempts a quarterback makes that are into tight coverage, where there is a defender within 1 yard or less of the receiver at the time of completion or incompletion.

In 2021, Tua ranked first in the NFL, with nearly 20% of his passes thrown into tight windows.

That came after a 2020 season when he ranked sixth, with 20.3% being thrown into tight windows.

This isn't a "Tua can't read defenses" stat. In 2020, Ryan Fitzpatrick (who started the season) ranked second with 20.7% and in 2021 when Tagovailoa missed time, Jacoby Brissett ranked third with 18.7%.

In the Dolphins' case, this is just another way to look at the separation stat.

These tight window throws increase interception rates while also decreasing odds for yards after the catch (which we'll discuss shortly).

This offseason, by adding Tyreek Hill, the Dolphins have created more separation for all of their receivers. In 2021, Hill averaged 3.6 yards of separation (14th of 127 receivers). In 2020, it was 3.4 yards (23rd of 132 receivers). In 2019, it was 3.2 yards (22nd of 125 receivers). Now he'll be on the field instead of Parker.

The Dolphins didn't stop there. They also added Cedrick Wilson, who averaged 3.5 yards of separation last year, which ranked 20th of 127 receivers.

Based on last year's stats, Miami now has receivers with separation that ranked:

14th (Tyreek Hill)

20th (Cedrick Wilson)

35th (Jaylen Waddle)

The final question is - where did the 49ers offense rank in separation over the last few years? Because that's what new head coach Mike McDaniel is bringing to Miami. The answer is reassuring:

2020: Seventh

2021: 10th

In the last two seasons, the 49ers were top-10 in receiver separation.

In the last two seasons, the Dolphins were the NFL's worst team in receiver separation.

The Shanahan system is coming to South Beach, and the Dolphins added players who excel in generating separation.

Combine the two and perhaps the most confident prediction I have in this book full of predictions for 2022: the Dolphins will be substantially better in receiver separation in 2022 which should help the quarterback out immensely.

If better receiver separation will help Tagovailoa in 2022, is there anything else that will help him as well?

Yes, quite a few things in fact.

9

Let's start with players before we get into the system.

Better receivers will help and though we already covered that to an extent, let's continue that dive.

Here are the Dolphins' receivers in targets the last two years:

(cont'd - see MIA-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 +2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Miami Dolphins Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank **Negated Bye Rank**

4

Rank

Rank

# Forecast 2022 Wins

## Why Bet the Under

- The Dolphins' travel and strength of schedule are more arduous than last year. The Dolphins play the 13th most difficult strength of opponents compared to the sixth-easiest last year. An extra road game and 3 consecutive which include visits to the 49ers, Chargers, and Bills the second half of the year add to the difficulty.
- The Dolphins' defensive unit was above average in terms of DVOA and success rate, however, the offensive efficiency of opponents was fifth-easiest and is slated to be the eighth-most difficult in 2022. The defense was fortunate in terms of injury luck with a NFL-low 8.7 adjusted games lost, four times lower than the league median. Given the context of defensive continuity and opponents the Dolphins defense is at risk of regression.
- The 2021 offensive line finished last in pass block win rate. Although improved with free agent additions **Terron Armstead** and **Connor Williams**, both have concerns. Armstead will be 31 years old when the season starts and has missed 4.75 games/year over his last eight seasons and Williams led all offensive linemen in penalties last year.

# 8.5



## Why Bet the Over

- Financial flexibility with a quarterback on a rookie contract and the seventh lowest dead cap allocation allowed the front office to aggressively pursue impact players via free agency and trade. The Dolphins significantly improved the roster with veteran additions on both sides of the ball, without losing any significant players.
- Mike McDaniel's 49ers offense led the league in yards per play and an upgrade in playcalling is expected over the co-coordinator tandem in 2021. The offense should improve upon the fourth worst 4.78 yards per play as Miami has elite athletes at all three skilled positions and a quarterback that ranked eighth in on target percentage in 2021. Now three years removed from hip surgery combined with a fresh start from a new head coach, **Tua Tagovailoa** has all the pieces in place to take a third-year quarterback leap.
- After allowing the most quarterback pressures in 2022, the Dolphins invested heavily on the offense line. A new offensive scheme and upgraded blocking are likely to improve rushing and passing success on an offense that ranked below league average in most categories in 2021.

	Miami Dolphins Positional Unit Rankings												
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	<b>Head Coach</b>							
16	24	29	3	15	7	22							

Miami's quarterbacks land in the middle of the pack, but this is the year **Tua Tagovailoa** needs to take his game to another level. When Tagovailoa was blitzed, his boom-bust ratio (ratio of plays generating +1 EPA to -1 EPA) ranked 28th out of 33 qualified quarterbacks. If he can improve his ability to make quick decisions in those scenarios, this Miami offense could take off.

The Dolphins overhauled their backfield and still only improved one spot in our rankings. The additions of **Chase Edmonds**, **Sony Michel**, and **Raheem Mostert** give Miami depth at the position, if nothing else.

Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle have the potential to be an electric duo. Waddle's production as a rookie in an inefficient offense was impressive. If there's a weakness to this unit, it's the lack of depth. Cedrick Wilson will need to take on a larger role than the one he played in Dallas.

Miami tried to build an offensive line through the draft and failed miserably. Last year's unit allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less at the fourth-highest rate (27%). The additions of **Terron Armstead** and **Connor Williams** should make an impact, assuming Armstead can stay healthy.

Votes for the Dolphins' front seven ranged from ninth to 19th. Differences may depend on how we view the talent versus the scheme. Miami led the league in pressure rate last year, but they also blitzed at the second-highest rate. Defensive coordinator Josh Boyer made the most of a unit lacking any top-tier difference-makers.

**Xavien Howard** and **Jevon Holland** are two of the best at their positions and anchor a strong Dolphins secondary. The unit was productive despite regularly being challenged downfield — Miami faced throws at 15 or more yards downfield at the league's third-highest rate.

Mike McDaniel is our highest-ranked head coach with no prior coaching experience, and our third-highest ranked among coaches entering their first year at their current job.

#### <u>MIA-4</u>

#### 2021:

140 - Jaylen Waddle (rookie)

112 - Mike Gesicki (not a WR)

73 – DeVante Parker

63 - Myles Gaskin (not a WR)

41 - Durham Smythe (not a WR)

#### 2020:

103 - DeVante Parker

85 - Mike Gesicki (not a WR)

54 - Jakeem Grant

47 - Myles Gaskin (not a WR)

44 - Isaiah Ford

People are legitimately harshly judging Tagovailoa when he's had these receivers as his supporting cast?

#### <u>MIA-5</u>

And behind this line?

In 2021, the Dolphins had the NFL's worst line for a quarterback. They ranked dead last in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate and dead last in Pro Football Focus grades.

In 2020, it wasn't much better.

While quarterbacks do play a role in pressure rates, in 2021 the Dolphins were pressured on 33% of early down passes in the first three quarters of games. These are pro-QB situations, when the quarterback is not in a pass-heavy mode and when defenses don't know if a run or pass will be called.

Yet in those situations, Miami had pressure at the fifth-highest rate of any team in the NFL.

Last year, Tua threw 33% of his passes in under two seconds (fifth-highest rate in the NFL) and 61% of his passes in under 2.5 seconds (fifth-highest rate in the NFL).

As a result, the Dolphins in the offseason made some massive improvements in their line by adding **Connor Williams** and **Terron Armstead** this offseason. Armstead has been one of the best left tackles in the NFL and once again graded out fourth among all tackles in pass protection in 2021 at PFF. He allowed just one sack and a 4.8% pressure rate.

Getting rid of the football quickly isn't necessarily a bad thing. But to get big plays, sometimes the quarterback needs to hold the ball to let plays develop. When Tagovailoa held the ball for 3.5+ seconds, look at his splits:

Pressured: -0.68 EPA/att, 24% success, 74% accuracy, 6.8 YPA, 42% completions (37 att)

Not pressured: 0.59 EPA/att, 75% success, 83% accuracy, 10.9 YPA, 75% completions (12 att)

#### (cont'd - see MIA-6)



# Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week



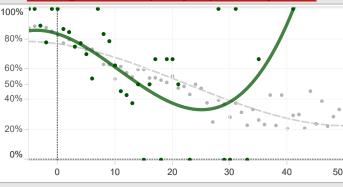
#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

		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	7%	7%	75%	6%	5%
	Jaylen Waddle			100%		
	Duke Johnson	1%	14%	54%	8%	23%
RUSH	Salvon Ahmed	13%	4%	63%	17%	4%
₽	Albert Wilson			100%		
	Durham Smythe					100%
	Phillip Lindsay		3%	39%	16%	42%
	Total	8%	7%	65%	9%	12%
	Myles Gaskin	16%	3%	67%	6%	8%
	Jaylen Waddle	12%	4%	76%	6%	3%
	Mike Gesicki	22%	6%	63%	5%	4%
	Duke Johnson	60%		20%	20%	
	DeVante Parker	37%	8%	49%	3%	3%
ဟ	Salvon Ahmed	32%		68%		
PASS	Albert Wilson	15%	8%	67%	3%	8%
•	Durham Smythe	10%	10%	63%	15%	2%
	Phillip Lindsay		100%			
	Adam Shaheen	6%	13%	75%	6%	
	Isaiah Ford	13%		63%	13%	13%
	Will Fuller		25%	63%	13%	
	Total	18%	6%	66%	6%	4%

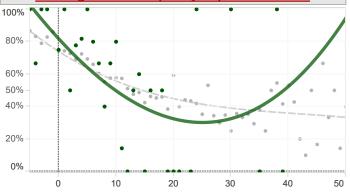
# Share of Offensive Plays by Type

			<u></u>	iiai e	<del>- 01</del>	OII	C113	76	riay	ע פּין	<u>/                                    </u>	he			
		Myles Gaskin	Jaylen Waddle	Mike Gesicki	Duke Johnson	DeVante Parker	Salvon Ahmed	Albert Wilson	Durham Smythe	Phillip Lindsay	Malcolm Brown	Preston Williams	Adam Shaheen	Isaiah Ford	Will Fuller
Γ	PASS	11%	24%	19%	1%	12%	3%	7%	7%	0%	1%	3%	3%	3%	1%
	RUSH	46%	1%		19%		14%	1%	1%	10%	9%	0%			
	ALL	24%	15%	11%	8%	8%	8%	4%	4%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%	1%

#### Tua Tagovailoa Comp % by Depth - Early Downs



#### Tua Tagovailoa Comp % by Depth - 3rd Down



### Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

#### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	52%, -0.02 (372)	43%, -0.16 (228)	40%, 0.07 (15)	40%, 0.23 (20)	100%, 0.47 (5)	56%, -0.32 (9)	0%, -0.50 (1)	50%, -0.69 (2)	0%, -1.38 (1)	49%, -0.06 (653)
RUSH	43%, -0.14 (297)	49%, -0.11 (75)	40%, -0.37 (47)	67%, 1.07 (3)	33%, -0.28 (9)	0%, -0.60 (1)	25%, -2.49 (4)	100%, 2.18 (1)		44%, -0.17 (437)
All	48%, -0.08 (669)	45%, -0.14 (303)	40%, -0.26 (62)	43%, 0.34 (23)	57%, -0.01 (14)	50%, -0.35 (10)	20%, -2.09 (5)	67%, 0.26 (3)	0%, -1.38 (1)	47%, -0.11 (1,090)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)										
POS	Player	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	4 Grp Total					
WR	Jaylen Waddle	65% (85) 7.5, 0.09	50% (50) 6.5, 0.15			59% (135) 7.1, 0.11					
	DeVante Parker	52% (33) 7.1, 0.15	47% (36) 6.6, 0.08	100% (1) 7.0, 1.02		50% (70) 6.8, 0.12					
	Albert Wilson	47% (19) 7.3, 0.03	28% (18) 3.5, -0.40	100% (1) 5.0, 0.20		39% (38) 5.4, -0.17					
	Mack Hollins	60% (15) 10.3, 0.70	50% (4) 5.5, 0.23			58% (19) 9.3, 0.60					
TE	Mike Gesicki	50% (60) 6.4, 0.03	63% (41) 8.6, 0.47	33% (3) 1.7, -1.59		55% (104) 7.1, 0.15					
	Durham Smythe	67% (36) 8.7, 0.23	50% (2) 5.5, 0.19			66% (38) 8.5, 0.22					
RB	Myles Gaskin	39% (38) 3.3, -0.11	62% (21) 4.9, 0.01	0% (1) 0.0, -1.20	0% (1) 0.0, -1.38	46% (61) 3.7, -0.11					

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-2 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Gaskin Myles	38% (122) 3.5, -0.15	59% (27) 4.3, -0.04	50% (2) 4.0, -0.21	0% (1) 0.0, -0.60	41% (152) 3.6, -0.14
Johnson Duke	47% (55) 4.9, 0.00	88% (8) 6.6, 0.40	50% (4) 0.8, 0.11		52% (67) 4.9, 0.06
Ahmed Salvon	30% (37) 2.4, -0.27	17% (12) 2.8, -0.22			27% (49) 2.5, -0.26
Lindsay Phillip	46% (35) 3.1, -0.23	50% (2) 4.0, -0.19			46% (37) 3.2, -0.23
Brown Malcolm	50% (18) 3.9, -0.14	50% (10) 4.1, -0.13			50% (28) 4.0, -0.13
Tagovailoa Tua	60% (15) 3.4, -0.42	44% (9) 5.8, -0.68	0% (3) -0.7, -0.83		48% (27) 3.7, -0.55

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

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

	ssing by		sing by	Throw Types		QB Drop Types		QI	B State at	Pass	Rur	Types
	verage cheme	Route		Level 1 56% (451) 5.9, 0.10		3 Step	54% (211) 6.1, 0.06	Planted		% (446) 9, 0.11	Inside Zone	47% (150) 3.7, -0.09
	0.70( (0.77)	Curl	55% (77) 6.1, 0.06			0/1 Step	47% (125)	Moving		3% (95) 8, 0.12	Outside	35% (71)
Zone	37% (375) 7.0, -0.12	Slant	60% (68)	Level 2	46% (93) 8.2, 0.00	ол осер	5.3, -0.10	Shuffling	1	2% (71) 2, -0.25	Zone	3.1, -0.38
		Olani	7.3, 0.31		35% (40)	5 Step	49% (105) 7.9, 0.18		Play Action		Power	44% (63) 4.3, -0.01
Man	39% (212) 5.7, 0.03	Out	70% (67) 7.3, 0.42	Level 3	12.0, 0.25	7 Step	57% (28) 9.8, 0.29		Play Action	No P/A	Stretch	60% (10) 3.1, -0.05
	3.7, 0.00		38% (29)	Shovel	55% (11)	D i d		Under Center	50% (40) 6.5, 0.08	44% (16) 6.0, 0.03		· · ·
	5.40( (00)	Dig	6.8, -0.22		1.9, -0.37	Designed Rollout Right	50% (12) 3.8, 0.06	Shotgun	52% (174)	47% (425)	Pitch	50% (8) 2.9, 0.19
Other	54% (26) 4.1, 0.49	Drag	52% (25) 4.9, -0.07	Sidearm	50% (2) 4.5, 0.21	Basic Screen	44% (9) 5.6, -0.18	ALL	7.8, 0.16 52% (214) 7.6, 0.14	5.8, -0.17 47% (441) 5.8, -0.16	Lead	25% (4) 0.3, 0.05

#### MIA-6

Jacoby Brissett (MIA) 80% pressure rate (first) on 59 dropbacks Tua Tagovailoa (MIA) 76% pressure rate (fourth) on 67 dropbacks

---

Matthew Stafford (LAR) 43% pressure rate (41st) on 119 dropbacks Tom Brady (TB) 41% pressure rate (42nd) on 59 dropbacks

Stafford had nearly the same number of dropbacks of 3.5+ seconds as both Miami quarterbacks combined. Yet despite the volume difference, look at where he and Brady rank in pressure rate on these dropbacks.

What happens for the Dolphins if that pressure rate is greatly reduced in 2022? Tua ranked second in success rate when throwing without pressure on dropbacks with 3.5+ seconds. He ranked fifth in completion rate and 14th and 17th (above average) in YPA and EPA/att, respectively.

Where did the 49ers rank last year? When Jimmy Garoppolo wasn't pressured on 3.5+ second dropbacks, the 49ers offense ranked first in EPA/att, third in success rate, and fifth in YPA.

The 49ers' offense is not one that looked to have the quarterback hold onto the ball for a long time. But they had great designs when those plays were called. I expect something similar for the Dolphins in 2022.

I predict the 2022 Dolphins will see less than a 33% pressure rate on early down passes (fifth-highest) like the 2021 Dolphins did.

We know we have improved players at receiver and offensive line. I predict with those players, their strengths, and the scheme improvements we'll see better receiver separation and better pass protection.

What else can I predict for the 2022 Dolphins offense?





More YAC, MUCH MORE,

Take a look at this unreal stat:

Since 2019 Jimmy Garoppolo ranks first in the NFL in yards/att (8.4)...

But...

42nd out of 43 qualified quarterbacks in air yards/att.

How is this possible?

His YAC/completion is 6.8, by far best in the NFL

In fact, for four straight years, the 49ers rank first in yards after the catch per reception.

The coach who, along with Kyle Shanahan, helped build that offense? None other than Mike McDaniel, the Dolphins' new offensive architect.

So where did the Dolphins rank in YAC/reception last year?

1. San Francisco - 6.6 yds/reception

\_\_\_

31. Miami - 4.3 yds/reception

Those rankings stay the same if we expand for the last three years combined.

Once again, the one of the easiest predictions I'll make this year: the Dolphins will have much more YAC in 2022 than they've had in any of the prior three seasons. Everything ties together. More separation from receivers makes it easier to create yards after the catch.

Before we talk about Mike McDaniel, let's discuss arguably the biggest flaw in my view of Brian Flores in his tenure, and that was the inability to make a decision about an offensive strategy.

Look at this record, by year:

2019 - Chad O'Shea (first time OC)

2020 - Chan Gailey (retired after 2016 at age 64, returned for just the 2020 season at age 67)

2021 - co-coordinators George Godsey & Eric Studesville (never officially revealed who did what)

(cont'd - see MIA-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Miami Dolphins 2021 Draft Class

Miami essentially punted on the 2022 draft class a year ago, when it traded up for both **Jaylen Waddle** and **Liam Eichenberg**, and then further sold off picks in the **Tyreek Hill** trade.

Channing Tindall (third round) adds depth at inside linebacker and could potentially push Elandon Roberts for playing time. Tindall's strength is his coverage ability, which is a critical trait for linebackers and defensive backs in the Miami defense given their tendency to blitz at a high rate.

Erik Ezukanma (fourth round) is a big target at 6-foot-2 and knows how to use his size to his advantage. He brings a valuable skill set to Miami to complement Hill and Waddle.

In his three years as a starter at Texas Tech, Ezukanma generated a catch rate 6% above expected, based on route-adjusted metrics. He was also surprisingly productive after the catch for a bigger receiver, picking up 12% more YAC than expected.

**Cameron Goode** (seventh round) typically played on the edge in Cal's 2-4-5 defensive formations. He might be too small to be a pure edge-rusher in the NFL, but due to Miami's tendency to blitz, Goode may be able to carve out a role as a situational pass-rusher.

Miami's depth on the edge is lacking, so Goode should find a roster spot so long as he demonstrates some versatility and special teams production in training camp.

Skylar Thompson (seventh round) will compete to be the third quarterback behind Tua Tagovailoa and Teddy Bridgewater.

Although he'll be a 25-year-old rookie, Thompson is an interesting developmental prospect due to his combination of accuracy and mobility.

Thompson's route-adjusted on-target rate was 10% above expected in 2021 and 5% above expected over the last three years combined.

Miami took a questionable approach to the draft this year and came away with a class unlikely to contribute in any meaningful way. Although the Rams are another team notorious for trading away early-round picks, Los Angeles regularly stocks up on late-round picks as a way to continue adding depth to the roster. Cleveland is another example of a team that did not use a first or second-round pick, but made trades to recoup that value and made eight selections in total. A four-man draft class is a risky decision, especially when one of the four is a third-string quarterback unlikely to ever see the field. Over the last two years, Miami has added just 11 draft picks to the roster. That said, each prospect selected was added in a spot where the value was strong and Tindall, Ezukanma, and Goode will provide some depth in key areas.



#### Miami Dolphins 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

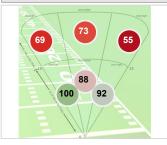
Miami was right around league average in the passing department last season, ending the season 19th in expected points added via their passing offense (44.6 EPA). **Tua Tagovailoa** saw improvement across the board from his rookie numbers but was still saddled with working in a suboptimal environment. Tagovailoa worked behind the league's worst offensive line, ranking last in ESPN's Pass Block Win Rate and last in Pro Football Focus grades. This forced Miami to go into a heavy RPO passing game and played a role into Tua's 7.4-yard average depth of target (33rd) and 6.8 yards per pass attempt (32nd). Miami has gone all-in on finding out what they have in Tagovailoa as he will get to work with a new set of pass catchers, and a few offensive line upgrades in a system that has maximized efficiency for passers, especially after the catch. Miami pass catchers provided just 4.6 yards after the catch per completion for Tagovailoa in 2021, 30th in the league.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk	
Tua Tagovailoa	262	387	68%	2,645	6.8	15	10	19	89	25	
Jacoby Brissett	141	224	63%	1,283	5.7	5	4	19	78	38	
<b>NFL Avg</b> 64% 7.0 88.6											

	2021 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 %		
Tua Tagovailoa	50%	54%	30	8.0%	11	3.0%	5.5	4.6				
Jacoby Brissett	47%	49%	15	7.0%	3	1.0%	5.5	3.6				
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3				

# Target Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10

# Tua Tagovailoa 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%	2.9%		1.8%							
6 - 9	0.0%	1.9%	5.1%	0.0%	3.1%							
10 - 14	2.9%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%							
15+	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%		4.2%							
Total	2.6%	1.5%	3.6%	0.0%	2.5%							

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Tua Tagovailoa	6.7	9.1	2.2	59%	11					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

	Air Y	Air Yds vs YAC									
ond	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk								
ı	54%	46%	17								
	53%	47%									

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Jaylen Waddle was a success as a rookie. Waddle set the record for receptions in a season (104) by a rookie this past season. Despite Waddle's success, the Dolphins still ranked just 18th in success rate (51%) and 28th in yards per target (6.8 yards) when targeting their wideouts in 2021. Waddle collected 28 more targets than the next closest Dolphin while he was targeted on a team-high 23.8% of his routes as a rookie. With a lack of explosive playmakers on the roster, Miami focused on re-tooling this unit. The team traded away <code>DeVante Parker</code>, while going out and adding speed in <code>Tyreek Hill</code> and <code>Cedrick Wilson</code>. Wilson averaged 9.9 yards per target in 2021 (15th among wide receivers).

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwoo	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS% Rk	TDs
Jaylen Waddle	142	73%	7.1	86.4	58%	28	31	94	30	6
Mike Gesicki	111	66%	7.0	80.9	54%	52	19	81	21	2
DeVante Parker	73	55%	7.1	86.3	51%	80	100	54	47	2
Myles Gaskin	63	78%	3.7	103.3	46%	113	109	138	1	4

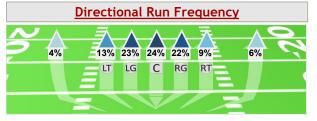


#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Miami was 30th in rushing EPA (-45.5 points) in 2021 while also ranking 30th in success rate (44%) and 31stt in yards per carry (3.5) on the ground. Inserting Mike McDaniel as head coach was the first domino in establishing a run game in Miami, while they also went out and added **Chase Edmonds** and **Raheem Mostert** via free agency. Edmonds has been highly efficient, averaging 5.7 yards per touch in each of the past three seasons. This past year, Edmonds logged 68 zone runs for 394 yards (5.8 YPC) while also handling 59 RPO carries for 323 yards (5.5 YPC). Mostert has familiarity with the scheme, carrying the ball 284 times for 1,610 yards (5.7 YPC) with 11 rushing scores in the regular season during his tenure with the 49ers.

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	173	3.5	42%	83	65	9	90	42%	76	3
Duke Johnson	71	4.6	49%	50	13	75	62	51%	33	3
Salvon Ahmed	54	2.8	30%	92	79	90	82	25%	92	0

# Yards per Carry by Direction 5.1 3.9 3.6 3.2 3.3 3.6 5.2 LT LG C RG RT



#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Fantasy Fallout: Tyreek Hill Traded to the Dolphins

Hill posted his lowest depth of target (10.4 yards) and yards per target (7.8 yards) since his rookie season while his yards per route run and yards generated after the catch per reception were the lowest of his six-year career. The question above will be is Hill in a true decline, or was his usage massively altered in approach to how teams were forced to defend the Chiefs and Hill.

Even with the reduction of Hill's efficiency, he still closed 2021 as the WR6 in points per game, his fifth consecutive WR1 campaign. Despite scoring fewer times from long range, he still scored 12 times in 20 games this season, giving him seven or more offensive scores in every season of his career. Hill has benefited from attachment to Patrick Mahomes and the elite Kansas City climate, but he also has been an effective pass catcher no matter who has thrown him the football.

Going back to his second NFL season, Hill was the WR5 in fantasy points per game playing with Alex Smith, ranking third in the NFL in yards (670) and touchdowns (six) on throws 15 yards or further downfield that season. Through 21 starts, **Tua Tagovailoa** has four QB1 scoring weeks with just two inside of the top-10. Miami has already added offensive linemen **Connor Williams** and **Terron Armstead** to their line to go along with offensive assets in **Chase Edmonds**, **Raheem Mostert**, and **Cedrick Wilson**, while Tagovailoa will get to work with Mike McDaniel in a system that maximized efficiency for passers. That is all in addition to having **Jaylen Waddle** and **Mike Gesicki** as stayovers from the previous regime.

While Tagovailoa is trending up, there is still a tough barrier to crack as a fantasy QB1. Tagovailoa will be a coveted QB2 at minimum, even if failing to crack into that elite tier of fantasy assets. The team target share will remain high for Hill, but the biggest concern for fantasy more so than a change in quarterback is the offensive ideology that McDaniel may be bringing over. Over the past four seasons with Mahomes in Kansas City as the starter and McDaniel as part of the 49ers, the Chiefs (fourth in the league) have run 314 more passing plays than the 49ers (28th).

Even if McDaniel can scheme up Hill's efficiency rebounding, we are unlikely to track down those 159 targets we had a year ago. The spike in efficiency needs to be on par with what we had early in Hill's career if Miami is going to run a similar scheme. Even if dinging Hill in this move, he will remain in the WR1 conversation for fantasy. The same cannot be said for his new teammate in Jaylen Waddle. Waddle collected 28 more targets than the next closest Dolphin (Gesicki) while he was targeted on a team-high 23.8% of his routes as a rookie. We also do not know how this impacts Waddle's true role change.

Waddle set a new record for receptions in a season (104) by a rookie while being asked to operate as a near the line of scrimmage asset due to the position the Miami offense was forced into due to their offensive line and surrounding playmakers. Waddle turned those receptions into a modest 1,015 yards (9.8 yards per catch) with an average depth of target of 7.0 yards, managing just 12 targets all season 20 or further yards downfield. With Hill now on board to compromise Waddle's overall target share and potentially stunt his growth downfield, Waddle has added volatility as a WR2 option, especially in non-PPR formats.

W	iami Dolphi	ns Defense:	Number of	Def Tendencies			Surrendered +Success Map				
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		%	Rk	50		
1-1 [3WR]	26 plays (6%) Success: 54%	174 plays (42%) Success: 50%	199 plays (48%) Success: 35% EPA: -0.13	70 IXK		70 111		70 TXX		KK	40 -
1-1 [0411]	EPA: 0.15	EPA: -0.04				Base	35%	2			
1-2 [2WR]	74 plays (62%) Success: 51%	29 plays (24%) Success: 38%	16 plays <i>(13%)</i> Success: 19%	1 plays (1%) Success: 0%	120 plays (100%) Success: 43%	Nickel	33%	32	30 -		
	EPA: 0.11	EPA: -0.16	EPA: -0.13	EPA: -1.44	EPA: 0.00	Dime+	29%	1			
2-1 [2WR]	31 plays (54%) Success: 61% EPA: 0.28	17 plays (30%) Success: 41% EPA: 0.00	5 plays <i>(9%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -1.00	4 plays (7%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.83	57 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: 0.12	Rush 3	7%	8	20 -		
	2 plays (67%)	1 plays (33%)	2171. 1.00	2171.0.00	3 plays (100%)	Rush 4	54%	32	10 -		
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 0% EPA: -1.34	Success: 100% EPA: 1.78			Success: 33% EPA: -0.30	Rush 5	28%	4			
Grand	133 plays (22%)	221 plays (37%)	220 plays (37%)	15 plays (3%)	592 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	11%	2	0		
	Success: 53% Succ	Success: 48% Suc	Success: 33% EPA: -0.15	Success: 47% EPA: 0.33	Success: 44% EPA: -0.03	Blitz%	39%	2	-10		

#### **Defensive Outlook**

Christian Wilkins was second among defensive tackles in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate. He was also sixth at the position in pressure rate, according to SIS. The pass rush improvement was significant in Year 3. He had 4.5 sacks against 3.5 combined in his previous two seasons and 13 quarterback hits after seven combined from 2019-2020. The Dolphins will likely try to extend the 2019 first-round pick. Zach Seiler and Raekwon Davis rotated around as the other interior defenders and the line ranked 10th as a team in Run Block Win Rate. The Dolphins re-signed Emanuel Ogbah this offseason, keeping him through 2025. Ogbah has been a productive pass rusher in his two seasons with Miami, putting up 18 combined sacks and 45 quarterback hits. With Miami's defensive scheme, he's the primary full-time pass rusher that gets the benefit of some of the exotic pre-snap looks and simulated pressures. He was 28th in pressure rate among edge rushers last season. Jaelen Phillips was a first-round pick in 2021 but the rookie had some struggles while he played 54% of the defensive snaps. Phillips ranked 63rd among 102 qualified edge rushers in pressure rate last season. He's still in line to develop and the scheme should open up more pass rush opportunities.

Andrew Van Ginkel is the Dolphins' defensive scheme personified for the front seven. Van Ginkel rushed on 63.2% of his pass snaps, per SIS, and ranked seventh among defensive ends/linebackers with at least 200 pass rushes. Jerome Baker has been a key in the middle of the Miami defense and he signed a three-year extension that will keep him on the roster through 2024. Baker's play in the middle allows the Dolphins to rely so heavily on using defensive backs — no team played more dime than Miami in 2021 (29.1%). Baker has been a plus in coverage, though had some ups and downs this past season, coming in about average among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. Elandon Robers, a 2016 sixth-round pick from the Patriots, was the No. 2 linebacker and played well when he was on the field. Roberts was 15th among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. Roberts allowed Baker to move outside when multiple linebackers were on the field. Rookie third-round pick Channing Tindall did a little bit over everything at Georgia as a plus athlete with great coverage skills, tackling, and blitzing ability.

2021 was an up-and-down year for the Miami secondary. **Xavien Howard** had s rough start but ended ranked 36th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. **Byron Jones** did not quite have that bounceback and ranked 84th among 93 qualified corners. There is little concern about those two starting on the outside, though both spent a decent amount of time in the slot last season. What's more interesting is what's developed for the No. 3 corner. **Nik Needham**, a 2019 UDFA, has taken over that spot and the Dolphins placed a second-round tender on him as a restricted free agent this offseason. He's been able to play the slot and ranked 11th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Needham has outplayed former first-round pick **Noah Igbinoghene**, who only got into seven games last season and played just 7% of the overall defensive snaps. In a league that has shifted to two-high shells, few teams relied on single-high more than the Dolphins. Miami has a single-high shell on 52% of its defensive snaps (eighth) and played single-high coverage 54% of the time (sixth). That put a lot on 2021 second-round pick **Jevon Holland**, but the rookie played extremely well in that role. Holland had 10 passes defensed playing the deep safety but also showed versatility with seven quarterback hits. Holland's ability to play deep opened things up for **Brandon Jones** and **Eric Rowe**. With all three safeties on the field, the Dolphins allowed just 4.81 yards per play on those 182 snaps. Rowe has bounced between slot corner and safety. Jones, a 2020 third-round pick, was a force in the box with 10 quarterback hits and six tackles for loss

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	62%
All Pass Rk	7
All Rush %	38%
All Rush Rk	26
1 Score Pass %	63%
1 Score Pass Rk	3
2020 1 Score Pass %	59%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	10
2021 Pass Increase %	4%
Pass Increase Rk	5
1 Score Rush %	37%
1 Score Rush Rk	30
Up Pass %	58%
Up Pass Rk	10
Up Rush %	42%
Up Rush Rk	23
Down Pass %	69%
Down Pass Rk	1
Down Rush %	31%
Down Rush Rk	32

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	denci	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %
1st	Short (1-3)	7	29%	71%	57%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	11	64%	36%	55%
	Long (8-10)	312	51%	49%	50%
	XL (11+)	13	85%	15%	46%
2nd	Short (1-3)	47	40%	60%	66%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	93	65%	35%	47%
	Long (8-10)	101	70%	30%	45%
	XL (11+)	33	70%	30%	30%
3rd	Short (1-3)	48	60%	40%	60%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	68	88%	12%	44%
	Long (8-10)	27	89%	11%	41%
	XL (11+)	28	86%	14%	4%
4th	Short (1-3)	8	50%	50%	50%
Dwn	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	100%

Shotg	gun %
Shotgun	Under Center
84%	16%
NFL	AVG
65%	35%
=	



#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Effici	iency		2
EPA/	EPA/	Run Freq	Rı R
-0.06	0.12	58%	2
EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:		2
-0.18 Success:	-0.14 Success:	Pass Freq	Pas Ri
38%	37%	42%	4

	<u>2n</u>	d and Sh	ort Run	
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
58%	29	71%	67%	73%
	<u>2nc</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass	
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg

46%

29%

		Most	Frequent Play		
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Duke Johnson	3	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	DeVante Parker	2	0%
	. ,	RUSH	Myles Gaskin	2	50%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Myles Gaskin	65	38%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Myles Gaskin	2	50%
	, ,		Jaylen Waddle	2	50%
			Mike Gesicki	2	0%
			DeVante Parker	2	50%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Myles Gaskin	13	69%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Jaylen Waddle	13	62%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Jaylen Waddle	16	56%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jaylen Waddle	7	43%
		RUSH	Myles Gaskin	7	29%
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	Jaylen Waddle	7	71%
Dwn		RUSH	Tua Tagovailoa	7	43%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Jaylen Waddle	22	55%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Jaylen Waddle	4	50%
	- ' '		Mike Gesicki	4	75%
			DeVante Parker	4	50%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jaylen Waddle	7	14%

<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: 48%	Success: 54%	Success: 49%
	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.10	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.05
	Rtg: 82.3	Rtg: 94.0	Rtg: 85.0
	[Att: 143 - Rate: 21.8%]	[Att: 41 - Rate: 6.3%]	[Att: 184 - Rate: 28.1%]
Yes	Success: 46%	Success: 51%	Success: 48%
	YPA: 5.5, EPA: -0.19	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.07
	Rtg: 79.0	Rtg: 98.2	Rtg: 86.3
	[Att: 298 - Rate: 45.5%]	[Att: 173 - Rate: 26.4%]	[Att: 471 - Rate: 71.9%]
Total	Success: 47%	Success: 52%	Success: 49%
	YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.16	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.06
	Rtg: 80.1	Rtg: 97.3	Rtg: 85.9
	[Att: 441 - Rate: 67.3%]	[Att: 214 - Rate: 32.7%]	[Att: 655 - Rate: 100.0%]

				<u> </u>	eekly Sn	aps Play	<u>ed</u>			
Wk	Орр	Score	Jaylen Waddle	Mike Gesicki	Durham Smythe	Myles Gaskin	DeVante Parker	Adam Shaheen	Albert Wilson	Mack Hollins
1	NE	W 17-16	43	21	38	29	45		22	7
2	BUF	L 35-0	47	47	22	45	55	20	41	16
3	LV	L 31-28	73	55	34	43	64	28		24
4	IND	L 27-17	41	36	21	12	47	20	25	2
5	TB	L 45-17	43	42	36	37		21	12	14
6	JAC	L 23-20	65	49	58	25			23	68
7	ATL	L 30-28	61	60	29	46		51	3	39
8	BUF	L 26-11	65	67	29	40	63	41	2	4
9	HOU	W 17-9	65	59	45	54		36	17	60
10	BAL	W 22-10	61	56	41	42		38	38	13
11	NYJ	W 24-17	55	51	51	53		46	38	22
12	CAR	W 33-10	55	59	66	37			35	19
13	NYG	W 20-9	53	46	42	44	49		40	9
15	NYJ	W 31-24		45	65	26	63		41	13
16	NO	W 20-3	58	49	51	20	46	19		11
17	TEN	L 34-3	57	47	41	15	58	19		12
18	NE	W 27-24	61	39	47	7	49	33	24	7
	Grand '	Total	903	828	716	575	539	372	361	340

Perso	nnel (	Group	ings
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-2 [2WR]	61%	21%	48%
1-1 [3WR]	28%	61%	45%
1-3 [1WR]	6%	4%	40%
0-2 [3WR]	2%	0%	43%
Group	ing Te	<u>enden</u>	cies
			_
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ %
Personnel		Succ.	Succ
	Rate	Succ.	Succ.
1-2 [2WR]	Rate 56%	Succ. % 52%	Succ. % 43%

Red Zone 1	argets	Leader	board	
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Jaylen Waddle	15	4	4	7
Mike Gesicki	11	2	2	7
Mack Hollins	8	4	1	3
DeVante Parker	6	2		4
Preston Williams	4	2	1	1
Isaiah Ford	3	1	1	1
Salvon Ahmed	3			3

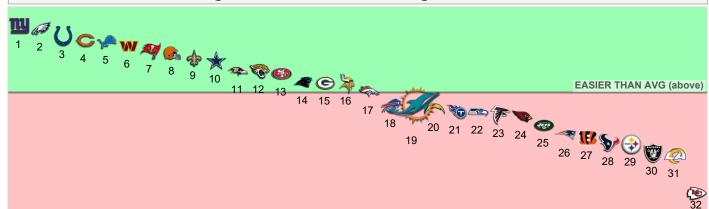
Red Zone F	<u>kusnes</u>	Leage	rboar	<u>a</u>
Rusher	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Myles Gaskin	32	8	12	12
Duke Johnson	9	4	2	3
Tua Tagovailoa	9	5		4
Malcolm Brown	7	4	2	1
Jacoby Brissett	3	3		
Salvon Ahmed	3		1	2
Durham Smythe	1			1
Jaylen Waddle	1	1		

Early [	own Targe	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
17%	32%	51%
23%	21%	56%
23%	NFL AVG	0070
/-		
/-	NFL AVG	
Overall	NFL AVG  Target Su	ccess %





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



Talk about a motley crew of playcallers.

In 2019, the offense was terrible under Fitzpatrick and O'Shea. It was bottom-10 and O'Shea was fired after one year.

In 2020, Gailey came back solely due to his relationship with Ryan Fitzpatrick, having called plays for him previously. However, there was no preseason due to COVID, and Gailey called it his most difficult season ever calling plays in the NFL.

In 2021, no one knew who was going to call plays for the Dolphins even a week before the start of the season. Flores wasn't providing the direction, and eventually it was decided that Studesville would call plays to start the year. The offense floundered, so at some point Godsey took over playcalling.

Moving through these four different offensive coordinators in a three-year span is going to cause problems. It lacks a clear plan, shows little confidence in the picked playcallers, and makes life harder on a young quarterback.

If there is one priority for a coaching staff with a young quarterback, it should be to not harm his development. But it's hard to see how any development has been helped in Miami. Because of that, I don't know if there is a bigger lightning rod quarterback in the NFL than Tua.

The quarterback has gotten much of the blame for offensive struggles, and while some of it was fair, most of it was absolutely unfair.

Let's think about this from Tua's perspective for a moment.

He suffered a catastrophic hip injury that ended his college career. Then COVID occurred, so he was forced to rehab during COVID and learn an offense from a 67-year-old retired OC who was designing the offense for his old buddy Fitzpatrick.

There was no way that Tua could get any reps as the team was trying (with limited practice time) to get Fitzpatrick ready for the season. Flores then told Gailey the team would be starting Tua coming out of the bye in Week 8, and Gailey couldn't believe it, saying: "I was in total shock. We didn't even have a preseason. It was a totally new offense (for Tua)."

Sure enough, Gailey didn't make many changes in the offense when Tagovailoa became the starter. They just ran Gailey's offense that was designed for Fitzpatrick.

It should have come as no surprise his rookie season was a struggle. Heading into 2021, Tagovailoa finally had a healthy offseason and could take all of the QB1 snaps in camp. But he had no clue who his offensive coordinator was going to be, even two weeks before the season. The coordinators changed up playcalling duties during the season, throwing the quarterback off even further.

Tagovailoa suffered rib fractures at the beginning of Week 2, missing most of that game and the next three games (the Dolphins went 0-4 in those four games), only to return for two losses by three points or fewer before fracturing the middle finger on his throwing hand in a Week 8 loss to the Bills.

His No. 1 receiver missed seven games. His receivers had the worst separation in the NFL. He played behind the NFL's worst offensive line by multiple metrics.

And the numbers in these two seasons are all we have to judge Tua.

Yet despite the ribs and finger not being healed for most of the season, Tua's numbers were excellent in his first full season as an NFL starter.

On deep passes in 2021, Tua ranked.

First in EPA/att
First in success rate & comp %
First in YPA

These were tremendous strides from 2020.





Tagovailoa also saw big improvements in nearly every stable QB metric, including:

- passing without pressure (for example, an increase from 0.08 EPA/att in 2020 to 0.21 in 2021)
- passing on standard drops
- passing from the pocket
- first down passes in the first three quarters
- passing when planted
- layup throws

Where he was worse in 2021 was on less stable quarterback metrics, such as passing when pressured, when outside the pocket, when being blitzed and when moving.

He was better, and substantially so, when passing with play-action and passing on third and fourth downs. Still, out of 40 QBs in these seven "less stable quarterback metrics" Tagovailoa ranked above average in all but two.

In terms of accuracy, this is where Tua was at his best and even better than 2020. He ranked eighth in overall accuracy last year. He ranked first in accuracy on throws of 1-10 air yards.

When he wasn't pressured, he ranked sixth in accuracy.

This dropped to 33rd of 38 quarterbacks when he was pressured. But we shouldn't be judging quarterbacks too harshly when they are pressured. After all, Aaron Rodgers ranked 38th of 38 last year in accuracy when pressured, and Tom Brady was 35th of 38. The plan is to build a good enough line to not be pressured frequently and to get the ball out before pressure comes and not to pass frequently when under pressure.

Passing when the defense thinks you might run is ideal, and that occurs on early downs.

Last year, on early downs when not pressured, Tua led the NFL in accuracy.

His accuracy helped him and the Dolphins significantly in the red zone.

He delivered the best success rate in the NFL inside of the red zone, and even if you rule out run plays, he ranked second in red zone p

And this all was done with rib and throwing finger fractures amidst all the other limitations of the 2021 Dolphins offense.

So where does Tua need to improve? His ranks, by year, on third down:

2020: 36th in EPA/att, 35th in success rate, 36th in YPA 2021: 25th in EPA/att, 20th in success rate, 28th in YPA

The good news is the 49ers' Garoppolo ranked sixth in third down conversion rate last year. In fact, Jimmy G ranks fourth in third down conversion rate in the last four years combined.

We already know Tua can be quite accurate. But with better offensive designs on third down, just imagine what the Dolphins offense can do.

Shifting from one of the worst to one of the best third down offenses? That alone could change an offense, particularly when you consider that 21% of the Dolphins' plays were third downs, fifth highest rate in the NFL? I think it could be exciting to watch.

Another thing that will be intriguing will be the rate of shotgun for Tua. Last year, he used it on 89% of his early down snaps, which ranked sixth-highest out of 42 quarterbacks. With the 49ers and Garoppolo, McDaniel used it only 71% (24th).

When Tua was under center on early downs in the first three quarters, he ranked 29th in EPA/att, 36th in success rate and 37th in YPA. Compare that to when he was in shotgun, where he ranked 12th in EPA/att and 11th in success rate. I'll be interested to see the frequency McDaniel asks Tua to pass from under center, the concepts they dial up, and how efficient those are.

So where are we at?

We have better receivers, better linemen, and better, more consistent coaching.

We're predicting more receiver separation and more YAC.

We've got a quarterback who likely is better than what most have been giving him credit for after his one full season as a starter.

While I think Tua leading this offense will surprise you, he and his new weapons can't do it alone. He needs more support from the run game.

Last year, thanks in part to the terrible offensive line, the run game was abysmal.

The Dolphins ranked 30th in rushing efficiency last year.

On early down runs in the first three quarters, they ranked 30th in rushing success, 31st in yards per rush, 28th in first downs per rush and 25th in EPA/rush. They ranked 26th in yards before contact per rush (more of an O-line stat) but their backs still ranked 29th in yards after contact per rush.

On running back runs only, on all downs, all game long, they ranked:

#### <u>MIA-10</u>



32nd in yards after contact per rush 31st in success rate and first downs per rush 30th in YPC 29th in EPA/att

In 2021, the Dolphins offense switched to a very heavy 12 personnel offense.

2020: 55% 11 personnel, 28% 12 personnel 2021: 28% 11 personnel, 61% 12 personnel

This helped Tagovailoa when passing from heavy, but the problem was they couldn't run from those personnel packages. In fact, they couldn't run from 11 either.

RB runs from 12: -0.23 EPA/att, 3.6 YPC, 28% success (272 att) RB runs from 11: -0.15 EPA/att, 4.3 YPC, 38% success (58 att)

The 272 attempts from 12 personnel? By far the most in the NFL. No other team had more than 172 (Dallas). The Dolphins had 100 more attempts!

Like in 2020, Tagovailoa was better when passing from 12 personnel, which will be interesting to see how McDaniel chooses to deploy the offense in 2022. The Dolphins added so many more wide receivers this offseason, which is at direct odds with the way the 49ers offense had been built, with a strong fullback, tight end. and fewer on-field wide receivers.

What else is to like about the Dolphins in 2022? Only the fact that the 2021 Dolphins weren't winning by being lucky. They went 1-3 in games decided by a field goal and 4-3 in games decided by one-score. They were even in turnover margin and while they ranked fourth in fumble luck, they ranked fourth-worst in field luck

So after we've shared a ton to like about the 2022 Dolphins, what isn't to like?

For starters, the schedule. Last year the Dolphins played the fifth-easiest schedule. This year, it drops to the 14th hardest. Last year, the Dolphins went 2-5 against teams that made the playoffs and 3-6 against teams that finished with a winning record.

I'll also note the Dolphins led the NFL in play-action rate last year, using it on 36% of all dropbacks, thanks in part to the RPO-heavy approach. The 49ers nave always had a high usage rate as well, but never that high (it was 28% in SF last year). The had massive splits using play-action, and was successful with it. He used it on 57% of early down passes in the first three quarters, which was first in the NFL (Garppolo was down at 40%, ranked 19th). I'll be curious to see if McDaniel incorporates more play-action into Tua's game in 2022 or reduces it more to levels he was using in San Francisco.

While we've seen the Dolphin's new offensive system spread around the league, this is the first real branch of the Kyle Shanahan coaching tree to get a head coach position, so we have yet to see how a Year 1 historically translates. Shanahan himself went 6-10 with the 49ers in Year 1 after the team went 2-14 the year before hiring him.

Both Shanahan and Sean McVay worked under Mike Shanahan.

McVay went 11-5 with the Rams in Year 1 after the team went 4-12 the year before hiring him.

McVay's assistant, Matt LaFleur, went 13-3 with the Packers in Year 1 after the team went 6-9-1 the year before hiring him.

McVay's assistant, Zac Taylor, went 2-14 with the Bengals in Year 1 after the team went 6-10 the year before hiring him.

So with the exception of Taylor, all of these teams won more games the year after they took over. On average, they won 4.7 more games in their first year. But all of them took over teams that won only six games or fewer. The Dolphins have produced winning records for two straight seasons.

Then there is Shanahan himself, commenting on McDaniel, saying, "he's really good at what he does... He's one of the smartest coaches I've been around and he's been huge to our team and huge for me throughout my entire career."

What there is to like simply overwhelms the concerns for this team in 2022. Tua must continue his development, but he's better than most people think. The front office is doing a great job and has a solid plan to win with a young quarterback. Tua is only in Year 3, but this team seems to have on paper, for the first time in his career, a solid supporting cast and a good enough offensive line and defense to win games and actually make a playoff run.

The biggest impediment is completely out of their control – the presence of Josh Allen on the Bills, and the rest of the stacked AFC. I don't know if two teams can make it out of the AFC East with how strong the AFC West and North will be this year.

No team plays a more brutal opening month than the Dolphins when you consider the added difficulty of a Thursday night game: Patriots, at Ravens, Bills, and at Bengals on Thursday night. It's the third-hardest schedule in the NFL based purely on opponents. Miami has three different seasons in 2022:

Third-most difficult schedule from Weeks 1-4: NE, @BAL, BUF, @CIN Easiest schedule from Weeks 5-12: @NYJ, MIN, PIT, @DET, @CHI, CLE, HOU Fifth-most difficult schedule from Weeks 13-18: @SF, @LAC, @BUF, GB, @NE, NYJ

If they can split the first four games and the last six games, they're at 5-5. And they're favored in six of seven games in the middle of the season, with the Browns in Week 10 TBD. It will be exceedingly tough to make the playoffs if they win only one of the first four games and only two of the last six. They have to come out the gates fast and ready to play a brutal first month. I'll be rooting for Tua to shock some people this fall.

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

01. Games w Halftime Lead	I. Games w Halftime Lead 8 02.		0.0	03. Wins	9	
Pre-Sr	nap	Motion (Quarters	1-3)			
36. PSM YPA			6.6			
37. PSM Target Depth		5.8				
38. Non-PSM YPA		5.9				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth		6.7				
40. PSM Pass Success Rate		54%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success	Rate		54%			

0.05

-0.08

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)							
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	47%						
45. PA Success Rate	50%						
46. PA YPA	7.1						
47. PA Sack Rate	1.9%						
48. PA EPA/att	0.06						
49. PA Target Depth	6.8						
50. Non-PA Success Rate	52%						
51. Non-PA YPA	5.5						
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	5.8%						
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.07						
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.7						

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	50%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.4
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	36%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.5
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	41%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.7

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)								
Net FROE Rk	4	defFUM	20					
Net FROE	3.6	defFUM Rcvrd	8					
offFUM	29	defFR Rk	1					
offFUM Rcvrd offFR%	17 58.6%		00.00/					
offFR Rk	14	defFR%	60.0%					
offFROE	0.0	defFROE	3.6					
offFROE Rk	14	defFROE Rk	3					

Field Goal Luck							
-3.33	Opp Att	37					
29		31					
		84%					
		29.76					
25.09	Opp Make Over Expectation	1.24					
-2.09	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	16					
	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-1.84					
4.41	2020 Opp Rk	30					
	-3.33 29 31 23 74% 25.09 -2.09 31 4.41	-3.33 29 Opp Att Opp Makes 31 23 Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes 25.09 -2.09 31 Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Opp Make Over Exp.					

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs						
	Tua Tagovailoa	Jacoby Brissett				
CAY	5.1	5.1				
CAY Rk	29	29				
2020 CAY Rk	28					
AYTS Rk	28	13				
2020 AYTS Rk	24					
AGG Rk	1	3				
2020 AGG Rk	6					
COMP%	67.8	62.7				
xCOMP%	66.9	65				
xCOMP% Rk	7	22				
2020 xCOMP% Rk	14					
CPOE%	0.9	-2.4				
CPOE Rk	10	27				
2020 CPOE Rk	30					

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 Box35. Total Defensive Efficiency

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

QB P	ressure	
	Tua Tagovailoa	Jacoby Brissett
Pressure %	32.5	44.8
Pressure Rk	23	1
Sack %	4.7	7.3
Sack Rk	31	9
Pressure Accuracy %	63.4	72.2
Pressure Accuracy Rk	20	3
Rating when Pressured	54.8	61.5
Pressured Rating Rk	32	27
Clean Accuracy %	79.2	77
Clean Accuracy Rk	15	27
Rating when Clean	103.3	88.7
Clean Rating Rk	15	30
Time to Throw	2.52	2.83
Time to Throw Rk	36	13

31

29

23

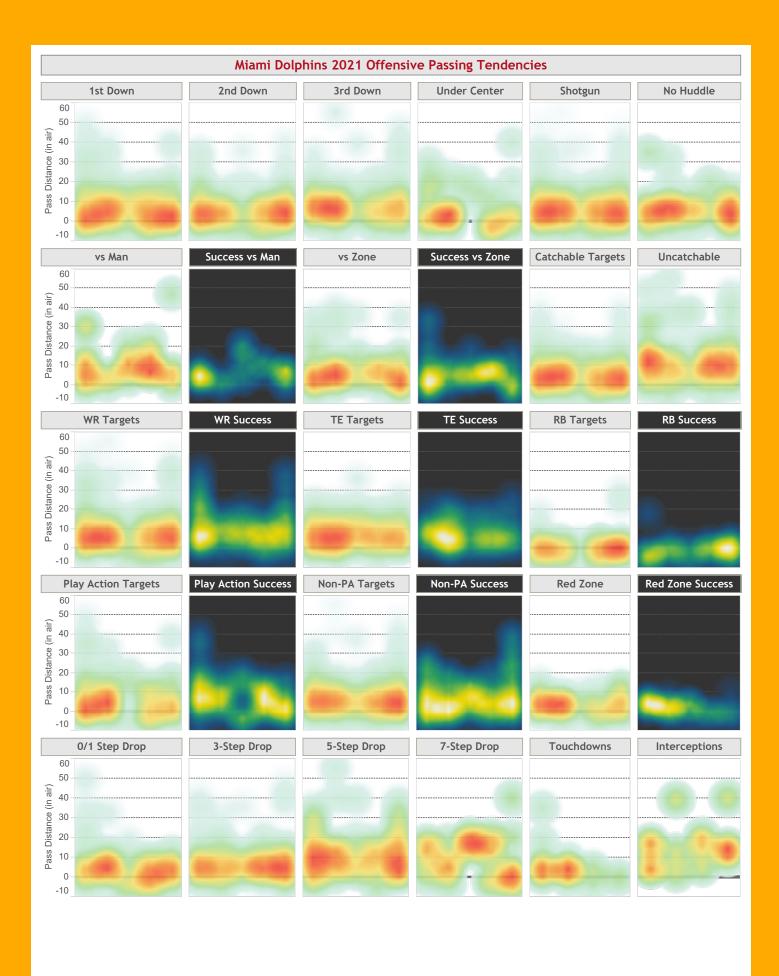
18

10

42. PSM EPA/att

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

Metrics		
-0.06		
20		
-0.16		
32		
88.6%		
25		
5.7%		
17		
1.8		
32		
12.7%		
18		
19.7%		
30		



#### Dolphins Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Tua Tagovailoa	0.21 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	-0.10 (#3)	0.10 (#1)	0.12 (#2)
	Jacoby Brissett	0.03 (#4)	-0.19 (#4)	-0.18 (#4)	-0.10 (#4)	-0.18 (#4)	-0.14 (#4)	0.03 (#4)
2020	Ryan Fitzpatrick	0.15 (#2)	0.19 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.28 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	0.03 (#3)	0.19 (#1)
	Tua Tagovailoa	0.08 (#3)	-0.14 (#3)	-0.09 (#3)	0.04 (#3)	0.02 (#2)	0.09 (#2)	0.06 (#3)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Tua Tagovailoa	-0.66 (#4)	0.01 (#2)	0.18 (#1)	0.02 (#2)	-0.16 (#1)	-0.04 (#3)	-0.06 (#4)
	Jacoby Brissett	-0.50 (#3)	-0.08 (#3)	-0.06 (#4)	-0.37 (#4)	-0.18 (#3)	-0.23 (#4)	0.01 (#3)
2020	Ryan Fitzpatrick	0.10 (#1)	-0.49 (#4)	0.13 (#2)	-0.03 (#3)	-0.17 (#2)	0.10 (#2)	0.14 (#1)
	Tua Tagovailoa	-0.41 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	0.02 (#3)	0.05 (#1)	-0.31 (#4)	0.15 (#1)	0.05 (#2)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Tua Tagovailoa	79% (#2)	86% (#1)	55% (#4)	65% (#1)	68% (#4)	82% (#1)	80% (#1)	70% (#2)	82% (#1)
	Jacoby Brissett	73% (#3)	77% (#4)	59% (#3)	50% (#3)	71% (#2)	73% (#4)	73% (#2)	56% (#4)	78% (#3)
2020	Ryan Fitzpatrick	80% (#1)	84% (#2)	70% (#1)	65% (#2)	84% (#1)	78% (#2)	66% (#3)	75% (#1)	82% (#2)
	Tua Tagovailoa	73% (#3)	79% (#3)	61% (#2)	46% (#4)	69% (#3)	74% (#3)	58% (#4)	68% (#3)	74% (#4)

## Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.18 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.20 (#1)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.15 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.96 (#2)	-0.15 (#2)
2020	-0.07 (#1)	-0.11 (#1)	-0.20 (#1)	-0.15 (#1)	-0.15 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.11 (#1)	-0.09 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.01 (#1)

#### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass %	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
2021	28	4	23	29	12	20	15	8	3	19
2020	18	9	8	24	17	22	25	19	11	25

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	4	19	16	7	6	2	23	1	1
2020	31	29	28	21	32	31	29	19	18

#### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	14	19	13	31	20	17	20	1	25
2020	9	25	26	20	27	25	31	1	1

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs) 2022 Forecast **Minnesota Vikings Head Coach**: Wins **Div Rank** Kevin O'Connell (LAR OC) (new) Offensive Coordinator: #2 8.5 Wes Phillips (LAR TE) (new) **Defensive Coordinator: Past Records** Ed Donatell (DEN DC) (new) 2021: 8-9 Hard Easy 2020: 7-9 2019: 10-6 GB BUF DAL GB IND PHI ARI NO MIA ΝE WAS CHI NYG DET DET NYJ 2 8 10 11 12 15 16

Key Players Lost								
Player	New							
Anthony Barr (LB)	TBD							
Tyler Conklin (TE)	Jets							
Michael Pierce (IDL)	Ravens							
Mason Cole (C)	Steelers							
Xavier Woods (S)	Panthers							
Sheldon Richardson (IDL)	TBD							
Rashod Hill (RT)	TBD							
Nick Vigil (LB)	Cardinals							
Dede Westbrook (WR)	TBD							
Mackensie Alexander (CB)	TBD							
Dakota Dozier (LG)	Bears							
Everson Griffen (EDGE)	TBD							
Luke Stocker (TE)	TBD							
Tashawn Bower (EDGE)	Raiders							
Wayne Gallman (RB)	TBD							
Chad Beebe (WR)	Texans							
Jordon Scott (IDL)	TBD							

MNF

Rest Edge:

# Christopher Herndon IV (... TBD

Average	# Games	# Games
Line	Favored	Underdog
-0.5	9	5

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

Forecast 2022 Wins

2021 Wins

Forecast 2021 Wins

2020 Wins

2019 Wins

2018 Wins

#### 2022 Minnesota Vikings Overview

TKG

+3

The 2021 Vikings were a wise guy favorite. Usually, when guys I work with in the betting groups like a game, we all move on it. That's because each of us are long-term winning bettors who have either a knack for finding mispriced lines and value or are first to spot teams that may be better or worse than expected. But in the case of the 2021 Vikings, I couldn't bring myself to do it. I couldn't bet on this team to go over their 8.5-win total in

I've had a great read on the Vikings for several years. I was on their over in 2019 which hit and their under in 2020 which likewise hit.

In 2021, after winning on the under in 2020, my guys and I both knew Minnesota was due for some positive regression in some key metrics. In 2020 they were:

- -17 in sack margin (down from +20 in 2019)
- -4 in return touchdown margin (down from +2 in 2019)

+4

- -1 in turnover margin (down from +11 in 2019)
- -5.7 (32nd) in field goal luck, own minus opponent makes over expectation (down from fourth in 2019)

The 2020 Vikings played in 10 games decided by one-score and won just six, which is better than 50/50 but still not anything to write home about. Their defense in 2020 was horrendous and they added a number of free agents, particularly in their secondary. They had Mike Zimmer to work with this defense and new secondary pieces, and wise guys loved Mike Zimmer for years. They shifted from Gary Kubiak to his son, Klint Kubiak to call the offense.

#### Combine all those factors together, and the wise guys couldn't help (cont'd - see MIN2) Lineup & Cap Hits ROOK A.Booth 71 73 75 19 18 72 56 LWR LG RG *RT* B.O'Neill J.Jefferson 17 C.DarrisawE.ClevelandG.Bradbury 84 A.Thielen SLOTWR I.Smith 2022 Cap Dollars NEW = New to role (or started < 50% of games last year)

#### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

SAT

-7

Player	AAV (MM)
Za'Darius Smith (EDGE)	\$14
Harrison Phillips (IDL)	\$6.5
Jordan Hicks (LB)	\$5
Jesse Davis (RT)	\$3
Chris Reed (LG)	\$2.29
Chandon Sullivan (CB)	\$1.8
Johnny Mundt (TE)	\$1.2
Albert Wilson (WR)	\$1.10
Nate Hairston (CB)	\$1.10
Austin Schlottmann (LG)	\$1
Andre Mintze (LB)	\$0

#### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	32	S - Lewis Cine (Georgia)
2	42	CB - Andrew Booth Jr. (Clemson)
_	59	OG - Ed Ingram (LSU)
3	66	LB - Brian Asamoah (Oklahoma)
4	118	CB - Akayleb Evans (Missouri)
5	165	DE - Esezi Otomewo (Minnesota)
3	169	RB - Ty Chandler (North Carolina)
_	184	OT - Vederian Lowe (Illinois)
6	191	WR - Jalen Nailor (Michigan State)
7	227	TE - Nick Muse (South Carolina)

#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	14	\$109.05M	18
QB	5	\$34.35M	3
OL		\$29.56M	28
RB		\$15.56M	16
WR	16	\$23.51M	20
TE	30	\$6.07M	30
All DEF	21	\$89.22M	11
DL	21	\$40.41M	20
LB	5	\$23.49M	1
СВ	30	\$12.39M	20
S	17	\$12.93M	16

#### MIN-2

but back their old friend Mike Zimmer's squad and go over their win total.

But I was steadfast that I didn't want to partake for a couple primary reasons.

First, their run rate. I wasn't convinced that Klint Kubiak would shift enough to the pass, even though he wasn't from the run-first football generation like his dad. Aside from having the defensive-minded Zimmer as head coach, it never made sense for the Vikings to be so run heavy — particularly not when they spent a ton on Kirk Cousins and fully guaranteed his contract. Why pay Cousins at the third-highest average salary in 2018 but use him to just hand the ball off a ton? But matters were made worse in 2020 when they drafted wide receiver Justin Jefferson and he turned out to be an immediate impact stud.

Sometimes, a team can increase its pass rate but still not pass enough because while technically "more" passing was done, the efficiency gained from passing as compared to running is much better. By still running at a relatively high rate, a team can still hurt itself in general. That was my fear for the 2021 Vikings. As I wrote in last year's book:

"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

Before last season I anticipated this might happen. There would be slightly more passing, but still far too much running.

Second, I also didn't love what we were hearing last offseason with regard to the tight end usage. That seems like an odd thing to focus on when looking at betting a team win total, but I had my reasons. As I wrote in last year's book:

"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. But Mike Zimmer came out in June and said Irv Smith Jr. 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."

This statement gave me massive cause for concern. Hear me out:

2021 Passing Performance											
1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn									
53% 7.8 98.3	48% 7.2 106.1	37% 7.6 103.9	Success Rate YPA Rating								
49%	54%	83%									
54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating								
49%	59%	76%									
	1st Dwn 53% 7.8 98.3 49% 54% 7.4 93.9	1st Dwn         2nd Dwn           53%         48%           7.8         7.2           98.3         106.1           49%         54%           54%         47%           7.4         6.9           93.9         90.4	1st Dwn         2nd Dwn         3rd Dwn           53%         48%         37%           7.8         7.2         7.6           98.3         106.1         103.9           49%         54%         83%           54%         47%         37%           7.4         6.9         7.2           93.9         90.4         88.1								

	2021 Rushing Performance											
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn									
MIN	47% 4.3	42% 4.0	38% 5.5	Success Rate YPC								
Run Rate	51%	46%	17%									
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC								
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%									

No team used less 11 personnel than the 2020 Vikings when passing. When passing the ball, Minnesota used 11 personnel on just 33.7% of snaps, ranking dead last. The NFL average was 69%. No other team was close. The second-lowest team in usage was the Cleveland Browns, at 45.5%, over 10 percentage points higher than the Vikings.

Instead, what the Vikings loved to use was heavier sets to pass from, and their preferred heavy set to pass from was 12 personnel. When passing, the Vikings used it at a 26.5% clip, which ranked fifth in the NFL.

These were the only two groupings they passed from at a 20%+ clip. Look at the difference in efficiency between them in 2020:

2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

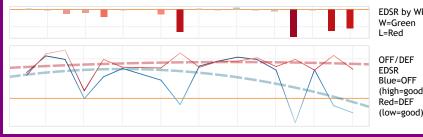
17

Pass Efficiency Def

Pass Pro Efficieincy Def



<u>2</u>	02	<u>1 W</u>	<u>/ee</u>	<u>kly</u>	<b>EDSF</b>	<u> </u>	eas	on	Tre	<u>enc</u>	ling	Pe	<u>rfo</u>	rma	anc	<u>e</u>
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
_	_	w	_								L					
CIN	ARI	SEA	CLE	DET	CAR	DAL	BAL	LAC	GB	SF	DET	PIT	CHI	LAR	GB	CHI
Α	Α	Н	Н	Н	Α	Н	Α	Α	Н	Α	Α	Н	Α	Н	Α	Н
-3	-1	13	-7	2	6	-4	-3	7	3	-8	-2	8	8	-7	-27	14
24	33	30	7	19	34	16	31	27	34	26	27	36	17	23	10	31
27	34	17	14	17	28	20	34	20	31	34	29	28	9	30	37	17



2021 Close Game **Records** All 2019 Wins: 8

18

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-4** FG Games Win %: **33% (#18)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 25% (#14)

OPP PTS Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 6-8 Score Games Win %: 43% (#21) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 75% (#4) OFF/DFF **EDSR** Blue=OFF (high=good)

# 2021 Critical/Game-

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

RB Pass Eff Def

(cont'd - see MIN-3)

14 14

**Explosive** 

<u>Deciding Stats</u>									
TO Margin	+11								
TO Given	13								
INT Given	7								
FUM Given	6								
TO Taken	24								
INT Taken	16								
FUM Taken	8								
Sack Margin	+21								
Sacks	51								
Sacks Allow	30								
Return TD Margin	+1								
Ret TDs	2								
Ret TDs Allow	1								
Penalty Margin	-18								
Penalties	111								
Opponent Penalties	93								

5

10

20

25

30

WFFK **RESULT** 

OPP

SITE MARGIN

PTS

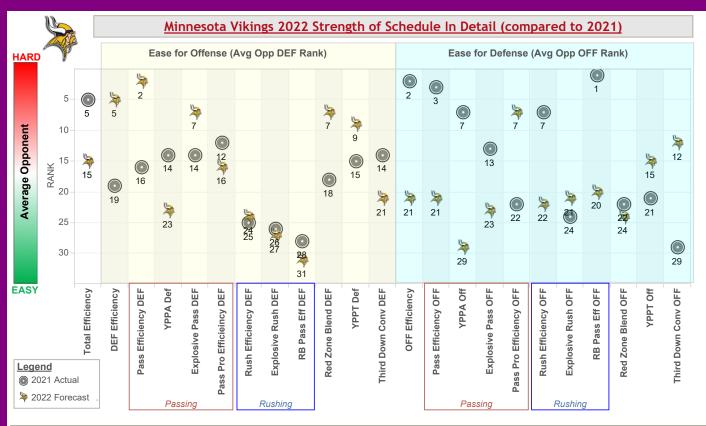
21 22

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

30

**EDSR Def** 

Rank 15



	2022 vs 2021 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	12	17	19	29	26	30	31					

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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>	22 C	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	sion	2021	Орр	oner	nts b	y Div	/isio	<u>n</u> <u>H</u>	ealth	ı by l	Jnit*				
					2021	20	20	2019				,,,								_			2021	Rk	21
	Ave	erage li	ine		-0.1	-0	0.3	-3.7	NF	CN			3 (C	$\ni$		NFCN		> Y	<b>)</b>	$\ni$			2020	Rk	16
	Avera	ige O/L	J line		48.3		).9	43.7				•						•				20	21 v 20	)20 Rk	16
		nt Up R			8-9		-9	10-6									_	_				-	Off F		21
		e Spre			9-8 11-6	-	10 )-6	8-7 9-7	AF	CE	500	1			ys .	AFCN	14	<b>≥</b> ][	7 (	<b>6</b> (	ntes				
,		nder R			4-4		7-0 -7	9-7 6-4			**	- sheet-											Def F	Rk	19
		s Unde			5-4		-3	2-3			Δ						_				_		QB F	Rk	15
		ht Up I			5-3	3	-5	6-2	NF	CE		Щ	le le	₹ 7/	<b>77</b>	NFCW	1	<b>2</b>	<u> </u>	<b>2</b> ) (	<b>F</b>		RB F	?k	15
		S Hon			4-4	2	-6	4-3					<b>.</b>	_	_										29
		Jnder I			4-4		-1	4-4			2 6												WR I		
		Home I			2-2		-6	3-3	AF	cs	()	1				AFCW	15	-					TE F	Rk	32
		a Hon		3	2-2 3-6		-0 -4	1-0 4-4									-	•					Oline	Rk	3
		ht Up Δ ΓS Awa			5-6 5-4		-4 -4	4-4 4-4															Dline	Rk	28
		Under			7-2		-5	5-3	NE	cs	ල්දු					NFCE	~	7					LBF		13
		way Fa			2-2		-1	3-1	1	-	\$2					111 02		1							
		Away			3-2	3-	-3	1-3															DB F	Rk	6
		Tease			13-4	-	-7	13-2	NE	cw	T.					NFCS		7				**	2	n the w	auls of
		nt Teas			14-3	-	-6	14-2	141	CVV		•				141 03								nı ine w II Outsi	
Ter	Point	Tease	r Rec	ord	16-1		-4	15-1															TOOLDA	iii Outsii	1613
					<u>20</u>	22 V	Veek	ly Be	ttin	g Lir	<u>nes</u>						Home Li				<u>ines</u>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1	3	5	8	11	12	13	15	16
GB	PHI	DET	NO	CHI	MIA	ARI	WAS	BUF	DAL	NE	NYJ	DET	IND	NYG	GB	CHI	2			-1	0	-1.5		0	
																	GB	-6.5	-6	ARI	DAL	NE NE	-4.5	Áva	= -2.5
+2.0	+2.5	-6.5	-1.0	-6.0	+3.0	-1.0	+0.0	+7.5	+0.0	-1.5	-4.5	-2.0	+0.0	-5.0	+5.5	-1.5		DET	CHI				NYJ		NYG
																		DE!						1	
								M. ros																	
Avg	A.F				G.			Δ							$\overline{}$					Roa	ad Li	nes			
Avg =	-0.5	Н	A	H	A		<b>W</b>	A	#	dt.	Н	A	<i>(H</i> )		Avg	= -0.5	2	4	6	9		10	14	17	18
		''	4	''						4		Y		-11				4	•	9		10	14	17	10
		s /									Jegs	•		Ш							7	.5			
		1															2.5		3			UF		5.5 Avg	= 1.8
0	m	2	2	2	_	2	2	2	0	2	m	2	2	_	2	OI.	PHI	-1	MIA				-2	GH.	-1.5
49	48	47.	45.	46.	47	49.	46.	49.	49	45.	48	47.	48.	47	45.	42		NO		WA	S		DĒT		CHI





11 personnel: -0.06 EPA/att, 7.0 YPA, 44% success 12 personnel: 0.14 EPA/att, 7.9 YPA, 58% success

You might jump up and down and argue it's not fair to include third downs because they're more likely to be 11 personnel and fail and you're right. But early downs only? It's even worse for 11 personnel:

11 personnel: -0.13 EPA/att, 6.8 YPA, 50% success 12 personnel: 0.16 EPA/att, 8.2 YPA, 60% success

I was sitting here looking at this data last offseason and I was not liking what I was seeing or hearing. They didn't like Irv Smith Jr.? No one delivered a higher EPA/play for the Vikings from 12 personnel than Smith, and aside from Jefferson and **Adam Thielen**, Smith's 1.20 EPA/target was the best on the Vikings roster in 2020. Tyler Conklin wasn't close.

My concern was obvious. I believed with less Smith, we'd not just see less 12 personnel, we'd also see less efficiency from 12 personnel when the Vikings used it. 12 personnel was Minnesota's offensive savior in 2020, and the odds it would save them in 2021 were not looking great.

Finally, the Vikings had a brutal draw from the NFL in the rest and prep department.

No one analyzes this element of the schedule in the depth that I do, clearly not even the schedule makers.

The NFL doesn't control WHO you play. That's determined automatically as soon as the final game of the prior season ends. But they do control WHEN you play those teams. That's entirely up to their discretion. Every year, though they will say they don't, they screw some teams and help others.

They screwed the 2021 Vikings. Minnesota had the fourth-worst "net rest edge" of any team. They also ranked fourth-worst in my "prep and rest" rankings. What does that mean? I detail them out for every team in their chapter. And in last year's chapter, last July, I showed:

Minnesota would play five games against opponents who had over a week to prepare for them, but just one game when their opponent had less than a week to prepare for them.

Minnesota would play four games with a rest disadvantage.

Their bye week would be negated.

So that was my case. My friends bet the over. I passed. The line moved, as it does anytime our guys bet something.

We know what happened obviously. The Vikings started off 1-3, losing those three games by 1, 3 and 7 points. They lost back-to-back games coming out of their bye week and sat at 3-5 entering Week 10 with only nine games remaining. They would need to win six of nine to finish with nine wins and go over the win total. They won just five of their remaining games and finished the season 8-9.

I know anyone who bet the over 8.5 was agonizing over every loss last year for the Vikings. Almost every game they played was a one-score, close game. They went 6-8 in those games.

That was Mike Zimmer for you. He played slow and conservative and allowed worse teams to keep games close. And if he was down, he pulled the blinders off and let his horses run wild, efficiently throwing the ball around the yard and getting back into games.

Over the last two years, no team has played more one-score games than the Vikings (24). Their record in those games? A perfectly average 12-12 (.500).

While the Vikings didn't have ideal luck in these one-score games in 2021, they did get lucky in a couple of other areas that helped:

The 2021 Vikings were +11 in turnover margin, up from -1 in 2020.

The 2021 Vikings were +21 in sack margin, up from -17 in 2020.

The 2021 Vikings went +0.12 in field goal luck (net field goals over expectation), up from -5.7 (32nd) in 2020.

The 2021 Vikings were third in fumble luck (fumble recovery over expectation), recovering a full four more fumbles than expected.

(cont'd - see MIN-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Minnesota Vikings 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 16 13 17 22

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- Head coach Kevin O'Connell led the league with 86% of offensive plays in 11 personnel, whereas the Vikings only used 11 personnel on 47% of plays. The 2021 Vikings were not efficient in 1-1 formations as the 44% success rate was below league average. The Vikings are better suited for formations with two wide receivers and receiver depth could be an issue if Adam Thielen can't remain healthy.
- The offensive line has been on the list requiring an upgrade for several seasons. The interior of the line is a position of concern heading into 2022. After finishing with the eighth-lowest Pass Block Win Rate an immediate improvement from the offensive line is not certain.
- The Vikings finished 2021 with a +10-turnover differential, the fifth-highest in the league. Regression is likely as the team finished third in fumble luck recovering four fumbles over expectation. The Vikings also benefitted in interceptions, as Cousins reduced his turnovers from 13 in 2020 to seven in 2021. The Vikings are unlikely to finish with a double-digit turnover differential in consecutive seasons.

8.5



#### Why Bet the Over

- The Vikings outgained opponents by a narrow margin, averaging 5.70 yards/play while giving up 5.66 yards per play however were outgained on first downs as the defense gave up 5.96 yards/play. The defense was abysmal on first down allowing the highest success rate of passes and rushes. The defensive line had the fifth-highest adjusted games lost to injury, per Football Outsiders, which likely exacerbated the first down metrics. The addition to the defensive line of Za'Darius Smith, Harrison Phillips, and the return of Danielle Hunter should help with both the run and pass.
- The Vikings have the eighth-largest improvement in strength of schedule in 2022. Facing the 10th-hardest schedule of opponents in 2021, eight of the Vikings' nine losses were by eight points or fewer. A slightly easier schedule could help reduce the number of losses in one-score games.
- Kirk Cousins had the fourth-lowest percentage of inaccurate passes and had a positive completion rate over expected 2021. The Vikings' offense also benefits from Cousins's ability to avoid mistakes as he had the fourth-lowest percentage of dropbacks resulting in a sack or interception. A new head coach may be able to help this offense become a top-10 unit.

Minnesota Vikings Positional Unit Rankings											
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach					
13	26	6	9	20	26	28					

The Vikings roster appears to be built to create shootouts, with most of its talent concentrated at the offensive skill positions. Minnesota landed at 13th or 14th on every ballot at quarterback. There's a strong consensus that **Kirk Cousins** is slightly above average, but not in the top tier of quarterbacks. As always, with a good supporting cast he'll be productive, but he's probably not the type who is going to carry the team to victories.

We're still high on **Dalvin Cook**, but there were some signs he may be slowing down. When Cook was contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage, he averaged 0.6 yards per carry, which ranked dead last. Additionally, 82% of his yardage came on attempts where he was provided at least two untouched yards, the league's highest rate. Elite ball carriers don't rely on that offensive line to such a high degree.

**Justin Jefferson** and **Adam Thielen** provide Minnesota with one of the most reliable duos at wide receiver, but a lack of depth holds the unit back. There weren't any meaningful additions this offseason, so the team appears to be hoping **K.J. Osborn** can elevate his production in his third season.

The Vikings' offensive line will likely start five players drafted in the first or second round since 2019. The key to the unit's development could be **Christian Darrisaw**'s ability to improve in pass protection. Darrisaw ranked 25th out of 34 left tackles in pressure rate allowed.

Minnesota generated pressure at a strong 33.5% rate when **Danielle Hunter** was on the field last season. If he's healthy, the front seven should be fine — but he's played just seven games over the last two years. If **Za'Darious Smith** can also return to full strength after missing almost all of the 2021 season, it's possible we've underrated this unit. **Patrick Peterson** and **Harrison Smith** should provide some stability for the secondary, but neither is playing at their peak. The success of this unit will ultimately be determined by rookies **Lewis Cine** and **Andrew Booth**, who will immediately be thrust into pivotal roles.

Immediate expectations for Kevin O'Connell are limited, with votes ranging from 24th to 30th. This has the potential to be a difficult first-time job — with most of Minnesota's key players over the age of 30, O'Connell will have to navigate the team through significant changes in the next year or two.

#### <u>MIN-4</u>

If all that luck doesn't go their way... and that's a LOT of luck... they aren't even sitting at eight wins on the season.

But let's back up for a minute and discuss my concerns about this team. I had three concerns probably very few others had.

- 1. Even with the young Klint Kubiak, they still wouldn't pass enough and inefficiency in the run game would "prevent them from reaching their goals in 2021."
- 2. The loss of Kyle Rudolph and comments about Irv Smith would cause the Vikings to use 12 personnel less often and when using it, be less efficient.
- 3. The terrible rest situation.

Let's hit these points one by one and see what happened.

1. Too much inefficient running

In 2020, the Vikings passed the ball on 51.1% of early downs in the first three quarters. That ranked 26th in pass rate. I expected Klint Kubiak to pass more often in 2021. But I thought it wouldn't be enough.

Kubiak called passes on 53.1% of those early downs in 2021, a 2% increase. It still only ranked 18th and the offense was more run-heavy than the NFL average.

#### MIN-5

While Kubiak increased his pass rate by 2%, it would have taken an additional 2% to get it to the NFL average of 55% pass.

And as predicted, it wasn't enough. Minnesota's runs in 2021 were absolutely nowhere close to being as efficient as they were in 2020. Compare early down running back runs in 2020 vs. 2021:

2020: -0.03 EPA/att (fifth), 43% success (first), 4.9 YPC (sixth) 2021: -0.15 EPA/att (16th), 34% success (23rd), 4.2 YPC (18th)

Minnesota was a top-5 early down rushing offense in 2020.

In 2021 they became a below average early down rushing offense.

Now, although they were a top-5 rushing offense in 2020, ranking 26th in pass rate was still problematic because their early down passes gained +0.16 EPA/att, 53% success, and 8.6 YPA

Compare the two play types in 2020:

2020 early down runs: -0.03 EPA/att (fifth), 43% success (first), 4.9 YPC (sixth)

2020 early down passes: 0.16 EPA/att (ninth), 53% success (sixth), 8.6 YPA (fourth)

With these numbers, I have no idea why you'd want to be nearly 50/50 run pass and the 26th most pass-heavy offense in the NFL, but that's what Gary Kubiak was doing.

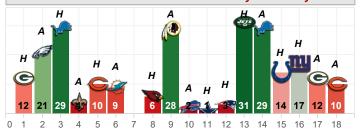
In 2021, the running numbers fell so far off from those in 2020 that merely passing the ball 2% more often (and still ranking a below average 18th) was absolutely not shifting to the pass enough. Not even close.

Passes in 2021 were less efficient under Klint Kubiak than they were in 2020

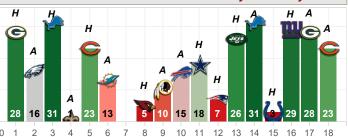
(cont'd - see MIN-6)



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



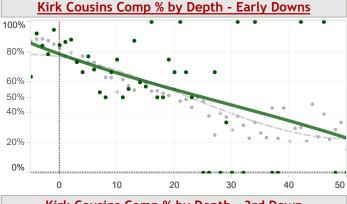
#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

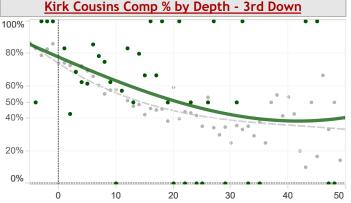


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>												
N.		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)						
	Dalvin Cook	4%	3%	77%	4%	12%						
	Alexander Mattison	3%	6%	78%	10%	2%						
	Justin Jefferson			83%		17%						
RUSH	Adam Thielen			100%								
2	K.J. Osborn			100%								
	C.J. Ham			71%	29%							
	Ameer Abdullah		14%	43%	43%							
	Total	3%	4%	77%	7%	8%						
	Dalvin Cook	4%	2%	90%	2%	2%						
	Alexander Mattison	15%	10%	72%	3%							
	Justin Jefferson	8%	11%	70%	4%	7%						
	Adam Thielen		3%	91%	6%							
	Tyler Conklin	13%	7%	75%	5%	1%						
PASS	K.J. Osborn	9%	6%	74%	2%	9%						
A	C.J. Ham	12%	18%	71%								
	Dede Westbrook	7%	7%	80%	7%							
	Ameer Abdullah	25%		75%								
	Chris Herndon	29%		57%		14%						
	Luke Stocker			100%								
	Total	8%	7%	77%	4%	4%						

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Jefferson Dede Westbrook Ameer Abdullah Chris Herndon Stocker Conklin Dalvin Cook Alexander Mattison Osborn Ham . . Adam <sup>-</sup> Luke Justin, **r**yler 자 그 **PASS** 0% RUSH 0% 2% 2% 33% 0% ALL





### Successful Play Rate

#### 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, 0.01 (368)	59%, 0.20 (82)	39%, -0.14 (67)	57%, 0.52 (14)	43%, 0.16 (54)	53%, 0.79 (15)	50%, -0.10 (4)	33%, -0.21 (6)	25%, -0.38 (4)	45%, 0.04 (630)
RUSH	45%, -0.01 (139)	44%, -0.01 (117)	50%, -0.08 (72)	43%, -0.25 (69)	100%, 0.83 (3)	29%, 0.10 (7)	100%, 1.25 (2)			45%, -0.07 (444)
All	44%, 0.01 (507)	50%, 0.08 (199)	45%, -0.11 (139)	46%, -0.12 (83)	46%, 0.19 (57)	45%, 0.57 (22)	67%, 0.35 (6)	33%, -0.21 (6)	25%, -0.38 (4)	45%, -0.01 (1,074)

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								
WR	Justin Jefferson	50% (108) 8.5, 0.21	74% (23) 14.3, 0.70	50% (14) 7.5, 0.08	50% (4) 14.8, 1.18	54% (149) 9.4, 0.30								
	Adam Thielen	57% (54) 8.1, 0.42	33% (15) 3.6, -0.67	38% (8) 6.9, 0.24	67% (3) 5.3, 0.93	51% (80) 7.0, 0.22								
	K.J. Osborn	49% (53) 8.0, 0.07	71% (7) 15.3, 0.85	17% (6) 1.5, -0.14	67% (3) 12.0, 1.43	49% (69) 8.4, 0.19								
TE	Tyler Conklin	41% (49) 5.9, <b>-</b> 0.06	88% (8) 15.5, 0.83	58% (12) 7.3, 0.24		49% (69) 7.3, 0.09								
RB	Dalvin Cook	38% (26) 5.5, -0.10	20% (5) 2.2, -0.41	38% (8) 3.8, -0.25	67% (3) 5.3, 0.39	38% (42) 4.7, -0.13								
	Alexander Mattison	40% (25) 5.6, -0.13	75% (4) 10.8, 0.43	29% (7) 3.0, -0.43		42% (36) 5.7, -0.13								
FB	C.J. Ham		69% (13) 8.8, 0.31			69% (13) 8.8, 0.31								

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	(Ecader Board)												
	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total								
Cook	50% (82)	44% (61)	46% (35)	42% (38)	46% (216)								
Dalvin	5.5, 0.08	4.2, -0.03	3.6, -0.16	4.9, -0.05	4.7, -0.02								
Mattison	38% (39)	48% (42)	43% (23)	57% (21)	46% (125)								
Alexander	2.8, -0.19	5.6, 0.11	2.0, -0.27	2.9, -0.18	3.6, -0.10								
Cousins	57% (7)	25% (4)	22% (9)	71% (7)	44% (27)								
Kirk	8.6, 0.46	0.8, -0.33	-0.7, -0.79	4.1, -0.06	3.2, -0.21								
Abdullah	33% (3)	33% (3)		100% (1)	43% (7)								
Ameer	4.3, -0.27	4.3, 0.07		4.0, -0.13	4.3, -0.10								
Ham C.J.	0% (1) 0.0, -0.81	0% (2) 0.5, -0.93	100% (2) 1.5, 0.73		40% (5) 0.8, -0.25								

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 Types		QB Drop	Types	QE	3 State at	Pass	Run Types			
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	48% (402)	3 Step	52% (209) 7.8, 0.29			50% (428) 8.1, 0.21		53% (91) 4.4, -0.07		
	2004 (442)	Curl	56% (62) 6.9, 0.18	Level	5.8, 0.00	5 Step	46% (129) Shuffling		E Ston		Shuffling 399 5.0		Outside	45% (80)
Zone	39% (412) 7.4, -0.01	Dig	50% (50)		63% (127)	3 отер	7.7, 0.13	Moving		0% (66) 8, 0.01	Zone	4.1, -0.19		
		Dig	7.9, -0.06	Level 2	12.4, 0.73						41% (71) 3.7, -0.09			
			60% (50)			5.5, 0.01	Play Action				0.7, 0.00			
Man	46% (152) 8.3, 0.25	Out	6.2, 0.39		33% (42)	7 Step	52% (50) 9.3, 0.23		Play Action	No P/A	Stretch	41% (51) 4.5, -0.12		
	0.0, 0.20		400/ (44)	Level 3	12.1, 0.24		9.0, 0.20	Under	53% (119)	% (119) 53% (116)		4.5, -0.12		
		Slant	49% (41) 7.6, 0.40			Designed	58% (38)	Center	9.4, 0.14	6.5, 0.04	Pitch	51% (41)		
	39% (35)		7.0, 0.40				9.9, 0.31	Shotgun	43% (21) 7.5, 0.15	41% (375) 7.0, 0.00	riton	5.8, 0.03		
Other	4.3, 0.11	Drag	50% (12) 5.7, 0.06	Shovel	0% (3) 3.0, -0.41	Basic Screen	47% (36) 6.1, -0.20	ALL	51% (140) 9.1, 0.15	44% (491) 6.9, 0.01	Power	36% (25) 3.1, -0.10		

#### <u>MIN-6</u>

under his dad (we'll get to that momentarily). But even so, the numbers are extremely compelling and paint the case to pass the ball much more than they were doing.

Unfortunately for Minnesota, give me a bingo as this prediction was right on the money.

2. Less 12 personnel, inefficient 12 personnel

We'll save you some suspense. Bingo.

Compare the efficiency rates AND the number of plays from 12 personnel in 2020 vs .2021 on early downs:

2020 12 personnel: 0.16 EPA/att, 8.2 YPA, 60% success (131 att) 2021 12 personnel: -0.05 EPA/att, 5.5 YPA, 41% success (64 att)

Remember Zimmer's comments in June about Irv Smith, Jr? How he didn't want to use him as much? Well, Smith tore his meniscus on September 1st and missed the entire season. Without both Rudolph and Smith, Minnesota wasn't able to use as much 12 personnel. The efficiency was terrible. I believe my fears would have come true even without the Smith injury due to Zimmer's opinions on the player, but his loss certainly made a bad problem worse.

The extra passes had to be distributed to another personnel grouping. But I didn't understand why Kubiak shipped them to 11 personnel.

For years, the Vikings had been solid when passing on early downs out of heavy personnel. It landed Kevin Stefanski the head coaching position in Cleveland. It worked for Gary Kubiak in 2020. And if you can't go 12 or 13 personnel to pass from on early downs, how about 21 personnel?

Examine the efficiency rates and number of passes:





2021 11 personnel: 0.07 EPA/att, 7.2 YPA, 51% success (228 att) <- up from 109 att in 2020 2021 21 personnel: 0.19 EPA/att, 10.1 YPA, 61% success (78 att) <- down from 98 att in 2020

These were early down passes. Not third down where you might trot out extra wide receivers. They lost their ability to use as much 12 personnel. Why decrease the amount of 21 personnel passes compared to 2020 when they were clearly tremendous? Why increase the amount of 11 personnel when it clearly wasn't efficient enough?

The shift to 11 personnel became even more perplexing when you layer on the context that Adam Thielen was lost for the season in Week 13. But look at the usage rates of 11 personnel on early downs:

11 personnel Weeks 1-13: 52% of all pass plays, 0.15 EPA/att, 7.7 YPA, 54% success

11 personnel Weeks 14-18: 59% of all pass plays, -0.15 EPA/att, 5.6 YPA, 37% success

Kubiak used 11 personnel MORE OFTEN without Thielen in the lineup than when Thielen was healthy.

And how did 21 personnel perform those final weeks of the season?

21 personnel Weeks 14-18: 0.30 EPA/att, 11.7 YPA, 60% success

Dominant. But Kubiak used it on just 19% of early down attempts, instead trotting out 11 personnel at over three times the rate despite not having Thielen.

I predicted the issues with 12 personnel. I had no idea that Kubiak would not take advantage of other heavy groupings and instead shift to heavy rates of 11 personnel even when one of the best receivers in the NFL was out. The efficiency from 11 was terrible and the Vikings had a perfectly good answer that was working really well when deployed.

#### 3. Rest concerns

Entering the season, the Vikings were scheduled to play four games with a rest disadvantage. Due to the Rams having a game rescheduled to a Tuesday the week before they played the Vikings, Minnesota played three games with a rest disadvantage.

They went 0-3 in these games, losing to the Lions, Ravens, and Packers.

Minnesota played five games where their opponent had over a week to prepare.

They went 1-4 in these games, beating only the Bears while losing to the Cowboys, Ravens, Lions, and Packers (overlap in a few of these games with the prior set).

Minnesota's bye week was negated as an advantage because their opponent, the Cowboys, had the same bye week. They lost to Dallas. Another bingo.

(cont'd - see MIN-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Minnesota Vikings 2022 Draft Class

In his first draft as GM, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah aggressively used his draft capital to trade down and acquire extra picks. This was a necessary approach to the draft, as the Vikings have many holes to fill but must work around **Kirk Cousins**'s massive contract, which represents the league's third-largest cap hit in 2022. Rather than select either **Kyle Hamilton** or **Trent McDuffie** — both players strongly linked to the Vikings prior to the draft — Adofo-Mensah's trades allowed the team to address both positions early with **Lewis Cine** (first round) and **Andrew Booth** (second round).

Cine gives the Vikings another versatile safety to pair with **Harrison Smith**. Although he mostly played a free safety role at Georgia — he lined up in the box on just 8% of his snaps versus the run — Cine is a reliable tackler and should be able to handle a more diverse role. Booth was a five-star recruit at Clemson who flashed elite skills but never fully met expectations at Clemson. In 2021, his play took a step backward and he allowed a catch rate 11% above expected based on route-adjusted data. When Booth was in man coverage last season (only 17% of his snaps), it did not go well — he allowed six receptions on 12 targets, including two touchdowns.

Booth also has a long history of injuries — he was unable to practice at mini-camp in May due to a recent hernia surgery — so he was a risky selection, despite the raw talent. If healthy, Booth should compete with **Cameron Dantizer** for a starting job on the outside.

**Akayleb Evans** (fourth round) could also factor into that competition. After four years at Tulsa, the 6-foot-2 Evans transferred to Missouri where he allowed a catch rate 7% below expected in 2021. Evans also benefits from having played 44% of his snaps in man coverage last season, which should make for an easier transition to Ed Donatell's defense. Last year in Denver, Donatell used man coverage at the league's third-highest rate.

The Vikings made a controversial decision to draft **Ed Ingram** (second round) who faced two felony counts of aggravated and sexual assault of a minor, stemming from incidents alleged to have occurred when Ingram was in high school. By drafting a player like Ingram — earlier than he was expected to be selected — Adofo-Mensah gave an indication as to the type of risk-taker he may be as a general manager. Off-field questions aside, Ingram adds depth to the Vikings interior offensive line and he will likely compete for the starting job at right guard.

Brian Asamoah (third round) will also have an opportunity to compete with Jordan Hicks for playing time and the team likely hopes he can replace Hicks by 2023. Hicks was signed to a two-year contract this offseason, but with little money guaranteed beyond 2022. Esezi Otomewo (fifth round) adds some depth to the defensive line and should be an ideal fit in Donatell's scheme. Last season with the Broncos, Donatell used just two down linemen on 70% of snaps. Otomewo's skill set compares favorably to Dre'Mont Jones, whose versatility along the defensive line made him a valuable asset for Donatell in Denver. The Vikings took some risks in this draft class — most notably Booth and Ingram — but Adofo-Mensah's aggressive trading allowed him to acquire extra picks to address multiple areas of need. Minnesota could have as many as three rookies starting in 2022 (Cine, Booth, Ingram) with others providing valuable depth.



#### Minnesota Vikings 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

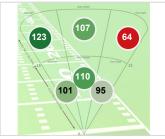
The Vikings ended 2021 10th in the NFL in expected points added via passing offense (130.7 EPA), ranking 13th in completion rate (65.9%), eighth in touchdown rate (5.6%), first in interception rate (1.2%), 10th in yards per pass attempt (7.4 Y/A), and 13th in yards per completion (11.2 yards). **Kirk Cousins** has always taken a lot of flack for his ceiling in altering a franchise, but he has been a steady producer. Cousins inked a one-year extension this offseason to move money around, all but ensuring that he is the starter for the Vikings over the next two seasons. With the hire of Kevin O'Connell this offseason, the Vikings also stand to run a more aggressive offense than in years past. O'Connell comes from a system that has ranked fourth in early-down pass rate (56.4%) in neutral game script over the past two seasons with O'Connell as offensive coordinator while Minnesota has ranked 26th (49.0%) over that same span.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk	
Kirk Cousins	371	556	67%	4,193	7.5	33	7	27	104	5	
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6		

2021 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	46%	51%	59	11.0%	20	4.0%	6.5	4.9			
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3			

# Target Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10 Kirk Cousins Rating

#### Kirk Cousins 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%	2.5%	0.0%	1.3%								
6 - 9	0.0%	1.8%	3.3%	0.0%	2.5%								
10 - 14	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%								
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%								
Total	1.4%	0.6%	1.7%	0.0%	1.2%								

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis								
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk			
Kirk Cousins	8.1	10.7	2.5	60%	7			
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%				

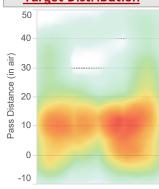
	Air Yds vs YAC								
nd	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	57%	43%	6						
	53%	47%							

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

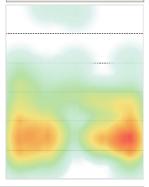
Minnesota has a true superstar on its hands in **Justin Jefferson**. While they inevitably will have to hand him a massive contract, the team has plenty of runway left in getting to that point. Justin Jefferson followed up an 88-1,400-7 rookie season in which he was the WR9 in points per game (17.1) to post 108-1,616-10 this past season. Adam Thielen averaged a career-low 10.8 yards per catch and will turn 32 this August, but he restructured his deal this offseason to stay as the team's WR2 for another season. **K.J. Osborn** chipped in a productive season in his second year in the league, catching 50 passes for 655 yards and seven touchdowns. We still do not know what we have in **Irv Smith Jr.** as he missed all of 2021 due to a meniscus injury.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dшоე	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Justin Jefferson	166	64%	9.6	110.8	55%	42	65	38	99	10
Adam Thielen	95	71%	7.6	119.0	51%	82	45	84	76	10
Tyler Conklin	87	70%	6.8	100.4	47%	106	120	109	77	3
K.J. Osborn	82	61%	8.0	99.4	46%	110	135	83	78	7

# Justin Jefferson Target Distribution



# Adam Thielen Target Distribution

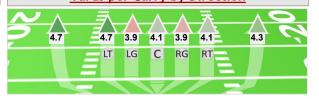


#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Minnesota was one of the worst rushing teams in the NFL in 2021 in terms of efficiency, despite their run-first offense. The Vikings closed the year 28th in the league in expected points added via rushing (-36.9 EPA) while ranking 17th in yards per carry (4.3 YPC). The offensive line here remains the offense's primary question mark. **Dalvin Cook** showed a little wear last season. Despite 1,383 yards from scrimmage, Cook averaged a career-low 4.9 yards per touch. The Vikings still have Cook signed through 2025. **Alexander Mattison** is in the final year of his rookie deal with Kene Nwangwu and Ty Chandler as young depth on the roster.

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	249	4.7	46%	71	66	69	11	47%	61	6
Alexander Mattison	134	3.7	44%	76	87	63	28	44%	72	3

#### Yards per Carry by Direction





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### The Offense Is Opening Up Under Kevin O'Connell, Who Outside Of Justin Jefferson Stands To Benefit?

Minnesota has been an offense we have been circling for fantasy production despite the fact that they were often playing handcuffed by an archaic offense approach. That is going to change now under Kevin O'Connell, providing a runway for an offense to reach new heights for fantasy. O'Connell comes from a system that has ranked fourth in early-down pass rate (56.4%) in neutral game script over the past two seasons with O'Connell as offensive coordinator while Minnesota has ranked 26th (49.0%) over that same span. This offense also stands to be a base 11 personnel team while providing opportunities for their backs to play in space.

This past season, Minnesota was 26th in the league in offensive plays with three or more wide receivers on the field (583) while the Rams were first (906). The Los Angeles backfield was not littered with target earners, but the combination of Darrell Henderson (104 routes) and Sony Michel (79 routes) ran 183 pass routes in the slot or lined up out wide. **Dalvin Cook** (35 routes) and **Alexander Mattison** (24 routes) combined for just 59 such routes. That can be a big aid in generating more explosive plays in the passing game from Dalvin Cook, who is coming off a career-low 2.6 receptions per game for just 6.6 yards per catch, never reaching that holy grail of 4.0 per game while they have dipped in each of the past two seasons from the season prior.

Being a base 11-personnel team also gives a path for **K.J. Osborn** to a be full-time player after catching 50 passes for 655 yards and seven touchdowns. Osborn ran a route on 78% of the team dropbacks last season and just 70.4% of the dropbacks when **Adam Thielen** was available. Osborn is set to receive the largest bump in playing time, while holding contingency value should Thielen continue to regress. Thielen's yards per route run and target rate per route run have all dropped from the previous season in three straight years. Thielen averaged a career-low 10.8 yards per catch, but he remained one of the best touchdown-or-bust fantasy options, scoring 10 times over 13 games before an ankle injury cut his season short. Thielen will turn 32 this August, leaving those gamers still holding him to hopefully make one more touchdown-driven ride into the sunset with him as a full-time player.

Minnesota also still has **Irv Smith** lingering here. We still do not know what we have in Smith Jr. as he missed all of 2021 due to a meniscus injury. Many had hoped it would be a breakout year for Smith in his third season with Kyle Rudolph leaving in the offseason, but now Smith enters the final year of his rookie contract with a lot to prove. Smith is still a puppy that took a step forward in Year 2, upping his yards per catch from 8.6 to 12.2 in 2020 while scoring five times after twice as a rookie.

Min	nesota Vikings	Defense: Num	nber of DBs vs	Personnel	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total	% Rk		DI:	50
1-1 [3WR]	28 plays (6%) Success: 39%			%		Rk 40		
[01114]	EPA: -0.28	EPA: -0.08	EPA: 0.26	EPA: -0.07	Base	34%	3	
1-2 [2WR]	65 plays <i>(76%)</i> Success: 55%	21 plays <i>(24%)</i> Success: 24%		86 plays (100%) Success: 48%	Nickel	63%	13	30
	EPA: -0.04	EPA: -0.18		EPA: -0.08	Dime+	3%	26	
2-1 [2WR]	25 plays (69%) Success: 44% EPA: -0.17	11 plays <i>(31%)</i> Success: 55% EPA: -0.14		36 plays (100%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.16	Rush 3	3%	21	20 –
	9 plays (75%)	2 plays (17%)	1 plays <i>(8%)</i>	12 plays (100%)	Rush 4	71%	17	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 56% EPA: 0.53	Success: 50% EPA: 0.11	Success: 100% EPA: 1.65	Success: 58% EPA: 0.55	Rush 5	22%	11	
Grand	127 plays (20%)	474 plays (75%)	32 plays (5%)	633 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	4%	21	0 –
Total	Success: 50% EPA: -0.08	Success: 46% EPA: -0.08	Success: 53% EPA: 0.30	Success: 47% EPA: -0.06	Blitz%	26%	14	-10

#### **Defensive Outlook**

The Vikings were one of the league's worst run defenses last season, 29th in EPA allowed per rush attempt. Enter **Harrison Phillips**, who ranked eighth in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate among defensive tackles with the Buffalo Bills last season. Phillips also ranked 30th at the position in pressure rate, which was better than any Vikings interior defender in 2021. Phillips will line up next to **Dalvin Tomlinson**, who played 53% of the defensive snaps last season. Tomlinson was 47th among defensive tackles in pressure rate. Tomlinson's pass rush has never been his biggest asset but his impact run defense also fell slightly short in 2021 with just two tackles for loss after 15 combined over the past two seasons. His contract voids after the 2022 season.

