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2008

**FANTASY FOOTBALL
DRAFT GUIDE**

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QUARTERBACKS

1.

Tom Brady - NE

Brady rocketed to the top of the QB chart after tossing 50 TDs & 4806 yards in 2008. The addition of Randy Moss made all the difference, finally giving Brady a superstar receiving threat. The only blemish on a stellar season was a terrible effort in Week 15, in the middle of fantasy playoffs. There's not much indication the Pats will shy away from an aerial attack, making Brady a good bet to finish with at least 35-40 TDs.

2.

Peyton Manning - IND

Peyton Manning turned in another solid season in 2008. He always seems to hover around the 30 TD mark and has played in every game of his career. Even if Marvin Harrison doesn't return to full strength, he'll find a way to get the job done with Anthony Gonzalez. He is having some knee problems so keep up on his progress.

3.

Drew Brees - NO

Drew Brees threw 440 completions in 652 attempts, just what fantasy owners love to see. It netted 4423 passing yards & 28 TDs, but also 18 interceptions. When Deuce McAllister was lost for the season, it forced the Saints to throw more than usual leading to the record-breaking performance. He may not hit the number of attempts again, but he has the potential to be more efficient by lowering his interceptions while still posting 25+ TDs & 4000+ yards.

4.

Carson Palmer - CIN

Carson Palmer managed to throw 26 TDs and over 4000 yards in the middle of a season that disappointed most fantasy owners. Palmer also tossed 20 INTs, the most in his career. He has plenty of weapons around him, but Chad Johnson's outbursts are growing old. If the Bengals can manage some sort of offensive harmony, Palmer can post big numbers. Their defense is sub-par, so he'll be required to throw often.

5.

Tony Romo - DAL

New head coach Wade Phillips loosened the reigns on Romo and he responded with 36 TDs & 4211 passing yards. He's got young legs and was able to tack on 2 more rushing TDs. Tony Romo's continued success in 2008 will largely depend on the happiness/healthiness of Terrell Owens. Without TO, there's Jason Whitten and not much else.

6.

Ben Roethlisberger - PIT

After never throwing for more than 20 TDs in his 4-year career, Big Ben zoomed past the mark on his way to a 32 TD/11 INT effort. Pittsburgh only tallied a handful of rushing TDs in 2008, so the load was put squarely onto Roethlisberger's shoulders. The Steelers did some backfield shuffling, but he should receive his fair share of attempts in the red zone. The 4000-yard mark seems far away, so he's a step below the elite QBs.

7.

Matt Hasselbeck - SEA

In 2008, Mike Holmgrun announced the switch to a "passing offense" when Seattle's running backs showed little effectiveness. Hasselbeck responded by throwing 562 attempts for 28 TDs & 3966 yards - all career highs. In the off season, the Seahawks retooled by adding Julius Jones & TJ Duckett to Maurice Morris in the backfield. Hasselbeck likely won't hit those passing numbers again, but can get the 20-25 TD plateau.

8.

Derek Anderson - CLE

Anderson busted out of the gates throwing for 29 TDs & 3787 yards. He's got 2 nice targets in Kellen Winslow and Donte Stallworth in addition to his main weapon of Braylon Edwards. On the down side, he slowed at the end of the season and his completion percentage was below 60% at 58.5. And, don't forget, first rounder Quinn lurking in the shadows.

9.

Jay Cutler - DEN

Cutler had an interesting off season that included him being diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. The disease can be treated and it will allow Cutler to maintain his playing weight during the season more easily. The talented Brandon Marshall leads his receivers, but he is undergoing some legal problems that warrant concern. Mike Shanahan is committed to his young QB and he appears ready to take a step up in the fantasy rankings.

10.

Donovan McNabb - PHI

McNabb hasn't played a full 16-game season since 2003. Once again, he's experiencing shoulder problems, but he's confident that he'll be ready for 2008. McNabb still doesn't possess a viable #1 receiver (other than Brian Westbrook). He can pop a good game, but his durability remains the biggest question mark.

11.

David Garrard - JAC

After Jacksonville boldly waived incumbent QB Byron Leftwich, Garrard posted an amazing 18 TD to 3 INT line in 2008. Nothing flashy, it was just methodical production. He missed 4 games last year with injury, but rebounded strong after his return. The Jags certainly prefer to run the ball, but a healthy Garrard can still hit the 20-25 TD mark.

12.

Marc Bulger - STL

The Rams' offensive line was riddled with injury last year. If you combine that with a running attack missing Stephen Jackson and a dinged up Torry Holt, you have a recipe for disaster. Bulger missed 4 games due to injury and he saw his numbers plummet across the board. As long as the St. Louis rebounds to some semblance of health, Bulger can return to his typical 20 TD level.

13.

Eli Manning - NYG

Eli Manning threw for an average of 24 TDs & 18 INTs over the past 3 seasons. Combine the interceptions with a career 54.7 completion percentage, and you have an inconsistent fantasy QB. He's still quite young and possesses a ton of upside where improvement can be made; just don't expect him to become his brother.

14.

Bret Favre - NYJ

We'll spare you from rehashing the offseason Favre-saga. The fact is, he landed with the Jets and decent supporting cast. A rebuilt O-line will help and Jerricho Cotchery & Laveranues Coles are capable receivers. Can he repeat 2007's magic? The odds are against him, but he still is a viable #2 fantasy QB.

15.

Phillip Rivers - SD

Over the past 2 seasons, Phillip Rivers threw exactly 460 attempts while averaging 21 TDs. He had a bit of a setback when saw his interception total jump from 9 in 2006 to 15 in 2007. The Charger offense runs through LT and will continue to do so with Norv Turner at the helm.

16.