Minnesota lost **Danielle Hunter** to a torn pec midseason and it appeared they might lose him this offseason but a potential trade never materialized. Instead, Minnesota restructured his contract to keep him through the 2023 season. When healthy, Hunter remains a top pass rusher, having 29 combined sacks from 2019-2020. Hunter was 32nd in pressure rate among edge rushers last season in his limited time on the field. **Za'Darius Smith** will be the No. 2 across from Hunter after he briefly flirted with signing back in Baltimore this offseason. Smith missed just about all of the 2021 season but had 26 combined sacks over the previous two seasons. **D.J. Wonnum** played 79% of the defensive snaps in 2021 and put up eight sacks, but those came on just 15 quarterback hits. He ranked 83rd among 102 edge rushers in pressure rate last season but profiles much better as a No. 3 than the full-time player he was last season.

Eric Kendricks had some ups and downs in coverage. He was good at deterring targets but when he was thrown at, yards were gained — he ranked 65th among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap, though 20th in targets per coverage snap. The Vikings signed Jordan Hicks, who continued to play well as the Arizona Cardinals tried to force him out of the starting lineup but couldn't. Hicks is going to turn 30 years old in June but he was one of the league's best coverage linebackers last season — 12th in yards allowed per coverage snap. Minnesota also drafted Brian Asmoah in the third round.

Patrick Peterson had a bit of a bounceback in his first season with the Vikings, ranking 38th among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. Peterson will turn 32 years old in July and announced he will return to Minnesota for another season. Cameron Dantzler played 57% of the defensive snaps across 14 games and had a solid year in his sophomore season, ranked 29th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. The Vikings brought in some reinforcements for depth with Chandon Sullivan and Nate Hairston. Sullivan played a super-utility role for the Packers last season, playing 77% of the defensive snaps. He ranked 12 in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Hairston only played limited snaps for the Broncos last season, but has been a solid slot corner throughout his career. Both were only brought in on one-year deals. Second-round pick Andrew Booth will also come into play here.

Harrison Smith has been a constant in the Minnesota defensive backfield. The safety turned 33 years old in February and while his contract runs through 2025, the money flow suggests this will be the last year with the Vikings. He'll be joined by first-round pick Lewis Cine. Cine was one of college football's best deep safeties at Georgia and he has the ability to handle those single-high responsibilities and also the versatility to make two-high structures work.

Play Tenden	Play Tendencies							
All Pass %	58%							
All Pass Rk	16							
All Rush %	42%							
All Rush Rk	17							
1 Score Pass %	57%							
1 Score Pass Rk	15							
2020 1 Score Pass %	52%							
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	29							
2021 Pass Increase %	5%							
Pass Increase Rk	2							
1 Score Rush %	43%							
1 Score Rush Rk	18							
Up Pass %	53%							
Up Pass Rk	20							
Up Rush %	47%							
Up Rush Rk	13							
Down Pass %	62%							
Down Pass Rk	11							
Down Rush %	38%							
Down Rush Rk	22							

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	<u>denci</u>	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %
1st	Short (1-3)	5	40%	60%	80%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	7	14%	86%	57%
	Long (8-10)	330	48%	52%	48%
	XL (11+)	11	82%	18%	36%
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	40	23%	78%	78%
	Med (4-7)	83	52%	48%	53%
	Long (8-10)	85	55%	45%	42%
	XL (11+)	51	80%	20%	24%
3rd	Short (1-3)	42	52%	48%	48%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	46	98%	2%	46%
	Long (8-10)	32	94%	6%	28%
	XL (11+)	40	90%	10%	18%
4th	Short (1-3)	9	56%	44%	78%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	50%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotgun %							
Shotgun Under Center							
46%	54%						
NFL	AVG						
65%	35%						
Efficiency							





#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

fic	iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Run	
4/	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
s: 4	pass: 0.10	75%	12	71%	80%	73%
A/ h:	EPA/ rush:		<u>2nc</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass	
)9 ess:	-0.13 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
%	40%	25%	21	29%	40%	46%

	Most Frequent Play								
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %				
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	2	50%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	5	40%				
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	93	44%				
	XL (11+)	PASS	Adam Thielen	3	33%				
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	17	71%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	26	54%				
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	25	40%				
	XL (11+)	PASS	Justin Jefferson	10	30%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Dalvin Cook	13	46%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Justin Jefferson	17	65%				
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Justin Jefferson	9	56%				
	XL (11+)	PASS	K.J. Osborn	10	10%				

<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: 48%	Success: 59%	Success: 49%								
	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 11.1, EPA: 0.39	YPA: 7.7, EPA: 0.18								
	Rtg: 99.1	Rtg: 119.9	Rtg: 102.0								
	[Att: 136 - Rate: 21.6%]	[Att: 22 - Rate: 3.5%]	[Att: 158 - Rate: 25.0%]								
Yes	Success: 42%	Success: 50%	Success: 44%								
	YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.04	YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.10	YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.01								
	Rtg: 98.4	Rtg: 112.2	Rtg: 101.9								
	[Att: 355 - Rate: 56.3%]	[Att: 118 - Rate: 18.7%]	[Att: 473 - Rate: 75.0%]								
Total	Success: 44%	Success: 51%	Success: 45%								
	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.01	YPA: 9.1, EPA: 0.15	YPA: 7.4, EPA: 0.04								
	Rtg: 98.6	Rtg: 113.5	Rtg: 101.9								
	[Att: 491 - Rate: 77.8%]	[Att: 140 - Rate: 22.2%]	[Att: 631 - Rate: 100.0%]								

	Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Justin Jefferson	Tyler Conklin	K.J. Osborn	Adam Thielen	Dalvin Cook	Alexander Mattison	C.J. Ham	Ameer Abdullah
1	CIN	L 27-24	76	59	67	78	59	9	25	9
2	ARI	L 34-33	53	49	36	61	47	13	15	1
3	SEA	W 30-17	62	54	44	72		51	22	22
4	CLE	L 14-7	59	57	42	66	33	23	21	5
5	DET	W 19-17	60	50	40	62		44	32	12
6	CAR	W 34-28	84	76	48	87	66	12	21	
8	DAL	L 20-16	47	54	38	65	47	8	26	
9	BAL	L 34-31	43	47	26	48	43	9	21	
10	LAC	W 27-20	60	67	41	71	65	12	27	
11	GB	W 34-31	63	56	36	66	53	12	23	
12	SF	L 34-26	51	44	30	53	29	22	20	
13	DET	L 29-27	69	72	70	6		65	25	
14	PIT	W 36-28	67	49	60		54	13	31	
15	CHI	W 17-9	59	47	56		57		25	
16	LA	L 30-23	61	61	50	23		47	20	
17	GB	L 37-10	54	50	51		29	19	9	
18	CHI	W 31-17	46	32	39		26	18	13	
	Grand '	Total	1,014	924	774	758	608	377	376	49

Personnel Groupings							
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %				
1-1 [3WR]	47%	61%	44%				
2-1 [2WR]	18%	7%	50%				
1-2 [2WR]	13%	21%	45%				
2-2 [1WR]	8%	3%	46%				
0-1 [4WR]	5%	1%	46%				
2-0 [3WR]	5%	1%	45%				
		00/	450/				
1-0 [4WR]	2% ing Te	2% enden	45%				
1-0 [4WR]		enden	cies				
Group	ing To	enden Pass Succ.	Run Succ.				
Group	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ.				
Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  2-1 [2WR]  1-2 [2WR]	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %				
Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  2-1 [2WR]  1-2 [2WR]  2-2 [1WR]	Pass Rate 73% 41%	Pass Succ. % 44% 59% 39% 57%	Run Succ. % 45% 44% 50% 43%				
Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-2 [1WR] 0-1 [4WR]	Pass Rate 73% 41% 48% 17% 95%	Pass Succ. % 44% 59% 39% 57% 43%	Run Succ. % 45% 44% 50% 43% 100%				
Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  2-1 [2WR]  1-2 [2WR]  2-2 [1WR]	Pass Rate 73% 41% 48% 17%	Pass Succ. % 44% 59% 39% 57%	Run Succ. % 45% 44% 50% 43%				

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard						
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Justin Jefferson	22	6	3	13		
Tyler Conklin	16	3	2	11		
Adam Thielen	15	5	3	7		
K.J. Osborn	9	2	3	4		
Alexander Mattison	8		3	5		
Dalvin Cook	3			3		

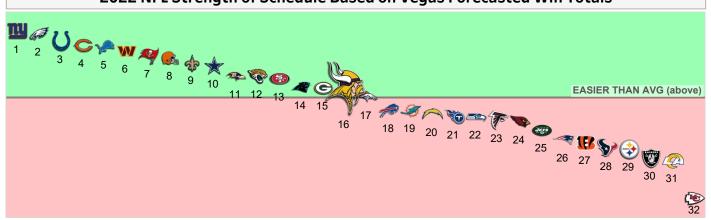
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard						
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20		
Dalvin Cook	45	15	11	19		
Alexander Mattison	31	4	10	17		
Kirk Cousins	5	1	3	1		
Kene Nwangwu	3	1	1	1		
C.J. Ham	2	1	1			
Justin Jefferson	2			2		

Early Down Target Rate						
RB	TE	WR				
24%	19%	57%				
23%	23% 21% NFL AVG					
Overall Target Success %						
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %				
Overall RB	Target Su	uccess % WR				





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



Three bingos. Back-to-back losing seasons for Mike Zimmer. And he was out.

Minnesota fired Zimmer. I'm curious as to how Vikings fans feel about his tenure. Going 72-56-1 (0.562) is decent. But when we look at the big picture?

In eight years he won over eight games just three times. Those three years were the only years he went to the playoffs in his eight years as coach. He never won more than one playoff game in any of his trips to the playoffs. He finished with a 2-3 record in the postseason.

Did Mike Zimmer have a successful tenure in Minnesota? At this point, it doesn't really matter as we turn the page to the 2022 season. Historians can debate it. My own opinion? Posting more than eight wins just three times in eight seasons is a failure unless you were good enough (or lucky enough) in one of those years to win a Super Bowl. A Super Bowl makes any coaching tenure a success. But that didn't happen for Zimmer.

Thankfully turning the page to 2022, the real question now is what can we expect from this team?

It won't be Gary Kubiak or Klint Kubiak calling plays. It will be a Los Angeles Rams-styled offense, courtesy of new head coach Kevin O'Connell (former Rams offensive coordinator) and offensive coordinator Wes Phillips (former Rams tight ends coach).

In June, after working in the offense briefly, Justin Jefferson (who knew nothing besides Kubiaks in his NFL career) said: "It's 2022. You get into a new age and move to a new generation. Adding new things to the offense definitely allows us to be more comfortable with the offense and work in different areas of the field."

O'Connell added that the Vikings would run a more spread-based offense than they did under Zimmer. He compared Justin Jefferson to Cooper Kupp as well and previewed how we might see Jefferson deployed this year unlike last year:

"The one thing about Cooper Kupp this past season is he lined up in a lot of different spots. It was hard for defenses to really know where he was. He did a lot of different things. I see that with Justin. I see an incredible, incredible skill set, but I also see a player we can move around. We can make it hard for defenses to know where he's going to be. He doesn't have to line up in the same spot all the time. He doesn't have to run the same type of routes all the time. He's dynamic with the ball in his hands. I think he's got an incredibly bright future. He's already a superstar in this league in my mind and no better way to build your offense obviously through the lens of a quarterback first and foremost always, but when you have a weapon like that in addition to Adam [Thielen], Irv [Smith], Dalvin [Cook], our great guys up front on the offensive line."

Did you notice that? He listed Irv Smith, the third-most efficient receiver of 2020, who Zimmer wanted to phase out more in 2021 before he was injured. O'Connell mentioned him right after Thielen.

Last year Cousins used significantly more shotgun passes without play-action (271 att in 2020, 375 in 2021) and these attempts were terrible compared to passing with play-action under center. Speaking of Cousins, he is off a down year that can't only be explained by poor offensive design. His accuracy was below 2020 levels in most areas of the field. His efficiency in stable quarterback metrics was down as well. On "layup throws" for example (throws less than five air yards from clean pockets), Cousins had been best in the NFL in 2020, gaining 0.32 EPA/att. In 2021, that plummeted to -0.01 EPA/att and dropped him to 24th

O'Connell has his work cut out for him. The Vikings couldn't run last year, despite facing the eighth easiest schedule of run defenses. He needs to fix the run game badly. He needs to turn more to the pass on early downs and lean into what he has with Kirk Cousins, Jefferson, and Theilen. He'll certainly use a lot more 11 personnel, and we know how bad the Kubiak 11 personnel was. I expect it to improve, but can it be great? I forecast the Vikings with a middle-of-the-road schedule in terms of strength of schedule. But things will get much easier from a rest perspective.

Additionally, don't forget that this year the NFC has an extra home game and the Vikings have one of the best home field edges in the NFL. Ignoring the crowd-less 2020 season, the Vikings are 36-18-4 (67%) ATS at home, best in the NFL. Last year the team got back to their winning ways at home (won five of eight games) but only covered half these games. Last year, all NFC teams played an extra road game. This year, they get an extra home game.

The two games they play in 2022 with less rest than their opponents? Both are at home (Week 3 against the Lions, Week 15 against the Colts). Two games they play opponents on short weeks? Both of those are also at home (Week 12 against the Patriots, Week 16 against the Giants), which means those opponents are each playing short-week road games.

The Vikings made a lot of moves in free agency to help their defense. **Za'Darius Smith**, **Harrison Phillips**, and **Jordan Hicks**, along with retaining **Danielle Hunter** after he missed much of last season due to injury. They also drafted safety **Lewis Cine** in the first round to pair with stud **Harrison Smith**.





The last piece to the offseason puzzle: the Packers lost Davante Adams to the Raiders. Adams torched Zimmer for years. Adams's 79% catch rate against the Vikings is his highest against any team he's played more than twice over the last three years. Adams had eight touchdowns against Zimmer's defense in his last four games. In all other games, Adams had 23 touchdowns in 29 games. Minnesota doesn't need to worry about Adams in 2022, as he's no longer in Green Bay and they don't play the Raiders.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

#### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

#### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

#### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

Offensive Efficiency & Tender	ncy Research	01. Games w Halftime Lead 9	02. Avg Halftime Lead 0.0 03. Wins	s 8
04. 1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	17	Pre-Snap Mo	otion (Quarters 1-3)	
05. 1H Offensive Efficiency	14			
06. 1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	29	36. PSM YPA	7.4	
07. 1H 3rd Down Conversions	30	37. PSM Target Depth	6.4	
08. 1H Explosive Play Rate	7	38. Non-PSM YPA	7	
09. 1H Early Down Pass Rate	20	39. Non-PSM Target Depth	6.5	
10. 1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	14	40. PSM Pass Success Rate	49%	
11. 1H Early Down Run Efficiency	14	41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	51%	
12. 1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	ı	42. PSM EPA/att 43. Non-PSM EPA/att	-0.01	
13. 1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	30	45. NOII-PSIVI EPA/att	0.07	
14. PSM Usage Q1-3	10	Play Action (Oua	rters 1-3 on Early Downs)	
15. PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	10			
16. PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	25	44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	s 30% 52%	
17. PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	11	45. PA Success Rate 46. PA YPA	9.3	
18. PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	21	47. PA Sack Rate	6.5%	
19. PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	11	48. PA EPA/att	0.10	
0 0	3	49. PA Target Depth	8.6	
21. PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	6	50. Non-PA Success Rate	47%	
22. PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	29	51. Non-PA YPA	6.3	
		52. Non-PA Sack Rate 53. Non-PA EPA/att	2.4% -0.01	
23. PA Improvement Success	11	54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.5	
24. PA Improvement YPA	4	OH. HOILT A Target Depth	0.0	
25. PA Improvement Rating	13	M	len In Box	
26. % Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	8			
27. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	17	55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Ear	ly Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	21%
28. % Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	7	56. Success on runs into 8-man+ bo	xes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%
29. Success on runs into 7-man boxes	9	57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes	Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3
30. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	25	58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early	Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
31. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	22	59. Success on runs into 7-man box	es Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	53%
32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	19	60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes E	arly Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box	15	61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Earl	y Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	25%
34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box	15	62. Success on runs into 6-man- box	ces Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	49%
35. Total Defensive Efficiency	16	63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes E	Farly Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-vd line	5

01. Games w Hairtime Lead	9 02	z. Avg Hairtime Lead	0.0	US. WITIS	0		
Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)							
36. PSM YPA			7.4				
37. PSM Target Depth			6.4				
38. Non-PSM YPA			7				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth			6.5				
40. PSM Pass Success Rate			49%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Ra	ate		51%				
42. PSM EPA/att			-0.01				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att			0.07				

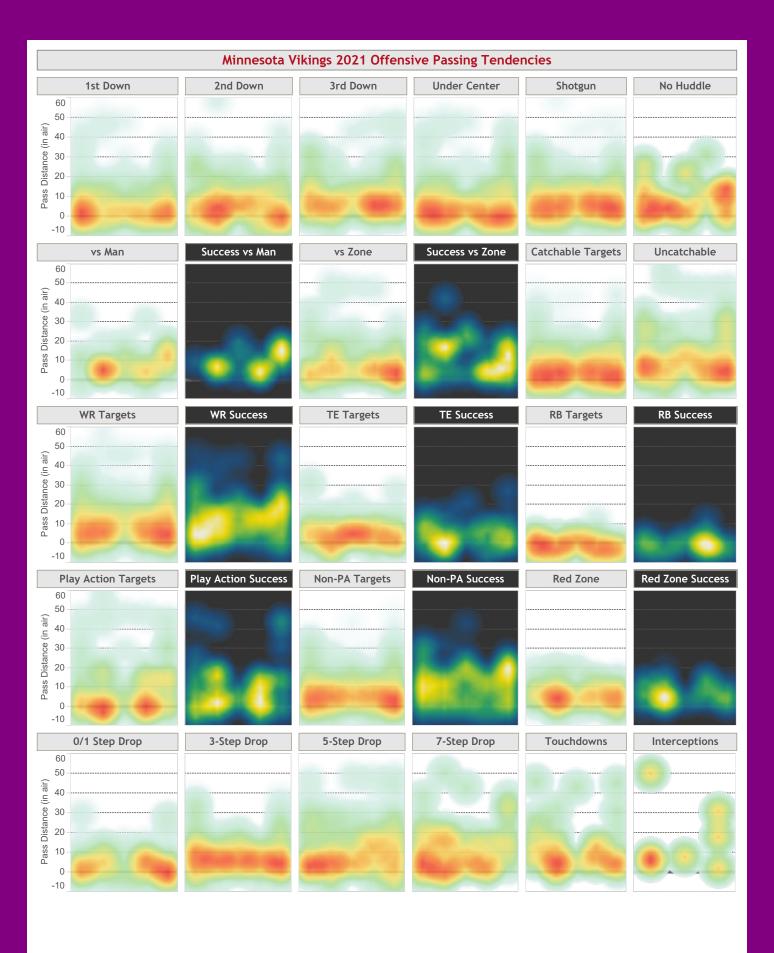
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)						
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	30%					
45. PA Success Rate	52%					
46. PA YPA	9.3					
47. PA Sack Rate	6.5%					
48. PA EPA/att	0.10					
49. PA Target Depth	8.6					
50. Non-PA Success Rate	47%					
51. Non-PA YPA	6.3					
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	2.4%					
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.01					
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.5					
Ma	Men In Box					
Mei	וו ווו טטג					

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	43%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
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	4.3
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	49%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)					
Net FROE Rk	3	defFUM	15		
Net FROE	4.0	defFUM Rcvrd	6		
offFUM	20		· ·		
offFUM Rcvrd	13	defFR Rk	1		
offFR%	65.0%	defFR%	60.0%		
offFROE	1.3	defFROE	2.7		
offFROE Rk	7	defFROE Rk	5		

Field Goal Luck						
Net Over Expectation	0.12	Opp Att	40			
Net Over Expectation Rank	14	Opp Makes	34			
Own Att Own Makes	38 33	Opp FG %	85%			
Own FG %	87%	Opp Expected Makes	32.36			
Own Expected Makes	31.25	Opp Make Over Expectation	1.64			
Own Make over Expectation Own Make over Expectation Rk	1.75 13	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	12			
2020 Own Make Over Expectation Rk	-3.03	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	2.66			
2020 Own Rk	32	2020 Opp Rk	4			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs		QB Pre	ssure	Offensive A	Metrics
	Kirk Cousins		Kirk Cousins	EPA/Pass	0.05
CAY	6.4	Pressure %	33.7	EPA/Pass Rk	12
CAY Rk	7	Pressure Rk	19	EPA/Rush	-0.09
2020 CAY Rk	9	Sack %	4.6	EPA/Rush Rk	26
AYTS Rk	28	Sack Rk	33	On-Target Catch %	93.0%
2020 AYTS Rk	21	Pressure Accuracy %	65.7	On-Target Catch Rk	3
AGG Rk 2020 AGG Rk	18 19	Pressure Accuracy Rk	12		
COMP%	66.3	Rating when Pressured	72.5	Drop%	4.6%
xCOMP%	63.9	Pressured Rating Rk	14	Drop Rk	7
xCOMP% Rk	34	Clean Accuracy %	81.8	YAC/Att	2.3
2020 xCOMP% Rk	30	Clean Accuracy Rk	4	YAC/Att Rk	14
CPOE%	2.4	Rating when Clean	116.7	Rush Broken Tackle %	12.9%
CPOE Rk	4	Clean Rating Rk	2	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	17
2020 CPOE Rk	4			Rush 1st Down %	22.9%
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expec	S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:	Time to Throw	2.76		
Actual completion percentage ov		Time to Throw Rk	25	Rush 1st Down Rk	24



#### Vikings Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Kirk Cousins	0.30 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	0.08 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	0.04 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.23 (#2)
2020	Kirk Cousins	0.34 (#1)	0.18 (#1)	0.16 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	0.32 (#1)	0.35 (#1)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Kirk Cousins	-0.38 (#2)	0.00 (#1)	0.22 (#1)	0.28 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	0.15 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)
2020	Kirk Cousins	-0.27 (#1)	-0.14 (#2)	0.15 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	0.03 (#2)	0.16 (#1)	0.02 (#1)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range artain (oranic necessary)									
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Kirk Cousins	79% (#2)	80% (#2)	81% (#1)	57% (#2)	76% (#2)	80% (#2)	73% (#2)	78% (#2)	78% (#2)
2020	Kirk Cousins	82% (#1)	87% (#1)	78% (#2)	64% (#1)	80% (#1)	83% (#1)	74% (#1)	81% (#1)	81% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.13 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	-0.30 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	-0.18 (#2)	-0.10 (#1)	-0.09 (#2)	0.28 (#1)	0.20 (#1)
2020	0.01 (#1)	-0.04 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.13 (#1)	-0.11 (#2)	0.05 (#1)	-0.52 (#2)	-0.52 (#2)

#### Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	14	20	12	23	2	30	25	30	8	25
2020	2	26	17	10	2	6	11	30	27	31

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	7	2	6	7	8	22	7	20	1
2020	9	13	10	5	9	6	9	28	24

#### First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	16	25	21	9	23	14	21	1	16
2020	27	7	11	3	16	25	5	1	30

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

**Head Coach**:

Bill Belichick (22 yrs)

Offensive Coordinator:

Belichick calls plays (new) **Defensive Coordinator:** Steve Belichick (3 yrs)

Hard Easy

# **New England Patriots**

2022 Forecast

Wins

Div Rank

8.5

#### **Past Records**

2021: 10-7 2020: 7-9 2019: 12-4



Key Players	Lost
Player	New
J.C. Jackson (CB)	Chargers
Shaquille Mason (RG)	Buccaneers
Dont'a Hightower (LB)	TBD
Ted Karras (RG)	Bengals
Brandon Bolden (RB)	Raiders
Kyle Van Noy (EDGE)	Chargers
Gunner Olszewski (WR)	Steelers
Jakob Johnson (FB)	Raiders
Brandon King (LB)	Colts
Jamie Collins (LB)	TBD
Chase Winovich (IDL)	Browns
Lester Cotton (LG)	Retired
Troy Fumagalli (TE)	49ers
Jarrett Stidham (QB)	Raiders
Terez Hall (LB)	TBD

#### 2022 New England Patriots Overview

It's not fair.

It's truly not fair.

The New England Patriots' "rebuild" after the greatest quarterback ever was one season with a record one game below .500?

And now they're back?

This team won double-digit games every year since 2003 (17 years), went to the playoffs for 11 straight years, and won six Super Bowls since 2001.

Then they finish one game below .500 in 2019, draft a quarterback, and suddenly this team is back to winning double-digit games and making the playoffs?

And that's legal?

I feel bad for struggling fan bases out there.

It also might shock you to see how recently some of these teams actually became powerhouses. Just look at the list of teams with double-digit season wins in the last 19 years:

18 - NE 17

16

# Games

**Underdog** 

8 0.1

# Games

**Favored** 

**Average** 

Line

<u>Drafted Players</u>				
Mack Wilson (LB)	Trade			
Lil'Jordan Humphrey (WR)	\$1			
Ty Montgomery (RB)	\$1.8			
Terrance Mitchell (CB)	\$1.8			
Jabrill Peppers (S)	\$2			
DeVante Parker (WR)	Trade			

**Key Free Agents/ Trades Added** 

	_	
Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	29	OG - Cole Strange (Chattanooga)
2	50	WR - Tyquan Thornton (Baylor)
3	85	CB - Marcus Jones (Houston)
	121	DB - Jack Jones (Arizona State)
4	127	RB - Pierre Strong Jr. (South Dakota State)
	137	QB - Bailey Zappe (Western Kentucky)
	183	RB - Kevin Harris (South Carolina)
6	200	DE - Sam Roberts (Northwest Missouri State)
	210	OG - Chasen Hines (LSU)
7	245	OG - Andrew Stueber

#### 2022 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see NE2)

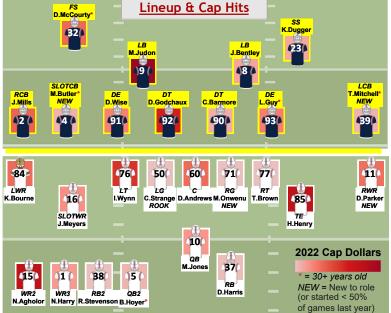


#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk				
All OFF	7	\$117.69M	23				
QB	28	\$6.17M	29				
OL	23	\$31.33M	17				
RB	22	\$7.89M	22				
WR	3	\$40.50M	13				
TE	1	\$31.80M	2				
All DEF	12	\$100.88M	4				
DL	12	\$49.79M	23				
LB	28	\$9.02M	3				
СВ	10	\$25.37M	9				
s	9	\$16.70M	3				

Regul	<u>ar Season W</u>	<u>'ins:</u>
Past	& Current P	roj

Forecast 2022 Wins	8.5
2021 Wins	10
Forecast 2021 Wins	9
2020 Wins	<b>~</b> ₹7
2019 Wins	12
2018 Wins	<b>~</b> 11
	1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



<u>NE-2</u>

15

14

13 - GB, IND

12

11 - PIT, SEA, KC

10 - BAL

9 - NO

8 - PHI

7 - DAL, ATL, DEN, CIN

6 - CAR, MIN

5 - CHI, LAC, SF, ARI, TEN, NYG, LAR

4 - TB, MIA, NYJ, HOU

3 - BUF, JAX

2 - WAS, LV, CLE, DET

The AFC favorite this year? The Bills, who recently just became good. The last two NFC Champions? The Bucs and the Rams, who each were always at the bottom of this list.

And there sit the Patriots, with just one out of 19 seasons without double-digit

But their win total in 2022 is only 8.5, which is lower than it was in 2020 (nine wins) despite the team hitting 10 wins last year.

So what gives? Why a lower win total in 2022?

Well, the Patriots are feeling the pinch of the spending spree they went on last offseason. Remember, this team in 2021's free agency period went insane with

Prior 10 years total: \$359,886,620 First two days of 2021: \$227,500,000

In total: \$291,246,000

Their big additions were:



	2021 Rushi			
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
NE	50% 4.3	53% 4.5	52% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	55%	44%	29%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

Jonnu Smith for \$50 million Hunter Henry for \$37.5 million Matt Judon for \$54.5 million Jalen Mills for \$24 million Nelson Agholor for \$22 million

Going HAM in free agency typically provides a little immediate "boost" to your roster's output and you see a small spike in wins.

But after that, generally what happens is these players you signed have higher Year 2 cap hits and become difficult to afford with the rest of your roster. As such, you end up losing some other players you had previously.

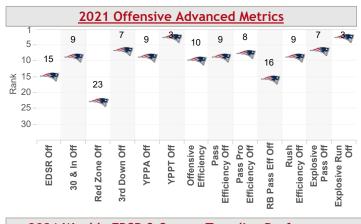
2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

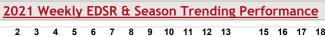
13

27

Pass Eff Def

RB





W IND BUFJAX MIA NO TB HOUDAL NYJ LACCARCLE ATL MIA NYJ TENBUE Н Н Н Α Н Н Α Α Н A 25 Н A -10 Н Н Α -2 17 3 3 18 38 -9 -1 19 -15 -6 41 23 4 -12 40 25 29 54 27 25 36 21 24 45 17 50 24 16 25 13 14 7 33 6 28 19 22 35 13 24 6 0 13 10 27 10 33



#### Pass Efficiency Def Pass Pro Efficieincy Def **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Red Zone De 2021 Close Game

WFFK **RESULT** OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

5

10

15 10

20

25

30

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

# **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 10 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2** FG Games Win %: **50% (#13)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 20% (#15)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-3 Score Games Win %: 50% (#12) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 30% (#25)

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin +7 TO Given 23 **INT Given** 13 **FUM Given** 10 TO Taken 30 **INT Taken** 23 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +8 36 Sacks

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

(cont'd - see NE-3)

13

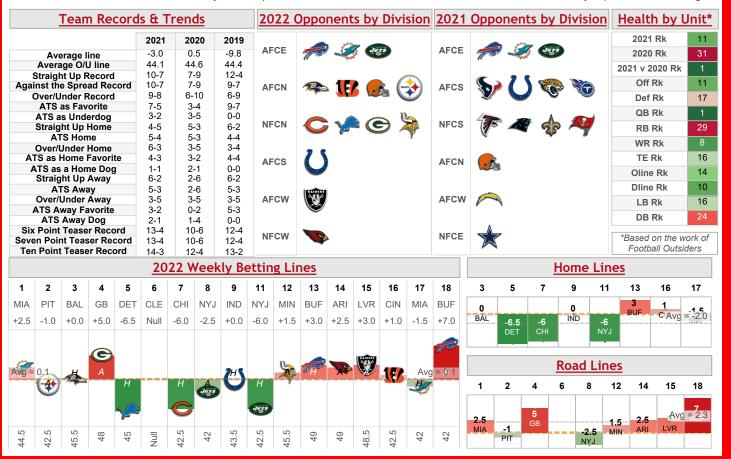
**Explosive** 

Sacks Allow 28 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** +5 Penalties 95 **Opponent Penalties** 100



	2022 vs 2021 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	16	14	25	14	14	28	24					

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







And that's exactly what happened to the Patriots.

Hunter Henry went from a \$6.8 million cap hit in 2021 to \$15 million this year. Jonnu Smith went from a \$5.6 million cap hit in 2021 to \$13.7 million this year.

Matt Judon went from a \$6.3 million cap hit in 2021 to \$16.5 million this year.

Nelson Agholor went from a \$6.9 million cap hit in 2021 to \$14.9 million this year.

Kendrick Bourne went from a \$3.1 million cap hit in 2021 to \$6.4 million this year.

Every single player costs over double against the cap this year what they did in 2021.

Collectively, those five free agents cost \$28.7 million against the cap in 2021. In 2022, \$28.7 million became \$66.5 million.

While the 2022 cap increased to \$208.2 million, that's only up \$25.7 million from 2021. These five players alone have a cap increase just themselves of \$38 million, well higher than the \$25.7 million total that the cap increased.

The four most expensive players on the Patriots' roster based on 2022 cap hit are all free agents from that 2021 class: Judon, Henry, Agholor, and Smith.

These aren't even all the free agents the Patriots signed in 2021, let alone other rostered players whose salaries jumped a ton. For example, left tackle **Isaiah Wynn's** cap hit jumped from \$3.6 million in 2021 to \$10.4 million this year.

Look at it through this lens:

The most expensive receiving corps (wide receivers plus tight ends) in 2022:

- 1. \$72.2 million Patriots
- 2. \$53.8 million Jaquars
- 3. \$49.5 million Chargers
- 4. \$47.4 million Giants

It's truly wild. The Patriots are nearly \$20 million more than even the No. 2 group in the NFL.

If you look at either of those two receiving groups (or the Giants), there is no way you would believe they would be a top-4 receiving corps in the NFL in 2022.

This is the result of free agency spending catching up.

Because of that, other players had to go.

Starting cornerback J.C. Jackson is now with the Chargers. No player since at least 1980 has more interceptions in his first four seasons than Jackson's 25.

Starting guard **Shaq Mason** is now with the Buccaneers after a trade. Out of 88 qualifying guards, he graded out fourth overall by PFF (second-best RG). He was sixth in run blocking and 17th in pass blocking.

Starting guard Ted Karras is now with the Bengals. Out of 88 qualifying guards, he graded out as the seventh-best in pass blocking by PFF last season.

Starting linebacker **Dont'a Hightower** is still a free agent. He wore a lot of hats for this team and while he was not close to his prime, he was still a valuable contributor. His last contract, however, had him hitting the cap for \$12.4 million in 2021, and the Patriots don't have anywhere close to that room to sign the 32-year-old.

Starting linebacker **Kyle Van Noy** is now with the Chargers. He played 75% of snaps and graded out as best in coverage last season, per PFF, among 90 qualified linebackers.

These are the losses. Hightower aside, you take away two top-5 coverage players at their positions (cornerback and linebacker) and take away two of the best pass blocking and overall guards in the NFL, and it's going to show up.

(cont'd - see NE-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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

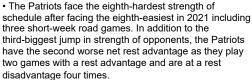
Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Nev	VEngland Patriots Ranking vs NFL Average
	Short Week Poad Games Games off Poad SNE/MNE

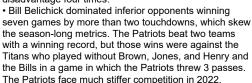
Net Rest Edge Rank	Prep Rank	Rest Rank	Rank	Rank	Negated Bye Rank	
30	13	28	27	21	22	

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

#### Why Bet the Over





- Titans who played without Brown, Jones, and Henry and the Bills in a game in which the Patriots threw 3 passes. The Patriots face much stiffer competition in 2022. • The Patriots finished 8.6 net field goals above expectation as opponents made 67% of field goals while Nick Folk made 92%. The Patriots are not going to be
- able to sustain that run of field goal luck on both sides. In the red zone, the Patriots' offense converted 5% over expectation and a had 63% touchdown rate while the defense allowed -2.5% conversion rate over expectation and 54% touchdown rate. Luck and a tougher schedule

will cause regression for the Patriots.



- Bill Belichick is the best at adapting each game plan to each opponent. The only time Belichick went under the season win total in the past five years was with Cam Newton as his starting quarterback. Mac Jones is a great fit in the Patriot system and Belichick seemed more comfortable planning around the pocket passing quarterback. The Patriots are likely to lean on the run game, but Jones gives the coach a capable quarterback when called upon.
- The Patriots' offseason is likely foreshadowing to the upcoming season. In a copycat league Belichick usually does the opposite and continues to build this offense around being able to run the ball. The Patriots have a plethora of running backs and will keep games close giving themselves a chance to win every week.
- The Patriots won 10 games in 2021 and were the largest underachievers of their Pythagorean win total. The 2021 season was a smashing success until the bye week and instead of helping the team with a rookie quarterback, the Patriots struggled following the bye week finishing the season with a 1-3 record.

	New England Patriots Positional Unit Rankings											
Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coac												
21 17		19	25	22	18	5						

After an impressive rookie year from Mac Jones, the Patriots have climbed two spots in our quarterback rankings and are now tied with Chicago, but still trail Jacksonville, among teams with second-year starting quarterbacks. New England was very cautious with Jones, as only 13.6% of their plays were passes of 10 or more yards downfield in a one-score game, the league's third-lowest rate.

Damien Harris has been a productive early-down back and the Patriots have strong depth in the backfield. The only question is: who plays on third downs? Brandon Bolden (lost in free agency) accounted for 62% of the team's third-down snaps at running back. Fourth-round rookie Pierre Strong is a candidate for that role. We still don't have much faith in the Patriots' pass catchers, but they climbed three spots in our rankings thanks to the development of Jakobi Meyers and the addition of DeVante Parker. No one on this roster will scare opposing defenses, but there's enough depth to be competent.

It was tough to evaluate the Patriots' offensive line due to the simplified offense they ran for Jones. However, when Jones held the ball between 2.5 and 3.5 seconds, the Patriots allowed pressure at the eighth-lowest rate. Four of five starters return from that unit, but replacing Shaq Mason with Cole Strange will be a downgrade. Matt Judon ranked ninth among edge rushers in pressure rate, but he was the only Patriots edge rusher to log more than 250 pass-rush snaps. This front seven is a patchwork unit, and others need to step up around Judon for the defense to improve.

The Patriots' secondary suffered a massive blow when J.C. Jackson signed with the Chargers. Relying on aging veterans such as 32-year-old Malcolm Butler and 35-year-old Devin McCourty is a risky strategy, though they do have enough depth to potentially survive an injury or two. The most controversial take in our unit ranks: Bill Belichick is our fifth-ranked head coach. Although he did receive one first-place vote, not everyone is fully buying in anymore. Belichick was extremely conservative last season. Some of that was likely to preserve his rookie quarterback, but not all of it was justifiable. For example, in a one-score game, New England punted on fourth-and-2 or shorter at the league's third-highest rate — including two punts from the 50-yard line. Maybe Belichick is losing his fastball?

#### <u>NE-4</u>

The presence of Jonnu Smith and Nelson Agholor does nothing to fill that void.

Frankly, I'm still somewhat shocked the Patriots spent like they did in 2021.

We know it helped them win, and perhaps Bill Belichick was just ticked at seeing Tom Brady hoist the Lombardi Trophy after the 2020 season.

But that splurge, though it helped this team to win 10 games instead of, say, eight or nine, doesn't help this team in 2022 when you look at the downstream ramifications of it.

So where does it leave the team for 2022?

Stepping in at guard will be rookie guard Cole Strange and 2020 sixth-round pick Michael Onwenu.

Per our Rich Hribar: "Onwenu has been a find in the sixth round of the 2020 draft. This past season, he played both left guard and right tackle, excelling at both. Onwenu logged 276 snaps at right tackle, allowing just four pressures and zero sacks on those snaps. He also played 290 snaps at left guard, coming out as the third-highest graded guard per PFF."

#### <u>NE-5</u>

At tackle, there won't be any change but Isaiah Wynn and **Trent Brown** both graded outside the top-32 in tackles (33rd and 36th respectively) last season. Then there is David Andrews at center, who graded out top-10 center last year.

It's not that I'm worried about the offensive line, but heading into last season, we ranked the Patriots as having the fifth-best offensive line in our collective unit rankings. This year? That's down to 17th.

The same is true on the other side of the ball.

Front-7 last year? 14th. This year? 22nd. Secondary last year? ninth. This year? 18th.

Considering their lack of money and cap space, the team couldn't do much this offseason to strengthen their roster or replace players that left.

One of their biggest moves was to give Mac Jones help on the outside, considering how poor the signing of Nelson Agholor was.

(And it was at the time, as well. I called it then and it's a terrible looking contract now.)

So they traded with the Dolphins for **DeVante Parker**.

Let's think about this for a second.

The Dolphins had Parker and they are now loading up to try and make a run for the AFC East title this year, while Tua Tagovailoa is still in his rookie deal window. Parker has been a full-time starter for years. Yet Miami traded him to New England WITH A FIFTH-ROUND PICK in exchange for a third-round pick. That's CHEAP. And that's trading your former No. 1 WR to a division rival

(cont'd - see <u>NE-6</u>)



#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



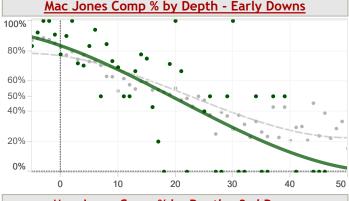
#### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

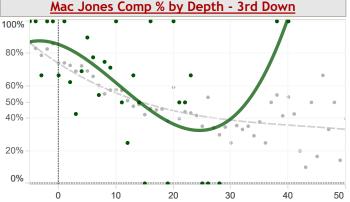


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

		Usage	Rate b	y Scor	<u>e</u>		
4		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)	47
	Damien Harris	6%	6%	73%	4%	11%	
	Rhamondre Stevens	10%	4%	55%	9%	23%	1%
	Jakobi Meyers	100%					
_	Brandon Bolden	20%	14%	48%	2%	16%	
RUSH	Kendrick Bourne	15%	8%	38%	8%	31%	
₽	Nelson Agholor			100%			
	Jonnu Smith	11%	11%	67%	11%		
	James White			90%	10%		
	J.J. Taylor	5%		21%		74%	
	Total	9%	6%	62%	6%	18%	0%
	Damien Harris	19%	10%	67%		5%	
	Rhamondre Stevens	27%		50%	5%	18%	
	Jakobi Meyers	16%	14%	54%	6%	10%	
	Brandon Bolden	20%	22%	33%	5%	20%	
	Kendrick Bourne	19%	13%	42%	8%	18%	
PASS	Hunter Henry	22%	16%	41%	5%	16%	
ĕ	Nelson Agholor	22%	8%	52%	12%	6%	
	Jonnu Smith	14%		68%	2%	16%	
	James White			93%		7%	
	J.J. Taylor	25%		50%		25%	
	N'Keal Harry		45%	45%		10%	
	Total	18%	13%	50%	6%	13%	

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Bourne Bolden **Damien Harris** Rhamondre Stevenson Nelson Aghold N'Keal Harry Jakobi Meyer Hunter Henry Jonnu Smith James White J.J. Taylor Brandon Kendrick PASS RUSH 47% 31% 0% ALL





#### **2021 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]	0-1 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	ALL
PASS	50%, 0.08 (432)	49%, -0.03 (76)	47%, -0.05 (76)	56%, -0.67 (9)	67%, 1.25 (6)		0%, -5.94 (1)	0%, -0.79 (1)	49%, 0.04 (603)
RUSH	54%, 0.08 (189)	51%, -0.04 (185)	45%, -0.08 (77)	50%, 0.00 (44)		100%, 0.89 (1)			52%, 0.01 (508)
All	51%, 0.08 (621)	50%, -0.04 (261)	46%, -0.06 (153)	51%, -0.11 (53)	67%, 1.25 (6)	100%, 0.89 (1)	0%, -5.94 (1)	0%, -0.79 (1)	50%, 0.03 (1,111)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

8.5, 0.37

Bolden

100%

Successful Play Rate

	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							
WR	Jakobi Meyers	51% (100) 6.9, 0.18	60% (15) 6.3, 0.29	50% (16) 7.4, -0.10	50% (2) 4.5, 0.56	52% (133) 6.8, 0.17							
	Kendrick Bourne	67% (70) 10.7, 0.66	50% (2) 21.5, -1.74	100% (2) 11.5, 0.70	67% (3) 21.0, 1.39	68% (77) 11.4, 0.62							
	Nelson Agholor	40% (42) 7.2, -0.11	36% (11) 7.0, -0.25	69% (13) 8.6, 0.19		45% (66) 7.4, -0.07							
	N'Keal Harry	36% (11) 8.5, 0.00	50% (2) 4.5, 0.07	71% (7) 7.7, 0.39		50% (20) 7.8, 0.14							
TE	Hunter Henry	60% (63) 6.7, 0.25	78% (9) 15.7, 0.96	60% (5) 13.4, -0.02		62% (77) 8.2, 0.31							
	Jonnu Smith	38% (16) 6.3, -0.46	56% (18) 9.8, 0.42	0% (6) 0.5, -0.43		40% (40) 7.0, -0.06							
RB	Brandon	51% (49)	0% (1)	25% (4)		48% (54)							

## Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	2-1 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Harris	55% (84)	53% (57)	46% (46)	64% (22)	53% (209)
Damien	4.7, 0.01	3.7, 0.04	5.2, -0.12	4.5, 0.22	4.5, 0.01
Stevenson	54% (72)	57% (44)	50% (12)	78% (9)	56% (137)
Rhamondre	4.1, 0.00	4.8, -0.03	3.9, -0.07	4.8, 0.49	4.3, 0.02
Jones Mac	45% (11)	65% (23)	60% (5)	14% (7)	52% (46)
Julies Mac	1.5, -0.14	5.2, 0.44	3.8, -0.25	-1.1, -0.68	3.2, 0.05
Bolden	25% (4)	44% (32)	0% (2)	0% (1)	38% (39)
Brandon	2.0, -0.33	5.0, -0.10	2.0, -0.37	1.0, -1.25	4.4, -0.17
Taylor J.J.	25% (8)	20% (5)	0% (3)	0% (1)	18% (17)
Taylor J.J.	1.0, -0.10	3.8, -0.15	1.0, -0.54	2.0, -0.35	1.9, -0.21
Hoyer	17% (6)			0% (4)	10% (10)
Brian	-0.5, -0.80			-1.0, -0.70	-0.7, -0.76
White		60% (10)			60% (10)
James		3.8, 0.07			3.8, 0.07

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

6.0, -Ò.75

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

_	sing by		sing by	Throw	<b>Types</b>	QB Drop	Types	QB	State at	Pass	Run Types	
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	55% (388)			Planted		% (469) 7, 0.13	Power	47% (93) 4.4, -0.03
		Out	61% (64) 7.5, 0.28		6.7, 0.09		6.6, 0.08	Shuffling		9% (55)		
Zone	45% (312)			Level 2	55% (119)	5 Step	52% (169) 8.2, 0.15	Maying		6, 0.21 0% (48)	Pitch	44% (62) 5.6, 0.08
	8.3, 0.11	Curl	67% (52) 6.0, 0.23		10.7, 0.42	0/1 Step	57% (67)	Moving	6.0, 0.23		Lead	63% (62)
		67% (45)	67% (45)	Level 3	36% (42)	u/i Step	9.1, 0.39		Play Action	on	Leau	3.6, 0.05
Man	44% (203) 7.2, 0.00	Dig	8.3, 0.45	2070.0	10.7, 0.31	7 Step	59% (44) 10.7, 0.36		Play Action	No P/A	Outside Zone	61% (41) 4.2, 0.05
	2, 0.00		62% (21)	Shovel	67% (3)			Under	52% (105) 8.7, -0.12	59% (70) 6.5, 0.12		
			11.3, -0.16	Silovei	5.7, 0.30	Basic Screen	53% (34) 8.4, 0.29	Center Shotgun	51% (49)	46% (379)	Inside Zone	53% (36) 3.8, -0.19
Other	46% (19) 2.4, -0.20	32% (19)	5 (19)	100% (1) Designed	58% (19)	Shotgun	9.1, 0.32	7.2, 0.03		71% (7)		
	2. <del>4</del> , <b>-</b> 0.20	2.4, -0.20 Drag		ag 5.5, -0.47 Sidearm		7.0, 2.23 Designed Rollout Right		ALL	52% (154) 9.0, 0.02	48% (449) 7.1, 0.05	Stretch	5.6, 0.46

8.0, 0.28

<u>NE-6</u>

This move absolutely, positively cannot work out for the Patriots. The Dolphins 100% have to know for certain that Parker, whose cap hit in 2022 (\$6.0 million) is HALF of what it was in 2021 (\$12.1 million) isn't worth having on the roster and is worth shipping to a division rival, all for a future third-round pick in 2023.

There could not possibly be any gray area there for the Dolphins. If it's murky, and if Parker helps the Patriots knock off Miami this year, general manager Chris Grier and the Dolphins' front office will never hear the end of it.

What I do know about Parker is no receiver in the NFL gets less separation than he does, and it's been that way for years.

Ranking DaVante Parker's separation by year, using NGS player tracking data to measure the distance between receiver and nearest defender at time of catch or incompletion:

2021: 127th (out of 127) 2020: 132nd (out of 132) 2019: 123rd (out of 125)

No receiver consistently gets less separation than Parker. It's also not the worst thing in the world. As a result of getting no separation, he's had to hone his ability to catch 50/50 jump balls at their highest point, and he's done that extremely well.

But he's not going to make life easy on a quarterback, who is looking to throw to an open receiver.

And for Mac Jones, that was the case last year. Jones fell on the lesser end of the scale when it came to trying to fit the ball into covered receivers.

Only 15% of Jones' passes were into tight coverage, which was below average.

(cont'd - see NE-7)





But if you're going to throw the ball to Parker, you've got to be much higher than that.

In 2021, Tua Tagovailoa and Jacoby Brissett, Parker's quarterbacks, ranked first and third in aggressiveness (rate of passes thrown to covered receivers).

In 2020, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Tagovailoa, Parker's quarterbacks, ranked second and fifth in aggressiveness.

If the Patriots end up using Parker as it appears their plan will be, I predict Jones will have a much higher rate of aggressive throws in 2022 than he did in 2021.

In order to continue to discuss the 2022 Patriots, we have to pivot to the under-the-radar turnaround this team made in 2021.

Sometimes, wins can come with luck. But in the Patriots case, the only thing lucky that happened for them was their opponents missed nearly five more field goals than expected, giving the Patriots the best ranking in field goal luck in the NFL in 2021.

But other than that?

This team was 3-3 in one-score games and 2-2 in games decided by a field goal or less. They were 21st in fumble luck and won just as many games (10) as they led at halftime (10), so there weren't fluky comebacks thanks to opponents crashing and burning in the fourth quarter.

This team won the EDSR battle in 13 of 17 games last year. They lost to the Bucs despite winning the EDSR battle, and they lost to the Dolphins twice last year despite winning the EDSR battle in both games. They did lose the EDSR battle against the Bills in the brutal windstorm but were able to win the game.

No, this team didn't luck their way into double-digit wins last year.

But the Patriots 2021 season is almost an afterthought when it comes to "who is good" in 2022 because of the way they lost two of their last two games of the regular season (33-21 vs. the Bills and 33-24 vs. the Dolphins) and then were thoroughly spanked in their first game of the playoffs, losing to the Bills 47-17.

The Patriots made massive improvements metrically to produce double-digit wins.

Despite rookie Mac Jones starting and playing the NFL's fifth-toughest schedule of passing defenses in 2021, the Patriots improved their passing efficiency from 31st in 2020 up to ninth in 2021. They improved their rushing efficiency from 19th in 2020 up to ninth.

A huge improvement was made on third downs, improving from 22nd to ninth.

This was the result of two elements: distance to go and passing performance.

2020: 8.5 yards-to-go on average (14th), -0.09 EPA/att on passes (27th) 2021: 8.4 yards-to-go on average (11th), +0.06 EPA/att on passes (12th)

That gets us to Mac Jones in general.

(cont'd - see NE-8)

#### Immediate Impact of New England Patriots 2022 Draft Class

The Patriots' selection of **Cole Strange** (first round) was one of the most shocking picks of the draft. Though Strange was expected to be a Day 2 selection, his name was rarely, if ever, brought up in pre-draft conversations as a potential first-rounder. Since drafting Logan Mankins in the first round in 2005, Belichick had taken only one interior offensive lineman with a top-100 pick (**Joe Thuney**, third round in 2016). So the pick was not only a reach, but also addressed a position Belichick typically does not invest in heavily. Although the Patriots undoubtedly took Strange earlier than was necessary, Belichick does have a strong track record of drafting and developing offensive linemen. Over the last five seasons, nine linemen have played at least 1,000 snaps for New England, and only **Trent Brown** was not drafted (or signed as an undrafted free agent) by the Patriots.

Strange will likely start at left guard, with **Michael Onwenu** shifting to right guard. While Belichick deserves some benefit of the doubt with the Strange selection based on his track record, he does not get that luxury with the selection of **Tyquan Thornton** (second round).

Belichick has an abysmal track record of drafting wide receivers. During his tenure in New England, Belichick has only drafted three receivers to eclipse the 600-yard mark in a season (Julian Edelman, Deion Branch, and David Givens). The list of busts is far longer: Aaron Dobson, Bethel Johnson, Branton Tate, Chad Jackson, Taylor Price, etc. Thornton is a track star with limited football skills at this stage of his career. Despite blazing speed (4.28 40-yard dash) Thornton was not a threat after the catch at Baylor. Based on route-adjusted data, Thornton produced 44% fewer yards after the catch than expected. Although there is a path to playing time for Thornton, it's difficult to envision him as anything more than a pure deep threat as the fourth or fifth option in the passing game.

Marcus Jones (third round) was a better selection based on value, though his upside is limited due to his size (5'8", 174 pounds). On defense, he'll be limited to a role in the slot — though that job is locked down by **Jonathan Jones**, assuming a return to full health after a season-ending shoulder injury. Though Jones may play some slot corner, he was likely drafted for his special teams production. He is among the most prolific return men to enter the draft in recent years, and will likely return kicks and punts for New England as a rookie.

Jack Jones (fourth round) was a surprising selection as another undersized cornerback but without the athletic upside of Marcus Jones. The 24-year-old originally played at USC before leaving due to academic issues and rule violations. He then sat out a year before enrolling at Arizona State where he was also suspended for team rule violations. Belichick has never been afraid to take risks on players with past issues, but reaching for a 171-pound cornerback is tough to justify, even in the fourth round.

Pierre Strong Jr. (fourth round) has the athletic profile of a potentially dangerous weapon, but he joins a crowded backfield in New England. He'll likely be given an opportunity to compete for a James White-like role in the offense. Strong will be joined in the backfield by Kevin Harris (sixth round), who is a downhill runner and looks redundant on a roster with Rhamondre Stevenson and Damien Harris. The Patriots landed a developmental quarterback in Bailey Zappe (fourth round), who will likely be the third-string quarterback as a rookie. Zappe played in a gimmicky version of the air raid offense at Western Kentucky and Houston Baptist under the same offensive coordinator (Zach Kittley). In 2021, 48% of Zappe's dropbacks were zero/one-step drops or RPOs. Last year in New England, Mac Jones used zero/one-step drops or RPOs just 12% of the time, so Zappe will need time to learn a new offensive system. New England likely landed an immediate starter in Strange and a valuable special teams weapon on Marcus Jones. However, the rest of this 10-man class is underwhelming and it's unclear if they added any meaningful depth. Few, if any, teams used their draft capital less efficiently than the Patriots.

#### New England Patriots 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Mac Jones began his career on a positive note, leading all rookies with 22 touchdowns and 7.3 yards per pass attempt in his first season in New England. Jones ended the season with a 67.6% completion rate and 3,801 passing yards as the Patriots finished 13th in the NFL in expected points out of their passing game (115.8 EPA). While efficient, the Patriots also kept this passing game in check, ranking 27th in the league in early down passing rate in neutral game scripts (45.9%). The Patriots placed Jones in comfortable situations to throw. When Jones was tasked to throw the ball on non-first down plays needing seven or more yards, he ranked 38th in the league in passer rating (74.1). On third downs altogether, he ranked 18th (90.4), right between Ben Roethlisberger and Daniel Jones. Still lacking high-end receivers, the Patriots will also be transitioning with the loss of Josh McDaniels, leaving Matt Patricia or Joe Judge as the playcaller in 2022.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk	
Mac Jones	375	554	68%	4,033	7.3	23	13	30	93	20	
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6		

	2021 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 %			
Mac Jones	49%	51%	54	10.0%	15	3.0%	5.8	5.0					
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3					

# Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 -10

# Mac Jones Rating Early Downs



1 & 2     0.0%     0.0%     11.1%     0.0%     6.7%       3, 4, 5     0.0%     0.0%     2.1%     0.0%     1.2%       6 - 9     0.0%     1.4%     0.0%     0.0%     0.8%								
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total			
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	6.7%			
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	1.2%			
6 - 9	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%			
10 - 14	2.0%	1.3%	3.0%	66.7%	2.6%			
15+	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%		2.5%			
Total	1.8%	1.5%	2.6%	14.3%	2.2%			

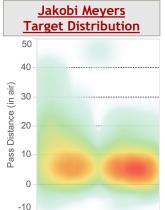
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis									
QB	Avg. Yds to Go		Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk				
Mac Jones	7.0	7.9	0.8	59%	26				
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%					

	Air Y	Air Yds vs YAC							
ond	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
;	54%	46%	19						
	53%	47%							

#### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Patriots ranked ninth in success rate targeting their WRs (53%) and 11th in yards per target (8.2 yards) to the position. The rub there is that they targeted the position just 56% of the time, which ranked 26th in the league due to no player commanding opportunity. Jakobi Meyers led the team with 126 targets, 56 more than the next closest wide receiver. Kendrick Bourne was the most efficient wideout on the roster, posting a 67% success rate and 2.01 yards per route run. This offseason the team added DeVante Parker via trade while drafting speedster Tyquan Thornton after Nelson Agholor struggled a year ago. Big spenders at tight end last offseason, Hunter Henry and Jonnu Smith logged just 190 total snaps (18.1%) with both on the field.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS %	TDs
Jakobi Meyers	134	66%	6.8	81.3	51%	75	39	91	61	2
Hunter Henry	79	65%	8.0	116.7	61%	13	28	65	41	9
Kendrick Bourne	78	79%	11.2	138.1	67%	1	10	52	109	7
Nelson Agholor	65	58%	7.6	72.0	46%	111	96	32	130	3
Brandon Bolden	55	82%	7.9	103.9	47%	104	104	124	63	2





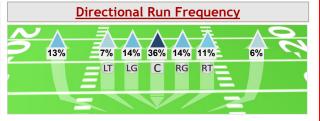
#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

New England was a run-focused offense in 2021, ranking eighth in the league in rushing attempts (489) and yardage (2,151 yards) on the ground, to go along with 24 rushing scores, second in the league. **Damien Harris** continued to progress in year three, turning 220 touches into 1,061 yards and 15 touchdowns, which was fifth at this position. **Rhamondre Stevenson** was fifth in the league last year in touch rate per snap (57%) and offers the most three-down potential in this backfield, but we still have yet to see the Patriots steer in that direction unless out of necessity. **James White** is 30 years old and coming off a torn ACL but is in line to walk right back into his role as the back dominating work in pass-heavy situations. In 2021, **Brandon Bolden** ran 95 pass routes on third downs compared to three total for Harris and Stevenson.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Damien Harris	212	4.5	52%	32	36	70	10	51%	33	15
Rhamondre Stevenson	141	4.5	57%	15	27	7	51	57%	11	5

#### Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Patriots are Fielding an All-Purgatory Team For Fantasy

The Patriots have long lived with offensive ambiguity, maxing out performances from role players and not being reliant on star power. Without Tom Brady and his elite output as part of that elevation, that has left us with more pieces and parts for fantasy lineups than locked-in starting options. The most appealing component of this team is the backfield, one that ranked eighth in the league in rushing attempts (489) and yardage (2,151 yards) on the ground, to go along with 24 rushing scores, second in the league.

Damien Harris continued to progress in Year 3, turning 220 touches into 1,061 yards and 15 touchdowns, which was fifth at this position. Those touchdowns accounted for 42.8% of the fantasy points Harris scored, the highest dependency in the league. Securing just 18 receptions last season, that gives 23 catches through three years in the league. Harris has run a total of just seven pass routes on third down the past two seasons as the Patriots have leaned into having their backs in specific roles. Harris has never had a game as a top-24 scorer at his position in a game without a touchdown, which makes him a great best ball option, but a fragile player everywhere else. **Rhamondre Stevenson** was fifth in the league last year in touch rate per snap (57%) and offers the most three-down potential in this backfield.

At wide receiver, **Jakobi Meyers** led the team with 126 targets, 56 more than the next closest wide receiver, but **Kendrick Bourne** provided the top-four scoring weeks among New England wideouts for fantasy since Meyers is a non-descript target. Meyers accounted for 23.6% of the Patriot targets, something that will be put in jeopardy with expanding Bourne's usage and the addition of **DeVante Parker**. Bourne was the most efficient wideout on the roster, posting a 67% success rate and 2.01 yards per route run. Parker fought through another injury-filled season with Miami last season, catching 40 passes for 515 yards and two touchdowns. Since Parker's breakout in 2019, he has come back as the WR42 and WR46 in points per game, missing nine games. Parker still commanded a respectable 7.3 targets per game (30th) to provide a floor when on the field, a total he can hit moving to New England. The team also selected Tyquan Thornton with the 50th overall selection this spring. **Nelson Agholor** was a reach in free agency in 2021 as he was due major regression from the year prior and he never fit in with the passing attack. Agholor caught just 37 passes for 473 yards and three touchdowns, posting a 46% success rate when targeted, which was only 64 times. That production does not invoke confidence in Thornton finding an immediately successful role here, but Thornton made noise at the combine by initially looking as if he challenged the record for the 40-yard dash before it was corrected to a still impressive 4.28 time at 6-foot-2 and 181 pounds. Thornton was exactly as advertised in correlation to that raw speed, running 58.8% of his routes as an isolated receiver, producing a class-high 71.9% of his yardage lined up on his own as Baylor tried to create mismatches downfield and on slant routes to utilize his speed. 24.5% of Thornton's targets came on throws over 20 yards downfield (eighth in this class) while he carried an average depth of target of 14.9 yards, second in this class.

New England Patriots Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel								ncies	Surrendered +Success Ma
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	DI	50
1-1 [3WR]	1 plays (0%) Success: 0%	256 plays (59%) Success: 51%	168 plays (39%) Success: 36%	4 plays (1%) Success: 25%	431 plays (100%) Success: 45%		% Rk		40 -
[	EPA: -1.58	EPA: -0.02	EPA: -0.33	EPA: 0.33	EPA: -0.15	Base	12%	30	
1-2 [2WR]	14 plays (15%) Success: 64%	76 plays (81%) Success: 46%	4 plays (4%) Success: 0%		94 plays (100%) Success: 47%	Nickel	65%	11	30
	EPA: 0.21	EPA: -0.08	EPA: -1.26		EPA: -0.09	Dime+	20%	9	
2-1 [2WR]	4 plays (13%) Success: 75% EPA: 0.39	23 plays (77%) Success: 48% EPA: 0.04	3 plays (10%) Success: 0% EPA: -1.38		30 plays (100%) Success: 47% EPA: -0.05	Rush 3	13%	1	20 –
	6 plays (75%)	2 plays (25%)	2.7 1.00		8 plays (100%)	Rush 4	66%	23	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 100% EPA: 0.98	Success: 50% EPA: 0.09			Success: 88% EPA: 0.76	Rush 5	19%	17	
Cuand	25 plays (4%)	357 plays (63%)	175 plays (31%)	4 plays (1%)	563 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	2%	31	0
Grand Total	Success: 72% EPA: 0.35	Success: 50% EPA: -0.03	Success: 34% EPA: -0.37	Success: 25% EPA: 0.33	Success: 46% EPA: -0.12	Blitz%	20%	26	-10

### **Defensive Outlook**

Christian Barmore made an immediate impact as a second-round rookie in 2021. While he only had 1.5 sacks, Barmore was 13th at the position in pressure rate per SIS. That came as a rotational player who was in on just 55% of the defensive snaps and technically only started two games. That role will expand in 2022. Davon Godchaux played 59% of the defensive snaps in his first year in New England as a free agent signing from Miami. Lawrence Guy played 49% of the snaps. Those three made up most of the Patriots' three-down line and a run defense that was about average — 14th in EPA allowed per attempt on the ground. Matt Judon was the perfect fit as an edge in New England's defense and his first season produced a career-high 12.5 sacks while he ranked third in pressure rate among edge rushers, per SIS. Even with that pass rush production, Judon only rushed on 76.8% of his pass snaps as the Patriots don't always go with traditional every down pass rushers.

The versatility is key and the rest of the New England pass rush was mostly brought about by linebackers who occasionally rushed the passer. **Kyle Van Noy** rushed 37% of the time as a linebacker and was effective in that role, but he was released. **Josh Uche** had a high pressure rate on his limited snaps and could see a bigger role in his third year. **Dont'a Hightower** was the standout in the off-ball linebacker group and so much of the defense revolved around him taking on extra responsibilities but as of this writing, he is still a free agent. Van Noy played 75% of the snaps at linebacker, but he's gone. **Ju'Whaun Bentley** played 64% of the snaps and the Patriots acquired **Mack Wilson** from the Cleveland Browns in exchange for **Chase Winovich**, but what's really missing in this linebacker group is speed.

New England had little interest in retaining **J.C. Jackson** and now over the past two seasons, the cornerback room has seen a massive overhaul. The Patriots used man coverage at the third-highest rate in the league last season, per SIS, but they don't currently have the bodies to do so heading into 2022. **Jalen Mills** was mostly fine as an outside corner and had mostly good down-to-down consistency, though when he got beat it could be bad — charted with five touchdowns allowed against no interceptions. The Patriots re-signed **Malcolm Butler** who last played for New England in 2017 and did not play in 2021 after he retired. Butler was a below average corner in 2020 with the Tennessee Titans (96th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap). **Jonathan Jones** and **Joejuan Williams** both hovered around average on a per coverage snap basis in limited 2021 playing time. **Myles Bryant** flashed in 2020 and played well in the slot when he was there in 2021. Fourth-round rookie **Jack Jones** has made some waves in offseason workouts. Safety is both the strength of the secondary and part of how the Patriots can fill in some holes at linebacker. New England played dime on 20.6% of their defensive snaps, which was the highest rate in the league. The best version of that came when **Devin McCourty**, **Adrian Phillips**, and **Kyle Duggar** were all on the field at the same time. On those 478 regular season plays, the Patriots allowed 4.66 yards per play, which would have been the second-best rate as a season-long defense.

To add to the versatile safety mix, the Patriots signed **Jabrill Peppers**, who is coming off a torn ACL. At his best Peppers was better downhill than in coverage but that plays well into what New England would need from a fourth safety in this group.

Play Tendencies						
All Pass %	55%					
All Pass Rk	24					
All Rush %	45%					
All Rush Rk	9					
1 Score Pass %	50%					
1 Score Pass Rk	32					
2020 1 Score Pass %	48%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	31					
2021 Pass Increase %	3%					
Pass Increase Rk	11					
1 Score Rush %	50%					
1 Score Rush Rk	1					
Up Pass %	53%					
Up Pass Rk	22					
Up Rush %	47%					
Up Rush Rk	11					
Down Pass %	59%					
Down Pass Rk	18					
Down Rush %	41%					
Down Rush Rk	15					

Down & Distance Tendencies					Shotgun %		New England Patriots					
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %	Shotgun	Under Center	2021 Play Analysis			The state of the s	
1st	Short (1-3)	7	14%	86%	71%	47%	53%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	8	38%	63%	75%							
	Long (8-10)	338	47%	53%	55%	NFL	AVG	Sh	ort Y	ardage Ir	telliger	ice.
	XL (11+)	15	67%	33%	47%	65%	35%	Short Yardage Intelligence:				
2nd	Short (1-3)	47	23%	77%	77%	Fffic	iency		2nd and Short Run			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	84	48%	52%	58%	LITTE	iciicy					
	Long (8-10)	86	70%	30%	34%	EPA/	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
	XL (11+)	43	74%	26%	35%	pass:	pass:	94%	2	71%	69%	73%
3rd	Short (1-3)	52	50%	50%	65%	0.10	-0.03	34 /0		7 1 70	0970	7370
Dwn	Med (4-7)	50	82%	18%	48%	EPA/	EPA/		2n/	d and Sho	ort Dacc	
	Long (8-10)	32	91%	9%	28%	rush: -0.06	rush: 0.00		<u>Z110</u>	ı anu ənd	<u>л с Разз</u>	
	XL (11+)	29	83%	17%	10%			Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
4th	Short (1-3)	9	56%	44%	78%	Success: 44%	S: Success: 43%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	100%	7-7-70	1570	6%	31	29%	50%	46%
quent	Play			<u>O1</u>	fensive	Perfor	mance	w Mot	ion (P	re Snap	& Play A	Action)

Shotgun %							
Shotgun	Under Center						
47%	53%						
NFL	AVG						
65%	35%						
Efficiency							

# New England Patriots

### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Efficiency							
EPA/ pass: 0.10	EPA/ pass: -0.03						
EPA/ rush: -0.06	EPA/ rush: 0.00						
Success: 44%	Success: 43%						

2nd and Short Run								
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg				
94%	2	71%	69%	73%				

<b>2nd and Short Pass</b>								
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg				
6%	31	29%	50%	46%				

	Most Frequent Play									
Down Distance		Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %					
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Damien Harris	3	67%					
Dwn			Rhamondre Stevens	3	67%					
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Damien Harris	4	75%					
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Damien Harris	89	44%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jakobi Meyers	4	75%					
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Damien Harris	18	89%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Damien Harris	22	59%					
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Jakobi Meyers	13	54%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Kendrick Bourne	7	43%					
			Nelson Agholor	7	29%					
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	Jakobi Meyers	12	67%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Hunter Henry	12	42%					
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Jakobi Meyers	11	27%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Brandon Bolden	6	17%					

		Play Action (Y/N)	
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 52%	Success: 50%	Success: 51%
	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.00	YPA: 8.5, EPA: -0.09	YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.02
	Rtg: 78.3	Rtg: 116.0	Rtg: 87.7
	[Att: 89 - Rate: 14.8%]	[Att: 26 - Rate: 4.3%]	[Att: 115 - Rate: 19.1%]
Yes	Success: 48%	Success: 52%	Success: 49%
	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.06	YPA: 9.2, EPA: 0.04	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.06
	Rtg: 98.9	Rtg: 98.6	Rtg: 98.8
	[Att: 360 - Rate: 59.7%]	[Att: 128 - Rate: 21.2%]	[Att: 488 - Rate: 80.9%]
Total	Success: 48%	Success: 52%	Success: 49%
	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.05	YPA: 9.0, EPA: 0.02	YPA: 7.6, EPA: 0.04
	Rtg: 94.9	Rtg: 102.4	Rtg: 96.7
	[Att: 449 - Rate: 74.5%]	[Att: 154 - Rate: 25.5%]	[Att: 603 - Rate: 100.0%]

Weekly Snaps Played											
Wk	Орр	Score	Jakobi Meyers	Hunter Henry	Nelson Agholor	Kendrick Bourne	Jonnu Smith	Damien Harris	Brandon Bolden	N'Keal Harry	Jakob Johnson
1	MIA	L 17-16	74	54	64	33	55	40	2		8
2	NYJ	W 25-6	52	48	51	32	29	25			16
3	NO	L 28-13	69	52	58	55	30	22	33		9
4	TB	L 19-17	56	40	43	36	28	36	19	15	16
5	HOU	W 25-22	58	40	43	32	40	21	24	22	16
6	DAL	L 35-29	34	37	32	25	39	26	11	21	22
7	NYJ	W 54-13	59	60	43	41	17	35	21	30	28
8	LAC	W 27-24	71	50	61	23	49	41	25	27	22
9	CAR	W 24-6	55	35	54	33	28	24	29		21
10	CLE	W 45-7	48	55	47	29			18	35	25
11	ATL	W 25-0	56	32	49	29	33	25	17	26	26
12	TEN	W 36-13	52	41	50	33	34	22	19	16	12
13	BUF	W 14-10	27	15	25	15	39	13	6	25	25
15	IND	L 27-17	64	55	32	48	17		38	36	10
16	BUF	L 33-21	48	55		30	21	31	34	61	16
17	JAC	W 50-10	56	39		43	42	16	18		25
18	MIA	L 27-24	52	42	55	36	25	30	28	12	13
	Grand	Total	931	750	707	573	526	407	342	326	310

Personnel Groupings								
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.					
1-1 [3WR]	55%	61%	51%					
2-1 [2WR]	24%	7%	52%					
1-2 [2WR]	14%	21%	46%					
2-2 [1WR]	5%	3%	51%					
Group	ing Te	enden	<u>cies</u>					
	Pass Rate	enden Pass Succ. %	Run					
Group	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.					
<u>Group</u> Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %					
Group Personnel 1-1 [3WR]	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. % 54%					

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard								
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20				
Hunter Henry	19	6	4	9				
Brandon Bolden	10		2	8				
Jonnu Smith	9		4	5				
Kendrick Bourne	9	4		5				
Nelson Agholor	7		1	6				
Rhamondre Stevenson	3	1		2				

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard										
Rusher	Rusher All Inside 5 6-10									
Damien Harris	47	17	14	16						
Rhamondre Steven	25	7	4	14						
Brandon Bolden	8	2	1	5						
Mac Jones	7		1	6						
J.J. Taylor	5	3		2						
James White	2		1	1						
Jonnu Smith	2		1	1						
Kendrick Bourne	2			2						

Early D	own Targe	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
23% <b>23%</b>	22% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	55% <b>56%</b>
	NFL AVG	
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ccess %
Overall RB		ccess %





### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



Against the fifth-ranked schedule of pass defenses, this stat will blow your mind:

When the Patriots had zero negative plays on a drive (a play that produced negative yardage) they led the NFL in scoring rate, producing points on 51% of their drives. The NFL average was 39%.

Compare that to some of the other top teams in the NFL last year:

51% - NE

50% - KC

49%

48%

47% - BUF, TB, LAC

46% - LAR, DAL, IND, GB, ARI

How about this:

When the Patriots didn't allow a sack, they led the NFL in scoring rate, producing points on 52% of their drives. The NFL average was 42%.

Here are where some of the other teams stacked up:

52% - NE

51%

50% - LAR, CIN

49% - KC, GB, BUF, LAC

48% - IND, PHI, ARI

47% - TB

But when they allowed even one sack, they dropped to 29%.

More than that, their odds of scoring a touchdown plummeted to just 4.2, which was 26th in the NFL.

More than most teams, the Patriots offense couldn't afford anything negative. They could overcome average. They couldn't overcome negative.

The same was true on third down.

Look at these Mac Jones splits:

Third-and-1-8 yards-to-go: second in first down conversion rate, second in success rate, seventh in EPA/att

Third-and-9+ yards-to-go: 32nd in first down conversion rate, 29th in success rate, 32nd in EPA/att

Like all quarterbacks, Jones didn't perform nearly as well under pressure. If you look at the raw numbers, you'll see a massive dropoff.

However, if you just look at his ranking, to see where he compared to the rest of the NFL, what you find is his lack of experience really didn't cost him compared to his peers:

With pressure: 20th in EPA/att, 11th in success rate, 21st in YPA Without pressure: 20th in EPA/att, 15th in success rate, 18th in YPA

This is a positive indicator of the future in my opinion.





The Patriots simply need to do a better job of avoiding the negative and this offense has the potential to be just fine in 2022, presuming the offensive line protects well enough.

I'll be interested to see who is calling plays for this offense, given we've heard rumors of a "tryout" between Matt Patricia and Joe Judge. Neither option sounds great after former offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels left to be the head coach of the Las Vegas Raiders. Bill Belichick is apparently more involved in the offensive side of the ball, which is a good thing, but I don't have a lot of confidence either offensive playcaller candidate will be trustworthy with a young Mac Jones.

With an offense like this one, there is a ton that is in the hands of the playcaller. The Patriots were once a heavy 21 personnel team. They shifted slightly to more 12 last year with their added tight ends, but it still wasn't enough for me. Smith was considerably underutilized and the overall passing efficiency out of heavy sets like 12 and 21 was shockingly bad last year. These should be downs where defenses are playing the run. Yet look at Jones's splits against the NFL average (early downs only):

1-2 receivers on the field: 31st in EPA/att (-0.09), 27th in success rate (43%) 3+ receivers on the field: ninth in EPA/att (+0.09), fifth in success rate (50%)

Jones was substantially worse than average from heavy and substantially better than average with 3+ receivers.

Jones was also worse with play-action, which defies convention.

A playcaller will have to figure out when and how to turn the dials to optimize personnel and play-action and I don't know there is anyone on staff, other than Belichick himself, who I would trust with that job since they didn't adequately replace McDaniels.

The Patriots also need to figure out how to use Jonnu Smith. They spent \$50 million on him as their first acquisition in the first hour of legal tampering.

They had 501 snaps with him on the field and 551 naps with him off the field.

Here was their efficiency in both situations:

When Smith was on the field:

-0.13 EPA/play (29th in NFL) -0.15 EPA/pass -0.03 EPA/rush 40% success

When Smith was off the field:

0.14 EPA/play (first in NFL) 0.16 EPA/pass 0.03 EPA/rush 47% success

Meanwhile, a player like Hunter Henry, who they signed later in free agency, was on the field for 715 plays, and produced 0.09 EPA/pass when on the field vs -0.04 EPA/pass when he was not, and net, the Patriots gained -0.08 EPA/play without Henry on the field (21st) but were 0.06 EPA/play with Henry on the field (fifth). Henry was making a positive difference for the Patriots, while Smith was either very much misused or simply not a good fit in what they were trying to do.

The offensive coordinator will absolutely need to figure out how to use him better in this offense in 2022.

On the other side of the ball, I do worry somewhat about the Patriots' defense this year when they play good teams. That's because we know they faced one of the easiest schedules in the NFL last year.

They played the eighth-easiest schedule of offenses and the fourth-easiest schedule of passing offenses.

That played a huge role in their being the second-best overall defense, but they also extremely outperformed themselves on third down, for example.

The Patriots ranked fifth-best in third down conversion rate, allowing defenses to convert on third down at just a 36.5% clip. But they ranked league-average in third down distance-to-go. These metrics are highly correlated. In 2020, the Patriots' defense was average in third down conversion rate allowed. In 2019, when they were great (first in the NFL in third down conversion rate), they also ranked sixth in average distance-to-go.

I think the Patriots will slip in this area and I predict they will not finish top-5 in third down conversion rate in 2022, despite projecting them to still face an easier-than-average schedule of offenses.





Mac Jones played better than most remember in 2021. While the schedule is difficult this season, I wouldn't call it particularly daunting. There are plenty of winnable games to give the Patriots a higher floor than what oddsmakers currently are expecting. But to really "hit" this year, the Patriots are going to need a resolution of these things: the players lost on the offense cannot compromise the integrity and cause negative plays, the players lost on defense and the inevitable third down regression cannot cause this defense to wear down over the course of the season. Also, the offensive coaching must be better than it looks on paper, and Mac Jones must take that next step.

I'm most confident in the last piece. If the Patriots are able to engage a "clutch" gene and win some of these one-score games (the Patriots are 10-10 in one-score games the last three years including 3-3 last year), it could be enough to produce another double-digit win season.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE 01. Games w Halftime Lead

10

02. Avg Halftime Lead

3.0

03. Wins

10

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)							
36. PSM YPA	8.0						
37. PSM Target Depth	6.9						
38. Non-PSM YPA	7.2						
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	7.2						
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	56%						
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%						
42. PSM EPA/att	0.05						
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.06						
Play Action (Quarte	Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)						
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	36%						
45. PA Success Rate	55%						

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	36%
45. PA Success Rate	55%
46. PA YPA	9.3
47. PA Sack Rate	8.0%
48. PA EPA/att	-0.02
49. PA Target Depth	6.9
50. Non-PA Success Rate	54%
51. Non-PA YPA	6.7
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	1.6%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.1
54. Non-PA Target Depth	7.1
	l B

Men In Box					
55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	26%				
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	43%				
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	36%				
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	4.4				
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	60%				
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.4				

Fumble Luck	Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)							
Net FROE Rk	21	defFUM	14					
Net FROE	-1.0	defFUM Rcvrd	7					
offFUM Rcvrd	19 9	defFR Rk	9					
offFR%	47.4%	defFR%	50.0%					
offFR Rk offFROE	27 -2.1	defFROE	1.1					
offFROE Rk	29	defFROE Rk	9					

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 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	8.62 1 39 36 92% 32.22 3.78	Opp Att Opp Makes Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	33 22 67% 26.84 -4.84 32 0.46			
2020 Own Rk	8	2020 Opp Rk	20			

Player Tracking	Data Stats - QBs	QB
	Mac Jones	
CAY	5.7	Pressure %
CAY Rk	18	Pressure Rk
2020 CAY Rk		Sack %
AYTS Rk	17	Sack Rk
2020 AYTS Rk		Pressure Accuracy %
AGG Rk	21	Pressure Accuracy Ri
2020 AGG Rk		-
COMP%	67.6	Rating when Pressure
xCOMP%	66.3	Pressured Rating Rk
xCOMP% Rk	11	Clean Accuracy %
2020 xCOMP% Rk		Clean Accuracy Rk
CPOE%	1.2	•
CPOE Rk	8	Rating when Clean
2020 CPOE Rk		Clean Rating Rk
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT	S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:	Time to Throw
Aggressiveness <b>xCOMP</b> : Expect Actual completion percentage ov	eted completion percentage CPOE: er expectation	Time to Throw Rk

QB Pres	sure	Offensive Metrics			
	Mac Jones	EPA/Pass	0.05		
Pressure %	27.9	EPA/Pass Rk	11		
Pressure Rk	33	EPA/Rush	-0.01		
Sack %	5.1	EPA/Rush Rk	11		
Sack Rk	26	On-Target Catch %	92.9%		
Pressure Accuracy %	64.3	On-Target Catch Rk	5		
Pressure Accuracy Rk	16	Drop%	3.4%		
Rating when Pressured	75.8	Drop Rk	3		
Pressured Rating Rk	13	YAC/Att	2.4		
Clean Accuracy %	78				
Clean Accuracy Rk	22	YAC/Att Rk	12		
Rating when Clean	96.1	Rush Broken Tackle %	13.3%		
Clean Rating Rk	21	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	14		
Time to Throw	2.71	Rush 1st Down %	28.6%		
Time to Throw Rk	27	Rush 1st Down Rk	5		



# Patriots Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket 1D 123Q		No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Mac Jones	0.14 (#2)	-0.01 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.02 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	0.09 (#2)
2020	Cam Newton	0.22 (#1)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.15 (#1)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action Being Blitzed		3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Mac Jones	-0.43 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	-0.13 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	0.13 (#1)	0.20 (#1)
2020	Cam Newton	-0.84 (#2)	-0.31 (#2)	-0.06 (#2)	-0.39 (#2)	-0.34 (#2)	0.13 (#2)	-0.26 (#2)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range of the second goal and the second grammy,									
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Mac Jones	76% (#1)	79% (#1)	60% (#2)	50% (#2)	79% (#1)	75% (#2)	73% (#1)	67% (#1)	77% (#1)
2020	Cam Newton	74% (#2)	76% (#2)	70% (#1)	69% (#1)	70% (#2)	75% (#1)	64% (#2)	64% (#2)	73% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	AII	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.02 (#2)	0.01 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	-0.05 (#2)	0.05 (#1)	0.00 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)
2020	0.04 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	-0.05 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)	0.05 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	0.12 (#1)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass %	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG Range	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
2021	15	22	14	14	7	10	17	10	9	9
2020	13	32	24	5	32	15	22	22	30	30

### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	10	17	7	3	17	15	19	1	8
2020	17	16	18	9	16	9	20	1	18

## First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	31	29	1	5	29	22	5	28	10
2020	2	6	8	5	2	9	13	1	18

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

### **Head Coach**:

Easy

Dennis Allen (NO DC) (new)
Offensive Coordinator:

Pete Carmichael (13 yrs)
<u>Defensive Coordinator</u>:

Kris Richard (NO DB) (new)

Hard

# **New Orleans Saints**

### 2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

8.5

#2

### **Past Records**

2021: 9-8 2020: 12-4 2019: 13-3



### **Key Players Lost**

Rest Edge:

**Average** 

Line

0.3

Player	New
Terron Armstead (LT)	Dolphins
Marcus Williams (S)	Ravens
Trevor Siemian (QB)	Bears
Ty Montgomery (RB)	Patriots
Kwon Alexander (LB)	TBD
James Carpenter (LG)	TBD
Jeff Heath (S)	TBD
Jordan Mills (RT)	TBD
Kenny Stills (WR)	TBD
Jalyn Holmes (IDL)	Giants
Caleb Benenoch (RG)	TBD
Ken Crawley (CB)	TBD
Garrett Griffin (TE)	Lions
Lil'Jordan Humphrey (WR)	Patriots
Christian Ringo (IDL)	TBD
Brett Maher (K)	TBD
Charles Snowden (EDGE)	Retired
Jalen Dalton (IDL)	Falcons
Adrian Peterson (RB)	Retired

### **2022 New Orleans Saints Overview**

-3

-8

+3

We never saw the Sean Payton-led Saints start a season without **Drew Brees** before 2021. For one of the smartest coaches of his generation, I couldn't wait to see what Payton would get out of the Saints. I went as far as to suggest in these pages last year that if Payton somehow got this team to the playoffs, he should be a strong candidate for Coach of the Year. As the season progressed, I put my chips and money on Mike Vrabel when he was an underdog to win Coach of the Year. He earned the No. 1 seed in the toughest conference in football despite having a new offensive coordinator, a new defensive coordinator, losing his team's identity and MVP in Week 8, and rostering the most players in NFL history due to massive injuries.

The Saints were projected to win between 8.5 or 9 games last year, depending on where you found their preseason projected win total, and were expected to finish second in the NFC South. They ended up winning nine games and finishing second in the NFC South. For me and many others, however, it seemed like the Saints exceeded expectations. After all, when you take into context the fact they went from being a top-10 healthiest team for three straight years to being the seventh-most injured team in 2021, including the NFL's second-most injured offense needing to cycle through quarterback after quarterback and wide receiver after wide receiver, it was remarkable they did win nine games.

I had four primary concerns for the Saints without Drew Brees. I studied this team endlessly last offseason as I went about writing their chapter for the 2021 Football Preview. I laid out my case:

"The biggest concerns for the Saints will be: 1) how to maintain efficiency on early downs if passing less often and less consistently, 2) executing well on third downs, 3) minimizing sacks and 4) minimizing turnovers"

### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Tyrann Mathieu (S)	\$9
Marcus Maye (S)	\$7.5
Andy Dalton (QB)	\$3
Jarvis Landry (WR)	\$3
Daniel Sorensen (S)	\$1.3
Kentavius Street (EDGE)	\$1.3
Eric Wilson (LB)	\$1
J.P. Holtz (TE)	\$1
Josh Andrews (LG)	\$1
Taco Charlton (EDGE)	\$1
Kahale Warring (TF)	\$0.90

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	11	WR - Chris Olave (Ohio State)
·	19	OT - Trevor Penning (Northern lowa)
2	49	CB - Alontae Taylor (Tennessee)
5	161	LB - D'Marco Jackson (Appalachian State)
6	194	DT - Jordan Jackson (Air Force)

# Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

# Games

**Favored** 

# Games

Underdog

10







### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	21	\$101.39M	26
QB	26	\$7.99M	30
OL	16	\$37.38M	18
RB	12	\$11.89M	13
WR	6	\$31.60M	19
TE	9	\$12.53M	4
All DEF	27	\$81.52M	27
DL	23	\$36.37M	25
LB	15	\$13.41M	14
СВ	18	\$19.27M	28
S	19	\$12.48M	4

### NO-2

Why these specific concerns? Let's dive into each one, discuss why I thought it might be a differentiator, what their results were in 2021, and what I believe 2022

### 1. Early down efficiency with a reduction in pass volume

In the five years from 2016-2020 with Drew Brees, the Saints ranked sixth in pass frequency and first in pass efficiency on first downs. That combination is deadly. If you're a great passing offense and you pass the ball on first down often, you're going to win a lot of games. The Saints absolutely did.

What being so productive on first down does is allow you to bypass third downs regularly, move the ball into the red zone frequently, and score a lot of points.

And thanks to their strategy of passing at a very high rate on first down with a great pass offense, the Saints averaged the shortest yards-to-go on second down in the NFL and averaged the shortest yards-to-go on third down over those five seasons from 2016-2020.

But if we want to skip third downs, why should we focus on the to-go yardage on third downs? Because third down conversion rate is directly correlated to yardage to go on third down.

So, averaging the shortest yardage-to-go on third downs over the last five years, it's no surprise that the Saints had the NFL's best conversion rate on third downs during that span.

In a nutshell, for five straight years, here is what the Saints offense was able to do in the first three quarters of games:

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

Simply ridiculous. But it all cascades from one to the next and eventually, it cascades into wins.

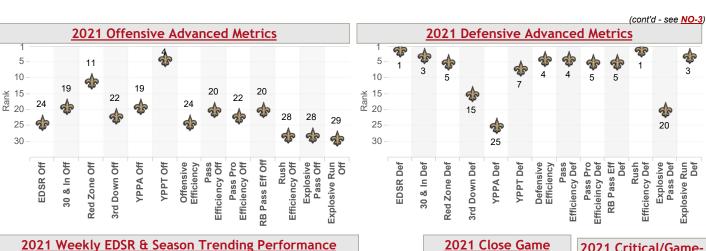
	2021 Passing Performance								
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	£2.					
Jameis Winston	53% 8.0 93.2	44% 6.5 93.8	34% 7.2 106.6	Success Rate YPA Rating					
Pass Rate	43%	48%	71%						
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating					
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%						

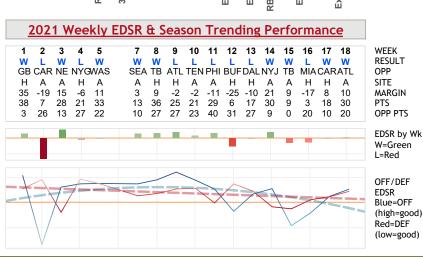
	2021 Rushing Performance								
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn						
NO	41% 3.8	48% 3.7	44% 5.5	Success Rate YPC					
Run Rate	57%	52%	29%						
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC					
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%						

Last year, I wrote:

"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 [in 2021] 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.'





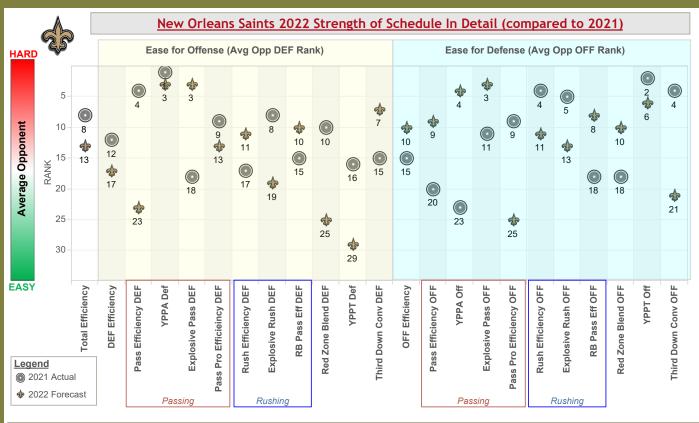
# **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 9 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-2 FG Games Win %: 33% (#18) MARGIN FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): OPP PTS 11% (#20)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-3 Score Games Win %: 40% (#23) EDSR by Wk

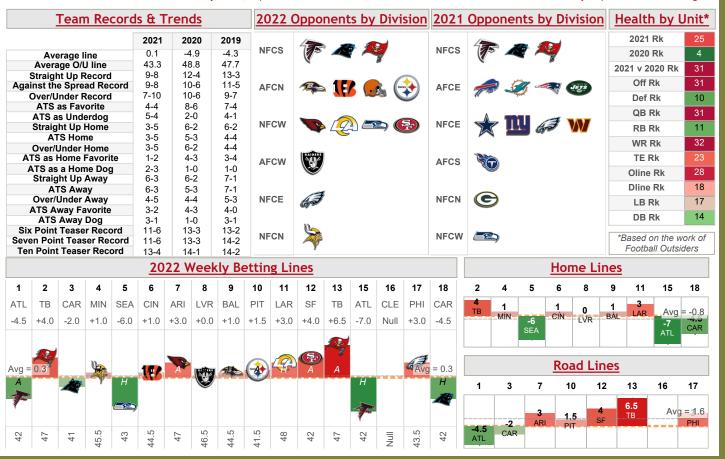
1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 22% (#27)

### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin +7 TO Given 18 **INT Given** 13 **FUM Given** 5 TO Taken 25 **INT Taken** 18 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +9 46 Sacks Sacks Allow 37 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -9 Penalties 98 **Opponent Penalties** 89



2022 vs 2021 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								
30	30 24 11 18 10 10 24 21								

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







What happened in 2021?

To start, the Saints shifted to a true 50/50 run/pass split on first half first downs, which ranked more run-heavy than average (NFL average was 52% last year, and the Saints were the 19th most pass-heavy team).

However, as I'll do for most of this chapter, I'll be taking subsets of Jameis Winston's starts as well. Winston is expected to be the Saints 2022 starter, as he was in 2021, but Winston survived only the first eight weeks of the season before landing on IR with a season-ending knee injury.

When Winston started, the Saints actually went 54% pass on these first half first downs, which ranked 17th-most (a slight up-tick from their 50% full-season number and 19th overall ranking). Clearly, Payton trusted Winston more than his backups.

Winston paid that trust back in performance. On first half first downs last year, Winston delivered 0.15 EPA/att (13th), 51% success (10th), and 7.4 YPA (18th). His overall numbers in the first three quarters:

0.10 EPA/att (19th), 51% success (12th), and 7.9 YPA (13th)

Let's also keep in mind that the Saints played the NFL's seventh-toughest schedule of pass defenses the first eight weeks of the season during Winston's

Winston's efficiency on these first half first downs was above average. It probably was better than expected by many people. But it wasn't the best in the NFL, as the Saints had grown accustomed. (Now neither you nor I am naïve enough to think Drew Brees would be delivering the best performance in these stats in 2021, he needed to retire, but the point remains the efficiency was a drop-off compared to what the Saints had been receiving the prior five years.)

The 2021 Saints' first three quarters of games saw them sit:

15th in first down pass frequency (down from sixth the prior five years)

12th in first down pass efficiency (down from first the prior five years)

Now, even if your run efficiency is solid, with an increased rate of running and a decreased efficiency when passing, you're going to find yourself with more yards-to-go on second down. We'll discuss the Saints rushing attack later.

But because of their first down pass frequency and first down pass efficiency, the Saints averaged 7.7 yards-to-go on second down, which was 19th shortest in the NFL. They ranked 19th with or without Winston. The result didn't change much the first eight weeks or the full season and it was a far cry from 2020 or the full five prior years.

And what then happened to their third down yards-to-go? As I said before, it's a cascading effect. Great first down efficiency spills all the way to third down, but the opposite exists as well.

The Saints averaged 7.5 yards-to-go on third downs in the first three quarters of games last year, which ranked 29th in the NFL. For comparison, the 2021 Bucs led the NFL with just 5.8 yards-to-go. The 2020 Saints ranked sixth that year with 6.4 yards-to-go.

I will add that in the games Winston started, his Saints averaged just 6.9 yards-to-go on third down, which ranked 17th in the NFL. So rather than include the 29th ranking, we'll look at the Winston-only 17th.

Now how did this cascade into third down conversion rate?

28

With Winston, the Saints converted just 37% of their third downs in the first three quarters of games, which ranked 24th in the NFL. For the full season, they ranked dead last in the NFL, converting just 33%.

And need I remind you, this was the best team in third down conversions the prior five years.

So the puzzle is now complete, and with Winston, the Saints ranked:

24

(cont'd - see NO-4)

22

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 to prep prep game 3 5 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: New Orleans Saints Ranking vs NFL Average Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF Net Rest Edge Rank Prep Rank Rest Rank Negated Bye Rank

18

Rank

27

Rank

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- Although the offense looks improved over last year, many questions remain. Jameis Winston is recovering from a torn ACL and Michael Thomas is still recovering from a lingering foot injury. Star running back Alvin Kamara faces a possible suspension for an off-the-field altercation. Most importantly, how will this offense proceed without long-time coach Sean Payton? A wide range of outcomes remains for the Saints offense heading into the 2022 season.
- The defense remains the strength of the Saints but the unit is likely due for regression in the red zone after allowing a league-low 43.5% red zone touchdown rate. The 2021 rate was 6.5% better than the next closest defense and a 22% improvement from the 2020 Saints defense.
- The interior offensive line could hinder the offense. The line finished with the eighth-lowest Run Block Win Rate in 2021 and **Andrus Peat** allowed a 9% pressure rate, fourth-highest among left guards that played 100 snaps. The offensive line remains a liability and needs improved injury luck and player performance to give the Saints a better chance at offensive success

8.5



### Why Bet the Over

- The Saints continued to push salary cap issues down the road this offseason and remained focused on remaining competitive in the short-term. The Saints have the ninth easiest schedule and benefit from multiple games against the Panthers and Falcons.
- The Saints' offense had brutal injury and COVID luck in 2021. The offense was forced to use four different starting quarterbacks and a revolving door of offensive linemen as the Saints' most common offensive line played only 16% of snaps, lowest amount of any team in the league. Improvement in injury luck combined with an easier schedule of opposing defenses should lead to offensive improvement.
- The loss of star receiver **Michael Thomas** hurt a receiving room that already lacked depth as the Saints dropped from fifth-best (60%) to fourth-worst (46%) success rate targeting wide receivers. The team upgraded significantly at wide receiver by adding **Chris Olave** and **Jarvis Landry** and has the potential to three new starting receivers from last year.

New Orleans Saints Positional Unit Rankings								
Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach								
23	23 18 8 16 16 13 26							

The Saints' average unit rank of 17.1 indicates they're roughly a league-average team, capable of competing for a playoff spot. However, their lowest rank among the position groups is quarterback, which could slow down an otherwise decent roster. With minimal changes to the quarterback depth chart, the Saints only improved one spot from a season ago. We've seen enough of **Jameis Winston** to know his propensity for drive-killing plays will hold back the offense. 23% of Winston's dropbacks resulted in -1 EPA or worse last year, which ranked 34th out of 39 quarterbacks.

Alvin Kamara is still among the league's best when healthy, but the Saints dropped five spots in our backfield rankings from a season ago. This was partially due to the 27-year-old Kamara returning from a knee injury, but also due to the lack of quality depth.

Votes for the Saints pass catchers ranged from 12th to 21st, which seems fair given the uncertainty surrounding **Michael Thomas**'s availability. If he's at full strength, Thomas, **Chris Olave**, and **Jarvis Landry** are a formidable trio who could easily outplay their ranking.

Seven offensive linemen played at least 300 snaps for the Saints last season, with six returning. Unfortunately, the downgrade from **Terron Armstead** to **Trevor Penning** has the potential to set this unit back, at least in the short term. The Saints allowed pressure in 2.5 seconds or less on 20% of dropbacks, ranked 14th. New Orleans returns its top five leaders in quarterback pressures, from a unit that ranked 19th in pressure rate. No one of significance was added, but further development from 2021 first-round pick **Payton Turner** could improve from the front seven. **Marshon Lattimore** and **Paulson Adebo** tied for the league lead in receptions allowed at 15 or more yards downfield. Adebo's inconsistent rookie-year performance can be excused due to inexperience, but it's been a few seasons since Lattimore lived up to the high standard he set early in his career. **Tyran Mathieu** was a nice addition, but likely a downgrade from **Marcus Williams** 

The Saints dropped 22 spots in our head coach rankings, by far the largest decline. The lack of significant turnover on the coaching staff might be a positive, but based on Dennis Allen's previous tenure as head coach of the Raiders, there's no reason to believe it will be a seamless transition away from Sean Payton.

### <u>NO-4</u>

15th in first down pass frequency (down from sixth the prior five years)

12th in first down pass efficiency (down from first the prior five years)

19th in shortest yards-to-go on second down (down from first the prior five years)

17th in shortest yards-to-go on third down (down from first the prior five years)

24th in conversion rate on third down (down from first the prior five years)

They were worse without him in the lineup.

So this covered my first two concerns for the Saints in their first year without Brees.

How could they maintain efficiency on early downs (to bypass or have convertible third downs) if they passed less often or with less consistency? And when in third downs, how would they execute?

And what I predicted last June came to fruition: more running and less passing efficiency would hurt the ability to pick up first downs at a similar rate of past

Then we come to the third concern I had before last season: sacks.

### <u>NO-5</u>

As I noted last summer, Brees had the NFL's second-lowest sack rate of the prior five years, taking only 89 sacks on 2,555 dropbacks for a 3.5% sack rate.

Winston's sack rate over that same span was nearly twice that rate, at 6.6%.

Well in 2021, Winston had an 8.5% sack rate, nearly 2% higher than his prior five-year mark.

The problem wasn't just the increased sack rate for Winston. It was also that the sacks were far more detrimental when Winston took them.

Last year, when the Saints were sacked at least once on a drive, they averaged only 0.31 points/drive, 32nd in the NFL.

During Winston's starts, when he was sacked on any drive, the Saints' conversion rate (rate of first downs that converted into another set of first downs or touchdowns) ranked 32nd. The Saints' plays per drive ranked 32nd. The Saints' yards gained per drive ranked 31st.

Compare the Saints in 2020 with the Saints in 2021 during Winston's starts when the team took a sack on a drive:

2021: 32nd in conversion rate to a new set of downs, 16th in TDs/drive (8%), 20th in points/drive (0.8),

2020: Eighth in conversion rate to a new set of downs (69%), fourth in touchdowns/drive (19%), seventh in pts/drive (1.4)

Layer on top of that Winston's tendency to get pressured and it compounded the problem. Winston was pressured at the fourth highest rate of any quarterback last year – 42.3% of his dropbacks saw him take pressure. Compare that to **Trevor Siemian** last year, who took pressure on just 28.5% of dropbacks, or Brees the year before who took pressure on just 26.1% of dropbacks.