Kurt Warner - ARI

Ken Whinesheunt rescinded his early year starter declaration for Matt Leinart and is now going with Kurt Warner. When you have Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Bolden as your prime targets, you are automatically a fantasy threat. But, Warner is getting long in the tooth and the coaches would obviously like to see Leinart eventually win the job. With that being said, Warner is a QB2 with high upside potential if he keeps the job.

17.

Jon Kitna - DET

Air-Detroit is no longer. Under Martz's regime, Kitna threw back-to-back 4000+ yard seasons, but also threw 42 INTs over the same time span. Kitna was constantly sacked in the pass-first offense, and the Lions continued to struggle. Detroit is back to a more balanced approach in 2008. Having the Calvin Johnson-Roy Williams tandem to throw to, Kitna can still hit the 20 TD mark but with fewer yards, and fewer INTs.

18.

Matt Schaub - HOU

In 11 games, Matt Schaub averaged 203.7 passing yards per game with 9 TDs & 9 INTs. Houston seems intent on Schaub as their starter, although Sage Rosenfels performed adequately in his absence. Having Andre Johnson certainly helps the fantasy potential, he just needs to stay on the field so he can prove it.

19.

Jake Delhomme - CAR

A top-20 ranking for a QB who only played 3 games last year may be overly optimistic, but fantasy quarterbacks tend to get thin around this mark. Last year he had 8 TDs & 1 INT before being knocked out for the season. Carolina really doesn't have that many QB alternatives (Vinny Testaverde had to be dug up last year) and they added DJ Hackett. It's a risk, but so are a lot of other QBs in this section of the rankings.

20.

Vince Young - TEN

In leagues that highly credit QB rushing stats, Vince Young gets a boost. He's averaged 474 yards & 5 TDs running over the past two years. When it comes to passing, Young hasn't been as stellar, posting 21 TDs vs. 30 INTs in his career. You hate to have a Kordell Stewart label, but Young hasn't proven anything more than that yet.

RUNNING BACKS

1.

LaDainian Tomlinson - SD

After much wrangling, LT preserves the top RB slot for the 2008 draft. It was virtually impossible for him to repeat his 2006 campaign of 1815 yards & 28 TDs, but his 2007 season justified the top overall choice. He racked up 1474 yards and scored 15 TDs including 60 receptions, the most since 2003. The playoff injury and off-season surgery raise an eyebrow, but Tomlinson is confident he'll be back full strength. Don't stretch with the first pick.

2.

Steven Jackson - STL

After a slow start in 2007, Jackson missed 4 games with a groin injury. Even with the setback, he hit the 1000-yard mark in 12 games by averaging 4.58 yards per carry after his return. St. Louis added Al Saunders to the coaching staff who will still utilize Jackson as the centerpiece. He's holding out, so monitor the situation.

3.

Adrian Peterson - MIN

You will see Adrian Peterson consistently ranked in the top 3 RBs. There's no question that he has the potential to be a #1 or #2. The Vikings are a mediocre offensive squad featuring only Peterson, so he'll maintain the workhorse role. In 2007, the stats were boosted with a 296 yard & 224 yard game in which he scored a combined 6 TDs. On the other hand, in 7 of 14 games, he rushed for under 80 yards. If he proves to be more consistent in 2008, he could be a #1.

4.

Brian Westbrook - PHI

Westbrook is the prototypical multi-threat. He caught 90 passes & 5 TDs last year, while rushing for 1333 yards & 7 TDs. In point-per-reception leagues he has tremendous value and you may even jump him over Peterson. The negative with Westbrook tends to be a constant "questionable" injury status, even though he missed only 2 games over the past 2 seasons. He turns 30 in September, so durability questions won't subside.

5.

Joseph Addai - IND

Addai's 2007 season produced top-flight rushing numbers - 12 TDs, 1072 yards. During the off season, the Colts signed free agent Dominic Rhodes and drafted Mike Hart, leading to speculation that the Colts may evolve into more of a committee. It's more likely that the new additions are for depth over Kenton Keith. Addai is still the primary back in an explosive offense and he should receive the lion's share of carries. A repeat of his 2007 performance will justify the #5 ranking.

6.

Frank Gore - SF

Another casualty of 2007's draft, Gore fell into a slump just like the rest of the 49ers. Some injury concerns did pop up as he missed time in week 9. His season line fell below 1st round status, but he now has a chance to redeem himself with Mike Martz as new offensive coordinator. Obviously, Martz is known for his wild passing attack. But, San Francisco doesn't have many options and Gore is capable of posting Westbrook-like numbers in a new offensive system. That leaves Gore as the primary weapon, whether Martz likes it or not.

7.

Marshawn Lynch - BUF

Marshawn Lynch had a reasonably decent rookie debut. He ran for 280 carries & 7 TDs on his way to 1115 rushing yards. He had some off field troubles, but they seem to be minor. The talent for elite fantasy status is certainly present, but Buffalo's offense is still under construction. He's one of the few running backs that doesn't have to worry about a committee situation.

8.

Marion Barber III - DAL

MB III took charge of the Cowboys committee and posted solid numbers - 10 TDs & 973 yards in 2007. Felix Jones enters Dallas after Julius Jones signed with Seattle, but that really doesn't appear to be detrimental to Barber's value. He should receive the goal line carries along with most of the rushing opportunities.

9.

Clinton Portis - WAS

The Redskins' remarkable playoff run can be mainly credited to Clinton Portis. He finished with 12 TDs & 1262 rushing yards, including 4 TDs & 306 yards coming in the last 3 games of the season. On the down side, Portis and DeShaun Foster were the only two regular RBs to lose a fumble 5 times last season & his yards per carry have steadily declined. The Redskins will endure yet another coaching regime change, and a switch to a West Coast style offense. Another 12 TDs would be great, but 8-10 is more realistic.

10.

Ryan Grant - GB

After the Packers auditioned a carousel of running backs, Ryan Grant finally emerged as the starter and one of 2007's biggest fantasy surprises. In 158 attempts, he averaged 5.1 yards per carry and tallied 8 total TDs. The question surrounding Grant will be the effectiveness of the Packer offense without Bret Favre.

11.

Maurice Jones-Drew - JAC

The Jaguars did their best to split touches between a two-back committee. Even though Taylor outrushed MJD 223 to 167, Jones-Drew made up for it in the receiving game with 31 more receptions than Taylor. More importantly MJD racked up 9 TDs and seemed to be the Jags' preferred choice in scoring situations. His value can take a jump if Fred Taylor suffers an injury, otherwise it should remain relatively stable in his current role.

12.

Jamal Lewis - CLE

Moving to the Browns really seemed to signal the end of Jamal Lewis. His yards per carry dropped and he relocated to a desolate wasteland known as Cleveland. It was the perfect move. His yards per carry jumped to 4.4 from 3.6 and he nailed 9 TDs & 1304 rushing yards. The touchdowns were mainly short distance - make no mistake, he's a grinder. Considering his age, workload, and Cleveland's lack of track record- he's best served as a number 2 fantasy RB.

13.

Larry Johnson - KAN

Johnson batted injury and his numbers subsequently took a nosedive. Even before last year's draft, there were many rumblings about his durability coming off a season where he had 416 carries. The jinx was fulfilled when Johnson went down for the season in Week 9 leaving fantasy owners without their number 1. He still possesses tremendous skill and can certainly score double digit TDs, just don't bank on a repeat of his 20 TD performance in 2005. He's a huge draft day risk on the board, just like last year.

14.

Reggie Bush - NO

After getting tons of first round attention during last year's fantasy drafts, Bush fell well below expectations. He missed 4 games with a torn PCL, so his rushing touchdown numbers slipped from 6 to 4. On the receiving end, his yards per catch dropped from 8.43 to 5.71. Bush should rebound assuming full health, and owners in PPR leagues just can't ignore the fact he's averaged 5.75 receptions per game over the past 2 years.

15.

Brandon Jacobs - NYG

Brandon Jacobs' best attributes are also his worst. His big, tall, and doesn't shy away from defensive contact. That leads to plenty of busted tackles and ferocious carries. It also led to a variety of injuries that pulled Jacobs down from elite status. It's difficult to predict injury but it seems that Jacobs' owners will constantly be checking on him to make sure he is healthy. When he is full speed, consider Jacobs as one of the better fantasy RBs.

16.

Willie Parker - PIT

Despite running for over 1300 yards in 2007, Parker only scored 2 touchdowns. He broke his leg in Week 16, prompting Pittsburgh to add Rashard Mendenhall in the draft and sign Mewelde Moore. They did cut Najeh Davenport, so that's a decent sign. Still, the injury & new additions add up to a fair amount of questions surrounding Fast Willie, dropping his rank to a #2 fantasy RB.

17.

Earnest Graham - TB

Graham's 10 TD effort in 2007 was a fantastic surprise for owners who took a chance on him. He was one of the top waiver wire additions last year, showing all hope isn't lost if you fail to acquire an upper-tier RB on draft day. This year, Tampa Bay added Warrick Dunn. Dunn is legitimate enough to steal touches from him, but Graham's number will continue to be called on the goal line. The only other running backs to be "targeted" with more passes than Graham's 70, were LaDainian Tomlinson (86) & Brian Westbrook (120).

18.

Thomas Jones - NYJ

Thomas Jones' stock gets a boost after Bret Favre's entry to New York. It finally gives the Jets more stability at the QB position, which will have a positive effect on the entire offense. Combine Favre's acquisition along with a retooled offensive line, and you should have a legitimate fantasy runner.

19.

Michael Turner - ATL

Turner displayed a ton of talent when he got the rare opportunity to spell LaDainian Tomlinson. He now moves to Atlanta as the featured offensive threat. It's a tremendously difficult situation for his first chance as a starter. But, he'll rack up a ton of carries giving hope of a # 2 fantasy RB.

20.

Willis McGahee - BAL

McGahee followed up his 13 touchdowns in 2004 with 5,6,7 TD seasons. On the positive side, at least it has been increasing. He's going to face challenges in Baltimore with a rookie head coach and likely a rookie QB. He's still got potential to increase his TD total to 8, but keep your expectations in check. McGahee is due to undergo knee surgery during training camp; monitor his progress.

WIDE RECEIVERS

1.

Randy Moss - NE

If there was any question to whether Randy Moss lost a step, he answered it with one of the best WR performances in recent history. After a miserable season in Oakland, he racked up nearly of 1500 receiving yards on his way to 23 TDs. Bill Belichick has a good track record of keeping egos in check. As long as Moss plays by the rules, he can turn in another dominant season in 2008.

2.

Reggie Wayne - IND

For the first time in several years, the Colts passing attack was without Marvin Harrison. Reggie Wayne rose to the challenge further tightening his grip on #1 receiver status. He led the league in receiving yards with 1510 and hit the end zone 10 times. Even if Harrison returns, Wayne will still be Manning's primary option. Plenty of yards and another shot at double-digit TDs should be well within reach.

3.

Terrell Owens - DAL

Terrell Owens also made an attempt to have a better attitude & his numbers reflected the effort. He caught for 1355 yards and his 15 TDs were 3rd most among wide outs. He did post a few stinkers, catching for less than 50 yards in 5 games. Other than that, the rest of season is exactly what fantasy owners need. TO in Dallas always has the potential to be a powder keg. But, as long as harmony persists in Big D, Owens can lead your fantasy receivers.

4.