(cont'd - see NO-6)

ALL



### Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



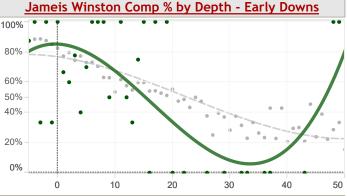
### Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

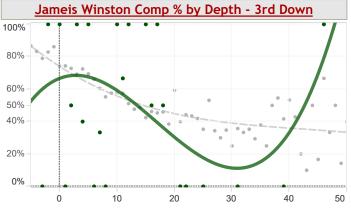


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

		Usage R	ate by S	<u>Score</u>		
C		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)
	Alvin Kamara	12%	10%	70%	3%	4%
	Mark Ingram	42%	13%	46%		
	Marquez Callaway	15%	12%	70%	2%	1%
	Taysom Hill	33%		67%		
	Deonte Harris	19%	16%	57%	5%	3%
PASS	Tony Jones			88%		13%
A	Tre'Quan Smith	18%	16%	55%	10%	
	Adam Trautman	23%	5%	58%	5%	9%
	Ty Montgomery	15%	4%	73%	8%	
	Kenny Stills	5%	9%	82%		5%
	Nick Vannett	13%		87%		
	Total	16%	11%	66%	4%	3%
	Alvin Kamara	5%	4%	67%	13%	11%
	Mark Ingram	22%	15%	59%	4%	
	Taysom Hill	3%	10%	71%	10%	6%
RUSH	Deonte Harris	40%		60%		
2	Tony Jones	26%	7%	44%	11%	11%
	Ty Montgomery	27%	7%	67%		
	Kenny Stills			100%		
	Total	11%	7%	64%	10%	8%

### Share of Offensive Plays by Type Smith Adam Trautman Montgomery Alvin Kamara Deonte Harris Nick Vannett Mark Ingram Jones Chris Hogan Taysom Hill Kenny Stills Marquez Callaway Tre'Quan Tony, **PASS** RUSH 0% 52%





# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-1 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	43%, 0.01 (283)	34%, -0.16 (77)	50%, -0.01 (42)	38%, -0.30 (52)	40%, -0.11 (10)	61%, 0.17 (18)	44%, -0.35 (27)	14%, -0.47 (7)	0%, -2.40 (1)	42%, -0.10 (537)
RUSH	42%, -0.08 (222)	49%, -0.08 (129)	38%, -0.17 (61)	50%, 0.02 (16)	35%, -0.27 (31)	65%, -0.02 (20)	38%, 0.00 (8)	67%, -0.06 (3)		45%, -0.09 (507)
All	43%, -0.03 (505)	43%, -0.11 (206)	43%, -0.11 (103)	41%, -0.22 (68)	37%, -0.23 (41)	63%, 0.07 (38)	43%, -0.27 (35)	30%, -0.35 (10)	0%, -2.40 (1)	43%, -0.09 (1,044)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)											
POS	(Leaderboard)  OS Player 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 1-0 [4WR] 4 Grp T  Marquez 42% (43) 59% (17) 60% (5) 50% (4) 48% ( Callaway 9.0, 0.32 8.0, 0.24 9.6, 0.63 4.8, 0.13 8.6, 0  Deonte 55% (38) 0% (1) 0% (1) 80% (5) 56% ( Harris 9.4, 0.29 0.0, -0.54 8.0, -0.21 7.8, 0.72 9.0, 0  Tre'Quan 50% (30) 50% (8) 0% (1) 50% (2) 49% ( Smith 7.6, 0.13 6.5, -0.05 0.0, -0.93 8.0, 0.13 7.2, 0  Chris 33% (3) 100% (1) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (1) 100% (3) 100% (1) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (3) 100% (1) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (3) 100% (1) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (3) 100% (1) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50% (2) 50%		4 Grp Total									
WR		, ,	· /	· ,	` '	48% (69) 8.6, 0.31						
					\ /	56% (45) 9.0, 0.31						
		, ,			` '	49% (41) 7.2, 0.07						
		` '				50% (8) 5.1, -0.13						
TE	Adam Trautman	47% (30) 6.0, -0.22	20% (5) 7.2, -0.07	100% (3) 12.0, 1.10		47% (38) 6.7, -0.09						
RB	Alvin Kamara	53% (34) 7.0, 0.20	43% (7) 8.9, 0.41	40% (10) 8.1, 0.24	0% (4) 1.5, -0.90	45% (55) 7.1, 0.15						

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Kamara	40% (122)	44% (57)	36% (22)	33% (12)	40% (213)
Alvin	3.8, -0.18	3.5, -0.21	4.6, -0.02	1.8, -0.06	3.7, -0.16
Ingram	41% (27)	41% (29)	30% (10)		39% (66)
Mark	4.2, -0.01	3.5, -0.24	3.0, -0.22		3.7, -0.14
Hill	48% (21)	68% (22)	63% (8)	43% (7)	57% (58)
Taysom	4.8, -0.03	7.4, 0.39	4.0, -0.01	3.3, -0.16	5.5, 0.11
Jones Jr.	39% (23)	44% (9)	17% (12)	67% (3)	36% (47)
Tony	3.0, -0.28	3.9, -0.05	1.8, -0.46	0.3, -0.36	2.7, -0.29
Winston	64% (14)	67% (9)		0% (6)	52% (29)
Jameis	7.4, 0.76	3.8, 0.15		-1.2, -0.82	4.5, 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

	sing by		ing by	Throw	<b>Types</b>	QB Drop	Types	QB	State at	Pass	Run	Types
	verage :heme	Re	oute	Level 1	50% (341)	3 Step	44% (171) 7.1, -0.04	Planted		% (380) 6, 0.10	Outside Zone	57% (105) 4.6, 0.00
		Curl	60% (62) 6.8, 0.19		6.3, 0.03		,	Moving		?% (62)		
Zone	38% (314)			Level 2	46% (91)	5 Step	40% (124) 6.6, 0.00		34	7, -0.14 1% (58)	Inside Zone	38% (80) 3.2, -0.21
	7.0, -0.15	Out	55% (47) 6.0, -0.11		8.3, 0.03	0/1 Step	57% (61)	4.5, ·		Shuffling 4.5, -0.20		36% (39)
			52% (25)	Level 3	36% (33)	u/i Step	6.5, 0.30		Play Action		Power	3.2, -0.32
Man	37% (166) 7.2, 0.13	Slant	6.1, 0.37		14.5, 0.72	7 Step	59% (46) 11.0, 0.26		Play Action	No P/A	Lead	28% (32) 3.9, -0.08
	, , , , , , ,	_	21% (24)	Sidearm	0% (4)			Under Center	56% (99) 8.9, 0.16	46% (48) 7.0, -0.12		
	222/ (24)	Drag	3.7, -0.78	0.000	1.3, -0.59	Designed Rollout Right	69% (29) 6.5, 0.26	Shotgun	46% (24)	38% (368)	Stretch	13% (31) 1.4, -0.53
Other	38% (21) 2.1, 0.23	Dig	62% (21) 11.4, 0.41	Shovel	100% (1) 3.0, 0.53	Basic Screen	41% (29) 7.0, 0.13	ALL	8.6, -0.13 54% (123) 8.9, 0.11	6.2, -0.16 39% (416) 6.3, -0.15	Pitch	33% (15) 1.5, -0.35

### <u>NO-6</u>

When Winston was pressured, his accuracy dropped from 78.6% down to 59.1%, which ranked 31st in the NFL. Compare that to Brees last year, who had an accuracy rate of 75.9% even when pressured, and you can see how impactful pressures and sacks can be.

Lastly, my final concern for the Saints post-Brees was turnovers. This is the singular area where the Saints didn't drop off as badly as I thought they might.

Brees recorded a 1.5% interception rate in 2020 and averaged a 1.5% interception rate his final five years in the NFL.

Winston's had been 3.6%, which ranked 54th out of 57 quarterbacks. But in 2021, Winston's interception rate was just 1.9%, which ranked 13th out of 42 quarterbacks, and Winston's TD:INT rate ranked third in the NFL (14:3) behind only Aaron Rodgers and Kirk Cousins.

This was a huge improvement over his prior results.

Back to the big picture, the Saints fell off in all of these areas badly save for interceptions, but they still had a winning record. The key in most games was their defense.

The Saints won games against rookies Zach Wilson and Mac Jones. They beat backups Taylor Heinicke and Geno Smith. They split the season series with Sam Darnold. That was five wins against teams they should beat given those quarterback situations. They won four other games in 2021 against veteran legit NFL starters: they beat Aaron Rodgers Week 1, split the season series with Matt Ryan, and swept Tom Brady.

Sweeping Brady yet again propelled defensive coordinator Dennis Allen to be the next Saints head coach. It was exceedingly impressive. Allen's defense has faced Tom Brady four times in the last two years. Brady is 0-4. Compare Brady's stats in Tampa vs. the Saints and vs. every other team:





vs. the Saints: -0.28 EPA/att, 6.4 YPA, 40% success, 61% completion rate, 6:8 TD:INT, 7.4% sack rate vs non-Saints: 0.17 EPA/att, 7.6 YPA, 51% success, 67% completion rate, 77:16 TD:INT, 2.5% sack rate

The numbers aren't close to comparable.

The Saints defense has a bit less punch with the loss of safety **Marcus Williams**, but it added both **Marcus Maye** and **Tyrann Mathieu** and still should be a solid group with Allen at the helm.

Unlike last season, however, there are no rookie quarterbacks on the Saints' schedule this year. They still will get to face bad quarterback situations in Atlanta and Carolina twice and they'll get Seattle again. That's five games that should position the Saints to just not blow it. The defense should do enough and if the offense is semi-competent, you can mark down several wins for the Saints. But those five games are the only five games on the season the Saints are favored.

The problem for the Saints is most of the non-division teams they will play this year should be better than those teams were last year. I know it's easy to look at positives at this time of the year and think most teams will be better. But look at some of these teams:

The Ravens will be much healthier at quarterback and just about every other position. The Vikings' new coaching staff likely makes them more efficient. The Eagles had one of the best offseasons in the NFL from a personnel perspective in who they added. The Raiders added one of the NFL's best receivers in Davante Adams. The 49ers and Cardinals could take steps back this year. However, look at the brutal situations for the Saints in each of those games.

Both games are on the road. The Cardinals game is on Thursday night, so it's a short week road game for New Orleans. The game against the 49ers comes on the road in Week 12, two weeks before the Saints' bye week. The 49ers will have their bye in Week 9, while the Saints might be on fumes, waiting for their very late bye week. In general, the Saints rank as having the fifth-worst net rest edge and they rank bottom 10 in their prep rank metric.

What else can we expect from the Saints in 2022 that was different from 2021? In 2021 this team was the eighth-most injured, which was the second-largest shift towards injury for any team in the NFL, as the 2020 Saints were the fourth-healthiest team in the NFL. It was brutal for the offense:

Most injured WR room, second-most injured QB room, fifth-most injured offensive line room, and 10th most injured TE room. The only position relatively healthy was running back, and even they didn't rank top-10 in health. Health should improve in 2022.

Because the receivers were so injured, the Saints couldn't run 11 personnel at the rate they had in the past. The overall quality of wide receivers should also improve because they drafted **Chris Olave** 11th overall, signed **Jarvis Landry**, and may see the return of **Michael Thomas**.

What needs to improve is rushing efficiency — specifically that of **Alvin Kamara**. His rushing efficiency has headed downward dramatically for four consecutive years with huge drop-offs in EPA/att in that time:

2018: 0.22 EPA/att, 45% success, 4.6 YPC, 2.8 yds after contact, 1.8 yds before contact 2019: 0.13 EPA/att, 41% success, 4.7 YPC, 3.2 yds after contact, 1.5 yds before contact 2020: 0.10 EPA/att, 42% success, 5.0 YPC, 3.0 yds after contact, 2.0 yds before contact 2021: -0.11 EPA/att, 35% success, 3.7 YPC, 2.8 yds after contact, 0.95 yds before contact

(cont'd - see NO-8)

### Immediate Impact of New Orleans Saints 2022 Draft Class

The Saints put together a predictably small draft class, and set themselves up for future small classes by trading away their 2023 first- and 2024 second-round selections. **Chris Olave** (first round) is an outside receiver, who will likely start opposite **Michael Thomas** with **Jarvis Landry** manning the slot. Olave is faster than Thomas, but provides a similar skill set in the sense that he wins with his routes and reliable hands and struggles after the catch. Based on route-adjusted data, Olave produced 31% fewer yards after the catch than expected over the course of his career at Ohio State.

Trevor Penning (first round) was drafted to replace Terron Armstead at left tackle and will be expected to win the job in training camp. Although there's always some concern about the transition of prospects from the FCS level to the NFL, GM Mickey Loomis and his staff have never been shy about adding prospects from smaller programs, most recently drafting tight end Adam Troutman in the third round out of Dayton.

Alontae Taylor (second round) primarily played outside corner at Tennessee, and will likely have an opportunity to compete for a job there, but also has the skill set to play safety. Taylor is coming off a disappointing conclusion to his career at Tennessee — he allowed a catch rate 7.1% above expected in 2021. D'Marco Jackson (fifth round) is a versatile weapon, who looks like a great value on Day 3. Jackson excelled as a coverage linebacker at Appalachian State, but was also dangerous on blitzes. Jackson blitzed on 20% of his snaps against the pass last season, generating a 33% pressure rate. Jordan Jackson (sixth round) is a developmental prospect for the interior defensive line based on his athleticism, but he'll turn 25 during his rookie year. When lined up as a three-tech tackle, Jackson generated a 12.2% pressure rate last season and the Saints will try to build upon that skill set.

If you add up the draft capital (assuming mid-round selections for future draft picks) from the Saints trades to acquire Olave and Penning, Loomis spent the equivalent of the fourth- and fifth overall picks on those two players. That's an absurd level of confidence in their evaluation process — especially considering the lack of depth in the middle and late rounds of their draft class to potentially offset any misses at the top.

Over the last five drafts, the Saints have used only 27 draft picks, six fewer than any other team. That's a risky approach to team building because it leaves no margin for error and also forces the team to spend more in free agency — which explains the team's tricky salary cap situation in recent years. Olave and Penning should start immediately, but the Saints are playing with fire in their approach to the draft.



### New Orleans Saints 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Starting three different quarterbacks last season in their first season without Drew Brees, the Saints closed the 2021 season 26th in the NFL in expected points added via their passing offense (12.9 EPA) while ranking 31st in team completion rate (58.1%), 21st in interception rate (2.6%), 22nd in yards per pass attempt (6.8 Y/A). As a positive, they were sixth in touchdown rate (5.8%) and fifth in yards per completion (11.7 yards). **Jameis Winston** was doing everything asked of him prior to tearing his ACL in Week 8. The Saints had a 5-2 record while he was averaging 8.2 yards per pass attempt with 14 touchdowns to just three interceptions. After making a push and failing to land Deshaun Watson this offseason, the Saints brought Winston back on a two-year contract while adding **Andy Dalton** to the depth behind him, moving **Taysom Hill** officially to tight end moving forward.

2021 Standard Passing Table												
QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk												
Jameis Winston	94	160	59%	1,163	7.3	14	3	11	103	7		
Trevor Siemian	107	185	58%	1,146	6.2	11	3	8	89	24		
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6			

2021 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 %		
Trevor Siemian	41%	44%	15	8.0%	3	2.0%	6.0	4.6				
Jameis Winston	45%	49%	11	7.0%	6	4.0%	6.2	6.1				
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3				

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10 Jameis Winston Rating

# Early Downs 146 0 110 75 105

Interception Rates by Down           Yards to Go         1st Dwn         2nd Dwn         3rd Dwn         4th Dwn         Total           1 & 2         0.0%         0.0%         0.0%         0.0%           3, 4, 5         0.0%         0.0%         0.0%         0.0%           6 - 9         0.0%         0.0%         0.0%         0.0%           10 - 14         1.6%         5.9%         7.7%         0.0%         3.2%												
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%	0.0%							
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%							
10 - 14	1.6%	5.9%	7.7%	0.0%	3.2%							
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%							
Total	1.5%	1.9%	2.1%	0.0%	1.8%							

3rd Down I	Passing	- Short	of Stic	<u>ks Anal</u>	<u>ysis</u>
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk
Jameis Winston	7.6	9.8	1.7	59%	18
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%	

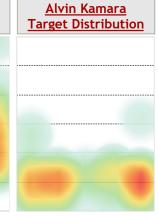
	Air Y	'ds vs	YAC
nd	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
	51%	49%	30
	53%	47%	

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Saints received back-end production from their wideouts in 2021. New Orleans received similar efficiency from their tight ends as their wideouts in 2021. The tight end group posted 35.4 yards per game (29th) on 4.8 targets per game (29th) while ranking 25th in yards per target (6.9 yards) to the position. Forced to run their passing game through Alvin Kamara in 2021, the Saints are hoping to get Michael Thomas back on the field this season after he has essentially missed the past two seasons, while adding Chris Olave and Jarvis Landry to the fold. They are also moving Taysom Hill to tight end to compete for snaps Adam Trautman and Juwan Johnson

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dшоე	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Marquez Callaway	82	54%	8.1	99.9	45%	116	132	56	98	6
Alvin Kamara	67	70%	6.6	112.7	45%	117	114	105	97	5
Deonte Harris	58	62%	9.8	76.1	52%	71	118	24	121	3

# Marquez Callaway Target Distribution 50 40 (iii ai) 30 20 -10



### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

New Orleans struggled on the ground in 2021, closing the year 21st in the league in expected points added via rushing (-15.6 EPA) and 28th in yards per carry (3.9 YPC). A large component in that lack of efficiency was due to having the most oft-injured offensive line in the NFL. The most frequent offensive line combination used by New Orleans during the season played just 167 total snaps together (15.9%), #32 in the NFL. Kamara finished dead last in the league in rushing yards below expectation (-133) while his broken plus missed tackle rate per attempt (16.7%) was his lowest since 2018. Kamara may face a suspension this season, but the Saints made little adjustment to their depth behind him. **Mark Ingram** will turn 33 years old this December, but he was useful when Kamara missed time a year ago.

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	240	3.7	41%	84	76	55	77	43%	73	4
Taysom Hill	70	5.3	61%	5	50	45	13	65%	1	5
Mark Ingram	159	3.8	41%	85	68	61	69	39%	83	2
Tony Jones	54	2.6	37%	86	71	5	91	38%	85	0

### Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Are the Saints The Most Undervalued Fantasy Offense Or Are There Too Many Red Flags?

New Orleans has had a lot of moving parts this offseason, but this is a team that still carries a lot of talent on offense that is priced below the ceiling potential on a number of their starters. Nearly all come with some red tape attached to them, which is factored into those depressed costs, but you can make a case that all of their core players on offense can smash their ADP. Even the loss of Sean Payton may be overstated a bit as offensive Pete Carmichael has been with the team in the same capacity since the 2009 season. The reward versus risk here starts with **Alvin Kamara**, who is potentially facing a suspension following an altercation after the Pro Bowl. With his hearing pushed back to August, that provides a window for the NFL to drag their feet on a 2022 suspension, but also a period where we are still flying blind for the rest of the summer on if he will miss games this season, leaving gamers letting Kamara slide.

Kamara was also a mixed bag on the field in 2021. He averaged a career-high 22.1 touches per game (third in the league) but caught a career-low 47 passes. He was dead last in the league in rushing yards below expectation (-133) while his broken plus missed tackle rate per attempt (16.7%) was his lowest since 2018. He did play behind the most oft-injured offensive line in the NFL. The most frequent offensive line combination used by New Orleans during the season played just 167 total snaps together (15.9%), the lowest rate in the league for a team's most-used five-lineman combination. The Saints were also dreadful collectively on offense after Jameis Winston was lost for the season. If Kamara is not suspended, he is a first-round pick. New Orleans did little of note to threaten Kamara's workload if he is able to play, and he was third among running backs in expected points per game (20.0). While Kamara has a potential suspension priced into his cost, **Mark Ingram** does not. Ingram will turn 33 years old this December, but he was useful when Kamara missed time a year ago, producing 108 and 113 yards in the first two games that Kamara missed before producing just 26 yards in his other game without Kamara.

We then have **Michael Thomas**. Out-of-sight, out-of-mind the past two seasons. The days of Thomas being someone who pushes for the WR1 overall may have passed, but do I believe he can be a Keenan Allen-type for fantasy and is undervalued. Thomas has had at least five receptions in 10 of 12 weeks without Drew Brees and eight or more grabs in eight of those games, but early-summer news that he still has hurdles to clear in his recovery while the Saints added **Chris Olave** and **Jarvis Landry** to the roster.

Gamers have completely priced in Thomas's downside, but if he shows up for training camp then he looks to be massively undervalued. It would not be a surprise to see Chris Olave pace all rookie wideouts in production playing with an aggressive quarterback and better environment than the rest of the first-round wideouts. Especially if Thomas is not yet still right. Olave was second in this class in 2021 in converting 62.5% of his contested catches while not being reliant on them making up a large sample of his targets (15.7%). 20% of his career collegiate receptions went for scores, the highest rate in this draft class. Jarvis Landry even has contingent value here despite turning in WR38 and WR41 scoring seasons per game the past two seasons as his receptions and vardage per game have dropped from the previous year in both.

Lastly, **Jameis Winston** was the top quarterback in fantasy points per attempt (.601) while second in the NFL in EPA per play on his abbreviated sample. Winston also was living off a completely unsustainable 8.7% touchdown rate, but Thomas, Olave, and Landry provide a much-improved receiver after Winston was forced to target Alvin Kamara a team-high 34 times under center.

New	V Orleans Sa	aints Defens	e: Number o	of DBs vs Pe	rsonnel	Def T	ende	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	- Di	50
1-1 [3WR]	11 plays (2%) Success: 55%	250 plays (54%) Success: 49%	193 plays <i>(42%)</i> Success: 28%	10 plays (2%) Success: 50%	464 plays (100%) Success: 41%		%	Rk	40-
	EPA: -0.19	EPA: -0.06	EPA: -0.30	EPA: -0.21	EPA: -0.16	Base	14%	29	
1-2 [2WR]	25 plays (24%) Success: 60%	70 plays (67%) Success: 57%	10 plays (10%) Success: 40%		105 plays (100%) Success: 56%	Nickel	59%	17	30 -
	EPA: 0.14	EPA: 0.13	EPA: 0.03		EPA: 0.12	Dime+	24%	6	
2-1 [2WR]	11 plays (61%) Success: 27% EPA: -0.47	6 plays <i>(33%)</i> Success: 50% EPA: -0.75	1 plays <i>(6%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 2.57		18 plays (100%) Success: 39% EPA: -0.39	Rush 3	9%	5	20 -
						Rush 4	68%	22	10-
1-3 [1WR]	4 plays (57%) Success: 25% EPA: -0.65	2 plays (29%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.87	1 plays <i>(14%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -5.58		7 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 29% EPA: -0.92	Rush 5	17%	26	10-
	51 plays (9%)	328 plays (55%)	205 plays (35%)	10 plays (2%)	594 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	6%	11	0
Grand Total	Success: 49% EPA: -0.12	Success: 51% EPA: -0.02	Success: 29% EPA: -0.30	Success: 50% EPA: -0.21	Success: 43% EPA: -0.13	Blitz%	23%	20	-10

### **Defensive Outlook**

David Onyemata played 38% of the overall snaps in 11 games and was a force inside. He ranked fifth among defensive tackles in pressure rate, per SIS. Onyematta is in the final year of his contract as it voids following the 2022 season. Shy Tuttle played the most snaps among New Orleans defensive tackles (44.3%) and was a presence against the run. Tuttle was a restricted free agent in 2022 and is currently slated to play on an RFA tender this season. The Saints recently signed Kentavius Street to bet on some upside as a pass rusher. Street tore his ACL during a pre-draft workout in 2018 and has since worked his way into the 49ers' deep defensive line rotation. In 2021, he had three sacks and five quarterback hits. Cameron Jordan keeps chugging along as he will turn 33 years old in July. After years of playing over 90% of the defensive snaps, Jordan has played 78% and 79% over the past two seasons. That has saved his legs a bit and allowed him to continue to produce. Jordan was 59th among edge rushers in pressure rate but still picked up 22 quarterback hits and was first among edge rushers in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate.

The Saints bet on **Marcus Davenport**, first with their draft day trade up and then by letting Trey Hendrickson leave in free agency. Davenport was ninth among edge rushers in pressure rate and that turned into a career-high nine sacks. New Orleans restructured Davenport's *rookie* contract in 2021, which voids after 2022 and leaves a \$7.6 million cap hit in 2023. It would appear the way around that is an extension. **Payton Turner** only played 12.8% of the snaps as a rookie but will provide some depth. **Carl Granderson**, a 2019 undrafted free agent, has gotten some run with eight sacks and 17 quarterback hits over the past two seasons.

Demario Davis remains one of the league's best off-ball linebackers with the ability to impact every level of the field. Davis played 92.8% of the defensive snaps for New Orleans in 2022 but he just turned 33 years old in January. His contract voids after 2023. 2021 second-round pick Pete Werner is in line to play more after seeing 35.3% of the defensive snaps last season. He was 26th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. With Kwon Alexander still a free agent, Werner should be the second linebacker, though the team did play the sixth-highest rate of dime (23.8%) in the league last season. Zack Baun, a 2020 third-round pick, appeared in all 17 games during the regular season but was on the field for just 17.4% of the defensive snaps. He brings ability as a pass rusher but has two combined quarterback hits in two seasons.

Marshon Lattimore was 85th among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. Lattimore's league-wide perception is much better than those rankings and he signed a five-year extension in September than keeps him on the Saints through 2026. 2021 third-round pick Paulson Abedo had some ups and downs expected of a rookie corner. He ranked 81st in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap but flashed upside that should allow him to be a successful outside corner as he develops. 2022 second-round pick Alontae Taylor was top 10 in yards allowed per coverage snap during the 2021 college football season and could compete for outside snaps. Bradley Roby played well in limited snaps after coming over from the Texans and re-signed for three years. P.J. Williams bounced between safety and corner, a role he's likely to play again in 2022. He was useful as a slot corner, second in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Chauncey Gardner-Johnson is in a similar boat as Williams. He's played both safety and slot corner with a majority of his snaps in the slot last season. He's a plus at both spots and the versatility is a great asset for the defense. Tyrann Mathieu signed after the draft and adds a similar element, but that's not a bad thing. The Saints now have a deep and versatile group of defensive backs. The Saints replaced Marcus Williams with Marcus Maye, a bet the former Jet can return to form after an Achilles tear.

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	52%
All Pass Rk	30
All Rush %	48%
All Rush Rk	3
1 Score Pass %	53%
1 Score Pass Rk	25
2020 1 Score Pass %	55%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	23
2021 Pass Increase %	-2%
Pass Increase Rk	21
1 Score Rush %	47%
1 Score Rush Rk	8
Up Pass %	46%
Up Pass Rk	31
Up Rush %	54%
Up Rush Rk	2
Down Pass %	55%
Down Pass Rk	29
Down Rush %	45%
Down Rush Rk	4

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	<u>denci</u>	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %
1st	Short (1-3)	1	100%	0%	100%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	4	25%	75%	75%
	Long (8-10)	305	43%	57%	49%
	XL (11+)	13	77%	23%	23%
2nd	Short (1-3)	46	4%	96%	70%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	79	47%	53%	54%
	Long (8-10)	91	56%	44%	33%
	XL (11+)	41	78%	22%	24%
3rd	Short (1-3)	38	45%	55%	55%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	50	82%	18%	36%
	Long (8-10)	35	86%	14%	29%
	XL (11+)	33	88%	12%	9%
4th	Short (1-3)	11	18%	82%	55%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	100%	0%	67%
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%

Shotg	gun %
Shotgun	Under Center
52%	48%
NFL	AVG
NFL 65%	35%

EPA/

pass: -0.10

# New Orleans Saints 2021 Play Analysis



### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sh	ort Run	
EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg
pass: 0.12	84%	4	71%	85%	73%
EPA/		2n/	d and Sho	ort Pass	
rush:		<u> </u>	a and one	<u> </u>	
-0.18 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
36%	16%	29	29%	60%	46%

		Most	Frequent Play		
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Alvin Kamara	2	100%
Dwn	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Alvin Kamara	94	41%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Marquez Callaway	2	100%
			Deonte Harris	2	0%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Alvin Kamara	18	56%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Alvin Kamara	22	64%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Alvin Kamara	22	23%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Alvin Kamara	8	13%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Taysom Hill	8	63%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Marquez Callaway	11	27%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Marquez Callaway	8	25%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Alvin Kamara	6	0%

<u>Offen</u>	sive Performance	w Motion (Pre Sna	ap & Play Action)
		Play Action (Y/N)	
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 43%	Success: 70%	Success: 47%
	YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.13	YPA: 9.5, EPA: 0.46	YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.03
	Rtg: 95.6	Rtg: 100.0	Rtg: 96.4
	[Att: 98 - Rate: 18.2%]	[Att: 20 - Rate: 3.7%]	[Att: 118 - Rate: 21.9%]
Yes	Success: 37%	Success: 50%	Success: 41%
	YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.16	YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.04	YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.11
	Rtg: 82.4	Rtg: 104.7	Rtg: 87.7
	[Att: 318 - Rate: 59.0%]	[Att: 103 - Rate: 19.1%]	[Att: 421 - Rate: 78.1%]
Total	Success: 39%	Success: 54%	Success: 42%
	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.15	YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.11	YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.09
	Rtg: 85.6	Rtg: 103.9	Rtg: 89.7
	[Att: 416 - Rate: 77.2%]	[Att: 123 - Rate: 22.8%]	[Att: 539 - Rate: 100.0%]

				<u>Weekly</u>	<b>Snaps Play</b>	<u>ed</u>		
Wk	Орр	Score	Marquez Callaway	Adam Trautman	Alvin Kamara	Tre'Quan Smith	Ty Montgomery	Mark Ingram
1	GB	W 38-3	52	51	45		16	
2	CAR	L 26-7	32	23	37		14	
3	NE	W 28-13	38	51	52		13	
4	NYG	L 27-21	56	39	59		34	
5	WAS	W 33-22	46	48	49		25	
7	SEA	W 13-10	68	64	61	41	12	
8	TB	W 36-27	59	66	51	48	33	22
9	ATL	L 27-25	60	67	52	61		26
10	TEN	L 23-21	52	56		61	6	57
11	PHI	L 40-29	50	44		62		47
12	BUF	L 31-6	34			45	29	
13	DAL	L 27-17	48			47	36	30
14	NYJ	W 30-9	50		52	49		
15	TB	W 9-0	52	35	37	40	20	30
16	MIA	L 20-3	41		31	14	24	24
17	CAR	W 18-10	49	48	45		8	
18	ATL	W 30-20	46	50	56	52	30	
	Grand	Total	833	642	627	520	300	236

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	ings
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	48%	61%	43%
1-2 [2WR]	20%	21%	43%
2-1 i2WRi	10%	7%	43%
0-1 [4WR]	6%	1%	41%
2-2 [1WR]	4%	3%	37%
1-3 [1WR]	4%	4%	63%
2-0 i3WRi	4%	1%	46%
	4%	170	
1-0 [4WR]	3%	2%	43%
	3%	2%	43%
1-0 [4WR]	3%	2%	43% cies Run
1-0 [4WR]	3% ping Te	2% enden Pass Succ.	43%  cies  Run Succ
Group  Personnel	3% ping Te Pass Rate	enden Pass Succ. %	43%  Cies  Run Succ. %
1-0 [4WR]  Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  1-2 [2WR]  2-1 [2WR]	3% ping Te Pass Rate 56%	2% enden Pass Succ. % 43%	43%  Cies  Run Succ. % 42%
1-0 [4WR]  Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 0-1 [4WR]	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. % 43% 34%	43%  Cies  Run Succ % 42% 49%
1-0 [4WR]  Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 0-1 [4WR] 0-2 [1WR]	3%  Pass Rate  56% 37% 41% 76% 24%	2%  enden  Pass Succ. %  43% 34% 50% 38% 40%	43%  Cies  Run Succ. % 42% 49% 38% 50% 35%
1-0 [4WR]  Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  1-2 [2WR]  2-1 [2WR]  0-1 [4WR]  2-2 [1WR]  1-3 [1WR]	3%  ping Te  Pass Rate  56% 37% 41% 76% 24% 47%	2% enden Pass Succ. % 43% 34% 50% 38%	43%  Run Succ. % 42% 49% 38% 50%
1-0 [4WR]  Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR] 2-1 [2WR] 0-1 [4WR] 0-2 [1WR]	3%  Pass Rate  56% 37% 41% 76% 24%	2%  enden  Pass Succ. %  43% 34% 50% 38% 40%	43%  Cies  Run Succ. % 42% 49% 38% 50% 35%

Red Zone 1	argets	Leade	rboard	
Receiver	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Alvin Kamara	14	1	4	9
Marquez Callaway	9	2	1	6
Tre'Quan Smith	9	4		5
Adam Trautman	8	2	1	5
Deonte Harris	5			5
Lil'Jordan Humphrey	1	1		
Tony Jones	1		1	

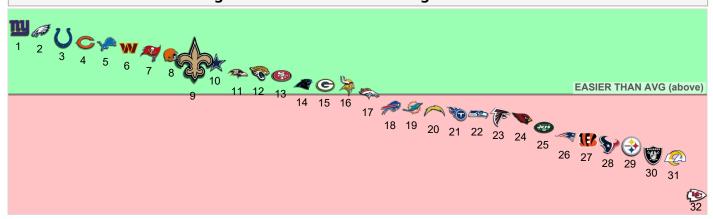
Red Zone F	<u>kusnes</u>	Leage	rboar	<u>a</u>
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Alvin Kamara	41	11	6	24
Taysom Hill	15	3	4	8
Mark Ingram	10	2	1	7
Tony Jones	4	1		3
Trevor Siemian	2			2
Deonte Harris	1			1

Early D	own Targ	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
31%	15%	54%
000/	21%	56%
23%	NFL AVG	3070
	NFL AVG	
<u>Overall</u>	NFL AVG	ıccess %





### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



Clearly, there is not an issue with the yards after contact. Kamara is hovering around 3.0 yards after contact for his career with no year less than 2.8. Not that his yards after contact are great. His 2.8 ranked 29th out of 49 running backs with at least 100 attempts last year. His 2.9 average over the last four years ranks 37th out of 79 backs with 200+ attempts.

What really fell off last year was his yards before contact. From 2018 to 2020, Kamara averaged 1.8 yards before contact per attempt, which ranked ninth in the NFL out of 57 running backs with at least 200 carries.

What happened? Why the sudden decline from 2.0 to 0.95 last year? You could argue that defenses didn't respect the pass as much and loaded up to stop the run. You could cite this singular stat, which paints a strong case:

Percentage of rushes for Kamara vs. 7+ defenders in the box:

2018: 76% 2019: 75% 2020: 72% 2021: 83%

But here's where you would be wrong and here is why I think the upside potentially returns in 2022:

In large part, blame wide receiver injuries. Although on the surface it sounds strange, look at what happened to Kamara:

Percentage of rushes with fewer than three wide receivers on the field:

2018: 47% 2019: 49% 2020: 36% 2021: 63%

If you just want to look at the percentage of all snaps, not just rushes, we can do that as well. In 2020, there were 3+ receivers on the field with Kamara on 67% of his snaps. In 2021, it dropped to 47%.

With fewer receivers on the field and more heavy personnel, naturally the defense responded accordingly. They played with heavier boxes more often.

So what happened when the Saints played with three receivers on the field when Kamara was out there? Well, defenses played with 7+ run defenders 64.8% of the time. Lower than the 65.5% from 2020. Since 2017, Kamara faced 7+ box defenders in 3+ receiver sets at a 64% clip, which was virtually identical to the 64.8% from 2021. If we isolate just to first down runs, with 3+ receivers on the field, Kamara faced 7+ box defenders at a 69% rate in 2021 compared to a much higher 73% rate in 2020.

The reason Kamara struggled wasn't that defenses disrespected the quarterback. It was, in large part, because his offensive line was injured and struggled in run blocking. The Saints drafted offensive tackle **Trevor Penning** in the first round this year, and it would be logical to assume the offensive line will not be as injured in 2022 as it was in 2021. Kamara needs to play better as well, it's not all on his line. But if we found that defenses started loading the box because Brees wasn't there, it would bode very poorly for Kamara in 2022. That was simply not the case.

Thanks to Winston's return, we should see deeper passing this season. Last year, Winston ranked eighth out of 42 quarterbacks with 8.3 air yards/attempt. When Taysom Hill and Trevor Siemian took over, these numbers plummeted to 7.3 and 7.1 respectively, ranking 30th and 36th. 35% of Winston's attempts traveled 10+ yards, which was sixth in the NFL. Compare these numbers with Brees from 2020 and you'll find of 44 qualifying quarterbacks, Brees ranked 43rd in air yards/att (6.0) and 40th in the percentage of throws traveling 10+ yards (28%). With Winston, new wide receivers, and a healthier overall receiver room, we're likely to see deeper throws once again like we did to start 2021.

Winston obviously has his problems as well. We discussed his tendency to take pressure and sacks. We analyzed how he struggled to throw under pressure and how much his performance was impacted. We mentioned how impactful those were to drives when he was quarterback. The Saints must do a better job of keeping pressure off Winston and he must do his share in delivering the ball timely to avoid pressure.





Beyond those struggles, Winston also ranked 35th in CPOE (completion percentage over expectation) last season out of 38 qualifying quarterbacks. The only quarterbacks ranking lower? Rookies Trevor Lawrence and Zach Wilson as well as Mike Glennon. Winston must improve here. What expected completion rate is great at calculating is that it incorporates the difficulty of the throw into the calculus by accounting for air yards, receiver separation, pass rush, and more. Drew Brees had the NFL's highest expected completion percentage the last two years, because he often threw short to open receivers. That's not really what Winston does. In his last year, Brees was expected to complete 69.3% of his passes but actually completed 70.5% of them. Last year, Winston was only expected to complete 64.3% of his passes, much lower than Brees. Instead of hitting or even exceeding that mark, Winston completed just 59%.

We know the Saints are not going to be as strong as they were when Brees was behind center. We already saw the impact last season. They will have worse first down pass efficiency, they will have longer to go on second down, they will have longer to go on third down and they will have a lower third down conversion rate.

This won't change in 2022 either. The Saints must do a better job everywhere else to minimize the impact of these constraints. It comes from the offensive line, receivers, running backs, and certainly quarterback as well. It will also come from the playcalling and coaching. Yes, Pete Carmichael is still their offensive coordinator, as he's been for the prior 13 years. But Sean Payton is gone and we know Payton called plays for years and years in New Orleans. We know Payton designed the offense. We know Payton found answers when questions arose mid-game based on defensive tactics. We know Payton was an offensive mastermind. How will things go when Carmichael no longer has Payton around? Answering this question will go a long way to determining how well the Saints perform in 2022.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented 16-year track record of providing winning NFL recommendations

### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

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

Pre-Snap Mo	tion (Quarters 1-3)
36. PSM YPA	6.3
37. PSM Target Depth	6.0
38. Non-PSM YPA	7.1
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	7.6
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	46%
41 Non-DSM Page Success Pate	53%

02. Avg Halftime Lead 0.0

-0.18

0.04

01. Games w Halftime Lead 8

42. PSM EPA/att

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

03. Wins 9

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)						
35%						
49%						
7.8						
9.3%						
0.03						
8.1						
43%						
6.1						
5.1%						
-0.15						
6.1						

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	36%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.6
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	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 line	4
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	52%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.7

Fumble Luck	Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)								
Net FROE Rk	11								
		defFUM	15						
Net FROE	1.5	defFUM Rcvrd	8						
offFUM	14		-						
offFUM Rcvrd	9	defFR Rk	13						
offFR%	64.3%	defFR%	46.7%						
offFR Rk	9	defFROE	0.7						
offFROE	0.8	delFROE	0.7						
offFROE Rk	12	defFROE Rk	14						

2

3

Field Goal Luck						
Net Over Expectation	-0.79	Opp Att	38			
Net Over Expectation Rank	18	Opp Makes	31			
Own Att Own Makes	30 25 Opp FG %		82%			
Own FG %	83%	Opp Expected Makes	31.00			
Own Expected Makes	25.79	Opp Make Over Expectation	0.00			
Own Make over Expectation	-0.79	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	22			
Own Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	24 -0.47	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	1.59			
2020 Own Rk	20	2020 Opp Rk	8			

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs						
	Trevor Siemian	Jameis Winston				
CAY	6.1	6.5				
CAY Rk	11	4				
2020 CAY Rk						
AYTS Rk	28	7				
2020 AYTS Rk						
AGG Rk	11	35				
2020 AGG Rk						
COMP%	57.4	59				
xCOMP%	60.7	64.3				
xCOMP% Rk	38	30				
2020 xCOMP% Rk						
CPOE%	-3.2	-5.3				
CPOE Rk	29	35				
2020 CPOE Rk						

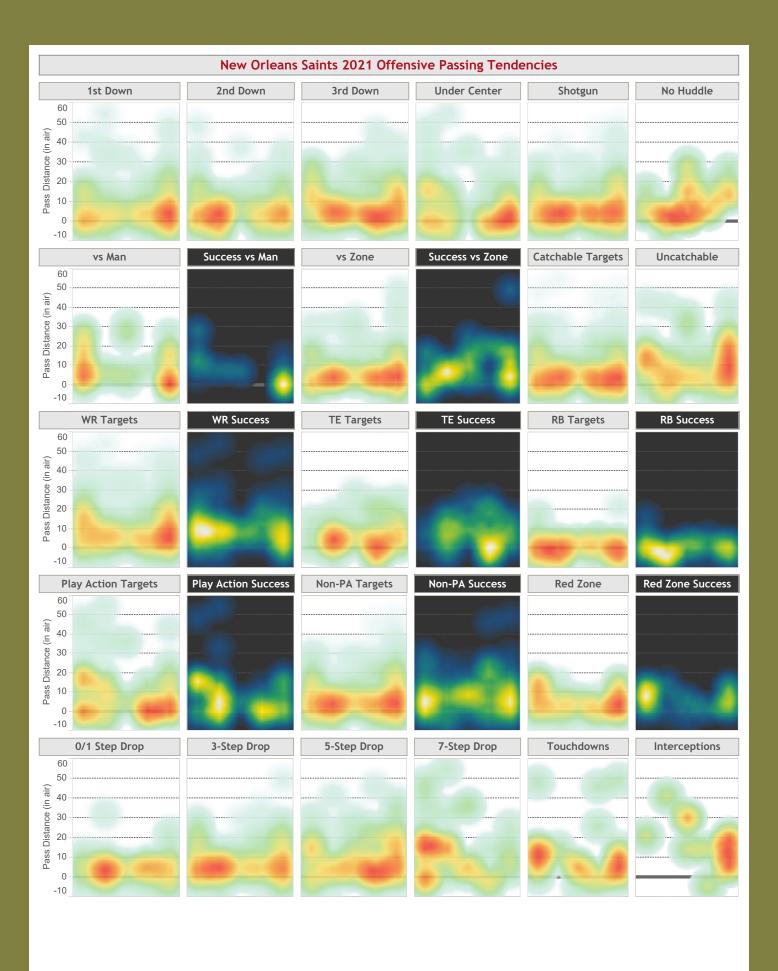
33. Run Rate into 7 Man Box

34. Run Rate into 6- Man Box35. Total Defensive Efficiency

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

QB Pr	essure			
	Trevor Siemian	Jameis Winston		
Pressure %	28.5	41.6		
Pressure Rk	32	4		
Sack %	4.5	5.3		
Sack Rk	34	25		
Pressure Accuracy %	61.8	59.1		
Pressure Accuracy Rk	23	31		
Rating when Pressured	91	71.5		
Pressured Rating Rk	2	17		
Clean Accuracy %	71.4	78.6		
Clean Accuracy Rk	36	19		
Rating when Clean	87.5	113.5		
Clean Rating Rk	31	3		
Time to Throw	2.87	3.02		
Time to Throw Rk	10	2		

Offensive Metrics						
EPA/Pass	-0.07					
EPA/Pass Rk	21					
EPA/Rush	-0.08					
EPA/Rush Rk	24					
On-Target Catch %	84.9%					
On-Target Catch Rk	32					
Drop%	7.3%					
Drop Rk	27					
YAC/Att	2.4					
YAC/Att Rk	12					
Rush Broken Tackle %	14.1%					
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	9					
Rush 1st Down %	21.8%					
Rush 1st Down Rk	27					



### Saints Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Taysom Hill	0.21 (#4)	-0.15 (#5)	-0.02 (#4)	0.14 (#3)	-0.13 (#3)	-0.14 (#5)	0.05 (#6)
LULI	Jameis Winston	0.31 (#2)	-0.04 (#3)	0.01(#3)	0.09 (#4)	-0.26 (#5)	0.11 (#2)	0.18 (#3)
	Trevor Siemian	-0.01 (#5)	-0.06 (#4)	-0.04 (#5)	-0.09 (#5)	-0.16 (#4)	-0.06 (#4)	0.09 (#5)
2020	Drew Brees	0.28 (#3)	0.16 (#1)	0.16 (#1)	0.18 (#2)	0.16 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	0.29 (#2)
2020	Taysom Hill	0.35 (#1)	0.09 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	0.32 (#1)	-0.05 (#2)	0.04 (#3)	0.48 (#1)
	Jameis Winston	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	0.15 (#4)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Taysom Hill	-0.59 (#4)	-0.15 (#2)	0.11 (#4)	0.11(#3)	0.02 (#3)	-0.21 (#5)	0.10 (#1)
	Trevor Siemian	-0.30 (#1)	-0.69 (#5)	-0.09 (#6)	-0.16 (#6)	-0.01 (#4)	0.14 (#2)	-0.39 (#5)
	Jameis Winston	-0.65 (#5)	-0.26 (#3)	0.41 (#2)	-0.06 (#5)	0.08 (#2)	-0.10 (#4)	-0.10 (#2)
2020	Drew Brees	-0.33 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	0.16 (#3)	0.17 (#2)	0.10 (#1)	0.40 (#1)	-0.10 (#3)
2020	Tavsom Hill	-0.47 (#3)	-0.27 (#4)	0.06 (#5)	0.28 (#1)	-0.15 (#5)	0.12 (#3)	-0.35 (#4)
	Jameis Winston	(#)	-1.08 (#6)	0.59 (#1)	0.00 (#4)	-0.27 (#6)	-0.78 (#6)	-1.08 (#6)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Trevor Siemian	78% (#2)	78% (#3)	84% (#1)	61% (#2)	78% (#1)	78% (#3)	77% (#2)	73% (#2)	79% (#3)
	Jameis Winston	70% (#4)	77% (#5)	70% (#3)	32% (#5)	70% (#3)	70% (#4)	78% (#1)	67% (#4)	69% (#5)
	Taysom Hill	66% (#5)	71% (#6)	47% (#5)	36% (#3)	61% (#5)	67% (#6)	53% (#5)	61% (#5)	65% (#6)
2020	Drew Brees	79% (#1)	84% (#1)	67% (#4)	63% (#1)	78% (#2)	79% (#2)	71% (#4)	70% (#3)	80% (#2)
	Jameis Winston	64% (#6)	78% (#4)	0% (#6)	(#)	0% (#6)	70% (#5)	50% (#6)	33% (#6)	100% (#1)
	Taysom Hill	77% (#3)	82% (#2)	77% (#2)	33% (#4)	64% (#4)	82% (#1)	73% (#3)	84% (#1)	75% (#4)

# Rushing Efficiency EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the			
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.12 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.18 (#2)	-0.11 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	0.64 (#1)	0.60 (#1)
2020	0.02 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	0.63 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	0.07 (#1)	0.02 (#2)	0.02 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

				OFF ED						DEF ED
		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	24	27	26	28	1	17	1	1	12	3
2020	15	24	15	2	6	5	6	5	7	8

### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	31	30	28	31	30	22	23	20	19
2020	18	24	18	14	28	26	27	1	6

## First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	27	26	27	15	30	27	5	1	30
2020	17	14	4	8	7	4	3	1	27

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

### Head Coach:

Hard

Easy

Brian Daboll (BUF OC) (new) Offensive Coordinator: Mike Kafka (KC QB) (new)

**Defensive Coordinator:** 

Don Martindale (BAL DC) (new)

# **New York Giants**

### Wins

### **Div Rank**

# #4

### **Past Records**

2022 Forecast

2021: 4-13 2020: 6-10 2019: 4-12



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Evan Engram (TE)	Jaguars
James Bradberry (CB)	Eagles
Austin Johnson (IDL)	Chargers
Kyle Rudolph (TE)	TBD
Lorenzo Carter (EDGE)	Falcons
Keion Crossen (CB)	Dolphins
Nate Solder (LT)	TBD
Billy Price (C)	TBD
Devontae Booker (RB)	TBD
John Ross (WR)	TBD
Jabrill Peppers (S)	Patriots
Levine Toilolo (TE)	TBD
Mike Glennon (QB)	TBD
Nate Ebner (S)	TBD
Will Hernandez (RG)	Cardinals
Danny Shelton (IDL)	TBD
Reggie Ragland (LB)	TBD
Elijhaa Penny (RB)	TBD
Logan Ryan (S)	Buccaneers
Dante Pettis (WR)	Bears
Riley Dixon (P)	Rams

### 2022 New York Giants Overview

On one hand, it's the pinnacle of your industry to win one of 32 head coach jobs or 32 general manager jobs in the best sport in the United States. Both happened for the first time to two extremely deserving candidates this summer, in Brian Daboll and Joe

On the other hand, the wake of Dave Gettleman's mess does not make for an easy

For five straight years, the Giants have underperformed based on preseason projected wins set by linemakers. It's the longest streak of underperformance in the NFL:

2021: 7 projected wins, 4 actual wins

2020: 6.5 projected wins, 6 actual wins

2019: 6 projected wins, 4 actual wins

2018: 7 projected wins, 5 actual wins 2017: 9 projected wins, 3 actual wins

In large part, there are two fingers that can be pointed: the general manager and the coaching staff. Why is that?

# Games # Games **Average** Underdog Line **Favored** 

2.5

12

The general manager shapes what the team is and the coaching staff shapes how that team plays. The Giants have routinely failed in both areas over the past five years.

There are no free passes to be handed out. There are no get out of jail free cards. This is a time of reckoning.

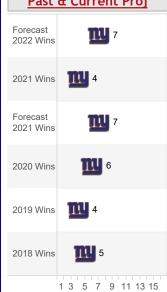
### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Mark Glowinski (RG)	\$6.09
Tyrod Taylor (QB)	\$5.5
Justin Ellis (IDL)	\$1.3
Max Garcia (LG)	\$1.3
Jamil Douglas (RG)	\$1.2
Jihad Ward (EDGE)	\$1.2
Matt Breida (RB)	\$1.2
Matt Gono (RT)	\$1.2

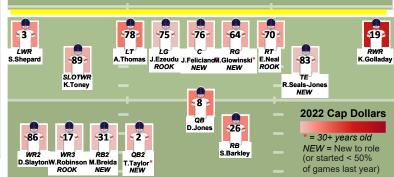
### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	5	DE - Kayvon Thibodeaux (Or
1	7	OT - Evan Neal (Alabama)
2	43	WR - Wan'Dale Robinson (K
3	67	OG - Joshua Ezeudu (North
3	81	CB - Cordale Flott (LSU)
4	112	TE - Daniel Bellinger (San Di
4	114	S - Dane Belton (Iowa)
	146	LB - Micah McFadden (India
5	147	DT - D. J. Davidson (Arizona
	173	OG - Marcus McKethan (Nort
6	182	LB - Darrian Beavers (Cincin

### Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj







### 2022 Unit Spending

(cont'd - see NYG2)



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	20	\$104.16M	13
QB	23	\$12.01M	24
OL	19	\$33.49M	15
RB	13	\$11.26M	2
WR	1	\$42.39M	14
TE	32	\$5.01M	3
All DEF	17	\$90.53M	18
DL	11	\$51.50M	27
LB	16	\$12.83M	15
СВ	20	\$18.16M	8
S	27	\$8.04M	6

### NYG-2

In the last five years, only six teams played in more games decided by one touchdown than the Giants. In those 40 games, they won just 15. That's a 37.5% win rate, the fourth-worst in the NFL, ahead of only the Jaguars, Lions, and

In those five years, over 81 games, the Giants led at halftime in just 21 games. 21 of 81 games, the single worst rate in the NFL.

And they've treated their home fans like crap.

In those five years, the Giants have the NFL's single worst win rate in home games, winning just 12 of 40 home games.

In those home games, they've averaged just 17.1 points, the single worst offense based on points scored in the NFL.

Their offensive plays, in total, have gained -268.7 expected points. That's the single worst offense based on EPA/game in the NFL.

They've scored a total of 74 offensive touchdowns. That's the single worst offense based on touchdowns/game in the NFL and is a solid seven touchdowns behind the second-worst (Jacksonville).

If their home fans bet on them to cover the spread, so sorry for your mortgage payments. The Giants covered the spread in just 30.8% of home games, the single worst cover rate in the NFL.

And then there is the granddaddy of them all. The stat to make you pull all of your hair out. The stat that seems so inconceivable, unfathomable, incomprehensible and unimaginable you will think I made it up because NO TEAM, not even the New York Football Giants, could be this profoundly terrible.

But I assure you, it's real:

The New York Giants...

not at any point...

not in any season...

7	m			
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Daniel Jones	54% 7.1 88.5	41% 5.5 71.3	33% 7.6 87.7	Success Rat YPA Rating
Pass Rate	54%	56%	76%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rat YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	
2	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
NYG	45% 3.9	40% 3.8	53% 5.1	Success Rat YPC
Run Rate	46%	44%	24%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rat

FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS...

Run Rate

did the Giants have a winning record.

51%

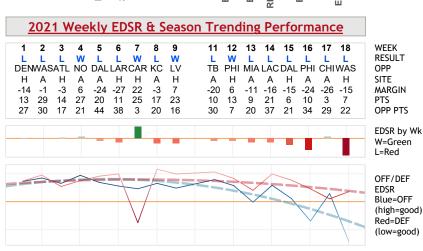
They are the ONLY TEAM in the NFL to not have even one week where they sat above .500 at any point in any of the last five years.

41%

24%

This is coaching. Pure and simple. Every single statistical metric I mentioned is a failure of coaching. And while you may not think the last one is, let me clue you in on something: it's the most tied to coaching. Here's why: the linemakers know who each player has on their roster. Based on who is available to play, they assign a value to the team and the opponent, then they derive a point spread comparing the two. For the Giants to, so consistently,

(cont'd - see <u>NYG-3</u>) 2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics 5 5 M M m 15 10 10 8 19 M 15 15 13 24 20 20 15 26 M 28 29 25 25 TU 31 31 31 31 31 21 32 22 24 24 30 30 25 Pass Pro Efficiency Off Rush Efficiency Off Explosive Pass Off Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Pass Pass Eff Def Off Offensive RB Pass Eff Off Run 30 & In Off Red Zone Off YPPT Off Efficiency Off 3rd Down Off YPPA Off Efficiency **EDSR Def** 30 & In Def Ded 3rd Down Def YPPT Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro Efficieincy Def YPPA De EDSR Red Zone Explosive



### 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 4 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: 3-3 Score Games Win %: 50% (#12) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

Wins): 75% (#4)

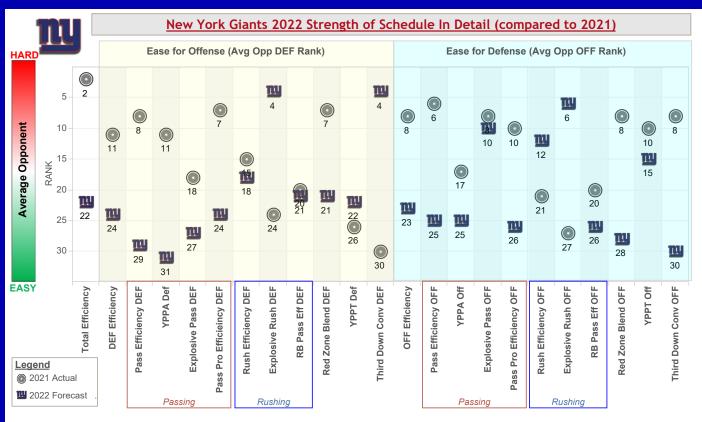
2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -8 TO Given 30 20 **INT Given FUM Given** 10 TO Taken 22 **INT Taken** 15 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -4 34 Sacks Sacks Allow 38 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** +19 Penalties 88 **Opponent Penalties** 107

6

My

27

**Explosive** 



2022 vs 2021 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											
31 31 19 9 30 28 6 6												

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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	2022 Opponents by Division 202						<u>2021</u>	21 Opponents by Division				ion	Health by Unit*				
					2021	20	20	2019			<b>A</b>		<b>4</b>				<b>A</b>		4	_		202	1 Rk	27
	Ave	erage l	ine		6.4	4	.8	4.2	NF	CE		60	7 V)	7/		NFCE		60	<b>3</b> M			202	0 Rk	25
		ige O/l			44.1	44	1.8	45.6				•						4				2021 v	2020 Rk	15
	Straigh	nt Up F	Record		4-13		10	4-12				20		-				_		-	_			
Aga	nst the	e Spre	ad Red	cord	6-11		-7	7-9	AF	cs				<b>&gt;</b>		AFCW		> (E		N (SA)	Ď l	Of	f Rk	30
	Over/U				5-11		12	9-7						9			Y	~ ~		, O		De	f Rk	16
		as Fav			0-1		-2	2-2														0.5	3 Rk	30
	ATS a				6-10		-5	4-7	N.E	CN		/		<b>)</b>	<b>S</b>	NFCS	4		·	- 4 (S				
	Straig				3-5		-5	2-6	NF	CN		کی ا		<b>シ</b>		NFCS			<b>6</b> 68	P ~		RE	Rk	18
		S Hon			3-5		-5	2-6				•			F				~		' l	WE	R Rk	27
	Over/l				0-7	_	-6	3-5																
	TS as I				0-1		-1	2-1	AF	CN	THE STATE OF THE S	4				AFCE	35	1				TE	Rk	20
- 1	TS as			3	3-4		-4	0-5			400						- Span	A				Olir	e Rk	31
	Straig				1-8		-5	2-6														Dlie	e Rk	3
		TS Awa			3-6 5-4		-2 -6	5-3 6-2	NE	cs						NFCN								
	Over/l				0-0	0	-	0-2 0-1	NI	.03						NECN						LE	Rk	24
,	ATS A	way ra Away		:	3-6	-	-1 -1	0-1 4-2														DE	Rk	18
Q iv	Point			ord	3-6 9-8		- 1 3-3	4-2 8-8													l l			
	n Poin				10-7		3-3	8-8	NF	CW		)				NFCW	1 4	3)			- [	*Based	on the	work of
	Point				12-5		1-2	10-6										, —				Foot	ball Outs	siders
161	i i Oiii	licase	i ivec	oru																				
					<u>20</u>	)22 V	Veek	dy Be	<u>ettin</u>	ng Lines Home Line						<u>es</u>								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2	3	4	6 1	10 1	11 13	14	17
TEN	CAR	DAL	CHI	GB	BAL	JAX	SEA	HOU	DET	DAL	WAS	PHI	WAS	MIN	IND	PHI		4						
																		DAL		3.5			1.5	0 = 0.4
+6.5	-1.0	+4.0	-2.5	+7.0	+3.5	+1.5	+2.5	-3.0	-1.5	+7.0	+0.0	+1.5	+3.5	+5.0	+3.0	+5.0	1	DAL	-2.5	BAL		1.5 0	PHI	g = 0.4
																	CAR		CHI		OU D	ET WA	S	
T														1)							, o			
														<b>**</b>	ZAV	= 2.5				Road	Line	)C		
Avg =	2.5				700	Diff.						13	W		AV	= 2.5								
Α	Maria	Н		Α	Н	6	Α		Ш	Α	₩.	6	Α	A	H	A	1	5	7	8	12	15	16	18
			H						<b>7</b>												•		Av	g = 4.8
								3	-								6.5	7_		<del> </del>	7			
								-								-	TEN	GB	1.5	2.5	DAL	3.5	5	5
44	2.5	47.5	3.5	46	5.5	45.5	42.5	44	44	47.5	43	45	43	47	3.5	42			JAX	SEA		WAS	MIN	PHI
	4	4	4		4	4	4			4					4				UA/(	OLA				





be the NFL's worst team at covering the spread at home is a referendum on their coaching, that even accounting for the terrible roster, they still couldn't hold up their end of the bargain.

Ben McAdoo. Pat Shurmur. Joe Judge. Mike Sullivan. Mike Shula. Jason Garrett.

They're all to blame. How was a team entrusted to this collection of coaches and offensive coordinators? It's baffling.

But make no mistake, this is also the fault of the man in charge of building the roster, player evaluation, and giving these coaches the ingredients to work with.

Dave Gettleman.

No team had more first round draft capital since 2018 than the Giants.

Here's who Dave Gettleman used that draft capital on:

2018 No. 2: **Saquon Barkley** 2019 No. 6: **Daniel Jones** 

2019 No. 17: Dexter Lawrence 2019 No. 30: Deandre Baker (cut) 2020 No. 4: Andrew Thomas 2021 No. 20: Kadarius Toney

Just sickening.

Three of the largest signings made by Gettleman were left tackle **Nate Solder** (four years, \$62 million) who was ineffective, opted out in 2020, took a huge pay-cut in 2021 just to make the team, was shifted to right tackle, and then had his contract voided after the season. Wide receiver **Kenny Golladay** (four years, \$72 million) went without a touchdown in Year 1 and totaled just 37 receptions. Wide receiver **Golden Tate** (four years, \$37.5 million) was cut after Year 2 of a four-year deal. The listing of the 12-largest free agent signings is enough to make you sick to your stomach. And then there was cornerback **James Bradberry**.

Gettleman left the Giants in such cap hell they couldn't even sign their 2022 rookie draft class without either pushing more money from bad contracts into the future or getting rid of Bradberry.

When it was clear the Giants were not pushing any money into the future with more restructures, the whole league knew Bradberry would be cut loose, which reduced leverage. The Giants' new GM couldn't work out a trade and Bradberry was released.

Now Bradberry will cost more in dead cap for the Giants (\$11.7 million) than he will for his new team, the division-rival Eagles (\$10 million).

Want to know something wild?

Take a guess which team has the most money allocated to wide receivers against the 2022 cap?

It's the New York Giants, at \$40,152,615.

Now take a guess which team had the fewest touchdowns from wide receivers in 2021?

It's the New York Giants, at five touchdowns.

Not only was it the fewest in 2021, it was the fewest by any wide receiver group since 2017. Thanks to Gettleman, they're the most expensive receiver group in the NFL for the upcoming season.

People forget Dave Gettleman previously drafted a running back in the top-10, was fired, and did the exact same thing the first chance he got the very next year:

(cont'd - see NYG-4)

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: New York Giants 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
14	8	6	22	1	22

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- The new regime still has some spillover from the poor roster management of the previous general manager. The offseason was a success, adding cornerstone rookies on the offensive and defensive lines, however, with minimal cap flexibility the roster still has several weaknesses. The interior of the offensive line and secondary could be problematic, especially after losing veterans James Bradberry and Logan Ryan.
- Comparisons of Daniel Jones taking a Josh Allen step forward are unrealistic. The offensive philosophy is likely to change, favoring a pass-first approach but Jones still must improve as a decision maker and passer. Jones has fumbled 36 times in his 38 starts and has 29 interceptions to 44 touchdowns.
- The offensive line should improve upon the fifth-worst Pass Block Win Rate in 2022, however, the improvements may not be immediate. A rookie tackle combined with three new interior offensive linemen could take some time to develop chemistry as the starting offensive line possibly has four new additions returning only one starter from last year.

7



### Why Bet the Over

- The Giants have the easiest strength of schedule after having the second most difficult schedule last year. Only one opponent ranks in the top quarter of Super Bowl odds and six games are against teams in the bottom quarter. The Giants also have a rest advantage in three of their final nine games.
- The Giants' monumental changes occurred off the field, replacing Dave Gettleman and Joe Judge with Joe Schoen and Brian Daboll. An instant improvement has been seen with roster management and an even bigger improvement is likely on the field, especially in offensive playcalling. After finishing 31st in early down success, improvement is almost guaranteed as Daboll's offense will increase pre-snap motion and early down passing which will put Daniel Jones in a better position for success.
- Injury luck is due for positive regression as the Giants had the third-highest adjusted games lost on offense in 2021. Key offensive pieces such as **Andrew Thomas**, Daniel Jones, **Saquon Barkley**, and multiple wide receivers all missed significant time. Mike Glennon and Jake Fromm combined for six starts and if Daniel Jones were to miss time, the Giants have upgraded the back up quarterback position.

	New York Giants Positional Unit Rankings									
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach				
25	22	13	26	25	31	23				

Based on an average of the unit ranks, the Giants own the league's fifth-worst roster, with only one unit cracking the top 20. Relative to what **Daniel Jones** has shown us through three years, this could be considered a generous rank for the Giants' quarterback room — and possibly an indication of our expectation of progress with a more competent coaching staff.

Saquan Barkley is explosive, but his inability to create for himself has become a problem. Barkley averaged 0.99 yards per carry when contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage, which ranked 42nd out of 47 qualified running backs. He is not the elite threat he was once believed to be after his breakout rookie season. Votes for the Giants pass-catchers ranged from 20th to 29th. How you view this unit likely depends on which version of **Kenny Golladay** you think shows up. Golladay was easily shut down by man coverage last year, hauling in just 46% of his targets. **Wan'Dale Robinson** was the only notable addition, but he's a gadget receiver who likely does not make a substantial impact.

The Giants' offensive line made significant improvements last year. The unit provided at least three untouched yards on 27% of rushing attempts, the league's 11th best rate. If rookie **Evan Neal** makes an instant impact, it's possible we've underrated this group.

New York has some talent in the front seven, but the production hasn't matched. Opponents averaged 1.8 yards before contact in the run game last year, which ranked 28th. The addition of **Kayvon Thibodeaux** should boost the pass rush, but he likely will not be a difference-maker against the run early in his career. The salary cap mismanagement of the previous regime forced the Giants to part with **James Bradberry** which dealt a significant blow to an already shaky secondary. This unit fell 20 spots since last season, partially due to the loss of Bradberry, but also last season's disappointing performance.

Among the 10 teams who made a coaching change, only the Giants and Jaguars improved in our head coach rankings. We tend to rank all first-time coaches near the bottom of the league because there's so much we don't know about them — but the last regime was such a mess, it's hard to imagine New York didn't make a significant upgrade.

### NYG-4

2017, No. 8 overall: Christian McCaffrey 2018, No. 2 overall: Saquon Barkley

Gettleman was a guy who said he had "no regrets" over-drafting Saquon Barkley second overall and said he'd "do it again 100 times over."

He also said he didn't believe analytics devaluing running backs and called them a "myth" before drafting Barkley at No. 2.

So there we go. Coaching: terrible. Player evaluation: terrible.

What happened in 2021?

Absolutely positively exactly what I predicted in my 2021 book I wrote last spring. I won't rehash the entire chapter, because there were suggestions I predicted wouldn't be followed and, surprise, they were not. But here were the final two paragraphs of last year's Giants chapter:

"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 a quarterback in the next draft class with solid draft capital.

### <u>NYG-5</u>

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."

And what happened? As predicted, on Tuesday, November 23rd, the Giants fired offensive coordinator Jason Garrett. As predicted, they have no confirmation if Jones can be their franchise quarterback. As predicted, the Giants had an extra first-round draft pick, and the most first-round draft capital they've had in years, but no desire to take a quarterback, due to uncertainty of Jones and the poor caliber of the quarterback class in general.

Despite it giving me content to share after analyzing an organization, I do hate making fan bases upset when I have to share unflattering truths about their team. I don't hate any team. I'd love to see every single one operating at peak efficiency and at that point, may the best team win.

It's no secret I'm a huge fan of new head coach Brian Daboll. So instead of lamenting further the past mistakes of the Giants, let's walk through several priorities for this Giants offense to get the most out of the team in 2022. In doing so, we'll get a sense of what we could expect out of the Giants this season

### Offensive Priority: Increase early down efficiency to bypass third downs

Here are the Giants' rank in early down efficiency (third down avoidance, not simply EPA on early downs):

2020: 25th 2021: 31st

Last two years combined: 31st

### (cont'd - see NYG-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

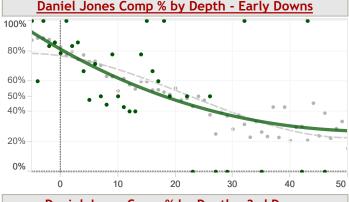
### 

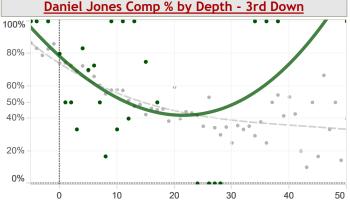


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>									
Ţ	u	Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)				
	Saquon Barkley	20%	10%	69%	1%					
	Devontae Booker	26%	6%	65%	2%	1%				
	Evan Engram			100%						
_	Kadarius Toney	33%	33%	33%						
R	Darius Slayton				100%					
RUSH	Sterling Shepard			100%						
-	Elijhaa Penny	17%		54%	17%	13%				
	John Ross			100%						
	Pharoh Cooper			100%						
	Total	22%	8%	66%	3%	1%				
	Saquon Barkley	16%	25%	60%						
	Devontae Booker	36%	9%	56%						
	Evan Engram	26%	11%	59%	4%					
	Kenny Golladay	29%	11%	60%						
	Kadarius Toney	25%	5%	70%						
	Darius Slayton	16%	11%	70%	4%					
တ္တ	Sterling Shepard	42%	8%	51%						
ASS	Kyle Rudolph	21%	15%	64%						
Φ.	Elijhaa Penny	46%	8%	46%						
	Collin Johnson	24%	5%	67%	5%					
	John Ross	20%	5%	70%	5%					
	Dante Pettis	44%	6%	44%	6%					
	Pharoh Cooper	45%		55%						
	Kaden Smith			100%						
	Total	27%	11%	61%	1%					







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

### **2021 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]	0-2 [3WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	36%, -0.32 (430)	47%, -0.08 (148)	63%, 0.20 (8)	40%, -0.20 (10)	45%, -0.12 (11)	50%, 0.32 (8)	100%, 1.94 (1)	50%, 0.13 (2)	0%, -2.56 (1)	39%, -0.24 (621)
RUSH	47%, -0.04 (208)	43%, -0.12 (127)	42%, -0.33 (24)	40%, -0.28 (20)	29%, -0.16 (14)	50%, 0.62 (2)	75%, -0.36 (4)			44%, -0.10 (403)
All	39%, -0.23 (638)	45%, -0.10 (275)	47%, -0.20 (32)	40%, -0.25 (30)	36%, -0.14 (25)	50%, 0.38 (10)	80%, 0.10 (5)	50%, 0.13 (2)	0%, -2.56 (1)	41%, -0.19 (1,024)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiv	ing Success	by Top-4 Pe (Leaderboard)	rsonnel Grou	upings
POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
WR	Kenny Golladay	38% (58) 5.5, -0.20	67% (15) 11.5, 0.57	100% (1) 9.0, 0.67	45% (74) 6.8, -0.03
	Darius Slayton	30% (46) 6.0, -0.32	30% (10) 5.5, -0.55	0% (1) 0.0, -1.05	30% (57) 5.8, -0.38
	Sterling Shepard	49% (41) 6.8, -0.08	50% (10) 8.1, 0.04		49% (51) 7.1, -0.06
TE	Evan Engram	29% (45) 4.3, -0.36	64% (22) 8.0, 0.06	50% (2) 10.0, -0.01	41% (69) 5.6, -0.22
	Kyle Rudolph	47% (15) 8.1, 0.18	53% (19) 5.2, -0.05		50% (34) 6.5, 0.05
	Kaden Smith	67% (3) 11.0, 0.63			67% (3) 11.0, 0.63
RB	Saquon Barkley	33% (36) 3.9, -0.10	47% (17) 7.1, 0.23	0% (1) 0.0, -0.69	37% (54) 4.9, -0.01

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Barkley	40% (81)	40% (50)	67% (9)	45% (11)	42% (151)
Saquon	4.0, -0.14	2.9, -0.15	5.7, 0.08	3.6, -0.22	3.7, -0.14
Booker	49% (67)	41% (49)	25% (4)	17% (6)	44% (126)
Devontae	4.9, 0.00	4.1, -0.06	2.0, -0.70	2.2, -0.41	4.3, -0.07
Jones	65% (34)	46% (13)	11% (9)	0% (1)	51% (57)
Daniel	6.7, 0.36	3.8, -0.56	-0.3, -0.68	0.0, -1.29	4.8, -0.04
Penny	38% (8)	40% (10)	100% (2)	100% (2)	50% (22)
Elijhaa	4.6, -0.06	4.4, 0.01	2.5, 0.11	2.0, 0.35	4.1, 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

Pas	ssing by	Pas	sing by	Throw	/ Types	QB Drop	Types	QE	3 State at	Pass	Rur	Types
	verage cheme	R	oute	Level 1	45% (438) 5.4, -0.12	3 Step	42% (213) 6.4, -0.16	Planted		% (433) 6, -0.06	Outside Zone	38% (85) 3.0, -0.25
	0.50/ //0.0)	Curl	46% (87) 6.1, -0.44		<u> </u>	0/1 Step	43% (104)	Moving		0% (81) 7, -0.30	Inside	47% (83)
Zone	35% (403) 6.2, -0.17	Out	44% (63)	Level 2	47% (86) 8.4, -0.02	ол отор	4.4, -0.16	Shuffling		1% (74) 2, -0.30	Zone	4.0, -0.01
		Out	5.2, 0.02		33% (30)	5 Step	51% (87) 8.5, 0.14		Play Acti		Power	29% (62) 3.3, -0.24
Man	36% (163) 5.8, -0.29	Slant	55% (51) 7.4, 0.26	Level 3	12.5, 0.19	7 Step	61% (41)		Play Action	No P/A	Pitch	57% (7)
	5.6, -0.29		58% (40)	Shovel	0% (3)	•	9.7, 0.22	Under Center	60% (82) 7.8, 0.13	36% (25) 4.2, -0.16		5.9, 0.42
		Dig	8.4, -0.03	Silovei	-2.3, -1.04	Designed Rollout Right	42% (38) 4.2, -0.26	Shotgun	23% (73)	38% (447)	Stretch	50% (6) 5.5, 0.33
Other	40% (22) 1.9, 0.11	Drag	40% (15) 4.8, -0.45	Sidearm	0% (1) 7.0, 0.12	Basic Screen	39% (28) 4.8, -0.16	ALL	3.7, -0.46 43% (155) 6.0, -0.15	5.9, -0.28 38% (472) 5.8, -0.28	Lead	67% (6) 2.8, -0.64

### NYG-6

Compare this to the Bills, who ranked:

2020: second 2021: eighth

Last two years combined: third

There is a very strong correlation between:

third down avoidance ▶ outstanding overall offense ▶ team success

Look at the teams that ranked top-5 in third down avoidance by year:

In 2021:

- 1. KC made AFC Conference Championship
- 2. TB second best record in the NFL
- 3. GB No. 1 seed in NFC and first round bye
- 4. SF made NFC Championship Game
- 5. LAR Super Bowl champion

(cont'd - see NYG-7)





In 2020:

- 1. KC made Super Bowl, No. 1 seed in AFC and first round bye
- 2. MIN
- 3. BUF made AFC Championship Game
- 4. GB made NFC Championship Game, No. 1 seed in NFC and first round bye
- 5. SEA

In 2019:

- 1. BAL No. 1 seed in AFC and first round bye
- 2. NO tied for second best record in the NFL
- 3. KC Super Bowl champion
- 4. SF made Super Bowl, No. 1 seed in NFC and first round bye
- DAL

Consistently, the top-5 teams in third down avoidance posted the best records in the NFL, earned first round byes, made conference championship games, and made it to or won the Super Bowl.

Third down avoidance on offense is simply massive towards overall team success.

The Giants have been the second-worst team in the NFL in this metric over the last two years. To me, this doesn't show a team that's "bad" at avoiding third downs (even though they have been). To rank this badly, it shows a team that simply had no desire to avoid third downs. They didn't know how valuable a strategy it was to avoid third downs and did not prioritize it.

With a more detailed approach in 2022, which specifically focuses on calling early down plays with the goal to avoid third downs, the Giants offense can improve dramatically. The playcalling alone can help an offense play better than their talent has shown on the field, allow them to punt less often, sustain longer drives, score more points, and win more games.

### Offensive Priority: Generate more explosive plays

Often, explosive plays are viewed as being "at odds" with being an efficient offense that bypasses third downs. But both can be true and the reality is having both is essential.

We saw from the above analysis that the Giants were terrible in bypassing third downs. Understanding their terrible early down efficiency, were they aiming for more explosive plays and simply inefficient in the process? The answer is no.

Here is the Giants' ranking in the percentage of early down dropbacks that produced gains of 20+ yards in 2021:

(cont'd - see NYG-8)

### Immediate Impact of New York Giants 2021 Draft Class

Despite vague reports questioning **Kayvon Thibodeaux**'s (first round) personality and love of the game, the Giants didn't overthink things and selected the most explosive pass-rusher in the draft. Thibodeaux led the Pac-12 in pressure rate in each of his three seasons at Oregon, and will immediately improve a Giants pass-rush unit, which ranked 24th in the league in pressure rate. **Evan Neal** (second round) will step in at right tackle for the Giants, taking over for **Nate Solder**. In the long term, this should be an upgrade but it may not improve **Daniel Jones**'s protection immediately. Last season, the Giants ranked ninth in the league in pressure rate allowed by right tackles (5%). Neal could provide immediate help in the run game, however. Giants running backs averaged just 3.5 yards per carry when running to the right side of the line, ranked 28th.

Wan'Dale Robinson (second round) was an aggressive choice for a rebuilding team. He's a fun gadget weapon to have on offense, but at 5-foot-8, he's nothing more. Robinson has experience at running back and receiver, so Brian Daboll will likely find creative ways to incorporate him into the offense. Given his experience at running back, Robinson's lack of production with the ball in his hands is surprising and should be considered a red flag. Based on route-adjusted data, Robinson gained 0.4% more yards after the catch than expected last season, and just 2.7% over the course of his career.

Joshua Ezeudu (third round) will provide depth across the offensive line as a rookie, but likely fits best at guard in the long run. He's already taken some reps filling in for Andrew Thomas at left tackle this offseason. Ezeudu started at both guard and tackle at North Carolina, primarily on the left side of the line. Cordale Flott (third round) will compete with Darnay Holmes for the starting slot corner job. During his two years as a starter at LSU, Flott lined up in the slot on 64% of his coverage snaps, allowing 9.4 yards per target.

Although Flott's production wasn't consistently there, his athleticism and ability to play the run make him an interesting developmental prospect for the Giants. Flott will be joined in the secondary by **Dane Belton** (fourth round), who also lined up in the slot, although in a slightly different role as lowa's strong safety. He has virtually no experience in a traditional free safety role. Defensive coordinator Don Martindale likes versatile defenders, so Belton will need to learn to play in the deep secondary before he's ready to see the field.

Daniel Bellinger (fourth round) is a developmental tight end prospect, who saw limited action in the passing game in a run-heavy offense at San Diego State. Bellinger averaged just 13 routes per game, but flashed some athleticism on his limited opportunities. Based on route-adjusted metrics, Bellinger picked up 27% more yards after the catch than expected — a fantastic rate for a tight end of his size. There's not much in front of him on the depth chart (Ricky Seals-Jones, Jordan Akins), so Bellinger could force his way into an immediate role with a strong training camp. Micah McFadden (fifth round) and Darrian Beavers (sixth round) add depth at linebacker, and will specifically improve the Giants' blitz production. Beavers blitzed on 28% of his snaps against the pass last season at Cincinnati with a 20% pressure rate, while McFadden blitzed at a 34% rate with a 29% pressure rate for Indiana. Beavers also played on the edge early in his career at Connecticut. For McFadden to see the field, however, he needs to cut down on the missed tackles. McFadden missed 16.5% of his tackle attempts last season, the fifth-worst rate among Big Ten linebackers.

The Giants clearly improved the roster with this draft class, adding two immediate starters (Thibodeaux, Neal) and a handful of others who could see the field early (Robinson, Flott, Belton). If there's anything to nitpick about this class, it's the decision to spend two Day 2 selections on a gadget receiver (Robinson) and a slot corner (Flott). There's limited upside in those types of prospects, and a rebuilding franchise would probably benefit more by taking a chance on prospects with more high-impact potential.

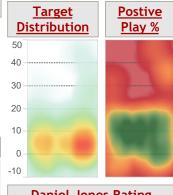
### TU

### New York Giants 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

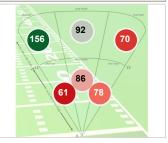
The Giants were at the bottom of the league in passing output a year ago, ranking 31st in expected points added via passing (-77.7 EPA), 30th in completion percentage (59.2%), 30th in touchdown rate (2.5%), 30th in interception rate (3.4%), and dead last in yards per pass attempt (5.8 Y/A). **Daniel Jones** enters 2022 on his last leg as the Giants declined to pick up his fifth-year option this offseason. After throwing 24 touchdowns as a rookie, Jones has thrown 21 touchdown passes over the past three seasons. As lackluster as Jones was, with Jones off the field, the Giants averaged an anemic 3.9 yards per offensive play and -0.30 EPA per play compared to 5.1 yards per play and -0.10 EPA per play with him under center. The addition of Brian Daboll gives Jones an added pulse in hopes of restoring the player they selected sixth overall in 2019.

	2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk		
Daniel Jones	230	358	64%	2,414	6.7	9	7	22	84	34		
Mike Glennon	90	164	55%	790	4.8	4	9	9	53	51		
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6			

			2021 A	dvance	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 %
Daniel Jones	44%	48%	24	7.0%	10	3.0%	5.8	4.7		
Mike Glennon	34%	36%	5	3.0%	2	1.0%	4.3	4.5		
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3		



### **Daniel Jones Rating Early Downs**



<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%	0.0%		0.0%
6 - 9	0.0%	6.4%	0.0%	0.0%	3.2%
10 - 14	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%		2.1%
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	2.6%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%

QB Avg. Avg. Avg. Avg. Air Yards Sticks Rate Beyond Rk									
QB	Yds to		Past	Sticks	Beyond Rk				
Daniel Jones	8.0	8.8	0.6	66%	27				
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%					

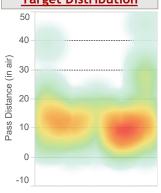
	Air Y	45% 13							
nd	Air Yds %		Rk						
	55%	45%	13						
	53%	47%							

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Attached to bottom-of-the-barrel quarterback play, the Giants ranked 32nd in the league in success rate targeting their wide receivers (43%) and 31st in success rate targeting their tight ends (46%). **Kenny Golladay's** first season with the Giants was an outright disaster, catching 37-of-76 targets for 521 yards and zero touchdowns. First-round pick Kadarius Toney was only able to appear in 10 games due to injuries and managed more than 40 yards in just two games, but in the small sample of him receiving playing time while healthy, he jumped off the screen at his best. The team still has Sterling Shepard and Darius Slayton, while adding Wan'Dale Robinson, giving them good depth and talent at wide receiver if they get adequate QB play.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dшоე	YPA	Rating	% Snccess	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS %	TDs
Evan Engram	73	63%	5.6	80.2	41%	128	129	125	19	3
Kenny Golladay	73	49%	7.0	60.8	45%	115	99	61	58	0
Darius Slayton	57	46%	5.9	54.6	32%	140	133	58	135	2
Kadarius Toney	57	68%	7.4	82.5	53%	64	78	104	26	0
Saquon Barkley	57	72%	4.6	92.9	37%	134	130	76	53	2
Sterling Shepard	53	68%	6.9	62.3	47%	105	81	101	44	1

# **Kenny Golladay Target Distribution**



### **Darius Slavton Target Distribution**



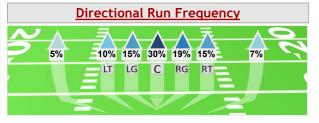
### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Following suit with the passing game, the Giants closed 2021 ranking 23rd in the league in expected points added via rushing (-18.5). They ranked 24th in yards per carry as a team (4.0 YPC) while rushing for a league-low eight touchdowns. Playing on his fifth-year option, the 2022 season will hopefully provide clarity on if Saquon Barkley can recapture the production over his first two seasons in the league. Barkley has missed 18 games the past two seasons, playing 580 total offensive snaps those years, combining for just 950 total yards and four touchdowns over that stretch. That said, Barkley is still just 25 years old while the Giants have made wholesale changes across their offensive line in addition to adding Daboll to the team this offseason in hopes of rekindling Barkley's upside.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Saquon Barkley	162	3.7	42%	82	84	24	73	41%	80	2
Devontae Booker	145	4.1	44%	75	74	81	64	42%	76	2
Daniel Jones	62	4.8	48%	57	80	74	39	50%	40	2

### Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Give Saquon Barkley a third strike

I can feel the collective eyes begin to roll here after Barkley has missed 18 games the past two seasons, combining for just 950 total yards and four touchdowns over that stretch. Barkley started off the season slowly returning from an ACL injury. Just when it looked like Barkley was back to full speed after turning 18 touches into 126 yards and two touchdowns in Week 4, he then injured his ankle the following week after just six snaps, which kept him sidelined until Week 11. He was never the same on return, averaging just 3.9 yards per touch and producing just one RB1 scoring week over his final eight games.

He did return to an all-time bad offense that was dead on his arrival, already suffering injuries to **Sterling Shepard** and **Kadarius Toney**, and then he played the final six games of the year without **Daniel Jones**. With Jones off the field, the Giants averaged an anemic 3.9 yards per offensive play and -0.30 EPA per play compared to 5.1 yards per play and -0.10 EPA per play with him under center. The bull case for Barkley centers around his age, the prospects that the Giants are an improved offense through personnel and coaching changes, the scarcity of three-down backs for fantasy football, and the cheapest cost of his career. Barkley will still only be 25 years old at the start of the season. He is still one of the few backs that projects to have no limitations for playing time in all game scripts and scenarios. Behind Barkley, the team does not have much. Ony **Matt Breida** has tangible NFL experience, but he also only has handled 68 and 33 touches the previous two seasons.

Over the past 30 years, 66.1% of all PPR RB1 scoring seasons have come from backs 26 years old and younger. That has skewed younger over the past decade, with 70.8% of the RB1 scoring seasons over the past 10 years coming from those backs younger than 27. We still have to see what Brian Daboll can cook up in elevating this offense while needing Daniel Jones to provide more than he has the past two seasons, but this offensive line is also greatly improved. The team has been busy this offseason, signing a slew of veteran linemen on shorter contracts, something we have seen from the Buffalo Bills in recent seasons when they rebuilt their offensive line.

In free agency, the Giants added **Mark Glowinski** (74 career starts), **John Feliciano** (39), **Max Garcia** (52), **Jamil Douglas** (11), and **Matt Gono** (four). With the seventh pick overall, they selected tackle **Evan Neal** from Alabama, completely revamping this starting unit outside of left tackle Andrew Thomas, who bounced back with a strong second season in the NFL.

We just do not have enough all-purpose running backs available while elite running back scorers still carry so much positional leverage to completely turn the lights off on a running back that checks the objective boxes we are looking for in terms of talent, pedigree, age, and usage, while there is at least a sliver of hope that this offense can at least climb to the middle of the pack if everything comes together.

Ne	w York Gia	nts Defense	: Number of	DBs vs Per	sonnel	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	D.	50
1-1 [3WR]	11 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 27%	246 plays (53%) Success: 53%	202 plays (43%) Success: 38%	5 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 20%	465 plays (100%) Success: 46%		%	Rk	40
	EPA: -0.79	EPA: 0.08	EPA: -0.14	EPA: -0.31	EPA: -0.04	Base	23%	18	
1-2 [2WR]	63 plays (54%) Success: 52%	47 plays (40%) Success: 57%	6 plays (5%) Success: 33%		117 plays (100%) Success: 53%	Nickel	53%	26	30
	EPA: -0.04	EPA: 0.05	EPA: 0.03		EPA: -0.01	Dime+	22%	7	The second second
2-1 [2WR]	7 plays (33%) Success: 71% EPA: 0.37	11 plays <i>(52%)</i> Success: 55% EPA: 0.06	2 plays (10%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.52	1 plays <i>(5%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.21	21 plays (100%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.20	Rush 3	11%	2	20 -
			LI A. 0.02	LI A0.21		Rush 4	64%	25	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	9 plays (60%) Success: 33% EPA: -0.05	6 plays (40%) Success: 67% EPA: 0.45			15 plays (100%) Success: 47% EPA: 0.15	Rush 5	21%	12	10-
	90 plays (15%)	310 plays (50%)	210 plays (34%)	6 plays (1%)	618 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	4%	20	0
Grand Total	Success: 49% EPA: -0.10	Success: 54% EPA: 0.08	Success: 38% EPA: -0.13	Success: 17% EPA: -0.29	Success: 47% EPA: -0.02	Blitz%	24%	18	-10

### **Defensive Outlook**

The Giants bet big on **Leonard Williams** multiple times and there was no way the player could ever match how invested the team was in him. Williams had a productive 2020 but in 2021 his quarterback hits dropped by more than half — 30 to 14. With his massive contract extension signed last offseason, Williams has a \$27.3 million cap hit for 2022. The Giants will save \$18 million if they move on after the season, which seems like a given at this point. **Dexter Lawrence** had a bit of a pass rush breakout. He only had 2.5 sacks but that came on 11 quarterback hits and he ranked eighth among defensive tackles in pressure rate, per SIS. The Giants have a choice to pick up his fifth-year option for 2023.

Fifth overall pick **Kayvon Thibodeaux** will slide in as the top pass rusher, without much other depth or star power at the position. **Azeez Ojulari** had some flashes as a second-round rookie with eight sacks, but those came on only 13 quarterback hits. Ojulari also ranked just 79th among edge rushers in pressure rate. The plus side is that Ojulari is an athletic player who will be put in better position in Wink Martindale's blitz-heavy defense.

Linebacker looked fine heading into the 2021 season but went downhill quickly when **Blake Martinez** suffered a torn ACL in Week 3. Martinez should be ready by the start of the season, but he also reworked his contract to make 2022 the final season, which leaves a question for his future and the Giants' outlook at the position. **Tae Crowder** played 93% of the defensive snaps and it's likely the Giants would like to not repeat that.

With James Bradberry gone, Adoree Jackson takes over as the No. 1 corner. Jackson was a surprise overpay last season, but he played well in the 13 games he appeared in for the Giants. Jackson ranked 15th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap.

**Darnay Holmes** has been a productive slot corner during his first two years in the league. The 2020 fourth-round pick only had 182 coverage snaps in 2021 but he played well in that time. There is some decent part-time depth with **Rodarious Williams**, **Aaron Robinson**, and **Jarren Williams**, all of whom had some flashes with playing time. Fourth-round pick Cordale Flott could also fight for some slot time.

The good news is this the Giants have a good, young safety duo. The bad news is they're the only reliable safeties currently on the roster. McKinney was all over the field in his second season after an injury-shortened rookie year. He has the range to play deep and the versatility to play in the box and slot. **Julian Love**, a 2019 fourth-round pick, is in the final year of his rookie contract. Love has occasionally been buried on the depth chart, whether it be at corner or safety, but he always made plays whenever he was on the field.

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	55%
All Pass Rk	22
All Rush %	45%
All Rush Rk	11
1 Score Pass %	56%
1 Score Pass Rk	16
2020 1 Score Pass %	54%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	25
2021 Pass Increase %	2%
Pass Increase Rk	13
1 Score Rush %	44%
1 Score Rush Rk	17
Up Pass %	58%
Up Pass Rk	9
Up Rush %	42%
Up Rush Rk	24
Down Pass %	54%
Down Pass Rk	31
Down Rush %	46%
Down Rush Rk	2

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	<u>denci</u>	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %
1st	Short (1-3)	4	50%	50%	75%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	6	33%	67%	83%
	Long (8-10)	295	48%	52%	45%
	XL (11+)	12	58%	42%	58%
2nd	Short (1-3)	30	20%	80%	60%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	64	52%	48%	45%
	Long (8-10)	103	55%	45%	31%
	XL (11+)	33	64%	36%	15%
3rd	Short (1-3)	41	46%	54%	56%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	51	86%	14%	39%
	Long (8-10)	42	88%	12%	29%
	XL (11+)	30	77%	23%	17%
4th	Short (1-3)	10	30%	70%	50%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	1	100%	0%	100%
	Long (8-10)	2	100%	0%	0%

Shots	gun %
Shotgun	Under Center
70%	30%
NFL	AVG
65%	35%
Effici	iency



### Short Yardage Intelligence:

05%	35%	
Effici	iency	
EPA/ pass: -0.24	EPA/ pass: 0.00	
EPA/ rush: -0.08	EPA/ rush: -0.24	
Success:	Success:	

	<u>Znc</u>	a and Sno	ort Kun	
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFI 1D Avg
68%	20	71%	73%	73%

	<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass	
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
32%	13	29%	57%	46%

		Most	Frequent Play		
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	2	100%
Dwn	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	71	48%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Saquon Barkley	3	0%
			Kenny Golladay	3	100%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	10	60%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Devontae Booker	14	36%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	19	26%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	5	0%
			Devontae Booker	5	0%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Saquon Barkley	6	83%
Dwn			Devontae Booker	6	83%
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Sterling Shepard	7	43%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Evan Engram	7	43%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Evan Engram	5	20%

<u>Offen</u>	sive Performance	w Motion (Pre Sna	ap & Play Action)
		Play Action (Y/N)	
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total
No	Success: 46% YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.03 Rtg: 82.7 [Att: 170 - Rate: 27.1%]	Success: 44% YPA: 7.4, EPA: -0.13 Rtg: 75.9 [Att: 57 - Rate: 9.1%]	Success: 46% YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.05 Rtg: 81.0 [Att: 227 - Rate: 36.2%]
Yes	Success: 33% YPA: 4.9, EPA: -0.42 Rtg: 66.4 [Att: 302 - Rate: 48.2%]	Success: 42% YPA: 5.2, EPA: -0.16 Rtg: 72.9 [Att: 98 - Rate: 15.6%]	Success: 35% YPA: 5.0, EPA: -0.35 Rtg: 68.0 [Att: 400 - Rate: 63.8%]
Total	Success: 38% YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.28 Rtg: 72.3 [Att: 472 - Rate: 75.3%]	Success: 43% YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.15 Rtg: 74.0 [Att: 155 - Rate: 24.7%]	Success: 39% YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.24 Rtg: 72.7 [Att: 627 - Rate: 100.0%]

				<u>Wee</u>	ekly Snaps	Played			
Wk	Орр	Score	Evan Engram	Kenny Golladay	Darius Slayton	Devontae Booker	Kyle Rudolph	Sterling Shepard	Kadarius Toney
1	DEN	L 27-13		52	43	24	47	58	5
2	WAS	L 30-29		58	39	10	49	64	19
3	ATL	L 17-14	39	48	9		29	24	46
4	NO	W 27-21	43	58		7	37		49
5	DAL	L 44-20	50	24		60	41		37
6	LA	L 38-11	55			54	34	68	6
7	CAR	W 25-3	44		44	59	41		
8	KC	L 20-17	47		52	56	21	23	34
9	LV	W 23-16	46	31	31	41	31		31
11	TB	L 30-10	52	44	34	21	14		35
12	PHI	W 13-7	54	46	44	10			
13	MIA	L 20-9	53	38	52	23	27		
14	LAC	L 37-21	51	61	46	28	25	56	
15	DAL	L 21-6	55	57	39	28	27	51	
16	PHI	L 34-10	59	61	61	41	17		39
17	CHI	L 29-3	36	45		27	26		
18	WAS	L 22-7	38	43	42	30	34		
	Grand '	Total	722	666	536	519	500	344	301

<u>Perso</u>	nnel (	Group	<u>ings</u>
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	61%	61%	39%
1-2 [2WR]	26%	21%	45%
2-2 [1WR]	3%	3%	47%
2-1 [2WR]	3%	7%	40%
1-3 [1WR]	2%	4%	36%
		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 % 47%
Group  Personnel  1-1 [3WR]  1-2 [2WR]	Pass Rate 67% 54%	Pass Succ. % 36% 47%	Run Succ % 47% 43%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard					
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Kenny Golladay	9	1	1	7	
Sterling Shepard	9	2	1	6	
Kyle Rudolph	8	4	1	3	
Evan Engram	5	2	2	1	
Kadarius Toney	5	1	1	3	
Darius Slayton	2			2	
Pharoh Cooper	2		2		

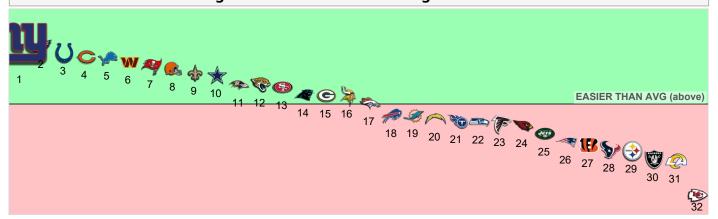
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard				
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Devontae Booker	16	5	3	8
Daniel Jones	13	3	2	8
Saquon Barkley	12	3	3	6
Evan Engram	1	1		
Kadarius Toney	1		1	
Mike Glennon	1		1	

Early D	own Targ	et Rate				
RB	TE	WR				
25%	20%	55%				
23%	21% NFL AVG	56%				
	Overall Target Success %					
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %				
Overall RB	Target Su	ICCESS %				
	_					
RB	TE	WR				





### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



#28 – MIA (22.8%) #29 – NYG (22.7%) #30 – HOU (22.1%) #31 – PIT (21.8%) #32 – JAX (21.8%)

Note that this is not the efficiency of passes thrown 20+ or 10+ yards downfield. It is the percentage of dropbacks which produce gains of 20+ or 10+ yards.

When the Bills made the AFC Championship Game in 2020, they ranked second in the NFL in the percentage of early down dropbacks which gained 20+ yards (11.5%). The Giants, in 2021, were down at 4.9%.

If you combine the last two seasons, the Giants rank:

Percentage of early down dropbacks that gain 20+ yards: 32nd (5.4%) Percentage of early down dropbacks that gain 10+ yards: 30th (24.3%)

Among Daboll's top priorities will be designing an offense that incorporates more explosive concepts and balances efficiency with enough explosiveness.

### Importance of explosive plays

Last season, NFL-wide, I evaluated all drives that started at or inside a team's own 30-yard line.

If such a drive had zero plays that gained 15+ yards:

4.3% of drives reached the red zone 5.9% of drives scored points 2.2% of drives scored a touchdown

If such a drive had exactly one explosive play (any gain of 15+ yards):

40.8% of drives reached the red zone 51.0% of drives scored points 28.8% of drives scored a touchdown

The difference is massive, in that each drive is far more likely to help score and thus win a game if the offense can produce just one gain of 15+ yards on that drive.

Where is the cutoff, though? What about drives that have 2+ explosive plays (gaining 15+ yards each)?

67.9% of drives reached the red zone 83.1% of drives scored points 60.9% of drives scored a touchdown

What about looking at it the other way – where we lower the threshold of explosive plays, and look at drives that saw exactly one gain of 10+ yards (rather than 15+ yards):

14.4% of drives reached the red zone21.9% of drives scored points10.1% of drives scored a touchdown

These numbers are obviously better than drives without a play that gains 10+ yards, but the difference in gaining 15+ yards vs. 10+ yards in terms of points is massive. Adding five more yards (20+ yards) moves it higher, but not nearly the same jump as moving from 10 to 15.





If such a drive had exactly one explosive play (any gain of 20+ yards):

53.5% of drives reached the red zone 67.3% of drives scored points 43.4% of drives scored a touchdown

#### The bottom line

Producing a 15+ yard play in a drive\* means that drive is...

- 8.4 times more likely to reach the red zone
- 7.8 times more likely to produce points of any kind
- 11.8 times more likely to score a touchdown
- ...than a drive that has zero 15+ yard plays

\*drives that start inside the 30-yard line & don't end in turnovers or by the half or full game clock expiring

#### Offensive Priority: Improve red zone efficiency

Last year, total plays called inside the red zone:

No. 1: Bills (242) No. 31: Giants (112)

Trips into the red zone:

No. 1: Bills (77) No. 31: Giants (38)

If the Giants improve on early downs and also generate more explosive plays, they should have more plays inside the red zone in 2022

All Giants plays: 35.5% success rate (30th) All Giants pass att: -0.34 EPA/att (32nd) All Giants pass att: 27.7% success (32nd)

If the efficiency metrics weren't bad enough, the pure completion percentage is mindboggling. The Giants completed just 37.7% of red zone pass attempts. That was dead last in the NFL. The NFL average is 57%. The second-worst team in the NFL, the Jaguars, completed 48.3% of their attempts, a full 10% better than the Giants.

No team in the last four years (2018-2021) had a lower completion percentage in the red zone than the Giants at 37.7%. The next closest was the 2020 Jets (40.8%), who went 2-14 before Adam Gase was fired.

#### **Giants Red Zone Passing**

For whatever reason, when the Giants got down into the red zone, they started passing the ball deeper relative to NFL averages.

Their average air yards/attempt in the red zone was 6.6, which ranked second-highest in the NFL (avg = 4.9).

Compare that to passes thrown outside the red zone, where the Giants threw the ball 7.4 air yards on average, which ranked 30th, and was below the NFL average of 8.2.

So, they shifted from 30th on depth of throws over the majority of the field to second inside the red zone. When most teams were throwing deeper, the Giants threw short, but when those teams shifted to throw shorter, the Giants opted not to do that.

 $Outside the \ red \ zone, only \ 32\% \ of the \ Giants \ passes \ went \ beyond \ the \ sticks, \ which \ ranked \ 26th. \ The \ NFL \ average \ was \ 34\%.$ 

Inside the red zone, 34% of the Giants passes went beyond the sticks, which ranked second. The NFL average was 24%.

This shows the same thing but with a different metric — the NFL average shifted to throw not just shorter passes, but to throw short of the sticks far more often. But the Giants threw beyond the sticks at a HIGHER rate in the red zone than elsewhere on the field.

They were the ONLY team in the NFL to throw beyond the sticks MORE OFTEN in the red zone.

But when the Giants threw the ball in the red zone short of the sticks (first down marker) they fared much better. In the red zone:

Short of the sticks: 0.11 EPA/att (11th), 68% completions (21st), 37% success rate (26th) At/Beyond the sticks: -0.44 EPA/att (32nd), 24% completions (32nd), 26% success rate (32nd)

It was so clear that the Giants were terrible when trying to be aggressive and throw beyond the sticks, but they switched their offense to be far more aggressive in the red zone and truly shot themselves in the foot with that strategy. It was simply terrible coaching.

This is not to suggest that passing short is the better strategy across the NFL. But it was for the Giants, and they clearly never analyzed the results to make the necessary adjustments.





Let's get back to the two elements that control WHAT this team will be:

General manager and coaching.

Make no mistake, this team currently is still Dave Gettleman's handiwork. Based on cap constraints and current contracts, it may take Schoen several offseasons to make this HIS team.

But I think this coaching staff will get more out of this roster than any of the previous staffs could because they were so inept. Does that mean the Giants will produce a winning season? I would be surprised, given that would take them nine wins and they have delivered seasons of four, six, four, five. and three wins the last five seasons.

This team didn't get "unlucky" and win four games last year. They went 3-3 in one-score games. Yes, they were -8 in turnover margin, but they were seventh in FG luck and 17th in fumble luck. They weren't blowing late leads, in fact, they led at halftime in just TWO of 17 games. This team was bad top to bottom, front to back.

So Daboll and company have their work cut out for them. The positives are this team was the sixth most injured and did have the -8 turnovers last season, and will play the easiest schedule based on 2022 opponent win totals. And they've got smarter coaches and a smarter general manager. For the first time in a long time, the future is bright for the once-proud Giants franchise. Patience. Your time to shine will come.



# Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

# The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

# Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

# 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

# CLICK TO LEARN MORE

# 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

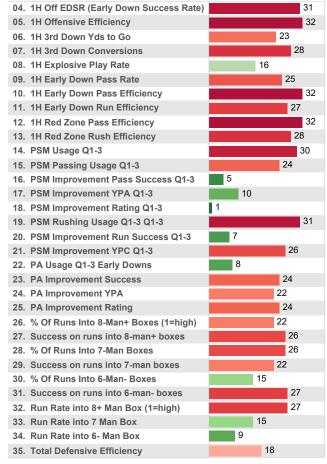
CLICK TO LEARN MORE 01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

-6.0

03. Wins





Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)					
36. PSM YPA	5.9				
37. PSM Target Depth	4.9				
38. Non-PSM YPA	5.3				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth 7.8					
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	47%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	49%				
42. PSM EPA/att	-0.11				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	-0.39				

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)						
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	43%					
45. PA Success Rate	41%					
46. PA YPA	5.9					
47. PA Sack Rate	3.5%					
48. PA EPA/att	-0.15					
49. PA Target Depth	7.9					
50. Non-PA Success Rate	41%					
51. Non-PA YPA	5.3					
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	52. Non-PA Sack Rate 4.5%					
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.33					
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.2					
Men In Box						
55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early	55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line 12%					

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	36%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	1.9
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	48%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.3
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	34%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)						
N-4 EDOE DI-	17					
Net FROE Rk	17	defFUM	17			
Net FROE	-0.2	defFUM Rcvrd	10			
offFUM	24	dell oli Revid	10			
offFUM Rcvrd	14	defFR Rk	19			
offFR%	58.3%	defFR%	41.2%			
offFR Rk	15	-I	0.4			
offFROE	-0.1	defFROE	-0.1			

15

defFROE Rk

Opp Att	38
Opp Makes	34
Opp FG %	89%
Opp Expected Makes	33.19
Opp Make Over Expectation	0.81
Opp Make over Expectation Rk	18
2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	1.64
2020 Opp Rk	7

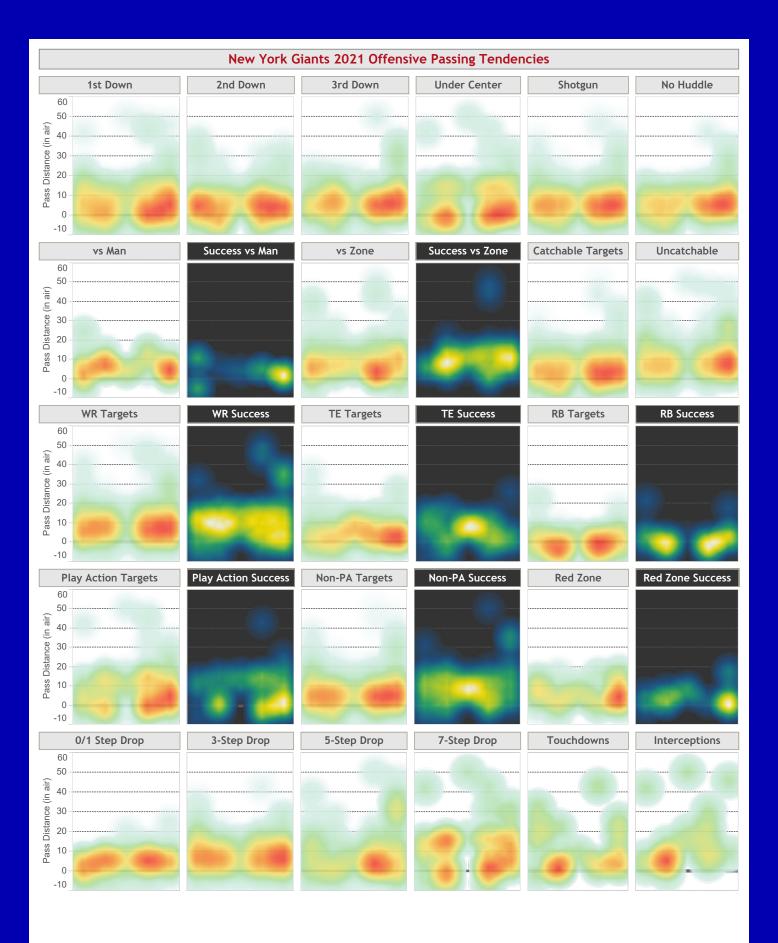
Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs				
	Mike Glennon			
CAY	5.6	3.9		
CAY Rk	20	38		
2020 CAY Rk	14	19		
AYTS Rk	37	25		
2020 AYTS Rk	30	11		
AGG Rk	5	16		
2020 AGG Rk	13	1		
COMP%	64.3	53.9		
xCOMP%	64.1	62.1		
xCOMP% Rk	32	35		
2020 xCOMP% Rk	33	33		
CPOE%	0.2	-8.2		
CPOE Rk	15	37		
2020 CPOE Rk	24	27		
<b>64</b>				

offFROE Rk

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

QB Pressure							
Daniel Jones Mike Glennon							
Pressure %	34.4	35.9					
Pressure Rk	15	13					
Sack %	5.4	5					
Sack Rk	24	27					
Pressure Accuracy %	71.6	64.3					
Pressure Accuracy Rk	4	16					
Rating when Pressured	65.3	35.2					
Pressured Rating Rk	23	38					
Clean Accuracy %	75.5	66.1					
Clean Accuracy Rk	30	38					
Rating when Clean	93.2	56.5					
Clean Rating Rk	25	38					
Time to Throw	2.78	2.71					
Time to Throw Rk	20	27					

Offensive Metrics					
EPA/Pass	-0.25				
EPA/Pass Rk	32				
EPA/Rush	-0.12				
EPA/Rush Rk	29				
On-Target Catch %	90.9%				
On-Target Catch Rk	12				
Drop%	7.5%				
Drop Rk	29				
YAC/Att	2.0				
YAC/Att Rk	26				
Rush Broken Tackle %	7.9%				
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	32				
Rush 1st Down %	21.3%				
Rush 1st Down Rk	28				



# Giants Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Daniel Jones	0.16 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.07 (#1)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.20 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	0.11 (#2)
	Mike Glennon	-0.32 (#3)	-0.51 (#3)	-0.44 (#3)	-0.52 (#3)	-0.41 (#3)	-0.27 (#3)	-0.28 (#3)
2020	Daniel Jones	0.18 (#1)	-0.08 (#1)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	-0.21 (#2)	0.06 (#1)	0.13 (#1)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Daniel Jones	-0.63 (#2)	-0.28 (#2)	-0.01 (#1)	-0.17 (#1)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.25 (#2)	-0.22 (#2)
	Mike Glennon	-0.86 (#3)	-0.81 (#3)	-0.42 (#3)	-0.60 (#3)	-0.65 (#3)	-0.46 (#3)	-0.58 (#3)
2020	Daniel Jones	-0.61 (#1)	-0.27 (#1)	-0.22 (#2)	-0.28 (#2)	0.15 (#1)	-0.17 (#1)	-0.10 (#1)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

					•					
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Daniel Jones	73% (#2)	71% (#3)	71% (#1)	35% (#2)	74% (#1)	73% (#2)	65% (#2)	66% (#1)	72% (#3)
	Mike Glennon	71% (#3)	71% (#2)	58% (#3)	30% (#3)	68% (#3)	71% (#3)	43% (#3)	56% (#3)	73% (#2)
2020	Daniel Jones	75% (#1)	78% (#1)	67% (#2)	62% (#1)	70% (#2)	76% (#1)	67% (#1)	66% (#2)	78% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.14 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)	0.14 (#1)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)	-0.10 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.14 (#2)	0.02 (#1)
2020	-0.09 (#1)	-0.08 (#1)	-0.34 (#2)	-0.06 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.12 (#1)	-0.12 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG Range	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
2021	31	25	16	31	32	18	12	25	20	30
2020	26	28	29	20	31	19	24	16	13	27

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	25	20	24	25	18	15	7	20	28
2020	23	14	21	14	17	20	9	31	24

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	24	18	19	3	19	14	3	1	14
2020	21	30	21	32	17	1	21	1	28

# Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Robert Saleh (1 yr) Offensive Coordinator: Mike LaFleur (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator:** Jeff Ulbrich (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

# **New York Jets**

2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

#4

# **Past Records**

2021: 4-13 2020: 2-14 2019: 7-9



# **Key Players Lost**

-3

-3

Rest Edge:

Player	New
Folorunso Fatukasi (IDL)	Jaguars
Marcus Maye (S)	Saints
Morgan Moses (RT)	Ravens
Alex Lewis (LG)	TBD
Laurent Duvernay-Tardif	TBD
Ryan Griffin (TE)	Bears
Jamison Crowder (WR)	Bills
Keelan Cole (WR)	Raiders
Greg Van Roten (RG)	Bills
Tyler Kroft (TE)	49ers
Jarrad Davis (LB)	Lions
Cameron Clark (LG)	TBD
Austin Walter (RB)	TBD
Blake Cashman (LB)	Texans
Kyle Phillips (IDL)	TBD
Ken Webster (CR)	TRD

#### Ken Webster (CB) **TBD** # Games <u>Average</u> # Games **Underdog** Line **Favored** 3 14 4.1

# 2022 New York Jets Overview

Adam Gase didn't make life easier on any of his quarterbacks in New York, particularly not young Sam Darnold. I believed Mike LaFleur would be a big improvement over Gase... and he was.

LaFleur called pre-snap motion at the second-highest rate in the NFL and it made a massive difference in improving the Jets' passing efficiency while defining coverage and helping rookie Zach Wilson.

But one area that surprised me as to the lack of use was play-action.

+1

His final year at BYU, Zach Wilson used play-action on 38% of his dropbacks. It was the 28th highest rate out of 111 FBS quarterbacks per our own Ryan McCrystal.

How did those dropbacks work out for him?

Out of 111 FBS quarterbacks, Wilson led the nation in YPA and ANY/A off of play-action. We know his stats across the board were great due to a lack of competition, but the fact is, his offense used it a lot and he was great when using it.

We know Mike LaFleur was the former 49ers passing game coordinator. He held that role for several years, through 2020.

In 2019, the 49ers used play-action at a 32% rate, first in the NFL.

In 2020, Jimmy Garoppolo missed a lot of time but when he was starting, they used it at a 31% rate, ninth in the NFL. (cont'd - see NYJ2)

# **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

-3

-3

Player	AAV (MM)
Laken Tomlinson (LG)	\$13.3
D.J. Reed (CB)	\$11
C.J. Uzomah (TE)	\$8
Jordan Whitehead (S)	\$7.29
Tyler Conklin (TE)	\$6.79
Jacob Martin (EDGE)	\$4.5
Solomon Thomas (EDGE)	\$2.29
Greg Zuerlein (K)	\$2
Nate Herbig (RG)	\$1.3
Marcell Harris (LB)	\$1.2
Jovante Moffatt (S)	\$1

+2

# **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
	4	CB - Ahmad Gardner (Cincinnati)
1	10	WR - Garrett Wilson (Ohio State)
	26	DE - Jermaine Johnson II (Florida State)
2	36	RB - Breece Hall (Iowa State)
3	101	TE - Jeremy Ruckert (Ohio State)
4	111	OT - Max Mitchell (Louisiana)
*	117	DE - Micheal Clemons (Texas A&M)

# Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj



## Lineup & Cap Hits NEW 56 RE LCB D.Reed DT S.Rankins ROOK **BO**( )4 ( 52 198



# 2022 Unit Spending



# **Positional Spending**

Rank	Total	2021 Rk
12	\$110.55M	4
20	\$13.99M	27
5	\$48.16M	3
29	\$5.99M	29
5	\$32.55M	4
16	\$9.86M	25
3	\$115.29M	15
	\$60.55M	16
4	\$25.38M	8
25	\$16.42M	32
16	\$12.94M	7
	12 20 5 29 5 16 3 3 4 25	12 \$110.55M 20 \$13.99M 5 \$48.16M 29 \$5.99M 5 \$32.55M 16 \$9.86M 3 \$115.29M 3 \$60.55M 4 \$25.38M 25 \$16.42M

#### NYJ-2

So we're talking low-30% for the most recent couple of years, which was near the top of the NFL. Wilson was using it even more than that at BYU.

How often did Wilson use play action for the Jets?

He used it on 24% of dropbacks, which ranked 29th, and below the NFL average of 26.2%.

I was certainly expecting to see more play-action.

But when looking at play action splits, I was surprised to see how terrible Wilson was when using it last year.

Looking at early downs only, in the first three quarters of games:

With play-action: -0.49 EPA/att, 30% success, 5.3 YPA, 41% pressure, 9.9 air vards/att on 69 att

Without play-action: -0.07 EPA/att, 43% success, 6.4 YPA, 21% pressure, 4.4 air yards/att on 105 att

Clearly the efficiency numbers are worse with play-action, but how much of that was due to the extremely high pressure rate?

Even if you look at only passes from clean pockets, Wilson's EPA/att, success rate, and YPA were all worse in 2021 with play-action than without.

Why wasn't play-action better?

In part, it was a microcosm of everything else that wasn't great from Wilson in 2021: slow processing, holding onto the ball, running around too much, and taking too much time to throw.

Let's just walk through some splits for Wilson in 2021, but before we do that, let's establish the baseline:

On early downs, first three quarters of games, here is Wilson's numbers in 2021 and where he ranked out of 42 quarterbacks with at least 100 attempts last season:

	JETS			
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	- O-
Zach Wilson	46% 6.6 77.7	34% 5.5 53.7	27% 5.6 65.7	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	52%	65%	82%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	

Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
NYJ	48% 4.3	53% 4.0	58% 5.9	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	48%	35%	18%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

All throws: -0.23 EPA/att (38th), 38% success (37th), 6.0 YPA (36th), 59% comp (39th), 40th accuracy

Before we run other splits, let's look at the one that impacted Wilson the

Clean: -0.17 EPA/att, 37% success, 6.4 YPA With pressure: -0.61 EPA/att, 16% success, 3.8 YPA

The average quarterback's time to throw last year was just over 2.5 seconds. Let's look at splits when Wilson threw it in under 2.5 seconds vs. at or above 2.5 seconds:

2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

Defensive Efficiency Pass Efficiency Def Pass Pro Efficieincy Def RB Pass Eff Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def

YPPT Def



# 2021 Close Game **Records** All 2019 Wins: 4

FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-0** FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)** MARGIN FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins) OPP PTS

3rd Down Def YPPA Def

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 4-5 Score Games Win %: 44% (#19) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 100% (#1)

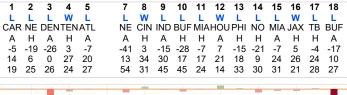
# 2021 Critical/Game-

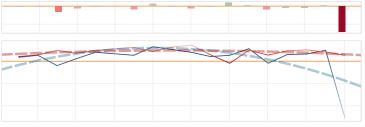
21

(cont'd - see NYJ-3)

**Explosive** 

Deciding Stats					
TO Margin	-13				
TO Given	27				
INT Given	20				
FUM Given	7				
TO Taken	14				
INT Taken	7				
FUM Taken	7				
Sack Margin	-20				
Sacks	33				
Sacks Allow	53				
Return TD Margin	+1				
Ret TDs	1				
Ret TDs Allow	0				
Penalty Margin	-19				
Penalties	103				
Opponent Penalties	84				





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

5

10

15

25

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

L=Red

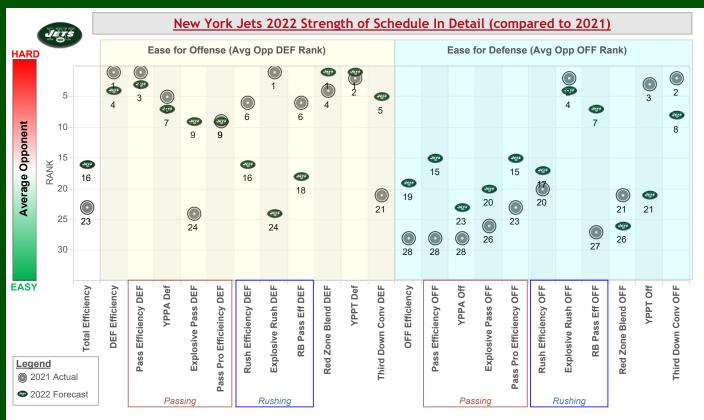
**RESULT** 

*29* 

**EDSR Def** 30 & In Def 28

Def

Red Zone



	2022 vs 2021 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	11	23	30	7	6	13	7					

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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

		Геап	n Red	cord	s & 1	ren	<u>ds</u>		20	22 C	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	<u>sion</u>	2021	Орр	oner	its b	y Div	/isioı	<u> H</u>	ealth	n by	Unit*
					2021	20	20	2019				يسو						سر 🛌	4				2021	Rk	31
	Ave	rage I	ine		7.4	9.	.2	4.6	AF	CE	10-50					AFCE	4						2020	Rk	29
	Avera				44.2	44	.6	42.1			**	,,,					**	,				201	21 v 2	020 Rk	27
	Straigh				4-13	2-		7-9										. 2	2			201			
	nst the				6-11	6-		7-9	AF	CN	1	1F	<b>L</b> (	Care (Inc	· (4)	AFCS	X * /			<b>&gt;</b> (			Off F	≺K	26
	Over/U				9-8	7-	-	6-9			4-						V			<b>S</b>			Def I	Rk	32
		as Fav			1-0	0-		0-4															QB I	o k	26
	ATS a				5-11	6-		6-5	NE	CN			3 (	<b>&gt;</b> 6	5	NFCS	43			<b>^</b> ≰					
	Straig				3-6	1-		5-3	INI	CIN	V	حمل ا		<b>シ</b>	10°	NECS			€ ~	5			RB F	₹k	12
		S Hon			4-5 6-3	4-		4-4 2-6							,		•			•			WRI	Rk	26
	Over/L 「S as I				6-3 1-0	4- 0-		2-6 0-2			CO. 200												TE F	) L	28
					3-5	4-	-	0-2 4-2	AF	cs		•				AFCN	16	6							
,	TS as			,	3-5 1-7	1.		4-2 2-6			•												Oline	Rk	16
		S Awa			2-6	2.		3-5															Dline	Rk	32
	Over/l				3-5	3-		4-3	ΔF	cw						AFCW							LDI	N.	25
	ATS A				0-0	0-	-	0-2	7.1	•••	4	•				7.1 011	~	~21					LB F		
		Away			2-6	2.		2-3															DB F	₹k	30
Six	Point			ord	11-6	8-	-8	10-6									_	7							
Seve	n Poir	t Teas	er Red	cord	11-6	8-	-8	10-5	NF	CW		)				NFCE	Go	1						on the v	
Ter	Point	Tease	r Reco	ord	12-5	9-	-6	11-5															Footba	all Outs	iders
					20	22 V	/eek	ly Be	ettin	g Lir	nes									Hon	ne Li	ines			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	1	3	5	8		9	12	15	16
BAL	CLE	CIN	PIT	MIA	GB	MIA	NE	BUF	NE	CHI	MIN	BUF	DET	JAX	SEA	MIA									
																	5.5	5				7		Δν	g = 1.9
+5.5	+6.5	+5.0	+3.5	+2.5	+9.5	+7.5	+2.5	+7.0	+6.0	-2.5	+4.5	+9.5	-2.5	-2.5	+1.5	+5.5	_BAL_	-CIN-	2.5			UF	+		
																			MIA	NE	-		2.5 CHI	<b>-2.5</b> DET	-2.5
						-						4000											CHI	DÈI	JĄX
								San S				**				.au				_					
Avg =	4.1	E				- 7,440		W			<u> </u>				Avg	=4.1				Roa	<u>ad Li</u>	nes			
Н	Α	Н		1	Α	Α	H	Н	Α		A	Α				A	2	4	6	7	11	13	14	17	18
										H			H_	H											
													Y	60					9.5				9.5	Avg	= 6.0
10	8	2	2	2	(0	(0	01	m	72	-		_	2	10	m	10	<b>6.5</b> CLE	3.5	GB	<b>7.5</b> MIA	6	4.5	BUF	1.5	5.5
45	4	44.	45	46.	46	46	42	48	42.	44	48	47	4	45	43	45	CLE	PIT			NE	MIN		SEA	MIA





Less than 2.5 seconds: 0.01 EPA/att, 47% success, 6.0 YPA, 2.1 air yds/att At least 2.5 seconds: -0.43 EPA/att, 29% success, 6.1 YPA, 10.6 air yds/att

Out of all 42 quarterbacks, Wilson ranked 24th in EPA/att, 23rd in success rate, and 29th in YPA when throwing in less than 2.5 seconds. But when he held the ball for at least 2.5 seconds, he was ranking in the low 30s once again in those efficiency metrics.

His inside vs. outside of pocket throws showed similar splits to his pressure splits:

Inside pocket: -0.12 EPA/att, 44% success, 6.7 YPA Outside pocket: -0.63 EPA/att, 16% success, 2.9 YPA

Bottom line was that Wilson flees the pocket too quickly and thus, throws far too often while moving or shuffling as opposed to when he's planted from outside the pocket.

Wilson does have a big arm and often tried to buy time to make something happen downfield. But instead of throwing open his receiver or trusting his instincts, he would hold the ball.

Wilson averaged 2.79 seconds to throw on early downs in the first three quarters, the sixth-longest time to throw in his class and the longest of any rookie quarterback in his class.

On all downs in all quarters, Wilson averaged 2.95 seconds to throw, the second-longest time to throw in the NFL last year.

Where Wilson was at his best was far too infrequent, but it was his decisive throws to primary reads over five yards downfield.

When throwing in less than 2.5 seconds over five yards downfield, look at where Wilson ranked in the NFL:

First in accuracy, 10th in success rate, 12th in YPA, and 14th in EPA/att

Which quarterbacks around the NFL have the most dropbacks like that? Getting the ball out quickly but not short... at least six yards downfield?

Top 10 include: Tom Brady, Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen, Matt Ryan, Aaron Rodgers, Dak Prescott, Derek Carr, \*JIMMY GAROPPOLO\*, Joe Burrow, and Baker Mayfield.

Forget total attempts for a second, and look at the quarterbacks who threw quickly and at 6+ air yards most frequently on their rate of throws:

First on the list? Jimmy Garoppolo, with 24% of all his attempts coming in less than 2.5 seconds and traveling over five yards downfield.

Also in the top-10 are also QBs like Tom Brady, Joe Burrow, and Aaron Rodgers. These are guys who can hold onto the ball and fire deep, but who also have a high rate (~20%) of their total passes coming out quick and aggressively.

Where was Wilson? Down at 12%, ranking 33rd in the NFL.

Garoppolo is interesting at No. 1, of course, because of Mike LaFleur. LaFleur was Jimmy G's passing game coordinator and helped design an offense to his strengths. Translating the offensive scheme to fit with what was the best part of Wilson's game in 2021 shouldn't be that complicated, it just takes reps in the system and comfort.

I expect the Jets to spend a lot of time with Wilson this offseason speeding up his process and getting him more comfortable with the offense. Wilson must be decisive from the pocket and cannot hold onto the ball, invite pressure, and throw (either short or deep)to players who are now covered up due to Wilson spending too much tin the pocket.

Another element to the Jets passing offense that had an interesting juxtaposition vs. where LaFleur just came from was the short passing game.

(cont'd - see NYJ-4) Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: New York Jets 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
28	27	18	1	1	22

# Forecast 2022 Wins

# Why Bet the Under

- Despite playing the fourth-place schedule, the Jets play the sixth-hardest schedule of opponents. The Jets also have the third-worst net rest advantage having to play four teams with mini byes that play Thursday the week before playing the Jets. The Jets also have a scheduling quirk of having to play the entire AFC North in the first four weeks.
- The Jets improved the overall roster yet the success of the team hinges on last year's second overall pick **Zach Wilson**. To say Wilson struggled is an understatement as he finished the season ranked last in most passing metrics with a -9.5 CPOE, -0.15 EPA/play, and 55.6% completion rate. The season doesn't start easy for Wilson and he is projected to face the third most difficult pass defenses in 2022.
- The defense was not good against the pass or run last year. The defense finished last in EPA/play, EPA/DB, and bottom 10 in EPA/rush. The Jets will have the best chance of winning games that allow them to run the ball and for that to happen the defense will need to play well early in games, which might be a tough ask.

5.5

# Why Bet the Over



- The 2021 Jets struggled with injuries on both sides of the ball which led to the second-highest adjusted games lost due to injury. The offense had the seventh-highest adjusted games lost and the defense had the most. Both units are due for better injury luck in 2022.
- In 2021, the Jets finished with -4.5 net field goals below expectation the third-lowest in the league. The second-worst turnover differential is likely to improve as the Jets had the second-worst fumble luck finishing with -5.1 fumble over expectation. The Jets were on the wrong side of luck variance in 2021 which is due for positive regression in 2021.
- The draft was a huge success for the future of the Jets. Although the Jets had the most draft capital, they were able to fill premium positions for fair value. Sauce Gardner has the potential to be the best player in the draft, Garrett Wilson becomes the second starting wide receiver on a rookie contract, and Jermaine Johnson fills a need on the defensive line. The Jets are building a very solid core of players at premium positions.

New York Jets Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	<b>Head Coach</b>				
27	20	22	15	24	22	19				

The rebuilding process is moving slowly in New York. When **Zach Wilson** was kept clean for at least 2.5 seconds, he averaged -0.1 EPA per dropback, the league's worst rate. His lack of production in a clean pocket underscores just how much development is still needed. We're not giving up hope though. BYU's cupcake schedule in 2020 did not prepare him for the NFL; a difficult rookie year was expected.

The Jets backfield ranked dead last a season ago, so 22nd doesn't look so bad by comparison. **Breece Hall** should, at worst, be a competent starting running back, and **Michael Carter** will likely offer more value in a complementary role.

The area in which the Jets have improved most is wide receiver — their pass catchers jumped 14 spots in our rankings thanks to the addition of **Garrett Wilson**. On throws 10 or more yards downfield, Jets receivers hauled in 73% of their catchable targets (ranked 24th) — Wilson caught 88% at Ohio State.

It would be easier to rank the Jets offensive line if we knew the status of **Mekhi Becton**. Votes ranged from 14th to 25th, which is probably an accurate representation of possible outcomes for this unit. Excluding short-yardage situations, the Jets offensive line helped pave the way for 1.2 rushing yards before contact, ranked 26th

New York front seven was a liability last year — it ranked 30th in pressure rate — but a healthy **Carl Lawson** and the addition of **Jermaine Johnson** could potentially lead to significant strides. There's nowhere to go but up for the Jets secondary, which has the potential to take a significant step forward after adding three new starters: **Sauce Gardner**, **Jordan Whitehead**, and **D.J. Reed**. This unit allowed 20 or more yards on 12.4% of opponent pass attempts a season ago, which ranked 32nd.

Robert Salah moved up a few spots in our head coach rankings, but the jury is still out on him. He ranks fourth out of five coaches entering their second year on the job.

#### NYJ-4

Look at what Zach Wilson did on passes thrown within five yards of the line of scrimmage and compare him to Jimmy Garoppolo:

Wilson: -0.15 EPA/att (31st), 35% success (36th), 4.3 YPA (37th), 42nd in accuracy Garoppolo: 0.13 EPA/att (first), 43% success (18th), 6.5 YPA (second), sixth in accuracy

I fail to believe these numbers by Wilson cannot be improved in 2022. Some of these passes were bail-out throws when a quarterback doesn't see what he likes downfield. By improving the downfield attack and featuring Wilson getting the ball out faster, many of these checkdowns that come too late to be a productive checkdown will be eliminated.

The 49ers and Jimmy Garoppolo thrived on these types of passes and made a lot of hay out of them, and there's no reason that LaFleur cannot take more of what worked for the 49ers and employ it in New York.

The key goal for every playcaller is to make life easy for his quarterback. Even Andy Reid spends his long days figuring out how to get the ball out of Patrick Mahomes's hands quickly and easily to generate YAC and offensive upside.

So you can bet this is going to be a priority for LaFleur and Wilson this offseason.

# <u>NYJ-5</u>

Just look at what LaFleur watched and helped build in San Francisco, the best YAC offense in the NFL for four straight years.

Here is the No. 1 team with the highest YAC/reception, by year:

2021: SF (6.6 YAC/rec) 2020: SF (6.2 YAC/rec) 2019: SF (6.6 YAC/rec) 2018: SF (7.0 YAC/rec)

Last year, the Jets ranked seventh in YAC/reception at 5.6 yards. Even without a Deebo Samuel to help dominate YAC, the Jets were productive in that department.

But this absolutely will be a focus: generating easy, quick, and decisive passes for Wilson to make that can either be productive downfield (of the 6+ yard variety) or that can generate a lot of YAC.

I am looking forward to seeing it develop.

I was also encouraged to see LaFleur use a very high pass rate on second-and-long. The Jets passed the ball on 84% of second-and-longs last year, which ranked second-most pass-heavy in the NFL. The last thing you want to see a new coordinator do with a young quarterback is to run the ball on second-and-8+ yards and force him to convert on third downs.

The bad news was that they averaged -0.22 EPA/att on these plays, which ranked fourth-worst. But the good news was that was still more productive than run plays (-0.29 EPA/att) and when they passed the ball, they gained a first down 24% of the time, as opposed to only 9% of the time when they ran the ball.

I wouldn't mind seeing the 2022 Jets get a little more pass-heavy on first down, too. They ranked 24th in pass rate on first downs in the first three

#### (cont'd - see NYJ-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

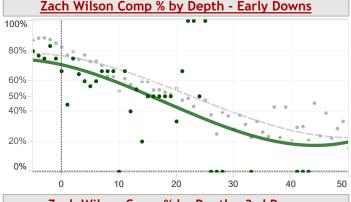


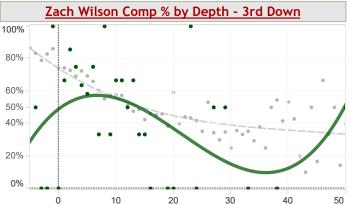


# 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>											
C	lets .	Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)						
	Michael Carter	31%	12%	56%							
	Ty Johnson	30%	18%	51%	2%						
	Tevin Coleman	15%	8%	76%							
I	Elijah Moore	20%		80%							
RUSH	Braxton Berrios		14%	86%							
₽	Austin Walter		8%	88%	4%						
	Jeff Smith			100%							
	Lamical Perine		13%	88%							
	Total	23%	12%	65%	1%						
	Michael Carter	29%	19%	52%							
	Ty Johnson	48%	20%	31%							
	Tevin Coleman	25%	13%	63%							
	Elijah Moore	39%	20%	41%							
	Braxton Berrios	36%	11%	53%							
	Jamison Crowder	28%	15%	55%	1%						
4.	Corey Davis	36%	29%	36%							
SS	Keelan Cole	34%	22%	42%	2%						
Ä	Ryan Griffin	36%	19%	45%							
	Austin Walter	67%		33%							
	Tyler Kroft	12%	32%	56%							
	Denzel Mims	35%	17%	48%							
	Jeff Smith	41%	12%	47%							
	Daniel Brown			100%							
	Vyncint Smith	100%									
	Total	35%	19%	46%	0%						







# Successful Play Rate

# **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



# Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-1 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	ALL
PASS	41%, -0.17 (453)	44%, -0.40 (84)	57%, 0.23 (65)	45%, -0.27 (20)	18%, -0.35 (11)	33%, 0.18 (3)	33%, -0.19 (3)	0%, -0.83 (1)	43%, -0.16 (651)
RUSH	51%, 0.00 (178)	54%, -0.05 (118)	47%, 0.01 (17)	49%, 0.05 (35)	0%, -0.77 (1)	43%, -0.17 (7)	75%, -0.75 (4)	0%, -2.99 (1)	51%, -0.03 (372)
All	44%, -0.12 (631)	50%, -0.20 (202)	55%, 0.18 (82)	47%, -0.07 (55)	17%, -0.38 (12)	40%, -0.06 (10)	57%, -0.51 (7)	0%, -1.91 (2)	46%, -0.11 (1,023)

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]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total					
WR	Elijah	41% (54)	56% (9)	70% (10)	50% (2)	47% (75)					
	Moore	6.8, -0.13	7.8, 0.32	8.1, 0.30	11.0, 0.56	7.2, 0.00					
	Jamison	55% (51)	83% (12)	0% (3)	50% (2)	57% (68)					
	Crowder	6.6, 0.02	9.8, 0.52	-0.7, -0.78	8.0, -0.02	6.9, 0.07					
	Braxton	52% (42)	46% (13)	100% (2)	100% (2)	54% (59)					
	Berrios	7.0, 0.01	5.2, 0.11	4.0, 0.15	11.0, 0.64	6.6, 0.06					
	Corey	54% (37)	100% (2)	41% (17)	0% (1)	51% (57)					
	Davis	8.7, 0.04	7.5, 0.91	8.8, -0.59	0.0, -1.12	8.5, -0.14					
	Keelan	51% (35)	63% (8)	0% (1)	0% (1)	51% (45)					
	Cole	10.1, 0.21	8.5, 0.42	0.0, -3.82	0.0, -0.87	9.4, 0.14					
TE	Ryan Griffin	55% (20) 7.4, 0.47		38% (16) 3.4, -0.71	100% (2) 21.5, 1.43	50% (38) 6.5, 0.02					
RB	Ty Johnson	46% (41) 6.1, 0.06	43% (7) 6.0, 0.10		0% (1) 11.0, 0.16	45% (49) 6.2, 0.07					

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Carter	54% (74)	50% (52)	50% (10)	50% (2)	52% (138)
Michael	4.8, 0.02	3.8, -0.08	6.2, -0.03	0.0, 0.22	4.5, -0.02
Coleman	43% (30)	64% (28)	43% (14)	67% (3)	52% (75)
Tevin	3.1, -0.25	4.7, 0.03	4.3, -0.04	2.3, 0.00	3.9, -0.10
Johnson	55% (33)	37% (19)	33% (3)		47% (55)
Ty	5.1, -0.04	2.4, -0.38	4.3, -0.01		4.1, -0.16
Wilson	56% (18)	75% (4)		0% (2)	54% (24)
Zach	9.3, 0.38	4.5, 0.66		-1.0, -0.81	7.7, 0.33
Walter	33% (9)	71% (7)	40% (5)		48% (21)
Austin	1.9, -0.20	5.3, 0.25	5.4, 0.04		3.9, 0.01
Perine La'Mical	33% (6) 4.5, -0.17	0% (1) 3.0, -0.19			29% (7) 4.3, -0.17

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	Run Types		
	verage :heme	Route		Level 1	50% (442)	3 Step	55% (186) 7.4, 0.17	Planted		% (420) 3, 0.04	Outside Zone	51% (91) 4.1, -0.11
		Curl	65% (78) 8.1, 0.16		6.3, 0.04		39% (144) Moving			1% (97) 5, -0.26		52% (50)
Zone	40% (398) 7.1, -0.04	Out	51% (75)	Level 2	49% (84) 10.2, 0.00	5 Step	6.7, -0.03	Shuffling	37% (81) 5.3, -0.13		Power	3.9, -0.11
		Out	6.5, 0.00		21% (28)	0/1 Step	50% (80) 6.0, -0.01		Play Actio		Inside Zone	55% (49) 3.2, -0.02
Man	37% (184) 5.9, -0.30	Slant	53% (40) 8.6, 0.12	Level 3	8.0, -0.32	7 Step	43% (72)		Play Action			58% (48)
	5.9, -0.30		52% (31)	Shovel	46% (13)		7.5, -0.34	Under Center	40% (81) 5.8, -0.23	51% (41) 9.3, -0.05		5.3, 0.09
	39% (20)	Dig	8.5, 0.13	Gilovei	3.4, -0.18	Basic Screen	44% (25) 6.5, -0.12	Shotgun	47% (43) 4.6, -0.39	42% (486) 6.6, -0.14	Pitch	31% (16) 5.7, -0.05
Other	3.4, -0.20	Drag	35% (23) 4.8, -0.19	Sidearm	20% (5) 4.2, -0.26	Designed Rollout Right	50% (22) 6.6, -0.06	ALL	42% (124) 5.4, -0.29	43% (527) 6.8, -0.13	Lead	50% (16) 5.1, 0.07

## NYJ-6

quarters of games last year.

I loved the amount of pre-snap motion LaFleur used last season. He used the second-highest rate of pre-snap motion in the first three quarters of games last year, and got a ton of improvement out of it:

The third-biggest jump in success rate.

The fourth-highest jump in YPA.

The fifth-highest jump in EPA/att.

They also used it at the second-highest rate before run plays and got better-than-average improvement in YPC and success.

I expect we'll see a continued high use of pre-snap motion.

But that almost made the lack of play-action that much more puzzling. Clearly, LaFleur understands the benefits of motion in general, as he is using it a ton pre-snap. So why not utilize it more post-snap, via play-action?

The Jets used it at the fifth-lowest rate and Wilson was terrible from it. I would predict the Jets will use it more in 2022 and get more efficiency out of it.

It certainly would help if the offense in 2022 was healthier than in 2021. The Jets have the following ranks in team health the last three years:

2019: 32nd 2020: 29th 2021: 31st

(cont'd - see NYJ-7)





Last year their big free agent acquisition. Corey Davis, played just nine of 17 games, Their top skill player drafted, wide receiver Elijah Moore at No. 34 overall, missed six games. They had the seventh-most injured receiving corps in general and the fifth-most injured TE corps.

Guess what else happened in 2021 beyond offensive injuries? They played the most difficult schedule of defenses and the most difficult schedule of pass defenses.

Against pass defenses that ranked top-15, the Jets struggled mightily:

No. 2 BUF - lost 45-17

No. 2 BUF - lost 27-10

No. 3 NE - lost 25-6

No. 3 NE - lost 54-13

No. 4 NO - lost 30-9

No. 7 TEN - won 27-24

No. 8 TB - lost 28-24 No. 9 MIA - lost 31-34

No. 9 MIA - lost 24-17

No. 14 IND - lost 45-30

No. 15 CAR - lost 19-14

When they played pass defenses like the No. 19 Texans, they won 21-14. Against the No. 24 Bengals, they won 34-31. Against the No. 32 Jaguars, they won

Injuries and a brutal schedule are absolutely reasons why we should give the Wilson and the Jets offense a pass on their performance in 2021.

The problem is two-fold.

A team constructed with potentially injury-prone players, who have been among the bottom five in injuries for years in a row, may tend to be among the more injured teams in 2022 as well. We'll see if injury regression just flips and they suddenly get healthy. It would be a welcome relief, but certainly not a highly likely outcome.

Secondly, this offense is still going to face a brutal schedule in 2022. While I don't project them to play the most difficult schedule of defenses like they faced in 2021, I have them facing the ninth-toughest schedule including the sixth-toughest schedule of pass defenses.

There is no doubt that may be problematic for this team once again. The defenses in the AFC East alone are all top-10 pass defenses. That makes up six games on the schedule. They play the Browns and Steelers, both of which had pass defenses that ranked just outside the top-10 last year. The NFC North has the Bears (top-10 last year), the Packers (12th last year with massive offseason defensive additions), and the Vikings (16th last year).

(cont'd - see NYJ-8)

## Immediate Impact of New York Jets 2022 Draft Class

It's impossible not to get excited about a draft class, which features the consensus top player at three positions (cornerback, wide receiver, and running back). Ahmad Gardner (first round) is a special prospect, who blends size, athleticism and production as well as any cornerback prospect to enter the draft in the last decade. Over the last two seasons, Gardner allowed a catch rate 19% below expected based on route-adjusted data. He has the traits to start immediately and be treated as the Jets' top cornerback.

Garrett Wilson (first round) is the perfect receiver for Mike LaFleur's offense, which relies on weapons who can do damage after the catch. Last season at Ohio State, Wilson generated 22% more yards after the catch than expected, which ranked third in the Big Ten. Wilson will likely line up on the outside the majority of the time, but he also has experience in the slot and can rotate into that role as well.

Jermaine Johnson (first round) will factor into the Jets' rotation on the defensive line, though expectations for his rookie year should be limited. In his one year as a starter at Florida State, Johnson feasted on poor competition. Against Jacksonville State (FCS school) and Boston College (ranked 113th in pressure rate allowed), Johnson generated a 21.4% pressure rate — against everyone else: 10.8%.

Breece Hall (second round) wins with a combination of size and athleticism, and can contribute in the passing game, making him a well-rounded weapon in the backfield. When the blocking is there, Hall takes what's given and sometimes a little more — but he lacks the elite traits to consistently create for himself. When contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage, Hall averaged 0.8 yards per attempt last year, which ranked 10th out of 11 qualified running backs in the Big 12. Jets running backs were contacted at or behind the line of scrimmage on 49% of carries (ranked 28th), so this is an issue that could limit Hall's immediate production.

LaFleur lacked a weapon at tight end to attempt to replicate George Kittle's role in the offense, but Jeremy Ruckert (third round) could potentially be groomed for that role. Ruckert played a small role in the Ohio State passing game due to the Buckeyes' playmakers at receiver, but was often a weapon in the red zone. Ruckert had an 87% catch rate on catchable targets during his college career and has the tools for a larger role as a pass-catcher. Max Mitchell (fourth round) was a three-year starter at right tackle at Louisiana and may be needed sooner rather than later, depending on the status of Mekhi Becton. Although he lacks high-end traits, Mitchell's consistent college production provides some optimism he could hold his own if forced to play early.

Micheal Clemons (fourth round) spent seven years in college and was arrested twice within the past year. Clearly there are concerns, but the Jets hope he provides some immediate pass-rush value. In 2021, Clemons generated a strong 16.2% pressure rate - although as a 24-year-old man competing against teenagers, that's slightly less impressive than the average college athlete producing similar numbers.

This draft class has the potential to be one of the most impactful in recent Jets history, with three players likely set for immediate starting roles (Gardner, Wilson, Hall) and two others (Johnson, Ruckert) with a path to significant immediate playing time and future starting jobs.

# JETS

# New York Jets 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

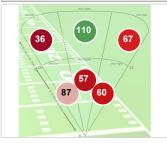
The Jets struggled through the air in 2021, closing the season 29th in expected points added via passing (-31.1 EPA), 29th in team completion rate (59.2%), 28th in touchdown rate (3.3%), 29th in interception rate (3.3%), and 26th in yards per pass attempt (6.6 Y/A). The Jets selected **Zach Wilson** with the second pick in last year's draft. Wilson was firmly on the struggle bus in a season filled with rookie quarterbacks that had a rough time. Wilson ended the year last among all qualifying quarterbacks in the league in success rate per pass play (38.7%), completion percentage (55.6%), and completion rate below expectation (-10.3%) while throwing for 6.1 yards per pass attempt (30th). The Jets have gone all-in on providing Wilson with surrounding talent on the offensive side of the ball the past two offseasons in hopes that he can come back in year two and take a jump in production.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk	
Zach Wilson	205	370	55%	2,254	6.1	8	11	44	69	46	
Mike White	88	132	67%	953	7.2	5	8	4	75	41	
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6		

#### 2021 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ 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 % 36% 40% 8.0% 8 Zach Wilson 31 2.0% 5.8 5.1 Mike White 54% 58% 11 8.0% 4.4 6.4 46% 50% 8.8% 12.5 5.3 34.1 3.1% 5.6 NFL Ava

# Target Distribution 50 40 30 20 10 -10 Tach Wilson Pating

# Zach 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		16.7%	0.0%	0.0%	3.8%							
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	2.4%							
6 - 9	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%							
10 - 14	1.5%	5.3%	3.2%	0.0%	2.7%							
15+	0.0%	6.7%	14.3%	0.0%	6.5%							
Total	1.4%	4.3%	2.5%	0.0%	2.6%							

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk						
Zach Wilson	7.4	9.0	1.4	64%	23					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

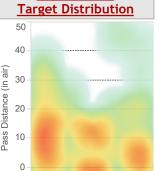
-10

	Air Y	Air Yds vs YAC							
d	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	53%	47%	22						
	53%	47%							

# 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

New York wideouts ended the season 30th in the league in yards per target (7.0) and dead last in success rate per target (43%). That was largely impacted by quarterback play, but they also had a hard time keeping their receiver room intact throughout the season as **Corey Davis**, **Elijah Moore**, and **Jamison Crowder** played just five games together. Jets' tight ends combined for 50 catches for 534 yards and three touchdowns last season, ranking near the bottom of the league in all of those areas. Adding to both areas, the Jets selected Garrett Wilson 10th overall to pair with David, Moore, and **Braxton Berrios**, while adding **C.J. Uzomah**, **Tyler Conklin**, and **Jeremy Ruckert** to their tight end room.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
Elijah Moore	76	55%	6.7	76.0	45%	118	137	9	102	5
Jamison Crowder	71	70%	6.6	80.1	55%	45	85	112	27	2
Braxton Berrios	64	70%	6.4	91.1	50%	84	69	122	9	2
Corey Davis	59	58%	8.3	72.1	51%	78	47	35	81	4
Ty Johnson	54	63%	6.9	87.9	48%	96	111	118	45	2
Keelan Cole	50	56%	9.0	67.8	50%	84	119	16	123	1



Elijah Moore



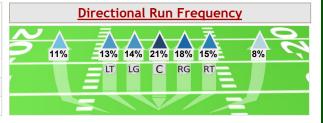
## 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

In the first season under Mike LaFleur the Jets went from a bottom-rung rushing offense to a respectable one in 2021. The Jets closed the year 13th in yards per carry (4.4 yards) and 14th in EPA as a team on the ground (15.6 points), but they still ranked 24th in overall success rate (45%) rushing thanks to an offensive line that ranked 27th in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate (68%). The team largely used a committee through injuries. **Michael Carter** led the way with just 147 carries as a rookie. Looking for more stability up top, the team selected **Breece Hall** as the top running back in this class at pick 36. Hall checks every box we are looking for in terms of size, early career breakout, and receiving profile.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Michael Carter	147	4.3	52%	35	38	36	25	51%	33	4
Tevin Coleman	84	4.2	54%	28	20	21	34	54%	19	0
Ty Johnson	61	3.9	48%	61	47	85	84	48%	53	2

## Yards per Carry by Direction





# Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### It's All On Zach Wilson

Zach Wilson was firmly on the struggle bus with the bulk of the 2021 quarterback class. Wilson ended 2021 last among all qualifying quarterbacks in the league in success rate per pass play (38.7%), completion percentage (55.6%), and completion rate below expectation (-10.3%) while throwing for 6.1 yards per pass attempt (30th). Wilson missed three games with an ankle injury while the offense performed better with him off the field under Mike White, Joe Flacco, and Josh Johnson. With Wilson on the field, the Jets averaged -0.15 EPA per play and just 4.6 yards per play compared to -0.01 EPA per play and 6.1 yards per play when he was not on the field.

Wilson did add 3.3 rushing points per game (11th) to keep the lights on that if he can make significant strides as a passer in year two, there is athleticism to tap into. The Jets are giving him as much as possible to make that step forward in 2022.

After adding Corey Davis and Elijah Moore a year ago (who both were available for just 49% of Wilson's rookie season snaps), the Jets have added Garrett Wilson, Breece Hall, C.J. Uzomah, and Tyler Conklin this offseason while their only loss offensively was Jamison Crowder. Garrett Wilson is an early declare, early-career breakout who continuously improved throughout college, all while doing so next to another first-round talent at his position.

Wilson enters the NFL coming off a season in which he ranked seventh in this class in yards per route run (3.19) and eighth versus man coverage (3.17) while accounting for 20.7% of the Ohio State receptions and 23.1% of the receiving yardage in 2021, higher rates than his teammate Chris Olave.

Elijah Moore fought through an injury-filled rookie campaign in which he missed six games, but there were some flash points where we saw the ceiling potential for Moore. He averaged 17.7 points per game over his final seven games while finishing as a WR3 or better in all but one of those games with three WR1 scoring weeks. Moore only ran 101 routes with Corey Davis and Zach Wilson on the field as a rookie, with Davis out-targeting Moore 24-20 on that small sample. Moore and Wilson connected on just 19-of-42 targets (45.2%) while Moore secured 24-of-35 targets (68.6%) from other New York passers.

While **Michael Carter** posted a solid rookie season in which his 5.3 yards per touch ranked 15th among backs with 100 or more touches, the investment in **Breece Hall** the following year is an example of why we always preach that archetypes matter to coaching staffs. You have to be extremely special as a fringe 200-pound back to knock down the door to be a feature back in the NFL in the eyes of coaches. While Carter is a good back, he also profiles as a compact satellite back that shared time as a rookie with **Ty Johnson** and **Tevin Coleman**, playing 60% of the snaps or more in just three games. While Hall will surely concede some work to Carter, the large signal here based on draft capital, equity forfeited, size, and production all favor Hall as the back to invest in here for fantasy.

In recent seasons, we have seen players like Jonathan Taylor, Nick Chubb, J.K. Dobbins, D'Andre Swift, Javonte Williams, Cam Akers, and A.J. Dillon all be selected in the second round of the draft in immediate situations with shared touches. Those are all backs that also immediately increased their market value despite shared year one touches and reside at the top of the position, while many elevated as weekly fantasy plays as their rookie seasons progressed.

N	New York Jets Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel					Def Tendencies			Surrendered +Success Map	
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		%	Rk	50	
1-1 [3WR]	9 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 89%	327 plays (88%) Success: 48%	33 plays (9%) Success: 52%	1 plays (0%) Success: 100%	370 plays (100%) Success: 49%		%	KK	40 -	
	EPA: 0.84	EPA: 0.07	EPA: 0.28	EPA: 1.22	EPA: 0.11	Base	21%	25		
1-2 [2WR]	44 plays (29%) Success: 59%	108 plays (70%) Success: 50%	2 plays (1%) Success: 50%		154 plays (100%) Success: 53%	Nickel	72%	6	30 -	
	EPA: 0.07	EPA: 0.12	EPA: 0.23		EPA: 0.11	Dime+	5%	24		
2-1 [2WR]	27 plays (75%) Success: 48% EPA: -0.16	9 plays <i>(25%)</i> Success: 56% EPA: 0.40			36 plays (100%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.02	Rush 3	3%	23	20 -	
	12 plays (67%)	6 plays (33%)			18 plays (100%)	Rush 4	69%	20	10 -	
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 67%) EPA: 0.72	Success: 67% EPA: 0.31			Success: 67% EPA: 0.58	Rush 5	22%	10		
Grand	92 plays (16%)	450 plays (78%)	35 plays (6%)	1 plays (0%)	578 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	5%	13	0 –	
Total	Success: 60% EPA: 0.16	Success: 49% EPA: 0.09	Success: 51% EPA: 0.28	Success: 100% EPA: 1.22	Success: 51% EPA: 0.12	Blitz%	28%	9	-10	

# **Defensive Outlook**

Quinnen Williams continues to be a top pass rusher from the inside. He was fourth among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and ranked 16th at the position in pressure rate, per SIS. **Sheldon Rankins** played 57% of the defensive snaps in his first year with the Jets. He played a serviceable interior defense and will play 2022 on the second season of a two-year deal. The Jets brought in **Solomon Thomas**, who has experience with Robert Saleh in San Francisco. Thomas had his best season with the Raiders last year with career-highs in sacks (3.5) and quarterback hits (12). With more snaps inside next to Williams, the Jets could hope that continues to unlock some upside from the former first-round pick.

Carl Lawson was the big defensive free agent signing for the Jets last season but a torn Achilles forced him to miss the entire 2021 season. The Jets expect Lawson should be able to return in time for training camp. He'll be joined by Jermaine Johnson, who the Jets traded back up for a third first-round pick to acquire. John Franklin-Myers played more pure edge out of necessity and had some decent production. Franklin-Myers had 14 quarterback hits, six sacks, and was 50th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season. During that season, the Jets signed him to a four-year extension to keep him through 2025. Bryce Huff, a 2019 undrafted free agent had some flashes when he stepped in at the start of the season, but injuries forced him to miss a big chunk of games in the middle of the year. Jacob Martin signed a three-year deal this offseason and provides better depth than the Jets had at the position last year. He played 61% of the snaps for the Texans last season and ranked 56th in pressure rate.

Few teams have gotten less from a big free agent swing than the Jets have gotten with **C.J. Mosely**. Between a 2019 injury and a 2020 opt-out, 2021 was the first full season Mosely played with the Jets. He did play 92% of the defensive snaps but was slightly below average in coverage, ranked 52 out of 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap last season. **Quincy Williams** was about average in coverage (40th among those linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap) and nine tackles for loss highlighted some downhill ability. 2022 is the last year of his rookie deal. The Jets played nicked 72.1% of the time, the sixth-highest rate in the league, which had those two linebackers on the field most of the time

The Jets' corners did their best last season, but it was a lot to ask of mid- and late-round picks. Of 93 corners with at least 300 coverage snaps in 2022, **Brandon Echols** ranked 64th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, **Michael Cater** ranked 67th, and **Bryce Hall** ranked 72nd. **D.J. Reed** was signed as a free agent who has experience with Robert Saleh as a former 49ers draft pick, but Reed did his best work in Seattle. Last season, Reed ranked 27th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. The cornerback group will now be led by fourth overall pick **Ahmad Gardner**. Gardner had the lowest yards allowed per coverage snap in the 2022 draft class while he led the secondary at Cincinnati. The Jets lost **Marcus Maye** in free agency after the franchise-tagged safety tore his Achilles in early November. **Jordan Whitehead** was brought in as a free agent and Whitehead should serve as a downhill box player. That leaves the deep part of the field for **Ashtyn Davis** and **Lamarcus Joyner**. Joyner re-signed on a one-year deal after a torn triceps forced him to miss just about all of 2021 on his previous one-year deal. Davis, a 2020 third-round pick, hasn't completely developed into the rangy defender he showed the potential to be as a prospect, but could continue to develop with more playing time.

Play Tendencies					
All Pass %	59%				
All Pass Rk	14				
All Rush %	41%				
All Rush Rk	19				
1 Score Pass %	57%				
1 Score Pass Rk	14				
2020 1 Score Pass %	54%				
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	26				
2021 Pass Increase %	3%				
Pass Increase Rk	7				
1 Score Rush %	43%				
1 Score Rush Rk	19				
Up Pass %	50%				
Up Pass Rk	28				
Up Rush %	50%				
Up Rush Rk	4				
Down Pass %	61%				
Down Pass Rk	14				
Down Rush %	39%				
Down Rush Rk	19				

Down & Distance Tendencies						
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %	
1st	Short (1-3)	6	0%	100%	33%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	9	22%	78%	44%	
	Long (8-10)	291	46%	54%	52%	
	XL (11+)	11	82%	18%	45%	
2nd Dwn	Short (1-3)	42	31%	69%	69%	
	Med (4-7)	83	52%	48%	49%	
	Long (8-10)	83	75%	25%	36%	
	XL (11+)	32	91%	9%	31%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	44	66%	34%	55%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	48	90%	10%	40%	
	Long (8-10)	30	93%	7%	30%	
	XL (11+)	24	83%	17%	13%	
4th	Short (1-3)	7	57%	43%	57%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	67%	33%	67%	

Shotgun %						
Shotgun Under Center						
69%	31%					
NFL AVG						
65%	35%					



# **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

03 /0	3370	
Effic	iency	
EPA/ pass: -0.12	EPA/ pass: -0.16	F 7
EPA/ rush: -0.06 Success:	EPA/ rush: -0.11	P
200/	200/	_

	<u> Znd and Snort Run</u>							
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg				
71%	16	71%	79%	73%				

<b>2nd and Short Pass</b>							
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg			
29%	17	29%	70%	46%			

Most Frequent Play						
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %	
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Michael Carter	2	0%	
Dwn			Ty Johnson	2	100%	
			Zach Wilson	2	0%	
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Tevin Coleman	4	50%	
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Michael Carter	72	51%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Michael Carter	2	50%	
			Ty Johnson	2	50%	
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Michael Carter	9	78%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Tevin Coleman	15	47%	
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Michael Carter	13	31%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jamison Crowder	5	0%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	Elijah Moore	5	40%	
Dwn			Jamison Crowder	5	80%	
	Med (4-7)	PASS	Elijah Moore	6	0%	
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Keelan Cole	5	20%	
	XL (11+)	PASS	Ty Johnson	5	20%	
	` ′		Elijah Moore	5	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: 43%	Success: 44%	Success: 43%					
	YPA: 7.6, EPA: -0.23	YPA: 4.6, EPA: -0.63	YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.29					
	Rtg: 84.0	Rtg: 28.0	Rtg: 69.4					
	[Att: 101 - Rate: 15.5%]	[Att: 18 - Rate: 2.8%]	[Att: 119 - Rate: 18.3%]					
Yes	Success: 43%	Success: 42%	Success: 42%					
	YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.11	YPA: 5.5, EPA: -0.23	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.13					
	Rtg: 79.4	Rtg: 66.4	Rtg: 76.9					
	[Att: 426 - Rate: 65.4%]	[Att: 106 - Rate: 16.3%]	[Att: 532 - Rate: 81.7%]					
Total	Success: 43%	Success: 42%	Success: 43%					
	YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.13	YPA: 5.4, EPA: -0.29	YPA: 6.6, EPA: -0.16					
	Rtg: 80.3	Rtg: 55.5	Rtg: 75.6					
	[Att: 527 - Rate: 81.0%]	[Att: 124 - Rate: 19.0%]	[Att: 651 - Rate: 100.0%]					

Weekly Snaps Played											
Wk	Орр	Score	Ryan Griffin	Keelan Cole	Jamison Crowder	Elijah Moore	Corey Davis	Michael Carter	Ty Johnson	Braxton Berrios	Tyler Kroft
1	CAR	L 19-14	31			56	58	16	35	37	43
2	NE	L 25-6	45	16		57	53	33	33	43	55
3	DEN	L 26-0	33	27		26	51	23	31	42	23
4	TEN	W 27-24	35	36	38		50	31	20	9	46
5	ATL	L 27-20	51	31	34	23	45	29	22	6	
7	NE	L 54-13	50	26	52	37	47	47	21	6	
8	CIN	W 34-31	41	55	51	30		59	24	20	51
9	IND	L 45-30	48	38	61	46		45	32	16	15
10	BUF	L 45-17	55	32	64	43	65	40	25	22	
11	MIA	L 24-17	47	13	41	48	56	20	20	10	
12	HOU	W 21-14	56	64	33	59			23	13	
13	PHI	L 33-18	32		46	51	25		28	19	
14	NO	L 30-9	36	55	60				48	27	
15	MIA	L 31-24	23	43	51			31		19	36
16	JAC	W 26-21		43				43	1	48	50
17	TB	L 28-24		50				8	31	53	
18	BUF	L 27-10		28	7			24	15		44
	Grand	Total	583	557	538	476	450	449	409	390	363

<u>Perso</u>	nnol (	Froun	inge
Personnel	Team	NFL Avg	Succ. %
1-1 [3WR]	61%	61%	44%
1-2 [2WR]	20%	21%	50%
1-0 [4WR]	8%	2%	55%
2-1 [2WR]	5%	7%	47%
2-0 [3WR]	2%	1%	50%
Group	ing Te	Pass	Run
Group Personnel			Run
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %
Personnel 1-1 [3WR]	Pass Rate 72%	Pass Succ. % 41%	Run Succ. % 51%
Personnel 1-1 [3WR] 1-2 [2WR]	Pass Rate 72% 42%	Pass Succ. % 41% 44%	Run Succ. % 51% 54%

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard					
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Jamison Crowder	12	2		10	
Braxton Berrios	8	1	4	3	
Elijah Moore	8	2		6	
Keelan Cole	6		1	5	
Ryan Griffin	6	1	2	3	
Corey Davis	5	1	1	3	
Denzel Mims	2	1	1		

<u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u>					
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Michael Carter	25	9	7	9	
Tevin Coleman	13	6	3	4	
Ty Johnson	12	6	2	4	
Austin Walter	9	2		7	
Zach Wilson	9	6	2	1	
Braxton Berrios	3	2		1	
Elijah Moore	2			2	
Braden Mann	1		1		

Early Down Target Rate					
RB	TE	WR			
24% <b>23%</b>	14% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	62% <b>56%</b>			
Overall Target Success %					
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %			
Overall RB	Target Su	uccess % wr			



# 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



In fact, looking at their entire 2022 schedule, it's ruthless. I include a visualization of it in this chapter. They open the season facing four straight games against the AFC North. The Ravens' defense was the most injured unit in the NFL last year. It will be a bear to face in Week 1. Then they play the Browns followed by the Super Bowl runner-up Bengals, whose defense continued improving over the course of last season, and then the most expensive defense in the NFL, the Steelers.

Once the Jets' offense survives that gauntlet, you know what they get next? Seven straight games against pass defenses that ranked in the top-12 last season. This schedule won't lighten up from that respect until Week 15, when they face the Lions, followed by the Jaguars and Seahawks. Three straight bottom-10 pass defenses from last year. It's not going to be a fun start to the season, nor a fun middle. Assuming the offense survives through Week 14 healthy, they hopefully will have fun playing some bad defenses in late December. In terms of overall schedule strength, I predict the Jets will play the eighth-most difficult schedule in 2022.

What was terribly disheartening last season was watching Robert Saleh's defense get substantially worse than even 2020's unit. They dropped from 20th in efficiency to 32nd. Dead last. They dropped from 16th in EDSR to 29th. Yes, they were the NFL's most injured unit, so there's a huge excuse we can make for them. But they also played the NFL's sixth-easiest schedule of offenses last year.

This year, I expect that to get even easier (the easiest) but Saleh must get a lot more from his side of the ball as well if the Jets are expected to help Zach Wilson look like he was worthy of the No. 2 overall pick in 2021.

While I don't love their schedule, there are some positive markers for 2022, however.

First – they played in nine games last year decided by one-score. Yes, they won only four. But it's not like they won a high rate of their one-score games and were blown out in the rest of their losses.

Second – they were terrible in turnover margin (-13) and sack margin (-20). They can control, through offensive improvement, how they fare in those metrics in 2022

Third – they were 31st in fumble luck last year. They lost five more fumbles than expected based on where the ball was fumbled. This should regress in 2022.

Fourth – they were 30th in field goal luck last year. They missed nearly two more field goals than expected, while opponents were lucky to make nearly three more field goals than they should have, based on the distances these field goals were kicked from and the average rate of making field goals of those distances. The Jets are done with **Chase McLaughlin** and now get **Greg "The Leg" Zuerlein** to kick for them in 2022.

And then, of course, we have all the offensive improvement that could be there in 2022, that I discussed earlier in this chapter. They can get more out of the short passing game. They can get the ball out of Wilson's hands faster. These are things that the 49ers and LaFleur emphasized with Garoppolo that can also be taught to Wilson.

Most quarterbacks make jumps, not slumps, in their sophomore season. I think Wilson can make some strides this year. I just hate their schedule. I hate the start of it. I hate the middle of it. Because of that, I don't predict that we'll see a change to this graphic below in 2022.

Years since last playoff appearance:

1 year: IND, BAL, CLE, NO, SEA, CHI, WAS

2 years: HOU, MIN 3 years: LAC

4 years: JAX, ATL, CAR 5 years: DET, NYG, MIA

6 years: DEN 7 years: -8 years: -

9 years: -10 years: -11 years: -12 years: NYJ

01. Games w Halftime Lead
---------------------------

3	02. Avg Halftime Lead
Ŭ	

1	
1	_7 N
1	-7.0

03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	7.1			
37. PSM Target Depth	5.1			
38. Non-PSM YPA	6			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	8.2			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	53%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	45%			
42. PSM EPA/att	-0.1			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	-0.21			

# Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	30%
45. PA Success Rate	43%
46. PA YPA	5.5
47. PA Sack Rate	8.9%
48. PA EPA/att	-0.34
49. PA Target Depth	8.2
50. Non-PA Success Rate	50%
51. Non-PA YPA	7.3
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	3.5%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.04
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.2

# 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	46%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.2
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
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	4.4
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	26%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	56%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.7

# Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	31	defFUM	26
Net FROE	-5.1	defFUM Rcvrd	19
offFUM	14	acii diii itevia	10
offFUM Rcvrd	7	defFR Rk	28
offFR%	50.0%	defFR%	26.9%
offFR Rk	22	defFROE	-3.9
offFROE	-1.2	deirkoe	-3.9
offFROE Rk	22	defFROE Rk	31

## Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	-4.15	Opp Att	39
Net Over Expectation Rank	30	Opp Makes	36
Own Att	27		
Own Makes	21	Opp FG %	92%
Own FG %	78%	Opp Expected Makes	33.47
Own Expected Makes	22.63	Opp Make Over Expectation	2.53
Own Make over Expectation	-1.63	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	4
Own Make over Expectation Rk	27		7
		2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	1.14
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	-2.40		
2020 Own Rk	30	2020 Opp Rk	15

# 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 Box

35. Total Defensive Efficiency

31. Success on runs into 6-man-boxes 32. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)

|--|

23

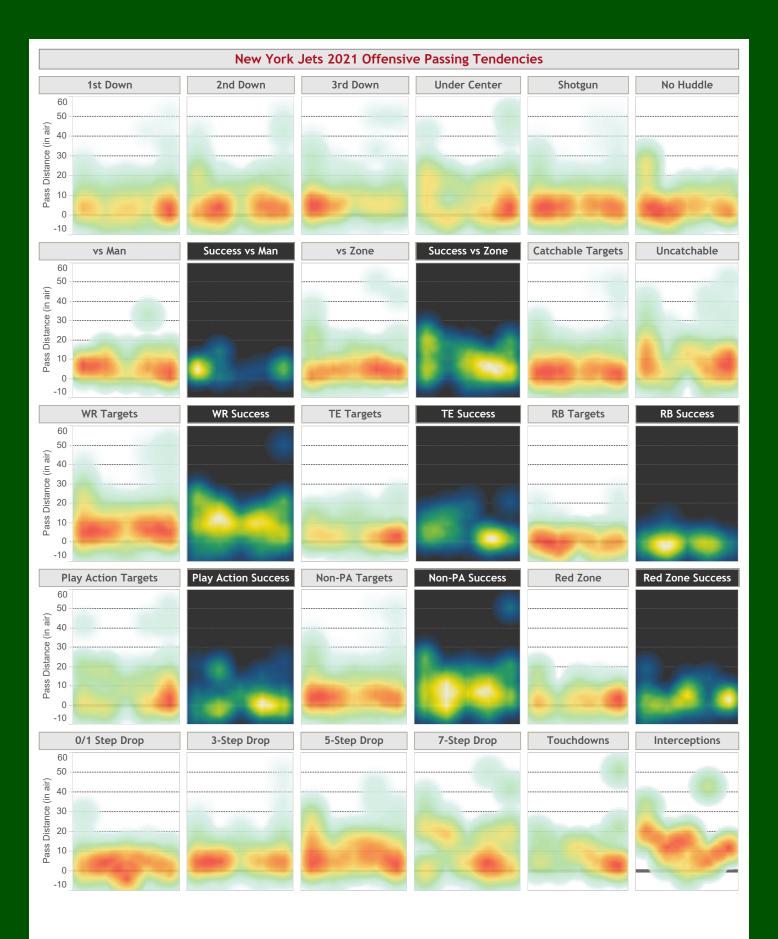
24

26

12

# **Offensive Metrics**

rayer racking bata state Qss		25115				
	Zach Wilson		Zach Wilson	EPA/Pass	-0.16	
CAY	5.8	Pressure %	38.5	EPA/Pass Rk	29	
CAY Rk	15	Pressure Rk	6	EPA/Rush	-0.05	
2020 CAY Rk		Sack %	10.1	EPA/Rush Rk	16	
AYTS Rk	31	Sack Rk	2	On-Target Catch %	88.3%	
2020 AYTS Rk		Pressure Accuracy %	45.7			
AGG Rk	30	-		On-Target Catch Rk	27	
2020 AGG Rk		Pressure Accuracy Rk	38	Drop%	8.9%	
COMP%	55.6	Rating when Pressured	48.6	Drop Rk	31	
xCOMP%	65.9	Pressured Rating Rk	33			
xCOMP% Rk	17	Clean Accuracy %	78.6	YAC/Att	2.6	
2020 xCOMP% Rk		Clean Accuracy Rk	19	YAC/Att Rk	5	
CPOE%	-10.3			Rush Broken Tackle %	14.8%	
CPOE Rk	38	Rating when Clean	79.1		_	
2020 CPOE Rk		Clean Rating Rk	37	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	/	
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:		Time to Throw	3	Rush 1st Down %	22.7%	
Aggressiveness <b>xCOMP</b> : Expecte Actual completion percentage over		Time to Throw Rk	3	Rush 1st Down Rk	25	



# Jets Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Zach Wilson	0.04 (#2)	-0.27 (#3)	-0.19 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	0.03 (#2)
2020	Joe Flacco	0.09 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	0.27 (#1)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.12 (#3)	0.16 (#1)
	Sam Darnold	0.02 (#3)	-0.23 (#2)	-0.24 (#3)	-0.21 (#3)	-0.21 (#3)	0.07 (#1)	0.03 (#3)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Joe Flacco	(#)	-0.24 (#2)	0.43 (#1)	0.31 (#1)	(#)	(#)	-0.21 (#2)
	Zach Wilson	-0.92 (#3)	-0.57 (#4)	-0.26 (#4)	-0.46 (#4)	-0.35 (#3)	-0.32 (#2)	-0.35 (#3)
2020	Joe Flacco	-0.38 (#1)	-0.19 (#1)	0.15 (#2)	-0.26 (#3)	-0.31 (#1)	-0.21 (#1)	-0.20 (#1)
	Sam Darnold	-0.71 (#2)	-0.37 (#3)	-0.19 (#3)	-0.14 (#2)	-0.32 (#2)	-0.55 (#3)	-0.38 (#4)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Zach Wilson	67% (#3)	70% (#3)	55% (#3)	48% (#2)	55% (#3)	71% (#3)	65% (#3)	62% (#3)	64% (#3)
2020	Joe Flacco	72% (#2)	83% (#2)	65% (#1)	40% (#3)	64% (#2)	76% (#2)	80% (#1)	67% (#1)	75% (#2)
	Sam Darnold	77% (#1)	85% (#1)	59% (#2)	57% (#1)	76% (#1)	77% (#1)	69% (#2)	66% (#2)	78% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.06 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	0.27 (#1)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.08 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.02 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.21 (#1)	0.46 (#1)
2020	-0.09 (#2)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.14 (#2)	-0.15 (#2)	-0.25 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	-0.19 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.22 (#2)	-0.22 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED		3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	22	17	30	19	15	23	21	29	29	26
2020	32	27	28	25	27	24	31	28	27	8

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	16	15	16	7	29	29	23	1	8
2020	9	21	3	14	10	4	9	1	6

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	18	21	6	19	17	13	14	1	18
2020	12	8	19	13	22	30	29	1	12

## Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Nick Sirianni (1 yr)
Offensive Coordinator:
Shane Steichen (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
Jonathan Gannon (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

# **Philadelphia Eagles**

2022 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

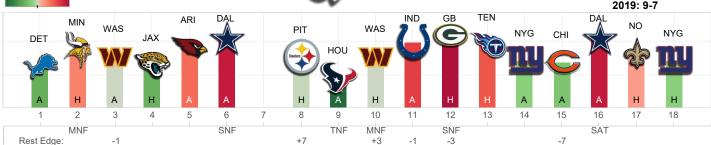
**Div Rank** 

9

#2

# **Past Records**

2021: 9-8 2020: 4-12 2019: 9-7



# **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Steven Nelson (CB)	Texans
Ryan Kerrigan (EDGE)	TBD
Hassan Ridgeway (IDL)	49ers
Rodney McLeod (S)	Colts
Nate Herbig (RG)	Jets
Genard Avery (LB)	Steelers
Alex Singleton (LB)	Broncos
Jordan Howard (RB)	TBD
Joe Ostman (EDGE)	TBD
Jason Croom (TE)	TBD

# 2022 Philadelphia Eagles Overview

The best teams and the best coaches can pivot when needed. Even with the same players, the coaches who realize what they are doing can be improved and optimized then set out to make those changes are typically the ones who excel. Between seasons. Midseason. Mid-game. Although this should be expected, it's surely not, and should be applauded when it happens. One of the single-best switches MIDSEASON came last year from the Philadelphia Eagles.

With a young, new starting quarterback and a first-time head coach, the Eagles came out doing what the few intelligent teams might in that situation: pass the ball on early downs. Many coaches would choose the opposite route in an attempt to make life easier on a young quarterback and run the ball heavily on early downs. Often, however, that results in putting the quarterback in too many obvious passing situations on third downs, which actually makes his job harder to perform instead of easier.

The Eagles didn't do that. They leaned heavily into what would help their young quarterback most.

From Weeks 1-5, they ranked as the most pass-heavy team on first downs in the first three quarters of games.

Were these first down passes good? They were more than good. They were great.

Average Line # Games Underdog

-1.9 # Games Underdog

Weeks 1-5, on a team that was expected to win just 6.5 games, finish last in the NFC East, and favored in only two games before the season started, look at what **Jalen Hurts** did on these first downs. Out of 24 quarterbacks with 150 pass attempts the first five weeks:

(cont'd - see PHI2)

# Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
A.J. Brown (WR)	Trade
Haason Reddick (EDGE)	\$15
James Bradberry (CB)	\$7.29
Kyzir White (LB)	\$3
Zach Pascal (WR)	\$1.5
Jimmy Moreland (CB)	\$1

# **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	13	DT - Jordan Davis (Georgia)
2	51	C - Cam Jurgens (Nebraska)
3	83	LB - Nakobe Dean (Georgia)
6	181	LB - Kyron Johnson (Kansas)
	198	TE - Grant Calcaterra (SMU)

# Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj





				•	-	•••
11 LWR A.Brown NEW	16	LT I	62 62 62 kerson J.Kelce*	RG I.Seumalo	65 Johnson*	RWR D.Smith
	SLOTWR Q.Watkins				TE- D.Goederi	
18		143 103	QB J.Hurts	26:		2 Cap Dollars
WR2 J.Reagor	WR3 R	RB2 QB2 ainwell G.Minshew		RB M.Sanders	NEV (or s	V = New to role tarted < 50% ames last year)

# 2022 Unit Spending



# **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	27	\$93.26M	32
QB	32	\$5.72M	32
OL	3	\$50.31M	8
RB	30	\$5.91M	31
WR	17	\$23.44M	27
TE	24	\$7.89M	27
All DEF	22	\$89.11M	25
DL	10	\$51.82M	15
LB	31	\$8.34M	30
СВ	13	\$23.06M	15
S	31	\$5.88M	29

#### PHI-2

Hurts on first down Weeks 1-5: 0.20 EPA/att (fifth), 48% success (11th), 8.8 YPA (fifth).

He also ranked fifth in accuracy.

Not only were the efficiency numbers great, the strategy also accomplished another element of why teams should pass on first down: pass when defense expects a run to help the quarterback stay upright and pass without pressure.

On those first down passes, no quarterback was hit less often than Hurts. He had the sixth-lowest pressure rate and the fifth-lowest combined sack/interception

The problem for Hurts came on second and third downs. Playing more to what was needed to convert a first down, efficiency fell off badly. In the first three quarters of games:

On second/third down Weeks 1-5: -0.36 EPA/att (22nd of 24), 36% success (21st), 6.5 YPA (19th)

The Eagles sat at 2-3 after five games, but some of it was to be expected.

They were underdogs in every single game, even the home games. They were 7-point home dogs to the Chiefs in Week 4. Their losses came to the eventual:

12-win Chiefs (AFC West Champs)

12-win Cowboys (NFC East Champs)

10-win 49ers (made the NFC Championship game)

Before the 2021 season, in this book, I predicted the Eagles would have the third-easiest schedule in the NFL in 2021, but I noted it would be the one of the toughest to start the season.

After sitting at 2-3, the Eagles hosted the Buccaneers on Thursday night.

This was not the team to try to run the football against. The Buccaneers' strong run defense made run plays virtually untenable and opponents were resorting to raising pass rates to tremendous levels against the Bucs. On early downs in the first three quarters vs the Bucs to start the season:

#### 2021 Passing Performance QB 2nd Dwn 1st Dwn 3rd Dwn Success Rate 35% Jalen 7.9 7.6 Hurts Rating 92.8 85.2 42% 49% 67% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 47% NFL 6.9 AVG Rating 93.9 90.4 **Pass Rate** 49% 59% 76%

	2021 Rush	ing Performa	ince	
Offens	se 1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
PHI	57% 5.0	54% 5.0	64% 4.9	Success Rate YPC
Run R	ate 58%	51%	33%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run R	ate 51%	41%	24%	

Week 1: Dallas went 78% pass - they were 42% pass in their other games through Week 5

Week 2: Atlanta went 71% pass - they were 52% pass in their other games Week 3: LA Rams went 64% pass - they were 58% pass in their other games

Week 4: New England went 76% pass - they were 59% pass in their other

Week 5: Miami went 77% pass – they were 64% pass in their other games

Literally everyone was passing the ball at insane rates. The Eagles had already been the third-most pass-heavy team at 64%. No team was going to switch to be a run first team vs the NFL's best run defense, especially not on a short week before a Thursday night game.

2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics

(cont'd - see PHI-3)

63

5

	2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics													
1 - 5-		10		4		8	40				33	6	5	
10 –	16	(3)	14		14	63	12	15	16			40	CQ-S	
는 15 - 보 20 -	63	٠,	63		63		(G)	4	63					
㎡ 20− 25−										29				
25 – 30 –										63				
	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	

#### 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 16 17 18 10 W ATL w w w w LV WASNYGWASDAL SF DAL KC CAR TB DETLACDEN NO NYGNYJ Η Α Н Α Н Α A 38 Н Α Н Α Н Н Α Н 26 -20 3 -11 -12 10 -6 17 11 -6 15 24 -25

7

33

-3

24 30 40

-6

22 22 44

21 30 21

11

41 42 18 28 33 6 27 13 29 13 17 10 16 51

WFFK **RESULT** OPP SITE MARGIN PTS

5

10

15

20

30

17

19 25

**EDSR Def** 

OPP PTS EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

# 6 63

18

**29** 26 28 Pass Efficiency Def Defensive Efficiency Pass Pro Efficieincy Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def Pass Eff Def Red Zone Def 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def **Explosive** RB

63

21

# 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 9 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: 1-1 FG Games Win %: 50% (#13) FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

11% (#20)

Wins): 22% (#27)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 2-4 Score Games Win %: 33% (#25) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

# 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats**

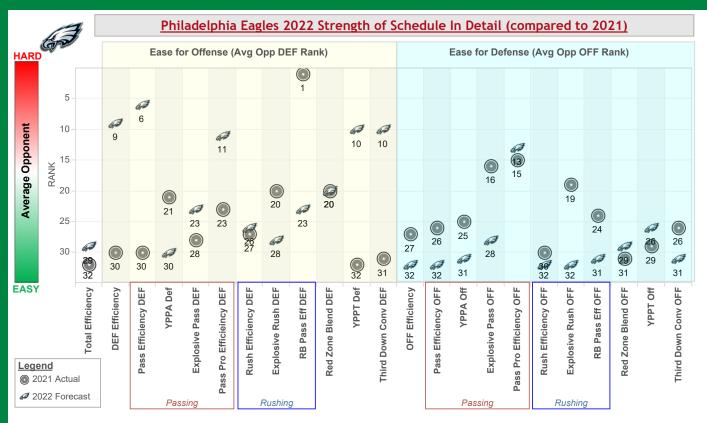
+0 TO Margin TO Given 16 INT Given 10 **FUM Given** 6 TO Taken 16 **INT Taken** 12 **FUM Taken** 4 Sack Margin -2 29 Sacks Sacks Allow 31 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -15 Penalties 107 **Opponent Penalties** 92

4

20 26

34

27



	2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*											
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk					
2	4	17	27	20	23	20	27					

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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 & 7	Tren	<u>ds</u>		20	22 C	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	<u>sion</u>	2021	Орр	oner	its by	/ Divi	sion	He	alth	by l	Jnit*
					2021	20	020	2019			<b>A</b>	707					<b>A</b>	7791		_			2021	Rk	12
	Ave	erage li	ine		-0.2	2	.0	-2.7	NF	CE			Y)	7/		NFCE			<u> </u>				2020	Rk	30
		ige O/L			46.8	45	5.9	45.6										, –				202	1 v 20	20 Rk	2
		nt Up R			9-8		-11	9-7				2						_		(marife)		202			
		e Spre			9-8		-11	7-9	AF	cs						AFCW		<i>≥</i> (1€	<b>&gt;</b>		P		Off R	k	20
		nder R		l	10-7		-8	8-8						9			Y	. 4		,	7		Def F	Rk	9
		as Fav			5-2		-6	4-5															QB F	) k	13
		s Unde			4-6		-5	3-4	NE	CN			3	<b>&gt;</b> 6		NFCS	43			h 300					
		ht Up I			3-5	_	-4	5-3	INI	CIV		کی ا	<b>E</b>	<b>ン</b> /	<b>1</b>	NECS			6 A	5° ~			RB R	k	19
		S Hon			4-4 6-2		-4 -5	3-5 2-6							,		`		•	•			WR F	₹k	1
		Jnder I Home I		4-	6-2 3-0	_	-5 -3	2-6 2-3															TER	L.	18
		a Hon			3-0 1-4		-3 -1	2-3 1-2	AF	CN	Date	)				AFCE	Jer	<b>3</b>							
,		ht Up		3	6-3		-1 -7	1-2 4-4															Oline	Rk	32
		rs Awa			5-4		- <i>1</i> -7	4-4															Dline	Rk	24
		Under			4-5		-3	6-2	NE	cs	ල්දු					NFCN	<b>V</b>	3					100	d.	7
		way Fa			2-2		-3	2-2		-	\$2					111 011	كسال	~					LB R		
		Away			3-2	_	-4	2-2															DB R	k	10
Six		Tease		ord	13-4	12	2-4	11-5									. 6								
Seve	n Poir	nt Teas	er Red	cord	13-4	12	2-4	11-3	NF	CW						NFCW	(5	<b>)</b>						n the w	
Ter	Point	Tease	r Reco	ord	15-2	12	2-4	13-3															-ootba	II Outsi	ders
					20	22 V	Veek	ly Be	ettin	g Lir	<u>nes</u>									Home	e Li	nes			
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	2	4	8	10	1:	2	13	17	18
DET	MIN	WAS	JAX	ARI	DAL	PIT	ноп	WAS	IND	GB	TEN	NYG	CHI	DAL	NO	NYG	-2.5		-3.5	-3.5			-2	-3	
DEI	IVIIIN	WAS	JAX											DAL			MIN	-6.5	-3.5 PIT	-3.5 WAS	GI		EN	N <sub>Avg</sub> :	- 22
-4.0	-2.5	+0.0	-6.5	+2.0	+0.0	-3.5	-5.5	-3.5	+3.0	+0.0	-2.0	-1.5	-3.0	+3.5	-3.0	-5.0		- <b>6.5</b> JAX	- ' ''	WAG				Avg	N73.3
														Α.				JAX							
									75																
		4		1						ш				$\Delta$						_					
A√g =	-1/-9	<b>W</b>	Н		T.	Н	Α	Н			H	TLU	Α	. ^ .	Advq	= -1.9				Roac	<u>l Lir</u>	<u>ies</u>			
- (								W				لس			6		1	3	5	6	9	11	14	15	16
	V		-					<b>V2</b> / <b>Z</b>							49	TITU			2			3			3.5
			60				1											0	2 ARI	0		IND	-1.5	Ava	= 0.6
			•															WAS		DÁL	5.5		NYG	CHI	
46.5	48	46.5	5.	49.5	49.5	43.5	47	44.5	5.	46.5	45	45	3.5	49.5	3.5	42	DET				HOU			CHI	
			47						47																





But after the loss, the Eagles had a few extra days leading into their Week 7 game against the Raiders. They were able to put them to good use studying their performances.

Far too few teams reflect enough in-season and make changes. But the Eagles were looking to make any necessary adjustments early in their season.

Through Week 6, they were 2-4 in the record book and the third-most pass-heavy team on early downs.

Their opponents were picking up on it.

And as a result, the Eagles' high pass rate caused defenses to use the third-highest rate of light boxes to defend them on early downs, which limited some efficiency in the passing game.

Through Week 6, on early downs in the first three quarters this season, defenses presented light boxes against the Eagles at a 68% rate. The NFL average was 51%

The top three teams for light boxes faced on these early downs in the first three quarters:

KC: 72% BUF: 69% PHI: 68%

When boxes are lighter, this typically means that more defenders are playing coverage, which makes life more difficult on the quarterback. Naturally, the other teams above 68% have quarterbacks like Patrick Mahomes and Josh Allen. Those are two of the best veteran quarterbacks in the NFL and two teams with high pass rates.

It's been a challenge at times even for those quarterbacks when defenses dare them to handoff and flood the field in coverage.

But the Eagles had Jalen Hurts... starting his first full season... certainly not a veteran... and certainly not one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL.

Yet, defenses were treating Hurts like Mahomes or Allen.

Over the several weeks leading up to their mini bye before Week 7, it grew even more extreme.

The Eagles were still passing the ball at a very high rate despite the light boxes.

The passes against light boxes were not having the desired effect of gaining enough efficiency when defenses were playing pass.

The Eagles realized they needed to better attack these light boxes when they were being presented to them, especially at such a high rate.

In Week 7, the Eagles changed things up. On early downs they dropped their run rate massively in the first three quarters:

Week 1-6: 67% pass (third) Week 7: 39% pass

While they lost that game, the Eagles found their strategy for the rest of the season. In Weeks 8-18, the Eagles ran the ball on 58% of early downs in the first three quarters. It was the most run-heavy rate in the NFL.

In 2022, the Eagles could and should take it a step further with more audibles for Hurts to adjust run rates:

Vs. light boxes: 51% run (most run-heavy in NFL)

Vs. 7+ man boxes: 54% run

Vs. heavy boxes: 69% run (10th-most run-heavy)

(cont'd - see PHI-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 O

Strength of Scheduled Game	Timing: Philadelphia Eagles 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
19	27	28	32	1	1

# Forecast 2022 Wins

# Why Bet the Under

- After not having a single short-week road game in 2021, the Eagles are scheduled a league-leading four in 2022. The Eagles also play four games with less rest than the opponent and only two games with more rest than the opponent.
- Good quarterbacks had no problem moving the ball quickly and efficiently against Johnathon Gannon's defense. The Eagles allowed a league-high 69.4% of passes to be completed, but Patrick Mahomes, Tom Brady, Dak Prescott Prescott, Justin Herbert, and Derek Carr all completed over 80% of passes against the Eagles secondary and the Eagles finished 0-5 in those games. The only team that the Eagles defeated in 2021 with a winning record was New Orleans, who had Trevor Sieman as starting quarterback.
- Howie Roseman worked some magic in trades with the Colts, Dolphins, Titans, and Saints however some poor salary cap management flies under the radar. The Eagles currently have the fourth-cheapest quarterback room in the league, however, are not able to fully leverage that advantage due to the third-highest dead cap.

9





- The Eagles are built to win in the trenches with legitimate starters and depth on the offensive and defensive lines. Despite multiple injuries to the offensive line in 2021, the Eagles ran the ball effectively finishing first in rushing success rate, third in EPA/rush, and fourth in adjusted line yards. Hassan Reddick and Jordan Davis give the defensive line more depth and both units should be able to win the battle at the line of scrimmage.
- The addition of elite wide receiver **A.J. Brown** gives the offense a much-needed addition to the wide receiver room. The passing game was ninth-worst in passing success rate and fourth-worst when targeting wide receivers. Brown and Smith give Hurts two legitimate wider receiver options and the passing game should take a step forward in 2022.
- Head coach Nick Sirianni showed an incredible ability to adapt the offensive game plan midseason. Week 8 onward, the Eagles shifted from a 61% pass rate to a league low 41% pass rate. The offense improved from -0.02 EPA per play to 0.05 EPA per play and net time of possession swung from -7:46 per game to 5:10. The adaptability of playcalling allows the offense to exploit opponents' weaknesses.

Philadelphia Eagles Positional Unit Rankings											
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach					
20	2	18	5	4	12	14					

Most of the Eagles' roster looks like it's ready to contend in the NFC, but their ability to take that next step will ultimately be determined by their lowest-ranked position: quarterback. After his first full year as the Eagles starter, we're not quite sold on **Jalen Hurts**. His tendency to hold the ball too long — he led the league with an average time to throw of 2.97 seconds — raises some concerns about his ability to lead this offense.

The Eagles' backfield is nothing special, but it won't matter if the offensive line stays healthy. Between **Miles Sanders**, **Boston Scott**, and **Kenneth Gainwell**, there's plenty of depth and versatility to produce behind one of the league's best run-blocking units.

The addition of **A.J. Brown** elevated the Eagles' pass catchers to a top-tier unit. His skill set as a bigger, more physical receiver with slot/outside versatility complements **Devonta Smith** perfectly.

The Eagles' offensive line received some first-place votes, and looks like a potentially dominant unit. The key to its success, however, will be good health. Philly had 14 different offensive line combinations on the field together for at least 10 snaps last season, the league's fourth-most.

Philly's front seven was ranked in the top 10 on every ballot and received one first-place vote. The interior defensive line is clearly among the league's elite — especially after the addition of **Jordan Davis**. But will the edge-rushers produce? **Derek Barnett** ranked 68th out of 75 qualified edge-rushers in pressure rate last season.

The Eagles' secondary exceeded expectations last year and improved again this offseason with the addition of **James Bradberry**. Opponents gained 20 or more yards on just 6.5% of their pass attempts, the league's second-lowest rate.

Among second-year head coaches, only Brandon Staley ranks higher than Nick Sirianni, who jumped 15 spots from last year.

#### <u>PHI-4</u>

Naturally, defenders will be in the box if the offensive alignment draws them in.

But look at the Eagles efficiency on early downs in Weeks 8-18 against heavy boxes:

Runs against heavy boxes: -0.04 EPA/rush Passes against heavy boxes: 0.34 EPA/att

They ranked fourth in EPA/att when passing the ball vs these heavy boxes, but still were the 10th-most run-heavy team in these situations. Getting out of even more of these called runs when a heavy box has been presented will even further the ceiling of Jalen Hurts and this Eagles' passing attack.

Out of 32 quarterbacks last year, in Weeks 8-18 against heavy boxes (8+ defenders), look at what Hurts was doing through the air:

First in YPA
Fifth in first down rate
Seventh in success rate
Ninth in EPA/att

## <u>PHI-5</u>

Being a run-first team to zig while others are zagging can be beneficial.

But as always, it must be done for a good reason. If defenses start overplaying the run, you must begin to throw the ball and force them out of it.

Now with the addition of **A.J. Brown**, there is even more reason to believe the Eagles will be able to do just that.

The good news for the Eagles in 2022?

They play the 26th-ranked schedule of run defenses. Last year they played the 27th-ranked schedule. Things should not get appreciably more difficult on their ground game.

The challenge will be in the pass game. Last year, they faced the 30th-ranked schedule of pass defenses, aka the third-easiest. This year, I'm projecting that to take a jump to sixth-toughest.

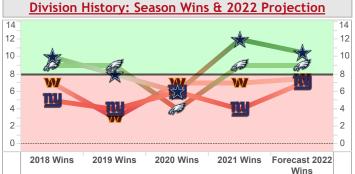
From Week 5 onward, it is by far the NFL's toughest schedule of pass defenses. The Eagles will play six games of their final 11 against top-10 pass defenses from last year, in addition to facing top-15 pass defenses of the Steelers, Packers, and Colts.

In many cases, however, these defenses were much better against the pass than the run. That is why it's going to be vital for the Eagles to adjust frequently to opponent weaknesses each week. Additionally, it makes it very important for Hurts to have the flexibility to change plays at the line of scrimmage frequently based on the looks defenses present.

Another thing the Eagles did extremely well was passing out of heavier sets.

Out of 38 quarterbacks in passing with 2+ tight ends on the field, Hurts was the second-best QB in the NFL last year with 0.28 EPA/att (second), 55% success (second), 9.9 YPA (second).

(cont'd - see PHI-6)



# Rank of 2022 Defensive Pass Efficiency Faced by Week



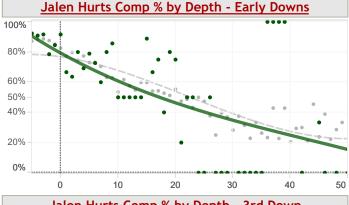
## Rank of 2022 Defensive Rush Efficiency Faced by Week

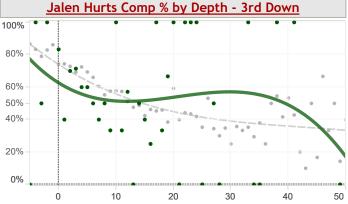


# 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>												
Ğ	3		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)						
	Miles	Sanders	9%	8%	64%	13%	6%						
	Kenne	eth Gainwell	10%	1%	46%	10%	32%						
I	Bostor	n Scott	7%	10%	55%	7%	22%						
RUSH	Jordan	n Howard		6%	56%	16%	22%						
œ	Jalen	Reagor	20%		80%								
	Quez	Watkins			100%								
	Total		7%	7%	58%	11%	17%						
	Miles	Sanders	16%	5%	62%	11%	5%						
	Kenne	eth Gainwell	36%	4%	60%								
	DeVor	nta Smith	17%	11%	61%	6%	4%						
	Bostor	n Scott	24%	24%	47%		6%						
	Jordar	n Howard	17%		67%		17%						
PASS	Dallas	Goedert	17%	13%	55%	8%	8%						
Α	Jalen	Reagor	17%	13%	60%	7%	3%						
	Quez	Watkins	26%	12%	57%	3%	3%						
	Zach E	Ertz	26%	10%	65%								
	Greg \	Ward Jr.	18%	18%	55%	9%							
	Richar	rd Rodgers			100%								
	Total		21%	11%	59%	5%	4%						

#### **Share of Offensive Plays by Type** Gainwe Smith Jordan Howard Sanders Goeder Greg Ward Jr. Scott Watkins Reago Ertz DeVonta Boston Zach Kenneth Dallas Jalen Quez **PASS** 23% 18% 14% RUSH 17% 36% 22% 22% 14% 13% ALL





# Successful Play Rate | 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

# Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings



Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	0-2 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-2 [1WR]	ALL
PASS	40%, -0.10 (453)	54%, 0.30 (85)	60%, 0.21 (30)	40%, 0.04 (10)	25%, -0.17 (4)	100%, 2.45 (2)	0%, 0.03 (1)		43%, -0.01 (585)
RUSH	62%, 0.15 (300)	53%, 0.00 (215)	48%, -0.18 (64)	71%, 0.16 (7)	33%, -0.07 (3)			100%, 0.29 (1)	57%, 0.06 (590)
All	49%, 0.00 (753)	54%, 0.08 (300)	52%, -0.05 (94)	53%, 0.09 (17)	29%, -0.13 (7)	100%, 2.45 (2)	0%, 0.03 (1)	100%, 0.29 (1)	50%, 0.02 (1,175)

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 Tota												
WR	DeVonta Smith	49% (86) 7.5, -0.01	68% (19) 11.7, 0.73	50% (2) 13.5, 0.69		52% (107) 8.4, 0.13							
	Jalen Reagor	36% (61) 5.3, -0.31	100% (2) 7.0, 0.39			38% (63) 5.4, -0.29							
	Quez Watkins	44% (54) 10.1, 0.41	17% (6) 7.3, -0.80	50% (2) 4.5, 0.23		42% (62) 9.7, 0.29							
TE	Dallas Goedert	62% (60) 8.7, 0.50	77% (22) 13.0, 0.79			66% (82) 9.9, 0.58							
	Zach Ertz	45% (22) 6.6, -0.08	38% (8) 5.3, 0.08			43% (30) 6.3, -0.04							
RB	Kenneth Gainwell	43% (47) 5.0, 0.13	50% (4) 8.0, 0.08	0% (2) -1.0, -0.65	0% (1) 10.0, 0.03	41% (54) 5.1, 0.10							
	Miles Sanders	33% (33) 4.6, -0.23	60% (5) 5.4, 0.14	67% (3) 6.3, 0.15		39% (41) 4.8, -0.16							

# 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% (65)	51% (68)	100% (2)		56% (135)
Miles	4.9, 0.04	6.3, 0.04	9.5, 0.49		5.7, 0.04
Hurts	68% (101)	63% (32)	0% (1)		66% (134)
Jalen	6.9, 0.35	4.1, 0.14	1.0, -0.58		6.2, 0.29
Howard	66% (29)	59% (46)	67% (3)	100% (1)	62% (79)
Jordan	5.7, 0.10	4.1, -0.12	5.7, 0.06	6.0, 0.29	4.8, -0.03
Scott Boston	58% (45) 5.1, 0.11	58% (31) 4.3, 0.06			58% (76) 4.8, 0.09
Gainwell	63% (43)	38% (29)	100% (1)		53% (73)
Kenneth	4.7, 0.01	4.0, -0.08	11.0, 0.53		4.5, -0.02
Minshew Gardner	100% (2) 6.5, 0.17	50% (2) 3.0, -0.29			75% (4) 4.8, -0.06

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	Pass	sing by	Throw Types		QB Drop	Types	QE	State at	Pass	Run Types		
	verage :heme	Route		Level 1	49% (350)	3 Step	47% (180) 7.7, 0.16	Planted		% (374) 6, 0.13	Inside	54% (156)	
		Curl	60% (62) 7.3, 0.29		6.0, 0.02			Moving		% (107)	Zone	4.2, 0.02	
Zone	42% (322) 7.5, 0.05		54% (48)	Level 2	60% (103) 11.9, 0.73	0/1 Step	49% (110) 5.7, -0.03	Shuffling	4	9, -0.16 1% (70)	Outside Zone	54% (96) 4.1, -0.03	
	7.0, 0.00	Out	6.8, 0.04		11.9, 0.75	5 Step	45% (108)	J	6.	4, 0.15	Zone	4.1, -0.00	
			65% (20)	Level 3	21% (56) 8.9, -0.24	Союр	7.9, 0.13		Play Action	on	Power	64% (44) 6.4, 0.08	
Man	47% (150) 7.4, 0.13	Dig	12.7, 0.45		0.9, -0.24	7 Step	57% (30) 11.1, 0.30		Play Action	No P/A		0.4, 0.00	
		Drag	53% (15)	Shovel	33% (6) 2.3, -0.14		41% (22)	Under Center	54% (26) 12.9, 0.25	17% (6) 2.5, -0.33	Stretch	62% (37) 7.5, 0.15	
	45% (20)		7.0, 0.23		2.0, 0	Basic Screen	6.4, 0.05	Shotgun	50% (143) 8.1, 0.15	40% (410) 6.5, -0.08		710, 0110	
Other	2.7, -0.56	Slant	46% (13) 6.4, -0.32	Sidearm	80% (5) 16.2, 1.09	Designed Rollout Right			51% (169) 8.8, 0.16	40% (416) 6.5, -0.08	Pitch	80% (5) 4.4, 0.37	

## <u>PHI-6</u>

On early downs in the first three quarters, with 2+ tight ends on the field, the Eagles went run 62% of the time.

Compare the efficiency when they ran vs passed:

Running back runs w 2+ TEs: -0.05 EPA/att, 38% success, 5.1 YPC

Passes with 2+ tight ends: 0.44 EPA/att, 57% success, 11.5 YPA (all three ranked first in the NFL)

Against these more difficult pass defenses they will face in 2022, going heavy and then passing from these sets more than the Eagles did in 2022 may provide additional upside. Pass defenses like the Saints, Colts, and Bears were much worse last year vs. 2+ tight end sets than single tight end sets.

Additionally, it will be important to be judicious with the amount of straight dropback passing from 11 personnel in 2022.

Yes, the acquisition of Brown will be a big difference maker, so I do expect these numbers to change. However, look at the Eagles passing last year from 3+ receiver sets with no-play action (early downs, first three quarters only):

- 3+ receiver set with no play-action: -0.30 EPA/att, 34% success, 5.4 YPA (110 att)
- 3+ receiver set with play-action: -0.09 EPA/att, 39% success, 7.3 YPA (61 att)
- 2+ tight end set with no play action: 0.31 EPA/att, 50% success, 9.4 YPA (24 att)
- 2+ tight end with play-action: 0.53 EPA/att, 62% success, 12.8 YPA (39 att)

The Eagles passed nearly twice as often from 3+ receiver sets not using play-action as they did when using play-action and we see the difference using play-action made.





Even with A.J. Brown, given the high run rates they showed last year, the Eagles should look to lead the NFL in play-action rate, as it would substantially help efficiency on pass plays.

Additionally, though the sample size is lower, the Eagles may want to work in more under center work for Hurts in 2022. His splits when under center vs, in shotgun on early downs, particularly from Week 8 onward when the team went much more run heavy, were stark. He delivered substantially more efficiency when passing from under center Week 8 onward in these early downs in the first three quarters:

Shotgun: -0.10 EPA/att, 38% success, 6.8 YPA Under center: 0.54 EPA/att, 57% success, 14.9 YPA

Quarterbacks typically make big jumps from their rookie year to Year 2. I think in Hurts's case, his Year 2 was more difficult than most because he wasn't a full-time starter in Year 1 and the entire coaching staff changed.

I expect the jump that many quarterbacks enjoy from Year 1 to Year 2 to be delivered to Hurts in 2022. And if that's the case, look out.

Having the benefit of a quarterback with not just mobility but plus mobility, meaning he can truly take off and run on any drop back, is massive.

The most efficient runs in the NFL, bar none, are dropbacks where, because of an open run lane, the quarterback takes off.

These are more efficient than designed quarterback runs or any form of running back run. The Eagles, although they want Hurts to develop as a pocket passer, should encourage these types of runs because they are more slam dunk than the average pass play and are quite literally the most bankable plays in the NFL.

I think the Eagles are in a great position this season. For a variety of reasons. They play in the NFC and they have the second-easiest schedule in the NFL. Thanks to having a very cheap rookie contract with Jalen Hurts, the Eagles have the least expensive quarterback room. This has allowed them to load up at other positions, namely adding key players like A.J. Brown, **Haasan Reddick**, and **James Bradberry**. They now have the third-most expensive offensive line and the second-most expensive defensive line. They are building from the inside out on both sides of the ball. They have a mobile quarterback. They have a general manager who is always looking to improve the team.

But there are also things to be concerned about.

The Eagles play eight road games, but 50% are on a short week:

Week 3 in WAS off Week 2 MNF Week 9 in HOU on TNF off Week 8 SUN Week 11 in IND off Week 10 MNF Week 16 in DAL on SAT off Week 15 SUN

21 teams this year play zero or one short week road game. Making only one team play four such games is absurd.

(cont'd - see PHI-8)

## Immediate Impact of Philadelphia Eagles 2022 Draft Class

The Eagles' addition of **A.J. Brown** was arguably the most meaningful move of draft weekend, but we're going to primarily focus on their new rookies in this discussion. Philly jumped the Ravens on draft night to acquire **Jordan Davis**, parting with their first, a fourth, and two fifth-round picks. It was a bold move to acquire a space-eating nose tackle with conditioning concerns. Despite the athletic upside displayed at the combine, Davis was regularly pulled off the field on passing downs. In 2021, Davis played just 7% of Georgia's defensive snaps in 3rd-and-long situations. For Davis to be worth the investment, he needs to produce on passing downs. Fortunately, there won't be any immediate pressure for him to ramp up his playing time thanks to the presence of **Fletcher Cox** and **Javon Hargrave**. The Eagles likely expect Davis to play in the rotation as a rookie, before taking on a more substantial role after Hargrave hits free agency next offseason

GM Howie Roseman enlisted the help of **Jason Kelce** to scout centers this offseason, and he aided in the decision to select **Cam Jurgens** (second round) as his replacement. Jurgens was a three-year starter at Nebraska and will spend the season learning behind Kelce before, presumably, Kelce steps away at season's end.

Nakobe Dean (third round) fell significantly further than initially expected, likely due to injury concerns. Dean has dealt with shoulder and knee injuries which some teams believed to be chronic issues with the potential to shorten his career or limit his availability and production. Even if the Eagles share some of those concerns, it's easy to justify the gamble in the third round. The Georgia coaching staff raved about Dean's football intelligence and, if healthy, he has the traits to challenge T.J. Edwards or Kyzir White for a starting role as a rookie. Dean will be joined on the depth chart at linebacker by Kyron Johnson (sixth round), who is likely relegated to special teams duties as a rookie. Johnson played on the edge at Kansas, but at 6'0", 235 pounds he lacks the size for that role in Philly. He will likely serve as a backup to Haason Reddick, and could benefit from Reddick's experience making a similar transition from undersized edge-rusher in college to a more traditional linebacker role in the pros.