Braylon Edwards - CLE

Braylon Edwards finally received a quarterback and he responded with tremendous fantasy production. In 2007, he scored 16 times and caught for 1289 yards with a first-year QB. Certainly, Cleveland's quarterbacks can regress and negatively effect Edwards, but he possesses enough skill to be warranting top 5 receiver attention.

5.

Larry Fitzgerald - ARI

Last year, Larry Fitzgerald was targeted 168 times and hauled in 101 receptions. Both of his quarterbacks, Warner & Leinart, are capable of getting him the ball. Having another prime target like Anquan Boldin may cut into a few scoring opportunities, but Fitzgerald has emerged as the primary threat in Arizona.

6.

Marques Colston - NO

Marques Colston constantly battled nagging injuries in 2007, but still managed to turn in a top-level stats line - 98 rec., 1200 + yards and 11 TDs. Head coach Sean Payton loves to throw and throw often which will lead to plenty of opportunities for Colston to sniff the 100 reception mark again.

7.

TJ Houshmandzadeh - CIN

Over the past two seasons, TJ Houshmandzadeh has averaged 100 receptions and 10 TDs. He's taken the lead as the main end zone threat over Chad Johnson and he should retain that role in 2008. During the previous year, he often missed practice as an injury precaution, so he's a little high-maintenance. But, that's a small price to pay for a prime target in a pass-happy offense.

8.

Andre Johnson - HOU

Andre Johnson was riddled with injury last season. When he did play, the numbers were fantastic. In only 9 games, he scored 8 TDs, averaging 14.1 yards per catch. Both Matt Schaub and Sage Rosenfels are competent passers, although Schaub seemed to develop a nicer rapport with Johnson. It comes down to a matter of health for Johnson and some very high upside.

9.

Chad Johnson - CIN

He's annoying, egotistical, and a pain in the head coach's neck – but he's also quite talented. Despite TJ Houshmandzadeh's continued emergence, Johnson hauled in 93 passes for 1440 yards and 8 TDs. Since 2003, he's averaged 92 receptions, 1374 receiving yards, and 8 TDs, making him one of the most consistent receivers over the past 5 years. Hopefully, he's smart enough to show up to camp on time with a big smile on his face. If he does, fantasy owners will be smiling right along with him.

10.

Torry Holt - STL

Torry Holt suffered some knee problems through most of 2007 but still posted a season with very similar numbers to his 2006 line. He pulled in 93 catches and finished just shy of 1200 yards. However, his touchdowns slipped from 10 to 7, but that can be attributed to Marc Bulger missing a large chunk of the year. Al Saunders returns as offensive coordinator, so Holt has a familiar face in the former Rams receivers' coach. If those problematic knees hold up, he may not be your number #1 fantasy WR, but he'll be awfully close.

11.

Plaxico Burress - NYG

Burress turned in back-to-back double digit touchdown seasons with 12 in 2007 and 10 in 2006. Even though he consistently missed practice during the week with injury concerns, he still played in 15 games. He loses a little value in PPR leagues since he averaged 70 receptions over the past 3 years, but his yardage numbers tend to be around the 1000 yard mark.

12.

Wes Welker - NE

The move to New England resulted in a career year for Welker. He was the possession threat for a high-flying offense and he lead the league with 112 receptions. Throw in 1175 receiving yards and 8 TDs and you have a viable fantasy receiver. Of course, Randy Moss will outshine him, but Welker fills his role on the Patriots and on fantasy teams well.

13.

Anquan Boldin - ARI

It would be unfair to say Anquan Boldin is second-fiddle to Larry Fitzgerald. In 12 games in 2007, Boldin caught 71 receptions and 9 TDs finally showing he has tremendous ability. Having Fitz opposite him yields the typical pro & con scenario - he may lose some red zone targets but he may also avoid the heavy attention from defenses.

14.

Steve Smith - CAR

Steve Smith's 2007 campaign was a minor-miracle. It wasn't the most dominating season - 87 rec., 1002 yards, 7 TDs – but it could have been a disaster. Carolina had no consistency at QB, shuffling through Jake Delhomme, Vinny Testaverde, David Carr, and Matt Moore. It goes without saying that Smith did the best with Delhomme scoring 4 TDs in 3 games. The 2-game suspension hurts his value, he'd be cracking the top 10 without it.

15.

Roy Williams - DET

For the second time in 3 years, Roy Williams only played in 12 games. He didn't quite deliver on the high expectations for him in a Mike Martz offense and Calvin Johnson's presence further clouds the issue. Williams has the potential for big plays and 8-10 TDs leaving him as a #2 receiver.

16.

Marvin Harrison - IND

A ranking out of the top 15 seems awfully strange for Marvin Harrison. His knee injury limited him to only 5 games and serious off-field problems sprang up after the season ended. But, someone with such a productive history can't be written-off with certainty. You can't help to feel that a full season from Harrison will generate valuable fantasy numbers. At 36 years old, it boils down to his health and his ability to turn in 16 games.

17.

Brandon Marshall - DEN

In his second year, Brandon Marshall caught 102 passes for 1325 yards and 7 TDs filling the gap left by the injured Javon Walker. The young receiver underwent off-season arm surgery and encountered some legal problems. Mike Shanahan gave a vote of confidence & support for Marshall, so he still seems primed to continue as the Broncos number #1 receiving threat. He would rank several slots higher if he wasn't suspended for the first 3 games of the season.

18.

Santonio Holmes - PIT

Santonio Holmes emerged as the Steelers deep threat. His 52 receptions for 942 yards resulted in an enormous 18.1 yards per catch average. He was rarely utilized in the red zone, which hurts his value, and he did miss 3 games in 2007. Holmes has the potential to provide some huge but may be a bit inconsistent

19.

Greg Jennings - GB

Greg Jennings posted a monster year in 2007 - 12 TDs in 13 games. Entering 2008, he'll have to adjust to a rookie quarterback so the production is likely to take a step backward. Aaron Rodgers looked capable in a very brief stint giving some signs of hope. Expect a few growing pains and keep your projections in check.

20.

Calvin Johnson - DET

Calvin Johnson's ability can certainly lead him into the fantasy elite. Of course, the offense won't as pass-happy, but he has all the skill in the world to flourish in any offensive scheme. If Jon Kitna is dependable in 2008, Johnson can post monster numbers.

TIGHT ENDS

1.

Antonio Gates - SD

Antonio Gates continues to grasp onto the top tight end slot. For the fourth year in a row, he caught for more than 900 yards and at least 9 TDs. He suffered a big toe injury in last year's playoffs, but San Diego is hopeful he'll be ready to go at the start of the season.

2.

Jason Witten - DAL

Jason Witten rode the Tony Romo bandwagon to 96 receptions, 1145 yards, & 7 TDs in 2007. In Dallas, he's the second receiving threat behind Terrell Owens resulting in a fair amount of targets.

3.

Kellen Winslow - CLE

In two consecutive seasons, Winslow managed to catch 80 + passes and play in every game. He hasn't reached the end zone with regularity only scoring 5 TDs in 2007 and 3 TDs in 2006.

4.

Tony Gonzalez - KC

Even though Tony Gonzalez has scored a combined 12 TDs over the past 3 seasons, he's made up for it with at least 900 yards each year over the same time span. Brodie Croyle isn't exactly a hot commodity, which makes the 99 receptions in 2008 hard to repeat.

5.

Dallas Clark - IND

Dallas Clark helped fill the gap left by Marvin Harrison by scoring a career-high 11 TDs. He's been plagued with injury over his career. But, he proved that when healthy he could find the end zone. A double-digit season isn't likely, a 5-7 effort appears to be within range.

6.

Jeremy Shockey - NO

Jeremy Shockey turned in his lowest reception and touchdown total since 2003. Now, in New Orleans, he gets a shot at redemption. The Saints need a compliment to Marques Colston, and Shockey is their answer to the void.

7.

Chris Cooley - WAS

For the third straight year, Chris Cooley hauled in 700+ yards and at least 6 TDs. It's not special, just consistent. A new coach may bring some change to his numbers, so owners need to keep up on his role in the offense.

8.

Vernon Davis - SF

Mike Martz stated that Vernon Davis would be heavily used in the 49ers offense. Martz isn't known for utilizing the tight end position, but Davis possesses talent that can't be ignored. There will be some exotic sets in order to get Davis the ball, and, if successful, he'll be a top 10 TE.

9.

Heath Miller - PIT

Heath Miller doesn't rack up the yardage, but he's scored an average of 6 TDs per season. Pittsburgh doesn't have a viable goal line running back, so they've been more willing to dump off to Miller in the redzone.

10.

Alge Crumpler - TEN

Despite a miserable situation in Atlanta last year, Crumpler somehow scored 5 TDs. He's now with the Titans, and, if truly healthy, can bounce back as an option in the thin Tennessee receiving corps.

KICKERS

1.

Josh Brown - STL

The move to a dome results in a jump up in the rankings for Josh Brown. He's had two straight years of 30+ attempts with an 80%+ success rate. In 2008 he will avoid December's weather since he will end the season with 3 indoor games and one game in Arizona's desert.

2.

Shayne Graham - CIN

Shayne Graham receives quite a few field goal attempts (he averaged 32 over the past 3 years) and his FG% manages to land in the mid 80s to low 90s. The Bengals offense can move the ball, so Graham should have a shot to repeat his 130 point effort in 2008.

3.

Nick Folk - DAL

Nick Folk's point total received a great boost from 53 extra points. He finished 7 for 7 in the 40-49 yard range and was given 5 attempts at 50+ yards. He can keep riding the Cowboys high-paced offense for another 120-130 point season.

4.

Robbie Gould - CHI

Robbie Gould has been one of the most accurate kickers over the past two years. Often kicking in poor conditions, Gould posted an 88.7 success rate between 2006 & 2007. He doesn't get many long attempts & Chicago's offense is poor, so he does have some negatives.

5.

Stephen Gostkowski - NE

Gostkowski's 74 extra points was the most ever in NFL history. He needed it, since he only received 24 field goal attempts in an ultra-efficient Patriots offense. Cold weather and a stellar season by the offense may result in another season of 25 attempts, but he's consistent enough to be in the top 10.

6.

Nate Kaeding - SD

Nate Kaeding finished below the 120 point mark for the second time in 3 seasons. On the positive side, he's turned in three very accurate years with FG% of 88%, 90%, & 89%. He kicks in friendly weather and on an above average offense giving him the opportunity to finish between 120-130 points in 2008.

7.

Rob Bironas - TEN

Rob Bironas displayed a strong leg in 2007 hitting 4 out of 5 field goals from 50+ yards. The Titans had a hard time in the red zone, settling for a field goal 39% of the time. If Tennessee continues to struggle within the 20, Bironas can again receive a fair amount of attempts.

8.

Josh Scobee - JAC

After missing 8 games with a strained quad, Josh Scobee bounced back with a solid season. He scored 62 points in 8 games and made field goals with 92% accuracy. A full season behind the Jags offense can easily double his 2007 numbers.

9.

Mason Crosby - GB

Mason Crosby exploded into 2007 with 141 total points. This year, the Packers are without Bret Favre and Crosby's 79% completion rate may be exposed. Don't think he can repeat last year's numbers, shoot for the 120 point level.

10.

Jason Elam - ATL

Jason Elam is another veteran who decided to make the move to a dome. After kicking in terrible weather for his entire career, Elam gets a chance for a little comfort. On the downside, he may lose the benefit from Denver's altitude and Atlanta's offense will be under construction for the foreseeable future.