Grant Calcaterra (sixth round) adds depth at tight end and could potentially earn the backup role behind Dallas Goedert. Calcaterra could be a sleeper in this class, but has a long history of concussions and was medically retired in 2020 before returning last season at SMU. Despite using just five selections, the Eagles landed three potential starters, plus A.J. Brown, and were able to acquire an extra 2023 first-round pick from the Saints. That extra first-round pick next year could prove to be the most critical addition Roseman made this offseason. Though the Eagles are moving forward with Jalen Hurts, for now, there's significant pressure on him to prove he's their long-term quarterback this season. If Hurts fails to show significant development, the Eagles have the extra draft capital necessary to make an aggressive move up for a quarterback in next year's draft.

# Philadelphia Eagles 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

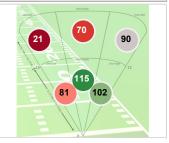
The Eagles were middle of the pack in the passing department, ranking 17th in expected points added via their passing game (59.1 EPA). They ranked 25th in the league in completion percentage (62.1%) but were 14th in yards per pass attempt (7.3 Y/A) and fifth in yards per completion (11.7 yards). **Jalen Hurts** passed the first part of the test in 2021, playing at a level that has the Eagles willing to move forward with him as their starting quarterback, at least for 2022. But Hurts still needs to show more growth as a passer in Year 3. Hurts closed the season 41st in completion rate (61.3%) while ranking second to last in the league in expected completion percentage (61.5%). 2022 is still another audition year for Hurts but playing behind an excellent offensive line while the Eagles have added more weaponry on offense with **A.J. Brown**, they are going to get a full look this season on if Hurts is the answer.

2021 Standard Passing Table													
QB Comp Att Comp % Yds YPA TDs INT Sacks Rating Rk													
Jalen Hurts	287	472	61%	3,397	7.2	16	11	27	84	33			
Gardner Minshew	41	61	67%	430	7.0	4	1	4	103	8			
NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6													

#### 2021 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 % 43% 46% 10.0% 3.0% Jalen Hurts 48 14 6.3 5.5 **Gardner Minshew** 46% 46% 7 11.0% 2 3.0% 4.0 6.7 46% 50% 8.8% 5.3 34.1 12.5 3.1% 5.6 NFL Ava

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 0 -10

# Jalen Hurts 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%	12.5%	0.0%	7.1%								
3, 4, 5	0.0%	8.0%	2.2%	25.0%	5.1%								
6 - 9	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%								
10 - 14	1.2%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%								
15+	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%		3.1%								
Total	1.6%	2.5%	2.3%	8.3%	2.2%								

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis											
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk						
Jalen Hurts	6.6 9.5		2.3	63%	9						
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%							

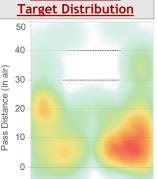
-10

	Air Yds vs YAC											
d	Air Yds % 53%	YAC %	Rk									
	53%	47%	21									
	53%	47%										

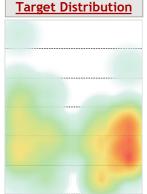
# 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Last year's first-round pick, **DeVonta Smith**, had a strong rookie campaign, catching 64-of-104 targets for 916 yards (14.3 yards per catch) and five touchdowns. While Smith was a much-needed win for the front office selection of wide receivers, he is still the only good thing this team got from their wideouts in 2021. Smith accounted for 43.5% of the wide receiver targets (sixth at his position) while the Eagles' receivers ranked dead last in the NFL in targets per game (13.7) and 31st in yards per game (117.2). Philadelphia ended up ranking 29th in the league in success rate (46%) targeting their wide receivers while only Smith (53%) had a success rate over 50%. With that, the Eagles went out and added an alpha receiver in his prime in A.J. Brown.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% сотр	YPA	Rating	% Saccess	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
DeVonta Smith	114	60%	8.6	91.1	53%	64	92	30	95	5
Dallas Goedert	88	70%	10.5	114.9	66%	2	3	8	110	4
Quez Watkins	69	65%	9.9	84.3	43%	122	72	17	133	1
Jalen Reagor	60	57%	5.0	67.4	35%	139	140	80	49	2
Kenneth Gainwell	55	69%	5.5	94.7	44%	120	126	110	18	2



**DeVonta Smith** 



**Dallas Goedert** 

## 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Eagles led the NFL in expected points added via rushing (64.6 EPA) in 2021. While Jalen Hurts added a lot to the counting stats (784 yards and 10 touchdowns) in the Philadelphia running game, the Eagles backfield itself was productive as a unit in 2021, ranking 14th in the league in touches per game (31.0), yards from scrimmage per game (159.2) and eighth in yards per touch (5.1). Miles Sanders was efficient once again on the ground in 2021, averaging 5.5 yards per carry. Kenneth Gainwell turned 101 touches into 544 yards (5.4 yards per touch) with six touchdowns as a rookie. Gainwell still lacks the physical profile of a three-down back and was fourth in their backfield in success rate per rush (51%). The Eagles have Boston Scott and Jason Huntley as backend roster depth with Scott capable of filling in and contributing.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Jalen Hurts	147	5.6	61%	6	39	33	19	60%	5	9
Miles Sanders	144	5.3	58%	12	12	62	9	57%	11	0
Boston Scott	88	4.6	57%	17	2	51	63	55%	17	8
Jordan Howard	86	4.7	63%	2	4	11	60	64%	2	3
Kenneth Gainwell	69	4.3	51%	38	46	27	81	46%	66	5

## Yards per Carry by Direction





# Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Adding A.J. Brown to the Eagles

In their biggest move of the offseason, the Eagles pulled off a trade for **A.J. Brown**, signing him to a massive extension immediately afterward as part of the deal. Brown teased us once again with the upside he holds in 2021. Brown was fourth among all wide receivers in the league in target rate per route run (29.1%), but once again missed time (four games) while being saddled in a low-volume passing offense. Brown was able to average a career-high 8.1 targets per game, but that still forced efficiency more than his WR1 peers as it ranked 16th at the position. Brown will once again be tasked with relying on efficiency to carry water for him, joining an Eagles team that found their offensive stride in 2021 when they dialed back their offense through the air.

Jalen Hurts showcased a strong fantasy floor due to his rushing ability, but still needs to show more growth as a passer. Hurts closed 2020 41st in completion rate (61.3%) while second to last in the league in expected completion percentage (61.5%). Hurts is the biggest winner from a fantasy stance here and should be highly regarded as a QB1 in fantasy for his displayed floor a year ago paired with the upside of any spike in passing output. Eagles wide receivers ranked dead last in the NFL in targets per game (13.7) and 31st in yards per game (117.2). Philadelphia ended up ranking 29th in the league in success rate (46%) targeting their wide receivers while only **DeVonta Smith** (53%) had a success rate over 50%.

Smith accounted for 43.5% of the Philadelphia wide receiver targets (sixth at his position), something sure to come down with the addition of a target-earner in Brown. Smith (64-916-5) proved he can be a lead receiver with a diverse route tree right away as he demonstrated in college. While the talent is clearly here, we still have to question whether or not his immediate situation paired with Brown and the potential schematic limitations Hurts could place on the offense is going to delay his fantasy stardom from matching that displayed talent.

Smith played in an offense that was 29th in the league in pass attempts per game and was attached to a quarterback that was 28th in the league in expected completion percentage. That combination ended up placing Smith 52nd among receivers in receptions per game (3.8) without Brown on the roster and left us with a lot of lean fantasy weeks. Smith cleared six targets in a game just six times as rookie, posting nine weeks as the WR52 or lower as a byproduct. Even **Dallas Goedert** takes a small hit, although his positional depth allows a much softer landing. After **Zach Ertz** was traded after Week 6, Goedert ran a pass route on 79.7% of the Philadelphia dropbacks (a mark that would have been third over the full season) while commanding 24.5% of the Eagle targets in his games played (which would have ranked second). Goedert showed big play ability, posting a career-high 14.8 yards per reception and 10.9 yards per target. The only blemish here is that the Eagles' run-first offense still limited his raw totals to just 24.6 routes run and 6.2 targets per game over that span, which had him 16th in expected points per game (10.0) over that same span. He was able to clear seven targets in just two of those games. Goedert is a bit of a discounted version of George Kittle if the Eagles remain so limited through the air, but still a mid-TE1 option capable of spike weeks at a limited position.

Phila	adelphia Eagle	es Defense: Nur	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total		% Rk		50
1-1 [3WR]	18 plays <i>(4%)</i> Success: 56%	439 plays (90%) Success: 51%	33 plays (7%) Success: 33%	490 plays (100%) Success: 50%			Rk	40
	EPA: 0.44	EPA: -0.01	EPA: -0.23	EPA: -0.01	Base	24%	17	
1-2 [2WR]	39 plays <i>(36%)</i> Success: 56%	64 plays (60%) Success: 42%	4 plays <i>(4%)</i> Success: 25%	107 plays (100%) Success: 47%	Nickel	73%	5	30
	EPA: 0.28	EPA: -0.29	EPA: -0.23	EPA: -0.08	Dime+	3%	25	
2-1 [2WR]	22 plays (76%) Success: 59% EPA: 0.14	7 plays (24%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.06		29 plays (100%) Success: 59% EPA: 0.12	Rush 3	2%	28	20 –
			1 mlayer (400()		Rush 4	79%	3	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	2 plays (20%) Success: 50% EPA: 0.58	7 plays (70%) Success: 57% EPA: -0.60	1 plays <i>(10%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: -0.09	10 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 60% EPA: -0.31	Rush 5	17%	25	10-
	81 plays (13%)	517 plays (81%)	38 plays (6%)	636 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	2%	28	0
Grand Total	Success: 57% EPA: 0.29	Success: 50% EPA: -0.05	Success: 34% EPA: -0.23	Success: 50% EPA: -0.02	Blitz%	19%	29	-10

# **Defensive Outlook**

The Eagles released **Fletcher Cox** but quickly re-signed the 10-year veteran to a cheaper one-year contract. Cox only had 3.5 sacks in 2021 but put up 12 quarterback hits with two forced fumbles and ranked 26th among defensive tackles in pressure rate, per SIS, while playing 66% of the defensive snaps. **Javon Hargrave** took over as the dominant pass rusher inside. He ranked third in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate among defensive tackles and ranked fourth at the position in pressure rate. Hargrave set a career-high in sacks with 7.5 and more than doubles his previous career-high (eight) in quarterback hits with 18. In the first round, the Eagles traded up for **Jordan Davis**, the monster athletic tackle from Georgia, who should immediately be able to plug gaps in the middle of the defense and allow the pass rushers to let loose. **Milton Williams** was drafted in the third round of the 2021 draft to eventually slide in as a replacement for one of Cox or Hargrave, He played 40% of the defensive snaps in his rookie season with six quarterback hits and two sacks. He ranked 45th among defensive tackles in pressure rate. There were questions about which edge rushers the Eagles would re-sign for the 2022 season. The answer was just that they'd re-sign everyone and add to the group. **Brandon Graham** tore his Achilles early in the 2021 season and will look to return to full health throughout 2022. Philadelphia re-signed **Josh Sweat** to an extension in September and he finished third in Pass Rush Win Rate and 30th in pressure rate among edge rushers last season, though he did rank seventh among the position in Pass Rush Win Rate.

The biggest addition was **Haason Reddick**, who was eighth in Pass Rush Win Rate in his season with the Carolina Panthers. Reddick has 23.5 sacks over the past two seasons and has been at his best when he's been in a more traditional edge rusher role. He has the ability to drop into coverage and will likely do that a bit with the Eagles, but keeping him chasing the quarterback will get the most value from his skillset. Linebacker has not been a position the Eagles have heavily invested in over the past few seasons. Last season, that was a problem but they got a bargain by signing **Kyzir White**. White played 84% of the defensive snaps for the Los Angeles Chargers last year and was able to make plays all over the field with two interceptions, seven tackles for loss, and four quarterback hits. White was 10th in yards allowed per coverage snap among 85 linebackers with at least 150 coverage snaps in 2021. Philadelphia drafted **Nakobe Dean** in the third round after an unexpected slide for the first-round talent. If healthy, Dean could easily take over as a starting linebacker.

The Eagles had the fifth-highest rate in nickel last season (72.5%), but their other snaps were played in base (23.9%) instead of dime (3.1%). As much as the Eagles had avoided high investment at the position, it's on the field quite a bit. Darius Slay looked more like the top-tier corner the Eagles hoped they were trading for in Year 2 with the team than he did in Year 1. Slay ranked 16th among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021 and regained his form as a No. 1 corner. He'll now be joined by James Bradberry, who was released by the Giants. Bradberry had some ups and downs as the lone constant in the Giants' secondary last season but is significantly better than any option the Eagles had in 2021. Avonte Maddox (18th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021) has turned into a productive slot corner. After not getting much of a market last offseason, Anthony Harris signed a one-year deal with the Eagles and then did the same this offseason. Harris was mostly fine with the Eagles and didn't stand out one way or another. The Eagles signed Jaquiski Tartt as a free agent in June, about as good of a late-offseason signing as the Eagles could have hoped for. Behind them, the Eagles have some young players who could improve with more playing time. Marcus Epps, a 2019 sixth-round pick of the Minnesota Vikings, has been a special teamer, but was on the field for 48% of the Eagles' defensive snaps last season.

Play Tendencies										
All Pass %	50%									
All Pass Rk	32									
All Rush %	50%									
All Rush Rk	1									
1 Score Pass %	52%									
1 Score Pass Rk	27									
2020 1 Score Pass %	58%									
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	16									
2021 Pass Increase %	-5%									
Pass Increase Rk	27									
1 Score Rush %	48%									
1 Score Rush Rk	6									
Up Pass %	44%									
Up Pass Rk	32									
Up Rush %	56%									
Up Rush Rk	1									
Down Pass %	55%									
Down Pass Rk	28									
Down Rush %	45%									
Down Rush Rk	5									

<u>D</u>	own & Di	istance	e Ten	<u>denci</u>	<u>es</u>	Shots	gun %	Pł	nilado	elphia F	agles			
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %	Shotgun	Under Center	Philadelphia Eagles 2021 Play Analysis			G T			
1st	Short (1-3)	9	44%	56%	56%	83%	17%							
Dwn	Med (4-7)	16	25%	75%	75%									
	Long (8-10)	336	40%	60%	54%	NFL	AVG	Short Yardage Intelligence:						
	XL (11+)	17	76%	24%	29%	65%	35%					ice.		
2nd	Short (1-3)	45	22%	78%	64%									
Dwn	Med (4-7)	90	44%	56%	56%	Effic	Efficiency		2nd and Short Run					
	Long (8-10)	98	61%	39%	44%			Run	Run	NFL Run	Run 1D	Run NFL		
	XL (11+)	38	71%	29%	26%	EPA/ pass:	EPA/ pass:	Freq	Rk	Freq Avg	Rate	1D Avg		
3rd	Short (1-3)	58	47%	53%	62%	0.04	0.23	80%	6	71%	67%	73%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	59	86%	14%	49%									
	Long (8-10)	31	74%	26%	26%	EPA/ rush:	EPA/ rush:		2nd	d and Sho	ort Pass			
	XL (11+)	28	89%	11%	21%	0.04	0.01	_						
4th	Short (1-3)	13	38%	62%	62%	0	0	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	50%	Success: 44%			26	29%	67%	46%		
	Long (8-10)	2	100%	0%	50%			20%	20	25 /0	07 70	40 /0		
quent	<u>Play</u>			<u>O1</u>	fensive	Perfor	mance	w Mot	ion (P	re Snap	& Play A	Action)		

	Shot	gun %
%	Shotgun	Under Center
	83%	17%
	NFL	AVG
	65%	35%
	Effici	iency
	EPA/	EPA/
	pass:	pass:
	0.04	0.33



# **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

2nd and Short Run						
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFI 1D Avg		
80%	6	71%	67%	73%		
2nd and Short Pass						
	211					
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFI 1D Avg		

	Most Frequent Play						
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %		
1st	Short (1-3)	PASS	Greg Ward Jr.	3	0%		
Dwn		RUSH	Jalen Hurts	3	100%		
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Jordan Howard	4	100%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	67	58%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	DeVonta Smith	4	50%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	13	62%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Miles Sanders	12	58%		
	Long (8-10)	PASS	DeVonta Smith	16	56%		
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Jalen Hurts	7	43%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jalen Hurts	12	75%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Dallas Goedert	15	67%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Jalen Hurts	7	29%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	DeVonta Smith	6	0%		

Play Action (Y/N)						
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total			
No	Success: 44%	Success: 46%	Success: 45%			
	YPA: 7.0, EPA: 0.07	YPA: 7.5, EPA: 0.04	YPA: 7.1, EPA: 0.07			
	Rtg: 94.8	Rtg: 82.2	Rtg: 92.0			
	[Att: 167 - Rate: 28.5%]	[Att: 48 - Rate: 8.2%]	[Att: 215 - Rate: 36.8%]			
Yes	Success: 37%	Success: 53%	Success: 42%			
	YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.19	YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.21	YPA: 7.2, EPA: -0.06			
	Rtg: 75.3	Rtg: 112.3	Rtg: 87.2			
	[Att: 249 - Rate: 42.6%]	[Att: 121 - Rate: 20.7%]	[Att: 370 - Rate: 63.2%]			
Total	Success: 40%	Success: 51%	Success: 43%			
	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.08	YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.16	YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.01			
	Rtg: 83.2	Rtg: 103.5	Rtg: 89.0			
	[Att: 416 - Rate: 71.1%]	[Att: 169 - Rate: 28.9%]	[Att: 585 - Rate: 100.0%]			

	Weekly Snaps Played								
Wk	Орр	Score	DeVonta Smith	Dallas Goedert	Quez Watkins	Jalen Reagor	Miles Sanders	Jack Stoll	Zach Ertz
1	ATL	W 32-6	62	52	34	50	47	12	41
2	SF	L 17-5	49	38	29	42	39	6	37
3	DAL	L 41-27	57	34	38	50	35	4	30
4	KC	L 42-30	68	55	43	52	47	6	37
5	CAR	W 21-18	62	45	55	47	50	5	40
6	TB	L 28-22	51		40	43	43	14	46
7	LV	L 33-22	60	64	50	56	12	13	
8	DET	W 44-6	44	44	58	12		42	
9	LAC	L 27-24	44	53	55	29		28	
10	DEN	W 30-13	54	13	57	50		42	
11	NO	W 40-29	72	75	64	55	36	17	
12	NYG	L 13-7	61	64	55	45	22	16	
13	NYJ	W 33-18	44	68	55	48	41	28	
15	WAS	W 27-17	62	66	25	39	35	38	
16	NYG	W 34-10	54	53	51	32	19	26	
17	WAS	W 20-16	58	57	31	31		34	
18	DAL	L 51-26	14		31	69			
	Grand '	Total	916	781	771	750	426	331	231

Personnel Groupings				
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.	
1-1 [3WR]	63%	61%	50%	
1-2 [2WR]	26%	21%	55%	
1-3 [1WR]	8%	4%	52%	
<b>Grouping Tendencies</b>				
	1115 1	Hach	CICS	
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %	
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.	
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %	

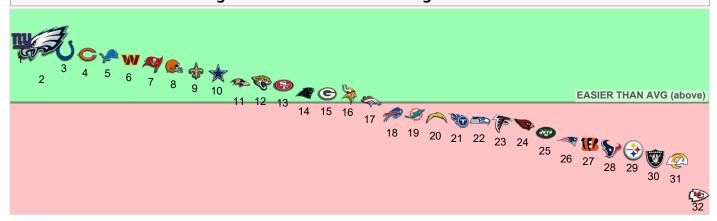
Red Zone Targets Leaderboard					
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Kenneth Gainwell	11		1	10	
DeVonta Smith	9	4	1	4	
Dallas Goedert	7	1	2	4	
Zach Ertz	6	3		3	
Jalen Reagor	5	1	1	3	
Jack Stoll	2		1	1	

A	1-20
Jalen Hurts 32 12 9	
	11
Jordan Howard 24 8 6	10
Miles Sanders 21 6 4	11
Boston Scott 20 12 4	4
Kenneth Gainwell 12 3 5	4
Jason Huntley 1	1

Early D	own Targ	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
24%	26%	50%
2.70		
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	
	NFL AVG	
Overall		ıccess %
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	uccess %
Overall RB		ICCESS %
	Target Su	
	Target Su	
<b>RB</b>	Target Su	<b>WR</b> 48%
RB	Target Su	WR



# 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



The Eagles still have a lot of hard work ahead of them. In their eight games in 2021 against teams with a winning record, the Eagles went 1-7.

They won nine games last year by beating down some below average teams. However, these weren't lucky wins, in that they went just 1-1 in field goal games and 3-5 in games decided by one-score.

They also caught the negative end in variance in goal-to-go touchdown rate.

An interesting exercise every year is to look back at the teams who vastly overperformed their goal-to-go efficiency and those who vastly underperformed.

We know there is skill in performance for teams near the goal line as well as in calling good plays.

Everything happens faster in the condensed space inside the 10-yard line.

For quarterbacks: when passing, it puts priority on pre-snap reads of the defense, identifying matchups that can be exploited, speed in getting through progressions, route timing, accuracy and at times, both quarterback mobility and willingness to stand in the pocket with bodies flying around you, and slight pocket movements without dropping your eyes.

For playcallers: knowing which plays work best in condensed areas, understanding how to run from spread sets, how to execute in short yardage, when to set up a play and when to call the play you need for a touchdown, and almost above all, an understanding of the defense and how they will defend the concept

All of these are skills that can be more useful inside the 10-yard line. This is why some quarterbacks struggle more than others there while others are more successful. They may have these talents and they may be paired with a coach who understands play calling inside the 10 better than others.

All of that said, it's also a great lesson in the beauty of football in that small sample sizes win games and single plays can make all the difference. Even if those single plays occur in the first quarter.

In basketball, with over one hundred possessions per team in a single game, all of which occur in "scoring range", a single wrong call in the first quarter would never be challenged.

In the NFL, teams averaged just 10.4 possessions per game last year.

The number of possessions per game has consistently fallen over the last decade:

2013: 11.6 possessions per game

2014: 11.2

2015: 11.2

2016: 11.0

2017: 11 1

2018: 10.8

2019: 10.6

2020: 10.4

2021: 10.4

For two straight years now, we've seen a full possession per team fewer than we saw back in 2013.

And how many drives make it into the red zone?

Just 3.3 possessions per team per game.

While teams can score from anywhere on the field, obviously most touchdowns come from inside the red zone. To be precise, last year 78% of all touchdowns came from inside the red zone. That rate is increasing over the last several years as well:

## <u>PHI-9</u>



2017: 72.6% 2018: 75.2% 2019: 74.0% 2020: 76.2% 2021: 78.0%

Teams have been scoring less on big plays from outside the red zone and more frequently by driving the ball inside the 20-yard line.

If we consider "inside the 20" being "in scoring range", even though we're seeing the rate of drives that make it into the red zone increase in recent years, we're still just at 3.3 possessions per game.

Compare that to over 100 for the NBA.

Last year, we saw 1.78 possessions per team per game make it inside the 10-yard line.

Just 1.78!

And that's been increasing as well (despite a spike without crowds during COVID in 2020):

Goal-to-go possessions per team per game:

2017: 1.54 2018: 1.67 2019: 1.69 2020: 1.96 2021: 1.78

There are very few opportunities to make it inside the 10-yard line per team in every game.

Last year, only 1.78 out of 10.4 total possessions made it inside the 10-yard line, or 17%.

It's vital to capitalize when you're down there.

Sometimes, teams that have otherwise solid offenses have a year where they struggle inside the 10-yard line.

After all, fewer plays, higher variance. But MASSIVE impact on game outcome.

The Eagles had the NFL's 10th-best offense in overall efficiency last year based on success rate. Yet they scored touchdowns inside the 10-yard line at just a 69% rate, which was 24th in the NFL. They went from a top-10 offense in efficiency to bottom-10 in scoring touchdowns inside the 10. Certainly, Jalen Hurts can improve with what is required in those tight spaces as we discussed earlier: pre-snap reads of the defense, identifying matchups that can be exploited, speed in getting through progressions, route timing, accuracy and at times, both quarterback mobility and willingness to stand in the pocket with bodies flying around you and slight pocket movements without dropping your eyes. Nick Siranni can also improve in his playcalling inside the 10. We should expect the Eagles to improve in this area, which will result in more points in 2022 and more wins, if all other things are equal.

I predict a very good effort out of the 2022 Eagles this year, particularly if they can figure out how to take a step ahead of their hated rival Cowboys. Dallas has won six of eight games against the Eagles since 2018, including a sweep last season. The last three straight games against the Cowboys have been 20+ point losses for the Eagles.

If the Eagles can see the same health as in 2021 (12th best) or better, and Hurts takes a leap, this team certainly can make the playoffs and be a true contender. But the Eagles absolutely must emphasize optimized playcalling to keep Hurts from passing the ball in known passing situations. If they can pass more out of 2+ tight end sets and other heavy-box situations and use more play-action when passing out of 3+ receiver sets, they will go a long way to helping Hurts take that next step, which will be essential toward seeing postseason success in 2022.

01.	Games	w	Halftime	Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead



03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	7.0			
37. PSM Target Depth	7.1			
38. Non-PSM YPA	7.3			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	7.5			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	48%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%			
42. PSM EPA/att	-0.04			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.08			

# Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	40%
45. PA Success Rate	54%
46. PA YPA	8.9
47. PA Sack Rate	7.6%
48. PA EPA/att	0.14
49. PA Target Depth	8.0
50. Non-PA Success Rate	43%
51. Non-PA YPA	6
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	1.8%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.04
54. Non-PA Target Depth	6.9

# 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	55%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.6
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	25%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	58%
60. YPC on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.2
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	45%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	59%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.6

# Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE         -0.3         defFUM Rcvrd         12           offFUM cord         17         defR Rk         31           offFR%         70.8%         defFR%         20.0%				
offFUM         24         defFUM Rcvrd         12           offFUM Rcvrd         17         defFR Rk         31           offFR%         70.8%         defFR%         20.0%           offFR Rk         3         defFROE         -3.3	Net FROE Rk		defFUM	15
offFUM         24           offFUM Rcvrd         17         defFR Rk         31           offFR%         70.8%         defFR%         20.0%           offFR Rk         3         defFROE         -3.3           offFROE         2.9         -4.7500 Pk         -60.0%	Net FROE	-0.3	dofFIIM Povrd	12
offFR%         70.8%         defFR%         20.0%           offFR Rk         3         defFROE         -3.3           offFROE         2.9         -3.3         -3.3	offFUM	24	dell oli itevia	12
offFR Rk         3         defFROE         -3.3           offFROE         2.9         -5.00         -5.00	offFUM Rcvrd	17	defFR Rk	31
offFROE 2.9 defFROE -3.3	offFR%	70.8%	defFR%	20.0%
offFROE 2.9	offFR Rk	3		
I (FDOF DI	offEROF	29	detFROE	-3.3
OTTFRUE RK 3			dofEDOE Dk	20
	OffFROE RK	3	dell-ROE RK	29

# Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	1.49	Opp Att	24
Net Over Expectation Rank	11	Opp Makes	21
Own Att	33		
Own Makes	30	Opp FG %	88%
Own FG %	91%	Opp Expected Makes	20.36
Own Expected Makes	27.87	Opp Make Over Expectation	0.64
Own Make over Expectation	2.13	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	19
Own Make over Expectation Rk	9		
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	-1.33	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	1.45
2020 Own Rk	26	2020 Opp Rk	11

# Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

rayer rracking	Data Stats QD3
	Jalen Hurts
CAY	6.4
CAY Rk	7
2020 CAY Rk	1
AYTS Rk	5
2020 AYTS Rk	4
AGG Rk	16
2020 AGG Rk	28
COMP%	61.3
xCOMP%	61.5
xCOMP% Rk	37
2020 xCOMP% Rk	41
CPOE%	-0.2
CPOE Rk	18
2020 CPOE Rk	37

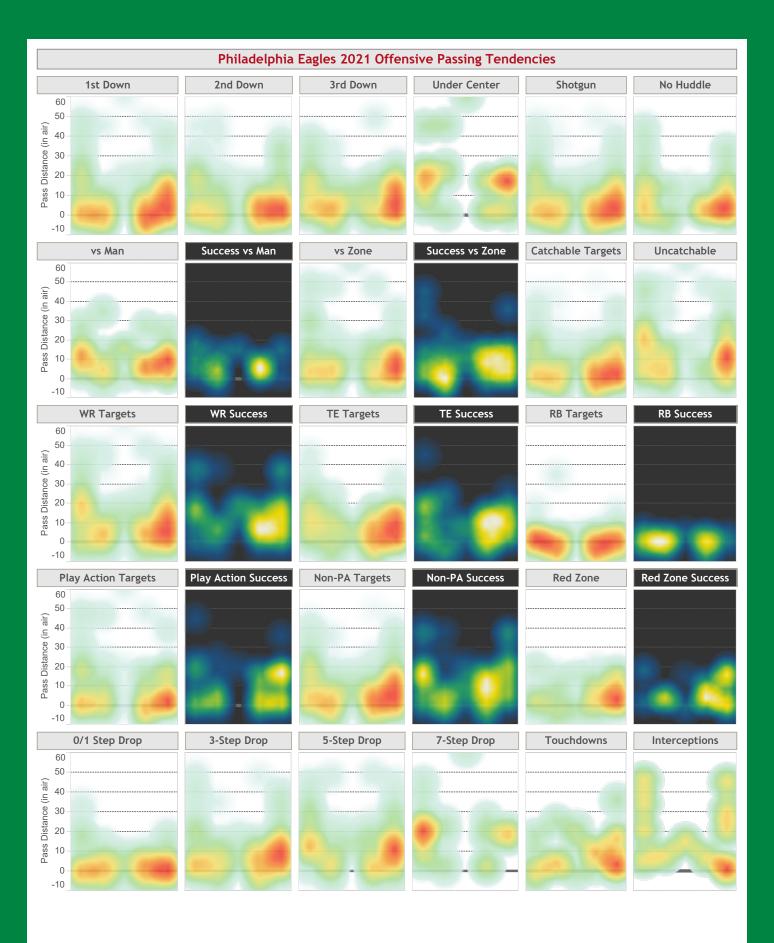
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

# **OB Pressure**

QDTTES	sui e	
	Jalen Hurts	
Pressure %	36.9	
Pressure Rk	11	
Sack %	4.9	
Sack Rk	29	
Pressure Accuracy %	60	
Pressure Accuracy Rk	29	
Rating when Pressured	72.3	
Pressured Rating Rk	15	
Clean Accuracy %	77.3	
Clean Accuracy Rk	23	
Rating when Clean	90.5	
Clean Rating Rk	27	
Time to Throw	3.12	
Time to Throw Rk	1	

# **Offensive Metrics**

EPA/Pass	0.05
EPA/Pass Rk	13
EPA/Rush	0.06
EPA/Rush Rk	1
On-Target Catch %	88.7%
On-Target Catch Rk	23
Drop%	7.0%
Drop Rk	25
YAC/Att	2.2
YAC/Att Rk	19
Rush Broken Tackle %	12.7%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	18
Rush 1st Down %	29.6%
Rush 1st Down Rk	3



# Eagles Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# **Stable Quarterback Metrics**

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Jalen Hurts	0.17 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	0.08 (#2)	0.00 (#1)	0.10 (#2)	0.08 (#2)
2020	Jalen Hurts	0.19 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.01 (#2)	0.28 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	0.25 (#1)	0.16 (#1)
	Carson Wentz	0.12 (#3)	-0.20 (#3)	-0.22 (#3)	-0.13 (#3)	-0.16 (#3)	-0.04 (#3)	0.01 (#3)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Jalen Hurts	-0.37 (#2)	-0.13 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	-0.04 (#2)	-0.32 (#2)	0.09 (#1)	0.05 (#1)
2020	Jalen Hurts	-0.32 (#1)	-0.17 (#2)	0.12 (#2)	0.32 (#1)	0.13 (#1)	-0.26 (#3)	-0.23 (#2)
	Carson Wentz	-0.97 (#3)	-0.51 (#3)	-0.28 (#3)	-0.33 (#3)	-0.40 (#3)	-0.25 (#2)	-0.27 (#3)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Jalen Hurts	76% (#1)	81% (#1)	67% (#2)	49% (#2)	75% (#1)	76% (#1)	75% (#1)	65% (#2)	77% (#2)
2020	Carson Wentz	71% (#3)	79% (#2)	59% (#3)	43% (#3)	72% (#2)	70% (#3)	74% (#2)	74% (#1)	69% (#3)
	Jalen Hurts	72% (#2)	75% (#3)	72% (#1)	59% (#1)	64% (#3)	76% (#2)	50% (#3)	54% (#3)	85% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	0.06 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.21 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	0.03 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	0.18 (#1)	0.26 (#1)
2020	-0.01 (#2)	-0.02 (#2)	0.13 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.28 (#2)	-0.28 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	16	21	22	3	20	4	16	19	26	10
2020	25	19	30	8	29	26	20	10	18	3

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	9	1	7	7	7	25	7	20	19
2020	26	28	21	21	23	6	5	31	31

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

						•		,	
Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	20	20	16	10	15	11	15	20	11
2020	29	15	26	26	29	31	24	1	31

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Mike Tomlin (15 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Matt Canada (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

Defensive Coordinator:

Teryl Austin (PIT DB) (new)

# **Pittsburgh Steelers**

Steelers

<u>Wins</u>

<u>Div Rank</u>

7.5

#4

### **Past Records**

2022 Forecast

2021: 9-7-1 2020: 12-4 2019: 8-8



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Ben Roethlisberger (QB)	TBD
Joe Haden (CB)	TBD
Joe Schobert (LB)	TBD
Eric Ebron (TE)	TBD
Zach Banner (RT)	TBD
JuJu Smith-Schuster (WR)	Chiefs
Trai Turner (RG)	Commande
Ray-Ray McCloud (WR)	49ers
James Washington (WR)	Cowboys
Joshua Dobbs (QB)	Browns
Jordan Wilkins (RB)	Retired
Taco Charlton (EDGE)	Saints
B.J. Finney (C)	TBD
Kalen Ballage (RB)	TBD
Dwayne Haskins (QB)	TBD
Tegray Scales (LB)	TBD
Demarcus Christmas (IDL)	TBD
Corliss Waitman (P)	Broncos
DeMarkus Acy (CB)	TBD
Alex Redmond (RG)	Retired

### 2022 Pittsburgh Steelers Overview

The Steelers clearly believe in déjà vu. That's what best explains the moves they've made this offseason and the current build of their roster.

The Steelers have the NFL's least expensive offense and the most expensive defense. For the first time since **Ben Roethlisberger** was drafted in 2004 and was on his rookie contract, the Steelers have the benefit of not spending top money at the quarterback position.

Ranking the Steelers' total quarterback expenditures by year against the other 32 NFL teams:

2013: 6 2014: 1 2015: 4 2016: 3 2017: 13 2018: 9 2019: 6 2020: 9 2021: 5

Average Line

2.5

# Games Favored # Games Underdog

11

Now they are down at 25th.

13

M.Boykin NEW 17

WR3

24

RR2

8

OR2

The Steelers may be looking back to the 2004 season, where they had the NFL's No. 1 defense and could limit what they asked Roethlisberger to do. Pittsburgh went 15-1 Roethlisberger's rookie season, losing in the AFC Championship Game, (cont'd - see PIT2)

# Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj





10

*QB* M.Trubisky *NEW* 

22

N.Harris

# AWitherpoon All Ol RWR RB C.C. Claypool TEplermuth TE All Di All Di NEW = New to role (or started < 50% of games last year) S

### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
James Daniels (RG)	\$8.80
Myles Jack (LB)	\$8
Mitchell Trubisky (QB)	\$7.40
Mason Cole (C)	\$5.29
Levi Wallace (CB)	\$4
Gunner Olszewski (WR)	\$2.10
Damontae Kazee (S)	\$1.2
Genard Avery (LB)	\$1.2
Trenton Scott (RT)	\$1
Miles Boykin (WR)	\$0.90

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	20	QB - Kenny Pickett (Pittsburgh)
2	52	WR - George Pickens (Georgia)
3	84	DE - DeMarvin Leal (Texas A&M)
4	138	WR - Calvin Austin (Memphis)
6	208	FB - Connor Heyward (Michigan State)
7	225	LB - Mark Robinson (Ole Miss)
	241	QB - Chris Oladokun (South Dakota State)

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	32	\$62.25M	27
QB	25	\$10.99M	5
OL	32	\$23.66M	32
RB	28	\$6.60M	24
WR	28	\$15.08M	30
TE	31	\$5.92M	22
All DEF	1	\$125.66M	16
DL	1	\$75.70M	19
LB	10	\$19.46M	16
СВ	24	\$17.02M	6
S	15	\$13.48M	24

PIT-2

before going 11-5 in his sophomore season and winning the Super Bowl.

While the Steelers did have the No. 1 defense in 2019 and are the most expensive defense in 2022, I don't believe the Steelers will have even a top five defense in 2022.

But offensively, unlike the Steelers from 2004 and 2005, this offense isn't suited at all to plug in an inexperienced quarterback and see immediate success.

Many teams with young quarterbacks on rookie deals will look to surround them with strong players to help take the burden off their shoulders.

Let's start up front, with a young quarterback's best friend – his offensive line.

When Roethlisberger was a rookie in 2004, the Steelers had three Pro Bowl offensive linemen, including two first-team All-Pros in Alan Faneca and Jeff Hartings. Every player on their starting offensive line played all 16 games and had the following years of experience headed into the season: Eight years, six years, six years, four years, and three years.

Before the 2021 season, in this book's chapter we predicted the Steelers' offensive line would be the worst in the NFL. They certainly were not 32nd in 2020, but we did not like the way they stacked up in 2021. Guess how they did in 2021? According to tracking data, they ranked 31st in Pass Block Win Rate and 30th in Run Block Win Rate. We were right. They were bad.

Four out of five starters on this offensive line are the same as last year's. In 2022, the Steelers currently will plan to start:

LT Dan Moore (rookie last year) - started 16 games

LG Kevin Dotson – started nine games

C Kendrick Green (rookie last year) - started 15 games

RG James Daniels - NEW

RT Chukwuma Okorafor - started 16 games

Our Rich Hribar evaluated the projected line as follows as part of team needs series before the draft:

"LT Dan Moore was second on the team in snaps played (1,147) on the

	2021 Passir	ng Performa	nce	Steelers
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
Ben Roet hlisberg er	49% 5.9 86.7	44% 6.5 87.6	36% 6.2 86.0	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	51%	64%	87%	
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%	
2	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	_
PIT	42% 3.4	49% 4.6	55% 3.2	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	49%	36%	13%	
NFL	48%	50%	53%	Success Rate

offensive line as a day three rookie. Moore played 99% of those snaps at left tackle and graded out as the 75th best tackle per Pro Football Focus, allowing a 6.9% pressure rate, which was nearly double that of the next highest player on the line.

41%

LG Kevin Dotson graded out as the 51st ranked guard last year after ranking 29th in 2020 and an ankle injury limited him to 9 games last year.

C Kendrick Green graded out 35th among 40 qualifying centers. If newly signed Mason Cole outproduces Green and winds up starting, he allowed a pressure rate of 8.1% last year, the highest rate among all centers with 100+ pass blocking snaps.



AVG

Run Rate

51%

			_	_ ~	_	Ш
2021 Weekly	EDSR &	Season	Trend	ing P	erform	<u>ance</u>
1 2 3 4 5 W L L W BUF LV CIN GB DEN A H H A H 7 -9 -14 -10 8 23 17 10 17 27 16 26 24 27 19	H A 3 5	W T ECHIDET H H 2 0 5 29 16	11 12 L L LAC CIN A A -4 -31 37 10 41 41	13 14 W L BAL MII H A 1 -8 20 28 19 36	W L N TEN KC H A B 6 -26 B 19 10	Н А

### **Records** WFFK **RESULT** OPP

All 2019 Wins: 9 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: 8-2 Score Games Win %: 80% (#2) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 89% (#3)

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

SITE MARGIN

PTS OPP PTS

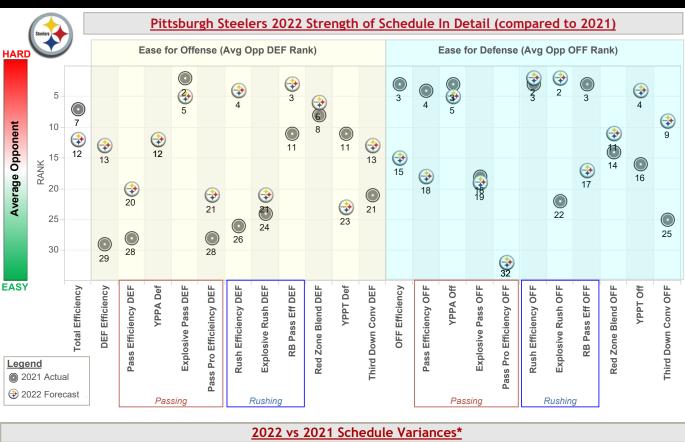
L=Red

# **Deciding Stats**

YPC

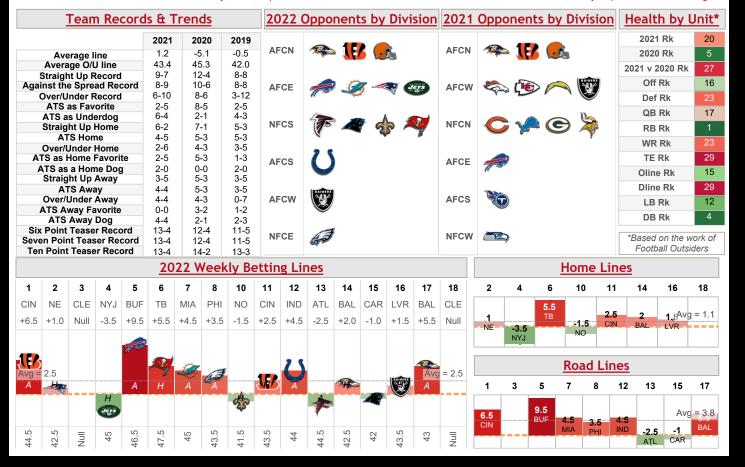
24%

Deciding Stats							
TO Margin	+2						
TO Given	20						
INT Given	11						
FUM Given	9						
TO Taken	22						
INT Taken	13						
FUM Taken	9						
Sack Margin	+17						
Sacks	55						
Sacks Allow	38						
Return TD Margin	+0						
Ret TDs	0						
Ret TDs Allow	0						
Penalty Margin	+17						
Penalties	106						
Opponent Penalties	123						



2022 vs 2021 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	
9	10	1	6	26	22	16	10	

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







RG James Daniels, formerly a Round 2 selection in the 2018 NFL draft by the Chicago Bears, is an upgrade over former RG Trai Turner.

RT Chukwuma Okorafor enters his fifth year in the NFL and graded out 64th out of 88 qualifying tackles (including 44th of 54 with 700+ blocking snaps)."

The experience on the line is four years, four years, two years, one year, and one year.

This is the cheapest offensive line in the NFL, with only \$23 million allocated to the 2022 cap for every signed offensive linemen. Look at how much less they are even compared to other cheap lines:

- 29. Seattle \$28.9 million
- 30 Miami \$27 4 million
- 31. Chicago \$27.3 million
- 32. Pittsburgh \$23.7 million

While the Steelers now have a quarterback on a rookie deal in Kenny Pickett, that's about all this offense has in common with the 2004 offense when Roethlisberger was a rookie.

Often, you get what you pay for. If the Steelers don't get a massive leap in production from Moore and Green in their second seasons, this offensive line will be close to where we predict their 2022 finish, and that's 30th in the NFL.

Next up is the most interesting aspect of the 2022 Steelers in my view: their running game.

I spent a lot of time talking about the running game in last year's book. That's because they selected **Najee Harris** in the first round, 24th overall, despite desperately needing offensive line help.

Before I get into what intrigues me the most, which is what the philosophical shift might be in the running rate for the 2022 Steelers, let's talk about 2021 RB production.

Last year, Steelers running backs on average were first contacted only 0.88 yards beyond the line of scrimmage. This ranked third-worst in the NFL.

Najee Harris personally averaged 0.93 yards before contact per rush.

Out of 43 running backs over the last two years with at least 200 rushes, Harris ranked 43rd. Dead last.

The Steelers' running backs also averaged only 3.7 YPC and a 33% success rate.

These ranked 29th and 28th in the NFL last year.

And this was despite the fact that they faced the third-lowest rate of 7+ man boxes.

The Steelers faced 7+ man boxes at just a 52.9% rate. For context, the league average was 73.4%. Run-heavy teams like the 49ers and Titans ranked first and second at 88.2% and 83.9%, respectively.

The Steelers (30th in rate of 7+ man boxes) were down near teams like the Cardinals (31st), Chiefs (29th), Rams (28th), Seahawks (27th), Bucs (26th), and Bills (25th). Teams with veteran quarterbacks who pass at a pretty high rate. Defenses drop more defenders back against such teams. Teams would rather Patrick Mahomes, Josh Allen, Tom Brady, etc. hand the ball off.

Look where these teams ranked in yards before contact per rush:

KC: second in yds/before contact after 29th in 7+ man box % SEA: third in yds/before contact after 27th in 7+ man box % LAR: eighth in yds/before contact after 28th in 7+ man box % ARI: 12th in yds/before contact after 31st in 7+ man box %

(cont'd - see PIT-4)

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 n 3

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Pittsburgh Steelers Ranking vs NFL Average

Short Week Road Games Games off Road SNF/MNF

Net Rest Edge Rank	Ргер капк	Rest Rank	Rank	Rank	negated Bye Rank
23	13	18	22	21	1

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- The Steelers were benefactors of a great record in close games in 2022 which will be difficult to repeat. In games decided by a field goal or less the Steelers were 4-0-1 and 8-2-1 in one-score games. Regression can be expected in both defensive third down efficiency and field goal luck. Chris Boswell ranked fifth, making 3.3 field goals over expectation and the defense finished seventh-best in third down over expectation.
- The Steelers, for the second consecutive year, play the fourth-most difficult schedule. Adding to the difficulty in 2022 is an extra road game for the AFC team, which has two short week road games. All three division opponents are projected to win 9 or more games.
- The offensive line, which was a problem last year, is likely to be a problem this year as well. The offensive line finished 31st in Pass Block Win Rate, 30th in Run Block Win Rate, and 28th in adjusted line yards. Despite the clear struggles on the offensive line only minor upgrades were made in free agency. Regardless of who plays at quarterback quick decision-making will be required.

# 7.5



### Why Bet the Over

- Whether Mitch Trubisky or Kenny Pickett starts at quarterback for the offense neither will be a downgrade from last year. Roethlisberger clearly lacked the ability to move the ball downfield and the offense was very predictable with short passes. The Steelers' passing attack was seventh-lowest in EPA/DB and sixth-worst in overall success rate including third worst on first downs and when targeting wide receivers. With solid depth at receiver, this passing offense is likely to take a step forward in 2022.
- Mike Tomlin continues to get the most out of his team year
  after year. Despite the quarterback inabilities the Steelers made
  the playoffs and continued Tomlin's streak of 15 consecutive
  seasons without a losing record. The Steelers also added Brian
  Flores to the defensive coaching staff. Tomlin appears to be a
  coach that players respect and play hard for and that should
  continue in 2022.
- The offensive line is the clear weakness of the team and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger did himself no favors in lining up in shotgun and rarely using pre-snap motion or play-action.
   The offense will benefit from a significant increase in pre-snap motion and play-action passes as well as a quarterback with increased mobility.

# Pittsburgh Steelers Positional Unit Rankings Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach 29 30 13 20 7 22 6

Pittsburgh's average unit rank is 18.1, which lands the Steelers 21st overall — but this is one of just four rosters ranked in the bottom 10 at quarterback and offensive line, a rough combination. The Steelers are one of four teams that ranked in the bottom five on every ballot at quarterback. Maybe **Kenny Pickett** can develop into a quality starter, but our rankings are focused solely on expected production in 2022.

Najee Harris lived up to expectations and did as well as could be expected behind Pittsburgh's offensive line. If there were any trustworthy depth behind him, this could be a top-10 unit. Benny Snell Jr. has picked up 10 or more yards on just 6.7% of his career carries — the third-worst rate over the last three seasons. If Harris were to get injured, this unit would plummet to the bottom.

Steelers' receivers caught 68% of their catchable targets on throws 10 or more yards downfield, the league's third-lowest rate. We've seen flashes of high-level production from **Diontae Johnson** and **Chase Claypool**, but the consistency just isn't there to justify a top-10 ranking — they combined for 15 drops last year.

Pittsburgh's offensive line provided three or more rushing yards before contact at the league's second-lowest rate. In terms of pass protection, Ben Roethlisberger's ability to anticipate blitzes and get the ball out quickly covered up a lot of warts. With either **Mitchell Trubisky** or Pickett at quarterback, this unit will look even worse this season.

T.J. Watt alone is reason to rank the Steelers' front seven near the top of the league. However, it's worth noting just how much the team relies on Watt. When he was on the field, Pittsburgh allowed 5.2 yards per play, and 6.2 yards per play without him. If this unit underperforms, a lack of depth will be the reason. Mike Tomlin ranked in the top 10 on every ballot. His leadership traits are undeniable, and that holds value in the locker room. On the field, however, there are some questions. For example, why did a team with abysmal offensive line play increase its first-down run rate in a one-score game from 43% in 2020 to 56% in 2021?

### <u>PIT-4</u>

BUF: 10th in yds/before contact after 25th in 7+ man box % TB: 16th in yds/before contact after 26th in 7+ man box %

Compare these to the Steelers:

PIT: 30th in yds/before contact after 30th in 7+ man box %

These two things don't go together. They're opposites. Teams that see loaded boxes often shouldn't get many yards before contact. Teams that see light boxes should see a lot of yards before contact.

Not the Steelers.

We'll keep talking about rushing efficiency, but for a moment, think about what this means for the 2022 season.

With Roethlisberger and a high pass rate, defenses played with light boxes often and the Steelers couldn't run worth a lick.

What do you think happens with either Mitch Trubisky or Kenny Pickett?

### <u>PIT-5</u>

Do you think it's possible the Steelers increase their run rate? Because I do (more on this later).

Do you think it's possible that defenses stop sagging off to stop the pass given a worse quarterback and a lower pass rate? Because I do.

And if the Steelers couldn't run vs light boxes, imagine what happens when defenses play them more traditionally in 2022?

### Not great.

I haven't even mentioned the 2022 schedule. Last year the run defenses Pittsburgh faced were easier than average. The Steelers still couldn't run the ball. This year I forecast the Steelers will play the NFL's third toughest schedule of run defenses.

### Not great.

Getting back to 2021, only 18% of the Steelers runs saw three or more yards before contact. This ranked 31st in the NFL. Pittsburgh gained first downs on 18.7% of run plays, which ranked 29th in the NFL.

In watching film for research on the Steelers, I watched the narrow two-point win over the Bears in Week 9. I noticed the Steelers fell short on several critical third and short rushes. To be precise, runs inside the Bears' 40-yard line, on three separate drives the Steelers handed the ball to Najee Harris:

Q1, CHI 27, 3&1: (:50) 22-N.Harris left tackle to CHI 27 for no gain (6-D.Trevathan; 58-R.Smith)

Q3, CHI 24, 3&1: (5:34) 22-N. Harris right guard to CHI 24 for no gain (91-E.Goldman, 59-C.Marsh)

Q4, CHI 36, 3&1: (12:45) 22-N.Harris left guard to CHI 36 for no gain (33-Ja.Johnson, 91-E.Goldman)

(cont'd - see PIT-6)

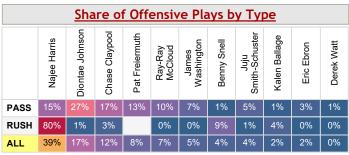


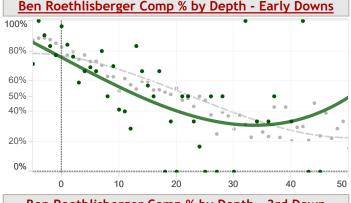
# 

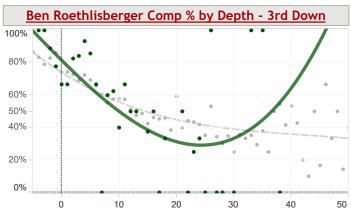


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>									
Ste	oler Control of the C	Being Blown Out (14+) Down Big (9-13)		One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)			
	Najee Harris	17%	5%	71%	6%	1%			
	Diontae Johnson		20%	80%					
	Chase Claypool	7%	7%	79%	7%				
	Ray-Ray McCloud			100%					
Į	James Washington			50%	50%				
RUSH	Benny Snell	21%	5%	68%	5%				
œ	Juju Smith-Schuster			100%					
	Kalen Ballage	38%		50%	13%				
	Eric Ebron				100%				
	Derek Watt			100%					
	Total	17%	5%	71%	7%	1%			
	Najee Harris	38%	13%	45%	4%	1%			
	Diontae Johnson	23%	8%	64%	4%	1%			
	Chase Claypool	27%	7%	62%	3%	2%			
	Pat Freiermuth	15%	10%	67%	6%	2%			
	Ray-Ray McCloud	26%	3%	65%	6%				
PASS	James Washington	36%	9%	53%	2%				
Δ	Benny Snell	50%	17%	33%					
	Juju Smith-Schuster	25%	11%	64%					
	Kalen Ballage	29%		71%					
	Eric Ebron	28%	11%	56%	6%				
	Derek Watt			75%		25%			
	Total	27%	8%	60%	4%	1%			







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

### 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary



### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	44%, -0.08 (652)	41%, -0.16 (96)	29%, -0.02 (7)	67%, 0.01 (3)	50%, -0.33 (4)	50%, 0.15 (8)	0%, -3.20 (1)	100%, 0.82 (1)	43%, -0.09 (777)
RUSH	47%, -0.10 (272)	50%, 0.03 (105)	33%, -0.05 (30)	38%, -0.01 (21)	33%, -0.37 (9)				47%, -0.07 (444)
All	45%, -0.08 (924)	46%, -0.06 (201)	32%, -0.05 (37)	42%, -0.01 (24)	38%, -0.36 (13)	50%, 0.15 (8)	0%, -3.20 (1)	100%, 0.82 (1)	45%, -0.08 (1,221)

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				
WR	Diontae Johnson	48% (169) 6.9, 0.10	48% (23) 4.8, 0.14	100% (1) 18.0, 1.80		48% (193) 6.7, 0.11				
	Chase Claypool	42% (96) 8.6, 0.05	50% (14) 4.9, -0.57	0% (2) 2.5, -0.55	100% (1) 5.0, 0.05	42% (113) 8.0, -0.03				
	Ray-Ray McCloud	36% (67) 4.6, -0.17		100% (1) 8.0, 0.44		37% (68) 4.6, -0.16				
	James Washington	40% (45) 6.8, -0.20	0% (2) 0.0, -0.60	50% (2) 8.5, -0.01		39% (49) 6.6, -0.21				
	JuJu Smith- Schuster	37% (30) 4.1, -0.18	50% (2) 3.0, -0.77	100% (1) 5.0, 0.82		39% (33) 4.1, -0.18				
TE	Pat Freiermuth	56% (68) 6.8, 0.20	56% (18) 4.6, 0.45			56% (86) 6.3, 0.25				
RB	Najee Harris	51% (81) 5.1, -0.06	40% (15) 4.9, -0.24	0% (1) 0.0, -0.70	100% (1) 6.0, 0.16	49% (98) 5.0, -0.09				

Rushin	Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)							
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total			
Harris	46% (209)	54% (83)	50% (14)	31% (16)	48% (322)			
Najee	3.7, -0.13	4.1, 0.03	5.5, 0.18	2.9, -0.06	3.9, -0.07			
Snell	45% (29)	0% (6)	33% (3)	50% (2)	38% (40)			
Benny	3.6, -0.22	1.5, -0.27	2.3, -0.14	3.0, -0.20	3.2, -0.22			
Rudolph	100% (2)	0% (1)	0% (1)		50% (4)			
Mason	14.0, 1.39	0.0, -2.39	-1.0, -0.79		6.8, -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

_	sing by	Pass	ing by	Throw	Throw Types (		QB Drop Types		QB State at Pass			Run Types		
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	48% (558) 5.4, -0.01	3 Step 44% (378) 6.5, 0.03		Planted		% (608) 3, 0.04	Inside Zone	59% (136) 4.6, 0.06		
	270/ (420)	Out	57% (82) 6.5, 0.16			0/1 Step	45% (142) 5.0. 0.04	Shuffling		3% (69) 8, -0.02	Outside	39% (108)		
Zone	37% (432) 6.3, -0.09	Curl	49% (71)	Level 2	48% (107) 9.6, 0.34	5% (107)		Moving		1% (57) 8, -0.39	Zone	3.6, -0.08		
		Cuii	5.7, 0.00		23% (53)	5 Step	51% (67) 7.8, 0.01		Play Actio		Power	36% (33) 2.1, -0.35		
Man	36% (189) 6.2, -0.21	Slant	51% (57) 6.8, 0.14	Level 3	7.4, -0.45	Designed Rollout Right	50% (38) 5.9, -0.24		Play Action	No P/A	Pitch	46% (26) 2.9, -0.32		
	0.2, 0.2.	Drag	36% (39)	Shovel	50% (4) 5.3, 0.04		40% (15)	Under Center	53% (53) 8.2, 0.07	31% (13) 2.0, -1.00		20% (5)		
	40% (39)	Diag	4.4, -0.23		3.3, 0.04	Basic Screen	3.1, -0.33	Shotgun	44% (100) 6.3, 0.03	43% (611) 5.9, -0.10	Stretch	0.4, -0.57		
Other	3.3, 0.00	Dig	48% (23) 6.7, 0.14	Sidearm	67% (3) 7.3, 0.34	7 Step	78% (9) 8.2, 0.52	ALL	47% (153) 6.9, 0.04	42% (624) 5.9, -0.12	Lead	50% (4) 1.3, -0.04		

McFarland Jr. Anthony

### <u>PIT-6</u>

The Steelers eventually converted the first drive on fourth-and-1 and later scored a touchdown. They did similarly on the second drive on fourth-and-1, converting the carry and scoring later scoring a touchdown. The Steelers kicked and made a 54-yard field goal on fourth-and-1 on the third drive.

They went 0-for-3 on these third and short runs but still were able to walk away with 17 points on the three drives. This was only because they played the hapless, 6-11 Chicago Bears. Play another team, and they likely are not faring as well. Pittsburgh won by two points despite losing the EDSR battle, thanks to winning the turnover battle and going 3-3 in the red zone, while the Bears went 2-4 in the red zone, including 0-2 in goal-to-go situations.

So the Steelers were bad in short yardage against the Bears, converting only two of eight third downs of three or less yards to go, but were they bad all season?

Actually no, the Steelers converted at a 67.2% rate on third-and-3 or less, which ranked sixth in the NFL. However, that was primarily when passing.

On third-and-3 or less:

Passes: 70% conversion, third Rushes: 62% conversions, 20th

Najee Harris specifically went 11-of-18 (61%).

The reason the Steelers were able to convert short-yardage at the sixth-best rate in the NFL was because of two reasons:

- A) they passed the ball at the fourth-highest rate in the NFL on these plays (64%)
- B) they ranked third in passing conversion rate at 70%





That's it

So once again, think about what this means for the 2022 season.

Do you think it's possible the Steelers increase their run rate? Because I do.

Do you think it's possible that defenses play the run more and drop the Steelers from 20th in third down conversion rate to something even lower? Because I

And if the Steelers struggled to run when they were a pass-first team at the fourth-highest rate last year, how do you think that translates into their ability to run in these short-yardage situations this year, against the third-toughest schedule of run defenses?

Not great.

Short yardage conversions are even more important for the Steelers than for other teams because of how their offense has been, at least the last couple of years.

Pittsburgh ranked 29th in EDSR last year after ranking 31st in 2020.

22.1% of the Steelers' plays were third downs last year after 22.6% were third downs in 2020.

Collectively, that ranks highest in the NFL. You don't want a lot of plays to be third downs as it means you were forced into them often. You want to bypass third downs.

The Steelers picked up first downs on early downs at just a 21.8% clip in 2021 after doing so at a 22.7% clip in 2020.

Collectively, that ranks lowest in the NFL. You want to convert first and second downs into first downs. If you don't, it means you were forced into third downs often.

By any of these three metrics (EDSR, third down play percentage, or first down percentage on early downs) the Steelers were the worst team in the NFL.

This means no team faces third downs like the Steelers. No one.

So it's not surprising that the Steelers, in the first half of games last year, ranked:

31st in points/drive 31st in touchdowns/drive 31st in scores/drive 31st in red zone trips/drive

(cont'd - see PIT-8)

### Immediate Impact of Pittsburgh Steelers 2021 Draft Class

Drafting out of need and desperation is a risky approach, but apparently, Kevin Colbert decided to test out the strategy in his final draft in Pittsburgh. **Kenny Pickett** (first round) was never in the early-round draft discussion until 2021 — when he was a 23-year-old fourth-year starter in the ACC. And yet, despite all that experience, there were still obvious flaws to his game. Pickett ranked 52nd in the nation in boom-bust ratio under pressure (ratio of plays generating at least +1 EPA to -1 EPA or worse) at .51 — a concerning rate as a veteran on a conference championship team. It's difficult to envision Pickett making a smooth transition to the NFL behind the Steelers' porous offensive line. It's equally hard to identify any elite traits which would make Pittsburgh believe Pickett has the developmental upside to turn into a franchise quarterback down the road.

George Pickens (second round) also fills an immediate need at receiver, but comes with significant injury concerns. Pickens returned from an ACL injury late in the 2021 season, but was clearly not himself. There are also concerns about Pickens's maturity, relating to multiple on-field incidents and a suspension. The combination of injury and maturity issues is a risky gamble for a rebuilding team to take, though Mike Tomlin certainly has a strong track record of dealing with difficult personalities. Pickens generated a catch rate 8.7% above expected based on route-adjusted data, so if he returns to full health, he will help the Steelers receiving corps and likely challenge for snaps on the outside immediately.

**DeMarvin Leal** (third round) was another injury/character risk. The versatile defensive lineman is a former five-star recruit, but has a torn meniscus in his past and was arrested on marijuana charges in December. Discipline on the field is also an issue for Leal, as he led the Texas A&M defense in penalties in 2021 — a concerning stat for a three-year starter. However, the 6-foot-4, 283-pound Leal is a strong fit at defensive end in the Steelers defense, which typically employs a three-man front. In 2021, 73% of Leal's snaps came at defensive end in a three-man front for the Aggies. The unexpected retirement of **Stephon Tuitt** creates an immediate opportunity for Leal.

Calvin Austin III (third round) is an undersized but explosive gadget weapon, who Pittsburgh hopes will have more success than Dri Archer, their 2014 third-round pick who was supposed to fit that same role. Based on route-adjusted data, Austin generated 28% more yards after catch than expected. Pittsburgh ranked 26th in yards after catch per reception in 2021, so Austin will add a new dynamic to the receiving corps. It's difficult to imagine the Steelers selecting Connor Heyward (sixth round) if he weren't the younger brother of longtime Steelers defensive lineman Cameron Heyward. The 5-foot-11 Heyward played running back early in his career, but shifted to tight end after Kenneth Walker III transferred to Michigan State in 2021. He lacks the athleticism to play either position in the pros and, in reality, he's a fullback — a position with almost no value in today's game and the Steelers already have Derek Watt for the five or so snaps per game in which they utilize the position.

Chris Oladokun (seventh round) surprisingly generated a lot of buzz as a developmental quarterback prospect leading up to the draft. He started his career as a backup at South Florida, transferred to Samford (where he lost out on the starting job in 2020) and then spent one season at South Dakota State. Oladokun will be a 25-year-old rookie, so it's tough to buy in despite some interesting athletic traits and success as a runner.

This was a rough draft class for Pittsburgh and a disappointing end to a long and successful tenure for Colbert. In a division with Lamar Jackson, Joe Burrow, and Deshaun Watson, do the Steelers really think Pickett gives them a chance to compete? Following up the Pickett selection with injury/maturity risk prospects further drags down this class. It's easy to see a potential path to success for both Pickens and Leal, who were once elite high school recruits, but drafting both adds too much unnecessary risk to the draft haul. Considering the other talent in the division, this class could potentially lock Pittsburgh in the cellar of the AFC North for the foreseeable future.



Yards to Go

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Total

### Pittsburgh Steelers 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Steelers closed the season 25th in the league in expected points added via their passing offense (15.2 EPA). Forced to run a shallow passing game, Pittsburgh was 30th in yards per pass attempt (6.0 yards) ahead of only the Panthers and Giants. With the retirement of Ben Roethlisberger, the Steelers are on to the next phase in attempting to find their next franchise quarterback. In free agency, the team went out and signed Mitchell Trubisky as an option to compete to start short-term while using their first-round draft pick (No. 20 overall) to select Kenny Pickett. Both Trubisky and Pickett offer the athleticism to run the offense the way Matt Canada wants, with the use of bootlegs, motion, and play-action passing, but both also have a lot to prove as ceiling options in the NFL.

			2021 St	andarc	l Passin	g Table				
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Ben Roethlisberger	419	647	65%	3,955	6.1	24	10	40	87	29
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

### 2021 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ Air 30+ Yd 20+ Yd Success **Passing** 20+ Air QΒ **Pass Pass** Yds per YAC per Υd Success Pass % Pass % Yd % Gains Gains Comp Comp Comp % Ben Roethlisberger 43% 40 6.0% 16 2.0% 5.0 46% 4.6 46% 50% 34.1 8.8% 5.3 12.5 3.1% 5.6 NFL Avg

0.0%

0.9%

3rd Down I	assing	- Short	of Stic	ks Anal	<u>ysis</u>
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk
Ben Roethlisberger	7.4	7.9	0.3	57%	29
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%	

50 40

30

20

10

0 -10

Pass Distance (in air)

3rd Down F	own Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis Air Yds vs YAC							
	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk
Roethlisberger	7.4	7.9	0.3	57%	29	48%	52%	36
Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%		53%	47%	

### 0.0% 2.4% 1.7% 0.0% 2.0% 0.0% 1.8% 1.8% 0.0% 4.4% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 1.7% 0.9% 1.9% 0.0% 1.5% 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

0.0%

1.8%

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

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

Only the Bills and Rams targeted their wide receivers more times per game than the Steelers did
in 2021 (24.5 targets). Despite the high volume, the nature of the Pittsburgh offense limited the
wideouts to ranking 12th in yardage per game (162.9 yards), 22nd in success rate per target
(52%), and 29th in yards per target (7.0). <b>Diontae Johnson</b> had another strong season, catching
107 passes for 1,161 yards and eight touchdowns. Chase Claypool remained stagnant to his
rookie efficiency, posting nearly identical catch rate (56.2%), yards per catch (14.6), and yardage
per game (57.3 yards). Pittsburgh added rookie George Pickens to the fold in the second round,
giving the Steelers a viable quartet of pass catchers paired with <b>Naige Harris</b> out of the backfield

0.0%

0.0%

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Diontae Johnson	179	63%	6.7	91.8	47%	102	88	68	85	9
Chase Claypool	112	55%	7.8	75.5	43%	125	122	23	127	2
Najee Harris	96	79%	4.9	97.3	48%	98	93	134	15	3
Pat Freiermuth	84	76%	6.2	119.2	56%	38	66	129	11	7
Ray-Ray McCloud	68	60%	4.5	59.0	37%	135	113	121	10	0

### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Steelers selected Najee Harris with the 24th overall pick in last year's draft and leaned on him to carry the backfield right out of the packaging. Harris rushed 307 times for 1,200 yards and seven touchdowns as a rookie, playing behind an offensive line that performed as poorly as expected entering the season. They ended the year 30th in the league in ESPN's Run Block Win Rate (67%) while Pro Football Focus also had them at the bottom of team run blocking grade (26th). A true workhorse as a rookie, the next closest back to Harris in carries was Benny Snell with just 36 totes. Pittsburgh has attempted to patch their leaky line with just one major addition, adding James Daniels from the Bears. Daniels is an upgrade, grading out as the 19th best guard per Pro Football Focus while last year's starting right guard Trai Turner was 31st.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs	
Najee Harris	319	3.9	47%	64	43	13	80	46%	66	7	

### **Diontae Johnson Chase Claypool Target Distribution Target Distribution**

**Target** 

**Distribution** 

Ben Roethlisberger Rating **Early Downs** 

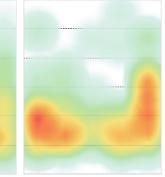
91

96

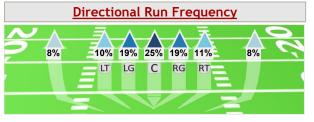
30

**Postive** 

Play %







### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis





The Steelers carried no secrets this offseason that they were after a young quarterback at pick 20 and they kept **Kenny Pickett** in Pittsburgh as the only quarterback selected in the first round. Though four years at Pitt, Pickett posted pedestrian output, never having a season with a higher completion rate than 61.6%, a higher yards per attempt than 7.7 Y/A, or more passing touchdowns than 13. Then in 2021, Pickett spiked for a 67.2% completion rate, 8.7 Y/A, and 42 touchdowns through the air. Pickett is also another modern passer that isn't a zero in the run game, rushing for 801 yards and 20 touchdowns over his career.

His mobility is something the Steelers and Matt Canada desire to make this offense work as intended. Something they could not do with Ben Roethlisberger. Only Tampa Bay had fewer dropbacks outside of the pocket than the Steelers in 2021. Roethlisberger also used play-action on just 18.5% of his dropbacks, 36th in the league, while Roethlisberger was fourth in the league in dropbacks using shotgun.

Pittsburgh did add **Mitchell Trubisky** this offseason, but Trubisky only carries a dead cap hit of \$2.6 million in 2023 if the Steelers need to move on, while his \$10.6 million cap hit overall in 2023 is palatable for a backup behind a quarterback on a rookie contract. Expect Pickett to immediately compete with Trubisky to start the season while it won't be long for him to get his actual opportunity to be the next Steelers quarterback attempting to fill the shoes of Roethlisberger.

For fantasy, Pickett vaults to the top of the class for dynasty since he was the only rookie passer selected in the first round but is still a lower-end QB2/QB3 for 2022. Having attachment to a rookie passer is always questionable for fantasy wideouts. Even with how Roethlisberger played a year ago, there is added fragility to the outcomes for **Diontae Johnson** and **Chase Claypool**.

After jumping to WR22 in points per game in 2020, Johnson reached WR9 in that department in his third season, catching 107 passes for 1,161 yards and eight touchdowns. Johnson has amassed a gaudy 313 targets over the past two seasons. While some of the overall girth of targets can be credited to the limitations of the Pittsburgh offense and late-career Roethlisberger, Johnson is one of the league's best wide receivers at getting open on his own merit as well. There absolutely is a non-zero outcome where Johnson can still improve in terms of target quality, but he is more volatile than the previous floor-based reception versions of the previous two seasons. Claypool did not take the step many had hoped in Year 2, especially not after the Steelers lost **JuJu-Smith Schuster** so early in the season. Claypool's lack of sophomore jump was not entirely Roethlisberger related, which is what makes him an intriguing case moving forward. Claypool has struggled to separate through two years in the league and has struggled to win in contested catch situations, which is a combustible combination. 37.7% of Claypool's targets last season were contested catches, which was sixth in the league. He secured 17-of-41 (41.5%), which was 27th out of 35 wide receivers with 20 or more contested targets. Claypool's rookie season touchdown total and production are more than enough to keep the lights on with a new quarterback while he still has two affordable years left on his rookie contract.

Pitts	sburgh Steeler	s Defense: Nur	nber of DBs vs	Personnel	Def Tendencies			Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total		0/	D.	50		
1-1 [3WR]	40 plays (8%) Success: 55%	292 plays (60%) Success: 46%	151 plays <i>(31%)</i> Success: 38%	483 plays (100%) Success: 44%		% Rk		40		
	EPA: -0.01	EPA: -0.05	EPA: 0.06	EPA: -0.01	Base	32%	6			
1-2 [2WR]	59 plays (60%) Success: 46%	33 plays (33%) Success: 45%	7 plays (7%) Success: 14%	99 plays (100%) Success: 43%	Nickel	46%	30	30		
	EPA: -0.17	EPA: -0.02	EPA: -0.75	EPA: -0.16	Dime+	17%	12			
2-1 [2WR]	24 plays (75%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.24	7 plays <i>(22%)</i> Success: 71% EPA: 0.54	1 plays <i>(3%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.59	32 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 56% EPA: 0.28	Rush 3	3%	22	20 -		
			2171. 0.00		Rush 4	73%	10	10 –		
1-3 [1WR]	19 plays (76%) Success: 42% EPA: -0.10	6 plays <i>(24%)</i> Success: 83% EPA: 0.53		25 plays (100%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.05	Rush 5	18%	18	10-		
	142 plays (22%)	338 plays (53%)	159 plays (25%)	639 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	6%	12	0		
Grand Total	Success: 49% EPA: -0.05	Success: 47% EPA: -0.02	Success: 37% EPA: 0.02	Success: 45% EPA: -0.02	Blitz%	24%	19	-10		

### **Defensive Outlook**

Cameron Heyward is still running strong heading into Year 12. Heyward was ninth among interior defenders in pressure rate, per SIS. Heyward had two fewer quarterback hits than he did in 2020 but picked up six more sacks. Heyward signed a four-year extension in 2020 that has him under contract through 2024 and age 35. He'll be joined by Larry Ogunjobi, who had 16 quarterback hits for the Bengals last season. Stephon Tuitt's retirement in June leaves some depth questions. Chris Wormley exploded with seven sacks but that came on only 10 quarterback hits. He didn't have a high pressure rate (52nd among interior defenders) but he was a presence in the backfield with six tackles for loss. Tyson Alualu had an under-the-radar dominant 2020 but only made it through two games in 2021.

On the edge, **T.J. Watt** was fifth in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and second among edge rushers in pressure rate, per SIS — first if you remove Micah Parsons. He had a league-leading 22.5 sacks and 21 tackles for loss. **Alex Highsmith** had his shot at stepping in as the No. 2 pass rusher and there were some promising results. Highsmith was 37th among edge rushers in pressure rate and he managed 15 quarterback hits. He was two years remaining on his rookie deal. **Genard Avery** has bounced between EDGE and off-ball linebacker and given the depth charts of the two positions, he's in line to rush the passer a bit more with Pittsburgh. He did that on 49% of his pass snaps with the Eagles last season.

**Devin Bush** hasn't lived up to his first-round draft pick pedigree. Coming off an injury that cost him most of the 2020 season, he was 59th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. The Steelers brought in **Myles Jack** after he was released by the Jaguars. Jack was 38th in yards allowed per coverage snap and does have more sideline-to-sideline juice against the run than Bush. He signed for a two-year deal but with an \$11.25 million cap hit in 2023, he'd have to play extremely well for the Steelers to not cut bait and open up \$8 million in cap space after 2022.

Cameron Sutton ranked 56th among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. He bounced around behind playing outside and in the slot — he led the team in coverage snaps at both places. The second cornerback spot will go to Levi Wallace, one of the most underrated free agents signing this offseason. Wallace played incredibly well with the Buffalo Bills and was 10th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. Ahkello Witherspoon only played 31.6% of the defensive snaps but he flashed when he was on the field with easily the lowest Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap while he was the most targeted corner on a per-snap basis. He re-signed for two more years through 2024.

Minkah Fitzpatrick didn't have the same turnover magic as he displayed in his first two seasons with the Steelers. He was much more of a clean-up tackler than an impact defender in the secondary. How his play shifts in 2022 will be big because this will be the final year of his contract. **Terrell Edmunds** is back on a one-year deal after his fifth-year option was declined. **Tre Norwood**, a 2021 seventh-round pick, could be the name to watch here. He played 33% of the defensive snaps and has experience covering in the slot. He had four passes defensed in his limited time as a rookie.

Play Tenden	<u>cies</u>
All Pass %	62%
All Pass Rk	6
All Rush %	38%
All Rush Rk	27
1 Score Pass %	60%
1 Score Pass Rk	8
2020 1 Score Pass %	66%
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	1
2021 Pass Increase %	-6%
Pass Increase Rk	28
1 Score Rush %	40%
1 Score Rush Rk	25
Up Pass %	60%
Up Pass Rk	8
Up Rush %	40%
Up Rush Rk	25
Down Pass %	65%
Down Pass Rk	6
Down Rush %	35%
Down Rush Rk	27

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	<u>e Ten</u>	<u>denci</u>	<u>es</u>
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %
1st	Short (1-3)	2	0%	100%	0%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	13	54%	46%	54%
	Long (8-10)	327	48%	52%	45%
	XL (11+)	9	44%	56%	33%
2nd	Short (1-3)	25	44%	56%	72%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	105	57%	43%	51%
	Long (8-10)	110	67%	33%	37%
	XL (11+)	39	72%	28%	21%
3rd	Short (1-3)	49	67%	33%	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	58	98%	2%	38%
	Long (8-10)	44	98%	2%	25%
	XL (11+)	31	97%	3%	6%
4th	Short (1-3)	6	17%	83%	67%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	4	75%	25%	25%
	Long (8-10)	2	100%	0%	50%

Shotgun %						
Shotgun Under Center						
76%	24%					
NFL AVG						
65%	35%					



### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

0070	0070			
Efficiency				
EPA/ pass: -0.11	EPA/ pass: -0.21			
EPA/ rush: -0.08	EPA/ rush: -0.10			
Success: 37%	Success: 34%			

2nd and Short Run					
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg	
44%	32	71%	43%	73%	

<b>2nd and Short Pass</b>					
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NF 1D Avg	
56%	1	29%	33%	46%	

Most Frequent Play					
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Najee Harris	2	0%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Najee Harris	5	80%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Najee Harris	128	44%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Najee Harris	3	33%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Najee Harris	11	73%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Najee Harris	38	63%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Najee Harris	29	41%
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Najee Harris	9	11%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Najee Harris	12	58%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Diontae Johnson	12	42%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Diontae Johnson	12	42%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Diontae Johnson	5	20%
			Chase Claypool	5	20%
			Pat Freiermuth	5	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: 44%	Success: 64%	Success: 46%			
	YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.12	YPA: 8.9, EPA: 0.32	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.06			
	Rtg: 80.0	Rtg: 96.0	Rtg: 82.3			
	[Att: 142 - Rate: 18.3%]	[Att: 22 - Rate: 2.8%]	[Att: 164 - Rate: 21.1%]			
Yes	Success: 42%	Success: 44%	Success: 43%			
	YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.12	YPA: 6.5, EPA: -0.01	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.10			
	Rtg: 88.1	Rtg: 91.8	Rtg: 88.9			
	[Att: 482 - Rate: 62.0%]	[Att: 131 - Rate: 16.9%]	[Att: 613 - Rate: 78.9%]			
Total	Success: 42%	Success: 47%	Success: 43%			
	YPA: 5.9, EPA: -0.12	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.04	YPA: 6.1, EPA: -0.09			
	Rtg: 86.3	Rtg: 92.5	Rtg: 87.5			
	[Att: 624 - Rate: 80.3%]	[Att: 153 - Rate: 19.7%]	[Att: 777 - Rate: 100.0%]			

	Weekly Snaps Played								
Wk	Орр	Score	Diontae Johnson	Najee Harris	Chase Claypool	Pat Freiermuth	Ray-Ray McCloud	James Washington	Zach Gentry
1	BUF	W 23-16	44	58	39	29	3	15	16
2	LV	L 26-17	49	53	43	33	1	12	8
3	CIN	L 24-10		79	76	30	47	66	17
4	GB	L 27-17	55	48		32	4	49	11
5	DEN	W 27-19	60	42	36	32	34		22
6	SEA	W 23-20	69	63	63	45	52	8	23
8	CLE	W 15-10	68	62	72	58	11	34	45
9	CHI	W 29-27	65	59	58	51	26	41	37
10	DET	T 16-16	74	76		54	61	76	30
11	LAC	L 41-37	63	52	63	39	15	46	15
12	CIN	L 41-10	61	36	61	47		27	22
13	BAL	W 20-19	57	58	38	44	40	22	30
14	MIN	L 36-28	72	71	44	55	63	30	26
15	TEN	W 19-13	48	49	31	22	33	17	37
16	KC	L 36-10	65	56	59		45	22	49
17	CLE	W 26-14	72	78	71	62	53	15	41
18	BAL	W 16-13	65	40	69	50	50		44
	Grand	Total	987	980	823	683	538	480	473

Personnel Groupings					
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %		
1-1 [3WR]	74%	61%	44%		
1-2 [2WR]	17%	21%	46%		
2-2 [1WR]	3%	3%	33%		
2-1 [2WR]	2%	7%	42%		
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. %	Run Succ. %		

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard				
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Diontae Johnson	24	6	4	14
Pat Freiermuth	20	6	3	11
Chase Claypool	14	4	3	7
Najee Harris	14	3	3	8
Zach Gentry	6	1	2	3
Eric Ebron	3	1	1	1

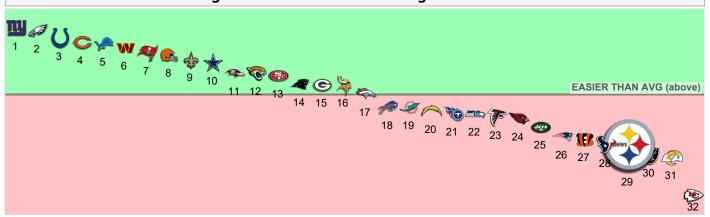
Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard				
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Najee Harris	29	11	6	12
Benny Snell	2			2
Chase Claypool	2	2		
Null	1			1
Eric Ebron	1	1		
Juju Smith-Schuster	1	1		
Ray-Ray McCloud	1			1

Early D	own Targ	<u>et Rate</u>
RB	TE	WR
26%	19%	54%
23%	21%	56%
	NFL AVG	
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %
Overall RB		ICCESS %
	Target Su	





### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



As a result, they ranked second in most punts/drive.

We know the limitations of Ben Roethlisberger the last couple of years. It was bad, particularly in 2021. Out of 34 quarterbacks with at least 200 attempts last year, Roethlisberger ranked 32nd in target depth, throwing the ball just 6.7 yards downfield on average.

When he did throw the ball downfield, even if it was 10 or more yards, he was among the worst in the NFL. On passes 10+ yards downfield, Roethlisberger ranked 29th in EPA/att and 32nd in success rate.

I think many are hoping that without the limitations from Roethlisberger's downfield game, Offensive Coordinator Matt Canada will attack more downfield. He probably will. But I don't know that he'll do it even at a league-average rate.

Let's back up to what I think will be the most intriguing aspect of the Steelers offense in 2022, which is what the philosophical shift might be in running rate.

For years with Randy Fichtner as offensive coordinator, the Steelers were one of the most pass-heavy offenses in the NFL. Their pass rate on early downs in the first three quarters, by year:

2018: first (65%)

2019: fifth (70%)\* only 1.5 games -> Big Ben then injured

2020: sixth (61%)

Prior to Fichtner's tenure, with Todd Haley, the Steelers were a middle-of-the-road pass team.

But when Matt Canada took over in 2021, I kept my ear to the ground and knew this team was going to return more to the run. As I wrote in my book last summer:

"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 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."

And sure enough the Steelers were 14th in pass rate (55%):

The Steelers dropped from a top-5 pass rate team under Fitchner to a team that passed the ball at a league-average rate on early downs in the first three quarters last year.

And that was with Roethlisberger. I expect with either Trubisky or pick No. 20 Kenny Pickett, the Steelers will be passing even less in 2022, and lean more into Rooney's comments.

I don't think it helps much. I already shared ample data above. Here's another prediction from last year's book:

"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."

I was referencing Mike Munchak, who helped build the Steelers line to a top-10 unit in the mid-2010s.

Look at the Steelers' offensive line in run blocking grades per PFF:

2012: 28th

2013: 22nd

2014: 14th - hired Mike Munchak as O-line coach

2015: 11th 2016: Fourth

2017: Seventh





2017: Seventh

2018: 12th - last year for Mike Munchak in Pittsburgh

2019: 23rd 2020: 31st 2021: 26th

I wasn't all doom and gloom for the Steelers last year. I predicted in my book "There are a lot of easy fixes to be had and I'm optimistic [OC Matt Canada] can make some simple changes to add efficiency."

That he did. He increased pre-snap motion from the 23rd rate in 2020 to 13th in 2021 and got a lot of efficiency from it. He increased (slightly) play action usage, from 32nd to 25th, and likewise received improvement from it. I predict a lot more play-action in 2022. In fact, I predict the Steelers will finish above average in play-action usage for the first time in many years.

There are two ways to look at what Mike Tomlin has done in Pittsburgh - either you take the long-view or the short-view.

The long-view: the Steelers have gone 18 years without a losing record. The No. 2 team (Kansas City) isn't even close (nine years). How many teams would go crazy for even two years in a row without posting a losing record? In fact, 23 teams in the NFL can't even claim going two years without posting a losing record.

But the short-view: while it's great the Steelers haven't posted a losing record and are one of a handful of teams to make the playoffs in back-to-back years, they haven't won a playoff game since 2016. Only 10 teams have longer playoff-win droughts. In the Steelers last playoff game, their seven first half possessions went:

0 yards - PUNT 2 yards - PUNT -3 yards - PUNT 8 yards - PUNT 20 yards - PUNT 8 yards - PUNT 5 yards - PUNT

They became the first team with seven punts in the first half of a playoff game since 2010.

I think it's probably a good thing for the Steelers to do a hard reboot and start from scratch, as they are doing.

I know there are some people out there who think Trubisky or Pickett can be an upgrade over Roethlisberger. These people think the Steelers, with a first-round running back, will be able to play great defense, run the ball well, and get efficient performance out of their young QB. They believe there won't be many transition pains because the Steelers have Mike Tomlin and a solid corps of players. In fact, they think that Pittsburgh could challenge for the AFC North.

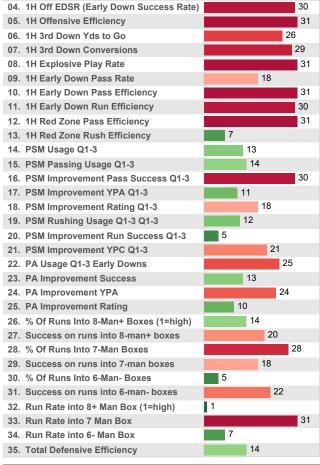
I am not one of these people. I don't believe in the Steelers' offensive line, which is the foundation for them being able to run the ball and protect an inexperienced quarterback. I believe the defenses faced by the Steelers this year will really throw cold water on the notion of a breakout from either quarterback or Harris. I believe the most expensive defense won't translate to the No. 1 overall defense because of the schedule of offenses they'll play this year. I believe while Tomlin has been great, he'll need to take some lumps with an inexperienced quarterback. I don't envision a horrible season. But I don't envision a third straight trip to the playoffs, and I do believe the streak of 18 seasons without a losing record is broken in 2022.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

02. Avg Halftime Lead

4.0 03.





Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA	5.7			
37. PSM Target Depth	6.2			
38. Non-PSM YPA	5.3			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	5.3			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	43%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	53%			
42. PSM EPA/att	-0.14			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	-0.13			

### Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	33%
45. PA Success Rate	47%
46. PA YPA	5.7
47. PA Sack Rate	5.6%
48. PA EPA/att	-0.02
49. PA Target Depth	6.1
50. Non-PA Success Rate	41%
51. Non-PA YPA	5.4
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	4.6%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.19
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.6

### Men In Box

EE V of runs into 9 mont haves Early Downs O4 2 Outside E vd line	14%
55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	42%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.8
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	27%
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	4.4
61. % of runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	40%
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	4.2

### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	23	defFUM	24
Net FROE	-1.8	defFUM Rcvrd	14
offFUM	20	dell own iccviu	14
offFUM Rcvrd	10	defFR Rk	17
offFR%	50.0%	defFR%	41.7%
offFR Rk	22		
offFROE	-1.7	defFROE	0.0
		defFROE Rk	17
offFROE Rk	24	dell-KOE KK	17

### Field Goal Luck

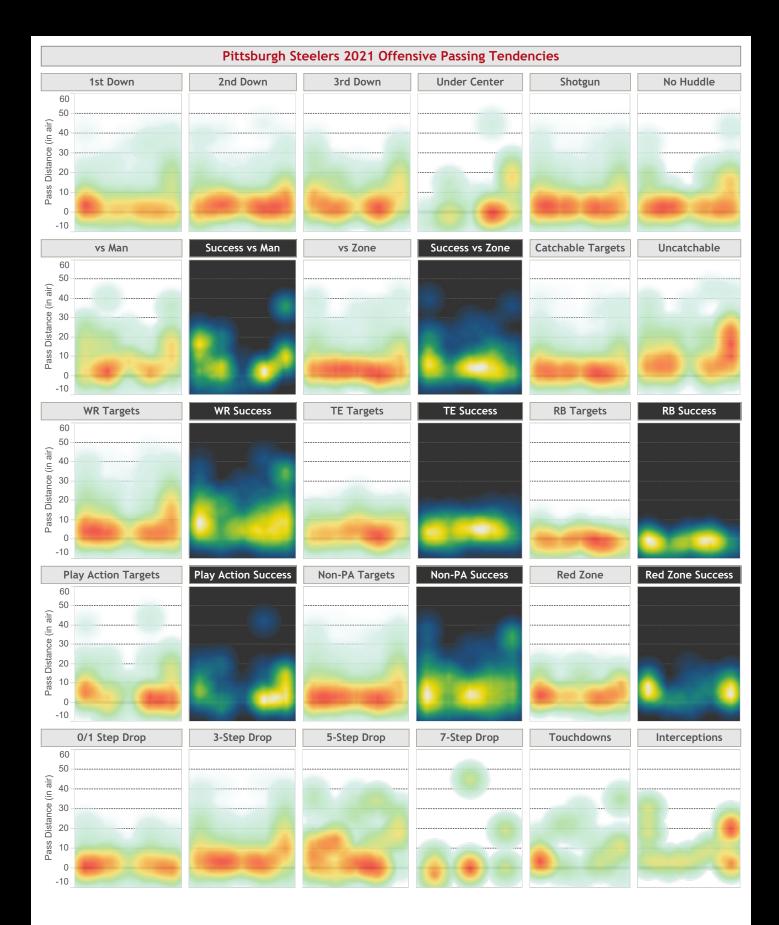
Net Over Expectation	1.93	Omn 844	38
Net Over Expectation Rank	5	Opp Att	
	-	Opp Makes	34
Own Att	40	Opp FG %	89%
Own Makes	36		
Own FG %	90%	Opp Expected Makes	32.55
Own Expected Makes	32.62	Opp Make Over Expectation	1.45
Own Make over Expectation	3.38	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	14
Own Make over Expectation Rk	5		
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	2.63	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	0.69
2020 Own Rk	6	2020 Opp Rk	19

### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

QB Pressure	
-------------	--

### Offensive Metrics

rayer reaching sata state (55		<b>Q</b>		OTTOTISTY OTHER TOS			
	Ben Roethlisberger		Ben Roethlisberger	EPA/Pass	-0.12		
CAY	4.4	Pressure %	22.3	EPA/Pass Rk	24		
CAY Rk	36	Pressure Rk	37	EPA/Rush	-0.07		
2020 CAY Rk	37	Sack %	5.8	EPA/Rush Rk	21		
AYTS Rk	35	Sack Rk	19	On-Target Catch %	89.1%		
2020 AYTS Rk	28	Pressure Accuracy %	60.6				
AGG Rk	7	-		On-Target Catch Rk	22		
2020 AGG Rk	15	Pressure Accuracy Rk	28	Drop%	6.4%		
COMP%	64.5	Rating when Pressured	55.8	Drop Rk	23		
xCOMP%	68.1	Pressured Rating Rk	30				
xCOMP% Rk	3	Clean Accuracy %	75	YAC/Att	2.5		
2020 xCOMP% Rk	7	Clean Accuracy Rk	32	YAC/Att Rk	8		
CPOE%	-3.7			Rush Broken Tackle %	15.1%		
CPOE Rk	31	Rating when Clean	93.8				
2020 CPOE Rk	31	Clean Rating Rk	24	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	6		
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT	S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:	Time to Throw	2.38	Rush 1st Down %	20.4%		
Aggressiveness <b>xCOMP</b> : Expected completion percentage <b>CPOE</b> : Actual completion percentage over expectation		Time to Throw Rk	38	Rush 1st Down Rk	29		



### Steelers Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops In Pocket		1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Ben Roethlisberger	0.07 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.09 (#2)	-0.14 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	0.04 (#2)
2020	Ben Roethlisberger	0.11 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	0.07 (#1)

### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure Outside Pocket F		Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Ben Roethlisberger	-0.86 (#2)	-0.51 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	0.04 (#2)	-0.18 (#2)
2020	Ben Roethlisberger	-0.29 (#1)	-0.15 (#1)	-0.01 (#1)	0.13 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.01 (#1)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

								• /		
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Ben Roethlisberger	74% (#2)	76% (#2)	64% (#2)	43% (#2)	73% (#2)	75% (#2)	60% (#2)	65% (#2)	76% (#1)
2020	Ben Roethlisberger	78% (#1)	84% (#1)	67% (#1)	51% (#1)	77% (#1)	78% (#1)	76% (#1)	76% (#1)	74% (#2)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.08 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	-0.08 (#1)	-0.10 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.60 (#1)	0.67 (#1)
2020	-0.17 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	-0.30 (#2)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.05 (#1)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.11 (#1)	-0.83 (#2)	-0.83 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	29	18	31	20	22	7	8	23	15	31
2020	31	6	25	30	4	21	3	1	1	5

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	22	14	24	16	22	25	23	1	8
2020	24	32	29	28	30	24	30	19	6

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	30	30	18	4	28	19	1	27	27
2020	16	11	8	14	18	25	13	24	7

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Kyle Shanahan (5 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Mike McDaniel (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:
DeMeco Ryans (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

# San Francisco 49ers

2022 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

**Div Rank** 

10

#2

### **Past Records**

2021: 10-7 2020: 6-10 2019: 13-3



### Key Players Lost

Player	New
Laken Tomlinson (LG)	Jets
D.J. Jones (IDL)	Broncos
Arden Key (EDGE)	Jaguars
K'Waun Williams (CB)	Broncos
Tom Compton (RT)	Broncos
Raheem Mostert (RB)	Dolphins
Josh Norman (CB)	TBD
Kentavius Street (EDGE)	Saints
Marcell Harris (LB)	Jets
Trent Sherfield (WR)	Dolphins
Trenton Cannon (RB)	Titans
Mohamed Sanu (WR)	TBD
Jaquiski Tartt (S)	TBD
Tavon Wilson (S)	TBD
Travis Benjamin (WR)	TBD
Richie James (WR)	Giants
Jarrod Wilson (S)	TBD
River Cracraft (WR)	Dolphins
Darrion Daniels (IDL)	TBD
Jeremiah Poutasi (LG)	Retired

### 2022 San Francisco 49ers Overview

In the past, I have defended Jimmy Garoppolo.

Why?

Because inherently, I like building up positions to challenge the status quo because when I'm right and they're wrong, I cover bets and win money.

When everyone else thinks Jimmy G isn't good, the market adjusts. When I can find logic to show he's better (even by the slightest amount) than market opinion, I win and they lose.

That's not the only reason.

I know the records for Kyle Shanahan with and without Garoppolo starting.

With Garoppolo, the 49ers are 31-14. Including the playoffs, they are 35-16.

Without Garoppolo, the 49ers are 8-28.

That's not a small swing. That's massive.

From 69% to 22%. Night and day.

Average Line # Games Underdog

-2.1 10 5

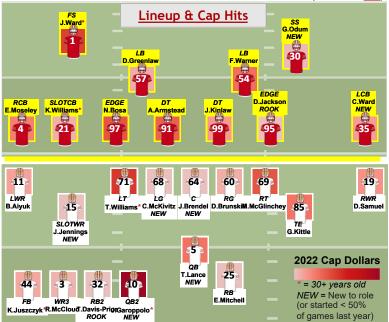
Regular Season Wins:

In last year's book, I expected the 6-win 49ers from 2020 to win a lot more games in 2021. But that's not a surprise, as linemakers did as well, setting their win total at 10.5 wins in 2021. (cont'd - see <u>SF2</u>)

# Past & Current Proj Forecast 2022 Wins 10 2021 Wins 10 Forecast 2021 Wins 10.5 2020 Wins 6 2019 Wins 13

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

2018 Wins



### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Charvarius Ward (CB)	\$13.5
Oren Burks (LB)	\$2.5
Ray-Ray McCloud (WR)	\$2
George Odum (S)	\$1.89
Hassan Ridgeway (IDL)	\$1.8
Kemoko Turay (IDL)	\$1.7
Kerry Hyder (EDGE)	\$1.5
Tyler Kroft (TE)	\$1.2
Malik Turner (WR)	\$1.10

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
2	61	DE - Drake Jackson (USC)
3	93	RB - Tyrion Davis-Price (LSU)
3	105	WR - Danny Gray (SMU)
4	134	OT - Spencer Burford (UTSA)
5	172	CB - Samuel Womack (Toledo)
	187	OT - Nick Zakelj (Fordham)
6	220	DT - Kalia Davis (UCF)
	221	CB - Tariq Castro-Fields (Penn State)
7	262	QB - Brock Purdy (Iowa State)

### 2022 Unit Spending



### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	10	\$111.15M	8
QB	3	\$37.43M	2
OL	15	\$37.85M	16
RB	31	\$5.60M	9
WR	23	\$17.83M	29
TE	10	\$12.45M	18
All DEF	7	\$109.50M	13
DL	9	\$53.50M	4
LB	11	\$19.29M	27
СВ	19	\$18.30M	19
S	7	\$18.41M	18

SF-2

After all, though this sounds insane, there was only one game the entire 2020 season when San Francisco's QB1, RB1, TE1, WR1, and WR2 played the entire

Week 6: win 24-16 vs. LAR

They were the NFL's most injured team in 2020. That couldn't possibly happen again in 2021, right?

Well...

In 2021 there were zero games when QB1, RB1, TE1, WR1, and WR2 played

That's because RB1 Raheem Mostert started Week 1's game against the Lions but injured his knee after just two carries. He was diagnosed with a significant cartilage injury. He never played another snap in 2021.

As such, the last two years, over 33 regular season games, there has been just one game with QB1, RB1, TE1, WR1 and WR2 healthy for the 49ers.

Simply incredible.

Now, let's pretend Mostert was completely replaceable. How many games in 2021 did QB1, RB2, TE1, WR1, and WR2 play together?

Elijah Mitchell missed Weeks 3 and 4.

George Kittle missed Weeks 5-8 (Jimmy G also missed Week 5).

Mitchell missed Week 11.

Deebo Samuel missed Week 13.

Mitchell missed Weeks 14-16.

Jimmy G missed Week 17.

That leaves only Weeks 1, 2, 9, 10, 12 and 18.

Six games in 2021 and the 49ers went 5-1.

Overall in 2021, the 49ers were still injury prone. Not much has changed.

2	2021 Passing Performance										
QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn								
Jimmy G aroppolo	59% 9.0 96.4	47% 7.5 93.5	40% 8.7 90.3	Success Rate YPA Rating							
Pass Rate	42%	53%	72%								
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating							
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%								
2	021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce								

		2021 Rushing Performance									
Offense		1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn							
	SF	47% 4.4	53% 4.4	44% 3.0	Success Rate YPC						
	Run Rate	58%	47%	28%							
	NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC						
	Run Rate	51%	41%	24%							

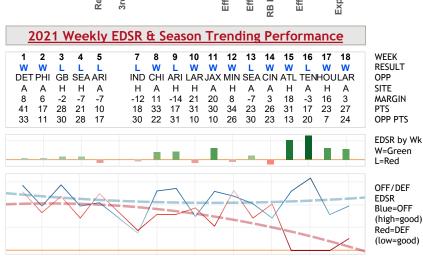
Over the entire Kyle Shanahan tenure:

2021: third-most injured team 2020: most injured team 2019: sixth-most injured team 2018: fourth-most injured team

2017: 10th-most injured team

How does that happen?

																									(cont	d - see	e <u>SF-3</u> )
		<u>2</u>	<u>021</u>	Offe	<u>ensi</u> v	ve A	dva	ncec	l Me	tric	5			2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics													
1	4	7			6		5	5		8	5	<b>(23)</b>		1	ş	)								<b>(3)</b>			
10			12				(\$)			<b>(3)</b>	(F)		14	10	3			<b>(2)</b>						3	2		2
						18			18				S			9		9			8		6				
72 Rank 20 Tank				23		(F)			<b>(5)</b>					20 Yauk		Ü		Ü	12			<b>(2)</b>				12	
25														25			<b>(F)</b>					18					
30														30			23										
																				29							
	Off O	0∰	Off	Off	Off	Off	ive Cy	Pass by Off	Pro	Off	lsh Off	off Off	Run		Def	Def	Def	Def	Def	Def	ive	Pass / Def	Pro Def	Eff	Rush y Def	sive	Run Def
	EDSR	<u>ا</u> ق	Red Zone	Down	YPPA	YPPT	Offensive Efficiency	P <sub>i</sub> Efficiency	Pass   Efficiency	ass Eff Off	Rush Efficiency Off	Explosive Pass Off	Ve		EDSR Def	u o	Red Zone Def	3rd Down Def	YPPA Def	YPPT	Defensive Efficiency	P. Cy		RB Pass		Explosive Pass Def	
		30 8	Σpa	g D	¥	×	호흡	icie	icie	Pass	icie	ш σ	Explosive			30 8	d Zc	8	₹	¥	E G	P Efficiency	Pass Efficieincy	B P	F Efficiency	Μď	Explosive
			A.	3rd				Eff	Ħ	RB	置		EXE				Re	310				Eff	Ë	II.	표		EXE
-	021	Was	delse	EDC	D G	Can		Tran	ممنام	. Do	-f						20	24 (	Close								amo-

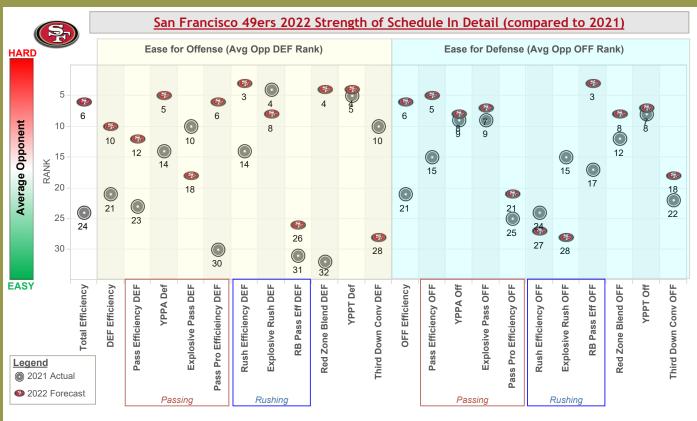


Records WFFK **RESULT** 

All 2019 Wins: 10 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-2** FG Games Win %: **50% (#13)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 20% (#15)

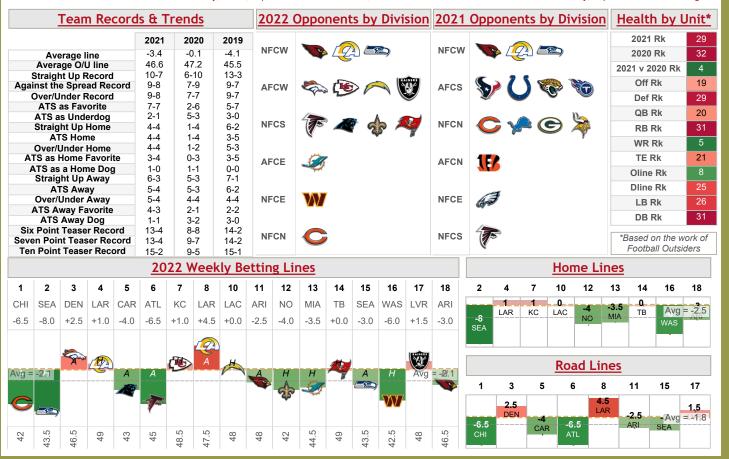
1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-5 1 Score Games Win %: 50% (#12) EDSR by Wk 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 50% (#13)

2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin TO Given 24 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 10 TO Taken 20 **INT Taken** 9 11 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin +15 48 Sacks Sacks Allow 33 Return TD Margin -1 Ret TDs 0 **Ret TDs Allow** 1 **Penalty Margin** -8 102 Penalties **Opponent Penalties** 94



2022 vs 2021 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	6 3 7		11 12		13	23	19			

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







How do you have two coaches that are best friends in Kyle Shanahan and Sean McVay...