DEFENSE/SPECIAL TEAMS

1.

Minnesota Vikings

The rich got richer when the Vikings acquired sack specialist Jared Allen during the off season. Minnesota already showcased the leagues best run-defense, so an elite pass rusher like Allen is a big plus. Factor in a soft NFC Central, and you have a top-tier unit.

2.

San Diego Chargers

The Chargers amassed a whopping 30 INTs in 2007. They feature a ton of weapons throughout the defensive side on the ball: Luis Castillo on the line, Shawn Merriman & Shaun Phillips as the LBs, and interception leader Antonio Cromartie in the defensive backfield. Playing 4 games against inexperienced QBs like Brodie Croyle and JaMarcus Russell should yield a few big games in '08.

3.

New England Patriots

They are aging, but always seem to turn in solid fantasy statistics. The Pats lost several DBs in the off season leaving some question marks heading into 2008. However, they have the easiest strength-of-schedule rankings and the opportunity to produce quality fantasy statistics.

4.

Seattle Seahawks

The Seahawks regularly pressure the QB, averaging 45 sacks over the past 3 years. They get to face a weak division that has plenty of QBs ripe for the pickings. Other than Dallas in week 13 and New England in Week 14, the schedule looks quite favorable.

5.

Chicago Bears

Devin Hester returned 6 kicks for touchdowns and helped the Bears turn in another top 10 Def/St performance. The defensive squad has been consistent, averaging 41 sacks over the past 3 seasons. They gave up a ton of yardage last year, but many fantasy leagues don't count the statistic.

6.

Dallas Cowboys

Dallas finished 3rd in the league with 46 sacks in 2007. The secondary chipped in as well, hauling down 19 picks. DaMarcus Ware has excelled in Wade Phillips' 3-4 defensive scheme posting 14 sacks last year. Off season acquisitions included Pacman Jones & Zach Thomas. It is Dallas after all.

7.

Jacksonville Jaguars

The Jags lost Mike Peterson in Week 11, so a healthy return will bolster the unit. Sammy Knight left during the off season, but the Jags added two defensive linemen in the draft. Maurice Jones Drew is their kick return option and can provide a reasonable chance for special teams scores.

8.

Tennessee Titans

The Titans grabbed 22 interceptions last year, tied for 2nd most in the NFL. They were equally good pressuring the quarterback by racking up 40 sacks. Include top 10 finishes in yards and points allowed and you have a legitimate fantasy defense.

9.

Green Bay Packers

Green Bay's defensive squad boasts a fantastic one-two punch with Aaron Kampman on the defensive line and Nick Barnett heading the linebacker corp. Last year, Kampman delivered another double-digit sack total with 12, while Barnett compiled 102 tackles. They'll have plenty of chances to pile up points in the soft NFC Central.

10.

New York Giants

The Giants turned out one of the best defensive units in 2007. After a slow start, they rallied and posted a league-high 53 sacks. Losing Michael Strahan, Gibril Wilson, and Kawika Mitchell during the off season will present some challenges for the 2008 campaign.

QUARTERBACKS

- 1 Tom Brady NE (4)
- 2 Peyton Manning IND (4)
- 3 Drew Brees NO (9)
- 4 Carson Palmer CIN (8)
- 5 Tony Romo DAL (10)
- 6 Ben Roethlisberger PIT (6)
- 7 Matt Hasselbeck SEA (4)
- 8 Derek Anderson CLE (5)
- 9 Jay Cutler DEN (8)
- 10 Donovan McNabb PHI (7)
- 11 David Garrard JAC (7)
- 12 Marc Bulger STL (5)
- 13 Eli Manning NYG (4)
- 14 Bret Favre NYJ (5)
- 15 Philip Rivers SD (9)
- 16 Kurt Warner ARI (7)
- 17 Jon Kitna DET (4)
- 18 Matt Schaub HOU (8)
- 19 Jake Delhomme CAR (9)
- 20 Vince Young TEN (6)
- 21 Aaron Rodgers GB (8)
- 22 Jeff Garcia TB (10)
- 23 Trent Edwards BUF (6)
- 24 JaMarcus Russell OAK (5)
- 25 Chad Pennington MIA (4)
- 26 JT O'Sullivan SF (9)
- 27 Matt Leinart ARI (7)
- 28 Jason Campbell WAS (10)
- 29 Kyle Orton CHI (8)
- 30 Tarvaris Jackson MIN (8)
- 31 Brodie Croyle KC (6)
- 32 Sage Rosenfels HOU (8)
- 33 J.P. Losman BUF (6)
- 34 Troy Smith BAL (10)
- 35 Rex Grossman CHI (8)
- 36 Kellen Clemens NYJ (5)
- 37 Alex Smith SF (9)
- 38 Brady Quinn CLE (5)
- 39 Matt Ryan ATL (7)
- 40 Kyle Boller BAL (10)
- 41 Kevin Kolb PHI (7)
- 42 Matt Moore CAR (9)
- 43 Brian Griese TB (10)
- 44 Chris Redman ATL (7)
- 45 Damon Huard KC (6)

TEAM DEFENSE

- 1 Minnesota Vikings (8)
- 2 San Diego Chargers (9)
- 3 New England Patriots (4)
- 4 Seattle Seahawks (4)
- 5 Chicago Bears (8)
- 6 Dallas Cowboys (10)
- 7 Jacksonville Jaguars (7)
- 8 Tennessee Titans (6)
- 9 Green Bay Packers (8)
- 10 New York Giants (4)
- 11 Indianapolis Colts (4)
- 12 Pittsburgh Steelers (6)
- 13 Baltimore Ravens (10)
- 14 Tampa Bay Buccaneers (10)
- 15 Philadelphia Eagles (7)
- 16 Washington Redskins (10)
- 17 Houston Texans (8)
- 18 Arizona Cardinals (7)
- 19 Oakland Raiders (5)
- 20 San Francisco 49ers (9)
- 21 Cleveland Browns (5)
- 22 Buffalo Bills (6)
- 23 Miami Dolphins (4)
- 24 Kansas City Chiefs (6)
- 25 Atlanta Falcons (7)
- 26 Cincinnati Bengals (8)
- 27 Carolina Panthers (9)
- 28 New York Jets (5)
- 29 Denver Broncos (8)
- 30 New Orleans Saints (9)
- 31 St. Louis Rams (5)
- 32 Detroit Lions (4)

WIDE RECEIVERS

- 1 Randy Moss NE (4)
- 2 Reggie Wayne IND (4)
- 3 Terrell Owens DAL (10)
- 4 Braylon Edwards CLE (5)
- 5 Larry Fitzgerald ARI (7)
- 6 Marques Colston NO (9)
- 7 T.J. Houshmandzadeh CIN (8)
- 8 Andre Johnson HOU (8)
- 9 Brandon Marshall DEN (8)
- 10 Chad Johnson CIN (8)
- 11 Torry Holt STL (5)
- 12 Plaxico Burress NYG (4)
- 13 Wes Welker NE (4)
- 14 Anquan Boldin ARI (7)
- 15 Steve Smith CAR (9)
- 16 Roy Williams DET (4)
- 17 Marvin Harrison IND (4)
- 18 Santonio Holmes PIT (6)
- 19 Greg Jennings GB (8)
- 20 Calvin Johnson DET (4)
- 21 Jerricho Cotchery NYJ (5)
- 22 Hines Ward PIT (6)
- 23 Laveranues Coles NYJ (5)
- 24 D.J. Hackett CAR (9)
- 25 Roddy White ATL (7)
- 26 Donald Driver GB (8)
- 27 Santana Moss WAS (10)
- 28 Dwayne Bowe KC (6)
- 29 Lee Evans BUF (6)
- 30 Anthony Gonzalez IND (4)
- 31 Chris Chambers SD (9)
- 32 Joey Galloway TB (10)
- 33 Nate Burleson SEA (4)
- 34 Derrick Mason BAL (10)
- 35 Robert Meachem NO (9)
- 36 Courtney Taylor SEA (4)
- 37 Donte Stallworth CLE (5)
- 38 Bernard Berrian MIN (8)
- 39 Patrick Crayton DAL (10)
- 40 Ted Ginn Jr. MIA (4)
- 41 David Patten NO (9)
- 42 Isaac Bruce SF (9)
- 43 Darrell Jackson DEN (8)
- 44 Jabar Gaffney NE (4)
- 45 Devin Hester CHI (8)
- 46 Reggie Brown PHI (7)
- 47 Justin Gage TEN (6)
- 48 Eddie Royal DEN (8)
- 49 Hank Baskett PHI (7)
- 50 Mark Clayton BAL (10)
- 51 Vincent Jackson SD (9)
- 52 Ronald Curry OAK (5)
- 53 Justin McCareins TEN (6)
- 54 Sidney Rice MIN (8)
- 55 Amani Toomer NYG (4)
- 56 Jason Hill SF (9)
- 57 Bryant Johnson SF (9)
- 58 Josh Morgan SF (9)
- 59 Kevin Walter HOU (8)
- 60 Derek Hagen MIA (4)
- 61 Reggie Williams JAC (7)
- 62 Steve Smith NYG (4)
- 63 Keary Colbert DEN (8)
- 64 Rashied Davis CHI (8)
- 65 James Jones GB (8)
- 66 Muhsin Muhammad CAR (9)
- 67 Ernest Wilford MIA (4)
- 68 Jerry Porter JAC (7)
- 69 Dennis Northcutt JAC (7)
- 70 Javon Walker OAK (5)
- 71 Kevin Curtis PHI (7)
- 72 Antwaan Randle El WAS (10)
- 73 Craig Davis SD (9)
- 74 Shaun McDonald DET (4)
- 75 Sam Hurd DAL (10)
- 76 Jacoby Jones HOU (8)
- 77 Nate Washington PIT (6)
- 78 Mike Furrey DET (4)
- 79 Laurent Robinson ATL (7)
- 80 Reche Caldwell STL (5)