Both become first time head coaches in 2017...

Both coach teams in California...

And one team ranks: third, first, sixth, fourth, and 10th in WORST INJURY LUCK those five years...

And one team ranks: fifth, second, 10th, fourth, and first in BEST INJURY LUCK those five years?

We're literally talking about Kyle Shanahan being cursed with the worst injury luck in the NFL for five straight years, while his friend Sean McVay has been blessed with the best injury luck in the NFL for five straight years.

It's truly wild to see. The question now, obviously, is can the 49ers kick that injury bug and actually stay somewhat healthy in 2022?

We don't need much. We don't need this team being the healthiest, or even fifth or 10th. How about league average? That alone would be a huge help for this cursed franchise.

So here's another question:

How did a team that was one of the most injured in 2021 win 10 games and make a run to the NFC Championship Game?

It was because of massive offensive improvement thanks to drawing a great schedule and I predicted all of it in last year's book. I wrote:

"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."

I predicted the 49ers would face the 26th toughest schedule of pass defenses, also read as the seventh easiest.

I was super close on this prediction. They faced the 10th easiest schedule of pass defenses.

It was the first time in Shanahan's tenure this offense faced a below average schedule of pass defenses.

The offense predictably looked like it was going up against a worse schedule of pass defenses.

Pass efficiency improved from 22nd in 2020 to fifth in 2021, which helped offensive efficiency improve from 18th in 2020 to fifth. The offense improved in EDSR from ninth in 2020 to fourth.

The 49ers played nine pass defenses that ranked below average last season. They went 7-0 against everyone not named Seattle and 0-2 against Seattle.

Against everyone else, they went 3-5.

And yet despite that easy schedule, Garoppolo was actually worse in virtually every stable quarterback metric, as well as most accuracy metrics.

(cont'd - see SF-4)

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: San Francisco 49ers 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
11	8	6	22	17	1

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

• The drama surrounding the team is taking away from the fact that this team has made it to two NFC Championship Games in three years. **Deebo Samuel** is clearly unhappy and has yet to sign an extension after he made it clear that he wanted to play elsewhere. Garoppolo remains on the roster which doesn't help if Lance struggles early on in training camp. The biggest hurdle to the 49ers getting off to a good start is

- The potential for the 49ers to become a pass funnel defense exists as the defensive line is a strength while the depth at corner and safety is a potential weakness. In 2021 the 49ers were second-best in EPA/rush and 10th-worst in EPA/DB. Forecasted to play the fifth-most difficult schedule of passing the play of the passing defense will be highlighted.
- Red zone efficiency of the offense and defense could potentially change in 2021. The 49ers finished with a 66.4% red zone touchdown rate while the defense allowed a 54.3% touchdown rate. That 10.1 % differential will be hard to repeat in 2022.

10



### Why Bet the Over

The offense led the league in yards per play and was top 10 in both passing and rushing EPA/play with Jimmy Garoppolo.

Trey Lance has a large range of outcomes, but his floor isn't much lower than that of Garoppolo as the receivers led the league in yards after the catch, but the ceiling is so much higher with the added mobility. Lance's upside and the scheme suggest the offense will continue its efficiency with the third overall pick under center.

- Variance has not been kind to the 49ers over the past two seasons although no guarantee of improvement in 2022, regression is likely. In 2020 the 49ers finished last in adjusted games lost and 2021 was just a slight improvement, finishing with the third highest adjusted games lost. Among other "regression-likely" stats, the 49ers also finished bottom five in defensive third downs allowed over expectation and fumble luck.
- The 49ers have the 13th easiest strength of schedule, by far the division's easiest strength of schedule. In the opening six weeks, the 49ers have the league's second-easiest schedule as four opponents are projected to win less than seven games. It is easy to envision the 49ers starting, at worst, 4-2.

San Francisco 49ers Positional Unit Rankings												
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach						
19	19 9		2	1	21	8						

The 49ers' average unit rank of 12.3 suggests a team on the cusp of contending, but that average is given a considerable boost by two units ranked in the top two. Votes for the 49ers' quarterback situation ranged from 14th to 21st. That range seems fair considering the uncertainty with **Trey Lance** potentially primed to take over, but **Jimmy Garoppolo** is still on the roster. If Garoppolo keeps the job, our ranking is probably spot on. If Lance takes over, the ceiling is higher, but the floor would be lower too.

Kyle Shanahan's system produces a quality run game. But we're ranking these units based on the available talent, not the system. With that in mind, it's hard to get excited about San Francisco's backfield. The revolving door keeps churning with another rookie, **Tyrion Davis-Price**, joining the competition this season.

We're assuming **Deebo Samuel** suits up for the 49ers this season. As a result, their pass catchers landed in the top five on every ballot. If we could guarantee a fully healthy season from **George Kittle**, the unit may have ranked number one.

There's been some turnover on the 49ers' offensive line, most notably the retirement of center **Alex Mack**. However, a line anchored by **Trent Williams** and **Mike McGlinchey** still has a high ceiling.

The Niners' front seven landed in the top five on every ballot, including one first-place vote. They generated pressure in 2.5 seconds or less on 25.8% of opponent dropbacks, the league's fifth-best rate. With rookie **Drake Jackson** stepping in to replace **Arden Key**, the unit should be able to replicate that production. There's been significant turnover in the San Francisco secondary, with **K'Waun Williams**, **Jaquiski Tartt**, and **Josh Norman** gone. As a result, there's some uncertainty with this unit, and votes ranged from 14th to 24th.

Kyle Shanahan remains a top-10 coach, but dropped one spot on our rankings, getting jumped by Brandon Staley.

### <u>SF-4</u>

Standard drops (0/1, 3, 5, and 7-step)? Worse in 2021 (0.07 EPA/att vs. 0.12 in 2020).

Passing from inside the pocket? Worse in 2021 (0.09 EPA/att vs. 0.14 in 2020).

First down passes in the first three guarters? Worse in 2021 (0.09 EPA/att vs. 0.24 in 2020).

Early downs without play-action? Worse in 2021 (0.00 EPA/att vs. 0.15 in 2020).

Layup throws (less than five air yards from clean pockets)? Worse in 2021 (0.06 EPA/att vs. 0.20 in 2020).

The only stable metric he was better in 2021 was passing without pressure, but it was only slightly so (0.25 EPA/att vs. 0.21).

In terms of accuracy, on all passes combined, Garoppolo was more accurate in 2020 than 2021. Specifically in short and medium accuracy, as well as when planted, against man coverage, and inside the red zone.

Last year's red zone efficiency in the first half of games?

<u>SF-5</u>

No. 6 rushing attack No. 25 passing attack

Gross.

Garoppolo wasn't bad in 2021. He just wasn't better than he was in 2020. He's not getting better. We know what he is.

You can win with him. You don't really win because of him.

And you really have to look BELOW THE SURFACE to see how this offense is built when he plays quarterback.

Yes, his W-L record has been fantastic.

And yes, did you know since 2019, Garoppolo ranks first in the NFL in yards per attempt?

That's right, at 8.4.

But guess what?

Out of 43 quarterbacks, Garoppolo ranks 42nd in air yards.

First in YPA, 42nd in air yards.

Truly wild.

But the 49ers average 6.8 yards after the catch per completion, by far best in the NFL.

Look at Garoppolo compared to other QBs the last three years in YAC/completion:

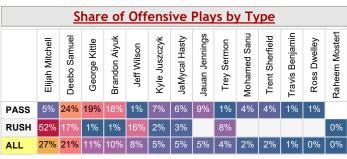
### (cont'd - see SF-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 2 2 0 0 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

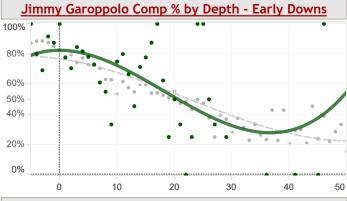
### 

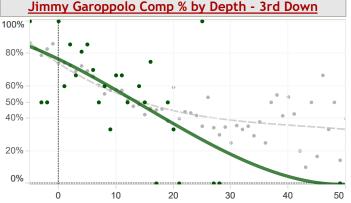


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>											
	Ş	Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)					
	Elijah Mitchell	3%	1%	75%	8%	11%					
	Deebo Samuel	2%	2%	71%	15%	9%					
	George Kittle		33%	67%							
	Brandon Aiyuk	20%	20%	60%							
RUSH	Jeff Wilson			59%	14%	27%					
- 2	Kyle Juszczyk		36%	64%							
_	JaMycal Hasty	6%		69%	25%						
	Trey Sermon	10%	15%	54%	2%	20%					
	Raheem Mostert			100%							
	Total	3%	3%	70%	10%	13%					
	Elijah Mitchell	17%		83%							
	Deebo Samuel	10%	6%	68%	5%	11%					
	George Kittle	8%	5%	70%	8%	9%					
	Brandon Aiyuk	13%	3%	73%	3%	8%					
	Jeff Wilson			88%	13%						
	Kyle Juszczyk	10%	13%	68%	10%						
PASS	JaMycal Hasty	19%	6%	69%	3%	3%					
4	Jauan Jennings	2%	2%	77%	8%	10%					
	Trey Sermon		50%	25%		25%					
	Mohamed Sanu	33%	21%	46%							
	Trent Sherfield	5%		77%	14%	5%					
	Travis Benjamin	17%	33%	50%							
	Ross Dwelley	1.10/	40%	60%	20/	=0/					
	Total	11%	6%	70%	6%	7%					







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Type	1-1 [3WR]	2-1 [2WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-3 [1WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	46%, 0.12 (393)	54%, 0.10 (185)	50%, -0.31 (46)	47%, -0.07 (19)	0%, -0.66 (1)			0%, -1.55 (1)	48%, 0.07 (647)
RUSH	52%, 0.06 (205)	50%, -0.06 (240)	49%, -0.17 (75)	41%, -0.22 (74)	0%, -0.66 (5)	50%, -0.19 (2)	0%, -0.22 (1)		49%, -0.06 (602)
All	48%, 0.10 (598)	52%, 0.01 (425)	50%, -0.23 (121)	42%, -0.19 (93)	0%, -0.66 (6)	50%, -0.19 (2)	0%, -0.22 (1)	0%, -1.55 (1)	49%, 0.01 (1,249)

Format Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)							
POS	POS Player 1-1 [3WR] 2-1 [2WR] 1-2 [2WR] 4 Grp Tota							
WR	Deebo	46% (74)	52% (42)	64% (14)	50% (130)			
	Samuel	10.9, 0.32	11.1, 0.30	12.3, 0.41	11.1, 0.32			
	Brandon	63% (63)	67% (27)	33% (9)	62% (99)			
	Aiyuk	10.7, 0.66	11.3, 0.35	3.6, -0.72	10.2, 0.45			
	Mohamed Sanu	57% (23) 7.7, 0.41			57% (23) 7.7, 0.41			
TE	George	57% (67)	74% (35)	44% (9)	61% (111)			
	Kittle	10.2, 0.36	11.4, 0.43	5.3, -1.92	10.2, 0.20			
FB	Kyle	46% (13)	65% (26)	0% (1)	58% (40)			
	Juszczyk	8.1, 0.05	7.6, 0.31	1.0, -0.44	7.6, 0.20			

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	2-1 [2WR]	1-1 [3WR]	2-2 [1WR]	1-2 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Mitchell	44% (145)	58% (57)	43% (37)	51% (41)	48% (280)
Elijah	3.8, -0.15	5.3, 0.10	4.2, -0.13	4.4, -0.16	4.3, -0.10
Wilson leff	57% (37)	60% (20)	29% (7)	33% (15)	51% (79)
Wilson Jeff	4.1, -0.02	4.1, -0.01	2.0, -0.31	3.1, -0.27	3.7, -0.09
Sermon	56% (18)	50% (14)	100% (3)	67% (3)	58% (38)
Trey	4.3, -0.14	4.3, -0.04	5.0, 0.25	4.0, 0.18	4.3, -0.05
Lance Trey	40% (5)	40% (20)	25% (4)	50% (6)	40% (35)
Lance rrey	5.8, -0.02	5.4, -0.10	0.3, -0.41	2.8, -0.73	4.4, -0.23
Hasty	67% (3)	25% (8)	50% (4)	100% (1)	44% (16)
JaMycal	5.3, 0.02	1.6, -0.40	9.0, 0.40	3.0, 0.71	4.3, -0.05
Juszczyk	0% (2)	50% (4)	60% (5)		45% (11)
Kyle	0.0, -2.46	2.3, -0.10	5.4, 0.24		3.3, -0.37
Mostert	100% (1)		100% (1)		100% (2)
Raheem	11.0, 0.72		9.0, 0.56		10.0, 0.64

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		J ,		QB Drop Types		QB State at Pass			Run Types	
Coverage Scheme		Re	oute	Level 1 54% (453) 8.0, 0.22		3 Step	49% (221) 8.6, 0.13	Planted		% (466) 8, 0.19	Pitch	49% (133) 4.8, -0.02	
	440/ (205)	Dig	57% (67) 10.2, -0.03			0/1 Step	55% (175) Shuffling		0% (80) 2, 0.23	Outside	53% (96)		
Zone	44% (365) 9.5, 0.18	Curl	49% (61)	Level 2	54% (104) 12.6, 0.29	ОПОПО	7.9, 0.27 52% (67)	Moving		9% (61) 0, -0.01	Zone	4.5, -0.04	
			7.0, 0.04		24% (21)	5 Step		Play Action			Power	47% (75) 3.8, -0.10	
Man	43% (118) 7.20.01	Slant	62% (52) 8.8, 0.50	Level 3	8.2, -0.46	7 Step	54% (37)		Play Action	No P/A	Inside	56% (63)	
	7.2, -0.01		58% (48)	Shovel	43% (7)	_	11.4, 0.33	Under Center	55% (94) 10.8, 0.08	45% (40) 8.2, -0.08	Zone	3.4, -0.07	
		Out	6.2, 0.25	Gilotoi	6.1, -0.27	Designed Rollout Right	59% (27) 10.5, 0.43	Shotgun	54% (83)	46% (431)	Stretch	41% (39) 4.0, -0.06	
Other	46% (28) 4.8, -0.15	Drag	47% (15) 11.4, 0.37	Sidearm	67% (3) 3.7, -0.48	Basic Screen	55% (20) 11.4, 0.55	ALL	9.2, 0.18 55% (177) 10.0, 0.13	7.8, 0.06 46% (471) 7.9, 0.05	Lead	59% (34) 6.4, 0.02	

### <u>SF-6</u>

6.8 - Garoppolo

6.7

6.6 6.5

6.4

6.3 6.2

6.1

6.0 - Patrick Mahomes

5.9 - Aaron Rodgers

5.8 – Philip Rivers

5.7

5.6 – Jared Goff, Derek Carr

The NFL average is way down at 5.2.

Is this a special skill of Garoppolo that another quarterback couldn't possibly possess? No. It does take a reasonable amount of accuracy such that your receiver can catch the ball easily and turn to run. It does take knowledge of the play call and the progressions.

But this IS the 49ers offense.

In 71 pass attempts from Trey Lance last season, his YAC/completion was at 7.0, even higher than Jimmy G's.

Additionally, one of the best parts about Shanahan's offense is it's so "plug and play" because of the expected completion rate he generates (cont'd - see SF-7)





for his quarterbacks.

What is expected completion rate (xComp)? It's a player tracking metric from Next Gen Stats. On every pass attempt, a calculation is made as to the completion probability. It's 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 more. Expected completion percentage uses the completion probability on every pass to determine what a passer's completion percentage is expected to be.

Shanahan ALWAYS gets his quarterbacks good looks and passes to receivers that have separation. Look at where his quarterbacks, regardless of skill, have ranked in expected completion rate out of typically around 35-40 quarterbacks each year:

2021: Garoppolo fifth in xComp

2020: Garoppolo first in xComp

2020: Nick Mullens sixth in xComp

2019: Garoppolo third in xComp

2018: CJ Beathard first in xComp

2018: Mullens 13th in xComp

2017: Garoppolo ninth in xComp

2017: Beathard 10th in xComp

Trey Lance didn't throw enough passes last year to qualify, but you get the idea. Every year, seemingly MULTIPLE Shanahan quarterbacks rank inside the top-10 in expected completion rate.

This again bodes quite well for Trey Lance in 2022 when he takes over at quarterback.

So where is the part where I'm defending Jimmy Garoppolo?

All I've done is suggest he played worse than 2020. His yardage is replaceable because so much of it was YAC these last three years. He's given a ton of easy passes to complete by his coach's system.

Let's get to the fun part.

I bet on the 49ers time and time again last season, particularly down the stretch. You know who was the only team who had a perfect ATS mark in the playoffs other than the Bengals?

The 49ers.

I bet on them as underdogs in Dallas. Dog outright winner.

I bet on them as underdogs in Green Bay. Dog outright winner.

I bet on them as underdogs in Los Angeles. Dog cover and quite nearly a dog outright winner leading 17-7 in the fourth quarter.

(cont'd - see SF-8)

### Immediate Impact of San Francisco 49ers 2022 Draft Class

The 49ers were without a first-round pick due to last year's trade up for **Trey Lance**, but were still able to use nine selections in this draft. **Drake Jackson** (second round) is an elite pass-rush talent who never quite put it all together at USC — but he's only 20 years old. Despite his inconsistencies, Jackson led the Pac-12 with a 21.8% pressure rate on non-blitzes. He should contribute immediately on passing downs, with the potential to develop into a more complete player.

After drafting two running backs last year (Trey Sermon and Elijah Mitchell), Kyle Shanahan just had to go back for more with Tyrion Davis-Price (third round).

It's unclear what the 49ers see in Davis-Price, who had three forgettable years at LSU before turning pro early. Shanahan's previous third- and fourth-round running back selections (Sermon and **Joe Williams**) have combined for 44 career touches, so it won't be his first whiff if Davis-Price fails.

Davis-Price is a big, downhill runner who can't break tackles — not a great combo. In 2021, he ranked dead last in the SEC averaging 1.8 broken/missed tackles forced per 20 carries.

If **Deebo Samuel** gets traded, **Danny Gray** (third round) could potentially see a significant role as a rookie. Gray's ball skills are an issue — based on route-adjusted data his catch rate was 7.5% below expected in 2021 — but he's an explosive weapon who does serious damage after the catch, making him a great fit in Shanahan's offense.

**Spencer Burford** (fourth round) was a four-year starter at UTSA, playing both guard and tackle. Though he could provide depth at both, Shanahan has referred to him as an interior lineman. It's possible he'll compete for **Daniel Brunskill**'s job at right guard, along with **Nick Zakelj** (sixth round).

Samuel Womack (fifth round) and Tariq Castro-Fields (sixth round) add depth at cornerback, though it was surprising San Francisco did not address the position earlier. The undersized Womack mostly played on the outside, but is a candidate to shift to slot corner. Based on route-adjusted coverage data, Castro-Fields allowed a catch rate 4.9% below expected over the last three seasons, indicating he has some potential as an outside corner.

**Brock Purdy** (seventh round) is currently the fourth quarterback on the roster, but will get bumped up if **Jimmy Garoppolo** is eventually traded. He's no Lance, but he is a decent athlete. In his career at Iowa State, Purdy averaged 5.6 yards per attempt on 108 designed runs and option-keepers.

This class is unlikely to produce multiple starters for the 49ers, but it does appear as though they added some nice depth to the roster. The Davis-Price selection is a head-scratcher, but Jackson and Gray both offer some immediate value and appear to be strong fits within the 49ers system.



### San Francisco 49ers 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

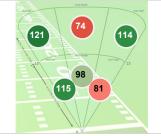
San Francisco once again fielded an efficient passing game, ranking eighth in the league in expected points added via their passing offense (149.8 EPA) while ranking second in the NFL in yards per pass attempt (8.6 Y/A) and first in yards per completed pass (12.9 yards). San Francisco sold out to trade up for **Trey Lance** with the third overall pick in last year's draft, but we only saw Lance start twice out of necessity as a rookie. The 49ers should be moving in a direction with him as their immediate future, especially after a postseason in which **Jimmy Garoppolo** struggled with a 58.1% completion rate and two touchdowns. But with the potential trade or release of Garoppolo remaining unresolved to this point in the summer, we will see if there is any hesitation from the organization if Garoppolo remains on the roster through the summer.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Jimmy Garoppolo	344	512	67%	4,319	8.4	22	15	31	95	16
Trey Lance	40	70	57%	527	7.5	4	2	4	88	28
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

### 2021 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 % 50% 53% 12.0% 22 4.0% Jimmy Garoppolo 59 6.1 6.5 **Trey Lance** 38% 40% 7 10.0% 2 3.0% 7.7 7.0 46% 50% 8.8% 3.1% 5.6 5.3 34.1 12.5 NFL Avg

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10 Jimmy Garoppolo Rating

### Jimmy Garoppolo Rating Early Downs



Interception Rates by Down								
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total			
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%			
3, 4, 5	0.0%	3.8%	7.9%	0.0%	6.0%			
6 - 9	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%			
10 - 14	2.7%	3.3%	5.6%		3.2%			
15+	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%		2.2%			
Total	2.9%	2.1%	3.4%	0.0%	2.8%			

<u>3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis</u>								
QB	Avg. Yds to Go Avg. Air Yards		Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk			
Jimmy Garoppolo	7.9	8.2	-0.2	64%	35			
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%				

	Air Yds vs YAC							
ond	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk					
5	48%	52%	35					
	53%	47%						

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

San Francisco ended 2021 first in the league in yards per target to tight ends (9.3 yards) and third in yards per target to their wide receivers (9.2 yards). The story of the season was **Deebo Samuel**, who is heading into the final season of his rookie contract and looking to maximize on an extension this offseason, a schism still unresolved to this point of the offseason. **Brandon Aiyuk** played just 66% of the team snaps through six games, catching nine passes total over that span. Then, Aiyuk managed to get back in the good graces, playing 92% of the snaps over the final 11 games, with 21.6% of the team targets over that span. They still have one of the best all-around tight ends in the league under contract through the 2025 season in **George Kittle**.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dшоე	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
Deebo Samuel	133	65%	11.1	104.7	50%	83	75	11	137	6
George Kittle	109	72%	9.3	95.3	59%	27	44	51	83	7
Brandon Aiyuk	100	65%	9.7	113.3	59%	24	27	37	66	5



### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

San Francisco was sixth in the league in carries (499), seventh in rushing yardage (2,166 yards), and sixth in rushing touchdowns but was a tick worse in efficiency running the ball, ranking 15th in yards per carry (4.3 yards) and 22nd in expected points added on the ground (-15.9 EPA). Despite trading up for **Trey Sermon** in the third round last season, it was sixth-round pick **Elijah Mitchell** that was the hit for the 49ers in 2021. Mitchell was the go-to back for the 49ers immediately when **Raheem Mostert** went down in Week 1 and never looked back. Despite missing games with three different injuries at various points of the season, any time that Mitchell was available, San Francisco went right back to featuring him. Mitchell averaged 20.5 touches per game, which was seventh in the league.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % RK	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Elijah Mitchell	261	4.2	47%	67	60	54	27	48%	53	5
Deebo Samuel	85	5.8	51%	40	55	72	12	52%	31	9
Jeff Wilson	79	3.7	51%	39	21	30	74	51%	33	2

# Yards per Carry by Direction 5.8 5.6 3.3 3.6 3.4 4.1 3.7



### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Is Trey Lance the Next Fantasy Buy at Quarterback if starting in 2022?

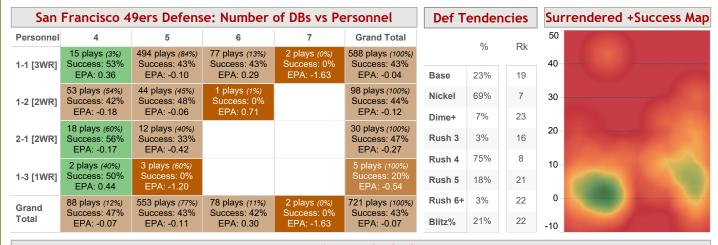
Trey Lance never found the field for the 49ers outside of necessity. He took just 86 dropbacks and immediately handed the offense back to Jimmy Garoppolo without question from the staff anytime the veteran was able to play. Lance entered the NFL with the most limited resume of any first-round quarterback while sitting out 2020 and playing in a FCS program. A tempered learning curve was always a potential outcome. That said, when we did see Lance play, he led all quarterbacks in fantasy points per dropback (0.75) on his limited sample. In his two starts, he scored 14.6 and 19.1 fantasy points while throwing two fewer touchdown passes as a rookie than Justin Fields (on 199 fewer attempts) and four fewer than Zach Wilson (on 142 fewer passes). Over the past three seasons, we have seen Lamar Jackson in 2019, Josh Allen in 2020, and Jalen Hurts in 2021 be handled as back-end QB1 and high-QB2 options due to being unrefined passers and then come out as the best values per draft position in those seasons. Lance has the rushing ability to provide a high floor even if he struggles in his first season as a starter, but he also has the surrounding talent and coaching insulation to provide a runway for more upside like those previous three quarterbacks were able to accomplish.

### Can Deebo Match His 2021 season?

No wide receiver has had a season like the one **Deebo Samuel** had this past year. Samuel produced a 77-1,405-6 line through the air to go along with 365 yards and eight touchdowns on the ground as he went from being forced to operating as the alpha receiver in the passing game early in the year with George Kittle out of the lineup and Brandon Alyuk in the doghouse, to chipping in out of the backfield as the season pressed on due to the exposed lack of talented depth of the San Francisco backfield last season

Samuel is a one-of-one player at his position right now, but even if his unique usage remains intact, asking him to replicate his insane efficiency from 2021 is a tall ask. Samuel was fifth in the NFL in receiving yards despite ranking 54th in routes run and 26th in targets. He found the end zone a total of 16 times, with just three coming from inside of 10 yards. Samuel also could lose some of the rushing work he had last season, although the 49ers likely do not want to completely re-bottle what they could do to defenses with Samuel coming out in 11 personnel since the opposition had to attempt to account to defend him through the air or on the ground. San Francisco was second in the league in yards per play in 11 personnel last season with 39-of-59 of Samuel's carries and six of his eight rushing touchdowns coming out of 11. Removing the posturing for an extension between Samuel and the organization this summer and expecting him to be a 49er in 2021, we certainly should expect some regression and potential volatility, especially with the range of outcomes Trey Lance can have as a first-year starter.

That said, any time that Samuel has been able to stay on the field over his first three seasons in the league, he has done nothing but be a productive and efficient player. Samuel has now played two-thirds of the snaps in 29 career games, finishing as a WR1 in 11 of those games and averaging 17.7 points per game, scoring single-digit points in just four of those games.



### **Defensive Outlook**

Arik Armstead was one of the league's best run-defending interior defenders, ranked third in ESPN's Run Stop Win Rate at the position. He also had 11 quarterback hits and six sacks as a pass rusher. Armstead has the ability to kick out wide, but with more depth at edge, he doesn't need to. Javon Kinlaw only played four games in 2021 before missing the rest of the season with reconstruction surgery needed on his ACL. Kinlaw has dropped weight (from 320 pounds to 300) and could be more explosive with that injury now fixed. The 49ers will need to fill the hole left by **D.J. Jones**, who was another one of the league's best run defenders inside — he was first in Run Stop Win Rate.

Nick Bosa returned from a torn ACL to play all 17 games, but thanks to a deeper edge rotation, he only played 77.6% of the defensive snaps. That allowed Bosa to stay healthy and dominant. Bosa was sixth in Pass Rush Win Rate among edge rushers and also added 21 tackles for loss.

Samson Ebukam was 60th among 102 qualified edge rushers in pressure rate last season per SIS. Ebukam showed flashes of pass rush upside as a linebacker with the Rams and continued to develop as he was a full-time edge rusher in his first year with the 49ers. Second-round pick **Drake Jackson** has the ability and upside to slide right in as a starter opposite Bosa.

Fred Warner remains one of the best coverage linebackers in the league. Warner's ability opens up so many other things for the defense. Warner was 17th among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap and was seventh in targets allowed per coverage snap. Dre Greenlaw only played three games and Azeez Al-Shaair slid in to play 67% of the defensive snaps. Al-Shaair made an impact all over with nine tackles for loss and five passes defensed. He re-signed on a one-year deal for 2022.

San Francisco had the seventh-highest rate of nickel defense played in 2021 at 69.1%. Charvarius Ward was the big free agent signing to improve the cornerback group. Ward ranked 46th among 93 qualified cornerbacks by Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap with the Chiefs last season. Ambry Thomas and Demmondore Lenoir, third- and fifth-round picks in the 2021 draft, were forced into action and had some rookie ups and downs, though there were some flashes that could be built upon in Year 2. Emmanuel Moseley played excellent in the slot when he was on the field (55.5% of snaps) and ranked 15th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. He's on the second year of a two-year deal. Jimmie Ward was the rock of the secondary, playing 90% of the defensive snaps in 2021. He managed his healthiest season at age 30 but enters 2022 in the final year of his contract. 2021 fifth-round pick Talanoa Hafanga could jump in as the second safety. San Francisco signed George Odum, who played a career-high 43% of the defensive snaps for the Colts last season. Odum is a strong special teamer and was an All-Pro for that reason in 2020.

Play Tendencies					
All Pass %	53%				
All Pass Rk	29				
All Rush %	47%				
All Rush Rk	4				
1 Score Pass %	50%				
1 Score Pass Rk	31				
2020 1 Score Pass %	52%				
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	28				
2021 Pass Increase %	-1%				
Pass Increase Rk	19				
1 Score Rush %	50%				
1 Score Rush Rk	2				
Up Pass %	51%				
Up Pass Rk	27				
Up Rush %	49%				
Up Rush Rk	6				
Down Pass %	59%				
Down Pass Rk	19				
Down Rush %	41%				
Down Rush Rk	14				

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>							
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %		
1st	Short (1-3)	6	33%	67%	67%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	10	40%	60%	60%		
	Long (8-10)	375	41%	59%	53%		
	XL (11+)	15	73%	27%	20%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	49	22%	78%	78%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	90	49%	51%	59%		
	Long (8-10)	107	58%	42%	50%		
	XL (11+)	44	84%	16%	25%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	49	33%	67%	61%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	53	89%	11%	45%		
	Long (8-10)	32	94%	6%	34%		
	XL (11+)	34	91%	9%	21%		
4th	Short (1-3)	9	44%	56%	56%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	50%		

Shotgun %							
Shotgun	Under Center						
59%	41%						
NFL	NFL AVG						
65%	35%						
Efficiency							
EPA/ pass: 0.13	EPA/ pass: 0.06						
EPA/ rush: -0.11	EPA/ rush: -0.03						
Success:	Success: 43%						



### Short Yardage Intelligence:

2nd and Short Run					
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg	
72%	15	71%	86%	73%	
2nd and Short Pass					
		u unu 5111	<del>,,,,,,,,,</del>		
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg	

	Most Frequent Play						
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %		
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jeff Wilson	2	50%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Elijah Mitchell	4	75%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Elijah Mitchell	111	48%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Brandon Aiyuk	3	67%		
			George Kittle	3	33%		
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Elijah Mitchell	19	74%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Elijah Mitchell	21	62%		
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Elijah Mitchell	18	33%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Deebo Samuel	9	33%		
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Jimmy Garoppolo	9	100%		
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	George Kittle	10	50%		
	Long (8-10)	PASS	JaMycal Hasty	5	0%		
	XL (11+)	PASS	Deebo Samuel	7	14%		

	Play Action (Y/N)						
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total				
No	Success: 39%	Success: 73%	Success: 45%				
	YPA: 5.4, EPA: -0.10	YPA: 19.5, EPA: 0.90	YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.07				
	Rtg: 74.2	Rtg: 158.3	Rtg: 99.2				
	[Att: 51 - Rate: 7.9%]	[Att: 11 - Rate: 1.7%]	[Att: 62 - Rate: 9.6%]				
Yes	Success: 46%	Success: 54%	Success: 48%				
	YPA: 8.2, EPA: 0.07	YPA: 9.4, EPA: 0.08	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.07				
	Rtg: 95.6	Rtg: 93.2	Rtg: 94.9				
	[Att: 420 - Rate: 64.8%]	[Att: 166 - Rate: 25.6%]	[Att: 586 - Rate: 90.4%]				
Total	Success: 46%	Success: 55%	Success: 48%				
	YPA: 7.9, EPA: 0.05	YPA: 10.0, EPA: 0.13	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.07				
	Rtg: 93.3	Rtg: 100.5	Rtg: 95.3				
	[Att: 471 - Rate: 72.7%]	[Att: 177 - Rate: 27.3%]	[Att: 648 - Rate: 100.0%]				

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

	Weekly Snaps Played							
Wk	Орр	Score	Brandon Aiyuk	George Kittle	Deebo Samuel	Kyle Juszczyk	Elijah Mitchell	Jauan Jennings
1	DET	W 35-33	26	52	46	20	35	6
2	PHI	W 17-5	38	70	49	41	43	6
3	GB	L 30-28	60	70	63	48		3
4	SEA	L 28-15	51	70	68	62		8
5	ARI	L 17-10	46		56	42	44	
7	IND	L 30-18	40		48	26	37	9
8	CHI	W 33-22	49		46	31	36	7
9	ARI	L 31-17	55	43	54	24	39	5
10	LA	W 31-10	61	52	49	40	36	32
11	JAC	W 30-10	64	57	55	38		33
12	MIN	W 34-26	63	65	46	44	49	26
13	SEA	L 30-23	54	54		32	49	29
14	CIN	W 26-23	67	68	55	31		47
15	ATL	W 31-13	56	55	46	30		25
16	TEN	L 20-17	55	59	45	32		27
17	HOU	W 23-7	56	59	53	34	36	30
18	LA	W 27-24	65	66	50	35	37	44
	Grand	Total	906	840	829	610	441	337

Perso	nnel (	Group	ings
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.
1-1 [3WR]	47%	61%	49%
2-1 [2WR]	36%	7%	54%
1-2 [2WR]	9%	21%	53%
2-2 [1WR]	7%	3%	39%
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. % 47%	Run Succ. %

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard					
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
George Kittle	11	1	4	6	
Brandon Aiyuk	10	3	4	3	
Deebo Samuel	10	2	3	5	
Jauan Jennings	7	3		4	
JaMycal Hasty	5	1		4	
Kyle Juszczyk	5		2	3	
Elijah Mitchell	2		1	1	
Trent Williams	1	1			

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard					
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20	
Elijah Mitchell	25	6	6	13	
Deebo Samuel	16	1	8	7	
Jeff Wilson	10	4	2	4	
Trey Lance	5	2		3	
JaMycal Hasty	4	2	1	1	
Jimmy Garoppolo	3	3			
Trey Sermon	1	1			

Early D	own Targ	et Rate		
RB	TE	WR		
22%	22%	57%		
23%	21% NFL AVG	56%		
Overall Target Success %				
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ıccess %		
Overall RB	Target Su	vr		
<b>RB</b> 54%	<b>TE</b> 58%	WR 52%		
RB	TE	WR		



### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



I was imploring people to bet on them during this playoff run in my media appearances on NBC and The Ringer. I knew this team was capable of the impressive run they made.

Even before that, we were betting on the 49ers.

From Week 8 onward, this team was 10-4 but 11-3 ATS (79%). No team was better. Most teams weren't close.

And they were 5-0 ATS as dogs, winning 4 of the 5 outright.

As dogs the last three years, the 49ers are 13-5 ATS (72%) and have won 10 of 18 outright.

The only team aside from the 49ers to cover at least 70% and win over 50% outright is the Packers.

So back to the Jimmy G support...

From Week 8 onward, Jimmy G was second in the NFL in EPA/dropback... better than every other quarterback still in the playoffs – better than Patrick Mahomes, Matthew Stafford, and Joe Burrow.

In the second half of games over the course of the entire season, Garoppolo ranked second in YPA at 9.2 and second in the percentage of completions that gained 10+ yards (57%). In the second half of games since Week 8, he ranked first in both of those metrics.

As we know, a lot of this was Shanahan. But the point was, because people HATED Garoppolo, they thought the 49ers' passing game was average, or worse, and that was completely wrong.

We know what happened with Jimmy G's thumb injury down the stretch last season, but to refresh your memories:

The 49ers were in elimination games starting Week 18 against the Rams. He injured his right thumb against the Titans in Week 16 and did not play in Week 17. But being it was an elimination game, he played in Week 18.

Week 18 1st half: 0.27 EPA/att, 7.5 PA, 75% completions, 0:1 TD:INT, 33% of comp gained 10+ yds Week 18 2nd half: 0.32 EPA/att, 11.7 YPA, 67% completions, 1:1 TD:INT, 70% of comp gained 10+ yds

What went on here?

Garoppolo was in his first game back from fracturing his thumb and didn't want to take the shot to help his pain level before kickoff. He finally agreed to take it at halftime. He was dominant (as was the 49ers' run game) and the team came from behind to win the game.

Now let's go to the Wild Card game vs the Cowboys.

Week 19 1st half: 0.13 EPA/att, 9.5 YPA, 79% completions, 0:0 TD:INT, 73% of comp gained 10+ yds Week 19 2nd half: -0.26 EPA/att, 3.6 YPA, 46% completions, 0:1 TD:INT, 40% of comp gained 10+ yds

This is the opposite of the other game.

What happened?

Garoppolo took the shot pregame this time, played great in the first half, but on one of the last plays of the first half, landed on his elbow, jarring his shoulder. His shoulder in the second half caused him a lot of pain and he couldn't throw well.

The 49ers still won the game despite that second half thanks to the lead he helped to build in the first half.

Garoppolo then outplayed Aaron Rodgers in the NFC Divisional Round game, though both were bad due to the terrible weather conditions.





One of the issues that is unmistakable for Garoppolo was his inability to accurately push the ball downfield.

Here's some lines you can draw:

Within 10 yards - great accuracy and great efficiency.

11-20 yards - accuracy dips, but efficiency is there due to the design of offense, with expectations of run or short passes.

Over 20 yards - forget about it.

2021 within 10 yards: second in accuracy, third in EPA/att, first in YPA 2021 11-20 yards: eighth in accuracy, third in EPA/att, first in YPA 2021 > 20 yards: 34th in accuracy, 36th in EPA/att, 27th in YPA (out of 42 quarterbacks)

2020 within 10 yards: seventh in accuracy, ninth in EPA/att, first in YPA 2020 11-20 yards: sixth in accuracy, first in EPA/att, first in YPA 2020 > 20 yards: 43rd in accuracy, 44th in EPA/att, 44th in YPA (out of 44 QBs)

Out of 37 qualifying quarterbacks the last two years, Garoppolo ranks 36th in downfield accuracy. The only quarterback who has been worse is Drew Lock.

It was extremely interesting to look back at Kyle Shanahan's comments on why a MOBILE QUARTERBACK helps DOWNFIELD 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. 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.

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 four, five and six-win seasons, Washington went 10-6 and made the playoffs.

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 obviously 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.

I remember back to Shanahan after drafting Trey Lance, saying: "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."

Lance didn't play much last season, but look at some of these numbers as to where he ranked, particularly in the context of Shanahan's quote on being ABLE TO PLAY IN THE POCKET:

Lance in the pocket in 2021:

Fourth in EPA/att (0.19) Fifth in YPA (8.6) 14th in success rate (48%)

Out of 56 qualifying quarterbacks last year. Every one of those numbers was superior to Garoppolo from the pocket.

How about another stable metric: without play-action?

Second in EPA/att (0.25) Fourth in YPA (7.8) Fourth in success rate (49%)

That was out of 56 qualifying quarterbacks last year. Every one of those numbers was superior to Garoppolo without play-action.

Now we could look at less stable metrics, such as third downs alone, or when under pressure. Those were OUTSTANDING for Lance last year, but with such a low sample size we won't read a ton into it.





We didn't see much from Lance last year. I'm not scared about him this year. I know there is a LARGE CONTINGENT who is betting against Lance in 2022. If I'm anything, I'm predictably going to bet ON an undervalued quarterback in Kyle Shanahan's offense.

Unlike last year, when Shanahan's offense finally played a schedule of pass defenses that ranked easier than average, I currently have the 49ers playing the 12th toughest schedule of pass defenses. And the schedule of offenses their defense will face likewise becomes much more difficult.

Here are questions we should be asking:

Can the 49ers really be top-5 most injured in the NFL for ANOTHER season? Can the 49ers FINALLY stop going .500 in one-score games? They went 5-5 last year and are 13-13 in one-score games the last three seasons. Will Shanahan continue to make life easy on yet another quarterback in his system and get far more out of the passing offense than what the quarterback would deliver in any other system? Will the fact Russell Wilson is gone from Seattle help the 49ers against them?

That last point we haven't touched on, but look at the 49ers the last three years in their division:

6-0 vs. the Rams

3-3 vs. the Cardinals

1-5 vs. the Seahawks

It certainly seems impossible for the 49ers to continue to own the Rams, but with the Seahawks losing Wilson, that could be one to two wins for the 49ers this season they haven't been accustomed to getting for years.

What fell right for the 49ers was the opening draw of the schedule. Right off the bat, they get two winnable games (Bears, Seahawks without Russ) and they also get the Panthers and Falcons (who they crushed last year) in the first six weeks. That's as soft a landing as there is for a young QB. In fact, it's second-easiest in the NFL over the first six weeks. The other good news is that from Week 7 onward, the 49ers literally don't travel east of Arizona. Their only road games are at LAR, ARI, SEA, and LV. The four closest teams to them geographically that they play this season. Their back-to-back roadies in Atlanta and Carolina might prompt a stayover on the East Coast, and I personally love when teams opt for staying East.

On the flip side, the negatives with the draw are both games vs. the Rams come in the first eight weeks of the season, and I'd rather Lance have more time in the offense before playing Aaron Donald twice. Additionally, the 49ers don't get the Cardinals during the span when Hopkins is suspended, rather at the end of the season. Overall, it's a manageable schedule, but this team certainly comes with a ton of variance in two major areas: player health and if Trey Lance is the real deal



# Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

### The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

01. Games	w	Halftime	Lead

### 02. Avg Halftime Lead

- 1	Λ	
	.u	

03. Wins

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)					
36. PSM YPA 8.0					
37. PSM Target Depth	6.9				
38. Non-PSM YPA	9.3				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	8.1				
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	53%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	42%				
42. PSM EPA/att	0.04				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.11				

### Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	41%
45. PA Success Rate	59%
46. PA YPA	10.0
47. PA Sack Rate	0.9%
48. PA EPA/att	0.20
49. PA Target Depth	7.3
50. Non-PA Success Rate	47%
51. Non-PA YPA	7.2
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	5.1%
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	20%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	62%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.6
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
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	4.5
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	55%
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	28	defFUM	31
Net FROE	-3.7	defFUM Rcvrd	21
offFUM	20	acii olii itevia	21
offFUM Rcvrd	11	defFR Rk	25
offFR%	55.0%	defFR%	32.3%
offFR Rk	18	defFROE	-3.0
offFROE	-0.7	deifkOE	-3.0
offFROE Rk	18	defFROE Rk	26

### Field Goal Luck

	4.54		
Net Over Expectation	1.54	Opp Att	27
Net Over Expectation Rank	9	Opp Makes	21
Own Att	32		
Own Makes	27	Opp FG %	78%
Own FG %	84%	Opp Expected Makes	21.63
Own Expected Makes	26.09	Opp Make Over Expectation	-0.63
Own Make over Expectation	0.91	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	27
Own Make over Expectation Rk	15		
2020 Own Make Over Exp.	0.77	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	3.22
2020 Own Rk	16	2020 Opp Rk	2

### Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs

· my or readming	, - a.u ta.u <b>Q</b>
	Jimmy Garoppolo
CAY	5.9
CAY Rk	13
2020 CAY Rk	39
AYTS Rk	35
2020 AYTS Rk	40
AGG Rk	19
2020 AGG Rk	30
COMP%	68.3
xCOMP%	67
xCOMP% Rk	5
2020 xCOMP% Rk	1
CPOE%	1.2
CPOE Rk	8
2020 CPOE Rk	38

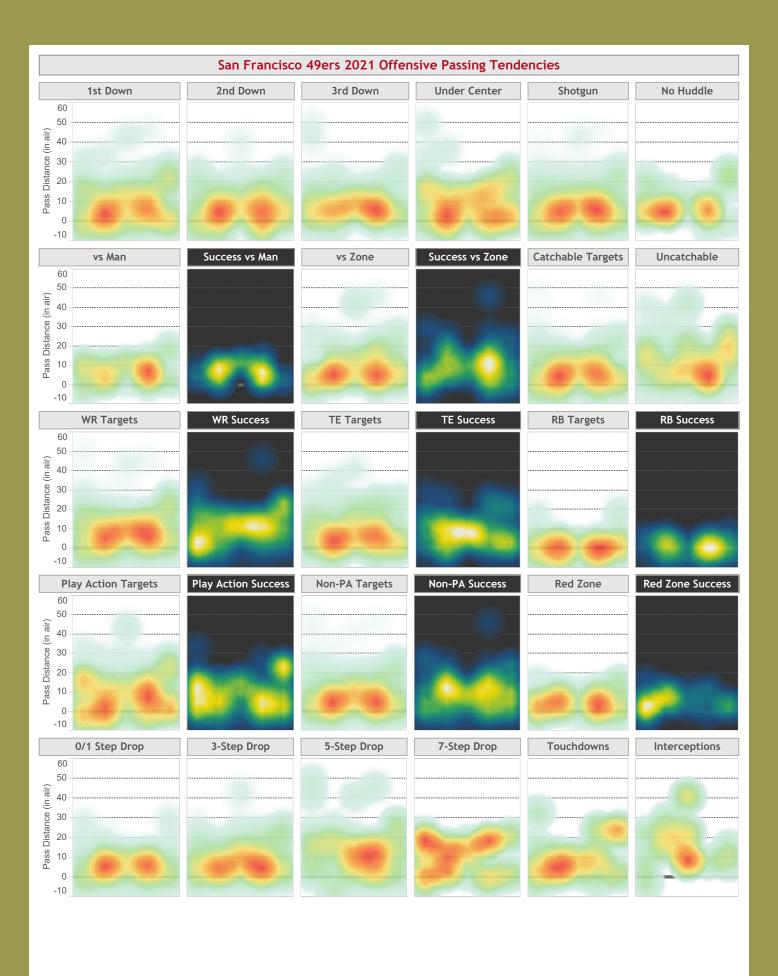
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYTS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expected completion percentage CPOE: Actual completion percentage over expectation

### **QB Pressure**

<b>Q5</b> 1.15	3541.6
	Jimmy Garoppolo
Pressure %	30
Pressure Rk	30
Sack %	5.9
Sack Rk	18
Pressure Accuracy %	71.3
Pressure Accuracy Rk	5
Rating when Pressured	68.2
Pressured Rating Rk	21
Clean Accuracy %	79
Clean Accuracy Rk	18
Rating when Clean	103.7
Clean Rating Rk	13
Time to Throw	2.67
Time to Throw Rk	31

### **Offensive Metrics**

EPA/Pass	0.10
EPA/Pass Rk	8
EPA/Rush	-0.05
EPA/Rush Rk	16
On-Target Catch %	88.4%
On-Target Catch Rk	26
Drop%	6.1%
Drop Rk	20
YAC/Att	2.5
YAC/Att Rk	8
Rush Broken Tackle %	13.5%
Rush Broken Tackle Rk	13
Rush 1st Down %	26.1%
Rush 1st Down Rk	12



### 49ers Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Jimmy Garoppolo	0.25 (#3)	0.07 (#3)	0.09 (#3)	0.09 (#3)	0.00 (#2)	0.06 (#3)	0.20 (#3)
	Trey Lance	(#)	0.12 (#2)	0.14 (#1)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)
2020	Jimmy Garoppolo	0.21 (#4)	0.12 (#1)	0.14 (#2)	0.24 (#2)	0.15 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	0.29 (#1)
	C.J. Beathard	0.37 (#1)	-0.08 (#4)	-0.06 (#4)	0.35 (#1)	-0.02 (#3)	-0.12 (#4)	0.28 (#2)
	Nick Mullens	0.28 (#2)	-0.09 (#5)	-0.07 (#5)	-0.15 (#4)	-0.12 (#4)	0.19 (#2)	0.10 (#4)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Trey Lance	(#)	-0.10 (#4)	-0.16 (#5)	0.07 (#3)	0.03 (#2)	0.27 (#1)	0.03 (#3)
-	Jimmy Garoppolo	-0.41 (#2)	0.27 (#1)	0.19 (#2)	0.27 (#2)	0.14 (#1)	0.01 (#4)	0.25 (#1)
2020	Jimmy Garoppolo	-0.30 (#1)	-0.60 (#5)	0.13 (#3)	0.45 (#1)	-0.06 (#3)	0.04 (#3)	-0.19 (#5)
	Nick Mullens	-0.62 (#3)	0.17 (#2)	0.21 (#1)	-0.10 (#5)	-0.15 (#5)	0.10 (#2)	0.06 (#2)
	C.J. Beathard	-1.00 (#4)	0.07 (#3)	-0.01 (#4)	-0.03 (#4)	-0.13 (#4)	-0.04 (#5)	-0.02 (#4)

### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Jimmy Garoppolo	77% (#4)	80% (#3)	71% (#4)	41% (#3)	82% (#1)	77% (#4)	72% (#4)	72% (#3)	76% (#2)
2020	C.J. Beathard	79% (#1)	84% (#2)	75% (#3)	50% (#2)	75% (#3)	80% (#1)	86% (#1)	59% (#4)	84% (#1)
	Nick Mullens	78% (#3)	80% (#3)	76% (#2)	56% (#1)	82% (#2)	77% (#3)	79% (#3)	78% (#2)	75% (#3)
	Jimmy Garoppolo	78% (#2)	84% (#1)	76% (#1)	27% (#4)	71% (#4)	80% (#2)	81% (#2)	80% (#1)	72% (#4)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.07 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	-0.42 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	-0.07 (#1)	-0.10 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	-0.11 (#1)	-0.33 (#1)
2020	-0.09 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	-0.11 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)	-0.26 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	-0.47 (#2)	-0.47 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

				OFF ED						DEF ED
		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	4	24	8	5	4	5	3	3	6	2
2020	14	29	21	16	18	1	13	6	8	3

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	19	23	23	15	15	9	13	1	32
2020	9	6	18	14	13	26	27	1	1

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	3	3	27	18	7	10	31	1	5
2020	18	12	6	22	12	13	9	1	11

### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach: Pete Carroll (12 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Shane Waldron (1 yr) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Hard

Easy

Clint Hurtt (SEA DL) (new)

# **Seattle Seahawks**

2022 Forecast

Wins

**Div Rank** 

#4

### Past Records

2021: 7-10 2020: 12-4



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Russell Wilson (QB)	Broncos
Duane Brown (LT)	TBD
D.J. Reed (CB)	Jets
Bobby Wagner (LB)	Rams
Carlos Dunlap (EDGE)	TBD
Gerald Everett (TE)	Chargers
Brandon Shell (RT)	TBD
Benson Mayowa (EDGE)	TBD
Rasheem Green (EDGE)	Texans
Jamarco Jones (LT)	Titans
Kerry Hyder (EDGE)	49ers
Ethan Pocic (LG)	Browns
David Moore (WR)	Retired
Alex Collins (RB)	TBD
Robert Nkemdiche (IDL)	TBD
Blessuan Austin (CB)	Broncos
Kevin Givens (IDL)	Retired
John Ursua (WR)	TBD
Gavin Heslop (CB)	TBD
Marcus Webb (IDL)	TBD
Nigel Warrior (S)	TBD

Player	New
Russell Wilson (QB)	Broncos
Duane Brown (LT)	TBD
D.J. Reed (CB)	Jets
Bobby Wagner (LB)	Rams
Carlos Dunlap (EDGE)	TBD
Gerald Everett (TE)	Chargers
Brandon Shell (RT)	TBD
Benson Mayowa (EDGE)	TBD
Rasheem Green (EDGE)	Texans
Jamarco Jones (LT)	Titans
Kerry Hyder (EDGE)	49ers
Ethan Pocic (LG)	Browns
David Moore (WR)	Retired
Alex Collins (RB)	TBD
Robert Nkemdiche (IDL)	TBD
Blessuan Austin (CB)	Broncos
Kevin Givens (IDL)	Retired
John Ursua (WR)	TBD
Gavin Heslop (CB)	TBD
Marcus Wohh (IDI.)	TRD

Average	# Games	# Games	
Line	Favored	Underdog	
3.9	4	13	

### 2022 Seattle Seahawks Overview

Groundhog Day. One of the most pointless holidays on the calendar. One of the funniest movies of the early 1990s. Watch it if you haven't already. If you have, you know the plot of the movie: A cynical TV weatherman finds himself reliving the same day over again when he goes on location to the small town of Punxsutawney to film a report about their annual Groundhog Day.

For the Seahawks, what they relive is the same cycle with every offensive coordinator since Russell Wilson came to town:

The Boss tells the new offensive coordinator to run so he does. After Year 1, he begins to throw more because he's got Russell Freaking Wilson at quarterback and passing is more efficient in general. Soon thereafter, he is fired and a new offensive coordinator is hired. Rinse. Repeat.

Seattle's rank in first down run rate in quarters 1-3 since Russell Wilson came to town.

2012: 6 (sixth-most run-heavy)

Goodwin\* R.Penny

2013: 12 2014: 14

2015: 22

2016: 30 2017: 29

2018: 1 2019: 10

2020: 26 2021: 8

### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

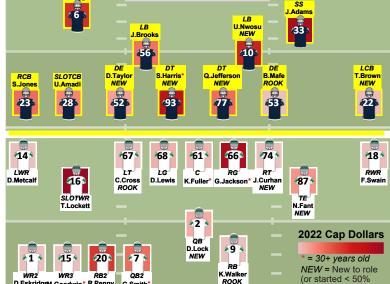
AAV (MM)
\$9.5
Trade
\$4.79
\$4
Trade
\$2
Trade
\$1.3
\$1.3
\$1.2

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	9	OT - Charles Cross (Mississippi State)
	40	DE - Boye Mafe (Minnesota)
2	41	RB - Kenneth Walker III (Michigan State)
3	72	OT - Abraham Lucas (Washington State)
4	109	CB - Coby Bryant (Cincinnati)
5	153	CB - Tariq Woolen (UTSA)
3	158	DE - Tyreke Smith (Ohio State)
7	229	WR - Bo Melton (Rutgers)
′	233	WR - Dareke Young (Lenoir–Rhyne)

### Regular Season Wins: Past & Current Proj

<u> </u>	<del>a carrenerroj</del>
Forecast 2022 Wins	5.5
2021 Wins	<b>2</b> 7
Forecast 2021 Wins	9.5
2020 Wins	<b>2</b> 12
2019 Wins	<b>==</b> 11
2018 Wins	<b>2</b> 10
	1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15



**Lineup & Cap Hits** 

### (cont'd - see SEA2)

of games last year)



2022 Unit Spending

### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk	
All OFF	29	\$83.40M	10	
QB	29	\$5.85M	1	
OL	29	\$28.28M	22	
RB	4	\$16.17M	8	
WR	15	\$23.70M	23	
TE	18	\$9.40M	26	
All DEF	24	\$86.60M	28	
DL	22	\$39.68M	30	
LB	22	\$10.39M	4	
СВ	26	\$14.96M	29	
s	3	\$21.57M	15	

ROOK

Knowing that Seattle fired and then hired two offensive coordinators in this time span, it won't be hard to imagine what year that change occurred. Go ahead,

If you guessed an offensive coordinator was fired after the 2017 and 2020 seasons, and new ones were hired ahead of the 2018 and 2021 seasons, you're correct.

First Down Run Rate by season:

2012: 56% 2013: 51% 2014: 51% 2015: 47% 2016: 43% 2017: 45% 2018: 63% 2019: 54% 2020: 42% 2021: 54%

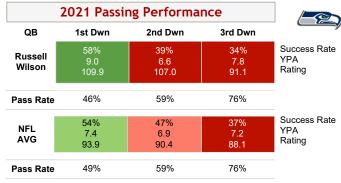
In 2017, the Seahawks ramped up to the fourth-highest pass rate on first down, passing on 55% of first downs in the first three quarters and the second-highest pass rate on early downs (59%), with only Andy Reid's infamous pass happy offense of the Chiefs clocking in ahead of them.

Pete Carroll had seen enough, so Carroll fired his offensive coordinator and hired one who would run the ball. Carroll fired Darrell Bevell and hired Brian Schottenheimer

Like a good soldier, exactly like Bevell before him. Schottenheimer ran the ball. Boy did he ever.

The 2018 Seahawks had the highest run rate in the NFL in 2018 on first down and highest run rate on early downs, dropping back to pass the ball just 37% and 41% of plays respectively.

But by 2020, as discussed in the Seahawks chapter in last year's book, Schottenheimer wanted to Let. Russ. Cook. He and Russ convinced Carroll to



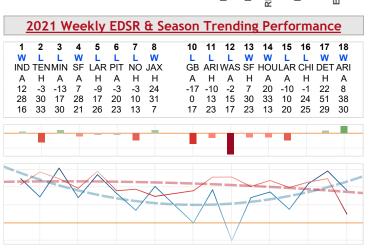
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
SEA	49% 3.9	55% 6.6	50% 5.0	Success Ra YPC
Run Rate	54%	41%	24%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Ra YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

let them throw the ball more to start the season.

Seattle went 66% pass on early downs in the first three quarters of games through Week 10 in 2020, the highest pass rate in the NFL. Then there was The Meeting. Carroll and Schottenheimer. The orders were clear and then there was no more early down passing. Weeks 11-18, Seattle dropped from first to 14th in early down pass rate. On the season, they still ranked as the seventh-most pass heavy team. But look at it by week, and you'll see they were first for the first 10 weeks.

Pete Carroll had seen enough, so Carroll fired his offensive coordinator and hired one who would run the ball. Carroll fired Brian Schottenheimer and hired Shane Waldron.

2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics **2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics** 7 10 10 5 5 11 12 12 10 10 8 15 15 Rank 12 24 14 20 20 15 26 25 25 31 21 30 30 25 Pass Pro Efficiency Off Rush Efficiency Off Explosive Pass Off Defensive Efficiency Pass Efficiency Def Pass EDSR Off 30 & In Off R Pass Eff Of Def Red Zone Off 3rd Down Off YPPA Off YPPT Off Offensive Efficiency Efficiency Off 30 & In Def 3rd Down Def YPPA Def YPPT Def Red Zone De EDSR **Explosive** 



### 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 7 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **0-5** FG Games Win %: **0% (#25)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 3-5 Score Games Win %: 38% (#24) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 43% (#19)

### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats** TO Margin +5 TO Given 13 INT Given 7 **FUM Given** 6 TO Taken 18 **INT Taken** 11 **FUM Taken** Sack Margin -12 34 Sacks Sacks Allow 46 Return TD Margin +1 **Ret TDs** Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** -1 97 Penalties **Opponent Penalties** 96

(cont'd - see SEA-3)

**E** 

16

3

RB Pass Eff Def

Pass Pro

Efficieincy Def

8

Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def 1

**Explosive** 

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS

**RESULT** 

MARGIN

OPP PTS

OFF/DFF

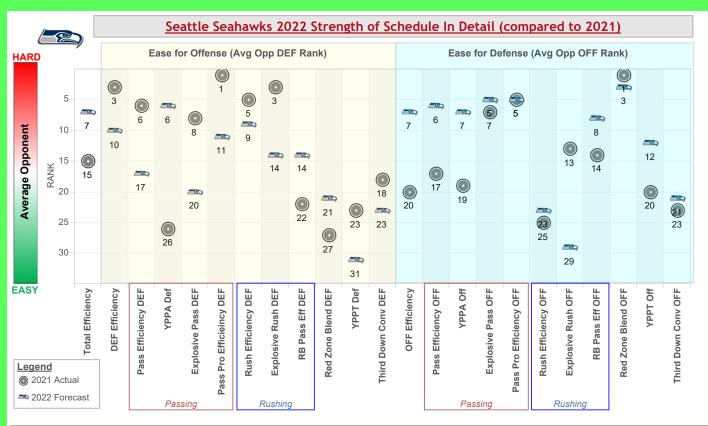
Blue=OFF

Red=DEF

(high=good)

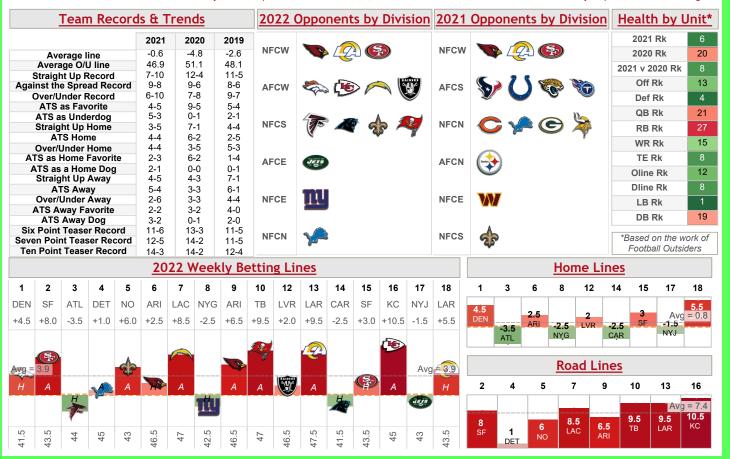
(low=good)

**EDSR** 



2022 vs 2021 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	26	20	21	10	7	14	22	

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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







Like a good soldier, exactly like Schottenheimer before him and Bevell before him, Waldron ran the ball.

The 2021 Seahawks had the eighth-highest run rate in the NFL in 2018 on first down and 10th-highest run rate on early downs, dropping back to pass the ball just 46% and 52% of plays respectively.

The shift from most pass-heavy in 2020 to eighth-most run-heavy in 2021 by firing yet another offensive coordinator was predictable. It's happened every year after Carroll fired an offensive coordinator. I knew it heading into the 2021 season and wrote extensively about it.

I also wrote: "Seattle didn't win six of the last seven games [in 2020] because of their offense. 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."

So we know Carroll got Waldron to run the ball a lot more frequently in 2021. The big question is, did it help?

The answer for Seahawks fans will be a painful one to work though.

Waldron got more out of several elements of Seattle's offense, but it didn't translate to wins because of the general philosophy.

Let's start with these nuggets, all in the game's first three quarters. I'll note that there was very little change in the 2021 Seahawks statistics in the three games that Russell Wilson missed that would change drastically the stats or the conclusions.

1. Early down efficiency by play type:

2020 passes: 0.08 EPA/att 2021 passes: 0.13 EPA/att

2020 runs: 0.03 EPA/att 2021 runs -0.05 EPA/att

2. Early down play frequency:

2020: 63% passes / 37% runs 2021: 52% passes / 48% runs

3. Early down efficiency of plays in general:

2020: 0.07 EPA/play, 47% success, 6.3 yds/play 2021: 0.04 EPA/play, 42% success, 6.2 yds/play

4. Percentage of offensive plays that were third downs (fewer is better):

2020: 7.6% (third) 2021: 20.1% (14th)

5. Average yards-to-go on third down (fewer is better):

2020: 6.9 (11th) 2021: 7.0 (13th)

6. Third down conversion rate:

2020: 40% (22nd) 2021: 36% (28th)

(cont'd - see <u>SEA-4</u>)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 0 2 3 0

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Seattle Seahawks 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

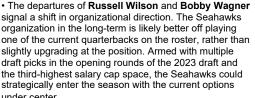
 14
 4
 15
 8
 1
 1

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

#### Why Bet the Over

· A significantly harder schedule is on tap for the 2022 Seahawks as the eighth largest jump from 2021. Not only do the Seahawks have the 11th-hardest strength of schedule, but eight games are also against teams ranked in the top 25% of Super Bowl odds.



- The departures of Russell Wilson and Bobby Wagner signal a shift in organizational direction. The Seahawks organization in the long-term is likely better off playing one of the current quarterbacks on the roster, rather than slightly upgrading at the position. Armed with multiple draft picks in the opening rounds of the 2023 draft and the third-highest salary cap space, the Seahawks could strategically enter the season with the current options under center.
- The Seahawks' defense remained relatively healthy last year and had the fourth-lowest adjusted games lost to injury yet finished with the seventh-worst passing DVOA and bottom ten in EPA/db. Forecasted to face a slightly more efficient schedule of passing offenses could become problematic for a defense that is under a new

coordinator and changing defensive schemes.



- · The Seahawks ran incredibly cold in close games, finishing 2021 with an 0-5 record in games decided by a field goal or less. Jason Myers struggled, making only 74% of field goals attempted — 1.4 field goals below expectation. Perhaps the poor field goal kicking was part of Pete Carrol's league-leading 21 punts in opponents' territory. Either way, the Seahawks are due for regression in close games.
- Drew Lock is a high-variance guarterback, but if given the chance to start he has enough pass catching weapons that would help his aggressive nature. Lock led all quarterbacks averaging over 10 air yards per pass attempt with 19.8% attempts over 20 air yards, well above the league average of 11.7%. Noah Fant and DK Metcalf have incredible size and speed that could have success if Seattle lets Lock cook.

Seattle Seahawks Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	<b>Head Coach</b>				
31	26	24	7	30	25	25				

Even with one unit ranked in the top 10, an average of the Seahawks' unit ranks gives them the league's fourth-worst roster. While playing with comparable weapons and behind a much better offensive line in Denver, Drew Lock failed to demonstrate any traits worth building around. Over the last two seasons, Lock ranked dead last in catchable pass rate on throws 15 or more yards downfield (52.6%). Between Lock and Geno Smith, Seattle has two backups competing for a starting job.

Votes for the Seahawks backfield ranged from 14th to 30th. The low end of that spectrum may be rooted in skepticism about Rashaad Penny, given his history of injuries and ineffectiveness, despite last year's improvement. The high end of the spectrum is likely optimistic about Penny and the improved depth with the addition of rookie Kenneth Walker III.

Assuming DK Metcalf doesn't get traded, Seattle at least has some quality weapons to carry them into the season. Metcalf has a well-earned reputation as a deep threat, but it was actually Tyler Lockett who finished third in the league in receptions on throws 15 or more yards downfield last year. Dee Eskridge was a disappointment as a rookie, but if he makes strides this could be a deep, well-rounded unit.

Seattle's offensive line has been a mess in recent years. Three new starters could turn things around, although relying on two rookies — Charles Cross and Abraham Lucas — at the tackle spots is a risky strategy in the short term.

The Seahawks' pass-rush generated pressure in 2.5 seconds at the second-worst rate (17.5%). The front seven was respectable in run defense, but without Bobby Wagner that area likely takes a step backward as well. Seattle played zone coverage at the league's second-highest rate, but ranked 20th in yards per attempt allowed while in zone. Jamal Adams and Quandre Diggs are a formidable duo at safety, but there's a lack of proven talent at cornerback.

Pete Carroll has become a liability in Seattle due to his outdated offensive approach. This is perhaps best demonstrated by his inability to develop a competent game plan on the first drive of each half. In that scenario, Seattle scored on just 24% of its drives last year, tied for dead last.

#### SEA-4

What are the takeaways?

Last year's Seahawks were actually better passing the ball than the 2020 Seahawks were. In fact, the 2021 Seahawks ranked second in the NFL in EPA/att on these early downs. But they were also much worse when running the ball and they chose to run the ball at a considerably higher rate.

As a result, their overall early down efficiency was worse in 2021. With worse early down efficiency, Seattle was forced into more third downs in 2021, not just from a volume perspective but from a rate perspective, looking at percentage of all offensive plays which were third downs.

In addition to not bypassing third downs as often, due to the poor early down efficiency, Seattle also faced slightly longer yardage-to-go on third downs in

As a result, Seattle had a worse third down conversion rate in 2021.

What were the total results?

In the first three quarters of games:

#### <u>SEA-5</u>

In 2020, Seattle gained 4,379 yards and 263 first downs and scored 295 points.

And despite an extra game...

In 2021, Seattle gained 4,232 yards and 228 first downs and scored 260 points.

All of this may sound marginal to you. A few percent more here or there or a few tenths of an expected point.

But the margins add up. The inches add up. The points add up.

Seattle went 0-5 in games decided by three or fewer points. FIVE LOSSES. ZERO WINS.

Even slightly better margins convert an extra first down, which allows Seattle to keep a drive alive instead of settling for a field goal. Or it turns a punt into a field goal to tie or win one of these games. Just one play.

We're talking about 35 more first downs in 2020 despite playing one fewer game.

And why? Not because the passing attack was less efficient. Waldron did a great job in a number of areas with the passing game. We already showed general EPA/att above, but digging deeper (and sticking with early downs, first three quarters):

Wilson in 2020: 0.08 EPA/att, 51% success, 7.9 YPA, 21 sacks (6.3%), 7.9 aDOT

Wilson in 2021: 0.13 EPA/att, 48% success, 8.5 YPA, 11 sacks (4.8%), 8.5 aDOT

Waldron got much more out of play-action:

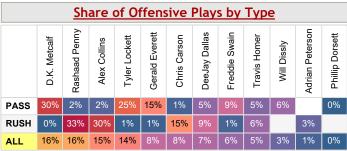
#### (cont'd - see SEA-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

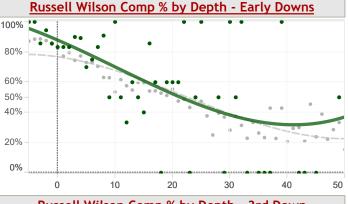


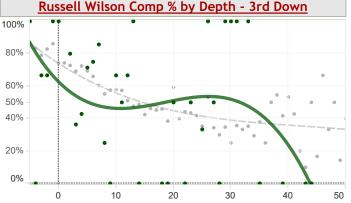


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
4	<b>2</b> )	Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)					
	D.K. Metcalf					100%					
	Rashaad Penny		1%	77%	3%	18%					
	Alex Collins	6%	7%	74%		12%					
	Tyler Lockett			50%		50%					
I	Gerald Everett			67%		33%					
RUSH	Chris Carson		2%	74%	19%	6%					
~	DeeJay Dallas	3%	15%	76%	3%	3%					
	Freddie Swain			80%	20%						
	Travis Homer		10%	38%		52%					
	Adrian Peterson		27%	73%							
	Total	2%	6%	73%	4%	15%					
	D.K. Metcalf	2%	16%	70%	6%	7%					
	Rashaad Penny			75%		25%					
	Alex Collins		20%	70%		10%					
	Tyler Lockett	5%	10%	73%	5%	7%					
ဟ	Gerald Everett	3%	14%	70%	6%	6%					
PASS	Chris Carson		17%	50%	33%						
_ □	DeeJay Dallas		17%	78%	4%						
	Freddie Swain	3%	10%	75%	5%	8%					
	Travis Homer	10%	15%	70%		5%					
	Will Dissly		23%	65%	4%	8%					
	Total	3%	14%	71%	5%	7%					







# Successful Play Rate

#### **2021 Detailed Analytics Summary**



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	0-0 [5WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, -0.06 (446)	52%, 0.00 (117)	29%, -0.18 (7)	43%, 0.04 (7)	100%, 0.99 (1)		0%, -0.94 (1)	100%, 0.22 (1)		44%, -0.05 (580)
RUSH	50%, 0.05 (236)	53%, -0.02 (153)	47%, -0.10 (30)	33%, -0.04 (6)	0%, -0.88 (5)	67%, 4.69 (3)			100%, 1.80 (1)	50%, 0.04 (434)
All	45%, -0.02 (682)	53%, -0.01 (270)	43%, -0.12 (37)	38%, 0.01 (13)	17%, -0.57 (6)	67%, 4.69 (3)	0%, -0.94 (1)	100%, 0.22 (1)	100%, 1.80 (1)	47%, -0.01 (1,014)

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					
WR	DK Metcalf	46% (106) 7.2, 0.14	57% (28) 8.7, 0.34	50% (2) 12.5, 0.71	49% (136) 7.6, 0.19					
	Tyler Lockett	50% (88) 11.1, 0.42	65% (26) 10.1, 0.34		54% (114) 10.9, 0.40					
	Freddie Swain	40% (40) 8.6, 0.16	100% (2) 9.5, 1.20		43% (42) 8.6, 0.21					
TE	Gerald Everett	53% (49) 6.8, -0.12	64% (14) 5.9, 0.02		56% (63) 6.6, -0.09					
	Will Dissly	59% (17) 6.2, 0.08	64% (11) 12.0, 0.61		61% (28) 8.5, 0.28					
RB	Travis Homer	44% (25) 6.8, -0.02			44% (25) 6.8, -0.02					
	Chris Carson	67% (3) 6.0, -0.06	67% (3) 3.7, -0.15		67% (6) 4.8, -0.11					

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

		(Leade.	<b>Dou. u</b> ,		
	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Collins	42% (55)	65% (43)	0% (3)		50% (101)
Alex	3.5, -0.18	4.5, 0.07	1.3, -0.51		3.9, -0.09
Carson	63% (30)	45% (20)	100% (1)		57% (51)
Chris	3.6, -0.07	4.0, -0.28	4.0, 0.48		3.8, -0.14
Wilson	46% (26)	50% (10)		0% (4)	43% (40)
Russell	6.0, 0.21	3.5, -0.22		-0.8, -0.94	4.7, -0.01
Dallas	65% (20)	50% (10)	0% (1)		58% (31)
DeeJay	4.9, 0.12	3.3, -0.03	0.0, -1.21		4.2, 0.03
Homer Travis	69% (16) 6.8, 0.45	33% (6) 0.5, -0.43			59% (22) 5.0, 0.21
Peterson Adrian	50% (12) 3.7, 0.07	0% (4) -2.5, -0.65			38% (16) 2.1, -0.11

<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

_	ssing by	Passing by		Throw	Types	QB Drop Types	
	verage :heme	Route 63% (68)		Level 1	54% (346) 6.3, 0.11	0/1 Step	51% (175) 6.2, 0.08
Zone	40% (378)	Out	7.1, 0.24	Level 2	44% (90)	3 Step	51% (133) 8.8, 0.42
20110	7.9, 0.04	Curl	61% (66) 6.9, 0.24	.9, 0.24	10.9, 0.20	5 Step	48% (64) 12.2, 0.00
Man	42% (89) 7.5, -0.04	Slant	42% (31) 5.7, 0.05	Level 3	40% (57) 14.6, 0.58	Designed Rollout Right	53% (51) 6.2, -0.01
		Dig	42% (12) 7.2, <b>-</b> 0.01	Shovel	50% (10) 3.4, -0.90	7 Step	64% (36) 13.1, 0.49
Other	36% (27) 5.9, -0.54	Drag	55% (11) 8.5, 0.23	Sidearm	33% (6) 2.7, -0.27	Basic Screen	19% (16) 3.4, -0.51

	-								
Planted		52% (372) 8.8, 0.28							
Moving		48% (101) 5.5, -0.11							
Shuffling		30% (57) 3.6, -0.52							
Play Action									
	Play	Action	No P/A						
Under Center		(100) , 0.20	50% (12) 8.2, 0.18						
Shotgun		6 (69) 0.04	41% (400) 6.9, -0.13						
ALL		(169) 0.13	41% (412) 6.9, -0.12						

**QB State at Pass** 

Rur	Run Types							
Outside Zone	43% (138) 4.8, -0.09							
Inside Zone	56% (89) 4.1, 0.07							
Power	59% (39) 6.7, 0.16							
Stretch	50% (22) 3.5, -0.17							
Pitch	45% (11) 1.4, <b>-</b> 0.44							
Lead	33% (6) 0.5, -0.26							

#### SEA-6

PA in 2020: .02 EPA/att, 57% success, 8.0 YPA PA in 2021: 0.13 EPA/att, 53% success, 9.3 YPA

And Russ was substantially better throwing deep as well. Throwing 20+ yards downfield:

Russ in 2020: 0.32 EPA/att, 37% success, 16.6 YPA Russ in 2021: 0.87 EPA/att, 46% success, 17.4 YPA

It wasn't the passing offense that was the problem for the 2021 Seahawks.

It was the decision to shift to a more run-heavy attack, which prevented the passing efficiency from carrying the offense.

Things wouldn't have been as bad as they were if the running game wasn't as bad as it was.

The problem was on first down, primarily:

2020 first down RB-runs: -0.03 EPA/att, 36% success, 4.0 YPC 2021 first down RB-runs: -0.10 EPA/att, 30% success, 3.8 YPC

And yet on second and third downs in the first three quarters:

2020 second/third down RB-runs: -0.06 EPA/att, 53% success, 5.4 YPC 2021 second/third down RB-runs: -0.11 EPA/att, 52% success, 5.8 YPC

(cont'd - see SEA-7)





So why was rushing as bad in 2021?

For starters, Seattle had 3+ receivers on the field for first down running back runs in 2020 at a 59% rate, and that rate dropped to 47% in 2021. More heavy personnel runs mean a higher rate of runs from 2+ tight end sets against heavier boxes.

That's where Seattle was abysmal.

First down running back runs with 2+ tight ends on the field (quarters 1-3):

2020: 0.04 EPA/att, 35% success, 5.1 YPC (55 rushes) 2021: -0.17 EPA/att, 23% success, 3.7 YPC (82 rushes)

Seattle ranked 24th in YPC, 25th in EPA/att, and 29th in success rate in 2021 on these runs, whereas in 2020 they ranked first in EPA/att, third in YPC, and 15th in success rate.

We're talking about going from a top-3 run game with 2+ tight ends in 2020 to bottom-5 in 2021. It was a massive shift.

But there's another important number to look at in the comparison. They weren't just terrible. They ran MUCH MORE from 2+ tight end sets! 82 rushes in 2021 vs. only 55 in 2020.

Because when they ran with lighter sets (one or fewer tight ends) the efficiency of these first down runs was superior to that of 2020:

2020: -0.07 EPA/att, 40% success, 3.8 YPC (80 rushes) 2021: 0.02 EPA/att, 38% success, 4.4 YPC (79 rushes)

These efficiencies in 2021 ranked fifth in EPA/att, ninth in success rate, and 18th in YPC.

How did Seattle not see their problem during the season? I can understand you have a new offensive coordinator and you want to try to run on first down because Carroll is forcing you to increase the run rate. But how are you not seeing it jump out on film or within the analytics department that first down running back runs from 11 personnel have top-5 efficiency, whereas runs from 12 personnel have bottom-5 efficiency?

I can assure you, it wasn't picked up on, because Seattle continued to crank out these runs at an enormous rate with enormous inefficiency over the second half of the year and into the final weeks of the season.

Weeks 12+ volume: 33 rushes in seven games (~ five per game, nearly identical to the full season rate) Weeks 12+ efficiency: -0.23 EPA/att, 21% success, 3.3 YPC

Every one of those metrics was even worse than early season metrics when running with 2+ tight ends on first down. But Seattle continued doing it on first downs in the first three quarters of games all year long.

(cont'd - see SEA-8)

#### Immediate Impact of Seattle Seahawks 2022 Draft Class

The unexpected slide of **Charles Cross** (first round) gave Seattle one of the best value picks on Day 1. Cross was a two-year starter at left tackle at Mississippi State and will be expected to immediately step into that role in place of **Duane Brown** in Seattle. Seahawks quarterbacks were pressured on 34.2% of non-blitz dropbacks, ranked 31st in the league per TruMedia/PFF. Cross clearly fills an immediate hole on one of the league's worst pass-protection units. Cross may be joined on the line by **Abraham Lucas** (third round), who was a four-year starter at right tackle at Washington State. Although it's probably a coincidence, it's worth noting both Cross and Lucas played for Mike Leach in college — though Lucas spent the last two seasons in a more traditional offense under Jake Dickert and Nick Rolovich. Pete Carroll has made no secret about his desire to lean on the run game, and yet no one runs the ball less in the college game than Leach. Cross averaged just 15.5 run-game snaps per game in 2021. Though both Lucas and Cross were easily justifiable selections based on need and value, it's possible their transition to the Seahawks' offense may take some time, especially for Cross.

Boye Mafe (second round) is a 24-year-old rookie who has never been an every-down player. Mafe played just 55% of Minnesota's first- and second-down snaps last season, but was on the field for 84% of third-down plays. Mafe will compete for playing time with Darrell Taylor and Uchenna Nwosu, likely seeing increased snaps on passing downs. Kenneth Walker III (second round) is the perfect Pete Carroll pick. He's a downhill runner who can handle a heavy workload, but will have to compete with Rashaad Penny, and possibly Chris Carson, for carries. Walker is a freelancer as a runner, often bailing on the designed play to create something for himself. Only 55% of his carries hit the designed gap at Michigan State, the ninth-lowest rate out of 154 FBS running backs. That style may be part of what made him attractive to Seattle — Seahawks running backs hit the designed gap at the third-lowest rate in 2021.

Coby Bryant (fourth round) will compete for immediate playing time at one of the outside cornerback positions. A four-year starter at Cincinnati, Bryant lacks ideal athleticism and is probably best suited for a zone-heavy scheme, making him a good fit in Seattle, which used zone coverage at the second-highest rate last season. 6-foot-4 cornerback **Tariq Woolen** (fifth round) fits Seattle's zone scheme for similar reasons, as taller defensive backs tend to struggle in man coverage against smaller, quicker receivers. Already 24 years of age, Woolen is old to be considered a developmental project, but his athletic traits are certainly interesting — an eventual shift to safety is possible.

Edge-rusher **Tyreke Smith** (fifth round) is another project for Seattle. Smith was a highly recruited prospect at Ohio State, but never fully lived up to expectations. Legendary defensive line coach Larry Johnson has an exceptional track record developing talent at Ohio State and back to his days at Penn State — if Johnson couldn't unlock Smith's potential there's reason to doubt his ability to reach expectations. In the event **DK Metcalf** is traded, **Bo Melton** (seventh round) and **Dareke Young** (seventh round) could factor into the offense this season. Melton is an explosive playmaker in the **Tyler Lockett** mold, while the 6-foot-2 Young would be a more natural fit in Meltcalf's role.

Few have handled the draft worse than Pete Carroll and John Schneider in recent years, but it's hard to spot any glaring mistakes in this class. Although there may not be a ton of immediate production from this group, Seattle did a nice job blending value and need early, while landing prospects with plenty of developmental talent on Day 3.

#### 

#### Seattle Seahawks 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

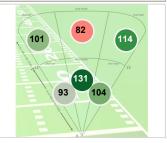
With the trade of **Russell Wilson**, the Seahawks are heading in a new direction as a franchise. Deciding to bypass selecting a quarterback in the draft, Seattle is left currently expected to allow **Drew Lock** and **Geno Smith** the opportunity to compete this summer for the starting job. Since Lock entered the league in 2019, he sits 33rd in EPA per dropback (-0.06), 36th in completion percentage (59.3%), 30th in yards per pass attempt (6.68 Y/A), 34th in touchdown rate (3.5%), and 31st in interception rate (2.8%). Seattle went 1-2 over the three games that Smith started a year ago, although Smith was viable under center on his limited sample, completing 68.4% of his passes for 7.4 yards per attempt, with five touchdowns and one interception. Outside of that dull competition, this is a unit that is expected to start two rookie offensive tackles after they were 30th as a team in pressure rate allowed (37.7%).

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Russell Wilson	259	400	65%	3,113	7.8	25	6	33	103	6
Geno Smith	65	94	69%	702	7.5	5	1	13	104	4
NFL Avg			64%		7.0				88.6	

2021 Advanced Passing Table										
QB Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success % Pass % Sains Success % Pass % Sains Success % Pass % Sains Success % Success Sains Success % Success Sains Success Sains Success Sains Success Suc										
Russell Wilson	45%	49%	45	11.0%	19	5.0%	6.7	5.3		
Geno Smith	45%	51%	11	12.0%	2	2.0%	5.3	5.5		
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3		

# Target Postive Play %





Air

Yds %

56%

53%

Air Yds vs YAC

YAC

%

44%

47%

Rk

11

Interception Rates by Down										
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total					
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%					
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%	1.7%					
6 - 9	0.0%	1.9%	2.6%	0.0%	2.1%					
10 - 14	1.3%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	1.3%					
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%					
Total	1.2%	0.7%	2.5%	0.0%	1.4%					

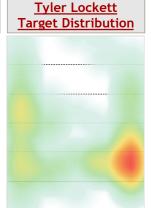
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk						
Russell Wilson	7.4 12.8		5.3	56%	1					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

# 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Seattle is front-loaded here with **DK Metcalf** and **Tyler Lockett**. Last year, that duo accounted for 49.8% of the team targets, 45.7% of the receptions, 56.1% of the receiving yardage, and 66.7% of the receiving scores. The team is already against the wall with a decision to make on Metcalf, who is in the final year of his rookie contract. 2021 second-rounder **D'Wayne Eskridge** played just 32% of the snaps. **Noah Fant** came over in the deal for Wilson and is the team's best target behind Metcalf and Lockett. Fant averaged a career-high 4.3 receptions per game, but also had an early career-low depth of target of 6.4 yards, which played a role in dropping down to 9.9 yards per catch, which was also his lowest rate through three seasons.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% дшо	YPA	Rating	% %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
D.K. Metcalf	129	58%	7.5	106.3	48%	97	105	26	105	12
Tyler Lockett	107	68%	11.0	117.9	53%	58	29	10	140	8
Gerald Everett	63	76%	7.6	111.7	60%	15	7	75	43	4





#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

We know Seattle wants to run the football and in 2021, they closed the year sixth in expected points added via rushing (47.4 EPA), 11th in yardage (2,074 yards), and third in yards per carry (5.0). A large part of that efficiency was tied to the strong finish by **Rashaad Penny**. After being left for dead and on his very last legs with Seattle, Penny rushed 92 times for 671 yards (7.3 yards per carry) over the final five games of the season, posting 135 or more rushing yards in four of those games. With **Chris Carson's** status up in the air surrounding a neck injury, the team brought Penny on a one-year deal while using the 41st overall pick on **Kenneth Walker**. Walker exploded for 1,725 yards and 19 scores with the Spartans 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
Rashaad Penny	119	6.3	46%	70	51	93	3	47%	61	6
Alex Collins	108	3.8	51%	37	64	8	70	53%	23	2
Chris Carson	54	4.3	56%	21	14	47	42	53%	23	3

#### Yards per Carry by Direction





#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Can the Seattle Wideouts Survive life after Russell Wilson?

Only four players have caught more receiving touchdowns than **DK Metcalf's** 29 since he entered the league and only three caught more than his 12 scores in 2021, but Metcalf saw a significant dip in other areas last season, dropping from 5.2 receptions per game down to 4.4 while his 81.4 yards per game in 2020 sagged down to 56.9 yards per game last season. After opening the 2020 season with 90 or more yards in seven of his first eight games, Metcalf has hit that arbitrary mark in just four of 25 games since.

Metcalf was a WR1 scorer in three of his four games played with **Geno Smith** garnering significant snaps. While that keeps the lights on, those games also showcased exactly what we do know about Metcalf, in that he is an elite touchdown scorer. Metcalf had more than six targets in just one of those four games but found the end zone five times. In 27 career games without a touchdown, Metcalf has one WR1 scoring week and zero WR2 scoring weeks. **Tyler Lockett** has consistently found a path to strong final-season numbers, posting another 1,175 yards and eight touchdowns on 73 catches. Lockett was the league's best deep-ball specialist last season, scoring a league-high 133.3 fantasy points on throws 15 yards or further downfield, the most questionable part of this transition away from Wilson, who has lived on big plays. Since Lock entered the league, he has completed just 31.9% of his passes on those downfield attempts with a 54.1 rating. Lockett did have a massive 12-142-0 games versus Jacksonville with Smith under center last season surrounding games of 2-35-0 and 2-12-0 in Smith's other two starts.

#### Seahawks Will Continue to Establish It

Seattle wants to run the football and in 2021, they closed the year sixth in expected points added via rushing (47.4 EPA), 11th in yardage (2,074 yards), and third in yards per carry (5.0).A large part of that efficiency was tied to the strong finish by **Rashaad Penny**. After being left for dead and on his very last legs with Seattle, Penny rushed 92 times for 671 yards (7.3 yards per carry) over the final five games of the season, posting 135 or more rushing yards in four of those games. Penny produced a carry of 10 or more yards on 15.9% of his carries, which was third in the league. 61.3% of his rushing yardage came on those explosive runs, the highest rate in the league. Penny had just 161 carries over his first three seasons in the league, so this could all be just Lucy holding the football for Charlie Brown, which is why Seattle insulated themselves by only retaining Penny on a one-year deal while using the 41st pick on Kenneth Walker.

Walker exploded for 1,725 yards and 19 scores with the Spartans in 2021. Walker averaged a career-high 6.3 yards per touch, living on big runs. He was second in class in the rate of runs to gain 15 or more yards (11.5%) while a class-high 53.9% of his rushing yardage came on those carries. Walker also did this while facing loaded boxes on 19.9% of his carries, the sixth-highest rate in the class. Walker has a rookie season feel similar to what we had in Nick Chubb in 2018. Like Chubb, will start off his career sharing touches with an up-and-down veteran back on a short-term deal. Seattle has always let their best players prove themselves in competition, so hope that Walker can still hit the ground running if as advertised as a player that ramps up production as the season moves on while Penny makes for a prime target on teams looking to hit a home run or bust at the position.

Sea	attle Seahav	vks Defense	: Number o	f DBs vs Per	rsonnel	Def T	ender	ncies	Surrendered +Success Map
Personnel	4	5	6	7	Grand Total		0/	D.	50
1-1 [3WR]	44 plays (9%) Success: 57% EPA: 0.14	369 plays (76%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.11	72 plays (15%) Success: 39% EPA: -0.19	2 plays <i>(0%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.91	487 plays (100%) Success: 52% EPA: 0.06		%	Rk 1	40
				EPA: -0.91	111 plays (100%)	39%	1		
1-2 [2WR]	94 plays (85%) Success: 59%	16 plays (14%) Success: 56%	1 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 100%		Success: 59%	Nickel	52%	27	30 –
	EPA: 0.08	EPA: 0.20	EPA: 0.96		EPA: 0.10	Dime+	8%	22	
2-1 [2WR]	37 plays (84%) Success: 54% EPA: 0.04	6 plays (14%) Success: 50% EPA: -0.03	1 plays <i>(2%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 0.89		44 plays (100%) Success: 55% EPA: 0.05	Rush 3	7%	7	20 -
	9 plays (90%)	1 plays (10%)			10 plays (100%)	Rush 4	72%	13	10 -
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 56% EPA: -0.23	Success: 0% EPA: -0.86			Success: 50% EPA: -0.29	Rush 5	18%	20	
Grand	184 plays (28%)	392 plays (60%)	74 plays (11%)	2 plays (0%)	652 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	3%	25	0 -
Total	Success: 57% EPA: 0.07	Success: 54% EPA: 0.11	Success: 41% EPA: -0.16	Success: 0% EPA: -0.91	Success: 53% EPA: 0.06	Blitz%	21%	25	-10_

#### **Defensive Outlook**

**Poona Ford** was 10th among defensive tackles in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate and ranked 35th at the position in pressure rate per SIS. Ford played 63% of the defensive snaps in 2021. He signed a two-year deal before the 2021 season, which runs through 2022. **Quinton Jefferson** returns to Seattle after a year each in Buffalo and Las Vegas. Jefferson has been a plus pass rusher from the interior throughout his career. Jefferson had 16 quarterback hits as a 17-game starter for the Raiders last season.

Shelby Harris was part of the Russell Wilson trade and the soon-to-be 31-year-old has added to his pass rush production over the past two years with 11 quarterback hits in each of 2020 and 2021. Harris has mostly been an odd-front end with the Broncos, but the Seahawks envision him as a 3-tech defensive tackle. Al Woods was a top run-stopping defensive tackle, ranked fifth in Run Stop Win Rate. Woods just turned 35 years old and re-signed on a two-year deal, which should continue to keep Woods in the middle of that line. On the edge, Darrell Taylor, a 2020 second-round pick, missed his entire rockie season, but bounced back to make an impact in Year 2. Taylor only played 43% of the defensive snaps but had 13 quarterback hits with 6.5 sacks and ranked 39th among edge rushers in pressure rate. Uchenna Nwosu got his first run as a full-time pass rusher with the Chargers last season and flashed the ability to be a starter on the edge. Nwosu was 25th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season and he signed a two-year deal with Seattle this offseason. 2020 fifth-round pick Alton Robinson has the athleticism to be a productive pass rusher, but has just seven quarterback hits over two seasons. Boye Mafe was drafted in the second round and could be eased into passing situations on third down. With Bobby Wagner released, Jordyn Brooks takes over as the top linebacker. That changes a lot for this defense. For as good as Brooks can be downhill, he's struggled in coverage. Brooks ranked 82nd among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021.

Seattle played the highest rate of base defense last season (39%) and only played dime on 8% of snaps. Even if that changes to more nickel personnel under new defensive coordinator Clint Hurtt, that leaves a lot of openings for linebacker snaps after Brooks. **Cody Barton** played 15% of the defensive snaps and is the leading returner of the depth.

At corner, **Tre Brown** only played in five games and on 150 coverage snaps during his rookie season but his play in that small sample gives a ton of optimism for what could be in the future. **Sidney Jones** was 42nd among cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, easily his best year as a pro. The Seahawks brought back **Justin Coleman**, who developed into a top slot corner with Seattle in 2017 and 2018 but hasn't reached those highs since he left in free agency. Coleman, now 29 years old, could jump back in as the starting slot. **Ugo Amadi** has safety-corner versatility and played most of his snaps as the slot corner last season. In the draft, Seattle selected **Coby Bryant** and **Tariq Woolen**. Both could develop into rotational players in Year 1 and long-term starters. Seattle re-signed **Quandre Diggs** for three more seasons after he played well as a deep safety. Diggs played 96% of the Seahawks' defensive snaps and has 17 passes defensed over the past two seasons. **Jamal Adams** didn't have the same impact he had in 2020 and his role completely changed as a pass rusher. In 2020, when Adams had 9.5 sacks, he rushed the passer on 17.3% of his pass snaps with a 46.1% pressure rate. In 2021, those numbers dropped to 8.8% and 16.3%. Like Amadi, **Marquise Blair** has corner-safety versatility but he's appeared in just eight games over the past two seasons and is entering the final year of his rookie deal.

Play Tenden	Play Tendencies					
All Pass %	55%					
All Pass Rk	21					
All Rush %	45%					
All Rush Rk	12					
1 Score Pass %	55%					
1 Score Pass Rk	17					
2020 1 Score Pass %	62%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	6					
2021 Pass Increase %	-7%					
Pass Increase Rk	31					
1 Score Rush %	45%					
1 Score Rush Rk	16					
Up Pass %	56%					
Up Pass Rk	16					
Up Rush %	44%					
Up Rush Rk	17					
Down Pass %	58%					
Down Pass Rk	21					
Down Rush %	42%					
Down Rush Rk	12					

<u>D</u>	own & Di	stance	e Ten	<u>denci</u>	<u>es</u>	Shotg
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %	Shotgun
1st	Short (1-3)	7	14%	86%	71%	64%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	7	57%	43%	71%	MEL
	Long (8-10)	298	44%	56%	53%	NFL.
	XL (11+)	8	63%	38%	50%	65%
2nd	Short (1-3)	45	31%	69%	78%	Effici
Dwn	Med (4-7)	82	57%	43%	54%	Lilici
	Long (8-10)	80	65%	35%	33%	EPA/
	XL (11+)	33	82%	18%	33%	pass:
3rd	Short (1-3)	34	44%	56%	62%	-0.05
Dwn	Med (4-7)	55	95%	5%	31%	EPA/
	Long (8-10)	32	91%	9%	31%	rush: -0.01
	XL (11+)	20	70%	30%	10%	
4th	Short (1-3)	3	0%	100%	67%	Success: 40%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	1	0%	100%	100%	.570

Shotgun %					
Shotgun	Under Center				
64%	36%				
NFL AVG					
NFL	AVG				
NFL 65%	<b>AVG</b> 35%				

# Seattle Seahawks 2021 Play Analysis

#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

су	2nd and Short Run							
PA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg			
ss: 20	70%	17	71%	86%	73%			
PA/ sh:		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass				
06 cess:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg			
%	30%	15	29%	67%	46%			

	Most Frequent Play								
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %				
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Alex Collins	2	50%				
Dwn			Rashaad Penny	2	50%				
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Rashaad Penny	56	45%				
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Alex Collins	3	33%				
2nd	Short (1-3)	Short (1-3) RUSH	RUSH	Alex Collins	10	90%			
Dwn			Rashaad Penny	10	80%				
	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Alex Collins	12	83%				
	Long (8-10)	PASS	D.K. Metcalf	16	31%				
	XL (11+)	PASS	Freddie Swain	6	33%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	PASS	D.K. Metcalf	5	80%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	D.K. Metcalf	13	23%				
	Long (8-10)	PASS	D.K. Metcalf	9	33%				
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Travis Homer	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: 42%	Success: 56%	Success: 45%						
	YPA: 7.5, EPA: -0.13	YPA: 11.3, EPA: 0.30	YPA: 8.3, EPA: -0.03						
	Rtg: 99.1	Rtg: 135.1	Rtg: 106.6						
	[Att: 131 - Rate: 22.5%]	[Att: 36 - Rate: 6.2%]	[Att: 167 - Rate: 28.7%]						
Yes	Success: 40%	Success: 53%	Success: 44%						
	YPA: 6.7, EPA: -0.11	YPA: 8.8, EPA: 0.08	YPA: 7.3, EPA: -0.05						
	Rtg: 95.5	Rtg: 117.4	Rtg: 102.5						
	[Att: 281 - Rate: 48.4%]	[Att: 133 - Rate: 22.9%]	[Att: 414 - Rate: 71.3%]						
Total	Success: 41%	Success: 53%	Success: 44%						
	YPA: 6.9, EPA: -0.12	YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.13	YPA: 7.6, EPA: -0.05						
	Rtg: 96.7	Rtg: 121.0	Rtg: 103.6						
	[Att: 412 - Rate: 70.9%]	[Att: 169 - Rate: 29.1%]	[Att: 581 - Rate: 100.0%]						

	Weekly Snaps Played								
Wk	Орр	Score	D.K. Metcalf	Tyler Lockett	Gerald Everett	Freddie Swain	Will Dissly		
1	IND	W 28-16	50	46	39	23	38		
2	TEN	L 33-30	51	50	43	41	26		
3	MIN	L 30-17	47	49	42	45	20		
4	SF	W 28-15	46	48		25	46		
5	LA	L 26-17	48	56		40	57		
6	PIT	L 23-20	49	58	31	51	47		
7	NO	L 13-10	46	48	33	43	40		
8	JAC	W 31-7	41	44	44	37	36		
10	GB	L 17-0	45	58	46	41	32		
11	ARI	L 23-13	45	45	42	20	25		
12	WAS	L 17-15	44	47	37	31	16		
13	SF	W 30-23	62	59	54	32	33		
14	HOU	W 33-13	45	46	38	27	42		
15	LA	L 20-10	53		48	52	26		
16	CHI	L 25-24	49	48	47	29			
17	DET	W 51-29	48	60	51	36	28		
18	ARI	W 38-30	51	51	55	19			
	Grand '	Total	820	813	650	592	512		

Personnel Groupings							
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.				
1-1 [3WR]	67%	61%	45%				
1-2 [2WR]	26%	21%	53%				
1-3 [1WR]	4%	4%	43%				
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. %				

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard							
Receiver	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
D.K. Metcalf	20	2	3	15			
Gerald Everett	8	4	3	1			
Tyler Lockett	7	2		5			
D'Wayne Eskridge	4		1	3			
Freddie Swain	4		1	3			
Will Dissly	3	1		2			
Penny Hart	1			1			
Rashaad Penny	1			1			

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard									
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20					
Rashaad Penny	19	4	4	11					
Alex Collins	13	4	3	6					
Chris Carson	7	2	1	4					
Russell Wilson	7	3		4					
DeeJay Dallas	6	2		4					
Adrian Peterson	5	3	1	1					

Early Down Target Rate						
RB	TE	WR				
14%	22%	65%				
23%	21%	56%				
23/0	NFL ÁVG					
2070		ccess %				
2070	NFL AVG	ccess %				
Overall	NFL AVG  Target Su					





#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



As we reflect on this, the answers were there for the Seahawks. Less running from heavy sets on first down and less running overall.

Because they were a more efficient passing offense in 2021 and they were a more efficient first down rushing offense from three receiver sets in 2021.

But they never saw it and never made appropriate adjustments.

I fear for what lies ahead. Because now they won't have Russell Wilson. While it's a fanatic thing to be thankful something that wasn't working is now different, I still don't think any reasonable Seahawks fan believes this team is in a better position from a passing perspective without Wilson in the building, given their current quarterback room.

So what is Waldron to do? Is he going to pass the ball MORE (as we showed he should have done last year) with an even worse quarterback? Highly unlikely.

In one-score games last year, this team shifted from 62% pass in 2020 to 55% pass in 2021, a 7% decrease which was the second-largest shift towards the run in one-score games for any team in the NFL.

Most coordinators in their second year with Carroll have gotten a little more pass-heavy compared to their first year calling plays. I don't believe that will be the case for Waldron, given he doesn't have Wilson like the other offensive coordinators did before him.

The schedule does Seattle very few favors. I show the Seahawks having a schedule more difficult than average. I predict they will play the seventh-toughest schedule of pass defenses and fifth-toughest schedule of run defenses. This includes a meeting with Wilson and the Broncos on Monday Night Football in Week 1.

I will say this – while the Broncos are clearly the better team and now have Wilson, don't forget that while Wilson knows this Seahawks defense inside and out, Seattle's defense and Carroll know Wilson's tendencies and vulnerabilities as well.

If somehow Seattle can upset the Broncos at home, they play the 49ers in Week 2, who will likely be starting an inexperienced Trey Lance at QB. Seattle swept the 49ers last season. And then Seattle has its easiest two games of the year (on paper) vs the Falcons and Lions. Seattle is very likely to look and start the season better than they really are. If Seattle has a bad record in the first month of the season, they are absolutely a prime fade candidate down the road.