RUNNING BACKS

- 1 LaDainian Tomlinson SD (9)
- 2 Steven Jackson STL (5)
- 3 Adrian Peterson MIN (8)
- 4 Brian Westbrook PHI (7)
- 5 Joseph Addai IND (4)
- 6 Frank Gore SF (9)
- 7 Marshawn Lynch BUF (6)
- 8 Marion Barber DAL (10)
- 9 Clinton Portis WAS (10)
- 10 Ryan Grant GB (8)
- 11 Maurice Jones-Drew JAC (7)
- 12 Jamal Lewis CLE (5)
- 13 Larry Johnson KC (6)
- 14 Reggie Bush NO (9)
- 15 Brandon Jacobs NYG (4)
- 16 Willie Parker PIT (6)
- 17 Earnest Graham TB (10)
- 18 Thomas Jones NYJ (5)
- 19 Michael Turner ATL (7)
- 20 Willis McGahee BAL (10)
- 21 Fred Taylor JAC (7)
- 22 Laurence Maroney NE (4)
- 23 Darren McFadden OAK (5)
- 24 Matt Forte CHI (8)
- 25 Selvin Young DEN (8)
- 26 Edgerrin James ARI (7)
- 27 LenDale White TEN (6)
- 28 Jonathan Stewart CAR (9)
- 29 Ronnie Brown MIA (4)
- 30 DeAngelo Williams CAR (9)
- 31 Justin Fargas OAK (5)
- 32 Warrick Dunn TB (10)
- 33 Chris Perry CIN (8)
- 34 Julius Jones SEA (4)
- 35 Ricky Williams MIA (4)
- 36 Kevin Smith DET (4)
- 37 Chris Johnson TEN (6)
- 38 Kenny Watson CIN (8)
- 39 Maurice Morris SEA (4)
- 40 Rashard Mendenhall PIT (6)
- 41 Ahmad Bradshaw NYG (4)
- 42 Ray Rice BAL (10)
- 43 Chester Taylor MIN (8)
- 44 Sammy Morris NE (4)
- 45 Felix Jones DAL (10)
- 46 Jerious Norwood ATL (7)
- 47 Chris Brown HOU (8)
- 48 Rudi Johnson CIN (8)
- 49 Deuce McAllister NO (9)
- 50 Adrian Peterson CHI (8)
- 51 Tim Hightower ARI (7)
- 52 T.J. Duckett SEA (4)
- 53 Dominic Rhodes IND (4)
- 54 DeShaun Foster SF (9)
- 55 Brandon Jackson GB (8)
- 56 Derrick Ward NYG (4)
- 57 Tatum Bell DET (4)
- 58 Jesse Chatman NYJ (5)
- 59 Aaron Stecker NO (9)
- 60 Leon Washington NYJ (5)
- 61 Kevin Faulk NE (4)
- 62 Jason Wright CLE (5)
- 63 Kevin Jones CHI (8)
- 64 Ladell Betts WAS (10)
- 65 Kolby Smith KC (6)
- 66 Brian Leonard STL (5)
- 67 Ahman Green HOU (8)
- 68 Andre Hall DEN (8)
- 69 Michael Pittman DEN (8)
- 70 Chris Henry TEN (6)
- 71 Correll Buckhalter PHI (7)
- 72 Mewelde Moore PIT (6)
- 73 Pierre Thomas NO (9)
- 74 Mike Hart IND (4)
- 75 LaMont Jordan NE (4)
- 76 Jacob Hester SD (9)
- 77 Darius Walker HOU (8)
- 78 Darren Sproles SD (9)
- 79 Michael Bush OAK (5)
- 80 Lorenzo Booker PHI (7)

TIGHT ENDS

- 1 Antonio Gates SD (9)
- 2 Jason Witten DAL (10)
- 3 Kellen Winslow CLE (5)
- 4 Tony Gonzalez KC (6)
- 5 Dallas Clark IND (4)
- 6 Jeremy Shockey NO (9)
- 7 Chris Cooley WAS (10)
- 8 Vernon Davis SF (9)
- 9 Heath Miller PIT (6)
- 10 Alge Crumpler TEN (6)
- 11 Todd Heap BAL (10)
- 12 Benjamin Watson NE (4)
- 13 Owen Daniels HOU (8)
- 14 Tony Scheffler DEN (8)
- 15 Chris Baker NYJ (5)
- 16 Greg Olsen CHI (8)
- 17 Leonard Pope ARI (7)
- 18 Donald Lee GB (8)
- 19 Jeb Putzier SEA (4)
- 20 Kevin Boss NYG (4)
- 21 L.J. Smith PHI (7)
- 22 Zach Miller OAK (5)
- 23 Desmond Clark CHI (8)
- 24 Ben Utecht CIN (8)
- 25 Ben Troupe TB (10)
- 26 Randy McMichael STL (5)
- 27 Mercedes Lewis JAC (7)
- 28 David Martin MIA (4)
- 29 Brent Celek PHI (7)
- 30 Bubba Franks NYJ (5)
- 31 Visanthe Shiancoe MIN (8)

KICKERS

- 1 Josh Brown STL (5)
- 2 Shayne Graham CIN (8)
- 3 Nick Folk DAL (10)
- 4 Robbie Gould CHI (8)
- 5 Stephen Gostkowski NE (4)
- 6 Nate Kaeding SD (9)
- 7 Rob Bironas TEN (6)
- 8 Josh Scobee JAC (7)
- 9 Mason Crosby GB (8)
- 10 Jason Elam ATL (7)
- 11 Kris Brown HOU (8)
- 12 Phil Dawson CLE (5)
- 13 Ryan Longwell MIN (8)
- 14 Matt Stover BAL (10)
- 15 Adam Vinatieri IND (4)
- 16 Neil Rackers ARI (7)
- 17 Shaun Suisham WAS (10)
- 18 Jason Hanson DET (4)
- 19 David Akers PHI (7)
- 20 Matt Bryant TB (10)
- 21 Jeff Reed PIT (6)
- 22 Rian Lindell BUF (6)
- 23 Mike Nugent NYJ (5)
- 24 John Kasay CAR (9)
- 25 Jay Feely KC (6)
- 26 Sebastian Janikowski OAK (5)
- 27 Joe Nedney SF (9)
- 28 Lawrence Tynes NYG (4)
- 29 Dave Rayner MIA (4)
- 30 Olindo Mare SEA (4)

TOP 50

- 1 LaDainian Tomlinson SD (9)
- 2 Steven Jackson STL (5)
- 3 Tom Brady NE (4)
- 4 Adrian Peterson MIN (8)
- 5 Brian Westbrook PHI (7)
- 6 Joseph Addai IND (4)
- 7 Peyton Manning IND (4)
- 8 Randy Moss NE (4)
- 9 Frank Gore SF (9)
- 10 Drew Brees NO (9)
- 11 Carson Palmer CIN (8)
- 12 Marshawn Lynch BUF (6)
- 13 Tony Romo DAL (10)
- 14 Marion Barber DAL (10)
- 15 Reggie Wayne IND (4)
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