A lot of people with under 5.5 wins tickets will be hoping Seattle doesn't shock some of these opponents to start the season, because the margin will be razor thin if Seattle has three wins in their first five weeks (as the Seahawks remaining easiest opponents all play Seattle in Seattle: Jets, Giants, and Panthers).

One final note of interest: only on a Pete Carroll team in 2022 would an organization have built an offense like the 2022 Seahawks and NOT have the excuse of a highly drafted quarterback on a cheap, rookie deal:

29th most expensive QB corps 31st most expensive O-Line corps Sixth most expensive RB corps

And that was BEFORE adding in rookie RB Kenneth Walker III.

In addition to losing Russell Wilson, Seattle lost starters at cornerback (**D.J. Reed**), middle linebacker (**Bobby Wagner**), defensive end (**Kerry Hyder**, **Rasheem Green**, and **Carlos Dunlap**) and three out of five spots on the offensive line (**Duane Brown**, **Brandon Shell**, and **Austin Blythe**).

Look closely. Aside from a linebacker, we're talking key positions in the PASSING game: QB, OLs, DEs, and a CB. Passers, pass protectors, pass rushers, and pass coverage.

In 2022, Seattle has **Chris Carson** (\$6.1 million cap hit), **Rashaad Penny** (\$5.5 million cap hit), **DeeJay Dallas**, and **Travis Homer** both at (\$1 million cap hits). Seattle justified the pick of Walker because three of these four players are in their final year of their contracts and all will be free agents in 2023. It's certainly within their prerogative to waste draft capital how they wish.

Yes, Walker is a talented running back. But no, Seattle did not need to draft a running back at 41 overall in 2022 when they have no quarterback and need a ton of other help in their starting roster for the passing game on both sides of the ball, simply because they like a particular running back's game and





need a running back in 2023.

But it's just so Pete Carroll to see an offense spending nothing on quarterbacks or pass protection while having what will be a top-5 ranking in running back cap hit AND drafting a running back at 41 overall.

It starts and ends with Pete Carroll.

Let's begin with the ending.

A former Super Bowl champion, 9x Pro Bowler, franchise quarterback who was drafted by the Seahawks and played 10 years in Seattle, with zero durability concerns (149 consecutive starts, sixth all time), who had a team-friendly contract for two more years (No. 10 cap hit in 2022 & 2023), was traded this offseason for two first-round picks, two second-round picks, a defensive tackle, a tight end, and a backup-caliber quarterback.

How does a team get rid of a durable, highly-performing franchise quarterback with multiple years left on a very reasonable deal for such a player? How did this happen?

It only happened because the quarterback wanted it to happen.

Russell Wilson was done with the Seahawks. He was done with Pete Carroll.

What would have led to such dysfunction?

Let's talk about big picture football strategy.

Passing is far more efficient than rushing. You win games in the modern era of football because of your passing game. You win playoff games when you have a quarterback that can raise the level of your passing game. You win Conference Championship games and Super Bowls when you receive performance from your quarterback that vastly exceeds his cap hit.

When a team has a quarterback delivering performance that vastly exceeds his cap hit, inherently the team will have more cap space to spend on other key contributors, putting them in a position of strength on two fronts: the quarterback is performing at an extremely high rate, which means y ahead of or, at worst, even with your opponent's passing attack, and the rest of your roster is more likely to be more talented or, at worst opponent's roster, assuming your general manager isn't inept with the extra money he was able to spend.

For years, we've known the benefit of the quarterback on a rookie deal. It literally fell into Seattle's lap so obviously, they couldn't mess it up when Wilson was on his rookie deal. But once they had to pay Wilson, Carroll had no concept that the offense needed to be entrusted more to his high salary cap hit and the team's ideology needed to be reimagined.

Former Panthers Pro Bowl tight end Greg Olsen, who moonlighted in Seattle briefly before becoming a TV analyst, put it like this:

"The ideology there was always defense first, kicking game, punt the ball, field position, force turnovers, play defense-first, then hand the ball to Russ at the end of the game and say 'go be magic'."

"I never thought they had a personnel issue... it was like we were playing with a JV roster and a rookie, undrafted quarterback. I'd make suggestions and they'd give pushback. It was part of Russell's frustration. It's why Russ said, 'I want to go somewhere where this is going to be an offensive, quarterback-driven team every Sunday."

It's not hard to win that way with a quarterback making \$600,000 per year but delivering top-10 efficiency. It becomes nearly impossible to win consistently when trying to play that way with a quarterback making \$32 million per year like Wilson was after signing his extension in 2019. One day Carroll will look back and realize it. Right now, he's too busy trying to convince the 2022 Seahawks that's how they are going to win with **Drew Lock**.

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

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)								
36. PSM YPA	7.8							
37. PSM Target Depth	8.3							
38. Non-PSM YPA	8.8							
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	8.0							
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	56%							
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	55%							

01. Games w Halftime Lead 8

42. PSM EPA/att

43. Non-PSM EPA/att

02. Avg Halftime Lead 3.0

0.09

0.16

03. Wins 7

Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)							
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	43%						
45. PA Success Rate	56%						
46. PA YPA	10.2						
47. PA Sack Rate	8.4%						
48. PA EPA/att	0.24						
49. PA Target Depth	9.0						
50. Non-PA Success Rate	49%						
51. Non-PA YPA	6.7						
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	3.6%						
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.03						
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	9%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	28%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	2.6
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	57%
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	36%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	47%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	4.1

Fumble Luck	(Fumble Red	covery Over Exp	pectation)
Net FROE Rk	20	defFUM	19
Net FROE	-0.9	defCLIM Decord	12
offFUM	17	defFUM Rcvrd	12
offFUM Rcvrd	10	defFR Rk	21
offFR%	58.8%	defFR%	36.8%
offFR Rk	13	defFROE	-0.9
offFROE	0.0	deifkoe	-0.9
offFROE Rk	13	defFROE Rk	21

Field Goal Luck							
-1.36	Opp Att	32					
22		27					
		84%					
		27.35					
18.71		-0.35					
-1.71		24					
		1.20					
4.73	2020 Opp Rk	13					
	-1.36 22 23 17 74% 18.71 -1.71 29 4.73	-1.36 22 23 17 Opp Makes 37 74% Opp Expected Makes 18.71 -1.71 29 4.73 Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Opp Make Over Exp.					

Player Tracking	g Data Stats - QBs	QB Pre	ssure	Offensive Metrics		
	Russell Wilson		Russell Wilson	EPA/Pass	-0.03	
CAY	6.5	Pressure %	37	EPA/Pass Rk	18	
CAY Rk	4	Pressure Rk	9	EPA/Rush	0.02	
2020 CAY Rk	17	Sack %	7.4	EPA/Rush Rk	6	
AYTS Rk	1	Sack Rk	8	On-Target Catch %	93.0%	
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	9	Pressure Accuracy %	56.2	On-Target Catch Rk	3	
2020 AGG Rk	41	Pressure Accuracy Rk	37	Drop%	3.5%	
COMP%	64.8	Rating when Pressured	85.1	·		
xCOMP%	64.5	Pressured Rating Rk	4	Drop Rk	4	
xCOMP% Rk	28	Clean Accuracy %	79.2	YAC/Att	2.6	
2020 xCOMP% Rk	23	Clean Accuracy Rk	15	YAC/Att Rk	5	
CPOE%	0.2	Rating when Clean	111	Rush Broken Tackle %	13.8%	
CPOE Rk	15 5	Clean Rating Rk	4	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	12	
2020 CPOE Rk		Time to Throw	2.8	Rush 1st Down %	25.7%	
	TS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: cted completion percentage CPOE: ver expectation	Time to Throw Rk	18	Rush 1st Down Rk	14	



#### Seahawks Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket 1D 123Q		No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Russell Wilson	0.19 (#2)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.31 (#1)	-0.01 (#2)	-0.11 (#2)	0.21 (#2)
2020	Russell Wilson	0.32 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.17 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	0.27 (#1)	0.27 (#1)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	utside Pocket Play Action Be		3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Russell Wilson	-0.53 (#2)	-0.14 (#2)	0.22 (#1)	-0.13 (#2)	-0.31 (#2)	-0.21 (#2)	-0.16 (#2)
2020	Russell Wilson	-0.39 (#1)	-0.05 (#1)	0.11 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	0.02 (#1)	0.17 (#1)	0.06 (#1)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

on range of circum (blank not							not chough act to quality)			
Season	Quarterback	All	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Russell Wilson	74% (#2)	77% (#2)	65% (#2)	59% (#1)	79% (#2)	73% (#2)	67% (#2)	69% (#2)	74% (#2)
2020	Russell Wilson	81% (#1)	86% (#1)	77% (#1)	55% (#2)	81% (#1)	82% (#1)	79% (#1)	77% (#1)	82% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.03 (#2)	0.00 (#2)	-0.14 (#1)	0.00 (#2)	-0.02 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	0.02 (#1)	0.20 (#1)
2020	-0.02 (#1)	0.06 (#1)	-0.17 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	-0.14 (#2)	0.02 (#2)	-0.04 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	-0.75 (#2)	-0.75 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

		ED 1H Pass	OFF ED 123Q	OFF ED 123Q Rush	OFF RZ ED	OFF RZ ED	3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	DEF ED 123Q Rush
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	11	19	2	7	16	3	32	21	30	6
2020	8	5	6	1	12	2	18	13	13	11

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	29	7	24	16	28	32	30	1	8
2020	7	10	5	5	8	11	9	1	6

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	25	27	11	31	26	19	11	1	24
2020	9	2	7	1	3	19	10	1	14

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

# Head Coach: Todd Bowles (TB DC) (new) Offensive Coordinator:

Byron Leftwich (3 yrs)

Defensive Coordinator:
Kacy Rodgers (new)

Easy Hard

# **Tampa Bay Buccaneers**

#### 2022 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

**Div Rank** 

11.5

#1

#### **Past Records**

2021: 13-4 2020: 11-5 2019: 7-9



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Jason Pierre-Paul (EDGE)	TBD
Ndamukong Suh (IDL)	TBD
Alex Cappa (RG)	Bengals
Rob Gronkowski (TE)	TBD
Jordan Whitehead (S)	Jets
O.J. Howard (TE)	Bills
Ronald Jones II (RB)	Chiefs
Richard Sherman (CB)	TBD
Kevin Minter (LB)	TBD
Steve McLendon (IDL)	TBD
Le'Veon Bell (RB)	TBD
Pierre Desir (CB)	TBD
Justin Watson (WR)	Chiefs
Andrew Adams (S)	TBD
Curtis Riley (S)	TBD
Miller Forristall (TE)	Retired
Nate McCrary (RB)	Retired
Donell Stanley (C)	TBD

#### 2022 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Overview

By the end of 2022, **Tom Brady** will have made \$333 million lifetime for his NFL contracts, by far the most for any player in NFL history. But he's been underpaid. And continues to be underpaid.

It's been well documented how he took far less from the Patriots than he could have taken to help build a perennial Super Bowl contender. As quarterback contracts started to go bonkers, Brady was regularly signing a new deal to keep lowering costs on the cap for the Patriots. As a result, look at some of these minuscule cap hits and where they ranked in the NFL:

2014: \$14.8 million (QB11) 2015: \$14.0 million (QB14) 2016: \$13.8 million (QB18) 2017: \$14.0 million (QB19) 2018: \$22.0 million (QB11) 2019: \$21.5 million (QB11)

When he signed with the Bucs in 2020 on a two-year, \$50 million contract, it seemed like Brady would finally start getting paid closer to market rate (but still affordable for him). But that didn't happen.

Average Line # Games Favored # Games Underdog

-4.9 15

True enough, while his 2020 cap hit was \$25 million and ranked fifth in the NFL, he restructured his deal after the season so that his 2021 cap hit was only \$10.5 million. That ranked 15th for quarterbacks. Then he talked about retirement, but returned for the 2022 season and restructured his contract again.

#### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

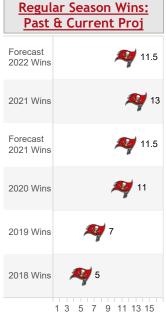
Player	AAV (MM)
Russell Gage (WR)	\$10
Shaquille Mason (RG)	Trade
Akiem Hicks (IDL)	\$8
Fred Johnson (RG)	\$1.2
Keanu Neal (S)	\$1.2
Logan Ryan (S)	\$1.10

#### **Drafted Players**

Del Die Dieses (Oellese)

Rd	PK	Player (College)
2	33	DE - Logan Hall (Houston)
2	57	OT - Luke Goedeke (Central Michigan)
3	91	RB - Rachaad White (Arizona State)
4	106	TE - Cade Otton (Washington)
-	133	P - Jake Camarda (Georgia)
5	157	CB - Zyon McCollum (Sam Houston State)
6	218	TE - Ko Kieft (Minnesota)
7	248	DE - Andre Anthony (LSU)

# (cont'd - see <u>TB2</u>)







#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

	Rank	Total	2021 Rk
All OFF	17	\$105.79M	6
QB	16	\$16.37M	16
OL		\$45.10M	11
RB	20	\$8.08M	14
WR	9	\$29.69M	5
TE	29	\$6.54M	5
All DEF	23	\$88.54M	20
DL	29	\$30.81M	14
LB	1	\$29.08M	11
СВ	16	\$19.63M	24
S	25	\$9.03M	25

#### TB-2

He was due to make \$25.4 million this year with another \$4.5 million in incentives. He's going to make \$30 million this year in the restructured deal.

But his 2022 cap hit? \$11.9 million.

That's QB18. It's almost a quarter of Ryan Tannehill's top cap hit of \$38.6 million. It's about a third of Kirk Cousins's No. 3 cap hit of \$3 million. He's way below quarterbacks like Jared Goff, Carson Wentz, Jimmy Garoppolo, Baker Mayfield, and Sam Darnold, plus a lot of actual good quarterbacks.

What is this black magic? How will he make \$30 million but count to the cap only \$11.9 million?

His base salary is only \$1.12 million, which is the veteran minimum. Add a prorated bonus of \$10.78 million. That's the cap hit. But he also has a \$15 million deferred bonus from last year plus a \$13.9 million roster bonus that for cap purposes is split over 2022 plus four voidable years. Don't ask me any more, I'm no salary expert.

What I know is there is considerable dead money if Brady retires after this season (\$35 million in 2023) but the Bucs don't care about what happens after Brady retires right now. All they care about is trying to win one more Super Bowl.

Having Brady make \$30 million in cash this year but count only \$11.9 million against the cap as QB18 gives the Bucs a lot more flexibility to build out the roster.

After winning the 2020 Super Bowl in Brady's first year in Tampa, general manager Jason Licht worked hard to restructure multiple deals to keep players happy enough to return for a special opportunity to run it back and win back-to-back Super Bowls. They became the first team in the salary cap era to return all 22 starters from a Super Bowl champion. To do that, Licht had to be very clever and use everything in his disposal to retain free agents like Chris Godwin, Shaq Barrett, and Lavonte David.

Licht gave Godwin the franchise tag in 2021 and then Godwin signed a three-year, \$60 million deal with the Bucs this offseason. However, the deal hits the cap for only \$5 million in 2022, and then rockets to \$24 million in 2023 and 2024. He gave Shaq Barrett a \$68 million deal in 2021 which has cap hits of just \$5 million and \$7.8 million in 2021 and 2022 respectively, before launching into

#### 2021 Passing Performance QB 1st Dwn 2nd Dwn 3rd Dwn 55% 56% Tom 7.8 7.0 Brady 104.9 Rating 95.5 103.1 54% 75% 82% Pass Rate Success Rate 54% 47% NFL 6.9 AVG Rating 93.9 90.4 Pass Rate 49% 59% 76% ----

	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
тв	53% 4.5	55% 3.8	69% 4.4	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	46%	25%	18%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

the \$22+ million range in 2023 and 2024. If he makes it that far, he'll be one of the highest-paid edge rushers in terms of his 2023 cap hit. He gave Lavonte David a contract that counted just \$3.3 million against the 2021 cap. but leaps to \$15 million this year.

What does this mean? It means the Bucs still have some life left on certain players for 2022, but they're already tight against the cap, thanks to certain players whose contracts from the 2021 title repeat hope are now coming due. They also had to say goodbye to several key contributors from the last two years. That included guard Alex Cappa, EDGE Jason Pierre-Paul, and defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, among others. Right guard Ali Marpet retired suddenly this offseason at age 28. Chris Godwin tore his ACL in Week 15 and likely will be either unavailable, or not 100%, until the second half of the season. Antonio Brown is obviously gone. (cont'd - see TB-3)

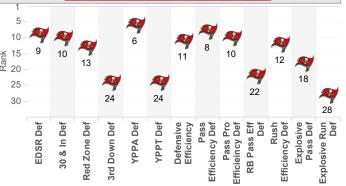
#### 2021 Offensive Advanced Metrics 10 15 23 20 25 30 Pass Pro Efficiency Off Rush Efficiency Off Explosive Pass Off Pass R Pass Eff Of EDSR Off 30 & In Off 3rd Down Off YPPA Off YPPT Off Offensive Efficiency Efficiency Off **Explosive**

#### 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 12 13 14 11 15 16

w w W WASNYGIND ATL BUF NO DALATL LAR NE MIA PHI CHI NO CARNYJCAR Н Н Α A 2 Н Α Н Α Н A 7 Α Н Н A 26 Α Н -10 -10 -9 23 28 6 35 -9 20 13 6 4 24 27 33 0 32 31 24 19 45 28 38 30 38 30 41 48 19 28 27 29 25 34 17 17 22 3 36 29 10 31 17 9 6 24 17



# 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics



#### 2021 Close Game **Records RESULT**

All 2019 Wins: 13 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **2-0** FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)** MARGIN FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): OPP PTS 15% (#19)

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 6-0 Score Games Win %: 100% (#1) EDSR by Wk W=Green 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total L=Red Wins): 46% (#16)

# 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats**

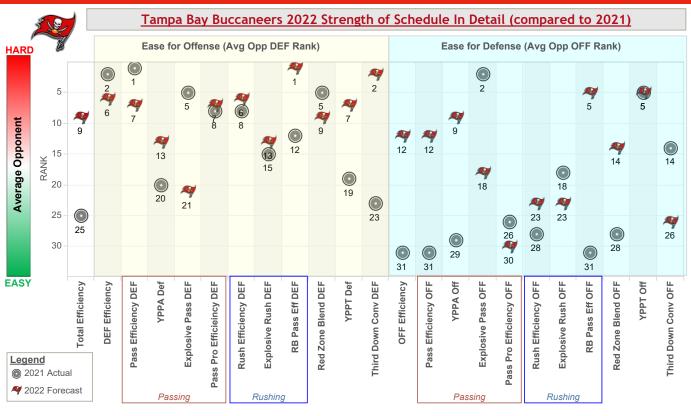
200141119	
TO Margin	+10
TO Given	19
INT Given	12
FUM Given	7
TO Taken	29
INT Taken	17
FUM Taken	12
Sack Margin	+24
Sacks	47
Sacks Allow	23
Return TD Margin	+0
Ret TDs	0
Ret TDs Allow	0
Penalty Margin	-18
Penalties	97
Opponent Penalties	79

WFFK

OPP

SITE

PTS



2022 vs 2021 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 B													
22	27	16	10	1	12	9	5							

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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 Re	cord	s & T	<u> Fren</u>	<u>ds</u>		20	)22 C	)ppo	nent	s by	Divi	<u>sion</u>	2021	Орр	onei	nts b	y D	ivisi	<u>on</u>	Healt	h by l	Unit*
					2021	20	020	2019			/_									Δ			202	Rk	16
	Ave	erage I	ine		-8.6	-4	4.8	1.2	NF	cs			7 6	Š		NFCS		5" 🕢	<b>9</b> 9	(S)			2020	) Rk	1
		ige O/l			49.4		9.5	49.3			4		~	~			4		•	~			2021 v :	020 Rk	30
		nt Up F			13-4		1-5	7-9															Off		1.1
		e Spre			9-8		-6	5-9	AF	CN	1	1E	8 🕝	A (-		AFCE	5	7 🕹	<b>//</b> ~		JETS				9
(		Ind <u>e</u> r F			9-8	_	-7	12-4			•	, , ,					(d)	74	parties.	•			Def	Rk	22
	ATS as Favorite ATS as Underdog				9-8 0-0		-5 -1	2-2 3-5															QB	Rk	1
		ht Up			7-1		-3	2-5	NF	cw	E D	10		<b>2</b>	<b>P</b>	NFCE		~ <b>11</b>		3		, I	RB	DI-	17
		ΓS Hon			6-2		-2	0-6				42							G						
		Under			5-3		-4	5-2															WR	Rk	24
		Home		te	6-2		-2	0-2		cw	-					AFCS	7	7					TE	Rk	26
	ATS as a Home Dog				0-0		-0	0-2	Ar	CVV		•				AFCS		,					Olin		3
	Straig	ht Up	Away`	•	6-3	6	-2	5-3																	
	Αī	TS Awa	ay		3-6		-4	5-2			<b>A</b>												Dlin	4	
		Under			4-5		-3	6-2	NF	NFCE		•				NFCN		<u></u>					LB	Rk	22
-	ATS Away Favorite				3-6		-3	2-0															DB Rk		27
	ATS Away Dog Six Point Teaser Record				0-0		-1	3-2													DD	KK	21		
		ाease nt Teas			11-6 12-5		2-4 3-2	11-4 13-3	NF	CN		)				NFCW	4						*Based	on the v	vork of
		Tease			13-4		5-2 5-1	14-2						~							all Outs				
161	i i oiiit	. rease	i itec	Jiu					- 442	tting Lines									11.		1 2	_			
					<u> 20</u>	IZZ V	veek	iy Be	ettin	tting Lines								HO	me	Line	<u>'S</u>				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	3	4	5	8	9	10	13	15	17
DAL	NO	GB	KC	ATL	PIT	CAR	BAL	LAR	SEA	CLE	NO	SF	CIN	ARI	CAR	ATL	-3.5	-2.5		-3.5			6.5		
-2.0	-4.0	-3.5	-2.5	-10.5	-5.5	-7.0	-3.5	-1.5	-9.5	Null	-6.5	+0.0	-3.0	-2.5	-9.0	-7.5	GB	KC	-10.5	BAL	LA	R -9.		Avg	= -5.5
-2.0	-4.0	-3.3	-2.5	-10.5	-5.5	-7.0	-3.3	-1.5	-9.5	INUII	-0.5	+0.0	-3.0	-2.5	-9.0	-1.5			ATL			- SE	^ _		- O/ ii t
	Α	Н	Н	Ĥ	Ā	Ā	Н	<b>P</b>	H		Ĥ		Н	_ A	Ĥ	À									
AVG -	-4.9		<b>(</b>				The same of the sa	4					168	-	Δνα	= -4.9				Ro	oad	Line	s		
Avg –	-000	$\cup$									<u>-</u>				Avg	4.9					_				
											25					THE PARTY OF THE P	1	2	6		7	12	14	16	18
											,				A.	7	<b>-2</b> DAL	<b>-4</b> NO	-5.5	5	-7		0 SF	-2.5	
				4														NO	PIT		-/ Car			ARI Avg	= -4.1
25	47	5	53	51	5	84	5	2	47	=	47	49	5	52	84	ιū					J 11 1				AIL
22	4	52.	2	5	47.	4	49.	51.5	4	N N	4	4	50.	2	4	46.									





But there is a ton of good news. Let's start with the most likely reason Brady is even back — well, aside from the rumors the "retirement" was to allow him to become an executive with the Miami Dolphins, force a trade to Miami, and then become the Dolphins starting QB in 2022.

The NFC is exceedingly weak this year, particularly at the very top. And as a result, the Buccaneers schedule is substantially easier than last season.

In 2020, Brady's Bucs faced the NFL's 14th toughest schedule of defenses. In last year's chapter for the 2021 Football Preview, I predicted Brady's offense would face the fifth-toughest schedule of opposing defenses, making things more difficult on the offense. The actual strength of schedule of opposing defenses at season's end? Second-toughest. I was quite close.

This year, I predict Brady's Bucs will face the NFL's third-easiest schedule of opposing defenses. That's a massive improvement over the fifth-toughest last year. In fact, it's the biggest improvement any team makes this season.

Yes, Brady's offensive line will face a few hiccups with new guards, and yes, the wide receiver room is getting a facelift. But at least they will cut their teeth on far easier defenses.

However, that's not the case for the Bucs' own defense.

In the 2021 Football Preview, I wrote: "Life should get easier for the Bucs defense, however, as a unit that ranked top five in most critical metrics and top-10 in the remainder returns every single starter and now will face 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."

I projected a huge improvement in the Bucs schedule, from the 12th-toughest schedule of opposing pass offenses in 2020 to 30th in 2021. The actual strength of schedule of opposing pass offenses at season's end? 32nd. Again, exceedingly close in my prediction.

But this year, I predict the Bucs defense will face the 17th-ranked schedule of opposing passing attacks. An average schedule is perfectly fine, but it still will be the fourth-highest increase in schedule difficulty for any team compared to last year.

And last year, the defense was not the same, formidable unit that it was in 2020. The 2020 defense literally ranked top-10 in every single critical metric. The 2021 defense was fringe top-10 against the easiest schedule of opposing offenses, but saw drops in several key metrics.

They dropped from first in run defense in 2020 to 12th in 2021 and from seventh in rate of explosive runs allowed in 2020 to 28th in 2021. This came despite playing the NFL's fourth-easiest schedule of run offenses in 2021.

They also dropped from 10th in third down defense in 2020 to 13th in 2021. This came despite playing the NFL's easiest schedule of passing offenses in 2021. The reality was even worse than the final ranking. That's because they played the Panthers twice and Jets once in their final three games of 2021. But over the first 13 weeks of the season, the Bucs ranked 24th in third down conversions allowed. They allowed 42.2% of third downs to be converted.

Compare that to the 2020 season, where the Bucs had the NFL's 10th-best third down defense and allowed a 40% conversion rate. Opponents faced 7.14 yards-to-go on third downs which ranked 10th-longest. In 2021, opponents faced 6.99 yards-to-go on third downs in those first 13 weeks, which ranked 16th. That 42.2% conversion rate ranked 24th.

The Bucs' first draft pick this year was Logan Hall, who they hope can help fortify the defensive line to help both the run defense and third down defense. I stated my public love for the move to add DT Akiem Hicks to the roster in late-May, and pairing the 335-pound Hicks with the 347-pound Vita Vea gives the Bucs 682 pounds of mass inside, which will give offenses fits when trying to get anything going on the ground.

They will face better offenses and better rushing offenses in 2022 compared to what they faced in 2021.

While the defense took a slight step backward in 2021 against an easier schedule of offenses, the Bucs' offense became even more efficient. While better cohesion and a better sense of player talent would be expected in Brady's second year in Tampa, what was impressive to me was what they changed from 2020 to 2021 because it showed self-awareness and bodes extremely well for the future.

And it was something I was begging for during their 2020 Super Bowl run.

In the 2021 Football Preview, I wrote about several things the Bucs were doing in 2020 which severely lowered their efficiency. From Weeks 1-14, the 2020

(cont'd - see TB-4)

#### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 0 2 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Tampa Bay Buccaneers 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 4 13 15 21

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- The Buccaneers allowed the fewest number of sacks in 2021 and benefited from unrepeatable offensive line health. The starting five linemen played 88% of offensive snaps together, while only four other teams had the same five linemen for over 50% of snaps. Regression in terms of injury luck combined with two new starters likely taking time to adjust could cause lead to increased pressure for Brady.
- The offense still has receiving question marks with the retirement of **Rob Gronkowski** and the status of Chris Godwin after he suffered an ACL injury in December and is likely to miss time early in the season. Brady operates an offense that gets the ball out quickly but also requires the receivers to win early as he averaged the second-fastest time to throw behind only Ben Roethlisberger. Depth at wide receiver and tight end could hinder this offense with poor injury luck.
- The defense played the easiest opposing passing offenses in 2021 and see a large jump in opposing quality of quarterbacks and offenses. The defense blitzed at the highest rate and had significantly more success against poorer starting quarterbacks. Matthew Stafford defeated the Bucs twice while Dak Prescott and Josh Allen lost close games. The slate of opposing quarterbacks in 2022 is much stronger.

11.5



#### Why Bet the Over

- Improvement in injury luck is likely on defense as the secondary and linebackers experienced a cluster of injuries in 2021. The secondary was so depleted it was needed to sign a 33- year-old Richard Sherman midseason. The defense is likely to improve upon the 53% success rate by opposing wide receivers and 58% to tight ends with better health.
- The Brady-helmed offense led the league in EPA/play with success through the air and on the ground. The Buccaneers passed at the highest rate on first down. The success from the efficient high-volume passing game led to the Buccaneers needing an average of 6.1 yards to go on third down, tied for the league's best mark. The offense is likely to continue to pass at a high rate on early downs.
- The Tampa Bay Buccaneers had a solid offseason, thanks in part to the Tom Brady unretirement. The front office signed players for good value, including veteran tackle Akeim Hicks and also re-signed Ryan Jensen, Chris Godwin, and Carlton Davis. In addition to the free agents, the Buccaneers landed Shaq Mason for a fifth-round pick. The Buccaneers had an efficient offseason which will help keep them at or near the top of the NFC standings.

# Tampa Bay Buccaneers Positional Unit Rankings Quarterbacks Offensive Line Running Backs Receivers Front 7 Secondary Head Coach 2 5 12 8 8 6 18

The Buccaneers dropped in our rankings in four of the seven unit groups, but their average rank of 8.4 still gives Tampa the league's fifth-best roster by our estimation

At the age of 45, **Tom Brady** somehow rises in our rankings this year. Brady was tied with **Russell Wilson** and the Seahawks for third last year, but is now tied with **Aaron Rodgers** and the Packers in second place. Tampa climbed 10 spots in our backfield rankings from a season ago, as **Leonard Fournette** has re-established himself as a legitimate workhorse. The unit is held back slightly due to a lack of explosive ability. Tampa ball carriers ranked 23rd last year in the percentage of attempts gaining 10 or more yards.

With **Antonio Brown** no longer in town and **Chris Godwin** returning from an injury, Tampa's pass-catchers fall seven spots in the rankings from a season ago. **Rob Gronkowski** is retired, which also weakens the depth. Gronk and Brown accounted for 31% of the team's receptions on targets 10 or more yards downfield.

Tampa's exceptional offensive line lost guards **Ali Marpet** and **Alex Cappa**, but replaced them with **Shaq Mason** and second-round pick **Luke Goedeke**. It's probably a slight downgrade, but the tackles are the true anchors of this unit. **Donovan Smith** ranked ninth among left tackles in pressure rate allowed, and **Tristan Wirfs** ranked second among right tackles. Tampa was one of four teams with three players to record at least 40 pressures last year, and all three return (**Shaquil Barrett**, **Devin White**, and **Vita Vea**). The loss of **Ndamukong Suh** weakens the unit, but second-round pick **Logan Hall** will help fill his shoes.

Jamel Dean and Carlton Davis have become one of the league's best duos at cornerback. In 2021, Dean allowed a 28% catch rate when targeted at least 10 yards downfield, the league's fifth-lowest rate.

Bruce Arians ranked 10th in our head coach ranks a season ago, and the switch to Todd Bowles may be a downgrade — though the continuity on the staff is likely a positive.

#### <u>TB-4</u>

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.

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. It's one thing to be well above average in run rate with **Jameis Winston** at quarterback, but this team added Tom Brady. 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

What happened in 2021?

Instead of being the 21st-most pass-heavy team on first quarter first downs, including 27th most-pass heavy as they started the 2020 season, the Bucs made a massive overhaul:

#### <u>TB-5</u>

2021: 55.2% pass rate, fifth in NFL 2020: 44.8% pass rate, 21st in NFL

And the efficiency of these runs was dramatically different. First down runs in the first three quarters:

2021: fourth-best efficiency (-0.01), third-best success rate (40%), eighth-best YPC (4.8)

2020: 26'th best efficiency (-0.18), 23rd best success rate (28%), 25th best YPC (4.0)

How did the Bucs improve their first down rushing so dramatically? Your first thought might be the schedule. Smart, as rushing efficiency tends to be closely correlated with defense. But the Bucs faced the 10th best run defenses in 2021 after playing the 18th best run defenses in 2020. So that's not if

Part of the answer is knowing when to run, and primarily doing so against light boxes.

2021: 65% of first down runs were against 7+ man boxes 2020: 69% of first down runs were against 7+ man boxes

By passing more frequently on first down and running against lighter boxes, the Bucs faced fewer yards to go on second and third downs.

Yards to go on second down:

2021: 7.0 yards-to-go (second)

2020: 8.2 yards-to-go (31st)

The Bucs went from second-most to second-least yards to go on second down.

#### (cont'd - see TB-6) **Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection** 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

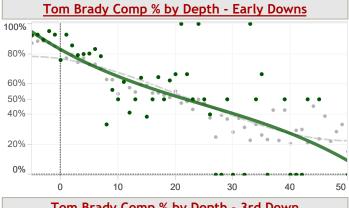


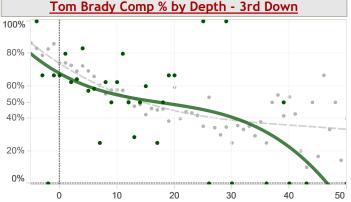


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>										
Y.		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)				
	Leonard Fournette	3%	7%	69%	5%	17%				
	Mike Evans			100%						
	Chris Godwin			75%	25%					
	Ronald Jones		1%	70%	2%	27%				
띪	Antonio Brown			100%						
RUSH	Ke'Shawn Vaughn	4%	2%	48%	10%	37%				
_	Giovani Bernard		10%	14%		76%				
	Breshad Perriman					100%				
	Kenjon Barner					100%				
	Total	3%	4%	62%	4%	27%				
	Leonard Fournette	11%	11%	69%	1%	9%				
	Mike Evans	14%	1%	58%	7%	20%				
	Chris Godwin	3%	8%	71%	6%	12%				
	Ronald Jones		8%	85%		8%				
	Rob Gronkowski	14%	8%	63%	8%	8%				
တ	Tyler Johnson	17%	16%	55%		13%				
PASS	Antonio Brown			76%	6%	18%				
₫.	Cameron Brate	11%	6%	63%	5%	15%				
	Ke'Shawn Vaughn	10%	10%	50%		30%				
	Giovani Bernard	16%	14%	41%		30%				
	O.J. Howard	13%		52%		35%				
	Breshad Perriman	10%		71%	5%	14%				
	Total	11%	7%	63%	5%	15%				







#### Successful Play Rate 100%

#### 2021 Detailed Analytics Summary



#### Success by Play Type & Primary Personnel Groupings

Туре	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-3 [1WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-2 [3WR]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	2-1 [2WR]	ALL
PASS	53%, 0.14 (621)	51%, -0.01 (159)	50%, -0.23 (22)	32%, -0.42 (22)	27%, -1.02 (11)	40%, -0.34 (5)	67%, 0.47 (3)	100%, 0.45 (1)	52%, 0.07 (844)
RUSH	61%, 0.08 (266)	48%, -0.05 (120)	34%, -0.26 (41)	100%, 1.19 (1)				50%, -1.04 (2)	55%, 0.01 (430)
All	56%, 0.12 (887)	50%, -0.03 (279)	40%, -0.25 (63)	35%, -0.35 (23)	27%, -1.02 (11)	40%, -0.34 (5)	67%, 0.47 (3)	67%, -0.55 (3)	53%, 0.05 (1,274)

**Format** Success Rate, EPA (Total # of Plays)

	Receiving Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)										
;	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp To					
	Mike Evans	59% (101) 8.9, 0.48	56% (32) 10.6, 0.11	60% (5) 5.8, 0.09	100% (1) 2.0, 0.45	59% (13 9.1, 0.38					
	Chris	64% (108)	67% (15)	50% (2)		64% (12					

POS	Player	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	1-0 [4WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
WR	Mike Evans	59% (101) 8.9, 0.48	56% (32) 10.6, 0.11	60% (5) 5.8, 0.09	100% (1) 2.0, 0.45	59% (139) 9.1, 0.38
	Chris Godwin	64% (108) 8.9, 0.21	67% (15) 7.7, 0.43	50% (2) 3.5, -0.05		64% (125) 8.7, 0.23
	Tyler Johnson	41% (51) 6.4, 0.03	67% (6) 7.5, 0.56	0% (4) 1.3, -1.01		41% (61) 6.1, 0.02
TE	Rob Gronkowski	57% (75) 9.0, 0.27	45% (22) 8.1, -0.03			55% (97) 8.8, 0.20
	Cameron Brate	61% (28) 6.2, 0.09	43% (21) 4.0, -0.09			53% (49) 5.2, 0.01
RB	Leonard Fournette	60% (58) 5.9, 0.06	60% (25) 5.5, -0.08	25% (4) 3.3, -0.38		59% (87) 5.7, 0.00
	Giovani Bernard	45% (31) 4.7, -0.06	50% (4) 1.5, -0.01	100% (1) 10.0, 2.23		47% (36) 4.5, 0.01

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	4 Grp Total
Fournette	57% (140)	50% (46)	50% (2)	55% (188)
Leonard	4.7, 0.09	3.8, 0.06	0.5, -1.04	4.4, 0.07
Jones II	68% (62)	53% (36)		62% (98)
Ronald	4.7, 0.10	3.6, -0.21		4.3, -0.01
Vaughn	61% (28)	30% (20)		48% (48)
Ke'Shawn	4.8, -0.01	4.4, -0.10		4.6, -0.05
Bernard	55% (11)	67% (6)		59% (17)
Giovani	6.2, -0.17	3.7, 0.13		5.3, -0.06
Brady Tom	79% (14) 4.1, 0.26	100% (3) 6.7, 0.52		82% (17) 4.5, 0.31
Bell	60% (5)	0% (3)		38% (8)
Le'Veon	3.6, 0.03	0.0, -0.68		2.3, -0.24
Barner	0% (1)	0% (3)		0% (4)
Kenjon	-2.0, -0.86	0.7, -0.42		0.0, -0.53

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

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

	ssing by	Passing by			
Coverage Scheme		Ro	oute		
30	neme	Curl	66% (88) 6.9, 0.23	Lev	
Zone	48% (435) 7.8, 0.14		60% (62)	Lev	
	7.0, 0.14	Out	5.4, -0.01		
Man	45% (253) Slant 7.6, 0.11	Slant	67% (43) 8.1, 0.56	Lev	
	7.0, 0.11	Dig	59% (37)	Sid	
	45% (41)	Dig	8.6, 0.27		
Other	2.1, 0.04	Drag	62% (26) 10.7, 0.46	Sho	

Throw	Types	QB Drop Types		
_evel 1	57% (576) 6.5, 0.15	3 Step	54% (392) 7.5, 0.18	
evel 2	55% (157) 10.7, 0.35	0/1 Step	54% (183) 5.8, 0.10	
_evel 3	30% (50)	5 Step	54% (113) 8.7, 0.18	
Level 5	10.3, -0.12	7 Step	65% (55) 12.0, 0.42	
Sidearm	71% (7) 6.9, 0.14	Basic Screen	54% (28) 6.4, -0.28	
Shovel	67% (6) 2.8, -0.27	Designed Rollout Right	100% (8) 4.0, 0.87	

Planted		55% (706) 7.5, 0.16		
Shuffling	ı	45% (73) 6.1, -0.08		
Moving			6% (39) .5, 0.14	
	Play	/ Acti	on	
	Play	Action	No P/A	
Under Center		6 (120) , 0.19	59% (39) 6.7, -0.05	
Shotgun		% (23) , 0.10	51% (667) 7.2, 0.05	
ALL		5 (143) , 0.18	51% (706) 7.2, 0.05	

**OB State at Pass** 

	Rur	Types
	Outside Zone	46% (84) 4.2, -0.10
	Inside Zone	65% (75) 3.5, 0.04
	Power	57% (49) 5.3, 0.15
	Pitch	40% (15) 2.9, <b>-</b> 0.39
)	Stretch	23% (13) 1.3, -0.36
)	Lead	40% (5) 1.0, -0.46

#### <u>TB-6</u>

As for yards-to-go on 3rd down:

2021: 5.8 yards-to-go (first)

2020: 6.6 yards-to-go (14th)

In my EDSR metric, which tracks early down efficiency and ability to bypass third down, the Bucs shifted from 13th in 2020 to second in 2021. Their third down efficiency shifted from 13th in 2020 to second in 2021.

I tell a lot of teams and coaches that I work with: "If you want to have a great third down conversion rate, focus on early down efficiency to reduce your yards-to-go on third down." Seems simple, but far too many teams just try to focus on building up a great catalog of plays for third down instead of trying to be efficient on early downs.

The correlation between yards-to-go on third down and third down efficiency is so evident.

In 2020, the Bucs had the 14th best yards-to-go on third down and the 13th best third down conversion rate.

In 2021, the Bucs had the best yards-to-go on third down and the second-best third down conversion rate.

The way that they had the best (aka shortest) yards-to-go on third down was their increased first down pass rate, coupled with running less often into heavy boxes and a more efficient early down strategy.

In Year 2 of Tom Brady's offense, the Bucs also made two key changes to motion. They ramped DOWN play-action and ramped UP pre-snap motion.



2021: 16.8% of att used play-action, 83.2% of att used pre-snap motion 2020: 21.2% of att used play-action, 46.1% of att used pre-snap motion

In 2020, the Bucs threw 425 passes without pre-snap motion. In 2021, that number dwindled to 143 att. Brady's numbers without pre-snap motion were poor (6.7 YPA and 0.06 EPA/att) compared to when they used it (8.8 YPA and 0.28 EPA/att), so it made sense to increase the usage of pre-snap motion.

Using less play-action was a curious choice, considering how solid Brady was with play-action in 2020.

But in 2021, the splits with and without play-action showed play-action definitely improved the offense. On early downs last year:

With play-action: 0.18 EPA/att, 8.0 YPA, 53% success, 132 att Without play-action: 0.05 EPA/att, 7.3 YPA, 50% success, 424 att

In a move that makes much more sense now that he is no longer coaching, the Bucs also seemed to pivot away from Bruce Arian's "no risk it, no biscuit" philosophy, particularly on first down.

In Brady's first season with the Bucs in 2020, they led the NFL in first down aDOT.

Look at the top-10 air yards per attempt on these first down passes since Bruce Arians went to Indianapolis in 2012, and look at how many of these quarterbacks were coached by Arians and his "no risk it, no biscuit" philosophy:

- 1. 12.7 aDOT Carson Palmer (ARI, 2015) < Bruce Arians
- 2. 12.6 aDOT Jameis Winston (TB, 2019) < Bruce Arians
- 3. 11.5 aDOT Cam Newton (CAR, 2016)
- 4. 11.3 aDOT Cam Newton (CAR, 2015)
- 5. 11.2 aDOT Carson Palmer (ARI, 2016) < Bruce Arians
- 6. 11.1 aDOT Matt Ryan (ATL, 2017)
- 7. 10.9 aDOT Joe Flacco (BAL, 2012)
- 8. 10.7 aDOT Andrew Luck (IND, 2012) < Bruce Arians
- 9. 10.6 aDOT Carson Palmer (ARI, 2013) < Bruce Arians
- 10. 10.4 aDOT Tom Brady (TB, 2020) < Bruce Arians

There's no way around it or to suggest it's a coincidence – a core philosophy of Arians is to chuck that ball deep on first down. From 2012, when he first left the Steelers to coach the Colts, through 2020, Arians coached six quarterbacks in his nine seasons that placed inside the top-10 in first down aDOT.

Considering Winston was up there in 2019 and Brady was up there in 2020, one would expect Brady to be up there in 2021 as well. But he wasn't.

In 2021, Brady moved from a target depth of 10.4 down to 8.1. That was the fifth-largest year-over-year shift for any team in the NFL, and a 28% reduction (sixth-largest).

#### Immediate Impact of Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2022 Draft Class

The Buccaneers traded out of the first round and ultimately landed the player many assumed was their target on Day 1 in **Logan Hall** (second round). Hall has reportedly already added about 20 pounds from his playing weight at Houston to better prepare for his role in Tampa's defense, where he'll likely step in for **Ndamukong Suh**. The Bucs used a formation with either two or three down linemen 85% of the time last year, with Suh lining up as a three-tech tackle on 70% of his snaps.

Tampa traded up a few spots for **Luke Goedeke** (second round), partially wiping out the assets acquired in the trade out of the first round. Goedeke exclusively played right tackle at Central Michigan, but will compete for the starting job at left guard. Goedeke struggled in pass protection at times in college but was always reliable in the run game. A switch to guard should ease some of those issues protecting the quarterback, though he has big shoes to fill, as he'll be expected to replace recently-retired **Ali Marpet**.

The Buccaneers hope **Rachaad White** (third round) has more success than **Ke'Shawn Vaughn**, **Ronald Jones**, **Charles Sims**, and every other running back they've drafted since **Doug Martin** a decade ago. White is a versatile weapon who lined up in the slot a few times per game at Arizona State. He'll provide some insurance behind **Leonard Fournette** and **Giovani Bernard**, but likely doesn't factor into the game plan as a rookie if everyone is healthy. **Cade Otton** (fourth round) fits perfectly into the Tampa offense. In my pre-draft scouting report, I compared Otton to **Rob Gronkowski** based on his surprising ability to produce after the catch despite his size. Most bigger tight ends are strictly possession receivers, but both Gronk and Otton add another dimension to that role.

**Jake Camarda** (fourth round) will be expected to win the starting job at punter, but selecting a special teamer in the fourth round is always risky. Camarda has a big leg, but accuracy has occasionally been his downfall. Over his final two seasons at Georgia, when punting between the 40-yard lines, Camarada put just 64% of his punts inside the 20, ranked 55th out of 90 qualified punters.

**Zyon McCollum** (fifth round) was a five-year starter at Sam Houston State who posted elite testing numbers at the combine. His slide to the fifth round was surprising considering his athletic traits and college production. Expect him to play on special teams early in his career while being groomed as a potential outside corner. Even late on Day 3, **Ko Kieft** (sixth round) was a surprising selection. He's purely a blocking tight end who was used almost exclusively in the run game at Minnesota. In 2021, 71% of Kieft's snaps were as a run-blocker, and he ran just 40 routes in the passing game. **Andre Anthony** (seventh round) is a former four-star recruit who has NFL traits but never blossomed as a pass-rusher at LSU. Anthony generated a disappointing 9.6% pressure rate during his career, peaking at 10.7% in an injury-shortened 2021 season.

Tampa put together a decent class, likely adding two starters (Hall, Goedeke) and another immediate contributor in Otton. Since the Bucs are in a small championship window, it was justifiable to favor immediate production over long-term upside in this class.



Yards to Go

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

1.8%

0.0%

1.6%

1 & 2

3, 4, 5

10 - 14

6 - 9

15+

Total

#### Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Buccaneers closed 2021 third in the NFL in expected points added via their passing offense (197.9 EPA) and fourth in success rate (51%) through the air. Riding the seemingly immortal Tom Brady, Brady was incredible once again. He led the NFL in completions (485), pass attempts (719), passing yards (5,316), and passing touchdowns (43) to go along with just six interceptions. Brady announced his retirement after the season, but a change of heart paired with some shakeup within the organization brought him back for his 23rd season. Brady will turn 45 years old this August but has shown no signs of going out with a whimper.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Tom Brady	542	806	67%	5,898	7.3	45	13	29	101	12
<b>NFL Avg</b> 64% 7.0 88.6										

	2021 Advanced Passing Table										
QB Success % Passing Success % Gains Success % Pass Gains Success % Success % Sains Success % Sains Success % Sains Success % Sains Success % Success Sains Success % Success Sains Success Su											
Tom Brady	52%	56%	81	10.0%	26	3.0%	5.7	5.2			
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3			

0.0%

0.0%

0.5%

2.5%

4.9%

1.6%

3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis										
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk					
Tom Brady	6.7	8.7	2.0	57%	14					
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%						

#### The Buccaneers fielded one of the best wide receiving units in the league in 2021. On an efficiency level, Tampa Bay was sixth in success rate targeting their wideouts (55%) and ninth in yards per target (8.4 yards) targeting the position. Throwing to tight ends was less effective although that was dragged down by non-Gronk targets. Tampa has a lot in motion this offseason, with Rob Gronkowski retired (at least for the moment), Antonio Brown fully gone, and Chris Godwin coming off an ACL injury that ended his season in mid-December, pushing his recovery up against the start of the 2022 season. The team added the underappreciated Russell Gage to mitigate some of the potential losses.

2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Interception Rates by Down

0.0%

0.0%

0.8%

3.1%

1.6%

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

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

6.3%

1.5%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

0.0%

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% сошр	YPA	Rating	% %	Success	Missed YPA Rk	YAS %	YTS % Rk	TDs
Mike Evans	139	65%	9.1	124.1	60%	19	17	20	90	16
Chris Godwin	128	77%	8.6	108.3	63%	7	9	49	91	5
Rob Gronkowski	105	60%	8.7	103.5	55%	44	34	18	107	6
Leonard Fournette	93	84%	5.5	87.7	57%	33	5	119	8	2
Tyler Johnson	64	64%	6.3	81.8	42%	126	89	120	73	0
Antonio Brown	62	68%	8.8	109.9	53%	59	74	22	124	4
Cameron Brate	62	53%	4.3	85.9	44%	121	77	137	3	4

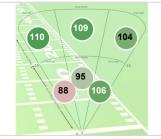
#### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Buccaneers were eighth in the league in expected points added via their rushing offense in 2021 (28.7 EPA). Leonard Fournette led the team over 14 games played. The Bucs retained Fournette on a three-year contract extension. In 22 career games with the Bucs in which he played just half of the team snaps, Fournette has averaged 17.6 touches for 89.2 yards per game with 4.7 receptions per game and 19 total touchdowns. Tampa Bay did lose early-down banger Ronald Jones but added versatile Rachaad White in the third round (91st overall). White has the size (6'0" and 214 pounds), production (1,456 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2021), receiving profile (43-456-1), and athleticism to be an impact player if he can leapfrog Giovani Bernard and Ke'Shawn Vaughn over the summer.

Player *Min 50 Rushes	Rushes	YPC	% ssecons	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YTS % RK	YAS % Rk	Early Down Success %	Early Down Success Rk	TDs
Leonard Fournette	193	4.5	56%	19	6	57	38	54%	19	10
Ronald Jones	101	4.2	62%	3	5	3	56	60%	5	4
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	52	4.4	48%	59	40	92	2	47%	61	3

#### **Target Postive Distribution** Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10

#### **Tom Brady Rating Early Downs**



Air

Yds %

52%

53%

Air Yds vs YAC

YAC

%

48%

47%

Rk

26








#### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



#### Lombardi Lenny in the Driver's Seat

Fournette has been extremely productive for fantasy when given a true opportunity at any point in his career and it's almost forgotten that he was a elite prospect, even if over-drafted at fourth overall in the 2017 draft. In 22 career games with the Bucs in which he played just half of the team snaps, Fournette has averaged 17.6 touches for 89.2 yards per game with 4.7 receptions per game and 19 total touchdowns. Tampa Bay went with a bit of a committee to open last offseason, but dominoes quickly fell in favor of Fournette becoming the lead back. From Week 4 on, Fournette averaged 20.6 PPR points per game through the end of the regular season. He scored 11 touchdowns in those 10 games played, with just one scoring week lower than RB16 and five in the top-10 scorers. Only Jonathan Taylor (87) and Austin Ekeler (62) had more red zone opportunities than Fournette (55).

In the passing game, only Najee Harris and Austin Ekeler tallied more expected fantasy points than Fournette. The only potential roadblock for Fournette in not smashing again as an RB1 in a hyper-valuable role is the development of Rachaad White. Where White stood out in context of this running back draft class is out of the backfield. He accounted for 20.9% of the team receptions and 19.5% of the receiving yards, the highest rates in this class. Not just a product of volume in the passing game, White also led this class in yards per route run (2.25).

#### Russell Gage is Undervalued

Russell Gage is coming off two productive seasons with the Falcons. After catching 72-of-109 targets for 786 yards for four touchdowns in 2020, Gage stepped up again this past season, securing 66-of-94 targets for 770 yards and another four scores. Atlanta was pressed to lean on Gage after Calvin Ridley left the team, which let Gage blossom. After running 65.3% of his routes from the slot over his first three years in the league, Gage played outside on 50.4% of his routes in 2021. He answered the call. Gage led the Falcons with 2.84 yards per route run against man coverage in 2021 per Pro Football Focus, a mark that was 11th in the league this past season.

The Buccaneers are more than familiar with Gage, who has caught 45-of-63 targets for 461 yards and two touchdowns against the Bucs in six games against Tampa Bay the past three years. Five of those six weeks, he was a top-30 fantasy scorer. While Gage has been at his best needing to accrue a large dose of targets to absences on the roster, there are paths here for him to still make in impact for fantasy as the WR3 in Tampa. Gage just turned 26 years old this past January. He joins a Tampa Bay offense led by Tom Brady, that has run the most passing plays (1,402) in the NFL over the past two seasons. This past season, Tampa Bay had 595 dropbacks with three or more wide receivers on the field, which was third in the league. Gage also can get an early season bump with the timing of Chris Godwin's injury. Godwin tore his ACL back on December 19th, placing his early-season availability in jeopardy. With the Bucs playing for a Super Bowl or bust, expect them to ensure Godwin is fully ready before forcing him onto the field. Gage has solid WR2/WR3 value for early season production while full season WR3/FLEX appeal joining the Bucs.

Tampa	Tampa Bay Buccaneers Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel							Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total			50			
1-1 [3WR]	31 plays (6%) Success: 65%	493 plays (91%) Success: 43%	20 plays (4%) Success: 20%	544 plays (100%) Success: 43%	%		Rk	40		
	EPA: 0.42	EPA: -0.10	EPA: -0.49	EPA: -0.08		29%	9			
1-2 [2WR]	85 plays <i>(56%)</i> Success: 58%	66 plays (43%) Success: 42%	1 plays <i>(1%)</i> Success: 0%	152 plays (100%) Success: 51%	Nickel	68%	8	30		
	EPA: -0.09	EPA: -0.50	EPA: -0.25	EPA: -0.27	Dime+	2%	28			
2-1 [2WR]	20 plays (43%) Success: 65% EPA: 0.28	27 plays <i>(57%)</i> Success: 37% EPA: -0.33		47 plays (100%) Success: 49% EPA: -0.07	Rush 3	5%	11	20 -		
	14 plays (88%)	2 plays (13%)		16 plays (100%)	Rush 4	56%	31	10-		
1-3 [1WR]	Success: 57% EPA: 0.29	Success: 50% EPA: -0.48		Success: 56% EPA: 0.20	Rush 5	29%	2	10		
Grand	150 plays (20%)	588 plays (77%)	21 plays (3%)	759 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	9%	3	0		
Total	Success: 60% EPA: 0.10	Success: 43% EPA: -0.15	Success: 19% EPA: -0.48	Success: 45% EPA: -0.11	Blitz%	39%	1	-10		

#### **Defensive Outlook**

Vita Vea was such a force inside that opposing offenses simply avoided attempting to run on the Buccaneers at the start of the season. Vea also continued his pass rush development and ranked 11th among defensive tackles in pressure rate, per SIS. Vea signed a contract extension in January that keeps him until through 2026 — or at least 2023 when there is no more guaranteed money. Ndamukong Suh's presence will be replaced by Akiem Hicks and rookie Logan Hall. Though Shaq Barrett didn't come close to replicating his monster 2019 season, he was 14th among edge rushers in pressure rate. Barrett was a productive pass rusher with 22 quarterback hits and 10 sacks. That should be his expectation — a plus pass rusher who shouldn't be expected to rack up 20 sacks in a season. Tampa Bay loaded up for the future when the Buccaneers selected Joe Tryon-Shoyinka in the first round of last year's draft and they got an immediate return. Tryon-Shoyinka ranked 20th among edge rushers in pressure rate while he added 10 quarterback hits on 49% of the defensive snaps. He'll get more playing time in Year 2. Jason Pierre-Paul had a significant dropoff as a pass rusher (95th in pressure rate) over 12 games and he remains an unsigned free agent.

The Buccaneers are a completely different defense when **Lavonte David** is on the field and when he's off it. Having David in the middle of the field opens up **Devin White** to play downhill more and rush the passer. David can take those coverage responsibilities since he has the range to cover all over the field. Among 85 qualified linebackers, David was seventh in yards allowed per coverage snap. The Buccaneers will need to eventually figure out what to do after David. He's currently 32 years old and his contract voids after 2022. White had some improvements in coverage (30th in yards allowed per coverage snap) but that's not the strength in his game. He had 18 quarterback hits as a blitzer in 2021. The Buccaneers will pick up White's fifth-year option for 2023 and it's likely a long-term extension is on the horizon.

Carlton Davis was a significant return on the heels of Tom Brady's unretirement. Davis ranked 60th among 93 corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions, but he's shown the ability to be a top-end corner on a play-to-play basis. Jamel Dean took over as arguably the most impressive player in the cornerback room. Dean ranked 13th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap in 2021. As a 2019 third-round pick, he is in the final year of his rookie deal. Sean Murphy-Bunting had some struggles as the team's slot corner. He ranked 75th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap. He's also in the final year of his deal. Ross Cockrell has filled in admirably when and where needed and has been an underrated corner throughout his career. He is another corner in the final year of his current contract. Antoine Winfield has already turned into a star at safety. He has 12 passes defensed over the past two seasons and has played a majority of his snaps as a deep safety. He's showed off the range to play downhill and sideline-to-sideline.

Logan Ryan comes in as a veteran addition for the defense. Ryan also has the versatility to play all over the back-end. Ryan was a corner who converted to safety with the Giants. Those cornerback traits are still apparent, even as Ryan reaches his early 30s. Ryan is in on just a one-year deal. Keanu Neal moonlighted as a linebacker with the Dallas Cowboys last season but he'll move back to safety with the Buccaneers. Neal is another veteran who can be used in multiple spots but he is also on a one-year deal.

Play Tendencies						
All Pass %	67%					
All Pass Rk	1					
All Rush %	33%					
All Rush Rk	32					
1 Score Pass %	68%					
1 Score Pass Rk	1					
2020 1 Score Pass %	65%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	3					
2021 Pass Increase %	3%					
Pass Increase Rk	8					
1 Score Rush %	32%					
1 Score Rush Rk	32					
Up Pass %	66%					
Up Pass Rk	1					
Up Rush %	34%					
Up Rush Rk	32					
Down Pass %	68%					
Down Pass Rk	2					
Down Rush %	32%					
Down Rush Rk	31					

<u>D</u>	Down & Distance Tendencies								
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %				
1st	Short (1-3)	18	39%	61%	83%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	16	31%	69%	63%				
	Long (8-10)	397	56%	44%	55%				
	XL (11+)	13	62%	38%	54%				
2nd	Short (1-3)	59	34%	66%	80%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	121	82%	18%	51%				
	Long (8-10)	111	89%	11%	55%				
	XL (11+)	27	100%	0%	44%				
3rd	Short (1-3)	62	58%	42%	69%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	70	97%	3%	46%				
	Long (8-10)	30	100%	0%	27%				
	XL (11+)	18	89%	11%	22%				
4th	Short (1-3)	7	43%	57%	57%				
Dwn	Med (4-7)	3	100%	0%	100%				
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	100%				

Shotgun %						
Shotgun Under Center						
62%	38%					
NFL	AVG					
65%	35%					
Efficiency						



#### **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

0070	0070				
Effic	iency		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Run
EPA/ pass:	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate
0.13	0.08	67%	21	71%	73%
EPA/	EDA/				
rush:	EPA/ rush:		<u>2nc</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass
0.07 iccess:	-0.04 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate
48%	43%	33%	11	29%	92%

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Freq	Rk	Freq Avg	Rate	1D Avg
67%	21	71%	73%	73%
	<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass	
Pass	Pass	NFL Pass	Pass 1D	Pass NFL
Freq	Rk	Freq Avg	Rate	1D Avg

Run NFL

	Most Frequent Play									
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %					
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	7	71%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Ronald Jones	5	80%					
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	91	54%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Mike Evans	3	33%					
		RUSH Leonard Fournette		3	67%					
2nd	Short (1-3) RUSH Leonard Fournette		18	89%						
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Chris Godwin	21	81%					
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Mike Evans	16	69%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Rob Gronkowski	6	50%					
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Leonard Fournette	11	82%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Mike Evans	14	79%					
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Chris Godwin	6	17%					
			Rob Gronkowski	6	50%					
	XL (11+)	PASS	Antonio Brown	3	33%					
			Tyler Johnson	3	33%					

		Play Action (Y/N)			
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total		
No	Success: 49%	Success: 53%	Success: 50%		
	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.16	YPA: 9.3, EPA: 0.21	YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.17		
	Rtg: 97.5	Rtg: 135.9	Rtg: 104.5		
	[Att: 124 - Rate: 14.6%]	[Att: 19 - Rate: 2.2%]	[Att: 143 - Rate: 16.8%]		
Yes	Success: 51%	Success: 56%	Success: 52%		
	YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.03	YPA: 7.8, EPA: 0.17	YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.05		
	Rtg: 98.6	Rtg: 111.6	Rtg: 100.9		
	[Att: 582 - Rate: 68.6%]	[Att: 124 - Rate: 14.6%]	[Att: 706 - Rate: 83.2%]		
Total	Success: 51%	Success: 55%	Success: 52%		
	YPA: 7.2, EPA: 0.05	YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.18	YPA: 7.3, EPA: 0.07		
	Rtg: 98.4	Rtg: 116.8	Rtg: 101.5		
	[Att: 706 - Rate: 83.2%]	[Att: 143 - Rate: 16.8%]	[Att: 849 - Rate: 100.0%]		

	Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Mike Evans	Chris Godwin	Rob Gronkowski	Leonard Fournette	Tyler Johnson	Cameron Brate	O.J. Howard	
1	DAL	W 31-29	61	64	57	42	3	18	6	
2	ATL	W 48-25	46	56	51	31	17	21	11	
3	LA	L 34-24	61	70	45	26	34	33	14	
4	NE	W 19-17	69	73		64	17	50	51	
5	MIA	W 45-17	58	51		46	38	28	44	
6	PHI	W 28-22	70	68		47	12	44	49	
7	CHI	W 38-3	56	61		39	49	40	37	
8	NO	L 36-27	58	59	6	37	39	37	28	
10	WAS	L 29-19	48	46		31	33	30	28	
11	NYG	W 30-10	64	62	46	46	57	35	20	
12	IND	W 38-31	66	65	55	54	48	17	9	
13	ATL	W 30-17	65	64	58	61	9	13	6	
14	BUF	W 33-27	77	78	73	66	49	21	5	
15	NO	L 9-0	17	16	63	33	70	20	10	
16	CAR	W 32-6			60		36	31	24	
17	NYJ	W 28-24	56		70		49	21	14	
18	CAR	W 41-17	43		50		52	10	9	
	Grand	Total	915	833	634	623	612	469	365	

_		_	_		
<u>Perso</u>	Personnel Groupings				
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %		
1-1 [3WR]	72%	61%	57%		
1-2 [2WR]	20%	21%	50%		
1-3 [1WR]	4%	4%	33%		
1-0 [4WR]	2%	2%	35%		
<b>Grouping Tendencies</b>					
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. %	Run Succ. %		

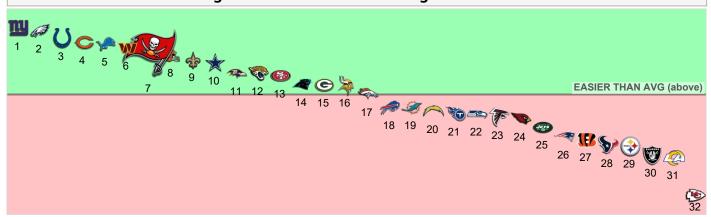
Red Zone Targets Leaderboard				
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Chris Godwin	26	4	4	18
Mike Evans	24	8	4	12
Cameron Brate	22	4	5	13
Leonard Fournette	18	3	2	13
Rob Gronkowski	13	4	2	7
Tyler Johnson	11		6	5
Giovani Bernard	8	2	5	1
Antonio Brown	3	1		2

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard				
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Leonard Fournette	44	15	12	17
Ronald Jones	14	5	4	5
Ke'Shawn Vaughn	8	4	3	1
Tom Brady	8	2	6	
Giovani Bernard	5	1		4
Blaine Gabbert	3	2	1	
Le'Veon Bell	2	1		1
Chris Godwin	1	1		

Early Down Target Rate			
RB	TE	WR	
21% <b>23%</b>	24% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	55% <b>56%</b>	
<u>Overall</u>	Target Su	ccess %	
Overall RB	Target Su	ccess %	



#### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



My immediate question was: did this start in Week 1 or did something during the season trigger it? I analyzed each week.

What was interesting was this wasn't something they entered the season doing. The Bucs had a Week 9 bye. The Week before their bye, they lost 36-27 to the Saints. And they made some changes. But look at the first down aDOT change going into and then out of that bye:

Week 1-8 first down target depth: 11.2 aDOT Week 10+ first down target depth: 5.7 aDOT

If Brady maintained the average target depth in the second half of the season, he would have posted the fifth-highest mark of the last five years. On average, he was throwing deeper on first down in those eight weeks than he was in 2020. But over the second half of the season and into the playoffs, that wasn't the case at all

Weeks 1-8, Brady's first down aDOT was second in the NFL. After that, it ranked dead last among qualifying quarterbacks.

The change was even more dramatic when you zoom into the month before and the month after the bye:

Week 5-8 first down target depth: 13.1 aDOT Week 10-13 first down target depth: 3.97 aDOT

Obviously, bye weeks give teams and veteran quarterbacks time to think and reassess strategy. There are injuries to consider as well. While Mike Evans and Chris Godwin were healthy in that entire span of Week 5 through 13, Antonio Brown only played Week 5 and 6. But even without Brown in Weeks 7 and 8, Brady averaged a first down aDOT of 10.3, in line with his rate in 2020.

Even into the postseason, the same phenomenon continued.

Vs. PHI in the last two regular seasons: 10.5 aDOT

Vs. PHI in the postseason: 5.3 aDOT

Vs LAR in the last two regular seasons: 9.9 aDOT

Vs LAR in the postseason: 4.6 aDOT

Such a massive shift that came during the bye week feels triggered by some event or meeting or observation.

While we're not sure why it happened, we know that it did and the two questions which remain are: did it help? And will they break from prior years to start 2022 using this more controlled first down passing attack?

Tom Brady on first downs in quarters 1-3:

Weeks 1-8: 0.12 EPA/att, 11.2 aDOT, 7.7 YPA, 61% comp, 47% success, 15% pressure, 2.9% sack rate Weeks 10+: 0.10 EPA/att, 5.7 aDOT, 7.3 YPA, 72% comp, 54% success, 19% pressure, 2.7% sack rate

Reducing target depth naturally helped the completion rate improve, which raised the floor on success. But it didn't improve EPA or YPA, both dropped ever so slightly. Yet Brady was pressured more often over the second half of the season. This was, in large part, due to his time to throw not really changing. You might think when you're throwing the ball 11.2 yards downfield you would hold onto the ball much longer than if you were throwing only 5.7 yards downfield. But Brady's time to throw was 2.47 seconds the first half of the season and 2.40 seconds the second half. We're talking just a seven-hundredths of a second difference.

So, the first answer was no. It didn't help if all you care about is maximizing EPA. But if you care about the rate of positive plays (aka success rate), although the upside ceiling of deeper passes provided more EPA/att on those plays, there was a much higher rate of positive plays by throwing shorter. That is important as well.





Now to the second question: will they continue in 2022? While I haven't heard anything slip out of the building as to why they started this strategy, we have heard rumors about a rift between Brady and Arians. Whether you choose to believe it or not, the bottom line is, with less involvement from Arians in 2022, I think Brady's aDOT gets reduced from 2020 rates and the first half of 2021. As mentioned earlier, we have issues at receiver as well for the Bucs to start the season.

Antonio Brown ranked fourth in aDOT for the Bucs at 11.8. Rob Gronkowski ranked fifth at 10.1. Brown won't be there and Gronkowski has retired. Chris Godwin was only ninth at 7.3, so his early-season absence wouldn't force Brady to throw more underneath necessarily. New receiver **Russell Gage** had a 9.3-yard aDOT in Atlanta last year and an 8.5-yard aDOT in 2020. Unless the Bucs use him deeper, he's not raising Brady's aDOT.

If I had to predict 2022, I think Brady's first down passing game, particularly to start the season, is far more controlled to target a higher floor for success rather than a higher ceiling in explosiveness.

One final point on this analysis: over the first eight weeks of the season, when the Bucs were chucking on first down, they averaged 5.9 yards-to-go on third down, which ranked fourth in the NFL. From Week 10 onward, they averaged 5.7 yards-to-go on third down, which ranked first in the NFL. Their third down conversion rate? Over the first half of the season, with 0.2 more yards-to-go? 49.3% (third in the NFL). Over the second half of the season, with 0.2 fewer yards-to-go? 51.1% over the second half of the season (although better in conversions, still third in the NFL).

The stated reason Tom Brady came back to football was because he believes he can still play at a high level. One unstated reason is the position he will still find himself in with the Bucs. That is top-to-bottom a still very solid team which has a much higher ceiling, particularly in the postseason, thanks to playing in the NFC. I like the fact the Bucs were clearly still tinkering with the offense out of the bye last season with relatively sweeping changes. There is a chance that with Byron Leftwich and Brady himself having more say over the offense in 2022, coupled with a weaker schedule of defenses, efficiency on that side of the ball could be even better.



# Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

#### The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

#### Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

#### 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

#### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

#### 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

01. Games w Halftime Lead
---------------------------

10	02.	

#### Avg Halftime Lead

40
4.0

ins	13

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
36. PSM YPA 7.4				
37. PSM Target Depth	6.4			
38. Non-PSM YPA	7.3			
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	9.2			
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	61%			
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	47%			
42. PSM EPA/att	0.12			
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0.11			
51				

#### Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)

44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	24%
45. PA Success Rate	57%
46. PA YPA	7.5
47. PA Sack Rate	1.9%
48. PA EPA/att	0.17
49. PA Target Depth	9.4
50. Non-PA Success Rate	57%
51. Non-PA YPA	7.4
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	1.8%
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.1
54. Non-PA Target Depth	6.9

#### 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	50%
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	33%
59. Success on runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	64%
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	34%
62. Success on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	56%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.9

#### Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)

Net FROE Rk	9	defFUM	27
Net FROE	1.7	defFUM Rcvrd	12
offFUM	12	deir divi Kcvid	12
offFUM Rcvrd	5	defFR Rk	5
offFR%	41.7%	defFR%	55.6%
offFR Rk	29	defFROE	3.7
offFROE	-2.0	deirkoe	3.7
offFROE Rk	27	defFROE Rk	2

#### Field Goal Luck

Net Over Expectation	-1.70	Opp Att	31
Net Over Expectation Rank	24	Opp Makes	27
Own Att Own Makes	31 25	Opp FG %	87%
Own FG %	81%	Opp Expected Makes	27.08
Own Expected Makes	26.79	Opp Make Over Expectation	-0.08
Own Make over Expectation	-1.79	Opp Make over Expectation Rk	23
Own Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Own Make Over Exp.	30 1 21	2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	-0.71
2020 Own Rk	13	2020 Opp Rk	25

#### Player Tracking Data Stats - OBs

Actual completion percentage over expectation

ΩR	Pr	229	ure
Qυ.		-33	uic

#### **Offensive Metrics**

0.11

0.01

91.5% 10

15 2.3 14 11.4% 23 27.8%

ridyer macking	Data Stats - QDS	QDTTes	ssui e	Offerisive	Offerisive Meti		
	Tom Brady		Tom Brady	EPA/Pass			
CAY	5.5	Pressure %	20.6	EPA/Pass Rk			
CAY Rk	23	Pressure Rk	38	EPA/Rush			
2020 CAY Rk	6	Sack %	3.4	EPA/Rush Rk			
AYTS Rk	8	Sack Rk	38	On-Target Catch %			
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	2 25	Pressure Accuracy %	57.9	On-Target Catch Rk			
2020 AGG Rk	23	Pressure Accuracy Rk	33	Drop%			
COMP%	67.5	Rating when Pressured	61.6	Drop Rk			
xCOMP%	68.4	Pressured Rating Rk	26	·			
xCOMP% Rk	1	Clean Accuracy %	79.8	YAC/Att			
2020 xCOMP% Rk	27	Clean Accuracy Rk	10	YAC/Att Rk			
CPOE%	-1	,		Rush Broken Tackle %			
CPOE Rk	23	Rating when Clean	109.1	Rush Broken Tackle Rk			
2020 CPOE Rk	17	Clean Rating Rk	9	Rusii Biokeii Tackie Kk			
CAY: Completed Air Yards AYT	S: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:	Time to Throw	2.5	Rush 1st Down %			
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expec	ted completion percentage CPOE:	Time to Throw Rk	37	Rush 1st Down Rk			

Time to Throw Rk



# Buccaneers Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

#### Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Tom Brady	0.22 (#2)	0.13 (#2)	0.12 (#2)	0.10 (#1)	0.09 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.20 (#2)
2020	Tom Brady	0.30 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	0.04 (#2)	0.05 (#2)	-0.06 (#2)	0.23 (#1)

#### Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Tom Brady	-0.39 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)	0.21 (#2)	0.07 (#1)	0.06 (#2)	0.01 (#2)	-0.07 (#1)
2020	Tom Brady	-0.44 (#2)	0.08 (#1)	0.30 (#1)	-0.07 (#2)	0.17 (#1)	0.28 (#1)	-0.15 (#2)

#### **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

	on range in checking a rank (stank more shough are to quality)										
Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage	
2021	Tom Brady	75% (#2)	81% (#2)	56% (#2)	49% (#2)	72% (#2)	75% (#2)	73% (#2)	67% (#2)	76% (#2)	
2020	Tom Brady	80% (#1)	87% (#1)	69% (#1)	57% (#1)	83% (#1)	79% (#1)	77% (#1)	72% (#1)	81% (#1)	

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.03 (#1)	0.03 (#1)	0.41 (#2)	0.02 (#2)	0.00 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.04 (#2)	0.04 (#1)	0.35 (#1)	0.29 (#1)
2020	-0.05 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	0.47 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.00 (#1)	-0.08 (#2)	0.11 (#1)	-0.09 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)	-0.19 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

			OFF ED 123Q				3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	3	2	4	8	6	19	5	9	5	7
2020	6	3	16	20	9	13	10	7	18	1

#### First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	3	4	7	3	16	27	23	1	1
2020	16	12	10	9	19	26	20	19	6

## First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	11	8	27	26	16	24	28	1	21
2020	12	3	1	17	11	22	1	20	14

#### Coaches (Prior Yrs)

Head Coach:
Mike Vrabel (4 yrs)
Offensive Coordinator:
Todd Downing (1 yr)
Defensive Coordinator:

Shane Bowen (1 yr)

Hard

Easy

**Tennessee Titans** 

2022 Forecast

<u>Wins</u>

**Div Rank** 

9.5

#2

#### **Past Records**

2021: 12-5 2020: 11-5 2019: 9-7



#### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
A.J. Brown (WR)	Eagles
Julio Jones (WR)	TBD
Janoris Jenkins (CB)	TBD
Kendall Lamm (LT)	TBD
D'Onta Foreman (RB)	Panthers
David Quessenberry (RG)	Bills
Rashaan Evans (LB)	Falcons
Jayon Brown (LB)	Raiders
Anthony Firkser (TE)	Falcons
Dane Cruikshank (S)	Bears
Nick Dzubnar (LB)	TBD
Darrynton Evans (RB)	Bears
Matthias Farley (S)	TBD
Kyle Peko (IDL)	Raiders
Marcus Johnson (WR)	49ers
B.J. Bello (LB)	TBD
Chester Rogers (WR)	TBD
MyCole Pruitt (TE)	TBD
Trevon Coley (IDL)	TBD
Cameron Batson (WR)	Falcons
Khari Blasingame (RB)	Bears

#### 2022 Tennessee Titans Overview

The 2021 Titans were not viewed as a powerhouse heading into the year.

After the draft, when they took an injured **Caleb Farley** in the first round, the Titans had the ninth-longest odds to win the AFC, behind the Chiefs, Bills, Ravens, Browns, Broncos, Colts, Dolphins, and Patriots.

At that same time, they were 40-to-1 to win the Super Bowl, which was the 18th longest odds of any team in the NFL.

This was despite the 2019 Titans advancing all the way to the AFC Championship Game and the 2020 Titans going 11-5 and landing as the AFC 4-seed.

So then why was there so little belief in the Titans heading into the 2021 season?

Likely for a few reasons. The AFC was crowded at the top. The Chiefs, Bills, and Ravens were all top teams. The Patriots would be upgrading at quarterback from Cam Newton. The Dolphins seemed more exciting after adding Will Fuller and drafting Jaylen Waddle. The Colts had just made the playoffs and advanced further than the 2020 Titans. The Browns and Broncos were trendy teams in their own right.

But it also was because of two main factors: risk of regression and lack of sex appeal.

The 2020 Titans went 7-2 in one-score games and 4-1 in games decided by a field goal or less. They were +11 in turnover margin and +2 in return touchdown margin. They were the sixth-healthiest team in the NFL. They ranked eighth in fumble luck. While I projected them to play the 13th-easiest schedule based on 2021 win totals,

(cont'd - see <u>TEN2</u>)

#### Key Free Agents/ Trades Added

Player	AAV (MM)
Robert Woods (WR)	Trade
Austin Hooper (TE)	\$6
A.J. Moore (S)	\$2.5
Jamarco Jones (LT)	\$2.39
DeMarcus Walker (EDGE)	\$1.2
Trenton Cannon (RB)	\$1.2
Jordan Wilkins (RB)	\$1
Logan Woodside (QB)	\$0.90

#### **Drafted Players**

	Rd	Pk	Player (College)
	1	18	WR - Treylon Burks (Arkansas)
	2	35	CB - Roger McCreary (Auburn)
	3	69	OT - Nicholas Petit-Frere (Ohio State)
-	J	86	QB - Malik Willis (Liberty)
	4	131	RB - Hassan Haskins (Michigan)
	-	143	TE - Chigoziem Okonkwo (Maryland)
	5	163	WR - Kyle Philips (UCLA)
	6	204	S - Theo Jackson (Tennessee)
	3	219	LB - Chance Campbell (Ole Miss)

# Regular Season Wins:

# Games

**Favored** 

<u>Average</u>

Line

-0.3

# Games

Underdog

6





[20]	24	40	90	981	50		T
LWR T.Burks ROOK	45)	777 LT T.Lewan* A	46 60	RG	75 RT D.Radunz	81	RWR R.Woods*
	SLOTWR N.Westbrook-lkhii	ne				TE A.Hooper NEW	
18 WR2 K.Philip ROOK	WR3 R s D.FitzpatrickH.Ha	28 7 2 Registins ROOK	Q£ R.Tann		- - -	* = 30+ NEW = 1 (or starte	years old New to role ed < 50% es last year)

#### 2022 Unit Spending



#### **Positional Spending**

Rank	Total	2021 Rk
	\$121.49M	12
1	\$40.20M	18
21	\$33.32M	6
2	\$19.58M	1
21	\$20.67M	28
25	\$7.73M	19
26	\$84.21M	29
13	\$48.29M	31
23	\$9.49M	18
29	\$12.82M	22
13	\$13.61M	5
	4 1 21 2 21 25 26 13 23 29	4 \$121.49M  1 \$40.20M  21 \$33.32M  2 \$19.58M  21 \$20.67M  25 \$7.73M  26 \$84.21M  13 \$48.29M  23 \$9.49M  29 \$12.82M

#### TEN-2

people that looked at last year's W-L record (from 2020) to calculate 2021 strength of schedule showed them playing the 13th toughest schedule.

Those factors do scream regression.

Then there's the lack of sex appeal. This was the second-most run-heavy team in the NFL in 2020. They gave Derrick Henry a career-high 378 rushes in 2020 because they were so committed to the ground game. Henry was a huge red flag and an injury risk in 2021 due to that workload. If Henry was lost, how efficient would this offense be? Additionally, they lost their offensive coordinator, Arthur Smith, and were replacing him with Todd Downing. This was viewed as a step backward.

Considering that the rest of the NFL making improvements, the Titans were moving laterally from a personnel perspective, and backward from a coaching perspective, the high risk of regression across a ton of fronts and the lack of sex appeal, many people were down on the Titans during the offseason.

Perception started to shift when the Titans acquired Julio Jones in early June. By training camp, they were viewed as the sixth-most likely team to win the AFC and the 10th-most likely team to win the Super Bowl.

Then Colts starting quarterback Carson Wentz had ankle surgery in early August and his timeline to return was "up to 12 weeks". That news propelled the Titans to be the fifth-most likely team to win the AFC and ninth-most likely team to win the Super Bowl.

From early May to early September, they shifted from ninth to win the AFC at 20-to-1 odds up to fifth most likely at 10-to-1, and from 18th to win the Super Bowl at 40-to-1 up to ninth most likely at 20-to-1.

It was a huge shift - the largest of any team from May to September.

But it still wasn't commensurate with what the Titans had done over the prior two seasons. It is fair to say that while there may have been value at the longer numbers, there still was healthy skepticism that the Titans would do enough outside of their weak AFC South division to pose a real threat to win the AFC or the Super Bowl.

I'll admit, I wasn't thrilled about Todd Downing's upside. But I wasn't one of

2nd Dwn 48% 7.5 100.4	3rd Dwn 37% 7.0 73.7	Success Rate YPA Rating
7.5	7.0	YPA
51%	76%	
47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating
59%	76%	
	59%	

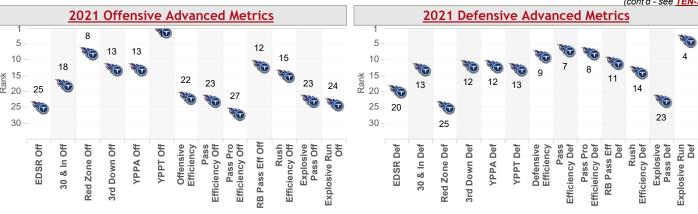
	2021 Rushi	ng Performa	nce	
Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	
TEN	44% 4.2	45% 4.4	63% 5.8	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	61%	49%	24%	
NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC
Run Rate	51%	41%	24%	

the people running to short the 2021 Titans. In my 2021 book, I drew a slightly more optimistic conclusion after I spent weeks researching and studying the Titans. I wrote:

"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."

Let's work through that statement in reverse order. The Titans' defense

(cont'd - see TEN-3)





WFFK **RESULT** OPP SITE MARGIN PTS OPP PTS

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

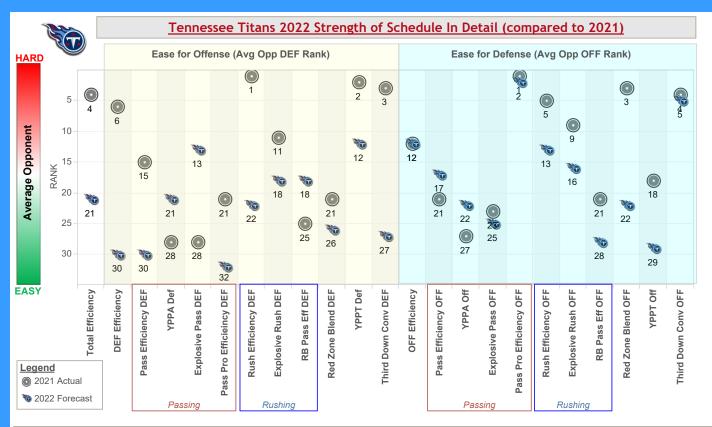
OFF/DFF **EDSR** Blue=OFF (high=good) Red=DEF (low=good)

#### 2021 Close Game **Records**

All 2019 Wins: 12 FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **6-1** FG Games Win %: **86% (#6)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins):

Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 6-2 Score Games Win %: 75% (#5) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total Wins): 50% (#13)

#### 2021 Critical/Game-**Deciding Stats TO Margin** -3 TO Given 25 **INT Given** 14 **FUM Given** 11 TO Taken 22 16 **INT Taken FUM Taken** 6 Sack Margin -4 43 Sacks Sacks Allow 47 Return TD Margin +0 **Ret TDs** 0 Ret TDs Allow 0 **Penalty Margin** +15 Penalties 103 **Opponent Penalties** 118



	2022 vs 2021 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	19	31	24	15	15	26	26		

<sup>\* 1=</sup>Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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





needed to show a pulse and a pass rush. It wouldn't be hard to do. The 2020 unit was abysmal. They ranked 29th in defensive efficiency, 30th in pass defense, and 32nd in pass rush. Pure variance alone should help improve things on that side of the ball. But the Titans' defense did more than just improve on variance.

The 2021 defense shifted from 29th up to ninth in defensive efficiency. The 2021 pass defense improved from 30th up to seventh. The pass rush improved from 32nd up to eighth in adjusted sack rate. Playing a large role in that was the offenses they faced. The 2021 Titans played the seventh-easiest schedule of pass offenses.

#### Tennessee played:

Carson Wentz twice (and won both)
Rookie Trevor Lawrence twice (and won both)
Rookie Davis Mills (and won)
Rookie Zach Wilson (and lost)
Rookie Mac Jones (and lost)
Trevor Siemian (and won)
Tua Tagovailoa (and won)
Jimmy Garoppolo (and won)

That right there? 11 games against quarterbacks either not viewed in the best light - or rookies.

Among more competent quarterbacks, the Titans played:

Matthew Stafford (and won)
Josh Allen (and won)
Patrick Mahomes (and won)
Kyler Murray (and lost)
Russell Wilson (and won)
Ben Roethlisberger (and lost)

Tyrod Taylor (and lost)

This explains when the Titans schedule was graded as one of the easier in the NFL, as 11 of their 17 games came against quarterbacks and passing offenses which were highly erratic.

The defense ended up playing better than the 2020 defense, and this absolutely benefitted the 2021 Titans in keeping games close.

I also projected the 2021 Titans would be successful so long as Downing wasn't a disaster, and I didn't think he needed to change much with the team. Just don't mess it up.

We saw him keep many of the key elements consistent with Arthur Smith's offense from 2020:

Play-action usage? Third-most in the NFL in 2021 after first in 2020.

Pre-snap motion usage? 12th most in 2021 after fourth in 2020.

I mentioned motion could not be underutilized, because it benefitted the offense massively in 2020. Well in 2021, no team in the NFL saw as large an improvement when using pre-snap motion ahead of pass plays as did the Titans, improving from 5.7 YPA without pre-snap motion to 7.8 YPA. I would have preferred closer to fourth-most usage (as Smith called in 2020) than the Downing-led 12th-most usage, but it still was quite beneficial.

The play-action usage was still top three, as it was in 2020, and the Titans received a ton of improvement when using play-action. Look at **Ryan Tannehill's** splits on early downs in the first three quarters:

(cont'd - see TEN-4)

<u>S</u>	Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule									
	2022 games where									
Opponent has over a week to prep	over a week to less than a week Difference Difference disadvantage advantage Difference Short week road Team p							Team plays of road SNF or MI		
3	3		0	4	3	-1	1	2	0	
	<u>Stı</u>	ength of S	chedule	d Game Timi	ng: Tenne	ssee Titans Ra	nking vs NFL	<u>Average</u>		
Net Rest Edge	Rank	Prep Ra	nk	Rest Rank	Shor	t Week Road Games Rank	Games off Road S Rank	SNF/MNF Ne	egated Bye Rank	
24		8		18		8	21		1	

#### Forecast 2022 Wins

#### Why Bet the Under

- Ryan Tannehill carries the largest cap hit in the league with an increase of \$27.5 million from last year. Even after leading the AFC in wins, the front office hasn't given a vote of confidence to the current roster as elite wide receiver A.J. Brown was traded and Tannehill's contract has not been restructured as management is not sacrificing future cap room for immediate spending.
- A 6-1 record in games decided by less than three points will be difficult to sustain. The Titans' offense was ninth-best in red zone efficiency, scoring with a 62.5% touchdown rate. The defense was fourth allowing a 51.7% touchdown rate. The +10.8% red zone differential is likely to regress in 2022.
- Derek Henry is entering the season as a 28-year-old coming off a Jones fracture. With over 1,500 carries under his belt, Henry has shown signs of slowing down as his explosive play rate has decreased every year, dropping to 8% in 2021. Henry provides value to the offense, but the Titans continue to run the ball on first down at the league's highest rate and decreased the use of play-action minimizing the edge provided to the passing game.

9.5



#### Why Bet the Over

- Although the Titans finished with the fifth-least adjusted games lost on offense, the offense was impacted by the loss of Derek Henry, A.J. Brown, and Julio Jones. The latter two are no longer on the Titans but the defenses adjusting to stop Derek Henry has the biggest impact on this offense. Ryan Tannehill averaged 0.18 EPA/DB with Henry on the field vs. -0.04 EPA/DB without him. Defenses accounting for Derek Henry is overwhelmingly important for the passing offense.
- Head coach Mike Vrabel finds ways to win games. In his four years as a head coach, Vrabel has won at least nine games every year and has a regular season record of 41-24. Last year, the Titans finished with 12 wins despite a negative turnover differential. The Titans are also due for better fumble luck as the defense forced 20 fumbles recovering five, 3.3 recoveries less than expected.
- The Titans are 8-0 in games with more than seven days rest under head coach Mike Vrabel. From Week 7 onward, the Titans have three games with over a week to prepare including two divisional games.

	Tennessee Titans Positional Unit Rankings							
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach		
15	28	4	28	20	11	12		

We've lost some faith in **Ryan Tannehill**, as Tennessee's quarterback room falls five spots in our rankings from a season ago. Tannehill is serviceable, but relies heavily on play-action to set up his passing game. With play-action, Tannehill averaged 8.7 yards per attempt, compared to 6.4 without.

Although **Derrick Henry** is 28 years old and dealt with an injury last year, Tennessee climbs two spots in our backfield rankings. Even if the Titans need to lighten Henry's workload, this unit should remain effective thanks to the addition of rookie **Hassan Haskins**, who runs with a similar style and should excel in Tennessee.

A year ago at this time, we were optimistic about a **Julio Jones/A.J. Brown** pairing, but with both players gone, Tennessee's pass-catchers plummet 22 spots in our rankings. The Titans' returning receivers combined for just 17 receptions at 10 or more yards downfield, with a 48.5% catch rate at that depth. **Robert Woods** better stay healthy and **Treylon Burks** needs to produce immediately.

The right side of the Titans' offensive line ranked 28th in pressure rate allowed a season ago, but Tennessee elected not to make any significant changes other than to let right tackle **David Quessenberry** walk. If **Dillon Radunz** doesn't at least match Quessenberry's mediocre play, this unit could be a mess.

A front seven anchored by **Jeffery Simmons** and **Harold Landry** has potential, but the unit lacked consistent production. Tennessee ranked 25th in pressure rate and 28th in pressure rate on non-blitzes. Tennessee's secondary is loaded with young talent, as it returns the majority of the unit and adds second-round pick **Roger McCreary**. Now it's time for the unit to gel and produce at a higher level. The Titans ranked 22nd in the percentage of pass attempts producing 20 or more yards (10%).

Votes for Mike Vrabel ranged from 10th to 18th. Tennessee's stubborn commitment to the run game after losing Henry last year raised some questions about Vrabel and his staff, but they've done a great job building a unique offense around Henry's skill set.

#### TEN-4

With play-action: 0.08 EPA/att, 52% success, 8.7 YPA Without play-action: -0.14 EPA/att, 45% success, 5.7 YPA

A full 3.0 YPA improvement was massive. Granted, it came because the Titans averaged 9.5 air yards with play-action and only 5.4 air yards without play-action. And the 5.4 air yards without play-action were way too short (in 2020, Tannehill averaged 6.5 air yards without play-action). Tannehill's 5.4 air yards without play-action ranked 33rd out of 42 qualifying quarterbacks last season.

Putting that aside, the motion efficiency gain was similar to 2021 and the usage was still well above average, so Downing did well there.

Downing also did extremely well in the red zone, which was a strength of Arthur Smith's playcalling. The Titans' offense wasn't quite as potent, but still was one of the best in the NFL:

2020: 75% red zone touchdown rate, second in NFL 2021: 64% red zone touchdown rate, fifth in NFL

Interestingly, the team was slighly more potent in the red zone without Derrick Henry:

#### <u>TEN-5</u>

2021 Weeks 1-8 (with Henry): 63% red zone touchdown rate 2021 Weeks 9+ (without Henry): 66% red zone touchdown rate

Downing also replicated the Titans' rank in early down pass rate in the first half of games.

In 2020: 31st In 2021: 31st

But here was the major problem, which had me pulling my hair out as it related to the Titans' ground game (not that I wasn't doing some of that in 2020 with Smith at coordinator, but it was hard to watch with the 2021 Titans):

The 2020 Titans actually ranked fourth in EPA/rush on these frequent early down runs and fifth in YPC.

The 2021 Titans ranked 26th in EPA/rush and 26th in YPC.

What are you doing? Why are you running the ball at the second-highest rate? Just because your predecessor did it? Because the 2021 results were nowhere close to 2020.

#### Let's lay it out:

2020: 0.01 EPA/att (fourth), 5.1 YPC (fifth), 42% success (ninth) – 218 attempts

2021: -0.18 EPA/att (26th), 4.1 YPC (26th), 30% success (30th) – 224 attempts

The results were not even close to similar.

But the attempts were.

Examine this — early down run rate in the first three quarters of games:

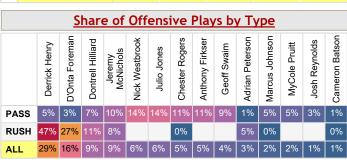
#### (cont'd - see TEN-6) **Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection** 14 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

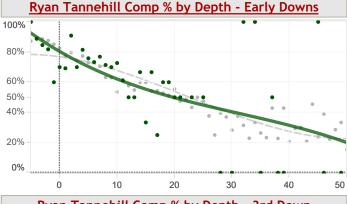
#### 

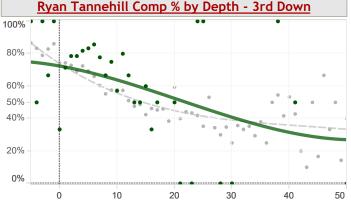


#### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

	<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>							
7		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)		
	Derrick Henry	15%	5%	75%		5%		
	D'Onta Foreman		9%	91%				
	Dontrell Hilliard	10%	31%	41%	3%	14%		
	Jeremy McNichols	5%	8%	76%	5%	5%		
	Nick Westbrook	11%	11%	72%	2%	5%		
	Julio Jones	11%	4%	64%	11%	11%		
ဟ	Chester Rogers	11%	11%	67%	4%	7%		
PAS	Anthony Firkser	11%	18%	50%	11%	9%		
₫.	Geoff Swaim	8%	3%	68%	11%	11%		
	Adrian Peterson	50%		50%				
	Marcus Johnson	11%		68%	11%	11%		
	MyCole Pruitt	17%		50%	11%	22%		
	Josh Reynolds			77%		23%		
	Cameron Batson			100%				
	Total	10%	9%	65%	6%	9%		
	Derrick Henry	9%	6%	69%	6%	10%		
	D'Onta Foreman	3%	12%	63%	9%	13%		
	Dontrell Hilliard		16%	64%	9%	11%		
I	Jeremy McNichols	5%		54%	12%	29%		
RUSH	Chester Rogers			100%				
œ	Adrian Peterson	7%	7%	56%	19%	11%		
	Marcus Johnson			50%	50%			
	Cameron Batson			50%		50%		
	Total	6%	8%	65%	9%	13%		







# Successful Play Rate 0% 100%

#### **2021 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]	0-0 [5WR]	0-2 [3WR]	1-0 [4WR]	0-1 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	43%, -0.11 (435)	51%, 0.10 (98)	56%, 0.01 (34)	67%, 0.01 (15)	67%, -0.34 (6)	33%, 0.27 (6)	75%, 1.87 (4)	33%, -1.05 (3)	0%, 0.21 (2)	46%, -0.05 (603)
RUSH	50%, 0.04 (248)	48%, 0.00 (149)	46%, 0.04 (70)	35%, -0.34 (80)	56%, -0.19 (25)	100%, 0.21 (2)		100%, 1.84 (1)		47%, -0.03 (575)
All	46%, -0.06 (683)	49%, 0.04 (247)	49%, 0.03 (104)	40%, -0.29 (95)	58%, -0.22 (31)	50%, 0.25 (8)	75%, 1.87 (4)	50%, -0.33 (4)	0%, 0.21 (2)	47%, -0.04 (1,178)

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			
WR	A.J. Brown	54% (68) 8.3, 0.29	41% (27) 7.9, 0.05	75% (8) 11.9, 0.59		52% (103) 8.4, 0.25			
	Nick Westbrook	48% (44) 8.3, 0.18	56% (9) 6.6, 0.07	0% (1) 0.0, -0.55		48% (54) 7.9, 0.15			
	Julio Jones	47% (38) 7.6, 0.12	75% (8) 14.3, 0.20	83% (6) 9.2, 0.48	100% (1) 15.0, 3.19	57% (53) 8.9, 0.23			
TE	Anthony Firkser	54% (41) 6.6, 0.10	50% (2) 7.5, 0.39			53% (43) 6.6, 0.11			
RB	Jeremy McNichols	40% (35) 6.7, 0.15	100% (1) 7.0, 0.66		0% (1) 0.0, -0.81	41% (37) 6.5, 0.14			
	Derrick Henry	79% (14) 6.9, 0.28	80% (5) 10.4, 0.87			79% (19) 7.8, 0.44			

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Henry	45% (94)	50% (78)	35% (20)	40% (10)	46% (202)
Derrick	4.6, 0.03	4.5, 0.01	3.9, -0.09	2.6, -0.37	4.4, -0.01
Foreman	52% (54)	43% (30)	48% (29)	44% (9)	48% (122)
D'Onta	5.1, 0.04	3.9, -0.10	4.3, 0.03	6.9, -0.44	4.7, -0.03
Hilliard	46% (26)	40% (15)	50% (10)	100% (1)	46% (52)
Dontrell	7.4, 0.12	5.6, 0.09	5.9, 0.13	4.0, -0.12	6.5, 0.11
Tannehill	68% (28)	86% (7)	33% (3)	100% (4)	71% (42)
Ryan	7.5, 0.30	4.7, 1.11	3.3, 0.45	2.0, 0.76	6.2, 0.49
McNichols	44% (27)	57% (7)		100% (1)	49% (35)
Jeremy	4.4, -0.12	4.3, 0.02		4.0, -0.06	4.4, -0.09
Peterson	40% (10)	38% (8)	67% (6)		46% (24)
Adrian	2.4, -0.43	1.8, -0.25	6.7, 0.17		3.3, -0.22

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	55% (421) 6.8, 0.12	0/1 Step	49% (168) 6.5, 0.11	Planted		% (415) 3, 0.12	Outside Zone	49% (138) 4.3, -0.06
Zone	41% (353) 7.4, -0.02	Curl	68% (74) 7.9, 0.29	Level 2	44% (88) 8.7, 0.12	3 Step 5 Step	53% (168)	Moving	7.	3% (75) 3, 0.15	Inside	41% (83)
		Out	58% (43) 8.0, 0.16				6.9, 0.10 57% (81)	Shuffling		0% (63) 3, -0.18	Zone	3.8, -0.16
	40% (155) 6.7, -0.02	Dig	53% (38) 7.3, 0.04	Level 3	26% (27) 10.3, 0.17		9.1, 0.24	Play Action			Stretch	3.4, -0.17
Man						Designed Rollout Right	60% (35) 7.3, 0.24		Play Action	No P/A	Lead	43% (47) 4.6, -0.17
		Slant	62% (37) 9.7. 0.37	Shovel	40% (5) 4.0, 0.01	Basis Course	44% (34)	Under Center	54% (139) 8.5, 0.00	45% (47) 6.7, 0.04	Ditala	44% (45)
Other	60% (26) 4.6, 0.59	Drag	55% (29) 6.1, 0.08	Sidearm	0% (1) 0.0, -0.32	Basic Screen	6.8, 0.12	Shotgun	54% (37) 8.9, 0.19	43% (380) 6.3, -0.11	Pitch	4.7, 0.02
						7 Step	41% (32) 7.8, -0.01	ALL	54% (176) 8.6, 0.04	43% (427) 6.4, -0.09	Power	40% (35) 3.2, -0.12

#### TEN-6

Weeks 1-8 (with Henry): 53% run Weeks 9+ (without Henry): 52% run

Overall? 52.9% run, the most run-heavy in the NFL

In Week 8, Downing lost his workhorse, his stable back, the engine to the offense. Yet they continued running inefficiently the rest of the season. Not that the efficiency was good with Henry to begin with. But to continue with these -EV play calls without Henry dressing for games was pretty astonishing.

Efficiency of these runs?

Weeks 1-8 (with Henry): -0.16 EPA/att (25th), 4.3 YPC (20th), 31% success (31st) Weeks 9+ (without Henry): -0.18 EPA/att (25th), 4.3 YPC (24th), 32% success (28th)

Two things to note:

First, the efficiency didn't even change much without Henry, and we know why (Henry's efficiency is at its best in the fourth quarter against tired legs AND running backs are often more interchangeable than you might think).

Second, it's one thing to run at the highest rate in the NFL, even though the efficiency is terrible because your entire philosophy revolves around overusing a freakishly-built running back just to do so. It's an entirely different thing to run at the highest rate in the NFL just because that's what your team had done for years now with the freakishly-built running back, even though the efficiency is terrible AND the freakishly-built running back is on Injured Reserve.

This was an example where you WANTED the new offensive coordinator to stray from Arthur Smith's early down run principles. But he did not.

(cont'd - see TEN-7)





The lack of inefficiency due to these plays didn't tank the Titans' season.

What it did was to force the Titans into a million third downs.

Here's why (and all of this relates only to the first three quarters of games):

The Titans ran the ball a ton on early downs and were inefficient. Only 16% of Tennessee's early down runs resulted in a first down, ranking 29th, so when they ran, they were running into first downs.

When they did pass (which was at a far lower rate than league average) they were passing shorter than they did in 2020. Their early down aDOT decreased from 8.3 air yards in 2020 (sixth in NFL) down to 7.3 air yards in 2021 (15th in NFL).

36% of early down attempts were thrown beyond the sticks in 2020, which ranked first in the NFL. That dropped to 30% in 2021.

The Titans experienced two byproducts of running a lot on early downs and throwing shorter passes:

They faced a ton of third downs

The third downs they faced did not have as many yards-to-go

In 2020, just 17.8% of Titans' offensive plays were third downs, which ranked fifth-fewest in the NFL.

That increased to 21.1% in 2021 (sixth-most).

In terms of raw numbers, what did this mean?

Titans third downs faced in the first three quarters, by year:

2020: 129 third downs faced (third-fewest)

2021: 170 third downs faced (second-most behind the Houston Texans)

That's obviously terrible.

But the second byproduct was that on third downs, the Titans averaged only 6.1 yards-to-go, which ranked third in the NFL.

Thanks to not needing to travel far, they converted third downs at a 47.1% rate, which was third-best in the NFL (clearly correlated to the to-go distance).

So on one hand, Downing can brag to Mike Vrabel that the team was great on third downs last year, and that was because of how "efficient" they were on early downs that they had such a short distance to go on those third downs.

(cont'd - see TEN-8)

### Immediate Impact of Tennessee Titans 2022 Draft Class

The Titans shocked the football world on draft night by trading **A.J. Brown** to the Eagles, acquiring first- and third-round selections in return — a surprisingly small return for a young player of Brown's caliber. GM Jon Robinson immediately replaced Brown with **Treylon Burks** (first round), who excelled in the slot at Arkansas. Burks picked up 36% more yards after the catch than expected based on route-adjusted data last season. Although Burks fits the mold Tennessee needed to replace Brown, it's worth noting he could be considered another first-round gamble by Robinson. Burks ran a limited route tree in the Arkansas offense — 25% of his targets came on screens — and there's reason to question his ability to quickly pick up an NFL offense. Following the risky first-round selections of **Isaiah Wilson** and **Caleb Farley**, it was surprising to see Robinson take another gamble, but he has now clearly established himself as a GM who will draft purely based on talent and is willing to ignore all other red flags.

The selection of Roger McCreary (second round) was baffling. He's the fourth cornerback selected by Robinson on Day 1 or Day 2 over the past three drafts (Farley, Elijah Molden, Kristian Fulton). Based on route-adjusted metrics, McCreary allowed a catch rate 14% below expected in 2021. Tennessee will hope he can carry that production over to the NFL and challenge one of the other young corners for a job. Nicholas Petit-Frere (third round) played both right and left tackle during his career at Ohio State. He'll likely be given an opportunity to compete for the job at right tackle, potentially pushing Dillon Radunz to guard. Though he was wildly overrated when discussed as a first-round option prior to the draft, Malik Willis (third round) ultimately came off the board in an appropriate spot and in a good situation in Tennessee. Willis needs substantial development in his ability to read a defense pre- and post-snap. When he was pressured last season, Willis either took a sack or scrambled 51% of the time. His mobility is obviously an asset, but he must also learn to win from the pocket to succeed in the NFL. Since Tennessee is in win-now mode, there should not be any pressure for Willis to see the field as a rookie, which makes Tennessee an ideal place for him to be developed slowly.

Hassan Haskins (fourth round) was a brilliant addition as Derrick Henry's backup. Although Haskins is smaller than Henry, he runs with a similar style and should excel if forced into action. Finding a running back who can match Henry's style was a smart decision for Tennessee given their specialized offense. If Henry gets hurt again, the drop-off in run game production should be minimal with Haskins stepping in. Chigoziem Okonkwo (fourth round) is an undersized tight end, but a reliable weapon in the passing game. Expect him to be the third tight end behind Austin Hooper and Geoff Swaim, but occasionally get on the field on passing downs. Kyle Philips (fifth round) is another slot receiver, but significantly smaller than Burks. Tennessee played almost exclusively with oversized slot receivers last season after losing Adam Humphries in free agency. Philips could potentially add the Humphries role back into Tennessee's offense. Theo Jackson (sixth round) will provide depth behind Kevin Byard at strong safety. Chance Campbell (sixth round) joins a crowded depth chart at linebacker. Both Jackson and Campbell will likely see their most significant action on special teams.

The Titans are the only team in the league who noticeably got worse on draft day, due to the loss of Brown. While Burks has the talent to fill that role in the offense, he won't make anyone forget about Brown immediately. Each of Tennessee's first three selections will compete for starting jobs, though it's possible Burks is the only rookie to see significant action during his rookie year. Tennessee added some nice depth on Day 3, and Willis will be an exciting prospect to watch develop, but it's hard to get excited about this draft class. The upside from this class is obvious (though mostly tied to Willis), but Robinson's continued risk-taking is an odd strategy while attempting to take a strong roster and push it towards a championship level.

### Tennessee Titans 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

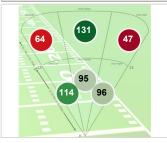
The Titans' passing game approach has been forced to sustain high efficiency, something that was fleeting in 2021. Ranking near the bottom of the league in pass attempts once again (26th), the Titans ended the year 18th in expected points added via passing (54.4 EPA), 16th in touchdown rate (4.1%), 16th in yards per pass attempt (7.0 Y/A), and 25th in yards per completion (10.4 yards). **Ryan Tannehill's** 4.0% touchdown rate was well below the 7.7% and 6.9% rates he had in 2019-2020 while his 2.6% interception rate was higher than the 2.1% and 1.5% rates in those seasons and his 7.0 yards per pass attempt were below the 9.6 Y/A and 7.9 Y/A marks. Injuries played a huge role as just 10.9% of Tannehill's dropbacks in the regular season came with all of **Derrick Henry**, **A.J. Brown**, and **Julio Jones** on the field. The Titans have swapped out A.J. Brown and Julio Jones for **Robert Woods** and **Treylon Burks**.

2021 Standard Passing Table										
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk
Ryan Tannehill	371	551	67%	3,956	7.2	22	17	48	89	27
NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6										

### 2021 Advanced Passing Table **EDSR** 20+ Yd 30+ Yd Avg. Air Avg. 20+ 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 % Ryan Tannehill 46% 39 7.0% 13 2.0% 5.0 51% 5.5 46% 50% 12.5 5.6 5.3 34.1 8.8% 3.1% NFL Avg

# Target Postive Play % 50 40 30 20 10 -10

# Ryan Tannehill Rating Early Downs



<u>In</u>	<b>Interception Rates by Down</b>						
Yards to Go	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn	4th Dwn	Total		
1 & 2	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	33.3%	7.5%		
3, 4, 5	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%	0.0%	4.8%		
6 - 9	16.7%	2.5%	5.4%	0.0%	4.2%		
10 - 14	1.1%	0.0%	4.9%	0.0%	1.4%		
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%		
Total	1.5%	1.0%	5.9%	9.1%	2.8%		

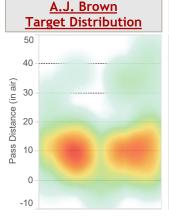
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis						
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk	
Ryan Tannehill	7.2	8.0	0.2	67%	31	
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%		

	Air Yds vs YAC								
ond	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk						
	52%	48%	28						
	53%	47%							

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Titans were an efficient passing offense when they were at full strength. The problem was that was a rarity. A.J. Brown played just 69% of the offensive snaps while Julio Jones played just 58%. The team traded Brown during the draft and released Jones this offseason while trading for Robert Woods and drafting Treylon Burks in the first round. Woods will turn 30 years old this April, coming off suffering an ACL injury in November after appearing in nine games. A prototypical alpha frame (6-foot-2 and 225 pounds), Burks does carry some volatility in terms of refinement, but carried a lot of physical tools that Brown had after the catch. The team also added **Austin Hooper**. Hooper's yards per reception have dropped in each of the past two years.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	Comp %	YPA	Rating	Success %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Nick Westbrook	57	67%	8.4	108.5	53%	64	46	96	69	4
Julio Jones	55	67%	9.0	79.1	56%	37	4	57	104	1





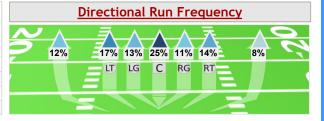
### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

The Titans led the NFL in rushing attempts (551), ranking 11th in yards per carry (4.4 YPC), fifth in rushing yards (2,404), third in touchdowns (23), and ninth in expected points added via rushing (25.4 EPA). Derrick Henry missed the final nine games of the 2021 season due to a Jones Fracture, but prior to the injury was averaging a career-high 29.6 touches per game. Henry used volume to elevate a career-low 4.6 yards per touch despite averaging a career-high 2.3 receptions per game. Henry will be 28 years old, seeing his yards per contact dip in each of the past two seasons from the previous year. With **D'Onta Foreman** leaving via free agency, Tennessee added **Hassan Haskins** in the draft as insurance behind their behemoth bellcow. Haskins failed to gain yardage on just 8.5% of his carries, the best rate in this class.

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	239	4.2	45%	72	49	80	20	43%	73	11
D'Onta Foreman	137	4.6	50%	48	33	68	32	49%	47	3
Ryan Tannehill	58	4.9	62%	4	72	84	1	48%	53	7
Dontrell Hilliard	56	6.3	46%	68	67	91	7	40%	82	2

# Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Can This Passing Game Bounce Back?

The Titans' passing offense has been predicated on efficiency since they remain one of the lowest volume passing offenses in the league. Over the past three years, only the Baltimore Ravens have accumulated more rushing attempts than the Titans, with Tennessee ranked 10th, second, and first in that department in those individual seasons. That efficiency was not a problem for **Ryan Tannehill** until last season. After touchdown rates of 7.7% and 6.9% rates in 2019-2020, he had a touchdown rate of just 4.0% a year ago. After passing for 9.6 and 7.9 yards per pass attempt with Tennessee, he threw for just 7.0 Y/A in 2021. Even his 2.6% interception rate sagged below rates of 2.1% and 1.5%.

While Tannehill is unlikely to ever match his 2019 efficiency metrics, a large part of his dip in performance a year ago can be credited to the number of injuries the Titans sustained among their skill players. 31.3% of Tannehill's dropbacks in the regular season came with both A.J. Brown and Julio Jones off the field. On those dropbacks, he averaged 5.5 Y/A. Just 30.4% of Tannehill's dropbacks came with both on the field, in which he averaged 8.2 Y/A. Tannehill carried -26.6 expected points added on plays with both Brown and Julio off the field while he totaled 17.4 EPA with both on the field. Now with both Brown and Jones no longer with the team, are the replacement options able to aid this passing game in returning to a hyper-efficient unit and potentially improve it? While replacing the minimal production from Jones in 2021 should not be a major obstacle, the additions here still come with question marks. Robert Woods will turn 30 years old this April, coming off suffering an ACL injury in November after appearing in nine games. Woods only managed to top 70 yards in two of his nine games. That raises the question of his dependence on being in the Rams' passing game compared to this significantly lower-volume passing game. The Rams have thrown 361 more passes than the Titans over the past three seasons.

With the Titans moving Brown, they had a massive void to fill. Their immediate response was using their first-round pick on **Treylon Burks**. Burks was comped to Brown by a number of people this offseason. Although asking him to perform on the same level as Brown is a tall ask, where Burks wins does fit the Tennessee offense. In this draft class, Burks ranks first in yards per route run (3.93), third in yards per team pass attempt (3.52), fourth in the share of team receptions (32.2%), third in the share of yardage (45.0%), and first in receiving touchdowns (50%). A prototypical alpha frame (6-foot-2 and 225 pounds), Burks does carry some volatility in terms of refinement, but he was an electric prospect with the football in his hands. 57.2% of his yardage in 2021 came after the catch (third in this class) while he was second in yards after the catch per reception (9.6 yards). Despite the high usage near the line of scrimmage and running 67.7% of his routes in the slot, Burks also eviscerated press coverage on his limited exposure, averaging 6.4 yards per route run the past two seasons in that department per Pro Football Focus. When operating as an isolated receiver last season, Burks was targeted on 22-of-37 routes (59.5%) for a robust 20-439-4 line, averaging 11.9 yards per route.



### **Defensive Outlook**

Jeffrey Simmons finally broke through as a passer rusher, thanks to 8.5 sacks, though he only had two more quarterback hits (16) than he did in 2020 when he had just three sacks. Either way, Simmons has been a disruptor inside and ranked 18th among interior defenders in pressure rate, per SIS. Simmons will have his fifth-year option picked up for 2023. Denico Autry was an underrated free agent addition with versatility across the defensive line. He did his best inside and had a higher pressure rate than Simmons when lined up as a 3- or 5-technique. Autry had 10 sacks and 18 quarterback hits on the season. Tennessee has pulled in young and useful depth at nose tackle with undrafted free agents Teair Tart (2020) and Naquon Jones (2021), who each played around 30% of the defensive snaps last season. Harold Landry was 17th among edge rushers in pressure rate during the 2021 season while he put up a career-high 12 sacks. Landry signed a five-year deal with the Titans, though all of the guaranteed salary is done after the first two seasons. Bud Dupree played just 36% of the defensive snaps after being Tennessee's big free agent signing last offseason with his five-year deal. Dupree missed separate stretches of time with a knee injury and that impacted his play when he was on the field. Dupree only ranked 75th among edge rushers in pressure rate last season. The hope is a full offseason will help with his play for 2022.

The Titans claimed **Zach Cunningham** off waivers and in March restructured his contract to lower his 2022 cap hit. Still, that's a significant investment in Cunningham, who is now slated to be the team's top off-ball linebacker for the 2022 season. Cunningham can make some tackles in the run game, but between the Texans and Titans last year, he ranked 75th among 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. **David Long** played 57% of the team's defensive snaps and was mostly fine in coverage (35th in yards allowed per coverage snap). The 2019 sixth-round pick should get even more run in the final year of his rookie contract. 2020 second-round pick

Kristian Fulton had an impressive Year 2. He ranked 20th among 93 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. Fulton should step in as the team's No. 1 corner in Year 3. Elijah Molden, Tennessee's 2021 third-round pick, played well as a rookie. He ranked 38th among corners in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap as he handled the slot. With Molden and Fulton, the Titans are set with youth at two starting spots. Caleb Farley will hopefully be the other starting outside corner, but the 2021 first-round pick only managed to play 5% of the snaps in his rookie season. Farley's availability has been much more of a question than his ability over the past few seasons. If Farley struggles, second-round pick Roger McCreary could step in as an immediate starter. With Kevin Byard and Amani Hooker, the Titans are in the running among the best safety duos in the league Tennessee showed a two-high shell on the sixth-highest rate of snaps, but ran actual two-high coverages on the eighth-lowest rate per SIS. Byard and Hooker had a fair amount of interchangeability in the defense. Byard played 29.5% of his snaps in the box, 14.3% in the slot, and 53.7% deep, per PFF. Hooker played 25.9% of his snaps in the box, 11.4% in the slot, and 60.8% deep.

Play Tenden	Play Tendencies					
All Pass %	53%					
All Pass Rk	28					
All Rush %	47%					
All Rush Rk	5					
1 Score Pass %	52%					
1 Score Pass Rk	29					
2020 1 Score Pass %	49%					
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	30					
2021 Pass Increase %	3%					
Pass Increase Rk	9					
1 Score Rush %	48%					
1 Score Rush Rk	4					
Up Pass %	50%					
Up Pass Rk	30					
Up Rush %	50%					
Up Rush Rk	3					
Down Pass %	57%					
Down Pass Rk	25					
Down Rush %	43%					
Down Rush Rk	8					

<b>Down &amp; Distance Tendencies</b>						
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play success %	
1st	Short (1-3)	9	44%	56%	44%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	16	44%	56%	69%	
	Long (8-10)	342	40%	60%	49%	
	XL (11+)	15	53%	47%	27%	
2nd	Short (1-3)	47	34%	66%	64%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	87	46%	54%	45%	
	Long (8-10)	113	57%	43%	39%	
	XL (11+)	43	74%	26%	40%	
3rd	Short (1-3)	59	54%	46%	68%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	58	88%	12%	45%	
	Long (8-10)	37	95%	5%	30%	
	XL (11+)	29	90%	10%	17%	
4th	Short (1-3)	11	18%	82%	91%	
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	100%	
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%	

Shotgun %					
Shotgun Under Center					
45% 55%					
NFL	AVG				
65% 35%					

# Tennessee Titans 2021 Play Analysis



# **Short Yardage Intelligence:**

Effic	iency		2nd and Short Run					
EPA/	EPA/	Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg		
oass: 0.01	pass: 0.02	54%	31	71%	58%	73%		
EPA/	EPA/ rush:		<u>2n</u>	d and Sho	ort Pass			
0.09 ccess:	-0.08 Success:	Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg		
45%	38%	46%	2	29%	56%	46%		

	Most Frequent Play							
Down	Distance	Play Type	Player	Total Plays	Play Success %			
1st	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	3	33%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	D'Onta Foreman	6	83%			
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	103	44%			
	XL (11+)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	3	33%			
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	15	80%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	23	26%			
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Derrick Henry	21	19%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Chester Rogers	5	20%			
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Ryan Tannehill	11	91%			
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Julio Jones	8	38%			
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Anthony Firkser	5	20%			
	XL (11+)	PASS	Jeremy McNichols	5	20%			
			Nick Westbrook	5	40%			

	Play Action (Y/N)								
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total						
No	Success: 50%	Success: 54%	Success: 51%						
	YPA: 6.6, EPA: 0.07	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.06	YPA: 6.9, EPA: 0.06						
	Rtg: 82.5	Rtg: 106.9	Rtg: 86.8						
	[Att: 117 - Rate: 19.4%]	[Att: 26 - Rate: 4.3%]	[Att: 143 - Rate: 23.7%]						
Yes	Success: 40%	Success: 54%	Success: 45%						
	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.15	YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.04	YPA: 7.1, EPA: -0.09						
	Rtg: 86.9	Rtg: 91.9	Rtg: 88.6						
	[Att: 310 - Rate: 51.4%]	[Att: 150 - Rate: 24.9%]	[Att: 460 - Rate: 76.3%]						
Total	Success: 43%	Success: 54%	Success: 46%						
	YPA: 6.4, EPA: -0.09	YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.04	YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.05						
	Rtg: 85.6	Rtg: 94.0	Rtg: 88.2						
	[Att: 427 - Rate: 70.8%]	[Att: 176 - Rate: 29.2%]	[Att: 603 - Rate: 100.0%]						

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

Weekly Snaps Played											
Wk	Орр	Score	Geoff Swaim	Nick West brook	A.J. Brown	MyCole Pruitt	Chester Rogers	Derrick Henry	Anthony Firkser	Julio Jones	Josh Reynolds
1	ARI	L 38-13	25	24	52	15	39	40	31	50	
2	SEA	W 33-30	64	16	74	55	38	67		66	11
3	IND	W 25-16	44	53	8	37	28	49		34	
4	NYJ	L 27-24	32	81		28	66	59	50		78
5	JAC	W 37-19	36		41	38	31	49	27		18
6	BUF	W 34-31	38	29	42	16	15	43	15	35	
7	KC	W 27-3	38	29	42	37		50	24	29	30
8	IND	W 34-31	57	23	67	35	31	54	20		5
9	LA	W 28-16	42	22	45	27	19		25	43	
10	NO	W 23-21	40	22	49	23	21		22		
11	HOU	L 22-13		54	42	38	56		41		
12	NE	L 36-13	46	52		27	15		26		
14	JAC	W 20-0	54	52		33	16		30	32	
15	PIT	L 19-13	59	71		27	28		17	27	
16	SF	W 20-17	39	39	46	27	31		16	31	
17	MIA	W 34-3	57	44	40	16	20		29		
18	HOU	W 28-25	48	50	56		10		23	46	
	Grand '	Total	719	661	604	479	464	411	396	393	142

<u>Perso</u>						
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ.			
1-1 [3WR]	59%	61%	46%			
1-2 [2WR]	20%	21%	48%			
2-1 [2WR]	9%	7%	46%			
1-3 [1WR]	8%	4%	41%			
2-2 [1WR]	3%	3%	60%			
<b>Grouping Tendencies</b>						
Group	ing Te	enden	cies			
Group	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Cies Run Succ. %			
	Pass	Pass Succ.	Run Succ.			
Personnel	Pass Rate	Pass Succ. %	Run Succ. %			

53%

71%

67%

43%

35%

58%

2-1 [2WR]

1-3 [1WR]

2-2 [1WR]

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard							
Receiver	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Jeremy McNichols	7		3	4			
Julio Jones	7	2	1	4			
Anthony Firkser	6	1	2	3			
Chester Rogers	5		3	2			
Cody Hollister	2	1		1			
Derrick Henry	2			2			

Red Zone Rushes Leaderboard							
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20			
Derrick Henry	36	10	9	17			
Ryan Tannehill	14	7	2	5			
Jeremy McNichols	5	1	2	2			
Adrian Peterson	4	2		2			
Dontrell Hilliard	4	1		3			

Early D	own Targe	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
21%	18%	60%
23%	21%	56%
23/6	NFL ÁVG	
-5/0		ccess %
-5/0	NFL ÁVG	ccess %
Overall	NFL AVG  Target Su	

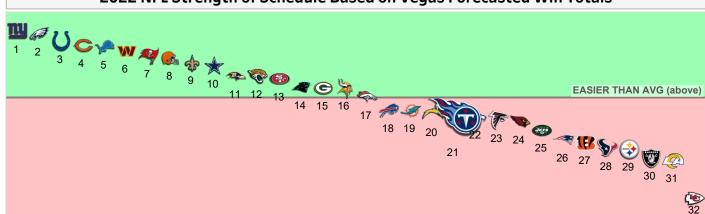
15%

20%





### 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



But the reality was, the early down offense was so bad and inefficient (but consistently so, such that they weren't often gaining zero yards) that they faced way more third downs that they then needed to convert.

Personally, I would rather my offense focus on bypassing third downs than to always be forced into them, even though we converted almost 50% of the time.

All told, Downing could have been better in 2021, but he also could have been worse if he wasn't using play-action and motion at such a high rate, or he wasn't able to be as successful inside the red zone.

And then the final piece was injuries. And here, once again, it behooves us to look below the surface. Football Outsiders has a great "Adjusted Games Lost" metric, which calculated the Titans were the 10th healthiest team in 2021 after being the sixth-healthiest in 2020.

But the Titans played an NFL-record 88 players on their roster in 2022, surpassing the previous record of 84 players. They had to survive the loss of players like Derrick Henry, A.J. Brown, Julio Jones, Bud Dupree, Taylor Lewan, and Kristian Fulton for weeks at a time. It was not easy.

I was thankful I chose to look deeper on the 2020 Titans last offseason, past the simple regression, and not fade this team in 2021.

What I ended up doing was getting in on Mike Vrabel for Coach of the Year during the season, and here is why:

After Week 12, the Titans were 8-4 and headed into their bye week. Their eight wins were tied for the most in the AFC. Only the Cardinals and Packers had more than eight wins (both had nine). But looking at my in-season strength of schedule tools I track, I had the Titans playing the NFL's easiest schedule from Week 14 onward. They had already lost their identity in Derrick Henry and they had lost a lot of other players. Vrabel was on the fringe of setting the record of most players used all time by late-November.

If Vrabel was able to navigate the Titans to the No. 1 overall seed thanks to their easy schedule down the stretch, he would have a phenomenal case for Coach of the Year. Sure enough, despite new offensive and defensive coordinators last year, losing their MVP in Week 8, and rostering the most players in NFL history, the Titans earned the AFC's No. 1 seed and a few weeks later, Mike Vrabel was announced as Coach Of The Year.

The 2021 Titans were overlooked heading into last season, produced the AFC's best record, didn't win a single playoff game, and just like last season, once again they're a tough evaluation heading into 2022.

The Titans have the 15th longest odds to win the Super Bowl and the ninth longest odds to win the AFC — nearly identical to last season at this time.

But they are without **A.J. Brown** this year. They still have Derrick Henry, and while it's unlikely he misses as much time as he did last year, he's still on the wrong side of his career based on age. We know better what to expect from Todd Downing. While some of it is good, his early down philosophy of running a ton even without efficiency is a scary thought.

We also know they lowered their aDOT last season, now they're without Brown, and I expect a lot of the **Treylon Burks** usage will be short rather than deep. For these reasons, it's safe to assume this team will be in a similar position to 2021, needing to convert a ton of third downs to march the ball down the field.

Couple that with a defense that is becoming less and less expensive and a schedule that shifts from 14th last year to 21st this year (32nd = hardest) and the Titan's situation is not as appealing to me.

We also know that the Titans are 13-4 (77%) in one-score games the last two years, which is the second-best rate in the NFL. They are coming off a season when they went a league-best 8-3 (.727) record against teams that posted a winning record in 2021. While I was dead-on accurate predicting their defense would improve in 2021 thanks to a much easier schedule, I worry for the opposite this season. I predict the Titans will play the third-toughest schedule of offenses in 2022 after playing the 19th toughest in 2021, including the third-best passing offenses (up from 26th in 2021).

Their terrible division, their ability to play an in-flux NFC East, their baseline of a solid head coach, and a good roster gives them a high floor. But their ceiling will be determined by ability to adapt their offensive philosophy and play calls to available personnel and ability to have fortune once again by winning a very high rate of one-score games.

01. Games w Halftime Lead

10

02. Avg Halftime Lead

3.0

03. Wins

ns 1

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)					
36. PSM YPA	7.8				
37. PSM Target Depth	6.5				
38. Non-PSM YPA	5.7				
39. Non-PSM Target Depth	7.8				
40. PSM Pass Success Rate	57%				
41. Non-PSM Pass Success Rate	54%				
42. PSM EPA/att	0.07				
43. Non-PSM EPA/att	0				
DI 4 (1) (0 (	42 5 1 5 )				

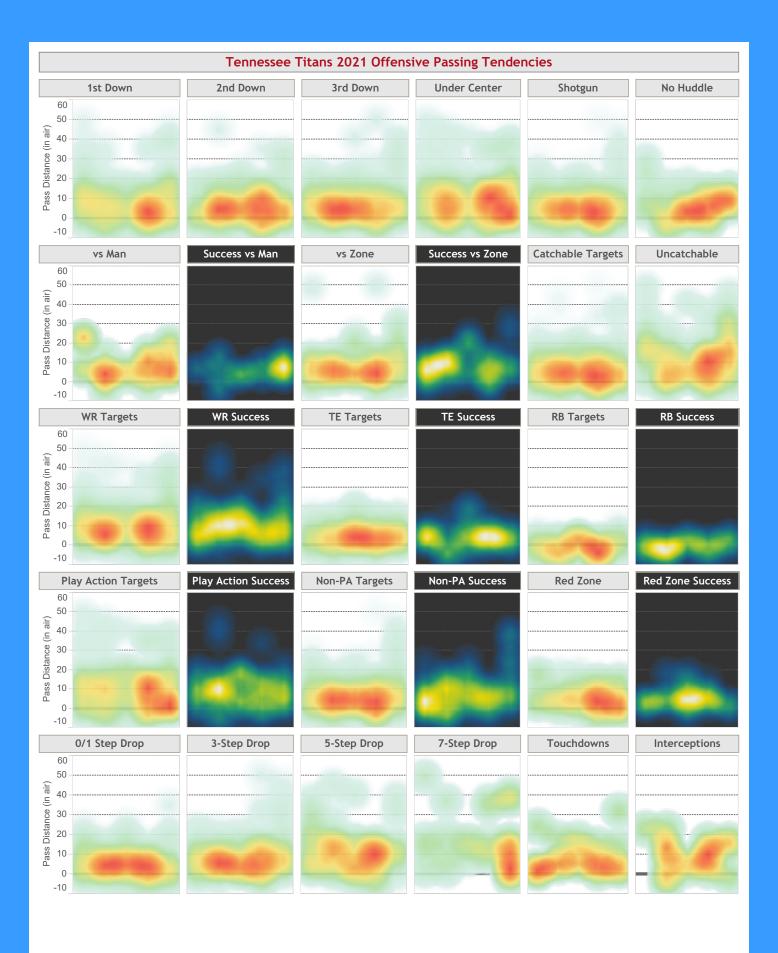
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)						
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	44%					
45. PA Success Rate	54%					
46. PA YPA	8.2					
47. PA Sack Rate	4.8%					
48. PA EPA/att	0.07					
49. PA Target Depth	8.9					
50. Non-PA Success Rate	47%					
51. Non-PA YPA	5.8					
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	4.4%					
53. Non-PA EPA/att	0.02					
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.6					

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	44%
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	43%
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	22%
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	3.8

Fumble Luck (Fumble Recovery Over Expectation)						
Net FROE Rk	27	defFUM	20			
Net FROE	-3.4	defFUM Rcvrd	15			
offFUM	24					
offFUM Rcvrd	14	defFR Rk	30			
offFR%	58.3% 15	defFR%	25.0%			
offFROE	-0.1	defFROE	-3.4			
offFROE Rk	15	defFROE Rk	30			

Field Goal Luck							
-0.08 16 32 26 81% 26.74 -0.74 23 -1.92	Opp Att Opp Makes Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	38 31 82% 31.67 -0.67 28 1.54					
	-0.08 16 32 26 81% 26.74 -0.74 23	-0.08 16 Opp Att Opp Makes 26 81% Opp Expected Makes Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 23 -1.92 Opp Make Over Exp.					

Player Tracking Data Stats - QBs		QB Pre	ssure	Offensive I	Offensive Metrics		
	Ryan Tannehill		Ryan Tannehill	EPA/Pass	-0.01		
CAY	5.4	Pressure %	34.4	EPA/Pass Rk	17		
CAY Rk	24	Pressure Rk	15	EPA/Rush	-0.02		
2020 CAY Rk	3	Sack %	7.7	EPA/Rush Rk	13		
AYTS Rk	22	Sack Rk	7	On-Target Catch %	90.6%		
2020 AYTS Rk AGG Rk	11 21	Pressure Accuracy %	70.8	On-Target Catch Rk	15		
2020 AGG Rk	11	Pressure Accuracy Rk	6	Drop%	5.2%		
COMP%	67.2	Rating when Pressured	69.1				
xCOMP%	66.9	Pressured Rating Rk	19	Drop Rk	12		
xCOMP% Rk	7	Clean Accuracy %	79.3	YAC/Att	2.5		
2020 xCOMP% Rk	31	Clean Accuracy Rk	13	YAC/Att Rk	8		
CPOE%	0.3	Rating when Clean	95.9	Rush Broken Tackle %	11.4%		
CPOE Rk	14	-	22	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	23		
2020 CPOE Rk	12	Clean Rating Rk		D 144D 0/			
	TS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG:	Time to Throw	2.68	Rush 1st Down %	24.3%		
Aggressiveness xCOMP: Expe Actual completion percentage of	ected completion percentage CPOE: over expectation	Time to Throw Rk	30	Rush 1st Down Rk	19		



# Titans Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# **Stable Quarterback Metrics**

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Ryan Tannehill	0.17 (#2)	-0.08 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	0.10 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	0.10 (#2)	0.13 (#2)
2020	Ryan Tannehill	0.44 (#1)	0.26 (#1)	0.21 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.14 (#1)	0.40 (#1)

# Less Stable Ouarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Ryan Tannehill	-0.62 (#2)	0.06 (#1)	0.06 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	-0.23 (#2)	-0.17 (#2)	0.02 (#1)
2020	Ryan Tannehill	-0.41 (#1)	-0.16 (#2)	0.18 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.08 (#1)	0.20 (#1)	-0.19 (#2)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

	On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank – not enough att to quality)										
Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage	
2021	Ryan Tannehill	79% (#2)	86% (#1)	65% (#2)	47% (#2)	76% (#1)	80% (#2)	77% (#1)	71% (#2)	81% (#1)	
2020	Ryan Tannehill	80% (#1)	85% (#2)	73% (#1)	50% (#1)	73% (#2)	81% (#1)	70% (#2)	76% (#1)	81% (#2)	

# **Rushing Efficiency**

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	AII	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.03 (#2)	-0.10 (#2)	0.30 (#1)	0.01 (#2)	-0.12 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	-0.05 (#2)	0.27 (#2)	0.42 (#2)
2020	0.06 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.24 (#2)	0.07 (#1)	-0.03 (#1)	0.11 (#1)	0.10 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.78 (#1)	0.78 (#1)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	OFF EDSR	ED 1H Pass %	OFF ED 123Q Pass EPA	OFF ED 123Q Rush EPA	OFF RZ ED Pass EPA	OFF RZ ED Rush EPA	3D EPA in FG Range	DEF EDSR	DEF ED 123Q Pass EPA	DEF ED 123Q Rush EPA
2021	25	31	10	27	21	2	24	20	11	12
2020	3	31	3	5	7	6	8	23	24	17

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	32	32	30	25	32	31	31	1	19
2020	3	1	5	3	6	24	9	1	6

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	13	22	6	24	13	8	24	24	18
2020	2	1	10	4	5	22	19	1	1

**Head Coach**: Ron Rivera (2 yrs) Offensive Coordinator: Scott Turner (2 yrs) **Defensive Coordinator:** 

Jack Del Rio (2 yrs)

Hard

Easy

Coaches (Prior Yrs)
Head Coach:

Washington Commanders Wins

### 2022 Forecast

**Div Rank** 

7.5

#3

### **Past Records**

2021: 7-10 2020: 7-9 2019: 8-7-1



### **Key Players Lost**

Player	New
Brandon Scherff (RG)	Jaguars
Landon Collins (S)	TBD
Ereck Flowers (LG)	TBD
Ryan Fitzpatrick (QB)	TBD
Matt Ioannidis (IDL)	Panthers
Tim Settle (IDL)	Bills
Jon Bostic (LB)	TBD
Kyle Allen (QB)	Texans
Deshazor Everett (S)	TBD
Darryl Roberts (CB)	TBD
Adam Humphries (WR)	TBD
Jamil Douglas (RG)	Giants
Ricky Seals-Jones (TE)	Giants
DeAndre Carter (WR)	Chargers

### 2022 Washington Commanders Overview

It's not that surprising when you consider who has thrown him the ball over the last few

123 attempts from Taylor Heinicke

- 98 attempts from Dwayne Haskins
- 52 attempts from Alex Smith
- 41 attempts from Case Keenum
- 31 attempts from Kyle Allen
- 7 attempts from Colt McCoy
- 4 attempts from Garrett Gilbert
- 1 attempt from Logan Thomas

That's three years in the NFL for McLaurin and these have been his quarterbacks.

It takes a special kind of patience to run 1,629 routes, get targeted on only 357 of those routes, and have only 62% of those targets be catchable.

Of 37 wide receivers to be targeted 250 or more times in the last three years, the targets that were incomplete due to receiver error for McLaurin is third lowest (cont'd - see WAS2)

Terry McLaurin is a bright young star in the leag	ue
---------------------------------------------------	----

He has impressed, but it hasn't been easy.
--------------------------------------------

Just 62.7% of McLaurin's targets have been catchable, the lowest rate of all	wide
receivers with 100+ targets last year.	

# seasons.

Average	# Games	# Games
Line	Favored	Underdog
0.4	6	6

Regular Season Wins:

Past & Current Proj

7.5

7

Forecast

2022 Wins

2021 Wins



RG C.RoullieW.Schweitzer S.Cosmi NEW

Forecast 2021 Wins	<b>W</b> 8	3	36	99
2020 Wins	7	17 LWR T.McLaurin		72 LT C.Leno*
2019 Wins	<b>W</b> 3		SLOTWR J.Dotson ROOK	
2018 Wins	7 7 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15	89 WR2 C.Sims	WR3	23 4 RB2 QB cKissic T.Hein

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15

	All OFF	3	\$121.6910		
	QB	7	\$34.13M		
el	OL	11	\$43.41M		
	RB	32	\$4.91M		
	WR	8	\$29.70M		
	TE	17	\$9.53M		
	All DEF	16	\$91.50M		
	DL	19	\$40.83M		
	LB	17	\$12.24M		
	СВ	4	\$31.95M		
	S	29	\$6.47M		

### **Key Free Agents/ Trades Added**

Player	AAV (MM)
Carson Wentz (QB)	Trade
Andrew Norwell (LG)	\$5
Trai Turner (RG)	\$3
Efe Obada (EDGE)	\$1.2
Beau Benzschawel (C)	\$0.80
Justin Hamilton (IDL)	\$0

### **Drafted Players**

Rd	Pk	Player (College)
1	16	WR - Jahan Dotson (Penn State)
2	47	DT - Phidarian Mathis (Alabama)
3	98	RB - Brian Robinson Jr. (Alabama)
4	113	S - Percy Butler (Louisiana)
5	144	QB - Sam Howell (North Carolina)
3	149	TE - Cole Turner (Nevada)
7	230	OG - Chris Paul (Tulsa)
,	240	CB - Christian Holmes (Oklahoma State)

### **2022 Unit Spending**



### **Positional Spending**

Total

20

18 20

2022 Cap Dollars

82

TE

C.Samu

LG

### WAS..

in the NFL, behind only Allen Robinson and DeAndre Hopkins.

How high is McLaurin's ceiling if he had better quarterback play?

Washington has attempted to find out.

Essentially, the Commanders traded a second-round pick and a third-round pick for **Carson Wentz** and agreed to pay the full \$28 million due to Wentz in 2022, including a \$5 million roster bonus which was due in mid-March.

It will be cheap if Wentz plays like a franchise quarterback. It will be expensive if Wentz plays like he's played for the last few seasons.

Here's the ultimate question:

Will Carson Wentz make the Commanders a contender?

Let's start with the most basic element: quarterback accuracy.

As much as it might surprise some Washington fans, quarterback accuracy hasn't been their number one problem, as they've ranked 19th over the last two years (below average but not close to worst in the NFL).

But why is that?

It's because they've worked around it. Washington simply throws the ball extremely short, and it's a lot easier to be accurate when the receiver is standing four yards downfield.

Washington ranked dead last in average target depth over the last two years combined (6.8).

But when you start to look deeper (no pun intended) you can start to see the issues for Washington. All passes thrown by all quarterbacks the last two seasons:

No more than 5 yards downfield? 95% accurate rate, seventh-best in the NFL Over 5 yards downfield? 80% accuracy rate, fourth-worst in the NFL

QB	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn			
Taylor Heinicke	57% 8.1 104.7	42% 6.7 82.0	32% 5.9 68.8	Success Rate YPA Rating		
Pass Rate	49%	53%	70%			
NFL AVG	54% 7.4 93.9	47% 6.9 90.4	37% 7.2 88.1	Success Rate YPA Rating		
Pass Rate	49%	59%	76%			

		2021 Rushing Performance									
	Offense	1st Dwn	2nd Dwn	3rd Dwn							
WAS		51% 4.4	53% 4.5	55% 4.0	Success Rate YPC						
	Run Rate	51%	47%	30%							
	NFL AVG	48% 4.2	50% 4.4	53% 4.5	Success Rate YPC						
	Run Rate	51%	41%	24%							

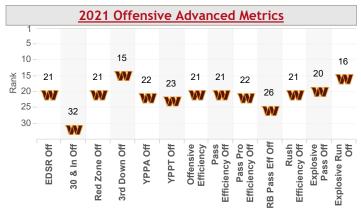
Will Wentz help fix Washington's passing problems? Will they throw deeper because Wentz can do it more accurately than their prior quarterbacks? Will Wentz be accurate on the underneath stuff that Washington does at a higher rate than any other team in the NFL?

Big picture?

No.

Why?

Wentz ranked dead last in accuracy over the last two years combined (min 600 att). (cont'd - see WAS-3)



### 2021 Defensive Advanced Metrics VV 5 VV10 9 15 11 12 13 20 17 25 23 30 27 28 Pass Efficiency Def Rush Efficiency Def Explosive Pass Def RB Pass Eff Def Def Def YPPT Def Defensive 30 & In Def Red Zone Def 3rd Down Def Efficiency Pass Pro Efficieincy De **EDSR** I YPPA **Explosive**

### 2021 Weekly EDSR & Season Trending Performance 16 17 18 12 13 2 11 14 15 W TB W W CARSEA LACNYGBUFATL NO LV DAL PHI DAL PHI NYG KC GB DEN H -7 Н Η Α Α Н Н Α Α Н Α Н A 2 Α A -42 Н A 15 4 -7 6 2 -10 -22 -11 -18 -14 10 -4 22 27 17 17 20 17 14 16 21 34 13 10 29 16 22 30 10 29 43 30 33 31 24 17 21 15 15 27 27 56 20

WEEK
RESULT
OPP AII
SITE FC
MARGIN FC
PTS FC
OPP PTS 43

EDSR by Wk W=Green L=Red

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

### 2021 Close Game Records

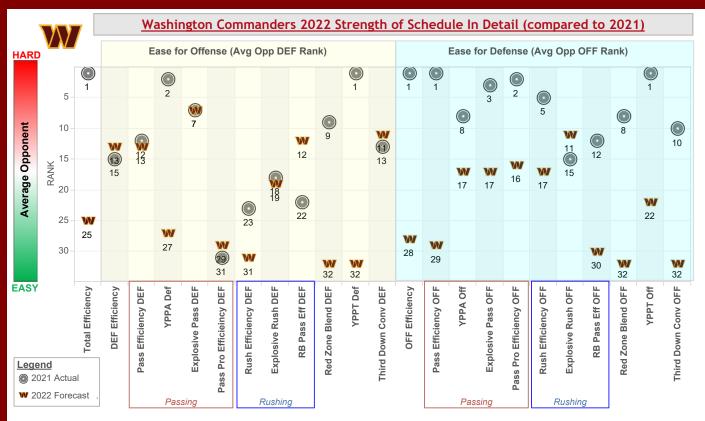
All 2019 Wins: **7** FG Games (<=3 pts) W-L: **3-0** FG Games Win %: **100% (#1)** FG Games Wins (% of Total Wins): **43% (#8)** 

1 Score Games (<=8 pts) W-L: 5-4 1 Score Games Win %: 56% (#11) 1 Score Games Wins (% of Total

Wins): 71% (#7)

2021 Critical/Game-									
Deciding Sta	<u>ıts</u>								
TO Margin	-5								
TO Given	24								
INT Given	15								
FUM Given	9								
TO Taken	19								
INT Taken	11								
FUM Taken	8								
Sack Margin	-5								
Sacks	38								
Sacks Allow	43								
Return TD Margin	+1								
Ret TDs	1								
Ret TDs Allow	0								
Penalty Margin	+14								
Penalties	82								
Opponent Penalties	96								

2024 6-44--1/6-



2022 vs 2021 Schedule Variances*										
Pass DEF Rk	Pass DEF Blend Rk	Rush DEF Rk	Rush DEF Blend Rk	Pass OFF Rank	Pass OFF Blend Rk	Rush OFF Rk	Rush OFF Blend Rk			
19	28	22	17	32	32	29	29			

\* 1=Hardest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much harder schedule in 2021), 32=Easiest Jump in 2022 schedule from 2021 (aka a much easier schedule in 2022);
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	2022 Opponents by Division				2021 Opponents by Division			<u>n</u> <u>H</u>	Health by Unit*										
					2021	20	20	2019			<b>A</b>	707		-			<b>A</b>	770	41	-4			2021	Rk	26
	Ave	erage I	ine		3.4	3.	.3	7.1	NF	CE		<u> </u>	Gr.	$\overline{\mathscr{J}}$		NFCE			U L	3			2020	Rk	24
		ige O/l			45.6	44		42.0										<b>—</b>				20	21 v 2	020 Rk	21
	Straigh				7-10	7-		3-13			•	2 (	CT09					_	_	_ (107	(DI)		Off		29
	nst the				7-10	8-		6-10	AF	CS	1 To 1					AFCW		ے (الا	<b>&gt;</b> /		Q"		Oπi	≺K	29
	Over/U				7-10	6-		8-8					•	9			,			, /			Def	Rk	15
		as Fav			2-2 5-8	3.	-1 -5	0-2 6-7						**									QB	₹k	32
	ATS a				3-5	3.		0-7 1-7	NE	CN		: 🖋	è (F			NFCS	4	₹ 4		<u> </u>					
	Straig	TS Hon			ა-ა 3-5		-5 -4	1-7 2-6		0.11		المناح الم			10°	111 00			- V	5	The second		RB I	₹ĸ	21
	Over/L				2-6	_	-5	5-3															WR	Rk	20
	TS as I			te	0-2	2.	-	0-1								4505							TE F	Rk	31
	TS as				3-3		-3	2-4	AF	CN						AFCE	70-2	3					Oline		17
_	Straig			•	4-5		-4	2-6									"								
	ΓA	S Awa	ay		4-5	4-	-2	4-4															Dline	Rk	21
	Over/l	Under.	Áway		5-4	3-	-4	3-5	NF	CS	7/5	9				NFCN	C	$\rightarrow$					LBF	Rk	21
	ATS A				2-0		-0	0-1			(a)														9
		Away			2-5		-2	4-3															DB I	≺K	9
	Point				13-4		2-3	10-5	NE	cw	(F)					NFCW	<u> </u>					*#	Raced (	on the w	ork of
	n Poir Point				13-4		3-2	11-5				,												all Outsi	
ıer	Point	rease	er Reco	ora	14-3	15		12-4															7 00100	iii Outoi	00/3
					<u>20</u>	22 V	Veek	ly Be	ettin	g Lir	<u>ies</u>									Hom	<u>ne L</u>	<u>ines</u>			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	18	1	3	5	7	9	12	15	17	18
JAX	DET	PHI	DAL	TEN	CHI	GB	IND	MIN	PHI	HOU	ATL	NYG	NYG	SF	CLE	DAL				3.5					
																	L	0	0	GB	0			Ava	1 = 1,0
-4.0	-1.5	+0.0	+6.0	+0.0	-1.5	+3.5	+5.0	+0.0	+3.5	-3.0	-5.0	+0.0	-3.5	+6.0	Null	+1.0	-4	-PHI-	TEN		MIN	-5	-3.5	, wg	DALO
							2 6										JAX					ATL	NYG		
			W											<b>(3)</b>											
Avg =	0.4	11	Α	~41			Δ	UH.	A					Α	Ava	=04				Roa	d Li	<u>nes</u>			
H	_ A	63								Δ	Н		Н				2	4	6	8		10	11	13	16
16900						,		· W			''		T911					_				10	••		
										T.	-		ш					6		5		3.5		Δ).	6 = 1.8
											4							DAL		IND		5.5 PHI		0 Avy	-S1.0
44	45	rō.	8	12	12	5	12	17	ις	44	45	43	43	5	=	44	-1.5 DET		-1.5 CHI				-3	NYG	
4	4	46.	4	46.	41.	47.	45.	46.	44	4	4	4	4	42.	In N	4	DEI		CHI				HQU	-	





Now let's zoom in.

While Washington has lived on short attempts and the lowest target depth in the NFL the last two years, Wentz isn't even accurate on those.

Will Wentz help short?

No.

Wentz ranked dead last in accuracy on passes thrown within five yards of the line of scrimmage the last two years.

Meanwhile, Taylor Heinicke ranked third best of 45 quarterbacks, behind only Joe Burrow and Drew Brees.

Wentz is a massive downgrade in quarterback accuracy on short passes compared to what Washington has been getting the past several seasons.

He was worse than former Washington quarterbacks including Ryan Fitzpatrick, Alex Smith, and Taylor Heinicke.

Compare Wentz to those quarterbacks on short passes thrown within five yards of the line of scrimmage:

Wentz: 92% accuracy, -0.08 EPA/att, 40% success, 4.7 YPA Heinicke: 97% accuracy, -0.10 EPA/att, 40% success, 5.5 YPA Smith: 94% accuracy, -0.23 EPA/att, 38% success, 4.7 YPA Fitzpatrick: 97% accuracy, -0.07 EPA/att, 42% success, 4.8 YPA

So, Wentz is unlikely to be an upgrade on the short passing game.

But will Wentz help deep? After all, perhaps the reason Washington wasn't throwing deep was because their prior quarterbacks couldn't throw deep accurately.

Also no.

Wentz ranked dead last in accuracy on passes thrown over five yards downfield the last two years.

He was worse than former Washington quarterbacks Fitzpatrick, Smith, and Heinicke.

Compare Wentz to those quarterbacks on passes thrown over five yards downfield:

Wentz: 78% accuracy, 0.18 EPA/att, 48% success, 8.4 YPA Heinicke: 79% accuracy. 0.19 EPA/att. 49% success. 8.7 YPA Smith: 81% accuracy, 0.39 EPA/att, 55% success, 10.5 YPA Fitzpatrick: 89% accuracy, 0.34 EPA/att, 59% success, 10.1 YPA

So if it's not Wentz's accuracy we should be excited about in DC, what is it? What does he bring to the table?

Maybe it's great performance in the red zone? Maybe it's great performance in clutch situations, perhaps key downs like third or fourth down?

Inside the red zone, Wentz ranked 24th out of 33 qualifying quarterbacks in EPA/dropback.

In the red zone, 10.8% of Wentz's dropbacks ended with a sack or an interception, ninth highest in the NFL.

On third or fourth downs, Wentz ranked 29th of 33 qualifying quarterbacks in accuracy.

This has been the problem for Wentz for several years. At least one of them.

(cont'd - see WAS-4)

### Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Analyzing Rest & Prep Inequality in the 2022 Schedule 2022 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 5 5 Strength of Scheduled Game Timing: Washington Commanders 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 17 24 18 27 17

### Forecast 2022 Wins

### Why Bet the Under

- The Commanders play four teams coming off mini byes that play the Thursday game the previous week. All four of these games occur from Week 10 onward, later in the season when extra rest becomes more of an advantage. Another scheduling disadvantage the Commanders face are three short week road games.
- The Commanders went 2-4 against division foes in 2021, with both victories coming against the New York Giants, including a Week 18 victory against Jake Fromm. The Commanders swapped a couple of offensive linemen and changed quarterbacks but are relatively the same team as last year, while the Eagles and Giants are both trending upward from last year. A similar division record is in the range of outcomes in 2022.
- After finishing with the fifth-worst pass defense DVOA, the Commanders made no significant upgrades to the secondary. The pass defense allowed the third highest passing success rate and was relatively healthy last year. Lacking significant depth, the Commanders could continue to struggle stopping the pass which would be magnified with worse injury luck.

# 7.5



### Why Bet the Over

- The Commanders have the second-largest improvement in strength of schedule from 2021. After facing the most difficult schedule last year, Washington is projected to face the sixth-easiest schedule. After facing an onslaught of elite quarterbacks in 2021, such as Josh Allen, Patrick Mahomes, Justin Herbert, Tom Brady, and Aaron Rodgers, the defense has a much easier path to success in 2022.
- The front office was aggressive in acquisitions to fix immediate needs and improve. Trading a potential 2nd-round pick in 2023 for **Carson Wentz** and drafting **Johan Dotson** and **Phidarian Mathis** well above above consensus to upgrade positions of need, indicate the franchise is aggressively focused on short-term results.
- The defense struggled on third downs, allowing a 48.5% conversion rate, the second-highest rate in the league, which was 6.7% over expectation. Positive third down regression will be aided by facing the fifth-easiest slate of offenses in terms of efficiency after facing the second-most efficient offenses in 2021. Field goal luck is also likely to regress in the Commander's favor as opponents finished with the sixth-highest field goals made over expectation.

Washington Commanders Positional Unit Rankings										
Quarterbacks	Offensive Line	Running Backs	Receivers	Front 7	Secondary	Head Coach				
23	12	15	19	10	17	21				

The addition of **Carson Wentz** didn't improve our opinion of Washington's quarterback situation. In fact, the Commanders rank four spots worse than last year (although that was based on the assumption of a healthy **Ryan Fitzpatrick**). When Wentz was not under pressure, he ranked 30th out of 37 quarterbacks in on-target rate last season.

Washington's backfield lacks a star, but makes up for it with nice depth and an array of skill sets. When running between the tackles, **Antonio Gibson** averaged just 3.2 yards per carry last year. The addition of the more physical **Brian Robinson** should help in that area, as he complements Gibson and **J.D. McKissic** well.

Votes for Washington's pass catchers ranged from 13th to 26th. No one disputes **Terry McLaurin**'s talent, but we don't really know what to expect from the rest of the group. If **Curtis Samuel** is healthy, **Dyami Brown** makes progress in his second year, and **Jahan Dotson** produces immediately, the unit has a high ceiling — but that's a lot of ifs.

Washington added two new guards to the offensive line — **Andrew Norwell** and **Trai Turner** — potentially upgrading the unit. Turner and Norwell ranked 11th and 13th, respectively, in pressure rate allowed among guards last season. As a result, this unit climbed five spots in our rankings.

We ranked Washington's front seven in the top five last year, but the production didn't match the potential. The ceiling remains high, but **Chase Young** must live up to lofty expectations. Young ranked 66th out of 75 edge-rushers in pressure rate a season ago.

Washington's secondary fell far short of expectations last year, as it allowed a 55.3% completion rate on throws 10 or more yards downfield, the league's third-worst rate. Starting corners **William Jackson** and **Kendall Fuller** combined to allow a disappointing 7.7 yards per target in coverage.

Ron Rivera's stubbornness got Washington into trouble last year, especially on defense. He tried to replicate what worked in 2020 and refused to adjust when it failed. The best evidence of this: Washington was one of just four teams ranked in the top 10 in blitz rate and the bottom 10 in yards per play allowed versus the blitz. Given how his tenure ended in Carolina, and last season's issues, it's difficult to trust him — he ranked in the bottom half of the league on every ballot.

### **WAS-4**

In critical, clutch situations, he locks up. He freezes.

On third downs the last two years, he ranked 33rd out of 47 quarterbacks in percentage of dropbacks ending with a sack or an interception.

And on these third downs, his accuracy rate ranked 40th out of 47 guarterbacks.

Keep in mind, this was playing behind two of the better offensive lines in the NFL: the Eagles and the Colts.

How does Washington's offensive line compare?

For two straight years, PFF has ranked Washington's line third and fourth overall in pass blocking. I can tell you even the Washington coaches know the line isn't a top-4 pass blocking offensive line.

They're a tough line to evaluate because everything is coming out so short, shortest in the NFL.

But here are a couple of ways to look at how Washington's line stacked up when they weren't able to dump it short.

### **WAS-5**

Keep in mind, Washington played the second-easiest schedule of pass rushes last season. These metrics are not adjusted for strength of schedule, meaning rankings should be viewed even worse due to caliber of completion faced:

On second and third and 8+ yards to go, when you have to try and push the ball downfield further, Washington allowed the fourth-highest pressure rate last year (42%).

Anytime they threw the ball at or beyond the first down marker, they were pressured at the seventh-highest rate last year (38%).

Anytime they threw the ball over 5 yards downfield, they were pressured at the eighth-highest rate last year (36%).

Quarterbacks have a big role in pressure rate, so some of this is on the Washington quarterbacks. But I don't think Wentz will feel the same comfort level behind Washington's line as he has in some of his previous stops. The team lost both starting guards from last season in **Brandon Scherff** (free agency) and **Ereck Flowers** (released). Scherff was a loss they will feel, grading out as the 13th ranked guard at PFF.

The team is replacing his loss with veteran **Andrew Norwell**, who ranked 43rd among the same group last season with the Jaguars. It will be interesting to see how often Wentz is pressured behind this Washington line, and how he performs under pressure.

If Wentz isn't pumping up numbers in clutch situations or third and fourth downs, maybe he's been solid on early downs then?

When pressured at all on early downs, no quarterback delivered less total EPA than Wentz over the last two years.

In total, Wentz's EPA under pressure on early downs was -132 EPA, lowest in the NFL. On a per-play basis, it was -0.58 EPA/dropback on 227 dropbacks. His success rate under pressure was 27%, which ranked 38th out of 47.

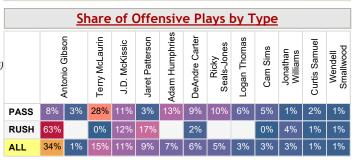
### (cont'd - see WAS-6) Division History: Season Wins & 2022 Projection 14 12 12 10 10 8 8 6 6 4 4 2 2 0 0 2018 Wins 2019 Wins 2020 Wins 2021 Wins Forecast 2022

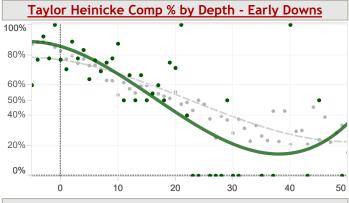
# 

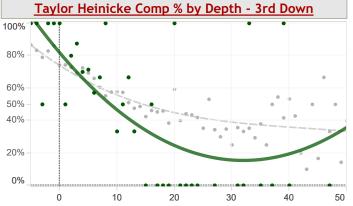


### 2021 Situational Usage by Player & Position

<u>Usage Rate by Score</u>											
V		Being Blown Out (14+)	Down Big (9-13)	One Score	Large Lead (9-13)	Blowout Lead (14+)					
	Antonio Gibson	10%	2%	83%	4%						
	Terry McLaurin			100%							
	J.D. McKissic	4%	10%	85%							
	Jaret Patterson	21%	1%	71%	4%	3%					
RUSH	DeAndre Carter	20%	10%	60%		10%					
- ₽	Cam Sims	100%									
	Jonathan Williams	35%	6%	41%	6%	12%					
	Curtis Samuel			100%							
	Wendell Smallwood			100%							
	Total	13%	3%	79%	3%	1%					
	Antonio Gibson	15%	6%	79%							
	Terry McLaurin	14%	6%	77%	3%						
	J.D. McKissic	13%	6%	79%	2%						
	Jaret Patterson	8%	8%	83%							
	Adam Humphries	26%	13%	61%							
ဟ္	DeAndre Carter	14%	7%	70%	9%						
PASS	Ricky Seals-Jones	23%	10%	63%	4%						
	Logan Thomas	12%		88%							
	Cam Sims	35%	4%	61%							
	Jonathan Williams	50%		50%							
	Curtis Samuel	11%	11%	78%							
	Wendell Smallwood			100%							
	Total	17%	7%	73%	2%						







# Successful Play Rate

### **2021 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]	0-1 [4WR]	0-0 [5WR]	1-0 [4WR]	ALL
PASS	42%, -0.16 (484)	55%, -0.01 (77)	47%, -0.10 (15)	100%, 2.52 (1)	75%, 1.00 (4)	75%, 0.29 (4)	33%, 0.00 (3)		44%, -0.12 (588)
RUSH	56%, 0.05 (318)	48%, -0.16 (118)	63%, 0.01 (24)	14%, -0.40 (14)	0%, -0.46 (1)			0%, -4.50 (1)	53%, -0.03 (476)
All	48%, -0.08 (802)	51%, -0.10 (195)	56%, -0.03 (39)	20%, -0.21 (15)	60%, 0.71 (5)	75%, 0.29 (4)	33%, 0.00 (3)	0%, -4.50 (1)	48%, -0.08 (1,064)

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							
WR	Terry McLaurin	50% (106) 8.4, 0.01	56% (18) 7.3, 0.04	100% (2) 6.5, 0.27	52% (126) 8.2, 0.02							
	Adam Humphries	41% (61) 6.0, -0.17			41% (61) 6.0, -0.17							
	DeAndre Carter	40% (35) 6.5, 0.24	83% (6) 7.5, 0.32	50% (2) 11.0, 0.30	47% (43) 6.9, 0.26							
	Cam Sims	53% (19) 7.3, 0.07	100% (3) 10.0, 0.80		59% (22) 7.6, 0.17							
TE	Logan Thomas	59% (17) 6.9, 0.17	80% (5) 7.6, 0.17		64% (22) 7.0, 0.17							
RB	J.D. McKissic	49% (45) 8.0, 0.20	100% (3) 8.3, 0.56	40% (5) 2.4, -0.15	51% (53) 7.5, 0.18							
	Antonio Gibson	51% (35) 6.3, 0.06	55% (11) 5.4, 0.03	40% (5) 3.2, -0.31	51% (51) 5.8, 0.02							

# Rushing Success by Top-4 Personnel Groupings (Leaderboard)

	1-1 [3WR]	1-2 [2WR]	2-1 [2WR]	2-2 [1WR]	4 Grp Total
Gibson	53% (161)	47% (73)	60% (20)	0% (2)	52% (256)
Antonio	4.3, -0.04	3.4, -0.17	5.1, -0.02	1.0, -0.64	4.1, -0.08
Patterson	53% (43)	45% (22)	50% (2)	0% (1)	50% (68)
Jaret	4.5, 0.05	2.9, -0.19	3.5, -0.19	3.0, -0.36	3.9, -0.04
Heinicke	58% (38)	42% (12)	100% (1)	0% (9)	47% (60)
Taylor	5.9, 0.21	7.5, -0.09	8.0, 1.77	-1.0, -0.81	5.2, 0.02
McKissic	60% (40)	71% (7)	100% (1)		63% (48)
J.D.	4.4, 0.20	4.7, -0.05	2.0, -0.80		4.4, 0.14
Williams	62% (13)	100% (1)		100% (2)	69% (16)
Jonathan	3.2, 0.07	3.0, 0.68		17.0, 1.67	4.9, 0.31
Smallwood	60% (5)				60% (5)
Wendell	5.0, 0.08				5.0, 0.08
Samuel	33% (3)	100% (1)			50% (4)
Curtis	2.3, -0.41	4.0, -0.13			2.8, -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

Pas	Passing by Passing by		sing by	Throw Types		QB Drop Types		QB State at Pass			Run Types			
	verage :heme	Ro	oute	Level 1	50% (381) 6.2, 0.01	3 Step	48% (238) 7.0, 0.07	Planted		% (393) 2, 0.04	Outside Zone	54% (138) 4.5, 0.00		
		Out	60% (57) 7.2, 0.20			E Ston	44% (128)	Shuffling		5% (88) 3, 0.05	Inside	55% (101)		
Zone	40% (367) 6.9, -0.06	Curl	62% (52)	Level 2	50% (109) 9.0, 0.13	5 Step	6.9, -0.06			0% (62) 9, -0.25	Zone	3.1, -0.16		
		Curi	7.3, 0.21			0/1 Step	0/1 Step 52% (46)		52% (46) 4.8, -0.23				Stretch	57% (49) 5.4, 0.13
	44% (156)	Drag	51% (39)	Level 3	30% (27) 10.6, 0.17				Play Action			45% (42)		
Man	7.2, -0.08	2.45	7.4, 0.16			7 Step	62% (37) 9.5, 0.22		Play Action	No P/A	Power	45% (42) 4.2, -0.03		
		Slant	58% (36)	Sidearm	86% (7) 8.7, 0.76		48% (27)	Under Center	54% (65) 8.5, 0.16	43% (14) 4.5, -0.30		38% (13)		
	41% (24)		7.5, -0.06			Basic Screen	7.4, 0.17	Shotgun	56% (123) 8.5, 0.20	39% (386) 6.0, -0.27	Pitch	2.0, -0.17		
Other	3.7, -0.34	Dig	56% (34) 10.0, 0.42	Shovel	100% (1) 17.0, 1.07	Designed Rollout Right	67% (24) 7.5, 0.10	ALL	55% (188) 8.5, 0.18	39% (400) 6.0, -0.27	Lead	100% (1) 8.0, 0.62		

### WAS-6

What was frustrating was watching Wentz make these bad plays due to mental mistakes, including lack of pocket awareness.

So why should the fans of the Commanders be excited about Carson Wentz?

Generally speaking, despite all these criticisms, he's still the best quarterback Washington's had in years.

He's going to be an improvement throwing deep over what Heinicke delivered.

Just look at these splits and ranks when throwing 20+ yards downfield:

Wentz: 0.66 EPA/att (seventh), 42% success (ninth), 14.5 YPA (sixth), 3.5% sack/int (seventh) 75% accuracy (13th) Heinicke: 0.13 EPA/att (29th), 33% success (26th), 10.2 YPA (30th), 9.4% sack/int (33rd), 67% accuracy (26th)

Wentz will also enjoy the rates of play-action and motion that offensive coordinator Scott Turner employs.

Last season, on early downs in the first three quarters of games, no team used play-action more than Washington. They ranked first in improvement in success rate with play-action and third in improvement in YPA when using play-action.

Not that Wentz has excelled with play-action. I had no idea what he was doing in 2020 with play-action, it was horrifying how poor he was. But Wentz has been terrible without play-action. How terrible?

Without play-action the last two years on early downs in the first three quarters, Carson Wentz's performance and rank out of 33 qualifying quarterbacks:

No play-action: -0.16 EPA/att (28th), 41% success (25th), 5.6 YPA (32nd), 86% accuracy (31st)





Thus, the fact that Turner will call a high rate of play-action will help Wentz and this offense.

Turner also utilized the third highest rate of pre-snap motion in the first three quarters of games last season, which is another benefit for any quarterback.

I'll be very intrigued to see if Washington shifts back to a more pass-heavy operation with a veteran quarterback in town. Because Ryan Fitzpatrick's season was done after six pass attempts last year, and Taylor Heinicke (not young at 28 years old but inexperienced) was under center as the starter most of the season.

Look at the pass rates on early downs in the first three quarters in 2020 vs. 2021:

2020: 60% pass, seventh highest pass rate 2021: 53% pass, 20th highest pass rate

However, even before Alex Smith took over in Week 10 during 2020, Washington was still a pass-first team, and their 60.1% pass rate ranked seventh in the NFL. So, it wasn't the presence of a vet like Smith that caused a sudden shift in pass rate in 2020, that was Turner's philosophy.

If they stay more balanced in 2022 as they were in 2021, they're absolutely going to need to improve the ground game tremendously.

The problem came primarily from 12 personnel. On early downs in the first three quarters, look at the splits for running back runs:

11 personnel: 164 att, -0.12 EPA/att (18th), 4.3 YPC (22nd), 42% success (sixth) 12 personnel: 73 att, -0.19 EPA/att (20tht), 3.8 YPC (24th), 29% success (26th)

One of the bigger surprises with the lack of production on the ground is that no team faced more light boxes than Washington when they ran the ball. 47% of Washington's runs came against 7+ man boxes, which was well below the NFL average of 73% and was 32nd in the NFL. For perspective, the 49ers faced 7+ man boxes on 87% of their runs

It didn't matter if Washington was in 11 or 12 personnel, they consistently faced well below average rates of 7+ man boxes. If defenses are playing like this, and you shift to the run, as Turner did, and the offense still can't run the ball, it is problematic.

Here were Washington's splits on early downs in the first three guarters for running back runs:

6 or fewer in box: 136 att, -0.08 EPA/att (15th), 4.8 YPA (19th), 45% success (seventh) 7+ in box: 120 att, -0.24 EPA/att (28th), 3.5 YPC (27th), 30% success (27th)

If Washington is going to run 120 times into heavier boxes on early downs, they must be more efficient in 2022. And they must get more production when running into the lighter boxes, as ranking league-average against light boxes will still keep Washington as a below average rushing offense in general.

(cont'd - see WAS-8)

### Immediate Impact of Washington Commanders 2022 Draft Class

Washington traded down from its original spot in the first round, picking up an extra third- and fourth-round pick before selecting **Jahan Dotson** (first round). Adding another weapon made sense, but **Chris Olave** and **Jameson Williams** were both on the board when Washington initially traded down. Dotson should start immediately and improves the depth at receiver, but he's not on the level of Olave or Williams. Dotson is built in the same mold as Olave, but smaller and less explosive. Based on route-adjusted metrics, Dotson's catch rate was 9% above expected last season, but his yards after the catch were 8% below expected. He should serve as the number-two option behind **Terry McLaurin**, but he'll get a challenge from last year's third-round pick **Dyami Brown**, who is a significantly more explosive weapon, albeit less reliable.

Phidarian Mathis (second round) may have been a best-available selection, as it's difficult to see how he'll earn significant playing time on an already strong defensive line. However, the selection also raises questions as to how they'll handle Da'Ron Payne, who becomes a free agent after the season. Payne and Jonathan Allen, who signed a long-term extension last offseason, started every game at defensive tackle last year. Perhaps Washington does not want to over-invest in the defensive line, and is now willing to let Payne walk, with Mathis stepping in as his replacement in 2023.

Brian Robinson Jr. (third round) joins a crowded backfield with Antonio Gibson and J.D. McKissic. Robinson is a between-the-tackles runner, who will probably be used to ease the early-down workload on Gibson. Robinson averaged 5.5 broken/missed tackles forced per 20 carries last season, ranked second in the SEC. He'll add an element of power to the run game which Washington has lacked when Gibson is off the field. Percy Butler (fourth round) will provide depth in the deep secondary, but likely makes his presence felt most on special teams. Butler is undersized and primarily played in a free safety role at Louisiana, but does have some experience in the slot. Sam Howell (fifth round) will be given an opportunity to develop behind Wentz, but his lack of development in college raises doubts about his ability to elevate his game any further. Howell is impressive as a true freshman starter at North Carolina, but regressed through the remainder of his career. Despite Howell's issues late in his career, Washington may have been the ideal landing spot for him. Early in his career at North Carolina, he had a strong connection with Dyami Brown, especially on the deep ball. During Howell's freshman and sophomore years, the two connected on 12 touchdowns on throws 20 or more yards downfield.

Washington will attempt to further develop **Cole Turner** into a tight end, after he spent the majority of his career as a receiver at Nevada. With **Logan Thomas** returning from an ACL injury, Turner should see significant reps in training camp and will have an opportunity to impress the coaching staff. The team clearly wants to surround Wentz with the weapons he needs to be successful, so Turner should be taken seriously as a threat to Thomas's job. **Chris Paul** (seventh round) played every position on the offensive line except center during his days at Tulsa, and will compete for a backup role.

Christian Holmes (seventh round) was a four-year starter as an outside corner at Missouri and Oklahoma State. Despite modest athletic traits, his football intelligence allows him to consistently locate and play the ball. Based on route-adjusted data, he generated a ball-hawk rate 25% above average over his two seasons at Oklahoma State. Ron Rivera has stated a commitment to putting Wentz in the best position to succeed, so we probably should have anticipated a first-round wide receiver. But ending up with Dotson, when Olave and Williams were available, is a disappointment. The extra picks acquired by trading down netted them Robinson and, after another trade down, Howell and Turner. Perhaps those moves work out in the long run, but if the goal was to immediately upgrade the weapons around Wentz, it was a questionable decision.

Washington likely ended up with only one immediate starter (Dotson), a possible year-two starter (Mathis), and some nice developmental prospects. It's an acceptable draft class, but not likely to be a group that alters the direction of this sputtering franchise.

### **7///**

### Washington Commanders 2021 Passing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Losing starting quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick just 16 snaps into the season, Washington was once again at the bottom of the league in production from their passing game, exiting 2021 23rd in the league in expected points added gained via passing (22.6 EPA). They ranked 22nd in yards per pass attempt (6.8 Y/A), 22nd in team passing rating (85.8), 22nd in touchdown passes (21), while 24th in interception rate (2.7%). The plan on improving on that output was put into action with the team trading veteran **Carson Wentz**, now on his third team in the past three seasons. Wentz threw for just 6.3 yards per attempt over the final 11 games of the season, failing to recapture the production that he had early in his career paired with Frank Reich. Wentz still has three years remaining on his contract but will carry zero dead money towards the cap after this season.

2021 Standard Passing Table											
QB	Comp	Att	Comp %	Yds	YPA	TDs	INT	Sacks	Rating	Rk	
Taylor Heinicke	321	491	65%	3,424	7.0	19	15	38	86	31	
NFL Avg 64% 7.0 88.6											

2021 Advanced Passing Table											
QB Success % Passing Success % Passing Success % Pass Gains Success % Pass Gains Success % Pass Success % Pass Success Sains Success % Pass Success Sains Success Success Sains Success Sains Success Sains Success Sains Success Success Sains											
Taylor Heinicke	45%	51%	41	8.0%	16	3.0%	5.2	5.5			
NFL Avg	46%	50%	34.1	8.8%	12.5	3.1%	5.6	5.3			

# **Target Postive Distribution** Play % 40 30 20 10 0 -10 **Taylor Heinicke 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%	3.6%	2.6%	0.0%	2.7%						
6 - 9	0.0%	6.1%	4.2%		5.1%						
10 - 14	1.0%	0.0%	11.1%	25.0%	2.2%						
15+	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	2.5%						
Total	0.9%	3.2%	4.3%	10.5%	2.8%						

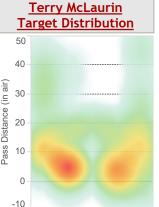
3rd Down Passing - Short of Sticks Analysis											
QB	Avg. Yds to Go	Avg. Air Yards	Avg Yds Past Sticks	Beyond Sticks Rate	Beyond Rk						
Taylor Heinicke	7.8	9.5	1.6	64%	19						
NFL Avg	7.4	8.9	1.5	62%							

	<u>Air Y</u>	Air Yds vs YAC										
d	Air Yds %	YAC %	Rk									
	48%	52%	34									
	53%	47%										

### 2021 Receiving Recap & 2022 Outlook

Washington wideouts ranked 24th in the league in yards per target (7.3 yards) and 23rd in success rate (48%). Not all was quarterback induced as the team had next nothing outside of Terry McLaurin in the passing game. After McLaurin's team-high 130 targets, the next top target earners were Adam Humphries (62), J.D. McKissic (53), Antonio Gibson (52), Ricky Seals-Jones (49), and DeAndre Carter (44). Washington is looking to get Curtis Samuel on the field for more than 84 snaps this season after signing a lucrative deal last offseason while the team invested the 16th overall pick in Jahan Dotson. Samuel will still only be 26 years old at the start of the season, giving Washington their best set of wideouts in a number of years.

Player *Min 50 Targets	Targ	% dwo	YPA	Rating	% %	Success Rk	Missed YPA Rk	YAS % Rk	YTS % Rk	TDs
Terry McLaurin	127	57%	7.8	80.0	49%	93	97	27	106	4
Adam Humphries	60	65%	6.3	68.7	43%	123	123	126	40	0
J.D. McKissic	53	81%	7.5	102.6	53%	63	68	131	48	2
Antonio Gibson	52	81%	5.7	109.5	50%	84	15	108	24	3





### 2021 Rushing Recap & 2022 Outlook

Washington does not have many offensive strengths, but their backfield, built around the combination of Antonio Gibson, J.D. McKissic, and Brian Robinson, paired with their offensive line is solidified. Gibson did not make the full jump many had hoped last season, but he still posted 1,331 yards and 10 touchdowns on 300 touches battling through a plethora of injuries. McKissic will be 29 years old this August, coming off two productive seasons in Washington, where he caught 123 passes for 986 yards and four touchdowns. Over those two seasons, Alvin Kamara is the only running back with more targets (174) than McKissic's 163 while only Kamara and Austin Ekeler have caught more passes at the position. Robinson is 6-foot-2 and 225 pounds, forcing 79 missed tackles, third in this class.

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	258	4.0	51%	36	28	35	54	50%	40	7
Jaret Patterson	68	4.0	52%	31	7	18	86	51%	33	2
Taylor Heinicke	59	5.3	47%	62	75	58	58	51%	33	1

### Yards per Carry by Direction





### Fantasy Advice, Targets and Analysis



### Can Carson Wentz Finally Unlock Terry McLaurin?

Terry McLaurin was once again held back from accessing his full fantasy potential, posting 77-1,053-5 in his third season. McLaurin was completely feast or famine, posting four top-10 scoring weeks on the year and finishing WR30 or lower in every other game with eight weeks as the WR50 or lower. McLaurin ranked 13th among wideouts in targets (130) in 2021, but just 62.7% were deemed catchable, the lowest rate of all wideouts to see 100 or more targets last season. McLaurin still has a lot of meat left on the bone heading into his fourth year in the league but was just given a massive three-year extension to stay in Washington. While he has consistently been at the top of the league in the share of team opportunity, we are putting things in the hands of Carson Wentz in an attempt for McLaurin to reach his ceiling.

Wentz threw for just 6.3 yards per attempt over the final 11 games of the season and was only marginally better than **Taylor Heinicke** in a number of areas. Wentz had an on-target rate of 72.2% last season compared to a 71.5% rate for Heinicke. From a clean pocket, Wentz completed 68.1% of his passes (29th in the league) compared to a 71.7% rate for Heinicke when kept clean. The one area where Wentz was much better was downfield, sporting a 58.5% on-target rate (seventh in the league among passers with 30-plus attempts) compared to a 41.2% on-target rate for Heinicke on those throws, 27th. McLaurin ranked fifth in the league with 33 of those downfield targets, but only was able to corral 11 of them. Wentz is no doubt the best quarterback McLaurin has played with for his career, but similar to D.J. Moore and Sam Darnold a year ago, that is more due to default than feeling great about Wentz finally being the quarterback that consistently turns McLaurin into a set-and-forget WR1 option.

### Antonio Gibson In A Best Ball, But Run Away In Weekly Leagues

Gibson has gone over 1,000 yards with double-digit touchdowns in each of his first two seasons in the league. Only Jonathan Taylor has scored more touchdowns than Gibson's 21 among the 2020 draft class. He still posted 1,331 yards and 10 touchdowns on 300 touches battling through a plethora of injuries on a bad Washington offense. Gibson has scored a touchdown in 53.3% of his games played, seventh among all running backs in the top-40 of ADP. That is the bull case for Gibson. But even in games with a touchdown, Gibson ranks 27th in points per game in PPR formats (19.3) and 25th in 0.5 PPR (18.0) formats among those same top-40 backs. In 14 career games without a touchdown, Gibson has finished higher than RB25 just once. That 7.1% rate of being an RB2 or better in games without a touchdown ranks 37th among the top-40 backs in current ADP.

Gibson has been a back orbiting committee speak from the Washington staff this entire offseason after they brought back **J.D. McKissic** and drafted **Brian Robinson** in the third round. Robinson could become a threat to Gibson's short-yardage work that has carried him or could just be insurance after Washington's depth at the position was exposed a year ago. McKissic returning is a legitimate thorn, though. McKissic was forced to exit Week 12 with a season-ending concussion. From that time on, Gibson had his route participation jump up to 55.1% of the dropbacks from 35.4% prior, catching 23 passes over his final six games after 19 through 10 games.

Washin	Washington Commanders Defense: Number of DBs vs Personnel							Surrendered +Success Map		
Personnel	4	5	6	Grand Total		0/		50		
4 4 [2][0]	13 plays <i>(3%)</i> Success: 38%	325 plays (74%) Success: 52%	104 plays (24%) Success: 46%	442 plays (100%)		%		% Rk		40
1-1 [3WR]	EPA: -0.08	EPA: 0.05	EPA: 0.22	EPA: 0.09	Success: 50% EPA: 0.09 Base		28	40		
1-2 [2WR]	25 plays (23%) Success: 60%	68 plays (62%) Success: 46%	16 plays <i>(15%)</i> Success: 69%	109 plays (100%) Success: 52%	Nickel	66%	10	30 -		
	EPA: 0.08	EPA: -0.08	EPA: 0.79	EPA: 0.09	Dime+	16%	14			
2-1 [2WR]	8 plays <i>(28%)</i> Success: 50% EPA: -0.02	18 plays <i>(62%)</i> Success: 33% EPA: -0.51	3 plays <i>(10%)</i> Success: 0% EPA: -0.87	29 plays (100%) Success: 34% EPA: -0.42	Rush 3	3%	19	20 -		
-			L1 710.07		Rush 4	63%	28	10 -		
1-3 [1WR]	10 plays (83%) Success: 60% EPA: -0.11	2 plays <i>(17%)</i> Success: 100% EPA: 1.11		12 plays <i>(100%)</i> Success: 67% EPA: 0.09	Rush 5	31%	1	10-		
Grand	56 plays (9%)	413 plays (70%)	123 plays (21%)	592 plays (100%)	Rush 6+	3%	25	0-		
Total	Success: 54% EPA: 0.00	Success: 50% EPA: 0.01	Success: 48% EPA: 0.26	Success: 50% EPA: 0.06	Blitz%	34%	4	-10		

### **Defensive Outlook**

The interior defensive line was the deepest on the roster but with **Tim Settle** leaving in free agency and the release of **Matt loannidis**, it's been thinned out. Yet, it's not a problem because of the existence of **Jonathan Allen**, who has turned into one of the best and most consistent interior defensive linemen in the league. Allen was second in pressure rate among defensive tackles, behind only Chris Jones, and he was eighth in ESPN's Pass Rush Win Rate at the position. **Da'Ron Payne** has been a good run defender but took a step forward in pass rushing last season with 15 quarterback hits and he was 25th in pressure rate. **Chase Young's** season only lasted nine games but it was a bit of a disappointment up until then as a follow-up to his DROY season. He had just four quarterback hits and 1.5 sacks and ranked 66th among 102 defensive ends/linebackers with at least 200 pass rush snaps. **Montez Sweat** had his troubles both on and off the field in 2021. He missed time with a fractured jaw and when he was expected to return, was forced out with a positive COVID test. Sweat played in just 10 games, had 13 quarterback hits, and ranked 52 among edge rushers in pressure rate. At full health, the Young-Sweat duo will do the significant lifting for the pass rush, but behind them the Commanders have taken some swings at high-upside athletic rushers like **James Smith-Williams**, **Shaka Toney**, and this year's free agent signing of **Efe Obada**.

Washington used a first-round pick on **Jamin Davis** last season and the rookie got on the field for just over half of the team's defensive snaps. As his college profile suggested, he was rangey but struggled to hold up in coverage. He ranked 81st of 85 qualified linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. **Cole Holcomb**, a 2019 fifth-round pick, was on the field more often (92% of the defensive snaps) but he had a similar split in performance. He was 13th among all defenders in solo tackles but ranked 84th among linebackers in yards allowed per coverage snap. He's in the final year of his rookie deal and has been slotted to play more as the MIKE this season. Some of those MIKE responsibilities went to **David Mayo** late in the season. Mayo spent most of the season on special teams and slide into a linebacker role over the final three regular season games. The first game in Week 15 came when Davis was inactive and also the following week when Davis only played 21% of the snaps.

Washington played nicked 66% of the time and dime another 16%, so those linebacker spots should be accounted for. **William Jackson** was signed to be Washington's top corner last offseason but there were some ups and downs in 12 games. Jackson ranked 62nd of 92 qualified cornerbacks in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap, which accounts for touchdowns and interceptions. **Kendall Fuller** played 91% of the defensive snaps with half of his coverage snaps on the outside. He ranked 55th in Adjusted Yards allowed per coverage snap and had better production on the outside than in the slot. **Danny Johnson**, a 2018 undrafted free agent, played well in limited snaps as the slot corner. **Benjamin St. Juste** struggled some in his rookie season, but the 6-foot-3 third-round pick has the length to play on the outside. Washington worked to convert **Troy Apke** from safety to cornerback last year, but he did not play a defensive snap. **Bobby McCain** was a successful late offseason signing last year after he was released by the Dolphins in May. McCain played 93% of the defensive snaps and had a career-high with nine passes defensed as he played all around the secondary. **Kamren Curl** was also moved around and the ability of both Curl and McCain to rotate allowed Washington to play in a two-high shell 55% of the time, which was the 10th highest rate in the league, while they only played two-high coverages 40% of the time, which ranked 16th.

Play Tendencies							
All Pass %	54%						
All Pass Rk	27						
All Rush %	46%						
All Rush Rk	6						
1 Score Pass %	55%						
1 Score Pass Rk	20						
2020 1 Score Pass %	57%						
2020 1 Score Pass Rk	17						
2021 Pass Increase %	-2%						
Pass Increase Rk	23						
1 Score Rush %	45%						
1 Score Rush Rk	13						
Up Pass %	51%						
Up Pass Rk	26						
Up Rush %	49%						
Up Rush Rk	7						
Down Pass %	55%						
Down Pass Rk	30						
Down Rush %	45%						
Down Rush Rk	3						

Down & Distance Tendencies										
Down	Distance	Total Plays	Pass Rate	Run Rate S	Play uccess %					
1st	Short (1-3)	3	0%	100%	100%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	12	33%	67%	50%					
	Long (8-10)	308	48%	52%	57%					
	XL (11+)	15	73%	27%	27%					
2nd	Short (1-3)	37	24%	76%	59%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	92	47%	53%	57%					
	Long (8-10)	82	52%	48%	38%					
	XL (11+)	30	80%	20%	27%					
3rd	Short (1-3)	55	35%	65%	64%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	48	90%	10%	31%					
	Long (8-10)	30	93%	7%	30%					
	XL (11+)	26	88%	12%	8%					
4th	Short (1-3)	12	50%	50%	42%					
Dwn	Med (4-7)	2	100%	0%	100%					
	Long (8-10)	1	100%	0%	0%					
	XL (11+)	1	100%	0%	0%					

Shotgun %

Washington Commanders 2021 Play Analysis

**NFL AVG** 65% 35%

Efficiency

67%

**Short Yardage Intelligence:** 

<u>2nd and Short Run</u>					
Run Freq	Run Rk	NFL Run Freq Avg	Run 1D Rate	Run NFL 1D Avg	
67%	21	71%	56%	73%	

2nd and Short Pass				
Pass Freq	Pass Rk	NFL Pass Freq Avg	Pass 1D Rate	Pass NFL 1D Avg
33%	11	29%	63%	46%

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	5	40%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Antonio Gibson	96	51%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Terry McLaurin	4	75%
2nd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Antonio Gibson	18	56%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	RUSH	Antonio Gibson	29	62%
	Long (8-10)	RUSH	Antonio Gibson	23	26%
	XL (11+)	PASS	Terry McLaurin	8	25%
3rd	Short (1-3)	RUSH	Antonio Gibson	20	70%
Dwn	Med (4-7)	PASS	Terry McLaurin	9	22%
	Long (8-10)	PASS	Terry McLaurin	9	33%
	XL (11+)	PASS	J.D. McKissic	6	17%

	Play Action (Y/N)				
Pre- Snap Motion (Y/N)	No	Yes	Total		
No	Success: 36%	Success: 47%	Success: 38%		
	YPA: 5.8, EPA: -0.32	YPA: 8.0, EPA: 0.14	YPA: 6.3, EPA: -0.22		
	Rtg: 59.1	Rtg: 101.7	Rtg: 68.3		
	[Att: 113 - Rate: 19.2%]	[Att: 30 - Rate: 5.1%]	[Att: 143 - Rate: 24.3%]		
Yes	Success: 40%	Success: 57%	Success: 46%		
	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.25	YPA: 8.6, EPA: 0.19	YPA: 7.0, EPA: -0.09		
	Rtg: 79.0	Rtg: 115.6	Rtg: 92.3		
	[Att: 287 - Rate: 48.8%]	[Att: 158 - Rate: 26.9%]	[Att: 445 - Rate: 75.7%]		
Total	Success: 39%	Success: 55%	Success: 44%		
	YPA: 6.0, EPA: -0.27	YPA: 8.5, EPA: 0.18	YPA: 6.8, EPA: -0.12		
	Rtg: 73.2	Rtg: 113.3	Rtg: 86.3		
	[Att: 400 - Rate: 68.0%]	[Att: 188 - Rate: 32.0%]	[Att: 588 - Rate: 100.0%]		

Offensive Performance w Motion (Pre Snap & Play Action)

	Weekly Snaps Played									
Wk	Орр	Score	Terry McLaurin	Adam Humphries	Antonio Gibson	John Bates	Ricky Seals-Jon	DeAndre Carter	J.D. McKissic	Dyami Brown
1	LAC	L 20-16	55	33	36	2	10	2	20	51
2	NYG	W 30-29	71	50	43	1	7	6	31	62
3	BUF	L 43-21	52	34	31	1	8	5	25	35
4	ATL	L 30-28	65	45	37	16	62	11	27	28
5	NO	L 33-22	70	51	47	17	82	58	34	
6	KC	L 31-13	56	31	23	13	59	12	36	47
7	GB	L 24-10	66	50	30	11	72	39	46	10
8	DEN	L 17-10	61	44	23	15	70	49	32	
10	TB	W 29-19	70	38	46	47	33	49	28	8
11	CAR	W 27-21	62	30	33	66		50	31	9
12	SEA	W 17-15	76	32	57	48		61	33	7
13	LV	W 17-15	62	34	55	38		49		6
14	DAL	L 27-20	33	42	46	48	31	40		23
15	PHI	L 27-17	49	34	43	34	33	27		9
16	DAL	L 56-14	55	40	22	45	27	13		13
17	PHI	L 20-16	60	33		58	13	22		7
18	NYG	W 22-7	47	37	32	59		12		20
	Grand '	Total	1,010	658	604	519	507	505	343	335

Personnel Groupings				
Personnel	Team %	NFL Avg	Succ. %	
1-1 [3WR]	75%	61%	48%	
1-2 [2WR]	18%	21%	51%	
2-1 [2WR]	4%	7%	56%	
<b>Grouping Tendencies</b>				
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. %	

Red Zone Targets Leaderboard				
Receiver	AII	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Terry McLaurin	7	2	2	3
Adam Humphries	6	1	1	4
Antonio Gibson	6	2	2	2
Cam Sims	5	1	1	3
Logan Thomas	5	2	1	2
Dyami Brown	3			3
J.D. McKissic	3	1	1	1

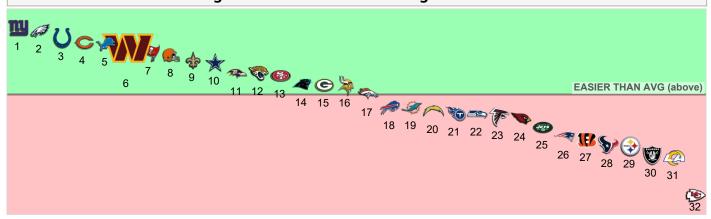
<u>Red Zone Rusnes Leaderboard</u>				
Rusher	All	Inside 5	6-10	11-20
Antonio Gibson	47	17	8	22
Taylor Heinicke	12	4	5	3
Jaret Patterson	6	1	1	4
Dax Milne	1			1
DeAndre Carter	1			1
Kyle Allen	1	1		
Ryan Fitzpatrick	1			1

Early D	own Targ	et Rate
RB	TE	WR
14% <b>23%</b>	19% <b>21%</b> NFL AVG	67% <b>56%</b>
Overall	Target Su	ıccess %
Overall RB		uccess % wr





## 2022 NFL Strength of Schedule Based on Vegas Forecasted Win Totals



We saw that even with the Colts and their league-best rushing offense last year, it still wasn't enough to prevent Carson Wentz from doing Carson Wentz things and tanking their season.

Washington's defense took a major step backwards in 2021, falling from second in both defensive efficiency and pass defense to 27th and 28th, respectively. The key reason Washington's defense took a step back was the strength of opponents they faced.

I knew this defense was due for major regression in 2021. As I wrote in my 2021 book at this time last year:

"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.

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."

So what happened?

Washington took a major downturn in third down defense, shifting from seventh best in 2020 as mentioned above down to 32nd last year.

How could a team shift from seventh to 32nd in third down defense in one season with close to the same personnel? As mentioned before, it's highly unstable. And it's completely dependent on early down defense.

In 2020, Washington's defense forced teams to average 7.3 yards-to-go on third downs, which was fifth best. In 2021, that number dropped to only 6.3 yards-to-go, which was third worst.

Fifth in yards-to-go = seventh in third down defense 30th in yards-to-go = 32nd in third down defense

That's generally how it works.

As I mentioned in last year's book, I was projecting Washington to shift from the 28th schedule to the 11th schedule. I was right, it would be a huge shift. I was wrong that it would only shift to 11th. Washington shifted from 28th all the way to third. Playing the third toughest schedule of offenses was the driving factor in their overall efficiency drop from second in 2020 to 27th in 2021, as I predicted prior to the 2021 season.

The good news for 2022? I'm projecting Washington's defense will face the fifth easiest schedule of offenses and that should allow a return to ranking at least average.





While I don't believe Washington has found their franchise quarterback in Wentz, he is better than what they've had. He should improve their ability to stretch the field. I'm excited to see new wide receiver **Jahan Dotson** paired with McLaurin.

Washington also has a MUCH better rest schedule than they had last year, when I ranked them 30th in net rest and 32nd in prep ranking. This year, those rankings are 17th and 24th, respectively. After playing the most difficult schedule of opponents last season (last summer I projected fifth toughest), Washington will face the sixth-easiest schedule in 2022. The NFC East is wide open and the conference is as well.



Warren Sharp and Sharp Football Analysis have opened EARLY BIRD access to all 2022 season-long packages for a limited time.

The very BEST price we will offer all season

Fully documented <u>16-year track record</u> of providing winning NFL recommendations

# Home of Warren's 62% NFL Totals over 16 years

Last 6 years: 2021: 82% | 2020: 76% | 2019: 68% | 2018: 56% | 2017: 62% | 2016: 65%

# 2022 Betting NFL + NCAAF

NFL Totals, Sides and College Football

Bundle to Save 34%

# \*\*Most Popular\*\* 2022 All-Access Package

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

Season Long Saves 39%

### CLICK TO LEARN MORE

# 2022 Fantasy

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

Season Long Saves 52%

CLICK TO LEARN MORE CLICK TO LEARN MORE

Offensive Efficiency & Tend		
4. 1H Off EDSR (Early Down Success Rate)	23	Pre-Sr
5. 1H Offensive Efficiency	20	36. PSM YPA
6. 1H 3rd Down Yds to Go	6	37. PSM Target Depth
7. 1H 3rd Down Conversions	17	38. Non-PSM YPA
8. 1H Explosive Play Rate	25	39. Non-PSM Target Depth
9. 1H Early Down Pass Rate	16	40. PSM Pass Success Rate
0. 1H Early Down Pass Efficiency	19	41. Non-PSM Pass Success
1. 1H Early Down Run Efficiency	22	42. PSM EPA/att
2. 1H Red Zone Pass Efficiency	5	43. Non-PSM EPA/att
3. 1H Red Zone Rush Efficiency	16	
4. PSM Usage Q1-3	3	Play Action
5. PSM Passing Usage Q1-3	3	44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Earl
6. PSM Improvement Pass Success Q1-3	7	45. PA Success Rate
7. PSM Improvement YPA Q1-3	20	46. PA YPA
8. PSM Improvement Rating Q1-3	2	47. PA Sack Rate
9. PSM Rushing Usage Q1-3 Q1-3	4	48. PA EPA/att
0. PSM Improvement Run Success Q1-3	7	49. PA Target Depth
PSM Improvement YPC Q1-3	12	50. Non-PA Success Rate
2. PA Usage Q1-3 Early Downs	1	51. Non-PA YPA
• • •	7	52. Non-PA Sack Rate 53. Non-PA EPA/att
3. PA Improvement Success		54. Non-PA Target Depth
4. PA Improvement YPA	3	
5. PA Improvement Rating	1	
6. % Of Runs Into 8-Man+ Boxes (1=high)	23	
7. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes	32	55. % of runs into 8-man+ bo
8. % Of Runs Into 7-Man Boxes	16	56. Success on runs into 8-r
9. Success on runs into 7-man boxes	6	57. YPC on runs into 8-man-
0. % Of Runs Into 6-Man- Boxes	8	58. % of runs into 7-man box
Success on runs into 6-man- boxes	3	59. Success on runs into 7-r
2. Run Rate into 8+ Man Box (1=high)	20	60. YPC on runs into 7-man
3. Run Rate into 7 Man Box	11	61. % of runs into 6-man- bo
4. Run Rate into 6- Man Box	3	62. Success on runs into 6-r
5. Total Defensive Efficiency	27	63. YPC on runs into 6-man-

Pre-Snap Motion (Quarters 1-3)				
PSM YPA	7.6			
SM Target Depth	5.7			
Ion-PSM YPA	8			
Ion-PSM Target Depth	8.3			
SM Pass Success Rate	59%			
Ion-PSM Pass Success Rate	46%			
SM EPA/att	0.07			
Ion-PSM EPA/att	-0.05			

02. Avg Halftime Lead

03. Wins

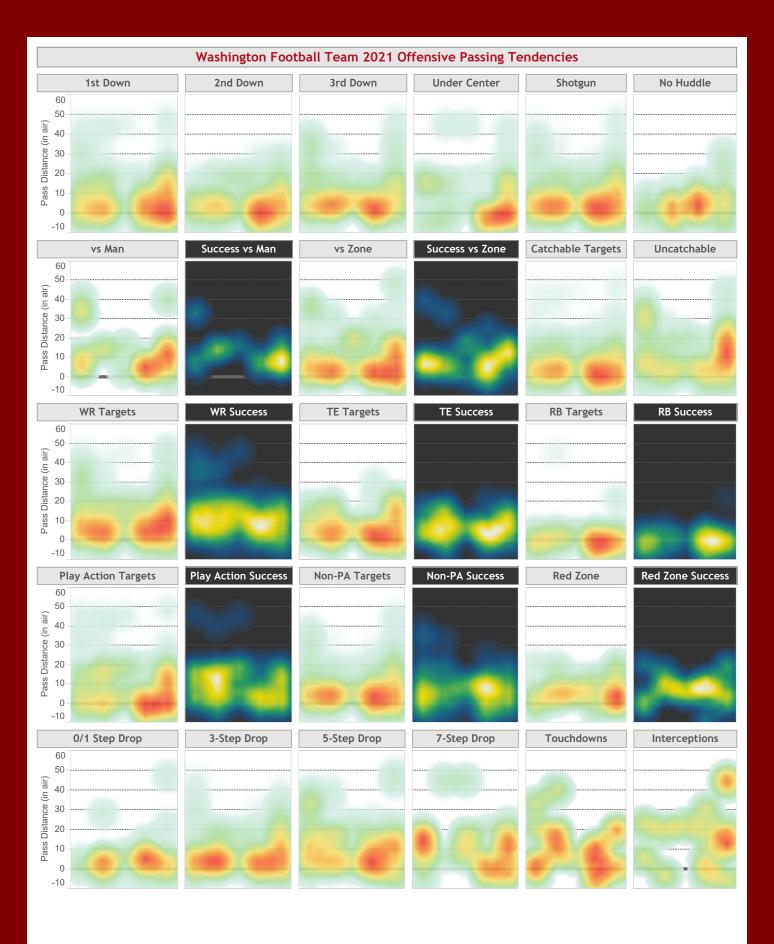
Play Action (Quarters 1-3 on Early Downs)				
44. PA Usage Rate Q1-3 Early Downs	53%			
45. PA Success Rate	57%			
46. PA YPA	9.3			
47. PA Sack Rate	6.9%			
48. PA EPA/att	0.21			
49. PA Target Depth	7.6			
50. Non-PA Success Rate	47%			
51. Non-PA YPA	6			
52. Non-PA Sack Rate	9.0%			
53. Non-PA EPA/att	-0.19			
54. Non-PA Target Depth	5.5			
Mai	n In Roy			

Men In Box	
55. % of runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	11%
56. Success on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	24%
57. YPC on runs into 8-man+ boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	3.0
58. % of runs into 7-man boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	35%
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	4
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	59%
63. YPC on runs into 6-man- boxes Early Downs Q1-3 Outside 5-yd line	5.3

Fumble Luck	(Fumble Rec	covery Over Exp	pectation)
Net FROE Rk	6	defFUM	19
Net FROE	2.8		40
offFUM	26	defFUM Rcvrd	10
offFUM Rcvrd	17	defFR Rk	12
		don it iti	12
offFR%	65.4%	defFR%	47.4%
offFR Rk	7		
offFROE	1.8	defFROE	1.1
		defFROE Rk	12
offFROE Rk	6	dell ROL RR	12

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 2020 Own Make Over Exp. 2020 Own Rk	-2.02 26 33 28 85% 27.51 0.49	Opp Att Opp Makes Opp FG % Opp Expected Makes Opp Make Over Expectation Opp Make over Expectation Rk 2020 Opp Make Over Exp.	29 27 93% 24.48 2.52 5 2.05							

Player Tracking	g Data Stats - QBs	QB Pre	ssure	Offensive A	<b>Netrics</b>
	Taylor Heinicke		Taylor Heinicke	EPA/Pass	-0.13
CAY	5.2	Pressure %	34.6	EPA/Pass Rk	26
CAY Rk	27	Pressure Rk	14	EPA/Rush	-0.03
2020 CAY Rk		Sack %	6.6	EPA/Rush Rk	14
AYTS Rk	22	Sack Rk	14	On-Target Catch %	90.7%
2020 AYTS Rk	5	Pressure Accuracy %	62.6	On-Target Catch Rk	14
AGG Rk 2020 AGG Rk	b	Pressure Accuracy Rk	22		
COMP%	65	Rating when Pressured	65.6	Drop%	4.3%
xCOMP%	65.2	Pressured Rating Rk	22	Drop Rk	6
xCOMP% Rk	21	Clean Accuracy %	77.1	YAC/Att	2.0
2020 xCOMP% Rk		Clean Accuracy Rk	24	YAC/Att Rk	26
CPOE%	-0.2	Rating when Clean	94	Rush Broken Tackle %	10.5%
CPOE Rk	18	Clean Rating Rk	23	Rush Broken Tackle Rk	26
2020 CPOE Rk		Time to Throw	2.97	Rush 1st Down %	27.0%
	TS: Air Yards to the Sticks AGG: cted completion percentage CPOE:				
Actual completion percentage o		Time to Throw Rk	4	Rush 1st Down Rk	9



# Commanders Year-Over-Year Situational Statistical Comparison

# Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	No pressure	Standard Drops	In Pocket	1D 123Q	No Play Action, Early Downs	Layup throws	Planted
2021	Taylor Heinicke	0.05 (#1)	-0.17 (#2)	-0.14 (#1)	0.22 (#1)	-0.22 (#2)	-0.03 (#1)	-0.02 (#3)
2020	Taylor Heinicke	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	0.12 (#1)
	Alex Smith	0.04 (#2)	-0.16 (#1)	-0.14 (#2)	-0.21 (#2)	-0.14 (#1)	-0.14 (#2)	0.08 (#2)

# Less Stable Quarterback Metrics

EPA/att & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	Under Pressure	Outside Pocket	Play Action	Being Blitzed	3rd and 4th Downs	4th Quarter	Passing when Moving
2021	Taylor Heinicke	-0.66 (#1)	-0.16 (#1)	0.19 (#1)	-0.23 (#2)	-0.47 (#2)	-0.15 (#2)	0.01 (#1)
2020	Taylor Heinicke	(#)	(#)	(#)	0.67 (#1)	0.23 (#1)	0.15 (#1)	-0.25 (#2)
	Alex Smith	-0.90 (#2)	-0.96 (#2)	0.07 (#2)	-0.57 (#3)	-0.68 (#3)	-0.15 (#3)	-0.56 (#3)

# **Quarterback Accuracy**

On-Target Percentage & Rank (blank = not enough att to qualify)

Season	Quarterback	AII	Short	Medium	Deep	Moving	Planted	Red Zone	Man Coverage	Zone Coverage
2021	Taylor Heinicke	72% (#3)	78% (#3)	60% (#2)	41% (#3)	77% (#2)	70% (#3)	65% (#2)	67% (#2)	73% (#3)
2020	Alex Smith	77% (#2)	81% (#2)	67% (#1)	52% (#2)	58% (#3)	82% (#1)	77% (#1)	77% (#1)	76% (#2)
	Taylor Heinicke	79% (#1)	100% (#1)	60% (#3)	60% (#1)	100% (#1)	77% (#2)	50% (#3)	0% (#3)	83% (#1)

# Rushing Efficiency

EPA/att & Rank

		Early Down		Standard			Between the	Outside the		
Season	All	123Q	Third Down	Box	Heavy Box	Light Box	Tackles	Tackles	QB Design	QB Scramble
2021	-0.08 (#2)	-0.07 (#2)	0.12 (#2)	-0.04 (#1)	-0.03 (#2)	-0.01 (#2)	-0.11 (#2)	0.01 (#1)	-0.33 (#1)	0.18 (#1)
2020	-0.02 (#1)	0.01 (#1)	0.18 (#1)	-0.09 (#2)	0.03 (#1)	0.12 (#1)	0.04 (#1)	-0.02 (#2)	-0.54 (#2)	-0.54 (#2)

# Team Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

			OFF ED 123Q				3D EPA in FG		DEF ED 123Q	
Season	OFF EDSR	%	Pass EPA	EPA	Pass EPA	Rush EPA	Range	DEF EDSR	Pass EPA	EPA
2021	21	16	13	18	27	22	13	17	19	13
2020	30	7	31	9	25	10	29	2	2	11

# First Drive of Game Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/ play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	24	13	16	22	27	29	19	20	8
2020	30	31	31	28	29	26	31	19	6

# First Five Minutes of Third Quarter Efficiency (Rank 1-32)

Season	EPA/Play	Yards/Play	Score %	TD %	Yards	Plays	Punt %	TO on Downs	Turnover %
2021	23	28	24	26	25	17	8	22	28
2020	22	23	13	11	28	28	27	1	9